

KFOR CHRONICLE



February 28, 2006

Edition 2



New KFOR Chronicle Editor in Chief

KFOR members,

My name is Major Heimo Gruber and I am the HQ's new Chief of Internal Information and editor in chief of the KFOR Chronicle magazine. I come from Graz, in the county of Styria, in southeast Austria.

My original professional background, beside my officer's career, is that of a radio speaker and journalist, which almost logically brought me into the military public information business.

This is already my fifth deployment to Kosovo, which means I really like to work in this theatre. My previous functions were mainly in the public relations branch. I served one tour with Task Force Dulje in Suva Reka and three times at the HQs of MNB (SW) in Prizren.

I would like to thank my predecessors for the great job they have done. That provided an excellent foundation for me to take over.

The KFOR Chronicle should be attractive to KFOR members of all nations and ranks. Achieving that is my major objective for this tour.

There are two people who contribute with impressive professionalism and commitment to the publication of our Chronicle:

The team's journalist 1st Lieutenant Maksym Nedria (UKR Army) carries much of the journalistic workload, while our professional photographer Mr. Armend Aqifi is also responsible for the magazine's lay out.

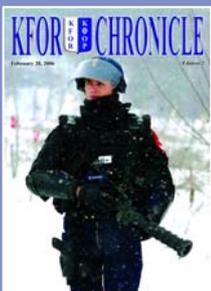
My special thanks go to SSgt Kurt Arkenberg (US Air force), who, beside his PIO special studies job, provides invaluable support by proofreading every single article in our publication.

I very much look forward to working shoulder by shoulder with my colleagues in order to offer you a KFOR Chronicle worth reading.

Major Heimo Gruber, AUT Army



KFOR CHRONICLE



Cover photo by Mr. Armend Aqifi

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PIO HQ KFOR reserves the right to edit content to conform to style and space requirements. Articles run on a space-available basis.

Nations within KFOR:

HO KFOR

Canada
Estonia
Hungary
Netherlands
Norway
Portugal
United Kingdom

MNTE (C)

Czech Republic
Finland
Ireland
Latvia
Slovakia
Sweden

MNTE (N)

France
Belgium
Denmark
Greece
Latvia
Luxembourg
Mongolia
Morocco

MNB (E)

United States of America
Armenia
Greece
Lithuania
Poland
Ukraine

MNB (SW)

Italy
Argentina
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bulgaria
Georgia
Germany
Hungary
Romania
Slovenia
Spain
Switzerland
Turkey

New DCOMKFOR

Rank & Full Name: Major General Philippe SOMMAIRE

Branch & Service: Air defence Artillery

Education: French Military Academy of SAINT CYR
National College of Advanced Technologies
Higher Missile Course
War College
Joint Services Command and Staff College

Assignment in France: Commander of Force HQ Nr.1, Besançon

Deployments: SFOR / Bosnia Herzegovina, 2002, Division Commander

Marital Status: Married to Karola, two sons

Which expectations and objectives do you have for your tour with KFOR ?

“Following the example of my predecessors I would like to add my contribution to the positive process we have been building on for five years. In this way, we want to ensure the Kosovo population that they continue to know peace and prosperity.”

Do you have a personal motto or some basic principles?

“As a soldier, I have made it a rule to lean on the simplest principles in everyday life. Keeping things simple assures understanding and thereby avoids miscommunication.”



New DCOS SUPPORT

Rank & Full Name: Colonel Michael ASLANIDIS

Branch & Service: Special Forces

Assignment in Greece: Cdr of the Hellenic Arms Control Verification Center

Marital Status: Married, one daughter

Which expectations and objectives do you have for your tour with KFOR?

“On one hand, my plans are to contribute, with my own ideas, to make logistic matters even more efficient and cost effective. On the other hand, I will benefit a lot from sharing knowledge and expertise with my international colleagues here in the HQ. I want Logistics to become more and more a multinational issue.

Furthermore, I wish to ensure the best possible living conditions for our troops Kosovo-wide.”

Do you have a personal motto or some basic principles?

“If we fully and frankly stand and work together, shoulder-by-shoulder, aiming at one common objective, we can achieve almost anything for the people of Kosovo.”

What are your interests and hobbies beside your duty/career?

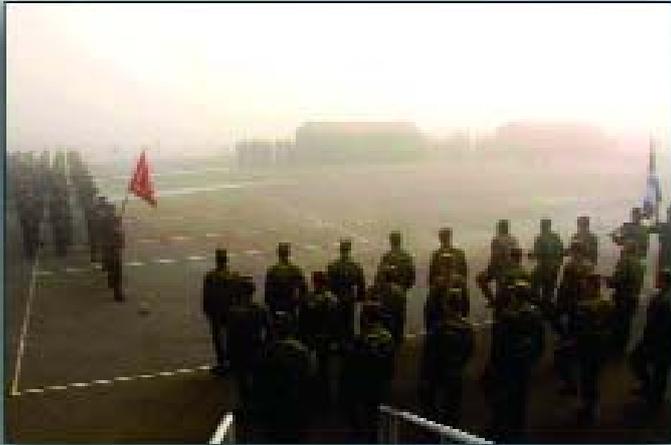
“I like documentaries and books dealing with history. They help me understand the politics of the past and present times. As an example, I find it interesting to study the fateful decisions of famous Generals and the results those decisions have on history.

As soon as the weather favours outdoor activities, I will go running and play basketball, which is my favourite sport. “



MINTF N Change o

Brigadier General Margueron



of Command

assumes command at Task Force North



**By Lt D. Roubaud, French Army
Photos by Armend Aqifi**

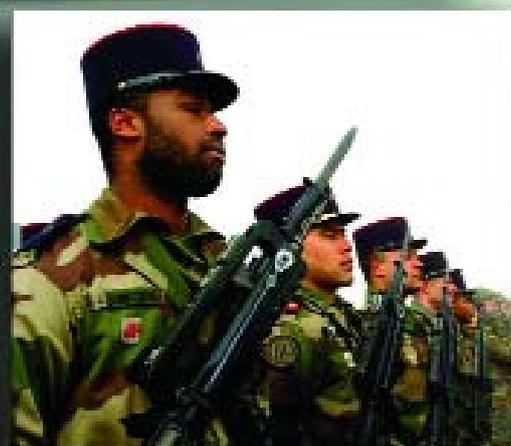
The transfer of authority took place at Multinational Task Force North February 3 when Brigadier General Margueron took over from outgoing Brigadier General Stoltz in Camp Belvedere.

Surrounded by thick fog, members of the two battalions composing the MNTF N lined up on the parade square. Guards of honour and flags were in position. More than 350 military and civilian officials were present to attend the transfer of authority ceremony between BG Philippe Stoltz and BG Jean-Philippe Margueron.

Around 10 a.m. COMKFOR passed and reviewed the formation of troops.

While thanking General Stoltz, COMKFOR, General Giuseppe Valotto, expressed his satisfaction concerning the work done by the 20th Mandate and assured to deeply trust the 21st would continue the successful work. BG Margueron echoed the general's statements assuring the attendees he would continue the good work of his predecessor.

