

December 24, 2008

# KFOR Chronicle

KFO  
KATO - OTAIN

Edition 12



Merry Christmas and  
Happy New Year!

# COMKFOR's Christmas letter 2008



**Dear KFOR members, dear friends,**

In most of our home-countries, whatever your faith may be, Christmas time is always a time of hope and joy. Families are reunited and they can celebrate this very special moment together with their loved ones. Hence in this particular time being far away from your families during Christmas time and New Year's Eve I deeply appreciate the contribution of each and every KFOR member. I want to take the opportunity to thank everybody from KFOR for the quality of the daily job you achieve.

The time you dedicate to the people of Kosovo is invaluable; it is one of the greatest gifts that you can offer and it allows families to gather in security, peace and with hope. Therefore, remember that the whole KFOR is now a large family and we will spend these days sharing the same feelings that families share.

Take this traditionally time of sharing to meet and talk with all international and local personnel who work with you each duty day. This will strengthen even more our co-operation and comradeship in full accordance to our motto "UNITY OF EFFORT".

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

**Lt Gen Giuseppe E. Gay  
Commander Kosovo Force**

# KFOR Theatre Chaplain, Letter for Christmas 2008

My dear friends,

As your chaplain, in these days of celebration I could not make you miss my word of hope and friendship. Even if, you are not of my religion, please listen to me. In this Christmas I would like so much to invite you to find again and to dream the most beautiful and truest things, as when you were a child. Do you remember?

Allow me, to take in my hand the Gospel and to read together, with the eyes of the heart, the first page of the Prologue of St. John "In the beginning was the Word". In the beginning there is a mind, there is God.

Things were not born by chance, things are not senseless, but rather they have a deep meaning. The incarnation is not really the despoliation or the "kenosis" of God but the revelation of his presence in everything. At the origin of the being, there is a divine sense and all has been done in him and for him. Everything is soaked with the presence of God.

Christmas is the revelation to us of this presence, of this mystery.

Our life therefore, is soaked with the presence of God. As Saint Paul says: "Either we live or die, we belong to the Lord".

Jesus has come to tell me that I am called for high and beautiful realty, for great signs, for a life that having inside the seed of God, cannot die.

In a society not made to give hope but to steal it, to let us hear the inconsistency of our love, of our dreams; a society that has the tendency to take our soul, to leave us bitter and cynics with a long education of indifference; Christmas becomes an invitation to find again and to dream the most beautiful things, to take off every mask and veil, and to let transpire whatever is suffered and sacred in our heart.

To love each other, to be better at Christmas, it must have this sense: hold tight each other's hands fearless, to walk together for a new country.

We are called to live in the light and to testify to it in the history.

The danger of being the darkness that refuses the light is always present.

The light has to shine in the obscurity of the darkness to let men and women learn not to step on each others feet but to respect themselves and to love others like their siblings.

To celebrate Christmas means to believe that life is sacred, that inside every creature there is the seed of God, that life can not be profaned by the egoism and thrown in the "mud".

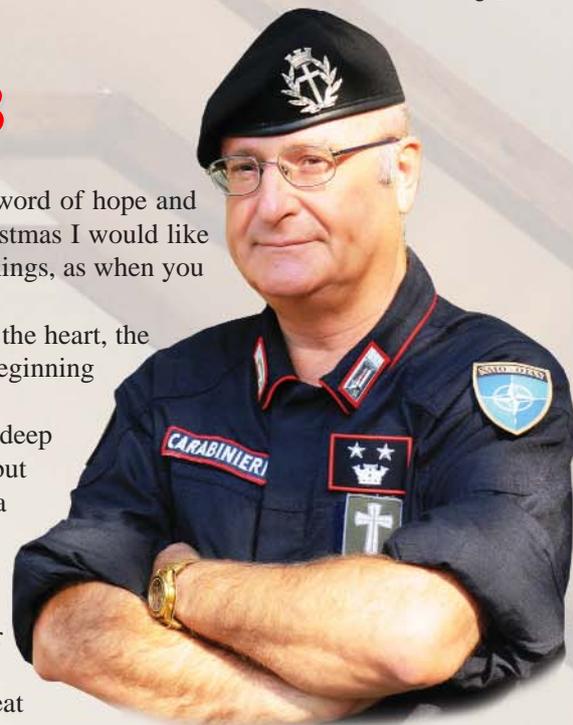
Everybody is summoned, over the proper belief, so that everybody is committed to defend life, to consecrate it and not to desecrate it.

So, let's make the small things great, let's be satisfied by small hope to turn on...the Hope!

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us". Best wishes!

MERRY CHRISTMAS.

**Father Gianluigi Aroffo**  
KFOR Chief Chaplain



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## Nations within KFOR:

### NATO Nations

Belgium  
Bulgaria  
Canada  
Czech Republic  
Denmark  
Estonia  
France  
Germany  
Greece  
Hungary  
Italy  
Latvia  
Lithuania  
Luxembourg  
Netherlands  
Norway  
Poland  
Portugal  
Romania  
Slovakia  
Slovenia  
Spain  
Turkey  
United Kingdom  
United States

### Non-NATO Nations

Armenia  
Austria  
Finland  
Ireland  
Morocco  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Ukraine

### KFOR Structure

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



# Unity o



December, 6, 2008. The Kosovo Force Commander Lieutenant General Giuseppe Emilio Gay participated in the military ceremony organized by the Commander of Spanish contingent in Camp Istok (MNTF West) and devoted to the Constitutional Day of Spain, as well as to the Day of artillery and infantry.

December, 6, 2008. The Commander of Kosovo Force along with other KFOR Commanding officers took part in the ceremony, devoted to the celebration of the 91 anniversary of the independence of Finland. The solemn ceremony had place in the Camp Ville, MNTF Center Headquarters.



December, 8, 2008. In KFOR Headquarters, Film-City Camp, the Kosovo Force Commander received His Excellency Mr. Ivan Gašparovic, the President of the Slovak Republic. After the talks Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay and Mr. Gašparovic layd a wreath to the monument in memory of Slovak civilian and military personnel who lost their lives at the end of their Kosovo tour while flying back home.

December, 8, 2008. Within KFOR Headquarters COMKFOR hosted the Greek Deputy Chief of Defense Vice Admiral Elefsiniotis Dimitrios.



December, 8, 2008. The Kosovo Force Commander presided over the ceremony of the Christmas tree lightening in KFOR Headquarters, Film City Camp

# f Effort



December, 9, 2008. COMKFOR had a meeting with Mr. Christian Schmid, German Parliamentary State Secretary.



