

KFOR CHRONICLE

August 31, 2007

Edition 8





HEADQUARTERS KOSOVO FORCE

Roland KATHER
Lieutenant General
COMMANDER KFOR



Dear comrades of our KFOR family!

Within the last year, KFOR has strengthened its efforts in developing personal relationship with citizens and leadership in Kosovo through intensive communication and constructive dialogue. All the while, KFOR maintained its focus on the execution of the mission. The KFOR family welcomes everyone who shares our values of tolerance, mutual respect and peaceful coexistence. However, there has and will be no tolerance for anyone who would threaten the safe and secure environment that we all achieved. Thus we continued the work of my predecessor as my successor will do.

The wonderful people of Kosovo deserve a decision, so that it will be possible for them to shape their future in Europe by their own hands. I am sure, that one day all residents of Kosovo will live their lives in political, social and economical stability.

It has been a great honor for me to serve as the head of the KFOR family. I want to thank every member of this family for their outstanding performance during the last year. Every single soldier has been a true professional, using his skills to enable a better future for all people of Kosovo, true to our motto,



"SHAPING THE FUTURE".

Lieutenant General **ROLAND KATHIER**

KFOR CHRONICLE



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Norway
Portugal
United Kingdom

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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



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New DCOM takes over in Trans

*Text by OR-7 Cheryl L. Toner
Photos by Combat Camera Team*

Maj. Gen. Gerhard Stelz took over as the new Deputy Commander, KFOR, from Maj. Gen. Roberto Bernardini, in a Transfer of Authority ceremony in Film City on August 3, 2007. COMKFOR Lt. Gen. Roland Kather presided over the ceremony outside of the HQ KFOR building, as a multinational formation, flanked by two smaller flights of Portuguese soldiers and KFOR MSU soldiers, looked on.

Maj. Gen. Bernardini thanked Lt. Gen. Kather for his "outstanding leadership" during his 12 months here. While happy to go back to Italy, the outgoing DCOM said he leaves with mixed feelings.

Lt. Gen. Kather then thanked Maj. Gen. Bernardini for his hard work here, and appreciated his "courage to tell me his honest opinion even if it differed from mine." The COMKFOR said this is important as his advisors need to "tell



Transfer of Responsibility ceremony



him the truth and not what he might want to hear." He said the combination of General Bernardini's candor, intelligence, experience and competence made the DCOM "my most trusted personal advisor."

The COMKFOR then talked about the general's specific accomplishments as both an "ambassador for KFOR" at various meetings, as well as his focus on check point operations. General Kather said this "contributed to our highly successful operations associated with the numerous MSD demonstrations."

Lt. Gen. Kather finished his speech by welcoming Maj. Gen. Stelz back to the Balkans. The COMKFOR said he looks forward to working with the new DCOM as General Kather finishes his tour here. "With your extensive background in operations, I am sure you will be a tremendous asset," said the COMKFOR. "I look forward to working closely together during the final weeks of my tour here as we execute our mission of providing a safe and secure environment for all the people of Kosovo."

The ceremony ended with Maj. Gen. Bernardini being awarded a non-Article 5 NATO medal and the Ehrenkrueze der Bundeswehr in Gold, the highest medal of the German Armed Forces.



ON TOUR COMKFOR

★ ★

Swiss AF COS visit

AUG 1

Lt. Gen. Kather met with Maj. Gen. Stutz, COS Swiss Armed Forces, during his visit to HQ KFOR.



Road inauguration in the North

AUG 1

COMKFOR General Kather inaugurated the new road in Borcane/Borcan, with Commander MNTF North and the Mayor of Leposavic/Leposaviq.



Shooting Training

AUG 2

COMKFOR General Kather practices his shooting skills with his Close Protection Team.



Medal Parade

AUG 2

Lt. Gen. Kather congratulates decorated soldiers during the Medal Parade at HQ KFOR.



TOA DCOM

AUG 3

General Roland Kather hands over the responsibility as DCOM KFOR from Maj. Gen. Bernandini to Maj. Gen. Stelz.



Chief of German Operations Command visit

AUG 5

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



Chinese Ambassador visit

AUG 6

Lt. Gen. Kather met with Ambassador Wang Wengang, Chinese Head of Mission, at HQ KFOR.



COM JFC Naples visit

AUG 8

Commander Joint Forces Command, Admiral Ulrich, met with COMKFOR General Kather and Kosovo government officials.



our with KFOR



Farewell visit to MNTF W

AUG 9

COMKFOR General Kather met with the members of the Command group of MNTF W during his farewell tour.



Farewell visit to MNTF N

AUG 10

Lt. Gen. Kather pays a farewell visit to MNTF North.



Troika in HQ KFOR

AUG 11

COMKFOR General Kather welcomes members of the Troika during their visit to Kosovo.



Farewell visit to MNTF S

AUG 13

COMKFOR General Kather pays a farewell visit to MNTF South.



High level meeting in Nis

AUG 14 Lt. Gen. Kather and the Chief of Defence of the Serbian Armed Forces, Lt. Gen. Ponos, met during the last High Level meeting in Nis, Serbia.



Black Madonna Celebration

AUG 15

General Roland Kather attends the Black Madonna Celebration in Letnica/Letnice.



Farewell visit to KTM

AUG 16

General Roland Kather says goodbye to his soldiers from the KTM Battalion.



Farewell visit to MNTF E

AUG 17

General Roland Kather makes a farewell visit to the MNTF E AOR.

FREBAT 15 mid-term

Text by Lt. Col. Yann Gravethe,
French Army
Photos by MNTF N

Committed into Kosovo for two months now, FREBAT 15 (15th French Battalion) is one of the four manoeuvre units of MNTF North headed by French Brig. Gen. Eric Arnaud.

It is definitely a combined and multinational battalion strong of more than 1,000 servicemen and women that ensures a safe and secure environment in the Northern part of Kosovo while exploiting their best abilities of its companies.

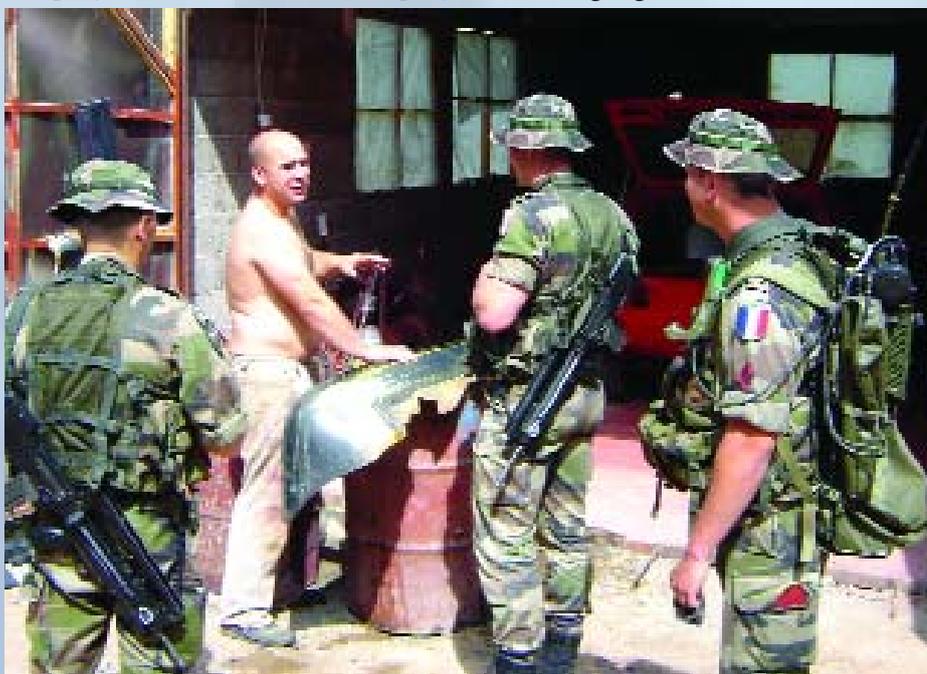
Col. Michel Esparsa commands it in leaning on the staff of the 17th Airborne Engineer Regiment he leads in France. A motorized Moroccan infantry company as well as a Belgian mechanized infantry company comprise this battalion's multinational character. Moreover, to enforce its missions in the large with - mountains, plains and two main built-up areas including the symbolic town of Mitrovica - FREBAT disposes of varied tactical capacities. These are capabilities are provided by a light cavalry scouting squadron, a NATO-shaped company, a traffic-control and movement-support squadron, two companies fitted with armoured infantry fighting vehicles (AIFV), a wheeled transported infantry company, a crowd and riot company



