

# KFOR CHRONICLE

December 1, 2007

Edition 11



# Multi-National Teamwork

More than 15,500 Kosovo Forces soldiers are coming from 24 NATO and 10 Non-NATO-Nations. The smallest national contribution counts four soldiers, and the biggest counts 2,475 soldiers. Whether at a task force or headquarters, multi-nationality is everywhere.

The boots on the ground and the HQ staff all work hard together for a safe and secure environment and for freedom of movement in Kosovo. It is one multi-national team conducting one mission for the people in Kosovo.

Since my arrival at the beginning of August this year, I have been visiting the MNTF HQs and the troops on the ground.

It is a pleasure seeing all efforts being done to support each other while running operations Kosovo-wide. Shuffling our troops all over Kosovo, being clear, determined and unpredictable, being visible but not interfering with normal people's lives, maintaining close contact to the people of Kosovo through our liaison and monitoring teams to "feel the pulse of Kosovo" - all of this requires highly-motivated and flexible soldiers like you, working together in one single team.

I am proud working with you in such an exceptional multi-national team tied together by a spirit of universal comradeship! Keep on going this way.

**Major General Gerhard Stelz**  
**Deputy Commander KFOR**



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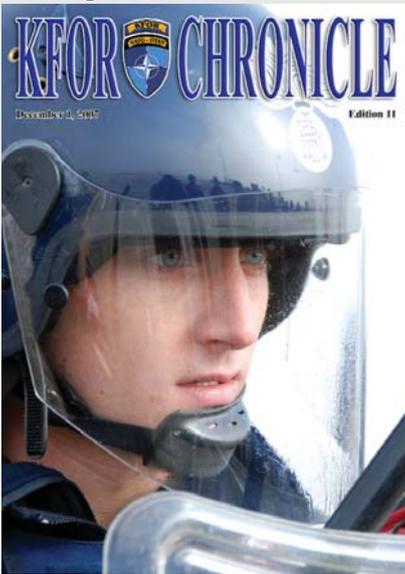
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*On Nov. 13, a crowd and riot control exercise, Mean Machine II, was conducted at Camp Lebane in Multi-National Task Force Center.*

Cover photo by Armend Aqifi

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# New Commander Accep

Story by OR-6 Jason Smith, US Army  
Photos by Armend Aqifi

Brig. Gen. John E. Davoren accepted command of Multi-National Task Force East from Brig. Gen. Douglas Earhart in a transfer-of-authority ceremony Nov. 2, which was attended by the Commander of Kosovo Force Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac. General Davoren, who will lead the task force for one year, said he identified some items for success at the start of his rotation's training, and he expects his team will only improve with time.

"We have shown our capabilities as we have progressed through our training," said General Davoren. "I'm glad to see that many of our leaders and soldiers also want to continue to improve."

During the deployment here, General Davoren said he has a formula for measuring success.

"First, we will support and enforce the provisions of (United Nations Security Council Resolution) 1244 and the Military Technical Agreement," said the general. "Every day that the people of Kosovo can sleep safely in their homes is successful."

"Each unit will have the chance to develop their current and future leaders through the execution of missions and training," continued General Davoren. "Leaders in the next five years will be developed here during this rotation. I will also measure success in how much each of us improves ourselves during this



rotation. There are opportunities for military and civilian education, and I want each of us to make a choice of what we will do to return as better trained soldiers and U.S. citizens."

During the TOA ceremony, COMKFOR General de Marnhac thanked General Earhart for a job well done.

"Even though I have only worked with General Earhart a short time, it has been obvious that he provided excellent leadership for this task force during the past

year," said General de Marnhac. "From my observations and the feedback I got from General Kather, I know he is a good leader."

COMKFOR also prepared the incoming general for a challenging period in Kosovo.

"Depending on the outcome of events expected in the near future, you and your soldiers may face some significant



# ts Command of MNTF E



*Brig. Gen. John E. Davoren  
Commander MNTF East*

challenges in certain areas of your (area of responsibility)," said General de Marnhac. "I am sure you will lead the task force with the utmost of confidence and will maintain peace and stability in the Task Force East AOR." As General Earhart prepares to return to the United States, he said leaving Task Force East gives him mixed emotions. "On the one hand, I am anxious to reunite with my family friends and community," said General Earhart. "On the other hand, I also feel similarly

strong emotions about leaving this place I've called home for the past year." In closing, General Earhart said he will miss working with the international partners who have been helping to build a better future for Kosovo. He thanked everyone for their part in the mission. "Finally, I want to express my sincere thanks to every Soldier and Airmen of Multi-National Task Force East for your efforts over the last 18 months," said General Earhart. "It's been an honor and privilege to serve as your commander."





# Peace with D

## COMKFOR visits KUCC, Community Health Center

Commander Kosovo Force Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac met with the new director of the Kosovo University Clinical Center Jusuf Ulaj, as well as the medical team, November 7, 2007, in Pristina/Prishtine. General de Marnhac is actively interested in social problems and people's needs as far as health is concerned for all the population of Kosovo.

"I can say that I am very pleased to see people, regardless of the conditions they work in, offering assistance to the patients. Tele-Medicine Center was perfect. It not only assists patients, but at the same time, enables training and education for future doctors," said General de Marnhac.

At the end of the visit, the general and the medical team of KUCC discussed improving cooperation between KUCC and KFOR in order to provide a better future for the next generation.

According to General de Marnhac, this was an important visit because it helps identify the fields in which KFOR and the KUCC could closely cooperate.

COMKFOR also made a visit to the Community Health Centre, Nov. 10, 2007, in Laplje Selo/Llapllaselle.

General de Marnhac wanted to go to visit this area with

a large Serbian population so he could see how their conditions, equipment and work environment.

General de Marnhac said, "When I was here as Deputy Commander of Kosovo Force in 2005 and 2006, I saw a great evolution in this structure, and now I am happy to see that things are changing in a positive way."

The help to the population is one of the missions which General de Marnhac is closely taking care of in order to be able to understand how to offer a better future to the next generation.



# etermination



## COMKFOR General de Marnhac Visits KPC

During the visit to Kosovo Protection Corps Protection Zone III, Commander Kosovo Force Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac met with KPC leaders. The meeting took place Nov. 8, 2007, in Pec/Pejë.

"KFOR is responsible for the security in Kosovo, and I can say to all that I am responsible for the situation, and if somebody tries to destabilize the people of Kosovo I will undertake all the measures to not allow it," said General de Marnhac. "We should prepare to be ready in the end of the status."

General de Marnhac stressed that Kosovo is in front of a phase where it will change its history, and the KPC is part of this change. General de Marnhac did not hesitate to say that if the people of Kosovo will need the assistance of KPC, they will also have it.

"If the people will need the assistance of KPC, we will include its members as well," said General de Marnhac. In the continuation of COMKFOR's tour to KPC PZs, General de Marnhac made a visit to the KPC PZ IV Nov. 13, 2007, in Mitrovica/Mitrovice.

