

KFOR CHRONICLE

A welder wearing a dark protective suit, a cap, and safety goggles is working on a metal piece. A large, bright burst of orange and yellow sparks is being generated from the point of contact between the welding tool and the metal, creating a dramatic visual effect. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

January 31, 2007

Edition 1

Weapon Destruction

2007 KFOR CHRONICLE calendar



Presenting the first copy of the 2007 KFOR Chronicle calendar to COMKFOR

Dear friends,

Time flies. It's up to you to be the navigator!
The KFOR Chronicle team looks forward to giving you a perfect time-management tool with this 2007 calendar.

Best wishes,

Alexander Unterweger, Major
Chief Internal Information



KFOR CHRONICLE



Cover photo by
1st Lt. Maksym Klunnyk

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Nations within KFOR:

HO KFOR

Canada
Estonia
Hungary
Netherlands
Norway
Portugal
United Kingdom

MNTF (S)

Germany
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bulgaria
Georgia
Switzerland
Turkey

MNTF (C)

Czech Republic
Finland
Ireland
Latvia
Slovakia
Sweden

MNTF (W)

Italy
Argentina
Hungary
Romania
Slovenia
Spain

MNTF (E)

United States of America
Armenia
Greece
Lithuania
Poland
Romania
Ukraine

MNTF (N)

France
Belgium
Denmark
Greece
Luxembourg
Morocco
Mongolia



Weapon destruction page 4 - 5



Photo competition page 8 - 9



TOA MNTF East page 10 - 11

TOA MNTF North page 18 - 19



Cultural Heritage
Mosque Pristina page 20 - 21

A farewell

Text by Capt. Adam Folcker, Swedish Army. Photos by 1st Lt. Maksym Klunnyk

There is a hail of sparks as the angle grinder cuts through metal. The gun falls apart, marking the fact another illegal weapon has been destroyed and Kosovo has been made a little bit safer.

The occasion was the destruction of more than 1,200 illegal weapons in the Swedish Camp Victoria in Ajvalija/Ajvali on

December 9. The weapons had been seized earlier by KFOR and the Kosovo Police Service and now that the legal process concerning the weapons' disposition was finished, they could be destroyed. The Multinational Task Force Centre Swedish Bravo Company got the task. During the preceding weeks, the company collected the weapons from Kosovo Police Service (KPS) storage sites in different parts of Kosovo. The cutting up of the weapons was carried out by Explosive Ordnance Disposal soldiers using angle grinders and blow torches. "This is a symbolic act that shows improvement to a safe and secure environment in Kosovo. KFOR will ensure that all illegal weapons found in Kosovo are securely taken care of", said the Commander MNTF C Brigadier General Per Lodin as he inaugurated the ceremony in front of a large gathering of media representatives.

As more confiscated weapons are released from the legal process, they will be destroyed. The scrap metal value for the destroyed weapons will be given to the KPS. It represents a small sum financially, but it carries a great symbolic value and will hopefully help the Kosovo society move toward greater law and order.

In a joint operation December 19-21, Kosovo Police Service and KFOR seized a substantial amount of ammunition, weapons and other military items.

On December 24 the Explosive Ordnance Demolition team from the Finnish KFOR contingent demolished 13 RPG antitank grenades, 116 fragmentation grenades (75mm) and other ammunition. They were destroyed by controlled detonations.



to arms



ON TOUR

COMKFOR



Shooting competition at Rezor Back Range

JAN 6

COMKFOR General Kather attended a shooting competition at Rezor Back range.



First COMKFOR press conference of the year

JAN 8

During the first press conference of the year General Kather answered questions by local media.

Celebrating Orthodox Christmas

JAN 7

Celebrating Orthodox Christmas, COMKFOR and SRSG, Dr. Joachim Ruecker paid a visit to Decane/Decan monastery where they met with Bishop Theodosje.



Commander's conference

JAN 9

COMKFOR held a Commander's conference in Mitrovica/Mitrovicë.



Long-duration patrol

JAN 10

French troops briefed COMKFOR before a long-duration patrol.



COMKFOR and SRSG visited Gate 1

JAN 11

SRSG, Dr. Joachim Ruecker and COMKFOR met with boundary police at Gate 1.

Visit to Camp Nothing Hill

JAN 11

General Roland Kather and SRSG Dr. Ruecker visited Camp Nothing Hill.



Visit of the French Chief of Defense

JAN 12

French Chief of Defense, General Georgelin was briefed by COMKFOR during his visit in KFOR HQ.



Hungarian medal parade

JAN 14

General Kather said "goodbye" to the Hungarian guard before their end of tour.



our with KFOR



Lieutenant General Karl-Heinz Lather visited KFOR

Deputy Commander Allied Land Component Command Heidelberg, Lt. Gen. Karl-Heinz Lather attended an office call at Film City.



British Chief of the Army visit

JAN 17 British Chief of the Army, General Sir Richard Dannat visited KFOR.

Visit of the new SACEUR

JAN 16 SACEUR, General John Craddock visited KFOR for the first time along with JFC Naples Commander, Admiral Ulrich.



European Unit representatives visit

JAN 18 Mr. Pedro Serrano, European Unit representative visited HQ KFOR.



