

August 31, 2008

KFOR Chronicle

Edition 8



Change of Command in KFOR

New Deputy COMKFOR



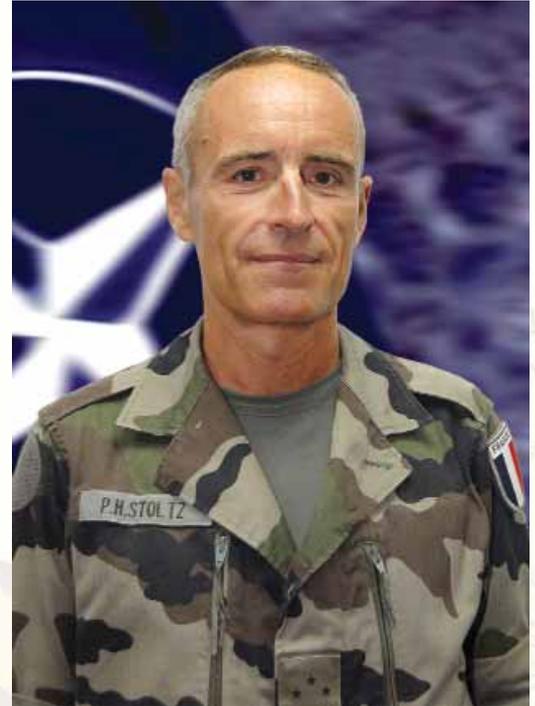
My first appointment in KOSOVO goes back three years. I was at this time the Multinational Brigade North Commander. Back here as KFOR Deputy Commander, I have to admit that KOSOVO changed in almost all aspects. It is encouraging in a certain way. The measurement of the progresses realized as well for International Community than KFOR and KOSOVO is easy to make.

This shows us that we are right to be proud and happy to serve in the KFOR Team. But, the difficulty to be confronted in the future will be the upholding of an ideal safe and secure environment in order to permit, all the people of KOSOVO to go surely toward its goal.

Our part of the work against this challenge is considerably depending on our ability to anticipate and if possible prevent the expectable, that is to say the most likely as well as the less likely, events. For the HQ KFOR, this has a name: planning, as far as foreseeable. For the Units, this has as consequence to stay determined and firm, while adapting with professionalism the profile to the local and current situation.

The next months will see also changes in KFOR specifically with the departure of Lieutenant General de Marnhac and the arrival of a brand new Command team which will have to take in account an expected very sensitive time. Thus, as part of future successes, this is our role also, the whole HQ, to facilitate the beginning of the new command group teambuilding.

As Deputy Commander, let me tell you again my pride to be committed in such a mission within a highly qualified and very friendly team.



Major General Philippe Stoltz

<p>Commander KFOR: Lt. Gen. Giuseppe Emilio GAY , ITA Army</p> <p>Chief Public Affairs Office: Col. Adriano Graziani, ITA Army</p> <p>Chief Internal Information & Editor in Chief: Maj. Andreas Brückner, AUT Army bruecknera@hq.kfor.nato.int</p> <p>Journalist Maj. Oleksii Morozov, UKR Army</p> <p>Photographer & Layout Mr. Armend Aqifi</p> <p>Special thanks to TSgt. David Green, U.S. Air Force, for his invaluable support</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>	<p>Nations within KFOR:</p> <p>HQ KFOR Canada Estonia Hungary Netherlands Norway Portugal United Kingdom</p> <p>MNTE (C) Czech Republic Finland Ireland Latvia Slovakia Sweden</p> <p>MNTE (N) France Belgium Denmark Greece Luxembourg Morocco Estonia</p> <p>MNTE (S) Austria Bulgaria Germany Switzerland Turkey</p> <p>MNTE (W) Italy Hungary Romania Slovenia Spain</p> <p>MNTE (E) United States of America Armenia Greece Lithuania Poland Romania Ukraine</p>
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**Special thanks to
Colonel Jean Luc Cotard,
former Chief PAO and KFOR
spokesperson**

The KFOR PAO-Branch, also called by you "The PAO-Family", would like to thank you for your guidance as well as your comradeship. We wish you all the best for your future. Take care.

Your PAO-Family

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KFOR CHRONICLE



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Good bye, Generals!

*Text by Major Oleksii, Ukrainian Armed Forces
Photos by Major Andreas Brückner, Austrian Army*

There were no troops aligned on the parade square. There were no sounds of military marches. Nevertheless, the atmosphere, in which the ceremony of transfer of responsibilities between Major General Gerhard Steltz and Major General Philippe Stoltz as KFOR Deputy Commander, and between Brigadier General Giovanni Savarese and Brigadier General Bernhard Lichtenauer as KFOR Deputy Chief of Staff Operations took place, was solemn and warm.

On August, 6, 2008, the entry to the Italian NSE on Film-City camp was decorated with multicolored flags of the KFOR participating nations. The outgoing DCOM and DCOS OPS received the guests. The Kosovo Force Commander, all the Multinational Task Forces Commanders, Chiefs of HQ branches, the representatives of the international organizations, acting in Kosovo and the local authority's officials came to express their gratitude to the Generals.

Opening the ceremony, Major General Gerhard Steltz said in his speech:

"It was a year full of events - milestones for the political development of Kosovo. Let us hope that the efforts of the international community will finally be crowned by success. Let us hope that the spirit of peace and freedom will prevail in this region of Europe for the sake of current and future generations. Peace must grow in the hearts and minds of the people and it can only be achieved with their strong will.

Peace has the highest price - lost of life. Our deepest respect to our fellow soldiers, UNMIK policemen and civilian members of international staff who lost their life in mission. They shall not to be forgotten". General Steltz thanked COMKFOR, KFOR soldiers and civilian employees. "KFOR has become a hallmark for multinational cooperation. Let us continually strive to enhance the multinational bonds within the KFOR family", he added.

Continuing his speech, outgoing DCOM addressed to Brigadier General Savarese, co-host of this reception: "Brigadier General Savarese has set an outstanding example for the high values of multinational cooperation and for the universally highly praised military virtues. He is the personification of universal military ethics which play a crucial role in the living together of soldiers from so many different countries".

Having mentioned great services of General



Welcome, Generals!



**New KFOR Deputy Commander
Major General Philippe Stoltz**



**New KFOR DCOS OPS
Brigadier General
Bernhard Lichtenauer**



Savarese, Major General Steltz announced that the Minister of Defense of the Federal Republic of Germany had awarded BG Giovanni Savarese with the Gold Cross of Honor, the highest award of German Bundeswehr, and presented outgoing DCOS OPS with that award.

Finally, General Steltz welcomed new DCOM Major General Phillippe Stoltz and new DCOS OPS Brigadier General Bernhard Lichtenauer.

COMKFOR Lieutenant General de Marnhac, in his turn, congratulated BG Savarese and expressed his gratitude to both Generals. "It is not very often that we have to replace general Steltz by General Stoltz, but sometimes it happens. Being Deputy is not the easiest place, as well as being DCOS, it is also some kind of Deputy to a COS. And I don't believe that KFOR could work in the way it works without those key positions. You are a part of the successes we have been able to maintain throughout this year. Thank you for being a part of the team". There is plenty of job to be done, but I'm fully confident that a new team will have a specific road for bridging the situation".

The words of COMKFOR concluded the ceremony as well as the mission of both Generals.

The KFOR Chronicle wishes you, Major General Steltz and Brigadier General Giovanni Savarese good luck! Thank you for your service within KFOR!

Bienvenue et bonne chance à vous pendant votre mission au sein de la KFOR, Major General Stoltz!
Herzlich Willkommen und Alles Gute waehrend ihrer KFOR-Amtszeit, Brigadier General Liechtenauer!





