

# KFOR CHRONICLE

May 31, 2007.

Edition 5





**Presenting the first copy of the 2007 KFOR Booklet to COMKFOR**

Dear friends,

After eleven enjoyable and work-loaded months in Kosovo it's time for me to say "Good bye". As Chief Internal Information and Editor in Chief of your "KFOR Chronicle" magazine, I leave you with sorrow. I want to personally thank COMKFOR General Kather, to CPIO Col. Knop and all members of the "PIO-family"; it was a great pleasure for me working with such an experienced team. I express my special thanks to my "KFOR Chronicle" team - Cheryl, Armend and Ihor - for all your efforts! I know together we achieved a lot. Working in PIO was an exciting task with many challenges but I also gained a lot of invaluable experiences. I really enjoyed working in KFOR, I love the international environment and the beautiful country of Kosovo. Now I'm looking forward seeing my partner, family and friends at home with a lot of positive feelings and memories of my mission here. I wish you all a safe tour in Kosovo and a good time back home! Have fun!

Best wishes,  
Major Alexander Unterweger

<p><b>KFOR CHRONICLE</b></p>  <p>Cover photo by Armend Aqifi</p> <p>Contact KFOR Chronicle: Phone Int: +389 2268 2897 Kos.: (038) 503 603 2897 KPN: 2897, 2402 FAX Int: +389 2268 2752 E-mail: kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int Internet: www.nato.int/kfor</p>	<p>Commander KFOR: Lt. Gen. Roland Kather, DE Army</p> <p>Chief Public Information: Col. Michael Knop, DE Army</p> <p>Chief Internal Information &amp; Editor in Chief: Maj. Alexander Unterweger, AUT Army</p> <p>Journalist Maj. Ihor Levchenko, UKR Army</p> <p>Journalist OR-7 Cheryl Toner, USAF</p> <p>Photographer &amp; Layout Mr. Armend Aqifi</p> <p>The KFOR Chronicle is printed by KOSOVA SOT Tel: 038 548 402</p>	<p>The KFOR Chronicle is produced and fully funded by HQ KFOR. It is published for KFOR forces in the area of responsibility. The contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the coalition governments' defense departments.</p> <p>Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Internal Information Section of HQ KFOR's Public Information Office (PIO) in Pristina, Kosovo.</p> <p>PIO HQ KFOR reserves the right to edit content to conform to style and space requirements. Articles run on a space-available basis.</p>	<p><b>Nations within KFOR:</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td><b>HQ KFOR</b></td> <td><b>MNTF (S)</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Argentina</td> <td>Germany</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Estonia</td> <td>Austria</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hungary</td> <td>Azerbaijan</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Netherlands</td> <td>Bulgaria</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Norway</td> <td>Georgia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Portugal</td> <td>Switzerland</td> </tr> <tr> <td>United Kingdom</td> <td>Turkey</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>MNTF (C)</b></td> <td><b>MNTF (W)</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Czech Republic</td> <td>Italy</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Finland</td> <td>Hungary</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ireland</td> <td>Romania</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Latvia</td> <td>Slovenia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Slovakia</td> <td>Spain</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sweden</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>MNTF (N)</b></td> <td><b>MNTF (E)</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>France</td> <td>United States of America</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Belgium</td> <td>Armenia</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Denmark</td> <td>Greece</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Greece</td> <td>Lithuania</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Luxembourg</td> <td>Poland</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Morocco</td> <td>Romania</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Estonia</td> <td>Ukraine</td> </tr> </table>	<b>HQ KFOR</b>	<b>MNTF (S)</b>	Argentina	Germany	Estonia	Austria	Hungary	Azerbaijan	Netherlands	Bulgaria	Norway	Georgia	Portugal	Switzerland	United Kingdom	Turkey	<b>MNTF (C)</b>	<b>MNTF (W)</b>	Czech Republic	Italy	Finland	Hungary	Ireland	Romania	Latvia	Slovenia	Slovakia	Spain	Sweden		<b>MNTF (N)</b>	<b>MNTF (E)</b>	France	United States of America	Belgium	Armenia	Denmark	Greece	Greece	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Poland	Morocco	Romania	Estonia	Ukraine
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# Security Council Mission a



*Text by OR-6 Christin Michaud, U.S. Air Force  
Photos by Combat Camera Team and  
Maj. Rachid Saidi, Moroccan Army*

In an effort to see the situation in Kosovo firsthand, the Security Council Mission embarked on a three-day trip to the territory.

Following a visit to Belgrade, 15 United Nation's ambassadors from the UN Security Council arrived in theater April 26, where they met with senior government officials and COMKFOR.

They were here to assess whether agreed standards - including building democratic institutions, enforcing minority rights, creating a functioning economy and setting up an impartial legal system - have been implemented.

Their visit included briefings from SRSR Joachim Ruecker and KFOR Commander Lt. Gen. Roland Kather. Additionally, they had the opportunity to meet with key community leaders including Bishop Dode Gjergji and Ahmet Sadriu, Deputy President of the Islamic Community, and Bishop Artemije from the Serb Orthodox Church.

Following the talks with the President and Prime Minister in Pristina/Prishtine, Belgian Ambassador Johan Verbeke said the delegation he is leading: "got a message



# Assesses situation in Kosovo



of confidence, a clear and articulated view on what the current and future policies may be".

During their mission here, the ambassadors who play a role in deciding the fate of Kosovo met with both Albanian and Serbian communities to get their perspectives.

The trip allowed them the chance to see for themselves the situation the Kosovo population is in. The diplomats met with Kosovo-Serbs in Orahovac/Rahovec and Kosovo-Albanians in the village of Mala Krusa/Krushe e Vogel, as well as other communities in Kosovo. Each side expressed their wishes for the war-torn region, including their hopes and fears.

"The most important message which we registered was one of confidence, of willingness of building a strong multiethnic society, work to the future, make sure that commitments and engagements are being properly kept so that all communities living here can trust each other, work together with each other for the better future of Kosovo", said Ambassador Verbeke.

The Security Council departed Saturday evening to meet UN Special Envoy Martti Ahtissari whose proposal for Kosovo's status is still under review.



# ON TOUR COMKFOR



## Opening ceremony Military APRON

**MAY 2**

COMKFOR General Kather took part in an opening ceremony of the Pristina/Pristine airfield and military airport.



## Visit of US JCOS vice-chairman

**MAY 4**

General Kather met with Admiral Edmund Giambastiani, vice-chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, during his visit to KFOR.



## German MoD visit to Kosovo

**MAY 4**

COMKFOR General Kather met with Dr. Franz-Josef Jung, German MoD, during his visit to Kosovo.



## Meeting with UN Undersecretary for Security and Safety

**MAY 7**

Lt. Gen. Kather met with Mr. David Veness, UN Undersecretary for Security and Safety, during his visit to KFOR.



## JFC Naples commander's visit

**MAY 9**

Admiral Harry Ulrich, JFC Naples commander, met with COMKFOR General Kather during his visit to KFOR.



## Visit of Czech MoD

**MAY 11**

Mrs. JUDr. Vlasta Parkanova, Czech Minister of Defense, met with COMKFOR during her visit to HQ KFOR.

## COMKFOR's visit to MNTF S

**MAY 10**

During his visit to MNTF S, Lt. Gen. Kather visited Camp Prizren Airfield.



## COS SHAPE visit to Kosovo

**MAY 11**

COMKFOR Lt. Gen. Kather met with General Rainer Schuwirth, COS SHAPE, during his visit to KFOR.



## SACEUR visit

**MAY 12**

SACEUR General John Craddock was briefed and updated by COMKFOR about the latest developments on the situation in Kosovo.



# our with KFOR



**DCOS Defense Staff (UK) visit**  
 Lt. Gen. Kather met with vice-admiral C. Style, DCOS Defense Staff of UK Armed Forces, during his visit to HQ KFOR.

**MAY 15**



## Visit of Slovenian President

**MAY 15**

President of the Republic of Slovenia, Dr. Janez Drnovsek, met with COMKFOR Lt. Gen. Kather during his visit to KFOR.



## Trilateral meeting

**MAY 16**

COMKFOR General Kather took part in a trilateral meeting with SRSG Joachim Rucker and Prime-minister of Kosovo Agim Ceku.



