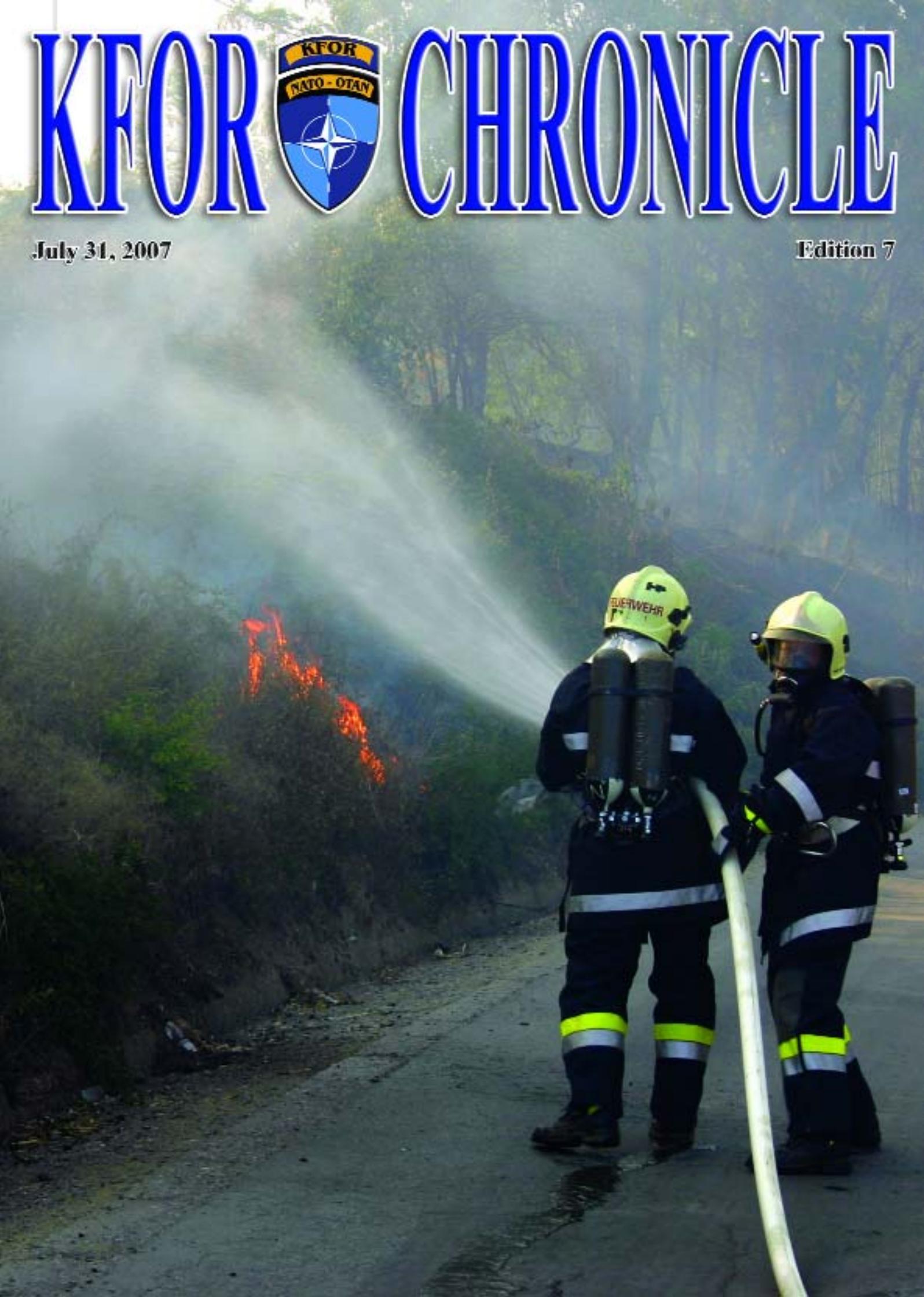


# KFOR CHRONICLE

July 31, 2007

Edition 7



# Dear KFOR Members

My name is Major Ewald Klinger, and it is a great honor and privilege for me to take over as the HQ's new Chief Internal Information and Editor in Chief of the KFOR Chronicle magazine.

I am Austrian, 38 years old and I am in service as a PIO at the Austrian Infantry School.

This is my first mission abroad and the main task of this mission is to maintain the high standard of the KFOR Chronicle.

With your support and my experience, I am sure that we can reach this goal.

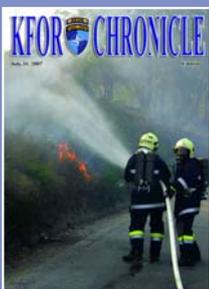
In this edition you will find a wide range of interesting and thrilling articles with unique pictures.

I'm proud to hand out the new edition of the KFOR Chronicle just after a few weeks on the mission, and I am proud to have the opportunity to work with my team.

We are looking forward providing you an informative and up-to-date KFOR Chronicle magazine every single edition.



## KFOR CHRONICLE



Cover photo by MNBN Dulje

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. Ewald Klinger, AUT Army  
klingere@hq.kfor.nato.int

Journalist  
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:

<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



**NATO Secretary General visits;  
calls for patience ..... Pages 8 - 9**

**SACEUR:  
'Well done. Good job!' ..... Pages 16 - 17**



**The Church of the  
Blessed Mary in the Sky ..... Pages 18 - 19**

**KFOR aids Kosovo  
firefighting operations ..... Pages 26 - 27**



**Austrian soldiers  
wed on mission ..... Pages 32 - 33**

# New Chief of Staff assumes r

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

*Photos by Maj. Ihor Levchenko,  
Ukrainian Army and CCT*

Brig. Gen. William Wolf officially took over authority as Chief of Staff from Brig. Gen. Albert Bryant in a ceremony at HQ KFOR in Film City July 7, 2007. Unlike a "normal" ceremony outside the headquarters building, the usual block of chair for guests and dignitaries was replaced by a multi-national troop formation.

Under sunny skies, Brig. Gen. Bryant first thanked the guests from Kosovo for their hospitality and openness. "This has been a highlight of my career," he said about camaraderie and professionalism of everyone here. "Kosovo will always have a place in my heart."

Brig. Gen. Bryant then said, "It is my heartfelt desire and prayer that the diplomatic process will come to an end ... and Kosovo will be a place where children can grow."

Speaking of KFOR and its staff, he



said, "I have been greatly honored and privileged to stand and work with you."

The COMKFOR, Lt. Gen. Roland Kather, then addressed the COS, the guests and the troops. He spoke about what he has seen in Brig. Gen. Bryant's during his 13-month-tour

here. "His sharp intellect and keen sense of humor, in addition to his superb technical and tactical proficiency, made him my most trusted advisor," the COMKFOR said of the outgoing COS.

"I am grateful for your dedicated service," he said, after praising his



# responsibility in TOA ceremony

work and thanking him for the sacrifices both he and his family have made.

Addressing the new COS, Lt. Gen. Kather said, "Clearly, you have a tough act to follow." However, the COMKFOR expressed his faith in the new COS's abilities, saying, "... you will be highly successful in this very challenging and demanding assignment, during these crucial times."

"I look forward to working closely together during the final months of my tour here as we execute our mission of providing a safe and secure environment for all the people of Kosovo, following our motto of 'Shaping the Future,'" said the COMKFOR.

Following Lt. Gen. Kather's speech, Brig. Gen. Bryant was presented with a NATO non-Article 5 medal, as well as the



Ehrenkreuz der Bundeswehr in Gold - the highest medal of the German Armed Forces.

After the Sergeant Major posted the colors, the formation stood at attention as the U.S. national anthem was played. Then, following one final salute, Brig. Gen. Wolf officially took over as KFOR's Chief of Staff.



