

KFOR

CHRONICLE



10th Edition

October 31st 2009



PREPARATION IS OF THE ESSENCE



The General Officer's Perspective

10 years ago, I was tasked to train and prepare the first Austrian contingent for KFOR. Although this is my first tour in Kosovo, I was quite impressed with the development of the mission and the country during the past 10 years. The development was successful because a large number of soldiers served in a very professional way to include the numerous organizations working in KOSOVO and the people living here. "We are truly "MOVING FORWARD". Nevertheless, most of us will agree that many issues remain to be solved and more time is needed to heal the wounds of the conflict.

As a professional soldier, I always look forward, and from this prospective the question arise: "Can we do our mission even with less people and means?" We will soon enter the new phase called "Deterrent Presence". According to our success the number of forces will shrink. In this respect, I think we also have to look for new ways of seeing opportunities and not only challenges.

According to the outlay of mission, the Multinational Battle Groups (MNBG) will remain self-sustaining in many ways. The logistic footprint will still be quite impressive. In the months to come we will have to prove that every soldier is mission necessary. Intelligence and logistic could be fields of extended cooperation between nations and MNBG in the future.

A Joint Logistic Support Group (JLSG) will take over some of the responsibilities each nation had to sustain on their own so far. To implement this new structure in KFOR, it will not be an easy process, but the concept of JLSG will be tested in reality in theater. The advantages can be very easily discovered. The necessary manpower needed for reception staging, onward movement, transport, medical support (role 2/3) and engineer support can be shared between the nations. This focus allows the COM KFOR to bundle synergies and to react swiftly even though the numbers of "boots on the ground" will decrease.

Nations will now decide how they can support these concepts and ideas. While I understand that this is quite a difficult choice, I can only state from the ground that working in an international environment is sometimes challenging but always fruitful. Throughout my deployment, I have experienced truly professional soldiers and civilians in my staff, as well in all other branches or in the Task Forces, which I could visit. I have no doubt that the concept of JLSG sustains the proof of reality.

This concept is worth to be experienced in the theater. I am very proud to be part of this team in KOSOVO.



*Brigadier General Norbert Huber
Austrian Army
Deputy Chief of Staff Support*



KFOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

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

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

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

The KFOR Chronicle staff will pick three winning photographs. The winners will be chosen and will be published in the December 2009 magazine edition. Submit photographs to kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int not later than December 11, 2009. Submissions should include the digital photograph, photographer's name and a short caption. The award ceremony will be on December 16, 2008.

This contest is sponsored by MWA.



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Nations within KFOR:

NATO Nations

Belgium	Lithuania
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 FORWARD

Photos by OR-5 Stefanie Willuweit, German Army and Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu



October 06, 2009

Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), hosted NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Operations, Ambassador Mr. Larry Rossin. Mr. Larry Rossin discussed with COM KFOR the current situation in Kosovo.

October 07, 2009

Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, welcomed Prime Minister of Albania, Mr. Sali Berisha during his two-day visit to Kosovo. Following the meeting, Mr. Sali Berisha and COM KFOR discussed KFOR's role and the security of the region today. Prime Minister of Albania, Sali Berisha stressed KFOR provided the largest contribution to the process of ensuring peace and stability in Kosovo and the region in the past ten years.



October 09, 2009

Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, invited Austrian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Michael Spindelegger in KFOR Headquarters. Dr. Michael Spindelegger discussed with COM KFOR the situation in Kosovo. The Minister assured the continuous support of Austria in the future. Austria provides the largest contingent of all Non-NATO Nations in KFOR.



October 13, 2009

Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler greeted the delegation of United Kingdom Parliamentarian Foreign Affairs Committee during its visit to the KFOR Headquarters. During the meeting, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, explained the event-driven transition process to and through the future force reduction.



October 16, 2009

NATO Joint Force Command Naples, Admiral Mark Fitzgerald discussed the update of the security situation with Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, Kosovo Force Commander, during his visit to Kosovo.



October 18, 2009

Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, welcomed Fritz Neugebauer, 2nd President of the Austrian National Assembly, and Lieutenant General Günter Höfler, Commander of the Austrian Armed Forces. The Austrian visitors discussed with COM KFOR the current situation in Kosovo and issues relating to Austria's contribution in KFOR.



October 19, 2009

Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, greeted Lieutenant General Hans-Otto Budde, Chief of the Army of Germany. During the meeting, Kosovo Force Commander briefed the current situation in Kosovo and prospects.

October 21, 2009

Kosovo Force Commander welcomed Mr. Jean-Marie Halsdorf, Luxembourg Minister of Defense. During the meeting, both sides discussed issues of Kosovo Security Forces stand-up, Luxembourg's policy for the future participation in KFOR and cooperation with EULEX.



October 29, 2009

Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, met with Mr. Søren Gade, Defense Minister of Denmark. During his visit H.E. Gade highlighted Danish engagement in KFOR and the importance of the mission for his country.

KTM TRANSFER

*Story by Capt Paulo Rodrigues, Portuguese Army
Photos by LTC Vadym Tymoshenko, Ukrainian Army*

On Saturday, 26 September 2009, Lieutenant Colonel Lino Loureiro Gonçalves succeeded Lieutenant Colonel Fernando Teixeira in taking charge of Kosovo Force (KFOR) Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM).

The Transfer of Authority Ceremony took place at Camp Slim Lines, Pristina/Pristine. Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler chaired the event.

The ceremony started at 1125 hrs with COM KFOR arrival. Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, followed by outgoing KTM Commander, reviewed the troops in muster and joined the guests on stage. The ceremony was attended by several distinguished military and civil authorities of KFOR, UNMIK, OSCE, and EULEX, among others. Also, the Kosovo national press was present at the TOA.

During his speech, the outgoing KTM Commander thanked his own soldiers for accomplishing their mission with professionalism, knowledge and understanding. Lastly, he expressed his gratitude to KFOR staff and other contingents for their support.

In addition, KTM Commander stressed the friendship and cooperation with Kosovo people, hoping for a better freedom, tolerance, stability and economic growth in Kosovo and its communities.



R OF AUTHORITY

The national Transfer of Authority and the KTM Change of Command between outgoing and incoming commanders commenced. According to the KFOR tradition, COM KFOR took over the flag of the KTM from Lieutenant Colonel Fernando Teixeira and handed it over to Lieutenant Colonel Lino Loureiro Gonçalves. The new KTM Commander, expressed in his speech: “We are proud to become a member of such an important organization like KFOR and we are deeply committed to perform our tasks and missions to the best of our abilities. We have a good training, so we are quite confident in our skills and capabilities. But, we are also well aware of how much we have yet to learn.” He called his subordinates to do duties as always with professionalism and remain confident according to their motto (“The future will tell about us”), continuing with Portuguese efforts to contribute to a safe and secure

environment in Kosovo.

