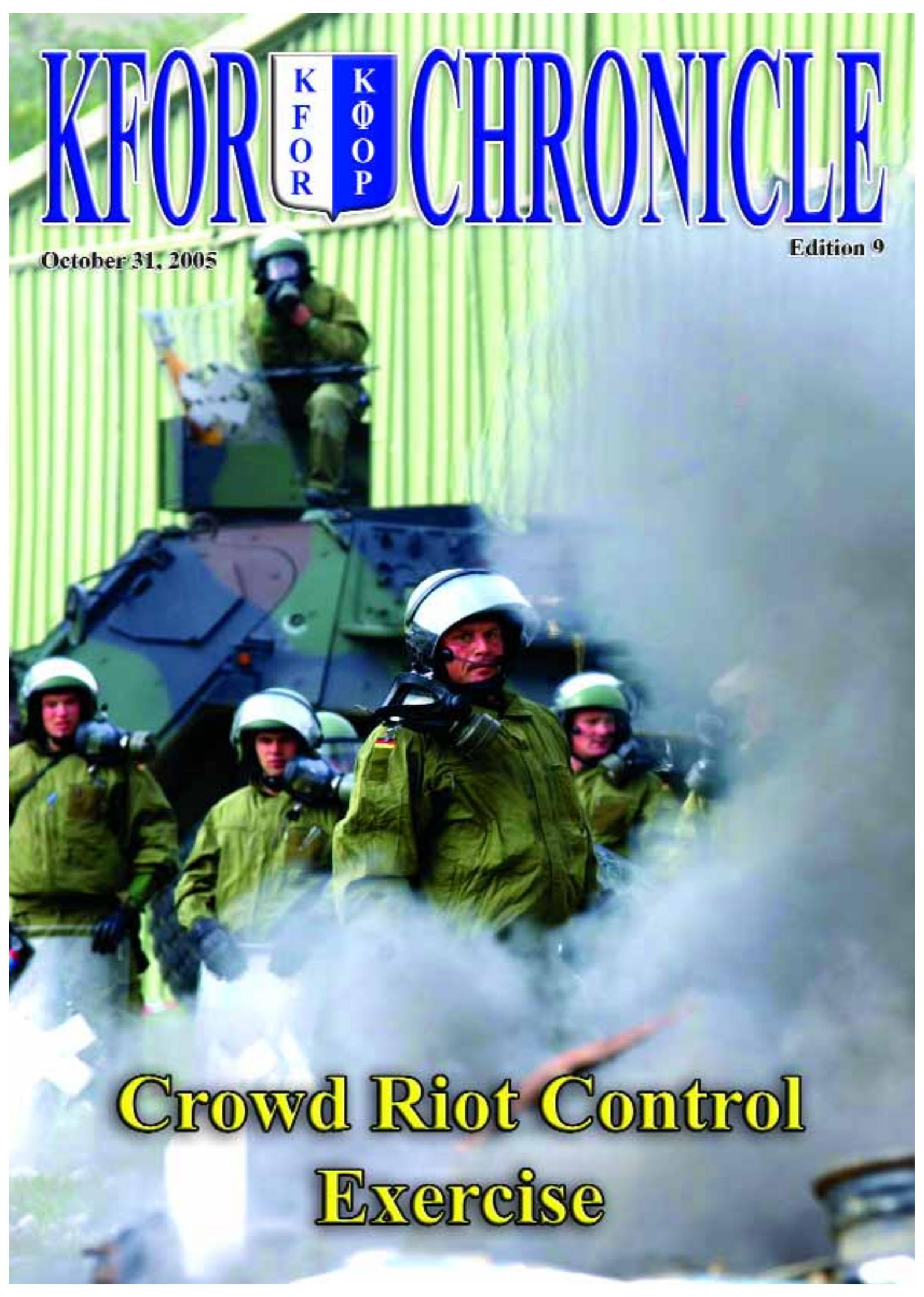


KFOR CHRONICLE

October 31, 2005

Edition 9



Crowd Riot Control Exercise

“BALKAN S

By MAJ Jo Schöpf, PhD, AUT A
Photos by Armend Aqifi

On October 5, KFOR Exercise "Balkan Hawk" was conducted at Camp Vrelo.

This exercise was to demonstrate KFOR readiness in dealing with potential conflict in Kosovo and to test the interoperability, sustainability and capabilities of its units. One of the exercise scenarios was in actively displayed the KFOR ability of crowd riot control. Impressively as troops to rapidly deploy and settle conflicts in order to maintain a safe and secure environment for Kosovo in accordance with UNSCR 1244. The exercise was in close cooperation between Kosovo Police Service (KPS), Multinational Specialized Unit (MSU), UNMIK-Police, KFOR Tactical Maneuver Battalion (KTM) and the German and Italian Operational Reserve Force (ORF) Battalion.

Approximately 400 peacekeepers took part in the operation designed to respond to riots or other violence that threatens to flare up in the province, run by the UN and NATO since Kosovo's 1998-1999 war. The exercise was in several steps. The scenario was based on a simulated demonstration against an International organization. The Danish and American soldiers who were acting as demonstrators were instructed to be violent and that the violence should escalate more and more. The demonstrators played their role very convincingly. Soon enough the headquarter was threatened. At this stage support was requested. Helicopters transported reinforcements from the Portuguese army as the KPS and KFOR soldiers attempted to keep a riot in check.

It is not easy to control actions with different units when a volatile situation exacerbates. During this exercise KFOR showed its capacity of command, control and interoperability with UNMIK-P and KPS. The operation was a clear example of NATO's capacity to rapidly reinforce KFOR with highly competent, mobile, combat forces and effectiveness of

KFOR multinational units.

"This is a warning for those who oppose to peace and stability in Kosovo that NATO is ready, willing and able to fulfill its mandate," said LTG Giuseppe Valotto, COMKFOR.



