

KFOR CHRONICLE

December 24, 2007

Christmas Edition



2008 KFOR CHRONICLE Calendar



Presenting the first copy of the 2008 KFOR Chronicle calendar to COMKFOR



Dear KFOR Members,

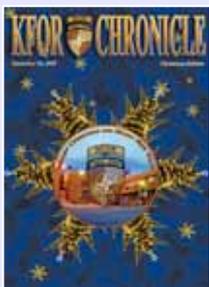
The New Year is knocking at our doors. The KFOR Chronicle team looks forward to giving you a perfect time-management tool with this 2008 calendar.

Yours sincerely,
Ewald Klingner, Major
Chief Internal Information
July 9 - Dec. 10, 2007

2008

CHRONICLE

KFOR CHRONICLE



Cover photo by Armend Aqifi

Contact KFOR Chronicle:
Phone Int: +389 2268 2897
Kos.: (038) 503 603 2897
KPN: 2897, 2402
FAX Int: +389 2268 2752
E-mail:
kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int
Internet: www.nato.int/kfor

Commander KFOR:
Lt. Gen. Xavier de Marnhac,
FRA Army

Chief Public Affairs Office:
Capt. Bertrand Bonneau, FRA Navy

Chief Internal Information
& Editor in Chief:
Maj. Gernot Schwarzenberger,
AUT AF
schwarzenberger@hq.kfor.nato.int

Journalist
Capt. Valerii Petrushka, UKR Army

Journalist
OR-6 Jason Smith, USAF

Photographer & Layout
Mr. Armend Aqifi

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

The KFOR Chronicle is produced and fully funded by HQ KFOR. It is published for KFOR forces in the area of responsibility. The contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the coalition governments' defense departments.

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

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

Nations within KFOR:

HQ KFOR

Estonia
Hungary
Netherlands
Norway
Portugal
United Kingdom

MNTF (S)

Germany
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bulgaria
Georgia
Switzerland
Turkey

MNTF (C)

Czech Republic
Finland
Ireland
Latvia
Slovakia
Sweden

MNTF (W)

Italy
Hungary
Romania
Slovenia
Spain

MNTF (N)

France
Belgium
Denmark
Greece
Luxembourg
Morocco
Estonia

MNTF (E)

United States
of America
Armenia
Greece
Lithuania
Poland
Romania
Ukraine

COMKFOR letter for Christmas 2007

Dear soldiers and civilians of the KFOR family,

In this particular sensitive moment that we live here in Kosovo--far from our families during Christmas time and New Year's Eve--I deeply appreciate the contributions of each and every KFOR member.

We are on a territory which is living a decisive period of its history. Regardless of ethnicity, religion or region, KFOR will continue to be determined to ensure a Safe and Secure Environment. The Kosovo population is tired of violence, and the people back our determination to ensure the peace they deserve; especially the children.

KFOR is able to accomplish this mission with the real professionalism that each of you demonstrates everyday. I want to take this opportunity to thank everybody from KFOR for the quality of the daily job you achieve.

At the same time, I can understand what Christmas time means to many of you, as well it means for me. You are all away from your families during this holiday. It's a tremendous sacrifice to make, and I want you and your loved ones to know your mission here is an important one. I greatly appreciate your efforts, and the efforts of your families in understanding why you can't be with them during this particular special time.

Please take care of each other so we can take care of the mission together.

Peace with determination.



*Merry Christmas and happy New Year to all of you
and to your families!*

**Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac
Commander Kosovo Force**

Not a Soldier's

*Short story by OR-6 Jason Smith
U.S. Air Force, HQ Kosovo Force*

He couldn't have been a day over 20. His face was covered with the dirt of battle, yet was cleanly shaven; that is, if he even had to shave. He had the Army standard headgear and uniform, but both had seen some wear over the past few months. He was wet and freezing cold, and he knew his mission this night was just getting underway. Although he was surrounded by others just like himself, he wasn't actually

there in his mind.

Tonight, like every night, he was prepared to die if it was God's will to bring him home. He prayed in silence, "God, give me strength in this battle. Let my family not worry about my well being tonight, but let them celebrate this joyous day together as in years past. Keep my siblings physically and spiritually healthy so that they may grow up to understand why I left them. I ask in your Son's name. Amen" "Are you awake?" his younger brother Joseph whispered quiet enough so mom and dad wouldn't hear. "No," he replied. "I'm sleeping. Go back to sleep or you'll get us in trouble." "How can I sleep this night? All I can think about is the huge feast we'll have and

all of the people who will come to visit us and the sweets and candies we will get." "You'll get nothing but a stern talking to if you don't go back to sleep," he answered. "Tomorrow is Christmas, and you staying awake tonight will not make it come any faster. Now try to go to sleep before you wake everyone up." Not more than three or four years prior, he felt the same as Joseph. There is something magical about the excitement of a child trying to sleep on Christmas Eve. Tonight, all across America, children are anxiously staring at their clocks wondering why it takes so long for the digital display to turn from 3:01 a.m. to 3:02 a.m. Most are wondering if Santa Clause was able to bring them the latest, must-have toy of the year. Some less-fortunate children are hoping for any toy and are holding onto a small thread of innocence that will quickly disappear as they become jaded by their circumstances. And there are some children whose hearts ache because they don't know why their brother or sister or mother or father won't be with them to open presents and go to Church. Their only knowledge of "freedom" is the security and guidance their loved ones give them while they are together as a family. But this battle takes place in a different time.



