

KFOR CHRONICLE

June 30, 2007

Edition 6



Kather: We are staying as long as necessary

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

Eight years ago, the commander of KFOR, Lt. Gen. Roland Kather, came into Kosovo with NATO and since 1999, he has seen drastic improvements.

As citizens and NATO nations commemorated KFOR's eight years here, General Kather talked about numerous occasions about the changes here and the advances that have been made. "It was very bad, a country after the war ... the winter of 1999 ... we tried to avoid any death from starvation and cold", he said. "This was the first thing, no one was thinking about the future developments".

Fast forward seven years, and General Kather is back, just a few months from finishing another year here. Now, he said, you can see "a normal life", with children and young adults attending schools and universities, with economic strides. While he says that there is room to improve, he said the situation is "completely calm ... normal ... almost democratic". Now, as headlines prove, everyone is waiting for a decision on Kosovo's status.

In the meantime, the COMKFOR said there is nothing to worry about. Our mandate is clear, he said. "Until a further decision is made, [KFOR] will remain here according to UN Resolution 1244, and this simply means



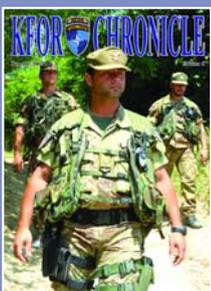
to provide a safe and secure environment".

His assessment of a safe and secure environment is based on real-time information as he has tasked soldiers to "walk and talk". He told KFOR soldiers "do not just drive through the villages. Meet the people and talk to them". The general said that if local citizens have problems, then they should talk to KFOR soldiers about their issues. "This is a democratic procedure", he said. The COMKFOR also said that if citizens don't talk about the problems, then KFOR and Kosovo's citizens

cannot work together to create solutions. To do otherwise, he said, goes against his motto, "Shaping the Future".



KFOR CHRONICLE



Cover photo by
Armend Aqifi

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

Commander KFOR:
Lt. Gen. Roland Kather, DE Army

Chief Public Information:
Col. Michael Knop, DE Army

Chief Internal Information
& Editor in Chief:
Maj. Ihor Levchenko, UKR Army

Journalist
OR-7 Cheryl Toner, USAF

Photographer & Layout
Mr. Armend Aqifi

The KFOR Chronicle is
printed by KOSOVA SOT
Tel: 038 548 402

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.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Internal Information Section of HQ KFOR's Public Information Office (PIO) in Pristina, Kosovo.

PIO HQ KFOR reserves the right to edit content to conform to style and space requirements. Articles run on a space-available basis.

Nations within KFOR:

HQ KFOR

Argentina
Estonia
Hungary
Netherlands
Norway
Portugal
United Kingdom

MNTE (S)

Germany
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bulgaria
Georgia
Switzerland
Turkey

MNTE (C)

Czech Republic
Finland
Ireland
Latvia
Slovakia
Sweden

MNTE (W)

Italy
Hungary
Romania
Slovenia
Spain

MNTE (N)

France
Belgium
Denmark
Greece
Luxembourg
Morocco
Estonia

MNTE (E)

United States of America
Armenia
Greece
Lithuania
Poland
Romania
Ukraine



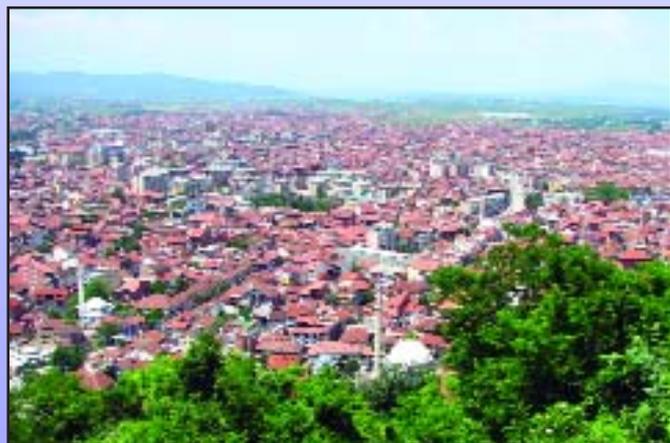
KFOR commemorates eight years in Kosovo pages 4 - 5

COS bids farewell to KFOR's professional team pages 8 - 9



Determined Effort 07: not only operations exercise, but also 'walk and talk' pages 10 - 11

KFOR competes in International Olympic Day tournament pages 16 - 17



Kosovo's 'second city' steeped in history pages 18 - 19

KFOR commemorates

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

Photos by OF-3 Ihor Levchenko, Ukrainian Army and CCT

Citing the partnership and the friendship between KFOR and the citizens of Kosovo, COMKFOR Roland Kather talked about KFOR's mission at a ceremony here June 11, 2007. He said KFOR enjoys accomplishing its mission here in providing a safe and secure environment, and he is confident KFOR will continue to do so.

The ceremony commemorated the 8th Anniversary of KFOR's entry into Kosovo. Attending the ceremony was the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General in Kosovo (SRSG) Joachim Rucker, Prime Minister Agim Ceku, as well as other dignitaries.

The ceremony began with children from a local school who sang two songs, one being the Disney song - in English -- Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious.

After they sang, those in attendance observed a moment of

silence. General Kather then talked how NATO came into Kosovo. He said that while the troop strength and composition has drastically changed since that day: "We remain focused on our mission of providing a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement". KFOR's troop strength began at about 35,000 troops and is now approximately 16,000 troops.

"I would like to tell you all that we are on the right path", he said. The general spoke of his previous tour here as MNTF S and said that signs of the war and its aftermath were still evident. "Today", he said, "when I travel throughout the area, the beautiful province of Kosovo, there are signs of great progress ...".

SRSG Rucker said that it was important for him to be here that day. "Consider how far we have come", he said, "from a bitter war to what we see today". He said the population is starting to enjoy democracy and that its society is preparing for the next stage; the final status of Kosovo.

The SRSG also thanked KFOR and UNMIK, noting that



eight years in Kosovo

none of this would be possible unless everyone worked together. "This partnership will allow us to face future challenges", he said.

Prime Minister Ceku also said June 11 is an important day. "It is a double celebration", he said. "It is a confirmation of our liberation and a partnership with NATO". He also said citizens were able to "put down their guns and build a place of peace ... renewal ... and progress". He added that: "NATO's goals have inspired us".

General Kather said: "KFOR will continue to guarantee a safe and secure environment for all the people of Kosovo, no matter who they are, or where they live".

The children's choir ended the ceremony with a few more songs. Once they finished, the COM KFOR stood, pointed to the children - many of whom were born after KFOR began its time in Kosovo - and said to everyone: "Shaping the future. There is the future".



ON TOUR COMKFOR

★ ★

Swedish National Day

JUNE 6

COMKFOR General Kather attended a Swedish National Day Celebration in Camp Victoria.



Irish Defense Forces CHOD visit

JUNE 6

Lt. Gen. Kather met with Lieutenant General Jim Sreenan, Chief of Staff of the Irish Defense Forces.



COMKFOR awarded Italian medal

JUNE 9

DCOM Maj. Gen. Bernardini awarded COMKFOR General Kather the medal "Al Merito della Repubblica Italiana".



COMKFOR visit to Rugova Youth Camp

JUNE 10

Lt. Gen. Kather paid visit to the multiethnic Rugova Youth Camp, supported by KFOR.



8th KFOR Memorial Day

JUNE 11

COMKFOR General Kather presided over celebration of the 8th KFOR Memorial Day at HQ KFOR, supported by Darovica Children's Choir.

Danish MoD visit

JUNE 18

General Kather met with Mr. Soren Gade, Danish MoD, during his visit to HQ KFOR.



Incoming COMKFOR took part in KLT

JUNE 12

Lt. Gen. Kather welcomed Maj. Gen. de Marnhac, incoming COMKFOR, who attended Key Leader Training.



our with KFOR



COMKFOR visit to Italian ORF Battalion

JUNE 20

Lt. Gen. Kather visited the Italian ORF Battalion, operating in the AOR of MNTF N.



