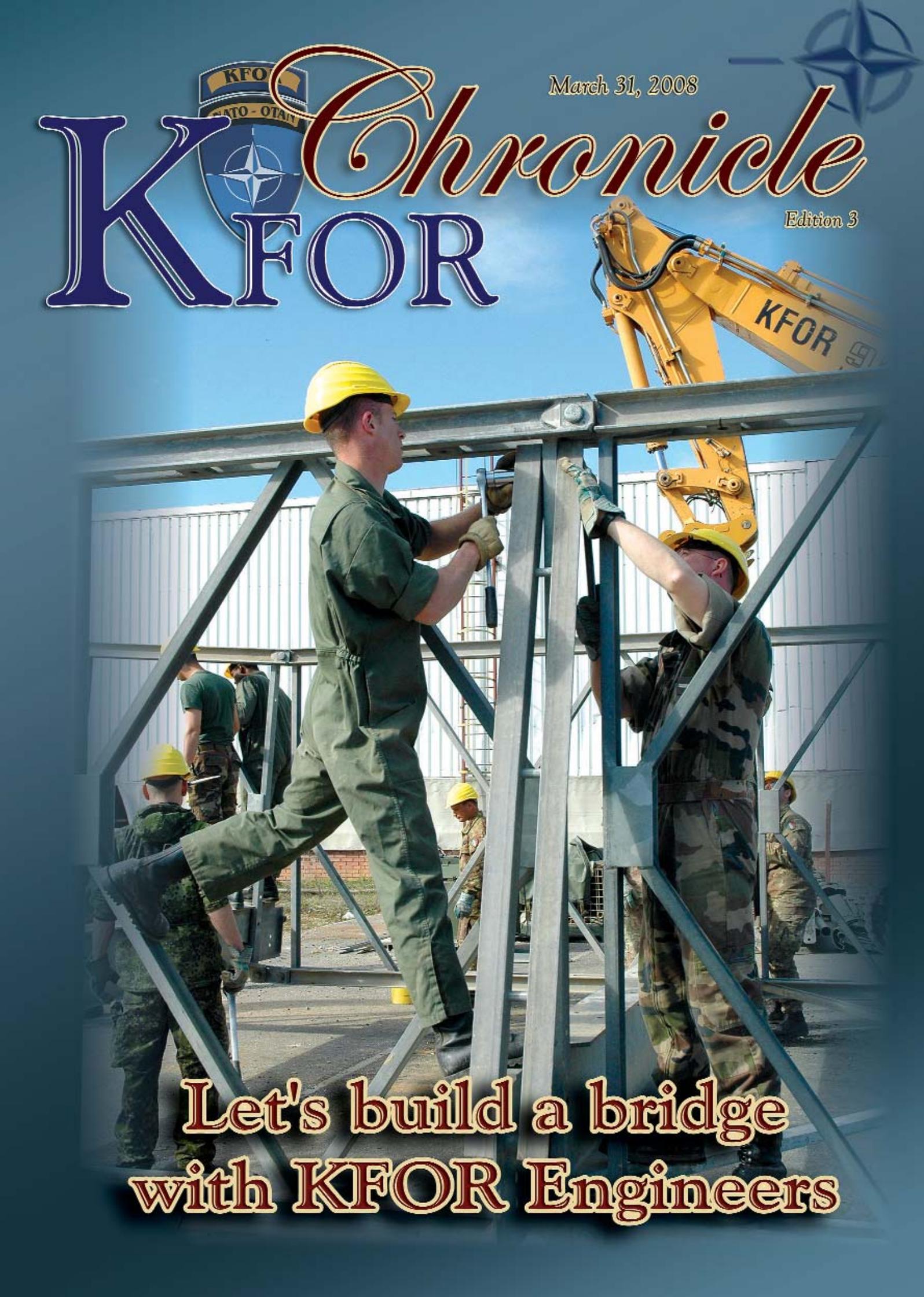


March 31, 2008

# KFOR Chronicle

## KFOR

Edition 3

A photograph showing several construction workers in military-style uniforms and hard hats working on a large steel framework. One worker in the foreground is wearing green coveralls and a yellow hard hat, while another is in camouflage and a yellow hard hat. A yellow excavator with 'KFOR' written on its arm is visible in the background. The scene is set outdoors under a clear blue sky.

Let's build a bridge  
with KFOR Engineers

# New KFOR Command Sergeant Major

My name is Philippe Jandot. I am the new KFOR Command Sergeant Major (CSM) and it has been more than one month since I took over the responsibilities.

I would like to thank my predecessor Jean Luc BLOT, who did a great job.

Moreover it's an honor to have been appointed by Commander of Kosovo Forces for this significant position, which is a great value for a French Noncommissioned Officer (NCO).

Following 20 years in Air Defense Artillery Battalions, first as missile system commander and finally Battery Sergeant Major, since 2003, I have been Staff NCO in the G3 branch of the Force Headquarters Nr 2 (Divisional level) in Nantes (West part of France).

This is my sixth mission abroad and I have had the opportunity to work within a multinational environment before both during exercises and during my first tour in KFOR Headquarters in 2005.

Since arriving, I have visited several soldiers and I have been impressed by the way you, KFOR soldiers from different Nations, are working together with professionalism especially during this period of changes in Kosovo.

You always have to remember our motto "PEACE WITH DETERMINATION".

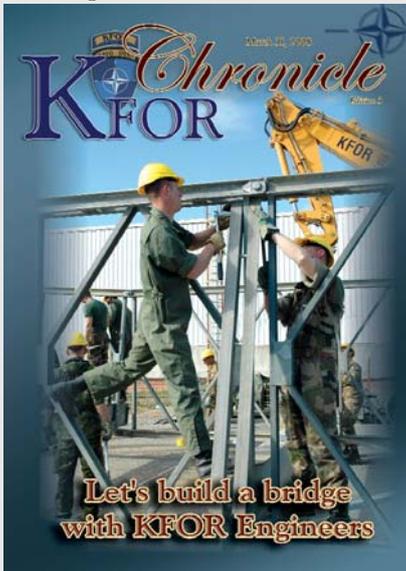
I would like to emphasize the main role of the Command Sergeant Major from KFOR contributing nations. Indeed CSMs are guarantors of good manners and discipline of troops during their Peacekeeping missions. When soldiers are deployed far from their family, CSMs are particularly involved in the morale of NCOs and soldiers. If morale is good the performance during the mission will be excellent.

Good luck to all of you for this very interesting and challenging mission we share in Kosovo through KFOR.



