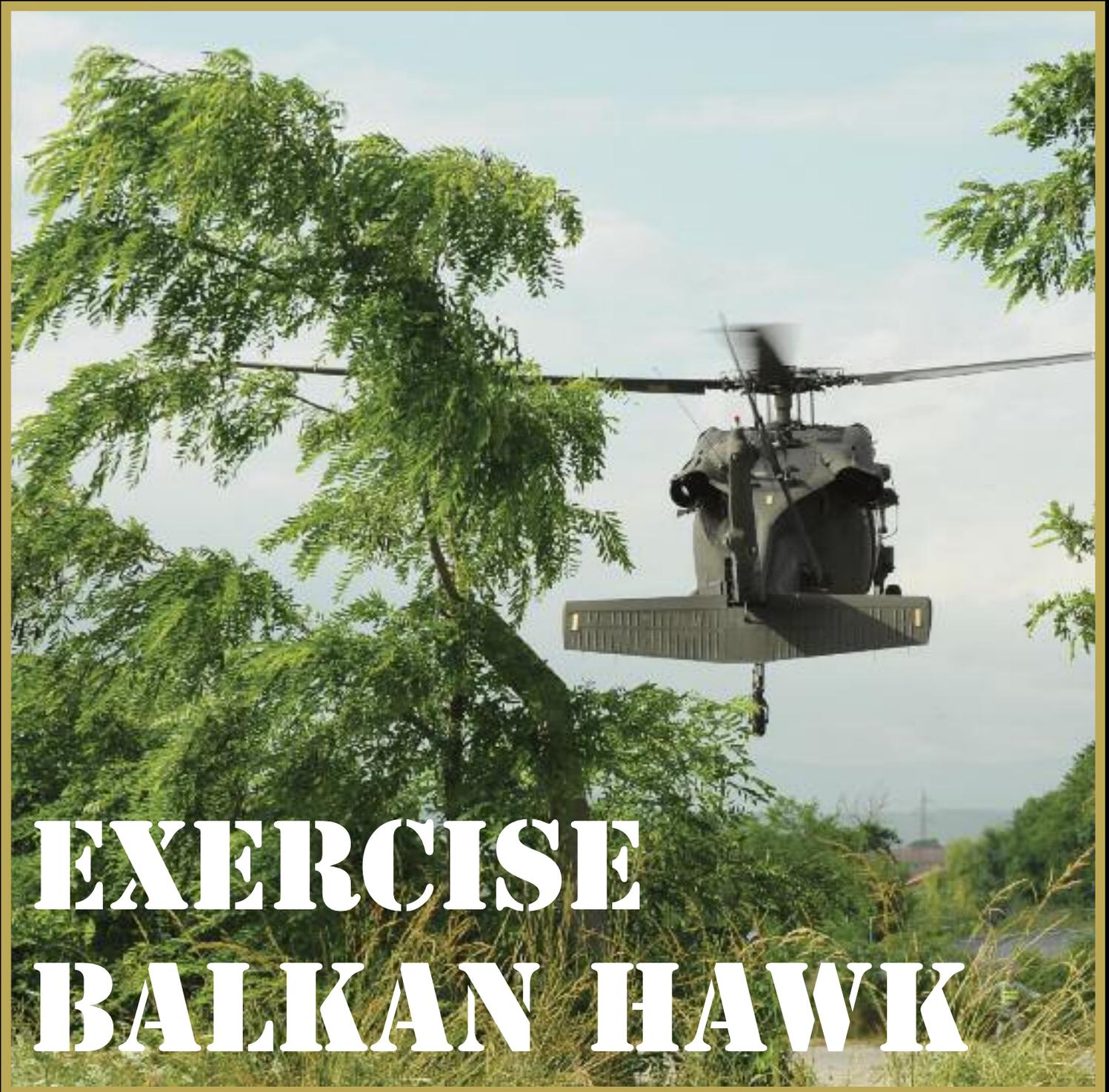




KFOR CHRONICLE



EXERCISE BALKAN HAWK

**FIRE EXERCISE IN CAMP
FILM CITY IN PRISTINA**

**CHANGE OF COMMAND
IN THE JOINT LOGISTIC
SUPPORT GROUP**

**CAMP BELVEDERE
CLOSED**

CONTENT



PICTURE: STAFF SERGEANT ELISABETH SCHÖNEBERG

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PICTURE: STAFF SERGEANT ELISABETH SCHÖNEBERG

Teamwork... Page 14



PICTURE: FLORIAN HASLWANTER

It became hot. Page 22

THE FIRST HALF OF 2011 IS NOW BEHIND US, AND FOR MANY SOLDIERS THE HALFWAY STAGE OF THEIR DEPLOYMENT HAS BEEN REACHED TOO... HALF TIME.



Half time is a good time to pause and reflect on what was, and look ahead to what may come. What have we planned? Are we a step closer to the goals we set? What tasks lie ahead? Will we actually achieve our goals?

Half time is the appropriate time to take stock of what is really important to us; important for the job, important for the people I'm responsible for, important for my own health, wealth and happiness. But how do we establish what is important?

