

November 30, 2008

KFOR Chronicle

KFOR

Edition 11



North Atlantic Council delegation visits Kosovo

KFOR - Kosovo Forces Operations Review

Deputy Chief of Staff Operations



It is not normal to use the KFOR characters in another meaning, but in this case, it is meaningful to do so. **KFOR** is in the beginning of a **Review** of its general **Forces Operational** situation in **Kosovo**.

The political situation in Kosovo has changed over the last months. As a matter of fact, KFOR has to adopt and develop, as well. Basically, from the operations point of view this leads to reviewing our operational situation. Things will change. What will not change is the mandate 1244, given by UNSC, and the mission. KFOR's mission is and remains; contribute to a Safe and Secure Environment, to support the International Community and supporting to build up the local capacity. KFOR remains impartial and protects all individuals in Kosovo. No matter which ethnicity they belong to. But KFOR will interfere, if there is a threat against Safe and Secure Environment or Freedom of Movement. No matter by whom. This is constant - **no change!**

Charles de Gaulle, former President of France, said, that militaries should not stick to the forces they are used to, but they have to build up the forces they need.

This means, **changes** in the environment must lead naturally to changes in considerations, even in military operations. KFOR needs to adjust its operational capabilities. And this is the matter of change. Yes we can, since we must!

But what are the adjustments and changes we are talking about?

We need an Effect Based Approach of Operations. To reach this, it is necessary to give higher flexibility to our troops and to focus all efforts on the supposed outcome and effects. This supports and puts in effect the current motto, "UNITY OF EFFORT". We are able to adjust the operational situation from Framework Operations to Focused Operations. To achieve a higher effectiveness and particular information the Situational Awareness must be improved. First of all the LMT and CIMIC-Teams, the soldiers on the ground are in the best position, to contribute to this. Having established the new concept once and by conducting Focused Operations, KFOR will become more flexible than today, and more effective in the changing environment of Kosovo.

The transition from UNMIK to EULEX is another big challenge, as well as for KFOR, even remaining as 3rd line responder. While UNMIK redeployment is still ongoing, EULEX is going to start its mission. KFOR is very aware of the mood of the population of Kosovo. Nevertheless, KFOR has to work closely together with EULEX, once in charge, as we did in the past with UNMIK. Arrangements have to be agreed upon, and working relationships to be installed.

Assisting the Kosovo Protection Corps to stand down and building up the Kosovo security forces are the most challenging tasks for KFOR in the next weeks and months. This needs our highest efforts and the respective Divisions in HQ KFOR must be supported with all of KFOR strength.

In summary, KFOR is in a decisive phase of transition, operational changes, building up new relationships and supporting the IoK. We have challenges everywhere around.

But we can face all challenges, when the KFOR family will pull on side of the rope - to implementing and living the principle of "Unity of Effort".

Brigadier General
Bernhard Lichtenauer

Dear comrades,

Being the successor of Major Andreas Brueckner as the Chief of Internal Information I have the pleasure to take main responsibility of the "KFOR-Chronicle" for the next months.

My name is Major Christian Zankl (Austrian Army).

My team, that is Major Oleksii Morozov (Ukrainian Army) and Armend Aqifi (photographer), and I will accompany you with stories about your commitments and your activities!

The "KFOR Chronicle" is published by KFOR for approximately 15 thousand KFOR soldiers. Our aim is to provide you an attractive magazine in terms of illustration and content.

How can we achieve this? With your support, comrades!

The "KFOR Chronicle" staff consists of two "combat" journalists and an incredibly dedicated photographer. Understandably we are not able to ask all of you guys personally for a story. So ladies and gentlemen do not hesitate sending us your stories. Everyone can become a journalist; we appreciate your journalistic contributions!

What kind of content can your story have?

Anything that is affecting your and your comrades KFOR-experiences.

For instance stories about patrol, check-points, exercises, sport and culture events. We would also value it, if you could introduce your country a little bit to the other KFOR-member countries (history e.g.).

In order to present your stories in an interesting way, please, provide us with appropriate pictures, that means convincing so that it matches the text.

We are also responsible for the KFOR official web-site (<http://www.nato.int/kfor/>). The articles about your unit's life will be read by people all around the world!

Don't worry about your English, we will help you!

The only requirement is: the story for the "KFOR Chronicle" should have approximately 300 - 400 words (it is not so difficult, believe me!), and for preparing layout of the article we need 7-10 attractive photos of original quality and resolution. For the web-site it is much easier - some 200 words will be enough.

Thanks for your cooperation in advance!

So what are you waiting for? You can give us a call, submit an e-mail or even visit us personally.

Looking forward to hear from you as soon as possible,

Yours,

Maj. Christian Zankl



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Austria
Finland
Ireland
Morocco
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Switzerland
Ukraine

KFOR Structure

HQ KFOR
MNTF Centre
MNTF East
MNTF North
MNTF South
MNTF West
KTM
MSU

NATO Secretary General and North Atl



Atlantic Council delegation visited Kosovo

*Story by Major Oleksii Morozov, Ukrainian Armed Forces
Photos by NATO*

On November 4th, 2008, the delegation of the North Atlantic Council visited KFOR and Kosovo. For Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay it was the first time to receive NAC delegation as the Kosovo Force Commander.

After being welcomed by the JFC Naples Commander Admiral Fitzgerald and Commander of Kosovo Force Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay at Pristina/Prishtine Airport, the members of the delegation arrived to the KFOR

Headquarters in Pristina/Prishtine, where they were briefed with the situation in Kosovo and the KFOR activities.

Afterwards the NATO Secretary General and the representatives of the North Atlantic Council had a meeting with the authorities in Kosovo, representatives of ethnic minorities and of the International Community.

Continuing their working trip, the members of the delegation visited all KFOR Multinational Task Forces Areas of Responsibility. Having been briefed by the Commanding officers, they had meetings with different local officials.

At the end of the visit Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, NATO Secretary General, and Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay, Kosovo Force Commander, met the media at military part of Slatina Airport.





Unity o

November, 3, 2008. In KFOR Headquarters, Film-City Camp, the Kosovo Force Commander received Mr. Samuel Schmid, Swiss Minister of Defense.



November, 4, 2008. NATO Secretary General Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and COMKFOR Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay during the press conference at Slatina Airport. (See pages 4-5)

November, 7, 2008. Within KFOR Headquarters the Kosovo Force Commander organized a meeting and a dinner with the representatives of the KFOR contributing nations.



