



KFOR CHRONICLE



- CROSS TRAINING
TROOPS FROM MNBG E
AND KTM-

- COMMAND SERGANT
MAJOR GROUP
COME TOGETHER-

- THE SECRET
OF NOVOBĚRDA/NOVO
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Let me start by saying that I am honored and humbled to lead Multinational Battle Group East (MNBG-E) in its efforts in Kosovo. In September, I assumed command of a battle group comprised of forces from 10 nations. Since then, MNBG-E has continued with the work carried out by our predecessors, and done its best to improve an already-great relationship between us and the people of Kosovo.

As we all know, the Kosovo mission has been going on for quite some time – 13 years so far. The keys to remaining effective for that length of time, I think, are consistency, reliability and professionalism. As soldiers from MNBG-E, we are committed to providing all the people of Kosovo a safe and secure environment, and to ensuring freedom of movement. We know we cannot do this alone, and that progress toward achieving those goals can only be made by cooperating with our international partners, with the Institutions of Kosovo, and with the people of Kosovo.

Three months into our rotation, MNBG-E is already seeing results on the ground. Our troops are achieving successes that haven't been done before and are making our presence felt in places that haven't seen KFOR troops in a long time. That level of success is an indicator of how hard you have been working every day. It is also an indicator of how you will deal with the challenges that lie ahead of us. I have complete confidence in



your skills and abilities, and know that you will continue performing to the best of your ability, as we build on the successes of our predecessors and uphold KFOR's legacy as a professional force committed to progress here in Kosovo.

Finally, I'd like to wish a happy holiday season to everyone in Multinational Battle Group East and all other soldiers and civilians serving in Kosovo. Though we come from different nations, we all share in the hardship of being away from family and friends during this deployment. But even though we are all far from home, let's not lose sight of the fact

that we have each other. We've got a family around us here in KFOR and in Kosovo, and we should be thankful for that. I know I am.

"STEADFAST – ONCE MORE!"

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Waymon B. Storey".

COLONEL WAYMON B. STOREY
COMMANDER MULTINATIONAL BATTLE GROUP EAST

Conference

On Wednesday, October 17 2012, the first KFOR CSMs Conference was conducted at Camp Bondsteel. Ten Command Sergeants Major from six different nations, representing all regional areas of Kosovo (MNBG-E, MNBG-W, JRD-E, JRD-N, JRD-S, KTM, MSU and ORF Bn) accepted the invitation from Sergeant Major Olaf KASTEN, CSM to COM KFOR, to attend this Conference. The Conference was hosted by the Multinational Battle

Group East CSM, Sergeant Major Doug GILLIAM. He and his team developed a very comprehensive agenda. After welcoming the Senior NCOs followed by some opening remarks, the serious business of the day began. The agenda covered many and various topics such as future development between the organisations in theatre, training among KFOR units and support and training for the Kosovo Security Force (KSF). To mark this auspicious occasion a group photo

was taken during the first part of the meeting.

After lunch and a short coffee break, the conference continued with subjects such as Senior Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) duties and the KFOR mission were discussed in a workshop style environment.

In the early afternoon, a final round table discussion and the fruitful exchange of experiences of all the CSM's present, finalized this valuable event. ■



STORY: O. KASTEN

PICTURES: T. KNOCH and K. CALKINS

Shooting



On Tuesday, October 30, 2012 the German National Support Element, under the command of the Company Commander, LTC Marko AHNERT, conducted a shooting exercise for the “Marksmanship Lanyard” (Deutsche Schützenschnur) on the firing range Orahovac. In consultation with LTC AHNERT, the Command Sergeant Major (CSM) to the COM KFOR, Sergeant Major Olaf KASTEN, invited his fellow KFOR Command Sergeants Major and their staff to the firing range. This invitation was in order to allow them to achieve the qualifying standards required for the award of the “Marksmanship Lanyard” (Deutsche Schützenschnur). A