Meeting with the K4-Family winners

JUNE 18

COMKFOR General Kather took part in Reception for the winners of the K4-Family, Radio Campaign.



Bridge Construction Training

JUNE 21

COMKFOR visited multinational Bridge Construction Training conducted by HQ KFOR personnel in Camp Casablanca.



Austrian MoD visit

JUNE 22

Lt. Gen. Kather met with Mr. Norbert Darabos, Austrian MoD, during his visit to HQ KFOR.



COMKFOR visit to Czech Res Coy

JUNE 23

General Kather visited the Czech Res Coy compound at Camp Sajkovac, which is operates in the MNTF C AOR along the ABL.



SACEUR visit

JUNE 25

COMKFOR General Kather met with SACEUR General John Craddock during his visit to Kosovo.



Trilateral meeting

JUNE 27

General Kather met with General András Havril, Chief of Defence Staff Hungarian AF and Lieutenant General Albin Gutman, Chief of General Staff of the Slovenian AF.

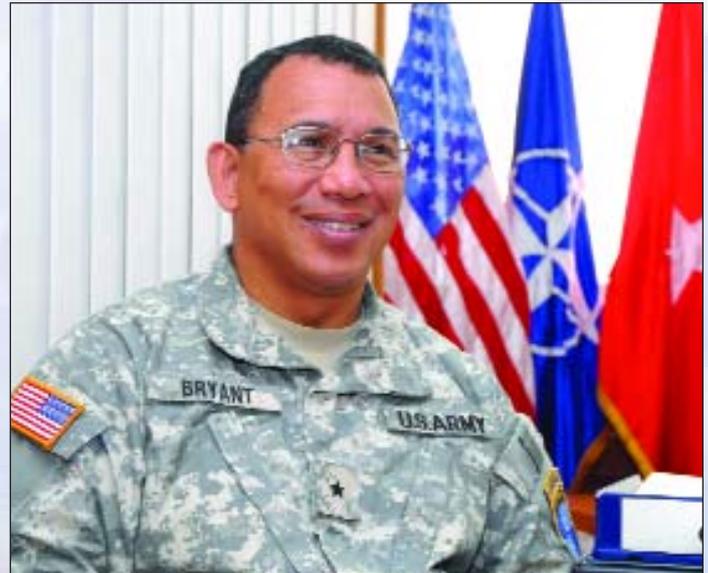
COS bids farewell to KFOR

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

Photos by Armend Aqifi

The Chief of Staff's greatest joy here was the people, yet his greatest "disappointment" here mirrors the headlines: no resolution for Kosovo's status. Brig. Gen. Albert Bryant leaves after almost 13 months at HQ KFOR, and Brig. Gen. William T. Wolf takes over as the new COS in a transfer of authority ceremony here July 7, 2007.

Upon his arrival in June 2006, General Bryant said his goals were to obviously help fulfill KFOR's mission of providing a safe and secure environment. The first time as a COS, as well as working in a "truly multi-national



integrated staff", he said he had a few things to study. "My objectives were to learn, contribute and help synchronize our operations", he said.

During his tour here, he said he liked the people the most. "I gained tremendous respect for the professionalism and commitment of the many soldiers, noncommissioned officers and officers I have had the pleasure of working with", he said. "I was delighted to discover that soldier's worldwide share the same values and are committed to the ideas of selfless service for the common good of mankind". He also said that these same people "can and will achieve anything, provided they have the resources".

The biggest issue for Kosovo now is also General Bryant's unfulfilled wish for Kosovo. "I came here expecting that the final status would be decided and that I would participate in activities that would help move that forward".

"I think the people of Kosovo, and this region, deserve to know what the future will be so they can build on it", he said. He also said that would be his "fervent prayer" as he returns home. He said the people here need a decision so they can have peace, economic development, and a better place for their children to grow and prosper.

To that end, he said, "I am pleased with how KFOR accomplishes



KFOR's professional team

its mission and how it continues to perform at a high level". He said this was one of his better assignments, noting how the staff performed "remarkably well" despite the high turnover and constant changes in the operational environment. He also said the "small acts of kindness" by others made his tour here very memorable. "I will always remember this assignment and the people here with great fondness".

"I learned a lot about NATO and the great professionalism of the 35 nations serving here", General Bryant said. The general also said he learned a lot about "the people of Kosovo, the problems, and hopefully its promise for the future".



General Bryant and his family will now move to the Pentagon where he will work on the U.S. Army staff as chief of force integration.

New COS arrives in July

Brig. Gen. William "Bill" T. Wolf

Military service: 28 years. U.S. Military Academy at West Point graduate, 1979, infantry officer; flight training, 1980; branched aviation, 1983; served at every level of command in Army Aviation.

Previous assignment: Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Aviation Warfighting Center at Fort Rucker, Alabama, USA.

Previous missions/deployments: Commander, 11th Aviation Regiment to Operation Iraqi Freedom, 2003; numerous missions to Kuwait, Egypt, and combat training centers in USA.

Main goals with KFOR: To support the mission of our command to provide a safe and secure environment, to contribute to the safe return of displaced persons and refugees and to assist in the creation of the conditions for a final settlement in Kosovo.

Message for KFOR soldiers: I am extremely proud to be a part of the KFOR team and all our NATO partners in this historic and absolutely vital time in European and Balkan history. I look forward to meeting all our partners in this effort and working together toward final settlement.

Personal motto: As a Soldier of almost 28 years I love what I do but mostly I love all Soldiers and what they stand for-the very best each and every nation has to offer doing something that is much bigger than self for little more than the love for their country. Soldiering is an affair of the heart.

Family status: Married to my best friend Sandy for 15 years; no children.

Hobbies: Run, workout, occasionally golf (usually very badly)



Determined Effort 07 *not only operations*

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

Much like politicians who shake hands and kiss babies, a regiment of Italian soldiers is doing the same in small villages here; however, their goal is not the same. A year-long operations exercise here also gives soldiers a chance to win hearts and minds as they perform duties with in-theatre troops, performing a variety of missions.

While the Italian Operational Reserve Force is deployed here for the third phase of an operations exercise, they spend much of their time in towns, talking to the citizens and asking what concerns them - and it's usually issues with water and electricity.

During Determined Effort 2007 (DE 07), which continues throughout the year, various nations have deployed units here to ensure forces are well-trained and ready to meet any



challenge. The exercise was planned last year, as in previous years, and is not tied to any ongoing political decisions.

Many people who live near military bases often hear of exercises, or watch aircraft land and take-off; however, they rarely have soldiers come to their doors. Even in the smaller villages, KFOR is typically seen only through car windows as the vehicles go from one point to another. Yet this day, ORF soldiers stood out in their camouflage uniforms, mixed with the colorful civilian clothes of Kosovo's people. Referred to as a "walk and talk", children came up to the soldiers and they were given biscuits. As the vehicles departed, children ran in the dust as they waved good-bye.

"They are very happy to see Italian troops", said Warrant Officer Giacomo Fuoco. "They are very friendly", he said of the people here. Warrant Officer Fuoco also said they can see during their foot



exercise, but also 'walk and talk'

patrols that the situation in Kosovo is "very quiet". When asked by a reporter how he felt about the security situation here, he simply stated that there is "no problem with security".

As Kosovo's status remains a political football in the EU, as well as with the US and Russia, KFOR continues to fulfill its mission of providing freedom of movement and a safe and secure environment.

While the exercise allows KFOR more opportunities to interact with the local populace, DE 07 and its ensuing rehearsal exercises are designed to show NATO's ability to reinforce its troops on short notice. The exercise also demonstrates both the International Communities — and NATO's resolve to maintain peace and stability in the Balkans.



The intent of the reserve concept is built on three pillars: in-theatre, highly-mobile Tactical Reserve Forces; a rapidly-deployable ORF to augment existing forces; and, a Strategic Reserve Force available in SACEUR, deployable on short-notice.