November, 12, 2008. COMKFOR paid a visit to the Multinational Task Force East. After having been welcomed by the MNTF E Commander Brigadier General Larry D. Kay and the MNTF E Headquarters staff, Kosovo Force Commander was briefed about the operational situation in the Task Force area of responsibility. Afterwards COMKFOR had meetings with the representatives of local authorities in the MNTF East AoR.



f Effort



November, 15, 2008. COMKFOR visited Camp De Lattre De Tassigny, Novo Selo. During this visit COMKFOR got acquainted with operational capabilities of German-Austrian ORF Battalion and was briefed by MNTF North Commander Brigadier General Michel Yakovleff with the activities of MNTF North.



November, 17, 2008. In KFOR Headquarters, Film-City Camp, the Commander of Kosovo Force Lieutenant General Giuseppe Emilio Gay met with Ambassador Daniel Fried, European Assistant Secretary for the Department of Security (USA).

November, 18, 2008. COMKFOR had a meeting with Major General John Harrel, the Commander of 40th Infantry Division, California National Guard (USA).



November, 18, 2008. The Commander of Kosovo Force received Mr. Alfredo Mantica, the Italian Under Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.



Unity of Effort



November, 19, 2008. Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay met Brigade General Martin Ferreira, Intervention Brigade Commander (Portuguese Armed Forces).



November, 21, 2008. Kosovo Force Commander met with His Excellency Mr. Martin Green, the Ambassador of Ireland to Hungary, Montenegro and Kosovo.

November, 25, 2008. In KFOR HQ COMKFOR hosted Mr. Andrus Ansip, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia.



November, 25, 2008. Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay had a meeting with Major General Markus Bentler, the Commander of 10th Armored Division (Germany)

KFOR Photography Contest

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

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

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

The KFOR Chronicle staff will pick three winning photographs. The winners will be chosen and will be published in the December 24, 2008 magazine edition. Submit photographs to kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int no later than December 7, 2008. Submissions should include the digital photograph, photographer's name and a short caption. The award ceremony will be on December 15, 2008.

This contest is sponsored by MWA.



Get clicking!



Get clicking!

1st Prize
Digital Camera
Sony Cyber-shot W130



2nd Prize
iPOD Nano silver
4 GB

Get clicking!



3rd Prize
16 GB USB Data Stick

MNTF WEST gets a

Story by Major Oleksii Morozov,
Ukrainian Armed Forces
Photos by Combat Camera Team

"I am glad to be here for a second time and I admit a strong emotion to see again such charming places". Those

words were pronounced by Brigadier General Giovanni Armentani on November 6, 2008, during the ceremony of transfer of authority in Villaggio Italia camp, the Multinational Task Force West Headquarters. On this day Brigadier General Armentani

replaced Brigadier General Agostino Biancafarina at the position of MNTF West Commander. In the presence of the troops lined up on parade square, in front of distinguished guests: KFOR commanding Generals, former Kosovo Force Commander General Giuseppe Valotto, representatives of local authorities and international organisations, KFOR Deputy Commander Major General Philippe Stoltz presented to new Commander the flag of Multinational Task Force West as a symbol of power. From that moment General Armentani has got whole responsibility for the safe and secure environment in MNTF West AoR.

"The principles that inspired Brigadier General Biancafarina are the same ones that will direct my leadership for the next several months", assured Brigadier General Armentani. "General Biancafarina and I attended the same Academy course, many years ago, and therefore developed a common way of approaching and thinking things through. This will allow me to continue MNTF West mission the same way you all have been getting used to over the past six months", he added.

By the way, new Commander knows the situation in area of responsibility very well, because six years ago he



new Commander



was in Kosovo as Task Force AQUILA Commander. Therefore, MNTF West soldiers came under the command of an experienced leader, as well as local people met with the person who knows their land and is aware of their life. "In that past experience, I came in contact with this land, its traditions, history and customs and I learned to appreciate and to respect them. I consider this land an intersection point of populations so rich in culture", Brigadier General Giovanni Armentani stressed in his discourse.

Welcome again to KFOR and good luck to you, Brigadier General Armentani!

Thank you, Brigadier General Biancafarina, for your service within KFOR, and all the best to you and to your family in the future!



KTM: difficult maneuver



Story and photos by Major Oleksii Morozov, Ukrainian Armed Forces

As a tactical reserve unit under the operational control of Kosovo Force Commander, the KFOR Tactical Maneuver Battalion (KTM) is designed to quickly respond to potential changes of the security situation. In order to maintain the operational readiness and increase effectiveness, Portuguese Task Force "MIKE", which actually acts as KTM, continues its exercises, using different scenarios of possible development of the security situation in Kosovo.

On October 13th Portuguese soldiers used for their training such a scenario: one of the religious shrines, guarded by the KFOR soldiers, has been attacked by large group of rioters. KTM gets the task to enforce the unit, protecting the site, and stop the escalation of the situation. What is the quickest way to deploy the unit to the hot spot? You are right, by air! On that day the Film City helicopter landing zone was full of helicopters: famous "Black Hawks" UH-60s from MNTF East, "Black Hawk" S-70 and "Super Puma", provided by MNTF South, rent the air, ready to bring the KTM personnel to the spot.