and a support and, command company including a war dogs section.

As proved during 2004 events, the northern region of Mitrovica remains a sensitive area. Nearly 330,000 Kosovars live in this region - 260,000 KOA (2,000 in three enclaves) and 67,000 KOS (3,000 in five enclaves). Nowadays, thanks to the daily action of FREBAT soldiers patrolling every day in a friendly "walk and talk attitude" towards the population, the situation is quiet and calm, without any inter-ethnic incidents for several months. Also, a few signs of a multi-ethnic life have even risen up. For example, KOS people are numerous doing some shopping in the Albanian market where prices are lower than in their districts, and even KOA and KOS have been seen harvesting together in the fields.

Enforcing their missions in their respective sectors of responsibility, FREBAT units also perform operational tasks and training phases. Thus, in addition to their framework daily missions (3,000 foot patrols and more than 1,500 driving patrols), they have performed since last May 18th, nine Long Duration Patrols, two Kosovo-wide operations in other MNTF AORs, 15 joint "TOPA DOPA" along the administrative boundary line with Serbian forces, as well as four command post deployment and training exercises, and so on. They have also shot 60,000 rounds of ammunition. Moreover, FREBAT 15 benefits the local population by using their specific skills. For instance, FREBAT forest fire specialists monitored an uncontrolled fire on July 10, 2007, which burnt Mount Crnusa flanks in a few hours. More recently, combat divers of 17th Airborne Engineer Regiment devoted three days at a depth of 25 meters in Gazivode lake to search, localize and return the body of a 26-year-old man to his tearful but grateful family.



Non solum Mandatum - more than our job

Text and photos by SPEC 1st LT. Henrique Schneider, Swiss Army

"Expert Infantry Badge" - This is special recognition offered by the U.S. Army to the best soldiers. A group of six Austrian and four Swiss soldiers from the Man Bn DULJE were allowed to take part in this course offered at Camp Bondsteel. "It's a rare opportunity to do this and we feel honored", as 1st Lt. Johannes Draxl (AUCON) puts it.

What is that all about? In 31 stations the soldiers could learn many different things: camouflage, hand grenade essentials, basic lifesaving skills, but also many different weapons were just some of the highlights of the course. In the end, each soldier had to pass an examination at each station. From about 70 participants, only about 15 could fulfill the requirements. No Austrian or Swiss soldier passed it, but it was worth taking part in it. Our people learned a lot!

More than this, it was very interesting to exchange experiences with the other armies, some of them very experienced - like our American friends - and others who are similar to our own experience. Ireland, Sweden and Finland are, like Switzerland and Austria, neutral countries with a proven commitment to the international peacekeeping community. To work with them all and to learn from them is a lifetime opportunity. "It was fun; we learned a lot and had a good time", said Lieutenant Draxl. "We made new friends and expanded our horizons".

Yes, it was interesting to learn how to employ a bazooka - one that costs \$22,000 ... each. But it was also terrific to know the story of the American expert teaching the bazooka. He has been in Iraq, Kuwait and Egypt, and now for a year in Kosovo. After returning home, he will start his graduate studies.

Or, what about the sergeant teaching how to assemble the machine gun? He entered Iraq as a paratrooper armed with that gun. How did he employ it? What tactical and technical constraints did he have to plan? What were his feelings? "We learned a lot from Iraq", said the sergeant. This alone was very impressive for us!

The major in charge of the Expert Infantry Badge put it very simply. "It's tough, it's difficult. But these people can be proud of doing it. And we are proud of offering it. Besides, we could learn a lot from these Austrian and Swiss guys".

At the same time, on the other side of Camp Bondsteel, more training was held: the Combat Lifesaver course. Another mixed group from the Man Bn DULJE was learning how to provide extended first aid services in combat situations. Intravenous infusions, chest injuries, bleeding wounds and helicopter rescues were the highlights.

"It is very demanding but at the same time very rewarding. This international atmosphere is just ideal for developing as a soldier in a multinational mission", Said Swiss Army Sergeant Christian Degen.

"I like it", an American instructor said. "Teaching our comrades something new and making new friends - it's just what I want to do".

"Non solum mandatum - more than our job". This is the Austrian-Swiss Man Bn Dulje's Motto. By participating in these international courses our soldiers are showing their commitment in development and that they take this motto very seriously. At the same time, we thank the U.S. Army for providing this training and for doing more than just their jobs! Let's continue like this!



Portuguese celebrate Infantry



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

While the Portuguese celebrated their National Infantry Day Aug. 14, 2007, with a friendly competition, the Finish, U.K. and Belgians took it seriously and dominated the mornings' events. Under a relentless sun, warm temperatures and no shade, teams from most of the MNTF's competed at "Slim Lines" in this annual event.

Running in combat gear - helmet and flak vest with their weapons - teams of four ran 2.5 kilometres, performed a "task-qualifying event," ran 2.5 more kilometres, and then did another task event. The task events included breaking down a weapon and quickly putting it back together, a "fireman's carry", accurately throwing simulated grenades, an obstacle course, etc. After the physical competition, there was an awards ceremony and an



Day in friendly competition

outside lunch.

Aljubarrota Day

The Portuguese celebrate this day because, on August 14, 1385, São Jorge Field was the site of one of the few great field battles of the Middle Ages between two royal armies. According to various web sites, this clash was also one of the most decisive events in the history of Portugal.

The Battle of Aljubarrota was between forces commanded by King John I of Portugal and his general Nuno Álvares Pereira, and the army of King John I of Castile. The battle occurred between the towns of Leiria and Alcobaca in central Portugal. The result was a decisive defeat of the Castilians and the end of the 1383-1385 crisis, establishing John as King of Portugal.

Depending on where one looks, the numbers vary but the information is relatively the same - the Portuguese,

by strength and equipment, seemed to be outnumbered by the Castilians by about 5 or 6 to 1. Not only were the Portuguese "down" by their numbers, the Castilians also had better equipment. However, tactics used by the Portuguese led them to their victory, and Portuguese independence was assured as a new dynasty of the



The Children of Kosovo at Sister

*Text and Photos by OR-5 Klaus Kreimer,
Austrian Army*



According to the butterfly effect, a butterfly flapping its delicate wings in New York City can set off a tornado in Tokyo. It is this butterfly effect that Sister Johanna believes in when she is doing her job in Kosovo. She lets herself to be guided by "divine control", as she calls it. Among other ideas, the concept of organizing a multi-ethnic sports week with parental involvement in order to help the children of Kosovo and give them prospects in life was conceived many years ago. Considering that the children represent a nation's future, Sister Johanna may rightly be referred to as a grassroots peace activist.