<p><b>Commander KFOR:</b> Lt. Gen. Xavier de Marnhac, FRA Army</p> <p><b>Chief Public Affairs Office:</b> Col. Jean Luc Cotard, FRA Army</p> <p><b>Chief Internal Information &amp; Editor in Chief:</b> Maj. Gernot Schwarzenberger, AUT Air Force schwarzenberg@hq.kfor.nato.int</p> <p><b>Journalist</b> Capt. Valerii Petrushka, UKR Army</p> <p><b>Photographer &amp; Layout</b> Mr. Armend Aqifi</p>	<p>The KFOR Chronicle is produced and fully funded by HQ KFOR. It is published for KFOR forces in the area of responsibility.</p> <p>The contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the coalition governments' defense departments.</p> <p>Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Internal Information Section of HQ KFOR's Public Affairs Office (PAO) in Pristina, Kosovo.</p> <p>PAO HQ KFOR reserves the right to edit content to conform to style and space requirements. Articles run on a space-available basis.</p> <p>The KFOR Chronicle is printed by KOSOVA SOT Tel: 038 548 402</p>
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<b><u>HQ KFOR</u></b> Canada Estonia Hungary Netherlands Norway Portugal United Kingdom	<b><u>MNTF (S)</u></b> Germany Austria Azerbaijan Bulgaria Georgia Switzerland Turkey
<b><u>MNTF (C)</u></b> Czech Republic Finland Ireland Latvia Slovakia Sweden	<b><u>MNTF (W)</u></b> Italy Hungary Romania Slovenia Spain
<b><u>MNTF (N)</u></b> France Belgium Denmark Greece Luxembourg Morocco Estonia	<b><u>MNTF (E)</u></b> United States of America Armenia Greece Lithuania Poland Romania Ukraine



*From March 11 to 14, a Bridge Operation Course was conducted at Camp Casablanca in Multi-National Task Force South*

Cover photo by Capt. Valerii Petrushka, Ukrainian Army

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# KFOR CHRONICLE

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# 'WE, WHOSE FAME FLIES'

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

The Transfer of Authority of the Kosovo Force Tactical Reserve Maneuver Battalion (KTM) took place on March 19, 2008, at Camp Slim Lines, Pristina/Prishtine.

Kosovo Force Commander Lt. Gen. Xavier de Marnhac presided over the ceremony in which Lt. Col. Paulo José de Sousa Teles Serra Pedro accepted command of KTM from Lt. Col. Joao Carlos Cabral de Almeida Loureiro Magalhaes.

During the military parade, Magalhaes gave a speech that emphasized the importance of the job done.

"KFOR work in Kosovo is one of the key points to keep this region peaceful and stable," said Magalhaes in his farewell speech. "Today six months after the beginning of our mission we will all take to Portugal the satisfaction and honor of being part of KFOR family."

The KTM is designed to quickly respond to potential changes of the security situation. The maneuver units of the KTM have accomplished intense crowd riot control training, interdiction and anti-smuggling operations, support intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance and other special operations. In addition to their daily routine, KTM units carry out a series of exercises jointly with each Task Force and cross boundary operations.

After the change of the symbolic flag new commander Serra Pedro said in his speech to the troops, "With professionalism, confidence and help of God, we are going to accomplish this mission plenty of successes, bringing to Kosovo territory a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all ethnic groups."

"During our entire mission, we are going to do justice of our motto 'We, whose fame flies'," concluded Serra Pedro.

"I want to thank the commander and soldiers of 2nd Infantry Battalion. Job well done," COMKFOR told the outgoing commander and soldiers. "It was very comforting to know that no matter where tensions arose, the extremely proud, professional soldiers of Portugal were ready to respond."

"Lt. Col. Serra Pedro, welcome to the family," said de Marnhac as he welcomed new KTM commander. "I am pleased to have you and the soldiers of the 1st Paratrooper Battalion as part of the KFOR family."

The 1st Paratrooper Infantry Battalion has accomplished missions in different Theatres of Operations. To include: Bosnia-Herzegovina, East Timor, Afghanistan, and Kosovo. Along with a new commander, KTM has a new rotation of soldiers.







# Peace with D

## COMKFOR made

**During the month of March the Commander of Kosovo Force Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac visited several locations within the different Multi-National Task Forces of the Kosovo Force.**

In the beginning General de Marnhac made a visit to Dragas/Sharr Municipality in MNTF South, on March 5. The COMKFOR called the Municipality as an example in maintaining security. "We are determined to maintain the peaceful and stable security situation throughout every single inch in Kosovo," said General de Marnhac and praised the authorities and citizens for their commitment in promoting the stability and coexistence in this Municipality.



On the next day COMKFOR General de Marnhac visited the troops at the administrative crossing between Serbia and Kosovo, at Brnjak/Bërnjak and the troops in Mitrovica/Mitrovice in MNTF North. "KFOR will be in Kosovo as long as necessary," said General de Marnhac. "As COMKFOR I am here to show that mission of KFOR is continuing and its task is to provide a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for the entire territory of Kosovo in compliance with the United Nation Security Resolution 1244". COMKFOR underlined that all Kosovo citizens can rely on KFOR to ensure safety and security.

COMKFOR also made a visit to the Kamenica/Dardanë Municipality in MNTF East, on March 7. General de Marnhac expressed his satisfaction with the engagement of the municipal leadership for overcoming the problems in relation with the other communities especially with the Serbian community. At the end General de Marnhac visited the multiethnic market and youth center where COMKFOR met and talked with the local citizens.



# etermination



## a visit to MNTFs



In the continuation of COMKFOR's tour General de Marnhac donated a tractor to the Kosovo-Serbian family in Lazovic, Pec/Peje Municipality in MNTF West, on March 8. "I was here four months ago to visit this neighborhood where Serbian community lives, an area which was assisted by KPC members in cleaning the location from the ruins," said COMKFOR. "Now, in this locality of Lazovic family, 20 houses have been reconstructed. During my last visit, they told me they have difficulties in working the land due to the lack of technical equipment. I promised them to do the best I can."

At the end of visits General de Marnhac came to the Kacanik Municipality in MNTF East, on March 10. COMKFOR assessed the security situation as good for the moment and also under control. He also toured the technical school and spoke to the students during his visit; telling them that they were the future of Kosovo.



## COMKFOR took part in KPC seminar

The Commander of Kosovo Force Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac took part in the opening of 'Action plan for wildfire prevention in summer 2008' at Kosovo Protection Corpse Training and Doctrine Command (KPC TRADOC) in Pristina/Prishtine on March 12.

COMKFOR General de Marnhac and KPC Commander Lieutenant General Sylejman Selimi expressed their readiness to assist institutions in their responds to prevent wildfires if they occur in Kosovo during this year. "The seminar is a fundamental step; it will establish the process Kosovo-wide," said General de Marnhac. "KFOR and the nations provide support, but the implementation belongs to Kosovo. KPC will be one of the key actors. Keeping in mind that fires do not recognize administrative limit, the issue is also a regional one."



