

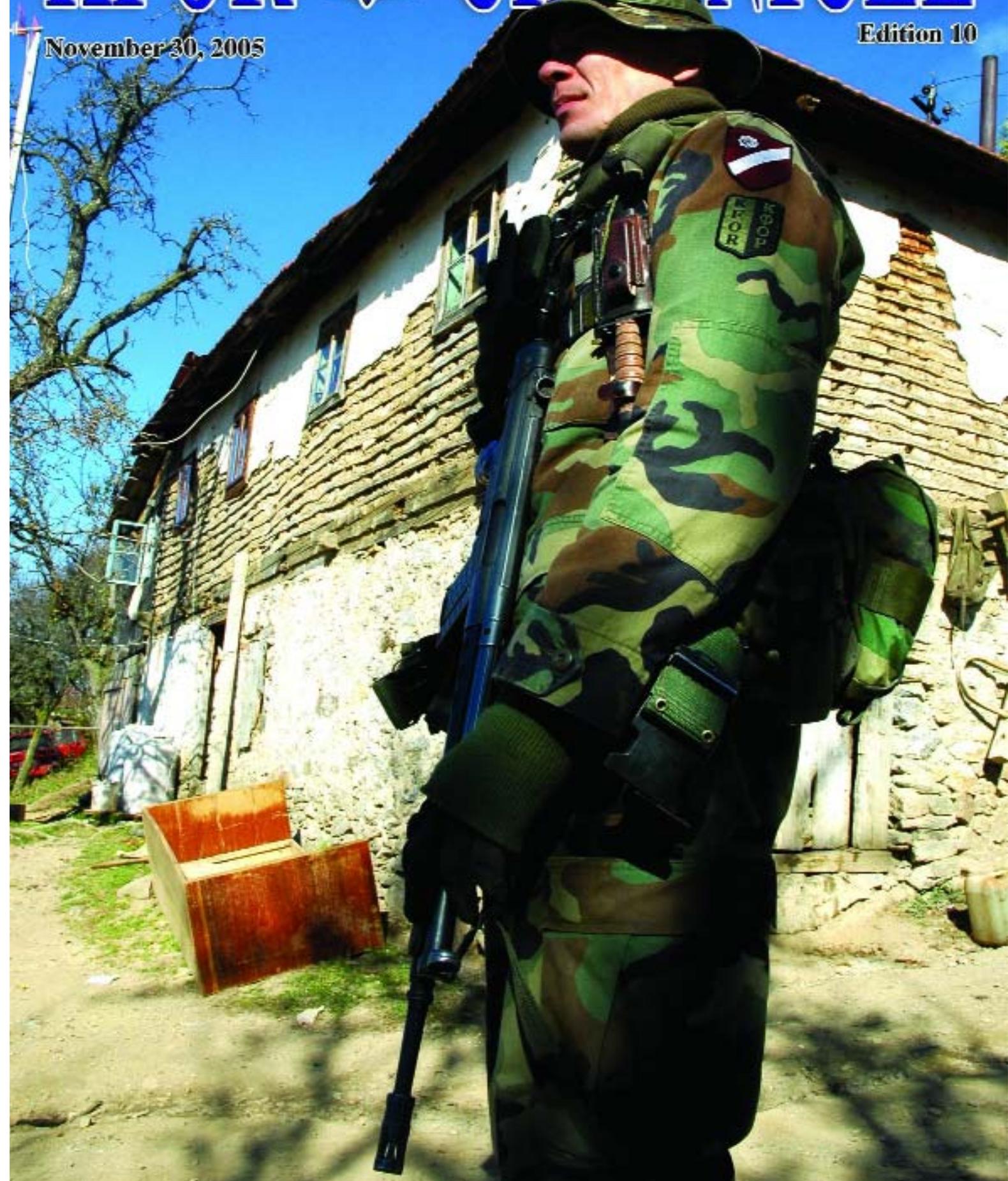
KFOR CHRONICLE

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Edition 10

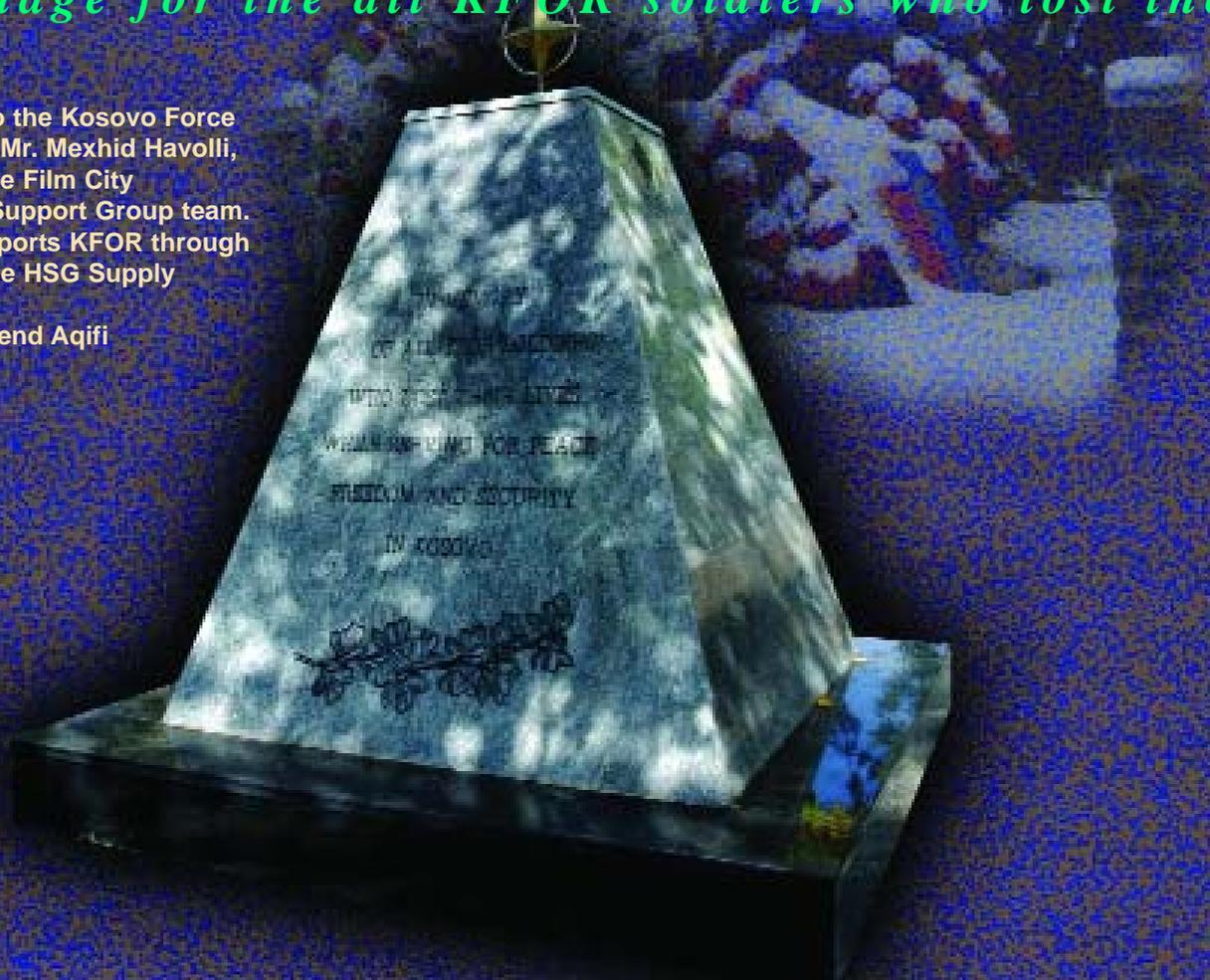
November 30, 2005



The Mother a

Homage for the all KFOR soldiers who lost their

This homage to the Kosovo Force was written by Mr. Mexhid Havolli, a member of the Film City Headquarters Support Group team. Mr. Havolli supports KFOR through his efforts in the HSG Supply Warehouse.
Photos by Armend Aqifi



KFOR CHRONICLE

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Cover photo by Mr. Armend Aqifi

Thank you for your support
Tech. Sgt. Claudette Hutchinson, US AF

Contributing nations in KFOR:

HO KFOR

- Canada
- Estonia
- Hungary
- Netherlands
- Norway
- Portugal
- United Kingdom

MNB (C)

- Leading Nation:** Czech Republic
- Contributing Nations:** Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Slovakia, Sweden

MNB (NE)

- Leading Nation:** France
- Contributing Nations:** Belgium, Denmark, Greece, Latvia, Luxembourg, Morocco

MNB (E)

- Leading Nation:** United States of America
- Contributing Nations:** Armenia, Greece, Lithuania, Poland, Ukraine

MNB (SW)

- Leading Nation:** Italy
- Contributing Nations:** Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey

and the Moon

lives while their peacekeeping mission in Kosovo

WITH LOVE FROM
MUM AND DAD

It was 2002. Mark's five-member family was living in an apartment on the seventh floor in big city looking to the east. Mark's father died two years earlier after suffering a heart attack. They were living in harmony and happiness.