I would like to tell you about an experiment that a famous professor once carried out with senior managers during a lecture on how to prioritise objectives. He put a large glass jar on a table and very carefully placed large stones into the glass.

He filled the jar to the brim with stones before asking the managers if the jar was full. "Yes", they all agreed. "Really?", the professor replied, and proceeded to take out a jar of small pebbles and gravel. He carefully poured the pebbles and gravel between the stones in the jar. "Is the glass full now", he asked. "Probably", they replied. The professor then produced a jar of sand and poured it into the jar

with the stones, pebbles and gravel. "What about now?" he asked. This time they all answered together – "No". The professor smiled and poured a jug of water into the mixture.

WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT THINGS IN MY LIFE?

"Now it is complete", he said. Turning to the directors the professor asked them what they can learn from this experiment. The lesson is simple.

If we do not place the stones into the jar first there will not be room for them later, as the jar will be full of the small items. In life we must identify the big issues first and prioritise them; if we do, the less important issues will easily fit around them.

If we start with the small issues (the water sand and gravel) we run the risk of failing to cope with the important things in life.

Dear comrades, halftime is the

perfect time to ask yourself the question: "What are the important things in my life?" Work? Family? Health? Friends? The realisation of dreams? Whatever the answers are, these are your stones, and must be placed in the jar first. Take time out from your busy day to reflect on the important things in your life. Talk about them with friends and colleagues.

Every Sunday in nearly every camp military chaplains stand ready to assist you. Do yourself a favour and accept our warm invitation. ■

Annette Dux is the Protestant pastor for the German troops stationed in Kosovo and is based in Prizren until mid-September 2011. She was born in Bielefeld and lives in Landsberg am Lech. She has spent the last four years serving as pastor at the military air base in Penzing.

PICTURE: STAFF SERGEANT STEFFANIE HOFFMANN



Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler, and Kosovo Force Deputy Commander (DCOM KFOR), Brigadier-General Marco Serronha, greet Commander Allied Joint Force Command Naples, Admiral Samuel J Locklear III, on the occasion of his visit to HQ KFOR on 18 July 2011.

PICTURE: STAFF SERGEANT ELISABETH SCHÖNEBERG



DCOM KFOR welcomes Major General József Kovács, Commander, Hungarian Defence Forces Joint Forces Command (HDF JFC), during his visit to HQ KFOR, Camp Film City, Pristina on 25 July 2011.

PICTURE: STAFF SERGEANT STEFFANIE HOFFMANN



COM KFOR meets with members of the Liaison and Monitoring Team (LMT) from Joint Regional Detachment East (JRD E) during a field visit on 21 July 2011.

TOGETHER FOR PROGRESS

PICTURE: STAFF SERGEANT ELISABETH SCHÖNEBERG



The leaders of the three largest traditional communities in Kosovo, Grand Mufti Naim Ternava of the Muslim Community; Bishop of Raska and Prizren Teodosije of the Serb Orthodox Church; Bishop Dode Gjergji of the Roman Catholic Church; and COM KFOR, met for informal discussions at the Gorenje Hotel in Pristina on 16 July 2011.

PICTURE: STAFF SERGEANT STEFFANIE HOFFMANN



On 22 July 2011, COM KFOR chaired the Commanders' conference hosted by Commander, Multinational Specialised Unit (COM MSU), Colonel Eduardo Russo, at MSU Headquarters in Pristina.

PICTURE: AFRIM HAJRULLAHU



Captains Padraig Kennedy, Giovanni Pacitto and Antonio Meranda were among the recipients of the NATO KFOR service medal at the HQ KFOR Medal Parade held in Camp Film City on 06 July 2011.

EXCELLENT COOPERATION BETWEEN JLSG AND SWISS AIR FORCE IN PR



During the March riots in early 2004, the Serbian Orthodox monks were expelled from the Archangel Monastery, which is located 3 Km from the Prizren's city centre. Thanks to the support and protection of KFOR, they were able to return some weeks later and start a restoration project. Throughout the last seven years KFOR has stood guard over the structure; however, as the KFOR mission transitioned through Gate 2, it was possible to remove the permanent guard.

During the first week of June, the Swiss Air Force Super Puma 319 helicopter was deployed to support the dismantling of several military structures on the top of the peak. Working in close cooperation with truck drivers from Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG), the helicopter carried containers, boxes, bags and other items to the central plot in front of the main wing of the monastery. It only took the helicopter six or seven minutes to transport a container from the peak to the central plot.

This spectacular operation was also conducted in close cooperation with the JLSG Engineer Platoon, another important branch of the JLSG. JLSG Commander, Brigadier General José Nunes da Fonseca, spent a day observing the Super Puma operation and was impressed by the precise work of the Swiss soldiers. ■



YOU ARE NOT ALONE

“I talk to him when I'm lonesome like; and I'm sure he understands. When he looks at me so attentively, and gently licks my hands; then he rubs his nose on my tailored clothes, but I never say naught thereat. For the good Lord knows I can buy more clothes, but never a friend like that.”