During the meeting with KPC Commander Lieutenant General Sylejman Selimi, General de Marnhac said that KFOR has taken all the necessary measures together with the United Nations Mission in Kosovo Police and KPS in order to enable the people of Kosovo to participate in elections, which is also the best way for the people of Kosovo to prepare for the future with a new parliament and new government in a couple of weeks.

COMKFOR initially visited the barracks "Isa Boletini" in Mitrovica/Mitrovice where he was informed about the activities of this PZ. After that, General de Marnhac visited also the barracks "Shemsi Ahmeti" in Sipolje/Shipol where the KPC PZ IV members performed some joint exercises with KFOR.



# Mean Machine II Provides Val

*Story by Capt. Valerii Petrushka,  
Ukrainian Army  
Photos by Armend Aqifi*

On Nov. 13, a crowd and riot control exercise, Mean Machine II, was conducted at Camp Lebane in Multi-National Task Force Center.

The exercise involved a close cooperation between the Multinational Specialized Unit, Kosovo Force Tactical Reserve Maneuver Battalion and MNTF C. The exercise was presided over by Deputy Commander Kosovo Force Major General Gerhard Stelz.

The main purpose was to exercise the command, control and communications between participating units. A second goal of the exercise was for participating soldiers and policemen to practice their response to rioters. Participating units of MNTF C were Irish, Czech, Slovak and Swedish. Italian Carabinieri and French Gendarmerie, together with Portuguese units also participated in the exercise.

This story began from an accident allegedly on the prior night. A driver of a vehicle struck a car of another driver. As a result of the accident, a child died. Then, a group of angry people started to look for the building of the driver of the first car in Devet Jugovica/Nente Jugoviqet. In the morning,

they found this building and demanded this driver to come out. After that, a unit from MSU immediately arrived in order to protect this family. In the beginning, the leader of MSU negotiated with this group, but they started to act more aggressively. Several times other groups joined to this group and transformed into powerful violent rioters. At this stage MSU requested support from MNTF C and KTM.

When special units from MNTF C and



# uable Riot Control Experience

played their roles making their "dirty deed" were like real rioters. Therefore, all participants who were in protecting roles used a lot of energy to keep the riots from getting worse. When the situation became critical, a Portuguese Company began pushing the rioters off, but this company met fierce resistance. Soon, Irish Mobile Reserve Task Group Charlie helped, and the riots were broken up at a fast pace. A Czech Reserve Coy was also added to protect the force. After that, the remaining rioters were dispersed in a joint operation with all the units side by side.

In the morning there was dense fog, and this natural phenomenon really complicated the exercise. However, units worked through it to do a good job.

They demonstrated good coordination, not without mistakes, but that is the purpose of conducting exercises often in order to improve the experience every time. It is not easy to control actions with different units when the situation really gets uncontrolled. This exercise was one important step in that direction. It shows that frequently conducting this kind of exercises with units from different agencies, brigades as well as nations, helps KFOR work together as one team.

KTM arrived, they joined together as one team. This team had formed in front of the roadblocks. Rioters became more and more aggressive and launched large quantities of water bottles at the defending units. From time to time they made quick and fierce attacks using sticks. Actors who



# Italian

*Story by Maj. Elio Babbo, Italian Army  
Photos by CCT*

During the past several years, the ranks of the Italian Army have changed - women soldiers are now working jointly with male soldiers.

As with men in the Army, women have equal opportunities that present both career and employment options in military specialties. The criteria taken by the Italian Army is based on achieving the physical standards, cultural and attitudinal roles and mandates that these positions be filled without any regards in terms of gender. Consequently, operational and logistical



# Women in the Military

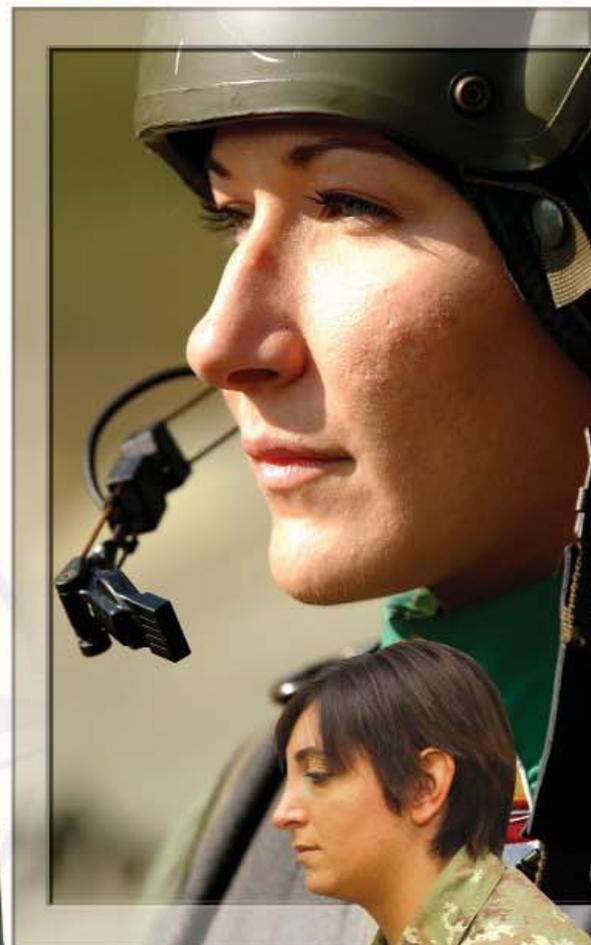


positions are now filled by women.

The integration of placing women into the Army, with references from other nations, has taken some time but has finally been completed. Therefore, the Army has begun to recruit officers, warrant officers and lastly, volunteers to the presence of appropriate frameworks to cope with the changes taking place in today's Army. Today, women represent almost 18 percent of all military personnel in the Italian Army. They are spread throughout many specialties and ranks ranging from officers, warrant officers and volunteers. Additionally, they are serving in various theaters throughout the world, including Kosovo.

During standard training in Kosovo, women have shown professionalism, high motivation, a sense of duty, as well as awareness of their role in the theater. Women of the Italian Army

have shown, that they can overcome the difficulties involved in serving in the military.



# Slovak Contingent Serv

*Story and photos by Capt.  
Valerii Petrushka, Ukrainian Army*

The Slovak Republic began its peacekeeping mission in Kosovo in 1999. There was a deployed Slovak engineer platoon in the Balkan region. This unit began repairing schools and bridges, building the roads and playgrounds, and a lot of other different types of engineer work with their Austrian and Swiss comrades for the peace process in Kosovo. In 2001, this engineer platoon finished its activity.

According to the agreement signed between the Slovak Republic and the Czech Republic, it was decided to deploy joint Czech-Slovak forces in Kosovo. After their training, soldiers of the Czech-Slovak Battalion

were deployed in Kosovo in 2002. This unit was located at Camp Sajkovac/Shajkovc, in Multi-National Task Force Center.