In his speech, COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, stressed his gratitude to Lieutenant Colonel Teixeira for his personal commitment in handling all tasks. He fully succeeded in maintaining KTM in a high readiness level, as well, he exhorted the professionalism and commitment of 1st Infantry Battalion soldiers in completing their mission with a sense of accomplishment. Addressing the Commander of the 1st Mechanized Infantry Battalion and its soldiers, he expressed his confidence in the ability and qualities for KTM mission present challenge, counting with them to fulfill KFOR mission.

At the end of the ceremony, KTM subunits performed a colorful military parade for KFOR leadership and staff and guests.



SLOVAK ARME

*Story by LTC Vadym Tymoshenko, Ukrainian Army
Photos by LTC Vadym Tymoshenko, Ukrainian Army, and
1st Lieutenant Frantisek Salenka, Slovak Army*

On 22 September 1848, one hundred sixty one years ago, during the Slovak uprising, the Slovak Voluntary Corps won the battle against the Austrian-Hungarian imperial troops in Brezova pod Bradlom. This day became an important milestone in the Slovak military history and set up clear direction of the future development of Slovakia.

On 30 September 2009, the 15th Slovak Contingent KFOR (Slovak contingent is a part of joint Czech/Slovak detachment) celebrated the Slovak Armed Forces Day at Camp Sajkovac, Multinational Task Force Center (MNTF-C). The official ceremony started at 1000hrs with parade formation of Slovak Contingent (SLOVCON) conducted by SLOVCON Chief of staff, Major Peter Bagacka, in front of the distinguished guests. The event was attended by the branch chiefs of MNTF-C Headquarters; Irish, Swedish, Finnish, Czech Contingent delegations led by respective Commanders and their representatives; and Slovak personnel from EULEX. After posting of unit color on the parade ground, the Slovak National Contingent Commander, Major Vladimír

Grišlo congratulated attendees and read the greeting address from Slovak Republic civil and military authorities. Following the briefing about the Slovakia Republic and its Armed Forces, Slovak soldiers demonstrated to the guests, a display of tactical equipment and small arms. Representatives of other contingents showed great interest in familiarizing with Slovak Crowd and Riot Control equipment, variable (modular) carrier system and especially with 7.62 mm assault rifle model 58, machine gun UGL model 59, sniper rifle SVDP-Dragnov and 9 mm pistol model 82.

The most interesting point of event expected for guests was on the Hrtice shooting range, where Slovak soldiers from the 13th Mechanized Battalion explained static display and demonstrated dynamic performance. The first demonstration was hijacking a VIP vehicle and extracting passengers and important documents. The attackers stopped the vehicle with warning shots and set off a flash bang to distract attention. Two teams of hijackers approached the car, pulled out and captured passengers. After loading hostages into attackers' car, both cars drove away. The pursuit was complicated by a cloud of smoke around the area of attack.

Slovak military police team apprehended villain trying to escape in a stolen car completed the second performance. The last scene was a small arms attack on the patrol. Patrolling team launched counterattack in response. Splitting into two sub-teams, the patrollers gradually



D FORCES DAY

moved on attacker. Finally, soldiers eliminated the attacker and secured the patrolling area. This demonstration by the Slovakian Forces clearly displays KFOR's ability to counter any threat to the safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all the people of Kosovo. Later, the MNTF-C Commander, Brigadier General Seppo Toivonen arrived on the shooting range and observed static display of Slovak weapons. All those who so desired, received an opportunity to check their shooting skills using the Slovak small arms.

Even during the celebration of Slovak Armed Forces Day, some Slovak soldiers performed their duties providing stability in their area of responsibility. The day-to-day activities of Slovak KFOR is patrolling different areas and securing Gazimestan monument. To stay abreast of their skills, they also perform different kinds of trainings and rehearsals. On the eve of this event, 29 September 2009, the Slovak soldiers participated in MASCAL Exercise conducted in order to practice reporting procedure, first aid and enhance emergency assets capabilities.

According to the exercise's scenario, the Slovak Echo Company patrol came across a traffic accident between a civilian vehicle and KFOR bus. Soldiers immediately sent a report, secured the spot, extinguished small fire in vehicle and ensured first aid help. Following the Finnish

medics' arrival on the spot to continue first aid, Finish firefighters equipped with extraction tools along with Multinational Military Police and Czech medics and firefighters prepared and conducted evacuation of injured. The Swedish Medics simulated helicopter evacuation.

This exercise displayed the excellent coordination of all troops from Multinational Task Force Center, where Slovak contingent is the essential component.



BULGARIAN DUTIES AND

Story and photos by Lieutenant Colonel Vadym Tymoshenko, Ukrainian Army, and 1st Lieutenant Nikolay Georgiev, Bulgarian Army

Nowadays, Bulgarian military contingent divided into three different parts represent Bulgaria in the Kosovo Force. Besides national component of KFOR Headquarters personnel and instructors from NATO training team for stand-up Kosovo Security Force, Bulgarian KFOR also includes the platoon-size engineering detachment as a part of Multinational Task Force South (MNTF-S).

The Bulgarian military engineers have exerted numerous projects for KFOR and local population within the Task Force area of responsibility. Their creative labor facilitates people of Kosovo in satisfaction of everyday needs and sets up necessary conditions for further positive economic development of Kosovo. At the current stage of KFOR evolution, the pure military focus of operation has shifted to the civil military cooperation (CIMIC). Engineering construction along with other CIMIC projects aimed to create or rebuild Kosovo infrastructure, which is one of the most important KFOR contributions now. One of the numerous projects, made by Bulgarian engineering

detachment, was the construction of a drainage system of a road near Mazrek, located 7 km away from Prizren. The construction was completed under the command of 1st Lieutenant Petar Petrov. Despite the hot weather (temperatures up to 35°C), and rough terrain (mostly rocky surface) working conditions, the Bulgarian soldiers managed to lay down 300 meters of ditches and clean the culvert in less than 3 weeks. The engineering work required one excavator, an EOV 4421, two trucks, a Scoda Madara 802, and one compressor ZIF PV5.