Peace with D

August, 2, 2008. The Commander of Kosovo Force, Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac, visited KTM soldiers in Srbica/Skenderaj region (MNTF-N AOR). During this visit KTM Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Serra Pedro had the opportunity to show to COMKFOR a vehicle checkpoint (VCP) operated by 13th Para Coy soldiers. Then COMKFOR visited the Devic Monastery, which security is actually under KTM responsibility, and met with Mother Anastacia, the Superior Mother of Devic Monastery.



August, 4, 2008. COMKFOR visited KFOR Multinational Specialized Unit, based in Pristina/Prishtine. He was received by Colonel Guglielmi, MSU Commander. On the MSU camp parade square KFOR Commander met with Italian Carabinieri and French Gendarmes, serving within MSU. Afterwards, General de Marnhac had lunch along with all soldiers living in the camp.



August, 5, 2008. The Commander of Kosovo Force visited archeological camp of interethnic youth Vlpiana, organized by Kosovo National Museum. He was accompanied by the Multinational Task Force "Center" Commander Brigadier General Kyösti Halonen.



August, 9, 2008. Lieutenant General de Marnhac has visited Multinational Task Force East. After meeting with Brigadier General Kay, Commander of Multinational Task-Force East, and KFOR soldiers on Camp Bonsteel COMKFOR had a briefing with units on the bypass near Pasjane/Pasjan on Kosovo Administrative Boundary with Serbia. This visit was a part of the regular inspections held by the KFOR Commander to control the way his orders are being executed on the field and to have a better knowledge of the situation of the troops on the ground.

etermination



August, 11, 2008. COMKFOR visited Kosovo Railways Company. During the visit General de Marnhac met with the Managing Director of Kosovo Railways Mr. Xhevat Ramosaj. COMKFOR got acquainted with actual state of company and visited the museum of the company, having received information on the history of railways in Kosovo.

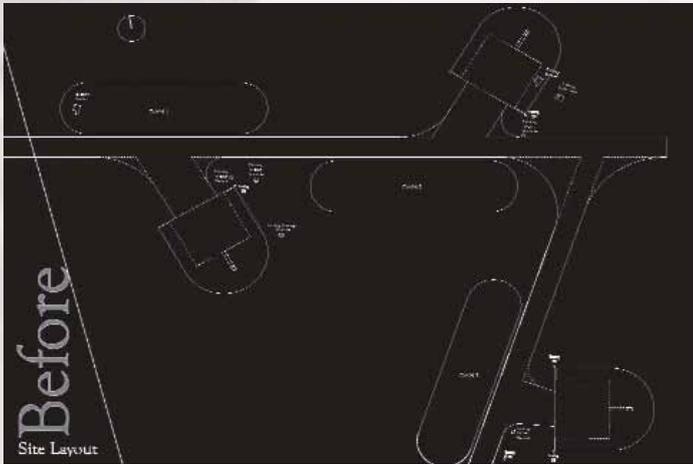
August, 13, 2008. General de Marnhac met Mr. Ahmet Prenci, General Director of State Police of the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Albania in Tirana (Albania). This meeting was the occasion to sign an important agreement on operating procedures between KFOR and Albanian Border Police. The Technical Operating Procedures Agreement (TOPA) on Border Security and cooperation between KFOR and Albania is a document that rules operational relationships between KFOR and Albanian Police Force around the Border. This document is reviewed on a regular basis, taking into account the lessons learned from joint patrols around the border between Kosovo and Albania.



August, 19, 2008. In KFOR Headquarters, Film-City Camp, Kosovo Force Commander Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac met with Kosovo senior politicians: the President of Kosovo Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu, the Prime Minister of Kosovo Mr. Hashim Thaçi and the President of the Assembly of Kosovo Mr. Jakup Krasniqi. During this meeting, the officials discussed the results of common jobs, which were done in past year, as well as had farewell dinner, organized by COMKFOR.

August, 20, 2008. The Supreme Allied Commander Europe General John Craddock paid visit to KFOR. For Lieutenant General de Marnhac, it was the last time when he was receiving SACEUR as the Commander of Kosovo Force.





Putting in operation AIR SCAN Activities at the new erected OPERATION BASE

AirScan Skopje

Text and photos by R. Nathaus

The move of an important tactical KFOR-tool

Under "AirScan" has to be understood an important flying tactical KFOR-tool which provides aerial ground surveillance via a real time video feed to both KFOR HQs. Its missions range from force protection to target surveillance to updating imagery requests.

With its 5 aircrafts (Chesna Skymaster), the belonging crew, operational office, maintenance facilities (Clamshell, storage, workshop and aircraft washing station), accommodation and sandbag shelter for the worst case AiScan was located east of the Skopje International Airport Runway (RWY).

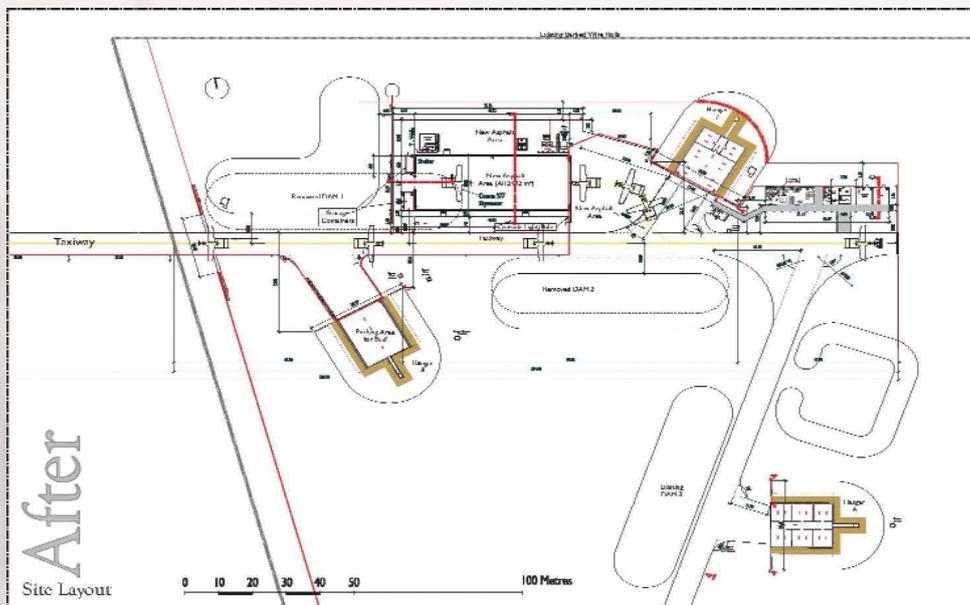
The big Clamshell (US property), used as aircraft parking- and maintenance hangar, had to be dismantled and removed for the support of another US-mission.

Therefore and because AirScan cannot continue conducting operations without the availability of maintenance space a new AirScan-location at Skopje International Airport had to be found with the agreement of FYROM-authorities and to be installed and equipped before starting the dismantling of the US-Clamshell.

After two unsuccessful trials (FYROM-authorities denied possible locations) JENG could start the design for a new location, west of RWY about 5000 meters distant from the old site, on March 31st, 2008. As the construction works started already on April 14th, 2008 there was just a fortnight for planning, tendering and contracting.