Meeting with KEK's Managing Director

JAN 19 COMKFOR and KFOR Chief of Staff visited KEK. During the visit they talked with KEK's Managing Director, Mrs. Pranvera Dobruna Kryeziu.



Wreath-laying ceremony at KFOR HQ

JAN 19 General Kather salutes fallen Slovenian soldiers during a wreath-laying ceremony at the KFOR HQ.

President Rugova's memorial

JAN 21 COMKFOR paid his respect during the anniversary of President Rugova's death.



Serbian Parliament elections

JAN 21 COMKFOR visited a Serbian polling station in Lipljan/Lipjan during the elections to the Serbian Parliament.



Joint New Year reception

JAN 24 General Kather attended the New Year reception with SRSG at hotel "Victory" in Pristina/Prishtinë.





PHOTO FINISH

Text by Major Alexander Unterweger
 Photos by Armend Aqifi

In the KFOR Chronicle Christmas edition a photo contest was announced for our highly esteemed readers. The rules to take part in it were very simple: KFOR soldiers should send us photographs of troops involved in KFOR mission activities, humanitarian efforts, leisure pursuits and site-seeing expeditions. All photographs must be in good taste and depict a positive KFOR image. The deadline was January 12. The prizes for the contest were donated by the KFOR Headquarters Morale and Welfare Activities branch (MWA). My

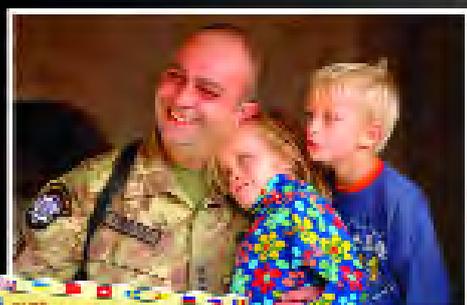


special thanks goes to MWA - to OR-8 Alex Petz for his quick and generous support.

More than 100 amazing photos were sent to our e-mail account. We were very pleased about their quality and variety. In the first step the KFOR Chronicle team sorted out the best 15 and afterward the winners were chosen in a secret voting by most members of the PIO branch.

Congratulations to the winners of the photo contest! The first prize went to OR-6 Jorge Ferreira from Portugal (KTM), with his photograph showing a soldier on duty at sunset. Jorge, have fun with your new digital camera!

The second prize, a 4 GB MP3 player iPod Nano went to OR-9 Guiseppe

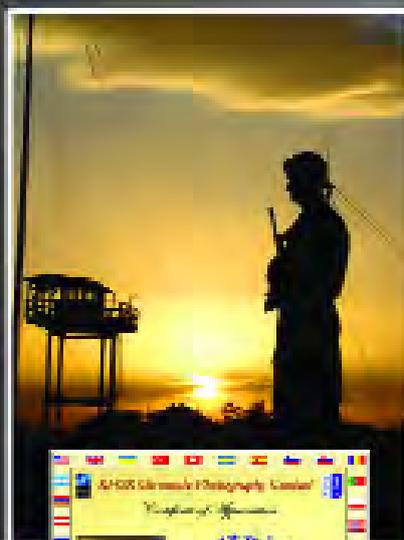


Carlucci from Italy (MNTF W). His photograph shows an Italian soldier with two children in a warm and peaceful atmosphere.

OR-3 Rudolf Folberger, a Czech soldier (MNTF C), won third prize in the photo contest - a 4 GB USB Data stick. His black-and-white photograph with the car and the turtle on it is fascinating.

During an award ceremony on January 18 at HQ KFOR the prizes and certificates were presented to the winners. There was also time to exchange experiences about taking the pictures.

From my point of view the photo contest was a great success - not only for the winners but also for the other participants for taking such good photos. Thank you very much for



your participation and maybe your photo will be the winner of the next photo contest ...



Text by OR-7 Renee Kirkland, U.S. Air Force

Photos by Combat Camera team

The transfer of authority ceremony for Multinational Task Force East took place at Camp Bondsteel on December 6. U.S. Army Brigadier General Douglas B. Earhart assumed command from Army Brigadier General Darren G. Owens during a ceremony presided over by Commander Kosovo Forces Lieutenant General Roland Kather.

General Kather praised the actions of the task force during its time in Kosovo. He said that MNTF E always sent a clear message to those who would threaten the safe and secure environment and that KFOR was willing and determined to respond immediately to any kind of violence - and that people got the message. Soldiers of the 29th Infantry Division also replaced those from the 36th Infantry Division. Brig. Gen. Owens tasked the soldiers with carrying on the relationships built by their predecessors with the Kosovo citizens. They were asked to be part of this time of hope, a time where people can hope for a better future for all the citizens of Kosovo.

The 29th Division joins soldiers from Greece, Armenia, Romania, Poland, Ukraine and Lithuania in their mission to secure the MNTF E area of responsibility.

Brig. Gen. Earhart purposed that the 29th Division's patch could serve as a symbol of hope to the people of Kosovo. "It represents the blue and the gray - the north and south - two cultures with divergent perspectives and beliefs. There was a time when it seemed these two groups would never settle their differences, but these people now work together toward a common good in the United States".



American-led task force

gets



new

Commander



We are happy and

Text by Maj. Zsolt Balazs, Hungarian Army

Photos by OR-9 Giuseppe Carlucci, Italian Army

The Christian and Orthodox Christmas alongside the Muslim Bajram are very special feasts for a lot of people in Kosovo.