December, 10, 2008. Lieutenant General Giuseppe Emilio Gay received Mrs. Janina Hrebickova, Czech Ambassador to Kosovo.

December, 11, 2008. In KFOR Headquarters COMKFOR met with Dr. Agnes Vadai, Senior State Secretary of Hungarian Ministry of Defense.



December, 17, 2008. Within KFOR HQ COMKFOR had a meeting with General Håkan Syrén, Supreme Commander of the Swedish Armed Forces

December, 18, 2008. COMKFOR hosted Mr. Nuno Severiano Teixeira, Portuguese Minister of National Defence.





# Photo Contest 2008

LWF  
ENGINEERS  
KFOR B

RADIO FM  
ALWAYS WITH YOU

ON PAPER

# The KFOR Chronicle team proudly presents the winner of the 2008 photography contest

Story by Major Christian Zankl, Austrian Army,  
 Ceremony photos by Armend Aqifi

The contest was launched in 2003 and is currently held every year. KFOR soldiers from all nations have the opportunity to show their photographic skills by presenting their favorite photos to a broad clientele. This year the Chronicle received more than 40 photographs from 16 competitors out of 8 nations. **A heartfelt thank you to all of you who sent their photos to KFOR-Chronicle**

The transported contents of the submitted photographs were extraordinary broad, so that the established priorities were the photographic art skills on one hand, on the other hand the main emphasis was to transmit a message. Within these two aspects the PAO jury, existing out of 16 members made their decision. Again, congratulations to all the winners of that contest!

Unfortunately not all participants can win a price. It was not easy for the jury to select among that many really attractive photographs. Several of them had been chosen by individual jury-members to be, their favorite one.

The prices were handed over by Colonel Graziani, Chief Public Affairs Office, who also led the price presentation ceremony.

**And the winner is ....** SSG Joey Plewak, US Army! So the first price goes across the ocean. A scene full of esteem and mutual respect, a wonderful message which was accordingly awarded by the PAO-jury.



**The second price** went to SSGT Patrick Reich, Austrian Army. Five soldiers utmost concentrated and obviously very well prepared responding on any hostile attack. A snap shot that unquestionably requires high sophisticated photographical skills.



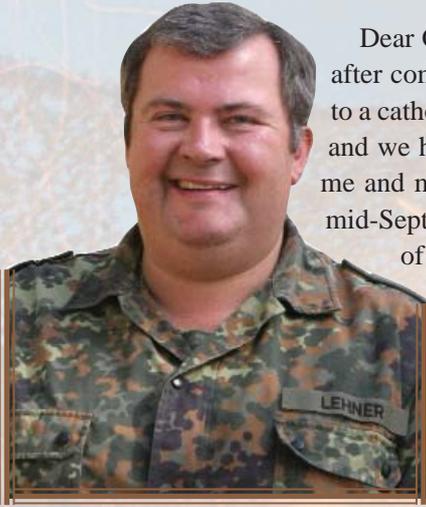
**A special price** for the best Kosovo landscape picture goes to Dominik Swiss Army, it shows a "black bird cloud" which is a familiar scene at Kosovo Polje.



Corporal-Chef Jean-Pierre Neil won the **third place**. The photograph shows a soldier who is stopping for a moment within an exhausting, challenging maneuver. The expression on his face gives us probably only a slight idea about the stresses and strains he experiences at this very moment.



# Letter of Christmas from Military Chaplain, Field Camp Prizren



Dear Comrades,  
after completion of 3rd grade in elementary school, at the end of summer holidays I transferred to a catholic boarding school to be prepared for secondary school. The nuns were strict on us boys and we had to learn a lot. Weekends were also filled with studying. Time became very long for me and my comrades. The first time we were allowed to return home was for Christmas. From mid-September to 23rd of December was a very long time for us boarding school pupils at the age of ten. And then the day of our homeward journey arrived. I still remember very well that 23rd of December. 250 Kilometres of train ride ahead of us. At that time, 40 years ago, the trains were still driven by steam engines. That winter day was bitterly and heavy snow fell since early morning. I had to change trains four times before I reached my home railroad station at six o'clock in the evening after almost seven hours on the tracks. One hour prior to arrival I looked out of the train windows and pressed my nose against the glass pane. Although unable to see a lot, under no circumstances I wanted to miss my railroad station of destination. From time to time I saw a few houses with lights set afire. At the last but one station I spotted a wonderful Christmas tree that illuminated the night. Suddenly I realized: Now Christmas is near! I did not think of presents under the Christmas tree, but rather of my parents and siblings. The steam engine puffed through the snow covered winter landscape and stopped screeching and whistling at my home railroad station. My father was waiting on the platform and extended a warm welcome to me. Suddenly home and Christmas were one and the same.

On Christmas after an arduous time God maybe arrives in our homes. In his son Jesus, born in the middle of the night outside near the drove, the "invisible God" shows himself. HE gets "under one's skin" and becomes ONE of us. THE LORD walks with us at eye level. HE is the "descended God", in front of whom we need not bend down low. HE dwells among us and becomes our brother. GOD no longer is the eternal ruler of a kingdom come, but is present, wherever man gathers in his name. Christmas is wherever humans are good to each other. That is where God becomes perceptible, there HE is reborn again and again, whenever we accept others the way they are. Wherever we come closest to GOD we feel like being home. Christmas evokes memories of our childhood. No other festival makes us remember home as often as Christmas does.

Dear comrades, certainly when celebrating Christmas you have a lot of pleasant memories of home. Remember your beloved ones in your prayers and allow God to become human by staying human yourselves! I wish you a bright Christmas time that shines into a bright New Year 2009!

**May God bless you!**

**Your Military Chaplain**

**Klaus-Peter Lehner from Field Camp PRIZREN, home garrison Mittenwald**



# Christmas in Kosovo



In these weeks a lot of things here are different from Germany: Not only the life in a field camp and the rhythm of work, not only the fact that family and friends are far away. Also the people in this country have different festivals - at least the majority of people. Here, in this predominantly Muslim country, Jesus is recognized as prophet, but he does not have the same central importance that he has for us as Christians. His birth is only celebrated by a small Christian minority.

Some few shop windows are decorated in a well-known fashion. Christmas as a commercial event seems to work globally - for those able to afford it! Beyond that Christmas as an event that concerns people, does not take place in a broad public.

Personally I appreciate the fainter, less excited approach towards Christmas Eve. However much I like to plunge into the atmosphere of a Christmas fair with all its enticements, scents and sounds, I find it agreeable not being distracted here from the actual meaning of Christmas.

