

# KFOR CHRONICLE



7<sup>th</sup> Edition

July 30<sup>th</sup> 2009



# The General Officer's Perspective

## Fieldcamp Prizren

At the beginning of my second tour in Kosovo, I was impressed by the positive development I could see all around in comparison to the mid of 2001 when I left the area the first time. The region is developing continuously, infrastructure is being improved every day, industry and services are starting to flourish and one can feel the will of populace to act for a better future.

Apart from the people's will however, this improvement has also been based on the "umbrella of security" provided by KFOR. Just this pivotal contribution for peace and stability have allowed people to get more focused on the development of education, economy and all the other issues necessary for shaping a peaceful future.

Under this "umbrella of security", nowadays, you can see people of different ages, old men and women who suffered from the conflict, young people who can hardly remember what happened in the past and children who were not even born walking along in almost rebuild downtown of Prizren.

Despite this however, there is one thing we should always bear in mind. None of us is able to look into people's hearts and minds. None of us is able to identify which wounds have only been covert but are still unhealed beneath the skin. Hopefully, memories will be a reminder strong enough to overcome religious, interethnic and political differences and prevent from violent conflicts in the future.

Therefore, this "umbrella of security" will force KFOR to be able to intervene in case of unrest and escalation. For sure, today KFOR is mainly seen as a 3rd line responder. However, whenever something tends to go wrong we have to be prepared to act immediately and to keep the safe and secure environment intact without any delay.

Therefore, this "umbrella of security" demands from every soldier to keep vigilant. On the one hand, we all have to be aware that kindness and low profile are appropriate in general. On the other hand, firmness and decisive action might be necessary. With the soldiers' professionalism I learnt the last months through, I do trust in our ability and our will to find a proper way between those two ways.

In the near future, this "umbrella of security" will be taken over by the Institutions in Kosovo step by step. I am sure that they will finally get ready for shaping their future on their own.

*Brigadier General Benedikt Zimmer*



Dear readers, dear comrades, dear friends,

After almost nine months in theatre the time has come to resume my presence in Kosovo as Chief of the Internal Information Section. Time has been running very fast, so now it is the right time to say "Auf Wiedersehen", and for sure not good-bye, since we all know that life keeps lots of surprises and no one knows when we meet each other one more time.

Let me use this opportunity to express my gratefulness to all who inspired and supported me during my mission, especially the KFOR-Chronicle team. The Chief is merely as good as his team is and I know that we have done a damned good job during the last nine months together. Also I am grateful for the numerous friendships I made, the very important experiences as Chief of the Internal Information Section, as a soldier and human being. Dear readers, from the bottom of my heart I wish you a successful mission and the very best for you, your families and your future.

Yours sincerely,

Major Christian Zankl



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**Nations within KFOR:**

**NATO Nations**

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

**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  
HSG  
COMMZ(Z)



# UNITY O

Photos by OR-4 Marina Dore



*July 7, 2009*

KFOR Commander Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay met Mr. Soren Gade, Defense Minister of Denmark in KFOR Headquarters. During his visit H.E. Gade highlighted the Danish engagement in KFOR and the importance of the mission for his country.

*July 9, 2009*

Kosovo Force Commander Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay bid a farewell to Headquarter's Support Group Commander Colonel Pat Herbert presenting a commemorative gift.



*July 12, 2009*

COMKFOR had a meeting with Mr. Peter De Crem, Belgian Minister of Defense, in KFOR Headquarters. During his visit, Mr. Peter De Crem remarked that in the past he had the opportunity to visit Kosovo on different occasions and noted the progress that was done. Mr. Peter De Crem thanked COMKFOR, Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay, for the invitation. One of the discussion points during their meeting was the present operational situation in Kosovo.

# F E F F O R T



*July 14, 2009*

The Kosovo Force Commander Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay participated in the festive events for French National Day (Bastille Day) in Multi-national Task Force North Headquarters Camp Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny. Celebration took place in presence of DSACEUR General Sir John McColl, Major General Gilles Fugier Deputy COM KFOR, Brigadier General Patrick Ribayrol COM MNTF-N, Mrs. Delphine Borione, the French Ambassador in Kosovo, and high representatives of institutions in Kosovo.



*July 17, 2009*

Kosovo Force Commander Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay attended farewell event of Brigadier General Di Luzio, Chief Military-Civil Advisory Division and Brigadier General Christiner, Deputy Chief of Staff Support in the camp Film City

# Change of Command

Story by OF-4 Vadym Tymoshenko, Ukrainian Armed Forces  
Photos by Slovak Echo Company and Afrim Hajurallahu

The 14th Contingent (Echo Company) of the Slovak Armed Forces in Kosovo assumed responsibilities at Camp Šajkovac on 24 January 2009. The Slovak KFOR 14 was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Vojtech Mojzes. The core consisted of the 11th Mechanized Battalion from city of MARTIN.

The Slovaks were tasked to build an operation in area of responsibility to keep secure environment with free movement for all the people regardless of religion, nationality or gender among the subordination of Multinational Task Force Center (MNTF C).

The organization of the Slovak Contingent is close to fulfilling its tasks; the main task is guarding the Gazimestan monument, property designed with special status at Kosovo Polje. The Slovak company is also trained to fulfill search and Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) operations within MNTF C or Kosovo-wide. All servicemen are drilled and ready for this cause, according to their specialty as one team.

On a sunny morning of 14 July 2009, the red-letter ceremony of transfer of authority for Slovak contingent took place in the camp Šajkovac. The ceremony was attended by MNTF C Deputy Commander Colonel Michael McMahon, MNTF C Chief of Staff Lieutenant Colonel Hakan Berglind, and Head of Liason office of Slovakia in Pristina Mr. Miloslav Nad.

As distinguished guests were invited and participated in the festive event all national contingent commanders within MNTF C as follows: Finnish contingent commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel (OF-4) Jukka Parvinen, acting Irish contingent commanding officer Commandant (OF-3) Sean Dunne, Swedish contingent commanding officer Lieutenant Colonel (OF-4) Stefan Smedman, Czech contingent commander Lieutenant Colonel (OF-4) Róbert Bielený, and Latvian contingent commander Andris Cinats. Among attendees



# nd in Slovak KFOR

were also Major (OF-3) Josef Bartko, EULEX Chief Advisor to Internal Affairs and Kosovo Police Service members from town of Obilic.

The Slovak and Czech soldiers who serve together in joint detachment, were lined-up in solemn formation for this occasion. The ceremony started with honor guards posting the detachment's flag in front of formation. The outgoing Slovcon commander Lieutenant Colonel Vojtech Mojzes greeted soldiers and guests on the tribune. He then transferred the detachment's flag to the incoming contingent commander Major (OF-3) Vladimir Grislo, who took over authority from this moment.