Sister Johanna gets support from numerous voluntary helpers from Austria, donations, and CIMIC soldiers. An event like this could not be conducted without the assistance of military people. Soldiers and material are made available for service, security and transportation purposes. As a result, a particularly close partnership has developed between Sister Johanna and the CIMIC personnel at Camp Casablanca in Suva Reka especially Major Schuh and Captain Spanning. What makes these soldiers stand out are their special capabilities. They are highly communicative and unprejudiced, they show sensitivity to their social environment and they have a steady character. All this enables them to perform their challenging job in a magnificent manner.

Summer Sports Week 2007 opened with a ceremonial lighting of the "Olympic fire" at the



Sister Johanna's Summer Olympics

Pikon Hotel in Siroko/Shirokë on July 20, 2007. Before that, about 40 Kosovar children had the opportunity to visit the province "Kärnten" in Austria. This visit was only possible thanks to the support rendered by CIMIC and the Austrian Air Force, which had provided a C-130 "Hercules" for transportation. A lot of competitive events were staged during the sports week. The Kosovar kids got on very well with each other and interacted with a great amount of fairness and friendliness. Even their parents were involved in a number of events. About 50 children were symbolically divided into six nations (Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Spain and Great Britain) and took part in the competitions as a team, bearing the flag of the country to which they had been assigned. The presentation ceremony, which included a variety of cultural tidbits, such as dance performances and musical contributions from all "participating countries" and Kosovo, took place on July 24, 2007. Among the large audience were high-ranked guests of honor: the Commander of MNTF S, Brigadier General Tarçin, the Commander of Maneuver Battalion Dulje, Lieutenant Colonel Schmied, the Chief of the Austrian Element of UNMIK Police, Major Lorenz and the Chief of CIMIC MNTF S, Lieutenant Colonel Konrad.

In his address at the presentation ceremony, Brigadier General Tarçin spoke about the great significance of Sister Johanna's work said he was proud of the assistance provided by MNTF S soldiers. He stressed that this work would always meet with support from military personnel. In particular, he extended congratulations to the most important group present, namely the children of Kosovo, who have the peaceful future of Kosovo in their hands.



Irish lead MNTF C follow

Text by OR-5 Caroline Vaughn

Photos by Armend Aqifi and Combat Camera

An official MNTF C TOA ceremony took place in Camp Vile, July 31, 2007. In the company of distinguished visitors and military and civilian guests and nine formations of soldiers, COMKFOR Lt. Gen. Roland Kather presided over the ceremony in which Brig. Gen. Berndt Grundevik passed on the symbolic flag signifying the end of his tour of duty to incoming commander, Brig. Gen. Gerry Hegarty.

The ceremony conveys the authority and responsibility of command from one officer to another. A unique touch to the day's ceremony was a Pipe Band from Ireland consisting of six bag pipe players and five drummers. The Irish Pipe Band played Ireland's National Anthem following the transfer of authority.

General Kather personalized the ceremony by thanking MNTF Center soldiers for service and dedication to KFOR. "Today is different because not only are we changing the Commander of MNTF Center, but also we are also changing the lead nation", he said.

The COMKFOR then thanked everyone for their contributions to our KFOR family as he welcomed Irish troops as new lead nation of MNTF Center. "... thank you Ireland for taking an important role within KFOR during these crucial times", said General Kather.

"Berndt, your actions and the actions of your Task Force have truly upheld the spirit of this peace keeping operation and enriched the lives of all those you have encountered", General Kather said as he wished farewell to the outgoing commander.

Words of gratitude and thanks were spoken by the new commander, Brig. Gen. Hegarty, in his speech to the troops. He said he looks forward to the experience during this critical time in Kosovo's future and the opportunity to command a multi-national task force.

During the ceremony, Brig. Gen. Berndt Grundevik was also awarded a NATO non-Article 5 award.

Brig. Gen. Gerry Hegarty was born in Sligo, Ireland. He is married and has two children.

This is his first mission in Kosovo. Brig. Gen. Hegarty's last mission was in 2001 in Lebanon as Commander Irish Battalion.



Following a TOA



FEELING THE PULSE



*Text by OR-8 Noel O' Callaghan,
Irish Army
Photos by MNTF C*

C Coy MNTF C arrived in Kosovo on April 3, 2007, bringing with it a vast pool of experience from previous missions. In an environment where situational awareness is vital, C Coy has tried to create a unique approach to daily operations. They draw on a tradition of peacekeeping, while constantly seeking to learn from working in a multi national environment. This concept is reflected in the manner in which C Coy approaches its patrols and Vehicle Check Points.

Patrolling

Over time, Irish soldiers serving in C Coy have fostered a close bond with communities in their Area of Responsibility through a system of

village representatives. This facilitates a close liaison with village leaders and is an effective way of gauging local attitudes or "feeling the pulse" of the population. Around this network of village representatives, C Coy intensely patrols in order to ensure that situational awareness is maintained.

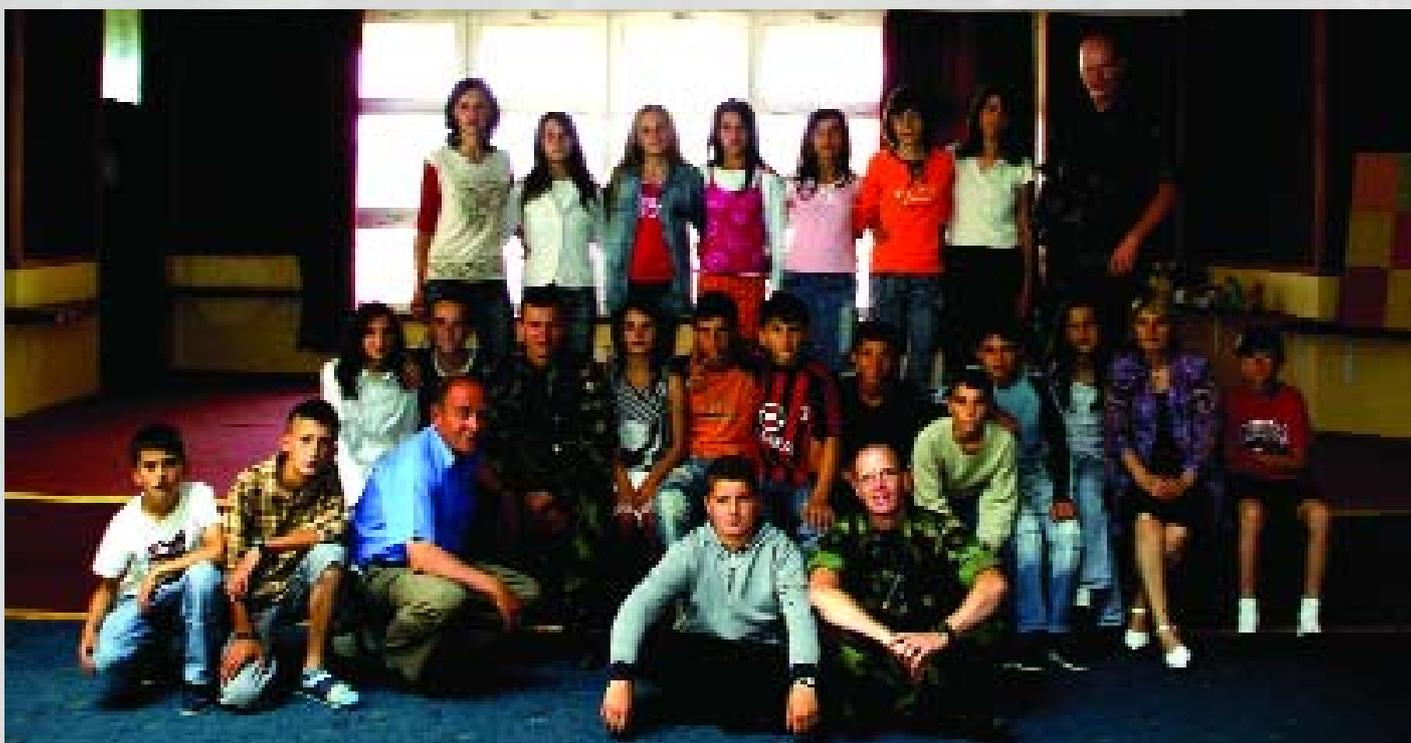
Quite often this daytime liaison between C Coy and its local community feeds into the approach taken by night time patrols. While night patrols involve less interaction with communities, a KFOR presence usually means a reduced threat of crime and violence.