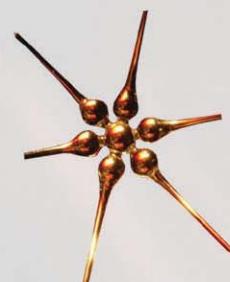
Sometimes soldiers ask me what the actual meaning of Christmas would be then. And I have difficulties to describe in a few words and explain a thing that took me a whole life so far to figure out.

For me the central message of the Holy Night is: "God becomes human!" This turned everything upside down that was valid until then. God becomes human, becomes nigh, becomes tangible - not on the sunny side of life, but in the midst of misery! Nothing that is human is alien to him. - And he becomes human not as fearless grown-up man, but arrives in this world without peace as defenceless, needy child, as a baby. God renounces all strength and safety and entirely submits himself to the mercy of man, his creation.

From the verses of a Christmas carol: "Weil Gott in tiefster Nacht erschienen, kann unsre Nacht nicht traurig sein" ("Because the Lord appeared in darkest night, our night cannot be sorrowful") God will not leave us alone in distress and with worries. I am deeply convinced of this benevolent, descended God, who could not tarry in heaven. Glory to the Lord and peace on earth!

**I wish you and your families at home a blessed Christmas time.**

**Anne Peters-Rahn, Protestant Military Chaplain, 21st German Contingent KFOR  
Fieldcamp Prizren**



# Engineer's Conference

*Text by OR-8 Juergen Hesberg, German Army*

*Photos by Capt. Ali Yildirin, Turkish Army*

Initiated by JFC NAPLES, on 3rd of December 2008 the CRO (Crisis Respond Organization) Conference started in KFOR HQ Film City.

Main purpose of this quarterly conference which usually is hosted by KFOR HQ JENGR CHIEF was providing an overview of all engineer projects related to NATO-Funding throughout the KFOR Area of Operations (AOR)

The agenda of the conference was as follows.

Wednesday 3rd December 2008 DCOS SPT General Ruiz De Oña opened the conference and welcomed all attendees, consisting of 15 high ranking staff officers from JFC Naples and Shape, the KFOR HQ JENGR Branch and others such as the representative of NHQ Skopje and the representative of NAMSA.

Col Taylor then invited for a presentation on the status of the revised OPlan approval and some other Infrastructure/Military Budget Committee related issues, held by Dr. Andreas Goldbach from Shape.

Thereafter followed an update of all NATO Security Investment Programme (NSIP) projects including discussions of current (2008) and future (2009) NSIP projects.

For the following day on 4th December 2008 was a construction site visit tour throughout the KFOR AOR scheduled.

The participants were traveled from Pristina to Camp Nothing Hill in order to get informed about the status of all projects within the camp.

Second stop was in Peja where the Peja-Bypass and later on



the Prizren-Bypass was inspected. At last the tour arrived in Suva Reka Camp Casablanca to get briefed about the Bridge Replacement Program.

Finally the conference ended in Camp Casablanca where the "Suisse Chalet" offered a typical Swiss dinner.

Last highlight was the handing over of "certificates of participation" to all participants of a multinational bridge training course which almost started two days previously under the lead of Maj Voglauer from KFOR HQ JENGR supported by the Swiss and Austrian engineers.

So it was one of the first official tasks of the new JENGR CHIEF Col Dr. Matthias Geitz (German AF) to handover these "certificates of participation" and his final remarks were a sincere acknowledgement of the dedication of every participant and for which they deserve the greatest respect.





## KFOR-Engineers ensure Freedom of Movement

*Text by Major Walter Voglauer  
Austrian Army*

The 16th Bridge Operating Course began on 30th November in the Austrian Camp Casablanca near Suva Reka where the KFOR-bridge Park is located. According a Memorandum of Understanding since 2003 all KFOR Mabey & Johnson bridge equipment is managed by Swiss engineers.

On Monday 1st December 28 engineers with 11 different nationalities coming from 3 different continents started the 16th Bridge Operating Course with the aim to be battle ready for erecting Mabey & Johnson bridge on order any time.

Mostly KFOR-bridges are needed to facilitate the military and civilian traffic flow while the main bridges were closed for reconstruction.

To ensure freedom of movement along KFOR main supply routes (MSRs) engineers of all MNTFs has to be prepared to start bridging operations also in case of unforeseen able scenarios like natural disasters or terrorist activities which could lead to major disconnections to KFOR-traffic.



The 85t bridge was put together partly by manpower assisted by a crane, a forklift, and an excavator.

Bays were constructed in mass quantities to expedite the overall construction.

Two days of heavy rainfall could only hinder the air lift including an air recce which was planed to be carried out by helicopters. The engineers on the ground under the leadership



of the Colombian bridge trainer Diego fulfilled the goals of 16th Bridge Operating Course without any interruptions.

Finally the inspection of the installed military bridge near Mitrovica could take place as well as the included air recce to the most important bridge sites southern of Kacanik.

After a special Swiss dinner in the presence of NATO representatives of SHAPE and JFCN the Course certificates were jointly over handed by the Austrian Brigadier General Waldner and the JENGR CHIEF of KFOR HQ German Colonel Dr. Geitz.

On Saturday the last parts of the 85t M&J Bridge were dismantled and stored without any injuries.

KFOR engineers, the M&J contractor and the Swiss bridge park personal were an integral part of the project.

16th Bridge Operating Course was a joint effort and a true representation of the KFOR-engineers ability to ensure freedom of movement when ever needed.

# Together strong!

By Melhem, Younes  
*Oberleutnant und S5Offz*

The "Operational Reserve Force Battalion" (ORF-Bn) is special. Originally supposed to be a reinforcing unit for both Balkan missions, the ORF Bn has at his disposal a medic platoon, a MP-Plt, and an engineer platoon. All in all the ORF Bn consists of close to 600 German and Austrian soldiers. Among patrols, checkpoints and Observation Posts the ORF Bn is conducting CIMIC-projects too. Despite of the short time of 4 weeks ORF Battalion II/2008 Commander Lieutenant Colonel Peldszus decided to conduct CIMIC work.

But how should this be done? One of ORF-Bn peculiarities is to be deployed to different areas of responsibilities (AOR) in a short time. One of these AORs was the MANBOX of Manoeuvre Battalion Prizren. After a short meeting, the two Battalions agreed about a suitable project in a small village called Kushnin which is situated in the north western area of Prizren. The MANBn Prizren would finance the project and ORF-Bn would do the work with the engineer platoon. Our ORF-engineers were easily willing to conduct this project after a short recce at the school of Kushnin. The plan came up rapidly. A school yard, playground and a soccer field should be built up. In accordance with the bad road conditions in the school area, the engineers started to improve and reconstruct the



road at about 500m length. All in all the engineers from the Engineer Demonstration Company 90 in Munster, Germany, worked two weeks from 7am to 7pm although it was snowing and raining, in order to create a better infrastructure and school conditions for the pupils.