All of the sudden out of the blue, the phone rang waking up Mark in the morning. He thought, despite the good news that you might get from a phone call, the ringing of the phone in the morning is quite scary and at that time makes you shiver. He woke up in military style - fast and picked up the phone headset. From the other side he heard: Please report to your military unit, you are assigned to your new mission in Kosovo - good luck. Mark was shocked and mixed with surprised. He had no knowledge for the region in the Balkans. He used to hear and read about this part being a crisis area in this part of Europe - a region of great contradictions with small nations, but very capricious (he thought).

OK, nevertheless this new reality, offered a new chance for him to give his peacekeeper's help. His mother woke up too with that unusual morning phone ring, his wife (she was working in accounting service) went to work, as usual, early in the morning, two-year old daughter and five-year old son were still sleeping and flying in their child dreams. Mother was taking care of them. She is at the age of 65, but still in good health. She loved very much her niece and nephew. Mark said to his mother: "Mom, today afternoon I will go to my new mission in Kosovo, I love you very much; you will take care of children," he exclaimed

(It was a history of a great way).

Mark was serving in the motorized unit, driving a transportation truck. However, he lost his life during an accident. It was a terrible loss. The family was informed and burial ceremony was carried out with the greatest honors.

All mother's pain for the losses of their sons have never gone away. They were looking just like the moon looks during bright nights, shining in the idle of the night. They live with painful memories for their sons who lost accidentally their lives (they are in considerable number).

They are always remembered with special love, sharing the pain with their mothers and families. Life resembles to a very strange phenomenon; sudden spiritual clashes happen. Life has its surprising motives; new hopes come up and grow its outer beauty. Deeply inside our soul, wind blow filling us with emotions and remembrance for all those who build bridges of happiness and now fly with the wings of divine inspiration towards eternal peace as their cause of life.

'BALKAN

KFOR Rehears



By MAJ Valerie-Claire Bermond, FR
Army
Photos by Armend Aqifi

Operation Balkan Hawk Exercise II concluded on October 28. The series of operational nicknamed DETERMINATED EFFORT 2005, which were planned since summer 2004 started in March of this year. NATO forces were deployed to Kosovo to take part in a routinely scheduled operational rehearsal to ensure NATO troops and the Reserve Forces Headquarters remained prepared to respond to any crisis in the Balkans. During the different phases of the rehearsal the German and the Italian Operational Reserve Force Battalions were deployed into Kosovo theatre.

Like those previously conducted over the course of the year, this rehearsal sent a renewed clear message of NATO's and the international community's strong resolve and commitment to maintain peace and stability in the overall Balkans region.

These maneuvers were conducted in order to rehearse the techniques of troop maneuverability, flexibility and the ability for several nations to operate together as one team. The aim of these exercises was to practice Peace

HAWK II'

als Completed



Support Operations, to familiarize troops with the terrain and with environmental and logistical concept. In this sense, KFOR has imagined different kind of scenarios, in order to be able to react to any kind of situation, riots or threats.

These rehearsals, planned during few months, showed that KFOR units in theatre are fully mission-capable and logistically self-sustaining by land, air and sea routes.

It has also demonstrated NATO's ability to reinforce already in-theatre, NATO-led forces and, if necessary, the EUFOR in Bosnia-Herzegovina, at very short notice with so-called "Over The Horizon Forces" (OTHF). The OTHF consist of multi-national, trained units with a wide range of military capabilities. These reserves are designed to be a mobile, versatile force to augment in-theatre forces in order to deal with any military contingency.

The Commander of Allied Joint Force Command (JFC) Naples, who is the Joint Force Commander responsible for the NATO-led Balkan Operations, has coordinated the operational rehearsal. At this occasion, the multi-national NATO Headquarters in Kosovo, KFOR, has control over assigned units.



Change of Command in

By LT Sara de Miguel
Spanish Army
Photos by CCT KFOR
Italian Army

Brigadier General Claudio Mora succeeded Brigadier General Norbert Stier as Commander of MNB SW during a ceremony at Field Camp Prizren on November 21.

During a solemn parade, COMKFOR, Lieutenant General Giuseppe Valotto, presided over the ceremony. The ceremony started with an inspection of the parade, followed by speeches from the guests of honor. The outgoing MNB SW Commander BG Stier summed up the performances of MNB SW during the last six months, by expressing his sincere gratitude to the soldiers, and to the military, civilian and religious personnel who have been part of the outstanding commitment.

During the ceremony, BG Stier and COL Antonio Alecci received numerous awards. First, Spanish Brigadier General Jose Prieto awarded them, on behalf of the Spanish Army Chief of Staff with the Peace Support



Operations Badge in recognition of Spanish Army's units in Kosovo during these six months. Then, German



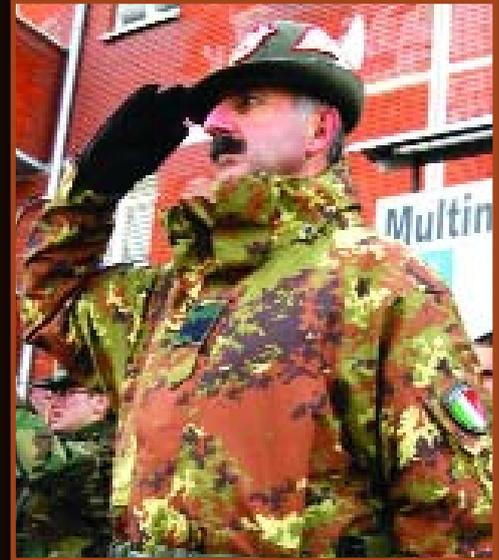
MNB SW

LTG Kammerhoff, on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany awarded them with the Mission Medal of the Bundeswehr for the participation in a Bundeswehr mission abroad in the context of the international security presence in Kosovo. Italian DCOM JOHQ, on behalf of the Italian Ministry of Defence, awarded them with the Commemorative Cross for the Military Peacekeeping Mission in Kosovo. And the last medal came from COMKFOR LTG Valotto. And, of course, LTG Valotto awarded them with the Non-Article 5 NATO medal.

The commanders of the national contingents were also changed. LTG Kammerhoff, Commander of Bundeswehr Operations Command from Potsdam transferred the command of the German KFOR contingent from BG Stier to COL Gerd Krop. Major General Tommaso Ferro, Deputy Commander of Armed Forces Command transferred the command of the Italian KFOR contingent from COL Alecci to BG Mora.

BG Mora was born on July 31, 1956 and joined the Italian Army with the "Asagio" Mountain Artillery Battalion as Deputy Battery Commander. After that, he was promoted to Battery Commander in the same assignment and later up to Operations Officer. After several courses and hard work he commanded the 3rd Mountain Artillery Regiment in Tolmezzo. His last assignment was commanding the "Julia" Alpini Brigade.

He is married and has one daughter.