Vehicle Check Points

While executed VCPs are vital to providing freedom of movement, C Coy regularly holds platoon-size "Snatch and Search" VCPs on various MSRs. These have proved very successful and are perhaps the best illustration of how

contributing nations can work together for a common cause. Czech Military Working Dogs and Swedish Heli assets are utilised, and all VCPs are conducted in close liaison with the KPS.

Kosovo has, and continues to be an exceptional challenging for C Coy MNTF C. The development of a working relationship with different nations and the opportunity co-operate with local communities and the KPS has been of great benefit and satisfaction to all.



Understanding people to accomplish the mission



*Text by Capt. Gianluca Ellena,
Italian Army
Photos by TF PSYOPS*

Since October 26, 2006, the MNTF West Psychological Operations Task Force (POTF) has been deployed in the MNTF W area of responsibility.

This TF is small, but with very interesting capabilities. Before talking about the task force itself, it is important to know where its members come from. The POTF has been deployed by the 28th Reggimento "Comunicazioni Operative" (Operational Communications) located in Pesaro, Italy.

Nowadays, the regiment specializes in various operations.

The expertise of the task force is very broad and at the same time very specific. There is a special cross-cultural approach achieved with long and careful training of personnel of all ranks.

"Communication is our weapon", said Major Baldelli, the commander of this small Task Force. He said the first goal for everyone is to support the MNTF W commander in ensuring a safe and secure environment.

Major Baldelli said his soldiers take weekly Albanian language classes since their area of responsibility consists of more than 90 percent Kosovo Albanians and he said, "We want to approach local people speaking in their language".

"This makes the difference" said the TF commander. "Last week we carried out an info campaign aimed to inform local population of two small villages south of Klina/Kline where KFOR would have performed a blasting operation concerning old ammunition and some UXOs".

He said as they work, it is important to talk and listen to people, and in some cases have reported situations to CIMIC.

The unit also has unique areas of expertise; Sergeant Vastante, for

instance, has a background as a film director. He is currently producing a video on protecting the environment, using footage from Rugova Valley. In the end, that is the POTF.



Kosova library: both unique

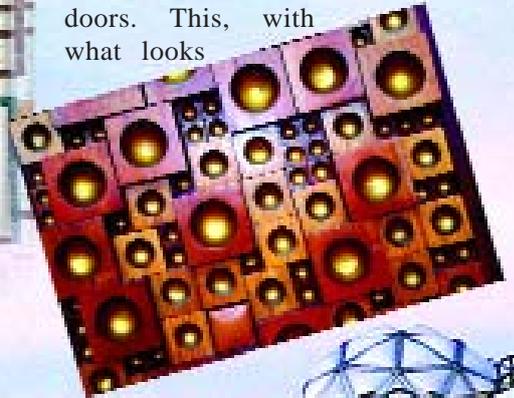
Text by OR-7 Cheryl L. Toner

Photos by Armend Aqifi

Walking into the National and University Library of Kosova in Pristina/Prishtine, visitors would not think they are walking into a library at all. Walking on gray and tan marble tiles, the sweeping steps lead visitors to an impressive foyer, complete with a baby grand piano. Looking down at guests from the second floor balcony are large photos of famous Albanian writers who have passed away.

Where quiet is usually golden in a library, here, voices echo off the walls and nobody does the "shhhhh!" as they hold their index finger to their lips. This building actually feels more like a museum. And that's just on the inside.

Even before visitors get inside, they may marvel at the massive structure with 99 cupolas and a water fountain that faces off with the front doors. This, with what looks



and useful

like a huge steel net was thrown over the building, makes this trip downtown to the library worthwhile. Officially opened in October 1981, the building has 7 ½ floors, with 3 ½ underground. But don't ask the librarians why there is another ½ floor; there are just as puzzled as you may be now. However, they aren't puzzled when it comes to finding that perfect book by using the "old fashioned" card catalogue.

University students and citizens who use the facility are supported by a staff of almost 100 people and there are over 2 million books. KFOR members may be happy to know that there is a NATO/KFOR room with books in both English and Albanian.

Within the walls there is also a rare book collection of about 5,300 books, and over 4,100 items in the rare serials collections. In the rare books section, works date back to 1573. While the building looks relatively well-kept, its short history is peppered with upheaval. From the late 80's through 1999, the library suffered through the loss of infrastructure and money. During this time, the library was a shelter for Serbian refugees from Bosnia and



Croatia. Also, according to the library's literature, during the NATO campaign in 1999, the library was the headquarters for the Serbian army. The library has a strong partnership with both KFOR and with library services in the USA. That bond is so strong that National Library Week here

is celebrated the same time it is observed in the USA. During this week, KFOR also provides support. For a short lesson in history, this 10-minute trip from Film City is well worth the time. See you at the library.



MNTF EAST TRAIN

*Text by OR-7 Cheryl L. Toner
Photos by Armend Aqifi*

On an old airstrip in the northern part of Kosovo, the quiet countryside was interrupted with the sounds of both attack and rescue helicopters July 28, 2007, as KFOR soldiers from MNTF E and UNMIK personnel participated in a joint exercise.

As the exercise began, two Apache helicopters came in low and cleared

the airfield. On this day, two unsuspecting students and teacher in a driver's education car - practicing on the old airstrip - will have stories to tell their friends. An Apache came down and hovered mere meters from the front of the car, a move that would put fear in anyone's heart, as the pounding of the rotor blades filled the air. Meanwhile, another Apache hovered as a Black Hawk came in and armed



S WITH UN FORCES

[Inside KFOR]

forces exited the helicopter, hunched over and running quickly. In less than a minute, the Black Hawk took off and, from there, UNMIK and KFOR personnel got to work.

One of the ground forces "popped smoke" from a canister, marking their "rescue" site.

As forces "guarded" the troops who just landed, two "victims" were getting prepped to be airlifted out. All the while, Apache's hovered, their shadows crawling over the freshly-harvested hayfields in the mid-day heat.