W. Dayton Wedgefarth

Often you hear people saying that the dog is man's best friend. Indeed, dogs support human life in many different ways. For example, there are search and rescue dogs who help save human life; there are police dogs who maintain law and order; there is also the guide dog that assists disabled people. Or sometimes there are dogs who are simply constant, loyal companions. Whatever their role, dogs give so much to us in so many different situations that whenever it is possible we should give something good back to them. That is what the staff of the veterinary clinic in Camp Bondsteel does on a daily basis. Among their many other onerous tasks, they are responsible for the care of dogs that stray onto base. Under the Veterinary Health Service Program “Human-Animal Bond“ (HAB), they vaccinate, groom, worm and train these dogs, and provide the dogs with a happy,

**...WE SHOULD
GIVE SOMETHING
GOOD BACK...**

safe and secure environment in which to live. Soldiers serving in Camp Bondsteel are encouraged to get involved in this program. The dogs can be reserved for individual playtime (Puppy Snuggle Time) or brought on PT (dog walks or runs). The office is open to visitors between 0800 and

1700 on weekdays and from 0800 to 1300 on Saturdays. You also can make a request for other hours. The Veterinary Treatment Facility is located in Building 630 suite #6 in Camp Bondsteel. Additionally, you can join the Kosovo Human Society on Facebook.





On 18 June 2011, Camp Belvedere, located just to the South of Mitrovica, was handed back to the Mitrovica municipality authorities by the French contingent. For more than 10 years, this camp was home to almost 1000 personnel from both KFOR and EULEX, and it was a pivotal location for the French contingent, providing most of the patrols and the Quick Reaction Force for the city of Mitrovica. Since March, the

French contingent has been engaged in the technical and administrative procedures required to close this military post in accordance with the agreement with the United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) before handing over the keys to the municipality. During this time, the French National Commander met with the mayor of Mitrovica, Mr Avni Kastrati, and other local and national officials in order to agree

on a suitable future use of the location. On 31 May, the French Minister for Defence, Mr Gérard Longuet, directed that all living accommodation, sanitation facilities, cooking facilities and water purification equipment were to be given to the local authorities. In the future, the Mitrovica authorities would like to use these facilities as social accommodation for displaced people and asylum seekers. ■

SWISS ENGINEER PLATOON UPGRADES WATER SUPPLY IN JRD N

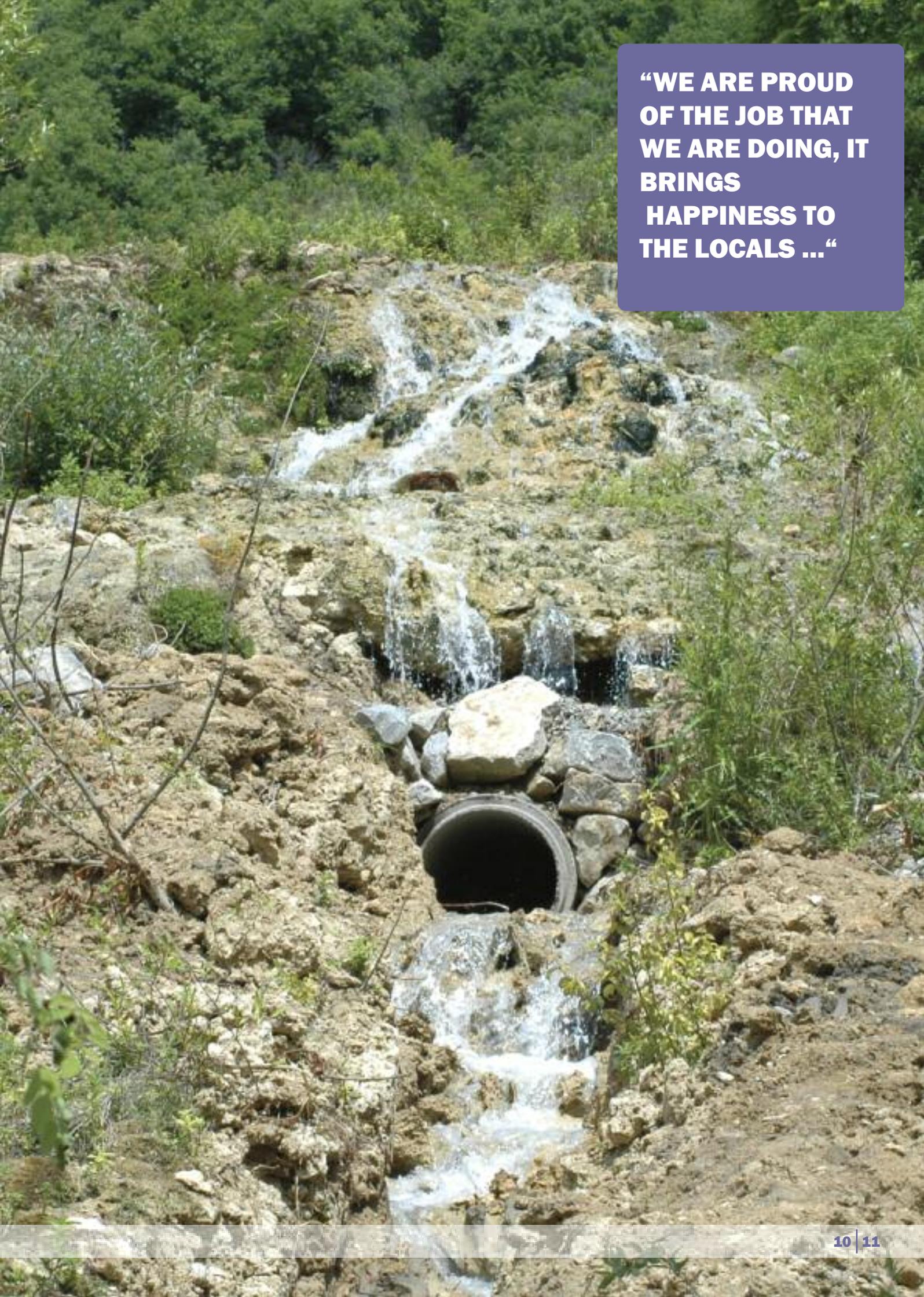
The town of Banja/Banje is a small, multiethnic village located in the municipality of Skendiraj/Srbica, in the area of responsibility of KFOR's Joint Regional Detachment North (JRD N). During its activities in the region, the Liaison and Monitoring Team (LMT) of JRD N was approached by the local population and asked to remove bushes and debris that were covering local water pipes.