Christmas

"Prepare for landing!" shouted the sergeant, which abruptly ended his dreams of a Christmas Eve long ago. "From here, the general will lead our march."

The snow was falling harder, and the darkness peaked. He couldn't even feel his feet, but that didn't matter because he had to face a long and painful march before the fighting would even begin. God had heard his prayer and granted his wish to stay alive this Christmas. It was now Dec. 26.

On that Christmas night in 1776, General George Washington led his troops across the Delaware River. The ice and snow made crossing the river almost impossible. Once the soldiers did get across, they had to march to Trenton, N.J., where the battle took place.

Historians say the men were poorly clothed, and many of them didn't even have shoes. Traces of blood from soldiers' feet were left behind in the snow during the nine-mile march into battle.

The battle started at 8 a.m. on Dec. 26 and the fighting was over by 9 a.m.

The Hessians and British lost between 20 and 30 men and had almost 1,000 captured. Two American officers were killed and two or three privates were fatally wounded. Some sources say that three or four privates also froze to

death during the mission. The sacrifice was worth it for the future of freedom because the victory is said to have changed the entire course of the Revolutionary War. The brave actions of these American troops changed the direction of the world from that point forward.

Before the battle, he realized that Christmas wasn't a Soldier's to own. He suffered through one in hopes that his family and countrymen would be able to hold the day as they see fit for years to come. Still, Joseph fought to hold in his tears each Christmas after. Before celebrating their freedom to have a meal with loved ones, the family gathered to read the letter they received just after Christmas of 1776: "It is with great regret and remorse that I inform you..."

This Christmas, hundreds of thousands of troops are deployed, and some are in harm's way. Freedom isn't easy to explain to the youngest patriots, especially on Christmas. There is no way to sit down with an unborn baby and tell her that she won't have a daddy because of something called freedom. Speaking of democracy won't fill the void a five-year-old boy will have in his soul for the rest of his life because he will never see his mommy

again. His big brother's posthumously-awarded medal won't provide a positive role model to the pre-teen who idolized his lost influence.

Christmas really has nothing to do with the military. Today's Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines accept their sacrifice just as the brave men under General Washington did.

On this Christmas of 2007, pray for the sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, husbands, wives and others who don't know where their loved one is, let alone if a good meal or Christmas tree is available. Think of the lonely spouse who has to handle all the pressures of the holidays while wondering if her husband will survive the day. Worry about the kids who think their mother or father went away because he or she doesn't want to spend Christmas with the children. American military members don't worry about their own well being during Christmas. The Soldiers don't need sympathy, and they don't need people calling for their return before the mission is complete. What they do need is to know that their families at home are taken care of while they can't be there.





Peace with D

NATO Secretary General makes visit to Kosovo

The NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer made a visit to Kosovo Force Headquarters Nov. 30, 2007, at Camp Film City, Pristina/Pristine.

During the visit, Mr. Scheffer met with Commander KFOR Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac, and the members of the Unity Team: President Fatmir Sejdiu, Prime Minister Agim Ceku, the Speaker of Parliament Mr. Koli Berisha, President of Democratic Party of Kosovo Mr. Hashim Thaci and the president's political Advisor Mr. Skender Hyseni, as well as with leaders of the Serb community in Kosovo.

After the meeting, Mr. Scheffer and General Marnhac held a press conference and took questions from the press. A lot of reporters wanted to hear NATO's position about the situation in Kosovo.

"We will support the Troika process until the end, and KFOR will not tolerate any form of violence," said Mr. Scheffer. "If there are people in Kosovo, wherever they come from, and they think or they might think wrongly that inciting violence will be the answer, they're wrong. And KFOR will prove them wrong. And KFOR will do that of course in close cooperation with the Kosovo Police and with the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo police."

General Marnhac answered reporters' questions about the number of troops in Kosovo, and specifically about

a German reserve battalion that arrived in November. "KFOR will do what ever is necessary to guarantee maintaining a safe and secure environment in Kosovo and this is the main task," said COMKFOR General Marnhac. "KFOR doesn't reinforce in Kosovo. It is just usual training. Three or four times every year, we prepare our Reserve Force, and now Germany Operation Reserve Force 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."



etermination



New Commander JFC Naples visits Kosovo

The new Commander Joint Force Command in Naples Admiral Mark Fitzgerald made a visit to Kosovo from Dec. 3-4, 2007.