According to order of the Chief of General Staff of Slovak republic, 18 servicemen from Czech contingent with Czecon commander, also Colonel Michael McMahon, Lieutenant Colonel Hakan Berglind and Major Kevin Higgins were awarded with military medal "For service at Peacekeeping Operations" 1st degree for outstanding cooperation with Slovak Armed Forces. After speeches, given by both outgoing and incoming commanders and by MNTF C Deputy Commander, the ceremony went to the end. All guest had the great opportunity to enjoy traditional Slovak cuisine and hospitality.

The Slovak KFOR 14 soldiers already returned home, where their families have been waiting for them for last 6 months.



# SERVING

*Story by NATO TRADOC Chief OF-4 Attilio Burdi, Italian Army*

*Photo by OR-9 Vanni Dino, Italian Navy*

From the 23rd March to the 24th April the 1st Senior Officers Course, Module A, 2nd phase was held at the KSF Training and Doctrine Leadership School HQ (TRADOC) in Prishtinë. 44 Officers, including Lt. Colonels and Majors of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) attended the Course.

This Course is a final step in order to achieve a successful completion of training after the basic course held at the NATO Training Center (NTC) in Vushtrri.

There was an opportunity to undertake further level studies in keeping with best international practices for development of KSF Officers. During the 5 weeks' course held at the TRADOC, 44 Senior Officers of KSF were trained by NATO Instructors, experienced in various staff and command functions that are necessary to operate effectively in order to keep line with the KSF Training Plan. Therefore by attending the course, where key leadership and management skills lessons were delivered, the attendees laid the foundations for a professional career, effectively serving Kosovo and its citizens. The training adhering to the objectives of the KSF Training Plan is primarily aimed at enabling KSF structure for crisis response and civil protection roles.

During the course a Command Post Exercise (CPX) was held on the last week. The general aim of the exercise was to improve operational readiness, preparation and practice of KSF Senior Officers who will be responsible for response and recovery activities at emergencies and disasters.

The exercise was based on a simulation of 6.8 (Richter scale) magnitude earthquake originating in the Southeastern area of Kosovo. Specifically the Warning Order reads: "Seismic Institution informed all civil and military authorities that a 6.8-magnitude earthquake has occurred along a fault zone in a major metropolitan area of the Southeastern part of



Official photo of the course

# KOSOVO

Kosovo, at 210530Z APR 09, greatly impacting the region with a population of approximately 100.000 people."

Such exercises are vital to proper emergency planning. By accurately assessing the community's risk from a potential earthquake, emergency planners can implement preventive measures thereby saving lives and property.

It is worthy to mention the main Exercise Objectives:

- to establish and test a disaster response and recovery system including planning and execution activities;
- to determine civil-military procedures despite the absence of well-established or recognized responsibilities and authorities;
- to enhance interoperability with NATO/KFOR HQs in order to leverage on their assets.

The exercise was conducted according to the Nato Planning Process stages described in the NATO Directive Bi-Sc 75-3. (Picture no. 3 shows some attendees and one of the Senior Instructors Major TAMMARO involved)

By participating in the CPX, the attendees learned some basics about the NATO planning and by reaching the training objectives of the exercise, attendees will enhance KSF member capabilities for emergency management and demonstrate utilization of the emergency management process.

The Exercise Training Objectives, among others, have complemented the KSF internal training program, to clarify roles and responsibilities at emergencies and disasters and to enhance interoperability with NATO/KFOR HQs in order to leverage on their assets.

Furthermore the CPX supposed to give a comprehensive guideline on how to plan, execute and assess an exercise following suit with the NATO Planning Process.

In order to give the opportunity to the instructors to check the preparation and study methods of attendees the course ended up with a Final Test taken according to the evaluation criteria laid down in the planning phase of the 1st SOC.

All attendees accomplished successfully the Course (100%). I would like to emphasize that the average score of the Final Test was outstanding and resulted to be really high about 90%, with 9 of them reaching the top with 100%.

It is the case to mention that during the course preparation and execution phases, collaboration and cooperation with KSF Officers staff were excellent. They provided all the facilities and helped Course Administration Team to set up the classrooms, syndicate rooms and arrange the course.

Crisis management, creative thinking, problem solving and source optimization techniques lectured by using syndicate groups and types of decision making processes.

Each student received a CD and hard copies of the topics (manuals and presentations) showed during the lessons of the courses. The graduation day was held on the 27th April. Authorities in attendance included Brigadier General Gianfranco DI LUZIO (KFOR DCOS MCA Division), Brigadier General Halimi ZYMER (KSF Deputy Land Force Command), and Brigadier General Enver CIKACI (KSF TRADOC Commander).

Earthquake's epicenter for CPX

MCA Division Chief, Brig Gen DI LUZIO presented a diploma to KSF Senior Officer

# Ukrainian Navy

Story by OF-3 Vladyslav Seleznyov and OF-4 Vadym Tymoshenko, Ukrainian Armed Forces

Photos by OF-3 Vladyslav Seleznyov

At the beginning of July, the servicemen of Ukrainian KFOR 12, which is formed on the basis of the 1st naval Infantry battalion of Ukrainian Navy, celebrated the anniversary of the establishment of the native detachment and the Navy Day of Ukraine.

On the 1st of July there was torrential rain, but it did not prevent Marines from gathering together to mark on this friendly atmospheric day when their battalion was set up 16 years ago.

Besides young Marines, the meeting was attended by veterans, who shared in details their memories of the battalion's establishment and the first years of its existence. A celebration of the native detachment's creation day has been one of the good traditions that bond the soldiers and officers of the battalion in the single family. The evening ended with a traditional barbecue, which was fantastic.

On 5 July 2009, Ukrainian KFOR 12 from the joint Polish-Ukrainian Task Force POLUKRBAT Multinational Task Force East celebrated the Ukrainian Navy Day in Kosovo. The solemn events on the occasion of the Navy Day of Ukraine took place in base Camp Breza of the Ukrainian contingent.



# Feast in Kosovo

Having appealed to the subordinates, the National contingent commander Lieutenant Colonel Volodymyr Veremchuk congratulated Ukrainian peacekeepers on this event. Furthermore, he stated, "Marines persistently work to maintain the defense capabilities of our state and high readiness of the Navy of Ukraine. I am pleased to note that many professionally trained representatives of the elite troops currently serve on the honorary task within peacekeeping contingent in Kosovo".

According to the National contingent commander's order on the occasion of the Navy Day of Ukraine a large group of servicemen was awarded with thanks and Certificates of Appreciation. Chief of Staff of national contingent Major Oles Brykin read congratulatory telegrams for Ukrainian Navy Day occasion from the Chief of General Staff - Armed Forces Commander of Ukraine, Navy Commander and Chief of the Joint Operational Command of the Armed Forces of Ukraine.

Later on the Multinational Task Force East Deputy Commander - Maneuver Colonel Tom Loomis and Civil Military Officer for Camp Bondsteel Colonel Butch personally granted Non-article 5 NATO medals for the Balkans to the Ukrainian troops.

