

KFOR CHRONICLE

KFOR KOOP

**KFOR
6th Anniversary**

June 30, 2005

Edition 6



Commander KFOR Press Conference



This is a special time of the year for Kosovo and the soldiers of KFOR. The 11th of June tomorrow, will celebrate KFOR's 6th anniversary. We remember the 119 soldiers who lost their lives while serving KFOR during these years restoring freedom and confidence for Kosovo's future. Our progress on this 6th anniversary should be a source of pride of all KFOR soldiers, both past and present. In fact, KFOR success is due to the commitment of our brothers and sisters in arms, these almost 500.000 soldiers who have repeatedly and successfully rendered assistance to the people of Kosovo, in mutual interaction with many institutions since 1999. In that respect, I do believe that the whole International Community efforts have been essential, as far as funding, security and standard implementation are concerned: they truly enabled to shift from the wartime devastation to a more stable and democratic Kosovo - the prevailing situation today. KFOR soldiers, through their sacrifice - and commitment far from home and family - have helped change the face of Kosovo. However, the mission is not completed yet, and I know that there is still much to be done.

First, I insist today on saying that thanks to KFOR commitment, the security situation is good, although it remains (somewhat) volatile.

Our commitment for "a safe and secure environment" is essential for the coming comprehensive review and talks on the status. We all know that perception of security remains a problem and leads to mainly self-imposed limits on freedom of movement, and

we all have to stay vigilant and ready to react to prevent any upsurge of violence. Regardless of some minor incidents, and based on the figures and statistics we are sharing with UNMIK, I keep on saying that the security is on track and I also assess that we are witnessing the calmest period since 1999.

The good security situation is due to the great efforts NATO and the troop contributing nations are doing to provide Kosovo with highly skilled soldiers, dedicated assets and funding over the past 6 years. Day after day, these efforts have a positive impact on the population. KFOR is not perceived as an occupation force. KFOR is even requested by the population to stay in Kosovo and to be more present.

Given this positive security assessment, KFOR intends to progressively shift from a static and force-consuming lay out to a more flexible posture one, keeping high visibility to reassure the population, but having a low profile not only because one day, we will leave Kosovo, but first and foremost because KFOR's role is not to steer police missions: UNMIK-P and KPS are performing that masterly.

Therefore, KFOR should progressively let the floor to police, focusing on hot potential spots with our concept of "blue and red boxes", preventing direct attacks to the main patrimonial sites, unfixing some force-consuming military and non-military tasks (like escorts and guards), and using quick reaction forces ready to intervene in order to ease the freedom of movement and the returns that are the key points. KFOR restores confidence and cools down all the fears. And Kosovo needs to be self-confident too. We want to promote a better future for all the people of Kosovo. Secondly, building confidence doesn't mean just keeping permanent contacts. It requires also the mature people of Kosovo to be now more responsible because the future of Kosovo is their future.

I visit the mayors and the local leaders every week because I appreciate the role of the Mayors played in their municipalities, sometimes in difficult conditions and I believe that personal relationships enable to `de-conflict` any crisis. The Local Crime Prevention Councils have been established at the municipal level and allow all communities to express their security concerns.

At local level, KFOR Liaison Monitoring Team's goal is liaise closely with the local administrations, KPS, UNMIK, community leaders and relevant organizations through regular meetings and also increase the local confidence. Let me simply insist that LMTs are a tool dedicated to operate in addition to Intel assets as force multiplier: their situational awareness will provide COMKFOR with early warning as well as a real feeling-picture of Kosovo people.

Usually I usually prefer traveling outside the camps and speak with the people or the media. It is more in my nature

to be out in the field instead of in my office. I've enjoyed these 9 past months mainly because I've been able to meet and engage in conversations with individuals all over Kosovo. You may know that this is my third tour in Kosovo where I learned a lot about the need to travel and meet the population. Today, as COMKFOR, I have kept the motto I used when I was Brigade commander in Mitrovica, three years ago: "Restore Confidence." I love it, because it is a true, simple and strong motto. By restoring confidence we hope to unite the efforts of all the people of Kosovo, the International community representatives, international media and media of Kosovo and of course yourselves.

Lastly, and looking ahead, there is still more to be done.

The future of Kosovo is a multi-ethnic one, based on tolerance and respect for democracy. This is the only solution to improve the situation and avoid deadlocks. Therefore the returns are very important, and I recently had the great pleasure of meeting the Serbian people who came back who came back to Vuctri. These returns demonstrate that freedom of movement does exist in Kosovo; they were possible with the help of international organizations but also, thanks to the support of KPS and KPC.

We still have displaced people from Kosovo of all ethnic groups. In many areas those people need further improvements such as compliance with the rule of law, civic behavior. Our common job with UNMIK and the international community will not be complete until those people who wish to return home can do so: voluntarily, freely, and in dignity. We should not tolerate any kind of discrimination.

The living conditions also are not satisfactory. Power outages, insufficient access to water and bad infrastructure are hampering the normalization of daily life. Stabilization and security both need to be improved in order to shape a modern economy.

The economy is a major concern. I often stress economy and security as two sides of the same coin. What perspective and hope are to be expected when the rate of unemployment is reaching such an important level? This empty future feeds fears and worries.

Organized crime and extremism also impact on the security of the region. We must all resist these temptations and fight crime together.

To conclude, I will stress again that the security situation is on the right track thanks to the responsible behaviors of all the involved actors. It allows me to point out the very strong dedication of the SRSG in this entire process. The situation is improving even if some challenges are ahead and will have to be met. NATO's efforts after six years have been decisive and we are now in a trend that will lead to a different presence of the international community. I can already imagine a peaceful Kosovo without KFOR troops. It will happen one day.

For that, Kosovo needs full support to show that freedom of movement for all the communities is possible. Implementing the standards, as you know, will be important to allow the talks on the future status to start.

The basis of any settlement, as you know must include the promotion of security and stability in the Balkans, we are doing that every day in KFOR supporting UNMIK, KPS and KPC; but today, I need all people as a strong ally in my daily mission to restore confidence.

Thank you very much for your attention.



By Stefan Ratzemberger, AU SOC
Photos by Mr. Armend Aqifi,
Photographer HQ KFOR

On June 11, 2005 KFOR celebrated the 6th anniversary of KFOR arrival in Kosovo at Headquarters Kosovo Force in Pristina. COMKFOR LTG Yves de Kermabon, SRSG Soren Jessen-Petersen, President of the Provisional Institutions of Self-Government in Kosovo Ibrahim Rugova, Chiefs of international Liaison offices in Kosovo and political and military representatives attended the ceremony. During the ceremony COMKFOR LTG de Kermabon, SRSG Soren Jessen-Petersen and President Ibrahim Rugova posted a wreath at the KFOR Memorial Stone to remember the 120 KFOR soldiers who lost their lives while performing their duties in Kosovo. Also a six years old tree was plant by an Albanian and a Serbian Child as symbol for the prosperity future of Kosovo; also as result of the work of KFOR, UNMIK and local authorities. KFOR started its mission with 50,000 troops. Now the quantity of KFOR is 17,000 troops. After six years in Kosovo, the duties of the KFOR peacekeepers have changed - our motto is now to "Restore Confidence"!