KFOR, KPC and representatives from the Emergency Department of the Interior Ministry, Ministry of Environment and Special Planning, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, and also fire fighters from the regions took part in the seminar. Alush Beqiri, from Emergency Department in the Interior Ministry, presented plans for managing the crises of fire eruption, organizing activities, and the capabilities of the department and fire fighters services in Kosovo regions. TRADOC sets the standards for the education and training of all KPC personnel throughout the entire organization.



# WEAPONS CAN ALSO

(...IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE, PLEASE COME)

Article by OR-5 *Andreas Huber (AUT Army)* and OR-5 *Mehmet Orhan (TUR Army)*,  
Pictures by OR-3 *Mirko Martzloff (DEU Army)*



A marksmanship competition of Multinational Taskforce South (MNTF S) took place at Orahovac/Rahovec shooting range on March 3rd 2008. On invitation of the Commander of Multinational Task Force South (MNTF S) Brigade General Ugur Tarçin, five-member teams of every nation that is serving in MNTF S participated in this event.

Members of Headquarters Coy of MNTF S hosted the event, which they did enthusiastically and at a high level of professionalism. Capt. Christian W., Commander of HQ Coy, said about their effort: "It was a great honour for us to prepare this task force competition and it was rewarding to see the friendly atmosphere got along the soldiers of all nationalities."

## "One Team - One Mission"; "One Shot - One Smile"

For many it was a great chance to get to know and shoot rifles of other countries. But all these preparations were not made just for sport; this was part of the competition. At the end of the day, the best individual shooter and the best team were honoured by trophy cups presented by the Brig. Gen. Ugur Tarçin. But of course, the real first rule and goal for all teams was simply "to keep and improve" the spirit of the motto of the MNTF S, which is "One Team - One Mission."

## Sportive Team and Single contest

After an exciting contest, the Turkish comrades proved their accurate shooting skills and won the team-score with a total of 2397 points.

"I think the main aim of this competition was to be together with the other six national teams in the same environment and to add a contribution to our task force's motto," said



# ... TO BUILD UP FRIENDSHIP...

(CONTINUE READING)



Lt. Alptekin Guler, the leader of the winning Turkish team. "These aims were reached very well and I'm happy that our bullets reached the targets in such a way that we won the competition."

The best shot of that day was the Georgian Comrade OR-4 Firuzi Vartanashvili, who scored 547 points. This was appreciated by all members of MNTF S, because he belongs to the Coy security team, working at the gate of Field Camp Prizren.

"As a member of one of the smaller contingents of Multinational Taskforce South; it is a special honour for me

and for my nation," said Vartanashvili After the cup was presented to him by the Commander of MNTF S Brig. Gen. Ugur Tarçin.

After the award ceremony, it was time for the participating teams to participate in another cultural event; culinary delights of their home countries. The shooting competition had been another valuable event, contributing to keeping the team spirit of the common mission of all nations within Task Force South.

## Brigade Shooting Contest MNTF S

### Team Competition:

- |                 |             |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 1. Turkey:      | 2397 Points |
| 2. Switzerland: | 2366 Points |
| 3. Austria:     | 2260 Points |



### Single Competition:

- |                                     |            |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| 1. OR-4 Vartanashvili, Firuzi (GEO) | 547 Points |
| 2. OF-1 Flueck, Oliver (CHE)        | 527 Points |
| 3. OR-7 Koch, Wilhelm (AUT)         | 518 Points |



# One deed with twice the result A special Easter gift

*Story by Senior KFOR Chaplain Lt. Col. Blaise Rebotier  
Photos by Armend Aqifi*

Our duty as KFOR Soldiers is not in vain. We are useful to all of the residence of Kosovo; not just according to the United Nation Security Resolution (UNSCR) 1244, which authorizes our role, but also in terms of personal investment for peace. For this reason the French commandment has decided to help a student house in Pristina/ Prishtine.

The student house is hosted by the Catholic sisters of the Saint Vincent de Paul community. It provides students from underprivileged Kosovo families a place to stay while continuing their studies at the University. The ten young ladies living in the student house had no oil for heating and hot water. This past winter was strong, and with having very little to share, the Sisters had not enough money to pay for Fuel.

## **No speeches, but solutions are demanded**

In its constant desire to help people of Kosovo, KFOR had noticed this tough situation and searched for an answer. Considering the importance of education for the future of Kosovo, the solution was to improve the living situation of the student house.

In an action, sustained by the Commander of Kosovo Force Lt. Gen. Xavier de Marnhac, Col. Benoît de Courrèges d'Agos, French National Representative, decided to help them in the name of the French CIMIC by giving a donation to purchase heating oil.

Helping people through these CIMIC actions is a nice thing, but French Soldiers thought it was not enough. They wanted to do something more personal, especially during the Christian time of Lent. There are traditionally forty days in Lent which are marked by fasting, both from foods and festivities, and by other acts of penance.

## **Lent, time before Easter**

During the time of Lent, Christians used to prepare themselves for Eastern. This is a time to grow hope, not just by prayers but also for sharing with the poorest. Charity helps us especially to grow our souls



and open our minds. The French Christian community of KFOR took up a collection during masses to participate to this operation. Because they believed on the real importance of studying for the future of a people, they decided to help and find a concrete solution for the student house. French Christians joined their efforts in the official donation and offered some additional money to purchase heating oil. 2120 liters of heating oil were delivered for following winters by the French National Representative and French chaplains. "We have provided one good deed with twice the result," said de Courrèges. "Helping those students have a decent life while continuing their studies, and participating in the local economy by giving the money to the sisters."



The sisters have paid for the fuel to a local provider in a complete respect of the local laws. "By doing this we show we believe in the future. This was another way to prove we want peace with determination," closed the Colonel. At 41 years of age, Father Blaise Rebotier has been a Roman Catholic Priest in the French Army for 10 years. After serving 4 years with the regular Paratroopers, he spent 6 years as Chaplain of Foreign Legion Paratroopers. He left that role in the summer 2007 for a 6 month rotation as the KFOR Chief Chaplain. His primary missions are to advise COMKFOR on religious, moral, and ethical subjects, to co-ordinate activities of forces Chaplains, and to take care of religious ministry at KFOR HQ.



# Slovenian KFOR troops

*Story by 1st Lt. Jasna Strmole*

*Photos by 1st Lt. Jasna Strmole and OR3 Luka Mitrovic,  
Slovenian Army*

Slovenian Defense Minister Mr. Karl Erjavec and Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Albin Gutman visited Slovenian troops in Kosovo on March 6.