total of fourteen soldiers from four nations appeared on the range. The overall conditions for the awarding of the “Marksmanship Lanyard” are the attainment of marksman standard in three different shooting practices. One practice is fired with the pistol P8 and two practices are fired with the machine gun MG 3. After elementary training on the weapons, held by Staff Sergeant Torsten KNOCH, the shooting began with additional precondition shooting exercises to ensure safe weapon handling. When the first programme of shooting was successfully concluded, it was time for a lunch. Company First Sergeant, Master Sergeant Danny THAERIGEN and his team offered freshly made

chicken and beef. Additionally, salad and fresh bread was served. Once everyone hunger was satisfied, the shooting programme continued with the next practice. On termination of the shooting programme and the calculation of each fires score, Sergeant Major Olaf KASTEN declared that all the firers had achieved the qualification standard and would be awarded the “Marksmanship Lanyard” (Deutsche Schützenschnur). In conclusion, it can be said that the excellent preparation and assistance rendered by members of the DEU NSE made this a very memorable event for all the participants. ■



STORY: O. KASTEN

PICTURES: T. KNOCH and K. CALKINS

Cross Training Troops from MNBG E and KTM

In a Training Exercise conducted in Camp Slim Line, Soldiers from Bravo Company, 118th Infantry Regiment Multi National Battle Group East (MNBG-E) practiced the use of non-lethal weapons while in formation as part of a joint riot control exercise held with the Kosovo Tactical Maneuver Battalion (KTM). The U.S. Soldiers worked alongside Hungarians and Portuguese soldiers in order to practice different types of riot

control measures and to establish a working knowledge of each other's procedures. In the event of a deterioration in the security situation in Kosovo, these nations would be required to work together, so practicing now helps them build confidence and proficiency later. Soldiers from Bravo Company, 118th Infantry Regiment experienced deployment as part of a joint riot control exercise and conquered their fears of fire when

engaged by rioters using Molotov cocktails against them. During the training they practiced with non-lethal weapons and experienced the deployment of water cannons. In an operational event necessitating the deployment of KTM and these nations this cross training will have been of huge value and will enhance their co-operability and effectiveness. ■



STORY and PICTURES: ANGELA PARADY



Cross Training Troops from MNBG E and KTM



STORY and PICTURES: ANGELA PARADY



SECOND YEAR OF SUCCESSFUL FUEL PROVISIONING FOR KFOR

Over the course of the last two years, over 28 million litres of fuel have been provided to the majority of NATO nations operating in support of KFOR. While the amount of fuel issued is substantial what makes the achievement more significant and worthy of highlighting is the fact that it also marks a first for how NATO executes logistics in support of operations. Traditionally in NATO, nations are responsible for providing their own logistics support. For nearly a decade the French served as the “Role Specialist Nation” for fuel in Kosovo. However due to increasing NATO operational demands worldwide, the pressures of enduring operations, the global economic recession and a movement towards a “minimum presence” in Kosovo, an enduring fuel solution that did not place an overwhelming resource burden on a single nation was required. The decision by both SHAPE and Joint Forces Command- Naples (JFC-N) to use the JSLG and NSPA to provide

fuel was a pragmatic approach consistent with the comments of the NATO Logistics Committee. Fuelling the force using a solution developed by a NATO Agency such as NSPA was a ground breaking initiative and shows how NATO operations may look in the future. NATO nations have now seen the financial and resource benefits of outsourcing logistics functions and it is an accepted practise for the provision of integrated logistics solutions to forward deployed troops. The overall effect is that the adoption of a collective approach for the provision of fuel in KFOR has resulted in nations receiving a very good solution that delivers value for money. A real economy of scale has been achieved by using a single fuel provider for multiple nations. The NSPA operated KFOR fuel solution delivers a number of benefits that include:

- *reduces TCNs logistics footprint in KFOR*
- *maintains operational effectiveness while retaining or*

increasing efficiency

- *reduces operational costs for TCNs nations*
- *reduces TCN's carbon footprint by reducing the amount of transport required to support NATO operations*
- *Increases interoperability among troop contributing nations and thereby reduce the response time to execute missions*
- *Provides NATO standard service ratified by all NATO members*
- *Maintains alternate supply chains and military back up*
- *Maintains security and operational reserve stocks with no prioritisation between nations*

The NSPA fuel services solution in KFOR is a positive example of collective responsibility for logistics in action and has contributed to illustrating the worth of the JLSG concept in supporting NATO military operations.