# ON TOUR COMKFOR

## K4 Family

**JULY 1**

Lt. Gen. Roland Kather and some of his staff members representing the K4 Family take a break during a bike tour from Pristina/Prishtine to Ajvalija/Ajvali.



## Lithuanian MoD visit

**JULY 2**

General Kather met with Mr. Juozas Olekas, Lithuanian MoD, during his visit to HQ KFOR.



## Ukrainian MFA visit

**JULY 3**

COMKFOR Lt. Gen. Roland Kather met with Mr. Arseniy Yansenyk, Ukrainian Minister of Foreign Affairs, during his visit to HQ KFOR.



## US National Day

**JULY 4**

General Kather attended US National Day celebrations at Camp Bondsteel.



## Visit to KTM

**JULY 4**

Lt. Gen. Kather visited the VCP in MNTF S AOR, organized by the KTM, during his meeting with the KTM commander.



## Visit to MNTF E

**JULY 5**

COMKFOR Lt. Gen. Roland Kather took part in an LMT-forces patrol in Urosevac/Ferizaj during his visit to MNTF E.



## Visit to Pjeter Budi University

**JULY 6**

General Kather met with students at the Pjeter Budi University in Pristina/Prishtine.



## COMKFOR awarded Portuguese medal

**JULY 6**

Lt. Gen. Kather was awarded a high Portuguese decoration at the military parade in Camp Slim Lines.



## COS KFOR TOA

**JULY 7**

Lt. Gen. Kather took part in the COS KFOR Transfer of Authority ceremony in Film City.



# our with KFOR

## Austrian Parliamentarians visit

**JULY 12**

Lt. Gen. Kather met with a delegation from the Austrian Parliament during their visit to HQ KFOR.



## USA Senior Balkans Advisor visit

**JULY 12**

General Kather met with Gen. (Retired) Crouch, USA Senior Balkans Advisor, during a visit to HQ KFOR.



## UK Parliamentarians visit

**JULY 12**

COMKFOR Lt. Gen. Kather met with members of the UK Parliament Foreign Affairs Committee during their visit to HQ KFOR.



## Italian Chief of Army visit

**JULY 16**

COMKFOR General Kather met with General Filiberto Cecchi, Chief of the Italian Army, at the Dakovica Airfield.



## French National Day

**JULY 14**

General Kather attended the French National Day celebration at Camp Novo Selo.



## Visit of DSACEUR

**JULY 16**

COMKFOR General Kather met with General Sir John Reith, DSACEUR, during his visit to HQ KFOR.



## Trilateral Meeting

**JULY 16**

Lt. Gen. Kather took part in Trilateral meeting with SRSG Joachim Rucker and Kosovo Prime minister Agim Ceku.



## Portuguese Ambassador visit

**JULY 18**

COMKFOR General Kather met with Mr. Antonio Tanger Correa, Portuguese National Coordinator and Special Envoy for the Western Balkans, during his visit to HQ KFOR.



## SACEUR visit

**JULY 18**

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



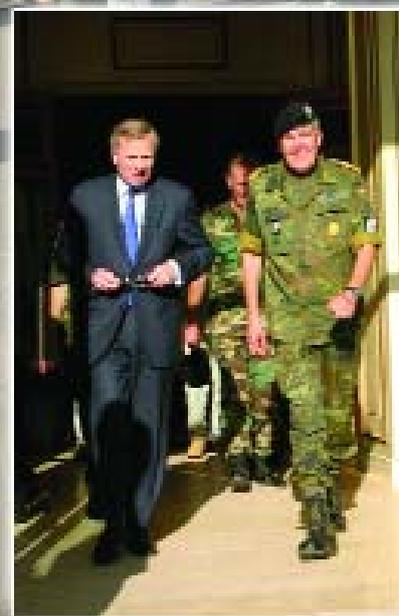
# NATO



*Text compiled from media reports  
by OR-7 Cheryl L. Toner  
Photos by Combat Camera*

# Secretary General visits; calls for patience

NATO Secretary General Jaap De Hoop Scheffer visited Kosovo June 29, 2007, and met with UNMIK Chief Joachim Rucker, COMKFOR Lt. Gen. Roland Kather, Kosovo President Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu, the Unity Team and representatives of Kosovo-Serbs. The secretary general, with United States



Navy Admiral H.G. Ulrich III, Commander, Allied Joint Force Command Naples, also met with Kosovo leaders. The SG said NATO's determination and role in Kosovo will remain the same, but he asked leaders to be patient and show restraint while giving the process a little more time.

Scheffer also said that Kosovars should feel secure in knowing that KFOR remains determined to ensure that during the process, a peaceful and secure environment will be the standard for everyone in Kosovo.

His comments mirror what he said when he was in

Pristiana back in April of this year: "NATO-KFOR is here in this very special and important period for Kosovo to see that no one, no one, should have the illusion that violence or the threat with violence could in any way be an element in finding a solution.

"Anybody who would like to resort to violence is not only wrong, but he's harming the process from whatever side of Kosovar society he or she comes", said SG Scheffer. "So, moderation is the key word; taking and having and letting the responsibility where it now belongs and

that is in the Security Council of the United Nations."

Scheffer said that he came to Pristina in June as a friend of Kosovo to show the determination of NATO and KFOR in support of the quickest solution possible, which would have Ahtisaari's plan as a foundation. To this end, he said, "NATO and its allies support Ahtisaari's plan and KFOR troops in Kosovo will not allow any violence".

On this trip, the SG also spoke briefly at a press conference and visited, among other things, a cultural site.





# French, celebrate

*Text by OR-7 Cheryl L. Toner  
Photos by OR-7 Cheryl L. Toner  
and Sgt. Stephen Proctor,  
US Army*

## French Bastille Day

The storming of the Bastille, on July 14, 1789, immediately became a symbol of historical dimensions; it was proof that power no longer resided in the King or in God, but in the people, in accordance with the theories developed by the philosophies of the 18th century.

On July 16, the King recognized the tricolor cockade: the Revolution had succeeded.

For all citizens of France, the storming of the Bastille symbolizes liberty, democracy and the struggle against all forms of oppression. Shortly after the storming of the Bastille, on 4 August, feudalism was abolished and on 26 August, "the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen" was proclaimed.

MNTF East was the site of American 4th of July activities and just 10 days later, Novo Selo was where the French celebrated Bastille Day July 14.

Both national days are held in celebration of granting its citizens certain rights, and both nationalities held parades, had bands and various types of food. A unique twist on Bastille celebrations was the 11th Airborne Brigade parachute demonstration team parachuting in a small area with amazing accuracy. The team jumped out of a French Puma at 1.500 meters and, after landing, the team lined up and was given a coin by the COMKFOR, Lt. Gen. Roland Kather.



# Americans national days

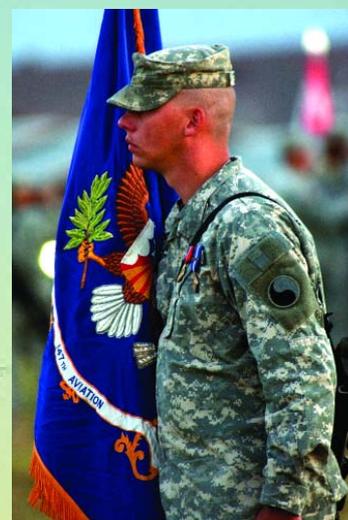


evolution," according to the French Embassy in the United States. "Indeed, the American dream of the Founding Fathers has much in common with the ideals of the French Republic and our two democracies are offsprings of the age of enlightenment."

## American Independence Day

America citizens celebrate July 4th as Independence Day because it was on July 4, 1776, that members of the Second Continental Congress, meeting in Philadelphia, U.S.A., adopted the final draft of "the Declaration of Independence". In 1777, Philadelphians remembered the 4th of July and bells were rung, guns fired, candles lit, and firecrackers set off. Yet as the War of Independence dragged on, July 4 celebrations were modest.