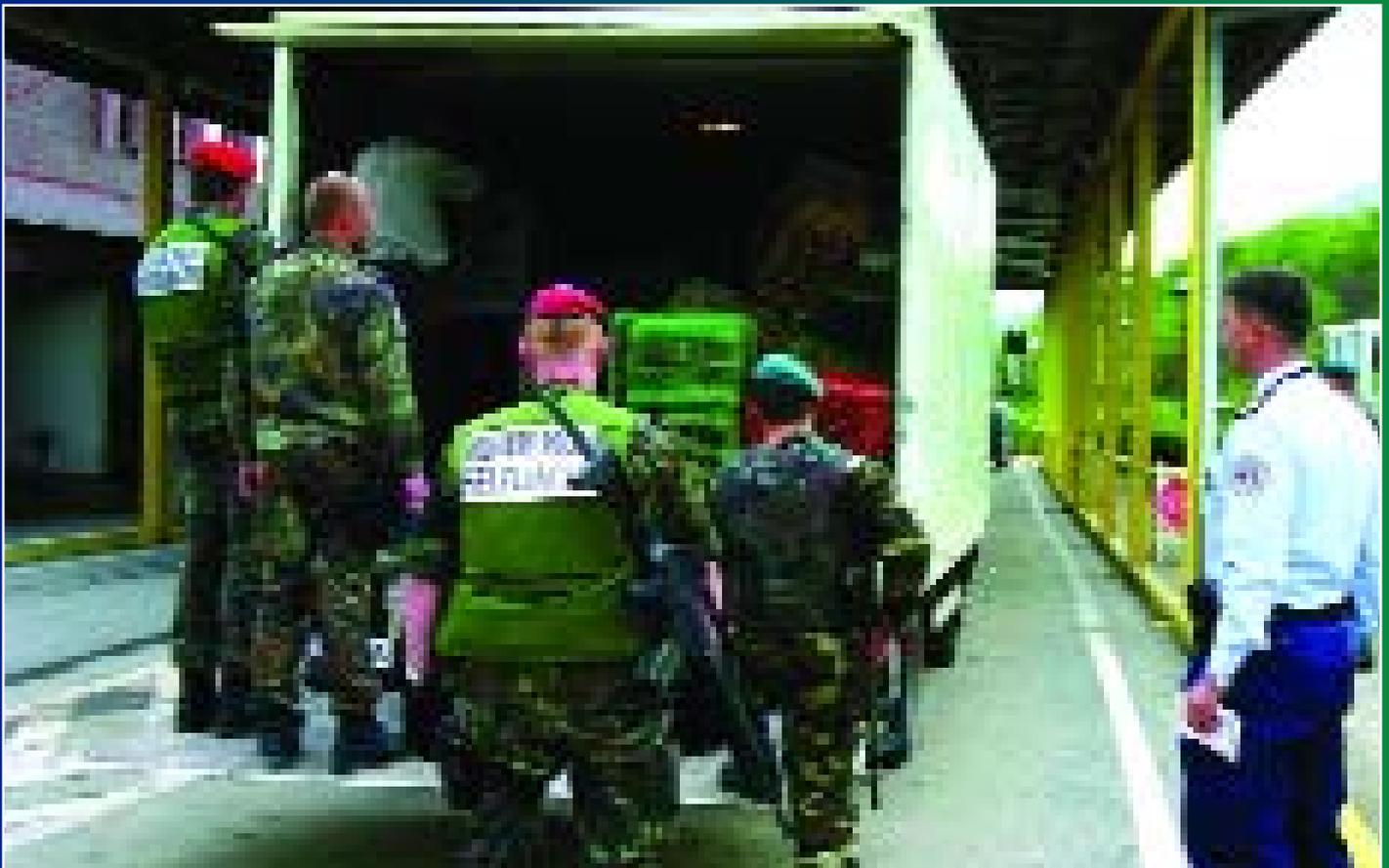
Border Control



**Text and photos by
OR-9 Hans Didi**

The morning is chilly. 1st LT Dirk I. is briefing his soldiers on the upcoming mission. "At 0630 hrs we will deploy to Morina Pass with four German and Turkish military police soldiers, respectively, as well as a dog-handler with a drug sniffer-dog. There, we will check vehicles entering from Albania for potential drugs and smuggled goods. UNMIK has requested our presence and support", he said.

Since past experience has shown that these missions can be quite dangerous, it was compulsory to bear rifles during this mission. Morina Pass is located on the road to Kukes in Albania. Turkish soldiers positioned themselves at the roadside to take over security. UNMIK Police manages the frontier station. This day, the MPs are demonstrating presence, while conducting controls in co-operation with UNMIK border police and the Albanian border police. Staff Sgt Mario S. asks a driv-



at Morina Pass

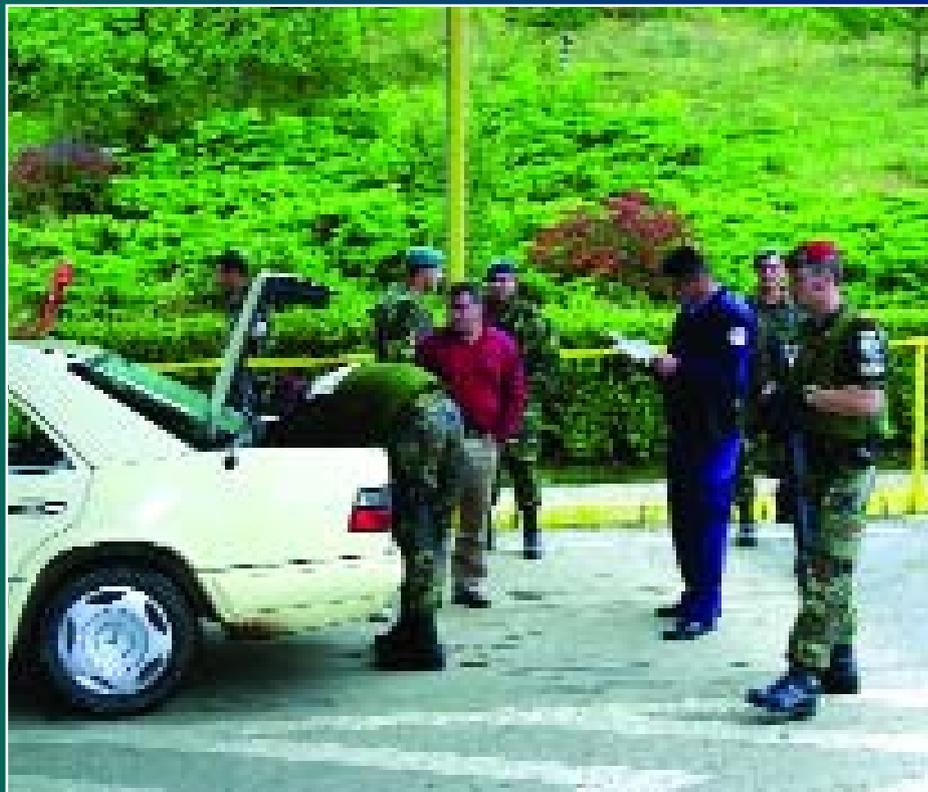
er to open the trunk of his vehicle. "The trunk, the hood and other compartments are always opened by the driver, because you never know what is inside," he explains. The car contains an unusual type of cargo, fish. In this case checking the trunk was not a pleasant task for the Staff Sergeant. A van loaded with bags of sugar. The driver opened the rear doors, and then steps aside. This is when Staff Sgt Sven D. and his drug sniffer-dog, Kizmo, was "sent in" for the first time. However, the dog did not bark and the van was allowed to continue the trip.

It's now 09:35 hrs and the first bus approaches the border, on its way to Albania. First, border police checked identification papers. Then, all passengers got off and remove their luggage from the bus, and formed a line on the pavement. Staff Sgt Sven D. prepared his dog. Intensively, Kizmo checks the pieces of luggage, on the ground, but found nothing. The bus and its passengers were "clean".

First Lieutenant Dirk I. ended the

mission. "The mission was certainly worth conducting", he said. "We have checked a number of vehicles

and have demonstrated KFOR presence at the border"



The Czech KFOR



Contingent Medal Parade

By CPT Pavel Löffler, MNB C PIO,
CZ Army
Photos by Armend Aqifi

Camp Sajkovac November 22, 2005. The 16th anniversary of the former Czechoslovakia Velvet revolution is celebrated in all cities, towns and villages of the Czech Republic. Soldiers of the Czech KFOR Contingent celebrated this event with a medal parade at the Camp Sajkovac.

Mr. Martin Belcik, Czech Deputy Minister of Defence attended the parade. He arrived in Kosovo in order to personally award the Czech soldiers with the Non Article 5 NATO medal.

Following the short outdoor prayer by the KFOR chaplain, Mr. Martin Belcik said: "Taking advantage of this occasion let me thank you, soldiers of the Czech Contingent, for your excellent fulfillment of the mission. I would like to express my appreciation and recognition of your work and your creditable commitment for the benefit of KFOR. You have been representing the Czech Republic and its Armed Forces in an outstanding way. Thank you for that again and congratulation with your Non Article 5 NATO medal award."

Then, COL Ales Vodehnal, MNB C Commander gave his speech. "Soldiers, using the opportunity given to me let me remind you that today's ceremony is held at the time when all the people in the Czech Republic celebrate the 16th anniversary of the Velvet Revolution which has actually ended the totalitarian regime in the former Czechoslovakia. This has enabled our nation to return to the democratic world, which we have always considered the Czech nation belong."

COL Vodehnal stated in his speech that the presence of the Czech representatives during this mission is one of the signs that they have successfully fulfilled all democratic standards to include their membership in organizations once as NATO and the EU.

"The role of the Czech Contingent



within the KFOR and MNB C structures is now even more important since the Czech Republic has become a MNB C lead nation. It is actually happening for the first time in its history. Let me also thank the other MNB C nations. Without the great support of the Finnish, Irish, Latvian, Slovakian and Swedish soldiers our task and the role of the

MNB C lead nation would be much more difficult to conduct," said COL Vodehnal.