HAWK" Exercise



DEU ORF-Btl - Operation

Text and photos 1st LT Maksym Nedria, Ukrainian Army

- **"Mission ready in theater" within 4 days after alert;**
- **Full independent mobility, including organic loading capacity and logistical independence for 5 days;**
- **Logistical re-supply by NSE with support of KFOR/EUFOR/JFC;**
- **Ability to conduct every mission from PK to WF operations.**



German ORF battalion took part in scheduled operational rehearsal level 2 in Kosovo. The purpose of this rehearsal was to ensure NATO troops and the Reserve Forces Headquarters remain prepared to respond to any crisis in the Balkans. The rehearsal was planned since summer 2004, and constituted the last phase of a series of operational rehearsals nicknamed DETERMINED EFFORT 2005, which started in March.

The rehearsal sends a clear message of NATO's and the international community's strong resolve and commitment to maintain peace and stability in the Balkans region. It also demonstrates NATO's ability to reinforce in-theatre NATO-led forces in a very short period of time with Over the Horizon Forces (OTHF). These reserves are designed to be a mobile, versatile force to augment in-theatre forces in order to deal with any military contingency.

The deployment of German ORF Battalion in Kosovo was from September 15 to 19. During this phase the battalion was tasked to achieve full operational capability within four days. Due to a very high readiness status the well-trained battalion was able to report mission ready in theatre before the deadline. The ORF battalion was integrated into the command and control structures of KFOR. While performing the duties, the German soldiers faced a variety of demanding missions, working in close cooperation with the in-theatre troops from four different AORs. The most challenging issue for the 200 soldiers was to become familiar with the assigned AOR in lack-time operational conditions. Nevertheless, the highly motivated and professional soldiers assumed authority of their respective AOR within less than one day.

The sequence of KFOR - German ORF battalion cooperation was: 20-23 SEP, German ORF battalion in a close cooperation with MNB (NE) units conducted operation Harmony with the following results:

al Reserve Force II/2005

- 23 VCP and 48 patrols were conducted

- NAI activation Banskja and Recce of other NAI's was successful and generated good situational awareness

- Reception and support in MNB (NE) was very satisfactory

- Radio connection was a sensitive issue

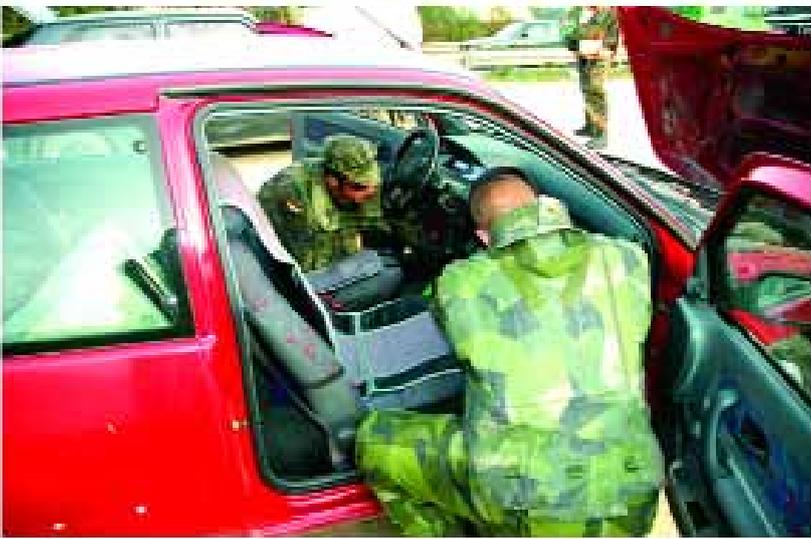
23-25 SEP, German ORF battalion was redeployment to the MNB (SW) AOR during the operation Black Night.

0900 25 SEP, German ORF battalion assigned AOR TF Prizren. At the same time operation's framework in the entire AOR was maintained. Forty persons and twenty-three vehicles were checked. Result is - NTR.

03-08 OCT, CRC Exercise MNB C.

17-19 OCT, XBO MNB E.

21-25 OCT, Redeployment back to Germany.





Joint Implementation Commission

By MAJ Jo Schöpf, PhD, AUT A
Photos by 1st LT Maksym Nedria,
Ukrainian Army

Joint Implementation Commission (JIC) works as a link between KFOR, and Serbia and Montenegro. It verifies that all obligations in the Military Technical Agreement (MTA) are fulfilled. This agreement was signed on 9 June 1999 between the International Security Force, KFOR,

and the Governments of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, and the Federal Republic of Serbia. Along with UNSCR 1244 it is the primary tool for KFOR, its commanders and forces, which provides the legal authority for KFOR's presence, its mission and operations.

On September 22 KFOR Chronicle staff had the chance to participate in the 246th JIC meeting at Rudare. Among the delegation participants

were the chief, COL MÅNSSON (SWE A), the deputy LTC TERÄSVALLI (FIN A), LTC RODRIGUEZ GIL (SP A), LTC FERRARA (IT A) and LTC DOWNES (US A), who is the member of the KFOR Inspectorate for Kosovo Protection Corps (KIKPC) team.

At 09:30 hrs we crossed the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) at Gate 3. The Police of Serbia and Montenegro (MUP) was waiting





Meeting in Serbia and Montenegro

there to accompany us to the meeting point. We received a warm welcome by COL NEŠIĆ, the Chief of Military Technical Agreement Implementation Commission and his team.

After welcoming words and positive opening remarks the meeting began. First, information was exchanged concerning the violations of the ABL and the incidents in the Ground Safety Zone (GSZ) and Air Safety

Zone (ASZ). There are special rules and regulations concerning these zones, such as KFOR is not allowed to cross the ABL. There is an exception for KFOR patrols in three specified places while patrolling, only.