In a good "Joint Venture" Chief JENG and his branch with NATO ESC "Obermeyer P+B" prepared the tender and construction documents including:

- *the preparation of a new asphalt surface,*
- *the construction of a new shelter "BigTop" for aircraft maintenance,*
- *the refurbishment of two existing hangars for storage and workshop purposes,*
- *the construction of a container line for office-, sanitary-, accommodation- and storage use*
- *the realization of fence, gate and Aeronautical Ground Light (AGL) -system for safety and security reasons.*



The execution of the works were accompanied, supervised and monitored by JENG, NHQ Skopje and Obermeyer P+B from the beginning on April 14th. The contractor "BADZAK" from Skopje did a fantastic job so that the new AirScan-site turned operational 2 weeks earlier than planned. The ribbon cutting and handover took place with participation of

- | | |
|-----------|------------------------------|
| COS | BG WOLF, USA |
| DCOS-SPT | BG RUIZ de OÑA, SPAIN |
| Chief J8, | Mr. SPYRAKIS, GREECE |
| Chief | Col. URREGG, AUSTRIA |
| HNSCC CDR | Maj. MITKO DONEV, FYROM Army |





*Text and photos by Major Andreas Brückner,
Austrian Army*

It was a nice summer evening, when the sunset painted Camp Film City, Pristina/Prishtine with a smooth orange layer on July 29, 2008. Somehow, it was different to previous days. There was something in the air - something very special. There was music in the air! Right after COMKFORs evening update the traditional sound of the famous Irish Air Corps Pipe Band arose. They made their long way down to Kosovo to honor Brigade General Gerry Hegarty, Irish Army, when he will hand over command of Multinational Task Force Center to his successor Brigade General Kyösti Halonen, Finnish Army, on July 31, 2008. This day they addressed their playing to Commander of KFOR, Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac and all KFOR family in Film City. They started, lined up, in front of Headquarters building followed by marching up and down the whole Camp. The people were gathering and bordering the streets. Everybody wanted to listen to the sound and to catch a look on their clothing. You could feel the spirit of tradition.

The pipes and drums have long been associated with inspiring soldiers to accomplish great deeds of valor on the field of battle and with the ability to raise the spirits of even the weariest troops while far from home. However, it was not until the early 1960's that the benefits of the pipes and drums were first utilized by Irish Defense Forces. This

was when the first troops were sent to the Congo as part of the U.N. mission.

The most amazing thing was, and still is, the members of the Irish Air Corps Pipe Band are no professional musicians. Presently there are 20 playing members in the band. All members of the band have fulltime military careers ranging from signals, stores, clerks, photographers, aircraft technicians, and radar operators. They are only involved with the band on a part-time basis as work commitments allow.

Finally, when the sun set down it became calm and quiet in Camp film City, again but a little bit of tens remained. Why? People gathered in front of the German NSE and than it happened. The bizarre sound of an e-guitar screamed through all the Camp. Now it was the turn of Rock & Pop. The Green Girls, a Swedish girl band, started with their show. Five beautiful looking girls rocked and gave their very best. They made the audience cheer within seconds, when they played all the hits from "Highway to Hell" from ACDC up to "Keep the Faith" from Bon Jovi. The atmosphere was great. Everybody stuck to the lips of their lead singer Mia Löfgren (front page). She charmed the audience not only by here appearance but also with her magnificent voice. Everybody felt they are real

Tradition Rock





Rock meets & Pop

agency, run by the Swedish ministry of defense. The aim is to send a band to every Swedish contingent serving in a mission abroad by half of their tour length to cheer the soldiers up and to get some nice changes into their daily business. The system works as follows: Back home, a tour leader will be appointed out of the experienced members of the agency. In our case it has been Mia Löfgren. He/She is responsible to assemble the whole band, including most of the time a comedian as well. The tour leader has to get in contact with the contingents welfare officer before their departure, to arrange everything related to logistical means. Finally, they are getting deployed for a 10 days concert tour in any mission area; no matter if it is Afghanistan, Chad, Bosnia, Kosovo, etc.

Talking about their background, I figured out there is a totally different system to the Irish Pipe Band. The Swedish band members don't have to be professional soldiers. They have to be professional musicians. The recruitment works on a recommendation

professionals. They did not arrive for transfer of authority of a high ranked officer. They were here for all the soldiers. Their band is a part of an

basis. All of the around 500 members of the agency are looking forward to find new members, while listening concerts all over Sweden. As soon as they figure out outstanding musicians, they get in contact with them and invite them to a one week training camp. There they have to proof their skills not only in making music, but also in tour planning. This course will also be attended by some experienced members and a selected group of them are the trainers. Finally, they get some military training as well, because they have to wear uniforms during their deployment.

As a resume I have to state: It does not matter if you are a professional soldier playing music or a professional musician wearing uniform. The essential things are, you are living the spirit of music and share it with people around you. Especially, when soldiers are fare from home and their beloved ones. It was an honor and great pleasure to KFOR family, to have been able to be listeners, when tradition met Rock & Pop in Camp Film City.



Multinational Task Force South

*Text by Major Michael Barthou, and
Captain Michael Estermann,*

Austrian Army

*Photos by Staff Sergeant Patrick Reich,
Austrian Army*

Ten wagons of a cargo train, of which, six tipped over, derailed near Mrasor in the AOR of the Austrian Maneuver Battalion Dulje on 08 Aug, 19.40 hrs. 150 m of the rail track were destroyed through the accident. Fortunately, nobody was injured. The train was on its way from Klina to Zrze carrying various kinds of grain from Hungary.

Kosovo Railway Company asks KFOR for help

Due to the scale of the accident, the Kosovo Railway Company decided to ask KFOR for help. In order to take a look at the damages and to plan further operations, an assessment team of the Multinational Task Force South deployed to the scene on 09 Aug under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Stefan Lampl, who

was responsible for the preparation and execution of the recovery operation. "It is imperative for such an operation that all options are carefully considered. Among other things, it is important during recovery works to hedge against recourse claims and to guarantee the safety of our soldiers", Lampl says.

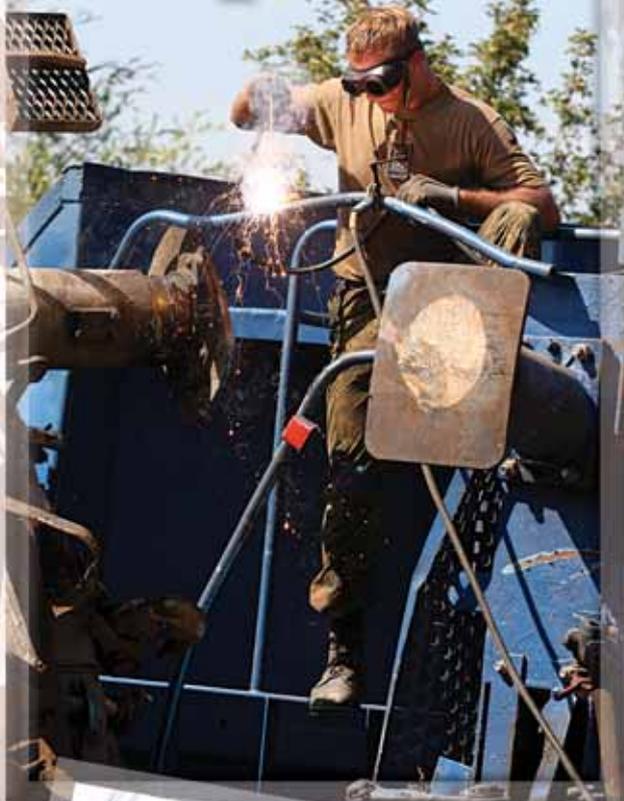
Need for coordination on scene of the accident

An Austrian de-mining team was on the scene - a standard procedure for all recovery operations.

While civilian forces immediately began to empty the wagons and do minor clearing works, KFOR organised a recovery team. Germany provided two armoured recovery vehicles and a combat engineer vehicle, two German 70 ton cranes and an engineer platoon. A further crane was provided by the Swiss Army. Operations were carried through under the direction of the Maneuver Battalion Dulje. Chief of operations was Captain Heinrich Lindner, commander of the camp's service element, who has already coordinated various fire



h helps after railroad accident



operations, pioneer and recovery works. Medical care on the spot was provided by a Swiss-Austrian medical support team. "Recovery works were sometimes very complicated since some wagons had ploughed into each other and needed to be cut open and secured against further sliding down", Captain Lindner says.

Preparation of recovery works

Prior to the recovery works, the railway company had removed the guide rails between road and rails. Furthermore, the ditch needed to be filled with gravel for the heavy equipment to reach the scene.

What caused the accident is still not known. The road was closed by Military Police and local operational forces for the duration of the recovery works. The cooperation with the Kosovo Railway Company and the Kosovo Police worked very well.