## Klina Church visit

**MAY 17**

COMKFOR attended a religious service at the Catholic Church in Klina/Klinë.



## Albanian MFA visit

**MAY 18**

Lt. Gen. Kather discussed cooperation at the common borderline with Mr. Lulzim Basha, Albanian MFA.



## Regional Parliamentarian Conference

**MAY 19**

Lt. Gen. Kather took part in the Regional Parliamentarian Conference hosted by KFOR in cooperation with OSCE.



## Finnish Chief of Defense visit to Kosovo

**MAY 23**

COMKFOR General Kather met with Admiral Juhani Kaskeala, Finnish Chief of Defense, during his visit to HQ KFOR.



## TOA MNTF N

**MAY 24**

COMKFOR Lt. Gen. Kather personalized the TOA ceremony in MNTF N.



## French MoD visit

**MAY 28**

COMKFOR General Kather with Mr. Herve Morin, French MoD, during his visit to Kosovo.



# The the



# Third mission in Kosovo for new MNTF N commander

*Text by Maj. Ihor Levchenko, Ukrainian Army  
Photos by Armend Aqifi*

In the morning of May 24, on the big parade square in Camp de Lattre de Tassigny, edged by different types of armored vehicles used by MNTF N troops, soldiers from 10 nations stood in formation for the MNTF N transfer of authority ceremony. This ceremony allows troops to honor the departing commander and publicly demonstrate loyalty to the new commander. It also gives a good opportunity for soldiers see at close range their new leader.

The ceremony conveys the authority and responsibility of command from one officer to another. COMKFOR, Lieutenant General Roland Kather, presided over the ceremony in which Brigadier General Bertrand Clement-Bollee passed on the symbolic flag signifying the end of his tour of duty to incoming commander, Brigadier General Eric Arnaud.

"A change of command is always an emotional time, filled with a whole spectrum of feelings - from admiration for the outgoing commander, to anticipation of what to expect from the incoming commander and what he will expect from you", COMKFOR told the troops.

General Kather personalized the

ceremony by thanking Brig. Gen. Clement-Bollee and his soldiers for their service and dedication to KFOR: "Your personal commitment to the future of Kosovo has been great. As with all of your operations, MNTF N sent a clear message to those who would threaten the safe and secure environment that KFOR is able, willing and determined to respond immediately to any kind of violence".

"I express my deep gratitude for your vigilance and reactivity during these months", said the outgoing MNTF N commander, thanking his officers, NCOs and soldiers. "I have been very proud to be your chief, to be a chief of such a highly-trained multinational force", Brig. Gen. Clement-Bollee added. During the ceremony Brig. Gen. Clement-Bollee was awarded a NATO non-Article 5 award.

"Kosovo is entering an important phase of its political development", said the new commander, Brig. Gen. Arnaud, in his speech to the troops: "In this frame our mission is going to be particularly complex but I know that I can rely on your professionalism, your strictness, your reactivity and your capacity to face any situations in the respect of a strict impartiality". This is the third mission in Kosovo for the new TF commander. Previous tours were in 2001, as COS MNB N and in 2005 as a chief of cabinet COMKFOR.

"The commanders are passing, but the Task Force remains for the mission", Brig. Gen. Clement-Bollee said in his farewell speech. And I am sure that mission for MNTF N will go on perfectly with the new commander.



# The personal side

*Interview with COMKFOR, 26/05/07*

**Chronicle:** General Kather, thank you for the invitation and for making time for this interview today. The main goal of the interview is to give a very personal picture of COMKFOR to the readers of KFOR Chronicle.

**General Kather:** Thank you for giving me the opportunity to provide a personal contribution to the Chronicle; one that will give people an understanding what is behind COMKFOR, what is behind the General - a very normal person, a very normal human being.

**Chronicle:** General Kather, when you think about the beginning of your tour here, did your expectations of the job as COMKFOR come true?

**General Kather:** Yes, absolutely. I think the best I can say is that I was well prepared. I was prepared through another mission, when I came in 1999 right after the war, to command MNB S. I think it's very important to have a deployment in Kosovo before you start as COMKFOR. So, I had an idea about the mission, the people, the history, the infrastructure and all the background information. In addition, with my special preparation during the key leader training and during a lot of discussions with important people about Kosovo, I got the best preparation possible. Yes, what you asked me became reality. It is what I expected and I can therefore say the beginning of my time here was for sure the most challenging, but at the same time the most satisfying job I have ever had in my military career.

**Chronicle:** With all of your experience, what is your main personal challenge as COMKFOR?

**General Kather:** This is a very, very difficult question. If I think about it again, it is as a human being, I feel very close to my KFOR family and also to the citizens of Kosovo. I think the biggest challenge is the aspect of rotation. We say farewell to more than



20 percent of our family every month. For example, I now have the fourth French Task Force Commander and almost everyday I have to say farewell and good-bye and you will be one of the next to whom I say good-bye. It's difficult for me on the personal level because I hate to say farewell. I am happy to say welcome. The permanent rotation is really challenging within the KFOR family.

**Chronicle:** In which way do all these changes and the mission as a whole influence you as a person?

**General Kather:** This is deep in my heart, deep in my body. Of course, I am professional enough - I am well educated and trained to overcome that and to know this is absolutely normal business. But this is the reason, for example, that in my statements during transfer of authority ceremonies, I always refer to the fact that this is not just part of the normal routine, it's an emotional part. Apart from my military skills and my professional education, this is perhaps one of my characteristics I try to make people see and feel; that my heart is in the right place.

**Chronicle:** Is this a main quality of how to become so personable - as a good leader and a very popular COMKFOR?

**General Kather:** I don't know if that's the opinion. I will never say that. However, you can feel that we are a team and I love to work on a team. I get a lot of feedback, so maybe yes, you are right. I am realizing that my slogan "We are one KFOR family of 35 nations and nearly 16,000 soldiers" is well-received and people get the message.

**Chronicle:** Do you think it is possible to deal successfully with so many people from more than 35 nations?

**General Kather:** I think so, yes. Perhaps not with each single soldier of the big family but I think in general, yes. I try to do it not only with the key personnel; I try also to talk to all of the soldiers. To those guys not on stage, who are working hard backstage but who make it happen. They make KFOR successful and therefore I try to talk to everybody.

# of COMKFOR

**Chronicle:** *In this challenging job, where do you get the energy to perform your daily business and how do you recharge your batteries?*

**General Kather:** These are two issues. The first one is absolutely clear: it's the background, the "rear" command post. To know and to be absolutely sure that everything is running well at home. My family assesses - as do I - that one year is a hard time to stay away from your family, but they make it work and accept it. They do really well and I know that I can rely on them. We talk on a daily basis by all technical means. We keep in contact by SMS, e-mail and telephone. My wife said it's not that she doesn't understand what I am doing because we constantly stay in contact. She said it's possible to take part in my life even if we are physically separated. The same applies to me. I know what my wife, my family, my mother and my brother are doing and this is important for me. It's the strongest backbone you can get, to know that your family is doing well, that they are waiting for you and that there is a permanent dialog.

**Chronicle:** *Does your family also know what are you doing in your rare free time?*

**General Kather:** Yes, of course, but I rarely have free time. I can only say that everybody - to include COMKFOR - has to refresh their batteries. I do it by biking. I seldom did this sport before



because normally, as a cavalry member, we used to ride horses and if God would have wanted us to run that much, he would have provided us with four legs. So, we ride horses or we drive cars and now I have a second horse: my mountain bike. This sport activity refreshes my batteries. This is one thing. Then, of course, it's the communication about everyone's welfare. For example, in the German Arc or in other locations I talk to people in a relaxed atmosphere. This too, refreshes my batteries, but I think I can count my free time only in minutes a day.

**Chronicle:** *You mentioned your close connection to your family. When was the last time you felt homesick?*

**General Kather:** I think yesterday because that was my wedding anniversary. I have been married now for 33 years. I felt homesick and I think it lasted three seconds. We all are certainly homesick sometimes. Of course, homesickness is not an illness. On the other hand, we are professional enough to do our business. Everybody feels that. Tomorrow is Pentecost (Whit Sunday) and it would be nice to celebrate this at home, but I think everybody feels homesick on occasions like this.