During the visit, Admiral Fitzgerald received a series of briefings on the current security situation and issues in Kosovo. Admiral Fitzgerald met with Commander Kosovo Force Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac, President Fatmir Sejdiu, and the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary General of the United Nations Mr. Steven Schook, as well as with Serbian

Representative Mr. Olivier Ivanovic in Pristina/Prishtine.

"We are prepared to respond to any violent attempts to disrupt the political process during this sensitive period," said Admiral Fitzgerald. "We are entering a very sensitive period with the period immediately following the United National deadline. It is a time for all parties to act in a constructive, moderate and responsible manner. You have my assurances that KFOR will remain committed to providing a safe and secure environment in Kosovo for all the people of Kosovo as long as necessary."

Admiral Fitzgerald also had an opportunity to tour the Mitrovica/Mitrovice area and received a briefing from the Commander of Multi-National Task Force North Brigade General Olivier Jumelet.

"It is always very beneficial as a commander to see things first hand," said Admiral Fitzgerald. "I am very pleased, based on my briefings, on how far Kosovo and the local population have progressed."

Admiral Fitzgerald took command of Joint Force Command in Naples from Admiral Harry G. Ulrich III on Nov. 30, 2007.



Merry Christmas and Multinational I

*Joyeux Noël et
Bonne Année*

*Joyeux Noël et
Bonne Année*

*Glædelig Jul og
Godt Nytår*

*Καλά Χριστούγεννα
και Ευτυχισμένο
το Νέο Έτος*



Happy New Year
Task Force North

*E schéine
Krëscht daag an e
Glécklecht Neit Joër*

*اجمل التهاني بمناسبة
الميلاد و حلول
السنة الجديدة*

*Häid Jõule ja
Head Uut Aastat*



Silent Night,



Story by Maj. Ewald Klinger, Austrian Army

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and Arnold Schwarzenegger are maybe the most well-known Austrians in the world, but they can't reach the popularity of a song, which is sung each Christmas Eve all over the world in over 300 languages and dialects. "Silent Night, Holy Night" might be the most famous song in the world.

According to the Web page of the Silent Night Association, the text was written by Joseph Mohr, a Roman-Catholic Priest in 1816. The melody was composed by Franz Xaver Gruber on Christmas Eve 1818. On the same Christmas Eve, "Silent Night, Holy Night" had its world premiere in the St. Nicholas Church of Oberndorf near Salzburg, Austria, performed by Franz



Silent Night, Holy Night
Silent night, Holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,
'Round yon Virgin Mother and Child
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace,
Sleep in heavenly peace.
Silent night, Holy night,
Shepherds quake at the sight,
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heav'nly hosts sing Alleluia;
Christ the Savior is born,
Christ the Savior is born.
Silent night, Holy night,
Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth

*Merry Christmas and
Multinational To*

*God Jul Och
Gott Nytt År*

*Vesele Vanoce a
Stastny Novy Rok*

*Hyvää Joulua ja
Onnellista
Uutta Vuotta*



and Happy New Year
ask Force Centre



*Veselé Vianoce a
Šťastný Nový Rok*

*Priecîgus
Ziemassvētkus un
laimîgu Jauno gadu*

*Nollaig Shona
augus Bliain úr Faoi
Shéan is Fao*





Santa Claus;

*Story and photos by Lt. Jaakko Heikkila
Finnish Army*

The very old tradition of Santa Claus is a well-known part of Christmas festivities especially in Finland. Why is that? It's simply because Finland is the one and only genuine homeland of Santa, regardless of what other nations may claim.

Oh yes, Santa Claus is that white-bearded and red-jacketed old man, who has a very wise look but also a lot of twinkles and wrinkles of laughter in the corner of the eye. Santa Claus' favorite color is red. It is the warm color of Christmas, and it reminds him of the red cheeks of happy children.

Santa Claus and Mrs. Santa live in Korvatunturi in Finnish Lapland. A great number of elves and reindeer live there, too. Korvatunturi is a suitable dwelling place for Santa Claus, because all children's wishes can be heard there.

That is why it has got its name Korvatunturi. That means the "ear-mountain."

Santa



Finnish Ambassador of Christmas

loves children and hears their wishes no matter where they live, even here in Kosovo. Finnish Peacekeepers in Kosovo have a tradition since 2001 to visit local schools and distribute presents for Christmas. This is done by Santa Claus and Mrs. Santa, of course. And the best prize for Santa is to see the happy face of a single child.



Merry Christmas and



*Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year*



*Zalig Kerstfeest en
Gelukkig Nieuwjaar*



*Срећан Божић и
Срећна Нова Година*



and Happy New Year



*God Jul og
Godt Nyttår*



*Feliz Natal e
Próspero Ano Novo*



*Me fat Krishtlindjet
dhe
Gëzuar Viti i Ri*



Radio West Brings People Together

Story by OF-2 Michele Cortese, Italian Army

Photos by OR-9 Domenico Interdonato, Italian Army



Radio West was born August 12, 1999, just few months after the arrival of Italian troops in Kosovo. It was the first radio station in the area to broadcast for the purpose entertaining the local population and soldiers.

