

KFOR



Chronicle

6th Edition

June 30th 2011



AUGURI ITALIA!



150 Years of Italian Unity

“I feel I must extend my greetings and my thanks to all those of you here who accepted the invitation to celebrate and commemorate the 150th anniversary of Italian unity”. Those were the first words of Italian Republic President, Giorgio Napolitano’s, address on the occasion of one of the most important national celebrations in Italian history.

Italy became a sovereign State on the 17 March 1861 when the first Italian parliament convened in the city of Turin, and Vittorio Emanuele II was named Italy’s first King. So much progress has been made since 1861. In this one and a half centuries our country has changed deeply, but those values that created a new nation still exist. The official establishment of the Kingdom of Italy brought to fruition the concept of a single, united nation that had been born in the minds of a tiny, but enlightened, minority. They well understood how the people of seven states, into which Italy was then divided, were part of a "one-culture nation" of ancient origins. It was a Nation, at that time, without a political structure but with a common identity that Italians, in the course of their history, even through painful experiences, had been able to build. Further significant events were to occur later, such as King’s decision on 04 May 1861 to convert the former Army of the Kingdom of Sardinia into the new Italian Army; and the plebiscite of 02 June 1946, which was the day when Italians were called to the polls to decide what form of government would rule the new, united Italy. This date is observed annually as the Birth of the Republic.



To celebrate the 150 years since the Unification, and Republic day, several events were organized, as is tradition, on 02 June. The main event was hosted on the Via dei Fori Imperiali in Rome, which hosted the military parade in honour of the Italian Republic. The parade described the history of Italy’s armed forces, from the traditions and vintage uniforms of the past, to the present day, represented by the international missions which the Italian armed forces are participating in.

As Italian Senior National Representative in KFOR, I would like to endorse the greetings of our President to all those who participated in our celebrations and extend them to all Italians, both soldiers and civilians in Kosovo. I also wish to extend my special thanks to all the KFOR soldiers for the friendship and the tremendous support always given to the Italian Contingent, as we work...”together for progress”.

Brigadier General Enrico Spagnoli
Deputy Chief of Staff, Chief Military Civil Advisory Division
Senior National Representative, Italian Contingent KFOR



Italian Ambassador's Address to MSU



*L'Ambasciatore d'Italia
Pristina*

**Short address on the occasion of the 197th Anniversary of the Foundation of the
Carabinieri Corps**

(Pristina, MSU HQ, 5 June 2011)

On 5 June 2011, I have participated with pleasure to the Ceremony organised by the Commander of MSU (KFOR Multinational Specialised Unit), Colonel of Carabinieri Corps Edoardo Russo, for the 197th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Carabinieri Corps.

For an Italian diplomat serving abroad, the ideals and goals (and the glorious tradition) of the "Carabinieri", that have devoted and often sacrificed their lives to ensure full compliance with the rule of law and public order and safety, are a constant reminder of the ideals and the goals of our Republic, its engagement in acting on the international scene (especially in the UN, NATO or EU peacekeeping missions, both military and civilian) to ensure stability and to preserve the human rights and human dignity against any violation and abuse. But for me (as an Italian and European diplomat that has served for more than 20 years only in the Western Balkans Countries or in the EU Headquarters in Brussels), this ceremony has a particular significance, having witnessed for so many years the extraordinary commitment of the Carabinieri Corps in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo and having daily shared with them those ideals in order to ensure stability and progress in this troubled but hopeful European region.

The presence of the KFOR Deputy Commander, of the Minister of Interior of Kosovo and of the Director of Kosovo Police has been also an additional sign of the great reputation, consideration and respect that this Corps has been able to build up here, due to their ability to work together in positive and constructive way, as summarised by the words of Col. Russo, that I fully share : to work and devote our life for freedom, but "not only freedom from something or someone, according to a negative concept of separation, but the freedom to do something good for others and for future generations"

In this spirit, I have been extremely honoured in receiving on that occasion (and it was a great surprise for me!) the honorary membership of the National Association of Carabinieri: thanks to all the "Carabinieri" I met so far, I am now and I will always be proud of being one of them.