**Chronicle:** *In the end, what personal message do you have for your soldiers in Kosovo and the readers of the Chronicle?*

**General Kather:** Take your time. Relax. Try to find a balance in your personal day. From my experience, this is the most important thing. Do your business absolutely professionally and work hard, of course, but at the same time, plan for moments when you can relax such as lunch time, sports or social activities. Balance your day as I do, if my so beloved front office doesn't completely fill my calendar and the time allows.

**Chronicle:** *General Kather, thank you very much for showing us your personal side. It was my pleasure talking to you.*



# Where Heaven meets Earth



*Text by Lt. Marc Gross, German Army  
Photos by Sgt. Johan Lindgren, Swedish Army*

In a little, sleepy village in the Department of Hautes-Pyrenees in the southwest of France, next to the border with Spain, more than five million people take a break from their restless lives and busy schedules. Lying in the middle of freshly green hills and snow-covered mountains, surrounded by clouds, Lourdes is a beautiful village. The Gave De Pau flows gracefully through the centre of the city, where 15,000 people live.

Once a year Lourdes turns unusually colourful. In the streets there is the sound of harsh military voices, and men and women in the greatest variety of uniforms are marching in step.

From May 11 to May 13, the 49th International Soldiers Pilgrimage attracts thousands of soldiers from over 20 Nations. Amongst them is a small group of 53 KFOR soldiers, who carry in their hearts the smiles of all their 16,000 comrades of the international forces.

"We are proud to represent the KFOR family in this place. This is the proper place for us because we've been living the multinational idea of Lourdes for many months", said OF-2 Andrej Indof, a Slovenian officer at HQ KFOR in Pristina/Prishtine.

The colorful representatives from all parts of the Kosovo are attracting lots of attention in Lourdes. They are the only soldiers who are carrying their national combat dress. In addition, many of them have suspiciously pale faces after five hours in a German Transall airplane.

OR-6 Eric Fischer from Camp Airfield in Prizren is one of the many who are for the first time on the pilgrimage. He is still completely overwhelmed by the variety of impressions: "I am especially impressed by all the ill people who have come to the cave and who still believe in miracles, despite their disabilities, and who have not given up on their hopes".

It is reported that in 1858 the humble daughter of a miller, Bernadette Soubirous, saw the appearance of a woman, the Virgin Mary, clad in white, near the cave of Massabielle. The source of the cure is said to have originated during one of these apparitions. The apparition gave her instructions to build a church on over the cave. Today the basilica is an inspiring place for pilgrims. The source itself is supposed to have miraculous healing powers.

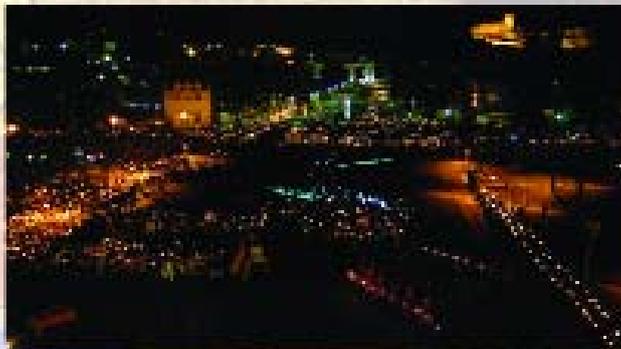
In the vicinity of the city the pilgrims are housed in tents, together with 1,500 others from different nations. American OR-4 John P. Noyes from Camp Bondsteel sees the trip as a chance to get to know Europe. "I've never been to Europe before and it is just breathtaking. The faith of these people is so deep and powerful. It's a pity that we'll have to fly back so soon. Lourdes in France is always worth a trip".

Soldiers have been going on pilgrimages to Lourdes since 1944. At the beginning it was only a regional event, but later on became a French Soldiers Pilgrimage.

In 1953, eight years after the end of World War II, 15,000 war veterans met here to pray together for peace. French military chaplains developed the national pilgrimage into an international soldiers pilgrimage. 1958 saw the 100th Jubilee of the appearance of Mary in Lourdes. To mark this event, soldiers from 10 nations came to the first International Soldiers Pilgrimage in Lourdes. From this time on the sleepy village of Lourdes is a city of faith, tradition and international encounters for millions of soldiers.

"Whoever stays as a pilgrim in Lourdes gets to know himself better. There are the fascinating, deeply human encounters with pilgrims all over the world under the one star of faith", said OF-1 Stefan van de Wetering before the departure of the KFOR Delegation.

In the burning sun of the early afternoon the Transall is departing for Kosovo. The eyes of the soldiers are glassy, their lids are heavy. Some of them are already dreaming, probably dreaming of the place where heaven meets earth.



[Inside KFOR]

# MNTF S now led



# under Turkish flag

Text by OR-7 Cheryl Toner,  
U.S. Air Force  
Photos by Armend Aqifi

As troops stood in formation in front of the MNTF South Headquarters building in Prizren, Brig. Gen. Ugur Tarçin took command of MNTF S from Brig. Gen. Erich Pfeffer in a ceremony May 29. The ceremony was headed by COMKFOR Lt. Gen. Roland Kather.

The ceremony began with a reconnaissance company honor guard team marching out with the German, NATO and Turkish flags. Green, red and black berets were worn by soldiers dressed in camouflage uniforms as the wind whipped the flags about.

Once the colors were posted, Brig.

Gen. Pfeffer started speaking by graciously thanking Brig.

Gen. Hans Joachim Fröhlich for being at the

ceremony, while adding that he only completed the successful work of his predecessor. Brig. Gen. Pfeffer thanked both the military and local population for their co-operation and support. Of the community, he said: "You, the people of Kosovo ... have understood that the wealth of this country lies in its cultural, ethnic, and religious diversity".

In a unique twist on the ceremony, the COMKFOR began his speech by thanking the previous MNTF S



commander, Brig. Gen. Fröhlich, who took command of MNTF S on Nov. 15, 2006, but had to leave suddenly in March 2007.

"Brig. Gen. Fröhlich is an extremely professional soldier and his leadership showed through in the behavior of his soldiers", said General Kather. "... thank you for your hard work, your determination, outstanding leadership and your contributions to the continued success of the KFOR mission. Job well done!"

Lt. Gen. Kather went on to say that while their leadership styles differed, both generals provided tremendous leadership, as well as building and strengthening ties in the community.

The COMKFOR added that he knows much of a commander's success is from his soldiers. "I wish to publicly recognize you, the soldiers on parade, and all the other soldiers of Multinational Task Force South", he said of their support for both generals.

Under sunny skies, both Brig. Gen. Fröhlich and Brig. Gen. Pfeffer were then awarded non Article 5 NATO medals.

After Lt. Gen. Kather passed a NATO flag to Brig. Gen. Tarçin, the Turkish Army general officially began his

year-long tour as the MNTF S commander. "I sincerely believe your dedication and commitment to the mission will be the main source to accomplish the mission", said Brig. Gen. Tarçin, addressing the staff and troops. "Soldiers of MNTF S will work together should to shoulder as one team".

Brig. Gen. Tarçin said that in his capacity, he will work hard and asks everyone to do the same. "... we will also try to put another brick on the wall in ensuring and improving security, stability and CIMIC activities in the MNTF S region".



# Nearby mosque rumored t



*Text by OR-7 Cheryl Toner,  
U.S. Air Force  
Photos by Armend Aqifi*

Located near the center of Vucitrn/Vushtrri, a small mosque called Gazi Ali Bey is rumored to be the oldest mosque in the Balkans. Tucked behind a pale yellow wall, the minaret atop the building is the most visible part of the unassuming building.

The mosque, about half an hours drive north west of Pristina/Prishtinë, has three or four stories on when or who built it, according to Ferhat Gerguri, Secretary of Council of the Vucitrn/Vushtrri Islamic Community. However, since 1966, it has been protected by the state as a historical building. One story says the mosque dates back to 1410, according to a U.S. Harvard professor Andrea Horcher. According to other

papers, the mosque may date back to 1440.

Regardless of the age of the building, Gerguri said the name came from the person who built the mosque - an Albanian, not Turkish - but the date of the building coincides with the Turkish Empire. Also, according to a press release from the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the mosque's name is Hammam of Ali Bey. This name, however, refers to a nearby "Hammam", or what is known as a Turkish bath.

Now the mosque looks rather modern because of a mine that went off in 1999 and toppled the minaret, ruining the roof and much of the building. Nearby buildings are still pitted from the blast.