A good example for a close cooperation between different Bn's but the same goal in Kosovo. Lieutenant Colonel Peldszus at the final day of the ORF's deployment stated: "My goal with this project was to meet the children, and that we achieved. After all, they are the future of Kosovo, and together we can make an effort to build a united Kosovo."



# ROMANIAN MARINES

*Text by 1st Lt. Visan Claudiu, Romanian Army*

Today, as NATO and the European Union's member, Romania actively participates in different peacekeeping operations, helping to restore peace and stability in the different "hot spots" of the modern World. The Romanian soldiers are presented nowadays in Kosovo, Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia and many other different places, to guarantee the safety and freedom of the people, living there.

December, 1st, is the Romanian National Day, a day, devoted for remembering those, who have given their lives for the freedom of the entire Romanian territory. On this day we celebrate the unification of all the Romanian territories and population under one flag. After the years of fighting, the national gathering in the historical Transylvanian city Alba Iulia decided that Romania might become an independent and free country.

On this special day we have to give tribute to all this servicemen, to mention their names in order for their sacrifices to be kept alive forever in our minds.

As well as in every army, one of the most combat-ready militaries of the Romanian army is the Marines. Their values like traditions, courage, tactical and technical proficiency and leadership, displayed at all levels, and special trainings in difficult environments, make the marine's corps hard



# IN KOSOVO

to enter, but also one that you don't want to get out of. That's why they say: "Once a marine, always a marine". Their capacity to move quickly for long distances in a very short time, with equipment always ready, prepared to act wherever they have been sent by water, ground or air, makes the marines one of the most respected militaries in Romania.

Perhaps, the best appreciation for the value of the marine core was made by General Frank E. Lowe, who said: "the safest place in Korea was just behind the marines' squad". Since February 2008, one detachment from the 307th Marine Battalion has been deployed in Kosovo within the Multinational Task Force West, in Camp Villaggio Italia, under the command of the Task Force Aquila Commander. The Romanian Force National Detachment XVII is composed of 86 marines under the command of Major Remus Melinte.

The marines are the keepers of a long tradition in the Romanian Army, started in 1917 when the first Marines fought in World War I. After a long and tumultuous period, in 1971 the first Romanian Marines Battalion was created, one of the most representative units of the Romanian Armed Forces.

Like the other forces deployed here, in Kosovo, the Romanian marines are bringing their contribution to the general KFOR effort of creating a safe and peaceful climate in the area of responsibility (AoR). The preparedness to act in difficult conditions, experience and very good cooperation with militaries from other nations and with the local people are the coordinates between which the marines are acting.

In the patrols, on check points and observation posts, during the medical assistance we are providing for the local population the possibility to live a better life in a safe environment, being an example of discretion and humanity, performing our duties in any conditions and on any kind of terrain. In any occasion we have in Kosovo, we prove that we are reliable people, who can act courteously in the



military service as well as in our spare time.

The Marine's logo defines us better than one thousand words: "SEMPER PRAESENS" - "ALWAYS READY"

On December 1st the Romanian national anthem gave the signal for the beginning of a new day in Camp Villaggio Italia. Romanian marines together with their friends from the Romanian Gendarmerie organized a solemn ceremony having presented the National flag of Romania. During the ceremony Romanian Detachment Commander, Major Remus Melinte, Brigadier General Neculai Bontic from the Romanian Gendarmerie and Brigadier General Giovanni Armentani, the MNTF West Commander, pronounced warm words, describing the significance of this day. A short moment of silence was kept as a sign of memory and respect for those who have given their lives for freedom of their country. The ceremony ended with colorful military parade. Afterwards a special dinner party with Romanian cooking specialties and Romanian traditional music was organized. During the dinner all the participants were able to see on the screen different movies, presenting our country.



Happy New



# New Year



# Lucia Celeb



*Text and photos by Lt. Maria Pålsson, SWECON PIO*

For Swedish KFOR-troops traditions were held high as Lucia celebrations took place at Camp Victoria on the 13th of December. The mess was packed with SWECON soldiers and guest from neighboring camps. This years' celebration included the unique participation of Italian troops from Sicily - the home of St. Lucia who came from Syracuse and was martyred in the year 304. To all Swedes Lucia is an ancient mythical figure that brings light in the dark Swedish winter.

Together with Midsummer festivities the Lucia celebration is one of the most well known and popular traditions in Sweden. It is celebrated in every school, church, hospital and shopping centre in Sweden on the 13th of December, says Jerker Schmidt the SWECON Chaplain who organized the Lucia celebration at Camp Victoria.

To have the opportunity to celebrate with our Italian colleagues and guests from the 3rd infantry company of the tactical reserve west was special. The fact that this company comes from the 62nd infantry regiment in Sicily made it unique. We are grateful that some of the Italian soldiers participated



# ration at Camp Victoria



and sang with us. It is important to join together within KFOR and focus on the message of hope and light, he adds.

It was an interesting celebration but also very different from ours. It was a pleasure for me to participate. I could feel that this is an important holiday for the Swedes, says Lt. and platoon leader Antonella Merlo of the 3rd infantry company of the tactical reserve west.

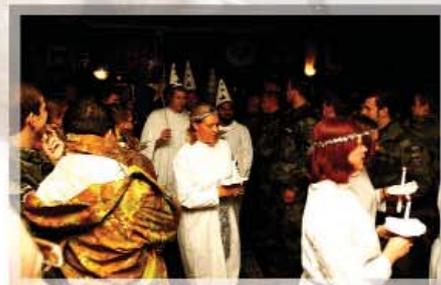
The audience grows quiet with anticipation before the Lucia-procession enters the dimly lit room and starts to sing. Almost all Swedish boys and girls have participated in Lucia celebrations in day-care centers and schools ever since they were little.

The white-clad Lucia treads first with a wreath with candles on her head. She is followed by her handmaidens, also dressed in white and each carrying a candle. The boys carry stars and have tall paper hats. Bringing up the end are the Santas dressed in red and carrying lanterns, explains the Lucia of Camp Victoria, Private Linda Karlsson.

Preparations had been going on for the past few weeks at the Swedish camp. Many of the songs share the same themes of darkness and light, cold and warmth and some of them also give a glimpse of the coming holiday season. After the celebration troops stayed around and socialized as the SWECON Logistic Platoon leader and Camp QM Capt Sonny Quick served up traditional Lucia saffron buns, gingerbread cookies and steaming glögg - a hot drink similar to mulled wine or Glühwein.