Commander KFOR

Major General Erhard Bühler, German Army

Chief Public Affairs Office and KFOR Spokesman

Captain Dr. Hans-Dieter Wichter, German Navy

Chief Internal Information & Editor

Commandant Daragh O'Brien, Irish Defence Forces
o'briend@hq.kfor.nato.int

Photographer and Design

Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu

Cover Photo

Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu

E-mail & web:

kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int
www.nato.int/kfor

The KFOR Chronicle is produced and fully funded by HQ KFOR. It is published for KFOR forces in the area of responsibility.

The contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the coalition governments' defense departments.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Internal Information Section of HQ KFOR's Public Affairs Office (PAO) in Pristina, Kosovo.

PAO HQ KFOR reserves the right to edit content to conform to style and space requirements. Articles run on a space-available basis.

The KFOR Chronicle is printed by RASTER
Tel: 038 601 606

Nations within KFOR:

NATO Nations

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

Non-NATO Nations

Armenia	Morocco
Austria	Sweden
Finland	Switzerland
Ireland	Ukraine



TOGETHER FO

Photos by Staff Sergeant Stefanie Hoffmann, German Army



International Man of Mystery. On 30 May 2011, Master magician and Swiss Army officer, Major Roland Meister, entertains the KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM) troops at Camp Slim Lines, Pristina with his magic show.

Deputy Kosovo Force Commander (DCOM KFOR), Brigadier-General Marco Serronha, welcomes Mr Frantisek Biblan, member of the House of Deputies of the Czech Parliament and Chairman of the Committee for Defence to KFOR HQ, Camp Film City on 01 Jun 2011.



On the occasion of his official visit to Camp Bondsteel, Professor Doctor Mujë Rugova, Rector of the University of Pristina, is pictured with Colonel Michael D. Schwartz, Commander Multinational Battle Group East (MNBG E).



Members of Joint Regional Detachment Centre (JRD C) pose with the US aircrew from Camp Bondsteel after completing Medevac training at Camp Marechal de Lattre de Tassigny, in Novo Selo.



OR PROGRESS



D COM KFOR welcomes the Hungarian Ambassador to Kosovo, His Excellency Mr Lorant Balla to KFOR HQ, Camp Film City on 23 Jun 2011.

Commander Kosovo Force (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler, presents the award of Best Cadet to 2nd Lieutenant Verdat Shaqiri at the Kosovo Security Force Cadet Graduation ceremony in Ferizaj on 24 June 2011.



On 23 Jun 2011, in Pristina, COM KFOR conducts an information briefing for Ms Inge Hoeger, Member of the German Federal Parliament and her delegation.

On 27 June 2011, COM KFOR welcomes Major General Jose Manuel Esperança da Silva to KFOR HQ, Camp Film City Pristina. Major General Esperança da Silva is Mechanised Brigade Commander of the parent Brigade of the Portuguese element currently serving in KTM.



Multinational Specialised Unit Cele

Story by OF-4 Lucio Pica, Italian Carabinieri

Photos by Combat Camera Team, MSU.

On the 05 June 2001, at Multinational Specialised Unit (MSU) headquarters in Pristina, the Italian Carabinieri celebrated the 197th Anniversary of the foundation of the force. Many distinguished guests were invited to join in the celebrations, among them were: Mr Bajram Rexhepi, Minister of the Interior; His Excellency Dr. Michael Luis Giffoni, Italian Ambassador to Kosovo; Brigadier General Marco Serronha, Deputy Kosovo Force Commander (D COM KFOR); Mr Xavier Bout de Marnhac, head of Mission of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX); Lieutenant General Sylejman Selimi, Commander of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF); Mr Reshat Maliqi, Director General of the Kosovo Police (KP), and; the Most

Reverend Bishop Dode Gjergji, the Apostolic Administrator of Prizren.

In the last year the Carabinieri performed 5624 patrols, stopped 2136 vehicles and checked 2471 persons in the course of their duty; while at the same time assisting KP with numerous policing operations, from the arrest of criminals to the seizure of weapons. Notwithstanding the busy operational workload, the Carabinieri of MSU are also responsible for the training of KP personnel in such diverse, but essential, areas as Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) techniques, use of firearms, and the employment of dogs in policing roles. The most significant aspect of this training role is that instructor courses in these disciplines are now also conducted to allow KP to train and qualify its own personnel in the future.

In regard to CIMIC activities, MSU has provided



celebrates Carabinieri's 197th Birthday

hundreds of donations of food, clothes, toys, medicine, medical devices and more, totalling over €480,000 to approximately 1920 people of various ethnic groups in Kosovo, as well as schools and hospitals (including Pristina University Clinic), and religious communities of different denominations.