6th



Anniversary of KFOR Ceremony

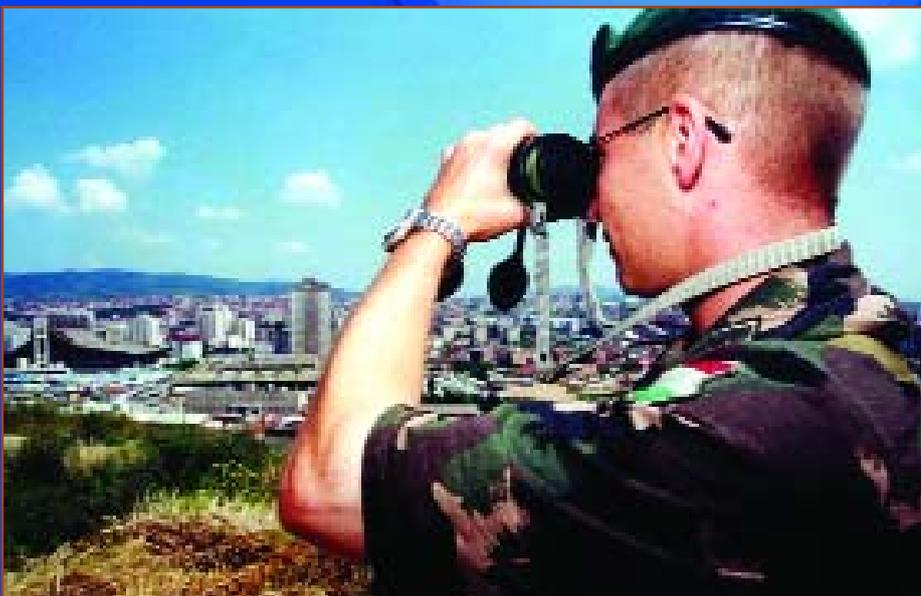


KFOR Celebration Day



On June 10, 1999 UN Security Council Resolution 1244 was adopted and provided KFOR a clear mandate in Kosovo

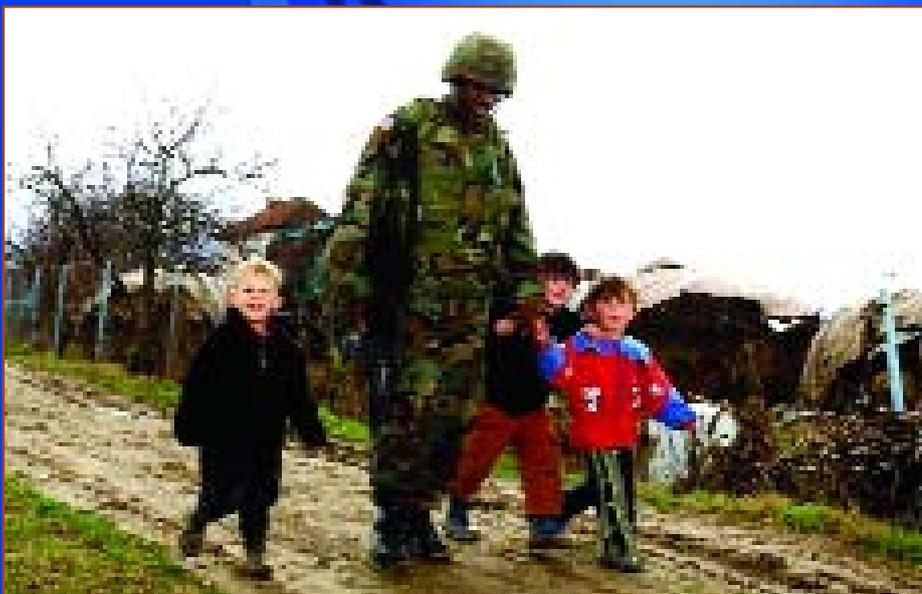
Since 1999 KFOR works for all people in Kosovo.



“KFOR is here to maintain and develop a climate of safety and security.”

H Q KFOR June 11, 2005

"It is important to remember that KFOR is not alone!"



"KFOR is a multinational military force - its commitment to serve the cause of peace!"

"Sadly, 120 members of KFOR lost their lives in the cause of peace and justice. One cannot forget them!"



Facts and History of KFOR



The Kosovo Force (KFOR) is a NATO-led international force responsible for establishing and maintaining security in Kosovo. This peace-enforcement force entered Kosovo on June 12, 1999 under a United Nations mandate, two days after the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

Whilst continuing to maintain and develop a climate of safety and security, KFOR is to support UNMIK in promoting the transfer of increased responsibility to civil authorities, in order to facilitate the withdrawal from large-scale framework operations in Kosovo. KFOR is also a stabilization institution to set the conditions and provide the platform for peace and prosperity, along with the UNMIK, the International Community, local institutions and authorities, the Kosovo Police Service (KPS), the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), and all religious or local dignitaries.

KFOR contingents are grouped into four multinational brigades and three subordinate commands. Although brigades are responsible for specific area of operations, they all fall under a single chain of command of Commander Kosovo Force (COMK-

FOR). The Headquarters of Kosovo Force (HQ KFOR) is located in Pristina, the capital city of Kosovo. Since September 1, 2004 LTG Yves de Kermabon (French Army) is commander Kosovo Force. HQ KFOR reports to the Commander of Joint Force Command Naples (COM JFCN) in Naples, Italy. COM JFCN is Admiral H. G. Ulrich III, U.S. Navy.

All national contingents pursue the same objective, which is to maintain

a safe and secure environment in Kosovo. They do so with professionalism and in an even-handed manner towards all ethnic groups.

KFOR troops come from than 35 nations - NATO and Non-NATO nations - and contain more than 17.000 soldiers. During the last six years almost 500.000 KFOR soldiers have served for KFOR in Kosovo. 120 KFOR soldiers died during their mission.

