

KFOR

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CHRONICLE



9th Edition

September 30th 2009



CHANGE OF COMMAND IN KFOR

COMKFOR's Foreword



To all members of the KFOR-Family, military and civilian!

I am honored and feel privileged at having assumed command of KFOR in an impressive ceremony on the 8th of September 2009, and I am fully aware of the extraordinary responsibility that comes with this position.

In the past days, I have seen very much of what KFOR is currently working on. I do not exaggerate when I state that I have seen an outstanding performance of how we do our job. I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to all of you. Through your daily efforts, efficiency, and your commitment to excellence, you make valuable contributions to the success of our mission.

For the past 10 years, KFOR has made a significant military contribution to the development and stabilization of this region and in doing so, has earned an outstanding reputation.

It is now up to us to continue the success story of KFOR and take the next step necessary to maintain the gradual transfer of responsibilities to civilian structures. The transition to the next phase of operations will reduce the military footprint of KFOR of Kosovo significantly. As we conduct this transfer, we will not risk the accomplishments KFOR has achieved in the past years. KFOR is and will be a reliable partner. Therefore, we will continue to provide a safe and secure environment for all the people of Kosovo regardless of ethnicity or location. While downsizing the number of troops, our challenge will be to improve our situational awareness while engaging in all available means.

Therefore, within the next 12 months, I want to maintain a safe and secure environment through enhanced communication and cooperation with the Institutions in Kosovo and the International Civil Presences with significantly reduced forces and a profoundly changed force posture in order to set the stage for a dynamic move towards Minimum Presence. This includes not only liaison and closer C2 links, but particularly training and exercises on all levels in a comprehensive manner. The deployment of the ORF battalion by the end of September 2009 will demonstrate our capability for quick reinforcements to counter any threats to the security situation.

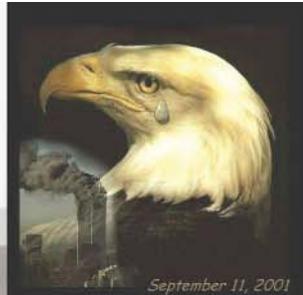
KFOR has just launched the challenging dynamic phase of Deterrent Presence. This phase is the continuation of the goals and achievements KFOR has already accomplished and therefore stands our motto:

"MOVING FORWARD"

I look forward to your continued support in executing our mission. Let us shape the future of KFOR and Kosovo together.



THE US CONTINGENT



REMEMBERS THE 9-11 ATTACKS

Story by LTC Charles J. Coates, U.S. Army
Photos by OR-6 James R. Hanson, U.S. Army

The President of the United States proclaimed September 11 as "Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance", in memory and honor of those who perished on that fateful day. He directed that the United States flags display at half-staff at all American homes, the White House and all U.S. Government offices at installations home and abroad. That tradition continues throughout the U.S. and around the world as the U.S. and its allies are engaged in the War on Terror.

The KFOR U.S. Contingent in Prishtinë/Pristina, Kosovo, commemorated the September 11th 2001, terror attacks with a Flag Raising ceremony in memory of the nearly 3000 people whom lost their lives on that day. The overwhelming majority of casualties were civilians, including nationals from over 90 countries. Since that devastating day, the United States and many of its allies have been engaged in military operations in order to bring those responsible to justice.

The tragic events of that day are a bitter reminder that the world changed forever and its impact had global repercussions. On that morning, 19 Al-Qaeda terrorists hijacked four commercial passenger jet airliners. The

hijackers intentionally crashed two of the airliners into the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, killing everyone on board and many others working in the buildings. Both buildings collapsed within two hours, destroying nearby buildings and damaging others. The hijackers crashed a third airliner into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia, just outside of Washington, D.C. The fourth plane crashed into a field near Shanksville, in rural Pennsylvania, after some of its passengers and flight crew attempted to retake control of the plane, which the hijackers had redirected toward Washington, D.C. There were no survivors from any of the flights.

According to the Commander of the U.S. National Support Element, the significant aspect of the ceremony is that the majority of the junior Soldiers that participated in the memorial enlisted into the military after the attacks and are fully aware that they were volunteering to serve in a wartime military. Looking around the group assembled, many of the troops have deployed in direct support of the Global War on Terror, prior to the current mission in Kosovo. This is still very fresh in our minds, it is an event that most will remember where they were, and what they were doing when they heard of the attacks.

Commander KFOR

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Nations within KFOR:

NATO Nations

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

Non-NATO Nations

Armenia	Morocco
Austria	Sweden
Finland	Switzerland
Ireland	Ukraine



MOVING I



September 08, 2009

Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler took over responsibility during KFOR Transfer of Authority ceremony in the Camp Film City, Prishtine/Pristina.

September 10, 2009

Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, Commander Kosovo Force, attended his first official meeting with Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu, President of Kosovo, in the President's office in downtown of Prishtine/Pristina. The main topics of discussions were the development of Kosovo during the last few years and the next milestones on the way to create a prosperous future for Kosovo.



September 12, 2009

Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler visited Multinational Task Force East to meet with Task Force Commander and leading officers. During his visit, COMKFOR participated in shooting of a U.S. machine gun at shooting range.

September 14, 2009

Prishtine/Pristina - Kosovo Force Commander (COMKFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler hosted Portuguese Minister of National Defense, Mr. Nuno Serveriano Teixeira, during his visit to Kosovo. In his opening remarks, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler expressed appreciation to Portugal for contributing the KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM) as COMKFOR tactical reserve.



September 14, 2009

Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler presided over the Multinational Task Force West (MNTF-W) Transfer of Authority in the in the Camp Villaggio Italia. "Pinerolo" Brigade Commander, Brigadier General Roberto D'Alessandro took over authority of MNTF-W.



September 16, 2009

COMKFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler visited Multinational Task Force Center (MNTF-C). During the visit, Lieutenant General Bentler received a situational update from the MNTF-C Commander, Brigadier General Seppo Toivonen and, later, visited the troops in the field. The visit was near Gazimestan Monument in Kosovo Polje, near Prishtinë/Pristina. MNTF-C troops guard the monument that commemorates the battle in 1389.

September 17, 2009

Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler presided over the Multinational Task Force North (MNTF-N) Transfer of Authority in the in the Camp Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny, Novo Selo. Commander of the 2nd Armoured Brigade, located in Orléans (France), Brigadier General Arnaud Sainte-Claire Deville took over authority of MNTF-N.