During the ceremony this great work was recognised and applauded, but there was also a poignant moment to remember all the fallen Carabinieri who have given their lives for a noble cause. The distinguished actions of serving soldiers were also recognised. In particular:

- A solemn encomium from Italian Minister of Defence to Warrant Officer Massimo Scolari, for the outstanding professionalism shown in the execution of his duties;
- Two simple encomiums from the Legion Commander awarded to Captain Luigi Spadari for

directing complex investigations, ending with the arrest of more than forty members of a criminal organization responsible for murder, drug smuggling, extortion and money laundering, and;

- A eulogy from MSU Regiment Commander, Colonel Eduardo Russo, to Warrant Officer Donato Costantino, Sergeant Alessandro Baccarini and Corporal Ernesto Gaggiano, for their endeavours in CIMIC activities.

Another special moment during the ceremony was the award of Honorary Membership of the Carabinieri National Association to HE Dr Giffoni, who received a diploma, membership card and the characteristic insignia from Colonel Russo. The military ceremony concluded with the Italian Anthem. After the ceremony, all guests were invited to join the Carabinieri at a banquet of honour.



Change of Command Ceremony

Story by Commandant Daragh O'Brien, Irish Army
Photos by Mr Afrim Hajrullahu and Staff Sergeant Elisabeth Schöneberg

On 16 May 2011, at Camp "Villaggio Italia", Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR) Major General Erhard Bühler presided over the Change of Command ceremony between the outgoing Commander of Multinational Battle Group West (MNBG W), Colonel Carlo Emiliani, and his successor, Colonel Vincenzo Cipullo.

The ceremony was attended by the Italian Chief of Defence, General Biagio Abrate, as well as by many distinguished guests from political institutions, the

municipalities in the area of responsibility of MNBG W and religious leaders.

The outgoing Italian contingent, based on the 1st Regiment "Granatieri di Sardegna", had served in Kosovo for a period of 188 days since 08 November 2010. During this time Colonel Emiliani oversaw significant changes in MNBG W. When he assumed command, MNBG W comprised five manoeuvre companies and totalled approximately 1200 personnel. However, the advent of Gate 2 brought about significant changes to MNBG W as it assumed responsibility for the area that was previously the responsibility of MNBG S. Additionally, the Hungarian and Romanian manoeuvre troops left MNBG W, while the Austrian troops in Camp Casablanca came under its



in Multinational Battle Group West

control. Colonel Emiliani also supervised the transfer of responsibility for the monasteries in Budisavci, Gorioc and the Archangel Monastery from MNBG W to the Kosovo Police (KP). At all times during this difficult period of transition MNBG W successfully fulfilled its mission of providing support and protection for all the citizens in its area of responsibility.

COM KFOR praised the outstanding contribution of Colonel Carlo Emiliani and his soldiers to peace, security and stability in Kosovo: "You have done a great job here providing help for the people of Kosovo and giving them a stable framework for a safer and better life. You have accomplished the reorganization of MNBG W seamlessly and without neglecting your commitment to your peacekeeping mission." COM KFOR wished the new commander, Colonel Cipullo, all the best for his work in the months to come.

In his farewell speech, Colonel Emiliani, emphasized the outstanding results of the Italian contingent, highlighting above all the CIMIC activities carried out, particularly those in the areas education and agriculture; as well as the increased, positive collaboration with all institutions in Kosovo (IiK).

The newly appointed commander of MNBG W, Colonel Cipullo, who has past experience of service in the Balkans, thanked his predecessor for his outstanding job and said he would continue on the same path. MNBG W, which is now based on the 21 Artillery Regiment "Trieste", comprises approximately 740 soldiers from five nations: Slovenia, Hungary, Italy, Austria and Switzerland.



Portuguese National

Story by Sergeant First Class Rodrigo Minhava, Portuguese Army

Photos: Staff Sergeant Elisabeth Schöneberg, German Air Force / Corporal Lisandra Albuquerque, Portuguese Army

On 10 June 2011, the Portuguese KFOR Contingent celebrated its National Day at Camp “Slim Lines”, the barracks that is home to the Portuguese-led KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM). As hosts of this event Brigadier-General Marco Serronha, Deputy Kosovo Force Commander (DCOM KFOR), the senior Portuguese officer in theatre, and Lieutenant-Colonel Jose Augusto Amaral Lopes, Commander KTM, welcomed all Portuguese Military and Civilians

serving in Kosovo, as well as Ambassadors to Kosovo, KFOR Commanders, Branch Heads, Local Authorities and other distinguished guests to the festivities.