The Slovak unit has contributed to the Kosovo Force mission by maintaining and establishing a safe and secure environment, patrolling, manning checkpoints, distribution of humanitarian aid in their area of responsibility, protecting the Serbian minority in the area of Obilic/Obiliq, securing and preventing damage or destruction to the monument of "Kosovo Polje," and other activities. The unit also participates in and conducts joint search operations, synchronized patrols, shooting exercises and a lot of other different types of missions.

Slovak soldiers are dispatched to the KFOR mission for a period of six months. Lt. Col. Milan Slezak is in command of



# es to Maintain Peace

SLOVCON. This is his first mission in Kosovo.

"We are trying to discharge one's obligations very well because we are a face of our country and the Slovakian military," said the chief of staff of the Slovak unit Maj. Dalibor Skolik. "Our contingent had special combat training in Slovakia. Every officer and soldier knows their own official responsibilities and particular properties of service here. The main task for us is a safe and secure environment in Kosovo."

"We are always ready to help and protect local people as much as possible in our area of responsibility," said OR-3 Marcel Svec, and added, "We are happy to see smiling faces of people and especially of children."



# NATO Alliance a

Story by OR-6 Jason Smith, U.S. Air Force, HQ KFOR PAO

The exact moment in time when the concept of a military was born is disputed among historical writings and subject matter experts, but based on facts alone, NATO is still in its infant stage.

Some claim that men began fighting each other with clubs and spears as early as 35,000 B.C. Conflict and battles in Europe are many and can be accurately traced back more than 2,000 years.

Regardless of when the first alliance of national militaries was created, whether officially or just with a handshake, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's 58-year existence makes it a relatively new alliance.

After World War II, the Western Allies began decreasing the size of their militaries, according to a Prague TV Web site article by Mary Campbell. The Soviet Union, however, maintained a large military.

Campbell says that sometime in the late 1940s, the United Kingdom, France, Netherlands, Luxembourg and Belgium decided the best solution for military survival was to form an alliance. The nations signed the Brussels Treaty in 1948, but within a month of its signing started working with the United States to join their union. On April 4, 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty was signed.

The original treaty was signed by the five nations of the Brussels Treaty and the additional nations of the United States, Canada, Portugal, Italy, Norway, Denmark and Iceland. The original intent of NATO, or Organisation du Traite de l'Atlantique Nord (OTAN in French), is clearly defined in its Article 5:

"The Parties agree that an armed attack against one or more of them in Europe or North America shall be considered an attack against them all and consequently they agree that, if such an armed attack occurs, each of them, in exercise of the right of individual or collective self-defence recognised by Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations, will assist the Party or Parties so attacked by taking forthwith, individually and in concert with the other Parties, such action as it deems necessary, including the use of armed force, to restore and maintain the security of the North Atlantic area."

Three years after the initial signing, Turkey and Greece joined NATO. According to the Wikipedia Web site, Russia attempted to join NATO in 1954. The member nations rejected this proposal. West Germany was granted membership of NATO in 1955, and NATO remained relatively unchanged until 1958.



# n Important Baby

In 1955, the Warsaw Pact was signed. This new alliance included the membership of Russia and socialist states of Eastern Europe. The Warsaw Pact was created to counter the potential threat of NATO.

In 1958, NATO experienced internal conflict when French President Charles de Gaulle requested that France be given equal power as the U.K. and United States in NATO, according to Wikipedia. Tensions continued to increase, and in 1959, France banned all foreign nuclear weapons from French soil. In 1966, the French military removed itself from NATO's command, and all non-French NATO troops were asked to leave France.

During most of the Cold War, NATO had a defensive posture as did Warsaw Pact countries. The two alliances were involved in an arms race. The existence of each was to offset the other.

In 1974, the Turkish invasion of Cyprus led to Greece withdrawing its forces from NATO. However, in 1980, Greece was readmitted. NATO's member nations, with the exception of Greece, remained unchanged for 27 years. In 1982, Spain became a NATO member; the first country to join NATO since 1955.

The Warsaw Pact was dissolved in 1991, thus creating the need for NATO to re-evaluate its purpose for existence. According to Wikipedia, NATO began a period of expansion that included getting involved in activities that had not been NATO concerns during the Cold War.

NATO created the Partnership for Peace in 1994. PfP is a way to build trust between NATO and former Eastern bloc states, according to Wikipedia. PfP also gives neutral countries, which may not want membership in NATO, the chance to participate in certain peacekeeping operations. Today, there are 25 member nations of PfP.

The Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland became NATO members in 1999. The most recent class of NATO members are from 2004 and include Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia. Today, NATO has 26 members.

NATO has had many named operations between the 1990s and today. Some examples of Balkan operations are:

1991-2001 Operation Gladio (during Yugoslavia Wars) - Gladio is the name used for stay-behind clandestine operations

1993-1996 Operation Sharp Guard - Enforced economic and arms embargo against Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

1995 Operation Deliberate Force - Bombing in Bosnia and Herzegovina

1995-1996 Operation Joint Endeavor - Operations in Bosnia

1999 Operation Allied Force - NATO bombing against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia as part of the Kosovo War

2001 Operation Essential Harvest - Troop deployment to the Republic of Macedonia

Since its inception in 1949, NATO has added 14 member nations, participated in various operations and inevitably grown its bureaucracy and mission. Today's Kosovo Force members are here because of NATO, and with an increasing role in training Iraqi Police and responding to other peacekeeping needs, it's safe to assume NATO's work in world affairs will remain unchanged for a long time.



# KFOR Tactical Reserve Maneuvre Battalion

*Story by Captain Valerii Petrushka,  
Ukrainian Army  
Photos by CCT*

The Kosovo Force Tactical Reserve Maneuvre Battalion is composed of the Portuguese 2nd Infantry Battalion. The KTM is designed to quickly respond to potential changes of the security situation. As part of Multi-National Task Force Center, the KTM is under the operational control of Commander Kosovo Force, who can reassign its command structure as needed to enhance specific mission success. The KTM is currently stationed on the outskirts of Pristina/Prishtine at Camp Slim Lines.

The 2nd Infantry Battalion was formed on June 1, 1992, and is located in Viseu, Portugal. Since its creation, the Infantry Battalion serves Portugal in the Intervention Brigade. This battalion has participated four times in peacekeeping missions: one time in East Timor (2001), two times in Bosnia Herzegovina (2000, 2002) and one time in Kosovo (2005). It took part in countless national and international exercises and fulfilled civil protection



and population support operations. Lieutenant Colonel Joao Carlos Cabral de Almeida is the commander of KTM. Since July 2006 he is in command of the Intervention Brigade's 2nd Infantry Battalion.

KTM's current structure in Kosovo is two maneuver companies, a support company and a special operations detachment. The maneuver elements are equipped with light to medium armored personnel carrier vehicles that provide adequate protection to the troops in case of a conflict.