When the war ended in 1783, July 4 was celebrated in some places. In Boston, it replaced the date of the Boston Massacre (March 5) as the major patriotic holiday. Speeches, military events, parades, and fireworks marked the day and, in 1941, Congress declared July 4 a federal holiday. "The French Revolution and American Independence are different results of the same philosophical and societal



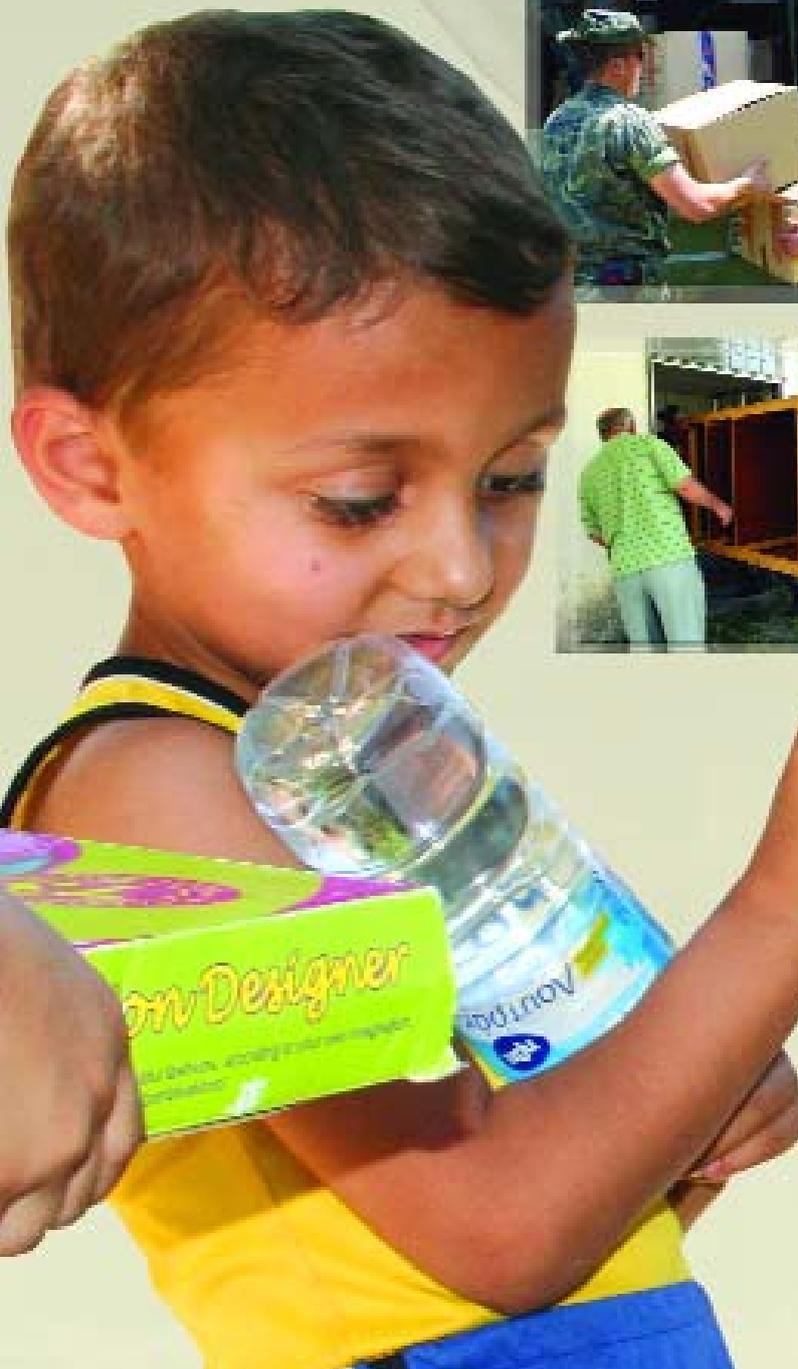
# Task Force Tizona continuu

*Text and photos by  
Maj. Jesus Leal, Spanish Army*

The children of Kosovo are the main beneficiaries of the humanitarian aid in the form of food, clothes, footwear and water.

The CIMIC Team of Task Force "Tizona" delivered a diverse amount of material for the Bosniac community of Dobrusa/Dobruše and the MAE's community of Banja/Banje carried on July 4 and July 9, 2007.

Their representatives, Djule Batilovic and Ali Hajrizaj, were in charge of receiving the shipment which will be dedicated to 55 families of both minorities.



# es giving humanitarian aid

Spanish soldiers brought more than 150 boxes of clothes and footwear, numerous toys, furniture, 900 kilos of flour, milk, oil and pasta.

The soldiers know that the significance of this donation is knowing that 20 kilos of flour is enough to feed a family of five for 10 days.

On the other hand, TF "Tizona" has supported K-Albanians in Kosh/Kos, going in three times to re-supply their – for a total of 30.000 litres – and have contributed to quell the shortage of water. With this quantity, 140 people can subsist more than 10 days.

CIMIC Team of TF "Tizona" has the objective of improving the quality of life of the different ethnicities in its Area of Responsibility, paying special attention to the children.



# Villaggio Italia; TOA in TF 'Aquila'

*Text by Capt. Marcos Chaparro, Spanish Army  
Photos by MNTF-W PIO*

On June 28, at 11:00 hrs. at Villaggio Italia, on a beautiful partially-sunny summer day, Task Force Aquila Commander Col. Giuseppe Ognimè from the 5th Infantry regiment "Aosta" was waiting for his replacement as a military parade looked on.

Local authorities and invited personalities were taking their places when the music of the Bersaglieri march started, resounding within the TOA square, the squad honoring the Italian flag appeared to be running in a very special way, the Bersaglieri style.

Col. Antonio Randine from 7th Bersaglieri regiment was waiting for this squad and he was ready to take the Command of the TF Aquila.

DCOM KFOR Division General Roberto Bernardini and Commander MNTF W, Brigadier General Antonio Venci, presided over the ceremony. The TF Aquila TOA started. After the change of flag between both colonels, Colonel Ognimè thanked his soldiers for providing a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for the people of Kosovo. During their mission - from Jan. 24, 2007 through June 19, 2007 - they accomplished a lot of tasks. Among other things, they traveled more than 700,000 km in their vehicles and countless kilometres on foot - 5,701 patrols all together. They performed 4,974 checkpoints, and checked 18,066 vehicles and 40,550 people. Now 5th Infantry regiment Aosta is ready to go back to their basement in Messina. In his speech, Brigadier General Antonio Venci expressed his gratitude and appreciation to Colonel Giuseppe Ognimè and his soldiers, emphasizing his spirit of cooperation.

In spite of having participated in NATO and EU missions - including Bosnia and Herzegovina and Albania - this is the first time that the 7th Bersaglieri regiment from Bari (Puglia) is on a mission in Kosovo.

They will continue the legacy of all Italian troops in Kosovo, providing freedom of movement, and a safe and secure environment in the TF Aquila area of responsibility.



# A FLAG IS LOWERED...

Text by Col. Achim Landherr, German Army  
Photos by MNTF S PIO

A short, official farewell ceremony to honour the departure of the last of the Dutch soldiers attached to 17th DEU CONKFOR in Camp Prizren was conducted June 30, 2007, by Col. Hans Werner Patzki, Deputy Commander of Multinational Task Force South.

Soldiers from all nations represented in the camp lined up in front of the headquarters building of MNTF S when, following an impressive speech of thanks, the red-white-blue flag of the Netherlands was lowered. The Provost Marshal of HQ KFOR, in her capacity as Senior National Representative of the Netherlands contingent, came from Pristina/Prishtine to take over the retrieve flag.