The Bulgarian engineering detachment not only operates within MNTF-S area of responsibility, but they provided technical support of KFOR Change of Command Ceremony in Camp Film City. For two weeks, Bulgarian soldiers assembled the main stage, equipped other parts of the event, and later dismantled after the ceremony. September was rich for Bulgarian national holidays and provided an avenue of recreation and celebration. On 5 September 2009, Bulgarian KFOR, headed by National Contingent Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Plamen Milanov celebrated the 124th anniversary of Bulgarian Unification Day. This day commemorates the unification of Eastern Rumelia and Bulgaria in 1885 and the creation of an independent state of Bulgaria.



CELEBRATIONS IN KFOR

MNTF-S Commander, Brigadier General Benedict Zimmer, high officers of MNTF-S Headquarters, colleagues from Swiss national contingent, representatives of EULEX and local population, including Mayor of Dolono Ljubene, attended the ceremony. Followed by National anthem of Bulgaria, speech of contingent commander and reading of greeting addresses from Bulgarian military authority and national contingent commanders in Afghanistan, Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgarian soldiers received Letters of Appreciation. In his speech, MNTF-S Commander, Brigadier General Benedict Zimmer congratulated members of Bulgarian KFOR and remarked their excellence in duties. On 13 September 2009, Bulgarian engineer platoons also celebrated the 131st anniversary of the foundation of the Engineer troops in Bulgarian Army. After the holidays, a new week started for Bulgarian KFOR. In pursuance of the order of the Commander of Multinational Engineer Company (MNEngCOY) Multinational Task Force South (MNTF-S), a group of Bulgarian soldiers from Bulgarian engineer platoon with the help of a German unit provided their support for the establishment of a temporal camp area near the Camp DE LATTRE DE TASSIGNY in NOVO SELO. In the framework of October 5-7, the Bulgarian engineers led by the team leader built and equipped 43 tents (living tents, filed bath and sanitary tents). Initially the task was planned to be done in one week, but due to the hard work and their professional attitude, the Bulgarians managed to complete this task only in three days.

Starting the following week, the Bulgarian Engineer Platoon started periodical maintenance of their engineer equipment. It consists of Excavator EOV 4421, Crane KC 3557, Pneumatic compressor ZIF-5, several track and light vehicles, some drilling and cutting machines etc. During this maintenance, under the command of platoon leader, 1st Lieutenant Petar Petrov and section leaders, OR-8 Danail Ivanov, OR-7 Ventsislav Petrov and OR-5 Plamen Todorov, all machines were checked for oil, antifreeze and prepared to be used in autumn-winter conditions. The specialist and drivers are all convinced that it's a crucial point for further employment of the engineer equipment during upcoming unfavorable winter conditions.

In the upcoming week, the engineer platoon will be in process of executing tasks in support of the troops established in Archangel Monastery near the town of Prizren. The monastery is a part of historical heritage and it has been under the protection of maneuver battalion "Prizren". The only way to reach the monastery is a wooden bridge linking the main road and the holly area. The first task for the engineers here is the replacement of protective wooden cover of the bridge. Having all the materials, it will take a week to complete this job. Another task is changing the 450 meter synthetic securing rope starting from the monastery to the observation point with steel one. This task is going to be a real challenge for the soldiers due to the extremely tough and rocky terrain. Good luck in implementation of current and future engineering projects and other good deeds!



THE W

Story and photos by 1st Lieutenant Therese Fagerstedt, Swedish Army

The idea of getting married during the mission in Kosovo was nothing Anders Bengtsson had planned from the start. His fiancée, Jenny Olsson, proposed to him last summer, but they only talked about having a small

ceremony in Sweden when he returned in the end of October this year.

But an idea began to grow in Anders Bengtsson's head when half of the mission had passed and when it was obvious to him what affects this assignment have had on him. This mission had become a greater part of his life than he thought was possible and he wanted to share this experience, the environment of Kosovo and the Swedish Contingent with his wife to be. He also wanted them to create memories of their own in this particular place that had come to mean so much for him.

He thought about it for several days without discussing it with anyone. And when he made up his mind, he spoke to the Swedish Chaplain, Magnus Sälde to discuss the opportunities of getting married in Kosovo. There were several things that needed to be cleared. The issues regarding Jenny Olssons stay here in Kosovo, if they could spend their wedding night in a hotel, and then of course, it was the legal aspects that needed to be processed.

When everything was cleared and processed, the big planning began. Anders wanted it to be a surprise for Jenny for as long as possible, so he started to plan the ceremony and the short honeymoon they would spend here in Kosovo. The Chaplain, Magnus Sälde was a big support for Anders and together they decided all the



WEDDING

details. They decided that September 19th, on Saturday, would be the perfect day for them to commit to the holy matrimony.

"When I told Jenny about the wedding plans I've made, and this was just two weeks before the wedding, she just screamed in happiness. She couldn't believe it! She was so happy about the wedding, so pleased that she would have the opportunity to visit me in Kosovo, to see everything I've talked about, and to meet my colleagues", Anders Bengtsson said.

The wedding took place outside the Swedish Camp Victoria in Ajvalija, up on the mountains with a view over Gračanica Lake. It was a beautiful day, full of hope and the sincerity of this day, would come to stay with the Swedish soldiers during the rest of the mission.

Anders platoon and some specially invited guests, as the Swedish commanding officer, the Chief of the National Support Element and the Chief of Logistics had all gathered in the form of a half moon up on the hills behind the camp. It was a traditional military wedding with sables and honor all through the ceremony. Anders and Jenny held hands through the entire time, and the atmosphere of love, support and the spirit of community fulfilled all attendees.

Chaplain, Magnus Sälde blessed the rings and their marriage, and the wedding ended with promises of a

faithful life together forever.

Afterwards, it was a small reception in Camp Victoria, where everyone was invited to come, show their respects, and congratulate the newly wedded couple. A cozy dinner with champagne was served in the dining hall, and later that night, Mr. and Mrs. Bengtsson left Camp Victoria to spend their first night, as a husband and wife, alone.