The day of celebration was an opportunity to acquaint people with some of Portugal’s history, traditions and food. “The Day of Portugal, Camões and the Portuguese Communities”, is a national holiday that is celebrated every year on 10 June. It commemorates the death of the poet, and Portuguese literary icon, Luis Vaz de Camoes, author of “The Lusiadas”, who died in 1580. Luís de Camões is said to represent the genius of the homeland in its most splendid dimension.

After the Proclamation of the Portuguese Republic on 05 October 1910, a decree was published stipulating the National Holidays. This decree gave the opportunity to



Day - 10 June 2011

each municipality to choose one day of the year to represent their traditional festivals. For its municipal holiday, Lisbon chose 10 June in honour of Camões. This holiday gained particular emphasis during the “Estado Novo”, the dictatorship from 1926 to 1974. It was during this period that the day of Camões became celebrated nationally.

From 1963 on, this National Day became a tribute to the Portuguese Armed Forces, a glorification of war and the colonial power. Until 25 April 1974, the annual 10 June celebration was known as the “Day of Camões, Portugal and the Race”.

With a different philosophy, the Third Republic converted this date to the “Day of Portugal, Camões and the Portuguese Communities” in 1978.

As pointed out by both DCOM KFOR and KTM Commander, this day is especially important to the Portuguese abroad; particularly those in military and civilian missions because it represents a link to the homeland and a reminder of all the things that are missed while fulfilling our mission around the world.

Portugal and the Portuguese people are now a country looking to the future, while never forgetting its long, remarkable past.



KSF Visits the Sloveni

*Story by 1st Sergeant Major Olaf Kasten German Army and Master Sergeant Dusan Utrosa, Slovenian Army
Photos by OR-3 Kosoum Kosumi, Kosovo Security Force*

On 01 June 2011, a delegation of eight Non-Commissioned Officers and enlisted personnel of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), led by Command Sergeant Major (CSM) OR-9 Fetah Zejnullahu from KSF Land Forces Command (LFC), visited the Slovenian Contingent at Camp "Villaggio Italia" in Pejë.

The KSF detachment had been invited by KFOR Command Sergeant Major, OR-9 Olaf Kasten, and Master Sergeant, OR-8 Dusan Utrosa, NCO Mentor Team Leader from the Military Civilian Advisory Division (MCAD), HQ KFOR in Pristina. Both KFOR

NCOs are currently working as mentors with their respective counterparts in the Ministry of the KSF and in the LFC, and this visit was seen as an ideal opportunity to demonstrate to the fledgling KSF how basic military training is planned and conducted.

The visiting delegation was formally welcomed to Camp Villaggio Italia by the Slovenian Contingent Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Peter Einfalt, before proceeding to a nearby gallery range for the first activity – the conduct of range practices. 1 platoon from the Slovenian contingent's India Company (I-Coy) demonstrated how the most fundamental military competency is planned, coordinated and recorded. Afterwards the group moved back to Camp "Villaggio Italia" to study several further demonstrations, such as a basic first aid station, a static display of weapons and equipment, and an emergency



Slovenian Contingent in Pejë

communications presentation. A short ride in a "Valuk" armoured vehicle concluded the first part of visit. Throughout the course of the morning the Slovenian soldiers displayed exceptionally high levels of professionalism and individual skills in all demonstrations.

Lunch in the dining facility allowed the participants to discuss, in detail, the topics highlighted during the morning session. There was a very animated debate and it was clear that the KSF NCOs, particularly the three KSF Brigade Level CSMs - Rapid Reaction Brigade (RRB), Operation Support Brigade (OSB) and Training and Doctrine (TRADOC) - had been given a new perspective on how to conduct challenging and demanding training.

In the afternoon, the programme continued with a

briefing by OR-7 Klemen Jaunig, the CSM of the Slovenian Contingent in Camp "Villaggio Italia", on the NCO structure within the Slovenian Army. Afterwards CSM Fetah Zejnnullahu explained, in great detail, the KSF NCO structure and also described the composition of the NCO Support Channel within the KSF. The Slovenian Contingent emphasized its continuing support to the KSF in the conduct of training and education and the KSF delegation took the opportunity to express their appreciation of the efforts that were taken by all those involved in the preparation of the demonstrations. The day's activities then concluded with a group picture of all the attendees.