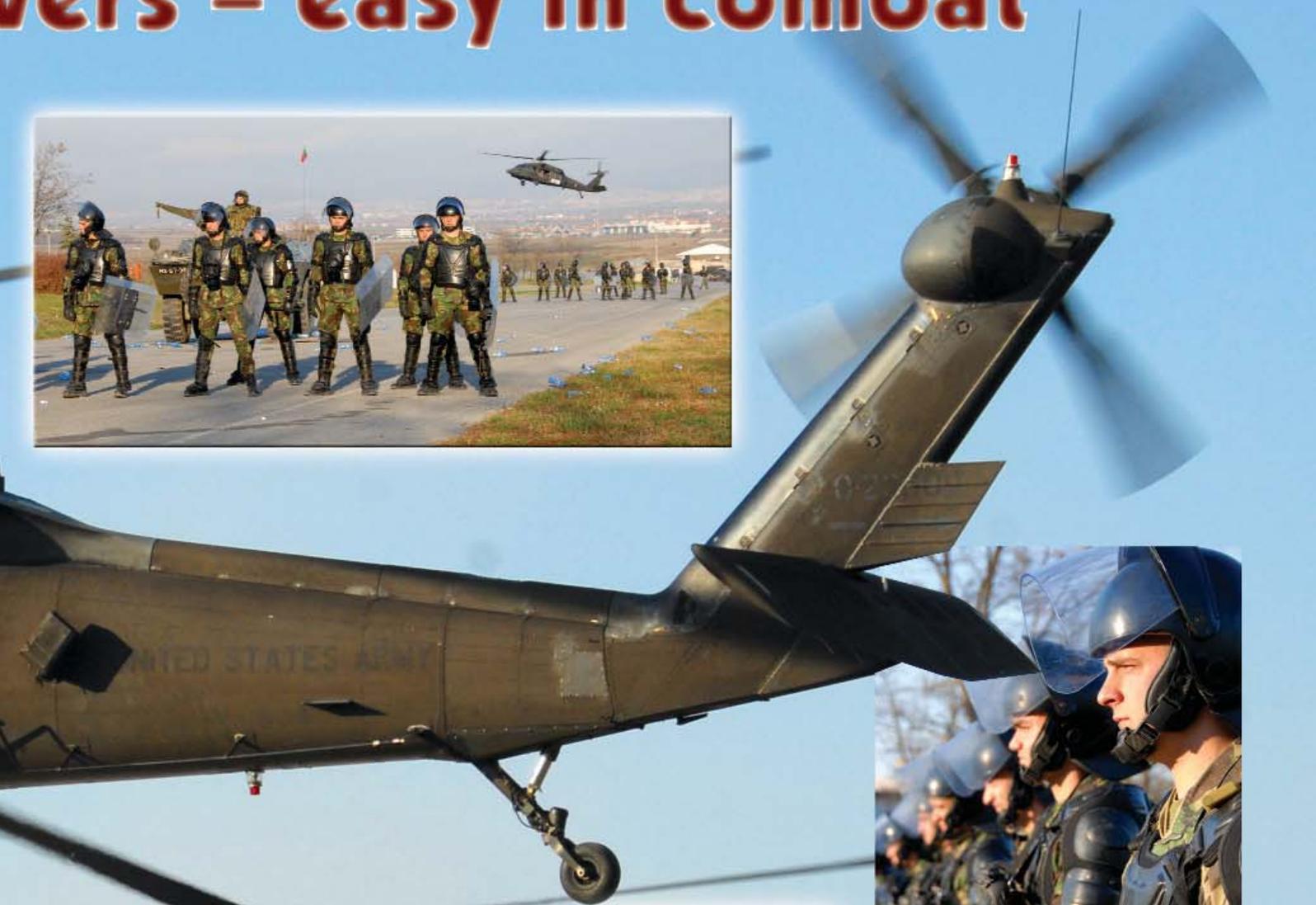
Air Mission Commander briefs KTM team leaders and helicopters aircrews with the mission and reminds the rules of

boarding and debarkation. Last instructions are given by KTM team leaders to their soldiers. Ready!

The soldiers in CRC (Crowd&Riot Control) armors look very much like personages from "Star Wars" movies. Having received the signal, they move to the helicopters. And after several minutes the helicopters merry-go-round starts to turn. It's stunner! Eight minutes flight and we are in Camp Vrelo, which has been used for a long time by KFOR troops as the CRC "battle field". At this moment it looks like a real battlefield: combat vehicles, soldiers, helicopters and the "rioters" from MNTF Center create such an impression. Bottles of water, thrown by rioters, abusive shouts towards soldiers, loud commands by the KTM leaders, movement of troops and armored "Panhards" - everything is real.

Mission is accomplished: hostilities have been ceased, the law and order restored. The moment came to learn lessons from those exercises. But these maneuvers are not the last for KTM soldiers. Perfection has no limit. Let's go find it!

vers – easy in combat



MNTF SOUTH welcome

*Text by Major Christian Zankl
Photos by Staff Sergeant Patrick Reich,
Austrian Army and Armend Aqifi*

On November 30th 2008 the transfer-of-authority ceremony of Multi-National Task Force South (MNTF S) took place in Camp PRIZREN. During the ceremony Commander Brigadier General Robert Prader handed over MNTF S responsibilities to his successor Brigadier General Thomas Starlinger. Soldiers from Austria, Hungary, Swiss, Turkey and Germany aligned to the COMKFOR (Commander Kosovo Forces) General Giuseppe E. Gay and both Austrian generals.

During his farewell speech the retiring MNTF S Commander Brigadier General Robert Prader emphasized his gratitude towards the representatives of the numerous organizations in Kosovo and the commanders of all other task forces, but particularly to the COMKFOR General Giuseppe E. Gay, for the



... the new Commander

fruitful cooperation within the previous six months.

Brigadier General Robert Prader wished his successor Brigadier General Thomas Starlinger "all the best and lots of soldiers luck for his new assignment".

Both expressed their appreciation for the visit of the many distinguished guests, among them numerous international and local official representatives and the Austrian Army General Hoefler, who followed the ceremony with utmost attention.

After Brigadier General Prader's farewell speech the COMKFOR Gay awarded him with the NATO Non Article 5 Medal while expressing his gratitude for the Brigadier General's outstanding leadership. The COMKFOR took over the Task Force flag from Brigadier General Robert Prader in order to hand it over to the new Commander MNTF S.

According to the solemn protocol MNTF S commander Thomas Starlinger, who served already in Syria, Iran, Cyprus and Tajikistan, stated some words to the audience: "The maxim for the MNTF S will be the following: 'Agile and self

confident - together successful'. That means " ... feeling the pulse of the Kosovo People, their interests and concerns ... capability to raise combat readiness... close relationship to Kosovo's key players". Brigadier general Starlinger accentuated the above mentioned to be the utmost premise for being "innovative and to ensure an effective based approach which meets reality" in order to be at least three steps ahead (quoting a General he once served in Tajikistan).



DANCON March Au

CAMP OLAF RYE



*Text by Capt. Giovanni Pacitto, Italian Army
Photos by Capt. Giovanni Pacitto and CCT*

Mitrovica, CAMP Olaf Rye, Danish Battalion. In a warm November morning a mass of Kosovo Force Soldiers numbering 1300, representing 22 countries were ready for a march which has become an indispensable event for those serving in Kosovo.

The DANCON March is a popular tradition for Danish battalions serving away from their homeland, dating from 1972. In every peacekeeping mission since then, every Danish contingent has had its DANCON March. This Danish tradition has taken place in Kosovo every year since 1999.

Twice a year, in autumn and spring, a path that climbs and stretches for 25.2 km and with an elevation of more than 500 m in altitude, a slope reaching as high as about 20%, wearing the complete uniform, carrying at least 10 kilos and issued firearm - these are the characteristics that represent the non competitive DANCON March, this is just a way to demonstrate the physical preparedness of the army and a social event in a six-hour time limit.

