

KFOR CHRONICLE



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BE ADVISED AND SLOW DOWN

KFOR XVII Family of Nations!

In simple terms KFOR XVII itself could be seen as just an abbreviation with a consecutive Roman numeral for yet one in the string of the NATO-led force. However, KFOR significance can be truly perceived only when we take into account that it consists of a synergy of forces and capabilities of thirty different national contingents of respected nations. Our strength is derived out of that solid bond between Alliance members and our partners.

We truly are one great family, exemplarily dedicated to our mission. This is a family in which each of us, irrespective of rank, in uniform or as a civilian, has his or her own place and plays a role in our efforts for peace and stability in Kosovo. Peace and stability, two fundamental common goods, which represent prolific humus for the benefit of all its inhabitants regardless of their ethnicity, religion, religious belief, gender, worldview, race, social status, language, political or other opinion, and regardless of any mental and physical handicap or any other distinction.

It is fully justified to state towards our troops and external partners, i.e. Institutions in Kosovo, International Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations, that fairness, impartiality and integrity of our predecessors since 1999 represent a solid foundation and it is core upon which all activities of KFOR XVII members are being built.

Whether KFOR presence in Kosovo is measured in months or years to come it is not so dependent on us, but on the zealously awaited



positive political processes between Belgrade and Pristina, and of course, or particularly, on the wider international community.

We are in fact nothing but yet another link in a limited chain based on strategic, but many times also very tactical political decisions. A chain that can be depicted on a time scale of deployed national contingents and their successful and efficient contributions for better living conditions of people in Kosovo.

They say that loyalty is one of the basic foundations of life. Without loyalty, everything is worthless. I therefore call upon you to

join me on the path of loyalty to the NATO-led Kosovo Force, based on its already achieved level of vertical and horizontal multi-nationality, through wisdom and tolerance.

I wish all members of KFOR a safe and successful tour of duty in KFOR and I am looking forward to working with you over the next year.

Bojan Pograjc

BRIGADIER GENERAL BOJAN POGRAJČ
DEPUTY COMMANDER KOSOVO FORCE

SILVER SABER EXERCISE

Silver Saber, a training exercise in Crowd, Riot and Control was conducted by HQ KFOR, from 16th to 18th Oct in KP Camp Vrelo. The Exercise involved over 510 personnel drawn from KFOR, EULEX and KP units. The training aims of the exercise were to provide theoretical and practical CRC training to all participants in order to familiarise the participants with current CRC procedures and to validate Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) in theatre. The Exercise was planned, organised and conducted by KFOR HQ –J3 personnel.

The Exercise was visited by Kosovo Force Commander (COMKFOR) and a large number of observers from KFOR, EULEX and KP also attended the final day of the exercise.

The highlight of the three day exercise was the practical CRC training conducted on 18th of October in the KP camp Vrelo. During the day, the skill set of the participating troops in CRC was evaluated. After a dynamic demo

showing the CRC procedures, the exercise troops were involved in fictitious opposing forces and friendly forces scenes.

Exercise Control had created a situation where KP unit acting as 1st level responder asked for reinforcement from EULEX in order to control a riot. After a relieve in place, the 2nd level responder EULEX was deployed using two armoured personal vehicles in support and managed to check the riot for the time being. However, due to additional rioters and an increase in violence, EULEX requested KFOR HQ for reinforcement. In response to this request, in an airborne operation, using 3 helicopters from Camp Bondsteel, 3 platoons from ORF were deployed as 3rd level responder and executed their CRC drills and responded to the riot situation.

During this phase of the exercise, KP and EULEX remained on site. Their tasks were to protect and secure critical locations in their respective areas of responsibilities.

KFOR HQ continuing to deploy, using specialised equipment, in order to push back the rioters and remove a road block from the Main Supply Route (MSR). FOMD and EOD teams allowed freedom of movement on the MSR by the removal of the barricade using a bulldozer and explosive. A water canon truck was also deployed, in order to calm the demonstrators, protect the KFOR units deployed and react to the throwing of Molotov cocktails by the rioters. PSYOPS team was deployed and using loud speakers encouraged the rioters to disperse. The combined efforts of all available KFOR assets controlled the situation and the rioters dispersed. The exercise culminated after a medical evacuation by helicopter was conducted of an exercise casualty, injured by a rioter. To conclude the exercise day, a static demo of CRC assets and the military equipment available in theatre was provided by exercise troops.