TURKISH HUEYS' FIR

*Text by OF-3 Vedat Yumsak,
Turkish Army
Photos by OF-2 Adem Bilgin,
Turkish Army*

Turkey sent her first troops to the KFOR mission to Kosovo in June 1999. Since then, Turkish troops have been fulfilling the full range of tasks within the consolidated area of responsibility in close coordination with other contributing nations. These troops, until end of May, included all army units with the exception of helicopters.

When you consider the abroad missions of Turkish Army aviation units, Turkey already had UH-60s in Afghanistan with the Turkish Brigade in Kabul. This is now the very first time Turkish UH-1Hs will fly high in another abroad mission, namely Kosovo.

Kosovo Turkish Helicopter Unit (KTHU) landed at Toplicane Airfield on May 27, 2007, after a 1,200 km flight via Bulgaria and FYROM*. KTHU is now carrying out its mission under operational command of Multinational Army Aviation Battalion Mercury, MNTF S. The hospitality and warm atmosphere of the German, Swiss and Australian colleagues has shortened the time of adaptation for the crew. From now on, MN AABn Mercury is not only a multinational, but also a multilingual and multicultural force; sharing combat duty experiences of the pilots in mission times, and having Turkish coffee while talking on champion's league in their free times.

The first mission for KTHU was to create harmony and a battle rhythm among the fellow aviation units. KTHU started the orientation program

with a familiarization of the KFOR AOR the following day. The introductory flight - accompanied by a



German Huey - was the perfect way to familiarize people with the mission. It also showed the interoperability of the incoming unit.

After three days to adapt, the unit started its mission by presenting its national caveats on June 2, 2007, and performed its first mission by transporting MNTF S Commander Brig. Gen. Ugur Tarcin the same day. The unit is combat ready for missions like command and control, reconnaissance, passenger and material transportation, air assault operations with notice - airborne in



FIRST MISSION ABROAD



much less than an hour, depending on certain factors. Three UH-1H helicopters equipped with T53-L703 engines ensure better performance, but consume a bit more fuel compared to similar aircraft. Routine maintenance is self-performed. KTHU also embodies experienced technicians and pilots

all of whom are IFR rated. Along with the fellow aviation units, KTHU is also now ready for all types of missions throughout the entire KFOR AOR.

**Turkey recognises the republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name*



American-led TF Ibar vital in north and K-Serb relations

*Text and photos by
Spc. Stephen Proctor, U.S. Army*

American Soldiers took charge of Task Force Ibar from a German contingent during a ceremony at Camp Nothing Hill May 4. The Task Force, commanded by Lt. Col. Thomas Williams, currently consists of "B" Troop from TF Patriot as well as a Polish company and a company from the Czech Republic.

CNH sits in the heavily Kosovo-Serb populated Northern tip of Kosovo, where tensions can run a little high. "The Kosovo-Serbs are very nervous regarding final status," said Lt. Col. Williams. "They're a little worried about what's going to happen." TF Ibar is working hard to convey to the local community that KFOR is here for the entire Kosovo population through a variety of areas including, Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) projects, low-profile patrols and investment in the economy. One of the first big projects in which the U.S.-led TF Ibar participated in was getting soccer goals installed at a local field. "They had a beautiful field, but no goals", said Lt. Col. Williams. "So we were

able to have some manufactured and delivered there".

The installation of the goals was celebrated with an inaugural first kick, which, according to Lt. Col. Williams, was attended by about 160 children and 40 adults.

The Soldiers make their presence known with a number of mounted and dismounted patrols, stopping often to talk with locals to get a feel for their reactions to KFOR. "We do a lot of walking patrols," said Lt. Col. Williams. "We talk to people and just try to put a human side to the face of the Soldiers".

"We're getting an impression of what people think about us", said Spc. Melvin Clark. "And if it's poor, we try to improve that impression. We try to see what some of their needs are ... and we want to let them know that they don't have to be active in their own security - we're here to protect them".

TF Ibar is also showing support to the community by investing in the economy and hiring local

workers. "We also have a contract with a local bakery to provide pastries and bread on a daily basis", said Lt. Col. Williams. Additionally the Task Force is hiring local population to support the post. "We have a maintenance crew, the internet that we've recently installed was installed with local labor and the maintenance person over the internet has an office here", he said. "We also have a construction project going on putting in a temporary kitchen, which is all being done with local labor".

Along with supporting the local area, the Soldiers of TF Ibar are improving relationships between international KFOR partners with cross training on vehicles, weapons and tactics. "We've done some riot training with the Polish Soldiers and the Czech Soldiers, and I was extremely impressed", said Spec. Clark.

The staffing of CNH is on regular rotation, so the Soldiers there have limited time to make an impact. "The mission is going great", said Lt. Col. Williams. "I've got a lot of great people up here. They know the gravity of the situation, we talk about daily. And everybody's up here looking to make a difference".



BELKOS 24 finished its mission in Kosovo

*Text by OF-3 Madile, Belgian Army
Photos by OR-4 Couty, French Army*

Since 1999 the Belgian army has troops in Kosovo ensuring the SASE. Belgian Coy is currently stationed in Belvedere Compound in Mitrovica/Mitrovice and under command of a French Battalion. The Belgian detachment, known as BELKOS 24, is executing its framework missions in the eastern part of Mitrovica/Mitrovice and in the mountainous area of Borcane. The framework consists of patrols (mounted and/or on foot), and long duration patrols during which platoons stay for a number of days in a temporary patrol base and guard duty.

If a platoon is not assigned to framework missions, they are doing maintenance, training (such as CRC, helitransport,...), sports or other activities and they are the Coy reserve. During this Kosovo tour, units organised different sport and other competitions which stimulate the platoons and services. Highlandgames have been held after three months and it was a magnificent day. Different "clans" prepared themselves by making

their own kilts and tribe colours. When the games finally began, we had a lot of attention of the French soldiers who were very surprised to see "Highlanders" marching around in their compound. Forces were compared between the competitors in different disciplines: e.g. three throwing, double jerry can marching (with two filled jerry cans in each hand), etc.

The same evening there was a concert for BELKOS 24 after an exhausting

day. We also invited some multinational friends at this concert of "Dr Fred and the medicine men". At this occasion our guests of course had the occasion to taste our (famous) Belgian beer and after three months of Kosovo, the lead (female) singer was surprisingly popular amongst the troops. A perfect end of a very satisfying day.

We will leave Kosovo by the end of July when BELKOS 25 will replace us.

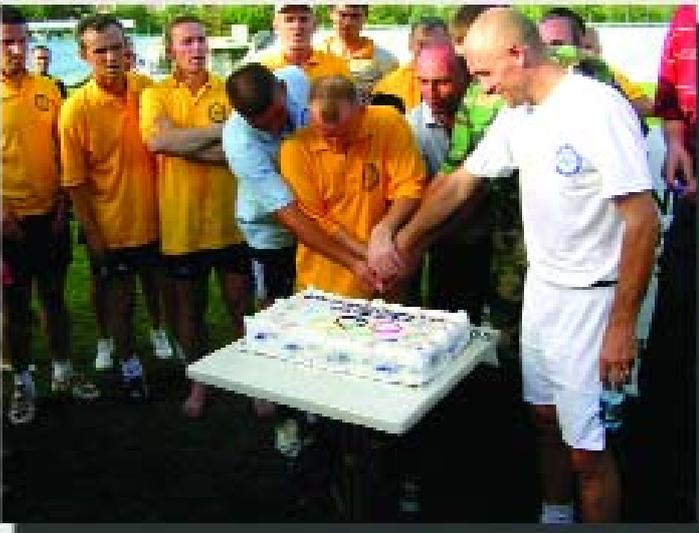


KFOR competes in International

*Text by OF-3 Ihor Levchenko, Ukrainian Army
Photos by OF-3 Ihor Levchenko, Ukrainian Army and
MNTF C CIMIC*



The Kosovo Olympic Association invited KFOR to create a team and participate in a friendly football tournament held to celebrate International Olympic Day June 23, 2007. Four teams - from KFOR, UNMIK, KPC and Kosovo Olympic Association - competed against each other in a tournament in the Pristina/Prishtine stadium. KFOR's football team was provided by MNTF C and was composed of players from the Slovakian and Czech contingents, which won first and second positions in the TF football tournament. KFOR was represented by Brig. Gen. Berndt



1st game - KFOR - Olympic 1:2



2nd game - UN

Annual Olympic Day tournament



Grunde vik, MNTF C Commander and Lt. Col. Bartolomej Hoblak, Slovakian contingent Commander. The matches were played with regular football rules; however, the elimatory matches were held in two halves, each lasting 10 minutes. The final match was played in two halves of 25 minutes each. According to last UEFA and FIFA regulations, the referee's staff was represented by "women in black". Unfortunately, after a hard competition, the KFOR team lost the first game against the Kosovo Olympic Association team, one comprised of professional sportsmen. In the end, the Kosovo Olympic Association team took home first place in the tournament. There was also a symbolic race for Olympic Day and participants were rewarded. A cake-cutting ensued, and as usual, new and old friendships were either created or renewed.