September 18, 2009

Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler visited troops in the field at Multinational Task Force South Headquarters. During his visit, he attends meetings with Task Force Commander and Serbian Orthodox church religious authority. In addition, LTG Bentler reviewed the Crowd and Riot Control exercise where the task was to protect Holy Archangel's Monastery near Prizren.

September 22, 2009

Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, presided over the KFOR Commander's conference, which took place in the Camp Ville, Multinational Task Force Center. The leading officers of KFOR Headquarters, Commanders of Task Forces, Multinational Specialized Unit, KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion, Headquarters Support Group and Communication Zone South attended the event.



September 22, 2009

Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, hosted Ukrainian military delegation headed by Lieutenant General Volodymir Mozharovskiy, Commander Joint Operations Command of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. Lieutenant General Volodymir Mozharovskiy discussed with COMKFOR the current situation in Kosovo and issues of Ukrainian Armed Forces contribution in KFOR for future.

KFOR Change of C

Story and photos by KFOR Chronicle Team

In the morning hours of 8 September 2009, many military and civilian vehicles made their way to Camp Film City to attend the official Kosovo Force Change of Command ceremony. Kosovo Force Commander (COMKFOR), Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay (Italian Army) relinquished command to Lieutenant General Markus Bentler (German Army).

Some of the distinguished guests that attended this commemorative event were Supreme Allied Command Europe Chief of Staff Operations, General Karl-Heinz Lather; Joint Force Command Naples (JFC-N) Commander, Admiral Mark Fitzgerald; Deputy JFC-N, Lieutenant General Peter Pearson; Commander Allied Land Component (Heidelberg), Lieutenant General Roland Kather (former COMKFOR XI). Also, numerous NATO military authorities; Ambassadors; Heads of Offices of States accredited in Kosovo;

the leadership of Institutions in Kosovo; KFOR Multinational Task Force Commanders and numerous representatives of international, national and local media to cover the event.

The helipad was the location of this formal event, followed by a press conference in the multifunctional tent, and the reception to mark this historic day. The helipad was set with military equipment and tactical vehicles from all contributing nations of Kosovo Force's troops.

The Italian military Bersaglieri band in their traditional uniform came first on the parade ground and started to perform. Accompanied by the sounds of marching, formations of all Multinational Task Forces and KFOR Headquarters, Multinational Specialized Unit and KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM), representing all troop contributing nations, arrived on the ground.

The ceremony commenced at 1100hrs with a report of Deputy KFOR Commander, Major General Antonio Satta to JFC Naples Commander, Admiral Mark Fitzgerald.



Command Ceremony

The key military leaders left the stage and inspected the troops, rendering allegiance to the soldiers.

The outgoing COMKFOR, Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay presented his farewell speech. Having appealed to all attendees, Lieutenant General Gay described the most important events of past year of his leadership. A highlight was the Kosovo Security Force validation exercise to demonstrate the readiness for the Initial Operational Capability. He also expressed his sincere gratitude to Admiral Mark Fitzgerald for his support and leadership and wished all the best to incoming COMKFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler.

"I'm leaving Kosovo with bittersweet feeling. The joy about the great results, the sadness for leaving Kosovo and my Kosovar friends together with all international community representatives

and KFOR soldiers. I would like to thank you all and to wish you the best for a brighter future. May God bless you and your families", said the outgoing Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay in the end of his speech.

Admiral Mark Fitzgerald and President of Kosovo, Mr. Fatmir Sejdiu underlined in their speeches the role of KFOR in all achievements in Kosovo for past year. For great contribution for peace, safe and secure environment in Kosovo, Kosovo President, Mr. Sejdiu decorated Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay with the Golden Medal for Military Service in Kosovo.

The most decisive point of the event occurred, when the incoming Commander Lieutenant General Markus Bentler took over the KFOR flag from the hands of Admiral Mark Fitzgerald. The playing of the National Anthems of Italy and Germany marked the end of the official ceremony.

After one year, the "Unity of effort" logo of KFOR XIII Commander, Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay, Italian Army, has been replaced by logo "Moving forward",

belonging to new KFOR Commander, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, German Army.



The Multinational Task Force

Story and photos by KFOR Chronicle Team

On 14 September 2009, Multinational Task Force West (MNTF-W) held a Transfer of Authority ceremony in the Camp Villaggio Italia. Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler was presiding over the ceremony. Numerous military and civilian distinguished guests were present including Ambassador of Italy to Kosovo, Mr. Michael Louis Giffoni, KFOR Headquarters leading officers, and Multinational Task Force Commanders.

The Italian military Bersaglieri band in their traditional uniform performed on the parade ground where tactical vehicles were on display. Accompanying by the sounds of marching, Task

Force subunits arrived for formation and positioned themselves in front of the Italian Flag, which is the leading nation in MNTF-W.

The ceremony started at 1100hrs with Kosovo Force Commander's arrival. Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, followed by outgoing Brigadier General Roberto Perretti and incoming Brigadier General Roberto D'Alessandro Task Force Commanders, reviewed the MNTF-W troops and joined the distinguished guests on stage.

During his speech, the outgoing MNTF-W Commander, Brigadier General Roberto Perretti thanked the Italian, Slovenian, Hungarian and



The West Transfer of Authority

Romanian soldiers within MNTF for accomplishing their mission with endurance, discipline and professionalism and lastly expressed his gratitude to KFOR staff for support.

He also underlined friendship and fruitful cooperation with people of Kosovo.

Following the speeches by incoming MNTF-W Commander,

Brigadier General Roberto D'Alessandro and

Kosovo Force

Commander, Lieutenant

General

Markus

Bentler,

COMKFOR decorated "Aosta" Brigade Commander, Brigadier General Roberto Perretti with Non-Article 5 NATO medal for service in Kosovo.

The ceremony was followed with the transfer of Multinational Task Force West flag. "Pinerolo" Brigade Commander, Brigadier General Roberto D'Alessandro accepted authority. COMKFOR Lieutenant General Markus Bentler shook hands both outgoing and incoming MNTF-W Commanders to symbolize the single approach and continuity of leadership.

At the end of ceremony, Task Force subunits performed a colorful military parade for KFOR leadership and guests. Headed by flag bearers in the first column, the columns of different detachments, including infantry, helicopter pilots, K9 instructors with their wards marched in front of military leadership, soldiers and admired civilian spectators.