At the end of the award ceremony the priest of the contingent Volodymyr (Kulchytsky) gave a speech to attendees and blessed the troops on peacekeeping duties. The event concluded with the solemn parade of Ukrainian contingent sub-units and festive lunch, where all present could enjoy traditional Ukrainian cuisine. Guests of the ceremony were personnel from the peacekeeping contingents of Greece, Armenia, Poland, the United States and Germany.



# Lithuanian contingent left Kosovo

Story by OF-2 Robert Falek, Polish Army

Pictures by OF-4 Vadym Tymoshenko, Ukrainian Armed Forces

On March 2009 Lithuanian government came to an agreement with NATO about the decision of withdrawing troops from Kosovo. Lithuanian contingent of twenty nine soldiers were present in Kosovo since the beginning of KFOR mission as a part of Polish-Ukrainian Battalion (POLUKRBAT Task Force).

The farewell ceremony took place on the 26 of June at Camp Bondsteel. The event was attended among others by: Lithuanian delegation with Ministry of Defense Mrs. Rasa Jukneviene and the Chief of Lithuanian Joint Staff Brigadier General Algis Vaiceliunas, Multi-national Task Force (East) Commander Brigadier General Keith Jones, Polish delegation with Commander of 3rd Mechanized Brigade (which assembled XXth Polish KFOR rotation) Brigadier General Jan Brzozowski and Colonel Maciej Nelke. Senior national representatives of French, German, Spain, Hungarian, Belgian, Swedish, Slovak, Latvian, Norwegian, Romanian and Bulgarian KFOR contingents came also in large numbers to take part in the ceremony.

At 10.00 o'clock POLUKRBAT Commander Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Mariusz Galeziowski reported to MNTF (E) Commander Brigadier General Keith Jones the readiness for the solemn ceremony. After the report BG Keith Jones together with Lithuanian Ministry of Defense Mrs. Rasa Jukneviene inspected the sub-units of POLUKRBAT. Occasional speeches were given by POLUKRBAT Commander LTC Mariusz Galeziowski, MNTF (E) Commander Brigadier General Keith Jones, Minister Rasa Jukneviene, The Chief of Joint Staff Brigadier General Algis Vaiceliunas and Brigadier General Jan Brzozowski. All speakers stressed the great contribution of Lithuanian soldiers to keeping peace in Kosovo and shaping of stable and safe situation in the Area of Responsibility. During the solemn



Lithuanian KFOR contingent commander OF-1 Aivaras Satrauskas transferred national flag to Minister of Defense Mrs. Rasa Jukneviene.



The Multinational Task Force East Commander Brigadier General Keith D. Jones presented NATO Non-five article medal to Lithuanian female soldier.

The Lithuanian Minister of Defense Mrs. Rasa Jukneviene and the Chief of Joint Staff Brigadier General Algis Vaiceliunas with the Lithuanian contingent commander OF-1 Aivaras Satrauskas.



The Lithuanian KFOR soldiers, representatives of national Ministry of Defense and Joint Headquarters of Lithuanian Armed Forces were together with the MNTF E and Joint Polish-Ukrainian Task Force's Commanders.



# ...ovo, but Lithuania still in KFOR

ceremony Lithuanian soldiers were awarded by Non-Article 5 NATO medals given by MNTF (E) BG Keith Jones, who also decorated Lithuanian platoon leader Lieutenant Aivaras Satrauskas by California Medal of Merit, granted by the governor of California State.

Lithuanian Ministry of Defense Mrs. Rasa Juknevičienė decorated by the National Defence System Medals of Merit POLUKRBAT Commander LTC Mariusz Galeziowski and Deputy Commander LTC Volodymyr Veremchuk. Commendation Letters of the Minister were presented for another several members of the Battalion's command. Brigadier General Jan Brzozowski gave Lieutenant Aivaras Satrauskas the commemorative gorget and album with photos of Lubelski Region, where 3rd Mechanized Brigade is located. Madam Minister received from POLUKRBAT Commander the commemorative gorget of the XXth Polish KFOR rotation and album with photos of Poland. The most important moment of the ceremony was lowering of Lithuanian national flag. The flag was lowered to the accompaniment of Lithuanian national anthem. After that the national flag of The Republic of Lithuania was given Madam Minister by Lithuanian platoon leader Lieutenant Aivaras Satrauskas. The ceremony was concluded with a solemn parade by the sub-units of the POLUKRBAT. It was the last opportunity for Lithuanian soldiers to march in a column, shoulder to shoulder together with Polish and Ukrainian allies, here in Kosovo.

The Lithuanian contingent left Kosovo, but Lithuanian soldiers with patches 'Instructor' continue to teach local cadets for Kosovo Security Forces (KSF). It means Lithuania goes on to be present in Kosovo and help local institutions to enhance their security structure.



Lithuanian Minister of Defense Mrs. Rasa Juknevičienė gave her speech in front of soldiers of the 20th Polish KFOR rotation, which also contained the Lithuanian contingent.



Brigadier General Keith Jones decorated Lithuanian platoon leader Lieutenant Aivaras Satrauskas by California State Medal of Merit.

The Lithuanian contingent's soldiers were in formation at the beginning of solemn ceremony