KFOR MNTF W intended to make these events happier for them by delivering Christmas presents to many families of different ethnic and religious groups. Between December 12 and January 7 the CIMIC (Civil-military Cooperation) branch doubled its effort by delivering children's toys, traditional Italian Christmas cakes and chocolates to 11 schools, mosques, parishes and orphanages in their Area of Responsibility of MNTF W. The

number of children, who were provided a piece of love, in this period of the year, is

approximately 4,500. The MNTF W commander wanted all municipalities to be involved in this activity, so it was done even in Klina/Klinë, Djakovica/Gjakovë, Decani/Decan and Pec/Pejë municipalities.

To make these present-giving celebrations more solemn, the commander MNTF W Brigadier General Attilio Claudio Borreca was personally present on every event, and gave meaningful speeches in the honor of the people of Kosovo. He



proud

emphasized how important it is for the future of this region to work together and build good relationships between the different ethnic groups.

Furthermore throughout December the CIMIC branch received blankets, pullovers, gloves and towels from the Hungarian Army and gave them as humanitarian aid to those who are in need - approximately 100 families in the Klina/Klinë municipality. For contributing this delivery, a Hungarian company deployed in MNTF W HQ, Camp Villaggio Italia, has been cooperating with the G-9 branch. This activity is not finished yet, and will continue in 2007.

In addition to all of this, the CIMIC branch continues its regular activity of distributing heating oil to schools and churches throughout Kosovo.

We are happy and proud! We have helped them, and looking forward to doing it again.





October 2006 - "Blue Backup"
MNTF S



October 2006 - "Just in Case"

KTM Op

TRIP



"Nós outros cujas" "We whose fam"

*Text and photos by OR-6 Jorge Ferreira,
Portuguese Army*

Since our arrival to the theatre, 1st Para Battalion has performed 10 operations and six preventions Kosovo-wide in order to fulfill our mission. Our main effort was in November when we had to face five operations and one prevention - some of them with only 15 minutes notice to move.



November 2006 - "Island Sky"
MNTF E



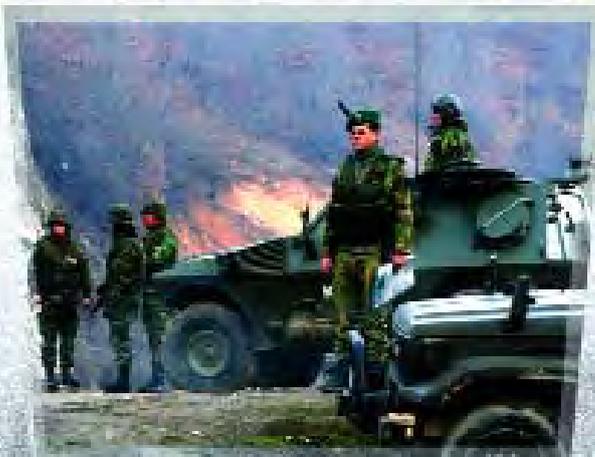
November 2006 - "Balkan Hawk VI", MNTF C



November 2006 - "Clever"
MNTF W

erations

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January 2007 - "West of the Divide"
MNTF E



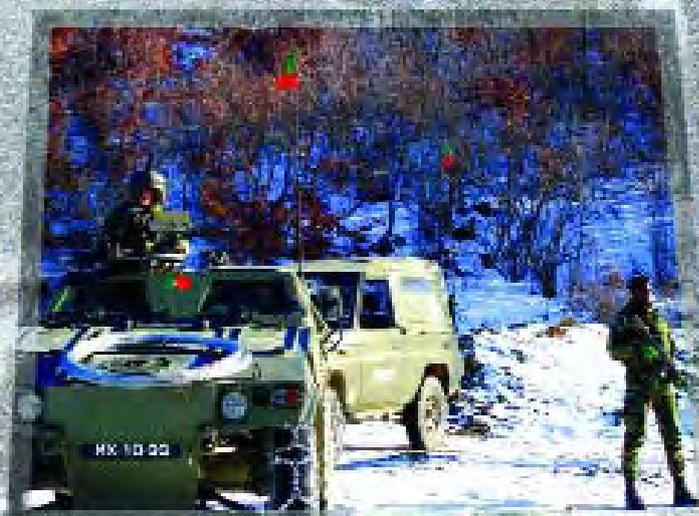
January 2007 - "Serbian Election"
MNTF N

fama tanto voa" ne takes flight"

Photo by OR-6 Paulo Costa, Portuguese Army



November 2006 - "Black Masked Man"
MNTF W



November 2006 - "Bull West"
MNTF N



Ferret"