The second agenda point was the return of Serbia and Montenegro Forces and state bodies to Kosovo, status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) and the return of the civil flight control above Kosovo to the Serbia and

Montenegro civil bodies.

Third point was the status of the next High Level Meeting (HLM) with COMKFOR that took place on October 7.

Fourth, KPC training activities were discussed.

The meeting was held successfully in a spirit of mutual respect and good understanding and finalized with a delicious Serbian meal.



MNB Northeast Ch



By LT David Rocher, French Army,
Photos by Italian CCT

Change of command ceremony took place in Camp Belvedere, Mitrovica

on October 3. General Tracqui handed over the command to General Alziari de Malaussene in front of the troops and numerous local and international guests. General de Malaussene belongs to the 27th

French Mountain Infantry Brigade. Incoming Mountain Brigade has a former experience in KFOR. In France, the brigade deployed in the French Alps, Vercès-based near Grenoble, Isère.

LTG Giuseppe Valotto, COMKFOR presided over the ceremony. "I know you are tough soldiers and so you are ready for any challenge," said LTG Valotto.

During the ceremony, General Tracqui said that cooperation with UNMIK, UNMIK P, KPS, KPC and non-governmental organisations was perfect. He expressed his gratitude to his soldiers for their work. "During four months mission in Kosovo, substantial efforts were made to assist functioning of the Kosovo institutions by contributing to the freedom of movement and returning process of displaced persons," said General Tracqui.

LTG Valotto praised General Tracqui for his work. "You have implemented my policy of supporting UNMIK and the provisional institutions of self government, as well as important



Change of Command

civilian agencies, and by these actions you have fully supported my mandate as COMKFOR, making it clear that we can accomplish so much more by working together," said LTG Valotto.

During his speech, General de Malaussene said that he will continue to work for the benefit of Kosovo people and will help this area become a part of the process of resolving the final status. Also, he mentioned his confidence in the troops of the Brigade and assured his total cooperation with COMKFOR.

A cocktail to thank General Tracqui for his contribution as the head of the Brigade concluded the ceremony. After four months as commander of MNB (NE), General Tracqui has met a lot of people as municipalities' leaders and inhabitants. He also met politicians and religious representatives. Everybody appreciated the actions of the brigade and congratulated the General Tracqui.





Task Force Dulje Change of

**Text and photos by
Major Jo Schöpf, PhD, AUT A**

Transfer of authority in the multinational TF Dulje took place during a ceremony held in Camp Casablanca, MNB (SW) on October 09.

Deputy Commander of Kosovo Forces MG Xavier Bout de Marnhac (FR Army), Deputy Commander MNB (SW) COL Antonio Alecci (IT Army), Commander of the Austrian International Operations Command MG Günter Höfler, Mag. Alexander

Bayerl, Head of the Austrian Office in Pristina, Mr. Christian Siegl, Consul of the Austrian Office in Pristina and local military and civilian authorities gathered at Suva Reka. They welcomed the new task force commander, LTC Reinhard Kunert, and



thanked LTC Ferdinand Klinser, for the work accomplished in the previous six months.

At the parade, the former commander of TF Dulje thanked municipality authorities for their cooperation in the previous six months. He thanked to the soldiers and congratulated them for the excellent job they did. Finally, he wished good luck and mission success to the new task force that will stay in Kosovo until April 2006.

The national contingent commander, COL (GS) Marcus Koller hands over command in mid-November, when the MNB (SW) headquarters change of command takes place.

TF Dulje is a multinational task force lead by Austrian, German and Swiss officers. Three Austrian companies, one German (German-Dulje-Company - "GEDUC") and one Swiss company ("SWISSCOY") form the task force. This is very positive

Command

because together they form a good mixture of military and cultural background.

Austrian soldiers are on duty in TF Dulje in Suva Reka, in MNB (SW) Headquarters in Prizren and in KFOR Headquarters in Pristina. Austrian forces are also stationed at Toplicane Air Base (located between Prizren and Suva Reka).

This new Austrian Contingent is the 13th Contingent (AUCON13/KFOR). Austria is a KFOR contributing nation since September 22, 1999.



Shadow & Sidewinder

It's a bird, it's a plane, wait, what is that? For some local residents, a Humvee suspended from a Blackhawk helicopter can be a remarkable sight, but for Soldiers from B Company, 1-104th (Lift), Task Force Shadow, it's just part of the job.

**Text and photos Spc.
Alicia Dill**

Another part of the days work is training infantry troops on sling load operations. This exercise included how to properly prepare a load for flight and execute the hook up onto the helicopter. "We are mainly teaching them about our operations and educating them on how we work and teaching them why it is important for us to know their plan so we can better support them in all aspects of it," said 1st Lt. Christopher Loftus, pilot, B Company, 1-104th (Lift), Task Force Shadow.

This is the first time Task Force Shadow has trained another U.S. task force on sling loading during this deployment. During the preparation stage, Shadow soldiers explained the different tasks involved in sling operations that led to an understanding of the "big picture".

A sling loading mission involves a ground crew, crew chiefs and pilots; all working together to move personnel and their equipment. In this case, the ground crew was troops from Task Force Sidewinder and the flight crew was soldiers from Task Force

Shadow. Part of the training was showing the troops how to secure everything so the HMMWV remains intact after the drop off. Using "100 mph" tape, everything from the windows to the antenna was secured to ensure an intact HMMWV on arrival.

Another critical task in the operation is simply hooking up the sling to the hovering aircraft. The Soldier on the ground has to remain steady as the helicopter moves into position over the sling. As the ground guide holds his stance, the flight crew takes over. As the Blackhawks carry their load to the drop off point, the ground crew secures the area and waits for the flight crew to come in and release the HMMWVs from the sling. "I think with the guidance of Task Force Shadow the soldiers and I were fully prepared to complete this training along with team work," said Staff Sgt. Spencer Davenport, squad leader, C Company, 1-160th Infantry, Task Force Sidewinder.