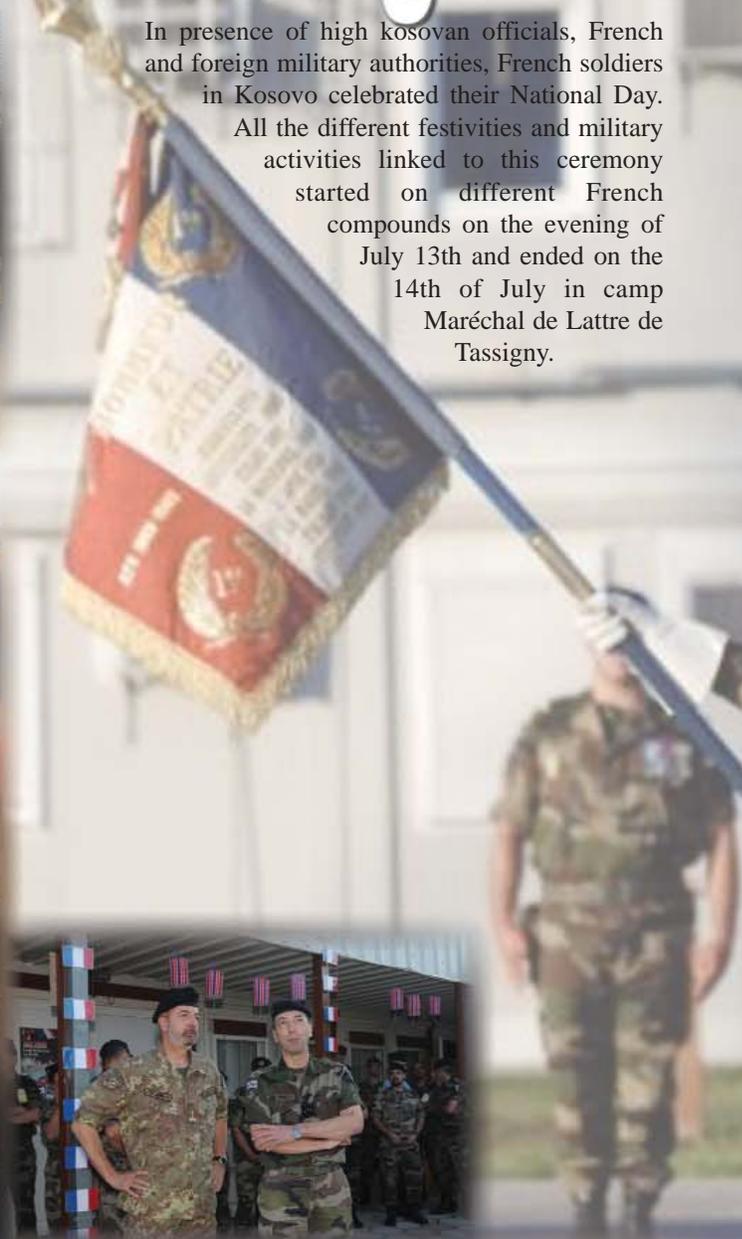
# The French contingent ce

Story by OF-1 Nadia Filhos, French Army

Photos by OR-4 Marina Dore, Italian Army

In presence of high kosovan officials, French and foreign military authorities, French soldiers in Kosovo celebrated their National Day.

All the different festivities and military activities linked to this ceremony started on different French compounds on the evening of July 13th and ended on the 14th of July in camp Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny.



# celebrates its National Day

On 13 July, a military parade was organized by CSSBAT. The parade was presided over by Brigadier General Ribayrol COM MNTF-N marking the beginning of the celebration. The two most important events that highlighted this day was the reading of a poem written by a K. Albanian interpreter in honor of the French contingent, and later on the rock concert animated by local musicians in Novoselo. During this time, the French battalion (FREBAT) deployed in Mitrovica and commanded by Colonel Saulce Latour was celebrating this very event. This second ceremony started first with rendering honors' to the 1st Cuirassiers standard (1st -11th regiment de cuirassiers, Carpiagne), non-article 5 medal's giving to soldiers and concluded with the Bastille Day Parade. All officers belonging to both the 1st Moroccan Coy and the 3rd Belgian Coy were invited to this ceremony. A traditional dancing group participated in this day's celebration with beautiful traditional songs while all attendees enjoyed a huge and delicious barbecue in memory of this Bastille Day.

On 14 July, the celebration continued in presence of, Lieutenant General Giuseppe Emilio Gay COMKFOR, Brigadier General Patrick Ribayrol COM MNTF-N, Mrs. Delphine Borione the French Ambassador in Kosovo, Mr. Yves de Kermabon EULEX head of mission, General Sir John Chalmers Mc Coll SACEUR and very high representatives of local institutions. The military parade organized in Multinational Task Force North headquarters to celebrate the French national Day was presided over by Major General Gilles Fugier DCOM KFOR and French military representative in Kosovo. This ceremony, which included detachments from all different French units deployed in Kosovo, was marked by three most important moments:

The inauguration of a stele in memory of all the French soldiers dead on duty in Kosovo; The medals giving to Lieutenant Colonel Lassare (Legion of Honor medal) and to adjutant's chefs (OR8) Bellegueulle and OR8 Messin (the French military medal) in front of the 1st cuirassier regiment's flag; The order of the days reading by Major General Fugier.

"It is necessary to mention that each 14th of July; France has an appointment with its Army. The objective of the French contingent in Kosovo remains the same: guaranteeing a safe and secure environment which can allow the construction of a multiethnic, democratic and prosperous society to which all the component of this country hopes for" stated DCOM KFOR in his speech.

At the end of this ceremony, about 600 guests were invited to "Restaurant de France" to share the traditional republican cocktail. Having jointly welcomed all the guests with General Fugier, the French ambassador stressed: "I hope that all communities can find the way to a peaceful and harmonious coexistence, for them and for the future generations". Thereafter, all the French people started singing "La Marseillaise" the French anthem.

Local media (printed media, radios and TVs) have been present during the whole ceremony.

History of the 14th of July:

The French national day on the 14th of July commemorates the taking of "la Bastille" fortress-prison in 1789. It becomes an official National day in 1880 under the 3rd republic. Meanwhile, "La Marseillaise" becomes the national anthem. The 14th of July celebrations are a way to give homage to the Republic and to France and its values: "Liberté, Egalité et Fraternité". The French soldiers are spreading those universal values not only on their national territory but also on external theatre of operations.



# Toxic Industrial Material (T

Story by: Major PRT A, Paulo Loureiro, JENGR SASE Theatre CBRN Officer

In 1984 the world's worst Toxic Industrial Material (TIM) disaster occurred in history. The Bhopal Disaster or Bhopal Gas tragedy took place at Union Carbide Pesticide Plant in the Indian City of Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh (state). On 3 December 1984, the plant released 42 tons of toxic Methyl Isocyanate gas, exposing more than 500,000 people to the toxin. The first official immediate death toll was 2,259, with a more generally accepted total of 8,000 to 10,000 deaths within 72 hours. It is estimated that 25,000 have died from this gas-related disease. To avoid this kind of TIM environmental disaster, KFOR is working Kosovo wide in close coordination with the Institutions in Kosovo (IiK) and ICP.

In the HQ KFOR, we have a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) Section in the JENGR Branch where we can find the HQ KFOR SASE THEATRE CBRN Officer. The aim of SASE section is focused on two major issues: KFOR Troops Safety, and a Safe Environment in Kosovo. To ensure that, the MNTF CBRN officers and their teams are responsible to carry out ROTA (A nuclear, radiological, biological or chemical environment arising from any other than the authorized use of weapons of mass destruction by armed forces of a nation state) inspections and Risk Reduction Operations (R2Ops).

ROTA Inspections are monitoring and reconnaissance operations done since 1999 by the MNTF CBRN teams at every site that can eventually pose a possible risk of a ROTA accident. For example factories, power plants, industrial parks, and petrol stations... R2Ops are operations carried out with the aim to reduce the threat of TIM stored in badly and dangerous



# TIM) SITES KOSOVO WIDE

conditions. For example, they repack and take it to a secure storage or disposal when possible.

KFOR has a usefully tool called IGEO SIT, were we consult the TIM DATABASE. Currently in Kosovo wide, KFOR CBRN teams have had identified 102 TIM SITES of which 12 are in red status (worst), 7 in orange, 18 in yellow and 34 in green status (better) in all MNTFAORs.

In 2009, the CBRN teams did a lot of inspections in order to update the database and the maps to share information and monitor the situation. So, from 1 Jan 09 till 10 Jul 09, in total they have performed 92 inspections.