The march began at 8:00 in the morning and as tension and excitement had been building up among soldiers just before start, due to

Autumn 2008



rumors of the rough terrain, everybody was happy to finally get going. The unusually mild temperatures this fall have made it possible to carry out the march without major problems. After only 8 km for the less fortunate - a scene many times shown on television; it seemed to be a pit stop of a F1 Grand Prix, where all controlled the tires...even though they were the feet.

The route begins on pavement, then later turns into a rugged dirt road with steep hills and sharp turns that continue upward overlooking the countryside. After leaving the paved road behind, 13 km after, those who had doubts about the hardness of the trail, suddenly had a reality check.

We start to climb up the hill, and we will continue so for about 4 km to reach the highest point to 760 meters. But fatigue soon leaves room for the beauty of the landscapes, the smiles of children we meet along the way, their requests for candy and chocolate. They expect us by the wayside, to reserve a handshake or a greeting which is worth much more than fatigue. Meanwhile after 16 km we have come to the point of refreshment number 3. We can finally freshen ourselves by drinking a little water, eating fruit, before continuing on to the last part that comes down to CAMP Olaf Rye. Right now, the fatigue that is felt begins a pitiful descent, made more challenging by 10 kg contained in the backpack and the very bumpy track.

But now you see the city of Mitrovica and we have again left the road. The last kilometers are endless, but nevertheless we find the strength and happiness for playing with the kids that we ask to photograph, and within a second they all are happy to be in front of the lens. Shortly after, we finally arrived in the Base. After spending several hours after the departure, for some three hours, for others some five hours, in groups or alone will fall from where we started. Tired, suffering, happy, a mixture of sensations, mostly depending on the number of blisters each one had - this is the DANCON March. Beside this, anyway the DANCON March remains a beautiful moment of aggregation, during which many new friendships are made even though there were many nationalities all pulled together. Finally a remark and many thanks have to be made to the organizers. As in previous times, this march was very well organized.



The culture is not a luxury

Demilitarization of the Mitrovica cultural center

*Text by OF 2 / Captain Aline Simon, MNTF-N Chief PAO
Photos by OR-4 Fabien Morel, French Army*

To dance, to listen to, to laugh, to learn, to be moved, to admire: the list of activities that one can take part in a cultural center is long and rejoicing....

Except when one must make his way through a barb wired path leading on to two soldiers. This was the paradox of the Mitrovica cultural center up until Monday November 10th 2008. On that day, the military obstacles situated before the center disappeared. They had been there for 9 years.

Considering that the free access to the culture for all is a return to better days, the MNTF-N decided to reorganize the entrance of the Mitrovica "Rexhep" cultural center. It was indeed more that striking, especially on party nights, to see the teen-agers of all horizons, carefully groomed for the occasion, to enter the "night club" while showing credentials to French KFOR's soldiers....

It is in presence of the general Michel Yakovleff, Multinational Task Force North commander, and the Mitrovica's mayor, Barjam Rexhepi, that the military obstacles were removed. No more barbed wires, gates as well as the booth that sheltered the French soldiers.

This removal does not, however, induce in KFOR soldier departure or any

reduction in security. A unit of the French battalion continues to hold the adjacent position, facing the so called famous "Austerlitz " bridge. It was simply time for inhabitants of Mitrovica to regain a more normal and serene lifestyle.

On this Monday (November 10th), inside the cultural center, a surprise awaited the soldiers of the MNTF-N: a group of traditional dancers, dressed in red, white and gold, were celebrating, on stage, life, love and happiness.

Time for culture,
time to live, time
to party.



Luxury, it is a necessity



MAN CANNOT LIVE BY BRE

*Text and photos by Lieutenant Colonel Volodymyr Kolesnyk,
Press-officer of Ukrainian Contingent in Kosovo*

On November 15th the Command and the CIMIC cell of the Polish-Ukrainian peacekeeping Battalion in Kosovo organized for the group of the schoolchildren from the Strpce/Shterpc municipality the excursion to the outstanding historical places of Kosovo.

That trip became a real holiday for the children from this municipality, located in the area of responsibility of joint Polish-Ukrainian battalion (POLUKRBAT) within MNTF "EAST", because during that tour they had the opportunity to visit two Christian shrines, two orthodox monasteries dated by XIII-XIV centuries, which are situated in Western part of Kosovo and are the monuments of the Byzantine Empire.

Having planned the event at out-of-studying time, Ukrainian peacekeepers came in the early morning into municipality and took the children. For that reason the Commander of Polish contingent provided them with a bus.

After several hours of traveling, during which the bus with the children, accompanied by the Military police car and some cars with Ukrainian soldiers, got

over the mountain pass at an altitude of approximately 2000 meters, the travelers came to Pec/Peja. There the schoolchildren visited orthodox female monastery, built in XIII century, which was in different times the residence of Kosovo archbishop. Due to the invitation of the nuns the young people together with Ukrainian peacekeepers got an opportunity to taste several dishes in the monastery's dining room and communicate with inhabitants of the monastery and tourists, their guests.

The next place, visited by our "tourists" at the time of this excursion, was one of the biggest men's monasteries on Balkans, located in Decani/Decan municipality. By the way, this monastery has been found in the year 1335 and is a unique monument included in the "UNESCO" international cultural heritage register. A lot of pilgrims and tourists from Kosovo and Metohia as well as from different countries all around the World very often visit both monasteries. It is worth to mention that "Metohia" is translated from the Greek language as "church lands".

In that evening, when the bus with fatigued (because of 400 kilometers surmounted), but full of impressions young people came back into Strpce/Shterpc municipality, they thanked Ukrainian and Polish KFOR soldiers for the provided to them



AD ALONE



possibility to have such an interesting excursion. And the Municipality's chief of education Marian Ljubic, in his turn, expressed to the KFOR servicemen the words of appreciation and gratitude for organizing this trip and stressed that it has a great importance from the spiritual, historical and educational points of view for the children and for the adult people as well.

Concluding this article, we should say: "Yes, it was a bit unusual CIMIC activity. No food or cloths were distributed during it". But maybe it would be worth to remind to everybody: "man cannot live by bread alone"!



Kosovo from Pre-Hist

Text by OF-2 John "Garick" Chamberlin, USAF

The history of Kosovo is long, complex, and, often, controversial. In this article I will attempt to be brief, simple, and even-handed. That means that it will be necessarily oversimplified, and that some reputable historians, and many popular stories, will disagree. Hopefully this will be enough to give you a basic background and pique your interest to study the history of the land in which we serve more fully.