KTM's maneuver units have accomplished intense crowd riot control training, interdiction and anti-smuggling operations, support intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and other special operations. They also provide support in the fight against organized crime in co-ordination with United Nations Mission in Kosovo Police.

In addition to their daily routine, KTM units carry out a series of exercises and cross boundary operations. The main characteristic of the KTM is self-sustainability for 72 hours. The KTM can be deployed to any place in Kosovo without the need of logistic support from any units or MNTF's.



# Operational Reserve Force Battalion

Story by Capt. Valerii Petrushka,  
Ukrainian Army  
Photos by ORF

NATO has three different reserve forces available on short notice: the Tactical Reserve Force, the Strategic Reserve Force and the Operational Reserve Force. The Commander of Allied Joint Force Command Naples, who is the Joint Force Commander responsible for the NATO-led Balkan Operations, coordinates the operational rehearsal. The Multi-National NATO Headquarters in Kosovo, Kosovo Force, will control assigned units.

A German Operational Reserve Force Battalion arrived in Kosovo in the middle of November. This ORF Battalion, assigned to NATO, deploys to Kosovo to participate in a routinely-scheduled operational rehearsal to ensure NATO troops and the Reserve Forces Headquarters are well trained and familiar with the Kosovo environment.

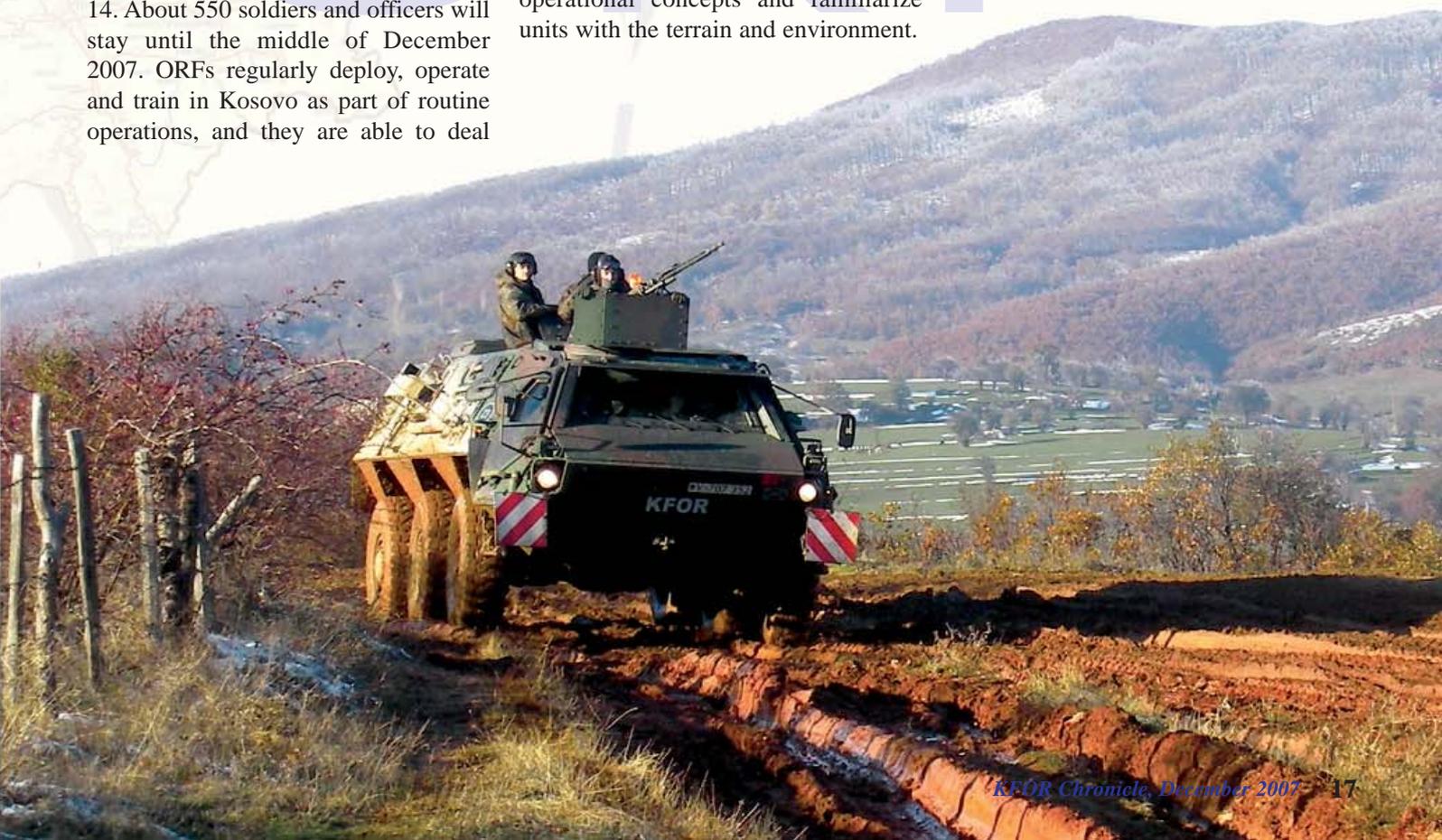
The German ORF Battalion is stationed in Bischofswiesen near Berchtesgaden, Bavaria, South Germany. It is a mountain infantry battalion. The main body of the Germany ORF Battalion arrived in Kosovo between Nov. 10 and 14. About 550 soldiers and officers will stay until the middle of December 2007. ORFs regularly deploy, operate and train in Kosovo as part of routine operations, and they are able to deal



with any military contingency.

The German ORF Battalion involved is fully mission-capable and logistically self-sustaining. The unit integrated into the command and control structures of KFOR and will practice and validate operational concepts and familiarize units with the terrain and environment.

During this assignment, the aims of the ORF Battalion are a lot of exercise, motorized patrols, foot patrols, vehicle check-points and other activities in area of responsibility of Multi-National Task Force East, and North.





# New Opp

*Story and photos by  
Capt. Paula Polakova, Czech Army*

Czech soldiers, as well as other Kosovo Force soldiers, are here in Kosovo to maintain a safe and secure environment with freedom of movement for all people of Kosovo regardless of their ethnicity, religion or gender. But they are also here to help local people through participation in humanitarian operations.

OP Bothar Mor is a Multi-National Task Force Center quick impact Civil-Military Co-operation project which provides for the widening and preparation for asphaltting of an existing low volume unpaved gravel road in the village of Dobri Do/Doberdol. This 1,500-meter road is the main communication route from Main Supply Road Snake to the village, linking with two bridges over the river Lap.

Dobri Do/Doberdol is located seven kilometres north of Podujevo/Podujeve



# ortunity for Local People

in the Czech Company area of responsibility. This project is being conducted by the Czech Engineer Platoon under the command of Lt. Martin Zerava in very close cooperation with the local municipality and a local civil engineer contractor. According to the agreement between MNTF C and the municipality, the Czech engineers have been tasked with the widening and preparation of the sub-base course for the new asphalt road. The extent of these works included the clearance of trees which bordered the route, excavations to widen the road, drainage works, and the transportation and placing of gravel to form the new road sub-base course. The asphalt layer and final works will be completed by the local contractor. Once the project is complete, the new road will be able to facilitate two-way traffic.