The water supply in the region was notoriously problematic; an intermittent supply that was prone to blockages often meant that locals had to travel to the water source for fresh water. Additionally, blockages often resulted in flooding, making the road impassable and effectively cutting off the local populace. Having assessed the situation as being within the framework of KFOR's main mission, i.e. "to

provide a safe and secure environment and to maintain the freedom of movement", JRD N requested KFOR's Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG) to assist. Consequently the Swiss engineer platoon, which had recently come under the control of JLSG, was deployed to assess the situation. The aim of this refurbishment was not only to support the local population and improve the conditions of their lives but also to protect the local environment. The impact of this action will go beyond simply ensuring the freedom of movement of the locals; given the amazing scenery in this mountainous region, the remedial work may promote increased tourism in the area, thereby giving the local and regional economies a much needed boost. In fact, on closer inspection, the problem was not a matter of removing rubbish and clearing

scrub, but of restoring the pipe and setting up a mechanism that would prevent the water from flowing onto the road. The Swiss engineering platoon quickly deployed specific equipment and well trained personnel to carry out the work. Private Mathieu and Private Zbinder decided to dig a hole to contain the water. Once the water reaches the top of this hole, a refurbished pipeline will carry it through the tunnel to the residents. As a result of this procedure the water will not burst its bed anymore. After 10 days of hard work, the Swiss soldiers managed to restore all the pipes through which the water flows from a natural source to the homes and grain mills in Banja/Banje village. Since the restoration project, the locals can now depend on a guaranteed water supply and also have no fears of flooding and isolation. Asked about the result of their labour, both soldiers said that "we are proud of the job that we are doing, it brings happiness to the locals and helps in building a strong relationship between KFOR and the municipalities". Through this action, KFOR has shown, once again, that the improvement of conditions for the local population does not only come about through military actions, but also through humanitarian ones. The project clearly demonstrates KFOR's determination to improve the living conditions of all citizens of Kosovo, and also the importance that KFOR places on the protection of the environment. ■





**“WE ARE PROUD
OF THE JOB THAT
WE ARE DOING, IT
BRINGS
HAPPINESS TO
THE LOCALS ...”**

KFOR LOGISTICS CONFERENCE

Organised and hosted by the French National Support Detachment in Novo Selo, the KFOR Logistics Conference (KLC) was held on 05 July 2011. The KLC is usually conducted every two months in Camp Film City, Pristina with the aim of providing an overview of the in-theatre logistic situation.

The conference was attended by the staff from Joint Force Command Naples, their J4 counterparts in HQ KFOR and the Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG), as well as personnel from the two KFOR Battle Groups and all national support elements. On this occasion, the French contingent organised the conference in Camp Marechal de Lattre de Tassigny and added a dynamic aspect to the usual presentations. After spending the morning engaging in a variety of powerpoint presentations covering topics such as the medical logistical situation in KFOR, environmental concerns relating to camp closures, and the capability and capacity for future developments; the attendees were brought outside for a demonstration of French, Moroccan and German equipment. They were shown a water supply tanker, a mobile field cooking unit and also a refrigerated container among other logistics equipment. They were also shown a simulated medical evacuation where Moroccan, German and French medical teams conducted a medevac with the assistance of an American medical helicopter. This exercise was an excellent example of multinational cooperation and encapsulates the ethos of KFOR. ■



On 28 May 2011, Camp Casablanca hosted an international military pentathlon, the “Shark Patrol”, for 23 separate, 5-soldier teams, from four different countries - Slovenia, Switzerland, Italy and Austria. In the end, Slovenian teams finished first and second, followed by an Austria team in third place.