Pre-History: The culture of the first inhabitants of the area now known as Kosovo is unknown. Similar ceramic goddess sculptures found in both the area of Pristina and the area of Skopje show that there was some cultural continuity in this early period, but whether these inhabitants were the ancestors of the people known as the Illyrians to the ancient Greeks and Romans is unknown.

The Roman Era: Rome conquered the main Illyrian Kingdom in 186 B.C., and spread its rule inland to include modern Kosovo in the province of Dardania. Romans founded several of the cities still extant in Kosovo, including Llipjan. Others appear to have already existed, including Pristina and Prizren. The Illyrian people appear to have Romanized in many areas. Even after the division of the Roman Empire, when most of the Eastern Empire spoke Greek, the Illyrians were known to still speak Latin as a first language, at least into the 6th century A.D.

The "Dark Ages:" By the 520s, Slavic migrations were pushing into the area, and various Serb and Bulgarian groups began to challenge Constantinople for control of the area. Here, things get controversial. While not proven fact, it seems that some Illyrians retained their Latin-based language and became the forerunners of the Vlach, a people who survived as a separate ethnic group into the modern era. Others, it seems, had retained their original Illyrian-based language during the Roman era, and became the forerunners of the Albanians. The facts of this are unprovable, but the most evidence is that the Albanian-speaking peoples did not move into the Balkans during the historic era, which makes the claim to Illyrian decent likely true. From the 520s until 1180, the area of Kosovo (as well as many others, including modern FYROM) frequently switched between Serbian, Bulgarian, and Byzantine Greek control.

Medieval Serbian Kosovo: In the 1180s, one of many minor independent Serb princes, Stefan Nemanja, took control of the largest Serb territory, Rascia, centered near modern Novi Pazar. He extended his territory to include parts of modern Albania, more of modern Serbia, and most of Kosovo and FYROM. Even though there

were other independent Serb leaders, for the first time, one could speak of a "Serbia," as the Nemanjid territory was by far the most powerful. The Nemanjid dynasty ruled until 1371. During this era, Kosovo was a mixed community. While it is impossible to prove, it seems that the majority of the population was Serb, with significant Albanian and Vlach minorities. It is interesting to note that name records show that men with Albanian names often had sons given Serbian names, and vice-versa. The Serb Orthodox Church was founded in 1219 as an autonomous Archbishopric within the Greek Church. The first seat was Zica, in modern Serbia, but it was moved to Pec in 1290 after a raid on Zica by nomads. In 1346, the church separated entirely from the Greek Church and Pec became the Patriarchate, which it remained until 1380, when the seat moved back to Zica. Many churches and monasteries were founded in Western Kosovo at this time, earning it the Serb name "Metohija," or "church land."

The Mythic Battle of Kosovo Polje: In 1389, various mostly-Serb forces under Prince Lazar and mostly Turk forces under Sultan Murat met on Kosovo Polje (north of the modern town, at what is now Obilic). This may be the most controversial statement in this article, but I state it confidently. This was **not** the epic defeat of the Serbs that led to years of Turkish subjugation. If such a single battle existed, it was the Battle of Marica (in modern Bulgaria) in 1371, which had killed the Serbian Emperor, brought the Nemanjid dynasty to an end, and fractured Serbian territory into competing principalities. Instead, Kosovo Polje was a battle that included Serbs, and likely Albanians, on both sides. Some of the Serb principalities were, by this point,



ory till the 17th century

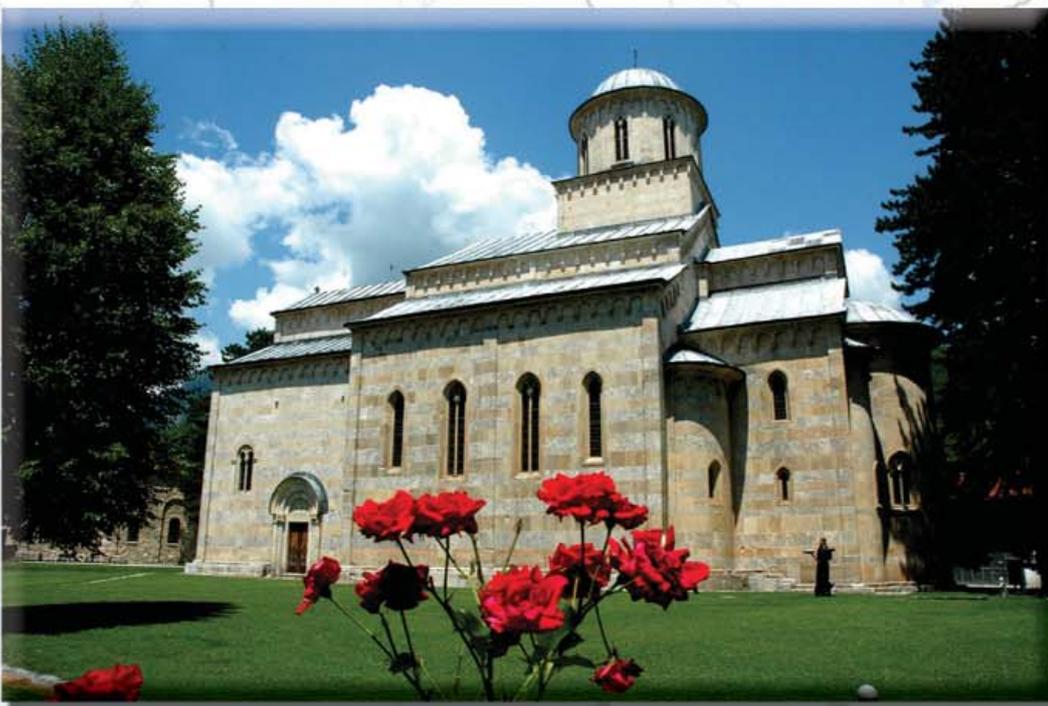
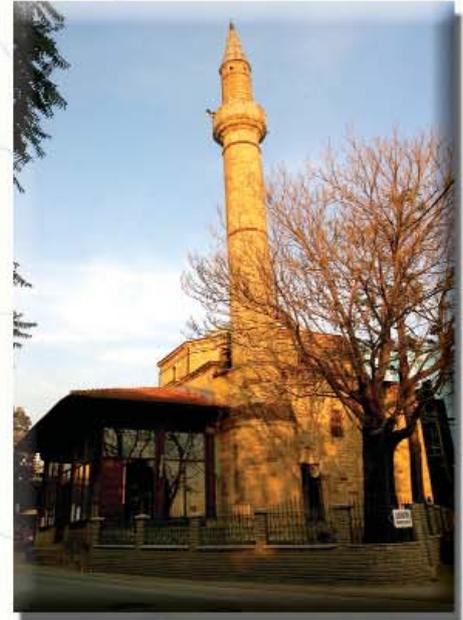
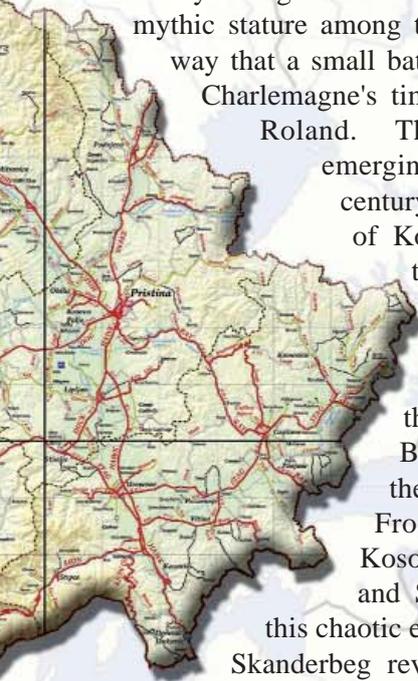
already Ottoman vassals. Additionally, the battle ended in a strategic draw. Both leaders were killed, and no territory changed hands. That said, the battle gained mythic stature among the Serbs, in much the same way that a small battle against Basque raiders in Charlemagne's time became the epic Song of Roland. This epic was re-tooled for emerging Nationalism in the 19th century, and the myths and symbols of Kosovo Pojle are powerful to this day.