MIK - KPC 1:0

Final - UNMIK - Olympic 1:2

Kosovo's 'second city'



*Text by OR-7 Cheryl Toner
Photos by OR-5 Angel Morales*

Anyone interested in seeing a little bit of Kosovo and learning about its culture - without having to brave the roads behind the steering wheel - should sign up for one of the MWA cultural trips.

On a recent trip to the city of Prizren, a group of us were afforded a view of the city that many do not get to see. Our tour guide, a professor of history and science, Mr. Enver Batiu, graciously showed us around and unlocked the doors to some of the city's oldest treasures.

Prizren is called Kosovo's "second city", with its inhabitants numbering 200,000, is second only to Pristina/Prishtine, Kosovo's largest city.

Our tour began by watching a festival near the League of Prizren building, a structure that dates back to 1878. As luck would have it, our trip fell on the its 129th anniversary. In 1999, the building was completely demolished, according to Mr. Batiu. However, he said within a year it was rebuilt as an exact replica of the original. Within this small building, transcripts of official files from various historical events - such as telegrams and personal letters from 1885 - are housed in glass cases.

An ancient historical town, the city straddles the River Lumbardh and has a backdrop of the Sar/Sharr mountain. According to the Prizren League, archeological research proves that the city is one of the oldest inhabited towns in Southeast Europe. According to the League, Prizren was

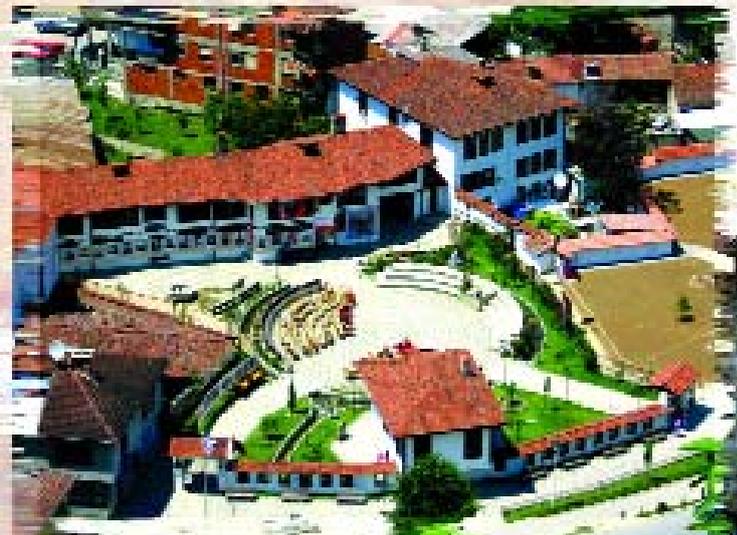


widely known as a center for trade in the 14th and 15th centuries. It was also known as a cultural and an artistic center with more than 65 historical structures and 600 historical artifacts remain.

We saw evidence of this on our trip as we toured a hammam that dates back to the 16th century, as well as a mosque, a church, the League of Prizren building, a small museum, and castle ruins that overlook the city.

The day trip requires a bit of walking and only becomes slightly strenuous walking up the mountain to see the castle ruins. Our elderly tour guide led us up the mountain without breaking a sweat, as the rest of us trailed behind, slowly making our way up the steep grade. Some of the Italian soldier's even jokingly called the trek "DANCON II". However, once at the top, the view of the city was spectacular. The variety of sounds rising above the city was also indicative of the cultural mix of the city. We heard prayer music from the mosque mixing with festival music as children screamed joyously while floating down the river on inner tubes.

Seeing the beautiful city from this vantage point, it is hard to imagine civil disorder; however, according to a report compiled by the Kosovo Cultural Heritage Project, "of the 500 mosques (Kosovo-wide) that were in use prior to the



ty' steeped in history

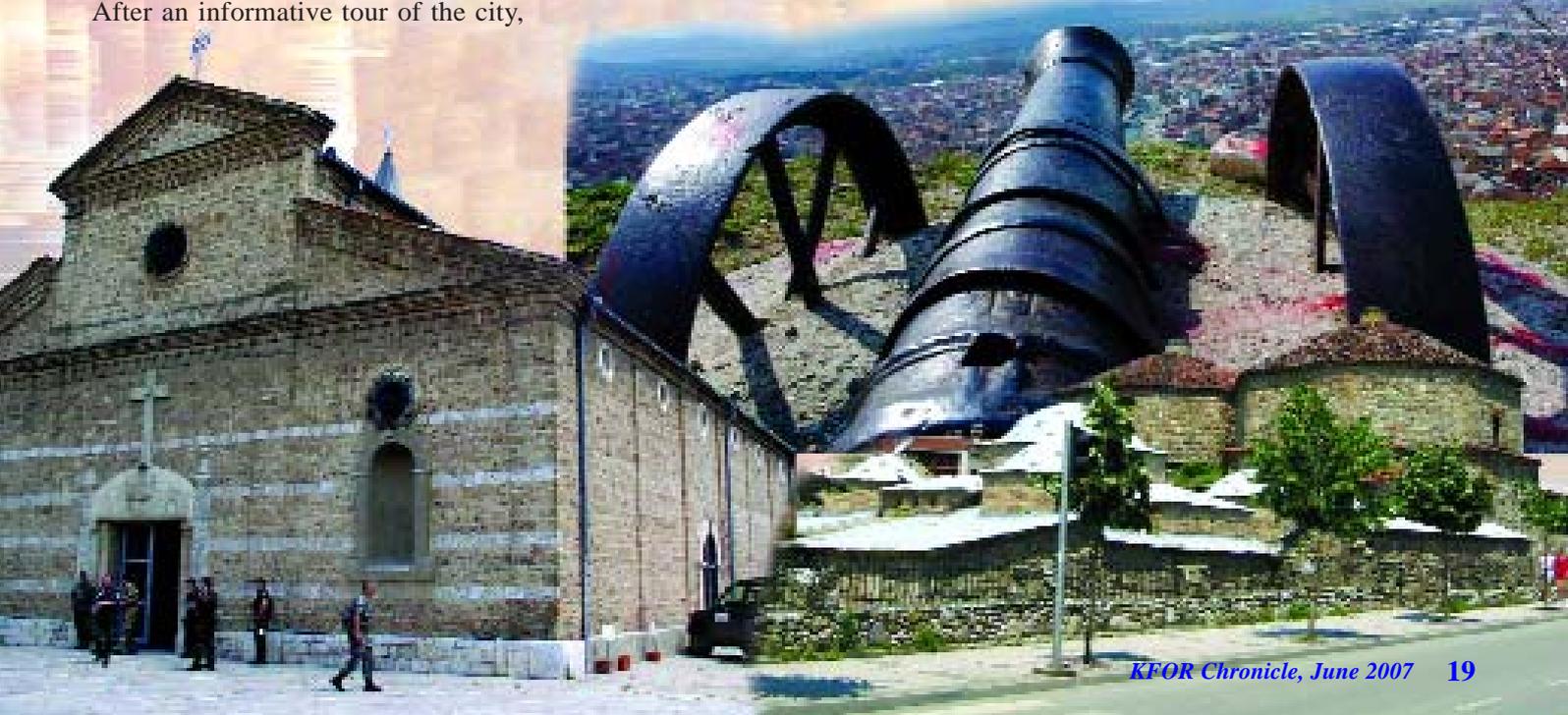


war, 200 of them were completely destroyed or desecrated." The report concludes that both the Sinan Pasha Mosque and the Prizren League Museum were completely destroyed.