STORY: B. McMURRY

PICTURES: S. GABON



DONATION AND BARBECUE FOR KOSOVO CHILDREN

KFOR MSU Regiment HQ – G9

On the morning of 23th October 2012, MSU troops, the CIMIC Team and the Medical Section of PRISTINA CARABINIERI Battalion, attended the paediatric-oncological unit of Prishtinë/Priština Hospital in order to donate toys to children hospitalised. This donation was made possible thanks to the

approval of MSU Commander OF5 Mauro ISIDORI. The funds for this activity were raised from donations made by the personnel of the MSU –CARABINIERI Battalion. In all, presentations of toys were made to over forty children. A member of the MSU-CARABINIERI Battalion dressed up as clown and entertained

the Children. He and his comrades gave the children a very happy and memorable morning. The staff of the Hospital was very grateful to the personnel from the MSU-CARABINIERI Battalion, for the time they spent with the children.



STORY: M. ISIDORI

PICTURES: M. ISIDORI

KFOR Soldiers Bring Joy to Local Children



In collaboration with German, Canadian and American soldiers, a barbecue was prepared on Saturday, 17 November, at the Children Centre in Prishtinë/Priština. Hamburgers, salads and

drinks were sponsored by KFOR. Around 40 children and a numbers of their minders spent a wonderful afternoon together with their friends from KFOR. Special activities, such as face painting, football and

basketball games brought great joy to the children and a sparkle to their eyes. The Military personnel present had a great deal of fun interacting with the children who seem to have limitless energy for games. ■



STORY: A. KUYUMDJAN

PICTURES: A. WILLING

10 YEARS AGO

Aid from the South

On Nov. 12, the Greek Force Support Unit (GFSU) delivered Humanitarian Aid. The Greek Orthodox Church of Thessaloniki organized the project with donations of food and clothing from church members. The GFSU, through the assistance of the Civil and Military Cooperation organization, assumed the responsibility for the safe and secure transportation from Greece to Kosovo.

“The whole project was conducted successfully and it was a great satisfaction to me to see the smiling faces of Strpce residents as soon as the Greek trucks arrived at the center of their town,” said Warrant Officer Haralambos Vasiliadis, the Chief of GFSU CIMIC. “Winter is not far away and this offer is valu-



able to the residents of this mountainous area. I hope that this aid will fulfill part of these people’s needs, especially the elderly, the disabled and the children, who are in need the most.”

“When we got on the trucks for the way back,” he added, “the entire Greek team that participated was filled with satisfaction, realizing again how beneficial the KFOR presence is in Kosovo.” ■



Austrian National Day



The Austrian KFOR Contingent celebrated its National Holiday at Camp Casablanca, in Multinational Brigade South, Oct. 26.

After the signing of the Austrian International Treaty on Oct. 26, 1955, Chancellor Leopold Figl stepped out on the balcony of Vienna's famous court castle. In front of a huge crowd of Austrians he announced those legendary words, which today still deeply move many Austrians, "Austria is free!" The country had regained its liberty and sovereignty and declared by contract its perpetual neutrality one day before the last occupation soldier had left Austria. In a slide show, guests and soldiers could enjoy Austrian sights and breathtaking landscapes on a large projection screen. The Commander of MNB (S), Brig. Gen. Wolf-Di-

eter Skodowski, many of his staff officers, numerous high level representatives of the United Nations Mission In Kosovo, UNMIK Police and Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe members, as well as local representatives took part in the distinctive ceremony.