All in all, 51 soldiers of the MNTF S and 11 employees of the Kosovo Railway Company were deployed. The recovery completion took 40 hrs of work of each soldier, which was less time than initially planned and is a further proof of the efficiency and professionalism of the troops.



TO A MNTF CELEBRATION

*Text by Major Oleksii Morozov, Ukrainian Armed Forces
Photos by Major Andreas Brückner, Austrian Army*

KFOR Multinational Task Force "Centre" (MNTF "C") is comprised of 1600 troops from Sweden, the Czech Republic, Finland, Ireland, Latvia and Slovakia. The area of responsibility of MNTF "C" is the central part of Kosovo. For the last year, from July, 2007, to July, 2008, Brigadier General Gerry Hegarty commanded the MNTF "C". The end of his duty, July, 31, 2008, was marked with the Change of Command Ceremony in the Camp Vile, Lipljan/Lipjan. Commander of the Finnish Army Lieutenant General Aspara, Deputy Chief of Staff of the Irish Defense Forces Major General O'Sullivan and Irish Ambassador McUnfraidh attended this ceremony.

Having arrived to the Camp Vile, the Kosovo Force Commander Lieutenant General de Marnhac, who presided over the ceremony, inspected, along with the Brigadier General Hegarty, the troops aligned on the parade square, rendering homage to the soldiers of MNTF "C".

After the solemn prayer, provided

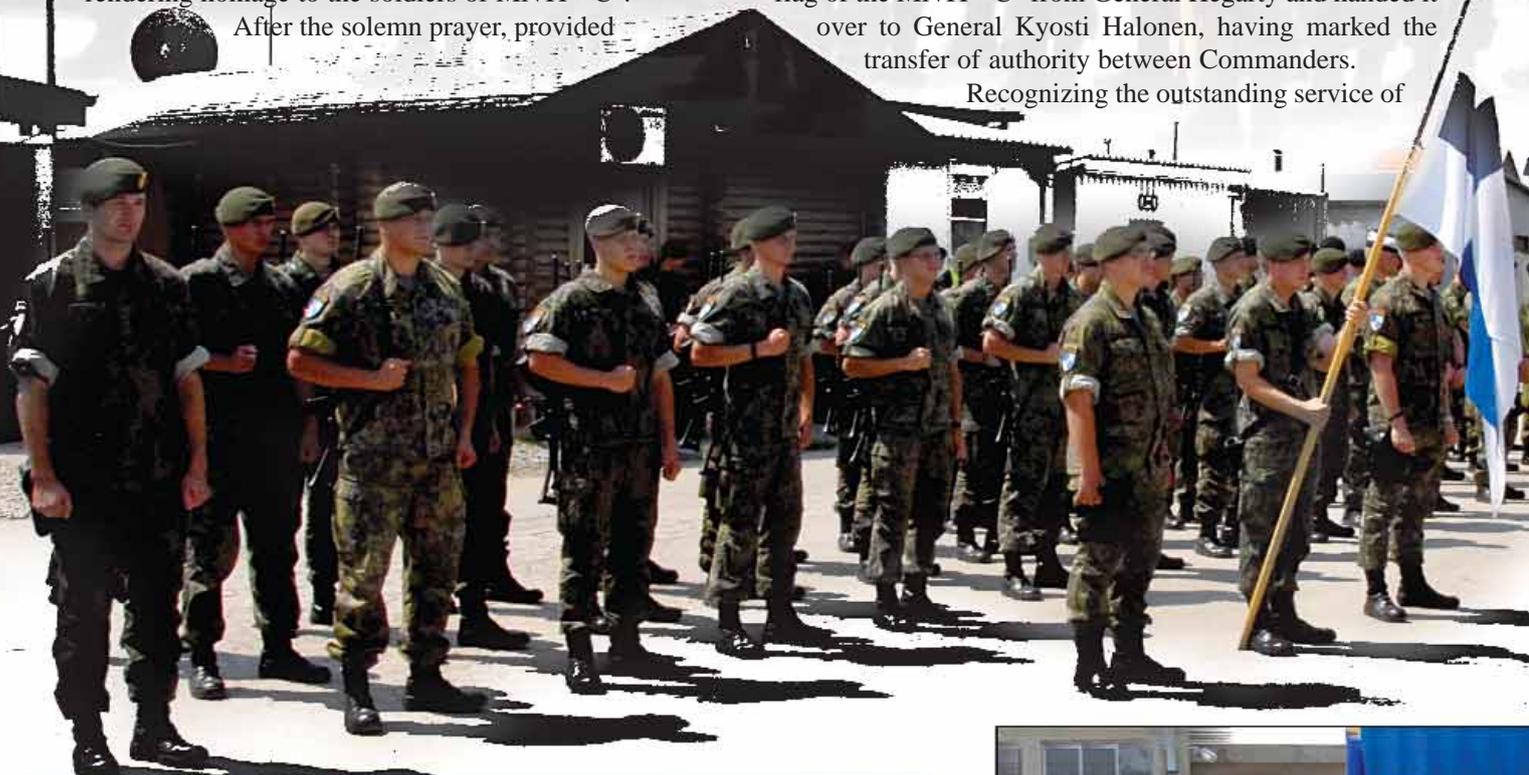
by chaplain, the outgoing commander BG Gerry Hegarty delivered his farewell speech to the audience: "I'm happy that during the course of this past year we have fulfilled our mission. I have been hugely impressed by the professionalism of the soldiers of Task force Center, their commitment, dedication and effectiveness during my year in charge", General stressed.

He thanked the staff of KFOR Headquarters, the members of Kosovo Police Force, Kosovo Protection Corps, political and religious leaders of municipality, media and international community in Kosovo for their cooperation and assistance. General Hegarty also expressed his gratitude to COMKFOR for his outstanding leadership: "I'm very proud to have served under your command", BG Hegarty pronounced.

At the end of his remarks outgoing Commander wished much luck to his successor Brigadier General Halonen and expressed his hope on prosperous future for Kosovo "without threat of violence and with a mutual respect for human rights".

According to the KFOR tradition COMKFOR took over the flag of the MNTF "C" from General Hegarty and handed it over to General Kyosti Halonen, having marked the transfer of authority between Commanders.

Recognizing the outstanding service of



NTRE

the BG Hegarty, Lieutenant General de Marnhac said: "You have established new standards for the Irish military, being the first Commanding Officer from Ireland to command a Multinational Task Force within a NATO operation. I thank you for your friendship and your personal commitment to supporting the KFOR mission of providing a safe and secure environment to all the people of Kosovo. Good luck on your return home to your family and your new position as the General Office Commanding of the 4th Western Brigade". COMKFOR also welcomed incoming Commander Brigadier General Halonen, saying: "I'm sure you will lead the Task Force with the utmost of confidence and will maintain peace and stability throughout the Task Force AOR". To the sounds of music by Irish Air Corps pipe band Kosovo Force Commander awarded General Hegarty with NATO Non-Article 5 Medal.

Addressing to the audience, Brigadier General Halonen in his speech thanked BG Hegarty "for the help and advice he has provided during preparation for this assignment".

General congratulated all the troop contributing nations on exemplary teamwork in this Task Force. "For me the command of Multinational Task Force "Center" is a great personal honor and a professional challenge", he highlighted. Finally, BG Halonen thanked COMKFOR "for the friendly reception and extremely efficient key leader training", and wished to his predecessor all the very best for the future. After the Finnish anthem sounds MNTF "Center" Deputy Commander Colonel Pekka Saariaho, Finnish Armed Forces, transferred his responsibilities to Colonel Andrew Kilfeather, Irish Armed Forces, having concluded the ceremony. Good luck to you in your further service, Brigadier General Hegarty and Brigadier General Halonen!!!