During the visit they were acquainted with the mission, tasks and life conditions of Slovenian soldiers lodged in Camp Villaggio Italia at Pec/Peje. They also visited Primary School in Zahac/Zahaq, in which the Slovenian CIMIC team provided renewal work. At the end of the visit the Minister gave roses to all female soldiers due to the international celebration of Women's Day which was approaching.

A total of 350 Slovenian soldiers are participating in the Kosovo Force. Most of them are gathered in Task Force Grof, MNTF W. The transfer-of-authority ceremony between the Italian Task Force Falco and Slovenian Task Force Grof took place on Saturday, March 1st. The ceremony was presided over by the Commander of MNTF W Brig. Gen. Nicolo Falsaperna. Slovenian Lt. Col. Peter Zakrajsek the Commander of TF Grof, commands the unit which consists of two motorized and one CSS Slovenian Companies, Hungarian motorized and Italian mountain Infantry Company. Under his command are also a Slovenian Military police, CIMIC, engineers, medical and reconnaissance groups. Their mission is to provide a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement in the municipality of Pec/Peje and Klina/Kline.





[Inside KFOR]

# KFOR Engineers - B

*Story by Major Gernot Schwarzenberger, Austrian Air Force  
Photos by Captain Valerii Petrushka, Ukrainian Army*

Engineers from eight different nations received a week of instruction on the assembly and disassembly of a Mabey-Johnson bridge from Monday 10th March to Friday 14th March in Camp Casablanca.

Engineers of all ranks were trained in how to use the bridge equipment.

The engineers were under the command of Austrian Major Gerd Fuetscher who was responsible for organization and planning this exercise.

"Eight nations had one aim without any problems or injuries", said Fuetscher. The aim was to strengthen the engineers' skills in the handling of this type of heavy bridging equipment he added.

"For our Swiss engineer platoon, this was a welcome challenge," said 1st Lieutenant Bruno Hählen, the acting bridge officer.

After a day of lessons on the main parts of the bridge the launching started.

"Engineer support constitutes an important element of the



# Blood, sweat and tears

military component of a peace-support operation," said Commander of Multinational Task Force South Brigade General Ugur Tarçin during a motivation visit on Wednesday 12th March.

After a short report to the General the participants continued with their sweaty work.

In order for KFOR troops to be able to reach throughout their entire area of operations, continuous restoration and preservation of the bridges, roads, railway lines and airports by engineers is indispensable.

## Muscles made of steel

For the Swiss engineers, this occasion was already the second bridge operation course. Bridge building is a hard and dangerous job.

"For engineering it is not always enough to have a clever brain. For building a bridge you also need strong muscles", Lieutenant Hähler pointed out. "This is the time where

though iron soldiers are recommended."

Although heavy equipment such as forklifts, an excavator, and a 40-ton mobile crane were put to use, the assembling of the bridge involved a lot of "blood, sweat and tears".

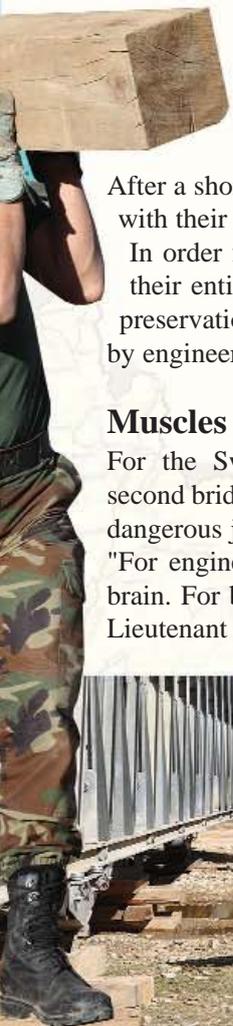
The attendees assembled all the prefabricated parts made out of steel which were needed to launch an 8-bay Mabey & Johnson Compact 200 Bridge. Its length was 24.38 meters plus a 6-bay launching nose. The bridge had a dead weight of 109 tons.

Having finished the ramp the engineers conducted a "load test" with the Swiss 40-ton crane.

## A bridge for some days, or forever?

On the last evening the Swiss Contingent invited all attendees for a traditional Swiss fondue dinner in their famous "Swiss Chalet" lodge.

There, the engineers discussed the impressions they gained. Several friendships were struck on this occasion. Although the steel bridge was disassembled afterwards, the bridges established among the course participants will remain.



*Story by Maj. Gernot Schwarzenberger, Austrian Air Force  
Photos by OR-4 Cathrine Piault, French Army*

"The Unique Way," an art exhibition, held its opening ceremony on Friday 14th March at Kosovo Forces Headquarters in Camp Film City. The exhibition arranged under the motto "A painting only lives from the one who looks at it" (Pablo Picasso) and was a great success.

It was a vernissage (art preview) with a wide range of regional high quality paintings, from very classical abstract, passing through expressionism or naive paintings. Three local artists presented oils, pastels, gouaches, drawings, pen and

# Verni



ink sketches, or icons and also some engravings to the enthusiastic KFOR soldiers. The themes and sizes of the works varied greatly.

"I believe each of the visitors will find pleasure viewing some works of art of their own feeling", said Col. Benoît de Courrèges d'Agnes, French National Representative during his opening remarks.

Commander of Kosovo Forces Lt. Gen. Xavier de Marnhac, Deputy Commander Maj. Gen. Gerhard Stelz and Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. William T. Wolf beside other high ranking officers enjoyed their visit during discussions about their impressions of the exhibit with the local artists.

# Message



“No comments”



# Almost everything

Story and photos by Captain Valerii Petrushka, Ukrainian Army

## One team

"We have always been supportive of each other," said Italian OR-9 Baldassare Puleo, the younger brother by 15 minutes. "Growing up, we had a tight group of friends. Every sport I did, he did; every sport he played, I did."

Elio and Baldassare Puleo, twins, were deployed together in Kosovo in Oct. 2007. They are serving at Multi-National Task Force West, in Camp Vilaggio Italia, Pec/Pejë.

"This is my fourth mission abroad and fifth for the brother," said OR-9 Elio Puleo who is serving in S1 section at Staff of Task Force Aquila. "For us, KFOR mission is a good opportunity to gain new experience and improve our knowledge."

"We were happy we had re-enlisted together in Kosovo," said Baldassare. He works in Civil-Military Co-operation Center. "We have done almost everything together since we were children. And even now after 44 years we are one team," told elder brother Elio with pride. The pair communicates with their families daily by phone call, SMS, e-mail, etc. and keeps them up to speed on how they are doing. "They are like every family - worried," Elio said. "They know we enjoy our jobs and they are supporting us all the time."