# Viribus Unitis - Together

*Story by OR-5 Andreas Huber,  
Austrian Army*

*Photos by OR-3 Christoph Grosser,  
German Army*

On Oct. 29, around 4:30 p.m., the Municipality Building in the center of Prizren was going up in flames. The watchful soldiers of Multi-National Task Force South saw the fire early, which started the emergency procedures immediately. As the local fire fighting assets were not able to handle the situation on their own, especially because there were people trapped on the roof of the building, Kosovo Force units were ordered to assist.

The helicopters took off without any delay to rescue the four people who were stuck on the roof. This operation was finished successfully after 30 minutes. The flight crews brought them directly to the Military Hospital in Fieldcamp Prizren.

To support the local organizations in this emergency, the camp fire brigade, a mobile medical team and military police were also deployed. To guarantee free movement for the emergency response and to support the rescue



actions, additional ground troops were dispatched to the scene. All streets leading toward the city center were blocked by KFOR troops, and the traffic was diverted to secondary routes at the entrances of Prizren. The participants of a political demonstration that took place at the same time, were also worried about what was going on at the Municipality Building. To protect them from harm, KFOR prevented them from getting too close to the danger-zone. Ten Soldiers of the fire brigade from

Camp Prizren were at the Municipality Building 16 minutes after the alert. Group Leader OR-8 Steffen Schwarz of the German Army said, "We could start with our work very quickly because we already knew the commander of the local fire department from a common operation two years ago. To secure the whole water-supply for KFOR and for the local fire fighting teams, I requested six comrades of Camp Airfield." After a hard struggle which was carried out on a high level of professionalism,



# r in Case of Emergency



the fire was totally extinguished at about 7:30 p.m., and all members of the fire fighting team returned uninjured around 8 p.m. After some cleaning operations, the roadblocks were removed, and the situation in the area returned to normal within a short time. The cause of this fire is not known at the moment. Investigations are still going on.

During the same time, the whole medical team of the Military Hospital in Fieldcamp Prizren was put on alert because there was no information about the number of injured persons. The team at the emergency admission under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Frank Müller of the German Army took care of the four people who had been rescued from the roof of the burning building. After detailed medical examinations and the diagnosis of "smoke intoxication," the four patients were discharged after one night of observation.

The final assessments show that the Municipality Building is of course damaged, and many documents were destroyed by the flames. But it is certain that if KFOR had not reacted so quickly,

it would not have been possible to rescue the four people from the roof and to save some of the papers stored in that building.

The Commander of MNTF S, Brigadier General Ugur Tarcin, was very happy with the excellent work of the soldiers and immediately presented letters of appreciation to them and their units. General Tarcin was very pleased with how everyone involved worked so well together and said, "It was a challenging mission in helping to put another brick on the wall. This is a good example for KFOR's reputation."

To manage this exceptional situation, a close cooperation between between KFOR members, Kosovo Police Service, and the local fire brigade was absolutely necessary. It was only possible to keep the situation under control and safe at all times because each group performed their work so professionally.

This horrible incident showed that the cooperation between KFOR and the local institutions works when it's necessary. And it reminds the people of Kosovo that KFOR is beside them - in good, but especially in bad times!



# KPC Put to the Test

*Story by Lt. Abdelilah El Ouardi, Moroccan Army*

*Photos by Maj. Jim Robinson, US Army and OR-3 Magali Bleys, French Army*

Kosovo Force organized a two-day exercise for Kosovo Protection Corps on Oct. 30 and 31.

The purpose of the exercise was to train KPC to build an iron bridge, named a Bailey Bridge, at KPC National Training Center in Urosevac/Ferizaj, Kosovo.

This exercise was conducted according to the course given by KFOR Inspectorate for Kosovo Protection Corps. KFOR's aim was to teach KPC to be able to put theoretical knowledge into practical use.

The KPC is a civilian protection corps organized in six protection zones under a central headquarter's command. Each unit is supported by KPC HQ Engineer Brigade.



# Visitors Bureau Behind the Scenes

Story by OR-9 Christopher Smith  
Joint Visitors Bureau

Outside Headquarters Kosovo Force hangs a plaque with the words "Peace with Determination." This is the motto and vision of Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac, Commander Kosovo Force. It is no accident that the mission carried out by KFOR contributing nations has put Kosovo to the forefront of international dialogue. In most instances when a military operation is carried out the result is quantifiable. However, just as important is what happens behind the scenes; in other words the unquantifiable results such as winning the hearts and minds of all communities in Kosovo, and in this case, winning the support of the international community.

This is where the diplomatic skills of COMKFOR and the General Staff must come to the forefront. Winning support can be achieved through excellent protocol and briefing skills in conjunction with dedicated teamwork from backroom staff and advisors in close cooperation with the Joint Visitors Bureau.

These diplomatic skills are called into play on almost a daily basis at meetings held in HQ KFOR, with high level visitors such as ministers, ambassadors, international organizations and KFOR's higher formations.

Every visitor to KFOR will have an objective, irrespective of their status. Military visitors are here not only to reinforce their country's support to KFOR, but to witness the important work being carried out by their soldiers and let them know that they have not been forgotten at home.

The visits of politicians, ambassadors, diplomats and international organizations sometimes have a different objective. The growing closeness and interdependence of nations and the interaction of their public opinions can sway the amount of support to KFOR from a timely smile to substantial military or financial support.

It is therefore imperative that the correct procedural protocol has to be implemented in a timely logical and impartial manner. JVB staff members are experts in this area and represent COMKFOR in all issues related to visits. It is the mission of the JVB to plan, coordinate and supervise all visits to HQ KFOR.

It is important to note that the highest number of visits to HQ KFOR are during the months of critical importance for the future of Kosovo. This clearly demonstrates the international desire to help Kosovo.

All visits must be structured to ensure the safety of the visitors whilst not hindering the operational



mission. Therefore it is imperative that all visits are coordinated through JVB in HQ KFOR.

It is then the task of the JVB staff to draft an itinerary, prepare seating plans along the lines of strict protocol, organize VIP passage through the airport if required, and organize accommodation, meals and transportation to name just

a few roles in the methodological process of preparing for visitors.

But one of the most difficult roles in the JVB office is that of the Escort Officer.

The EO must be able to think on his feet, as once wearing the EO yellow armband, that person is the personal representative of COMKFOR and any unforeseen changes in plans and the delegation will turn to the escort officer for a solution.

In a nutshell, JVB prepares, plans and executes a five-star service on behalf of COMKFOR which must be correct, consistent and

impartial. The role of the office compliments the ambassadorial skills of the General Staff when hosting visitors which in turn ensures the international community is properly briefed in order to garner support for the future of Kosovo.