Musicians from Task Force Dulje performed the Austrian National anthem live, as well as other songs. The guests were particularly moved by the song "I am from Austria".

As the representative of the Austrian Embassy office in Pristina, Miss Gerda Vogel made a short speech to the guests of honour and troops in formation. "The feeling of attachment to our home country is always particularly strong, when we stay abroad for some time," the charming diplomat spoke from the heart

of everyone present.

"While a participation of Austrian soldiers in NATO peace support operations was unthinkable only a few years ago, we today stand shoulder to shoulder with our colleagues from all over Europe, to preserve, and if necessary, to enforce peace in different trouble spots," said Lt. Col. (GS) Reinhard Schöberl in his speech, emphasizing the importance of international solidarity.

Lt. Col. Norbert Pallan, Commander of Task Force Dulje, pointed out the high social standards and cultural values achieved by the Austrian citizens and added, "We are capable and willing to resolutely stand up for these values in the framework of peace support operations." ■

STORY AND PICTURE: HEIMO GRUBER

HUNGARIAN NATIONAL DAY AND PORTUGUESE ARMY DAY CELEBRATION

On October 28th 2012 the Hungarian National Day and Portuguese Army Day Ceremony was held at Camp SLIM LINES. The event was presided over by the Deputy Commander Kosovo Force (DCOM KFOR), Brigadier General Bojan Pograjc (SLO A). The celebration was attended by distinguished guests, including the Hungarian Ambassador, KFOR Commanders and Soldiers from many contingents. The Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM) parade was comprised of the Portuguese Contingent (TF I) and the 7th

Hungarian Contingent. The Portuguese Senior National Representative, Colonel Jorge Barros Gomes, explained to all guests the significance of the Portuguese Army Day. It is celebrated on this day as the date marks the anniversary of the Conquest of Lisbon, in 1147, by D. Afonso Henriques, the first King of Portugal and the Patron of the Portuguese Army. Lieutenant-Colonel Istvan Cása, Hungarian National Contingent Commander delivered a speech commemorating the Revolutions of October 23rd 1956 and October 23rd 1989.

Lieutenant-Colonel Istvan Cása explained the significance of these dates in his country's march to nationhood. The Military Ceremony ended with a march past by the troops on parade and the saluted was taken by DCOM KFOR. At the conclusion of the Military Parade, it was time to taste Hungarian and Portuguese Traditional food. The Hungarian goulash and the Portuguese codfish were the center piece of the tables. The celebration was a truly combined effort, simple but full of dignity and symbolism. ■



STORY and PICTURES: RICARDO LOURENÇO



KFOR LOGISTICS - CAMP KODRA, THESSALONIKI

Camp KODRA, located in Thessaloniki, in Greece, is the home to the Sea Port Operations Unit located at Communications Zone South (COMMZ S). This Unit is under the command of JLSG HQ KFOR. The Unit is commanded by Lt Col Chamezopoulos and he has a staff of (4) Greek Officers to assist him. Camp KODRA first became a NATO base in 1972 when it commenced operations as an Advance Command Post to support NATO operations in the Balkans. In 1999 KFOR troops were first deployed to Kosovo through Thessaloniki and thus began the association between KFOR and Camp KODRA. To date more than 135000 soldiers have rotated through Thessaloniki. The logistical assets used to move this number of troops has been considerable: 1235 vessels, 2338 aircrafts, 2722 trains and 6471 convoys. The Mission of Sea Port Operations Unit is to co-ordinate the reception, staging and movement of KFOR contingents and their equipment

through Thessaloniki, be that by Air or by Sea. The Unit LNO, Lt Siskakis, explained that all of the unit's personnel are very well versed in Greek customs procedures. He stated that they are a willing and valuable asset available to KFOR NSE Elements conducting Logistical duties in Greece. The Officers based in Camp KODRA serve for a minimum three (3) years in their appointment. Each Officer, due to the size of the Unit, must be proficient in all areas of Unit responsibilities associated with their mission. When one considers that almost all Military Personnel rotate out of the mission after twelve (12) months, one can see how these Officers are the KFOR corporate knowledge in the area of logistical movement through Greece. Camp KODRA is ideally placed situate half way between the Airport and the Seaport. The Camp sits at the end of a new bypass of Thessaloniki City and access is quick and easy to both the Airport and the Seaport. COMMZ