SILVER SABER EXERCISE



PICTURES: A. HAJRULLAHU



EXERCISE “ DISLOKIMI 2012”

On Sept 26th Land Forces Command (LFC) and Operational Support Battalion (OSB) of the Kosovo Forces (KS) were issued a Re-Call Order at 0400 hours in order to begin Exercise “Dislokimi” 2012. This Training Exercise was designed to test the Operational Readiness of OSB to respond outside of normal working hours, test the OSB convoy procedure while moving to a new location and the LFC’s ability to set up an alternative Bde HQ.

The OSB response to the call out was affected by 0700 hrs with over 70% of personnel reporting to OSB HQ. The OSB moved in convoy, practising Convoy Movement Drills (CMD) and relocated as directed by Exercise Control. The LFC established an alternative Bde HQ and were fully operational by 1200 hrs. The alternative Bde HQ was visited by Maj Gen Rama, Commander of LFC who expressed his satisfaction with the redeployment of the LFC HQ. At 1600 hrs Endex was issued and

all participation troops returned to Barracks.

The Exercise Assessment on the OSB was complementary on the Battalions ability to respond to a re-call and its ability to conduct the movement of the Battalion to a new area of operations. Some areas of improvement in the units planning orders were identified and were discussed. Areas of concern in staff duties were also discussed. All agreed on the success of the exercise and of the benefit to all of the lessons learnt.



STORY: S. JUUL

PICTURES: KSF



EXERCISE “ DISLOKIMI 2012”



PICTURES: KSF



KFOR SPT/JENGR CBRN OFFICER/TIM SITES

KFOR CBRN/Environmental Officer is a senior staff officer in HQ KFOR SPT/JENGR Branch, who coordinates Kosovo wide, all CBRN / Hazard Materials / Environmental activities to ensure Safe and Secure Environment (SASE). In 1984 occurred the world worst Toxic Industrial Material (TIM) disaster in history. The Bhopal Disaster or Bhopal Gas Tragedy took place at Union Carbide Pesticide Plant in the Indian City of Bhopal, Madhya Prades. On 3rd of December 1984 the Union Carbide Plant released 42 of Methyl Isocyanine gas into the atmosphere exposing 500.000 people to toxic gas. The first official death toll was 2.259 individuals. The more generally accepted figure is between 8.000 to 10.000 individuals died within the first 72 hours. It is estimated that over 25.000 individuals have since

died from this gas related disease. To avoid this kind of TIM environmental disaster KFOR is working Kosovo wide, in close coordination with Institution in Kosovo and International Communitis Present. The TIM database is the main product of the activity of KFOR CBRN teams. The TIM inspections program has been administered by KFOR since 1999. From this period, the KFOR CBRN teams have been conducting site inspections Kosovo wide in order to (IOT) assess and reduce the risk associated with SASE. For each site where dangerous substances are stored, their type, names, quantities and storage conditions are recorded in Excel format. Within means and capabilities, KFOR has been providing support to the owners of the TIM sites by handing-over results of inspections and

recommendations, or even leading Risk Reduction Operations IOT improve the security and environmental conditions. The Ministry of Environment and Spatial Planning (MESP) is the legal local entity for the inspection of industrial sites and to the enforcement of codes and law, concerning environment within Kosovo. In late 2009, with the stand up of the Kosovo Security Forces (KSF) and the active engagement of MCAD in pursuing integration of the KSF within the Institutions in Kosovo, a program was established by KFOR to support MESP and KSF, with knowledge and resources to maintain and develop the inspections programs of TIM sites. The KSF has been a vital partner in the process of inspections developed by KFOR, having always been present together with



STORY: P. FERREIRA

PICTURES: CBRN

KFOR in TIM site inspections and doing a rigorous training program, that allowed them to acquire the necessary capabilities to act on the level of HAZMAT threat. Led by KFOR CBRN/Environmental Officer, a CBRN Working Group (WG) was formed in late 2010 to develop the policies and procedures for the transfer of low risk TIM sites to the MESP. This WG that included participants from JENGR, MCAD, KSF and MESP, has negotiated and developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Ministry of KSF and MESP. The WG also has revised the TIM inspections program and established the reporting procedures to facilitate