Overall, this visit was seen as a highly rewarding experience for the participants, and one which will certainly strengthen the bonds between KFOR and the KSF.



Swiss Pilot Exc

Story and photos by 1Lieutenant Casey Staheli, US Army

Over the years, Swiss Aviators at Camp Bondsteel have certified many foreign pilots to fly their AS332 Super Puma helicopters through their Pilot Exchange Program. However, on 03 May 2011, Captain Francisco J. Figueroa, commander of C Company 1/150th Aviation, became the first US Army aviator to complete the Super Puma conversion with Swiss pilots in KFOR. For 90 minutes above Kosovo, Captain Figueroa conducted manoeuvres and approaches, while being evaluated by Swiss instructor pilot Major Lukas Rechsteiner. “It was a perfect day to fly; the bright, beautiful blue sky made for an incredible experience,” said Captain Figueroa.

Usually this is a 5-week course; however, because of his background flying European style helicopters back home as an emergency medical service pilot, Captain Figueroa received the condensed version of the course. The main similarity between the Swiss Super Puma and the civilian aircraft back home is the fact that the main

rotor system turns clockwise; whereas the main rotor systems on U.S. helicopters turn counter clockwise, explained Captain Figueroa.

During the flight exchange, Swiss Air Transport Squadron Four Commander, Captain Philippe Weber, was in the cockpit along with Major Rechsteiner, who was sharing the controls with Captain Figueroa.

“In order to participate in the exchange program there must be a Swiss certified instructor,” said Captain Figueroa. “And considering the Swiss aviators usually rotate in and out [of Camp Bondsteel] about every 2-3 weeks, the timing was good and everything came together.” Approval from a Swiss Major General was also required and granted.

“It’s nice that one of our two-star Generals is a former helicopter pilot, because it allows for a direct link”, said Captain Weber. “The Major General understands the program and how special it is, making it easier for us to get higher command approval”.

Though the Swiss aviators would be there with Captain Figueroa, preparation and instruction was given well before any flying was allowed. The course began with



Exchange Program

familiarization of the helicopter, controls, flying characteristics, aircraft performance and performance planning. “It was very interesting when we talked about operations, because some training is very different, and yet some of it is very similar”, said Captain Weber.

Captain Figueroa’s favourite Swiss manoeuvre was the “Return to Target movement”. “The Return to Target manoeuvre is when the helicopter is going straight and then begins a steep climb, with the nose at about 40 degrees and continues to climb until the nose is almost straight up... hangs for a second, then nose dives straight towards the earth, pulls out and returns to a straight line of flight,” said Captain Figueroa.

While the manoeuvre part was enjoyable, Captain Figueroa said the most difficult part was making ground approaches in the aircraft. “The Swiss approach is conducted at a shallower angle, closer to the ground, which made it challenging to make a perfect, smooth landing,” he said.

Captain Figueroa feels fortunate to have participated in the training and suggests that, if given the opportunity,

future pilots should participate in the exchange program.

Captain Weber shares those sentiments, “It brings us together. Individuals from different countries might be a little standoffish and unsure at first, but you become closer and (accept) the differences but build upon the similarities, becoming friends and learning from each other.”

Currently the U.S. does not have a pilot exchange program, but both Captains Figueroa and Weber would like to see that change.

“It’s a shame and pity we don’t have such a program because we’d love to do the same for our Swiss friends as they’ve done for us,” said Captain Figueroa.

“I would love to fly the UH-60 Blackhawks because we always see them around and they’re so often utilized,” said Captain Weber.

Having successfully passed his evaluation on the Super Puma, Captain Figueroa’s certification will be kept on a Swiss permanent record log indicating that he is competent and capable of flying the helicopter.