While NATO targets in Prizren were few in 1999, five years later the city would see much more damage. On March 17, 2004, during unrest in Kosovo, the following cultural sites were damaged by rioters: Our Lady of Ljeviška church, which dates from 1307, the Church of the Holy Salvation; the city's largest church - the church of St. George; the St. George Runjevac; a chapel of St. Nicholas; the Monastery of The Holy Archangels; and Prizren's Seminary.

After an informative tour of the city,

the final destination on the trip was a short bus ride to a restaurant about 20 minutes from the Albanian border. Overall, the tour was informative, the professor very knowledgeable, our MWA guides were professional and the food was excellent.

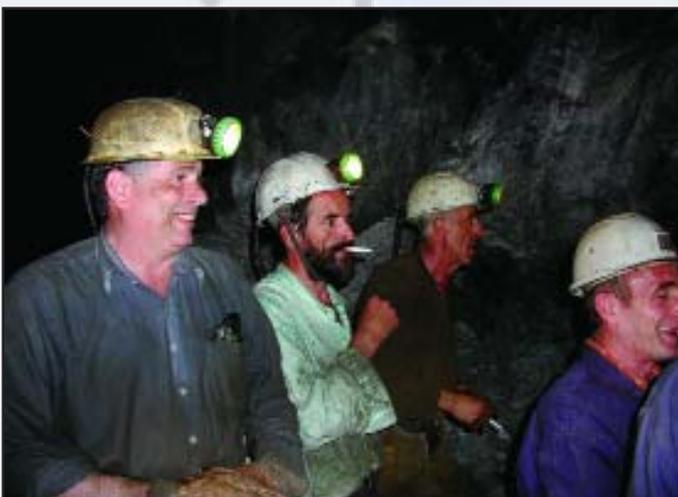


Kosovo: a territory rich



*Text by OF-2 Traversi Versistiano, Italian Army
and OF-2 Borcila Bogdan, Romanian Army
Photos by CIMIC*

Kosovo is endowed with a wide range of minerals that make this small territory home to one of Europe's most concentrated and potentially most lucrative mining



sector. With upwards of 14.7 billion tons of exploitable reserves, Kosovo is host to the fifth largest accumulation of lignite coal on the planet.

In addition to housing fossil fuels, northern Kosovo, near the town of Mitrovica/Mitrovice, is host to five mines of the world famous Trepca Complex containing lead, zinc and silver deposits. These mines have been worked since Illyrian times and their remaining reserves still contain upwards of 425,000 tons of contained lead, 415,000 tones of contained zinc and 800 tones of silver.

During the 1980s, it employed 20,000 workers and accounted for 70 percent of all Yugoslavia's mineral wealth. One economist described Trepca as a "colossal conglomerate composed of more than forty mines, foundries, and subsidiary plants - which [at its height] generated 25 percent of the entire regional industrial production and figured among the principal exporters of the ex-Yugoslavia".

In total, in the Trepca Mine, about 500 people are employed and they work three split shifts, eight hours each.

The mine has 11 levels that go down about 850 meters and workers use four elevators - two are for personnel and two are for raw minerals.

To ensure fresh air in the mine a ventilation system is used. It can pull out 11,000 m³/min of gas for all galleries but this is, in some places, not sufficient. Therefore the temperature and humidity of the air is high and it is difficult to work in these conditions.

To extract material from the gallery, heavy machines are used. Due to the dimensions of the elevator, the machines are disassembled first and the reassembled at the work site. The main problem remains the lack of spare parts for the machines in part because the firm

info in natural minerals



does not have enough funds. Obviously this influences the daily production that now is around 250 tons of raw minerals.

On the May 11, 2007, Deputy COMKFOR, Maj. Gen. Roberto Bernardini, conducted a visit to the Trepca Mine. This visit was organized by the J9 CIMIC branch in order for the DCOMKFOR to be better informed about the characteristics of the Trepca Mine and evaluate the economical effect of the activity of the mine on the local economy.

At the entrance DCOMKFOR was welcomed by Mr. Miftar Hyseni, manager of the Trepça Mine Complex, a man who appreciated the visit and KFOR's interest in this area.

Mr. Qasim Jashari, Engineer and Main Expert of the Mine, conducted the tour of the facility and explained the main characteristics of the mine. Also on the tour was the Chrystal Museum, located not very far from Complex, in which the DCOM signed on guest book.

This visit in Trepca Mine was not only a good lesson on one of the most difficult jobs in the world, but also it was a chance to get to know the people who sacrifice the life for such a low payment.



90 years later the ho



*Text by OF-3 Roberto Malaguti,
Italian Army
Photos by MNTF W PIO*

Ninety years ago, on the June 10, 1917, after a furious artillery bombardment by more than 1,000 guns and howitzers, one of the most dramatic battles of WWI began in north Italy.

On the 7 comuni Highland, just a few kilometres from the village of Asiago in the Veneto region, one of the most beautiful parts of the Alps, the XXth and XXIIInd Italian Army Corps faced the Austro-Hungarian Army.

At dawn on June 10, Alpine troops, Infantry, Bersaglieri and Engineer assembled a few hundreds meters from the well-protected adversary lines. They went out from the narrow trench that afforded the tremendous machine guns fortified positions, which was almost untouched by the artillery attack. During 10 endless days, more than 400,000 soldiers (300,000 Italian and 100,000 Austrian, Hungarian, German, Slovenian, Rumanians, Croats, Serbs and

Italian from Austria-Hungarian Territories) clashed with each other in the name of military honour.

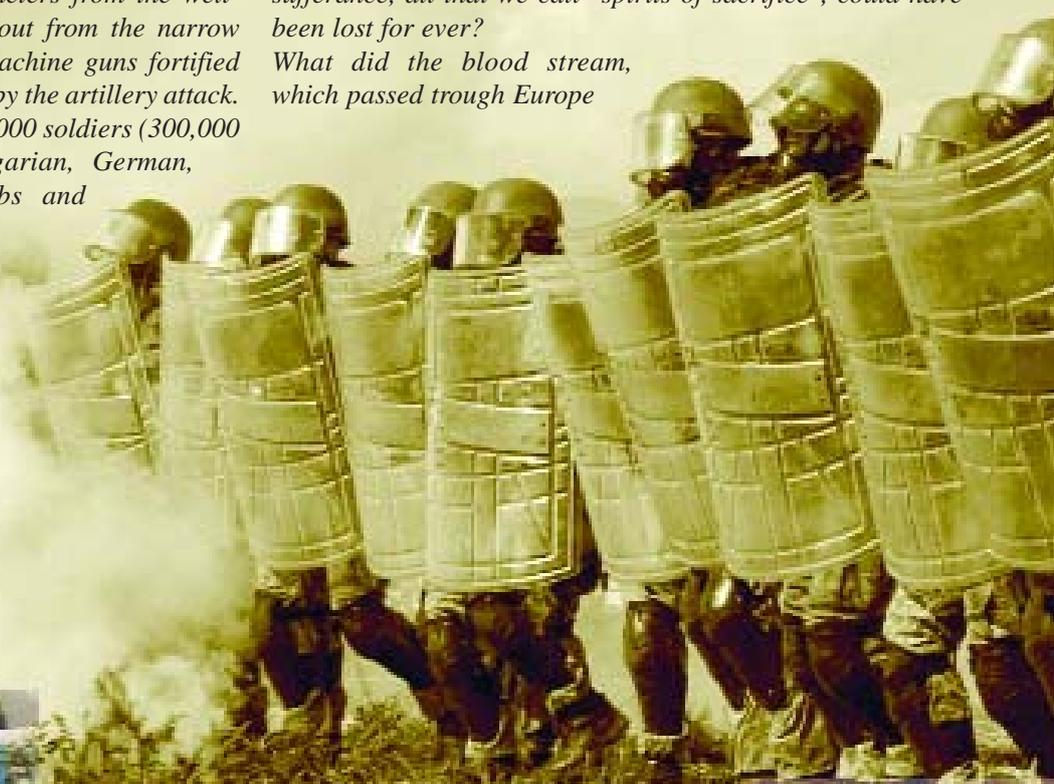
At the end of the battle, the total amount of loses reached the tremendous number of 30,000 men (the 52 Alpine Division lost only during the last battle day 6,700 men) 23,000 Italian, 7,000 from Austro-Hungarian empire.