The transfer of authority followed two new battalion commanders' arrival. Both the French and Greek battalions received new commanders in late January. Colonel Walter Lalubin was posted to the French battalion command on January 19, whereas Colonel Symeon KEVENTZIDIS, took over the command of the Greek battalion January 20.



CRC Course for Tactical

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



Theoretical part in KFOR HQ, Film City with:

- J3 Conops presentation on Red-Blue Box KFOR Concept;
- LEGAD presentation on ROE;
- PsyOps role during CRC operations;
- MSU presentation on CRC experience.

As a conclusion of a sequence of some KFOR CRC activities, they are:

- "Balkan Hawk" CRC exercises October 5, 28;
- KFOR CRC seminars every three-months;
- MNBs/MNTFs training and exercises;
- a CRC course was carried out for tactical level key players February 9.

Aiming to spread knowledge of KFOR Rules of Engagement (ROE) and of concept of CRC operations and in order to share KFOR CRC experience, the course consisted of theoretical and practical parts.

Involved personnel:

- 130 students - CRC companies and platoon leaders from MNBs/MNTFs;
- 70 security troops from MSU battalion;
- 40 rioter players from KTM battalion;
- one Tactical PsyOps Team;
- one Combat Camera Team.



actical Level Key Players



Practical demonstration in Camp Vrelo was performed by MSU and KTM troops. During this part of the course, security troops performed a step-by-step reaction for a situation has been escalating by rioters in accordance with KFOR rules.



Training For Ea

Forces train airb
capabilities



A "Huey" picks up the first squad of the reinforcement at Camp Casablanca



A German "Dingo" with mounted machine gun blocks a street



Nearly half a platoon dismounts as the Swiss "Puma" takes off for its next lift

gle Spirit I

orne



A squad of Swiss soldiers disembarks from the helicopter



"Who let the dogs out?!" - A massive Rottweiler dog and his handler prepare to get unleashed



A soldier secures the landing site, his eyes perfectly protected by stylish sunglasses

Text and photos by
Capt Michael Schulze,
German Army

Three Task Forces, four nations - units train the phases of airborne deployment. Team play, coordination and speed are the crucial factors.

A village in the area of Task Force Dulje - measures for an alert are taken, barbed wire and barriers are prepared. Several teams patrol the narrow streets of the village. It is cold, most people seem to stay in their warm homes.

Alarm!!

The Tactical Operation Centre is alerted at 8:30 a.m., and quick reaction is essential. The commander gives his orders via radio. Access roads are being blocked, check points set up and in no time at all each of them is in position.

Time for the pilots

Almost at the same time, reinforcements in Camp Casablanca/Suva Reka are alerted. Nobody knows if, and how quick, the situation in the village will escalate. Possible roadblocks could delay ground transportation.

Helicopters from the Task Forces Mercury and Ercole land singly on Camp Casablanca's small heli pad. The pilot raises his fist - meaning it is time to board. One heli after the other is manned by squads in full armour and takes off again. It is a sort of shuttle transport, which brings the reinforcements to the hot spot. Wave after wave the soldiers disembark and secure the landing zone.

After several waves, the requested reinforcement is on the scene.

"The men have met the required time frame," said Task Force Commander LTC Kunert. "From being alerted until reporting operational readiness at the spot."

Multinational KFOR MP



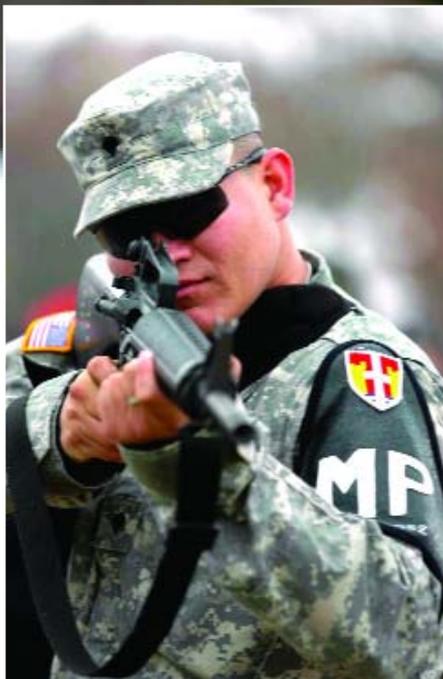
"Ready - Aim - Fire": 10 shots at distance of 1 meters



Swedish MP host the Provost Marshal's event and provide professional range safety



"Let's see what the targets look like!" - The "Dirty Dozen" wants to see the results of their fire

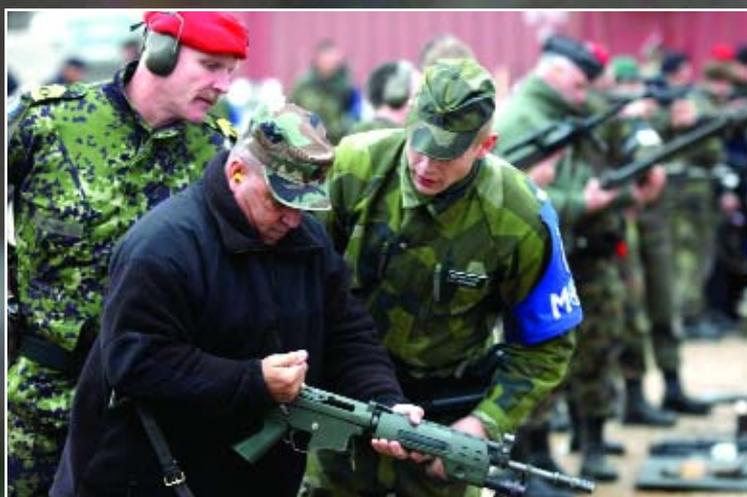


"I don't need no teenage queen - I just need my M-16!"



Never far from the bull's eye - the MP officers precisely aim at their targets

Shooting Competition



"Pull it back and the rifle is charged" - American SSGT learns to handle a Swedish AK5 assault rifle



Better to have them as friends - the winners of the three shooting competitions: rifle (IRL), overall (GER), pistol (US)

80 MP Officers from 14 Nations met at the "RAZORBACK" shooting range next to the Swedish Camp Victoria February 17 in order to carry out a shooting competition and learn to handle arms of their fellow nations' Military Police.

**By Major Heimo Gruber,
AUT Army
Photos by Armend Aqifi**

80 MP Officers from 14 Nations met at the "RAZORBACK" shooting range next to the Swedish Camp Victoria February 17 in order to carry out a shooting competition and learn to handle arms of their fellow nations' Military Police.

The Swedish hosts had prepared everything the "trigger-happy" community could desire. About two dozen targets were waiting to be punished with a variety of assault rifles, submachine guns and pistols. A medical team of Camp Victoria's Fire & Rescue Platoon was on standby; ready to intervene anytime. For the competition, the participants had to fire 10 rounds with their respective national rifle and another 10 rounds with their own pistol. The

results were then added up to determine the winner of the third discipline, namely the combination of rifle and pistol shooting.