“Mirëdita, Can I Ask

Story and photos by OR9 Gaetano Tuoro, Italian Army

Earlier this year I arrived back to Kosovo, after a 6 year absence, to take up the appointment of Test Specialist in the Psychological Operations (Psyops) branch of the Joint Effects Centre of HQ KFOR. Accompanying me were two guys from the same Italian Psyops Unit, Sergeant Vincenzo Blasi and Corporal Vito Intini... together we compose the ‘Trio Pugliese’! Chief Psyops, Lieutenant Colonel Fabio Figna, from the same Italian Unit, welcomed us and supervised the hand-over/take-over (HOTO), which lasted a week, giving us the right ‘push’ to re-familiarize ourselves with the procedures, environment and external contacts that are so essential to our job. KFOR’s Psyops branch is continually developing, producing, testing, disseminating and

evaluating activities and products such as radio programmes and jingles, TV clips, and billboards. The constant, cyclical nature of Psyops meant that we were required to come up to speed very quickly.

By mid-April 2011, 6 print products and 5 video clips were completed by the Psyops sections and were ready for testing. This is where my real involvement begins: the production of questionnaires that will help to determine if the products will actually achieve their aims. Vincenzo and Vito gave me a hand to make copies of the questionnaires for each product, divided for ethnicity (Albanian and Serb); and, with the cooperation of the Tactical Psychological Teams (TPTs), we began to pre-test the products Kosovo-wide. Pre-test activity began in Pristina University, where we examined the Albanian language products. In the



Ask You a Question?"

University's NATO room, we set up a projector and invited 5 – 6 students at a time to watch TV clips and to fill in the questionnaires. Before showing the clips, I explained the questionnaire and its aims in detail and showed the students how to use it. Meanwhile, Vito, helped by the interpreter, was in the hall stopping students and asking them to fill out the questionnaires related to the print products. We repeated this pre-test activity in a Serb University in the municipality of Gracanica, and we also carried out a focus-group in the Serbian village of Silovo. For a full week we covered the largest cities within Kosovo (Prizren, Pec, Klina, Mitrovice, Urosevac) and many Serb areas, too. After a hectic week, pre-test results were quickly turned

into percentages and statistical graphs, ready to be presented to KFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Gorske, before submission to COM KFOR. 500 questionnaires generating about 3000 answers were collected, Kosovo-wide, from the two main ethnicities, providing a good sample of the Kosovo target audience. The end result is a quantitative analysis that will add value to the work Psyops has done; that will give accurate guidance for the implementation of the products; and will ensure the success of the Psyops product series.

And now... ready to face the next cycle of products!



HAZMAT Activ

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Anna Doo, US Army

On 06 May 2011, a KFOR Hazardous Materials (Hazmat) Team from the Italian contingent in Multi National Battle Group West (MNBG W), in conjunction with the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) Hazmat Team, inspected three barrels of radioactive material in the town of Prvi Tunel near Mitrovica in northern Kosovo. The barrels were housed in a concrete building in the Trepce South Plant factory since the late 1990s. This site was one of more than 115 sites around Kosovo that KFOR and KSF have inspected for toxic industrial materials and other potentially harmful environmental hazards.

Despite being barely two years old, the KSF now has highly trained hazmat teams that form Hazmat Company of the Civil Protection Regiment (CPR). Hazmat Company training includes monitoring of materials and conservation of terrain in Kosovo, as well as utilizing state-of-the-art monitoring equipment and decontamination procedures. Staff Sergeant Enver

Fondaj, a KSF Hazmat Team leader said, "Kosovo is full of factories that contain, or are holding places for, dangerous materials of a hazmat nature. We carry out monitoring of these materials in cooperation with the Ministry of the Environment and KFOR". KFOR and the KSF maintain a database of all sites around Kosovo that contain hazardous materials. The database determines zones of responsibility that are divided into two groups - one group monitored by KSF with KFOR assistance, and the second group monitored by KFOR with assistance from KSF. The database ensures that no location remains unchecked for longer than is safe.

For the inspection on 06 May, the KFOR Hazmat Team from Multinational Battle Group West, led by Sgt. Michele Alessemalzelli, worked with the KSF team to measure the amount of radiation being emitted by the three barrels. The teams wore protective equipment including full body suits, gloves, shoe coverings and protective masks, leaving no exposed skin. Prior to the KFOR and KSF hazmat professionals entering the bunker, a plan of action was discussed, rehearsed and



ity in MNBG W

agreed upon through two interpreters who spoke Italian, Albanian and English.