(S) does not maintain a staging facility at either the Airport or the Seaport. However, due to the close liaison and cooperation between COMMZ(S) and the local authorities, certain areas are ear marked for KFOR use. KFOR have priority usage over these areas. When not used by KFOR, these designated areas are used by Civilian companies. Camp KODRA maintains the ability to upgrade to a higher of state of Operational Capability if required. Should the Mission or the role of Camp KODRA change in the future, this base is ready to adapt and overcome. The infrastructure of the Camp is maintained at a very high standard and it can accommodate thirty eight personnel. MWA conduct tours to Thessaloniki and as a second accommodation option for KFOR personnel, will arrange accommodation in Camp KODRA. So, whether on Duty or on Leave, enjoy Thessaloniki. ■



STORY: J. MURPHY

PICTURES: A. KUYUMDJAN

COMMZ(S)



PICTURES: A. HAJRULLAHU and Archive

The Secret of Novobërda/Novo Brdo

A small and apparently insignificant town in the mountains of Kosovo has hidden within itself a centuries old mystery. To uncover its secrets, a team of archaeologists are researching for its hidden history. Luan Gashi is 41 years old and has spent half of his life in Germany. After attending school in Prishtinë/Prishtina, he moved to Germany and spent many years playing music in Southern Germany with many different bands of Kosovo Albanians extraction and made many friends. He discovered a passion for research and spent four years studying archeology, focusing especially on the Stone Age and the Middle Ages periods at the University of Tübingen.



On completing his studies, he returned to Kosovo in 2007 and since then has conducted many research projects for the Archaeological Institute of Kosovo. During my visit, Luan and his team of ten researchers had been conducting an archaeological dig high in the mountains of Novobërda/ Novo Brdo. It is a wonderful area, with magnificent views of the nature. The work here is an arduous task for the team, but they also have a lot of fun. Luan told me during our interviews that “the research here is like putting together a puzzle, piece by piece and it collectively tells its own story”. In the 14th Century about 15-20000 people lived up here on

the mountain in the castle, in very cramped conditions. Novobërda/ Novo Brdo, which nowadays is called Artana, was a major city about which the Archaeological Institute of Kosovo is keen to learn more. The year 1455 was important for the Castle and at the same time a sad year. That year the Ottomans attacked and destroyed the Castle over a 50 day period, burning it and leaving only rubble. Luan believes that “it is very important for our country to tell the story of Artana in order that our children can continue to understand our culture. It is also important to facilitate people who are interested in our culture and our history and who visit our national museum in order to view objects

from the Stone Age and the Middle Ages periods.” Berat, a valued coworker of Luan’s, took me up through the castle, which was approx 150 mt. higher up from our initial meeting place. The view of the valley from this vantage point was fantastic. Berat smiles at me, proud of his heritage. The secrets of Novobërda/ Novo Brdo will be discovered and when that happens, Luan has great plans for this place. “I could imagine putting a huge stage on the mountain for music, drama and other entertainment acts. I was excited by the findings of Luan and his team and the potential that exists for the Castle. ■