Police forces usually train by firing at targets from just 7 meters away, as experience has shown that being the most common combat distance. So even for the well-trained MP officers, the competition was quite challenging. To achieve a perfect score of 10 per shot, the competitors had to hit the target in the inner circle with a pistol from a distance of 15 meters.

The second challenge was hitting the same small marks with the assault rifle, but this time the distance was 100 meters, from a lying position.

By noon, the competition was finished bringing forth three glorious winners. MSgt Rosa (US) was in a class of his own with the pistol by

achieving a perfect score of 100 points (!). His score caused some of his colleagues to jokingly wonder about his real job history.

Sergeant Kerney from Ireland impressed everyone with the best performance in the rifle competition. The most universal shooter came from Germany; MSgt Stelter won the overall combined pistol/rifle competition. Many colleagues came to congratulate Stelter and the other winners, happy to have them as friends and not enemies.

In the afternoon, each MP element provided their respective national firearms to the other participants for test firing. The length of lines formed by the MPs indicated that the new German submachine gun, MP7 (Heckler&Koch), the American light machine gun, M249, as well as the Austrian assault rifle, StG77 (Steyr), were in great demand.

Slovenian Motorized



**Text by 1st Lieutenant Jure Krejac,
Slovenian Armed Forces
Photos by Corporal Luka MITROVIC,
Slovenian Armed Forces**

Under the command of COL Paolo Leotta and 2nd LT Jernej Krajnc, the motorized platoon of 20th Motorized Battalion is taking part in PSO "Joint Enterprise" in TF "Aquila."

The platoon was deployed to Kosovo in November 2005. It operates within the 2nd Italian Bersaglieri Company "la Vittoriosa," and is located in Camp Villaggio Italia near Pec/Peja, MNB (SW).

The unit started its mission under 5th Italian Alpine Regiment, in the 6th company "la Bella." After the transfer of authority between the 5th Alpine Regiment and the 6th Bersaglieri Regiment January 24, excellent cooperation between Italian and Slovenian units has continued.

The 20th Motorized Battalion started its cooperation with Multinational Land Forces in 2000. Since that time, the unit has been training and operating side by side with Italian and Hungarian units.

In order to maintain peace in Kosovo, the Slovenian Platoon performs guard activities in Serbian resettlement of Belo Polje, convoy escorts, check points as well as a general show of presence with patrols within the AOR.

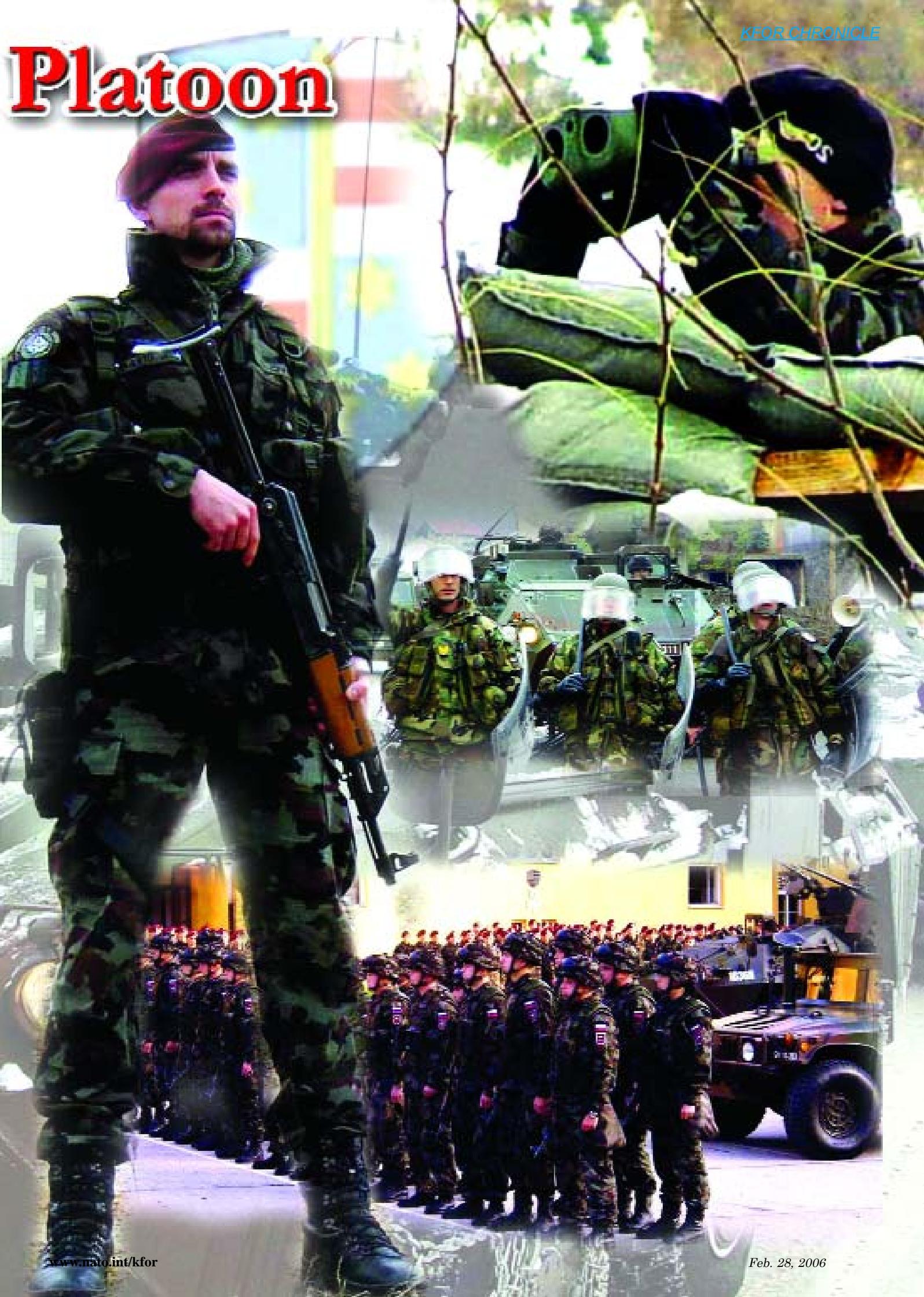
The coat-of-arms of Vovberg counts, first landlords of castle of Celje, represents the basis of Battalion's insignia. In graphic base of the symbol, the three stars, seen also inside the national symbol, represent national loyalty and patriotism.

The right hand, with the sword in the middle of the insignia represents unit's dedication to infantry and to the 1st Brigade of Slovenian Armed Forces.

We are proud to be the part of KFOR and we will continue to do our best to have the mission successfully accomplished.