## Lives of twins are similar

"While we went to school I preferred exact sciences but my brother liked the humanities ones," said Baldassare. "From time



# ing together



to time he sat for examinations instead of me or opposite. And only when we had graduated after school we told to our teachers about this."

"Every once in a while we liked to play tricks on people who never met us," said Baldassare, and added "Sometimes I told people I am not Elio, but sometimes I played like I am him and didn't tell them. It was easy."

"My father told me one confuse situation with Puleo twins," said Capt. Michele Cortese. "He was their commander and he had assigned a task for Elio and when he met Baldassare in few hours he asked him 'Is everything done?' Of course Baldassare had no ideas."

"I think the lives of all twins around the world are similar," explained Elio. "There are similar competitions, jokes, etc. If you will compare our stories with other twins' ones it will be also similar."

### Who is a better soldier?

Throughout the Puleo twins' lives they have competed in everything possible. They wanted to see who was the fastest, the strongest, who could get the better grades and who looked better. When asked who usually won, they answered at the same time, "I did."

When asked who he thinks is a better soldier, brothers pointed out both do their best.

"We are very proud of Elio and Baldassare being able to serve their country, and for peace in Kosovo," said Capt. Ernesto Noya. "They are really professionals and do their job very well."





# Irish aid School Imp

*Story by Major Gavin Kennedy,  
Irish Army*

*Photos by Captain Martin Ryan,  
Irish Army*

Lt. Col. Matt Murray, the Irish KFOR Contingent Commander opened the refurbished facilities of the Emin Duraka School in Stimlje/Shtime. The work included building a new sports ground complete with a soccer field and basketball court. The toilet and washrooms were rebuilt; which required the installation of new sanitary ware (toilets, sinks etc), tiling and parts of the school being repainted.

As a result of this project, the surroundings where the children of Stimlje/Shtime are educated have greatly improved. The completion of this project reinforces Multi-National Task Force Commander Center (MNTF C) Brigade General Hegarty's recent commitment to Mister Naim Ismajli, Mayor of Stimlje/Shtime, to work together on such projects.

This project was funded by Irish Aid and was supervised by the Irish

Contingent, KFOR. This was the school that Mr. Tom Kitt, Irish Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, visited in September 2007. The total cost of the project was €35,000.

The 37th Irish Contingent will complete projects costing approximately €104,000 during their tour. The majority of this budget will be spent on schools and health centres.

The primary focus of the Irish Contingent in KFOR is maintaining a safe and secure environment; particularly at this important juncture in Kosovo's history.

However given the estimated 70% unemployment, poverty in the province is a huge problem. One recent report estimate puts the average annual income of Kosovars at €758 per annum, a tenth of the average incomes of neighbouring Bulgarians or Rumanians and on par with Ethiopia or Zambia. Improving the living conditions of the people is therefore a huge challenge to Kosovo's institutions and the international actors. Chronic poverty is a security concern.





# Improvements in Kosovo

Irish humanitarian efforts in Kosovo concentrate on working with local partners, such as the municipalities, NGO's or organisations like HandiKOS (Kosovo's organisation which runs facilities for the handicapped). The aim is to assist the people of Kosovo build the capacities of local social structures, in particular health, education and social housing.

In addition to the formal aid budget, soldiers of the contingent have raised funds for other humanitarian projects; some through sponsored events or collections at home or within the Contingent. Three houses will be built in the Stimlje/Shtime area from money raised in the Contingent through a variety of fundraising events. OR-9 Seanie Cosgrave has played a leading role in this effort. Over €3,000 has been raised to assist various needy families by Sgt. Leo Weymuss and Cpl. Amy Hopkins. Meanwhile two sergeants in Task Force Center Headquarters, Brian Reed and John Chapman ran the Athens Marathon and raised €750 to aid the refurbishment of a primary school in

Lipljan/Lipjan. These efforts continue the work undertaken by previous contingents in Kosovo, beginning in 1999.

This is just a short example of the good work being done by both the formal Irish Aid programme and the humanitarian efforts of Irish soldiers in the Contingent.



# REMAIN SHARP AND READY

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

Multi-National Task Force North Commander Brigade General Christian Dexter conducted the Tactical Command Post (TCP) exercise in the region of Zubin Potok, close to the Gazivoda Lake on March 11th and 12th.

The TCP exercise was intended to be the point of contact between the Headquarters MNTF-N at Camp de Lattre de Tassigny in Novo Selo and the soldiers deployed in the area.

Capt. Stéphane Lacour, the officer which was responsible for the TCP, said that before the exercise the Liaison Monitoring Teams let the local authorities and people know about conducting of military drill in their area.

"It's necessary to give a message to local people before the exercise," said Capt. Lacour. "We are not going to show military power. The purpose of this training was to maintain the capabilities of the MNTF North HQ. It is regular



# SHOULD IT EVER BE NEEDED

activity and it also means that we are ready at any time to maintain safe and security environment."

The exercise consisted of two phases. The first phase, on March 11, deployed French logistic, signal, and Moroccan protection subunits from Camp de Lattre de Tassigny to prepare equipments, tents, special communication vehicles, block-post, and protection border. They confirmed the satellite and radio connection with the MNTF North HQ as a critical part of this phase.

The next phase, on March 12th, consisted of seven operation officers arriving to the set up location from MNTF North HQ. In order to check command and control procedures the command group issued a Fragmentary Order to dispatch the Quick Reaction Force.

"It is a good opportunity for training the staff, subordinate, and supporting leaders in order to successfully plan, coordinate, synchronize, and exercise command and control over operations during mission execution," said Capt. Lacour.

This regular testing of command and control techniques along with the deployment of troops ensures that the capabilities of the MNTF remain sharp and ready should it ever be needed.



# Parish get-together

Story by Captain Daniel Hanselmann, Swiss Army Chaplain  
Photos by Swiss PAO

Sunday morning on Longstreet in Camp Casablanca. Normally, this is a very busy place. But right now, it is quiet. Only in my office, lights are on - naturally: As an army chaplain I am putting the finishing touches on my latest sermon, for today's church service. In half an hour, the camp's faithful - Austrian, Swiss and German soldiers - will gather in the camp's church. If electrical power does not fail for the fifth time in a row, there may even be the sounds of the electronic organ. In the absence of electrical power the male voices will chant the praise of the Lord "a cappella", which is nothing to be despised, either.

## Fear of riots

And what happens after the church service? Almost like at home, the parishioners meet over coffee and cookies in the Austrians' "Haifisch" (Shark's) Bar. Usually around noontime, the joyous crowd disperses again. But for me, the day's work continues. Out there, somewhere in the beautiful Kosovo landscape of Kosovo, our infantry is standing guard over a monastery, some hamlets and a town. The situation is "calm but not stable," as it is called in military parlance. Calm is good yet also boring, and as a result some of the soldiers ask themselves, "Why be here at all?" My response to that is, "If we weren't, there would surely be an outbreak of riots."