When the helicopters arrived for the pick up, the crew chiefs did a quick inspection of the HMMWVs. "They did a really good job preparing the load,

the one I inspected was perfect," said Sgt. Max Geise, crew chief, B Company, 1-104th (Lift). After inspection, the mission continued on with a successful hook-up and drop off. With soldiers and two HMMWVs moved from one place to another in a matter of minutes, the instruction proved to be efficient.

Davenport, a Seal Beach, Calif. native expressed the benefits of conducting this type of exercise during this deployment. "Kosovo is a good place to do sling load training because of the large amounts of open areas and the large amount of hard to reach terrain where sling loading vehicles or supplies would be very helpful in order to complete exercises, missions and training."

For everyone involved, it was an important step in working with other soldiers from a different task force. With all the resources available to both task forces, the sling load training was a new experience for some soldiers and a helpful reminder for others. One part of the success of the instruction is the learning process and preparing for the future of sling load training.



KFOR Contingent: G



**The Georgian Contingent
Commander MAJ Besik
Berdelidze**

**By 1st LT Maksym Nedria,
Ukrainian Army
Photos by Armend Aqifi**

The Georgian Contingent has been deployed in Kosovo since May 2003.

An agreement between the German Department of Defence and Georgian Department of Defence to assist in the security and international presence in Kosovo was signed on February 4, 2003. Therefore, the Georgian Infantry Company was included into the Deutsch National Element, MNB (SW).

"The main task of the contingent is to provide security for MNB (SW) HQ, Prizren, Camp Airfield, Camp Toplicane and Camp Cviljen. The number of personnel is one hundred and fifty. The soldiers perform round-clock duties at the gates, guardian towers, and patrol of the camps," said MAJ Besik Berdelidze, Contingent Commander.

The soldiers involved with the mission, belong to Georgian Freedoms Battalion, the special trained unit designed for use in PSO. "The company has been trained in Georgia during 3 months and, then, one month in Wildfleken, Germany. Every soldier has an experience with

KFOR and is dedicated to the mission," stated MAJ Berdelidze.

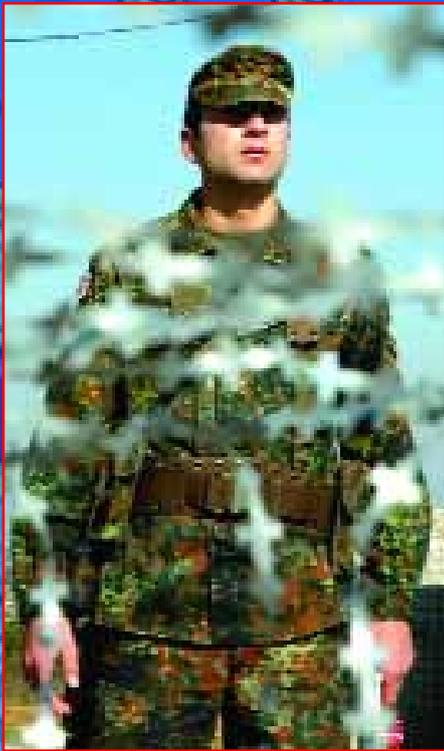
The soldiers have day shift - day off sequence during the six-months mission. "This schedule demands willpower and a good physical shape from my soldiers, as more than 600 people and 200 vehicles pass our guard station per day," said Sgt. Valerian Rostobaia, commander of the guard, Camp Prizren. "The most important thing is to pay attention to every event around you during a shift."

One platoon from the contingent is located in Mamusha, Turkish battalion AOR, MNB (SW). The platoon performs guarding, patrolling and other missions in the cooperation with Turkish Contingent.

According to 1st LT Zurab Chilingarashvili, Deputy Company Commander, the skills and experience that the contingent gains from the KFOR mission will be substantial contribution into the professional abilities of Georgian Armed Forces.



GEORGIA



Reunification Day

The 12th German KFOR Contingent celebrated the Reunification Day

Text and photos provided by
"Maz and More"

Translated by Lt Sara De Miguel,
SP Army and Sgt. Günther
Hoppenstedt, GE Army

The 12th German KFOR Operation Contingent celebrated, with a solemn parade the German Unity on October 3, in Prizren.

The special events of that day began at 9:00 hours with a religious service, followed by a special brunch. By noon, the official ceremony started. Soldiers of all the branches of the Brigade presented themselves in front of the HQ building framed by soldiers holding torches.

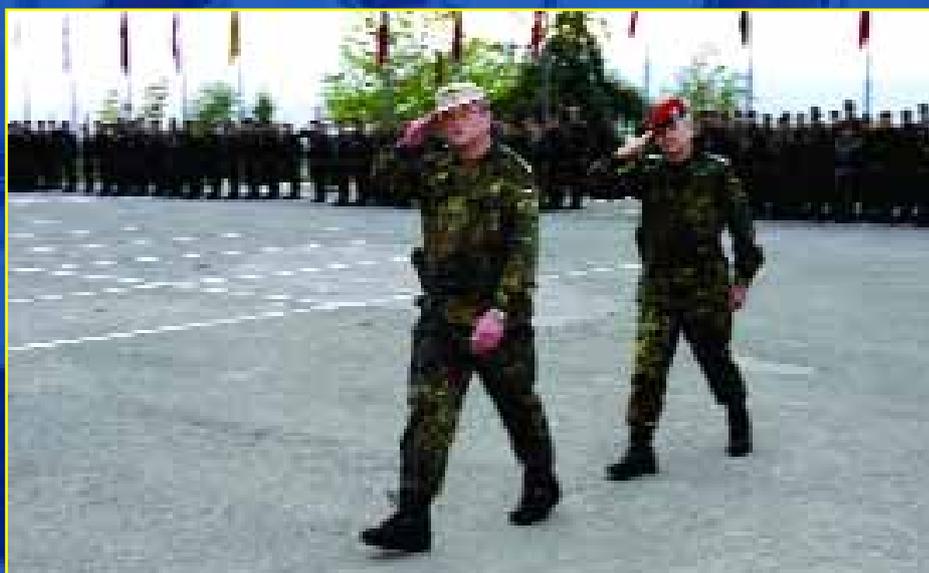
The German Air Force music band from Karlsruhe performed the background music. The moment the Flag of the Unit was brought in, the difference between a recorded and live music was obvious.