Transfer of authority

Story by OF-4 GRIMONPREZ Hervé, FRA Army
Photos by OR-4 PHAINE Maxime, FRA Army

On Thursday, 17 September 2009, Brigadier General Arnaud SAINTE-CLAIRE Deville replaced Brigadier General Patrick Ribayrol as the Multinational Task Force North (MNTF-N) Commander. The Transfer of Authority ceremony, which took place at the Camp Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny, Novo Selo, was presided over by the Kosovo Force Commander (COMKFOR), Lieutenant General Markus BENTLER.

During the speech, COMKFOR stressed that Brigadier General Patrick RIBAYROL was very successful in maintaining a safe and secure environment in Northern Kosovo, which represents the most sensitive area

of KFOR responsibility. In his view, KFOR is progressing down a path towards the gradual reduction of personnel on the ground. This is only possible because of the outstanding performance of soldiers who came before and set the conditions for this transition. As a result, KFOR is now able to begin reducing the force structure without compromising the already achieved success. However, there is still a lot of work needed in the future to support Institutions in Kosovo and people of Kosovo in their movement to positive economic development, interethnic tolerance and prosperity. According to COMKFOR's assessment, soldiers of MNTF-N have fulfilled their mission. Before departing, General Patrick Ribayrol expressed his gratitude to the soldiers from France, Denmark, Greece, Morocco, Belgium, Luxembourg and Estonia, as well as to the soldiers of the other different Task Forces (TF), who served within MNTF-N under his



ty for the MNTF-N

command on a rotational basis, providing peace and stability in the TF area of responsibility. He also thanked the members of EULEX Force Police Unit, Kosovo Security Force, political and religious leaders of municipality, International community and media in Kosovo for their cooperation and assistance.

According to the KFOR tradition, COMKFOR took over the flag of the MNTF-N from Brigadier General Patrick Ribayrol and handed it over to Brigadier General Arnaud Sainte-Claire Deville, marking the transfer of authority between Commanders.

The new general of the MNTF-N declared in his speech, "Under the authority of the KFOR Commander, we will carry out our mission in the continuity of the powerful and determined action conducted by my predecessor Brigadier General Patrick Ribayrol. I am well acquainted with his commitment and I want to pay particular tribute to him as he is about to return in France".

Brigadier General Arnaud Sainte-Claire Deville, the new commander of MNTF-N, came to Kosovo from the position of the Commander of the 2nd Armoured Brigade, located in Orléans (France). He was appointed in this position on 1 August 2008. Brigadier Arnaud Sainte-Claire Deville's decorations include the Legion of Honour (with the rank of chevalier), the National Order of Merit (officer), the Bundeswehr Cross of Honour in Silver and the German Armed Forces Service Medal in bronze with ISAF campaign Bar.

KFOR Multinational Task Force North is comprised of 2,300 soldiers belonging to 7 different contributing nations: France, Morocco, Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Greece and Luxembourg. Its area is divided into 4 manoeuvre units: a French battalion, a Danish battalion, a Hellenic battalion and a Nothing Hill company. A Combat Service Support Battalion based in Novo-Selo and A Morocco Detachment.



EXERCISE TO PROTECT

Story by OF-2 Sirkku Rantakari, FIN Army

Photos by OF-1 Mika Väisänen, FIN Army

COMKFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler visited Multinational Task Force Center (MNTF-C) on 16 September 2009. During the visit, Lieutenant General Bentler received a situational update from the MNTF-C Commander, Brigadier General Seppo Toivonen and visited the troops in the field. The visit was near Gazimestan Monument in Kosovo Polje, near Prishtinë/Pristina. MNTF-C troops guard the monument that commemorates the battle in 1389.

COMKFOR received an overview of forthcoming events and issues relating to MNTF-C as well as Task Force Center's concept for future operations. After the briefing, COMKFOR had an opportunity to follow an eventful Crowd Riot Control (CRC) exercise. The focus was on protecting cultural assets with a special feature. The area had very limited space that challenged movement of all the troops in accomplishing the task, but the KFOR soldiers handled the situation very well. The exercise involved peacekeepers from all the troop contributing nations of MNTF-C such as Finland, Czech Republic, Ireland, Slovak Republic and Sweden.



CT CULTURAL ASSETS

LTG Bentler was pleased with the exercise and thanked troops for their professional and motivated attitude. "It is good to have troops like this under my command. I am convinced that you are capable of conducting not only demanding situations like in this exercise, but all the tasks you have and will be given. I need soldiers like you, hard working, flexible and prepared to do your best. I am proud of you and I am looking forward to working with you in order to provide a safe and secure environment for

all the people in Kosovo."

MNTF-C Commander, Brigadier General Seppo Toivonen was content with the meeting in its entirety. "This was a good opportunity for us to present our readiness on a more formal manner as well as in practice. The exercise went well, and the work to keep up and even enhance the readiness we have achieved will continue."

At the end of the visit, COMKFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler accompanied by MNTF-C Commander, Brigadier General Seppo Toivonen visited the Gracanica Monastery.



INTERNATIONAL WEAPONS

*Story by OR-4 Tina Peters, U.S. Army
Photos by OR-6 James R. Hanson, U.S. Army
and KFOR Chronicle Team*

On 12 September 2009, the US contingent at Film City organized and provided weapons training for 56 allied soldiers in order to qualify them on two United States military weapon systems: the M9 and M16A2. Participating in the event were 46 soldiers from Germany along with others from Austria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, and Ukraine. The "Falcon 2" range located in Ferizaj

was the place to be for the shooting event.

Soldiers were positioned at the 25-meter mark and given 24 rounds: 4 rounds for familiarization and 20 rounds to qualify for firing the semi-automatic M9 Pistol. Out of 56 soldiers, 31 fired Expert. For many, this was their first encounter with a US M9 Pistol. The outcome was truly amazing!

The M16A2 Rifle was more of a challenge, staying at the 25-meter mark; they received 26 rounds: 6 rounds for familiarization and 20 rounds to qualify. Out of 56 soldiers, 9 fired Expert.