The departing soldiers were the last of a series of five teams who, since January 25, 2007, had rendered their contribution as a complete surgical detachment for the German Field Hospital in cooperation with fellow soldiers from MNTF's nations. One detachment at a time was assigned for one month each. It comprised a surgeon, an anaesthetist, an anaesthetic and intensive care nurse, as well as two surgical nurses. In addition, the Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) was augmented by one Dutch officer.

The international cooperation in the German Field Hospital has proved successful.

Working together has

also established the bonds of friendship. In this context, the commander of the German Medical Task Force invited all members of the other nations represented in his formation to a multinational social event, and the Dutch comrades in turn invited their fellow soldiers to a cheerful farewell party. The invited guests were all welcomed by an officer and a nurse clad in traditional Dutch dress, presenting a key ring with a pair of small porcelain shoes (replica of the traditional Dutch clogs) as a token of memory.



# SACEUR: Well done. C

## SACEUR visits soldiers at Archangel Monastery

*Text and photos by MNTF S PIO*

The German KFOR Manoeuvre Battalion Prizren manages the most diverse tasks, from mounted and dismounted patrols, vehicle and identity checks, to the protection of cultural assets and residential buildings of minorities, just to name a few. The diverse tasks are shared between five companies; however, one manoeuvre company is tasked with protecting the Serbian-Orthodox Archangel Monastery and the monks living there.

Late in the morning June 25, the first of two American Black Hawk helicopters landed on an open area in front of the monastery. Aboard were the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), American four-star Gen. John Craddock, COMKFOR, Lt. Gen. Roland Kather, and the American Representative for Kosovo, Andrew Brentall.

The guests were welcomed by the Commander of Multinational Task Force South (MNTF S), Turkish Brig. Gen. Ugur Tarçin, and the



# Good job!

commander of German Manoeuvre Battalion Prizren, Lt. Col. Ralph Adametz, and subsequently briefed on the situation and the mission of MNTF S. They received detailed explanations on how attacks on the monastery - which had led to the destruction of the accommodation wing in 2004 - are supposed to be prevented from occurring in the future. In this context, the reinforcement of the structural protection was addressed as well as the modified concepts for the employment of the security forces. The highlight of the capabilities demonstration was the employment of the reserves that, after a short warning time and wearing their complete crowd and riot control equipment, landed aboard a Swiss Super Puma, part of the multinational helicopter unit of MNTF S, and immediately reinforced critical spots. Highly satisfied, General Craddock thanked the soldiers who lined up for the debriefing with the words: "Well done. Good job!"



[Cultural Heritage]

# 'Black Madonna' draws more than



# 23,000 people annually

Text by OR-7 Cheryl L. Toner  
Photos by Armend Aquifi

In a small town near the FYROM border, a relatively "young" Catholic church is host to more than 23,000 visitors annually - and most of them come in one day. In Letnica/Letnice, about 7 km from the border, chickens and cows that freely roam the streets are overrun with people on a mission: the annual pilgrimage to The Church of the Blessed Mary in the Sky which houses "The Black Madonna."

The church's current structure was completed in 1934; however, according to Gjergj Zefi, who has lived and worked at the church for five years, the church has been completely destroyed at least three times. And yet its lure is felt all over Europe as people come for an annual pilgrimage on August 15. As the day of assumption, thousands of Catholics come

from Europe and all over Kosovo to this church, which has a history that dates back to the beginning of the 14th Century.

According to Zefi, about two weeks before the pilgrimage, tents dot the rolling field nearby, as a special building with a courtyard just down the hill from the church is opened up - only once a year - in preparation for this occasion.

On the day of the pilgrimage, the group begins its trek a few kilometers from the center of town. The pilgrims walk an indirect route of about four kilometers through the woods, over the hills and through fields, stopping along the way to pray to Madonna, the mother of God. Also, on the 15th, Zefi said pilgrims attend mass, and later in the day, bands perform and people sing, eat, and talk to each other, creating a celebratory atmosphere.

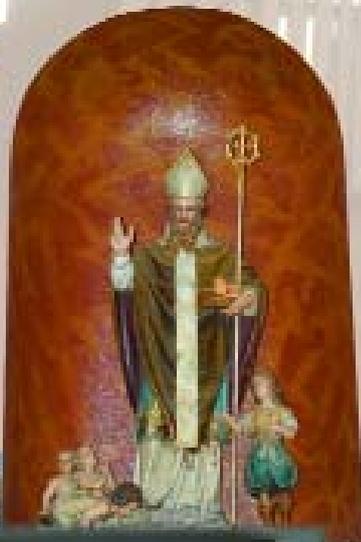
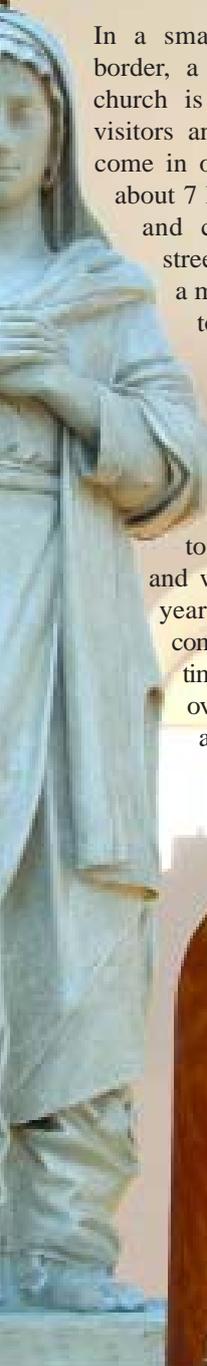
One of the most famous pilgrims is Mother Teresa who, when visiting the church in Letnica/Letnice, received her calling. Mother Teresa was born as Gonxhe Agnes Bojaxhiu on August 27, 1910, in Skopje/Shkup. After visiting the church, she was reported to have said in 1928, "I have decided before the Lady of Letnica to go in missions and to dedicate myself completely to God and to serving souls".

Last year more than 500 KFOR soldiers joined the thousands who took part in the pilgrimage, including the previous COMKFOR. Zefi said that since 1999, "we've never had any problems". Preparation keeps it that way, with KPS and KFOR providing security.

According to Zefi, only 25 families in Letnica/Letnice are Roman Catholic, and most of the remaining residents are Muslim Albanian. While the assumption



may be that residents would be upset as their idyllic streets are filled with masses, Zefi said they welcome the annual event and its ensuing rush of people. "All year we wait for this day", he said. "We are very happy they are here".



# COMKFOR invited to UNSC



*Text courtesy of U.N. News Centre*

COMKFOR was invited to New York to give his assessment on July 9, 2007, on the conditions in Kosovo. Lt. Gen. Roland Kather met with advisors before the UN Security Council met, advising them of the situation on the ground in Kosovo.

Both the Secretary General Special Representative, Joachim Rücker, and Lt. Gen. Kather said that "not dealing with the status of Kosovo can worsen the situation" and that not moving forward can nullify the progress already made up until this point in Kosovo. Afterwards, the SRSG told the 15-member Council in a closed session that the time had come to provide "a roadmap, a timetable, to assure Kosovo's two million inhabitants of where they are headed".

The senior United Nations envoy to Kosovo urged the Security Council July 9, 2007, to quickly draw up a roadmap for determining the status of the province, which the world body has administered since NATO troops drove out Yugoslav forces amid

inter-ethnic fighting in 1999.

The SRSG praised the achievements of the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). "Out of a humanitarian crisis, an institutional breakdown, and a complete security vacuum in 1999, UNMIK has put in place very firmly, together with its international and local partners, the foundations for a functioning democracy, a functioning rule of law sector and a functioning market economy", he said.

At the same time, he cautioned that the international community must act. "We have reached a critical point where further progress on the ground depends on ensuring clarity on Kosovo's status".