At one point during the exercise, five helicopters could be seen in this aerial dance. "It was great", Captain Jeremy Duffy, Alpha Co. Commander, said of the

exercise. One of the goals, according to the captain, was to get "lift", medivac and attack helicopters together. Another

goal was to "strengthen the bonds with UN and American forces", he said. "If an issue arises where a cooperative effort is necessary, we will have the training behind us", said Captain Duffy. While it was obvious during this exercise that two "injured" people were treated and soon "rescued", another person was also an objective in this scenario. UNMIK personnel closely guarded this "important person", using their bodies as shields to ensure their objective of safely extracting a high-profile person was met.

"This training was great for both of us", said Captain Duffy of about 30 KFOR and UNMIK participants. "We haven't been able to do actual

flight missions. We previously only did ground training on static aircraft". MNTF E soldiers train about once a quarter with UNMIK personnel; however, Captain Duffy said they're trying to increase the frequency of their joint training.

In less than an hour, the exercise was done. As the sound of the helicopters faded off into the horizon, the only evidence of the troop's activities was a small patch of burned grass where the canned smoke was popped. Other than the grass, the students in the driver's training car will have an incredible story to tell ... but considering how quiet and peaceful the old airstrip normally is, their story may be a little unbelievable.



Hemorrhagic fever: Beware of ticks

By Col. MD Johann Foyse, German Air Force and
Maj. MD Roman Wölfl, German Army
Photos by Maj. Henri Derschum, German Army

Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever is a rare disease in Kosovo, but it is severe and cruel to its victims. A tick bite or contact with an infected animal or person transmits the virus that causes the illness. Within a few days, the infected person suddenly becomes ill with fever, aching muscles, dizziness, neck pain and stiffness, and headache. Soon the person begins to bleed everywhere: under the skin, from his gums, from his nose, and in his internal organs. Without treatment, he literally bleeds to death.

There is no vaccine against the Crimean-Congo virus; however, infected persons can be treated with an antiviral drug. But even with medical treatment, about 30 percent of victims die.

What makes Crimean-Congo virus a problem in Kosovo?

- Disease outbreaks occur in warm and moist weather as the tick population grows. Up to now, Kosovo doesn't have the resources to deal with ticks by spraying.
- Ticks infect sheep and goats. Many Kosovo citizens live or work around livestock. Infection is also associated with butchering infected animals.
- Doctors and nurses in hospitals may become infected through exposure to blood and secretions of patients.
- Currently the diagnostic capabilities for Crimean-Congo infections in Kosovo are limited and mainly based on support by distant foreign medical centres. As diagnostic results may be pending for several weeks, public concern cannot be relieved rapidly in many suspected cases of a hemorrhagic fever.

Although there is no vaccination available for soldiers, the use of insect repellents on skin and clothing should help prevent tick bites that cause Crimean-Congo infection. In addition, troops should not touch human or animal blood or

waste. Still, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever will remain a silent enemy in a few regions of Kosovo. Recently a specialist team of the German Bundeswehr Institute



of Microbiology (InstMikroBioBw) visited the Kosovo National Institute of Public Health (KNIPH) in Prishtina. Among other duties, one of the objectives of the InstMikroBioBw is the development of diagnostic procedures for rare diseases and their application under basic laboratory conditions. Military microbiologists demonstrated a novel diagnostic procedure for rapid diagnostics of Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever in humans and trained local KNIPH scientists in its application. Additionally, a safe sampling method for collection of diagnostic specimen in even rural areas was provided. Further visits and a long-term cooperation are planned to extend these first steps of medical and scientific collaboration.



KFOR provides first aid training for KPA



*Text by OR-9 Schmidt Rainer,
German Army*

*Photos by OR-7 Martin Raabe,
German Army*

More than 130 observers, claim keepers and administrative personnel of the Kosovo Property Agency participated in first aid training, provided by KFOR.

Sergeant Major Schmidt of the medical support element of the COMKFOR conducted the training in Pristina. Sergeant Major Schmidt is Chief Nurse and Paramedic here in

Film City Medical centre. In Germany, the sergeant major is also a teacher and instructor for paramedics and rescue assistants in the Medical Forces.

Specialised training was offered and accomplished to the KPA personnel. Topics such as heat injuries, bite injuries, general measures with injuries and special measures with emergency situations were taught and demonstrated.

Subsequent presentation and practical exercises of the various types of training deepened the training,

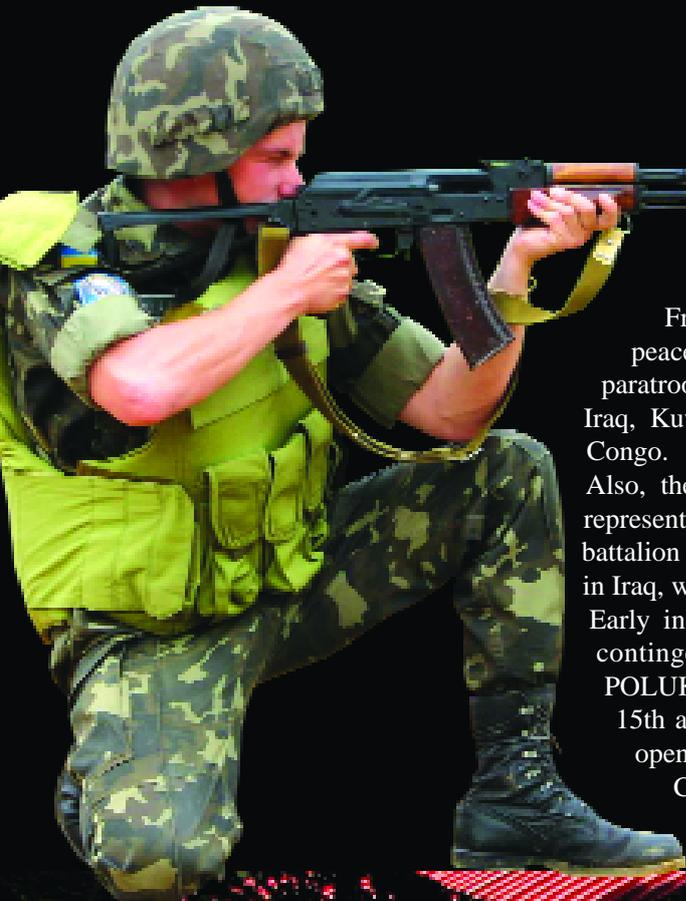
enabling KPA personnel to aid people in dangerous situations.

The training was demonstrated and presented in a professional manner, utilising the most modern and current methods, in the Serbian, Albanian and English languages.

Topics covered were the prevention of and course of action for animal bites, Lyme Disease, dog and cats, breathing problems, allergies, burns, cuts scrapes and punctures, electric shock, head injuries, shock, sports injuries, and fainting.



Ukrainian paratroopers



*Text by OF-3 Ihor Levchenko, Ukrainian Army
Photos by OF-2 Maxim Prauta, Ukrainian Army*

On August 2, all Ukrainian paratroopers celebrated their professional holiday: Paratroopers Day.

In this day, Ukrainian Airborne forces - one of the best prepared and well trained services in Ukrainian Army - gathered for a ceremony.

From the beginning of its creation, airborne forces took an active part in peacekeeping operations of the Ukraine. During the last 15 years, Ukrainian paratroopers were deployed in peacekeeping missions to the Balkans, in Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Ethiopia, Georgia and Congo.