Inspections such as this are a joint effort in order to bring together the expertise and experiences of a variety of international professionals with the collective goal of keeping an eye on hazardous waste. For example, on hand to observe the results of this test were Vehbi Ejupi and Shqipe Buzuku, inspectors from the Ministry of Environment and Special Planning; KFOR chemical, biological, radioactive, nuclear officer, Lt. Col. Pedro Ferreira, Portuguese Army; MNBG E engineer officer, Lt. Col. David Giesler, U.S. Army; and KFOR mentoring and advising team leader for the KSF Hazmat Team, Capt. Robert Kastle Austrian Army.

Staff Sergeant Fonoluj said, “We see it (multinational partnering) as a gathering of more and more experience, exchanging of experience, getting to know new kinds of equipment, and the way they operate with them. This helps a lot in our job. Of course we get

recommendations and advice and some kinds of help.”

The director of the Trepce South plant, Mr Miftar Hyseni, said, “I think it’s nice. It’s in our interest that they do these inspections and to have this thing under control.”

The KFOR and KSF teams compared the results of the inspection with historical data of the site and discovered the amount of radiation left in the barrels at the Trepce South Plant is decreasing. The barrels will remain in the shelter of the concrete building until the next time the KSF Hazmat Team works with a KFOR Hazmat Team to inspect the site once again ensuring the continued safety of the employees of the factory and the local population.



55th Anniversary of the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces

*Story by 1st Lieutenant Mokhtar el Motarajji
Moroccan Royal Armed Forces*

*Photos by Staff Sergeant Elisabeth Schöneberg,
German Air Force*

On 14 May 2011, the Moroccan contingent of KFOR celebrated the 55th Anniversary of the formation of the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces at Camp "Marechal de Lattre de Tassigny" in Novo Selo. The Royal Moroccan Armed Forces was founded by the late King Mohamed V in 1956.

Based in Novo Selo since 1999, the Moroccan contingent has enjoyed lengthy and distinguished service with KFOR. In the early days of its contribution to KFOR, the Royal Moroccan Armed Forces, in addition to its troops in Novo Selo, also maintained a medical aid operation in Mitrovica, in order to address the suffering Kosovo population.

The ceremony in Novo Selo was presided over by Brigadier General Wilton S. Gorske, Chief of Staff, HQ KFOR, and was attended by many distinguished

civilian and military guests. After the inspection of the troops on parade by Brigadier General Gorske, Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Lkhiel, Commander of the Moroccan contingent, read the order of the day from the King of Morocco, His Majesty Mohamed VI, Commander in Chief and Chief of Staff of the Royal Armed Forces.

In his speech Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Lkhiel traced the history of the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces and focused on its devotion to peace keeping operations all over the world, in accordance with international law. "In conformity with the directives of His Majesty the King, Mohamed VI, the Royal Armed Forces participate in peace keeping missions to bring relief to suffering populations". Afterwards, Brigadier General Gorske thanked the Moroccan soldiers for their devotion and professionalism which has epitomized their presence within KFOR. The ceremony concluded with a march past and review of the participating personnel. After this, a lavish reception and lunch, prepared according to the traditional Moroccan style, in honour of the guests was enjoyed by all.



KSF Prepares for Nijmegen March

Story and Photos by Lieutenant Colonel Stig-Olof Skott, Swedish Army

What are you going to do this summer?

That was the question the Commander of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) Operational Support Brigade (OSB), Brigadier General Ilazi, asked me. When I told him about my plans to participate in the annual 4-day march in the Dutch town of Nijmegen and explained to him what it was, an idea began to germinate.

Within a few days OSB had identified an 11-man team, with Major Ali Krasniqi as team leader, to prepare for and participate in the 95th annual 4-day march in the Netherlands in July 2010.

KFOR's OSB Mentoring and Advisory Team (MAT) provided the team with information about the march itself and how best to prepare for it. Maj Krasniqi set up a training schedule during which the team aimed to complete a total of 410 kilometres marching on hard surface. The schedule began with a few 20-kilometres marches and will build up to two 40-kilometres marches, on consecutive days, before going to the

Netherlands. With this schedule they will be well prepared for the 4-days march in the Netherlands.

As soon as the training marches reached the 30 kilometres mark the blisters started to come for the first time! Every soldier can understand the problems that the dreaded blisters can present, so it was vital to give the team some expert advice from the "foot medics". After receiving some medical equipment from Sweden, Capt Lundgren, from the Swedish Liaison and Monitoring Team (LMT) from Joint Regional Detachment Centre (JRD C) in Pristina, gave the team lessons in how to prepare their feet before conducting a long distance march.