STORY: A. KUYUMDJAN

PICTURES: A. KUYUMDJAN and A. HAJRULLAHU

Traditional Games in Kuka/Kukavica



On Saturday 20 October the Staff of the KFOR Chronicle was invited to attend a demonstration of Albanian Games and Culture, by the event organiser Mr Fadil Hysaj, Professor of Drama, at Pristina University. The event took place in the village of Kukaj/Kukavica near Graçanicë/Graçanica. Mr Hysaj stated that the purpose of this two day event was to show the young people how the previous generations enjoyed their leisure time in an era prior to Televisions, PlayStation's and Packman. Mr Hysaj hopes to revive interest in Albanian culture and the playing of traditional games. The Event was officially opened by Mr Membli Krasniqi, Kosovo Minister for Culture, Youth and Sport who welcomed over 200 spectators to the event. The event received TV coverage from a number of TV stations and members of the print media were also in attendance. The event began with demonstrations of traditional dances and music. The time spent in preparation and training by all the dancers and their musicians was very obvious and all present were treated to a very enjoyable display. This was followed in the afternoon by demonstrations of field games and tests of strength conducted with much endeavour and hilarity. The similarity between some of these traditional field games and the games played by today's sportsmen and women was striking. It was easy to see the links between the past and the present. The event ended successfully on the completion of day 2. Mr Hysaj stated that he was very pleased with the conduct of the games, he hopes that the event would become an annual event and will be bigger and better next year.



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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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DOCTORS ADVICE

I am pleased to introduce you to our Medical Centre and our staff here in Film City. We are five German members of staff (two Paramedics, one Medical Technical Assistant, one Driver and a Medical Doctor). In addition, we also receive great support from our Austrian and Swiss medical colleagues who are working together with us in the Medical Centre. The wintertime is coming closer and for this period of the year we should pay increased attention to look after our health. In this context we recommend a balanced nutrition diet with as many vegetables and fruits as possible. I also recommend all personnel accompany their diets with adequate physical exercise. This exercise is most suitable outside, weather permitting, wearing function gear. However, please, don't forget your mind and soul on this mission! Take your time to calm down, relax and fill up your brain with happiness. If the worst comes to the worst and you do feel poorly and sick, please do not hesitate to visit us. We are glad to be of assistance to you whether you have a very small or large medical issue. That is our mission, duty and passion, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Please take care of your physically and mentally health!



STORY: DR. EVA-MARIA STÜCKRATH

PICTURE: M. SPITZ



Name: Sinead Chadwick
Rank: OR 4
Nationality: Irish
Home Unit: the Irish Defense Forces
Unit in KFOR: HSG

ABOUT THE MISSION: I have been a member of the Irish Defence Forces for 14 years. I joined the Army straight from school and have never regretted it. This is my fourth overseas mission. I previously served in Bosnia, Eritrea and Liberia. This mission is by far the most interesting because it is a multinational mission and working with so many different nationalities is very educational. My present appointment is HSG Commander's Administrative Assistant and Driver. I have been in theatre for five weeks now and I have found the experience very beneficial from both a professional and personnel level.

FAMILY REACTION: My family is very proud and supportive of my work. My six year old daughter is very well taken care of by her father and my family and friends while I am away. I miss her very much but I keep in contact nightly using Skype. She loves to tell her friends that her Mummy is working in Kosovo.

HOBBIES: My hobbies are Mountain Biking, Body Boarding and Running.



NAME: Dimitrios V. Giannoulakos
RANK: OR-6
NATIONALITY: GREEK
UNIT KFOR: FILM CITY GUARD

HOME UNIT: I have been in the Greek Army since 1997, operating in the engineering field. I specialise in machine operating and trailers driving. I find it difficult to believe that I have already completed 15 years' service.

ABOUT THE MISSION: For my first 2 months in KFOR I was working as a trunk driver at the Greek HQ. Each day I drove from Kosovo to Greece and back. Since the end of October, I am a member of the KFOR HQ, Film City Guard. This is very interesting experience for me, as I meet many different nationalities each with its own special culture, customs and tradition.

FAMILY REACTION: I am married to Evangelia since 2005 and we have three great children Vasili, Christina and Antonio. I hope that my country will soon overcome its present economic difficulties. My family is very proud of my service with KFOR.

HOBBIES: In my free time I enjoy dancing and listening to Greek music.