November 2006 "North Wind"
MNTF S



November 2006 - "Reindeer"
MNTF C



KFOR Multinational

2007



Ahoy



Sveiki



Dia duit



al Task Force Centre

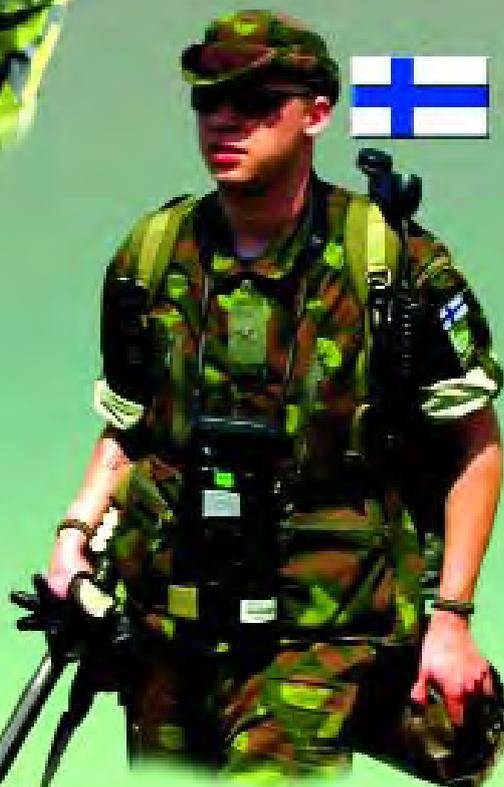
07



Ahoy



Hej



Terve



*Say HELLO
to MNTF C!*

[Inside KFOR]

*Text by OR-6 Christin Michaud, U.S. Air Force
Photos by Armend Aqifi*

Soldiers from 11 nations stood at attention in formation on January 23 for the MNTF N transfer of authority ceremony at Camp de Lattre de Tassigny.

The ceremony conveys the authority and responsibility of command from one General to another. COMKFOR Lieutenant General Roland Kather presided over the ceremony in which Brigadier General Jean-Mark Duquense passed on the symbolic flag signifying the end of his tour of duty to incoming commander, Brigadier General Bertrand Clement-Bollee.

Until modern times, it was not uncommon for warriors in the field to be unable to identify or to

recognize their leaders. A formal change of command ceremony, affords them the opportunity to witness the proceedings and, perhaps more important, to see at close range their new leader.

The ceremony allows soldiers to honor the departing commander, and publicly demonstrate loyalty to the new.

"A change of command is always an emotional time, filled with a whole spectrum of feelings - from admiration for the outgoing commander, to anticipation of what to expect from the

COMMAND CHANGES



OF MNTF N S HANDS

incoming commander and what he will expect from you", COMKFOR told the troops. General Kather personalized the ceremony by thanking Brig. Gen. Duquesne and his soldiers in French for their service and dedication to KFOR.

The ceremony was also an opportunity for Brig. Gen. Duquesne to do his final pass and review to salute and thank the officers, NCOs and soldiers of the 11 nations under his command during the past four months.

"You have accomplished and will continue to accomplish a great job", said the outgoing commander. "Calm, vigilance and reactivity were the guidance I gave my

staff and units four months ago - still, I am fully convinced that they perfectly define the core of our mission".

As he bid farewell to the soldiers, he not only handed over the responsibility of MNTF N to Brig. Gen. Cement-Bolle, but the future of the Kosovars as well. "I hand over to you this responsibility ... in support of peace and freedom", Brig. Gen. Duquesne added.

Brig. Gen. Clement-Bollee, in his speech to the troops, said he had one common goal: "to maintain confidence in the future". He asked the soldiers to consider and implement three key principles: vigilance, exigency and openness.

"Naturally, today my thoughts are with the inhabitants of Kosovo, particularly with the youth who represent the future", Brig. Gen. Clement-Bollee said.

Soldiers represented KFOR with precision and honor during the ceremony, the same way they stand ready at a moments notice to defend Kosovo's freedom and assist in maintaining a safe and secure environment.





Main Mosque of Kosovo

*Text by 1st Lt. Maksym Klunyk,
Ukrainian Army
Photos by Armend Aqifi*

When you see this mosque you realize immediately that it is truly the main and the oldest one. The mosque is very old - it was completed in 1461 after 20 years of construction. During our visit to the mosque I met with the mufti of Pristina/Prishtinë municipality, Mr. Burhanudin Hashani.

Regardless of the many differences in each culture, one thing remains the same: each town or city has a city centre - the root of its history. Kosovo also has a central city and primary places where the history of Kosovo began.

One of the main historic religious points of Kosovo is the Mosque of Sultan Mehmet Fatih. This mosque is located in downtown Pristina/Prishtinë, the main city of Kosovo. Local citizens call it Grand or Main mosque.





He hospitably welcomed us and shared insight into the history of the mosque.

According to his words, the general area of the mosque has high ceilings measuring 20 meters, and an interior of 196 square meters, while the minaret is approximately 45 meters in height and the walls are almost two meters wide. "Inside the mosque you can see beautiful Islamic frescos that still look original. Over the years they have only been refreshed", he said.

This mosque is unique. Since the beginning of its time, the mosque has been protected by law and wasn't damaged very much during more than 500 years of history. It looks almost the same as it did in the beginning.

By the way, it was built with stones 80 centimeters in

width, 1,5 meters long, and approximately 70 centimeters in height. For your imagination: one stone looks like your desktop. Could you imagine how "easy" it was to build such a beautiful and big mosque in the 15th century?

I saw one of the stones the mosque was built with, in front of entrance to the mosque. "Currently the stone is used to display the coffin for people to pray before the funeral ceremony", said Mr. Hashani.

When you enter inside its beauty, oldness and uniqueness will really impress you. Immediately you will understand that the mosque of Sultan Mehmet Fatih is definitely the Main mosque of Kosovo.