The original task of Radio West was promoting the reconjunction of the families displaced in refugee camps after the end of the war. As it evolved, Radio West became an entertainment tool that broadcasted also news, service and music programs. It was basically focusing on a multi-ethnic dialogue, trying to give an example to overcome inter-ethnic barriers.

Radio West increased the interest of the local population in all its different components toward the activities of the Kosovo Force contingent, and it brought fresh pieces of information directly into the houses of people living

in western Kosovo.

Seven days a week, and 24 hours per day the station operates with more than 10 hours of multi-lingual live programs with music and telephone calls. The station keeps all listeners involved by broadcasting in four languages: Italian, Albanian, Serbian and Spanish.

Radio West, whose current director is Captain Francesco Diati, is not only proactive in creativity, but also an example of multi-ethnic integration and commitment that permits to set up the necessary conditions to back an effective peacekeeping activity in Kosovo.



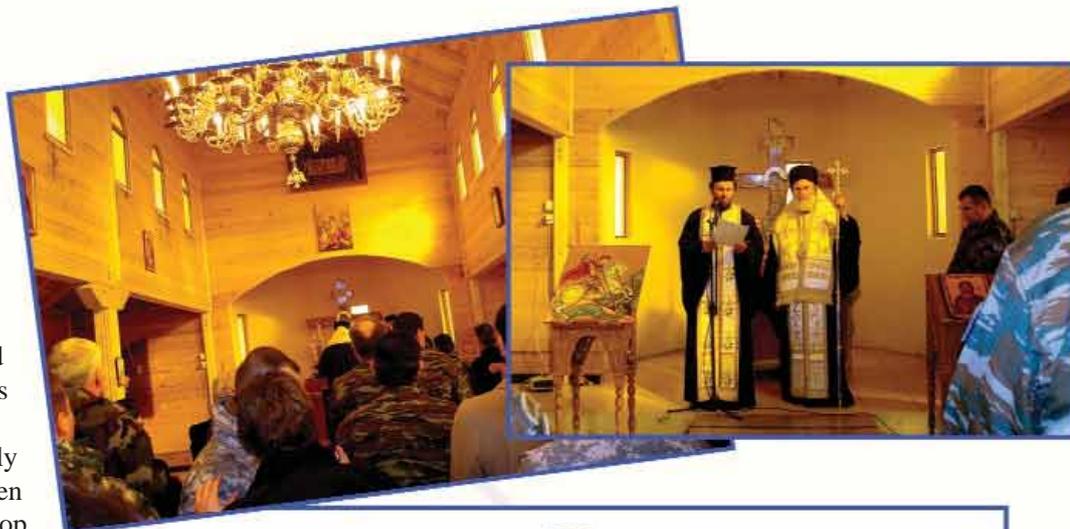
Ceremony of Consecration of the Orthodox Church "Virgin Mary The Liberator"

The Ceremony of the Consecration of the Orthodox Church "Virgin Mary The Liberator" in Hellenic Camp Rigas Fereos took place Sunday, Nov. 25, 2007.

Nikolas Kanellos, Ambassador of Hellas in Kosovo, Lieutenant General Fragoulis Fragos, Commander of 2nd Army Corps, many officers of KFOR and representatives of local authorities attended the ceremony.

The ceremony started with a Holy Service. The Archbishop of Prizren and Kosovo Artemios, with Bishop Thermon Dimitrios, presided over the service. The Religious Branch of Hellenic Armed Forces was represented by its Director Colonel Georgios Apostolakidis.

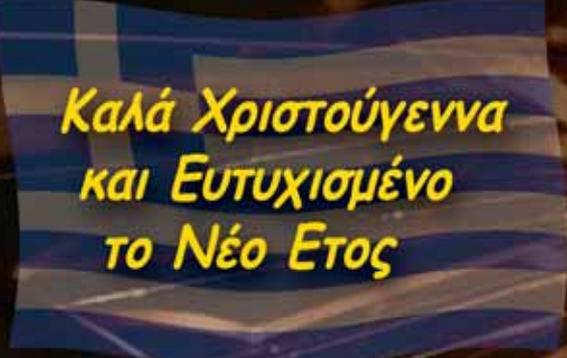
After the Holy Service, the Commander of 2nd Army Corps made a celebratory speech. The Commander of Hellenic Tactical Command Colonel Theodoros Panas thanked all the guests for their presence. The ceremony ended with a reception for all the guests.