Also, the current Ukrainian Contingent of POLUKRBAT in Kosovo is represented by troops from 13 Single Airborne Battalion. The majority of the battalion personnel already have the experience of peacekeeping operations in Iraq, where they were deployed before, as well as other missions abroad. Early in the morning on August 2, 2007, soldiers from the Ukrainian contingent stood in formation on the parade square near HQ POLUKRBAT in Camp Bondsteel. The official ceremony, dedicated to 15th anniversary of Ukrainian Airborne forces, and medal parade was opened by Ukrainian Contingent Commander/Deputy POLUKRBAT, Commander Lt. Col. Ievhen Chumachenko. In his speech to the



celebrate 15th anniversary

troops Lt. Col. Chumachenko thanked his soldiers for their service in Kosovo and the excellent representation of Ukrainian Armed Forces abroad.

During a medal parade, all Ukrainian paratroopers were awarded a NATO non-5 Article medal. The best soldiers also were promoted to their next rank and were awarded diplomas.

After the official part of the ceremony, paratroopers organized traditional military entertainment in Camp cinema hall. Ukrainian soldiers showed their excellent skills in hand-to-hand fighting and cold steel using in very attractive way. All guests, presided by Brig. Gen. Earhart, MNTF E Commander, enjoyed this entertainment very much. The MNTF E Commander also thanked Ukrainian soldiers for their support of SACE and FOM in POLUKRBAT AOR.

The celebration ended in the evening, when sun set, but the mission in Kosovo for the Ukrainian paratroopers will continue until the middle of October. And, I'm sure, they will pass their duties in the best way.



Joint commission meets

Text and photos by OR-7 Cheryl L. Toner

KFOR's Joint Implementation Commission met with their Serbian counterparts August 9, 2007, in Rudare, Serbia, to discuss issues along the Serbia-Kosovo administrative border line.

This is the 284th meeting between the two groups; however, it is the first Joint JIC Conference. As such, representatives from the task forces, as well as representatives from UNMIK police and EUPT border police, were on hand for the talks.

The chief of KFOR's JIC, Col. Harald Sveen, talked about KFOR's mission of providing a safe and secure environment, and said that "we have been very successful." To underscore this, he talked about KFOR soldiers recently confiscating 506 illegal weapons and more than 1,900 rounds of ammunition. "Aside from a few minor incidents, the situation here is calm and stable", the colonel said.

Col. Miodrag Popovich said that while he is a member of the Serbian Armed Forces, everyone at the conference represented the same team since they were at the same table. "I'm glad that we can do this", he said. "I hope that this will improve our co-operation, mutual trust and respect", he said of a process that has already been praised as effective.

Once the conference began, a number of issues were discussed, including conducting joint training exercises along the ABL. Colonel Popovich said this would be a good idea as new KFOR troops rotate in. There have already been three such exercises and there is one in the works. The suggestion was also made to do exercises in inclement weather, as well as having to medivac someone out during the flurry of activity. Everyone agreed that training for the worst-case scenario would provide the best benefit.

One of the success stories from the co-operative engagement is the close-knit working relationship on the ABL. "Synchronized patrols are not about fixed routes", said Colonel Popovich. He said that patrols are there to thwart criminal involvement so, based upon up-to-date information, the patrols can adjust where they concentrate their efforts.

In the end, anyone who works together benefits from effective communication. As officials KFOR officials strive everyday to improve communication on a day-to-day basis, the JIC is attempts to do the same. This was evident as the group became more animated and excited about ideas on how to make the synchronized patrols more effective. "We're making a good procedure even better", said Colonel Sveen, who chaired his last JIC meeting as his time on this mission is almost done.

Also discussed during the conference were security and co-operation along the ABL, co-operation improvements between UNMIK police and MUP, as well as UNMIK and EUPT current issues.