COMKFOR Media

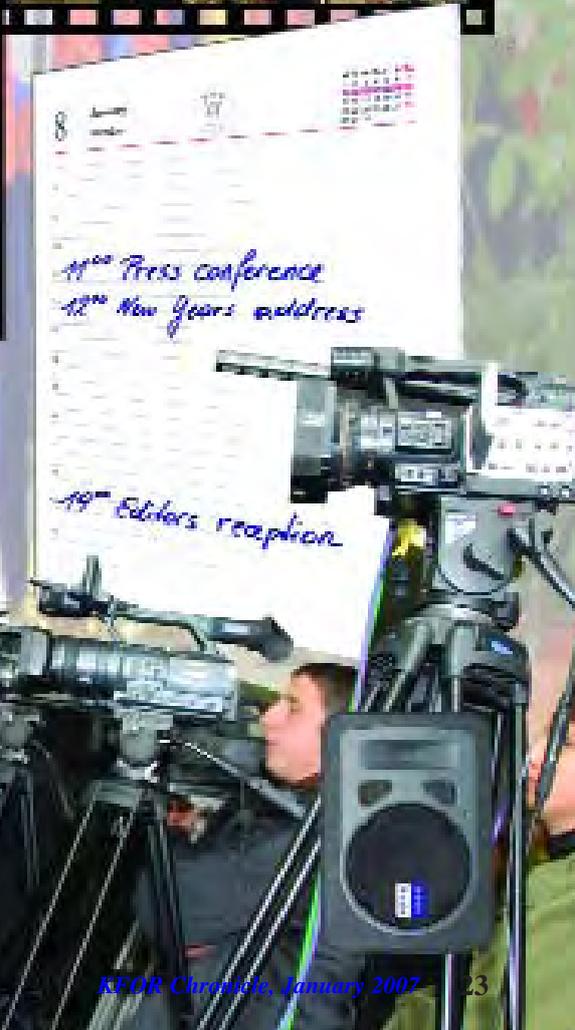




Day - 08 January



COM KFOR
Gen KATHER



8
11⁰⁰ Press conference
12⁰⁰ New Years address

14⁰⁰ Editors reception





MONGOLIAN TROOPS

*Text by Maj. Herve Grimonprez, French Army
Photos by OR-5 Jerome Lagarde, French Army*

Since December 3 the second rotation of Mongolia has been participating in the peacekeeping operation in Kosovo. We are the 4th platoon of a Belgian company. This gives us a unique opportunity to be a part of the NATO mission. The first rotation was here more than a year ago. The servicemen of our platoon come from the 150th and 330th Peacekeeping Battalion. Some servicemen already served in Iraq and Sierra Leone. Others just graduated from sergeant academy. In this way Mongolia wants to do its part in international peacekeeping.

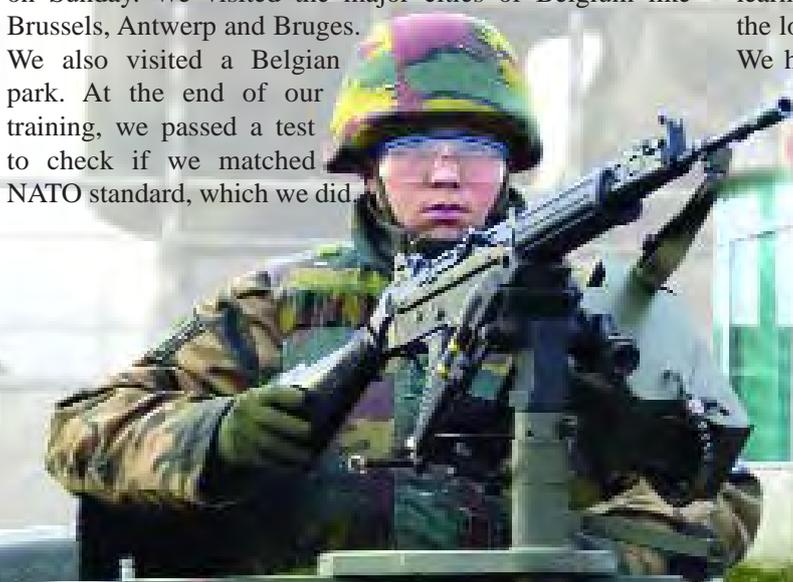
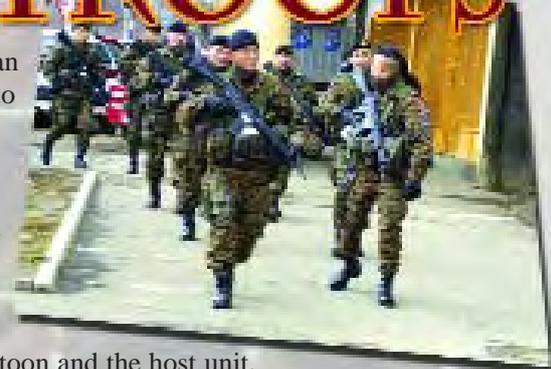
Before our arrival in Kosovo, we trained for two months in Belgium. Weapon handling, radio, checkpoint and patrol techniques were thoroughly trained. The 2/4th Lancers, a Belgian tank battalion, provided all of the equipment and personnel. After a week of training we had some relaxation on Sunday. We visited the major cities of Belgium like Brussels, Antwerp and Bruges.