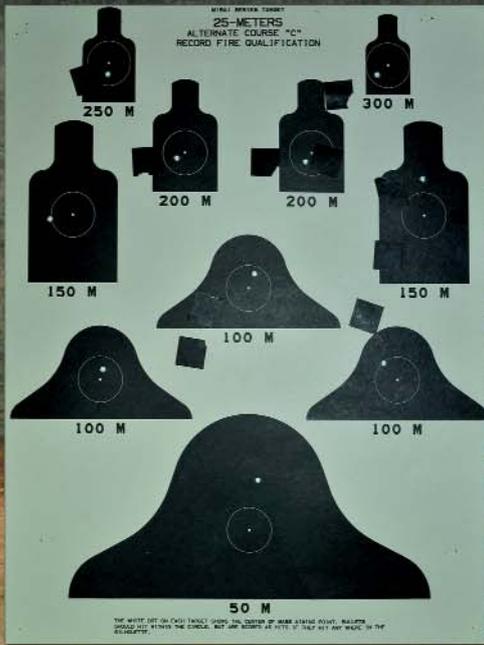
The soldiers who fired Expert on both the M16A2 and the M9 received the Double Expert Badge award. They were Major Roger Ahfelt (Sweden), Oberfeldwebel



QUALIFICATIONS WITH US!

Andreas Albrecht, Oberfeldwebel Florian Biel, Hauptmann Roy Grundtner, Oberleutnant Stefan Krug, Oberfeldwebel Michael Möbius, Oberleutnant Oliver Nill, Hauptfeldwebel Carsten Tüllner, and Oberfeldwebel Christian Wienecke (all from Germany). Later, on 14 September 2009, the US conducted an informal Awards Ceremony at SAMS II located on Film City. Eclipse in coordination with the Morale and Welfare Activities section hosted this festive event. The soldiers eagerly formed to accept congratulations by the Americans hosting the event. They anticipated the day they would be able to qualify on the US M9/M16A2 and receive their American Qualification Badges. The soldiers said, "they will take great pride in wearing the US badge on their uniform".

Preparing for a range event is hard work and very time consuming, there are safety issues, schedules to contend with and other logistical concerns, however, SPC Peters the US Armorer did an outstanding job. Like any good soldier, she was insistent on sharing credit and wanted to give a special "Thank You" to MSG Bobby Chavez, MSG Anthony Contreras, SFC Daniel King, SGT Jesus Miranda, SPC Andrew Nerio, SPC Johanna Rodriguez, SPC Carla Victorin, SPC Jeremiah Marshall, and SPC Jeremy Fox. As a team, they made this a successful event.



“... The 1st Infantry Battalion in

*Story by OF-1 Cristina Pereira, PTR Army
Photos by OR-6 Rodrigo Pinto, PTR Army*

Since March 2005, the KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuver Battalion (KTM) has been a Portuguese Battalion unit. In the sequence of Forces rotation, the 1st Infantry Battalion (1BI) has performed the role of KTM since the 24th of March

2009. Portugal was assigned with the following mission: "On order, the 1st Infantry Battalion will be deployed into Kosovo wide in order to fulfill the tasks defined by COMKFOR. Be prepared to deploy into Bosnia and Herzegovina."

At this time, we are ending our KOSOVO mission and a cycle of Operational activities where the Battalion always achieved the tasks that COMKFOR defined according to his priorities of employment and without any restrictions of ours, on which we highlight the deployment capacity



in Kosovo Operations Theater...”

of KTM Force and KTM Group in a short period of time. We remember the 25th of March, the day after the Transfer of Authority (TOA) as a day when 290 military personnel, full of big feelings of utility, with a common objective noted in their eyes, as a result of achieving their duty, proud of the preparation and training in Portugal, ready to carry out the mission for which they were trained with proud to belong to this group of KFOR and ready to do everything required of us with the only purpose of elevating the Homeland that we love.

At the beginning and up to the middle of April, the whole training was developed intensely and progressively, centralizing all our attention in a single objective, to reach the FULL OPERATIONAL CAPABILITY (FOC).

Our first mission, "MIGHTY WEST EFFORT" happened from 20 until 26 April with the KTM Group, Bravo Coy was deployed the Multinational Task Force West (MNTF-W), area of responsibility where we started the first patrols in this theatre of Operations.

During six months of mission we performed: 17 Operations and 5 KFOR exercises under HQ/KFOR responsibility, 25 exercises under KTM responsibility, leaving

(we

hope) a positive mark of the Portuguese Soldiers passage in every MNTF area. Concerning KTM Operational activity, we carried out for the first time a "Sling Load" training with vehicles that equip the Operational subunits as well as other exercises in training and in Operations, where we detach our participation in the exercises of "BALKAN HAWK" série with an "Air-Lift" of a manoeuvre company and the Special Operations Detachment CRC (Crowd and Riot Control) equipped.

Regarding the typology of the Operations, we emphasize the Operations performed by the KTM Group at GATE 1 and DOG 31, where all the planning phases concerning the KTM deployment plan were elaborated by us in accordance with the directives issued by the Command of KFOR. These exercises were held following the fact that KFOR stopped to occupy the Property Designed with Special Status (Pr DSS). The work developed allowed to learn some lessons that will be useful in the solution of possible deployment near the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL).

In view of this analysis, our opinion is that the result was clearly positive, it was the consequence of the performance, the exigency, the regular and uninterrupted training performed by members of KTM and recognized by KFOR.

Working for KFOR has made us proud and enriched us a lot, exalting and dignifying the name of Portugal.



K9 MEDEVAC

*Story and photos by Spc. Darriel Swatts
69th Public Affairs Detachment, U.S. Army*

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo - A U.S. Army K9 and its handler dangle beneath a helicopter more than 30 feet off the ground, silhouetted by a setting sun. Their fellow unit members from the K9 Detachment, 95th Military Police (MP) Battalion, watch them become airborne for the first time with their dogs on a nearby field at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. The K9 Detachment Soldiers assigned to the camp are supporting the Multi-National Task Force-East (MNTF-E) mission in providing a safe and secure environment and their part is making sure their dogs are used to the best of their abilities; whenever and wherever necessary. If that means they need to be transported via helicopter to get them into the action as quickly as possible, then their handlers and the chopper pilots have to know how to move them there. "Dogs go through the same things as humans do. They feel anxiety, stress and the feeling of being uncomfortable just as we do," said Maj. Laura Lester, a veterinarian with the task force. "They have to go through training and familiarization process like we do when we do something new." This is why the active-duty Soldiers, based out of Germany, and their canines went through an extensive three part training exercise in order to ride a UH-60 Blackhawk's Jungle Penetrator Hoist, a three-pronged device used to