Gerguri said they do not have enough money to maintain the building, let alone do required repairs. Only after a donation from an organization from



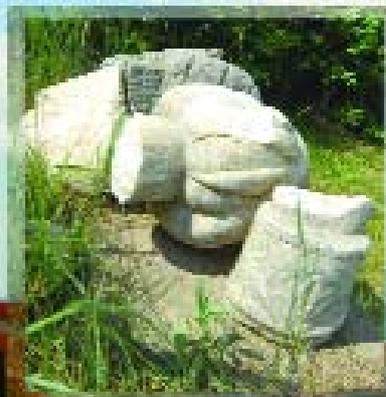
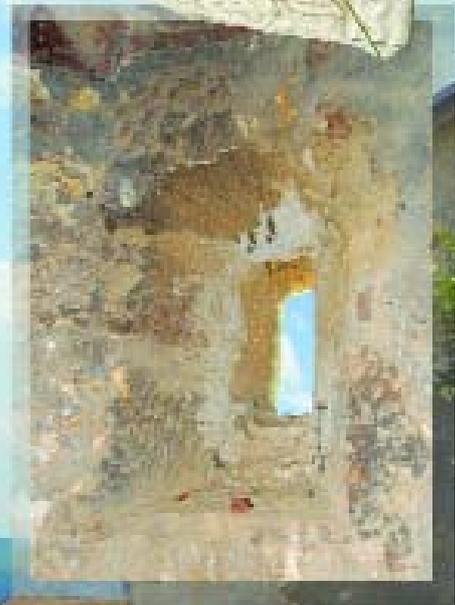
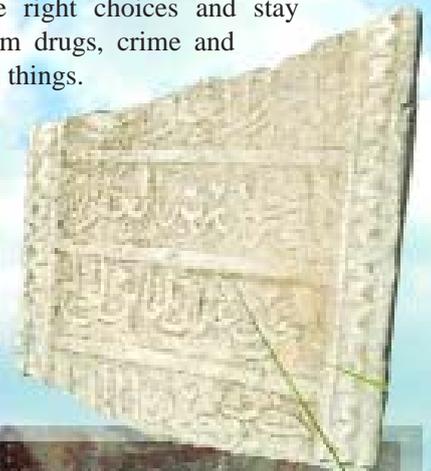
# to be oldest one in Balkans

the United Arab Emirates, was the staff able to accomplish repairs. With a small amount of money, they were only able to replace the wooden door with a plastic door. Also, the front of the mosque was repaired with yellow bricks. "You don't have the feeling that you are praying in an old mosque", said Gerguri. However, according to him, it is indeed the oldest mosque in the Balkans.

This is one of only three mosques in Vucitrn/Vushtri. This means that in a city of 60,000, it is very crowded on Friday's. This also means that the staff had to remove some of the old tombstones in the garden. "Unfortunately, we had to adapt to the needs of the people", said Gerguri and added they had to make the grounds useful for people to pray five times a day.

Gerguri said the priority of the local Islamic Community now is to create time in the schools, perhaps once a week, to help children with their spiritual side. Schools teach science

and math, but to protect children, he said they must learn more about spiritualism. He believes that this will help children make the right choices and stay away from drugs, crime and other bad things.



[Inside KFOR]

Text by OR-7 Cheryl Toner,  
U.S. Air Force

Photos by Danish PIO and CCT

"These Boots Were Made for Walking", by Nancy Sinatra, was played over Camp Olaf Rye's public address system as about 1,800 KFOR members began the DANCON March on May 13. This is almost twice the amount of people who marched last May.

The march, which began and ended at the Danish base north of Pristinia/Prishtine, challenged entrants by completing a 25 kilometer march within eight hours wearing no less than 10 kg of gear. However, the first two people across the finish line,

Germany's Stefan Stockinger and Portugal's Jose Lourenco, only needed 2 hours and 17 minutes to finish the course.

"It's going to be hot"! warned the Camp's medical doctor just before the troops began marching. And it was. Not a cloud in the sky meant 30 Celsius in the shade. This also meant many participants crossed the finish line drenched in sweat. But the Danish Battalion was ready for their guests and had medical stations as well as fruit and water stops along the route. Coming in at second place with yet another tie was Poland's Tomasz Matusiak and Portugal's Antonio Faria. Their time was two hours and

31 minutes. Just one minute later, at two hours 32 minutes, four other participants crossed the finish line. They were: Italy's Dupuy Aurelin, Belgium's Francet Sven, France's Christophe Nourira and Stanislaw Szmurlo, also from France.

The route, running primarily on secondary roads and very rough terrain in the hills of west Mitrovica/Mitrovica, also included a steep climb of almost three kilometers just past the mid-way point.

While people participated for various reasons, Slovakia's Major Radocla Maslanka said he did the march for himself. "It's fun", he said. Major Maslanka, who completed the march

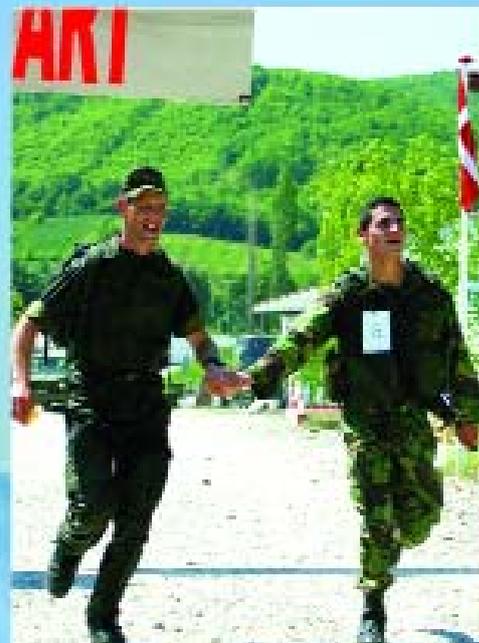


in three hours and 39 minutes, said he did a harder march in his previous unit about three years ago. The unit did a three- to four-day exercise and covered about 100 kilometers. Back then, he said, it was easier to march that far because he did not have a desk job. Well, that, and he said he was younger. U.S. Army Specialist Dean Wilson, who finished at three hours and 46 minutes, said it was good exercise. He is also no stranger to marching. To earn his expert infantry badge, Specialist Wilson said that he had to complete a march of 12 miles (about 19.3 kilometers) in three hours while wearing a weapon and rucksack weighing 25 kilograms. For this

march, he said after hitting the hill, "It feels like you're going up forever, and then you really feel the fatigue in your legs".

In the end, Specialist Dean summed up why many people join in the march. "You speak to a lot of people, you meet others and you make new friends", he said.