We also visited a Belgian park. At the end of our training, we passed a test to check if we matched NATO standard, which we did.

We also had an opportunity to organize a traditional Mongolian meal. This was a chance to strengthen the bond between our platoon and the host unit.

On December 3, our plane landed in Pristina/Prishtinë airport. After the handling of the luggage, we proceeded to Camp Belvedere. The compound has good accommodations and we were very pleased with them. The first day we participated in the games of St. Barbara, which was a good opportunity to introduce us to the French contingent. Afterward we started with the real work: patrols, updating village files and guarding the compound. Every day we learn new things and are amazed about the friendliness of the local population.

We hope our mission will be successful and our presence appreciated by our colleagues and local population. We wish you all the best!



HOW TO BUILD A BRIDGE IN 69 DAYS!

Text by Lt. Liuzzi Fabio, Italian Army

Photos by Lt. Giovannoli Denis, OR-9 Maresciallo Capo and OR-9 Giuseppe Carlucci, Italian Army

On November 27, in the Jablanica/Jabllanicë village, Pec/Pejë municipality received a new bridge.

"This bridge has been realized by Italian Engineers of MNTF W in favor the inhabitants of Jablanica/Jabllanicë village" - this is the sentence written on the board nearby the bridge and it summarizes 69 days of hard work, 35,000 Euro and many nights of study for the bridge project!

The work started on September 16 by MNTF W Engineer



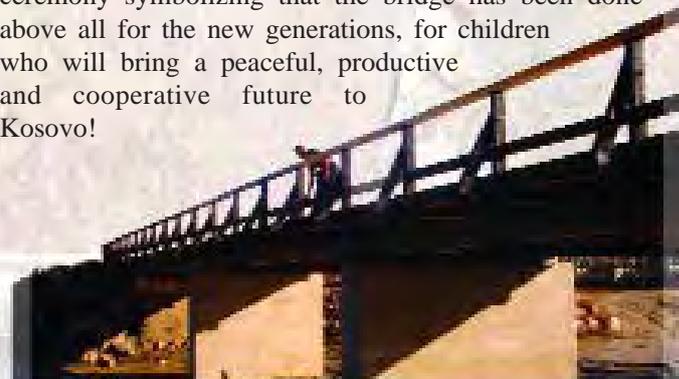
"Thanks to the bridge project Jablanica/Jabllanicë pupils will be able to reach their school saving seven kilometers of walking", said Mr. Zeka, showing all his happiness and gratitude to Italian MNTF W soldiers and to KFOR both for this work and for every other task carried out for the welfare of the Pec/Pejë municipality.

In a very happy environment a little child together with Brig. Gen. Claudio Borreca cut the strip of the inaugurating ceremony symbolizing that the bridge has been done above all for the new generations, for children who will bring a peaceful, productive and cooperative future to Kosovo!



Company whose commander, Captain Umberto Curzio, was the project officer. The bridge crossed over the Pecka Bistrica river and links two villages Jablanica/Jabllanicë and Lesane/Leshan; it is 35 meters long and it can support up to 30 tons.

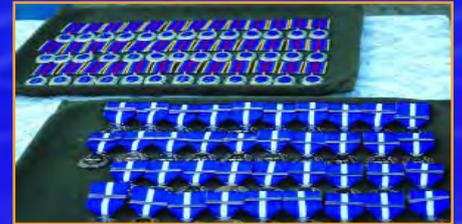
MNTF W Commander Brigadier General Claudio Borreca headed the inaugurating ceremony. Chief of Executive of Pec/Pejë municipality, Mr. Ramiz Zeka and city officials attended the ceremony.



Holiday in mountains



Text by OR-7 Renee Kirkland,
U.S. Air Force
Photos by 1st Lt. Maksym Klunnyk,
Ukrainian Army



Surrounded by snowcapped mountains and clear skies, Camp Breza was alive with the sounds of joyous spirits as Ukrainian soldiers celebrated the 15th anniversary of their armed forces. Multinational Task Force East Ukrainian soldiers gathered in the remote camp in Brezovica/Brezovicë, along with the new MNTF East commander, Brigadier General Douglas Earhart and guests, on a makeshift parade ground to receive commendations for their service to the



Kosovo mission and to the mission of their government. The soldiers were awarded NATO Non-Article 5 medals and anniversary medals from the Ukrainian Defense Ministry. "The award of these medals confirms the appreciation KFOR has for the Ukrainian peacekeeping efforts and gives assurance in continued strengthening of military cooperation", said the Ukrainian compound commander, Lieutenant Colonel Oleksandr Pavliuk.

In his speech to his fellow soldiers Lt. Col. Pavliuk recounted the beginnings of the Ukrainian Armed Forces. "On December



6, 1991 the Ukrainian parliament passed a law which laid the foundation for the creation and development of the armed forces ... Today, the armed forces are in a transitional period of creating a new, modern, combat-ready, professional armed force that is structured to respond to the needs and standards of NATO membership", he said.

Brig. Gen. Earhart commended the work of the Ukrainian detachment.

"In a very short time, the Ukrainian Armed Forces have made their mark by contributing to peacekeeping operations around Europe, Africa and the Middle East.