Ottoman Kosovo:

While not immediately after the Battle of Kosovo Pojle, the area, and indeed all the Balkans, did eventually fall to the expanding Ottoman Empire. From 1392-1459, control of Kosovo varied between Turkish and Serb leaders. It was during this chaotic era that the Albanian folk-hero Skanderbeg revolted against Ottoman rule.

Though born in Western Kosovo, the center of his short-lived statelet was the fortress of Kruja in northern Albania. Islam came gradually to Kosovo, becoming the majority religion probably around 1600. At the same time, a gradual Albanization was occurring, though when Albanians became a majority in Kosovo is completely unknown (despite some unreasonable historical claims to the contrary). Many Serbs, and likely

also many Catholic Albanians, fled Kosovo after having supported the invading (and then retreating) Austrian army in 1689. This retreat is known by Serbs as the "Great Migration." The number who left Kosovo may not have been very large, but it included some of the area's most powerful people, so the balance in Kosovo tilted even more towards Muslim Albanians.



International 10 km race:

*Text by OF-2 Domenico Pasquarelli, MNTF-W, TFC4 -
CSC4 coy commander (Camp "Villaggio Italia")*

On November 15th 2008, the first "International 10 km race" took place in the Camp Clarke, the home base of Irish contingent in KFOR. It was a great day for soldiers from all KFOR MNTFs, including us, the military from CSC4 signal company of Italian Signal Battalion (Task Force C4) within MNTF (West), Pec/Peja.

When we arrived there, beyond the gate we immediately breathe deeply the typical happy Irish atmosphere.

In the tent on the main square of the camp every participant received an adhesive numbers to be put on. Three other field tents played the roles of dressing-room.

Not far from the gate we found a wonderful Irish pub, where we got coffee and tea; really one more thing was very, very, very wonderful: in the pub and all over the Camp, we found people from different nations within KFOR. Happy people, happy atmosphere: the right way for spending time together in sport and bodily health.

Good rock music by U2 and others rockers in the air to give more energy to runners: "Beautiful day", just to welcome

the runners, and "Pride in the name of love" with the voice of Bono over us made everyone think about peace all over the world.

The race was organized on a road that Irish soldiers usually use for their training: 5 km forward and 5 km back on the same road. A lot of high rank Irish officers from Film City were present at the event. Just at the finish line they met everyone coming with the words "...well done!".

Also many children from nearest villages were waiting for the runners along the route; watching soldiers having sport and fun, they clapped their hands when they pass along.

A very nice astonishment was waiting for us at the end of the race: Lt. Gary Collins from Irish army surprised us by speaking in right Italian, with a slight English accent. He explained that he has been a teacher of English in Italian Army Military Academy for two years. It was really nice for Italians to meet him.

The real final result of this race has been so far only one: we met all together in order just to show to Kosovo people how it's easy to stay together and pull Kosovo to run to reach peace between different ethnic groups living in the area.



a breathe of fresh Irish air

By R McCorley, Comdt, DCO, 39 Inf Gp

The 39 Infantry Group took over on the 13th Oct, so it was all hands on deck to promote our first major sporting event during our tour of duty. Over 400 runners had registered for the race by the morning of the 15th. Some contingent travelled in strength. Seventeen nationalities took part in the race with the biggest entries from Ireland (75), France (73), Spain (60) and Portugal (34). The other nations that took place were Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Austria, Finland, UK, Germany, Hungary, Slovenia, Sweden and the USA.

In preparation for the race a number of meetings were held with the local Kosovo Police (KP) ensuring that the route was closed to road traffic. It was an exciting race. Pte Paul Buckley held on to his lead to win in a time of 33:17 and Klaus Friedrich in second just 4 seconds behind. Cpl Peter Walsh was third in a time of 33:51. The first woman home was Maria Pinto of Portugal.

The presentation of prizes was made in Thomond Hall by the Officer Commanding of 39 Infantry Group, Lt. Col. Eamonn Caulfield. He thanked all the participants and in particular the KP for the assistance they gave in helping to make the race a great success. The race was used as a fund raiser for the unit CIMIC fund and raised over 700 Euro.