To decrease the threat and to improve the situations, KFOR held on the 13th JULY 2009, an International CBRN/TIM Conference with several officials that is in KOVOSO. Minister Mr. Mahir Yarciglar, Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning also attended with several public department Heads of IiK. DCOM KFOR, MG Gilles Fugier represented COMKFOR and open the conference. DCOS SPT, BG Gerherd Christiner chaired the conference. During the conference the JENGR SASE Theatre CBRN Officer, Major Paulo Loureiro briefed the guest regarding the TIM SITES and its current situation and focused on the conference subject. "WHAT CAN WE DO TO IMPROVE THE CURRENT SITUATION OF TIM SITES IN KOSOVO WIDE" the main topics for discussion were:

- SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT HAZMAT KOSOVO WIDE
- SHARE INFORMATION ABOUT PRECAUTIONS IN CASE OF HAZMAT DISASTER IOT
- IMPROVE THE CURRENT SITUATION OF TIM SITES

KFOR made some recommendations to improve the situation step by step.



# SHOOTING EXERCISE

Story and photos by Lieutenant Colonel (OF-4) Carlos Ruiz Lapresta (Spanish Army) and OF2 Captain Luis Gómez-Armero (Spanish Army)

On 23 June 2009, TF TIZONA, MNTF-W performed a training exercise with their portable weapons, using live ammunition, at the Voloire shooting range, near Pec/Peja. A total of 15,000 rounds were shot in the exercises. This exercise had a double aim: on one hand, to go in depth into the high training skills reached by TF TIZONA members, by making an exercise consisting of releasing a hostage that involved sniper teams. On the other hand, the exercise was to perform a joint shooting exercise with the Slovenian contingent.

Brigadier General Roberto Perretti, MNTF-W Commander, attended the exercise, being able to check personally the high TF TIZONA Units training skills. He could also do several exercises with Spanish Army rifle, HK G36K.

The first part consisted in a Hostage release exercise, with a starting situation of a hostage that was kidnapped and held inside a house. As soon as the MNTF-W commander arrived at Voloire firing range, Colonel Garcia Blázquez, TF TIZONA commander, reported to the General about the status of the action.

Captain Alberto Modino, TF TIZONA 3rd Coy CDR checked the last details and ordered his sniper teams to take position to shoot and neutralize sentinels in the area surrounding the house.

One support squad started approaching in order to take positions that provided fire support to the squad that was going to enter the house for the hostage rescue, which was the main action squad.

Suddenly, accuracy sniper teams started shooting. They beat two sentinels simultaneously. Soldiers started approaching and took fire positions to provide fire coverage. Suddenly a hail of fire was unleashed over the target, while two vehicles belonging to the main action squad drove quickly towards the house. One team went down and took shooting positions, while the other team went directly to the house. The team entered the house and took the hostage, and quickly got in the cars again. Always supported by the sniper teams and the support squad, the hostage was released without any harm.

After these actions, the support squad broke the contact. It left the area along a watercourse and followed it until the fixed meeting point was reached. Sniper teams continued shooting the targets as they were the last personnel to leave the area.

A Joint exercise with Slovenian contingent also took place at the Voloire range.

TF TIZONA (Spanish Army) is part of MNTF-W, together with Slovenian, Hungarian, Romanian and Italian. Portable weapons' training is an excellent chance for different contingents, comrades in KFOR and NATO, to train together, to know other armies equipments and to make joint exercises with them.

The Spanish Army rifle is HK G36, a weapon with extremely good features.

Slovenian Army rifle is FAL FN2000, a very modern weapon and also with very good features.



# EXERCISES IN VOLOIRE

After the explanation about both weapons characteristics and using instructions, Spanish soldiers had the chance to shoot using Slovenian FN2000, while Slovenian soldiers shot with G36, being able to compare them in action. This was an extremely interesting exercise, which TF TIZONA will repeat with the Italian contingent. Furthermore, as an act of comradeship, a very particular gastronomic exchange was made: all the participants had lunch together, changing their own MRE,s with each other



# Save at last - Training with 2<sup>nd</sup> Con

Article and photos by OF-1 Tobias Strahl (German Army)

In November this year local elections will be held all over Kosovo. About 2.1 million inhabitants will determine their local political leaders and representatives of their interests. Not far from now independence was declared by Kosovo people and officially accepted by some European and Overseas governments. But the building of solid democratic structures will take its time. Kosovo is, beside all progress during the past decade, a fragile structure of different ethnics, confessions and interests.

Elections are a sore point in Kosovo. It wouldn't be acceptable for the still young democracy, if some minority for example would try to manipulate the results of election even by violence. This would strain confidence of the people in the democratic process of elections, doesn't make any difference wherever in the world, or even destroy it at all.

That's why Manoeuvre-Battalion of the Multinational Task Force South (MNTF S) has rehearsed such scenery in former Serbian village of Novake, nearby Prizren on Thursday two weeks ago. The plot: During the elections in autumn some people from the village Smac, in the neighbourhood of Novake, believe that the Serbian minority in Novake has manipulated the results of the election in spite of the permanent presence of official and independent observers. The inhabitants of Smac decided to take a look by themselves on the ballot box and voting papers, if necessary by violence.

On night before the expected action, the Manoeuvre-Battalion has placed a snipers team and another group of soldiers with an Aladin-Drone nearby Novake, to observe the polling station and its surroundings. With the Aladin-