Platoon





KIKPC - KPC: Together

The Civilian Emergency Service Organization, Gu

KIKPC shall support KPC

- o by ensuring continued compliance
- o by providing day-to-day supervision, e.g. inspections, checks, tests, roll calls
- o by becoming more professional, self-sufficient and helping to achieve all standards given by UNMIK
- o by striving to meet the current mandate as a civilian protection organization
- o by assisting and coaching KPC in their mission

Background:

At the end of the war in Kosovo, the Kosovo-Albanian resistance, named UCK (Ushtria Clirimtare se Kosoves) or KLA (Kosovo Liberation Army), had to be disarmed by KFOR in accordance with UN-Resolution 1244.

To stabilize the post-war situation, the International Community established a new official organization, the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC).

A number of former KLA members were incorporated into this new organization, designed to be a civilian emergency service agency. Under the responsibility of UNMIK, they fulfill useful tasks in order to



KPC members visit a school constructed by the German CIMIC Company in the Prizren region



KPC members start with the construction



Roll call inspection at a KPC compound – KIKPC inspectors check whether all the personnel is present



The KPC contributes manpower to

er For A Better Kosovo



aided by KIKPC, Contributes to Kosovo's Future

contribute to the creation of a safe and stable multi-ethnic environment for the benefit of Kosovo people.

The **KIKPC** (KFOR Inspectorate for the KPC) are "COMKFOR's Eyes and Ears," making sure that the KPC will act in absolute compliance to its given mission. The KIKPC inspectors are the link to each KPC unit and work on constantly improving the KPC.

Also, in many cases, international organizations and donors provide money for projects, which the KPC then helps implementing. KFOR often contributes with direct support, expertise or supervision.

Tasks of the KPC

- o provide disaster response services
- o perform search and rescue
- o provide humanitarian assistance in isolated areas
- o assist in demining
- o contribute to rebuilding infrastructures and communities
- o monitor unoccupied reconstructed homes of minority communities
- o provide other humanitarian tasks
- o perform ceremonial duties



tion of a new fire station in Suva Reka



A KPC officer graduates at a "Project Management Seminar" conducted by MNB SW



he construction of a new fire station



The KPC supports the work on the landslide by-pass with heavy equipment

Kosovo Railway

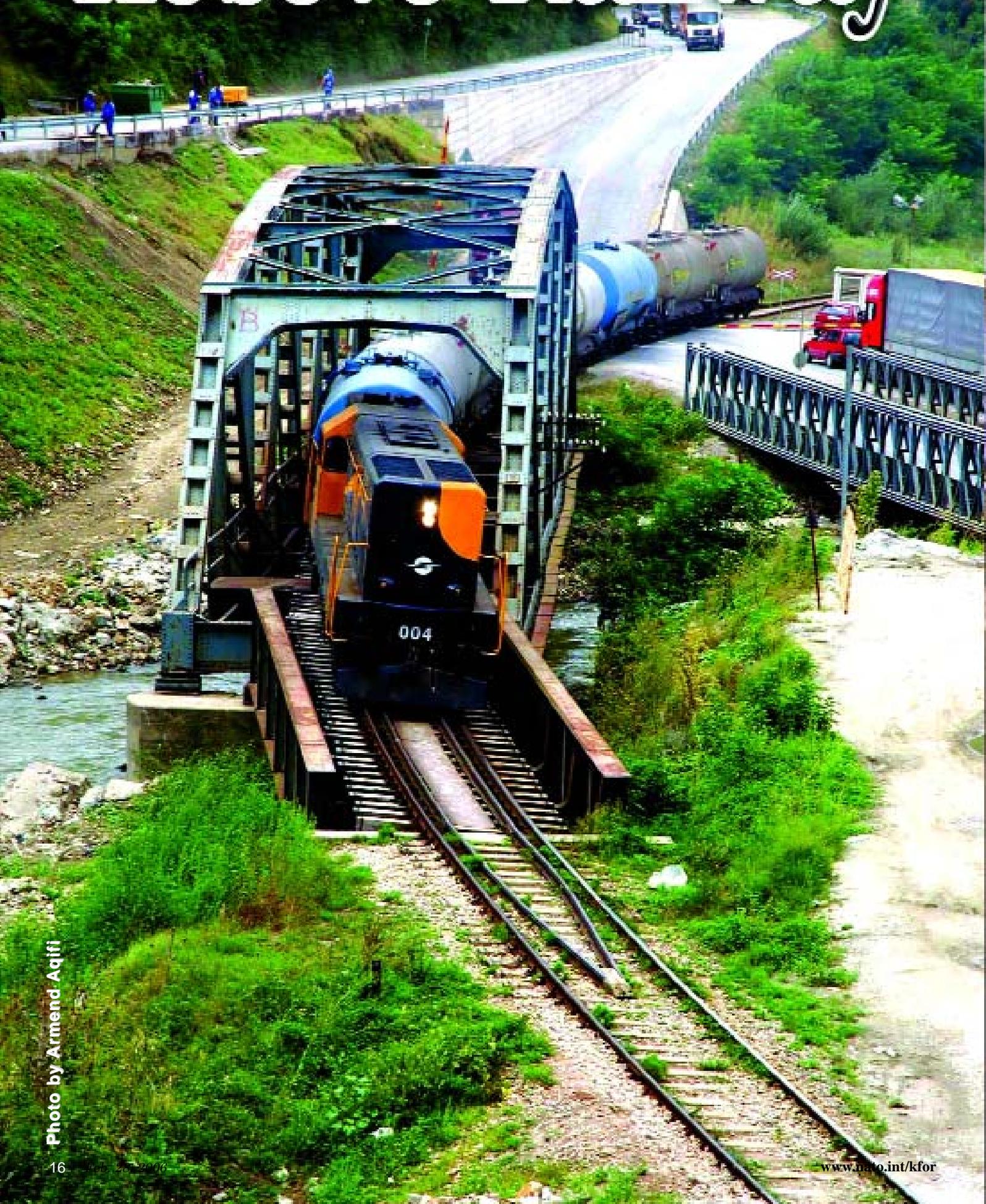


Photo by Armend Aqifi

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

The Kosovo railway network covers 330 km and was a part of the Former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia railway system, which was one of the most important European connections from south to north along the Thessaloniki-Skopje-Belgrade route.

The 1999 conflict in Kosovo left the rail system extensively damaged and disorganized. It was strategically vital for movement of military supplies and humanitarian aid. So NATO forces took the control and set about repairing the track and systems.

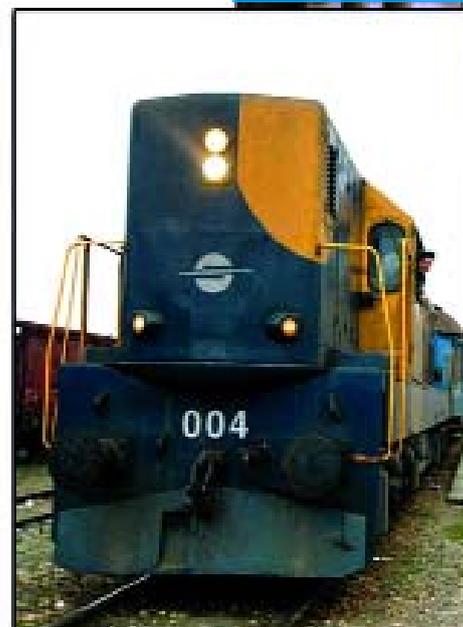
The Italian Railway Engineer Regiment has been managing, directing and organizing the entire Kosovo railway network since September 1999, working to get trains back on a track. The achieved results have been particularly successful. And in March 2001, KFOR and UNMIK reached an agreement to hand most responsibilities related to the management of the railways system over to the United Nations while KFOR was designated as a priority customer.