Mr. Rücker paid tribute to the people of Kosovo. "But today there is an undercurrent of anxiety throughout the population and among Kosovo's political leaders", he added. "They fear that the status process is losing momentum and what had appeared to have been an imminent resolution of Kosovo status will unravel".

# New KFOR DCOS Support

Text by Maj. Ewald Klinger, Austrian Army  
Photos by Combat Camera



**Rank and full name:** Brig. Gen. Reinhard Schöberl

**Time in service:** Since 1979

**Assignment at home:** Since 2003 Chief J2 in the Command and Control Staff of the Austrian MOD.

**Previous missions:** 2002/2003 DCOS in KFOR Multinational Brigade Southwest and Austrian NCC

**What are your main goals during your tour with KFOR:** As KFOR DCOS SPT I will try my best to contribute to efficient and smooth staffwork within the Support Division and with other KFOR HQ sections in order to support KFOR's important mission as best as possible.

**What message do you have for KFOR soldiers?** When fulfilling your mission always be firm but also honest and friendly. Be sure to act as a good example for your colleagues from various nations as well as the local population. And please, be especially careful when driving - your family wants you back healthy!

**Your family status?** Married, 2 sons, ages 19 and 18 years

**What are your interests and hobbies?** My family, canoeing on rivers, biking.

**Do you have some basic principles or a personal motto?** If you get some information, always think about who else could use this information. Personally, I try to be honest and reliable and thus give a good example to others.



# New KFOR DCOS Operations

*Text by Maj. Ewald Klinger, Austrian Army*

*Photos by Combat Camera*

**Rank and full name:** Brig. Gen. Giovanni Savarese

**Time in service:** In the Army since 1977, with 30 years of active duty

**Assignment at home:** Chief of Staff at the Italian Infantry School in Cesano di Roma.

**Previous missions:** Chief G3 of Multinational Brigade North during the Operations Joint Endeavour (1996);

Chief G3 of Multinational Brigade North during the Operation Joint Guardian (1997) in Bosnia - Herzegovina;

Chief of Staff of the Italian Contingent operating in Macedonia and then of Multinational Brigade West, deployed in the western region of Kosovo during the operations Joint Guarantor (1998) and Joint Guardian (1999);

Chief of Staff of Multinational Brigade West inside operation Joint Guardian in Kosovo (2001).

Commanding Officer of 8th Bersaglieri Regiment - Task Force FALCO in the operation Decisive Guardian in Kosovo (2003);

**What are the main goals during your tour with KFOR?** To support the COS in leading the staff. To carry out all duties in accordance with the commander's intent and to contribute to the mission of shaping of the future of Kosovo.

**What message do you have for KFOR soldiers?** I have been in the Balkans several times and every time I am really impressed by soldiers professionalism and by the cooperative attitude. I am very proud to be part of this multinational team.

**Family status:** Married since 1982 to Mrs Giuseppina Palmieri, and one daughter, Marianna, who is 23 years old and a graduate of economics.

**What are your interests and hobbies?** Running, and playing soccer and tennis.

**Do you have some basic principles or a personal motto?** Always be yourself.



# French troops repair mountainous road in Northern Kosovo

*Text and photos by Lt.  
Yann Chollet, French Army*

Borcane is an isolated village far in the mountains in the Northern Kosovo. There is only one road, well on its way to becoming a path, to drive freely from the main road in the valley to the mountains. The main part of this road was seriously damaged by rain and normal wear-and-tear from vehicle traffic. In order help villagers drive freely and to restart KFOR patrols in this area, the road leading to Borcane/Borcan needed to be repaired. This action was jointly-led by the French CIMIC actions and the engineer company from the Camp Novo Selo. Under the command of OR-7 Fourniere, a French engineer platoon from the 17th Airborne Engineering Battalion was engaged for one month near the village of Borcane/Borcan. During the mission, soldiers had to overcome some unusual circumstances. It is not so easy to work

on a path in mountains where tractors and big vehicles are still moving along! It was essential to find passing places in order to improve traffic flow up and down on the path. Workers also had an interesting time getting the materials to their forward location. Some appropriate quarries were found, according to the municipality of Leposavic/Leposaviq authorities. Engineers then became diggers to find and transport stones and gravel to the newly-constructed road. At the end of the project, the engineer soldiers made about seven kilometers of repairs on the main path of Borcane/Borcan. They also repaired three kilometers of side paths leading to isolated farms.

The four weeks spent there for the project was a great experience for the whole team. Different contacts with the population were always good. After repairing the road, the mission is now to repair the village's school by another French engineer platoon. Located in the center of this scattered village, it really needs some work! Let's get working for some other days over there!



# MEDCAP in Strpce/Shterpc municipality



Text and photos by Capt. Maxim Prauta,  
Ukrainian Army

Ukrainian soldiers from the joint peacekeeping battalion POLUKRBAT organized and conducted the first Medical Civil Assistance Program (MEDCAP) June 23, 2007. It was held in the "Sharski odred" Primary School in Yazhynce village, in the Strpce/Shterpc municipality.

During MEDCAP, Ukrainian soldiers provided medical, dental and optometrist services. Taking the lead in this event, the members of Ukrainian's S5 section, Liaison and Monitoring Team invited another medical staff from Task Force Med Falcon, TF Hellas, TF Prizren and the

Polish contingent of POLUKRBAT to take part in MEDCAP, in coordination with Ukrainian medical personnel.

Early in the morning, through the ground reconnaissance executed by Ukrainian militaries, about 80 individuals, mostly children and the elderly, were medically screened or treated. Despite the fact that during this part of the year, the local population traditionally makes hay, KFOR's medics had a lot of work ahead of them. Everybody who came to the location where MEDCAP services were provided was seen by qualified medical personnel.

All inhabitants of Yazhynce village also received humanitarian assistance - clothing, hygiene items and vitamins.

During the Medical Civil Assistance Program, Deputy Commander MNTF E Col. Jeffery Grebb and deputy commander of MNTF E of civil/military operations Col. Steven Scott visited this event.



# Happy to be a part of KFOR

*Text and photos by Lt. Lauri Kriisa,  
Estonian Army*

Along with other NATO forces, Estonian soldiers first landed in Kosovo in 1999. Since that time, Estonians have conducted peacekeeping operations in Kosovo under different structures and names. One example is as ESTPATROL (MP unit), under Italian command, as BALTSQN (recce unit) which is under Danish command.

Now we are back to continue the military traditions and education that we had gathered over the years. Now the name of Estonian unit is ESTRIF-1.

ESTRIF means ESTonian Recce Infantry Force, and, in the structure, there are 26 soldiers:

one command group and four sections, each consisting of six soldiers. We started our mission in Kosovo on February 14, 2007.

ESTRIF-1 is based in Camp Olaf Rye under operational command of the Danish Battalion. For us that means that DANBN grants us all backup for both logistics and infrastructure. What is left is for us to conduct operations.