Change of Command

*Text by Major Oleksii Morozov, Ukrainian Armed Forces
Photos by Armend Aqifi*

August, 29, 2008 - Kosovo, Pristina/Prishtine, KFOR Headquarters, Film City camp. After a year of service as Kosovo Force Commander (COMKFOR), Lieutenant General Xavier Bout de Marnhac (French Army) has relinquished command to Lieutenant General Giuseppe Emilio Gay (Italian Army) during the Change of Command ceremony. This ceremony was attended by numerous international and Kosovo political and military officials. The representatives of different international and local media gave coverage to the event.

The solemn ceremony started to the sounds of the French military orchestra. The troops, representing all the KFOR Multinational Task Forces and subordinate units, were aligned on the parade square. Having received the reports from the troops' Commanders, KFOR Deputy Commander Major General Philippe Stoltz reported to outgoing COMKFOR.

After the solemn prayer for the KFOR soldiers and future of Kosovo, done by KFOR chief-chaplain Dominique Thepaut, Lieutenant General de Marnhac reported to Admiral Mark

Fitzgerald, the Commander of Allied Joint Force Command in Naples, who presided over the ceremony, and both officials inspected the troops on parade, rendering homage to the soldiers.

Delivering the farewell speech to the audience, General de Marnhac shortly summarized the results of his job during past year and thanked the KFOR soldiers - for their service, NATO Chain of Command - for confidence, guidance and support, local leaders and political actors in Kosovo -for mutual understanding, neighboring countries - for excellent relationship and cooperation. Special attention COMKFOR paid to the people of Kosovo, having communicated to them his sincere thanks and appreciation. Finally, outgoing Commander wished good luck to his successor, Lieutenant General Giuseppe Emilio Gay.

Having recognized the outstanding service of Lieutenant General Xavier Bout de Marnhac as COMKFOR, the Secretary of Defense of France Jean-Marie Bockel awarded him with the "French Legion of Honor Medal", the highest award of French Republic.

Admiral Fitzgerald, in his turn, thanked Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac for his important work, saying: "Xavier seized every opportunity to turn words into action. He

promoted dialogue among the key stakeholders within the local and international communities. He advanced Kosovo-wide and international institution partnerships. He successfully reduced border management and security issues. The bottom line is, under his leadership, the troops maintained KFOR impartiality and are respected by all for their even-handed application of Safe and secure Environment".



nd in KFOR

Welcoming incoming KFOR Commander General Gay, the Commander of Allied Joint Force Command in Naples said: "He is the right men at the right time. He is very familiar with Kosovo and has extensive experience, having previously served as Commander MNTF West, Deputy KFOR and Deputy Commander in NATO's mission in Afghanistan. He is ready to advance the work that is being done and he accepts his new command with valuable expertise".

Afterwards, Admiral Fitzgerald presented to General de Marnhac "US Legion of Merit Medal", the highest military award of the USA, having recognized his outstanding service on the position of Commander of Kosovo Force.

Addressing to the presence, Kosovo President Fatmir Sejdiu expressed the words of appreciation to General de Marnhac. "Thank you for your work and the amicable rapport and the working relations you have built and maintained with the institutions and all the citizens of Kosovo. We appreciate the work of KFOR, of the soldiers and officers from contributing countries around the world. We will need your continued presence in the future", he said.

At the end of his speech President Sejdiu awarded General de Marnhac with the Medal for Military Service in Kosovo.

To the sounds of military orchestra Admiral Fitzgerald took the KFOR flag from Lieutenant General de Marnhac and handed it over to Lieutenant General Gay. This symbolized the Change of Command within KFOR.



KTM: professional approach



Text and photos by Major Joao Bernardino, Portuguese Army

The Portuguese 1st Infantry Paratrooper Battalion, KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM), was deployed in the Multinational Task Force North Area of Responsibility between 13 of July and 25 of August 2008. This operation engaged two companies conducting framework operations in the Southern part of Mitrovica/Mitrovice and Skenderaj/Srbica areas.

The 11th Paratrooper Company was on duty in South Mitrovica; a place with population at roughly 110,000 habitants. The 13th Paratrooper Company was responsible for providing a safe and secure environment within Skenderaj/Srbica municipality with a special concern of Devic Monastery.

Skenderaj/Srbica municipality has 52 villages organized in 12 districts and estimated population is approximately 72,600 people. The Devic Monastery is situated near Skenderaj/Srbica (Drenica District), and was first built in the first half of the 15th century. The monastery was burned in the time of March 2004 riots and is actually under reconstruction.

KTM servicemen conducted patrols (on foot, in vehicle or mixed type) and VCP. According to KFOR motto "Peace with determination", in order to maintain stability and order in their area of responsibility, Portuguese soldiers showed impartiality and respect to all local inhabitants, without any division on the ethnic or religious basis.

In few weeks 1st Paratrooper Battalion will finish its mission in Kosovo. Portuguese Paratroopers finish their mission in Balkans with honor, pride and the confidence of his contribution to a stable and secure environment in Kosovo. Another Portuguese unit will arrive with the same determination to make its own contribution to peace and stability in Kosovo and with the same professional approach to the executing its mission.



to the mission executing



FIX TASK OPERATIONS OF THE 1ST ARMORED INFANTRY COY

Text by 1st Lt. Harald GAUNERSTORFER, Cdr Platoon III/1st Armored Infantry Coy/AUCON18/KFOR

Photos by 1st Lt. Gaunerstorfer and OR-2 Tobias PURKHART

Since the end of March, the 18th Austrian contingent has been employed to the area of Suva Reka/Suhareke. In addition to camp security and patrol activities, their tasks include, among others, access control measures for the monastery of Zociste/Zocishte and the protection of minorities in Orahovac/Rahovec.

For this purpose, infantry platoons will be sent to the external camp ADLER (EAGLE) near Orahovac/Rahovec and to FALKE (FALCON) in Zociste/Zocishte on a 6 day basis. On a small levelled-off slope ridge, Drash accommodation tents and a messing tent have been set up. Sanitary containers facilitate personal hygiene.

Three times per day, hot food is generously re-supplied. Concertina wire prevents unauthorized people from entering the camp.

At camp EAGLE, the operations center is run. A gate guard monitors the access road and another guard, "Das AUGER" (the EYE) observes the village of Velica Hoca/Hoce e Madhe, so mass gatherings can be detected early. Out of the camp, foot and vehicle patrols ensure the monitoring of Orahovac/Rahovec. The surrounding area is observed by patrols and checkpoints.

From camp FALCON, the village of Zociste/Zocishte is observed and access control to the Serbian monastery is carried out in order to protect the priests who live there.

Camp life during Fix Tasks offers many a variety. The command group commander is becoming a "caretaker". He takes care of the takeovers, maintenance, the refuelling of the radiators and vehicles. He finds solutions for day-to-day worries. Special attention is paid to the hygiene in the messing tent and in the sanitary containers. Cleaning teams re-establish the necessary cleanliness.

Two elder tamed wild dogs support the camp guards through



DRED INFANTRY COMPANY / AUCON 18

their vigilance. Their barking keeps other dogs away. In recognition of their services, the soldiers give them water and different tidbits from the troop kitchen. They also provide the necessary pat on the back. The vet takes care of the vaccinations. In June, a three months old half-breed dog that had escaped the dog hunt in Orahovac/Rahovec, joined the barking bunch. As a puppy, he is the darling of the soldiers, of course, and he is pampered accordingly.

At the end of July, a sudden thunderstorm in the EAGLE area causes immense damage. Three tents are torn apart and two of the three power generators, as well as several electrical appliances, are struck by lightning. In addition, a soldier is moderately injured and taken to the field hospital to Prizren. Rainwater was flowing through some tents.

In Zociste/Zocishte busses with pilgrims provide a variety in day-to-day life. The checks and the conversations with the travellers, who are mainly of Serbian origin, are often quite interesting. A recently installed Serbian cellular radio transmitter causes a great stir, which quickly dies down when people realize this provider represents a cheap alternative instead of a danger.