NATO MILITARY COMM

Story by LTC Vadym Tymoshenko, Ukrainian Army
Photos by Major Andreas Brueckner, Austrian Army,
and Afrim Hajrullahu

On Tuesday, 29 September 2009, the NATO Military Committee led by its Chairman Admiral Giampaolo Di Paola, and Joint Force Command Naples (JFC-N) Commander, Admiral Mark Fitzgerald visited Kosovo on a one-day visit. Following the arrival to Slatina Military airport, the NATO Military Committee delegation moved to the Kosovo Force Headquarters, Camp Film City. During his briefing, COM KFOR presented the guests latest update of KFOR posture and security situation in Kosovo. The briefing took place with participation of Mr. Fletcher Burton, Deputy European Union Special Representative; Mr. Lamberto Zannier, Special Representative of United Nations Secretary General and Mr. Yves de Kermabon, Head of EULEX mission. After the Chairman, Admiral Giampaolo Di Paola, Joint Force Command Naples Commander, Admiral Mark Fitzgerald and COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler started the joint press conference. In his welcome statement, COM KFOR underlined KFOR is committed

deeply to the safe and secure environment in Kosovo. Admiral Giampaolo Di Paola announced during his speech, Kosovo remains an important mission for NATO, and the visit of the NATO Military Committee delegation confirms it. The joint efforts of International Community, including United Nations, European Union, and International civil organization along with KFOR aim to guarantee the bright future for Kosovo.

Having answered on journalists' questions, Admiral Giampaolo Di Paola, and Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, explained that NATO would continue to provide a safe and secure environment by different combinations, including Kosovo Security Force (KSF). The KSF has first to stand up and to focus on its operational capacities. It demands to conduct a lot of training to achieve the final operational capability during next 2-5 years.

Following the press conference, the NATO Military Committee delegation accompanied by JFC-N Commander and COM KFOR moved by helicopters to the Multinational Task Force North (MNTF-N). The Commander Kosovo Forces, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler and MNTF-N Commander, Brigadier General Arnaud Sainte-Claire Deville, greeted the board on the hill



MITTEE VISITED KOSOVO

"Barbecue", in Mitrovica North, where the Colonel Ollier, French Battalion Commander, gave a thorough overview of the area of responsibility.

The NATO Military Committee delegation visited hot beds of Kosovo Kroi i Vitakut in Mitrovica North to get acquainted with situation in field conditions. Following the field lunch, Major Coquet, Assistant Chief of Staff Operations of MNTF-N, traced the history of the inter-ethnic problems in some neighborhoods of Mitrovica North.

The next stops were Vicoki Decane Monastery in the area of responsibility of Multinational Task Force West and Kosovo Security Force Training Center located in Ferizaj/Urosevac. The distinguished guests had an opportunity to see by their own eyes the level of training and equipment of KSF personnel after the official declaration of Initial Operational Capability achievement. After the farewell, the NATO Military Committee delegation departed Kosovo through Slatina Military Airport.



PREPARATION IS A JOINT EXERCISE OF ARMY AVIATION

Story and photos by Major Oswald Fahrner,
German Army

On the third approach, the helicopter of the Army Aviators is just above the narrow strip of rock, on top of which the medic, Barbara H, and Army Mountain Guide, Markus H, hunch over a soldier who's attached to the litter, UT 2000. The major, medical corps, and the Sergeant First Class, prepares an injured comrade for transport in a cliff in an extremely confined area. That is what exercise scenario is for. However, the paper with the order for the exercise does not draw a realistic situation of the scene on the rock in the Sharri Mountains, at the border to FYROM, high above the safe ground of the green

meadows of the saddle between the impressive peaks of the surrounding mountains.

The winds of the rotors lash safety ropes, snap links, and ropes. They swirl everything around. Oral communication is out of the question because the helicopter is far too loud. A virtual storm of dirt, sand, small twigs, and stones, drums on the injured person, the doctor, and the Army Mountain guide. The soldiers in the cliff must ignore all this; everything they focus on is the injured soldier - who has to be taken to the helicopter as fast as possible.

The winch hook reaches the small group and gets attached to the holding device of the litter. After a last check, the Army Mountain Guide, Markus H, outstretched his thumb points towards the crew chief of the Bell UH-1D, and the litter with the

injured soldier, accompanied by the doctor, is then pulled upwards with the winch cable. Markus H has perfect control over the anti-rotation rope in his hands. Without controlling this very rope, the litter would start twisting fastly in the downward winds, caused by the helicopter's rotor, called "down-wash". The consequence would be the crew chief cutting the cables of the litter in order to prevent the helicopter from crashing. All of a sudden, the wind changes and the litter starts swinging. The pilots escape to open terrain, away from the rocks, in order to protect the soldiers who are hanging at the rope. Shortly afterwards, the litter with the soldier and the doctor vanishes in the open hatch of the helicopter, the hatch closes and the helicopter flies away. She was never afraid, the role player depicting the injured soldier, Manuela S, explains later, but she had a lot of respect. "In a previous training course, we already practiced rappelling,

OF THE ESSENCE

PILOTS, MOUNTAINEERS AND MEDICS

which creates self-esteem and takes away the fear", replies the 47 year-old Master Sergeant from the service sector of the German Army in Gera to the question of what she felt like when she was tied to the litter and laid there helplessly. "The Army Mountain Guide explained to us everything we were going to do in detail, so we knew exactly what to expect. This kind of knowledge creates a feeling of security!"

After the mountain rescue training scenario in the Sharri mountains, all of the participants now share the same opinion. The practice is already a big challenge when the weather is good. Many practice sessions are needed in order to prepare the soldiers for the various scenarios as well as possible. Different situations the medics and pilots have to deal with in bad weather or even at night, when they have to perform a highly challenging manoeuvre like a mountain rescue

have to be practiced beforehand, so that the personnel will know what to expect. The major, medical corps, and Barbara H explains that it was of great benefit that they had practiced working with the hoist at the Airfield Toplicane on the previous day. They practiced from bottom to top, and the level of education increased constantly. Now the level of knowledge has to be deepened and the relevant personnel will have to be involved in the education as much as possible. You have to go the whole nine yards; otherwise it's not worth getting into it. This is the common opinion among the pilots, the Medic and the Army Mountain Guide whose credo is: You gotta be prepared!