Almost 300 Czech soldiers received the Non Article 5 NATO medal. The ceremony ended with the Czech national anthem and all guests and participants were invited for the reception organized by the Czech Contingent.



Latvian so

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

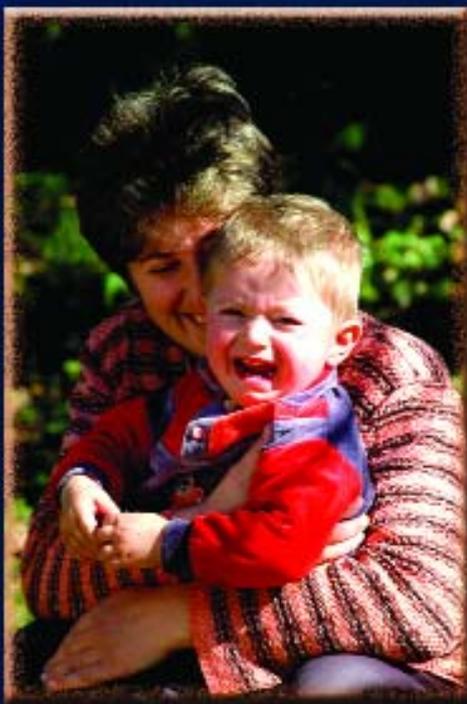
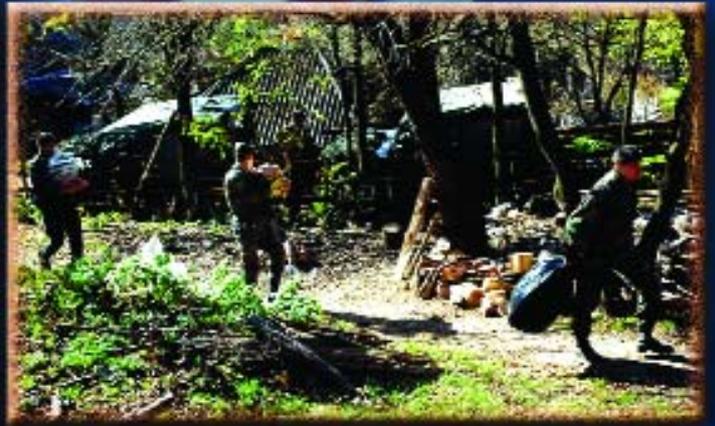
Winter in the mountains can be quite unforgiving. "The weather high in the mountains is very changeable," said 1st LT Vasilijs Kolegovs, scout platoon leader, Baltic Squadron, Latvian Contingent, MNB NE.

"Although, the situation within AOR seems to be calm, it is like the weather, you never know what chal-

lenge will occur during the day. When we go out of the camp early in the morning, we must be prepared, and we are. We are able to stay in the mountains without assistance or additional supplies for 7 days on our own," said 1st LT Kolegovs.

Surviving in the mountains is especially difficult for residents within the AOR of Latvian Contingent. Each winter it becomes more difficult to access villages within the Zubin Potok municipality. This is why, the

Latvian patrol, under the command of 1st LT Kolegovs, delivered field rations and canned goods to the families in three of these villages on November 10. Unfortunately, due to a shortage of transportation, the local social welfare office cannot provide the necessary support to these families in the mountains. "My husband died in an accident two months ago. I have an 18-month old baby-girl and I really need this food to make a reserve for winter," said a



cial patrol

single mother from the small village of Oklace, as soldiers delivered the food to her house.

1st LT Kolegovs explained to each family the kind of food the soldiers brought them, what they should use first, as well as the expiration date for canned products. He also asked the people about their needs and concerns; he will then provide this information to the social service office of the municipality.

"I want to give an advise to my suc-

cessor," said Sgt. Andis Ofkants, section leader, Baltic Squadron. "He should be prepared to work with local people. He should know every family in his AOR. Every day he should come to the people and speak with them. That is the way to keep the situation under control. He will not hear but feel if something will go wrong."

The patrolling and distribution of the food ended without incident.

"Latvian Contingent was deployed

to Kosovo in 1999. We have learned many lessons since that time. My soldiers were prepared for the war, however, here you should not only be military but also a diplomat and fight in the people's minds not only in the field," said CPT Ilmars Denevs, Contingent Commander. "This will ensure the necessary conditions for a successful mission which one discipline, professionalism and teamwork, are carried out."



Vanatori de Munte - the Mountain

**Text by 1st LT Maksym Nedria
Ukrainian Army
Photos by Armend Aqifi and
Romanian Contingent**

The Carpathians' Eagles assumed authority of Romanian Contingent AOR, MNB SW in August. "We are the first detachment of Mountain Hunters deployed to Kosovo. The number of mountain troops is ninety," said CAP Daniel Olteanu, Contingent Commander.

The Mountain Hunters are one of the oldest types of units in the Romanian Armed Forces. This is a special branch that is dedicated to mountain warfare. On November 3, 1916 the 1st Mountain Corps was established, opening a significant chapter in the history of the elite branch "Vanatori de Munte" (Mountain Hunters).

The Mountain Hunters are an elite part of the infantry. Under the command of the Ground Forces, their specialties are fighting in mountainous and difficult terrain. However, they handle combat as well in forest, hills or even flat ground and desert. The Mountain Hunters are divided into three categories, 3rd class, 2nd



class and the most elite, 1st class. Being 1st class Mountain Hunters requires a 1st class climbing license, a transmissions license, a graduation of the Mountain Special Missions course of the Mountain Hunters Application School in Predeal and a graduation of the cold survival-training course.

Most of the mountains troopers are selected from a rural background and they are native of areas around the Carpathian Mountains, where the Mountain Hunters' base is located. Therefore, most of them already had

experience in rock climbing and skiing. The Mountain Hunters thrive in rough environment. They are well trained to move stealthy through mountainous terrain; they have both physical and psychological endurance. They can operate completely alone behind enemy lines, however, teamwork and unit cohesion are key to their success.

Nowadays, the Mountain Hunters train on a regular basis with special units, such as the US Navy SEAL, SAS, KCT, RMC, Italian Alpine warfare forces, Greek and Turkish



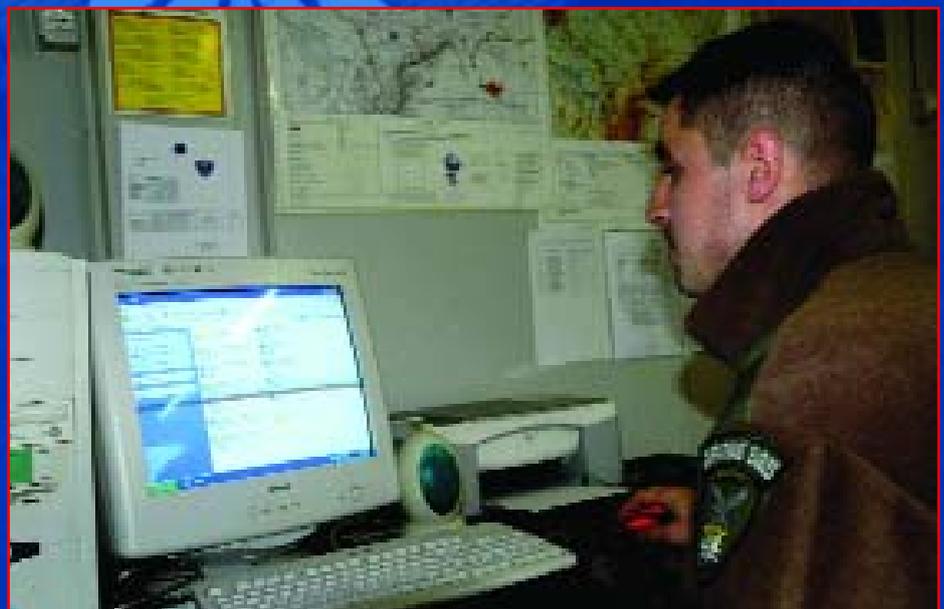
Hunters

Special Forces.

According to the Contingent Commander, in Kosovo, Carpathians' Eagles integrate into the routine KFOR duties, such as patrolling principle and secondary routes; fixed and mobile check-points; fixed observation posts; escorting local population and guarding of Camp Gorazdevac.

"Besides combat duties, Romanian Contingent provides medical assistance for Italian and Romanian personnel of the camp, as well for local population. More than five hundred residents of the AOR have received the medical assistant from the beginning of our mission," said CPT Olteanu.

"Daily, Romanian soldiers provide secure environment for the local population. We are small detachment but our contribution here is vitally important within this multiethnic AOR. We are the link between the communities and we are the link toward peaceful future for population of Kosovo," said CPT Mihail Zafiu, operations and public relation officer, Romanian Contingent.