As the situation in our area of operations has significantly eased down, a new operational command and control will be launched in August. This has been made possible, among other things, by the improved road connection between Camp CASABLANCA and Orahovac/Rahovec, which allows for a quick and safe deployment of forces. The old gravel strip has been surfaced with asphalt and straightened. Therefore, daily activities can now be planned inside the camp, which leaves more time for relaxation and physical training.



Swedish Steel - We pick

Text and photos by 1st Lt. Hannah Larsson, Swedish Army

Military vessels are often heavy and solid, but this also make them difficult to manoeuvre in the terrain. Towing a 22 tonne armoured personnel carrier (APC), stuck in a deep puddle of mud, puts the Swedish Recovery Squad to the test.

This is why the Swedish contingent, SWECON, arranged a towing course and exercise week for its Maintenance platoon's Recovery Squad, which is also working with towing vehicles that have been wrecked or stuck in ditches. They don't only serve the Swedish contingent in Kosovo, but several other KFOR nations.

During the course, the participants got to try the limits for the huge towing truck. But an average

tow is usually a lighter vehicle, 2nd Lt Peter Wieslander says: "The most usual scenario is a Mercedes Benz Geländewagen which has gone off the road due to weak shoulders because the driver is not used to the roads here in Kosovo.

The "final examination" of the towing course and exercise week was towing an armoured personnel carrier (APC) which was stuck in a puddle of mud. "Puddle", by the way - how about five feet deep, smelly mud bath with toads swimming in it?

The maintenance platoon begins preparing Operation Towing. Peter Wieslander calculated the gradient of the slope that the APC must be towed on to. Pte Per-Olof Wedin picked up some reliable steel wire and shackle. When the tow truck had been parked strategically, the tug-of-war began. Pte Berndt Åman manoeuvred the tow truck under 2nd Lt Peter Wieslander's command. The tow truck started to skid, but soon the APC was on firm ground again.



you up!

The education was evaluated and said to be excellent by the participants.

"It was adapted to our skills and the possible scenarios we might encounter down here. A couple of weeks ago a civilian concrete mixer truck had gone down the ditch and we were called out to clear the road," Peter Wieslander says.

He doesn't deny the fact, it is fun with big machines, such as the tow truck.

"It's a blast! Like a huge Meccano with great powers and technique."



Hungarian soldiers in

*Text and photos by Major Ferenc Pinter,
Hungarian Army*

This year there are multiple deployments scheduled for the Hungarian Army's 25/88th Light Infantry Battalion. 140 soldiers are preparing to ISAF PRT-5 in Afghanistan. There are 40 in ISAF PRT-4, and after January 2008 they serve in Hungarian KFOR Company in Kosovo as well. This is the only infantry battalion in Hungary where soldiers

with 7 - 10 years of active duty are serving.

The Hungarian Company carries out an increased number of missions, and must serve at a higher level of alertness since February, as they are one of KFOR reserve units. Their mission was to protect KFOR's main PrDSS (Property with designated special status), blocking the bridge, controlling emerging demonstrations, and restoring freedom of movement.

The company's task was to conduct patrols along with the French, Slovenian and British forces in northern Mitrovica/Mitrovicve, 24/7 surveillance of the Austerlitz Bridge, and to intercept any

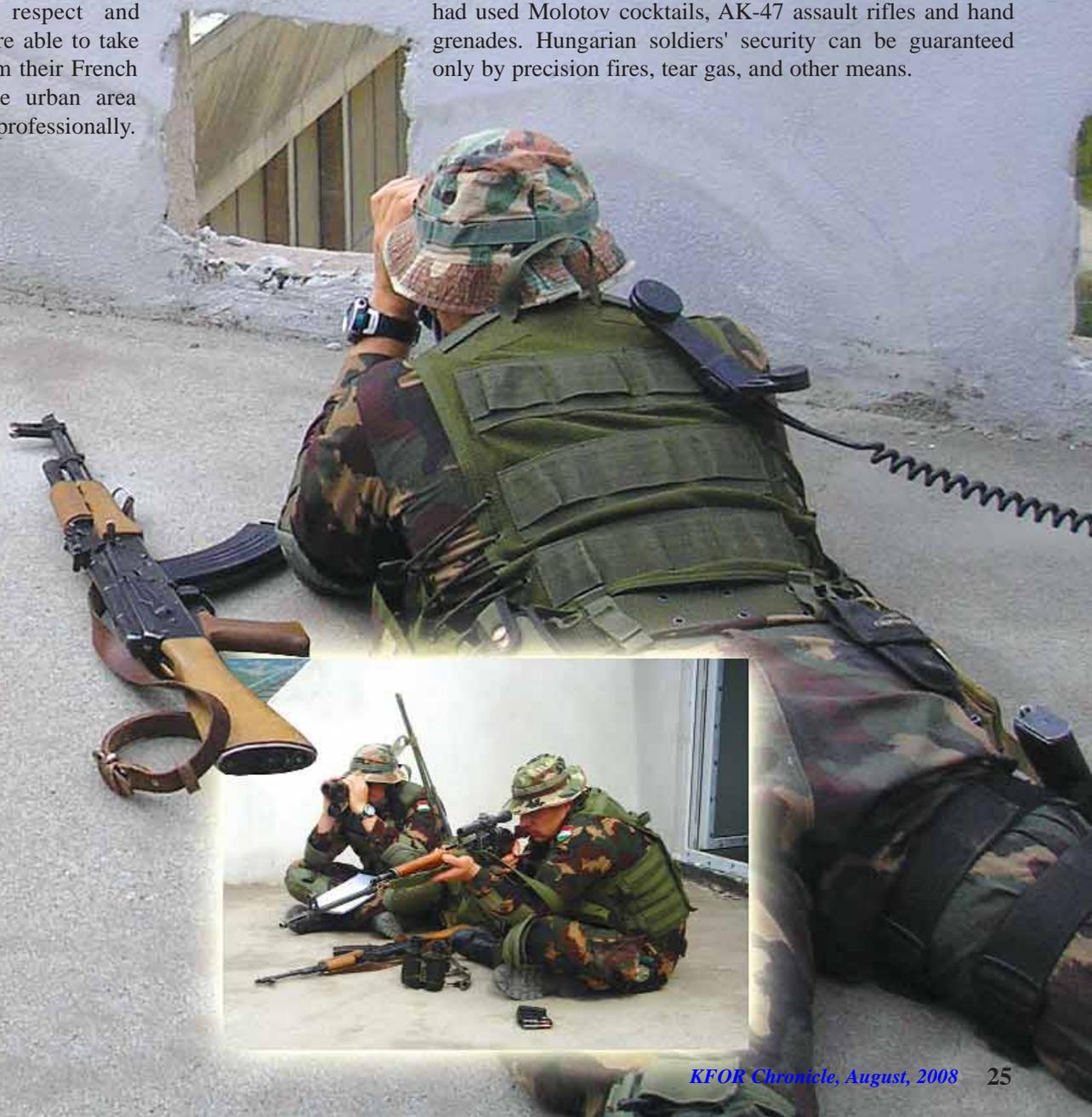


Mitrovica/Mitrovice

incidents that can threaten the freedom of movement or the safe and secure environment around the bridge. The CRC task is no coincidence, The company has proved on several training events in the past months, they are one of the most prepared units within KFOR. The officers and NCOs have received training in the United States on various courses, ranging from training conducted by the US Marines, to the US Army MP School. This proves their worth under such circumstances.

During the mission, the scout snipers of the 88th battalion deserved special respect and attention. They were able to take responsibilities from their French counterparts in the urban area rather quickly and professionally.

Their theoretical and practical knowledge, as well as language proficiency, were well respected by the seasoned French, who had carried out a number of missions. In such situations, it becomes obvious, the scout sniper training the 88th battalion started last year in Szolnok and Táborfalva, can be very useful anywhere in any military mission. In Mitrovica/Mitrovice, the sniper team was one of the tools of self defense for the Hungarian and French forces, carrying out the KFOR ROE. Riot control had become all the more complicated in light of past months' experience. The crowd had used Molotov cocktails, AK-47 assault rifles and hand grenades. Hungarian soldiers' security can be guaranteed only by precision fires, tear gas, and other means.