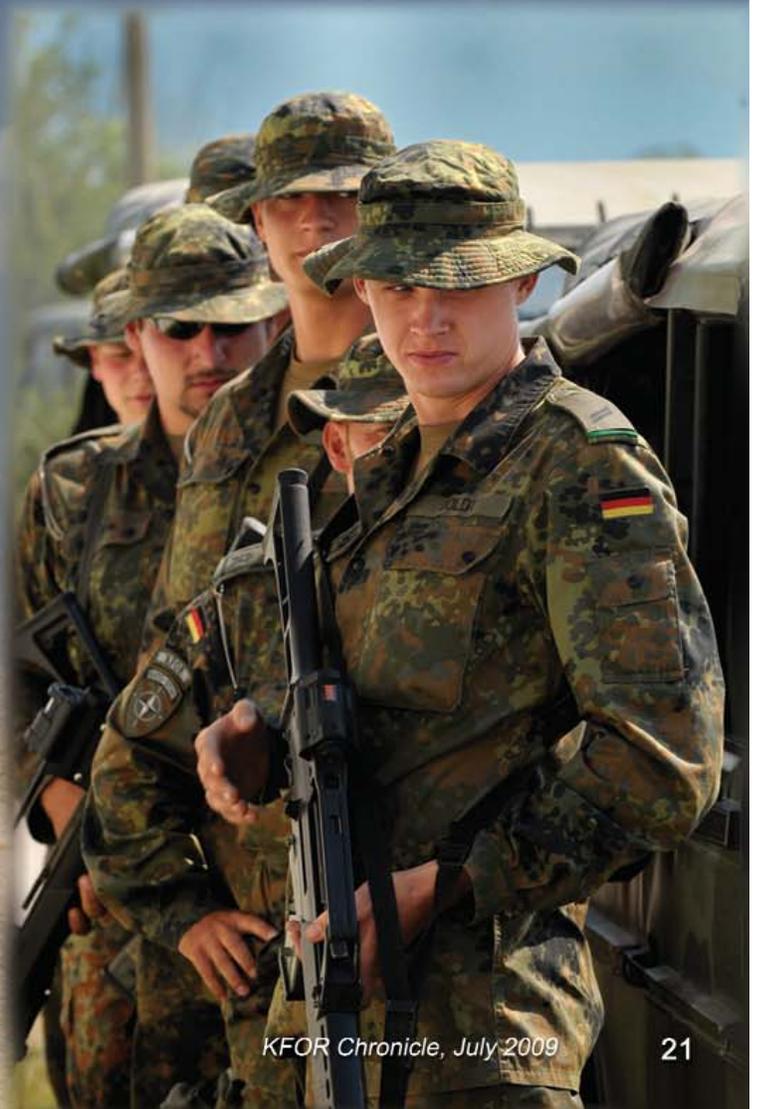


# Company Manoeuvre-Battalion MNTFS



System it is possible to get high definition photo and video-shots within an up to some square miles sized area of action from above. For military leaders this means to have the possibility to minimize the risk for their man in action.

During the day of elections actually a group of demonstrators can be seen, moving onwards from Smac to Nowake. The two official observers and two police men realize quickly, that they will not be able to control the situation for a long time. So they decide to call KFOR for support. Within a few minutes 2nd company of Manoeuvre-Battalion intervene at the scene. The men of Cpt. Frank B. build up an inner and outer circle of safety to evacuate the ballot box. Soon they realize that the way out of the area is blocked by the numerous demonstrators. Cpt. Frank B. calls support of the Helicopter-Battalion from Toplicane. Ten minutes later the Helicopter takes off from Novake safety with the election papers onboard. The message of the evacuated ballot box moves the demonstrators to give up with their intentions. Murmuring but without any violent actions they leave the scene. The situation is cleared now and Cpt. Frank B. with 2nd Company Manoeuvre-Battalion leaves Novake for return to their base after finished Mission.



# First generation of the KSF

Article and photos by OF-2 Igor Piani

106 new recruits have joined to the Kosovo Security Force on 24 June 2009.

Their graduation was carried out in the Kosovo Public Safety Centre in Vucitrn/Vushtrri

Higher officers from KFOR and KSF come from the first multi-ethnic recruitment of both genders graduation ceremony

Biondina Sylejmani is one of the Kosovars females who jointed the Kosovo Security Force. On Wednesday, she took an oath that starting from that day she will be part of KSF.

The act of graduating after seven weeks spent in the basic training course for new recruits, is for her a special feeling, as she said that her dream has become true - to serve her country.

"It is a special feeling and privilege for me to be part of the KSF. It is also great honor; it is a dream that I had to serve my people."

Her trip started in January when, from the 21st of January till the 14th of February KFOR recruitment teams received more than 4900 applications at the established recruitment offices in the biggest municipalities. KFOR also operated with mobile recruitment teams to reach every community throughout Kosovo. Only 404 recruits were selected according to the KSF necessities and, days ago, the first 106 graduated.

"I hope this generation will serve as an example and model to the new coming generations," stated KFOR Deputy Commander, Major General Fugier. MG Fugier underline the importance of the event in his speech. - "Now the building of Kosovo's security depends on you".

He called this generation of KSF new recruits the beginning of the new vision of the Kosovo of tomorrow.

75 Albanians, 10 Bosnians, 9 Turks, 6 Egyptians, 5 Ashkallia, and 1 Serb were the multi-ethnic applicants graduated.



# SF new recruits graduated



# Sling Loading into

Story and Photos by Spc. Darriel Swatts U.S. Army  
69th Public Affairs Detachment

CAMP BONDSTEEL, KOSOVO - The ground shakes while rocks and dirt are blown away as a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter hovers 20 feet over head. Soldiers, bracing themselves against the rushing wind of the rotor blades, stand on top of a Portuguese Panhard VBL (Vehicule Blinde Leger) M-11 armored scout car, ready to hook a sling that will attach it to the bottom of the aircraft. As soon as it is connected, they scramble off the car and run to a safe distance, while the dull hum of the engines turns into a loud roar as the helicopter strains to lift the 3.5-ton load. Once the vehicle has lifted off the ground, the Blackhawk flies off into the distance, carrying its cargo to a new destination.

This is how the Task Force Arctic Eagle Soldiers and the Portuguese Army ended phase two of their multi-national training event, held at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. The first phase of their training took place the day before when the troops from Delta Company, 1-207th Aviation Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, taught the Portuguese soldiers everything they needed to know to be safe around the aircraft, how to properly attach the sling to their vehicle and how to hook it to the aircraft.

"I was surprised to see how in depth their training procedures were," said Pvt. Isabel Barros, a soldier in the Portuguese Army. "I wasn't expecting them to use a fork lift as a mock helicopter to simulate the pick up our M-11."

Day two was also phase two for the Portuguese soldiers and consisted of raising their armored scout car with the Blackhawk. They went through one last safety brief and were then able to conduct the sling load operations.

"We did approximately 20 elevators, where we pick up the vehicle and set it down, to ensure that the load is properly secured and to make any corrections needed prior to flying with the vehicle," said Maj. Eric Barlow, S3 for Task Force Arctic Eagle, Delta Company, 1-207th Aviation Battalion.

Sgt. Brian Lyman with Delta Company 1-207th Aviation Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard, inspects the sling.



Portuguese soldiers watch as an American UH-60 Black Hawk lifts their Panhard VBL (Vehicule Blinde Leger) M-11 armored scout car.



Sgt. Brian Lyman watches closely as Portuguese soldiers hook their Panhard VBL.



# the History Books

Once the elevators were done and all corrections were made, one final task still loomed over the Portuguese soldiers' heads; to do one last hook up with the helicopter and watch as their M-11 takes flight for the first time in the Portuguese Army's history with the help of a Blackhawk helicopter. The air was thick with anticipation as everybody watched the sling crew walk to the vehicle one last time and attach it to the bottom of the aircraft.

"I was really hoping that we attached it properly after we jumped off the M-11," said Cpl. Luis Pinto, a soldier in the Portuguese Army. "When I turned around to see the helicopter take off with it, I was so excited."

When the UH-60 Blackhawk took off, it marked a milestone in the Portuguese Army's history as the first time they have had a Blackhawk helicopter sling load one of their vehicles.

"I love doing this type of training," said Sgt. Brian Lyman, Delta Company, 1-207th Aviation Battalion. "The fact I got to participate in their history only makes my job that much more fun."

Upon completing a flight around Camp Bondsteel and doing several fly-bys so the Portuguese could take pictures of the momentous occasion, the pilots dropped off the vehicle and continued on with their mission of preparing the helicopter for the next task. At the same time, pictures were being taken with U.S. and Portuguese Soldiers and patches were being traded, signifying the end of the day and the multi-national training event.