'Play it safe

'The military kill more people through
type of Military Oper

By MAJ Jo Schöpf, PhD, AUT-A
Photos by Armend Aqifi and KFOR IMP

Your duties in Kosovo may take you through some dangerous driving conditions this winter. Stay alert, slow down and stay in full control at all times - three key elements to safe winter driving. The following defensive winter driving tips may help you to avoid a road traffic accident.

Do not drive if you do not have to! If driving is a must leave early. Give yourself extra time for travel.

Take good care of your vehicle during the winter and pack the right supplies.

Fuel tank: Keep your tank sufficiently full - at least three quarters of a tank is recommended. A full tank of diesel/gas gives your car more weight. If you are caught in a snowstorm or traffic delay, it could also mean staying warm instead of freezing.

Seat belt: Keep your seat belt buckled at all times

Weather and travel conditions: Always check before heading out. Drive according to current road and weather conditions. In case travel conditions are too dangerous wait until they improve.

REDUCE YOUR SPEED! When approaching shaded areas, bridges and overpasses, which are likely to be icy before the road does and stay frozen long after the sun has risen. Also, slow down while approaching intersections covered with ice or snow. Avoid sudden changes in speed or direction. Decelerate well in advance of a stopping point or turn. Posted speed limits are for ideal travel conditions only.

Ice: "Black ice" is invisible! Watch out for black and shiny looking areas of the road. You can lose control of your car suddenly. Slow down, keep your foot off the brake while crossing these areas.

Snowy Roads: Snow on the road can be soft and smooth. Or, it may be hard-packed, full of hard tracks and slippery as ice. Wet snow as in spring or when the temperature is rising makes slushy roads. Heavy slush can affect your ability to steer. Slow down!

Visibility: It's critical for drivers to see and be seen in low-light conditions, and when blowing snow and darkness impair your visibility. Turn on your vehicle's full lighting system in poor visibility.

Steering: Be patient. Steer with precise and smooth movements. Always look far ahead as you drive so you can recognize dangerous situations and react in time. Changing lanes too quickly, accelerating or jerky steering while breaking can cause skidding. Pass other cars only when it is safe to do so.

Spacing: Keep a safe distance between you and the car ahead of you. In winter, and especially during poor weather conditions, at least 4 seconds to give yourself adequate time to stop. Stopping distance on an icy road is double that of stopping on a dry one. For example, from around 45 meters (140 ft) at the speed of 60 km/h, to 80 meters (over 260 ft) on an icy road surface.

Braking: Avoid using brakes while turning. Avoid un-necessary stops or situations where you may have to brake suddenly on a slippery surface. You may lose control. Make sure you know how to use your braking system in all road and weather conditions.

Brake gently and in an on/off pattern. Use brakes with caution. Brakes require an especially light touch on the pedal. Abrupt braking can cause brake lock-up, which causes you to lose steering control.

Attention: If you have **ABS** (automatic braking system) continuous pedal pressure will be better than on/off braking. For a proper use of **antilock brakes** you should apply constant, firm pressure to the pedal. During an emergency stop, push the brake pedal all the way to the floor, even in wet or icy conditions.

- Slow down'

h Road Traffic Accidents than in any
ation' (Daily Telegraph)

Skidding: In a breakaway, it's important to get back control of your vehicle. If it swerves sideways, decelerate by taking your foot off the brake, step on the clutch or shift to neutral. Then steer in that direction where you want the vehicle to go.

Special Tip: Use your four-way flashers if you are moving much slower than other traffic, making an unusual maneuver, or being stopped in or near a traffic lane.

Never forget: Don't panic if you get stuck or stranded. If you are in an area with cell phone service and have a cell phone, call for help. Stay in your vehicle for warmth and safety while waiting for help to arrive. Be careful if you have to get out of your vehicle. Use the door away from the road.



KFOR CHRONICLE

Happy Birthday 'TU FELIX'

AUSTRIA



For Austria, 2005 is a year of various jubilees and anniversaries:

60 years since the end of World War two and the re-establishment of the Austrian Republic

50 years since the Treaty of Vienna that granted Austria its sovereignty and ended the decade of Allied occupation, also

50 years of membership in the United Nations and

10 years of membership in the European Union, as well as **10** years of participation in NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP).



By Maj. Jo Schöpf, PhD, AUT A
Photos by Armend Aqifi and
Austrian MOD

On October 26 Austria celebrated the 50th anniversary of its Armed Forces with a huge anniversary parade in Vienna. The first one conducted on the "Wiener Ringstrasse", since 1995. At exactly 14:45 hrs the commanding general LG Mag. Edmund Entacher reported to the Austrian head of state Dr. Heinz Fischer the beginning of the great parade. More than 4,000 soldiers, over 100 military working dogs and horses, approximately 195 tanks, 484 military vehicles and 100 aircrafts participated at the parade with a total length of 7,510 meters. Thousands of visitors enjoyed the celebration in the town center of Vienna, which lasted for more than one hour. There was also a lot to see indeed, such as soldiers of the WW II Allies, trooping the colours, action

>>> Page 20 >>>



KFOR CHRONICLE

shows, Euro fighters, Black Hawks, radar sets, anti-aircraft weapons, equipment of the engineers, field kitchens, frogmen, special forces, alpine troops, Military music and many more. More than 1.1 million visitors participated at the anniversary celebrations held in Innsbruck, Graz and Vienna.

The Austrian "Task Force Dulje" also celebrated this very special Austrian National day with a parade held in Camp Casablanca. At 11:00 hrs, local time, the task force commander LTC Reinhard Kunert welcomed numerous guests of honour. The Austrian National Contingent Commander COL (GS) Markus Koller and Mag. Alexander Bayerl, Head of the Austrian Office in Pristina held the speeches that day. After that, the military working dogs performed an impressive action show. Then, the 1st Armored Infantry Coy held a parade on the Tegethoff Square. Finally all military vehicles of the Austrian, German and Swiss Contingents were on display. The celebration was a big success and ended late into night.

"Bella gerant alii, tu felix Austria nube!" (Emperor Maximilian I)
"Let others wage war, you - happy Austria - marry!"



HQ KFOR Provost Marshal

LTC C.M.B. Wichers, NL Royal Marechaussee, has been in theatre since October 10. I am proud to serve here till April 10, 2006.

In my opinion KFOR has at least two missions, first to ensure the safe and secure environment and second to ensure all soldiers return home after successfully accomplishing their KFOR mission. The Military Police provides valuable support to all commanders and KFOR soldiers by preventing, warning and reporting wrongdoings. The MPs act as the special police advisor to all commanders.

One responsibility of every Provost Marshal is to discuss these issues at monthly meetings with all KFOR police unit commanders. Besides conduct normal patrolling activities, MPs plan and conduct separate preventive traffic controls Kosovo-wide. At the moment we prepare an oversight with all the route traffic accidents hotspots in Kosovo and continue to pay close attention to them. Also, we hope to work with KPS on this project in the future.

We would like to inform everyone about how to prevent an accident. However, in case of an unforeseen accident or incident the attached card will provide necessary instructions on what to do. Also, you should inform the MP station who will also address this issue.

Most importantly, every KFOR sol-



dier should be aware that an MP from every nation can stop them, and have their ID cards checked; and every KFOR soldier is allowed to check IDs. If an MP officer found evidence of wrongdoing, this officer reports the evidence to the national MP. For instance, in case of suspected drunk-driving this will result in the car being stopped until the national

MP arrives to investigate. However, since the allowed amount of blood alcohol is 0.0 KFOR soldiers may use instruments of the controlling MP to prove their innocence to prevent unnecessary waiting time. For security and safety reasons KFOR and NATO rules take precedence over national law.



Italian National Unity



By LT Sara de Miguel
Spanish Army
Photos by 1st LT Maksym Nedria
Ukrainian Army

On November 4, 1918, after forty months of ordeal, the armistice of Villa Giusti ended the Great War. Italy emerged from the devastating conflict exhausted but victorious. The sacrifice of the Army in Isonzo, Carso, Pasubio, Ortigara, Grappa, Piave; the abnegation of the Navy, who ensured the control over the Adriatic sea and the valour of the first pilots, showed the strength of the Italian Armed Forces. With the victory of 1918 Italy was finally unified and the national Risorgimento was accomplished. In the day of the National Unit, the Armed Forces renew their gratitude and memories to those soldiers who were the protagonists of a fundamental event in the History.

Italian Army celebrated the National



and Armed Forces Day

Unity and Armed Forces Day on November 6 in Camp "Villaggio Italia", Belo Polje.