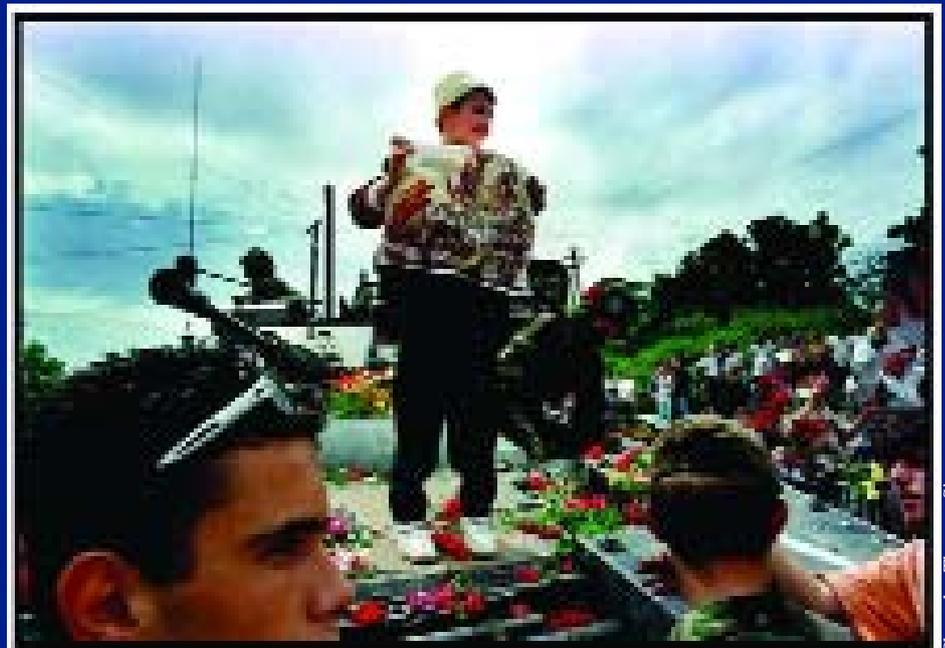


Photo by Thomas Sjoerup



Peacekeeper's Profile

Name: **Florian Jades**

Rank: **Staff Sgt.**

Age: **32**

Unit in Kosovo: **Signal Bataillon (GE) MNB SW**

Unit In Germany: **Staff and Signal Bataillon 1 (1st Armored Division)**



About the Mission: This is my fourth Mission in KOSOVO. I was here in 1999, 2003, 2004 and now again. I have seen a lot of positive changes with each deployment. Over the years a lot of changes have taken place and it is good to see that Kosovo is moving ahead. Thinking back of 1999, burning houses and desperate people come to my mind. Now 2005 you see a lot of newly constructed houses and businesses. I think Kosovo is moving into the right direction, even though the unrests of March 2004 show us, that KFOR presence is still needed.

Family reaction: As always... my parents are worried, but they accept the fact that deployments are part of my profession.

After Kosovo: Looooooooooooooooooooooooong holiday..... *smile*

Peacekeeper's Profile

Name: **Rafael Morenza Tato**

Rank: **OF-3 Spanish Army**

Age: **43**

Unit in Kosovo: **Non Compliance KIKPC from MNB SW**

Missions before in Kosovo: **2002 from March to Septembre at INFO OPS HQ PRISTINA**



What do you think about the changes in Kosovo since your last time here?

I have observed a great development in the infrastructure in the cities. Now it's much better than before, there are more shops, more jobs, more activities...I think that for the Kosovo their daily life in has improved a lot.

Peacekeeper's Profile

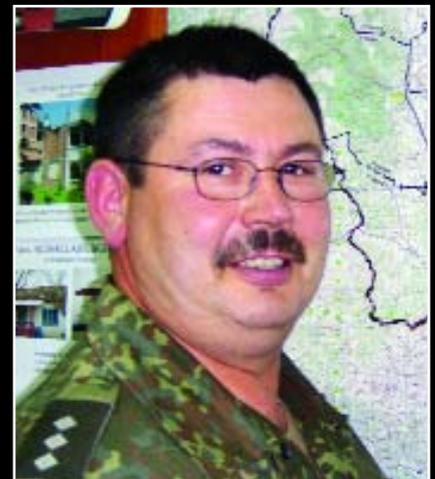
Name: **Brittnacher Horst**

Rank: **Captain**

Age: **50**

Unit: **CIMIC Coy, Reconnaissance and Contact Team Leader**

Out-of-area-missions: **5**



What has changed?

- 1. The environment has become much cleaner (somebody entering the Kosovo for the first time won't realize this, of course)**
- 2. Many construction activities (private & infrastructure construction)**
- 3. Roads much better**
- 4. Civil Administration has "started" to work/is doing a much more professional work now**
- 5. The people have started doing much more on their own**

Peacekeeper's Profile

Name: **Holiana Ihor**

Rank: **SGT**

AGE: **33**

Unit in Kosovo: **POLUKRBAT (MNB-E)**

Missions in Kosovo: **2000-01, 2002-03, 2004-05**



What do you think about the changes in Kosovo since your last time here?

This is my fifth peacekeeping mission: Croatia -1995, Bosnia-1998, and almost three years in Kosovo. At the beginning of mission in Kosovo we provided convoys for local K-Serbs from Strpce to gate #5 almost every day. But now we don't have tasks like this. K-Serb in Strpce municipality are free to go everywhere and I am happy to see k-Serbs and K-Albanians sitting together in local pubs and drinking coffee and tea. I hope they will find the way of living together.

Peacekeeper's Profile

Name: **Gonzalo Fernández Fernández**

Rank: **OR-6 Spanish Army**

Age: **32**

Unit in Kosovo: **J2X**

Missions before in Kosovo:

2000 from March to September at KSPAGT III



What do you think about the changes in Kosovo since your last time here?

I think that it has been a great development in the infrastructure and burocracy in general: now there are lights on the streets, cars have plates, people have Identification Cards, driving license, children go to school... As well as a huge amount of houses have been rebuilt. We can also apreciate that the military presence on the streets has considerably decreased.

Peacekeeper's Profile

Name: **Korotchenko Olexandr**

Rank: **Captain**

Age: **31**

Unit in Kosovo: **POLUKRBAT (MNB-E)**

Mission in Kosovo: **2000-01, 2002-03, 2004-05**



What do you think about the changes in Kosovo since your last time here?

In comparison with the picture I saw in 2000 and what I see now I think the situation is going better. Big amount of new houses and shops make a good perspective for the future of this people. Only patience and wisdom will help them to create safe and peaceful life in Kosovo.

MNB NE Change of Command

French army Brigadier General Philippe Tracqui succeeded Brigadier General Philippe Houbron as commander of Brigade North East, on June 3, 2005. The ceremony, presided by COMKFOR, Lieutenant General de Kermabon, took place in Belvedere Camp.

Four months after General Houbron started to assume command, the efforts that MNBNE performed contributed to restore the trust among the people of KOSOVO.

According to General Houbron, the safety is ensured. In his speech, he said that "many actions have still to be carried out, but as I have often repeated, the slow march policy, step by step, based on a permanent dialogue, gave the possibility to advance for sure." He expressed his satisfaction to note that the exchanges between the communities are resuming gradually. The traffic conditions on the main bridge of Mitrovica have been improved.