smash its way through a tree canopy, pick up its human cargo and winch them back up to safety. It has many other uses like the focus of this training, which is extracting a military working dog and its handler from any hot spot in case one of the two gets injured on the job. "The dog gets the same amount of rights on the battlefield as a Soldier does," said Lester. "When the MEDEVAC comes to get the wounded and the dog is in worse condition than the Soldier, the dog gets priority over the Soldier." The first part of the training consisted of trying to figure out how they were going to lift the dogs safely. The Task Force Arctic Eagle pilots, from the Maryland Army National Guard's 1-169th General Support Aviation Battalion, had never hoisted a dog before so they were part of the learning process as well. Once they went through a few trial and error runs they found a way to lift the dog safely and comfortably and began practicing how to mount and dismount from the Jungle Penetrator Hoist. "It was a lot of fun riding the hoist with Sammy [his dog]," said Spc. Bryan Skipper, a Patrol and Narcotics Detection Dog Handler. "I'm glad we did the walk-through before we went up." The second phase of the training was centered on the sensitivity of the dogs hearing. Their ears were stuffed with gauze and secured with bandages wrapped around their heads to muffle the high pitched whine of the engines auxiliary power. The rest of the reservations that the dogs felt were quickly taken care of by a calming touch and reassuring words by their handlers.



DEVAC

"I wasn't sure how Sammy would react at first, but she adapted well to the new situation," said Skipper. Once the dogs were comfortable enough to approach the aircraft, the pilots added another new element to the mix. They fully started the aircraft and had the rotor blades spinning to see how the dogs would respond. Canine and handler began taking baby steps toward the aircraft, moving side to side, getting a feel for the new sensation.

"I took Rex by his leash and we slowly walked our way to the helicopter, so he could get used to it," said Staff Sgt. Carlos Paniagua, K9 Detachment Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC) and a Patrol and Explosive Detection Dog (PEDD) Handler. "He has done work around and in helicopters before in Iraq and Afghanistan, so I was just getting him re-familiarized with the noise and wind."

When the handlers and their dogs were comfortable enough around the fully operating Blackhawk, it was time to conduct the hoist training. The pilots first hovered 10 feet off the ground and did a lift with the handler and canine to see how they reacted to being on the hoist. Then, the pilots raised the aircraft to approximately 40 feet and did another lift with the pair dangling below. "The rotor wash on the 10 foot lift was so strong that my dog [Lando] couldn't walk to the pickup site, so I ended up having to carry him there," said Sgt. Tyler Leopold, a PEDD Handler.

All three handlers and dogs got to ride the hoist. The new harness system the K9 Detachment ordered was put to good use and was added to their arsenal of resources they can rely on to put their dogs to work. The lessons learned will help to update everyone's Standard Operating Procedure manuals on how to transport canines and simply provides the task force another tool in making sure the region, the Soldiers and the military working dogs remain safe and secure.





Vaya con Dios - S

Story and photos by KFOR Chronicle Team

At the end of March 2009, the Spanish government made a decision to pull out all troops from KFOR. As promised by their Minister of Defense, Carme Chacón Piqueras, the feet on the ground in Kosovo decreased but not at once but continuously. The last Spanish soldier completed his service within KFOR by entering the plane at Thessaloniki airport on 19 September 2009 at 1030 local time.

Exactly, 22,601 Spanish troops served within KFOR since the very beginning in 1999. Their battalion, with an average strength of 630 soldiers, was located in Base España in Istog/Istok in the Area of Responsibility of Multinational Task Force West. With high professionalism and all their effort, they were able to provide a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement. Only a minor, but by no means less important, part of the contingent (approximately 10 to 20 people) fulfilled their tasks as administrators to the Deputy Chief of Staff Support in the Headquarters of Kosovo Force (HQ KFOR), Camp Film City in Pristine/Pristina. Pulling out a contingent of that size is a big challenge from an operational and a logistics point of view. It is not just to grab all goods, gather all personnel, put them in some vehicles and that's it. No! Other forces covered the operational tasks and the battalion transformed into a logistics structure. The major part of the equipment and the vehicles went back to Spain by vessels from



Spanish Contingent



Thessaloniki port. To get a slight impression on the huge quantity here are some facts and figures: There were 277 vehicles, from light cars up to armored personnel carriers, and 214 twenty foot long containers that are going back home. To get everything from Istog/Istok down to Thessaloniki required seven trains and four road convoys. Coordination of the transport from Kosovo to Greece through FYROM was completed in combination with Joint Transportation Coordination Center in HQ KFOR, the NATO Host Nation Support in Skopje and Communication Zone South in Thessaloniki.

The last two vessels of four in total departed on the 19th and 21st of September.

All 143 Soldiers left Kosovo by plane from Prishtine/Pristina on 16 September 2009 and the remaining 90 soldiers, from Thessaloniki airport on 19 September 2009. Brigadier General Jesús Amatriain Mendez, Deputy Chief of Staff Operations of the NATO Defense College Headquarters in Greece was present to say farewell to Spanish troops from Kosovo.

EL CAMINO ESPAÑOL



2ND INTERNATIONAL M

Story by Lt. Col. Dirk Muijskens, NLD Army

Photos by KFOR Chronicle Team

"The 5th of September 2009, was the 2nd International Military Police (MP) Day hosted at Multinational Task Force East (MNTF-E) Camp Bondsteel. There were more than 50 MP's from 15 different countries that participated in a pistol shooting competition consisting of several target-shooting scenarios in a computer simulator range. There were 5 teams of 5 shooters, each lead by the Provost Marshal (PM) of each MNTF here in Kosovo.

MP's of different countries mixed and there was a lot of

information exchanged. Some MP's knew each other from previous assignments. While there's already a multinational MP office in MNTF-C in existence, other MNTF's are supporting each other performing speed-checks or other specific MP-tasks. The Provost Marshals (PM) of the Task Forces have their monthly PM meeting, which helps them to work on an information driven basis. Doing this, they can provide the best interoperable police support to the MNTF Commanders and the MP's "on the ground". The implementation of "Deterrent Presence", which will also lead to reducing the number of MP's, will make this issue even more important in the coming months.



MILITARY POLICE DAY

A very nice BBQ in the afternoon followed the morning competition. The Italian Carabinieri/Slovenian MP team of MNTF-W won the Best Team Award. The Best Individual shooter came from MNTF-N, Danish SGT Daniel Kristensen, who narrowly beat the PMs from Center and South, respectively.