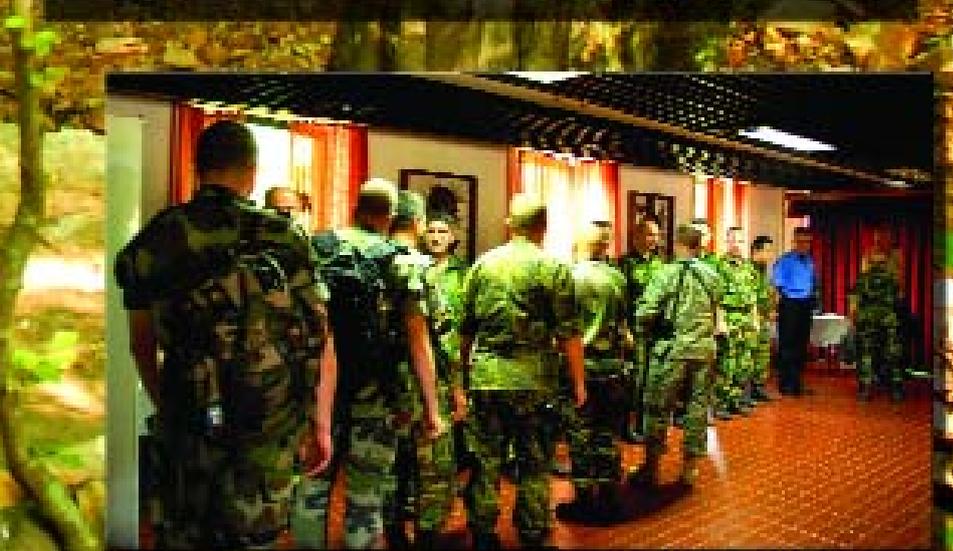


with Serbian counterparts



Niš 70

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What is ACCI and why s

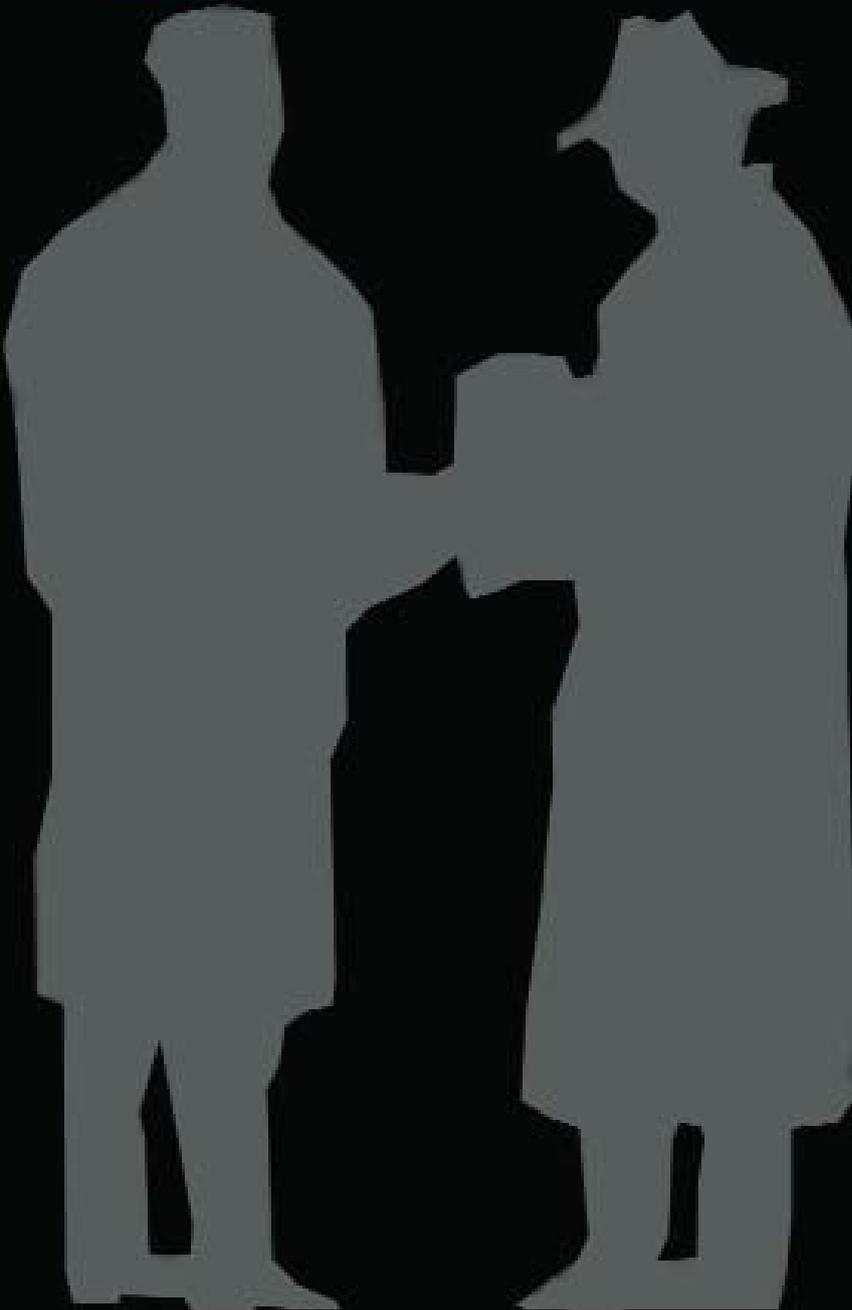


Some of you have heard of it, some of you have not, but all of you should know it. ACCI is Allied Command Counter Intelligence. ACCI is NATO's only assigned organic counter intelligence unit. Their headquarters is located at SHAPE in Mons, Belgium. ACCI deploys personnel to the Kosovo Detachment (KDET) in direct support to the COMKFOR. ACCI's mission is to detect, deter, and neutralize the threat of terrorism, espionage, sabotage, and subversion directed against the KFOR family.

There are many countries and organizations that place a high priority on obtaining information about KFOR capabilities, intentions, and technology, both classified and unclassified. As a KFOR family member, you have access to this information and technology and could be the target of information collection at anytime and in any location.

A couple of the methods that may be used to gather information are the direct approach and elicitation.

The direct approach is a technique where you are directly asked to give information that a collector is looking for. The collector usually will offer money or something of value in exchange for the



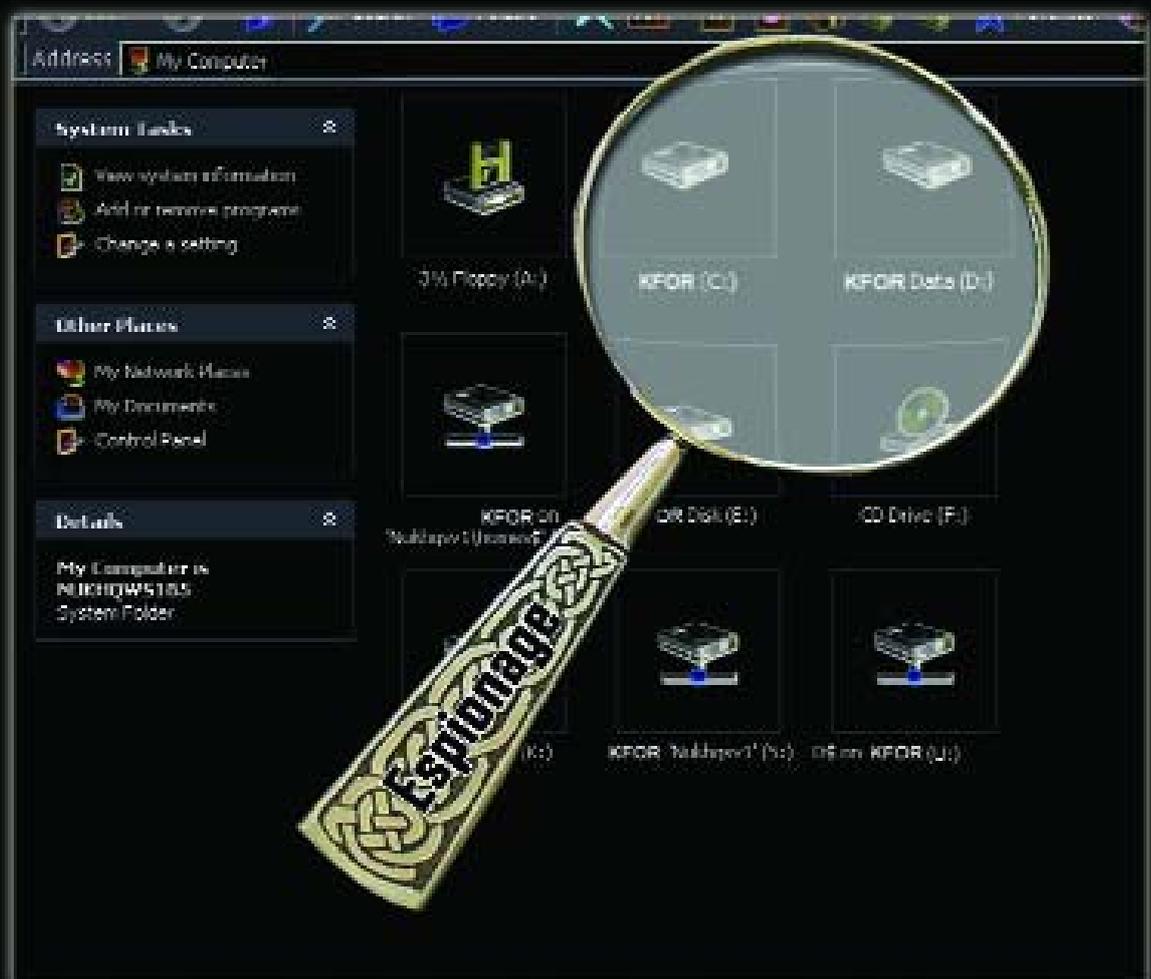
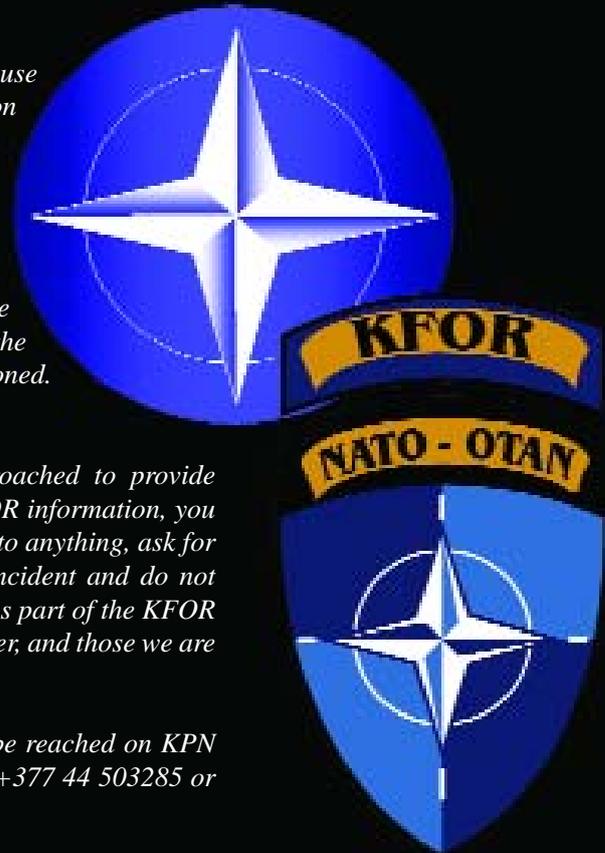
Should you care?

information. The collector could also be aggressive and use threats or blackmail to force you to provide the information needed.