# The DANCON March

Story by Maj. Erling Andersen,  
Danish Army  
Photos by CCT

It is early Sunday morning in the Danish Camp Olaf Rye situated near the city of Mitrovica/Mitrovice within the area of Multi-National Task Force North. The mountains surrounding the camp have their peaks covered with frost, and the air is clear and cold. Normally on an early Sunday morning COR would be relatively quiet, but not on this morning.

The parade ground located centrally in the camp is bustling with people and activity. The ground is almost totally filled with more than 1,200 people showing a wide variety of uniforms stemming from the fact that soldiers from 26 countries are present in COR this early Sunday morning. Why have all these people gathered here? The answer is in the air, which is brimming with excitement. The highly awaited DANCON March!

The DANCON March is a proud tradition within the Danish Army, dating back to 1972 when the Danish Army was deployed to a peacekeeping mission in Cyprus. Since then, the DANCON March has been part of every Danish Army Contingent abroad and has this year been conducted in Iraq, Afghanistan and of course Kosovo. The purpose of the march is to test the individual soldiers' physical preparedness and also to build camaraderie with other nations participating in the same mission. The multi-national element of the DANCON March has therefore always been an integral part of the march.

The physical preparedness of the soldiers taking part is

tested through a 25.2 kilometer (15.66 miles) march which takes the participants through the beautiful countryside surrounding COR. The route naturally goes up into the mountains in order to properly test the physical condition of the participating soldiers and make sure that all have to give their best. In addition to the steep terrain, each soldier is tested through the requirement that all participants have to carry a load of a minimum of 10 kilograms (22 pounds) including personal weapon and protection gear, but excluding water.

In the spirit of Kosovo Force and impartiality, the route goes through both Kosovo Albanian and Kosovo Serb populated areas. Throughout the day, the soldiers are



greeted by the inhabitants living in the villages along the route. Especially for the children, it is a fascinating sight to see the long line of soldiers stretching for as long as the eye can see. Along the route, several supply and aid stations are located manned by personnel from the Danish Contingent. On these stations, the participants in the march can stock up on water, fresh fruits and chocolate in order to ensure that nobody runs out of energy on the demanding route. Medics also attend to blisters, cramped muscles and other minor injuries throughout the day. Thanks to their efforts, amazingly, only a few out of over 1,200 participants do not complete the course. Most take their time in enjoying the beautiful scenery along the route and exchange views and experiences with the other participants from the big KFOR family.



There are some though who do not have time to enjoy the scenery since they are involved in their own struggle with the clock. The near perfect weather conditions support the group of participants who have decided to run most of the course, and enables some record times. On DANCON March Number 1, the first to cross the finish line back in COR was Captain C. B. Pedersen from the Danish Contingent in one of the fastest times ever recorded on a DANCON March; an

impressing 2 hours and 8 minutes. On the 2nd DANCON March, Warrant Officer-1 Santos from Portugal was the first to cross the finish line; he was also 2nd on the first DANCON March.

Most other participants took it a bit more relaxed, and the last participant back in COR crossed the finish line following close to six hours of marching. Following the completion of the march, each participant is issued a diploma along with the prized DANCON medal. And then, most got in line for a taste of the Kosovo-wide known Danish Brunch in the cafeteria of COR; a fitting end to other great days of marching, which writes another page in the proud history of the DANCON March.



[Inside KFOR]

Story by OR-6 Jason Smith, U.S. Air Force  
Photos by Armend Aqifi

Hundreds of people claim to have spotted the King long after his death in 1977.

If really alive today, Elvis Presley would be 72; much older than Film City, Pristina/Prishtine, Kosovo's King, 34-year-old German OR-8 Ralf Luehm.

Still, the similarities are as obvious as they are many. If the plural of Elvis is "Elvi" (similar to fungus and fungi), and if the real King was in his prime today, both Elvi would have the signature jet black hair, cut to perfection, with chops that get wider as they pass the earlobes.

Both have served in

# Elvis Alive and



the Army. Both enjoy singing in front of crowds. Both have family members named Lisa Marie...

...That's right! Film City's Elvis has a 2-year-old daughter named Lisa Marie.

"My family was looking forward to me having a daughter," said FC Elvis.

"If I would have a son, they knew his name would be Elvis."

The name didn't come as a shock to FC Elvis's wife, Kim.

# Well at Film City

He said she is not a fan of the King, but she knew about his fascination with Elvis long before they were married. For their honeymoon, the newlyweds traveled to Elvis's Graceland Mansion in Tennessee. The journey was a dream come true for FC Elvis who said his fanhood can be traced back to when he was about 12 or 13 years old.

"I think I saw some Elvis films, and it was great to see," said FC Elvis. "I immediately knew he was the best. I think he has to be the best singer ever, and he changed music forever."

As FC Elvis got older, his appreciation for the King grew. Without any type of primping, there are pre-existing physical similarities between the King and FC Elvis. Those similarities coupled with his hair began making an obvious parallel.

"Nobody asks, 'Why do they call you Elvis?,'" said FC Elvis. "All of my friends call me Elvis. My co-workers call me Elvis. My brother calls me Elvis. Only my parents call me by my real name."

"Well, my wife has some other names for me, but that's private," FC Elvis said laughing when asked about what his wife called him.

It would make sense for a fan of this magnitude to have a favorite Elvis song, but FC Elvis said that's just not the case. "There are a lot of good songs, but I can't name a favorite," said FC Elvis. "I don't like a lot of the movie songs because they're too commercial."

Although he won't name a favorite song, FC Elvis said the television special, "Aloha from Hawaii," is his favorite Elvis concert. Of course he owns a copy of the concert, and any time he plays that or any other Elvis video, his young daughter, who is already a fan, celebrates by dancing.

Through the years, FC Elvis's collection of Elvis items has naturally gotten larger. Like any good wife, he says it's normal for his wife to have some complaints about all of the items he has purchased, but he plans on displaying all of them in his basement which he will remodel when he leaves Kosovo. FC Elvis estimates his current collection is worth about 30,000 euro.

When he retires from the German Army, FC Elvis said a career as an Elvis impersonator in Las Vegas isn't out of the question.