The cultural center has progressively been opened again to activities and displaced people could return in their houses, in VUSHTRRI or in SVINJARE. Before ending, he explained "my thoughts go natu-

rally to the inhabitants of KOSOVO, and particularly to young people. I wish they could find deeply the bravery and the will to engage towards the way of forgiveness and reconciliation. At this price they will



Ceremony at Belvedere Camp

be capable of building a KOSOVO where their children will be able to blossom, free and happy." COMKFOR thanked him for his professionalism and his dedication, and gave him NATO medal 'non article 5'. Lieutenant General de Kermabon welcomed brigadier general Tracqui as new commander of MNB North East.

BG Tracqui was born in 11 December 1948 in Saint-Raphaël (France), and enlisted the career at Saint-Cyr Coëtquidan in 1971. After a year of studies, he chooses to serve the marine corps (infantry) and joined the infantry school in Montpellier. In 1983, he joined the Staff College (Ecole supérieure de Guerre) in Paris as deputy for general studies. From 1983 to 1989, he passed the staff college and he is an auditor at National Defence High Studies Institute. After his studies in 1989, he was appointed in Senegal as school director in National Officers School in Thies. In 1993,

he took over the 4th Infantry Battalion in Sarajevo. In august 2001, he is deputy commander of the 9th Marine Light Armoured Brigade (9ème Brigade Légère Blindée de Marine : 9ème BLBMA) in Nantes. BG Tracqui is married and father of two children.

During his statement, he said he was "Proud to be at the head of this brigade, I ask you to carry on with the action fulfilled by our predecessors with the same enthusiasm and the same determination."



191st Anniversa

By Major Stefan Ratzenberger, AU
SOC
Photos by Carabinieri, MSU
Pristina

This year on June 5 the "Arma dei Carabinieri" celebrated its 191st anniversary. All over Italy and all over the world, where Carabinieri are deployed ceremonies took place; also in Kosovo. In KFOR one of subordinate units of COMKFOR is MSU - Multinational Specialized Unit. The Commander and the main part of KFOR MSU are Carabinieri. Colonel t. PFS Giuseppe Lanzillotti, Commander of MSU invited to the ceremony on behalf of all Carabinieri in KFOR. During the ceremony we got a short overview of the history of Carabinieri and the importance of them in Italy and in all multinational peace-supporting missions around the world. Commander Kosovo Force, LTG Yves de Kermabon, Deputy Commander KFOR MG Wolfgang Kopp, COS KFOR BG Joseph Orr, the Senior National Representative of Italy and DCOS OPS KFOR BG Domenico Zucaro, Commanders of Multinational Brigade Southwest, Center and East and a lot of other military and civilian authorities attended the ceremony. Colonel t. PFS Giuseppe Lanzillotti, Commander of MSU stressed the



importance of Carabinieri deployments all over the world in peace-supporting missions; especially in the multinational military environment in KFOR: "The Carabinieri Arm together with French policeman, Estonian soldiers, International Community and KFOR troops, is in Kosovo in order to guarantee the peace and the respect of the human rights but also to improve the political, economical and civil development."

Short History of "Arma dei Carabinieri"

The King of Sardinia, Vittorio Emanuel I. by Royal Warrant on 13th July 1814, instituted the ancient Corps of the Royal Carabinieri in Turin. It was given the dual function of national defense, in first position with respect to other branches of the Armed Forces, and policing with special powers and prerogatives. The Carabinieri Force was issued with a distinctive uniform in dark blue



ry of Carabinieri

with silver braid around the collar and cuffs, edges trimmed in scarlet and epaulets in silver, with white fringes for the mounted division and light blue for infantry. The characteristic hat with two points was popularly known as the "lucerna". A version of this uniform is still used today for important ceremonies.

The Force was given a territorial task and was organized into divisions, one for each province. They were called Companies and sub-divided into Lieutenancies that commanded and coordinated the local police stations, and were distributed throughout the national territory in direct contact with the public.

The mounted division "Corazzieri" was formed in 1868 as an escort of honor and security, first for the Sovereign, and since 1946 for the President of the Republic.

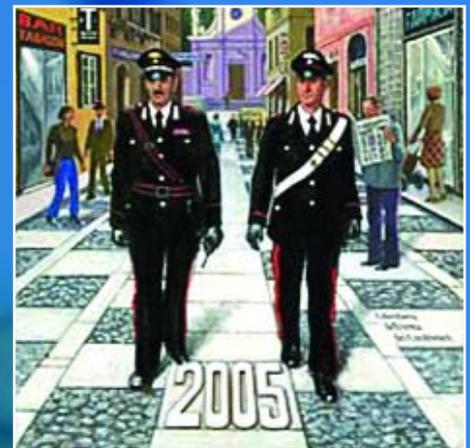
With the Unity of Italy and added territory the number of divisions increased and were responsible to operate commands, called territorial legions. On 24th January 1861 the Force was appointed "First Force" of the newly founded national military organization, rising to the status of Armed Force on 31st March 2000. This privileged position, as well as the presence of Carabinieri in every