Since August 31, 2000, in accordance with NATO Allied Joint Logistic Doctrine, Italy is the KFOR lead nation for railway operations in Kosovo. To achieve the mission, currently, the Italian Contingent has KFOR HQ-J4 Chief Rail Desk Officer, Station Master WO, Railways Specialist WO and four NCOs, Train Drivers.

So far two train connections are available for passengers within Kosovo. They are, Kosovo Polje-Mitrovica-Lesak line, 85 km and Kosovo Polje-Deneral Jankovic line, 80 km.

In addition, the Pristina-Skopje passenger railway service was officially opened on December 20, 2005. By inaugurating this international passenger railway service line, a crucial link of transportation between Skopje and Pristina was re-established and one important step further in the direction of achieving a fully integrated railway system in Europe has been completed. The train journey along the approximately 100 km stretch between Pristina and Skopje takes about two and a half hours. The trains have three coaches to accommodate around 200 passengers and shuttle between the cities twice a day, with a one-way-ticket for an adult costing €4.

According to MAJ Mauro Sindoni, Chief Rail Desk KFOR HQ-J4, the railway transportation is important for Kosovo, because it is economical reasonable and operates regardless of road status or weather conditions. "The next step," said MAJ Sindoni, "will be opening some new railways toward Prizren; securing the lines with fences, security devices, signal system, crossing level devices and tracks renewal."

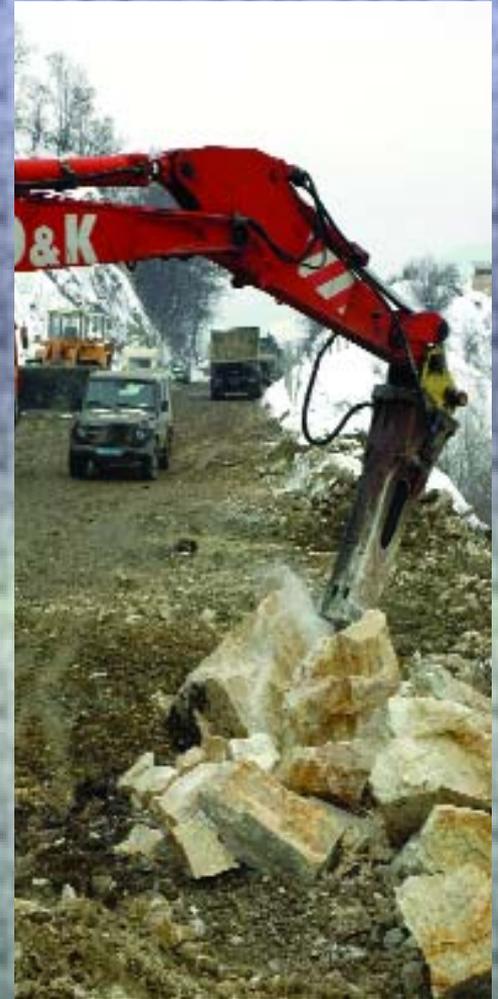


Italian Cpl M. De Santis safely drives the train from Kosovo Polje to Lesak, a distance of 85 kilometers

Lanslide Near Kaca



Incredible masses of material have to be removed from the site - and still the hill is not stable by far



**Text by 1st LT Maksym Nedria,
Ukrainian Army
Photos by Armend Aqifi and
KFOR Engineers**

January 15, rocks fell and blocked the main KFOR supply road "Hawk," from Skopje to Pristina. Three days later, another large landslide worsened the situation.

According to MAJ Jean-Francois Quiviger, HQ KFOR ENG OPS/PLANS, a first geological assessment has been done by some geologist experts of UNMIK/ICMM (Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals). They recommended and performed a blasting of the hill to break away the unstable part of the hill. The results of the blasting helped but did not solve the problem.

"Part of the hill remained and then, nobody knew exactly if the higher part of the mountain was stable or not," said MAJ Quiviger.

Local BURIMI Company and KFOR

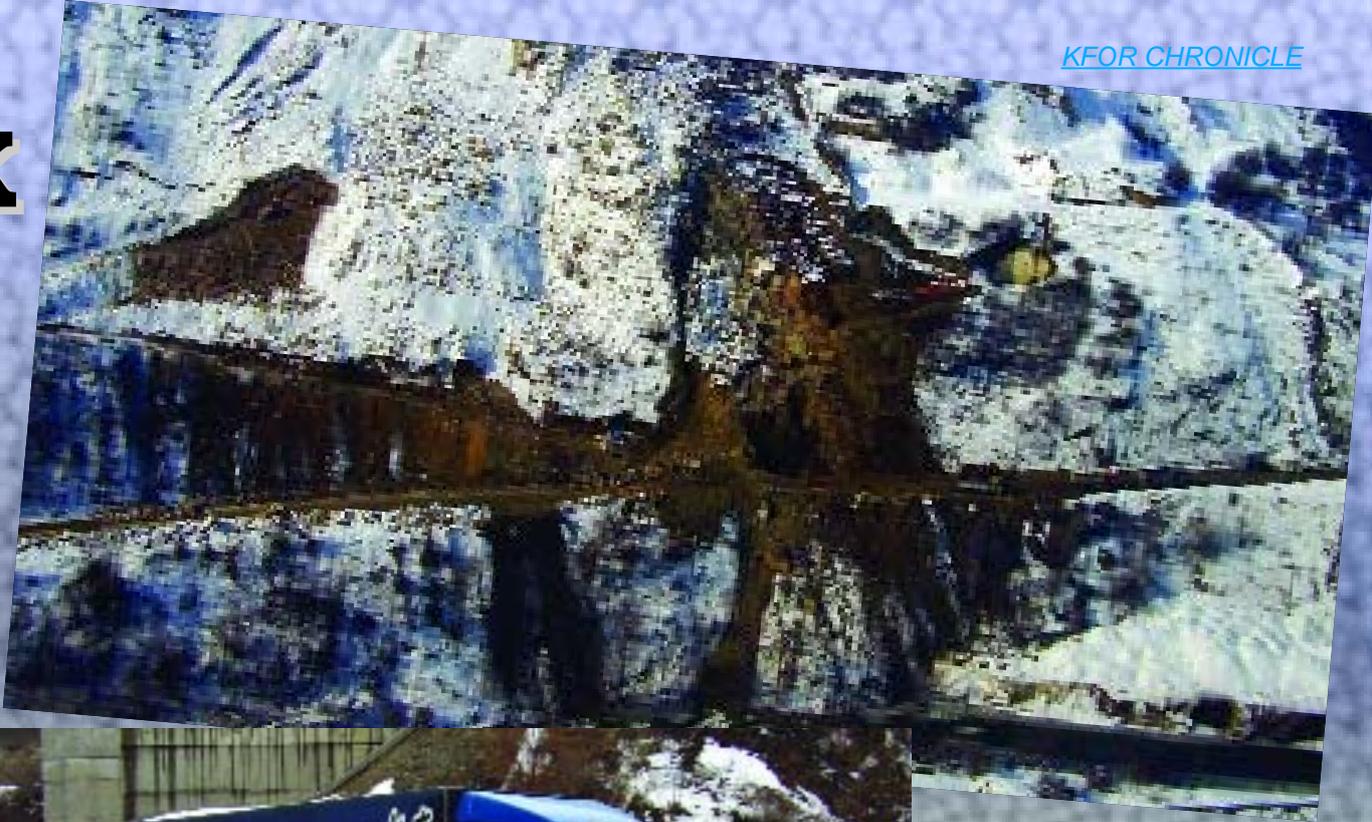
started to remove the gravel from the blocked MSR. KFOR provided 10 dump trucks for the soil removal. At the same time, KFOR engineers from the MNBs and MNTFs have been improving a two kilometer-long bypass. The bypass includes a 30m-long ford in its south part and designed only for light vehicles.