I find that traditions become more important when you are away from home. Somehow you put more effort into celebrations when you are here in Kosovo, says Capt Sonny Quick.

The Swedish Lucia-celebration has a clear reference back to life in the old peasant communities. But it is truly a blend of traditions. It can be traced back to St. Lucia of Syracuse, a martyr who died in 304. The modern Lucia-celebration became popular in the 20th century. Read more about this Swedish tradition on [www.sweden.se](http://www.sweden.se).



# KFOR Impact on

By Lt. Col. Carlos Carrascosa Casado De Amezua,  
*J8 Deputy Chief*  
 Supervised by Mr. Konstantinos Spyarakis,  
*J8 Chief/Theatre Financial Controller*

United States and the European Community and the revenues of the Kosovo people living abroad. The last year the total amount of revenues was 583 million Euros.

## General Information

Kosovo has a population (2007) of 2,307,692,308 habitants.

Nowadays is one of the poorest regions in Europe. Its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2007 was around 2,307 million Euros; its GDP (Euro per capita) in the same year was around 1,000.

The unemployment ratio in 2007 was approximately 45% and in accordance with the Kosovo Institutions there were at the end of the year 333,000 registered job seekers. Roughly 60% of the officially unemployment are unskilled. Young people and ethnic minorities are also more affected than other groups.

However, the informal economy remains sizable and assumingly employs many of the officially unemployment. In 2006 the value of imports of all goods and partners was 1,315 million Euros and in the same year the value of exports was only 82 million Euros, that means a -1,233 million Euros Trade Balance.

This deficit it's cover by the donations, especially from the

## KFOR Impact

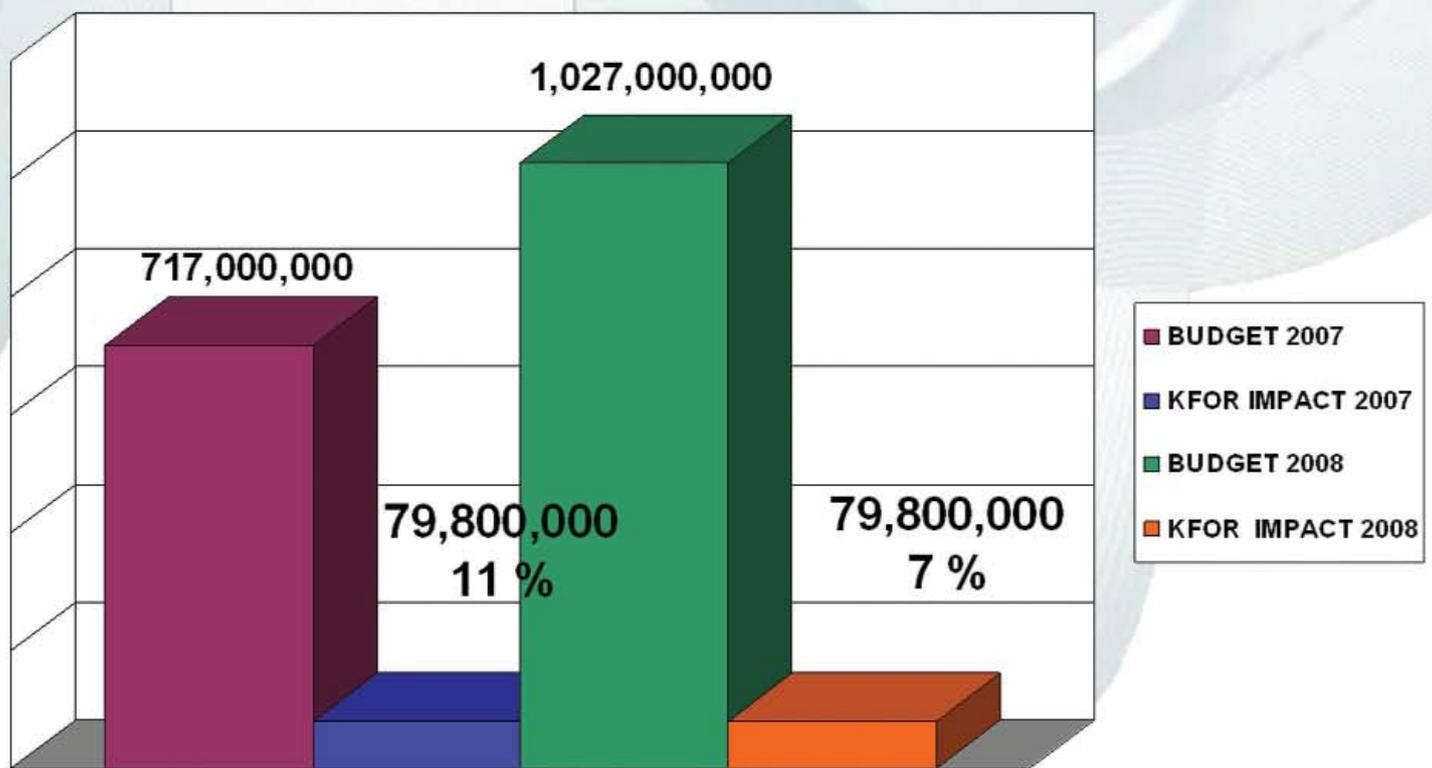
For the KFOR impact we have taken into account five main points:

The total amount of the salary of the Local Civilian Hired Employees in one year. We have in all Kosovo 4,852 employees and their average salary is 559.54. The final total amount calculated for this input is 32,371,280.

The total amount of the salary of NATO International Civilians (NIC) and International Civilian Consultants (ICC) that we consider, after different studies and enquiries, they spend in Kosovo in one year. The final amount is 1,116,000.

The third point is the total amount of payments KFOR has done inside Kosovo, for Kosovo companies and banks, from KFOR budget. The amount is 14,000,000.