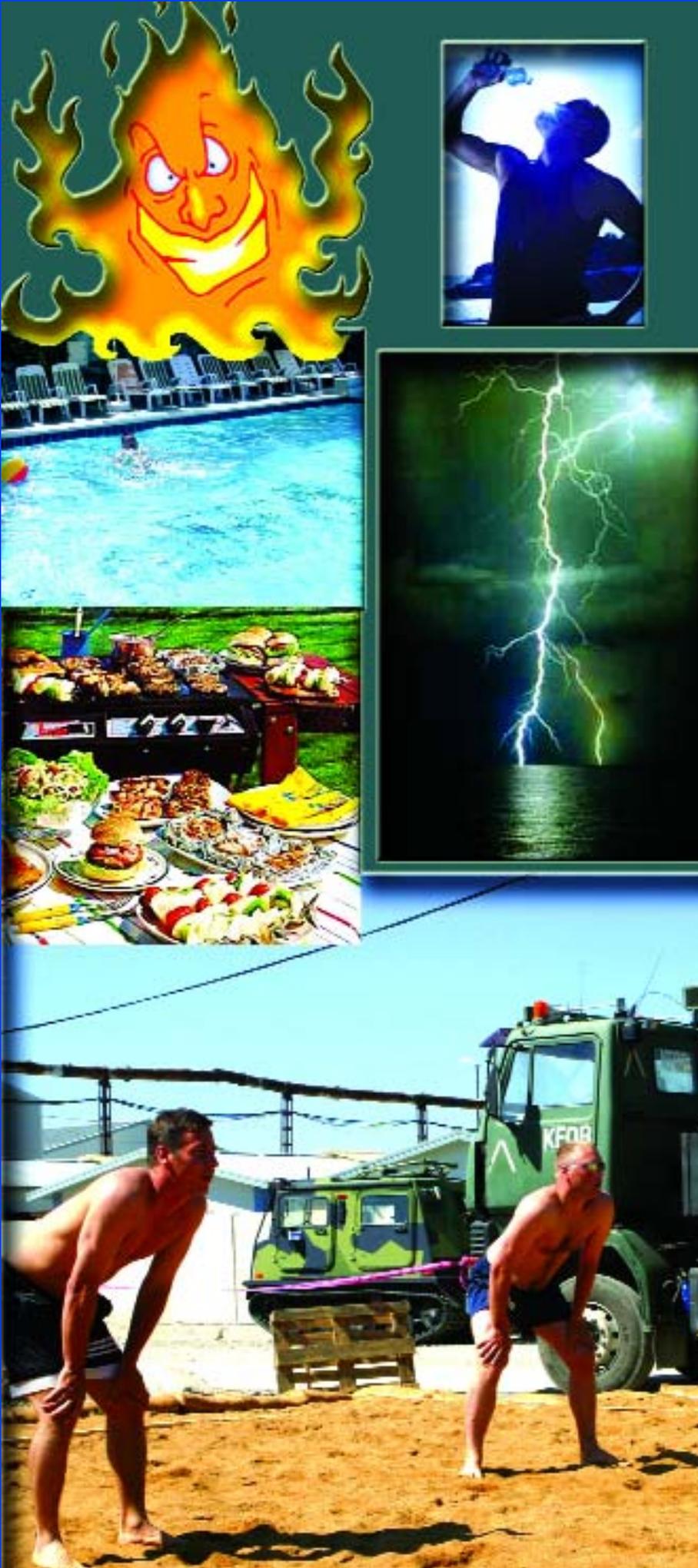


part of the country, even in the smallest village, were and still are the most significant characteristics of the Institution.

Why "Carabinieri"?

The new Corps, created to perform both military and civil functions, was called the Carabinieri not only to avoid any comparison with the former Napoleonic "Gendarmerie" but mainly because, like all elite units of those years, it was equipped with carbines





S u m m e r

The time of year most enjoyed by all is here, summer! Those long, lingering hot days translate into much more outdoors activity. The months between June and September are times when everyone must be careful to protect themselves from a wide range of common summer mishaps. Safety tips for six of these most commonly observed hazards are provided in this article.

HEAT

Overheating can cause muscle cramps, chills, nausea and dizziness among other symptoms. At its worst, it can lead to heat stroke, a medical emergency. After long periods of inactivity during the winter, the body may not be ready for strenuous exertion, especially in hot temperatures. Don't do too much too soon. Here are a few tips.

Drink plenty of water before and during hard or strenuous work in the heat. You need to drink more water than your thirst indicates. Take frequent small drinks, which are more effective than gulping down large amounts at once.

When possible, schedule heavy work for the cooler hours of the day, such as early morning or late evening.

Take frequent rests, lower the workload as heat increases.

When possible, start with less strenuous work and gradually build the intensity so you can acclimatize yourself to the heat.

SUN

Protect yourself from the sun's

er Safety Tips

ultraviolet (UV) rays. Overexposure can lead to eye problems, sunburn, and even skin cancer.

Wear your headgear to help keep sun off of your face.

Use UV protection sunscreens with a protection factor of at least 15 whenever you are in the sun for long periods.

Whenever possible, minimize your exposure to the sun's rays when they are strongest (usually from 1000 to 1600).

Protect your eyes when exposed to the bright sunlight. Choose sunglasses that block 99 to 100 percent of UV light.

SWIMMING

Swimming opportunities are limited in Kosovo, but they do exist. MWA will sponsor trips, which go to destinations where swimming will be an available recreation. Remember these tips to prevent drowning this summer. Always swim with a buddy, never alone, even if you are an experienced swimmer.

Know your limits. Don't get overly tired.

Don't swim if you are chilled, overheated, immediately after eating, or in thunderstorms.

Never mix alcohol and drugs with swimming.

Swim in a designated area and obey all "No Swimming" and other warning signs.

Never dive or jump into unknown waters. Always enter the water feet first if you don't know the depth.

Don't swim in cold water. Swimmers can get hypothermia (dangerously low body temperature) in cold water.

BARBECUING / OUTDOOR COOKING

Beware when you barbecue. With summer here and all the nice weather, everyone will do more barbecuing and outdoor grilling. But, every year there are needless accidents that lead to severe burns. Cooks and grillers become impatient and want to quickly do their cooking and this is extremely dangerous. Here are some basic rules and guidelines to follow.

Always supervise a charcoal grill when in use.

Don't wear loose or hanging clothing that can easily catch fire.

Only use charcoal lighter fluid (not gasoline or any other unapproved petroleum product) to start a fire and never add more charcoal lighter fluid once the coals are ignited.

Completely extinguish your charcoal grill before leaving the area.

THUNDERSTORMS AND LIGHTNING STORMS

Summer time is the peak season for lightning. Thunder and lightning storms can appear quickly and out of nowhere. Take the following precautions if you find yourself in a storm.

During a thunderstorm, no place is a safe place.

When you see lightning, seek proper shelter immediately. Buildings are the best shelter, and a hardtop vehicle is the next best shelter.

Avoid wooded areas. Do not seek shelter during a lightning storm under a tree.

Avoid high elevations, open

areas, and tall isolated objects like trees, poles, and light posts.

SPORTS INJURY PREVENTION

Here are a few sports injury prevention tips that can be applied to various sports activities.

Remember to warm-up and stretch at least 5-10 minutes before running or beginning sports events.

Proper fitting running shoes are important. Replace shoes every 6 months for runners.

Training should be gradually increased. Monitor the number of days of high intensity workouts and the duration of workouts.

Proper hydration during pre-activity and actual activity participation is recommended to prevent fatigue and heat injury.

Wear light colored porous clothing appropriate for summer.

For runners - for the beginning runner just arriving in theatre, alternate day running that allows 24-hour recovery is recommended. Excessive distances, hill running, and sprinting may cause common overuse injuries such as shin splints and strained muscles.

Contact a MWA/MWR sports trainer for additional information on running and workout routines. These organizations can provide safety/injury prevention regarding preparation and conditioning.

Enjoy this summer and the nice summer weather along with all the outdoor activities. Just remember to use common sense and protect yourself and others from the hazards associated with summer.

Swedish Hand Over Cer



By Capt Sara Eriksson,
MNB (C) PIO

On the June 13, approximately 300 Swedish soldiers from the 11th Swedish mission handed over their responsibilities to their successors at Camp Victoria.

After six months serving as a peace-keeper in Kosovo most of them were eager to go home to families and friends although they had one important duty left - to officially hand over the responsibilities to the 12th Swedish mission.

"We have performed our duties well. We have maintained a high standard," said the Swedish Contingent Commander Lt Col Lars Lindén in his farewell speech and continued. "Besides that we have had fun. Today, we have at least 300 new friends."

In his farewell speech he also gave the new Swedish mission some good advice.

"Take care of each other. Pay attention to the spirit of comradeship.



Handover Ceremony in Camp Victoria

Practice and administer the Swedish tradition," he said.

In the end he also wished the new mission good luck in their future work.