COM KFOR's VISIT AT KOSOVO

*Story by Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Sawyer, RSS Branch Chief and Senior Mentor to the Operations Support Brigade, California Army National Guard
Photos by LTC Vadym Tymoshenko, Ukrainian Army*

The Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler (COM KFOR) made his first visit to field units of the Kosovo Security Forces (KSF) and observed training conducted at both Pomazotin/Pomazatin and Ferizaj/Urosevac on 27 October 2009. His first visit was to Pomazatin and the Headquarters of the KSF Civil Protection Regiment (CPR). Following an information in-brief on the capabilities of the CPR by the Regiment's Commander, Colonel Skender Hoxha, members were observed as they conducted their training. Lieutenant General Markus Bentler was able to observe a "training incident" which required the combined skills of both the Hazardous Material Company and the Fire Fighting Company. The

HAZMAT members initially checked for any dangerous materials prior to the fire fighters extinguishing the fire. He was also able to see the equipment used by the Search and Rescue Company and the fire trucks of the Fire Fighting Company. Colonel Hoxha explained that COM KFOR's visit was very useful as it allowed an opportunity to welcome COM KFOR to the Civil Protection Regiment and to demonstrate normal training conducted by the Regiment. This time is also used to explain regiment's missions, capabilities, and to familiarize COM KFOR with infrastructure and to apprise him of areas where KFOR assistance is necessary. Lieutenant General Markus Bentler witnessed heavy truck drivers as they demonstrated the tools they use to maintain their vehicles in which he commented to the drivers, "It is important that they conduct maintenance on their vehicles, before, during and after use, to reduce the chances of small issues becoming larger ones."



SECURITY FORCES INSTALLATIONS

The highlight of the visit may have been at the Wall Climbing training being conducted by the NATO Training Team for members of the Search and Rescue Company. Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, a Mountaineer, took the opportunity to demonstrate his skills as he climbed partially up the climbing wall.

Prior to leaving Pomazotin/Pomazatin, Brigadier General Imri Ilazi, Commander of the Operations Support Brigade, commented, "It's good for COM KFOR to visit KSF units. We, in the Brigade look forward to his visiting the rest of the brigade in the future".

Lieutenant General Markus Bentler's next stop was Training and Doctrine Center (TRADOC) in Ferizaj/Urosevac where he witnessed a combined demolition operation by the Combat Engineer Platoon of the KFOR Operational Reserve Force and the Operations Support Brigade Engineer Battalion of a

partially destroyed building. Working in cooperation, these two forces first cleared the area around the building using graders and bulldozers to allow for safe access for the demolition team to enter the area. Members of KSF demonstrated to numerous attendees their skills in using machinery and engineering equipment for cleaning contaminated area.

COM KFOR was then able to speak with members of the both forces as they prepared for the mission of removing the debris of a previously demolished building. He was able to observe the engineer members working in cooperation in the safe removal of the debris using their excavating equipment and dump trucks.

Upon leaving Ferizaj/Urosevac, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler commented that joint rehearsal with KFOR soldiers is vital for KSF members to achieve level of professionalism in the future.



MNTF-E PARTICIPATION IN BR



Story by Captain Jonathan

Masaki Shiroma, MNTF-E Deputy PAO

Photos by 69th Public Affairs Detachment, U.S. Army

(Samakovo, Kosovo) -- A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on Thursday, October 15, for five rebuilt or improved bridges in the town of Samakovo located in the Vitina/Viti municipality. Thanks to the efforts and assistance of the Soldiers within Multinational Task Force East (MNTF-E), these bridges are now safe for pedestrian and vehicular traffic.

"The completion of these bridges demonstrates the partnership between local farmers, the municipality of Viti/Vitina and the Soldiers of MNTF-E to improve economic opportunities in the area," said Lt. Col. Lars Staack, Task Force Sabre (1-18th Cavalry Regiment) Commander whose area of responsibility includes the Viti/Vitina municipality.

Furthermore, Staack says these bridges are essential for the livelihood of the many farmers who live here since they depend on the bridges to gain access to markets to sell their produce.

Prior to the retrofit and repairs, the bridges desperately needed to be fixed. MNTF-E Soldiers identified the need for improvements and were able to secure funding for the project through a grant from the U.S. Army European Command and the U.S. Embassy in Pristina.

Many Soldiers, local dignitaries and children from Samakova were on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony which included a walking tour over the bridges. Shortly after the ribbon cutting ceremony was over, the first vehicular traffic demonstrated the sturdiness of the bridges just in time for the upcoming rainy and winter season.

BRIDGE RETROFFITS IN SAMAKOVO



REINFORCEMENT IN KOSOVO – THE

*Story by Major Oswald Fahrner, German Army
Photos by Major Oswald Fahrner, German Army, and
Major Andreas Brückner, Austrian Army*

The battalion, consisting of 600 male and female soldiers, is combat ready for the missions in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is made up of the Light Infantry Battalion 292 from Donaueschingen, Germany, one company of the 13th Mechanized Infantry Battalion, Ried im Innkreis, Austria as well as five French soldiers from the German - French Brigade.

On the one hand, the deployment of these reinforcements demonstrates the ability to react quickly within the NATO alliance in case of a sudden situational change, on the other hand the cooperation of the ORF battalion and the local forces is practiced in a real mission situation. This happens regularly. The redeployment of personnel is scheduled to take place in mid November 2009.

The ORF battalions are provided by Germany, Italy and Austria, in order to support the troops of the KFOR and EUFOR missions in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Any given ORF battalion is on call for a possible mission in its home country for 6 months. One of the three units has the status “ready”, which means that they are immediately ready to go, and the other two

units are on “standby”, which means that they are ready to deploy to the Balkans within 14 days. The soldiers of the ORF battalion prepare for their deployments in the same way like active forces. While they are on call they consistently keep practicing and conduct at least one so called “operation rehearsal”, which is a training

situation in the country of deployment. The core of this operational reserve consisting of 600 personnel are three manoeuvre companies and one support unit, which were recruited from the same battalion. They are supported by additional reinforcements, the so-called “force multiplier”. These consist of engineers, supply forces, medics and military police.