Merry Christmas and Multinational



Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year



Καλά Χριστούγεννα
και Ευτυχισμένο
το Νέο Έτος



Su Šventom Kaledom
ir
Naujaisiais Metais



Հնրհա՛վոր Ամա՛նոր
և Սուրբ Ծնունդ



Happy New Year

Task Force East



*Wesołych Świąt i
szczęśliwego
Nowego Roku*

*З Новим Роком та
Різдвом Христовим*

*Crăciun fericit și
un an nou fericit*

[Inside KFOR]



*Story by Major Jesus Leal, Spanish Army
Photos by OR-6 Miguel A. Leva, Spanish Army and OR-1 Manuel Corpas, Spanish Army*

In addition to Task Force Tizona's military mission in Kosovo, the unit seeks to improve the quality of life, boost the local economy and develop the environment of the inhabitants of Kosovo.

In this way, the task force contributes to improve Istok/Istog Municipality's basic necessities in the daily life of all the citizens.

For this reason, the task force is working in the execution of infrastructure projects, such as upgrading roads, repairing electric lines, canalizing water, and improving schools. All of these are funded by the Spanish Government through the Ministry of Defense.

Funding has also been received from the City of

Madrid Council, the Spanish NGO "Fundación Red Deporte y Cooperación" and the Managers Confederation (FAE) of Burgos.

The projects, negotiated by the task force, total about 400,000 €, and it all has been managed and coordinated by KSPFOR XVIII with the collaboration of the Municipality of Istok/Istog. Sixteen new projects will be finished by Christmas. The projects range from an electrical installation for a needy family who lived under terrible conditions in Dubrava/Dubrave, to the school restoration in Dobrusa/Dobrushe; where Kosovo Albanian and Kosovo Bosniac children study together.

Apart from these projects, the Task Force also contributes to increase the living conditions with the delivery of humanitarian aid to include food, water, firewood, medicine, clothes and medical supplies.

Spanish KFOR soldiers feel proud of their daily work, and they are happy to help the Kosovo society.



Spanish M





Making a Difference in Kosovo



Merry Christmas and Multinational

Frohe Weihnachten
und ein glückliches
Neues Jahr

Frohe Weihnachten
und ein glückliches
Neues Jahr

Vesela Koleda i
chestita nova godina

გილოცავ(თ)
შობა-ახალ წელს



Happy New Year

Task Force South



Frohe Weihnachten
und ein glückliches
Neues Jahr

Yeni yılınızı kutlar
sağlık ve
başarılar dileriz

Tezze iliniz
yahsi olsun



[Around Kosovo]

It is Better to See it Once th

Story by Captain Valerii Petrushka, Ukrainian Army
Photos by OR-7 Sorim Ursachi, Romanian Army

If you were in Kosovo, you know that Kosovo has a lot of beautiful places such as Rugova Valley, Tito's bunker, Mirusa Waterfall, different kinds of Monasteries, nice lakes, etc. If you also want to have good rest, you should to go to the Gadime Cave. It is a really interesting place in Kosovo. This is the only tourist cave, open to the public. It became a site to visit in 1974 after a large amount of debris was removed.