At least for the time being, our presence still appears to be necessary. Mutual hate between the two largest population groups still is running high. Small wonder!

The war has left deep wounds in their souls. People were killed on both sides, and there are torched churches and monasteries and shot-up mosques. The resulting bitterness

prevents many from forgetting the atrocities, as I was told by a Serb-Orthodox priest and a Muslim imam during talks.

## Under the starlight many questions arise

We Swiss notice little of this. Often children approach our soldiers; they greet them and wave their hands joyously. These children are growing up in peace, and one quickly forgets that this is not something to be taken for granted. A soldier sitting opposite me nods: "You're right, reverend. Now I see a sense in my doing guard duty here. But it's still boring!" Sometimes I spend the night among the soldiers at the outlying remote camp. In the long dark nights, we then look at the beautiful starry heavens and give free reign to our thoughts. On those occasions, many issues crop up that need to be discussed or pondered in silence. I am interested in people who, by doing their duty, day after day contribute to peace in Kosovo and to the functioning of our small world in Camp Casablanca. When I returned to Camp Casablanca from a field trip the other day, I had a visitor in store. KFOR's Chief Chaplain - my boss, as it were - had announced his arrival. He is French and has a lot of experience from his days in the Foreign Legion. Together with my experience from eight years on Swiss major training areas, we never run out of things to talk about. Exchange of ideas is important. We army chaplains mutually support each other in our work. As a reverend I am available whenever necessary to give advice and support to any and all soldiers at any time. At regular intervals, I consult with the commanders of SWISSCOY and AUCON, with the unit surgeons and with the Austrian chaplain. In my civilian life, I work as a reverend in a municipal parish in the Swiss city of Chur.

I am very happy to be able to exercise the profession I have always been passionate



# in the " Shark's " Bar

about. As a reverend, I am in the middle of all aspects of people's lives - a fascinating challenge. For, be it in Chur or in Kosovo, everywhere people are (pre)occupied by similar things. In most cases, these are the worries and joys of everyday life. They challenge, sometimes paralyze, but also bring joy and happiness. And every once in a while, the question of God arises; at times, even in a bar.

## A home far from home

In that of the Swiss, every night at eleven, the 'Swiss Psalm' is sounded. That means taps and off to bed. Part of the psalm says, "...and the pious soul senses God in the noble fatherland..."

Many discussions center around this sensing of the soul. Many souls seek God. And I am on the road with them, sometimes even among the round of regulars at the Swiss Chalet, where people sit down, talk and leave again - everyone is on the road. By the way: The camp's church is of the same wood design as the Swiss Chalet. - Church and chalet, a piece of home in a faraway country.



**Captain Daniel Hanselmann is reverend at St. Martin's Church in Chur, currently serving as army chaplain in Kosovo.**



# The FREBAT 1

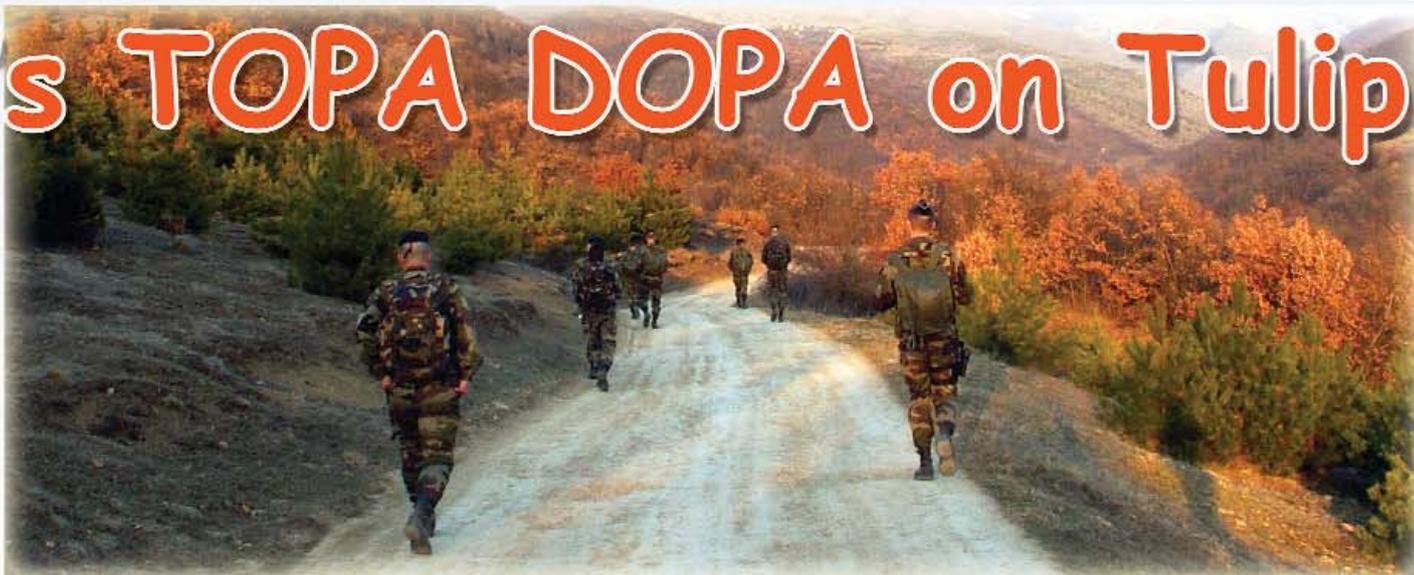
*Story by Lt. Mélanie Vast, French Army and  
Lt. Abdelilah el Ouardy, Moroccan Army*

*Photo by OR-9 Jean-Charles Thorel, French Army*

A French-Serbian patrol took place along Tulip, a three-kilometer route in northern Kosovo, on Feb. 28. Named "Temporary Operating Procedures Agreement - Directions for Implementation of the Temporary Operating Procedures Astride the Kosovo Administrative Boundary" (TOPA DOPA), patrols of this kind enable to set up coordination procedures between Kosovo Force and the Serbian Army on both sides of the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL). They also aim at eradicating all kinds of illegal trafficking. The first TOPA DOPA was organized in 2001 in the wake of the signing of 1999's Military Technical Agreement between KFOR and the Serbian Army.