Here in Kosovo, you have made a positive difference in the lives of the citizens in your area of operations, and I am proud

to have you serving as part of our organization. Your contributions here in Kosovo and in other trouble spots in the world will help secure peace for future generations".

The formal ceremony concluded with a demonstration of hand-to-hand tactics and a reception featuring native Ukrainian dishes. More than 180 Ukrainian soldiers serve as part of the NATO Kosovo mission.





BIKERS FOR PEACE

Pedaling on the streets of Kosovo - why not? The Finnish Contingent is ready when the need for quiet, fast and agile movements arise.



*Text and photos by Capt. Petri Korhonen,
Finnish Army*

In the military, pedal power is far from obsolete. "A modern bicycle is still very capable for light military transport duties, and on the paved areas it's always faster than a foot soldier", says Lieutenant Sami Lintula, leader of the Finnish Medical Platoon at MNTF C, Camp Ville.

This winter his medics and even some brave Swedish soldiers have been voluntarily practicing different kinds of patrolling methods on bikes, quite similar to those that the Helsinki Metropolitan Police use on the streets of the Finnish capital.

Those who thought that bikes are passé in the age of cars have had to reconsider it. In the late 1990's the idea of law enforcement bike-patrols was born simultaneously in many Scandinavian cities. New mountain bikes were found to be fast, light and agile - just the right tools police needed for

patrolling downtown urban surroundings, jammed with cars and traffic.

Military needs may be little different than the police. For many decades the Finnish and Swedish Armies have relied on domestic-made, heavy-duty military-issue bikes which can carry an enormous load of gear on their backs.

In Kosovo, those green two-wheeled workhorses can be seen all over MNTF C camps. Latest versions come in deep black - obviously they are reserved for some special operations units, as the joking soldiers may claim to astonished visitors.

In the wintertime the operational use of bicycles has been limited to the MNTF C camp areas. Back at Finland the civilian bike enthusiasts don't let the icy weather stop them - they simply change to steel-spiked winter tires.

But this spring, and due to the fact that the streets of Lipljan/Lipjan are getting better every year, don't be surprised if you see a Finnish bike patrol doing some on-duty pedaling. Last summer the Finnish A-Coy's bike patrols got a good response from the locals.

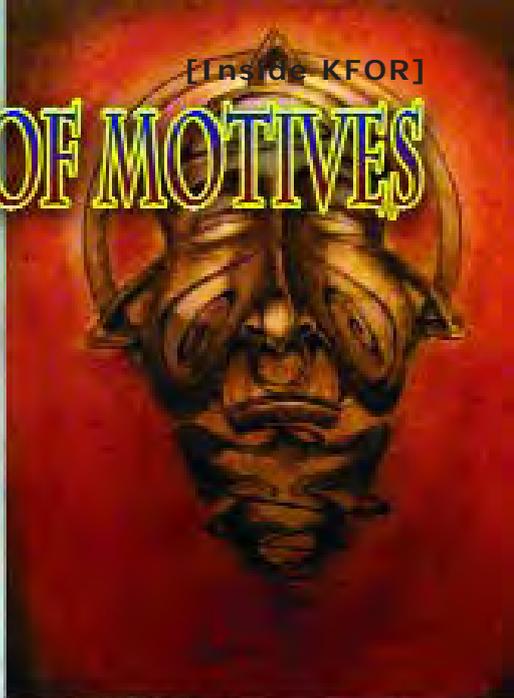
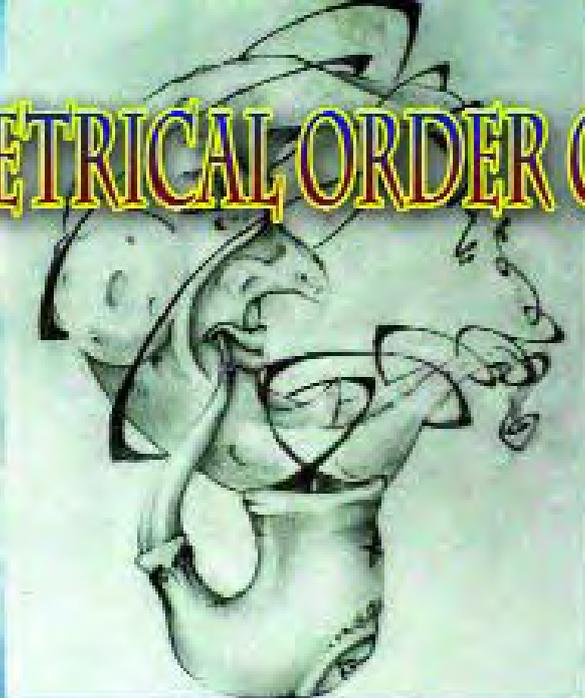
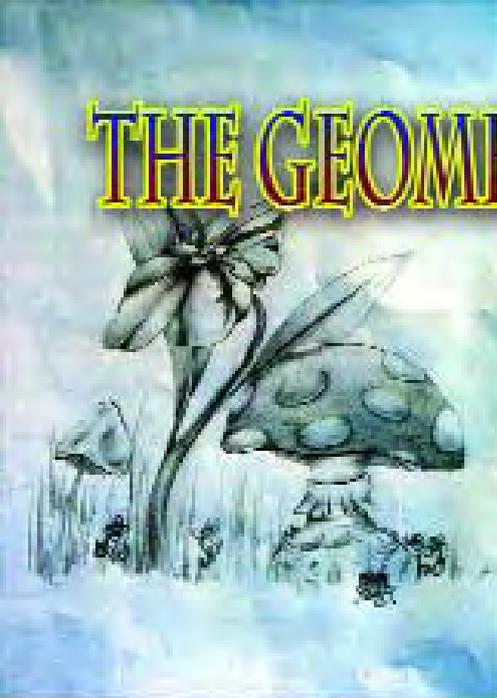
"A bike could be an excellent KFOR vehicle in many cases. It gets you nearer to the people, and what is most important, it's not a threatening vehicle.