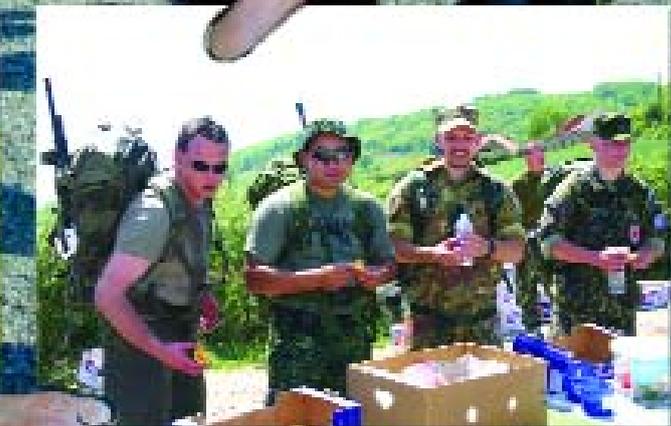
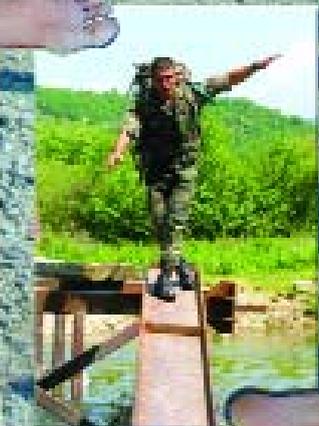
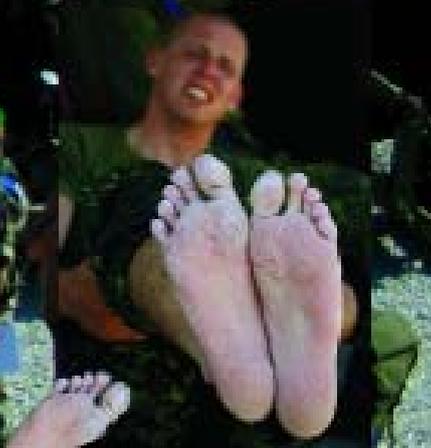
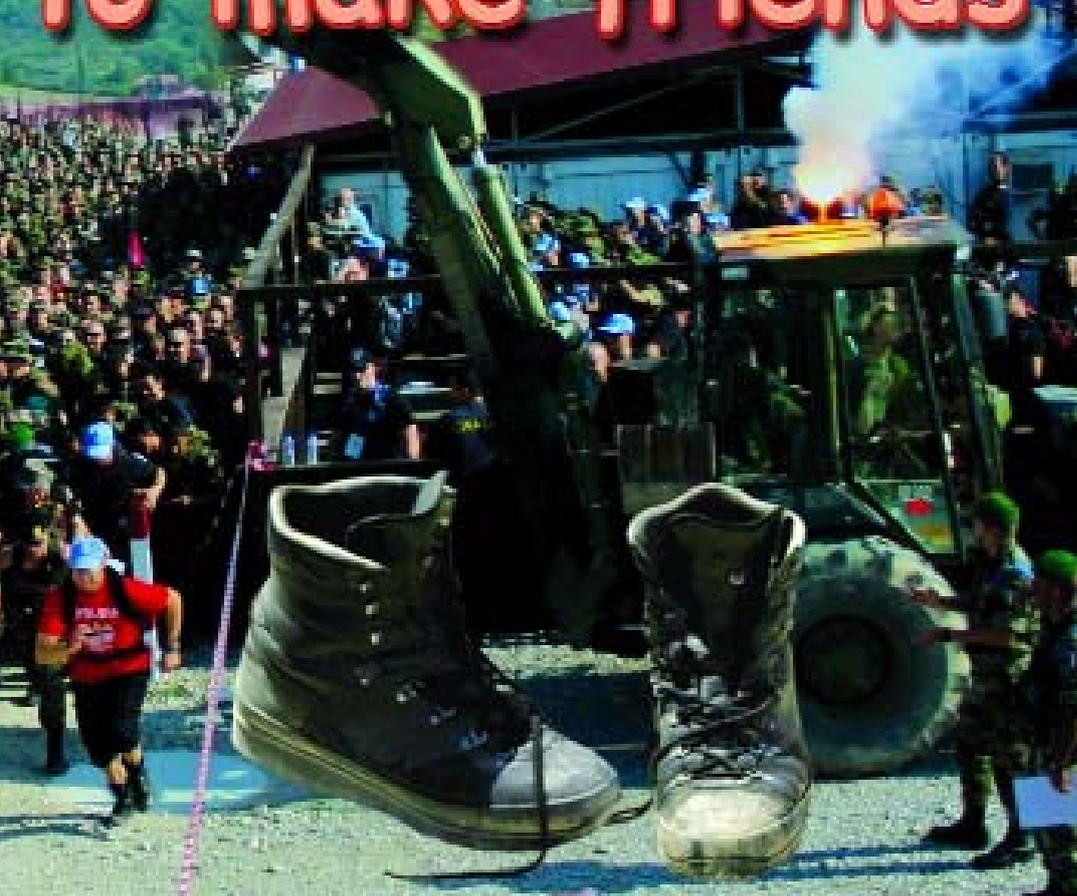
All participants were awarded a certificate and medal. While some participants have experienced other marches that were demanding, the blisters and sweat proved that the Danish can put on a march that will challenge anyone.



# to make friends

**DANCON MARCH TOP 10 LIST**

HR.	UNIT	NAME	TIME
1	100th Airborne	SP4 Bill Johnson	3:39:00
2	101st Airborne	SP4 Dave Johnson	3:40:00
3	101st Airborne	SP4 Mike Johnson	3:41:00
4	101st Airborne	SP4 Tom Johnson	3:42:00
5	101st Airborne	SP4 John Johnson	3:43:00
6	101st Airborne	SP4 Steve Johnson	3:44:00
7	101st Airborne	SP4 Mark Johnson	3:45:00
8	101st Airborne	SP4 Paul Johnson	3:46:00
9	101st Airborne	SP4 Chris Johnson	3:47:00
10	101st Airborne	SP4 Matt Johnson	3:48:00



# KTM's remarkable Ap

*Text by Capt. Carlos Afonso, Portuguese Army  
Photos by KTM*

The Portuguese KFOR Tactical Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM) performed Operation RADEGAST under TACON of MNTF C between May 1 and May 16, 2007 in the Podujevo/Podujeve municipality. This was a framework operation in order to show the interoperability and flexibility of KFOR to the local population by keeping the maintenance of a safe and secure environment and ensuring the freedom of movement.

Operations such as patrolling and operating mobile vehicle check points are common in a framework operation, but the Portuguese showed their remarkable approach of social care to the locals. This is an easy task for them because they traditionally develop good social relations and are generally well-received and seen everywhere.



During this operation, KTM had the opportunity to perform some CIMIC activities in coordination with MNTF C. Early in the morning May 14, KTM soldiers erected a tent in the yard of the school of Slatina/Sllatine village, near the Astride Boundary Line (ABL), in order to provide locals with medical check-ups.

The medical activities performed included the control of

diabetes, obesity, arterial hypertension, clinical evaluations and dietetic advice. KTM medical personnel directly involved were a doctor, a nurse and a medic. During that day, from 1030 to 1600 hrs, 20 adults and four children received check-ups. Before leaving the medical tent, they were also given toothbrushes and toothpaste.

During that day, KTM Commander Lt. Col. Maia Pereira helped distribute school materials (KFOR "For You" campaign) to over 60 children. Materials included exercise and notebooks, rubbers, soccer and volleyball balls, coloured pencils and backpacks.

On May 15, KTM distributed some KFOR material in the primary and secondary school in the village of Metohija/Metehi. The school of this village near the ABL has 370 students. They were given the same KFOR materials as on the previous day.

KTM also had the opportunity to meet with the Podujevo/Podujeve Mayor, Mr. Agim Kikaj on May 15. They talked about the KTM intention of supporting the Orlane/Orllan primary and secondary schools. The project consists of some Portuguese municipalities sending materials to Kosovo schools. KTM will keep contact between the Portuguese municipalities and the school through the Podujevo/Podujeve municipality. In Portugal the campaign



# proach of Social Care

motto will be "Helping Orllane/Orllan Schools in Kosovo". During the meeting Mr. Kikaj also remarked that Portuguese soldiers are well-respected and have the ability to inspire confidence in children.

Operation RADEGAST lasted 15 days and allowed the Portuguese KTM to operate in almost every place in the municipality of Podujevo/Podujeve. During this period, KTM performed 112 vehicle patrols, 59 foot patrols and 29 vehicle check points having checked 147 vehicles and 284 persons. As COMKFOR Tactical Reserve, KTM does not have an AOR in Kosovo and usually conducts Kosovo-wide operations in support of the Task Forces. These are unique opportunities and they also permit locals to understand the Portuguese as a part of KFOR family.



# KEK - providing energy for Kosovo's future



*Text by OR-7 Cheryl Toner, U.S. Air Force and Maj. Ihor Levchenko, Ukrainian Army*

As with any nation, the stability and prosperity of its people is dependent upon economic development. Stability comes from successful companies like that of Korporata Energjetike E Kosoves (KEK).

KEK is the largest company in Kosovo, employing about 8,500 people and their work is felt everywhere - from homes and stores, to factories and other enterprises here. The company powers more than 320,000 households, as well as all private and non-private customers Kosovo-wide.

KEK was operated by an Irish management from ESBI (Electricity Supply Board International) from July 22, 2004 to October 16, 2006, and is now being run by a local staff.

In 2006, KEK produced a total of 4,150,760 mW. With a population of 2,150,000 in Kosovo, this equates to nearly 2kW per citizen. It is not a lot in comparison with western countries. For example, in the USA, the average citizen gets 13 kW and in Germany each person averages 7 kW. However, considering the destructive war here, this is very good for Kosovo, as evidenced by stable growth in energy production by 4 percent in 2006.