"We are now leaving good conditions for the 12th Swedish mission to continue the work," Lt Col Lindén said. After those encouraging words the new Swedish Contingent Commander approached the platform.

"I want to give you all from the 11th mission a big Thank you. Thank you for letting us take over a well established and functional unit," said Lt Col Bo Carlsson who will lead the 12th Swedish mission. "Now it just remains to wish the 11th mission good luck in the future."

After the official hand over ceremony was over, invited guests and soldiers were served some refreshments.

MNB (C) Commander Colonel Jari Kallio and other personnel from the Brigade were present to say good bye to old colleagues and welcome new. However, most of the soldiers

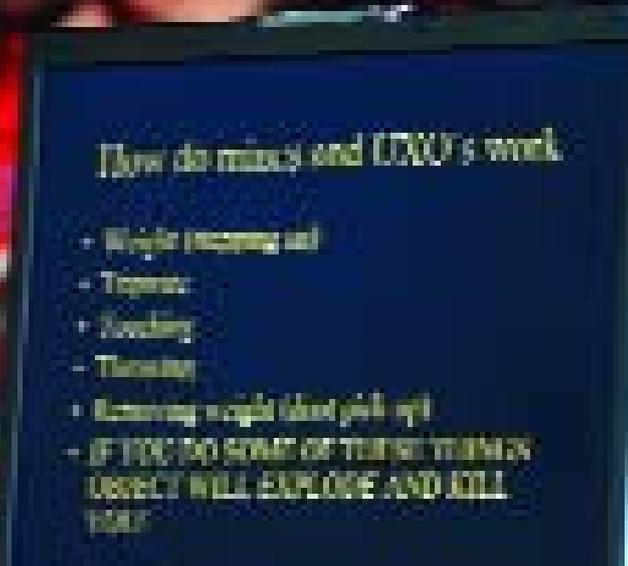
from the 11th Swedish mission skipped the reception. With one day left in Kosovo, time was running away from them.

"It is time to start packing," said one soldier who rushed by.

Others were eager to spend the last moments with people that they had lived and worked with for six months. When a mission ends, the feelings are two-sided: It is nice to go home, but it is also hard to say good-bye.



Rewarding Mine Risk Educ



By Capt Sara Eriksson, MNB (C)
PIO

Mines and unexploded objects are still a big problem in Kosovo. Almost every day dangerous objects are found and taken care of by professional KFOR-soldiers.

But even though many mines are found and safely removed, there is still a huge amount left that is well hidden in different areas. Unfortunately, these are also areas that children tend to play in. Last year, for example, one child was badly injured after stepping on a mine not far from Stimlje.

On April 26, two soldiers from the Finnish EOD-team in MNB (C) visited the primary school in Belince, just outside Stimlje. Their goal was to teach school children how to become aware of mines and how to react in case they would see a mine or an unexploded object. The classroom was full of children who were eager to get more information from the Finnish EOD-team.

During one hour, the soldiers taught the children how different kinds of unexploded objects can look like and how to react in case they would see one. They also pointed out which places are the most dangerous ones, for example in forests and



Education for School Children



fields. Over and over, the soldiers told the children to be careful, and that they always must call for help if they would see a mine.

"Tell your parents, your teacher, the police or KFOR," the soldiers said and reminded the children not to touch or go near the object themselves.

The soldiers also explained to the children how KFOR work in case they have to take care of a mine or an unexploded object.

"When you see EOD working, don't go near," one of the soldiers said.

The two soldiers also pointed out that these kinds of educations are for saving lives.

The school in Belince was the sixth school that the Finnish EOD-team visited. The week before, they had the same kind of education in four schools in Glogovac municipality and another school in Stimlje municipality.

The Finnish EOD-team has been doing these type of education for several years. It is a cooperation between the municipalities and the EOD-team and CIMIC from MNB (C). It is CIMIC who first contacts the municipality and ask if they are interested to have this education at some of the schools. The municipalities then decide themselves what schools the EOD-team shall visit.



Live from Kosovo





By Elli Flén, PIO, The Finnish Contingent

"I cannot hear anything. Nothing," radio journalist Kari Mäenpää said with head phones at his ears.

Mäenpää works for the Finnish Broadcasting Company (Yle), the national radio and TV-company in Finland. He is suppose to make a live broadcast from Camp Ville, the MNB(C) Headquarters Camp, but the ISDN-line does not work.

In fifteen minutes the live morning show from Kosovo should start, and Mäenpää still cannot get through to Helsinki.

We thought we had prepared for everything. The electricity squad had started the camp's own power engines to make sure there would be no power cuts in the middle of the broadcast. Mäenpää has brought a satellite phone with him just in case the ISDN-line would not work. T

Two good men from the signal platoon are alarmed to the site, but there are problems with the satellite phone as well - NO SATELLITES CAN BE FOUND. And then - miracles can happen - suddenly the ISDN-line is working.

Afterwards, we learn, there was a major breakdown in the phone lines of one of the biggest operators in Finland, but this does not matter now - now there is a live broadcast to be made.

Live broadcasts are actually quite

www.nato.int/kfor

often made from the little container in Camp Ville, this is the studio of the Finnish Contingent's own FM-radio station. But no one can remember that any live broadcast all the way to Finland would earlier have been made from here.

The news from the studio in Helsinki comes to an end, and then Camp Ville is on the air. The guests in the show are Lieutenant Colonel Jussi Tudeer, Lieutenant Juha Ketola and Lance Corporal Janne Kaarti. Tudeer talks about the situation in Kosovo. Ketola tells the reporter about his job as a member of a Liaison and Monitoring Team (LMT) and Kaarti about his work in patrols and on VCPs with the Finnish A-Coy of

MNB(C). This part of the morning show on Yle Radio One is called "Morning Coffee".

Every weekday morning, the program visits one Finnish work place, the journalist has coffee with employees who have a chance to talk about things important to the people working in their organization. In the show from Camp Ville one of the things discussed is the planned changes in the Finnish Law for Peacekeeping. Before you know it, the show is over. Tudeer, Ketola and Kaarti empty their coffee mugs and go back to work.

Altogether Yle made three-direct shows from Kosovo a success during the visit in the middle of May.



One Day at the Hunting House

By 1st Lieutenant Sara de Miguel,
Spanish Army

Hidden in one of the most beautiful places in the vicinity of Pec, north-west of Kosovo, we find the Hunting House. This house, former weekend resort of Marshall Tito, is nowadays the place where the Argentinian Camp is located.

The 11th Argentinian Contingent which is in charge of this wonderful place is a Joint Engineer Company, formed by 47 officers and NCOs (3 of them are the representants in HQ Pristina) who belong to the Army, Navy and Air Force from Argentina. They are organized in 4 platoons (1 support, 2 combats and 1 construction platoon) and they are part of TF Astro.

Their main task in Kosovo is building and reconstructing houses and bridges. Moreover they also cooperate with CIMIC. They are specially proud of the good results after building a bridge in Jablanice. It was a common objective that gathered soldiers from 11 nations, working together, building a bridge, symbol of union!!