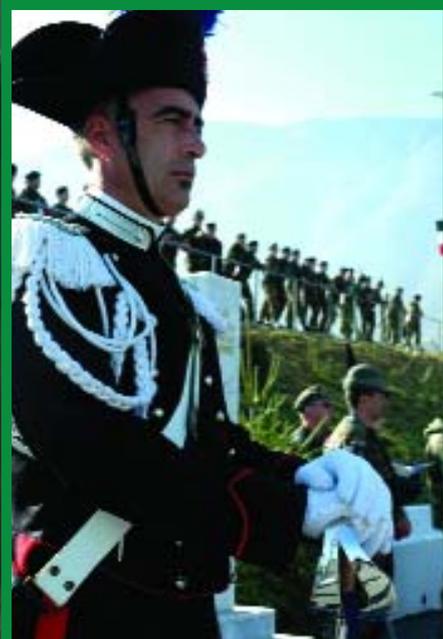
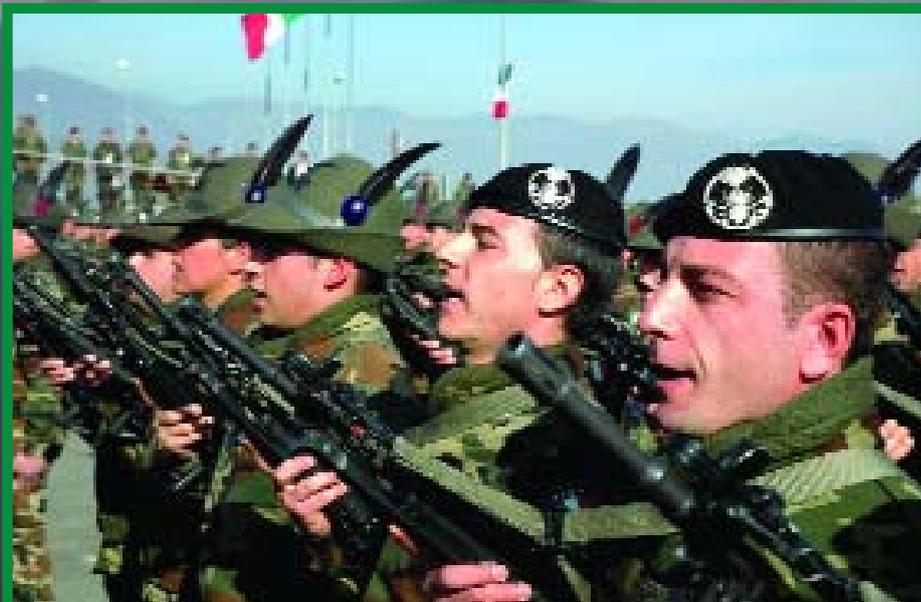
The ceremony was presided over by the highest Italian national authority in Kosovo, COMKFOR Lieutenant General Valotto, in presence of military, civilian and religious authorities attending such an important day.

After the inspection of the troops, the ceremony started by honoring the Colours of the 5th "Alpini Regiment", under the command of Colonel Ornello Baron.

In speeches of the President of the Italian Republic and the Italian Ministry of Defense they expressed their sincere and affectionate greetings to the soldiers and how the Nation is particularly close and deeply grateful to them.

In his speech, LTG Valotto, talked about the big transformation that has taken place in the Italian Army in the last two decades. He also mentioned the countries where their Army is currently deployed throughout the world.

After the ceremony, the guests were invited to view the static exhibition showing various Italian military material and equipment. To conclude the day, a generous cocktail was served, profiting on the wonderful Italian food made in Villaggio Italia.





Orienteering

**Text and photos by 1st LT Maksym Nedria,
Ukrainian Army**

Emulative spirit joins challengers. Everyone tried to do their utmost to get the best result while considering the others as counterparts. That was the aim of the organizers, to provide an opportunity to youngsters from different ethnic communities, a common experience and mutual emotions.

The orienteering competition was held on November 19 in Kamenica. "Many organizations contributed to the event, they are OSCE offices in Pristina and Gnjilane, KFOR HQ J9, MNB E Civil Affairs, Kosovo Youth Assembly and Kosovo Mountain Sport Federation. Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Serbs participated together," said one of the organizers, LTC Jose Pardo de Santayana, HQ KFOR J9 CH LNO.

Before starting the competition, each participant was given a map with a route and compass. The route had 15 control points, which they had to locate.

"You will also get the description of the places where the control points are established from the field judge, such as top of a hill, crossroads and stream. The runners have to depart every 2 or 3 minutes and make the course alone without help from other participants. Length of the route is 4 km. The winner will be the participant, which will find all of the control points in a shortest time," LTC de Santayana briefed the participants.

According to LTC de Santayana, 60 young people between 15 and 19 years old took part in the training. Forty-three of them arrived for the competition. They are





Competition

from Podujevo, Gnjilane and Kamenica municipalities.

"This is the first time I took part in an orienteering competition. The weather is not very favourable but I am ready to face this challenge. My friends are here and nobody is going to stay out the event," said Tatjana Androjevic, Big Ropotovo village, Kamenica municipality. "I am an orienteering runner since 1983. I am a member of an orienteering club in Madrid and I practice this sport with my family, my wife and four children. In my club, I am responsible for the training of new members. I believe that orienteering sport is very educational both physically and intellectually," said LTC de Santayana.

The winner crossed the finish line in 34 min. It was Christian Gashi from Gnjilane. Cross-country and harsh weather conditions made him really tired, nonetheless, in several minutes he was smiling and shared his experience. Valmir Krasniqi placed second time with a 40 min 20 sec. Third place won Ibadete Ajeti from Podujevo, who finished her race in 46 min 57 sec.

"The J9 is now working together with OSCE to bring five participants for a week of orienteering to Spain in February. The aim of this trip is to give the necessary knowledge and motivation to the participants, so that they could conduct this kind of sport in Kosovo themselves in the future," said LTC de Santayana.

"Developing multinational welfare activities in Kosovo, we keep the children from the streets, we contribute into the future of Kosovo and we help the local community," said COL Charles Iadimarco, US Army, Chief Civil Affairs, Camp Bondsteel.



American Peacekeepers Help

By **TECH SGT Claudette Hutchinson, US Air Force**
Photos by **1st Lt Maksym Nedria, Ukrainian Army**

Their eyes have lost their luster. And their vacant and distant stares are enough to melt even the coldest heart.

The people in Kosovo yearn for life's most basic needs, silently crying for help from anyone who will hear them.

But their silent cry has not gone unnoticed. The Airmen, Soldiers, Marine and Sailors of the Kosovo Force are listening. They providing much-needed humanitarian aid to local families like the Novo Brdo municipality.

Steering the project in the Novo Brdo municipality is Army 1st Lt. Melanie Meyer. She is the public information liaison officer deployed from the 135th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment at Camp Dodge, Iowa. Although she inherited the project,



she now calls it her own.

"Growing up, my parents always taught me the gift of giving. They were foster parents. So I remember many children coming to our home with absolutely nothing. I realized at an early age how lucky I was, and vowed I would always do whatever I could to help the less fortunate,"

Lieutenant Meyer said.

Since taking over the project in February, the Americans have completed more than 10 missions within Novo Brdo. They work closely with the UN Military Mission in Kosovo and social welfare offices in the municipalities.

The cooperation between the UN and American KFOR volunteers has made a significant impact for the families.

"This is a multi-ethnic project. I always work through the municipalities to ensure the donations are being distributed fairly to all ethnic groups. They provide me with a list of the most vulnerable families who need assistance," the lieutenant said.

Nivechita Haran, the UN military mission's Novo Brdo municipality representative, credits Lieutenant Meyer for making the project so successful. "It is well organized and the people are very happy with the help. Many families come back to say thanks. It is very special for their children to receive much-needed items," she said.

Donations come from program supporters in the United States. Donations are sent the by service-member's families, friends, churches and more than 14 humanitarian organizations. They send between five and 10 boxes of supplies each week.

"It is truly beyond belief the way com-



Helping Families in Kosovo

munities back home got together to help communities here. A lot of these people have nothing and would not be able to survive without some assistance," the lieutenant said.

Coordinating a project of this magnitude is no small feat. It takes cooperation between UN and KFOR personnel, local municipalities and U.S. aid agencies.

But the reactions from the people getting the help are worth every challenge.