Based in different enquiries and calculations we have made the assumption that KFOR soldiers spend an average quantity per day of 5 Euros in all areas except the Pristina area in which we consider they spend 10 Euros/day. The final quantity per year for the whole military personnel is 30,155,400

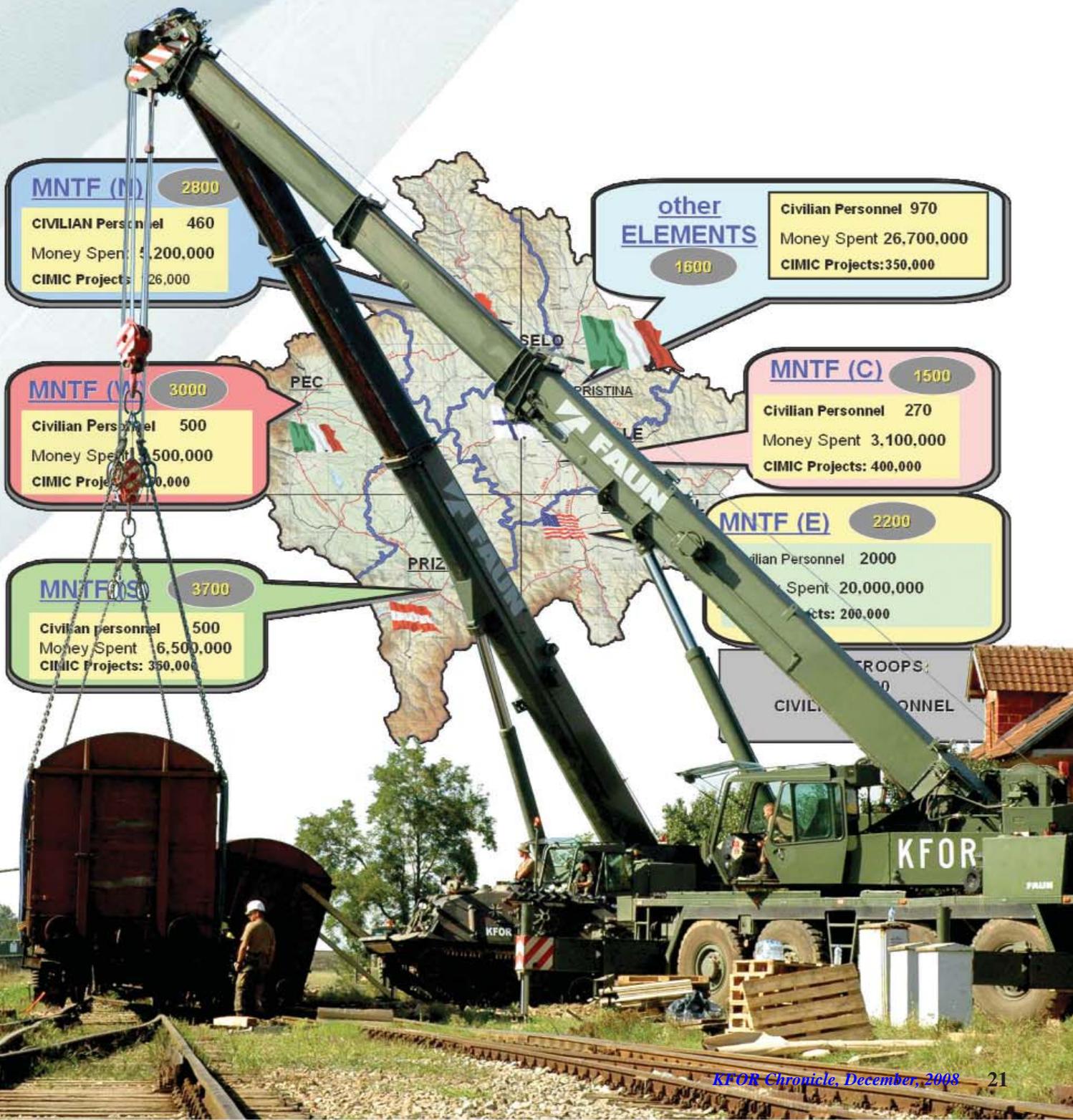


# Kosovo Economy

Finally we received an amount from J9 for the CIMIC projects done in Kosovo, 2,196,000. The total amount of the previous five points is 79,838,681. If we compare this figure with the Kosovo budget (money spent) in 2007 and with the 2008 Kosovo budget we obtain the possible KFOR economical impact on Kosovo economy. This was in 2007, in comparison with the budget, 11.14% and in 2008 we consider it will be around 7.77% of the budget.

## Sources

- KFOR Internal Sources
- United Nations, UNMIK
- European Commission
- Kosovo Institutions
- Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE)



# Multinational Exercise w

*Text and photos by Capt. Pierre Kugelweis,  
MAN BN DULJE - S5*

The mutual familiarization with respective skills in crowd and riot control (Ordnungseinsatz) within Multinational Task Force South, involving several Battalions ended on Saturday, 6th December. Three nations (Austria, Germany and Turkey) demonstrated by means of a presented vulnerable object their techniques in dealing with violent crowds. The local police played an important part in the exchange of experiences.

## **KFOR stands for security**

Commander of the Austrian-Swiss Maneuver Battalion Dulje, Lieutenant Colonel Manfred Hofer explains the background: "The task in my area of responsibility is to ensure a safe environment in everyday life for the population. At present this is maintained successively due to the close contact with the population. However, should differences of opinion within the population of Kosovo become violent, KFOR has to remain a guarantor of stability, also in a difficult security situation. In such



# With Kosovar Participation

situation an active protection of minorities is conceivable. To ensure this my military personnel has to master the so-called Ordnungseinsatz."

## The peacekeeping force prevents violence

Hofer explains further: "The German term Ordnungseinsatz is internationally also known as Crowd and Riot Control (CRC)" In my opinion this explains our task very well. We step in the way of aggressive people to prevent them from exerting further provocation. In case of clashes this could be as well as several hundred protesters at once. In the past KFOR mostly was not directly targeted, but the military personnel often was indirectly endangered. Therefore we wear the necessary protective gear, protecting military personnel against hail of stones and frangible grenades."

## Multinational strength

Brigadier General Thomas Starlinger, Commander of Multinational Task Force South, explains the multinational exercise: "Combined action of all nations in Kosovo is very important. Therefore we regularly exercise together to familiarize with the different procedures and to adjust them mutually. On top of that we fully integrate the local executive, the Kosovo Police into the training. This integration is especially important, because in case of action, the Kosovo Police will "stand as first line." Furthermore this serves the purpose of strengthening the awareness that 'security is at their own responsibility."



# A wonderful musical Christmas

the



*Text and photos by Capt. Pierre Kugelweis,  
MAN BN DULJE - S5*

On Thursday the three-days visit of singer Sandra Pires, well-known beyond the Austrian borders reached its climax: a show together with her pianist, Erwin Kiennast in Camp Casablanca in front of Austrian, Swiss, German and Turkish soldiers.