The PM MNTF-E, MAJ Rand Williams and his Deputy PM, MAJ Stephen Mayoral along with SGM Raymond Sweeney and their staff, did a terrific job organizing the event and the BBQ. Looking back, everybody agreed that it was a great day of meeting, networking, reacquainting and having fun with each other ... so a third International MP Day will follow soon!

Also worth mentioning, is a new project initiated by the PM of MNTF-W, Major Gianni Fedeli, called "Police for Police." The goal is to provide financial assistance through donations from all MP's into a foundation that supports Kosovo Police officers and/or their families who have lost their life or suffered some kind of disability while in the line of duty. The PMs recognize the big financial challenges these families face and therefore want to support the officers here through a similar program they all have in their home country.

Talks are ongoing to establish an MP Endowment so that the PM's can issue their first official donation to this noble cause within the next couple of weeks".



The handover of "La Concession" is a symbol of law

Story and photos by KFOR Chronicle Team

On 31 August 2009 at 1500 hrs, General Patrick Ribayrol, Multinational Task Force North (MNTF-N) Commander, handed over the keys of the site "La Concession" to the municipality of Mitrovica's representatives in the presence of its Mayor, Mr. Rexhepi, Cultural Center's Director, and a military delegation from MNTF-N(1) composed of the major actors of the demolition of the Camp.

"La Concession's" handover became official with the signing of the documents by General Ribayrol and Mr. Rexhepi. In his speech, MNTF-N Commander declared, "This day is very important for Mitrovica and historic for the KFOR considering the symbolic aspect of the Main Bridge". He thanked the soldiers of the MNTF for the work they had done with professionalism and for the accomplishment of their missions since their

presence in the site until that moment. He also expressed his satisfaction concerning the dynamism of his soldiers. Within a month and a half, they demolished all military installations. On his part, the Mayor of Mitrovica, also warmly thanked the soldiers of the MNTF-N for their presence in the site that would recover, henceforth it's original vocation as a place of entertainment in the prestigious past. In this context, Mitrovica's mayoralty held a dance in traditional costumes in the house of culture.

A French company occupied "La Concession" since 1999. After 10 years of presence in Kosovo, the KFOR, observing a positive and lasting law and order situation, decided to reduce progressively the mark of its troops. MNTF-N's forces that left their area, in the front of Main Bridge, would consequently be very mobile and ready to intervene in whatever area.

The mission of MNTF-N stays nevertheless the



Law and order situation's improvement in KOSOVO

same; maintain a safe and secure environment, and a freedom of movement for all persons. Within the framework of their maneuver and redeployment, KFOR's troops existing in the north of Kosovo will continue to be prepared to act as third responders, after the police of Kosovo and EULEX(2), in aid of population, with impartiality, by way of numerous and more mobile patrols. This will improve the capacity of rapid intervention of MNTF-N in its area of responsibility.

1. MNTF-N: composed of 2500 soldiers from different nations: France (1500 soldiers), Belgium, Greece, Denmark, Luxembourg and Morocco.

2. EULEX: created on the 4th of February 2008 and has been operational since the 14th of June 2008. It aims at helping the institutions of KOSOVO in three fields: justice, police and customs in order that they become free from any political interference and line with international norms and what is in practice in

EUROPE.

On 31 August 2009, the maintenance of a secure and safe environment and freedom of movement of population materialized by the retrocession of the Camp "La Concession"; which marks a positive turning point in the evolution of law and order situation in Kosovo.

From May to September 2009, the 31st mandate of the MNTF-N, at disposal of KFOR, has accomplished its mission in the north of Kosovo. The Headquarters consisted mainly of the equipment and personal of the 3rd Mechanized Brigade of Limoges. The 1st and 11th Armored Regiment of Carpiagne essentially armed the French Contingent. A company of the 126th Infantry Regiment of Brive, 92nd Infantry Regiment of Clermont-Ferrand; and 48th Transmission Regiment that is reinforced by a company of the 31st Engineer regiment, aids in the reinforcement of French Contingent.



Belgian KFOR: in the pa

*Story by OF-1 Wout Putseys, Belgian Army
Photos by Belgian KFOR*

Since 1999, the Belgian Army has been part of KFOR. Whereas BELKOS 1 still counted more than 1,000 men, the current contingent BELKOS 31 is composed of 179 soldiers. Nevertheless, due to the variety in specialized personnel and equipment, the Belgian contingent has been able to keep up the standard of flexibility, versatility and high performance. Currently, the company is located in BELVEDERE, MITROVICA and is under operational command of French Battalion. The BELKOS 30 and BELKOS 31 Transfer of Authority took place on 28 August.

Three platoons originate from the 2nd Field Artillery Regiment; first, Artillerymen with parachutist qualifications form the core of the company. Their main task is to

keep the area of MITROVICA safe and secure, among other things by patrolling inside the area of responsibility and by supporting EULEX if necessary. If Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) is the main emphasis, the Belgian company is fully equipped and trained to conduct such operations. Nevertheless, a quick transition back to conventional infantry tactics is not a problem, when needed. Both of these methods of operating are possible in almost every kind of terrain, due to the diversity of the available vehicles: light or armored jeeps, wheeled personnel carrier trucks or tracked Infantry Fighting Vehicles.

The sniper team plays a significant role in the execution of the main tasks. They provide tactical support that cannot be valued too high. Primarily, their job is passing intelligence reports continuously to the company. Secondly, in case of direct threat, they can take out appropriate targets with precision. Again, these tasks can be fulfilled both in CRC as in