I'm just looking at the calendar today, around the table in meetings room, during the daily activities briefing of the MNTF W, I could see, sitting each one close to his comrade, officers from Italy, Spain, Slovenia, Hungaria, Romania, liason from other MNTFs who proudly display flags on the uniforms from Austria, France, Germany, United Kingdom.

Every day for more than 10 days in a mountainous area no more than 5 km long and few hundred meter wide more young men than the strength of a MNTF fell dead or were injured.

A question in my mind is if all that courage, all that sufferance, all that we call "spirits of sacrifice", could have been lost for ever?

*What did the blood stream,
which passed trough Europe*



Hope is still flying high ...

in the beginning of the last century, and few years later soaked the entire world teach us?

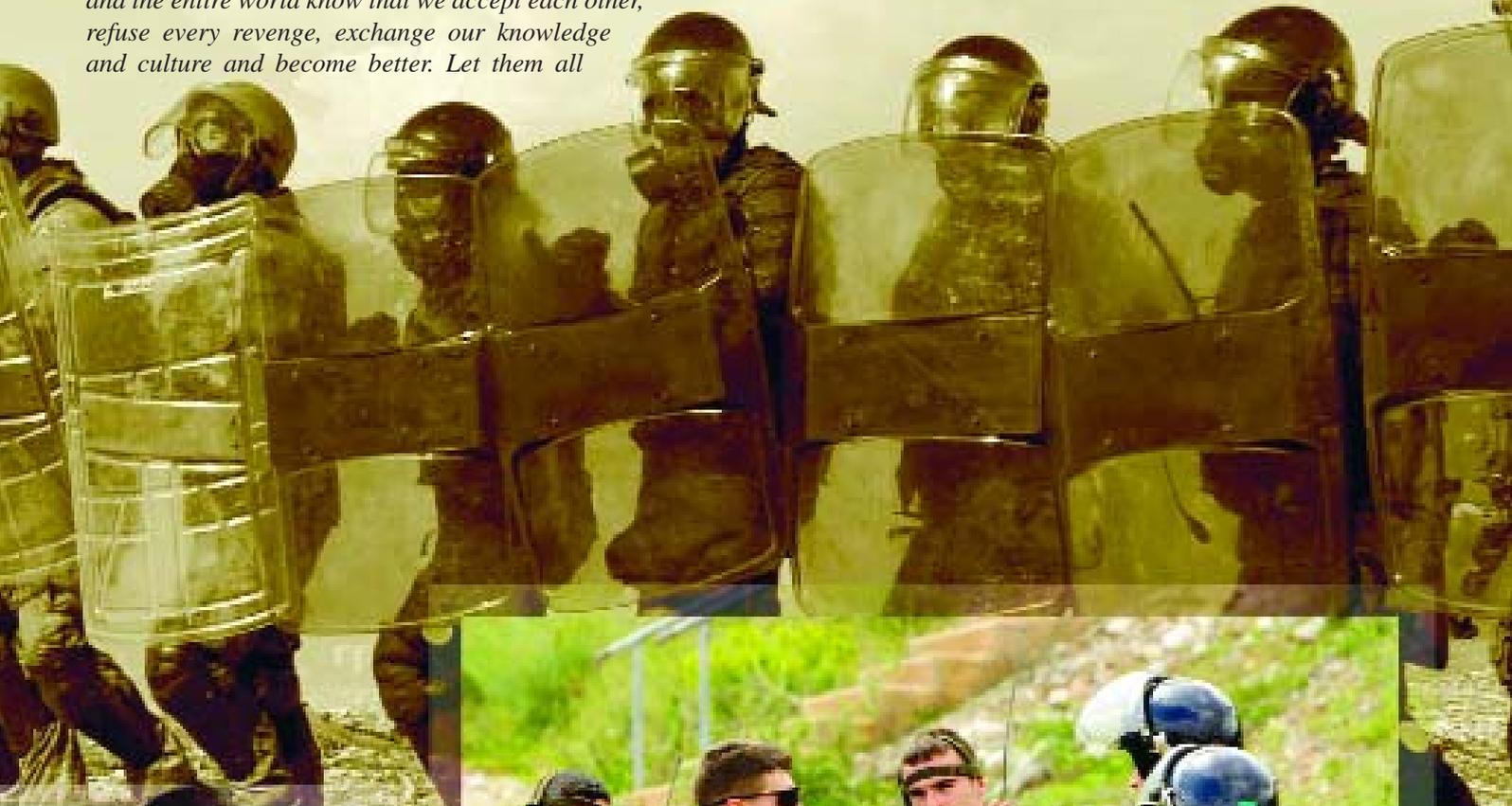
Walking out, I'm just looking around, smile and reply to the military salutes coming from two young soldiers, an Italian young lady and a Slovenian young man, together checking personnel entering the MNTF compound.

That's the key word. That is, I believe, what we have to teach to the world. That's the strength of democracy and civilization.

Let all our people and the entire world know that we are the same people, that we have the same blood. We carry the blood of the ones that no more than 90 years ago faced the most terrible trial following the honour and in the intimate conviction to fight for a better world. Let all our people and the entire world know that we accept each other, refuse every revenge, exchange our knowledge and culture and become better. Let them all

know that we have the same determination to defend peace and, more importantly, will to help other people to live in peace, from Kosovo to Afghanistan, from Bosnia to Lebanon.

If we'll be ready anytime to sacrifice everything we own to defend that "morale heritage" we'll be able to properly thank our predecessors, who wrote from each side, heroic pages. This, we should never forget.



PIO and the four C's

*Text by Spec Of Henrique Schneider, Swiss Army
Photos by Staff Sgt Adrian Streun, Swiss Army*

The Public Information Officer (PIO) has two areas of responsibility: internal and external communications. Of the two, the external aspect is more glamorous. Radio and TV are two major mediums. However, internal communication is a major issue because it has a strong influence on the troops' morale and, by doing so, the day-by-day operations.

New PIO's often ask the question: What can be done to keep everyone informed? As a proposal grounded on the Swiss PIO experience, we use the 4 C's:

1. Camp newspaper
2. Contingent radio
3. Crew self development
4. Coaching

What about the four C's? They can be used as effective means to reach all troops. Let's have a look at the four C's!

We are living far away from home, we do not have access to the daily newspapers and not everyone has Internet access. A daily camp newspaper is the remedy. This is especially important for troops on missions outside the camp since this is often the sole source of information. It can contain international news, special events, national news and sports. It is the most important channel for top-down communications. Sometimes people want something a little lighter, perhaps just



listening to the sweet melody of home. Since most people work and listen to music, broadcasting a contingent radio station makes sense. There are different degrees of concretization of a contingent radio station - it could just rebroadcast a national station or, if the infrastructure exists, soldiers could organize and implement their own programs.

In the instance where someone wants to run a radio program but does not know how to use the technical instruments, PIO can teach it. Teaching could open whole new perspective in a camp. With a balanced concept for the self-development of the entire crew, PIO offers a premium way of passing free time, has a direct contact with different members of the



contingent, soldiers have contact with soldiers from other countries, and everyone gets the chance to invest in their personal future. Among others, courses in language, photography, digital imaging, dancing or cultural activities are also good for self-development.

Coaching is available for everyone, but is aimed directly to commanders. The leaders of the troops have many different issues to manage and to coordinate; some of which are affected by the information policy. The PIO as a coach offers his services to all commanders. The coach gives advice, offers media training, keeps an eye on current events, makes hard cross-examination possible and exchanges ideas and brings in new aspects and views.