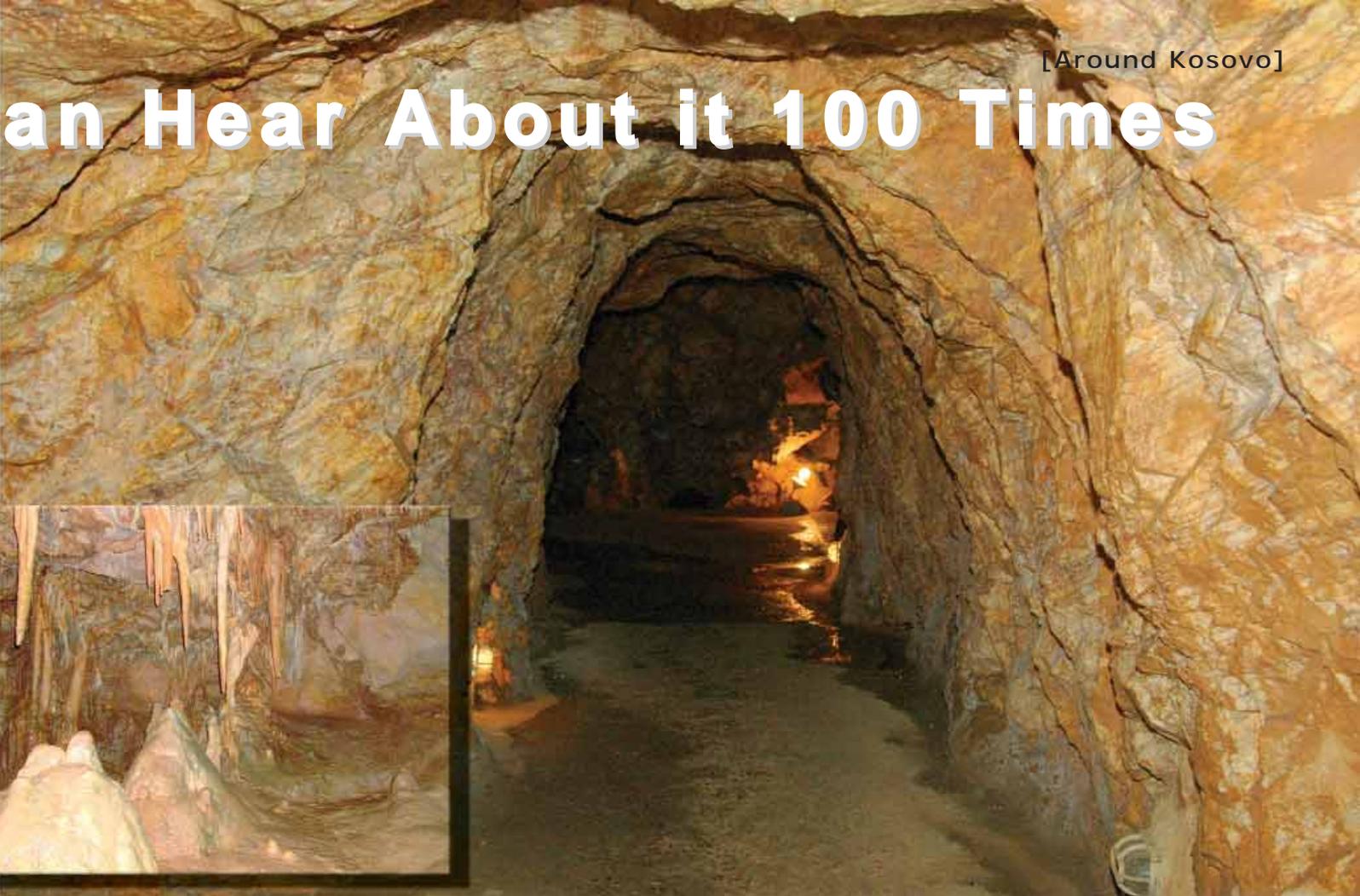
The Marble Cave is situated about 20 kilometers south of the capital of Pristina/Prishtine, in the hill of Murtur, in the valley of River Klysyra. The river flows through the village of Gadimlje/Gadime, and by the higher hill, Gadime, situated there. Both hills are composed basically of the old Palezoic marbles that can be found only on the eastern edges of the Kosovo valley. These marbles are covered with volcanic lava and tuffs dating back from the time of the formation of the Kosovo valley. Later on, the whole region was over flown by the Kosovo Lake that has withdrawn lately.

The cave was discovered by Ahmet Diti while he was doing some work nearby his house in 1969. It was explored during 1970s by speleological teams from Yugoslavia, but large parts of this cave are still unexplored because many passages are blocked from river deposits.

The Gadime Cave was made by the underground river that flowed through the Murtur Hill before the Klysyra River made its valley. This was the time that preceded the existence of the lake in the Kosovo Valley. Later on, the cave was stuffed with clay, and only after the River Klysyra cut a path, the cave entrances were rediscovered. However, by its appearance in marble and richness in the



Can Hear About it 100 Times

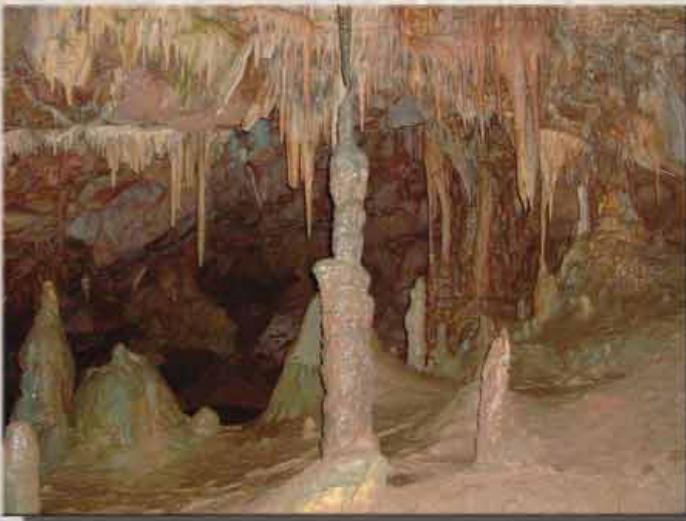
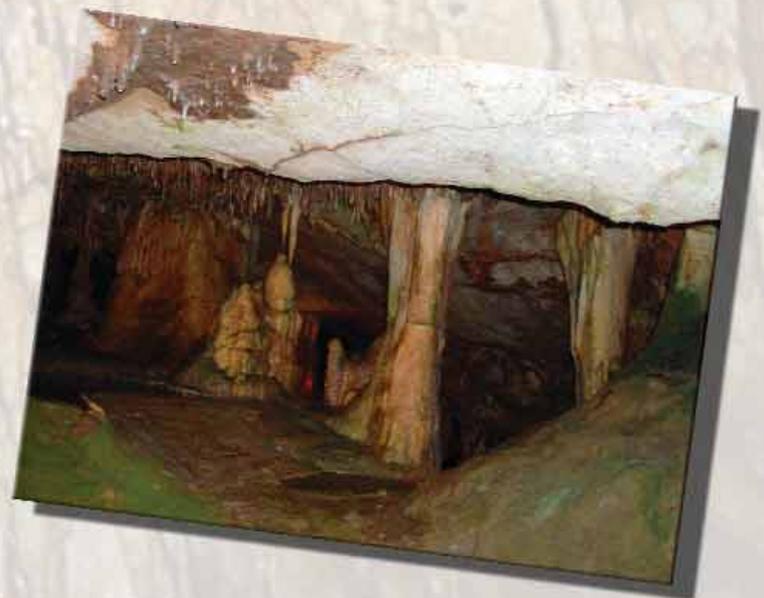