ast and current activities

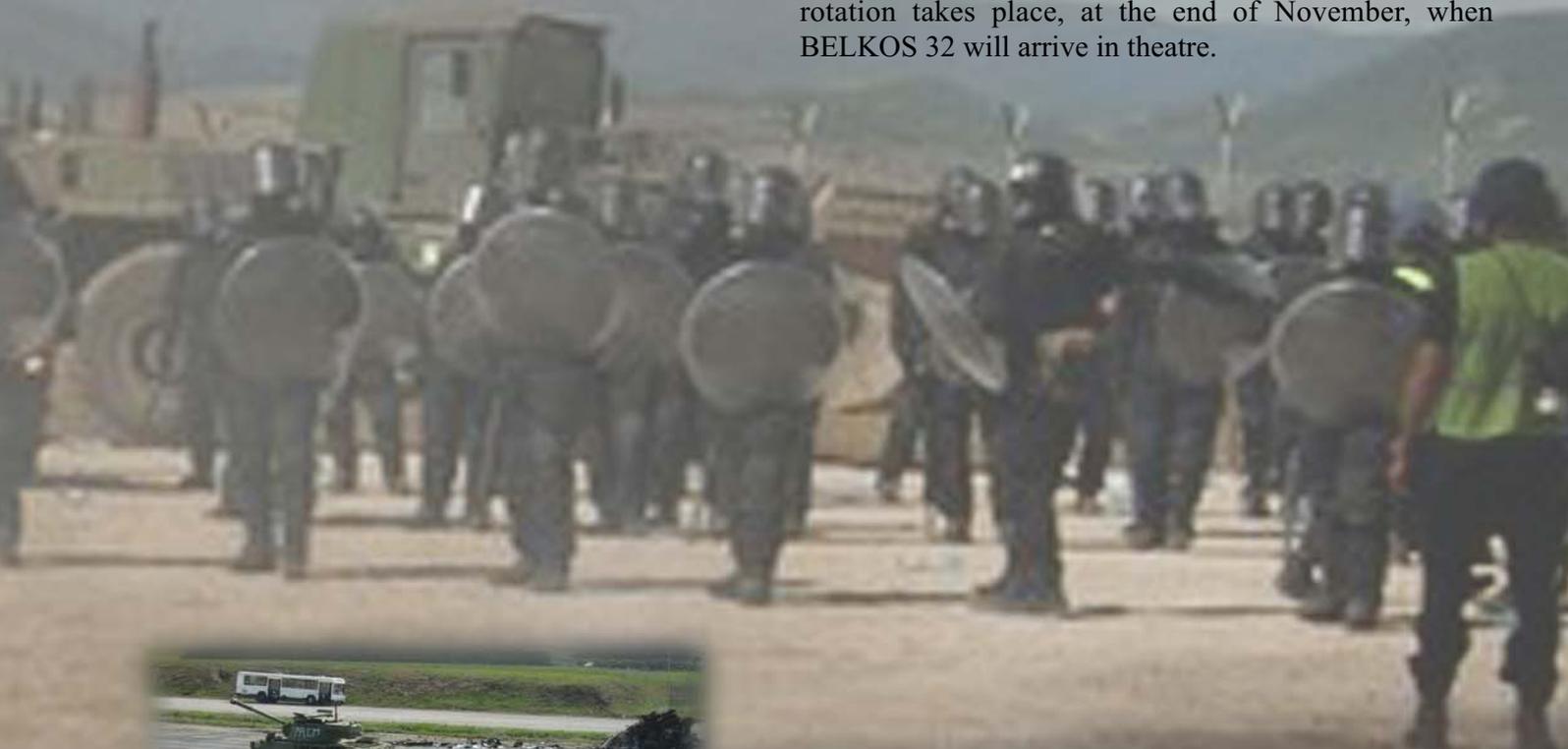
conventional operations.

Next to the tactical support, BELKOS 31 has its own means of technical, logistical and medical support present in the compound. The CIS Group keeps the communication and information networks up and running. The Logistics Group provides material support during operations, vehicle maintenance, and small infrastructural repairs; manage financial issues and local employees. The Medical Group is at any time able to respond in case of medical emergencies. Last but not least, there is a team of Military Policemen present, mainly to take care of road accidents and reports in case of damage to civilian property. In conclusion, BELKOS 31 has indeed the numerical size of a (large) company, but the structure of a battalion.

The pluralistic hallmark of the Belgian Contingent results

in a distinct build and versatility. This characteristic has already proven its worth in Operation NORTHERN HOLOGRAM, which took place from 21 - 25 September 2008. The general aim of this operation was not only to show the flag and to deploy a significant number of forces in difficult terrain, in addition, to observe passively and to gather intelligence about possible illegal activities alongside the Kosovo - Serbia border. BELKOS 31 operated between DOG 21 (Axis MOZART) and DOG 2 (Axis ZOLA). Three platoons, the sniper team and an extensive command post deployed in the process. The traffic of illegal woodcutting is one of several reported activities. EULEX transferred all valuable information at the end of the mission.

Meanwhile, the company has picked up the normal activities - the so-called framework tasks - in MITROVICA. They will continue to do so until the next rotation takes place, at the end of November, when BELKOS 32 will arrive in theatre.



The Czech Explosive Ordnance and joint firefighters

Story and photos by KFOR Chronicle Team

On 11 September 2009, Czech KFOR performed an EOD demonstration along with a joint firefighters and medical exercise at the Hrtice shooting range near Camp Sajkovac, Multinational Task Force Center. The servicemen from Czech and Slovak contingents and their national contingent commanders attended this event. The colleagues of the Czech EOD team from Irish Contingent, and Swedish Bravo Company EOD squad were

among the guests, along with representatives of Finnish Contingent.

Warrant Officer Pavel Panek lead the Czech EOD team who was preparing the EOD demonstration while Warrant Officer Marek Tkac, who was in charge, presented attendees with general information and necessary instructions. All participants had to sign an agreement to accept personal responsibility, and follow strict security measures. The participants obtained valuable information from the EOD display. Next, they were observing the EODs on the demolition site.

Finally, participants moved uphill to the observation post to witness the demolition.

Communicating by radio, the devices exploded one by one. All participants investigated the destruction caused by the EOD. The antitank mine showed the most powerful effect by destroying and



mine Disposal demonstration firefighters/medical exercise

throwing carcasses of a car far away. Compared with it, the effect of antipersonnel mine was not so impressive, but remains of beef meat from the model demonstrated visually to everybody the result of being inattentive. The blasts instilled in all who were present a sense of how extremely dangerous and powerful explosives are during hostilities, and the importance of situational awareness.

But Czech EOD team is responsible not only for soldiers training and getting acquainted with mine awareness. They are also used to visit on routine basis schools, located in area of responsibility, to sensitize children on dangers of unexploded ordnances. The EOD guys teach kids to prevent them from wrong actions and save their lives in case children found something suspicious.

The next phase of the day was the joint firefighters and medical exercise.

According to scenario, near the crossroad to the range

Hrtice, a KFOR vehicle crashed. Heavy smoke was coming from the engine with an injured driver trapped inside. The Quick Response Team blocked the road near the scene. Warrant Officer Marcel Knapik lead the firefighters in eliminating the fire, and stopping any leaks or possible vehicle motion. Next, firefighters removed the driver by cutting off the roof to the vehicle. Finally, the medical staff started administering first aid and eventually evacuated the injured driver by ambulance to the hospital.