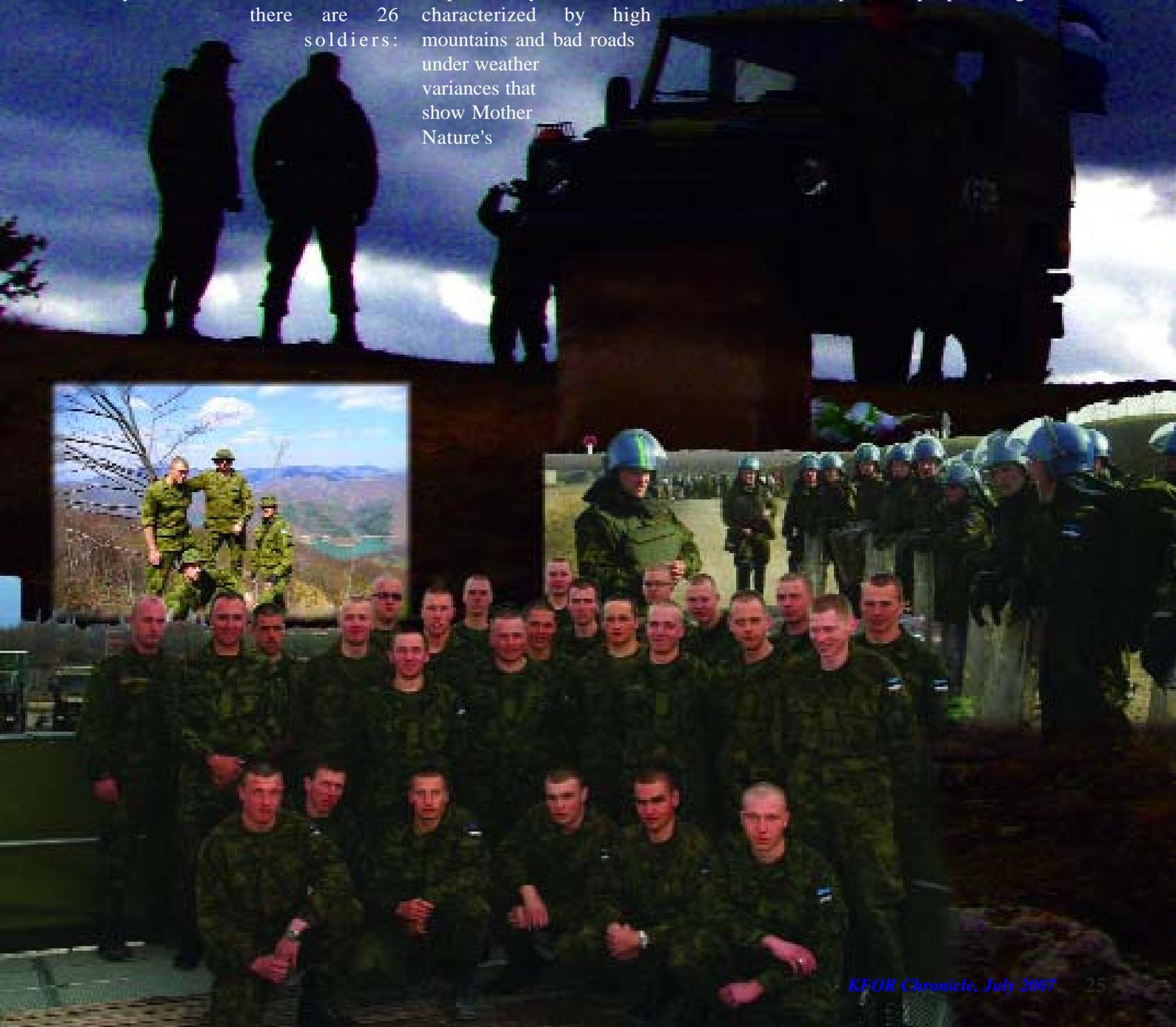
What operations do we manage here in Kosovo? So far we have been conducting patrols on foot and by vehicles, sitting on long-duration observation posts, conducting area and object recce's, etc.

Luckily, we have our own area of responsibility which is characterized by high mountains and bad roads under weather variances that show Mother Nature's

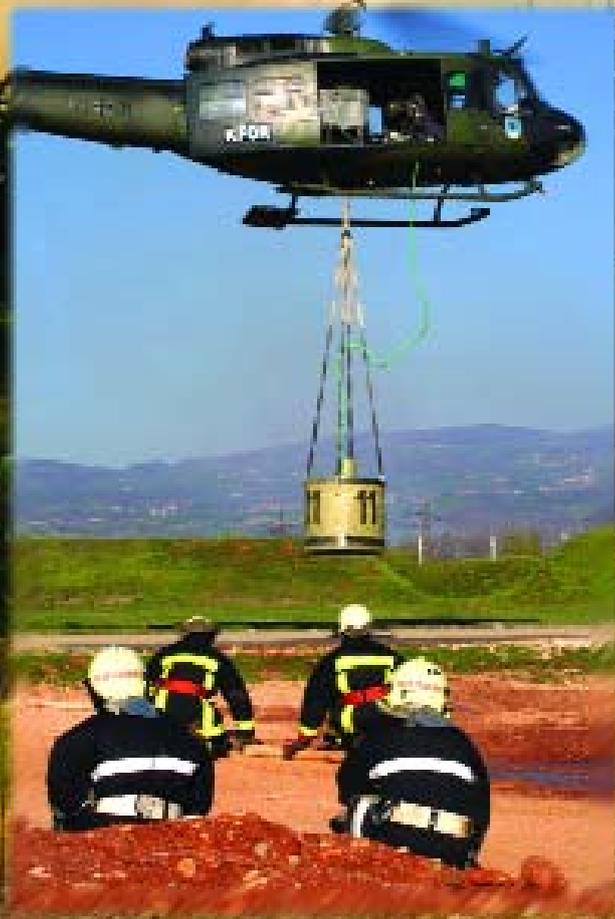
unforgiving moods. It takes the efforts of every member of the patrol to succeed on every patrol.

Aside from any additional recce tasks, we have also been conducting Vehicle Check Points (VCP) and Crowd Riot Control (CRC) exercises. CRC is one of our favorite tasks, but there are no real rioters to test our skills on. With CRC training we have mostly had great moments of pleasure. And the best moments are the ones when we are the rioters and can test the opponents.

Overall, we are happy to be a part of KFOR. And with this happy mood we are ready, together with other units working in Kosovo, to make this place a better place for people living here.



# KFOR aid



# Inside Kosovo firefighting operations

*Text by Maj. Ewald Klinger, Austrian Army  
Photos by MNBN Dulje and  
OR-6 Adrian Streun, Swiss Army*

KFOR is working with its civilian counterparts to put out the wildfires burning across Kosovo. There has been an incredible heat wave across Kosovo for weeks; however, it is a Kosovo tradition that farmers - after harvesting their fields - burn the remaining straw. This tradition, plus extremely dry and hot weather conditions, means spontaneous wildfires have erupted all over Kosovo.

For that reason civilian institutions have requested KFOR's support in firefighting operations all over Kosovo. Where ever possible, KFOR has made its assets

available. KFOR has assisted not only with helicopters, but also with trained firefighting personnel on the ground. These men and women are helping battle several different fires.

When conditions allow, KFOR's helicopters operate from sunrise to sunset, seven days a week. However, it is not possible for helicopter's to drop the water at night, and only certain types of helicopters are equipped for firefighting operations. KFOR has provided Bell UH 1 and AS 332 Super Puma helicopters to drop water over burning lands. Because of existing landmines, it is extremely dangerous for pilots to drop tons of water from a low altitude; therefore, assistance is sometimes limited.

KFOR's determination to serve in this region for the benefit of all residents of Kosovo is not limited to military means.



# SLOVENIAN HELICOPTER CREW

*Text by: OR 7 Rok Tomsic, SVN Army*

*Photos by: OR 6 Milivoj Turkovic, SVN Army, OR 2 Emil Jalovec, SVN Army and OR 4 Alessandro Moghetti, ITA Army*



A Slovenian helicopter crew recently came to the rescue in containing forest fires in the Pec/Peje vicinity.

It is summer time here in Kosovo and aside from the high temperatures and lack of water, the next most dangerous thing here is forest fires.

In the second part of July, the crew came to the rescue, but this was no ordinary fire; it was high in the mountains - in places that were hard to reach by land.

A Slovenian helicopter and its crew were given the order to assist in extinguishing a large fire on July 17. This was the first time that MNTF W commander gave an order for such a mission.

Previously helicopter fire fighting was only used if KFOR property or personnel were endangered. This was also the first time that MNTF W performed a CIMIC activity that was considered as an emergency.