"Works in the landslide worksite are still ongoing," said MAJ Quiviger. "They include ground stabilization along the slope of the landslide. A geological expertise request has been sent to SHAPE via JFCN to determine the exact status of the rest of the mountain."

A joint conclusion of Ministry of Transport, Post and Telecommunication of Kosovo and KFOR engineers is that the situation of the highway road still remains dangerous and no one will be authorized to reopen this part of the highway road until it is fully safe and there is no risk of another landslide.



nik



Only light vehicles should use this by-pass, since a 30-meter ford is to be crossed (left)



Czech KFOR



**Text by MAJ Petr Sykora, Czech Army and 1st LT Maksym Nedria, Ukrainian Army
Photos by Armend Aqifi**

The village of Sekiraca is one of the loneliest places in the mountainous terrain near the Kosovo administrative border within the Czech Contingent AOR. Only 14 people live there and the closest place to buy supplies is about 10 km away.

The youngest of the villagers is 42 year-old Philip Perovic. Two years ago, as he was coming back to Kosovo from a season job in Moscow, he had a serious accident and his ankle was broken. Since that time, he has suffered a lot. First, some relatives helped him to get a surgery in Moscow. However, over time, his health deteriorated. Czech KFOR discovered him and the personnel of the Medical Center of Sajkovac Camp organized another necessary operation for Philip in the French Military Hospital in Plana.

"Without professional treatment his condition could have had serious consequences. That is why our



Helped Philip

predecessors have asked French Military Hospital in Plana for help. They operated again, in August of 2005, on Mr. Perovic ankle," said 1st LT Martin Hatala, a military doctor of the Czech Contingent.

Since that time personnel of the medical center take care of Philip. And Philip, in return for the medical care, has taken every opportunity to be friendly with his new friends.

As the Czech medical vehicle arrived at the Perovic's house in the morning of February 2, Philip anxiously awaited their arrival. His leg had been getting worse, and he was looking forward to getting to the hospital to have it treated. Nevertheless, Philip welcomed the military doctors to share some coffee with his family before setting off on the trip with the Czech soldiers.

According to orthopedic surgeon MAJ Frederic Rongieros, from the French Military Hospital, there is a necessity of a subsequent treatment.

"A new surgery would be the last medical option for this patient," said MAJ Rongieros.



The French surgeon examines Philip's leg - another operation, according to Major Rongieros, would be the last medical option

Greeks & Americans Help

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

Thirty wheelchairs were donated to people with physical disabilities in Pristina, February 22.

The project was organized by some Hellenic Officers who serve in the HQ KFOR in collaboration with the Hellenic Battalion and the 353 Civil Affairs, MNB (E).

The wheelchairs were provided by the Wheelchair Foundation. The Wheelchair Foundation is a nonprofit organization leading an international effort to create awareness of the needs and abilities of, to deliver a wheelchair to every child, teen and adult in the world who needs one, but cannot afford one.

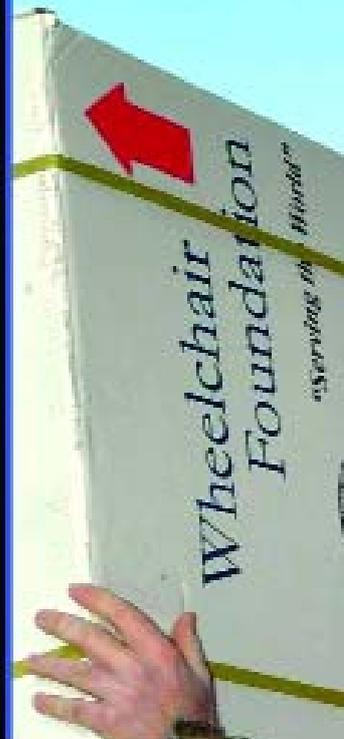
The wheelchairs were delivered to Parent Association of Children with Disabilities of Kosovo (OPFAKKOS), Pristina by the Hellenic Battalion, February 7. Moreover, a number of boxes with food were given in

the OPFAKKOS in order to distribute the food to people in need.

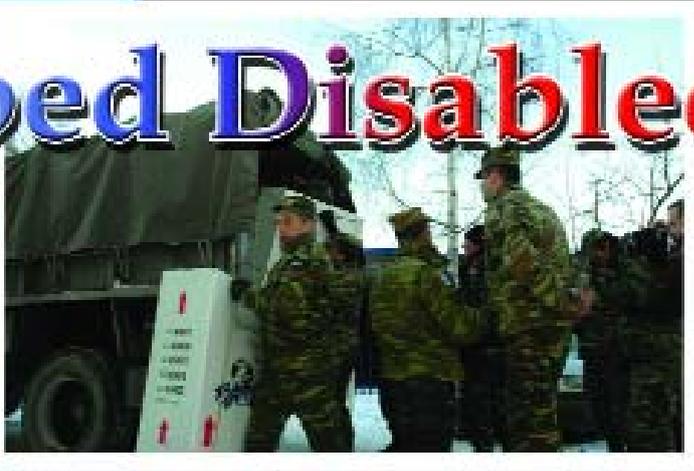
"I am very satisfied that we succeeded in helping the disabled people here," said MAJ Robert Chelone, Team Chief 353 CA Command, MNB (E), "And that is not only event, we have already distributed 64 wheelchairs from Wheelchair Foundation in Prizren, Ferizaj/Urosevac, Gnjilane, Novo Brdo and Stimlje".

According to the one of the organizers of the event, COL Stylianos Iliadis, J1 Chief KFOR HQ, the Hellenic soldiers from the 525 Mechanized Infantry Battalion help people in need in the AOR in addition to continuing their KFOR duties.