The competition began at 1230 hrs with teams starting at 10 minute intervals. The morning began bright and sunny and clouded over later, providing cover from the sun. Thankfully the rain stayed away throughout, which resulted in very good conditions for an event of this kind. The pentathlon’s five events were: an obstacle course, shooting on a rifle range, a medical evacuation (medevac), hand grenade throwing and a Piranha Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) push. Competitors were required to run between the events – covering a distance of about 4km.

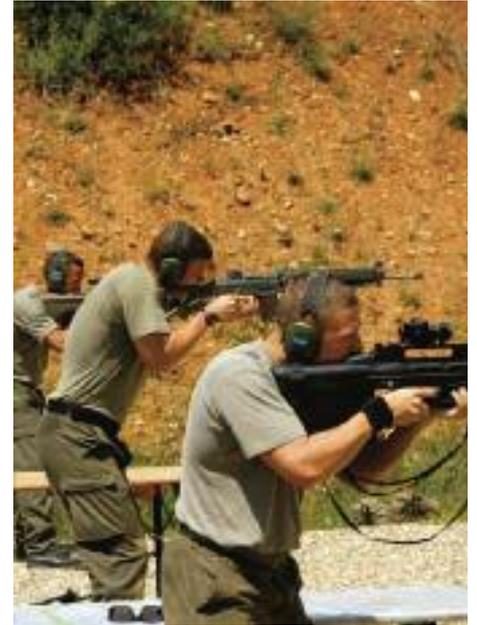
The obstacle course event had to be completed wearing body armour. Part of the exercise was to cross a pond with a rope, which proved to

be very difficult for some participants. After this, the shooting event on the rifle range was conducted from the standing position at 20m, using assault rifles from Austria, Slovenia and Switzerland. The medevac exercise was conducted about one km from the rifle range and it

**...SPORTING
EXCELLENCE
AND GOOD
COMRADESHIP...**

required teams to carry a comrade on a stretcher for 200m, before entering a 20m tunnel with a height of 80cm.

After this gruelling event, the competitors moved on to the grenade throwing. Each competitor had one grenade and was required to throw it 15m into the target window. Considering that each participant was already exhausted from the run and the first three exercises,



this task proved to be the most decisive one. Only a few groups managed to hit the mark more than once, and for every failure, the group received a one minute penalty.

After another 1500m run, the final exercise waited to drain the last few ounces of energy from the competitors: the Piranha-push! The teams had to push the Swiss made MOWAG Piranha APC, weighing 14 tons, over a distance of 50m.

This last exercise was designed to squeeze blood out of a stone and one could clearly see the soldiers’ power evaporating.

After the rear axle of the Piranha crossed the line, the competitors summoned whatever energy reserves they could muster for the final sprint to the finish line.

At 1830 hrs, the Austrian National Contingent Commander, Colonel Andreas Stupka, conducted the awards ceremony.

He congratulated all participants, especially those of the winning teams from Slovenia and Austria and noted how all participants demonstrated sporting excellence and good comradeship throughout. ■



EXERCISE BALKAN HAWK

On 30 June 2011, KFOR and EULEX conducted the latest version of the regular joint exercise “Balkan Hawk”. However, unlike previous years, this time units of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) also participated in the exercise, within their legally defined competencies. The exercise was conducted simultaneously in two separate areas – Djakovica Airfield, in the west of Kosovo, and Camp Vrello, near Pristina Airport. The exercise scenario was based on the assumption of a powerful earthquake in central Kosovo, which had significant impact on the infrastructure of the region, including the regional airport. KFOR, EULEX and KSF units deployed to Djakovica Airfield and conducted search and rescue and evacuation exercises amid the debris. The KSF was also called on to deal with hazardous material and fire threats. In addition to the rescue operations, KFOR and EULEX personnel were required to deal with unrest caused by a

small number of looters. The main effort of the exercise, however, was centred on Camp Vrello. Similar to events in Djakovica, looters and radicalised persons tried to make use of the catastrophe and attempted to storm the Vrello municipal building. EULEX forces prevented this, but were quickly outnumbered by the mob and called for KFOR assistance. The Quick Reaction Force (QRF) from Multi National Battle Group East (MNBG E) arrived by helicopter to reinforce the international police force. However, the situation continued to deteriorate resulting in Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), ordering his tactical reserve (KTM) to deploy to Camp Vrello and restore order. Within minutes the elite Portuguese forces of KTM arrived by helicopter and road and quickly contained the mob. Once order and security had been restored, a KSF Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team was called forward to deal with an