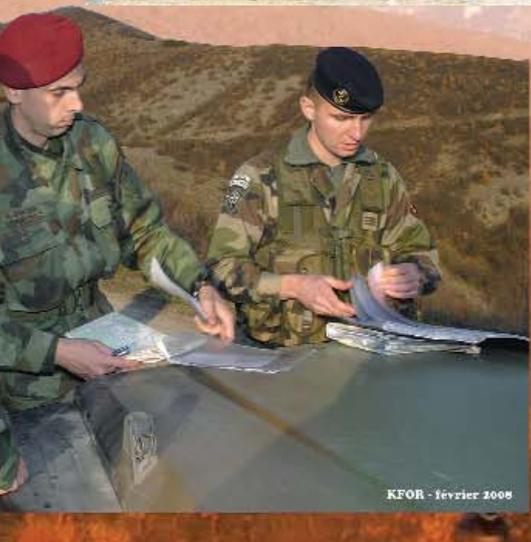


# 7's TOPA DOPA on Tulip



TOPA DOPA take place on a weekly basis, on several spots of Kosovo's ABL. Tulip is peculiar in as much as both forces do not patrol together, but apart from one another. There were, however, two meeting points along the way.

After two hours' walk, FREBAT 17 troops of Multi-National Task Force North joined the Serbian group at the end of the TOPA DOPA with the usual friendship party.





# CELEBRATING OF INTERNATIO

*Story and photos by Captain Valerii Petrushka,  
Ukrainian Army*

"When we have the opportunity to help the Center we just do it," said German Lt. Col. Arnold Winkens. "We know everybody from the Center because during the long period of time KFOR support them."

Lt. Col. Winkens was talking about the Rehabilitation Center of Mothers and Children; which was founded in 1998 in Pristina/Prishtine, with the initiative of Women's League, led by Flora Brovina. On March 7, 2008, one day before International Women's Day, a few members from the Headquarters Kosovo Force were invited to the Center in order to celebrate this occasion. The Center tries to help women and children that were traumatized from the war by the lost of their loved ones. The Center provides education and health rehabilitation, right awareness, school success follow up, and computer skills. It also offers English language course, as well as dance, reciting, writers, sport and work chores clubs and also a lot of different other activities for children and women.

"It is too difficult when you lost a husband, father, son,"

continue Lt. Col. Winkens.

"Some of children don't remember their fathers. Our help is from the heart."

OR-6 David Witty from Transport coy HQ KFOR has developed an English teaching program to help the children better understand and learn English to supplement what they are learning in school. Twice a week the children learn English grammar, parts of speech and common usage.

Within the celebration of International Women's Day children showed national dances, staging about life problems for homeless children and how it is necessary to solve these problems, they sang songs, all while they were dressed in traditional clothes.

"Thank you very much for your help and support," said Halime Maliqi, the organizer of the event. "We are glad to see KFOR soldiers in our Center any time. You do good and it is a big deal when you help people who are in need. God bless you."

"It was a pleasure for us to be present during beautiful concert," said American Lt. Col. Mary Lowe Mayhugh.

"Thanks for invitation and we will continue to donate

and give a help to the Center as much as possible. I left my family at home and I miss them very much; but now I have already found a lot of children and friends in Kosovo. You are also my family."

At the end different flowers and gifts were presented to females, and all participators started to sing and dance in a ring dance with smiling on their face.

Children have suffered a lot generation after generation; they have not felt the joy of a happy childhood. We owe it to them to put a smile on their face, to let them experience happiness, and a better life with a brighter future. This is the motto of the Rehabilitation Center of Mothers and Children.



# INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY TOGETHER



*International Women's Day is March 8 every year. It is a major day of global celebration for the economic, political and social achievements of women. Started as a political event, Women's' Day blended into the culture of many countries. In some celebrations, the day lost its political flavor, and became simply an occasion for men to express their love to the women around them in a way somewhat similar to Mother's Day and Saint Valentine's Day mixed together.*

# Firefighters

Story by OR-4 Tegan Kucera, U.S. Army  
111th Public Affairs Detachment

Fire chiefs throughout Multi-National Task Force East came together for a conference on Camp Bondsteel to gain a voice for a better future.

The Kosovo fire chiefs came to Camp Bondsteel to discuss their concerns and to come up with some commonalities in order to have one strong voice.

"After talking to them for months, we realized there wasn't really a voice for the fire chiefs within Kosovo; nobody was speaking for their concerns at a higher up level," said Major Jonathan Freyer the civil affairs team chief for Task Force Falcon. "We thought this conference would be a good opportunity for Kosovo Forces (KFOR) to use our influence within Kosovo to in a way give them a voice."

Before attending the conference civil affairs showed them the fire department on Camp Bondsteel that is not only more modern than any of theirs, but also multiethnic. The fire chief is American and the fighters are a mix of both Kosovo-Serbians and Kosovo-Albanians. Freyer said he hopes to one day see the same mix within all the Kosovo fire departments. "For the local chiefs to see this mixture brings the possibility of a multiethnic department within Kosovo," Freyer said. "It's good for the fire chiefs to see what their department could eventually become."

Not only were the chief able to see the fire department, but they were also given a tour of the burn house, this is where the Camp Bondsteel fire department conducts their training with simulated fires. Freyer said they showed their skills when they put out not only a simulated house fire but also a car fire in little time at all.



While they were given the tour of how MNTF E does it, the main focus of the day was the conference where the chiefs were able to bring their questions and concerns. Freyer said the main concern for all of them was which ministry department they fell under; he said they would all like to fall under the same one as the Kosovo Police Service. Ultimately he hopes this will be a result of the conference.

"We showed them that KFOR is there to help them, and in the future we hope that they can help themselves by ultimately gaining and using their voice," Freyer said.



**Name:** Railand Kask

**Rank:** OR-7

**Nationality:** Estonian

**Home Unit:** Training and development center of communication and information system

**Unit in KFOR:** KFOR HQ Joint Operation Center

**About the mission:** This is my second mission abroad, but first time in Kosovo. The first mission was in South Lebanon in 1996-1997. The job now is very interesting and I have received a lot of experience because I work in a multinational environment and we do our job like one team. This is a good opportunity to see how life in theatre really is. Serving in KFOR I have had the opportunity to make many friends from different nationalities and when we have a time for rest we have a gathering in the sauna.

**Family reaction:** I have a wife and 5 years old daughter. When I decided to participate in this peacekeeping mission my wife supported me. She understands if you are professional soldier - it is normal to take part in missions abroad. My family supports me all the time and we keep contact by Skype.

**Plans after mission:** After 9 months of mission I will have a vacation with my family, as well as bicycling, running, and of course sauna. After that, I will start to prepare for the next KFOR mission, which starts on Aug. 2008. I will be a platoon sergeant at Camp Olaf Rye, Multi-National Task Force North.