On the 17th, right after 08:00 hrs., they flew from their KFOR home base in Djakovica/Gjakove and made a stop in Camp Villaggio Italia just to attach a water-carrying bag under the helicopter. They departed on an 8-hour mission that included taking water from the Pecka Bistrica River. It takes a well trained crew to perform such an operation.

After the water was taken from the river, the helicopter ascended to the fire



# VS CONTAIN LOCAL WILDFIRES

site where the helicopter crew disperses the water on the wildfire. When there was no more water in the bag, the helicopter returned to the river and repeated the same procedure, each time taking almost 1,000 litres of water. This Slovenian helicopter crew performed this action 42 times in which they carried more than 32,000 litres of water, using more than 3,000 litres of helicopter fuel. In the end, this helicopter crew helped to localize the fire that destroyed more than 20 hectares of high mountain forest and bushes.

The Slovenian helicopter unit is serving in TF Ercole, a unit that falls under the command of MNTF W. Crews serve in two month periods and this is the third rotation of Slovenian helicopter crew. Their home unit is the 15 Helicopter Battalion, Brnik Air Base. The Slovenian helicopter contingent contains one Bell 412 helicopter and a crew of eight, comprised of pilots and air technicians. Also, one Bell 412 is on reserve in Slovenia.

The bravery and professionalism of the Slovenian helicopter crew is standard as all previous helicopter crews that served in KFOR that participated in fire fighting are well-trained for such operations.

Slovenian helicopters are all equipped and all crews well trained in fighting fires. One of the helicopter's main tasks in Slovenia during the peace time is fire fighting and air rescue in the high Slovenian Alps. Slovenian Army helicopter crews rescue a lot of people annually from hard terrain and dangerous situations.

But that doesn't mean that this helicopter crews are only for civilian rescue and helping in firefighting. The Slovenian helicopter crew received a letter of appreciation from the former MNTF W commander. That happened after the

combat tactical flight in which the Slovenian helicopter crew showed to the MNTF W commander that they are prepared for any kind of activity.

The Slovenian crew is always ready to perform their tasks and to successfully complete the mission.

As this article was written the Slovenian helicopter and its crew also helped to localize another fire near Klina/Kline on July 20.



# IT'S



# S JUST MAGIC...!

*Text and photos by Swiss PIO*

Mission Magic: the Swiss Army is probably the only army that has a tank-coy commander serving as a magician. Captain Roland Meister, a winner of the Swiss magic's championship and an award-winning member of the American Magician Association performs usually twice the year for children and for KFOR troops in Kosovo. To that end, from June 8 to June 15, we were proud to have had the 11th Magic Mission!

The Swiss Master Magician performed 25 times in one week: 15 times for local children, 10 times in KFOR Camps. Many of the local children in small villages never had the opportunity of seeing a magician live. So, why not use the resources we have to access those villages in the mountains and to show the children something very different from their everyday's lives? The children were often very amused by the show, some so very amazed that they just didn't manage to applaud: they could only sigh...

Small villages can have huge schools with more than 200 students eager to learn and to feel the touch of magic. Moreover, children in the hospital badly need some good news and oftentimes a diversion. Sometimes, those villages and hospitals are very far away, but thanks to the Turkish, German and Swiss Helicopters and the Austrian EOD Team, air transportation was possible.

Performing for KFOR troops is also an important mission: Camp Clarke, Camp Olaf Rye, Camp Prizren, Camp Toplicane and the Swedish Muddy Mess hosted Captain Meister and his show. In the Turkish Camp Sultan Murat, some 300 soldiers and officers just couldn't manage to keep sitting. With standing ovations they documented very well how such a magic mission is also something very special in the military routine.

An example is trying to cut a magic rope with grandmother's scissors isn't very easy. And seeing your money disappear doesn't feel very good; however, it feels much better when it re-appears. Trying to catch up to the velocity of a speeding ball and at the same time not losing the magician's hat from your eyesight is a delightful challenge. Other delights are playing cards with an invisible set that materializes in the magician's hand and trying to sit down without a chair, but with three other comrades can be very demanding. Yet, it is also very rewarding!

Of course, performances for our own national troops are also important. One show for an Austrian CIMIC project brings other aspects into consideration: the project also has an emotional element. Three shows for the SWISSCOY and guests and thrice the same picture: soldiers laughing and asking for more, just delighted by the Mission Magic.

Why use a magician in the military? There are many different reasons to do so. First, it's an interesting and oftentimes necessary distraction from our routine: relaxing in an enjoyable show full of tricks, twists and turns. Second, the Mission Magic builds a bridge connecting different KFOR contingents. If there are some follow-ups, like visiting each other, inviting for dinner or even exchanging experiences, even better. Third is the possibility for the military to influence the local population for the better, providing them with an experience many only know from what they hear or see on television. The military maintains a safe and secure environment by at the same time providing a highly delightful experience.

That's the Mission Magic; a non-military operation that turns to be essential to the army. It's just magic...!



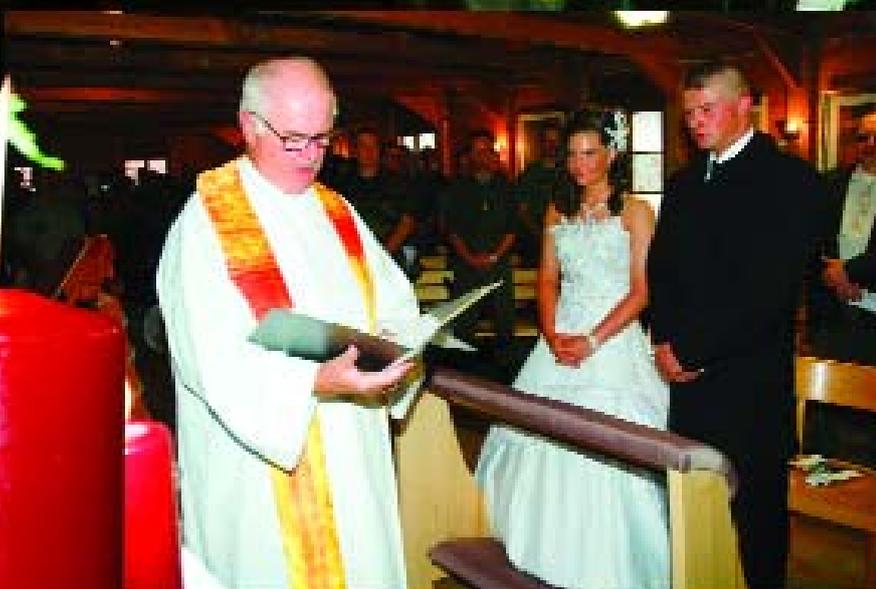
# Austrian soldiers

*Text by Maj. Thomas Burgstaller, Austrian Army  
Photos by OR-7 Oskar Schmidt and  
OR-9 Klaus Hattinger, Austrian Army*

Austrian soldiers were witness to a unique event here as two soldiers wed on this mission abroad: a first for the country. Soldiers OR-3 Raphaella Lestina and OR-6 Thomas Lestina exchanged wedding vows before international witnesses in the Camp Casablanca chapel, which is also the home base of the Austrian contingent here.

The deputy NCC and the Battalion Commander of Man Bn Dulje also attended this once-in-a-lifetime event, as well as the Swiss NCC, who extended their congratulations to the newly-weds.

After the ceremony in the chapel, the group attended a reception with cake and coffee at the 2nd Inf Coy,



# ers wed on mission

Ms. Lestina is a gunner from the APC Pandur and Mr. Lestiana works in the HQ Coy and repairs the Austrian APCs.

Both want to stay in the Austrian Army. She seeks a carrier as an officer and he finds interest at the MP or EOD.