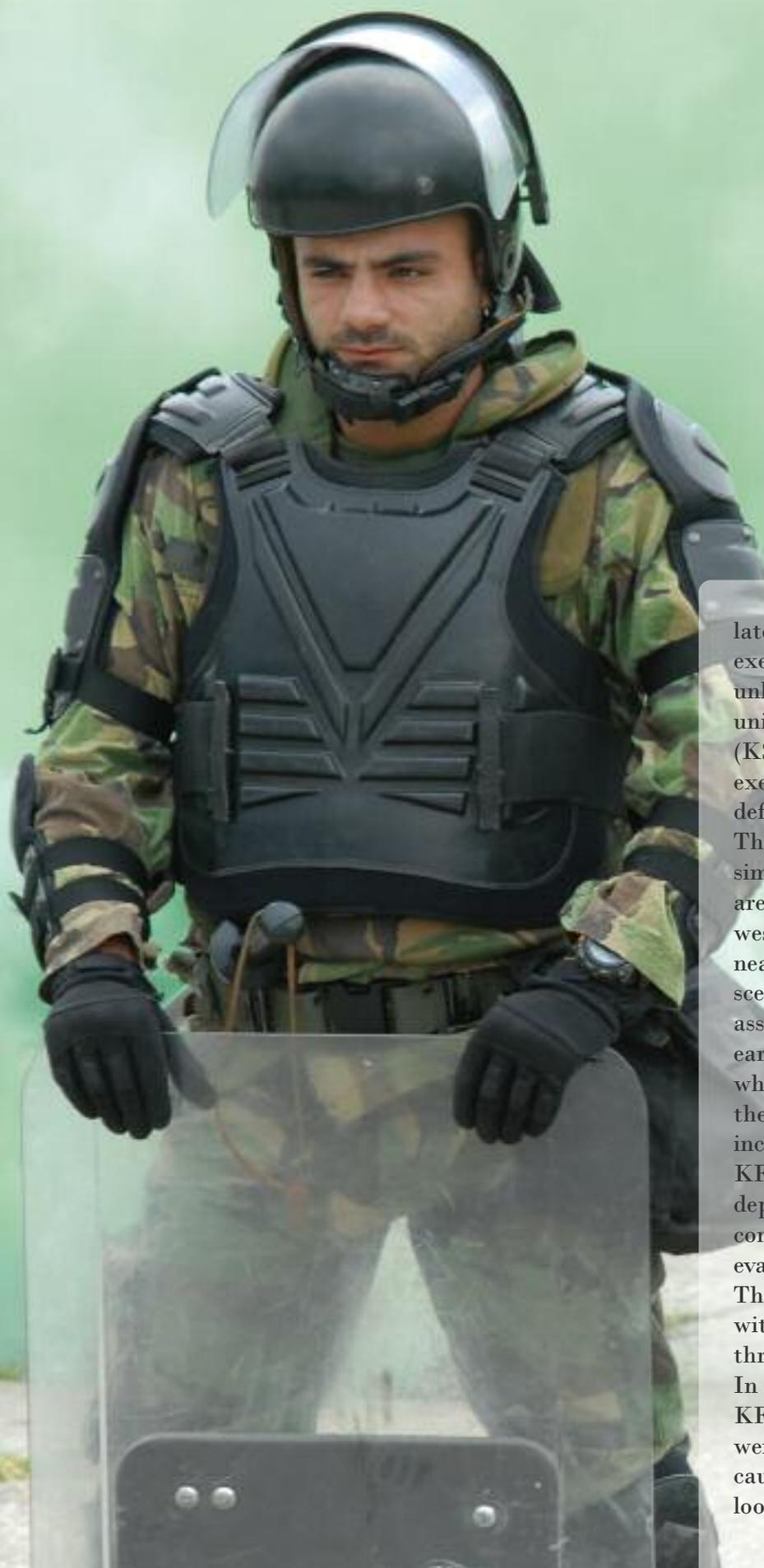
unexploded object (UXO); almost simultaneously a KSF firefighting team was called on to deal with a burning barricade. Finally, KSF personnel conducted a medevac of an injured KFOR Liaison and Monitoring Team (LMT) soldier, utilising a medevac helicopter from Camp Bondsteel.

This was the first occasion that KSF and KFOR conducted a joint medevac exercise. Overall, exercise “Balkan Hawk” was an unqualified success that enhanced the interoperability of KFOR and EULEX.

The participation of KSF, with its capabilities to deal with natural disasters and to assist the international forces, represents a new dimension to the “Balkan Hawk” exercise series.

Consequently, it will increase the efficiency of all those who are responsible for the maintenance of public order and the welfare of the communities throughout Kosovo. On 30 June 2011, KFOR and EULEX conducted the





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CHANGE OF COMMAND - JOINT LOGISTICS SUPPORT GROUP

On the evening 14 July 2011, Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG) conducted a Change of Command ceremony at Camp Film City, Pristina. Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler formally handed over command from the outgoing Commander JLSG,

Brigadier General Jose Nunes Da Fonseca, to the incoming Commander JLSG Colonel Dimitrios Manos. The assembled guests included KFOR Deputy Commander (DCOM KFOR), Brigadier General Marco Serronha; Deputy Chief of Staff, Military Civil Advisory Division (DCOS MCAD), Brigadier General