KEK's production systems not only generate electricity, but it also produced the following: coal for power plants and citizens; technological steam in the industrial heating plant; as well as the transfer and infrastructure to distribute electrical energy.

For producing electricity, KEK has two power plants near Pristina/Prishtine, Kosovo A and B, as well as a hydro power plant in Gazivode/Ujmani. The plants were built and commissioned between 1960 and 1984 and

are located close to the coal mines.

To provide power plants with coal, KEK has coal mines of Bardh and Mirash in the Pristina/Prishtine basin. The mines cover a wide surface area and provide 20,000-22,500 tons of coal per day with high output levels.

Geologically speaking, the coal (lignite) deposits in Kosovo are among the most favorable reserves of coal in Europe.

The coal mined in Kosovo is the lowest cost coal in

Europe in terms of unit cost of contained energy and compares favorably to other deposits found elsewhere in the world. While KEK's abilities grow, it also suffers from a lack of spare parts, old equipment, unpaid electricity bills and illegal connections to the system. To reduce this problem, KEK needs an investment of 805 million Euros. About 1 billion Euros were generated in 1999 from the KCB (Kosovo Consolidated Budget) and other donors to improve the performance of KEK. In the future, KEK also plans on opening a new mine by 2010.

HQ KFOR (Film City), was connected to KEK in a ceremony here on May 16, 2007. The transfer to KEK is a huge milestone since electric power has been provided by generators for almost eight years. Switching Film City to KEK means that KFOR will be supporting both the economy and the infrastructure even more. The ceremony was attended by the COMKFOR and high level officials from, UNMIK, PISG and the Kosovo Energy Corporation.

*(Statistic data from CIMIC)*



# No One should Forget!

Text and photos by Lt. Col. Miguel Sendim,  
Portuguese Army

Everyone who has attended the In-Theatre Training or Key Leader Training knows it already: there are still plenty of silent warriors in Kosovo, never sleeping, never eating, never complaining - just hiding and patiently waiting for their moment of glory. Mines, Unexploded Ordnances (UXO) and the like are still indeed an issue that no one should forget. This year alone, KFOR specialists have already dealt with more than 600 items of different types, ranging from anti-personnel mines to rockets, from hand grenades to mortar rounds, from missiles to shells and rifle



grenades. In comparison, the total number of UXOs disposed of was 2,279 in 2006, 2,730 in 2005 and 3,984 in 2004. For obvious reasons, the weekly findings tend to increase when farming season begins.

Those interested in going deeper into facts and figures will enjoy reading "Explosive Remnants of War - Cluster Bombs and Landmines in Kosovo", published in August 2000 by the Mines-Arms Unit of The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

However, this is also a war where the "enemy" has been consistently and recklessly beaten by the combined effort (the "EOD/IEDD Response") of all actors in this land. Currently, on the basis of a Memorandum of

Understanding signed June 16, 2005 by KFOR, Office of the KPC Coordinator (OKPCC) and Kosovo Protection Corp (KPC), the clearing of Mines, UXOs and Improvised Explosive Devices

(IED) responsibility is as follows: KFOR EOD/IEDD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal/Improvised Explosive Devices Disposal) teams will still clear and destroy any mines, UXOs or booby-traps found in KFOR military installations and within a radius of 500 meters around these installations. Roads, helipads and all areas required to ensure Freedom of Movement (FOM) and Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) fall under this scope. Besides this, it's KFOR's responsibility to deal Kosovo-wide with sophisticated Land Service Ammunition (LSA) such as missiles, high-explosive aerial-dropped

bombs, rockets over 100 mm, any item of ammunition that contains a chemical or biological agent, and IED (including adapted ammunitions).

For all civilian areas that are not military installations or a military



work/task site, KPC EOD

teams will assume the role of first responders to call-outs from the police or members of the public and will usually be tasked to dispose of standard mines and UXO.

In the end, the final decision on who (KFOR or KPC) will deal with each particular item is always based on the assessment of the MNTF in which Area of Responsibility (AOR) the item was found.

It must be noted that minefields and other large dangerous areas such as those suspected of containing fair amounts of BLU ("Bomblet Unit") fall under another scope, especially if they pose no threat to FOM: clearing these areas will normally

be considered to be a humanitarian function and will usually be performed by an NGO, working under UNMIK's auspices. The following NGOs have been involved in humanitarian de-mining in Kosovo:

Handicap International, HALLO Trust, Mine Awareness Trust and the Mine Detection Dogs Centre, a Bosnian organization recently arrived to the field.

On another side of this effort, KFOR has also been heavily involved in Mine Awareness Training/Mine Risk Education to all age levels and categories of the Kosovo population and KFOR's own military personnel, 190 hours in 2004, 786 hours in 2006 and, this year alone, 366 hours.

All in all, the results of these combined efforts have been rewarding and continue to contribute to a safer Kosovo every day: only one of the known minefields remains to be cleared. Since 1999, more than 33,000 anti-personnel and 10,000 anti-tank mines were safely disposed of; the same to more than 20,500 BLU. In 2006 alone, almost 3,000 square kilometres were cleared from mines.

This has been a huge and constant endeavour, which will certainly have to continue for a number of years to come. However, a safe and secure Kosovo lies ahead.



SA 342 M1  
GAZELLE 

HIP - MI-17 

# Helicopter Display - Fi

May 13, 2007



Black Hawk - UH-60A (MEDEVAC) 

UH-1D 



Apache AH-64 



BO 105 

# Film City

Photos by Armend Aqifi

Helicopter Crash and Rescue Training was conducted on the Film City helipad to train crash and rescue fire personnel on the hazards associated with each type of helicopter operated by KFOR. Following this training, in the afternoon, military and Film City civilian personnel were allowed to view all the aircraft and to talk with the aircrews. Also during the static display, a K-9 demonstration by MNTF C Swedish K-9 dog unit and a weapons display by Hungarian Guard were provided.



UH-1D (AB 212) 



UH-1H (AB 205) 