According to the task of the KFOR and EUFOR



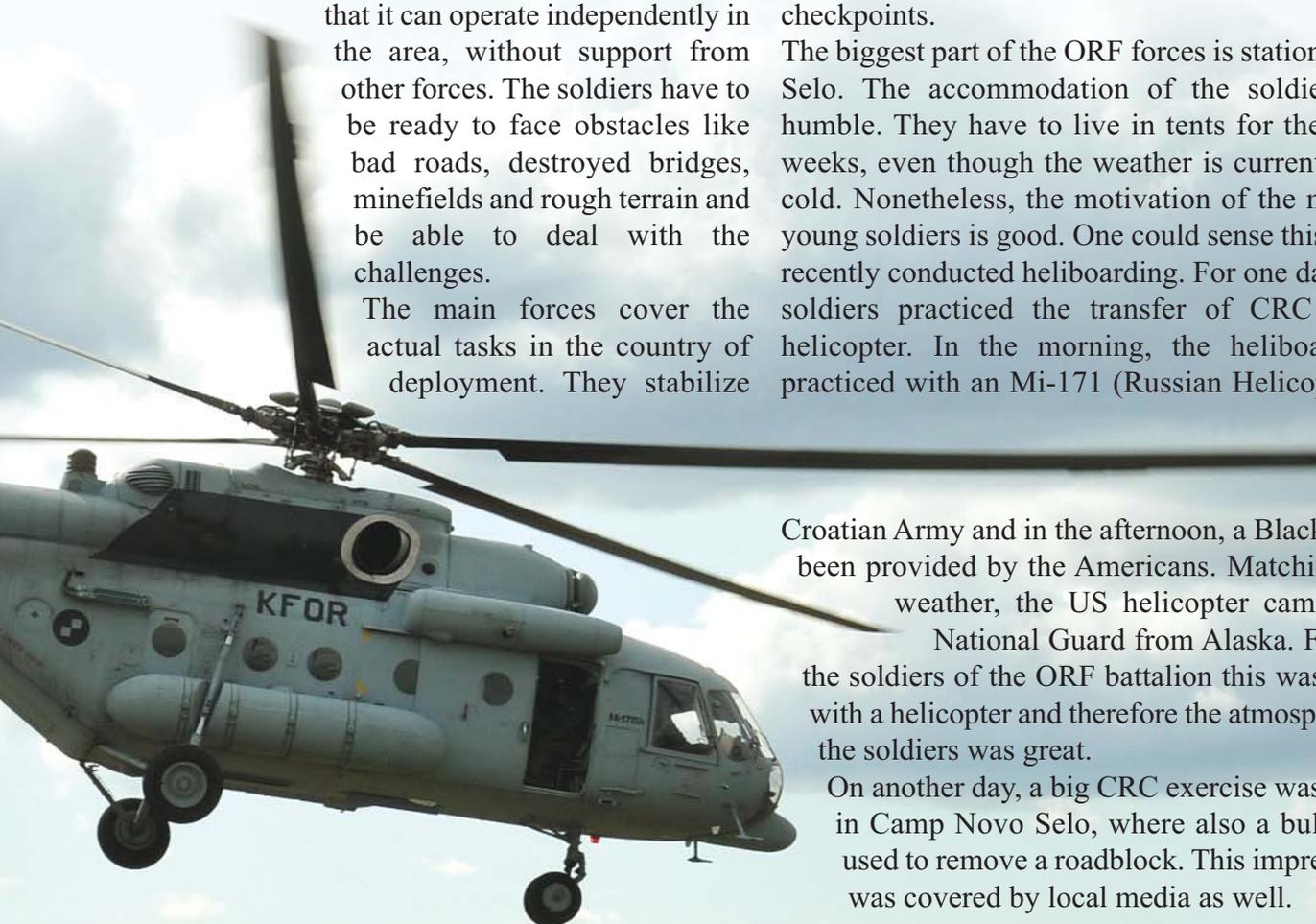
THE ORF BATTALION IS COMBAT READY

mission, the ORF battalion's mission is to keep peace, to establish a safe and secure environment and to allow a freedom of movement of our own troops. During the deployment, the battalion is self-sufficient, which means that it can operate independently in the area, without support from other forces. The soldiers have to be ready to face obstacles like bad roads, destroyed bridges, minefields and rough terrain and be able to deal with the challenges.

The main forces cover the actual tasks in the country of deployment. They stabilize

and calm the conflict situation, secure borders and enforce the law. Some of their tasks are the protection of enclaves and resettlement areas, escorts, the protection and defense of cultural property as well as patrols and checkpoints.

The biggest part of the ORF forces is stationed in Novo Selo. The accommodation of the soldiers is very humble. They have to live in tents for the upcoming weeks, even though the weather is currently wet and cold. Nonetheless, the motivation of the mostly very young soldiers is good. One could sense this during the recently conducted heliboarding. For one day, the ORF soldiers practiced the transfer of CRC forces by helicopter. In the morning, the heliboarding was practiced with an Mi-171 (Russian Helicopter) of the



Croatian Army and in the afternoon, a Black Hawk had been provided by the Americans. Matching the cold weather, the US helicopter came from the National Guard from Alaska. For many of the soldiers of the ORF battalion this was first flight with a helicopter and therefore the atmosphere among the soldiers was great.

On another day, a big CRC exercise was performed in Camp Novo Selo, where also a bulldozer was used to remove a roadblock. This impressive event was covered by local media as well.



KTM CRC

*Story by LTC Vadym Tymoshenko, Ukrainian Army
Photos by Maj Andreas Brueckner, Austrian Army*

On 20 October 2009, in Camp Vrelo, Kosovo Force (KFOR) Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM) held a Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) exercise. Captain Antonio Marques, CRC company Commander, was in charge for the event. Participants in this exercise were 93 Portuguese soldiers, including CRC Company, 4 members of Special Operations team, and 2 German K9 representatives from Military Police. KTM Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Lino Loureiro Gonçalves, arrived on the spot to observe his subordinates in action and present a statement for the representatives of local media. The exercise started with arrival of two Croatian

helicopters Mi-171Sh, which delivered one by one the first wave of troops. Forty-four soldiers, including both German K9 instructors with their dogs, and Portuguese sniper team, disembarked promptly and moved by foot to the dangerous area. Following the arrival to the spot, Portuguese soldiers immediately formed a cordon to secure the area of operation from rioters while the sniper team assumed position on the roof of the building. The second wave of 49 troops arrived to the secured area by tactical vehicles and trucks. The rioters (19 KTM soldiers from the Support Company) arrived on the spot trying to penetrate inside. They simulated actions of perpetrators, negotiating with soldiers to distract attention, changing points of adjoining and eventually using wooden sticks and piece of metal pipe against KFOR troops. The confrontation was over in



EXERCISE

favor of CRC soldiers and the exercise activity moved to another place of the camp.

The KTM soldiers trained themselves in pushing out furious groups of people, which opposed strong resistance, using water hoses, sticks, bottles with water and even Molotov's cocktails. The several destroyed protective shields of CRC during exercise gave evidence of emotional intensity.

During that time, the next part of the scenario included an injured Portugal officer. Called by radio, US UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter landed to accomplish urgent medical evacuation, while KTM soldiers protected helipad against rioters. In a couple minutes after landing, the Black Hawk took off carrying the injured person on board.

The culmination point of exercise was assault on the barricade built and guarded by hardliners. Numerous precautions towards rioters to leave barricade were useless. Rioters continued to throw bottles with water to the CRC soldiers. The armored personnel carrier smashed the barricade, and CRC Company members flowed through the obstacle supported by tactical vehicles. Finally, rioters realized the hopelessness of situation and dispersed.