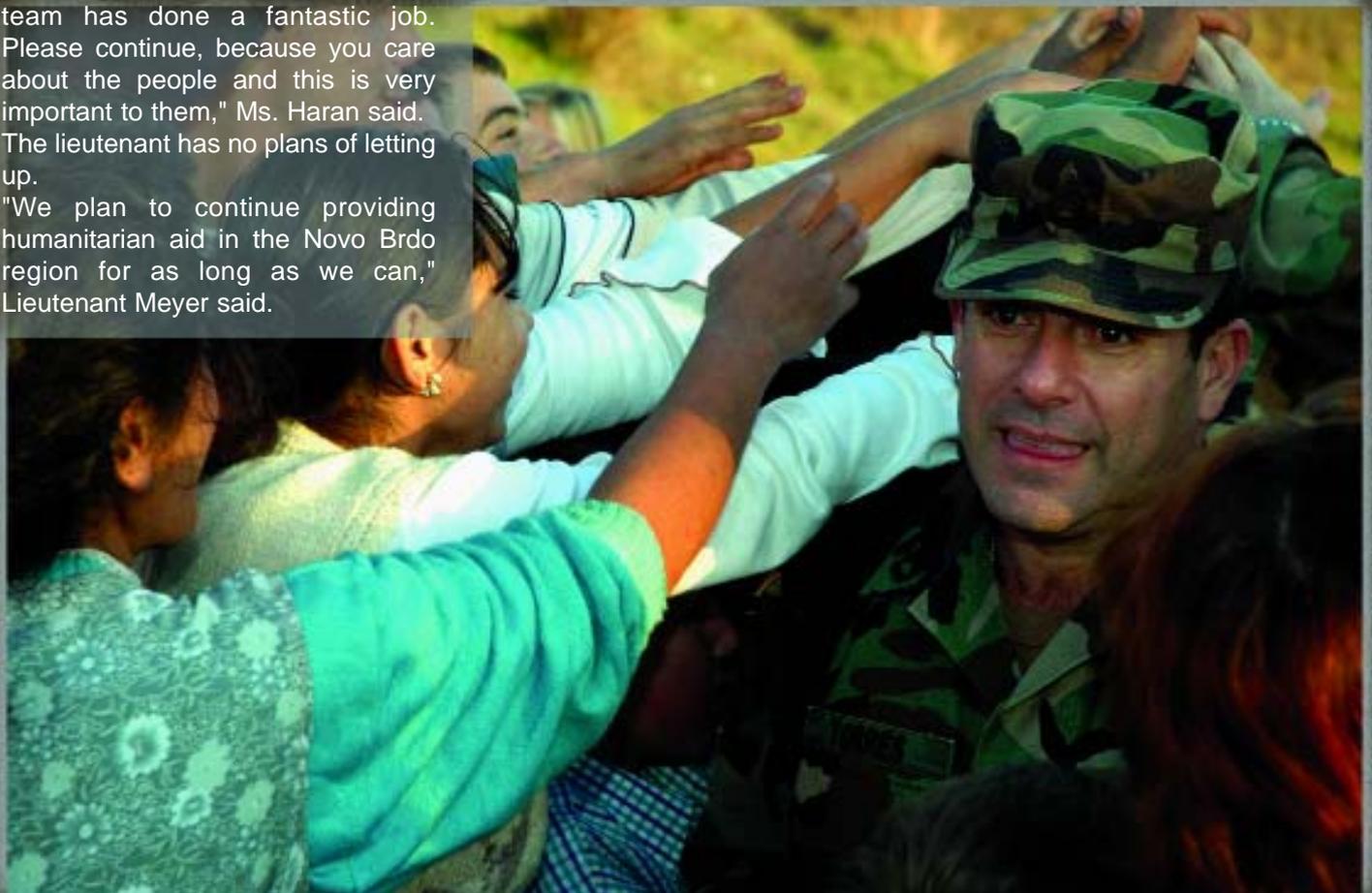
"I feel very passionate about this project. Coordinating these missions is a lot of work, but the reward of seeing the faces of the people light up is worth the effort," Lieutenant Meyer said.

There is still a lot to do. But each day the municipality inches closer towards self-sufficiency.

Ms. Haran said the United Nations will turn over responsibilities for coordinating humanitarian efforts to the Novo Brdo municipality social welfare office. It has performed well and is ready to take over, she said.

"I think Lieutenant Meyer and her team has done a fantastic job. Please continue, because you care about the people and this is very important to them," Ms. Haran said. The lieutenant has no plans of letting up.

"We plan to continue providing humanitarian aid in the Novo Brdo region for as long as we can," Lieutenant Meyer said.



A Small Gesture a Great Commitment

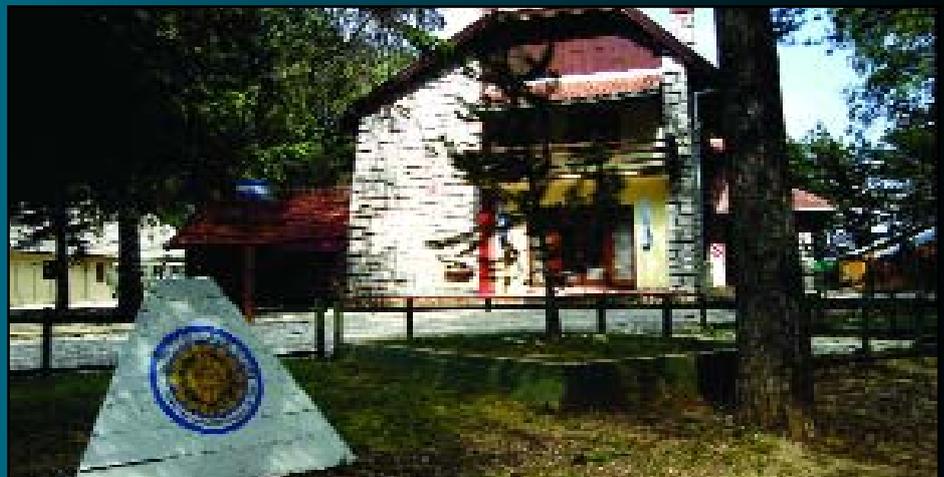


By MAJ Claudio C. Cervigni
CICKO 11

The Argentinean Eleventh Joint Engineers Company (CICKO 11) deployed to Kosovo on May 15 as a part of the MNB SW.

Combining the personnel of three Armed Forces, this very specific company has managed to adapt quickly to the new operative and geographical conditions. Acting under tactical control of a Multinational Engineer Task Force "Astro", the CICKO 11 is situated in an old hunting residence of Marshal Tito, near Pec.

Reconstruction and improvement of buildings, civilian and military routes, bridges reconnaissance, checkpoints and patrolling are some of the tasks of the contingent. These tasks incorporate the valuable experience of operating in a complicated environment, while sharing knowledge with members of other contingents. Besides, the Argentinean Contingent also dedicated to humanitarian projects. The "Bedri Pejani" college is a multiethnic institution that provides education of primary and secondary level. Unfortunately, the conditions of the college are not good enough. Therefore, soldiers of the contingent donated money to purchase two modern computers, as well as to pay for their Internet connection, which



has been cut for three years. The ceremony of donation was held on October 18.

College director and Principal of the municipality did not hide their praises and gratefulness during their

speeches. But, the smiles of the children and students gathered for the ceremony were the best reward for the Argentineans. Local media covered the event.



A Ghoulish Night

By TECH SGT Claudette Hutchinson, US Air Force

It was a ghoulish night in Film City on October 31, as HQ KFOR US personnel celebrate the tradition of Halloween.

This Halloween was a special one for the Americans currently working at HQ KFOR. It provided them a unique opportunity to share this custom with friends and coworkers from various other nations.

However, while today Halloween is widely adopted and celebrated in the US, its origins are not very American, but originate from the Irish Celts.

Many Halloween customs predate Christianity, going back to Celtic practices associated with Nov. 1, the beginning of winter and the Celtic New Year. Held on Oct. 31, the eve of All Saints' Day, the holiday grew out of the Celts celebrating a new year.

Witches and other evil spirits were believed to roam the earth on this evening, playing tricks to mark the season of diminishing sunlight. Today, survivals of these early practices are found in countries of Celtic influence, such as the United States where children go door to door in scary costumes demanding "trick or treat."

Nevertheless, this opportunity to transform into the scariest witches and goblins; prince and princesses or their favorite superstars is not lost on just the children. The tradition has seeped deep into the fabric of the



American tradition for both children and adults alike. On this day most people take the opportunity to explore their inner demon, by transforming into evil creatures that roam the night. It is also a tradition in the military to start the day with a 5K fun-run, and if mission permits, some people are given the opportunity to dress in costumes, and take part in "trick or treat," events with the children.

This was also evident during the Halloween celebrations at HQ KFOR, as Soldier, Sailors, Marine and Airmen from various nations shed their military camouflage and took on appearances of witches and vampires, a feline and a Geisha girl. Superman also made an appearance, to save the day.