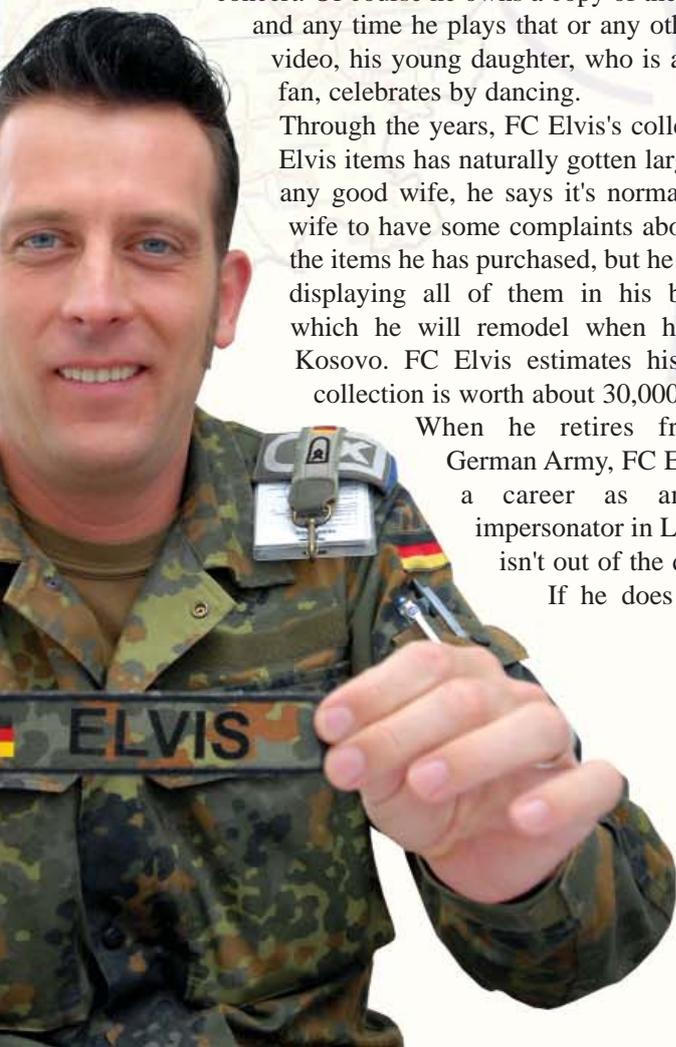
If he does make a



trip to Sin City, it's very likely FC Elvis will simply blend in with the hundreds, possibly thousands, of other Elvi walking the Strip. Still, FC Elvis definitely wants to see the city with so much Elvis history.

FC Elvis's appreciation for Elvis Presley doesn't seem obsessive or strange or any of the other words that could be used to describe a mega-fanatic. FC Elvis isn't a conspiracy theorist who thinks the King is still alive, and he definitely isn't someone who others would want to avoid. He's just an easy-going, friendly family man who likes to keep the spirit of the King alive through his daily appearance and hobby of collecting paraphernalia.

In his most memorable and inspirational Elvis moment, FC Elvis found himself alone at the King's grave at 7 a.m. Only FC Elvis knows what he and the spirit of the King discussed that morning. When asked, FC Elvis will only say the conversation was about personal things, and he hasn't received a response from the real Elvis... Yet!



# ARI Brothers Serving in Kosovo for Peace with Determination

Story by Maj. Ewald Klinger,  
Austrian Army

In Multi-National Task Force South, seven nations, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Germany, Switzerland and Turkey do their best to contribute peace with determination. The Headquarters of MNTF S is located in Prizren.

Therefore, most of the Kosovo Force Turkish soldiers serve in MNTF S. But also in the HQ at Camp Film City, Turkish soldiers serve. One of them is Captain Ercument Ari, a 33-year-old helicopter pilot, who works in the Public Affairs Office, Media Analysis section. Based in Aydin, Turkey, Captain Ari is a Gendarmerie officer working as a helicopter test pilot. He's responsible for the checks and test flights after maintenance on Black Hawk, UH-1 and Mi-17 helicopters. If needed, his second task is also operational flying. Captain Ari has flying in his genes. "Ari" means "bee" in the Turkish language.

Why does a helicopter-pilot works for PAO? There is a good reason for that. As the pilot's language is English all over the world, pilots usually speak good English. Captain Ari volunteered for a mission abroad, had an excellent grade in his English test and got appointed even he had no experience in the PAO field before.

He provides information and reports to his chief in the Media Analysis section for the daily morning media monitoring, the media summaries and local and international news on Kosovo and the world for the morning staff update. It's an interesting and different mission for Captain Ari, and he likes the international environment very much.

At the same time, 1st Lieutenant Murat Ari, a 29-year-old infantry officer, serves for his country within Kosovo. Based in Egirdir, Turkey, he works as an instructor at the



Mountaineering Commando School. At the Maneuver Battalion Dragas, 1st Lieutenant Ari is a motorized infantry platoon leader patrolling and observing the border area to Albania as well as the execution of vehicle check points in the Prizren area. He is also a member of the Mobile



Inspection Team of KFOR Inspectorate for Kosovo Protection Corps.

"It happened by coincidence, that we both serve together in Kosovo at the same time" said Captain Ari, "because I serve in the Gendarmerie and my brother serves at the Land Forces."

"The family was a little bit surprised to have both sons on missions abroad, but they are proud of us serving in an international environment," said Captain Ari.

Both came on the same plane and probably will leave Kosovo on the same plane after having served for six month to contribute peace with determination.



# First International Casablanca Patrol

Story by OR-6 Mag. Helmut Vogl, Austrian Army  
Photos by OR-6 Patrick Reich, Austrian Army

During Austria's National Day, the MAN BN Dulje organized a military triathlon at Camp Casablanca. Twenty teams of four competitors each competed in the disciplines of running, hand grenade throwing and shooting. The first two places were occupied by Austrian teams, closely followed by comrades from Turkey. The shooting was carried out with the Austrian rifle Steyr AUG, which was highly appreciated by all participants.

Although the rifle has been introduced in the Austrian Army 30 years ago, it is still a futuristic and fascinating gun.

The evening finished with a big celebration in the fire brigade's hall. Brigadier General Ugur Tarcin presented the prizes to the members of all 20 participants. An excellent day found a beautiful end in the circle of international comrades.



# Hockey Night in Kosovo

Story and photos by OR-6 Jason Smith  
U.S. Air Force KFOR Public Affairs

Being a Kosovo Force peacekeeper at Camp Film City doesn't mean missing all of the action provided by the likes of Sidney Crosby, Henrik Lundqvist, and other Pittsburgh Penguin and New York Ranger hockey players.

A few members of the small camp gathered at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center at 1 a.m., Oct. 24, to watch the television broadcast of the Rangers and Penguins on the Armed Forces Network.

Soldiers from the United States, Austria and Ukraine all cheered for their favorite team, or in some cases, for their favorite player. For example, Austrian Maj. Ewald Klinger isn't a typical National Hockey League fan, but he didn't want to miss the game because his fellow countryman Thomas Pock plays defense for New York. Pock was a scratch for the game, but that didn't stop Major Klinger from enjoying the action.

"Thomas Pock's father is a famous hockey player in Austria," said Major Klinger. "I know the Pock family because they originated from the city where I grew up. It's interesting to watch Thomas Pock because he is one of the biggest national team

defensemen in Austria."

Penguin fan and U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Jay Valloric said he didn't mind staying up all night to get a glimpse of this season's Penguin team. The eastern Ohio native has been a fan for as long as he can remember.