The Commanders of the Multinational Brigades Northeast, East and Center, high representatives of HQ KFOR, Deputy Chief of Staff of HQ KFOR were presents, as well as representatives of the 11

nations of the MNB (SW).

BG Norbert Stier specially welcomed the Deputy Commander of the Operational Command of the German Army, General Major Karlheinz Viereck, which came from Potsdam, especially to celebrate this event with the German soldiers. BG Stier highlighted in his speech the political background of the October 3, 1990, the Day of the Reunification. He honored the

courage of the former government and the support of the allies, specially the United States. As well, BG Stier stressed the civil courage and non-violent resistance of the citizens of the GDR as the decisive factor for the political development of the reunification: By that they made the weapons of the regime dull and unusable, at the end they stood up to them with the demand for more freedom and finally the demand for the





reunification with the brothers and sisters of the Federal Republic of Germany. He honored and exemplified the German reunification as a model for other countries and regions. "Non-violent form of protest and civilian resistance make the weapons of a superior and repressive state dull and worthless," said BG Stier. The aim's achievement of the reunification, in peace liberty and without any bloodshed, allows today celebrating of the day of the German reunification.

The first three words of the national hymn: "Unity and right and liberty" describe the value, not only the Germans should go for, but all the other people as well.





Text by MAJ Alfonso Boo and LT Sara De Miguel, SP Army
Photos by Armend Aqifi

Decree

To all those who may read and understand this

Under the reign of Isabel of Castile and Ferdinand of Aragon, Monarchs

of Spain - named The Catholic Majesties by the grace of pope Alexander VI - the greatest feast of the known world was ordered and undertaken: the discovery of America.

On October 12, 1492, after 72 days of sailing, under the leadership of Admiral Colon, sailor Rodrigo de Triana spotted land. This event changed mankind's perception of the

earth leading to something not even Colon could have imagined: the merging of two worlds.

Since then there has been a common bond, which unites 400 million people: a rich and beautiful language, the SPANISH, spoken in 23 countries of five continents. To commemorate that date, in Spain by HM Maria of Augsburg and HM the King Alfonso XIII, and in Argentina by President Irigoyen, His Majesty the King D. Juan Carlos I of Spain, God preserve him, has decreed that the October 12, feast of the Virgin of Pilar, shall be the National Holiday. Accordingly, he ordered to all Spaniards, private people and authorities, to honor and make law his decree.

It shall be done.

The Spanish National Day was celebrated in the Camp Base España, Istok, on October 12.

By noon, in presence of military and civilian authorities, the official ceremony started. Under the Command



The Spanish National Day

of Lieutenant Colonel Arribas the troops were in formation, including the Honor Squad, two Infantry Companies, one Logistics Company, one mixed motorized Company, a Unit from the Civil Guard and one Argentinean Platoon, under the Command of Captain Lipuma.

General Jose Prieto presided over the Ceremony, accompanied by Colonel Casimiro Sanjuan. General Prieto gave a speech, thanking all in attendance for sharing with the Spanish troops such an important day.

After congratulating all the Spaniards, especially the Civil Guard, for their patron (Virgin of Pilar), he pronounced some words on the memory of the 17 comrades died in Afghanistan, begging for the protection of the Virgin of Pilar. After that, there was a Military Parade to honor all military people who died for their country.

This brilliant day was ended with a Spanish toast. All the guests were invited to taste the traditional paella. It was a great opportunity to reinforce and create bonds between comrades and friends, not only between the military personnel of the different countries but also between the Kosovar representatives, which came from the Spanish AOR.



16 bridges

Text and photos 1st LT Maksym Nedria,
Ukrainian Army



Sixteen bridges within Kosovo does not have bridge classification. Bridge classification is a measure of the maximum weight that a bridge can withstand, based on the tonnage of the heaviest vehicle, which is allowed to cross it. Therefore, a special team equipped with a new technology and modern equipment arrived in the theater from University of the German Armed Forces and Engineer School, Munich, Germany on October 13. They were tasked to perform the mission of classifying the bridges in 13 days.

Classification tests the structural strength of the bridge. Normally a safety margin of almost 100 percent is kept while determining the bridge's classification, therefore, if a bridge is classified as class 9, it can actually withstand up to 18 tons of weight. Bridge and vehicle classification allows vehicle operators to avoid bridge failure due to overloading. Vehicle operators may drive across without restrictions if their vehicles' class numbers are less than or equal to the bridge class number. All classified vehicles and bridges in the theater of operations require classification signs. Bridge classification signs are circular with a yellow background and black inscriptions.

Three professors and six assistances from the University of the German Armed Forces have been involved with the Bridges' Classification project since 2000. MAJ Dobmeier, Head of Engineering Support Center at Engineer School is in charge of the bridges' classification team, which consists of four scientists from the university and two military engineers. COL Helmut Alois Bach, Chief Engineer, KFOR HQ supported activity of the team within Kosovo.

According to Norbert Romen, scientific assistance, University of the German Armed Forces, it takes only 3 hours to make an assessment when classifying a bridge. "Due to the new technology, it's not necessary to stop the traffic and use heavy-weight trucks or wheeled vehicles. The entire equipment is now contained in one minibus," said Romen as he took measurements.