All the ideas given here reflect the experience of the Swiss PIO Team in the SWISSCOY 16, it would of course, not be possible without a great relationship with the national contingent commander, as well as the soldiers. Finally, by living in a camp with other nations, synergies can be pursued and effectively used.



Driving safety paramount every day, every trip

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

It is often said, "When in Rome, do as the Romans do." This adage does not always apply to KFOR drivers on the roads of Kosovo.

While everyone must certainly be a defensive driver, the Provost Marshal's office reports that inattention to driving is the number one reason that KFOR drivers get in accidents. According to the PM, KFOR drivers averaged between 55 and 30 minor accidents a month in 2007 so far, with inattentive driving being the number one cause in 49 percent of the accidents.

A very small amount of minor accidents were also caused by improper passing, speeding and dangerous overtaking. This is where "When in Rome" does not apply to drivers here. Anyone driving off base has held his or her breath at least once as witnesses see local drivers passing on curves and solid lines, barely making it back into the proper lane with literally seconds to spare.

The PM reminds everyone that driving here requires more attention than many drivers are accustomed to, so they say you should be prepared for the unexpected. If a car looks like it may pull out in front of you, let it go - don't try to "claim your lane." Others will flash their lights at you - that usually means there is a cow or some other animal in the road. Add pedestrians and horse-drawn carts, and drivers here find every day is a driving test.

KFOR had 40 minor accidents in May - averaging more than one accident a day. "KFOR driver awareness must be improved, despite the attention paid within the Task Forces", said Lt. Col. Ciska van Liempt-Nijland, NL Royal Marechaussee KFOR HQ Military Police LNO. To this end, she encourages supervisors at all levels to ensure their people think about safety before and while they are behind the wheel.

To prepare, drivers should:

- Be qualified and licensed
- Know and follow the rules in Kosovo
- Have a map in the vehicle
- Use absolutely no drugs or alcohol before driving

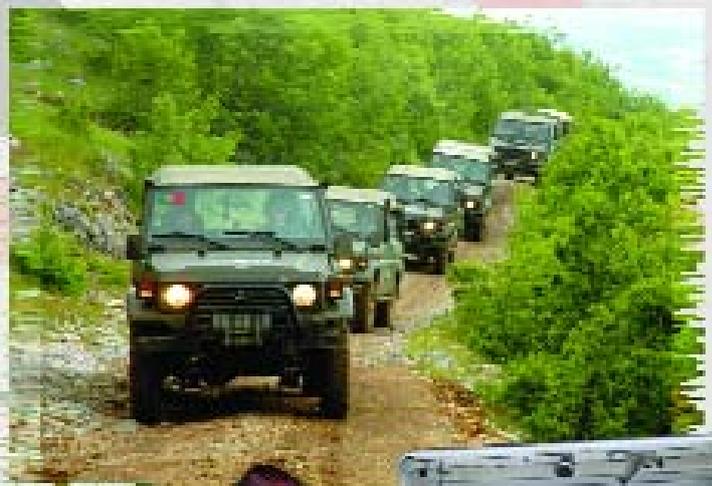


The Provost Marshal reminds everyone to:

- Always drive defensive
- Know traffic laws and speed limits
- Be seated properly in the driver's seat, use correct gears, accelerate and brake reasonably
- Be aware of vehicle and driver limitations
- Anticipate others will pull out in front of you, pass you on a curve, stop without brake lights, etc.
- Keep your distance
- Use the two second-rule for dry roads, four-second rule for wet (Select a fixed object on the road ahead of you, such as a sign or overpass. When the vehicle ahead of you passes the object, count "one-thousand-one, one-thousand-two." Your car should not reach the object before you count to one-thousand-two. If so, your vehicle is too close to the car in front of you.)

- Always expect the unexpected

Finally, if the unfortunate does happen, you should obviously render first aid to anyone injured. Also, do not leave the scene until KFOR police arrive.



Summer safety: You're not as young as you used to be

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

As temperatures climb over the summer months, and most KFOR soldiers strive to maintain personal levels of fitness, the medical advisors here note that care should be taken when working and doing sports outside.

According to the medical advisors, a number of factors can affect how an individual's body reacts to extreme activities in the heat. From the amount of time it takes for a person to acclimatize and the person's age, to the duration of the sport and the amount of fluids a person ingests - everyone should exercise precautions so they can stay in shape and eventually go back to their home stations safely.

These guidelines are especially true for older athletes who need more time to stretch, acclimate, cool down, and perhaps have a few ongoing medical issues. A reminder for the older crowd - your body can't do what it did 10 or 20 years ago.

"If you absolutely must exercise in extreme heat, you need to take precautions," said Lt. Col. Robert Steed, Deputy Medical Advisor. Loose clothing and a head covering are "must haves."

Not only does he advise gradually increasing intensity, but also everyone needs to ensure they're drinking enough fluids - be it water or sports drinks. "Don't wait until you're thirsty; you need to stay ahead of the dehydration curve," he said. The same logic applies to outdoor work; however, people should follow appropriate rest/work cycles. Obviously, breaks should be taken in the shade.

The medical advisor provides the following summer safety tips:

HEAT and **SHADE**:

H - Heat category

E - Exertion level

A - Age and pre-existing health issues

T - Time of heat exposure and recovery

S - Sun protection

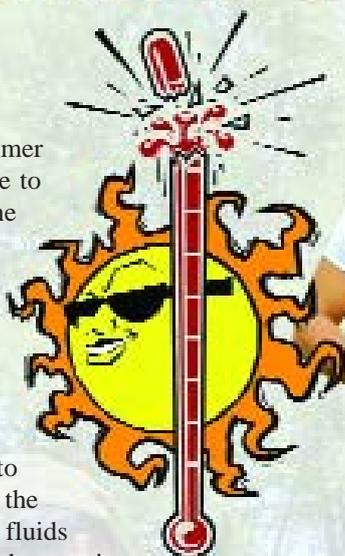
H - Hydration

A - Acclimatization (1-3 weeks)

D - Dress properly (loose, light clothing)

E - Environmental check

While there are signs posted throughout the camp on what to do in case of various stages of heat injuries, how to spot the symptoms and how to treat the symptoms, here is a brief outline of how to prevent heat injuries and how to treat it.



Symptoms	First Aid	Prevention
Sunburn Red, hot skin, pain and possibly a fever	Move to shade, apply cool water, apply moisturizing lotion, hydrate	Wear sun block, wear properly loose-fitting clothing and headgear
Dehydration Dry mouth, headache, dizzy	Consume water/sports drinks with electrolytes, seek shade, loosen clothing, rest	Ensure sufficient water supply, use sun protection (light, loose clothing & headgear)
Heat cramps Muscle cramps or spasms Mainly in legs and arms	Go to shade, massage muscles, hydrate using water or sports drinks with electrolytes	Eat balanced meals Drink sports drinks Ensure proper acclimatization
Heat exhaustion Dizziness, fatigue, weakness, nausea	Move to shade, lie down, spray/pour water on person, slowly drink water	Allow acclimatization, stay in shade, follow work-rest cycles, avoid exercise during peak heat hours
Heat stroke Altered mental state, very high temperature (over 40C)	Begin aggressively cooling down person, elevate head, evacuate to medical center immediately	Use heat exhaustion measures, have medical support and evacuation capabilities, especially before planned sports events

Spanish and other nations run



n half marathon in Istok/Istog

Text by OF-3 Luis Barber
Photos by OF-4 Samper and
PIO Tizona Team

On the sunny day of May 27, 140 runners gathered in Base España in the Istok/Istog municipality with one challenge ahead: the Half Marathon "Private Colorado", to commemorate one of their fallen soldiers.

Although most of the runners came from TF Tizona, the Spanish Task Force, there were also representatives from other units and organisations. Soldiers from Italy, Poland, France, Hungary and Slovenia also participated in the event.