DAILY LIFE

They get up at about 7 and at 7.30 take place the morning parade and the rising of the flag.

Then, they have breakfast and their activities inside and outside the Camp begin. At 13.00 they have lunch and take a rest, to start again untill 18.00. At this time they go to sport and dinner is served at 20.00. After that they ususally meet to have a talk.



They describe themselves as being friendly, warm, impulsive and happy people, who like sharing everything with the others. They are quite talkative persons, who like folklore, tango,

and of course football.

Argentinian people are the perfect hosts. We were received and treated in the best mood, good food and many jokes, at the same time as we were all dreaming of visiting their wonderful country and see Iguazul Waterfalls, Perito Moreno Glacier, Fireland and many nice places such as their great capital Buenos Aires.



87th Anniversary of Establishment of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic

May 28 is celebrated in Azerbaijan every year since its restoration of independence in 1991.

On May 28, 1918, Azerbaijan was proclaimed an independent state - the first democratic republic in the Middle East. In a short period of its existence from May 1918 to April 1920, the first democratically elected Azerbaijani government worked on building an independent and democratic state in Azerbaijan.

However, on April 26 and 27 in 1929, the 11th Red Army of Soviet Russia attacked Azerbaijan. Azerbaijani's Army of 60,000 people could not defend its northern border from Russians because it was involved in a war with Armenia, where government began to cooperate with Bolsheviks.

On April 28, 1920 Bolsheviks marched into Baku City. They sent an ultimatum to Azerbaijani Government to give up the power. In this situation, in order to prevent the bloodshed among civilians, Azerbaijani. As a result, Parliament decided to hand over the power to Bolsheviks.

At the end of the 1980s, an awareness of the need for radical socio-political reforms and for the consolidation of conditions to permit



the achievement of national sovereignty began to take root in the Azerbaijani society. The political activism of the masses of the Azerbaijani people intensified as the "games in the corridors of power" being played yet again by the Communist leaders of the USSR with regard to the fate of Nagorno-Garabagh continued to drag on.

The extraordinarily difficult struggle of the people of Azerbaijan for free-

dom and restoration of independence - a struggle whose most tragic milestone was the introduction Soviet Army into Baki on Jan. 20, 1990 and other Azerbaijani cities, and it also led to the killings by those forces of hundreds of peaceful citizens.

As a result, these killings led to the adoption by the national Parliament, as the "Declaration on the Restoration of the State Independence of the Azerbaijan Republic" on Aug. 30, 1991, the dissolution of the Communist Party of Azerbaijan on Sept. 14, 1991 and the adoption by Parliament of the "Constitutional Act on the State Independence of the Azerbaijan Republic" on Oct. 18, 1991.



Portuguese National Day

The Portuguese Contingent commemorated their National Day on June 10

June 10 is the Portuguese's National Day, and they pay honor to Camoes and the Portuguese Communities. This Day was chosen in memory of Luis Vaz de Camoes, who is considered a major Portuguese poet because in his book "Os Lusíadas" he wrote an epic poem on the Portuguese discoveries to four corners of the world during the 15th and 16th Centuries. This celebrations took place in Camp Slim Lines in Pristina where KTM (KFOR Tactical Reserve Maneuver Battalion) is based. The commemoration ceremony, which included a medal parade, was presided by the PRSRSG Larry Rossin and participation of illustrious guests from UNMIK, KFOR and the Portuguese Community serving in different institutions in Kosovo. The Portuguese Reaction Brigade Commander, MGen C. Goncalves, also attended the ceremony. The medal parade started with the military honors given to the PDSRSG Larry Rossin that included the tribute to the Portuguese military who lost





their life in the Peace Support Operations, especially those in the Balkans.

Speaking to the Portuguese Battalion, the KFOR Chief of Staff, in behalf of COM KFOR, made a reference to the professional and competent form like KTM has been carry out his mission in Kosovo.

After the medal parade, everybody was invited to attend a typical Portuguese lunch in honor of all those present, especially the Portuguese Community who together with the International Community provides a safe and security environment in Kosovo.

The KTM is a Battalion composed of Command, two manoeuvre Coys and one support coy, its mission is to be the COMKFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion for the period from Feb. 16 to Sept 15, 2005 and is prepared to be employed in a short notice to move Kosovo wide in order to maintain a safe and secure environment. This reserve has CRC capability and has been conducting this mission since Feb. 16, 2005.

Until Feb. 16, KTM conducted very different kinds of operations Kosovo wide and can be highlighted with the Cross Boundary Operations with all Brigades and CRC exercises with KFOR and UNMIK units.