the transfer process. On January 2011 this MOU was developed and signed between the KSF and MESP IOT facilitates the support of KSF personnel to the inspectorate of MESP. The gradual transfer of responsibilities for TIM sites inspections from KFOR to MESP and Ministry of KSF, culminated with the official signing ceremony on August 2011, where a tri-lateral declaration was signed by COM KFOR, MESP and MKSF, in which 94 TIM sites were transfer to the responsibility of MESP. Nowadays KFOR continues working for HAZMAT awareness by doing TIM inspections on the 17 sites which remain in KFOR database and are currently assessed

as high-risk TIM sites. The Emergency Response Guidebook provides the basis for the threat assessment. Each site has assigned a color code related to the threat level it represents to SASE and is regularly inspected according to that code. For 2012, according to the TIM Inspection Plan approved by KFOR CBRN/Environmental Officer, 42 TIM site inspections are planned IOT contribute to KFOR situational awareness. The TIM database is regularly released in the form of a TIM Map and is also depicted in iGeoSit Program as an iGeoSit layer under JENGR overlays.



JLSG REDEPLOYMENT OF ITALIAN ORF

On 7th and 15th of Oct 2012, Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG) successfully completed the redeployment of the Italian Operational Reserve Force (ORF) from Kosovo through the Port of Durres, Albania to Italy. This movement was conducted on two days and consisted 86 Italian vehicles in convoy on the Oct 7th and 44 Italian vehicles in a second convoy on Oct 15th.

This was a demanding operation requiring detailed planning and coordination with a large number of agencies such as Italian ORF, Staff at KFOR HQ, NATO Support Agency (NSPA), Host Nation Support Co-ordination Cell (HNSCC) of Albania, Ministry Of Defence of Albania, Albanian Customs, Kosovo Customs and Civilian Contractors. The convoys covered

a distance of 248km before reaching the SPOD and this journey was completed in 5 hours. Refuelling, on reaching Durres, was conducted by Civilian Contractor overseen by JTSG personnel. All personnel and equipment returned safely to Italy in a very professional operation conducted by JLSG staff. ■





10 YEARS AGO

KFOR, UN and KPC Cooperation

12 KFOR nations plus United Nations and Kosovo protection corps KPC took part in a three-day exercise in Zlatare from the 11th through the 13th of September. Run by MNB(C) Combat Service Support Battalion, the exercise was designed to test the vehicle recovery assets available to KFOR and was described by organizer Major Ian Gibson as “multi-nationality at its very best”. During the exercise, over 600 recovery tasks were performed involving 90 vehicles and 170 personnel. The United Kingdom CSS Battalion organized the event and the Swedish Battalion provided the infrastructure to accommodate and feed all the



participating personnel. Over the course of the event, vehicles were positioned in difficult locations, such as down ravines and in ditches, and then each nation practiced recovering the vehicles. Many different techniques were employed over the course of the three-days and valuable experience was gained and shared. Major Ian Gibson said, “The command and coordination between the mixes of nations here has been impressive. It was a fantastic opportunity to spread good ideas for recovery and to test the abilities of all the equipment. As a result of this exercise, KFOR will now be well informed about the practices and procedures of all contributing nations. I have been very pleased with the exercise and I think it has demonstrated the integral role recovery plays when conducting any operations.” The KPC and the UN also played a substantial role in the exercise, both learning and sharing their recovery experiences with KFOR nations. On the 13th of September, KPC Brigadier General Shala, who has recently taken over command of the KPC’s logistics assets, was among the many visitors to the exercise. All the participants, including the UN and KPC, demonstrated their recovery abilities to the

assembled visitors. For instance, the UK and Italian troops pulled a Sherman tank out of a ravine using a difficult ‘W’ pull technique; the French and Swedish crews dragged an armored personnel carrier from a deep ditch; and the UN and KPC worked together to rescue a British Landrover using a ‘land anchor’ technique. The finale involved a Danish mine-clearing vehicle clearing a path through a simulated minefield in order for a British crew to recover a British Warrior Armored Fighting Vehicle. Gazim Hazrolli, second in command of the KPC logistics unit, was very impressed by all the demonstrations, especially the one put on by the KPC and UN. He said “The KPC now have recovery vehicles in all our regional units. We have been conducting training over the last three or four month with the help of MNB(C) soldiers and now have the capability throughout the KPC. It is our intention to pass on this experience and training to other KPC members. This demonstration today has proved we are capable and able to carry out this job.” KFOR intends to hold future exercises such as this one where all nations can exchange their experiences and procedures.