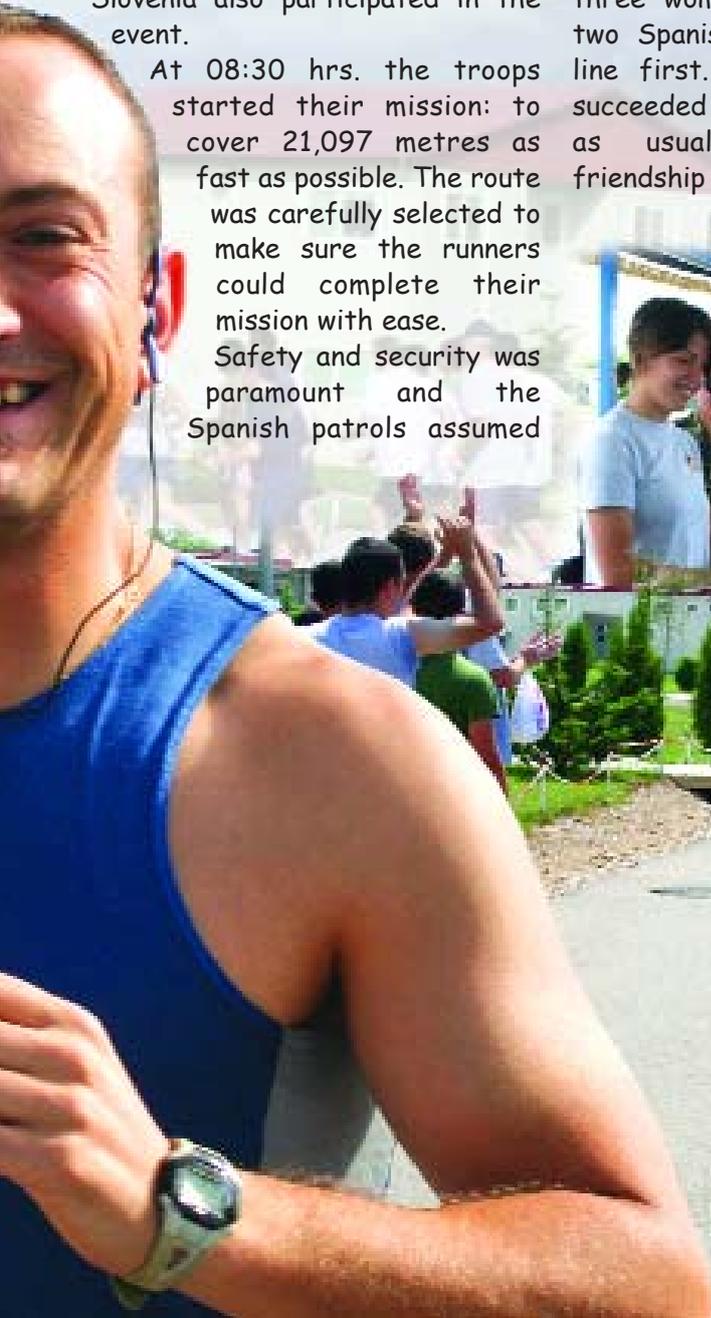
At 08:30 hrs. the troops started their mission: to cover 21,097 metres as fast as possible. The route was carefully selected to make sure the runners could complete their mission with ease.

Safety and security was paramount and the Spanish patrols assumed

the control of the area. Along the way more than 20 soldiers were deployed to avoid runners losing the path and to provide all of them with the best gifts: fresh water, orange segments and water soaked sponges to fight the heat.

However, the most important element was, as usual, medical services. Their contribution was essential for a successful end of the race. Medical personnel were deployed along the way, and they quickly moved to assist runners in need.

The Slovenian's ruled the event, with three Slovenian men and three women, one Slovenian and two Spanish, crossing the finish line first. However, all runners succeeded in their challenge, and, as usual, camaraderie and friendship were the end result.



Sauna

The Finnish secret for a successful peacekeeping mission



*Text and photos by OF-2 Mikko Autti,
Finnish Army*

The Finns are generally not known for their passionate attitude. They don't adore fine wines as the French or go nuts over a football game like most other Europeans or South Americans do. There is however one thing that Finns take extremely seriously and with a lot of passion - sauna.

The origins of Finnish sauna date back over 2,000 years. A variety of people around the globe have similar steam rooms also in their cultures. However, nowhere else is the tradition of a steam room so closely attached to national heritage as in Finland.

Modern Finnish saunas can be located in all major cities in the world today.

It is a long-standing joke amongst peacekeepers that when Finnish troops set up camp in a newly established area of operation, they construct a sauna before they build their headquarters. Finland has participated in various peacekeeping missions for over 50 years and sauna has been extremely important for the troops in all of them.

Naturally, sauna is present in the Finnish contingent in Kosovo. The main camp of the contingent, Camp Ville in Lipljan/Lipjan, has 19 saunas. Rumor has it that the commander of the Finnish contingent goes to the sauna twice a day - once in the morning and again after

working hours. The Finns even have a sauna on wheels! The Zaunava, a sauna constructed from a Zastava-car, was built by the maintenance platoon on their spare time. This wood-heated mobile sauna can be seen in operation on a tour inside Camp Ville mostly during special events. Finns take hygiene very seriously and in this task sauna plays an essential role. In addition, sauna has a significant social purpose for all Finns, not only peacekeepers. It is a place of tranquility and relaxation, thus providing a forum where one can forget daily routines and pressures. The Finnish contingent in Kosovo encourages all readers to try a real Finnish sauna at least once. Chances are however that your initial visit will not be your last!





Name: Gabriel Panin

Rank: OR-4

Nationality: Romanian

Home Unit: 81st Mechanized Brigade

Unit in KFOR: MNTF-W Task Force Aquila

About the mission: I'm a sniper in the 1st Infantry Coy, 191st Infantry Battalion. This is my second mission in Kosovo. The first mission was during the year 2003 in northern part of the province. So, coming to this tour was a natural thing for me and I found out that I had a lot of experience from the first mission. For me personally this mission is an opportunity to gain more experience and improve my military knowledge.

Family reaction: At the beginning my family was hesitant, because this is a long deployment. In the end they approved my tour of duty. Of course, they are looking forward for my return home.

Plans after mission: When I will return, I will continue to serve my country as a soldier in the Romanian Army.



Name: Külli Kivirand

Rank: OR-8

Nationality: Estonian

Home Unit: Kuperjanov Single Infantry Battalion

Unit in KFOR: medical platoon in HQ Coy DANBN

About the mission: I've been working as a military nurse for 15 years by now, but this is my first mission. I work with the Danish medics. For me it has been a challenge to work with other nations. So far it has only been a good experience with lots of knowledge and wisdom related to my specialty. At the same time I was pleasantly surprised by the high standards and teamwork of Danish paramedics. With them pleasant collective time passes quickly.

Family reaction: My kids weren't very happy when they first heard that it was going to Kosovo. By now they have accepted this and are supporting me because they understand the nature of my work down here. My daughter Helena graduated university this summer and my son Taavi is studying in high school. I also have a grandson Mattias. He is two-and-a-half years old.

Plans after mission: In August I'm planning to rest with my children and act as a real grandmother to my grandson. After vacation I will go back to work in my former job.



Name: Marek Galo

Rank: OF-2

Nationality: Slovak

Home unit: HQ Air Defence Brigade

Unit in KFOR: Headquarters MNTF C, Staff Officer Personnel

About the mission: This is my first mission. I have been here in Kosovo since September 15, 2006. My plan was to work in a truly multinational environment in the Task Force Headquarters. I have been very pleased with my decision during my nine-month mission. I have gained experience in personnel work and met a lot of people from many countries. Perhaps the most valuable asset has been the friendships I have established with my colleagues.

Family reaction: My family did not agree with my decision to go abroad on a mission. But now my children tell everybody that their father is one of the thousands of peacekeepers in Kosovo and they are proud of me.

Plans after the mission: First of all I will go on holiday with my family who is already waiting for me. After a well-earned rest, I will return to my regular post and continue with my work in Slovakia.

Mirusa Waterfall