Enrico Spagnoli; commanders of KFOR units and JRD's; National Contingent Commanders and Senior National Representatives; and other distinguished guests. After conducting a review of the assembled ranks of JLSG personnel, COM KFOR addressed the audience. He began by thanking Brigadier General Fonseca for his dedication and leadership as COM JLSG during a time of great change in KFOR. He praised the work of JLSG and noted JLSG is a truly multinational and multifunctional unit comprising engineering, transportation, maintenance, supply and medical personnel from 12 different countries. He praised the positive, can-do approach constantly displayed by Brigadier General Fonseca and his subordinates in JLSG that ensured the achievement of the JLSG mission: "TO PROVIDE MULTINATIONAL LOGISTICS SOLUTIONS TO KFOR FORCES THEREBY REDUCING THE NATIONS' OWN LOGISTIC FOOTPRINTS". During his farewell address, Brigadier General Fonseca also highlighted the unique nature of JLSG, saying "All of you (JLSG) became part of NATO history, as you integrated the first logistics command ever created in the Alliance and employed in operations, in its more than 60 years of existence". He also detailed the many accomplishments of JLSG during his tenure as Commander. He described the logistical challenges posed by the transformation of KFOR as the force passed through Gate 2. Additionally he described many JLSG accomplishments, including "Mine awareness training to national contingents, dismantling structures in KFOR camps and in unfixed monuments, improvements



to roads for patrolling as well as for the benefit of local populations, transportation of personnel and equipment related to the redeployment of forces to the respective nation”.

He went on to thank COM KFOR “for (your) strong leadership, clear guidance and firm belief in the capabilities of the JLSG”.

Brigadier General Fonseca also had a special word of thanks for “Brigadier General Spagnoli for his support in developing the cooperation between JLSG and the Kosovo Security Force (KSF). Working to enhance the capabilities of (the

... JLSG IS A TRULY MULTINATIONAL AND MULTIFUNCTIONAL UNIT COMPRISING ENGINEERING, TRANSPORTATION, MAINTENANCE, SUPPLY AND MEDICAL PERSONNEL FROM 12 DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.

KSF) raised the JLSG concept to a higher level, broadening it to the areas of training, mentoring and mutual cooperation”. Brigadier General Fonseca concluded with

his compliments to Colonel Manos, offering him his best wishes and the hope that “within your command you have at least the same satisfaction that I had”. ■



TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY - KFOR HQ CHIEF OF STAFF



THE FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF BG WILTON S. GORSKE WHEN COM KFOR MG ERHARD BÜHLER HONOURED HIM

The Transfer of Authority (ToA) ceremony between the outgoing KFOR HQ Chief of Staff (COS), Brigadier General Wilton S. Gorske, and the incoming COS, Brigadier General Rex A. Spitler took place in Camp Film City, Pristina on 07 July 2011.

Personnel from HQ KFOR, formed up under the command of Chief Military Civil Advisory Division (MCAD), Brigadier General Enrico Spagnoli, rendered compliments as Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General formally transferred the authority and responsibility of the role of COS from incumbent to successor.

In his address to the assembled personnel, COM KFOR praised the work and loyalty of Brigadier General Gorske throughout his time as HQ KFOR COS saying, “Your performance as my COS was nothing less than outstanding, and you always represented KFOR, NATO, and the United

“I TELL VISITORS THAT THE STRENGTH OF THIS MISSION IS NOT IN THE NUMBER OF PERSONNEL WE HAVE ON THE GROUND, IT’S REFLECTED IN THE NUMBER OF NATIONAL FLAGS IN FRONT OF OUR HEADQUARTERS. THEY ARE A SYMBOL OF THE COMMITMENT OF OUR NATIONS, REGARDLESS OF HOW LARGE OR SMALL, TO THE FUTURE OF KOSOVO. THIS IS WHY THE KFOR MISSION IS A SUCCESS”.

States with honour and great pride. You have been a reliable partner and I thank you for your high level of professionalism, dedication, and sincere commitment to KFOR’s mandate of a safe and secure environment with freedom for all people of Kosovo”.

COM KFOR also singled out Brigadier General Gorske’s leadership and his ability to shape a cohesive staff from 400 military and civilian personnel drawn from over 30 nations for particular praise.

In his reply, Brigadier General Gorske thanked COM KFOR and the assembled personnel saying “I tell visitors that the strength of this mission is not in the number of personnel we have on the ground, it’s reflected in the number of national flags in front of our headquarters. They are a symbol of the commitment of our nations, regardless of how large or small, to the future of Kosovo. This is why the KFOR mission is a success”.

He went on to outline some of the main achievements during his tenure as COS, such as the reduction of HQ staff by 40% while maintaining the same high planning tempo, the closure of several camps and subsequent redeployment of personnel and equipment, the implementation of the move to Gate 2, and the revision of the operational concept for Gate 3. Brigadier General Gorske concluded by thanking COM KFOR for his leadership, guidance and counsel; and offered his successor Brigadier General Spitler his best wishes for a successful mission.

Brigadier General Spitler assumes the role of HQ KFOR COS after 31 years of highly decorated, commissioned service with the US Army. He has commanded at company and battalion level and held primary staff officer appointments from battalion S1 to army G5.

In his words of welcome to Brigadier General Spitler, Major General Bühler said “(your) many experiences and accomplishments have helped you to prepare for your new assignment as the KFOR COS. I am more than convinced that you will lead the KFOR HQ Staff in the same outstanding manner as did Brigadier General Gorske”.