Now the training is ongoing and the team is well advanced in its preparations for the Netherlands. So now when you see this unit with a KFOR mentor & adviser on the road you know what's going on.



Chaplain's Parable

Burkhard W. Bleul is the Catholic Chaplain for the German soldiers in Kosovo. He is also the HQ Coordinating Chaplain for all nations and regional military chaplaincies. In Germany he works as a "Pastoralreferent". He has studied Catholic theology, psychology and classical philology and is assigned by his dioceses, Trier, for special tasks.



Being sent

Working in a NATO theatre in Kosovo showed me instantly, and vividly, how it feels to work with different nations for one mission.

Having a mission (from latin "missio") means to be sent by someone else and adopting their ethos as one's own; to assure commitment to the cause. One example would be conveying a basic message of striving for a future worth living. Similarly, in a religious context, we have a mission too: Being sent into this world to achieve goals without harming yourself, others or the environment. It is a common bond for soldiers sent on a mission in a foreign land to work together with people, civilian or military, to improve living conditions while creating a safe and secure environment (SASE) for all.

Getting the Job Done

Once in-theatre (as a film buff, fond of movie theatres, I really like this military term!) our aim is to reach our goal as best we can. To be a soldier means to be a "servant of peace," ensuring the prevention of violence and remembering to operate **with a peaceful mindset**. It is a soldier's duty to respect another's human rights. All men are created equal in the benevolent eyes of God as they dwell on such a wonderful planet - and this will continue in the afterlife eternal.

We can reach this peaceful state of mind by continuing education and training; be it militarily, physically, spiritually, or intellectually as religious men and women. As the ancient Romans said - "Mens sana in corpore sano" or "a sound mind in a healthy body." The mission, or purpose of life, is more than a job - it's a life long commitment until our own "end of tour" on earth. That said, I wish to make you aware of the biblical passage:

"Our God is a living God, for his angel has protected me." (Psalm 34)

Reconciled and hopeful future of Kosovo

As the newly assigned Coordinating Chaplain, or Theatre Chaplain, it is my duty to serve our military community by providing pastoral care, coordinating with your nation's Chaplain and ensuring that your spiritual, emotional, and pastoral needs and wishes are catered for.

I hope I can provide a relaxed atmosphere, as we work together towards one common mission for freedom of religion, human rights, and a reconciled future for the people of Kosovo.

Peacekeeper's Profiles

Name: Burhan ÇOLAK

Title: Captain

Nationality: Turkish

Unit in KFOR: TRADOC Mentoring and Advisory Team / MCAD

Military Education: I enlisted in the Turkish Army when I was 14 years old in military high school after eight-year education I graduated from military academy in 2005.

About the Mission: This is my first overseas deployment. It is very nice to be here and work in the multinational HQ of KFOR where I have a chance to know lots of different cultures and people. Despite our differences we can manage to build effective working groups. Nevertheless, what I noticed is that the key to this success is that we have much more similarities than differences. I want to highlight the similarities. I quickly realised that everyone in this HQ is very kind, helpful to each other, self-disciplined and highly motivated for the tasks. Seeing this, I have great expectations and I am very hopeful, for the future. I think humankind will provide a permanent worldwide peace for a liveable and clean earth.

Family Reaction: I have been married for two years. I will have a daughter in a month. I miss them very much. But knowing we are only physically far from each other makes this longing easy to bear. I want to thank my wife and apologise to my unborn daughter for not being there and not reading novels and poems to her.

Hobbies: I like travelling and seeing new places, doing, or at least trying every kind of sports and reading history and poems.



Civilian's Profile

Name: Leonora Mucolli

Job Title: Admin Assistant, Irish NSE

Experience: I have been doing this job for the last seven years.

Language: Albanian, English, Serbian.

Job in progress: I am responsible for the day to day administration of the Irish NSE and the Irish House in Camp Film City in Pristina. This is a very busy and demanding job that requires me to ensure the smooth-running of the offices, recreational facilities and the bar. I enjoy my work and receive lots of support from my friends and colleagues in the Irish contingent.

Family reaction: My family are very supportive and proud of my job here. My husband of ten years is also working in Camp Film City as a catering manager. We have a nine year old daughter, Luisa.

Hobbies: I enjoy travelling and meeting people of different nationalities. Any free time that I have, I like to spend with my daughter.





Ballava Lake

Photo by Afrim Hajrullahu