"The Hellenic Battalion has executed a number of humanitarian missions over its presence in the region of Ferizaj/Urosevac, such as giving help to the Regional Leader, donation of four beds at a Kindergarten school, MEDCAP at the village of Grnilo, wheelchairs and food distribution at the village of Dubrava," said COL Iliadis.



Helped Disabled People



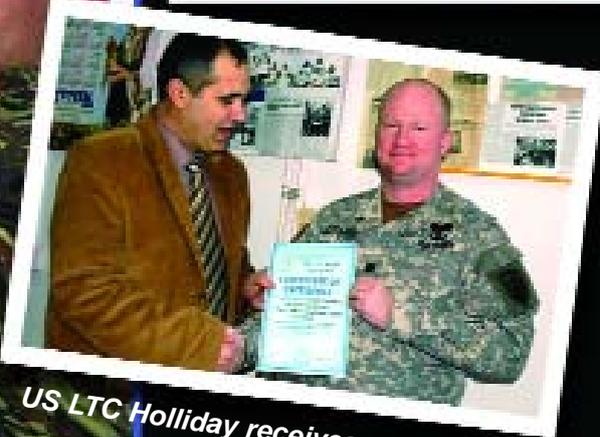
Greek KFOR members unload 30 wheelchairs, donated by the Wheelchair Foundation



Top right: Greek soldier carries food supply



Left: Col Iliadis delivers food to OPFAKKOS



US LTC Holliday receives a certificate



OPFAKKOS director presents a certificate of appreciation to the Hellenic Bn Cdr LTC Miltiadis



By PFC. Christina Vanyo,
Guardian magazine, MNB (E)

There are many children in the Balkans, especially Kosovo, that are without parents. A local orphanage in Pristina, 'Kinderhof', is a beautiful facility where children from infancy to elementary school age live and play, and hopefully, are found homes with loving people.

One of these loving people is 1st Lt. Eric Jackson, a Pittsburg, Pa. native, of the KFOR-6B, Task Force Tornado Aviators. After a long haul, mounds of paper work and a decision he vowed to stick to, Jackson adopted a little girl from 'Kinderhof.'

The two left Kosovo January 12. Originally part of the KFOR-5A mission from July 2003 to February 2004, Jackson maintained his presence here in Kosovo to follow through with the adoption of a little girl named 'Pranvera', which means 'Spring' in Albanian.

During his first rotation, Jackson saw the condition of many of the abandoned and lonely children.

"I was in Vitina in the end of July," Jackson said, "and I saw something that changed me forever. There was a girl about 16, she walked with a limp in her right leg and her right arm was very uncoordinated. She did not wear make up and had unappealing clothes, and did not walk happily like the other girls. She looked to be an outcast."

A few months later, Jackson went to the orphanage for the first time. He saw the infants, the five to seven-year-olds, and the special needs children, he said.

"I felt very sad for these children," said Jackson. "Pranvera was a little over two years old. She was so cute."

Jackson said, however, that this specific little girl was with the special needs children, yet her mind was absolutely normal.

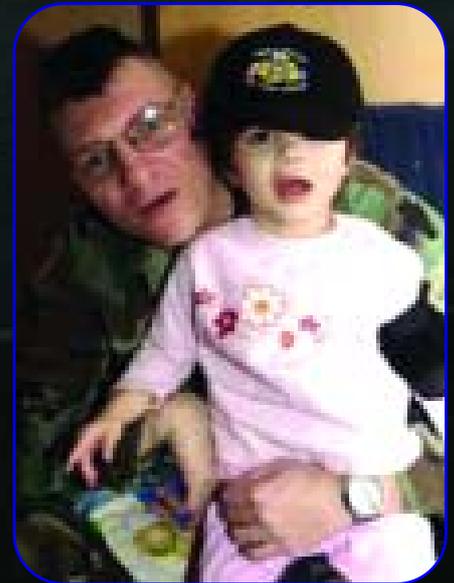
"Her right arm and right leg were paralyzed at birth," he said. "Her coordination was not very good."

But Jackson explained that seeing the little girl with mentally retarded children was a bit unnerving.

"Here she was with autistic, mentally handicapped, and children with emotional disorders. I started

'Pranv

KFOR Soldier Adop



1st Lt Eric Jackson holds his adopted daughter Pranvera

era'

ts Kosovo Orphan



thinking about that girl in Pristina," he said.

At the end of another visit to the orphanage, Jackson was leaving but little Pranvera attached herself to his leg, he said.

"This was the moment she ambushed my heart," said Jackson. He began to research the adoption process. He found that special needs children were the only children allowed to be adopted by Americans.

At this time, Jackson's first tour was coming to an end.

"When I was trying to just find out info about adoption it was time for me to leave," he said.

Jackson sought advice from anybody who could help and went to the judge advocate general, he said. "I was given some advice by a JAG," said Jackson. "He said the only way you could pull it off was to go back on another deployment, so I found a slot."

Jackson said his fiancé's five-year-old daughter Aubrey, was very curious after hearing about the potential adoption and watching a show about the children of Kosovo on the history channel with Jackson. "She asked about three hundred questions," Jackson said. "She could not believe what it was like for children in Kosovo. Aubrey at this moment wanted me and mommy to get her (Pranvera) out of there. This is when we were very serious about getting Pranvera."

Unfortunately, the adoption process did not allow for Jackson to see Pranvera for seven months.

"Twenty-fifth of April, 2005 was the first time I saw her on my second tour," he said.

Jackson said he wouldn't have it any other way. His new little girl went home with him. She has her new loving, family, in the United States.



One Step Closer

By Capt Heinz NITSCH, AUT Army
Photos by Ssgt Max Radaschitz

The first House of a Liaison and Monitoring Team (LMT) in Kosovo was inaugurated in Orahovac February 14. The commander of the Austrian LMT, Captain Michael Holzer, welcomed the guests of honor, and then the Austrian colors were raised for the first time at the premises. After this, the Chief of Staff/MNB SW and Austrian NCC, Col Karl Schmidseider, PhD, gave his inauguration speech.

"The municipality of Orahovac is a good example of a multiethnic society. Furthermore we want to demonstrate our willingness to intensify the dialogue, to facilitate the cooperation and to promote mutual trust," Col Schmidseider said while pointing out the main reasons for choosing Orahovac for this pilot project.

Addressing the members of the LMT, he stressed their important role as ambassadors of the Austrian Army in Kosovo.

"I expect you to show a professional attitude as well as full cooperation with the local authorities and the population. Get used to having a lot of coffee and tea..." the Austrian NCC jokingly added referring to the people's hospitality towards the LMTs.

The President of Orahovac municipality, Mister Esat Haxhijaha, praised the good cooperation with TF Dulje in all fields. He emphasized that the presence of the Task Force significantly contributes to the normalization of relations between all ethnic communities living in his municipality. At the end of the official part, the catholic chaplain blessed the house and voiced his hope that it should become a place of gathering and peace.

A team of eight Austrian members of TF Dulje will run the so-called "LMT-House" or "Field-House." It will be open daily and will be a point of contact for the population. The main goal of the LMT is to be present at the pulse of the population in order to detect problems and sorrows of the people early and to be able to assist by word and deed.