This exercise provided an opportunity for all its participants to check their readiness to act in case of emergency. The Czech soldiers demonstrated good training and professional skills in conditions close to reality.



TIME TO SAY GOOD BYE...

At the end of six months in this Theatre of Operations, I think that it was an honor and a privilege to take part in this mission in Republic of Kosovo. Today, we can declare that thanks to our efforts and dedication, we contributed to the guarantee and maintenance of a safe and secure environment (SASE) and the freedom of movement (FOM) in Kosovo.

If I could use a few words to abbreviate the entire period that I spent in these lands of Kosovo, I could try to be different, but inevitably, I will say the same thing that so many people said before. Full of a strong feeling of admiration and respect for all, I'm a happy man, but essentially, I'm a satisfied Commanding Officer because we raised high the name of the 1st Infantry Battalion of the Intervention Brigade (1BI/BrigInt), Portuguese Armed Forces and Portugal. We did it together, with every single man and woman who serves in this Battalion, because we put the best of our capacities and knowledge in the daily accomplishment of our tasks and missions. To all the militaries who belong to MNTFs, MSU, Officers, NCO's and privates, I would like to express the admiration, the consideration and true respect of the 1BI/BrigInt.



It was a privilege to work with you, with the communion of knowledge and with a common purpose, we worked together contributing to a SASE and to the FOM Kosovo wide, showing us all as constant stimulators of a quick and safe development in region of the world.

Generals, Commanders, please accept my consideration, my admiration and respect for the friendly manner and all the support I received from your Excellencies and the men under your Command.

It was an honor to be in your company and with all who preceded you, I felt one of you all the time, I think that this is the spirit that prevails in this big KFOR family where everyone is a part of a cohesive group around the same motto "Moving Forward".

During all this time, KTM worked hard, always in accordance with COMKFOR's intentions, helping to build a way for peace, hoping that soon, conditions may be created for a better Kosovo. I wish that some feelings like: tolerance, stability, freedom and economic development may one day, be a close and global reality in this entire region.

At last, I would like to wish to all KFOR soldiers, honor and glory in the accomplishment of your mission, may the only way be "Moving Forward" and god bless.

Peacekeeper's Profiles

Name: Filip Coutigny

Rank: Kapitein-Commandant, OF-3

Nationality: Belgium

Home Unit: Competention Centre for Support Materials (CCMP) - YPRES

Unit in KFOR: Multinational Task Force North, RLMT Liaison Officer

About the mission: This is my second mission. I am liaison officer with the international organizations in MITROVICA (UNMIK, OSCE, ICO and EULEX) and commanding officer of the Belgian LMTs operating in the Northern KOSOVO Serbian municipalities of ZVECAN and LEPOSAVIC. We are in the French Barracks of NOVO SELO. The Belgian LMTs receive an intensive training for almost two months in the home country. The training contains media training, a language course and LMT skills.

Family reaction: I am married for 25 years to a lovely woman. She is teacher in fashion. We have two children, my daughter (24 YO) works as facility manager in the food industry and my son (22 YO) will start his last year to become industrial engineer in design.

Plans after the mission: As I am at the end of my career, I will take some vacation, but for the moment, I have no further plans. I hope I will manage to find an interesting civilian job to be helpful to people.



Name: Krasimir Ivanov Kapitanov

Rank: OR-1

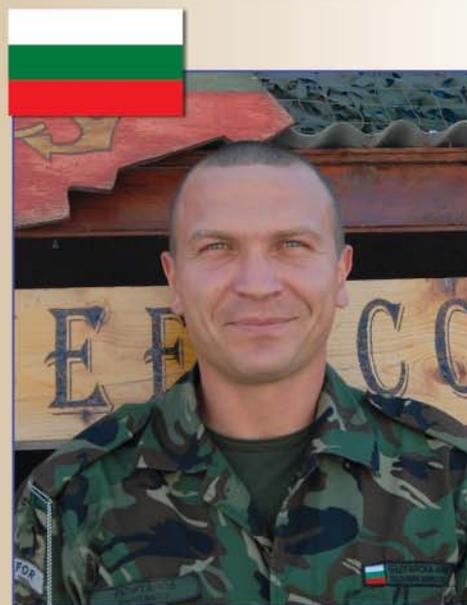
Nationality: Bulgarian

Home unit: 55th Engineer Regiment, Belene

About the mission: Currently, I am in the middle of my second mission in Kosovo. I am serving as a fortification facilities fitter in Multinational Engineer Company, MNTEF-S Field Camp in Prizren since the middle of June 2009. It is a real pleasure and challenge for me to work in this multinational environment and to meet comrades from many other nations. During my leisure time, I prefer to play soccer together with my friends. Here, I learned some interesting things about habits, working methods and relations between the military personnel. I am convinced that I will return to Bulgaria with much more experience in a professional and human term, which would help me in the development of my career.

Family reaction: I am married to the most wonderful woman in the world and I know that she fully supports me in all my undertaking. I have a son who is one year of age. I miss them a lot, but I know that soon I will have the opportunity to embrace and kiss them and this gives me more strength in the race against time.

Plans after mission: My first wish is to see, to enjoy the holiday with my family, and to continue implementing my commitments in the engineer regiment in Belene.



Name: Jerry Dineen

Rank: OR-9

Nationality: Irish

Home Unit: 12th Infantry Battalion (Limerick), 1st Southern Brigade

Unit in KFOR: Group HQ, 40th (Irish) Infantry Group

About the Mission: This is my first mission in Kosovo, although, my 11th overseas mission. I previously served in Lebanon, Bosnia, East Timor, Liberia and Afghanistan. This is my second NATO mission, having already served with ISAF (Afghanistan). I am enjoying the challenges that come with the appointment of being the Regimental Sergeant Major of an operational unit on overseas deployment. I believe my own and indeed the Irish experience gained on many peacekeeping missions brings a unique flavor to KFOR. I particularly enjoy meeting the local people and am glad that our presence here enhances their lives.

Family Reaction: My family is used to me going on overseas deployments. However, it does not make it any easier for them. I appreciate greatly the support they give me in allowing me to pursue my career as a professional soldier.

Plans after the Mission: I am looking forward to reuniting with my family and we may take a holiday. Next year I would like the opportunity to serve with the Irish Contingent in Chad (MINURCAT)



GERMIJA