"First, we take geometrical, frequency and material properties measurements. Then we input the data into a special software 'Bridge Assessment Code' to get an assessment about the bridge's classification," said Kerstin Bierbrauer, scientific assistance, University of the German Armed Forces.

"The final approval of the Military Load Classification of bridges will be done according to STANAG 2021 ENGR," said MAJ Dobmeier.



s in two weeks



Turkish Victory Day

**Text and photos MAJ Fuat Araz,
Turkish Army**

August 30 is a very important day for Turkish Republic. This day in history, Turkish won an absolute victory which ended the Independence War. Due to the significance of this day, all military personnel who are promoted take their rank on this day. For that reason, conjunction with the two celebrations conducted. TF Dragash have conducted a celebration ceremony of Victory Day and a promotion ceremony for personnel in Camp Sultan Murat on August 28. More than 2,000 people from the military and local communities attended the ceremony.

The ceremony begun with a speech of TF Commander LTC Bulent Celik. "Today is a gift from the lover of freedom and peace, our great leader Atatürk and his comrades, that we are celebrating the 83rd Anniversary. Also, today is a promotion to the upper rank, so it has a different meaning for us, soldiers. Officers and NCO's, today, are sharing their happiness and excitement of their promotion with their families. Today we are also happy to have a chance to celebrate this day with people of Kosovo, international communities and with soldiers of other nations," said LTC Celik.

LTC Celik said that the changes in the last 20 years throughout the world has forced nations and societies to



rebuild. "Now, no nation can be satisfied only by the peace and safety in his country. Every country is also affected with events that happened outside of its borders. From this scope, Turkish Armed Forces have

been tasked in places where crisis occur and are contributing to world peace. As great leader Atatürk said 'Peace at home, peace in the world,' we have a task to set up safe and secure environment in this region. We are working in harmony with the other armed forces in a multinational PSO in Kosovo and making an effort for the development of Kosovo according to our capabilities," he said.

At the promotion ceremony, 29 officers and NCO's were promoted. Brigade General Norbert Stier, MNB (SW) Commander; Brigade General John S. Harrel, MNB (E) Commander and LTC Celik executed the promotion ceremony. After the promotion a multivision show of Turkish ceremonial, folklore and musical entertainment were conducted.



A Celebration to Remember

**By Tech. Sgt. Claudette Hutchinson
HQ KFOR PIO**

**Photos by 1st Lt Maksym Nedria,
Ukrainian Army**

It was a special day in HQ KFOR, Film City. Dining tables were dressed with the finest linens. A single rose delicately positioned at each place setting, and crystal glasses to toast the honorees. This celebration was not for dignitaries or Heads of State, but for HQ KFOR's Military Women. More than 30 women, from five nations celebrated this event, Oct. 21.

The purpose of the dinner was for military women to meet, greet and share with each other their differences and most importantly their similarities.

The event was the brainchild of Maj. Valerie-Claire Bermond HQ KFOR Public Information Office (French Army) and other women of the PIO staff.

Deputy Chief of Staff Operations KFOR Brig. Gen. Reinhard Wolski (German Army) opened the celebration. He expressed his appreciation and thanks for the contributions of KFOR's women to the mission of providing a safe and secure environment for the people of Kosovo, in collaboration with their male counterparts.

This simple idea planted the seed,

which grew into a classy event, bringing 30 women from very different worlds, together. The fruits of this idea were instrumental in improving and building relationships, comradeship and friendships among women who once thought they were differ-

ent, but now realize they are more similar.

The women complimented the Dining Facility staff for their excellent service and for providing a delicious meal and a great environment, on this special day.



Working Together Toward

"Nothing in the world, it seems to me, is more important than
Hermann

Text and photos 1st LT Maksym
Nedria, Ukrainian Army



According to the experts, early childhood is the most sensitive developmental period of human personality. During this developmental phase the child's first experiences contribute entirely towards healthy development. One important part of this is their environment. Pursuing a goal to save every child and giving destitute and orphaned children a chance to shape their own futures, SOS-Kinderdorf International (SOS-KDI) project was launched in Kosovo in January 2001.

Now, SOS Children's Village in Pristina runs several facilities. The kindergarten offers pre-school education and day-care for up to 120 children from the SOS Children's Village and neighborhood from 3 to 6 years old.



ards a Better Future

attending to a child" Gmeiner

There is also a center for children with special needs, which has already taken care of more than 200 babies. Many of them were adopted, many placed with foster families or other types of placement. However, there are also those for whom such long-term solution could not be found.

The Children's Village offers a permanent home in a family-style environment to children who have lost their parents or can no longer live with them. Normally, children are admitted to the Village up to age of 10. Every child receives individual support, education and training in keeping with his or her needs and abilities. The current capacity of SOS Children's Village is 14 children.

All children who are a part of the program grow and develop together regardless of social status, religion, ethnicity or race.

KFOR provides donations to the project. On October 3, a truck with sport equipments arrived to the Children's Village from Film City. Due to this donation the children received 10 bicycles, 20 sets of skis and ski-boots, exercise mats, balls and various other sports equipment. COL Michael Cleary, Commander Headquarter Support Group and Warrant Officer Thomas Reischl, Morale Welfare Activity office, Film City, paid the substantial contribution into organizing of the humanitarian project.



DANCO

It was a crisp fall morning as the buzz of excitement and anxiety filled the air. Spirits were running high as 950 troops from 21 nations gathered for the grueling DANCON March, Oct. 9, at Camp Olaf Rye.