STORY AND PICTURES: Maj Brook MNB(C)



Yes, I do! Belgian Soldiers Get Married in Kosovo

“Yes I do!” Those are the words everybody wants to hear on a wedding day. However, when it’s in a special place like Kosovo, it’s not something a battle group normally plans. For the first time in the history of the Belgian army in operations, two soldiers wanted to marry during their stay in Kosovo. Privates Heidi Clijmans (24) and Frank Van Hasselt (26) met two and a half years ago in Leopoldsburg, Belgium. This is the hometown for most of the soldiers from the Belgian Luxembourg Romanian Battle Group in Kosovo (BELUROKOS). A half – year after she joined the medical service (Center of Medical Operations 1) of the army, Heidi met Frank, a reconnaissance soldier of the Regiment Carabiniers Prins Boudewijn Grenadiers, and it was love at first sight.

After a while, they decided to live together and their son Dario was

born on Oct. 2, 2001. “Why don’t we marry on his birthday?” they asked themselves when they arrived in Kosovo at the end of July 2002. This was the start of what would soon become a special task for this battle group in operation. Because it is written in the treaty of human rights, it’s always possible to marry no matter what the circumstances are. After they posed the question, the administration officer had a lot of investigating to do. Because it was the first marriage ever during operations, he couldn’t get advice from anyone. After a lot of phone calls, searching and finding the right answers, he was able to define the produce and to prepare all the official documents. So everything was ready for the big event. The bride was delivered to the bridegroom in an open jeep, escorted by an ambulance and a reconnaissance jeep. He was nervously waiting at the

headquarters for her arrival. The service was held in the community center of Leposavic. 98 Colleague-soldiers attended the “Yes I do” ceremony. The menu consisted of melon with ham, tomato soup, French fried potatoes and roasted pork. The cooks made a real honeymoon cake for them to make the feast complete. In the evening after the party, the married couple checked in into a small hotel for their wedding night. “This will be quite romantic, too,” the happy bride said. “And tomorrow, we will go on our honeymoon to Belgium. This is also a special destination that not all Belgians can say.” added the newly wedded Frank. They will enjoy a week’s leave at home, where they will see their son and become a family again. Surely the festivities will continue for them. A church wedding will be held on Aug. 8, 2003 in Loenhout, Belgium. ■



STORY AND PICTURE: Cdt B. RUMMENS and Adjt BYSSE (PIO MNB (North))

DISASTER IN RADONIQ/ RADONJIĆ

The Radoniq/ Radonjić Lake is an artificial lake in the municipality of Gjakovë/ Đakovica, created in the 1980s. The lake was filled for the first time in March 1983 and its name devers from the village that was flooded when the lake was built. This reservoir supplies water to about 214.000 people living in the towns of Gjakovë/ Đakovica, Rahovec/ Orahovac and

surrounding villages. The lakes surface area is 5.96 km² and the capacity of the reservoir is 113 million cubic meters, providing plenty of water all year round. Radoniq/ Radonjić Lake provides a rich habitat for flora and fauna. Over the last four months little rain has fallen in the region and now there is a major problem with the level of water in the lake.

The rivers feeding the lake have been contaminated by people with little care for the environment. The large scale wood cutting and the construction of houses has damage the balance of nature. Now Radoniq/ Radonjić Lake is only half full and everybody is asking where will the water come from?



THE TRADITIONAL ETHNOLOGY MUSEUM OF GJAKOVË/ ĐAKOVICA

Gjakovë/ Đakovica was one of the strongholds of the Albanian resistance against the Yugoslav state before and during the conflict in Kosovo. It is the fifth largest city of Kosovo and lies in the southwestern part of the country near the border with Albania. The population of the community is approximately 95.000 inhabitants. The old town was destroyed in 1999 during the conflict and has been subsequently rebuilt. According to the census of 2011 conducted by the OSCE (Objective Structured Clinical Examinations), there are 39 primary schools in the municipality with 16,509 students, seven secondary schools with 5,911

students and six kindergartens with 626 children. Gjakovë/ Đakovica has a rich cultural tradition reflecting the diverse nature of its population. The city is known for its many attractions from the 18/19th centuries, which attract a large number of tourists every year. This Typical feudal house was built in 1830 and belongs to an old family of Gjakovë/ Đakovica. Today it is used by an Ethnographic Museum and is one of the famous sights. This museum is one of 12 different museums in the region, which share artifacts and presentations. This cooperation between the museums has been in

operation since 2006. Ethnographic Museum is in a central position in the municipality of Gjakovë/ Đakovica. It has been organized with consideration for people with special needs in particular people who are blind. Here they can learn and understand by touching the different kinds of fabrics, materials and working processes of the old machines. Fatmire Busa is the head of the museum and is working since the opening six years ago. Next year she will retire and overall she has worked for 35 years as a historian for Kosovo.