"It was very nice to celebrate this occasion with the Americans. When I return to France I will tell my children that I celebrated real American Halloween," said Maj. Valrie-Claire Bermond, HQ KFOR PIO deputy spokesperson (French Army). Maj. Bermond was the winner of the best makeup contest.

The US Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center coordinator planned and coordinated the event, beginning with the 5K run.

This and other traditional US customs, and holiday events are planned and held at the center periodically. This allows US HQ KFOR personnel to continue to embrace their customs and traditions during their mission abroad. It also provides a sense of "home away from home," while they continue their very important mission here in Kosovo, of supporting NATO in providing a safe and secure environment for the people of Kosovo. As the celebrations ended, everyone seemed to take pleasure in sharing this unique American experience.

Now, it was midnight, and the witches scurried off on their brooms, felines scampered to their homes, and vampires dodged the light of daybreak; miraculously, reappearing as Sailors, Soldiers, Airmen and Marines.



Peacekeeper's Profile

Name: Serge NICOLAS
Rank: Major
Age: 42
Unit in Kosovo: JENG
Unit in France: EMF4 (G3 Section Chief in Land Headquarters)

Spare time: You can meet me in the gym, in the French NSE or in one of our restaurants.

About the mission: I am a staff officer in the JEng Branch and I have been here since 24 July 2005. This is my second tour in Kosovo, my first one was in 2003, and it is the second time that I have worked as project officer for all main supply roads in the theater. That means I check more than 800 km of roads and manage all the necessary construction work. Of course I miss my family and I am eager to see my wife and my three children in south west of France where we live.



Peacekeeper's Profile

Name: Vasilij KOLEGOVS
Rank: 1st Lieutenant
Age: 33
Unit In Kosovo: Platoon leader
Unit In Latvia: Mobile infantry battalion

About the mission: Challenge, challenge, challenge...new environment, many nations, many points of view about the solving of some problems and tasks, many previous experiences, many different techniques, procedures and so on, but one goal - peace and security for a better future. In this mission three key words for me are: team, trust and attitude.

Here in Kosovo, people should live together for their children, regardless of nationality, religion and political preferences. NATO shows us the best example how different nations and religions may cooperate for common aim.

Family reaction: I am soldier and my destiny is to be where it is necessary for my country and my army. My family respects my missions and supports me. I am proud of them. I am married; my daughter is 11 years old, she is amazing. My wife understands how important this mission for people of Kosovo and I am blessed for that. I miss them and look forward to reuniting with my family. After Kosovo: ...new challenges.



Peacekeeper's Profile

Name: Olaru Constantin DANUT
Rank: 1st Lieutenant
Date of Birth: 13 July 1976
Unit In Kosovo: 1st Romanian Mountain Company
Home Unit: 30th Mountain Battalion

About mission: This is my first mission and I think I will gain a lot of useful experience. I believe that this mission will give me, as well my brothers-in-arms, more self-confident. It will enhance the company's value and will allow us to perform our duties better. The presence of our company in Kosovo contributes towards a better future for the population. We are honored to live together and to work side by side with the Italian soldiers from 4th Italian "Carri" battalion.

Family Reaction: I am very glad, because my family's reaction is very supportive. It was a great challenge for my wife to accept our separation, because our daughter is only 1 year old. When I left our home my daughter was starting to walk. Now, she runs and asks about daddy.

After the mission: Like every soldier abroad, I wish to accomplish the mission successfully and return to my country ready for the next mission.

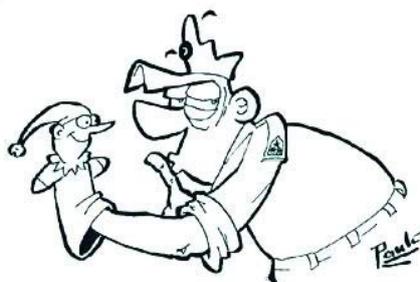




CIMIC - Officer



DUTY - Officer



J2 @ Work

Peacekeeper's Profile

Name: Frank PRENDERGAST

Rank: OR-9

Home Unit: 1st Field Artillery Regiment

Actual Branch: Battery Sergeant with Number 1 Gun Battery

Previous activity: Three tours to LEBANON. Two tours to CYPRUS. One tour to IRAN

Country: Ireland

Where I live: Ballincollig 10km west of Cork city.

Where I work: Site Manager, Headquarters Support Group.

Why I'm in Kosovo. To gain experience and test myself working with multinationals as a sergeant major.

How was the reaction of my family: My wife and children (3) gave me all their support in coming to Kosovo. Although it was heartbreaking to leave them, regular phone calls keep me up to speed with what is happening in their lives. They knew I would be home on leave as well. I take this opportunity to thank them for their support. Knowing the situation was calm here helped a lot as well.

Future plan after my tour: Resume my post in the Regiment; get back to golfing and watching my children play sports.



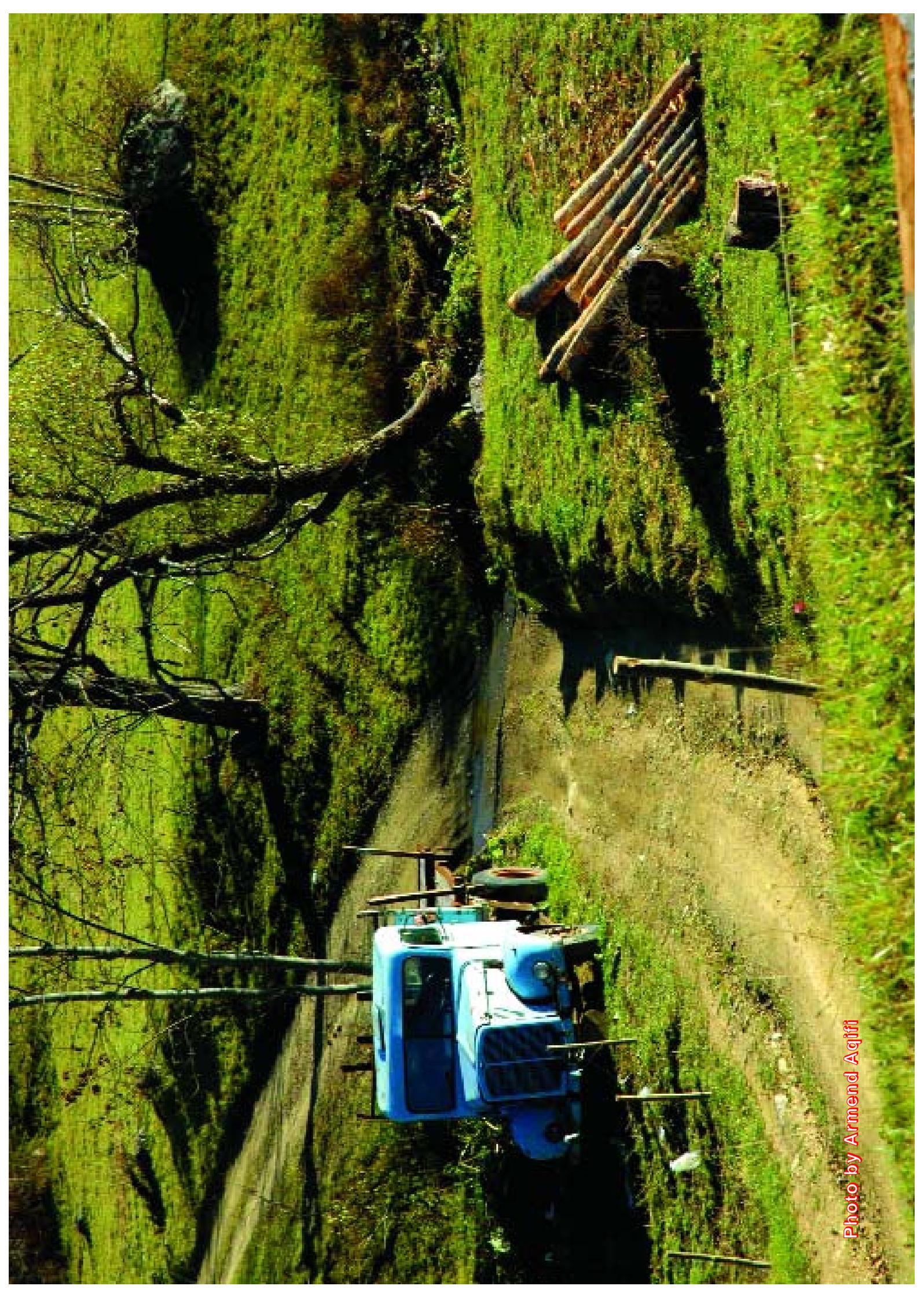


Photo by Armend Aqiri