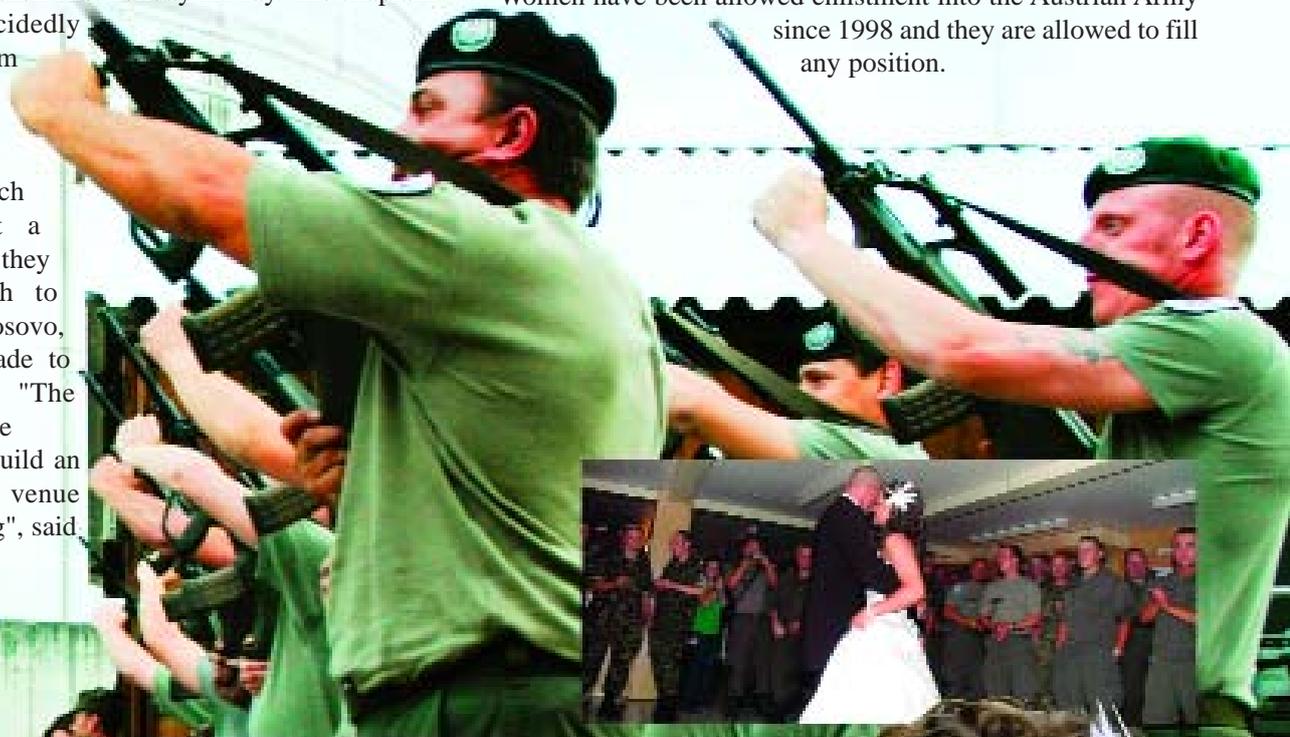
Nevertheless an extension will be their focus. Go together and look together is their motto, and this also gave the chaplain meaningful words for his speech.

Women have been allowed enlistment into the Austrian Army since 1998 and they are allowed to fill any position.

followed by dinner at the dining facility. To highlight the celebration, the two camp bands gave their best in the so-called "Austrian café". It was the first appearance of the two bands and it lasted until midnight.

The couple had already given their "yes-word" in Austria at the registry office during their first holiday in May. The chaplain spoke from a "decidedly special point" from where they have to go on together for the rest of their lives.

The couple met each other last year at a military course and they decided to go both to Kosovo. While in Kosovo, the decision was made to marry here. "The surroundings, the mission itself build an extraordinary venue for a wedding", said Ms. Lestina.



# Find six differences!

Send your solutions to [kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int](mailto:kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int)

A winner will be chosen at random and featured in the "Peacekeepers' Profiles" in the next issue of KFOR Chronicle.

Original



Modified

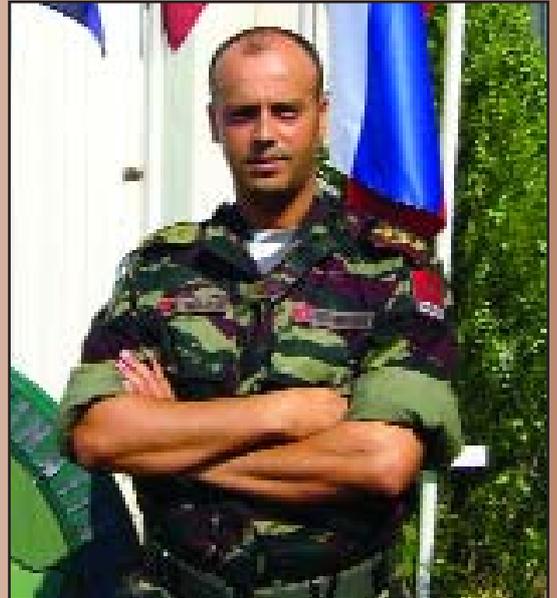


**Name:** Achkir Abdeltif  
**Rank:** Captain  
**Nationality:** Moroccan  
**Unit:** 10th Motorized Brigade  
**Unit in KFOR:** MNTF N HQ G3

**About the mission:** This is my second mission abroad but the first one in Kosovo. I have been here since September 26, 2006. I am really pleased to carry out this mission. For me it is a challenge to cooperate and work within a multinational environment. So far, it has been an interesting experience for me and a gain of professional knowledge. I really appreciate the opportunity to make new friends from many countries.

**Family reaction:** My family appreciates my contribution to this mission, but nevertheless must bear my long absence. So far its an honor for me to represent my country overseas.

**Plans after mission:** After the mission I will go straight to a military training (capt courses) and have the opportunity to see my family each week-end. Hope the best for all.



**Name:** Anar Samedov  
**Rank:** OR-3  
**Nationality:** Azerbaijan  
**Home Unit:** Peacekeeping Force Battalion  
**Unit In KFOR:** MNTF S Man Bn Dragash 4th Mech Inf. Co.

**About the mission:** This is my first mission in Kosovo. Our duty here is to support the peace, and maintain a safe and secure environment in our AOR. We are carrying out this mission under the command of our Turkish brothers with pride. Azerbaijan Armed Forces are carrying out peacekeeping operations also in Iraq and Afghanistan. In all these missions, all Azerbaijani soldiers are ready to do everything necessary to help the local people to have a better future for themselves and for their children. It is just the same here in Kosovo too, and I am proud to be a part of it, and I work very hard to be succesful.

**Family reaction:** My family was happy to hear that I was going to be stationed in Kosovo. They are aware that this is a peacekeeping mission to help all Kosovars. They are proud of me, and this makes me proud too.

**Plans after the mission:** First I will go on holiday with my parents, and later, as all good soldiers do, I will again be ready for the service of my country, anywhere, anytime, anyhow I am needed.

**Name:** Matej Praznik  
**Rank:** OR-6  
**Nationality:** Slovenian  
**Home unit:** 20th motorized battalion of the 1st Brigade  
**Unit in KFOR:** TF Sokol

**About the mission:** This is my third mission, but my first in Balkans. My previous missions were in Cyprus. In TF Sokol my post is CSM (Command Sergeant Major). The biggest challenge is the size of the Slovenian unit - being the first Slovenian CSM who had the opportunity to be the leading NCO in a unit with more than 600 soldiers (among them 90 NCOs).

**Family reaction:** I'm married and have a 2-year-old daughter. I have complete support from my family. This is not the first time I am away from home - typical military life. As they say: mission first; everything else later.

**Plans after the mission:** The most important thing is to "transfer" all knowledge gained on this mission to all Slovenian CSMs. Being a very young Army, every experience is more than welcome.



# Rugova Valley