Officials met people and talk about issues of concern after the inauguration ceremony



"May it be a place of peace and gathering..." the chaplain blessed the newly inaugurated field house

to the Population



The Municipal President of Orahovac praised the good cooperation with TF Dulje during his speech



"The LMT should be an integral part of the society of the Orahovac municipality," Austrian NCC Col Schmidseeder said in his speech



Local media and many guests joined the inauguration of Kosovo's first LMT field house

KFOR Theatre Chaplain

I thank all those who gave me the opportunity to present myself with a new task that Ordinary Military Monsignor Angelo BAGNASO has entrusted me. My name is Sandro, I was born in Rome 50 years ago; and have been a priest since 1986.

Having been called by God when I was 22 years old and had just started my career as a dentist. This threw all my future plans and perspectives into confusion. In my hometown, I have completed theological studies and the priestly order as well.

In 1992, I was nominated as an Army chaplain, starting this experience with Glorious Transmitters 5 of Army Corps, (Trasmettitori del glorioso 5 corp d'Armata). I then proceeded with the "Folgore" Brigade paratroops. For six years now, God has wanted me to lead Genius Railway men and helicopter pilots at the head office in Bologna. These are original and professional pearls of our nation that should be envied throughout the military world. This also enriched me as a priest with a wealth that only a human heart could offer.

The present task puts me even in a more active management, especially now, when in front of me are people of many different nations. This is a chance that I did not have in the past. The linguistic, cultural and religious variety make me have a wider vision toward a new horizon and to add to my luggage of a priest the possession of priceless values. I have been here, in Kosovo, for 15 days and I have made a lot of friends both military and civilians, enjoying this unmistakable taste of God to create, of Christ to offer and of spirit to give.

Thanks to Him that gave me the faith and eyes to see beside the human weakness the originality of the Creator and creatures.



Fazzi Don Sandro

Peacekeeper's Profile

Name: Ivan Holynskyi
 Age: 24 years old
 Rank: 1st Lieutenant
 Nation: Ukrainian
 Unit in KFOR: Deputy Company Commander, Company "Tiger", UKRPOLBAT

Unit in Ukraine: Deputy Reconnaissance Company Commander, 80 Airborne Regiment

Background: Reconnaissance Platoon Commander, Iraq, 2004
 About the mission: I came to Kosovo to gain the experience of performing peacekeeping operations with NATO troops. Also, to gain the experience and to provide that experience for a unit, wherever I am, when I return home.

Reaction of my family: My family supported my decision to join the KFOR mission, nevertheless, they were worried about me a lot. My parents are proud of me as I perform my peacekeeping duties. They support me a lot. Also, my girlfriend supports me back in Ukraine and waits for me back home. I will marry her.

Plans for future: Return to Ukraine and be worthy of being promoted to a Reconnaissance Company Commander. I will begin to share my experiences from Iraqi and now from Kosovo. Also, I hope to do my utmost to raise the positive image of Ukrainian Armed Forces worldwide.





Peacekeeper's Profile

Name: Rico Zoermer
 Rank: OR - 3
 Home Unit: 41st Infantry Brigade Torgelow
 Nationality: German
 Where I live: Greifswald
 Where I work: Admin Asst, Facility Management, HQ Support Group

Why I am in Kosovo: To gain experience and to improve my English

How was the reaction of my family: My Mom was not enthusiastic, but she gave me all her support to come to Kosovo. My Mum and my friends know about my job and they accept it, so when I told them about my mission in Kosovo there was no problem at all.

Future plans after my tour: I am planning a trip to the Scottish highlands.

Peacekeeper's Profile

Name: Ashot Gafaryan
 Rank: 1st LT
 Age: 24
 Position in KFOR: Armenian Platoon Commander
 Unit in Armenia: Peacekeeping Battalion.

About the mission: This is my first mission in Kosovo. I'm glad that my soldiers and I are participating in this mission and taking a part in the action, which will make the world more peaceful. Here in Kosovo, and worldwide, people should live together in peace regardless of nationality, religion or political preferences. From this mission, I expect to gain new experiences of working together with other nations, because we have things in common - WE ARE SOLDIERS.

After the mission: Go home to Armenia and share my experiences with my friends and continue to serve my country for peace.



Peacekeeper's Profile

Name: Vidas Ilgaudas
 Rank: 1st LT
 Age: 27 years old
 Unit in Kosovo: POLUKRBAT
 Unit in Lithuania: National defense voluntary forces 3rd district

About the mission: This is my first mission. For me it is good opportunity to get more experience and improve my skills in peacekeeping operations here in Kosovo.

Family reaction: I am not married. I live with my girlfriend. She was a little bit upset, that I left her for a while.

After Kosovo: I will get back to the same position, into the same unit.



Find five differences!

Send your solutions to kforchronilce@kfor.main.nato.int - you can use text or graphically mark the mistakes on the image.

Among those who send us the correct solution we choose the winner, whom we will then portrait with a "Peace Keeper's Profile" in the next KFOR Chronicle.

Original



Modified



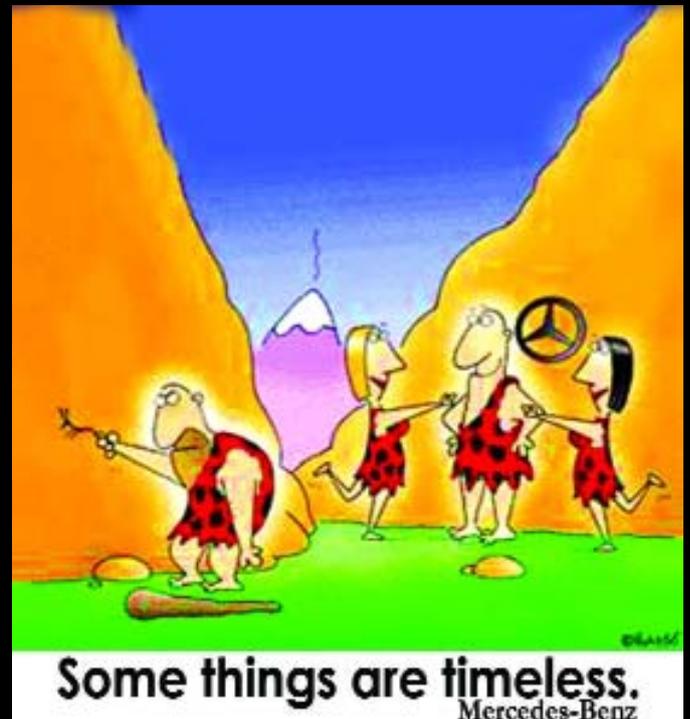
Humour

Little Johnny

A new teacher was trying to make use of her psychology courses. She started her class by saying, "Everyone who thinks you're stupid, stand up!"

After a few seconds, Little Johnny stood up. The teacher said, "Do you think you're stupid, Little Johnny?"

"No, ma'am, but I hate to see you standing there all by yourself!"



Brezovica



Photo by 1st LT Maksym Nedria, UKR Army