Elicitation is used to collect information without you knowing that they are providing that information. This technique is used during normal conversation on a topic being discussed by you and the collector. During the conversation you may be asked for certain details that you may think are just part of the topic but realize later that maybe you should not have mentioned. Most times you will not remember providing the details.

If you feel that you are currently or may have been approached to provide information by someone who do not have a need to know KFOR information, you should do the following: remain calm, do not commit yourself to anything, ask for time to think over the request, remember details about the incident and do not discuss the incident with anyone other than ACCI personnel. As part of the KFOR family, it is everyone's responsibility to protect KFOR, each other, and those we are here to provide a safe and secure environment for.

ACCI is located in the J2X complex on Film City. They can be reached on KPN 2260 or 2072; Commercial +389 2268 2260 or 2072; Mobile +377 44 503285 or 503286.



[Inside KFOR]

Text and photos by Capt. Mikko Autti, Finnish Army

The Finnish contingent has organized marching events since they arrived in Kosovo in 1999. The most traditional of these events is the Hot Day March, which is organized every summer. First marched in 2001, the event is carried out twice a year with the aim of providing the experience to as many KFOR soldiers as possible. The same march in February is called - for obvious reasons - the Cold Day March.

The Hot/Cold Day Marches have always attracted wide attention and this year's Hot Day March in mid-August gathered participants from five nationalities. The march was a unique experience for all participants, but it was also a festive occasion for the people in the villages through which the marchers passed. Countless amounts of children waved to the soldiers and greeted them with cheers and applaud. The locals were met in response with tired, but friendly smiles.

The teams consisted of five members and their well being was constantly supervised by the Finnish Medic platoon. A big part of the appeal of the march is its nature as a two-day event. On the first day, participants trekked 35 kilometres mainly through the impressive landscapes of Drenica valley in MNTF C AOR.

The marchers then spent the night in tents on the

outskirts of the Salthovici/Salihovii village in the Lipovica/Lipovice municipality. Barbequing, recuperating from the day's journey and spending the night on top of a hill overlooking a dense forest was an unforgettable experience for all.

What makes the Hot/Cold Day Marches so demanding is the fact that after a well-earned night of sleep, the marchers are only half way through the ordeal! The 35 km trip, which seemed easy enough the previous day is quite a different experience with sore feet, dehydration and cramping legs slowing down the pace. The journey back to the finish line at Camp Ville in Lipljan/Lipjan proved too demanding for some of the participants also this year.

It was emphasized at the opening ceremony conducted by the commander of the Finnish contingent that the march is not a competition. All teams had a different approach towards the event. Some may have considered it a competition that must be "won". Some took it as a good physical exercise through breath-taking terrain. However, most considered it as a demanding and rewarding experience since it is perhaps the most strenuous of all KFOR-related marching events. Those who thought this way probably achieved what they came to the march for. They conquered the hardest foe in a marching event of such magnitude - themselves.

Marching through Kosovo



Name: Ferenc Kalcsó
Rank: OR-8
Nationality: Hungarian
Home unit: 25 Klapka György Infantry Brigade
Unit in KFOR: HQ MNTF W/G3 TOC

About the mission: It is great pleasure for me to participate in the KFOR mission here in Kosovo during six months working for HQ MNTF W. This is my second mission abroad first mission was in Cyprus in 2001. My military service in Kosovo started three months ago. I am on duty in the tactical operation center as a Watchkeeper in close cooperation with Italian, Spanish and Slovenian comrades. I am happy because I can meet here not only well prepared colleagues but can also make good friends, so I enjoy my job. One of my favorite hobbies is cooking. My Hungarian mates acknowledge this skill of mine, so I am responsible for making the gulash, paprika potatoes and other Hungarian specialities in our parties.

Family reaction: I am single so my parents and my relatives are waiting for me return to Hungary. Taking the opportunity, I would like to say many thanks for their support which helps me to do my best.

Plans for the future: After this six months I hope that I will have possibility to apply my KFOR experience in another NATO mission somewhere in the world may-be in Afghanistan or in Iraq.



Name: Donald Fergusson

Rank: LT (OF-2)

Nationality: US

Home unit: Joint Analysis Center, RAF Molesworth, UK

Unit in KFOR: US National Intelligence Cell, Deputy Commander

About the mission: I have been in Kosovo since April 2007 and have thoroughly enjoyed every minute of the deployment. As the Deputy Commander of the USNIC I have been fortunate to work directly with my counterparts in the other NICs and have been impressed with the professionalism and esprit-de-corps of the entire NIC community. From the DANCON March to the great friendships I have made, this has been the most rewarding deployment of my career.

Family reaction: Although reluctant to let me go, my wife

has been very supportive of my decision to deploy to Kosovo and she understands that this is a good mission. My son has just turned 2 years old and while he misses his Daddy, he is more concerned with playing ball and watching cartoons. We are expecting the birth of my daughter in September. I miss my family and love them very much, and thank them for their love and support!

Plans after mission: I return to JAC Molesworth in October and then we will transfer to Naval Air Station Atsugi, Japan in November where I will be stationed as the Carrier Air Wing Five Targeting Officer.

Name: Noel O' Callaghan
Rank: Regimental Sergeant Major
Nationality: Irish

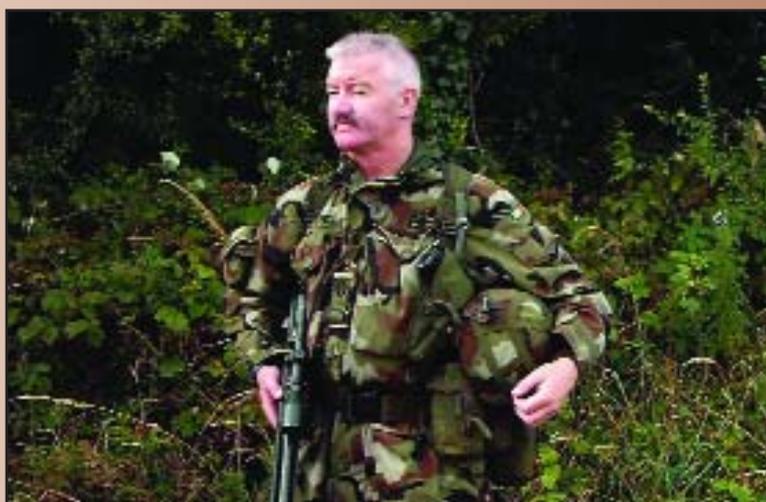
Home Unit: 4th Field Artillery Regiment

Unit in KFOR: 35th Irish Infantry Group, MNTF C

About the mission: Although I have served on a variety of different overseas missions, it is great that I have learned new practices or approaches to problems from my multi national colleagues in KFOR.

Family reaction: My family understands that I have to go overseas, but that does not stop them missing me.

Plans after the mission: I hope to spend quality time with my family and some time fishing on the lakes, close to my home.



Mitrovica/Mitrovicë