Black Hawk - UH-60A 



SA 330 Puma 



Bell AB 412 



Super Puma AS 332 

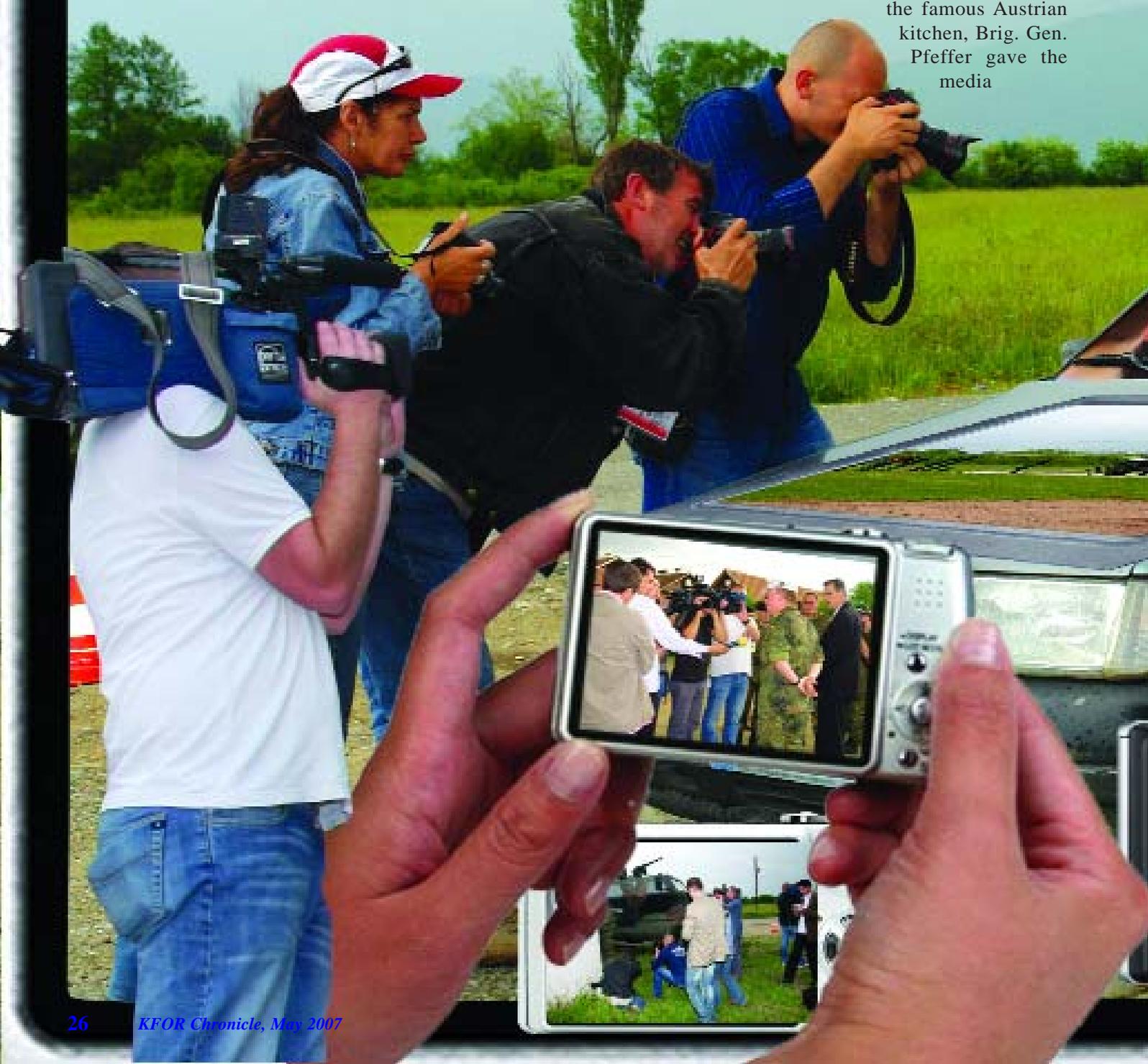
# PRISTINA MEDIA ON

*Text by Capt. Heinz Nitsch, Austrian Army  
Photos by OR-5 Katrin Stückler, Austrian Army and  
OR-3 Ramona Witt, German Army*

In order to give journalists from Pristina/Prishtinë an overview of KFOR's activities off the Kosovo capital, PIO HQ KFOR organized a media trip to MNTF South. Ten media representatives from the major newspapers, TV-stations and news agencies enjoyed a nice helicopter flight to Camp Casablanca, where they were welcomed by representatives of MNTF S and ManBn Dulje. The first point of the program was to show an aspect of

how MNTF S is supporting the local population. The party went to the small village of Trnje/Term, where the inauguration of the school, renovated with the help of German CIMIC and also with a substantial donation by German soldiers, was held in presence of Brigadier General Erich Pfeffer, Commander of MNTF S, as well as the highest representatives of the Suva Reka/Suhareke municipality. Speeches combined with performances of children always are good for interesting pictures, and the journalists moved in all kinds of positions to get the best shots.

Before returning to Camp Casablanca for the famous Austrian kitchen, Brig. Gen. Pfeffer gave the media



# TOUR WITH MNTF S

representatives an interview.

In the afternoon, MNTF S gave an example of how KFOR is maintaining a safe and secure environment. This kind of presentation was especially tricky as the journalists got the opportunity to follow a real operation at a vehicle checkpoint. They were allowed to film whatever they wanted. Luckily, the cars pulled over were an excellent source for pictures. The first car was driven by five happy young people, who even took out their cameras to take pictures of the journalists filming them. And in the last car checked there was a toddler, which again was good for excellent pictures under the motto "the soldier and the baby". The commander of the checkpoint explained what the soldiers were doing and how they

perform their duties. He also patiently answered additional questions by the journalists. During the day, the media representatives of Pristina/Prishtinë got information about politics, the economy and other "big" issues. They had the opportunity to see everyday life of a MNTF fulfilling its tasks, which also gave them some more insight into Kosovo's daily life. KFOR PIO is planning to offer more trips to other MNTF's to continue this successful idea.



Text by Spec. Off. Henrique Schneider,  
Swiss Army

Photos by Staff Sergeant Adrian Streun,  
Swiss Army

"Ubique caelere" - this is the Multinational Logistics Unit's (MNLU) motto: to be everywhere quickly. These are also both cardinal virtues in transportation logistics: to go to the place you have or want to go and to do it very fast. Transportation logistics is a very important part of KFOR's life: without it, we would not have food to eat, water to drink or material to use. Also, we wouldn't be able to displace the

# The Fast and

troops nor to transport any people. But what is the special thing about the MNLU? Three nations, Austria, Germany and Switzerland, working together to achieve one aim: keep transportation-logistics going.

With the joint forces of 90 people and 88 vehicles, the MNLU fulfills different tasks for KFOR like transporting people and goods within the MNTF S, taxis for VIPs, logistical support for the involved countries and convoys from and to central Europe. If needed, transportation services are provided for the whole KFOR and according to the capacities even to help NGOs in their tasks. Well, shortly said: they keep logistics on the move!

For example, during one regular week, the

MNLU drives approximately 14,000 km or fulfills more than 130 transportation requests. This adds up to more than 750,000 km in one year! The requests are very broad in range and dimension. Everything is the MNLU's specialty: small rides with only one vehicle as well as big convoys with more than 20 drivers or 10 vehicles.

The MNLU also plays a vital role in the supply of water, petrol and oil. Its cooperation with the air transportation forces makes the MNLU truly interoperable. There is just one step to go further: up to now, only national soldiers are allowed to drive national vehicles. A German soldier may not drive a Swiss vehicle. Hopefully, this situation is



# the Furious

going to be improved and it will become a normal thing for a Swiss to drive an Austrian machine. If this point is reached, full multinationality will be achieved.

The MNLU was founded April 6, 2006 aiming to efficiently use the synergy between the logistical services of its member nations and aiming to ease logistical procedures to help all troops contributing nations in MNTF S. Instead of the three nations each having their own procedures and overhead, the MNLU is a joint force with one planning unit and commander for all. As a result, it is possible to even out capabilities, to provide better services and to leverage service security. With joint forces, the MNLU has

different vehicles for personnel as well as heavy and mixed transportation. Of course, there are also special construction means used by the unit. The MNLU even has rescue and engineering vehicles!

The MNLU's founding nation was Italy, where different nations were together in the former Multinational Brigade Southwest. After the organizational change into multinational task forces, in MNTF S, Germany took over the unit's command and held it until now. On May 6, Swiss Captain Michael Hecht took over the command of the unit. This was a very special event for the Swiss engagement abroad in two ways. First, it's the

first time that a Swiss Officer is in charge of the MNLU and, second, it's the first time that a Swiss Officer is in charge of a multinational unit.

Switzerland has a tradition of engagement abroad in places like Korea, Golan, Bosnia or here in Kosovo, where the biggest contingent is stationed abroad. But Switzerland never led a multinational unit - and multinationality is not only an idea, but an everyday reality in the MNLU.



# Let's build a bridge with Fullilove!

Text by Major Stefan Mühlbacher, Austrian Army

Photos by the J-Engineering Branch

From April 30 to May 05 the J-Engineering Branch conducted the 12th operational bridge training course. The main intention of this course was to familiarize and train engineers of all Task forces in the handling of the Maybe & Johnson bridge-building equipment. This bridge-building system is unknown in many Armed Forces but it is the only one NATO uses in missions like Kosovo or Afghanistan. This is the reason why the J-Engineering Branch conducts such a bridge course twice a year to spread the knowledge out to the MNTFs.



The course took place in Camp Casablanca in Suva Reka/Suhareke, where the Bridge Park - a huge bridge storage area - is located. The Swiss Contingent was responsible for the whole preparation and organization of the course. Mr. Bob Fullilove, a former NCO of the British Army and now training officer from Maybe & Johnson Company, led the course. Thirty two trainees from eight different nations were taught how to properly build a bridge. All course attendees enjoyed the friendly training atmosphere ensured by Mr. Fullilove and my Swiss friends. After one day learning the theory about the nine bay bridge the participants had the chance to practice building up a bridge in the following 3 days. On the first day the bridge was built only by hands without any machines, and on the second and third days with a crane and excavator. A lot of the participants were surprised about the easy construction of the bridge,



which was well shown and led by the instructors.