The exercise demonstrated clearly the readiness of KFOR tactical reserve to deploy quickly and act resolutely against possible perpetrators Kosovo wide. It was also a good example of mobility and interaction between different Troop Contributing nations KFOR.



HIGHLAND C

Story and photos by Lieutenant Colonel Vadym Tymoshenko, Ukrainian Army

On 18 October 2009, despite pouring rain and low temperature, a group of servicemen totaling up to 170 soldiers from the different KFOR contributing nations, gathered on the parade ground in the Camp Belvedere, Multinational Task Force North. Sixteen teams from six countries (Belgium, France, Denmark, Greece, Morocco and Ukraine) including one team from EULEX came to participate in the Highland Games 2009.

Belgian KFOR represented with 4 teams including 1 female team; French contingent represented with 5 teams including 1 female team; Danish contingent represented

with 2 men's and 1 female teams. One team was mixed Belgium-French. Lastly, Greek, Moroccan and Ukrainian contingents each sent one team.

The Belgian Contingent (BELKOS 31) hosted the Highland Games. The idea of organizing the games belongs to Corporal-Chief (OR-4) John Van Roy, Belgian Army. The organizers of the games were Sergeant-Major (OR-7) Michel Smet and his team, Platoon 2 of 3rd Company (in Belgium 2A - Batterij Paracommando) Joint BATFRA, with active assistance of Sniper Detachment, Communication Information Systems Detachment and Logistic Department of Belgian KFOR (Officer Commanding Captain Remes). Each of the 13 men's and 3 women's teams consisted of a minimal of 7, with a maximum of 8 players and a coach. It was allowed to have 2 substitutes. The team must not exceed the total weight of 680 kilos for the men's team and 640 kilos for the women's team.

The participants compete in 7 categories: Apnea, Relay race (Estafette run), Jerry can walk, Tire fun, Jeep push, Lumberjack and Truck pulling.



GAMES 2009

The competition was quite tough, and female teams only had handicaps for three events - Jerry can walk, Tire fun and Truck pulling. Two events were cancelled due to the bad weather, Jeep pushing and the Lumberjack. The risk for accidents or injuries became too high and organizers decided to cancel those events.

The final event of Tug of War decided the final ranking of the Highland Games 2009. Only the four best-ranked teams participated in the Tug of War. The third and fourth place teams competed in Tug Of War to capture third place. The first and second (men and women) pulled for the first place. In both cases, the Belgian teams won the event, the men by 2 against 1 pull, the women by 2 against 0. The winners of the Highland Games 2009 are Mac Battery (male, total score 94 points) and De Faestkes (female, total score 23 points and 13th place in general table). The second places received a Danish Dragoons team (male, total score 73 points) and French D&G Girls (female). The Belgian Team Charlie and the French team Spartiates pulled for third place. Spartiates won by two pulls against zero.

A small military touch went into arranging the Highland Games 2009. While participating in the Games, military athletes encountered quite a bit of the daily military life, aspects that are indispensable for a good soldier. It's about physical strength, the right mental state and focus. It's about resistance to cold, pain, enduringness, techniques and tactics. Most of all, it's about TEAM SPIRIT! In the Army, soldiers do not operate as individuals; they act as a team. Everyone does their own job, but all with the same goals. On Sunday, the participants tried to win the games, but the remaining time, KFOR soldiers are here to make Kosovo a better place for the people who live here.



SHELLS, BELLS AND BLESSINGS

Story by Father Bernard McCay-Morrissey and Military Dean Peter Schmidt

From ancient times, the use of bells is prominently used in cultures as diverse as Babylonia and Chinese, Greco-Roman and Celtic, North African and Hindustani. In the Christian world, bells roused the early Christian monks from sleep and called the faithful to prayer. Irish people have a great affinity for bells because the word clocca (Fr. cloche; Ger. Glocke; Eng. clock) is Irish in origin. St. Patrick (c. 387 – 493), the founder of organized Christianity in Ireland, was buried with a beautiful bell, the clog-an-edachta or "bell-of-the-will", which is now preserved in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, and available for all to see.

So, it was fitting that when the 40th Infantry Group, Irish Contingent (KFOR) wished to mark 10 years of Peace Keeping in Kosovo by Irish soldiers, they constructed a "Round Tower" to hold a brass bell fashioned from a recovered 105mm artillery round. The Round Towers of Ireland were built to both guard what was precious (gold, illuminated manuscripts, and sacred vessels) and to proclaim to all, those near and far, the time of God's Mercy, the time



BINGS! – A CALL TO PRAYER!

of blessing, the time of prayer.

The bell-brass shell is a visible sign of how peace can prevail over war, how good overcomes evil, and how God's Light consumes all darkness. As Isaiah foretold nearly three millennia ago, "They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore." - Isaiah 2:4 & Micah 4:3.

Kosovo, a country whose culture is enriched by Islam, is no stranger to the "call to prayer". The formal prayer of Islam - Ṣalāt (pl. ṣalawāt) - is obligatory for practicing Muslims and is performed five times a day following the "call to prayer" or adhān which is called out by the muezzin in the mosque or sometimes from a minaret.

In contrast to the Muslim "call to prayer" which gives the core of Muslim belief, the Christian bell points to the incomprehensible Mystery of God. The bell beckons and draws the believer into the Mystery of God present among us - present in the Christian community assembled, the liturgy celebrated, and the sacraments received. The Irish soldiers of Camp Clarke hear the bell before each celebration of the Eucharist ("Mass"), and its gentle toll links them with their ancient Celtic past and present Christian practice. It sounds a call to awareness of God and opens out a horizon of blessing, prayer and Eucharist.

On top of the Bell tower, there is a large Cross. This handcrafted, iron cross was gifted by German soldiers of the Fieldcamp based in Prizren, in solidarity and Christian communion. Christian faith has once more found its expression in outward action and care for others. "If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal" (1. Corinth. 13:1-2).



1st KFOR Chronicle Quiz

Dear Reader,

Welcome to our 1st KFOR Chronicle Quiz. It is related to this edition of the Chronicle and gives you the chance to win one of three great prizes. The only thing you have to do is answer the following seven questions and fill in the correct answer.

As a result, you get the “KEY WORD” in the gray column, to be read from top to bottom.

Send an email to kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int including your full name, rank, nationality, unit in KFOR, and the “KEY WORD”.