KFOR Multinational Specialized Unit

During August, 2008, three CIMIC projects were implemented

*Text and photos by Major Oleksii Morozov,
Ukrainian Armed Forces*

Those projects were realized within the framework of the Italian QUICK IMPACT PROJECT. The annual budget of 250 thousand Euros has been provided by the Ministry of Defense of the Italian Republic.

All CIMIC activities were conducted with the presence and under the control of MSU Commander, Colonel Andrea Guglielmi, Italian Carabinieri.

On August, 11, 2008, the personnel of the MSU G9 (CIMIC) cell and CIMIC cell of the Multinational Task Force "South" delivered medicaments and some auxiliary materials to the Centre of family medicine in Kijevo/Kieve.

On August, 12, 2008, French Gendarmes and Italian Carabinieri from MSU CIMIC cell along with German soldiers from MNTF "South" CIMIC cell organized the delivering of the desks, chairs, wardrobes, as well as five computers with appropriate tables to the school of Tpesa/Terpeze village. The festive reception was organized by the school staff and pupils, including an improvised concert. Young people, wearing traditional costumes, performed a national dance and a folk song for the KFOR soldiers.

And the most impressive thing for the KFOR servicemen was the day of August, 20. On this day, the inauguration of the playground in the kindergarten "YLLKAT" in Pristina/Prishtine took place. Some days before this date, the playground was equipped with a summerhouse, slide, playhouse, sandbox and walks for small children. In the



morning of August, 20, servicemen from MSU G9 cell, commanded by Adjudant Bruno Salvi (Gendarmerie Nationale de la France), delivered different books, didactic materials, multicolor pens and paper for drawing, whiteboards to the kindergarten children, as well as other supplies necessary for normal functioning of this establishment. From the morning, well known Italian songs sounded all around the kindergarten.

This event brought children, their parents and several official guests together. During a short meeting, devoted to the end of the works, the MSU Commander Colonel Andrea Guglielmi, the Director of the kindergarten Mrs. Refiqe R. Hamiti and the advisor of the Kosovo Prime Minister Mr. Shaip Muja,



helps to the people of Kosovo

by KFOR Multinational Specialized Unit



GRAZIA!
MILE CARABINIERI!



highlighted the importance of such works for the building of Kosovo children's future. The "main players on the ground", small Kosovars, presented to their parents

and to other guests their skills of singing and dancing. At the end of the meeting, a symbolical red ribbon was cut by Colonel Guglielmi, Mr. Shaip Muja and Colonel Özgünes, KFOR Headquarters G9 (CIMIC) Chief, having marked the opening of the playground. This was a clear signal for the "representatives of Kosovo future" on the possibility to start playing on the opened playground. However, they did not forget to say "Thank you!" to every KFOR soldier and award them with flowers before they started playing. Along with their parents, they had also the opportunity to see colorful books placed on the tables.

Having walked "a round of honor" around inaugurated place, the MSU Commander took off the piece of material, covering the wooden plate, which was fixed on the fence of the



summerhouse, containing the words "MSU Carabinieri. Project has been financed by Italy. August, 2008".

This event took place on a sunny and warm summer's day. Let us hope, the life of these children from the "ILLKAT" kindergarten, as well as all the children of Kosovo, will consist only of similar nice days. Today, the soldiers of KFOR do all their best, serving to that purpose.



[Inside KFOR]

On the Same Wavelength

Text and photos by SFC Craig L. Collins, US Army

Being a member of a multi-national task force provides many military personnel new opportunities for learning that they may not normally get a chance to experience during a military career.

Soldiers from the Polish Army and the U.S. Army recently trained together for two days on Camp Bondsteel and the surrounding area in quick reaction force tactics.

Both sides quickly learned the importance of being able to communicate with each other and using electronic communications equipment. "Language is the hardest barrier," said 1st Lt. Wildik Wisneiwski, Kosovo Force, Multi-National Task Force-East, POLUKR Battalion, Hawk company commander.



Maj. Levon Cumpton, KFOR, MNTF-E, Task Force Falcon training officer was in charge of the training. "The purpose of the training was to validate the QRF platoon."

Much of the training focused on understanding how to operate the communications equipment used in MNTF-E, including proper procedures for communicating over two-way radios. There are several different communication systems available for the QRF commander and his team to use and it is important to learn which system is the best to use given the conditions they are operating in.

"In order to be validated the team must show they can communicate

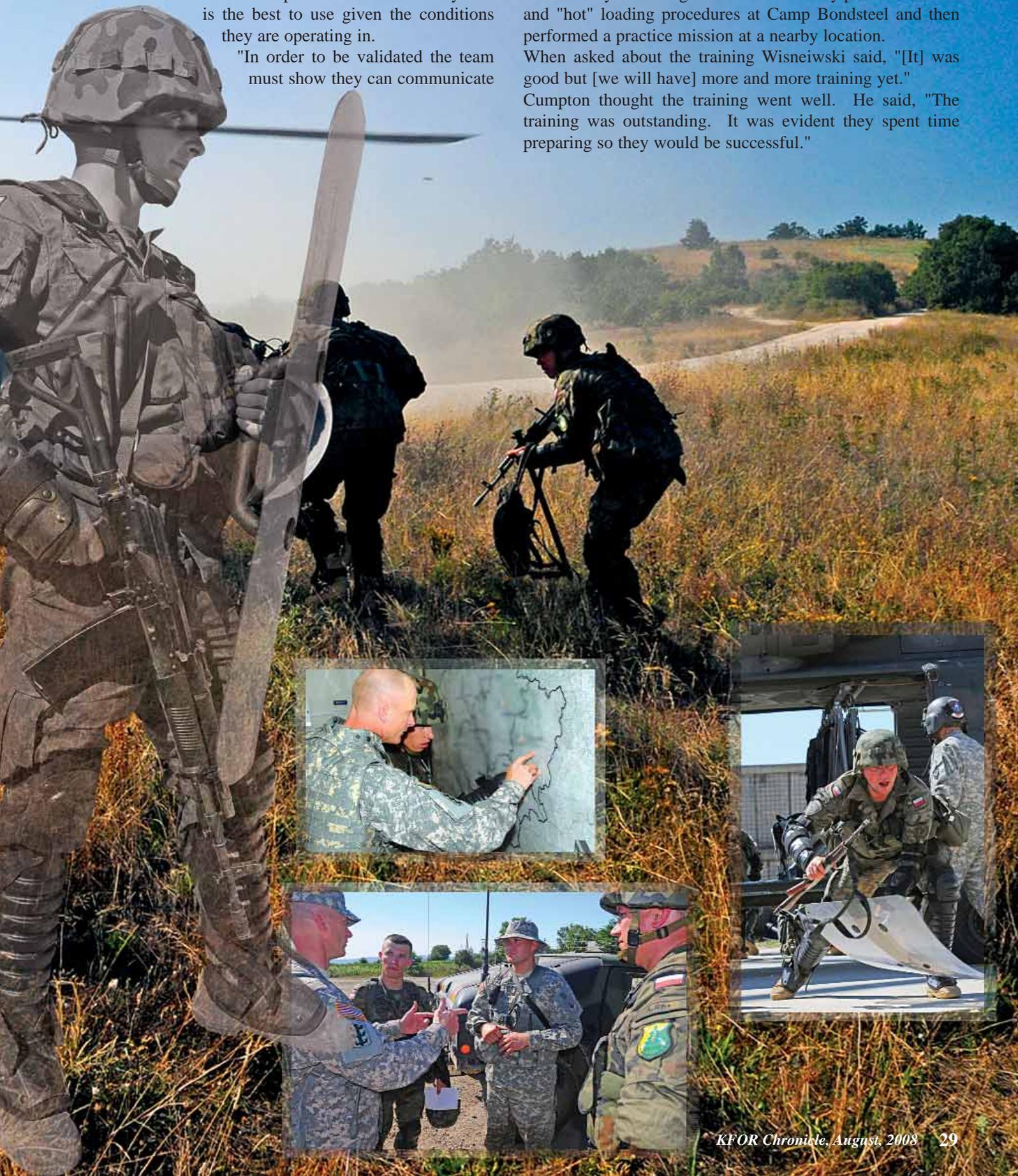
effectively and efficiently with their higher headquarters and the supported unit," said Cumpton. "The QRF platoon also has to demonstrate that it can respond within set timelines."