Results of International 10K Road Race

Male Senior

- 1st Paul Buckley, IRL, 33:17
- 2nd Klaus Friedrich, AUT, 33:21
- 3rd Peter Walsh, IRL 33:51

Male Over 40

- 1st Gabirel H. Cairos, ESP, 35:50
- 2nd Alfredo F. Perez, ESP, 37:39
- 3rd Thierry Fernout, FRA, 39:02

Male Over 45

- 1st José Bonilla, FRA, 36:48
- 2nd, John Blehein, IRL, 37:20
- 3rd, Jocelino Rodrigues, POR, 40:23

Male Over 50

- 1st Juha Vihavainen, FIN, 40:42
- 2nd Kevin Grogan, IRL, 41:55
- 3rd Martin Mora Mohammed, ESP 43:23

Female Senior

- 1st Maria Pinto, POR, 40:24
- 2nd Marisa Viera, POR, 42:50
- 3rd Maria Fonseca, POR, 43:11

Female Over 35

- 1st Aude Mezie, FRA, 43:46

Male Team

- 1st Ireland Team 1: Buckley, Walsh, Broderick, Holohan, Blehein, Doherty
- 2nd Portugal Team 1: Rodrigues, Azevedo, Silva, Branco, Fransisco, Romero

Female Team

- 1st Portugal Female: Fonseca, Neves, Pinto, Viera



MNTF East - K

Story by SGT Stafford, Public Affairs NCO, MNTF-E PAO

Menacing faces stare thru Plexiglas shields, batons at the ready. A solid line forms as they move forward, batons smacking the top of the shields in cadence. A bottle flies thru the air and slams into one of the shields. The line holds and they continue to press forward.

On this day, no significant injuries occurred and the unruly crowd was dispersed without any major incidents.

This was the scenario in late October when members of the Kosovo Police (KP) Regional Operations Support Unit (ROSU) faced off as participants in a Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) training exercise on Camp Bondsteel.

Helping create a safe and secure environment, Multi-National Task Force-East used this opportunity to train with the KP using the event as a stepping stone to evaluate the efficiency of local law enforcement authorities and their overall abilities in CRC.

Elements of Task Force Hellas, the POLUKRBAT Quick Reaction Force (QRF) and Task Forces Falcon, Saber and Thunder role-played opposing forces in the exercise, which involved a protest against a Kosovo Electric Corporation facility.

Reacting to protests and civil disturbances is a primary responsibility of the ROSU, a special KP response unit comprised of 40 KP officers based in all five Kosovo regions. The intention is to act as both a highly-mobile and highly-trained public order unit available within their own region, and as a reserve for other regions in the event of disorder, according to a United Nations Mission in Kosovo-Police press release.

For the ROSU, this marks the first time they have trained at CBS with Kosovo Force 10 personnel.

"The joint ROSU CRC exercise is something our predecessors in previous rotations have coordinated and executed. The event is aimed at training the KP CRC platoons [the ROSU] to be competent in CRC tasks. It also builds team-work relationships between the KP and KFOR," said Maj.

Christopher Blount, the deputy G-3 operations officer.

Certain aspects of the training were toned down to avoid injuries to all the participants

To keep the training as realistic as possible, shoving was permitted by the instigators, but grabbing the shields or throwing water bottles when the ROSU shields were not up was not permitted.

"The training is important because part of our mission and commander's intent is to set the stage for transition to civil authority. KFOR wants the KP to have primacy in any real CRC events. This keeps our Soldiers out of harm's way and reinforces to the people and institutions that Kosovars are responsible for their own governance," Blount said.

Even with the control measures, all participants found the training beneficial, Blount added.

"The event went very well. We have been coordinating and rehearsing this for months. You walk a fine line between realism and safety in these CRC events. This is compounded by the communication barriers we face. We had Greek, Polish, Kosovar, and American units in play. Getting everyone on the same page is a challenge," he said.

Blount added that Task Force Thunder and Hellas did a great job portraying the opposing force (a rioting crowd).

The new TF POLUKRBAT unit had recently completed training with TF Blackhorse and the MNTF-E operations section enabling them to act as the QRF, which carries over to their future rotation as the MNTF-E QRF element. The event had training value for KFOR as well as the ROSU, Blount said.

"But, the primary focus was putting the ROSU in a difficult and fluid CRC situation for their training. We accomplished this without any serious injuries and all participants had a good time and gained experience. So I feel the exercise was a success," he said.

Reality, like so many things in life, can take a turn for the worse in the blink of an eye, but all parties involved believe that when "push comes to shove" the ROSU unit will be able to handle any situation that comes their way.



KP ROSU CRC

sovo Police Regional Operations Support Unit





Anti Mine Fighting

Specialists of the Austrian-Swiss Battalion Clear Mines on Dulje Pass

By Capt. Michael Schmidt, MAZ&MORE

On Friday mine clearing specialists of Manoeuvre Battalion Dulje of MNTF S helped the people of Kosovo along their long way into a mine-free future: the multinational team searched for mines on Dulje Pass. Wartime relics still constitute permanent danger to people moving in the area.

Accompanying EOD specialists in the mountains

"The road crossing the Dulje Pass is in what used to be a combat zone and is teeming with mines and unexploded ordnance left behind by the adversaries of those days. They are still highly dangerous today and now as before constitute a major safety risk to everybody using this very busy traffic bottleneck", explains Major Jürgen P. commanding the Austrian EOD specialists.

Where is the danger?

Looking from the road, the mine warning signs are clearly visible along the edge of the woods. They warn of unexploded ordnance and anti-personnel mines. The EOD specialists have marked a wide area around the actual danger zone because there are no mine plans from the war. So who knows where there is danger lurking? Major P. outlines, "These days the woods around Dulje Pass are increasingly used by people collecting wood. One of them alerted the police because he had found a mine that was subsequently detonated by German experts. We are here to scan the surrounding area to open safe paths for the people."

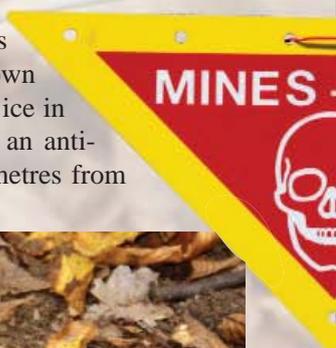
Fully concentrated search

"Searching for mines is extremely dangerous and calls for the specialists' undivided attention. As soon as there are signs of somebody slackening, he is replaced", says the officer in charge of the mission. The duration of the actual search depends on the weather, the temperature and the properties of the soil.

Mine detected!

There are bits of wire, fragments of a bar mine and other scrap metal piled up in a heap. "The mine was lying upside

down in a road bend ", explains the Major, pointing at one of the objects found. "Most likely it was washed down the slope by rain and melted snow and ice in the spring. Depending on the surface, an anti-personnel mine may 'wander' several metres from its original point of emplacement."



Just in case...

So what happens if during a search a mine is triggered and somebody is wounded? "We're prepared for that", says the officer as he hands over to Captain (Medical Corps) Dr. Bierbamer, "The EOD specialists will clear a safe lane to the wounded person so that he can be medically cared for the quickest possible way. While that is in progress, German medical experts are getting ready to receive the casualty at their state-of-the-art field hospital."