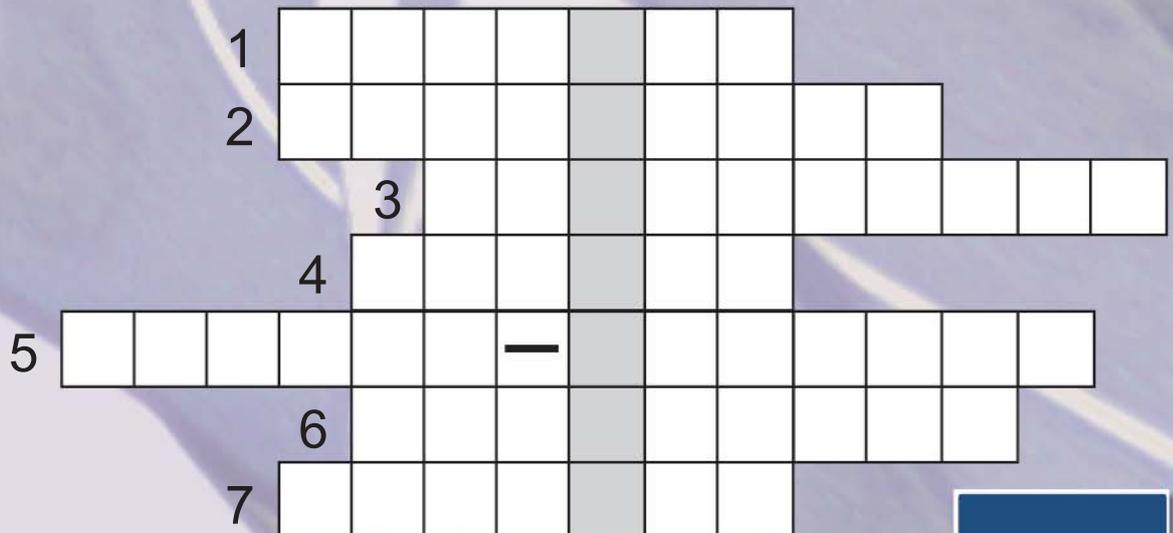
The KFOR Chronicle Team will pull three lucky winners out of all correct answers submitted no later than 2400 hrs on 20 November 2009.

The prizes will be sent to you!

Good luck and all the best during your service in KFOR.

Your Chief Internal Information & Editor,

Major Andreas Brückner, Austrian Army



Questions:

- 1 - The name of a Non-NATO troop contributing nation.
- 2 - The surname of the Commander of MNTF-C.
- 3 - One of the 7 categories of the Highland Games 2009.
- 4 - The first name of current Kosovo Force Commander.
- 5 - The motto of the present COM KFOR.
- 6 - What does the “M” stand for in the acronym “KTM” for?
- 7 - Where is the Archangel Monastery located?

Prizes:

- Voucher for a very delicious *pizza* in *Pristina Restaurant* (regular size)
- *Kombi Red Laser Pointer* from *Deutscher Service PX*
- *Poker Game Set* from *DCS Scandinavian PX*

All sponsors are located in Camp Film City / Pristina.

Thanks a lot for your great support!



Peacekeeper's Profiles

Name: Giorgio DELLA GALA

Rank: OR-9

Nationality: Italy

Home Unit: Carabinieri Corps

Unit in KFOR: MSU Battalion, "B" Coy

About the mission: I have been in Carabinieri Corps for 15 years. My father and grandfather were Carabinieri and for this reason, my job is a long-time family tradition. I've lived my entire childhood dreaming to be Carabinieri as well. This is my first mission abroad and honestly, I think is the greatest experience I've ever had in my life. Continuing the MSU mission in helping and supporting the progress of Kosovo gives me the proudness to be here. I hope the future will grant a peaceful and wealthy environment for all Balkan area. Let me give thanks to all the colleagues forming the various international contingent met during my activities in all Kosovo. I think that this kind of experience could improve my professional knowledge.

Family reaction: I left home, my wife, Simona and my little sons, Emanuele, and Edoardo, who are missing me. They are always asking me how is Kosovo, they made me promise to bring them here one day to visit this wonderful land not so distant from Italy, but with a huge cultural differences.

Plans after the mission: I'm not excluding to join again another peacekeeping mission in Balkan area: it will give me the chance to grow as a person and a soldier.



Name: Grzegorz MLYNARSKI

Rank: Chief Warrant Officer (WO-3)

Nationality: Poland

Home Unit: 4th Air Defense Regiment, 11th Armored Cavalry Division

Unit in KFOR: Multinational Task Force East, Non-Commissioned Officer of Supply Section in Polish National Support Element of 21st Polish Military Rotation in Kosovo

About the Mission: I am responsible for supplying materials, parts and organizing repairs equipment in Polish-Ukraine Battalion (POLUKRBAT). This is my second mission abroad, but my first one in Kosovo. Formerly, I served in Iraq with a similar function as in Kosovo. My position gives me great occasions to meet interesting people from other countries and improve my English. Thanks to my job, I can learn interesting things about culture and habits from local community. I am sure that I will go back to Poland with a rich, professional experience.

Family reaction: I am married for 18 years to the most wonderful woman in the world. I have one son and one daughter. I appreciate greatly the support they give me during my entire career as a professional soldier. We have regular contacts.

Plans after the mission: My first wish is to see and to enjoy the holidays with my wife and children. I will take them on a three-week holiday to the Spain Sea, where we will play beach ball and scuba dive. After holiday, I am going to continue my work in my home unit.



Name: Kjell Gunnar APALVIK

Rank: Major (OF-3)

Nationality: Norway

Home Unit: Norwegian Defense Education and Training Centre for C2IS

Unit in KFOR: HQ KFOR, J5 Plan & Policy

About the mission: This is my second mission abroad, but the first time in Kosovo. My previous mission was in Afghanistan in 2005-2006. This is a completely different mission, and I really enjoy being a part of this multinational environment. We have extensive collaboration with EULEX and it is interesting to experience how the complete international presence, work together for a better Kosovo.

Family reaction: Lucky I'm in love with my best friend, whom fully supports my deployment to Kosovo. We have been married for 17 years and have 4 wonderful children. We all miss each other a lot, but Internet and Skype helps us stay in contact. After I received the notice for this deployment, my youngest son, who then was ten, stated "You did not succeed very well in Afghanistan, and I hope you doing better now. And, I'm proud of you anyway".

Plans after the mission: I'll take approximately two months off to get reintegrated with my family. I hope we will find some space for a vacation, to a warm, nice place. Then I'll return to my home unit, and get the possibility to study Information Management for two years at the University.



BREZOVICA