Portuguese soldiers check their gear prior to conducting sling load training with Delta Company 1-207th Aviation Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard.



Soldiers brace themselves for the rotor wash from the UH-60 Black Hawk as they prepare to attach the Portuguese's Panhard VBL.

# KTM in

*Story by OF-3 Lourenco Azevedo, Portuguese Army  
Photos by KTM Bravo Coy*

The KFOR TACTICAL RESERVE MANOEUVRE BATTALION is COMKFOR's Tactical Reserve and also Commanders last resort to solve and avoid serious problems KOSOVO-wide.

With the training of several determined aims, KTM guarantees and maintains a high level readiness IOT be deployed everywhere in all MNTFs.

KTM training and all acquired capabilities validation is obtained through exercises planned by KFOR HQ J3 CONOPS, this happens KOSOVO-wide in hypothetical scenarios or real ones, reminding us on the worst incidents that happened in KOSOVO.

According to this, on 17JUL09, Exercise GATE 1 was performed; its purpose was to test KTM employment in a real threat scenario against EULEX elements and GATE1 facilities security. The aim of this exercise was to implement COMKFOR directives to improve plans IOT test interoperability between KFOR forces, to develop coordination with EULEX, to implement the concept of "Full Tactical Primacy" and finally to train



# GATE 1

Hot Spots defense.

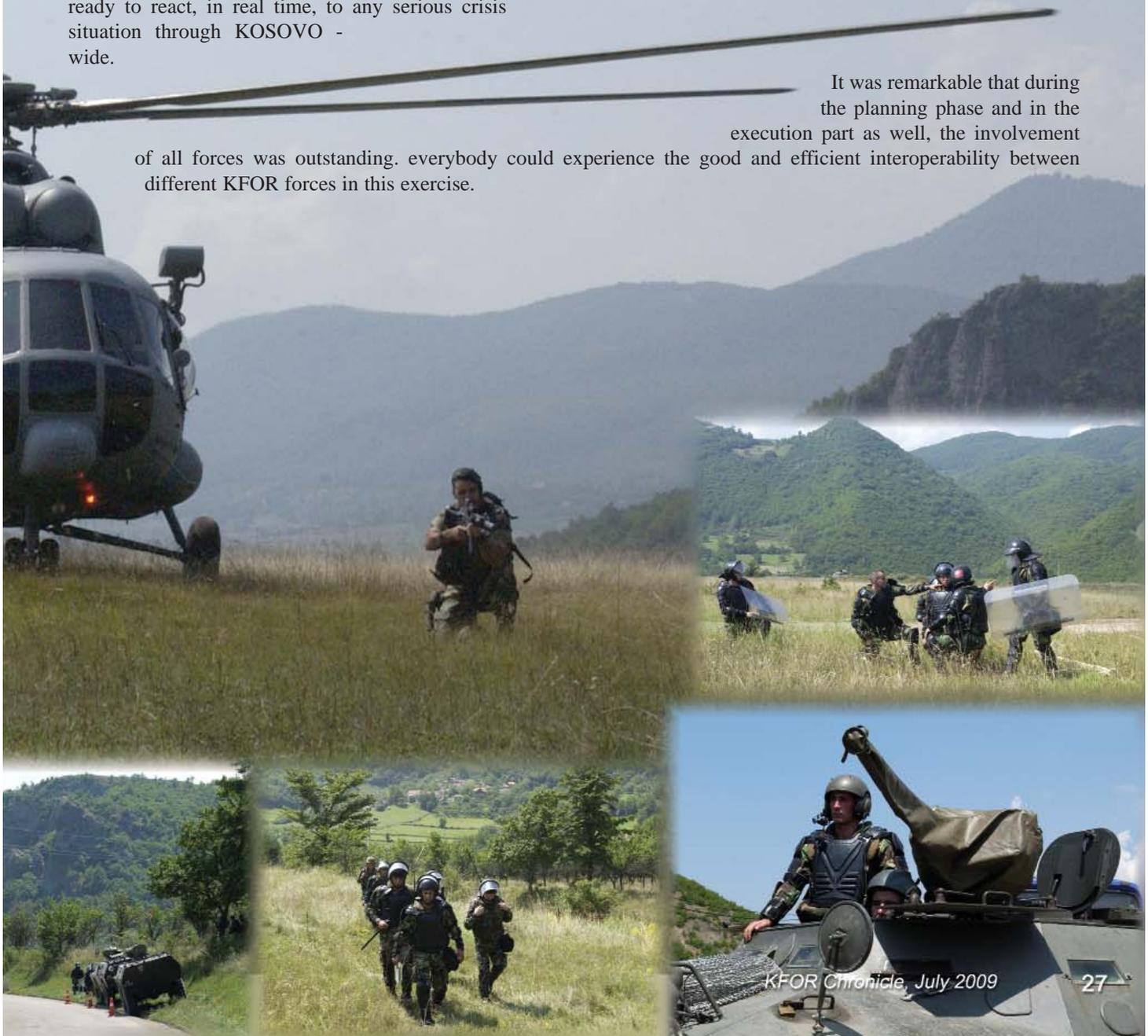
After many coordination meetings between all intervenient in the exercise, a lot of different KFOR means were used in its execution. MNTF-N and EULEX built the scenario and MNTF-S, CROATIAN HELICOPTERS DETACHMENT (CHD) and KTM materialized all the proposed concepts for the exercise.

So, after EULEX's request for KFOR support to secure GATE1, KTM received the task to secure EULEX and GATE 1 infrastructure.

AirScan guaranteed the pursuance of the entire exercise; it gave a great support in commanding and supervising the land forces. KTM organized a KTM-G in two separate waves. The 1st wave flew with MNTF-S and CHD support to establish Red and Blue Box IOT secure EULEX elements and GATE 1 infrastructure. The 2nd wave deployed by land and only with KTM means to consolidate the Hot Spot defense perimeter.

All the aims determined in this exercise were reached and KFOR showed that it was ready to react, in real time, to any serious crisis situation through KOSOVO - wide.

It was remarkable that during the planning phase and in the execution part as well, the involvement of all forces was outstanding. everybody could experience the good and efficient interoperability between different KFOR forces in this exercise.



# A day with Belgian LMTs, i

Story by (OF-2) Denis Biojout (French Army) - Chief PAO TFMN-N  
Photos by (OR-6) Philippe Oliveira (French Army)

The stone path that winds on the wooded heights of Leposavic stops in Krucevo where Mrs. Stojadinca Balovic lives. OR 9 Nick Declerck, OR 4 Hans Vandelannoite and Mrs Mira Aleksandrovic, the interpreter, know rather well this 74 years old woman, a widow and the oldest of the seven inhabitants of this hamlet, hung on the hill, surrounded by meadows, vegetable gardens and orchards. A few hens and three dogs warn Stojadinca about the arrival of too seldom visitors. Today, Belgian soldiers from KFOR, whom she knows rather well and whose regular visits she appreciates are announced. As soon as they enter the house, hot coffee is served and discussion goes on, related to the news from the family. Stojadinca's girl, who lives in the United States, might come this summer. One of the two sons lives and works in Leposavic. He does not come as often as she would like. In Krucevo, living conditions, especially during winter, are rustic and Stojadinca complains about frequent electricity cuts.