### **Entertainment to replenish energy**

The Commander of Maneuver Battalion Dulje, Lieutenant Colonel Manfred Hofer explains: "The service of my soldiers here in Kosovo is often characterized by manifold challenges. I think of Long Range Patrols in alpine terrain that last for several days with hardly any time to relax. When the soldiers return to Camp Casablanca we offer them a wide range of morale and welfare related recreational activities. These range from sporting competitions and culturally broadening excursions to various entertainment programs of all KFOR contingents in Kosovo. To me it is very important to be able to spend some time to refresh between the demanding missions. Especially during Christmas time, far from home, this is particularly important." An excellent highlight within the frame of morale and welfare was of course the visit of singer Sandra Pires together with Erwin Kiennast.



# s greeting for KFOR personnel: e concert of singer Sandra Pires

## Three days with Austrian soldiers

Before Sandra Pires and Erwin Kiennast enchanted their audience in the evening, they could see for themselves the manifold tasks of Austrian KFOR soldiers on-site. They got the chance to gain a deep insight into the challenges of the KFOR mission, whether it is the protection of minorities and cultural possessions or current relief projects of civil-military cooperation in the school of Suva Reka.

## The concert

Highlight of this visit was of course the concert of Sandra Pires and her pianist Erwin Kiennast. Both artists inspired their audience of peacekeepers with an eventful musical Christmas program of exceptional brilliance.



# ST. BARBARA'S

*Text by Lt. Col.  
Fernando Royo and  
Maj. Javier Cabello  
Photos by Combat Camera Team*



On Thursday, 4 December, the celebration of St. Barbara's day took place in Film City Camp. Gunners of different nations, ranks and NATO camps across KFOR met together to honour our Patron saint. Every Artillery soldier stationed in the KFOR HQ, in Film City, gathered to celebrate the St. Barbara Day. The ceremony

started with a mass in the camp's chapel, which was followed by an Albanian chorus. In addition to the festive atmosphere, Gen. Di Luzio gave an inspiring and emotional speech. The celebration wrapped-up in Casa Italia, where an all-gunners dinner had been organized. St. Barbara, also known in the Eastern Orthodox Church as the Great Martyr Barbara, was a Christian Saint and martyr.

Her association with the lightning that killed her father has caused her to be invoked against lightning and fire, by association with explosions, and due to that fact she is the patron saint of artillery and mining in many nations.

So let me provide you with a brief historical



# DAY

overview about the Saint Barbara myths. Barbara was born about 200 A.D. in Nicomedia (today: Ismid) which was not only the location of the imperial but also the capitol of Bithynia. She was the daughter of a nobleman, Dioskuros, the head of a rich family. Her parents idolized Barbara because of her intelligence, beauty and modesty. Her sensitive mind made her susceptible to the Christianity.

Her father, being an adversary of Christianity tried with all available means to alter his daughter's views. She rejected all his gifts and finally her father resorted to imprison her in the tower of the castle.

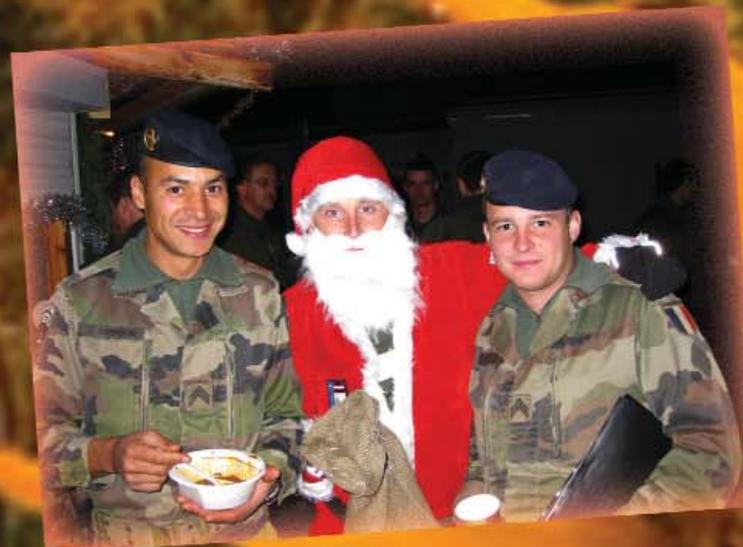
Barbara was cruelly tortured by her father, but she did not give up her faith. Every morning when the guard came and dragged her to the torture chamber, her wounds were healed.

The glowing torches, with which she was to be burned, went out as soon as they approached her. Nothing could make Barbara change her beliefs and finally she was sentenced to death.

Today gunners, engineers and many other branches are under the protection of Saint Barbara. Saint Barbara is not only asked to give protection from the storm but also to accomplish and support the distinct missions which are held in order to protect people and the environment from the destructive power of fire.



# Austrian-Swiss Advent Vi



# Village at Camp Casablanca

*Text and photos by Capt. Pierre Kugelweis,  
MAN BN DULJE - S5*

The soldiers of the Maneuver Battalion Dulje give each Sunday during the season of Advent a special touch. Every KFOR-soldier can enjoy a typical Austrian-Swiss Advent village. Santa Claus, as mayor of the small international settlement will welcome every of the many guests with a little gift in form of a sweet surprise. On Sunday evenings, the Austrian and Swiss inhabitants open up their small stall, so that the visitors can enjoy customary dishes. The Swiss "Kaffee-Lutz" will warm even the coldest hands and the Austrian chestnuts, roasted on open fire will warm up the body. Santa Claus takes care of the Christmas music in the tranquil village, announcing the contemplative holiday season.



# Orthodox Letter for Christmas 2008



Every year on January 7 Holy Orthodox Church in all its fullness celebrates the nativity of our Savior our Lord Jesus Christ. This celebration every time gives us assurance in the truth of this event in the accomplishment of our salvation. For all the people that event took place once in the history at the dawn of our era in Bethlehem Judaic; for everyone separately the Christ is being born individually, personally, every time installing Himself in the cramped and comfortless cavern of the sinful human life, adapting it to the possibility of the perception of the Divine existence through humility, resignation, submission and penitence. The mystery of God's incarnation is incomprehensible nor for the human, neither for the angelic mind - this is Sacrament, which the God-Creator shared with His creation, desiring no death for sinful human nature, but giving to it the opportunity to take in all the fullness of divine holiness. We say: "The Christ is being born!" With that we do not only declare our familiarity with this historical event, but express living joy on the occasion of the birth of the Holy Child in our souls. Just as the Most Holy Virgin Maria wandered about Bethlehem, searching for the shelter and having been rejected by the people who were not ready for being the witness of the great God's mystery, has been forced to find an asylum in the dark ordinary cave, also we, because of the infirmity of our human nature and reasoning, are perplexed, why our internal world, which seems to us, according to human standards,

excellent and perfect, is not able to do much good with God's grace. It is no coincidence that the first witness of the appearance of the Savior to the world were the simple-hearted shepherds and only afterwards the Magi came to greet the Christ - it is the example how the purity of the heart and simple-heartedness in the sincere impulse bring to the God quicker than sometimes leading nowhere, vacillating, doubting almost everywhere human scientific knowledge.