marble ornaments, the cave represents a unique speleological discovery.

The Gadime Cave is unique with its dimensions, richness and mineral sediment variety; it is well equipped for visiting. This cave contains a quantity of large galleries. It has three natural entrances situated at 576, 582 and 584 meters above sea level, and only six-10 meters from the river bed. It has been named because of the marble rocks of different colors and various patterns in which it is made. It is separated in three galleries: western, northern and eastern gallery.

The cave is about 1,500 meters long, but the tourist part is around 500 meters long. Characteristics for this cave are the aragonite formations, and marble blocks of stone from which it takes the name, and it is very well decorated all over.

Once you visit the inside of the Marble Cave, you will wish to go back again. It is a beautiful natural treasure.



*Merry Christmas and
Multinational*



*Buon Natale e
Felice Anno Nuovo*



*Vesele Božič
in Srečno Novo Leto*



*Craciun fericit si un
an nou fericit*



and Happy New Year
Task Force West



*Feliz Navidad y
Próspero Año Nuevo*

*Kellemes karácsonyt
és boldog új évet*



Photography Contest:

Take part and show with your photographs, how beautiful, interesting and unique living in Kosovo is for KFOR soldiers!

- Have you ever wanted to participate in a photo contest?
- You are quite sure that your photos are the most beautiful and the best?
- Do you have photos, with special charisma ?
- Do you have an eye for things that others don't see?
- Do you find the surrounding people in Kosovo interesting?
- Can you provide brilliant landscape photographs?

Then proceed! Images from troops involved in KFOR mission activities, humanitarian efforts, leisure pursuits and site seeing expeditions are welcome. All photographs must be in good taste and represent a positive KFOR image.

The KFOR Chronicle staff will pick three winning photographs. The winners will be chosen and will be published in the February 1, 2008 magazine edition. Submit photographs to kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int no later than January 11. Submissions should include the digital photograph, photographer's name and a short caption.



Send us Your Best Shots!



This contest is sponsored by MWA.

Get clicking!

Get clicking!



1st Prize
Digital Camera
Canon IXUS 75

Get clicking!

2nd Prize
4 GB
iPOD Nano



3rd Prize
4 GB USB Data Stick





Name: Oscar Herlitz

Rank: OR-5

Nationality: Swedish

Home Unit: P18, Gotlands Regemente

Unit in KFOR: MNTF C, B-COY SWECON

About the mission: This is the second time I am in Kosovo. I was here about a year ago. We do a lot of patrolling, and the best part of the job is interacting with the people of Kosovo. Working as a soldier in a peacekeeping mission has broadened my mind, and it is interesting to see how Kosovo is developing over time.

Family reaction: My family and my girlfriend are supportive of my decision to come here. Of course they worry sometimes, but I make sure I keep them up to date on what is going on down here and that I am safe and sound.

Plans after the mission: When I go home I will start studying law as a preparation to become a police officer. It's a profession where I get to meet people and help them in everyday situations. I like law and order, and I want to contribute to a safe and secure environment in Sweden, as I do here.

Name: Nuno Cavalheiro

Rank: OR-4

Nationality: Portuguese

Home Unit: 3rd Engineer Regiment

Unit in KFOR: Eng Det, ACoy, KTM

About the Mission: I am an active contributor of the Engineer Detachment of Alfa Company that has the duty to support the Kosovo Reserve Tactical Manoeuvre Battalion. Specifically, I am an Engineer Machine Operator. This is my first mission abroad which means that all this is new for me. After three months of my tour, I can say that I am really enjoying the experience.

Family reaction: I have always wanted to represent my country in a peacekeeping mission. Once the opportunity came into sight, I did not think twice. My family has always supported my decisions, and this one was no different. Nowadays, due to the new technologies available, it is very easy to stay in touch with loved ones, in particular my girlfriend.

Plans after the mission: The mission ends in March. After my six-month tour, I am going back to my previous unit. In May, my commission is going to end, which means leaving the Army and continuing my life as a civilian.