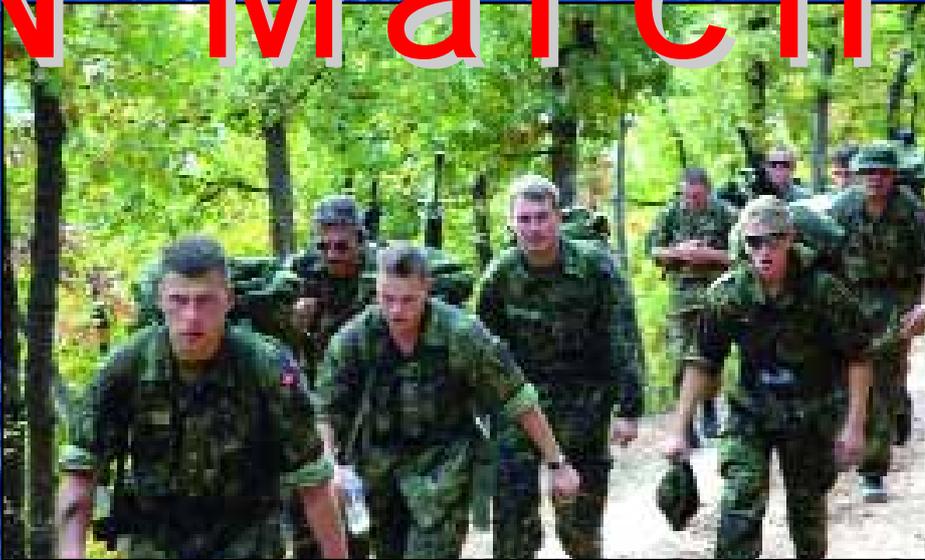
"It was very satisfactory to see so many participants from such different parts of the world making an effort for completing a task together. The soldiers' oldest and most important task to move from one place to another with equipment and weapon. As organizer it was very satisfactory to see so many happy faces at the beginning of the course. However, not all of them were that happy when they got back to the Camp," said Capt. K. Gertsen, Danish Sports and Welfare Office.

However, today they all had very different goals; some wanted to set records, some to break them; however, most looked forward to the experience and challenge of finishing the course.

"Good weather, feet ready, I was among 950 participants and was looking forward to the next 25 km, and off we went. Before starting I was thinking how hard could this be - marching 25 km in beautiful weather and terrain," said Pvt. A.Q.

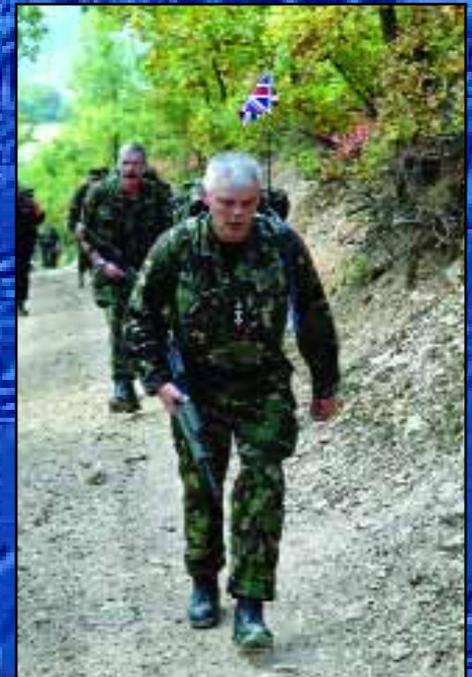


N March



longer to finish the course. Some even stopped to enjoy the view and take pictures, of the leaves shimmering in the mid-morning sun displaying the amazing colors of fall. In the end, the DANCON March is a test of determination, will power, teamwork and the joy of victory, it shows 21 nations, working together in unity, towards a one goal.

"It was a lot of fun. I liked the friendly competition with the other countries. We helped each other along the way," said Tech. Sgt. Lester Sergeant Neupert, HQ KFOR (USAF). He finished in 3:21 mins.



Vestergaard, Danish Contingent. The 25.2 km route was a primary and secondary road, to include some very rough and steep terrain. All participants had to be in uniform and were required to carry 10 kgs of equipment, including their weapons, with a maximum completion time of 8 hours.

Col. M. Bech, Commanding Officer Danish Battalion, he advised everyone to train and prepare seriously before participating, in order to avoid injuries.

Later, Private Vestergaard learned this lesson of being properly prepared, the hard way. "My feet were hurting a lot going down to Post 4 but I did not dare to take off my boots off. My feet wanted to stop, but my brain was forcing them to continue...I had some very bad blisters," he said.

According to Helmer Hansen,

Senior Medical Officer Danish Contingent blisters are common in these events.

It wasn't long before the first person was making his way to the finish line, Roland Fuchs, UNMIK Police, Germany, finishing in 2:14 mins.

Five minutes later Jean-Nicolas Martin, HQ KFOR France followed with a time of 2:19 mins, and Sven Francet, BELUKOS, Belgium, with a time of 2:21 mins. Capt. Anne-Sofie Eriksen, DANBAT, Denmark was the fastest woman to ever complete the marathon, finishing in 2:27 mins.

"It was a very difficult course. The first part of the course was normal. I felt good. However, going up the hill was very difficult. But, I'll do it again," said Stephane Arena, MSU Pristina, who finished in 3:15 mins.

Nevertheless, not everyone was ready for the challenge and took a bit



The Fast i



By MAJ Hassan Chbani,
Moroccan Army and
Mr. Armend Aqifi
KFOR Chronicle

RAMADAN: The ninth month of the lunar calendar and one of the five pillars of Islam. Ramadan is a time when Muslims concentrate on their faith. Some strict restraints are placed on the daily lives; no eating, drinking during daily hours. At the end of the day the fast is broken with prayer and a meal called "IFTAR", following it is customary to go visiting friends and family. However, that is merely the physical component of the fast (SAWM), the spiritual aspects are the purity of thought and action. Fasting during Ramadan is intended to teach self-discipline, self-restraint and generosity and also serves as a reminder of the suffering of the poor who rarely eat well. Things such as lying, denouncing someone behind their backs, slandering and other bad intentions, can destroy the fast. While, these are always considered offensive they are most offensive during the fast of Ramadan.