Nowadays very little change happens in the World after the God's incarnation mystery occurred. The same sin, striving for subduing human souls and flesh; the same faction within mankind: wars, murders, urge towards the power by any price, - and all this at the background of the greatest exploits, by which even the newest history has been marked: the readiness for self-sacrifice, prayerful deeds of the God's votaries, without any difference between ranks and social status, the exploit of internal cordial pray and inspiration of public sacrificial service - as in subordinate to Roma Judea, we are always waiting with hope the deliverance from that, what every, even fallen soul positions as the evil and deviation from the truth.

We are preparing for Christmas, going through the quadragesimal Advent, striving to defeat our negative propensity in this period, becoming simpler, more confident and worthier, in order that on Christmas night we are the godfathers of the god's mystery, to prepare the crèche where the born Savior will sleep. This day we greet everybody, without any exception and discrimination between confessional, national and political belonging, because the God came to everybody, "calling to the reason of the truth", ready to share His kingdom, because He is a new Adam, who came to redress the sin of forefathers, expiate it and to bring in plenty the fullness of absolute joy to the human being. We are sending our greetings to all those, who celebrate Christmas according to the Gregorian calendar - our Orthodox and Western brothers in faith, and anticipating by our message of greetings all those who are preparing for meeting with Holy Child Christ together with us in the common strive to the concord, harmony, conciliation of the restless souls, in order to "by common lips and common heart" be worthy in front of the God of singing the Angel's song: "Glory to God in the highest, peace on earth and good will towards men!"

The light of the Bethlehem Star enlightens the heart of every one of us and grant us the deserved life "in every piety and purity" for many years! Amen!

**Igor Osadovsky**  
**Ukrainian Contingent Chaplain**

**Name:** Tumolo Giuseppina

**Rank:** OR-2

**Nationality:** Italian



**Home Unit:** RE.CO.SU.TAT. "Granatieri di Sardegna" - Compagnia Trasmissioni (ROMA)

**Unit in KFOR:** TFC4 - CSC4 signal coy

**About the mission:** This is my first mission, my first time in Kosovo, since I have been recruited in the Army. In Italy I work in personal government, taking all of interest about Coy management. Here, I found very interesting to work for a country growing up. I have possibility to give my contribution to military Kosovo Force. I'm also very happy when I have possibility to do humanitarian assistance. Frequently we go to Klina, to an orphanage giving humanitarian aid, and I can smile to many children needing help.

**Family reaction:** My family, my parents and my friends initially were enthusiastic when I told them (5 months before) that I'll go working for KFOR mission. At the same time they were afraid about my safety. They are close to me every day, and they are my moral support in trouble time especially because they know my passion for this job.

**Plans after mission:** After mission (maybe it'll be in May), I hope to dedicate my time to family, parents and friends. The most important target will be to realize programs made before mission, or rather to end study in law and to be able to pass state competitive examination to reach standing job in the army.



**Name:** Dejan Rashkov

**Rank:** Major

**Nationality:** Bulgarian



**Home unit:** Unit 22060 in Veliko Tarnovo, depot base

**Unit in KFOR:** Bulgarian NCC

**About the mission:** This is my third mission abroad. I was in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2004, deployed to Kosovo in 2006, and am back here since June 2008. Here in the NCC we work for the entire contingent. It is a small staff that is in charge of all the administrative tasks and the command controlling. There are also officers stationed in HQ Pristina. Located in Urosevac is a small training team that trains the KSF.

I started learning English five years ago. I decided to go abroad because in my opinion this is the best way to improve my English, to gain more experience and to develop personally as well. I work twelve hours a day in the office or outside at the base. I very much enjoy going to the sauna, if I can find the time. I also like watching DVDs in English, which is a pleasant way to improve my language skills.

**Family reaction:** I am married and have a 14-year-old daughter. She studies at a private American college and I am very proud of her. Since we can communicate via internet on a daily basis, the separation is not too hard for my family. My wife works as an economist and additionally runs the guesthouse that we own.

**Plans after the mission:** Since I will return back home on 22nd December, I can celebrate Christmas with my family. I will take one week off and we will spend our holidays skiing in the mountains.

**Name:** Andreas Joachimsky

**Rank:** OR-5

**Nationality:** German



**Home unit:** WBK IV Munich

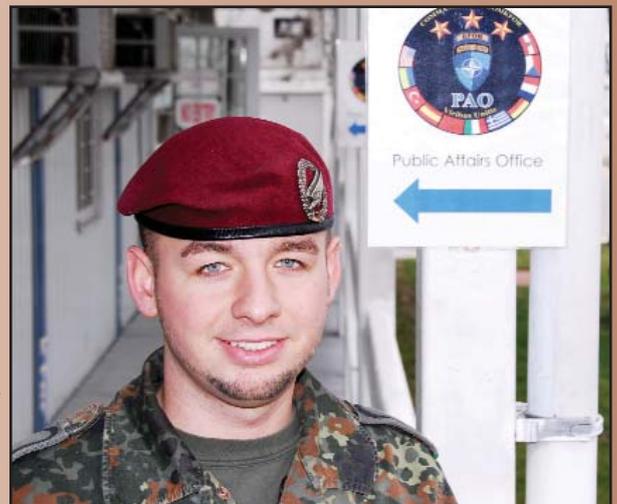
**Unit in KFOR:** Public Affairs Office (PAO)

**About the mission:** This is my first mission abroad and my first experience in a multinational environment. It's a great experience to share an office with 12 different nations which allows me to learn about different cultures and different work ethics. These nations also include Serbian and Albania which gives me the great opportunity to learn about their culture since I am in their "home."

This multinational environment is also great because I can practice my English and perfect it. My main mission here is to drive the Chief PAO, and I have to pay attention because the drivers here drive very different from the drivers in Germany. I am also the administrator clerk.

**Family reaction:** When I initially volunteered for this mission, my family was worried, but once I arrived I was able to keep in touch with my family very often and told them there is nothing to worry about. Another thing that helped is the fact that my dad is a teacher and he has Kosovar students, who told him Kosovo is now a safe and calm place.

**Plans after the mission:** First I will be spending time with my family and friends, second I will go on vacation and relax and finally I will return to work in my home unit and share with them my Kosovo experience.



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BEST LANDSCAPE