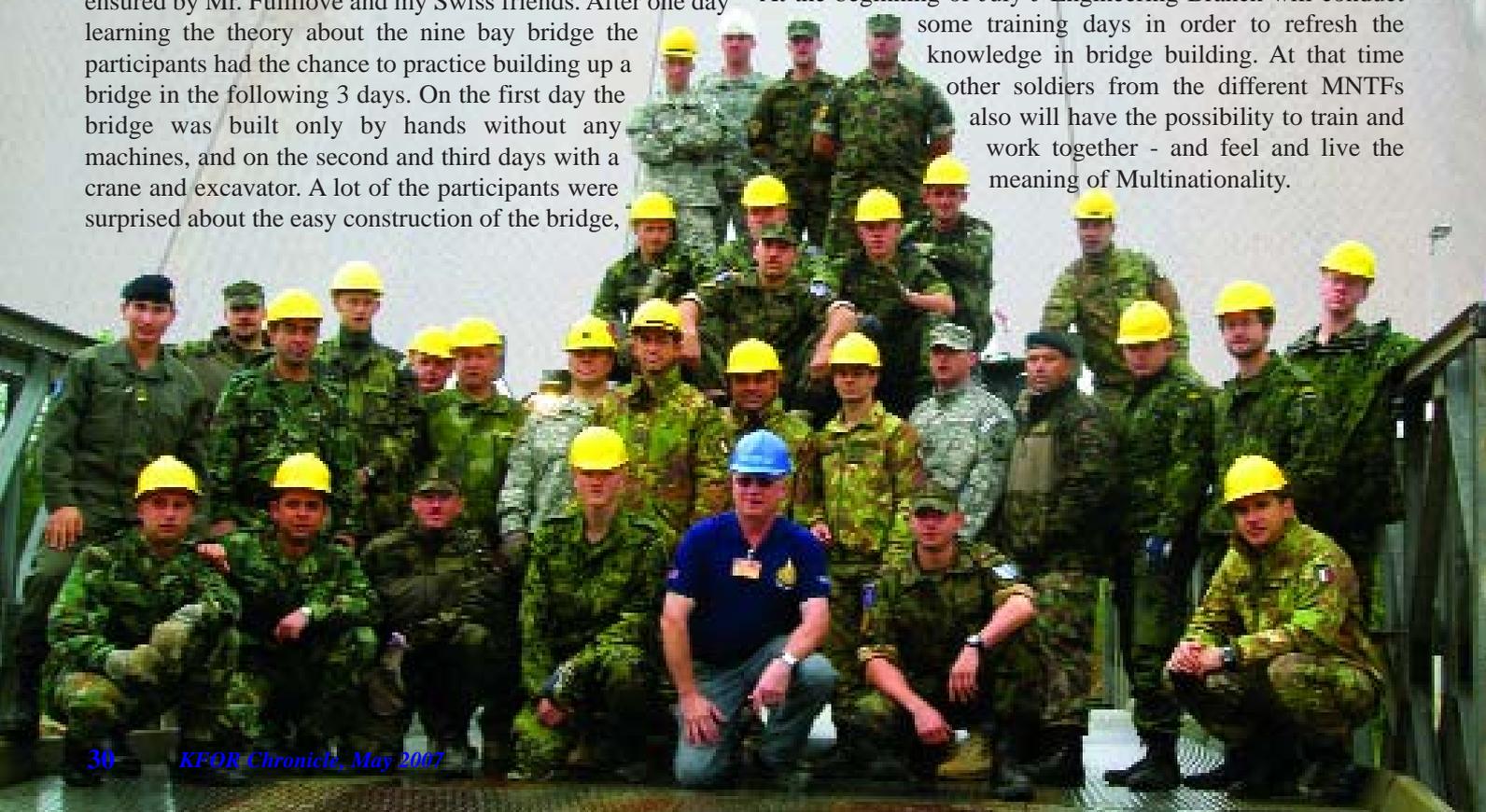
An inspection trip to the only remaining bridge in Kosovo built by Maybe & Johnson Company near Mitrovica/Mitrovice concluded the main part of the course. Fortunately, the training was finished without any accidents or unforeseen happenings.

At the very end a final dinner with a barbecue was organized and all participants got an official certificate from the Maybe & Johnson Company and a framed course picture the from J-Engineering Branch.



After one week of hard bridge training and excellent comradeship within a multinational atmosphere the participants left Suva Reka/Suhareke with a lot of experience and knowledge.

At the beginning of July J-Engineering Branch will conduct some training days in order to refresh the knowledge in bridge building. At that time other soldiers from the different MNTFs also will have the possibility to train and work together - and feel and live the meaning of Multinationality.





**Name:** Dennis René Jensen

**Rank:** OR-4

**Nationality:** Danish

**Home Unit:** Air Defence Missile Battalion of Danish Division

**Unit in KFOR:** Danish Battalion in MNTF N

**About the mission:** First tour to Kosovo, fifth tour all in all. In my eyes it has always been a good experience going on a tour. You meet good colleagues from not just Denmark but from just about every nation on the planet. Professionally it is also the perfect opportunity to hone your skills by cooperating with units on the Task Force level or higher.

**Family reaction:** My wife Shelley is from Australia, so out of past experiences she and my son Nikolas are in Australia with my inlaws for the six months my tour lasts. The distance and time difference makes it a bit harder to call her, and my son will probably be spoilt rotten by the grandparents, but I'll happily pay that price knowing they are in good hands.

**Plans after the mission:** When my tour ends in August, I'll return to my home unit, probably take a months vacation and enjoy the remainder of the summer in Denmark.



**Name:** Ridvan Öz

**Rank:** OR-2

**Nationality:** Turkish

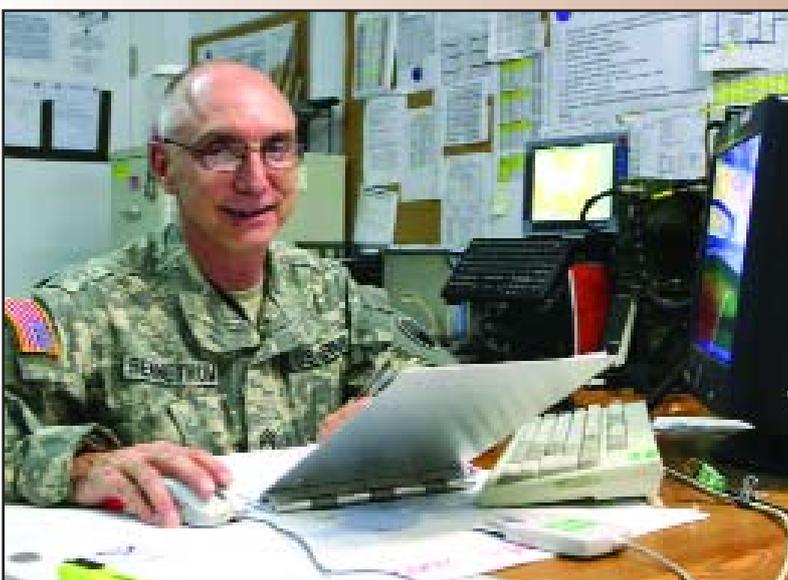
**Home Unit:** 28th Mechanized Infantry Brigade

**Unit in KFOR:** MNTF S, Turkish Battalion Task Force

**About the mission:** My military service in Kosovo started almost four months ago. This is my first mission abroad. Therefore I was rather excited and curious before coming here. I have main two duties. I am sharpshooter of the company. It is a great honor and pleasure for me to represent my country in a multinational environment. I met very wise and talented comrades, which means a lot for me. I am sure this will contribute a lot for the rest of my career.

**Family reaction:** I am single but my parents are looking forward to my return. I would like to thank them for their support during my mission abroad.

**Plans after mission:** When I am back to my country, I am planning to serve as an electrical technician, which is my main occupation.



**Name:** Paul T. Bennethum

**Rank:** OR-7

**Nationality:** American

**Home Unit:** 29th Infantry Division

**Unit in KFOR:** Task Force Red Dragon MNTF E

**About the mission:** This is my first time overseas as a soldier and it is a very interesting and exciting experience for me as a part-time soldier who has served for more than 26 years.

**Family reaction:** My family, while hesitant about the idea of me going far away for such a long deployment, are proud of my service. They wish us all well here and hope we come back home safe.

**Plans after mission:** I plan to return to Virginia for now and I have future plans of moving my wife and I to Florida in 2010 when I retire from the Army.

# Sharr Region



Photo by Lt. Col. Serghii Kolenko, Ukrainian Army