"Growing up I loved watching Lemieux, Jagr, Barrasso and Francis," said Sergeant Valloric. "Of course now having Crosby and all of the young talent around him gives me hope that we'll have some new 'Cup Years' in the future.

"I'm sure showing a simple, regular season game takes a lot of talking and agreements between the NHL, Versus, AFN and everyone else involved," continued Sergeant Valloric. "But I think if they could see how much this means to some of us; being able to enjoy a taste of home and forget about things a for a little while; they would all agree it's well worth it."

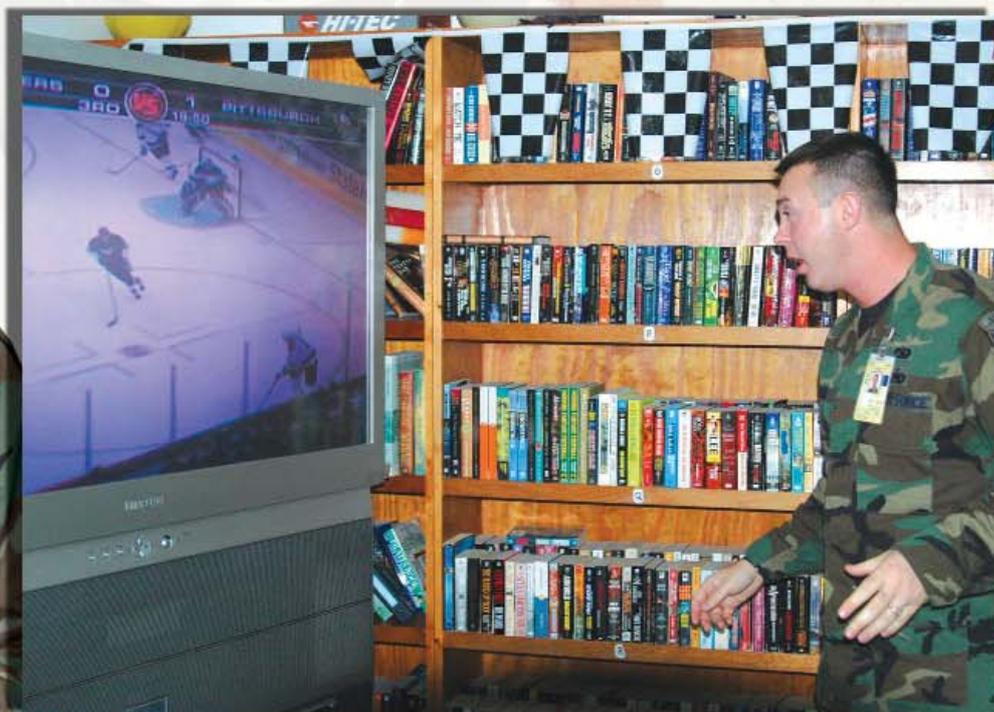
When combined, the rosters of the Rangers and Penguins have players from Canada, the United States, the Czech Republic, Russia, Austria, Finland, Slovakia and Sweden. In tonight's hockey game, players from these eight nations came together to perform on the ice. Similarly, KFOR soldiers from 34 different nations come together every minute of every day to

ensure the safety and security of all Kosovo citizens. The 34 countries making up KFOR are Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Morocco, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, the Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States.

Those who stayed up until 3:30 a.m. to watch the end of the game saw the Penguins defeat the Rangers 1-0. Evgeni Malkin scored the solo goal of the game for the Penguins.

"It's my first time when I watch hockey from beginning to finish," said Ukrainian Capt. Valerii Petrushka. "Basically, I like playing and watching soccer, but now I really like this game. From this time on, my favorite team will be the Pittsburgh Penguins, and I want to learn the rules completely."

No matter the outcome of the game, all of the soldiers in attendance were appreciative that they were able to gather together to enjoy some hockey. When word of the good time had by all spreads around camp, chances are high that the next broadcasted game will draw an even bigger crowd.



**Name:** Jose Pereyra

**Rank:** OF-3

**Nationality:** Spanish

**Home Unit:** Land Forces HQ

**Unit in KFOR:** KFOR HQ PAO Chief Media Analysis Section

**About the mission:** This is my first mission in Kosovo. My team in the Media Analysis Section is composed of military personnel and civilians who monitor all media from early morning until late in the evening to supply the commander with precise and timely information and reports regarding KFOR and Kosovo issues. Even though the volume of work is quite high (we basically work 15 hours per day, seven days a week), my team performs all daily tasks with the greatest professionalism.

**Family reaction:** I'm married and I have four little children. Although it is a difficult challenge for my wife to take care of the family alone, she strongly supports me in the conviction that my tour of duty is useful to improve my skills and also the future family situation.

**Plans after the mission:** My first priority is to take care of my family and spend some quality time with them. I will have some days for rest so I hope that everything will be alright. After that I will go back to my unit to carry out the usual tasks.



**Name:** Juozas Genevicius

**Rank:** OR-4

**Nationality:** Lithuanian

**Home Unit:** National Defence Volunteer Forces, 1st Battalion Infantry Company

**Unit in KFOR:** POLUKRBAT Lithuanian platoon, MNTF E

**About the mission:** This is my second mission abroad, but first time in Kosovo. My previous mission was in Afghanistan in 2005-2006. The job now is different than my first mission because this time I am here as a section commander. Serving here, I have already made a lot of friends from different nationalities. For me, this mission is an opportunity to gain more experience and improve my military knowledge. All of us know working here is the best example how different contingents may cooperate for common aim.

**Family reaction:** I am married, and we have three sons. When I said that I am going to participate in a peacekeeping mission in Kosovo my family, relatives and also friends approved my decision. They all the time support me because we keep contact by phone calls, SMS, e-mail, etc. I know exactly that my family and parents are proud of me.

**Plans after mission:** First of all, I would like to have a vacation with my family. Then I will return to my unit because I have to give my experience from the job in KFOR to my subordinates. After that, I am going to continue my civilian job. I work as chief of a building team; or maybe I'll go to another mission.



**Name:** Marco Loetscher

**Rank:** OF-1

**Nationality:** Swiss

**Home Unit:** Tank Brigade 11, Battalion 13, Tank Coy 2

**Unit in KFOR:** MNTF S, TF Dulje, SWISSCOY

**About the mission:** The mission in Kosovo is my first mission. I'm the Air Operations Officer of SWISSCOY. I'm responsible for the coordination and management of the SWISSCOY supply and holiday flights. My motivation for this mission was first of all the personal experience; to work with different nations, speaking different languages. I have a lot of responsibility and can be quite spontaneous.

**Family reaction:** At first my family was afraid that I'm going abroad for six months. Now they're proud, wishing all the best for me and all of my comrades. Nevertheless, they're looking forward to my return.

**Plans after the mission:** In May 2008, I will begin the education for the quartermaster position. After this education, I will start an economic studies program at the university in St. Gallen.

Winter scene in Kosovo



Photo by Armend Aqifi