During the night, in addition to the five daily prayers, there is a special prayer called "TARAWEEH" (Night prayer), which take place in the Mosque (Masjid). The length of this prayer is usually two times, and it could take all night. On the 27th day of the month, LAYLAT AL QADR (the night of Power or the night of Destiny) is celebrated in Mosques or at home within prayer because it is believed that on this night, Prophet Mohammed received the revelation of the Holy Quran (KURAAN) .The same for the receiving of the Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai for Jews and Christians.

THE FEAST OF FAST BREAK- ING (EID UL FITR):

When the first crescent of the new moon is officially sighted by a reliable source, the month of Ramadan is declared over, and the month of

n Ramadan

"SHAWAL" begins. It is marked by a three-day period known as EID UL FITR (the feast of fast breaking). It is a joyous time beginning with a special prayer, and accompanied by celebration, socializing, festive meals and some gift giving especially for children.

Charity is also given during this day, calculated to feed one person in one region for one day. This is known as "FITRA" meant as another reminder of the suffering endured throughout the world. It is also an occasion to pay the annual alms, which are due to the poor and needy, it is known as "ZAKAT" usually, a payment is 2.5 percent of assets.

MOROCCAN MISSION IN KOSOVO:

In accordance with his duty and his mission, Moroccan contingent continue to serve peace and freedom in his AOR. Field Surgery Hospital, social workers and Combat Coy are proud to accomplish their mission in order to contribute to maintain moral welfare and security for the people of Kosovo regardless of ethnicities.



Peacekeeper's Profile

Name: Turan Civci
Rank: Chief Master Sergeant
Age: 40 years old
Unit in Kosovo: J3 Admin, Film City
Unit in Turkey: Turkish Air Force

About the mission: This is my first mission in this multinational environment. I wanted to come to Kosovo to get a new experience.

Family Reaction: I am married and I have two children. They are old enough to know about my job and my duties. Therefore, when I first told my family about my mission in Kosovo there were no problems at all. I am missing them, but I think that is quite normal.

After Kosovo: First, I will take a vacation with my family. We will visit my relatives. Then I will continue my military service back at my home unit, Turkey.



Peacekeeper's Profile

Name: Claudette HUTCHINSON
Rank: Technical Sergeant, USAF
Unit In Kosovo: Public Information Office
Home Unit: US Air Force Weather Agency Public Affairs Office

About mission: This is my first mission to Kosovo. I think our mission here is very vital to the peace and stability of this region. I am pleased to see how military people, from various nations, are able to come together and work towards fulfilling one common mission. This NATO peacekeeping mission is an example to the people of Kosovo, proving that people from all race, origin, color, backgrounds and beliefs can work together to achieve one common goal ... peace and security for a better future.

Family Reaction: I am married with three children. I think my husband was most worried because, now he has to do all the cooking and washing. Seriously, at first my family was a bit worried about my mission. However, they are used to the requirements of my job and so they understand that this comes with being a part of the U.S. Air Force. Nevertheless, I feel blessed, because they are very supportive, and capable of handling everything during my absence. In fact, I am able to focus on my mission here, knowing that everything at home is well taken care of.



Peacekeeper's Profile

Name: Georgi Balev
Rank: Lieutenant
Age: 30
Unit in Kosovo: J2X
Unit in Bulgaria: Reconnaissance Platoon Commander
Spare time: I prefer to spend my free time along with my family or to visit friends of mine.

About the mission: I am glad I had the opportunity to participate in this mission that gave me much experience and I am still gaining more and more of it. The work in a multinational unit improved my skills in the matters of the job I have been assigned for. I believe my mission here has contributed to the overall safety of the residents of Kosovo.

Family reaction: My family understood my decision of coming here and they have been supporting me my entire mission. They are waiting for me to get back in Bulgaria safely.

After Kosovo: I might take some vacation and then go on serving for the same unit I had served for before my mission but with more experience.



Theatre Chaplain

Lieutenant Colonel Don Gianluigi Aroffo

BIOGRAPHIE

Born on 17.06.1949 in ARBOREA - SARDEGNA - ITALY.

He begins the seminar of PP. Redentoristi on 29.09.1962 in Scifelli (FR), and obtains the classic maturity. He moves to Rome and get a degree in Moral Theology in 1978 at PONTIFICIA LATERANENSE UNIVERSITY. In the beginning of his mission he works with the youth as an educator and professor. Since 1988 he is military chaplain and starts his mission at first in Air Force; Army at 235° RGT, "Piceno" in Ascoli Piceno (Italy) and from 1994 till 1997 at infantry school of Cesano in Rome. From 1997 to 2000 in the Navy Command - Venice at the Military Navy School

"Motosiluranti". Since 2000 he returns to the Army at 151° RGT active units of Sassari Brigade, dislocated in Sardegna, Italy. Together with 151° participates in different missions of peace, such as:

Albania from 2000 - 2001 (COMZ WEST), Kosovo 2002 (Tank Force Aquila), Egypt 2002 (MFO), Iraq 2003 - 2004 (Antica Babilonia), Kosovo (KFOR) 2 April 2005.



KFOR CHRONICLE

Commander KFOR:
LTG Giuseppe Valotto
Italian Army

Chief Public
Information KFOR:
COL Pio Sabetta
Italian Army

Chief Internal
Information KFOR &
Editor in Chief:
MAJ Dr. Jo SCHÖPF
Austrian Army
schoepfj@main.kfor.nato.int

Journalist
1st LT Maksym Nedria
Ukrainian Army

Photographer
Mr. Armend Aqifi

Layout
Kosova Sot

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How to contact
KFOR Chronicle:

Phone:

Int: +389 268 2897

Kos.: (038) 503 603 2897

KPN: 2897, 2402

FAX: 2373

E-mail:

kforchronicle@main.kfor.nato.int

Internet:

www.nato.int/kfor



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Mr. Armend Aqifi

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