It is time now to warmly salute our host on the doorway of her house and to reach Lesak village. There, OR 8 Benjamin Verbeck, ORE 4 Frank Van Driessen and their interpreter Mrs Daniela Savic are waiting for us at the entrance of the secondary school of agriculture. This morning, as a few pupils are making uproar in the streets in order to celebrate the end of the school year, LMT 7 mission is to distribute the 63rd issue of "4U Magazine" to the pupils of



# in order to "feel the pulse"

Mrs Violeta Savicevic's class of Serbian language and literature. It is now break time. Then, while waiting for pupils to come back in the classroom, Mr Ivica Mihajlovic, the director, confides to us, with some big pride, that his school (35 teachers and 54 persons in managerial staff) has received the Saint Sava price (a price attributed by Serbian Ministry of Education, and the highest reward that a school could obtain). His great project will be the realization of a boarding school for his 220 pupils (from 15 to 19 years old). For the time being, his concern is the guard of agricultural facilities and, first of all, the replacement of the tyres of his agricultural vehicles. The bell has now rung. The thirteen pupils have got into the classroom with the highest discipline. Violeta and Benjamin first ask the children to mark France and Belgium on a map. Then, the distribution comes. Even if some of them are studying English, most do chose the Serbian version of the magazine.

Outside, student festivities are going on with songs and parade. For OF 3 Phillip Coutigny, too, this is a great day. Actually, all Belgian LMTs, including their interpreters, have gathered in Lesak for the only big gathering of the mandate. This is an opportunity to exchange, to better know each other and to share a common lunch.

MNTF-N LMTs consist in seven teams: three French (two in Belvédère camp and one in Plana; working in South Kosovska Mitrovica / Mitrovicë sector), two Belgian (located in Novo Selo, operating in Zvecan and Leposavic sector) and two Danish (located in Camp Olaf Rye and covering the area of Zubin Potok and Srbica / Skënderaj). Kosovo as a whole has 318 servicemen from twenty different nations who work everyday in order to "feel the pulse of Kosovo" and so give the higher levels an objective and neutral vision of the situation on the field.



# Kosovo Museum

The KFOR-Chronicle Team

This pretty ochre-painted villa housing the Kosovo Museum was built by Austrians for the Turkish army in 1898, and was used by the Yugoslav national army until 1975. The museum used to have a rich collection of prehistoric objects uncovered in Kosovo - these were all spirited off to Belgrade just before the troubles started in 1998, and 676 archeological finds and 571 ethnographic items yet have to be returned. The extensive permanent archaeology exhibition details life in the region in the Illyrian, Dardanian and Roman periods with excellent English-language texts, all accompanied by Philip Glass minimal music. Centre stage is the 6000 year old Hynesha në Fron (Goddess on a throne) statue, found at Tjerrtorja in 1956 and returned to Pristina in 2002. In front of the building recent history is represented by some artillery hardware, while two large Jewish gravestones remind of another recent exodus drama



# Peacekeeper's Profiles

**Name:** Marga Viersen-van Bragt

**Rank:** Wachtmeester der 1e klasse der Koninklijke Marechaussee, OR-6

**Nationality:** The Netherlands

**Home Unit:** Koninklijke Marechaussee/Brigade Utrecht in the Netherlands

**Unit in KFOR:** National Support Element (NSE), the Netherlands

**About the mission:** This is my first mission. I did request for this mission because of the position in NSE. To provide, organize and to find solutions for taking care of business is daily work, which I like the most. The support I provide is mainly for the Netherlands' personnel in the KFOR mission and the EULEX mission within Kosovo. Most of my activities are "national business" but I also conform to KFOR regulations. I enjoy the work and personal meetings with all the international KFOR members on the campsite. It has been a great experience for me.

**Family reaction:** I'm married for almost 20 years to a wonderful man. He is a civilian policeman in the Netherlands and during my stay in the mission he is doing a great job to keep our two daughters (17 and 11-year old) busy. They also have enough spirit left to support me during the mission and this special period of my live.

**Plans after the mission:** When I return home, it will be the end of the children's vacation because they will return to school, leaving me a lot of time to spend with my husband, who is taking his vacation with me. After my days off I'll return to my position on the brigade Utrecht.



**Name:** Anna Krapane

**Rank:** Lance corporal (OR-3)

**Nationality:** Latvia

**Home Unit:** 34th Artillery Battalion, driver-signal operator

**Unit in KFOR:** Multinational Task Force Center, LMT-4 Liaison officer

**About the mission:** This is my first mission abroad. I like my duty and the job I am doing here in Kosovo because I have an opportunity to meet different people and work in a multinational environment. I appreciate good cooperation not only within Liaison monitoring team (LMT) family which I belong to, but also with other units, such as civil-military cooperation (CIMIC) and KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM). I believe we have managed to establish a very friendly relationship with the locals which is an important part because we are really able "To feel the pulse of Kosovo". Our team is located in camp Victoria and I have many new friends. In Latvia I do my service in National Guard unit.

**Family reaction:** I am not the only one in my family who has chosen the military profession. My older brother also serves in the Latvian Armed Forces and he has already accomplished three missions. My mother has grown accustomed to my work. Only whom I am missing very much is my three-year old son Daniel.

**Plans after the mission:** I will have a little rest, and then most probably start to look for another overseas mission.



**Name:** Rholondra Louis

**Rank:** Master Sergeant (OR-7)

**Nationality:** United States of America

**Home Unit:** 97th Mission Support Group, Knowledge Operations Superintendent, Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma

**Unit in KFOR:** Headquarters KFOR, Public Affairs Office

**About the mission:** This is my first deployment during my 20 years of active duty service. I am enjoying my duty here in Kosovo because of the excellent opportunity to meet with different people and work in a multinational environment. The Public Affairs Internal Information area consists of four individuals each with different nationalities that form a dynamic team. We believe that venturing out and getting to know camp personnel and visiting with the different local camps is a great way to gain positive rapport and enhance moral. During these visits, we are able to develop and tell the story of HQ KFOR and build on the "Unity of Effort" amongst all. Our team of experts is located in HQ KFOR, Film City, Pristina Kosovo.

**Family reaction:** My family was a bit surprised with the deployment but realized that I am not the only one and will not be the last to leave to support the mission. Several members of my family are in the military, to include my husband, brother and cousins, all serving in different parts of the Armed Forces. I miss all of my family members, as this is the longest I've been away from them.

**Plans after the mission:** I plan to take some time off (month) and return to work in the United States.



# Grashtica Archeological Site



Photo by Afrim Hajrullahu