Name: Vasil Lazarov

Rank: OR-1

Nationality: Bulgarian

Home Unit: Road and Bridge-Building Unit

Unit in KFOR: MNTF S, Multi-National Engineer Company

About the mission: This is my first mission in Kosovo, and I will stay here for six months. I am doing my duty in the fortification-unit, where we work together with German and Turkish soldiers. It is interesting to work in this multi-national platoon and this experience will be very helpful for my future back in Bulgaria. During the time here, we finished two big projects with our platoon-comrades: sewage-systems in Dobrodeljane/Doberdolan and Orahovac/Rahovec. The Bulgarian Platoon also replaced the fence around Camp Toplicane.

Family Reaction: I have been married for four years. My beautiful wife and I have two children - my daughter is 1.5 years and my son is 12 years old. My wife supported my decision, otherwise I wouldn't be here.

Plans after mission: First of all, I will go on vacation with my family; we already made a reservation for a skiing-holiday to Borovec. After that I will share my experiences with my comrades at my home unit, who are coming to MNTF S within the next month.

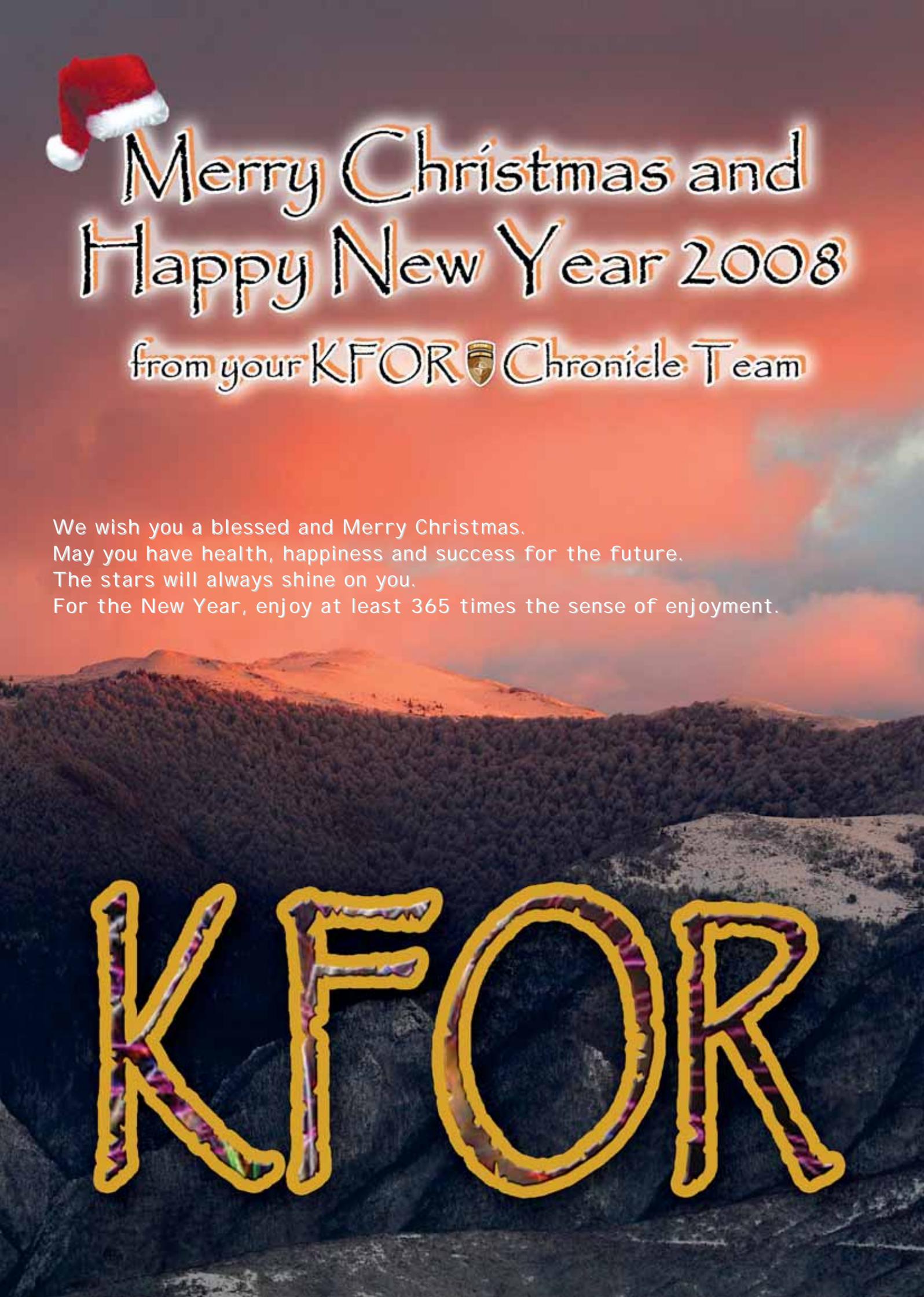




Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2008

from your KFOR  Chronicle Team

We wish you a blessed and Merry Christmas.
May you have health, happiness and success for the future.
The stars will always shine on you.
For the New Year, enjoy at least 365 times the sense of enjoyment.



KFOR