**Name:** Rudolf Jaksch

**Rank:** Major

**Nationality:** Austria

**Home Unit:** Military Academy

**Unit in KFOR:** JVB MNTF S

**About the mission:** This is my second Mission in Kosovo. My employment on my first mission in 2001 was as the Deputy Commander of an infantry Coy at Camp Casablanca. Currently, I'm assigned to the Joint Visitors Bureau Branch as an Escort Officer. All visitors to KFOR installations, irrespective of their status, will be assigned to an Escort Officer. The JVB Branch represents COMKFOR in all issues related to visits. Last month I got the opportunity to be implemented in the Headquarters KFOR as the LNO of MNTF South. On this duty I gained precious experience on additional skills to improve my military knowledge. I really enjoy working in a multinational atmosphere and it is recommended to any soldier of any Armed Forces.

**Family reaction:** I am married and have one son who is eight and a daughter who is four. By now, it's not easy for my wife to be alone with the children and also-even being responsible for the whole household. They are not happy to stay alone at home, but accept my mission abroad. FOM and SASE, it's not only peacekeepers deserve; also the family in the background make a huge contribution for this mission. Without their acceptance, it would not be possible to go abroad. I'm always looking forward to be able to get in contact with them as often as possible.

**Plans after the mission:** First of all, I want to enjoy an extended vacation with my family. My main focus for the future will be, to spend a lot of time with my children and I will be there for them to provide any assistance I was not able to give while on KFOR Mission.



**Name:** Seamus Purcell

**Rank:** OR-9

**Nationality:** Irish

**Home Unit:** Transport and Vehicle Maintenance School.

**Unit in KFOR:** Joint Transport Co-ordination Centre, J4, KFOR HQ.

**About the mission:** This is my 11th tour abroad and 3rd tour in Kosovo but 1st time in the Headquarters KFOR. Previous missions were Lebanon 2, Somalia 1, Cyprus 1, East Timor 1, Eritrea/Ethiopia 1, Liberia 2, and KFOR 2. I find my responsibilities for road movements and convoys, in the KFOR JOA, a great challenge. The excellent multinational teamwork within J4 branch, MNTFs G4 cells, and LNO cells at, HQ KFOR, FYROM, Albania, and COMMZ (S) makes this tour more rewarding. I see big improvements since 2002 Kosovo wide, new bridges, schools, housing The French language course is of great benefit to top up language skills. MNTFN hosted both the DANCON and NSE marches, both very enjoyable events for the KFOR family.

**Family reaction:** My wife is very supportive of my overseas service. On the 16th Dec. 2007, the birthday of our baby girl, Victoria, both mother and baby are doing very well. We are in daily contact, which is a big help for family and relatives at home.

**Plans after mission:** On return to Ireland, I will reunite and relax with my "new" family, and meet relatives and friends. We plan a family holiday to the west coast of Ireland. I will continue with the school program in my home unit, and remember the experiences gained from J4, HQ KFOR.



# Gazivoda Lake

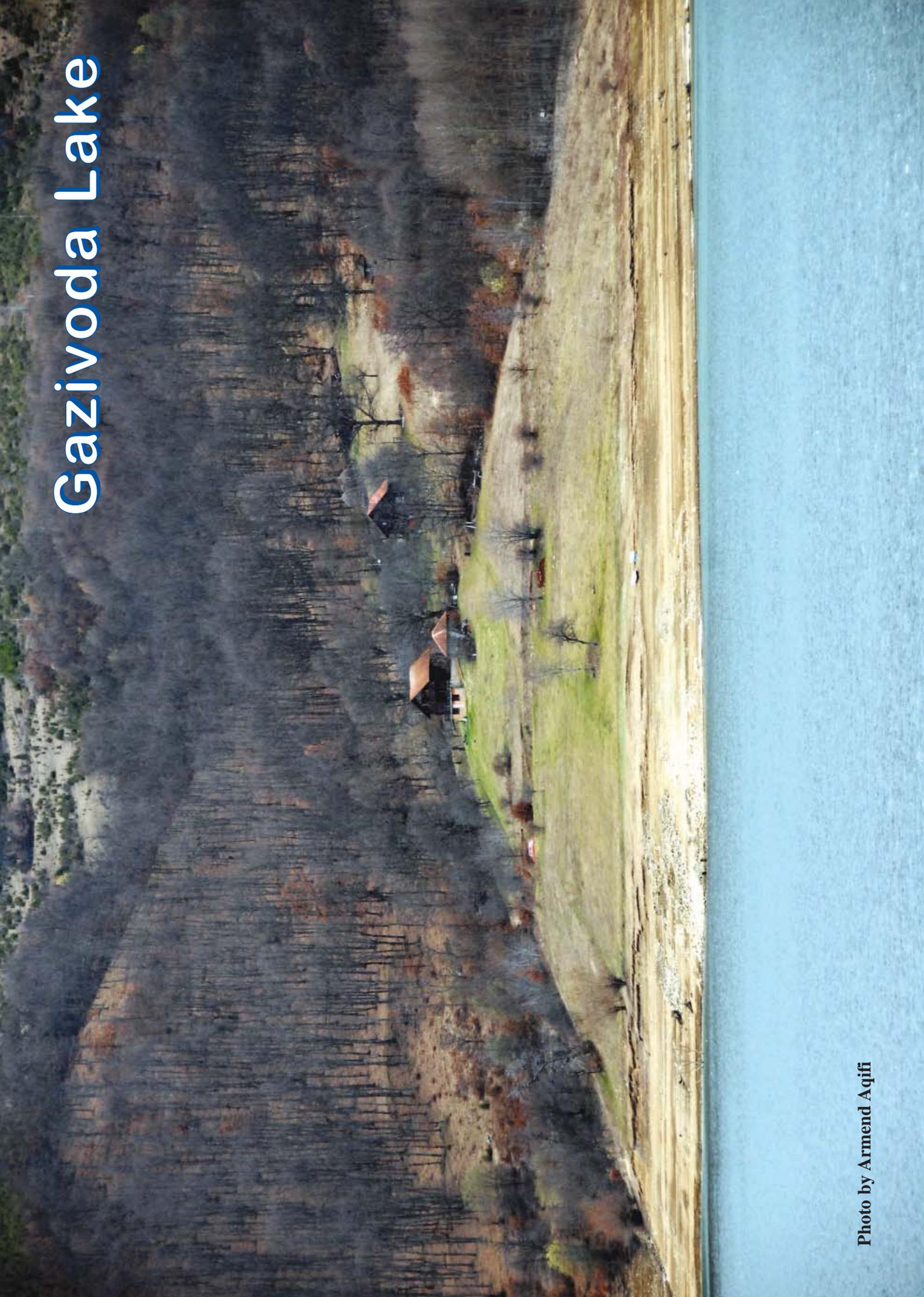


Photo by Armend Aqifi