The soldiers from Hawk Company learned the proper procedures for entering and exiting UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters safely and efficiently.

This training was especially important to the Polish soldiers because they don't use helicopters for this mission in the Polish Army according to Wisniewski. They practiced "cold" and "hot" loading procedures at Camp Bondsteel and then performed a practice mission at a nearby location.

When asked about the training Wisniewski said, "[It] was good but [we will have] more and more training yet."

Cumpton thought the training went well. He said, "The training was outstanding. It was evident they spent time preparing so they would be successful."



" JOINT RIOT " exercise

Text and photos by 1st Lt. Marilyne Robert, French Army

On Wednesday, the 6th of August 2008, in " Serment de Koufra camp" in Mitrovica, the French battalion led a task-level CRC exercise in a very realistic joint combined-arms context, called JOINT RIOT. The goal was to implement the CRC "know-how" at GTIA (combined-arms task-force) level and to work the units relieves of UNMIK-Police by KFOR.

On Wednesday morning, the security situation is breaking down in Mitrovica, the Ukrainian FPU cannot contain, despite of smokes, the sixty or so very hostile demonstrators. The UNMIK LNO present on the spot reports the necessity of KFOR intervention in "3rd curtain". At 9:00, the FREBAT QRF is activated in order to enable COY4 on AMX 10P to relieve the Ukrainians. Contact and coordination between the 2 joint forces in order to allow a quick and efficient relief. New demonstrators arrive on two parallel axes. FPU will be in charge of the 1st one, and FREBAT COY2, called on as QRF from "Concession" will be in charge of the 2nd one. The units receive the order from Task-Force North to drive back the demonstrators toward the east in order to recover the control of a definite zone. COY2 is hit. A soldier suffers from a fractured fibula and is very quickly evacuated to the Health armoured vehicle. COY4 progresses with dog handlers, which allows, by the dog intervention, the taking in of the leader who will be quickly handed over to the international policemen at the back of the ground. The units are confronted to a certain number of barricades slowing down their progression, and requiring the intervention of engineering assets by the means of MPG. A hand grenade is thrown by demonstrators, injuring seriously two soldiers who must be evacuated by the health armoured vehicle. The support of a helicopter has been asked in order to follow the progression of the demonstrators. The Viviane helicopter is an invaluable



supply for the tactical CP deployed. At 11:00, the units join to deploy the roadblock with a turning movement in liaison with FPU in order to drive back the demonstrators in a restricted area. At this moment, the units are set on by an AK47 sniper. The AMX 10P are going over in the front in order to protect the landed troops and to allow the evacuation of the injured soldiers. The doctor decides to request an evacuation by helicopter. COY2 is setting up marksmen in order to neutralize the sniper. At 11:30, the exercise ends with a debriefing by OPS chief and FREBAT commander. An exercise full of teaching lessons as well for Task-Force North as UNMIK Police.

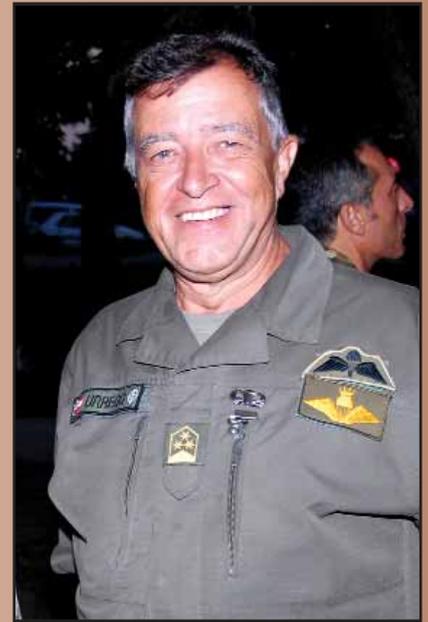


KFOR Mission Grandfather**Name:** Manfred-H. Urregg**Rank:** Colonel**Nationality:** Austria**Home Unit:** Regional Military Command of Vienna**Unit in KFOR:** JEng/KFOR HQ

About the Mission: All together, it will be 22 months until my end of tour in Kosovo, which gets me back home on December 15, 2008; just in time for Christmas Eve. This also means, your KFOR-mission-grandfather is leaving. Yes, according to J1, I am the oldest member of KFOR family, including civilian and military personnel. Time was passing by very fast and every day was busy with all the infrastructural projects I had to lead as Chief Engineer. They have been and some of them are still ongoing in Kosovo, FYROM, Albania, and Greece. NBC- and EOD-matters are additional branch issues.

Family reaction: So fare, I have spent the last 4 years in missions abroad; as I have for most of my life. Some of them were for civilian companies all over the world. My family got used to it and it works very well. One of my personal highlights was when my son joined me here in Kosovo for half a year, serving within AUCON17 in Suva Reka/Suhareke.

Plans after mission: From January 1, 2009 and on, I will be retired from the army and I will become a 100% pensioner. Then, I will stay with my Irish wife, on my horse farm in Austria, and enjoy my days in my hunting area; where I am the authorized ranger. Spending as much time as possible with Breeda, my beloved wife, will be my new main "task", compensating my long lasting absences. We will travel around to see relatives and friends. Maybe, I will meet one of you again as well.

**Name:** Eric Wermeille**Rank:** OR-9**Nationality:** Swiss**Home Unit:** Infantry Recruit School 3, Bière**Unit in KFOR:** SWISS Inf Coy

About the mission: The deployment with SWISSCOY in Kosovo is my first mission abroad. I'm responsible for the planning of all activities of the Swiss Infantry Company - who has to do what, where, when and how. This is my task. And I always have to do this in coordination (OPCON) with the Austrian contingent, with which we are sharing the camp. The Swiss soldiers are very welcomed in Kosovo villages. This is due to a lot of the Kosovars having relatives in Switzerland.

I'm glad to serve in Kosovo with other nations. I can learn from their approaches in fulfilling their mission. Working in a PSO abroad is a useful experience for me in my daily work as a trainer in Switzerland.

Family reaction: My wife supported me from the beginning in my decision to do a mission abroad. She never worries of where I go. Her fear is for how long and when I'll be back home.. Half a year seemed to be a long time for her. At the beginning, my parents doubted my mission in Kosovo, but now, they are proud of my service in KFOR.

Plans after the mission: When I'm back from the mission, my wife and I will go on holiday for two weeks. Relaxing after the mission will be great, perhaps we will do some diving. Afterwards, I'll go back to my home unit where I'm responsible for the planning of the recruit training and the formation of future sergeants.

**Name:** Raitis Upners**Rank:** Commander Junior Grade (OF-3)**Nationality:** Latvian**Home unit:** Logistic Command**KFOR unit:** MNTF (C) RLMT LO3

About the mission: This is my second mission in the Balkans. My first tour was Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1996. I hope it will be a good experience for me to serve in MNTF (C) and to perform RLMT duty. I also have the opportunity to be the Latvian contingent commander at same time. Every small input in peace support operation is relevant for the international society.

Family reaction: My spouse, Ilze, and my kids, Richard and Estere, supported my decision to take part in the mission abroad. My family was proud when I was assigned for service in Kosovo. I would also like to thank my parents, as they accepted my decision to be here as well.

Plans after the mission: After my return, I'm sure my family and I will take a trip to France. I promised my kids to spend a couple days in Disneyland.



Kosovo Village Landscape