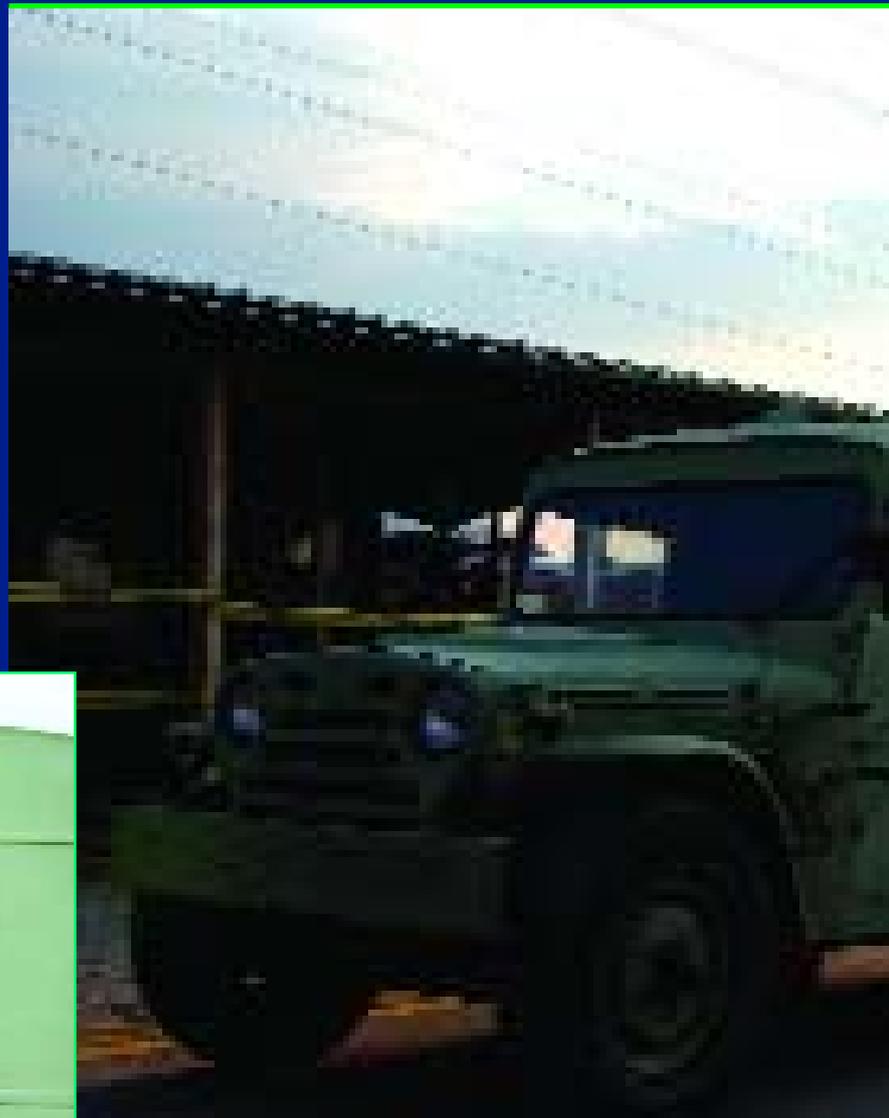


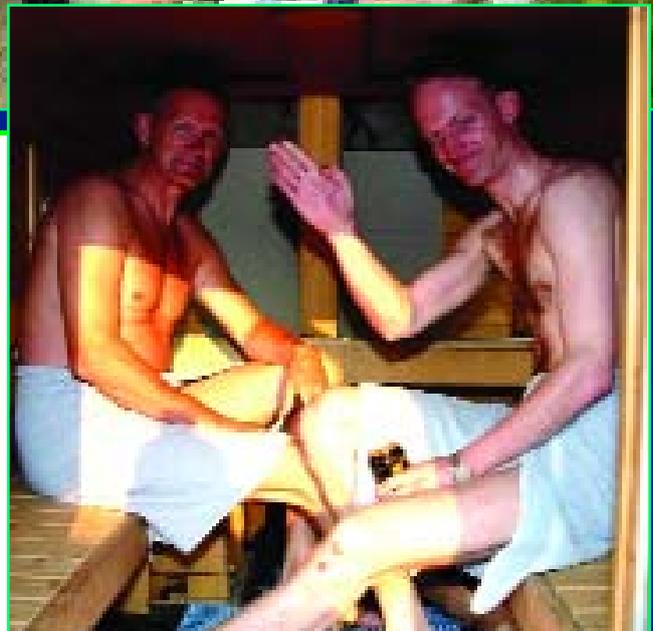
Nordic Night in "Film City"

Story by Lt JG Tretiak Oleksandr,
Ukrainian Navy

The remarkable "Nordic Night" that was organized by the Finnish National Support Element at KFOR HQ marked the night of June, 18. The person in charge was Colonel Juhani Hyotylainen, who did his best to make this event pleasant and unforgettable for all guests.

The Nordic Night is usually organized every second month but if there is a special occasion exceptions can be made. More than 60 people have been invited that day to the Finnish NSE to attend this special night. They arrived from all over Kosovo. Mainly people from Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark and Estonia came to celebrate together. People from these nations feel closer to each other far from their motherlands and they try to share their ideas and thought having national dishes and drinks together. Every time the Nordic Night is held in different places. As the Finnish NSE hosted the last one there was something special and that was sauna. All guests could choose between normal stationary sauna and mobile sauna that was lent by MNB Center. After the sauna all guests had barbeque and pleasant talk with friends. Especially for those who never had attended this kind of party before, it was a good chance to exchange information of different culture and tradition in our multinational KFOR environment.





Change of Command in Camp Clarke

By Lt Niamh O' Mahony
PI Comd, C Coy, MNB(C)

After a six-month tour of duty in Kosovo the 29th Inf Group handed over command to the 30th Inf Group. Lt. Col. D Fitzgerald, OC 30th Inf Group, took over from Lt. Col. Kilfeather, OC 29th Inf Group, on April 17, and full duties commenced for the new Infantry group.

The 213 strong Irish Contingent took over peacekeeping duties in Kosovo for a period of six months and is made of soldiers primarily from the 2nd Eastern Brigade on the eastern side of Ireland. However, it consists of personnel from all corners of the country, north, south, east and west. The soldiers within the 30th Inf Group have a vast experience of service overseas: 61 having previously served in the Lebanon, 23 in Eritrea and even in Kosovo with the 27th Inf Group. However, there is always room for new faces with 58 soldiers serving on their first overseas mission.

The group forms part of the strength in MNB (C). The Infantry Group is comprised of a Mech Inf Coy, a Logs Sp Coy and a Group HQ. C Company is tasked with providing a safe and secure environment in the southern region of MNB (C). They carry out this mission in conjunction with their Finnish, Swedish, Czech and Slovak counterparts.

Prior to departure for their mission, the 30th Inf Group underwent seven weeks of pre-deployment training. They concentrated their efforts on CRC training, Mobile and Foot Patrols, Vehicle Check Points (VCP), Mine Awareness, NBC, Medical lectures, and fitness training. On completion of this training the Ministerial review for all troops took place on April 5 with the first troops deploying in theatre on April 13..

"Operation Lightning Strike" was C Coy's first operational tasking. This was a three-day deployment for OP Coy 2, during which they participated in a cross boundary operation in



D Coy of Taskforce Sidewinder, MNB (E). C Coy provided Coy HQ and a platoon for framework operations, the other two platoons being Swedish and Czech. A Swedish Medical team was attached to Op

Coy 2 for the duration. Op Coy 2 was based in Camp Monteith, Gnjilane and completed daily foot and mobile patrols in their AOR. On the final day of the operation a medivac exercise was organised to asses



Photo by Armend Aqifi

the interoperability of all the OP Coy 2 elements on the ground in conjunction with MNB (E) Quick Reaction Force (QRF). The medivac exercise was a success with all casualties safely evacuated from the exercise scene to Camp Monteith. Following the successful completion of their first operation it was back to Camp Clarke and a swift transition into their first training exercise, a CRC (Crowd Riot Control) exercise on May 6. It consisted of two platoons fully equipped and trained in CRC from C Coy and rioters from

Logs Sp Coy. A number of barriers were put in place around the camp along with pockets of rioters harassing the Coy as it advanced and a simulated release of CS gas put in place to test the skills and reaction of the CRC troops in a riot situation. From a training point of view the exercise went well and assessed all involved in their own personnel drills and Platoon and Company drills. From operations and exercises, the group was able to participate in the Pristina half marathon. The marathon took place on May 8 in the

Kosovo capital for all running enthusiasts, and it was the first opportunity for the 30th Inf Group to participate in a national event. The 30th Inf Group had twelve willing participants who performed well. After a month in Kosovo the 30th Inf Group has established themselves and continue to help provide a safe and secure environment. Throughout their trip they will continue to train, exercise and operate inside and outside the boundaries of MNB (C). They look forward to all the tasks that await them.



Photo by Armend Aqifi

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Canyon in Djakovica/Gjakova

Photo by LT JG Oleksandr Trotsak, Ukrainian Navy