WARNING TO ALL KFOR DRIVERS

WINTER IS COMING THEREFORE BE ADVISED AND SLOW DOWN



The calendar on the wall informs us that winter is fast approaching and with it an increase in the dangers faced by KFOR drivers. All drivers must adapt to the changes in seasonal road conditions in order to ensure their safety while performing their duties. Weather conditions will present fog, sleet, snow and ice for all drivers to contend with. Here are a number of common sense recommendations made by Chief of TransCoy, OR-9 Henry Verelst, to assist drivers in safely achieving their tasking's.



F O L L O W

Complete **full inspection** of vehicle prior to commencement of journey. In addition to 1st line Maintenance check for snow tyres and snow chains.

Check **time and distance** to destination and allow sufficient time to complete the journey at a **safe speed** based on road and weather conditions. Never speed, to get to your destination **"DEAD"** on time.

Understand the characteristics of your vehicle. If the vehicle is new to you, conduct **driver training** in a safe environment prior to undertaking journey.

Always carry, understand and comply with your **Driver's Handbook**.



Speed kills !!!!!
Slow down and be safe.

Commander KFOR

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German Army

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NATO Nations within KFOR

Albania, Armenia, 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

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

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NEW EDITOR IN THE KFOR CHRONICLE

“Reliably reflecting the KFOR soldier’s reality during the serious occurrences over the past twelve months has been the skilful and committed contribution of my predecessor Lieutenant Colonel Dan Harvey and his team at the KFOR Chronicle. Their enthusiastic endeavours have resulted in some excellent editions of the monthly internal publication and more especially an outstanding Photographic Yearbook produced last September. To chronicle is to record, and the responsibility to correctly reflect the true nature of the present day on-ground KFOR soldier’s everyday reality is the on-going challenge. This undertaking is important as much for today’s KFOR Chronicle readers as for those who will pick up these editions in the future. The aim therefore is a threefold one: that the KFOR Chronicle ought contribute to the KFOR soldier knowing more about the mission than is immediately apparent around his or her environment; the positive developments on-going in Kosovo; and finally to present some aspects of the history, heritage and culture of Kosovo. I would like to take this opportunity then to encourage readers throughout KFOR to send articles and photographs to us here at the KFOR Chronicle and otherwise let us know of up-coming events so you can help us to document life in KFOR to share your experiences with the broader organisation. Recommended length of articles ought ideally be between 400-450 words with 7 or 8 captioned photographs accompanying the text. I look forward to hearing from you.



STORY: J. MURPHY

PICTURE: A. HAJRULLAHU



Name: YAROSLAV MUZHYK
Rank: OF-2
Nationality: UKRAINIAN
Unit KFOR: HSG, NOTHING HILL

MILITARY EDUCATION:

I have been in Military since 12 years and this is my second mission here in Kosovo. In 2009 I was in Camp Breza as a Deputy Battalion Commander.

ABOUT THE MISSION:

Now I'm in charge as a Site Commander of military camp placed in Leposavic in the north of Kosovo. My main duties are to provide maintenance and inspection of all inventory and equipment in the camp. Additionally I supervise and conduct handovers of all camp assets between rotating units, support and supply units. My job here is very interesting and I have an opportunity to learn new languages.

FAMILY REACTION:

My family is very supportive and my wife understands my military life. I am married and I have a daughter who is one year old.

HOBBIES:

My hobby is military tourism.



Name: Ismail OUANINECH
Rank: OF-1
Nationality: Morocco
Unit KFOR: PAO

MILITARY EDUCATION:

I joined The Royal Military Academy as a Cadet Officer from 2004 to 2008. I then continued my training for another ten months in the Royal Infantry College. Afterwards I was deployed to the desert which helped me grow up as a man both personally and professionally. Completing a PSO training successfully, I was selected to represent my country in Kosovo.

ABOUT THE MISSION:

Kosovo is a totally new experience. Every day has been a challenge for me. It has been a great honor for me to represent the Kingdom of Morocco while serving in Kosovo. I have served in the KFOR mission since March 2012 in PAO branch.

FAMILY REACTION:

My family is very proud to see me serving my country abroad.

HOBBIES:

I am a good writer, excellent football and basketball player.