Emergency doctor always on the ground

"Mine-related injuries leave us little more than minutes to act, that is why we carry out continual proficiency training ", states Dr. Bierbamer whose team of emergency doctors from Switzerland and Austria is always an integral element of mine detection campaigns.



ng on Dulje Pass



Germany is a soccer nation

Text by OF-1 Melhem, S5 CO
DEU/AUT ORF BN II

Photos by OF-1 Bedouet Sylvain, PAO
MNTF North

As everybody knows Germany is a soccer nation. The pupils here in Kosovo are into soccer too. That is what the COM OF DEU/ AUT ORF BN and the mayor of Srbica/Skenderaj, Mr. Lushtaku, agreed during a dinner a couple of weeks ago. The idea of a soccer game was born. It took place in Srbica/Skenderaj, "Hamz Jashari Gymnasium" on the 14th of November at 12:00H.

Three teams tried to win the COM-ORF-trophy in Hamz Jashari School in Srbica/Skenderaj. Two Teams from Srbica/Skenderaj Schools, "Hamz Jashari" and "Shaban Jashari School" and one ORF-Team were supported by their own fans. They watched exciting, sometimes thrilling games, in the gym of Hamz Jashari School.

The rules for this small field with boards are simple. Each team consists of five players on the field and one goalkeeper. Each game lasts 30 minutes with a short interruption after 15 minutes. Excellent technique, safe ball control, short sprints and using the cushions in a clever way were the keys to win the games.

"It's not so easy to play on these small fields", said MasterSgt Osterland from the ORF-Team, "even for an active soccer player like I am." His team mates



were highly motivated and won the first game vs. Hamz Jashari team 9:7.

Due to very good preparation, all participants were happy with the tournament. Captain Brundisch Coy Cdr of 2nd Coy which is responsible in this Area, 1st Lieutenant Melhem S5 Officer and the two school directors organized the tournament.

Although the competition was fierce, the younger team of Shaban Jashari School took top honours. Team of Shaban Jashari beat Team of Hamz Jashari School easily in the championship 8:3. After completing the Shaban Jashari triumph in accordance with the game against the ORF-Team 9:4

During the matches medical support was ready to help (but wasn't needed). The trophies for the winning team and

the certificates were presented by LTC Peldszus COM ORF-Bn and Mr. Ylmeri the vice mayor of Srbica/Skenderaj.

Afterwards, it seemed like everyone was happy. "We had a lot of fun today", said Capt Brundisch, "even if we didn't win the trophy!"

LTC Peldszus stated: My goal with this project is to meet the children, after all, they are the future of Kosovo, and together we can make an effort to build a united Kosovo."



Name: Servais, Grégory

Rank: Sergeant

Nationality: Belgium

Home Unit: 2/4 ChCh - Recce Unit

Unit in KFOR: MNTF North BATFRA 3Cie - Det BELKOS 28

About the mission: It's my first mission. I am a team leader in an infantry section. My job is to have control over all the section material. But I have also to replace my section leader in case of his absence. My section is composed of 6 soldiers and two NCOs. Normally we are a reconnaissance unit, but here for the mission our platoons and sections are articulated like light infantry elements. It means also that due to my recce qualifications, it's easy for me to find information on the terrain. The big difference between my reconnaissance function and here in Kosovo is the autonomy in working.

Family reaction: I am single. My parents are very proud of me. I have done a lot of things in my young career. First I was soldier in a para commando unit. In Oct 2007 I started with NCO school. I am very happy in completing this period and my parents have always supported me. They will continue to feel this way after I return to Belgium.

Plans after the mission: I will try to do the para commando school for NCO. I will also try to follow a lot of specializations in this domain.



Name: Kim Galway

Rank: Wing Commander, Royal Air Force

Nationality: British

Home unit: Royal Air Force Halton, England

Unit in KFOR: MCA Division



About the mission: Having served overseas in media operations in the Gulf region I relished the opportunity to undertake a very different operational tour in the Balkans and specifically Kosovo. Working here at this historic time is very rewarding and one feels that you can make a real difference in providing a secure future for Kosovo. In MCA we have a small, talented international team who are committed to completing the tasks of establishing a Kosovo security force and dissolving the KPC with dignity. The hours are long, but the professional work ethic of my international colleagues makes it all worthwhile, knowing that we are making a difference for the future of Kosovo.

Family reaction: My husband also serves in the Royal Air Force and therefore understands that being part of an agile, adaptable and capable force means that operational experience is essential and an expected part of our careers. We obviously miss each other hugely and look forward to my return. My mother and father live in Ireland and support my career choice 100%, they miss me, but are very proud of what I am doing.

Plans after mission: I am delighted with my new appointment when I return to the UK in March 2009. I will be Officer Commanding Training Wing at Royal Air Force Halton which means that I will be responsible for all the recruits joining the Royal Air Force and the professional development training courses for non-commissioned personnel. It will be a huge honour to command the training of the future personnel of the Royal Air Force.

Name: Antoniutti Eric

Rank: Maréchal des Logis Chef in French Gendarmerie

Nationality: French

Home unit: Escadron Gendarmerie Mobile 31/2 Toulouse

Unit in KFOR: KFOR Multinational Specialized Unit (MSU)

About the mission: With 2 other French fellows we worked as info gathering team, collecting information in the center part of Kosovo. We contact the representatives of the various institutions in order to estimate their difficulties, their preoccupations and their hopes. Then, we report all these information to the different services of the MSU. We also participate in weapons and ammunitions search operations with the local police on the whole Kosovo's territory.

Family reaction: I have been a gendarme for 21 years. Almost every 2 years I go away alone or with my unit, overseas or in external operation theaters. 1994 - Lebanon (ensuring security of the French embassy in Beirut), 2006 - security officer in the embassy of France in Baghdad (Iraq). 2007 - the Ivory Coast, Abidjan (securing the French ambassador's residence). Since June 2008 - Kosovo. Except that - Guyanne, Corse, New Caledonia, Tahiti, Mayotte, and La Réunion. So, my family adapted to this life. My dear wife has always worked and it helps her to tolerate these separations. It has been more difficult for my two children but when I am home I spent all my free time with them. Now they are adults and independent, so they will live these separations.

Plans after mission: My return is scheduled for March 2009. First of all, I will have 2 months holidays, and then I will join back my squadron to participate in the various missions entrusted to us. I hope I'll have the opportunity to come again to Kosovo in the future.





Film City

Photo by CCT