THE NEW CHIEF OF STAFF BG REX A. SPITLER



On 14 July 2011, the HQ KFOR Fire Department, based in Camp Film City, Pristina held a graduation ceremony for 15 of their civilian firefighters who successfully completed an International Fire Service Accreditation Congress (IFSAC) certification course. They successfully obtained certification in Firefighter level 1, Firefighter level 2, Hazardous Material Awareness and Hazardous Material Operations. The ceremony took place at the Fire Station in Camp Film City and was attended by Kosovo Force Deputy Commander (DCOM KFOR) Brigadier General Marco Serronha and Commander Headquarters Support Group (HSG), Colonel Jim Long. The IFSAC certification process was conducted under the auspice of the Holland College Atlantic Police and Fire Academy on Prince Edward Island, Eastern Canada. IFSAC accredited institutions such as the Holland College Police and Fire Academy are inspected regularly by the IFSAC to ensure they meet their stringent rules and that their course content and delivery systems are to the highest international standards. IFSAC only allows the top fire academies to be certified as an IFSAC academy; for this reason, potential employers worldwide, looking for the best firefighting candidates to hire, prefer IFSAC accredited firefighters. ▶

“YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING IN YOUR LIFE THAT IS HONORABLE AND NOT COWARDLY IF YOU ARE TO LIVE IN PEACE WITH YOURSELF, AND FOR THE FIREFIGHTER IT IS FIRE.”

FIREMEN APPRECIATION
QUOTES BY LARRY BROWN



PICTURE: STAFF SERGEANT ELISABETH SCHÖNEBERG

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German Army

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NATO Nations within KFOR

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

Non-NATO Nations within KFOR

Armenia, Austria, Finland, Ireland,
Morocco, Sweden, Switzerland,
Ukraine

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PICTURE: STAFF SERGEANT ELISABETH SCHÖNEBERG



IFSAC accredited fire colleges are mostly found in the United States and Canada with normally one accredited Fire College in each US state and one in each Canadian Province. IFSAC has recently expanded to other parts of the world with accredited colleges now operating in Saudi Arabia, Oman and South Africa. The accreditation testing procedures involved the student candidates

successfully passing four written examinations and performing practical and complex firefighting and Hazardous Material exercises.

The HQ firefighters have been involved in the accreditation process since September 2010, when they started studying for these examinations.

Periodic progress tests were given to each candidate to ensure they were developing the necessary skills and to ensure the best possible chance of passing the examinations.

The 15 successful candidates received certificates authenticating their internationally recognized qualifications; and, based on this unprecedented level of success, the HQ Fire Department is now making plans that would see the remaining eleven firefighters challenge for IFSAC accreditation next summer.

The HQ Fire Department would like to thank all those who supported our request for this accreditation, especially the HSG Commander, J8, J1 and the Human Resources department for making this a reality.

We would also like to thank the Executive Director of Holland College, Mr. Edgar Macleod, and the college's Chief Fire Instructor, Mr. Paul Landry, for providing an outstanding opportunity for our members. ■

PICTURE: STAFF SERGEANT ELISABETH SCHÖNEBERG



Firefighters in their protective equipment during the Hazardous Material exercises

PEACEKEEPER



Name: Paul Toni Naicea
Title: 1 LT
Nationality: Romanian
Unit in KFOR: Joint Visitors Bureau

Military education:

I enlisted in the Romanian Army when I was 15 years old in the military high school and after eight-year education I graduated from the military academy in 2006

About the Mission:

This is my first deployment abroad. It is a very helpful experience to work in an international environment like we have here in HQ KFOR, because of the chance to work with so many people from so many countries, people of different cultural background. It is very nice to see that our cultural background does not stand between us and the mission. The first thing I noticed was the professionalism of all the people who work here, military and civilian, the fact that everybody is willing to offer assistance

Family Reaction:

My family has been very supportive of me when I told them about my deployment. They are very proud of me for being here and representing my country.

Hobbies:

I like to travel to new places, getting to know other cultures, I enjoy discovering the history of the places where I go by visiting the cultural sites and reading.

CIVILIAN



Name: Dritan Hoti
Job Title: Interpreter and Editor, PAO German KFOR contingent Prizren
Languages: Albanian, German, English, Serbian
Experience: I have been doing this job for longer than ten years.

Job in progress:

I am responsible for translating press releases, simultaneous translations by press conferences and meetings. I write articles for the biweekly magazine "CampNews", which is published by the German KFOR contingent in Prizren. In addition to that I am in charge for maintaining contacts with the local media representatives and support my supervisor in taking care of foreign journalists, who visit KFOR Troops. Last, but not least I support the daily media review and take professional photos, whenever necessary. It is great to work in a team and I receive a huge support, confidence and gratitude from the German Contingent in Prizren. That's the greatest motivation for me.

Family reaction:

- no statement -

Hobbies:

Since I am single there is a lot of free time for almost everything. But I really enjoy reading, hiking, playing football and meeting people.