Who wouldn't like bikers and their admirable thigh muscles", asks Lt.

Lintula with a laugh.



THE GEOMETRICAL ORDER OF MOTIVES



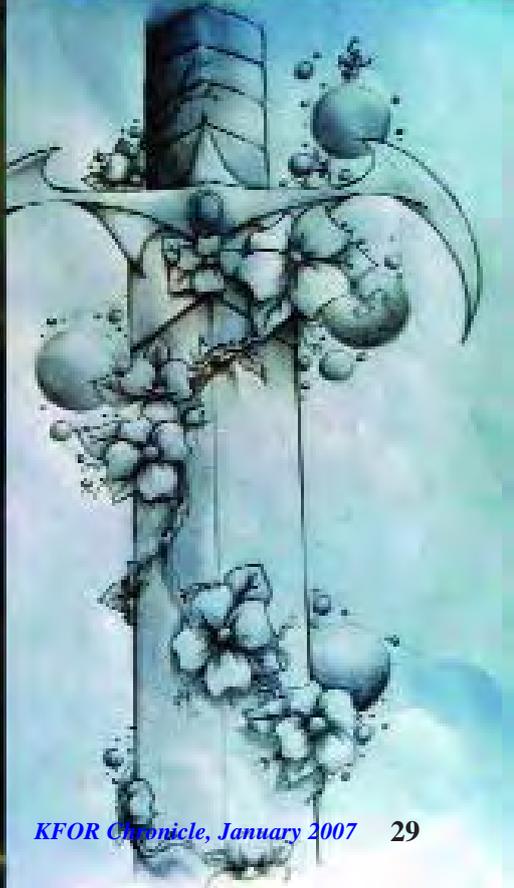
Text by Mexhid Havolli, PHSG-Warehouse

Soldier Tibor Tarsoly, born in 1977 in Varpalota, Hungary, works in KFOR HQ at the security section. During his work and general activity he is also engaged in painting, which he performs with great passion in his free time. Upon my request, I held a short conversation with him, which in a way presents the artistic side, inspiration, journey, hope and reviving of artistic feelings.

"The art of painting is a special gift, which requires commitment and reading of motives with an artistic eye", he says. He did this with a specific elegance, giving a spirit to circumstances and creating a special world around him. He explained how small episodes, to which he did not pay attention before, used to come in his mind, whereas now they were getting a specific artistic shape and nuances.

All paintings have geometrical order. His works are allusive, covered by a strange feeling of joy, hope and love.

He started to paint in his primary school. Different views from life, experience and perspective made an impression on him, which he reflects in painting. They speak a specific artistic language, which has substance. In some occasions, he organized personal exhibitions in the city of Gyor, where the artists are always welcome. Welcome to the artistic world of Tibor Tarsoly in which each painting of him draws your attention.



Line up for roll call

It was early morning at an Army camp and the first sergeant was calling out names for the daily work parties listed on a piece of paper:

"Ames" - "Here!"
"Jenson" - "Here!"
"Jones" - "Here!"
"Magersky" - "Here!"
"Seeback" - " -- "
"Seeback!" - " -- "
"SEEBACK!!!" - " -- "

At that point, someone whispered into the first sergeant's ear. He looked again at what the last name really said, quickly turned over the list and continued calling the names printed on the other side.

Unfaithful wives

Paddy and his two friends are talking at a bar.

His first friend says: "I think my wife is having an affair with the electrician. The other day I came home and found wire cutters under our bed and they weren't mine."

His second friend says: "I think my wife is having an affair with the plumber the other day I found a wrench under the bed and it wasn't mine."

Paddy says: "I think my wife is having an affair with a horse."

Both his friends look at him with utter disbelief.

"No, I'm serious. The other day I came home and found a jockey under our bed."

Blonde avoiding trees

A State Trooper pulls a car over on a lonely back road and approaches the blonde lady driver.

"Mam, is there a reason that you're weaving all over the road"?

The woman replied, "Oh officer, thank goodness you're here!! I almost had an accident! I looked up and there was a tree right in front of me. I swerved to the left and there was another tree in front of me.

I swerved to the right and there was another tree in front of me!"

Reaching through the side window to the rear view mirror, the officer replied, "Ma'am... that's your air freshener."



Oh, I forgot to pay for the snow - enjoy our Welfare tours!



Name: Wolfgang Braun

Rank: OR-9

Nationality: German

Home Unit: 13th Mechanized Infantry Division, Leipzig

Unit in KFOR: COMKFOR Office

About the mission: This is my first mission in a multinational NATO setting outside of Germany. My principal responsibility as the Command Sergeant Major of KFOR is to provide and maintain opportunities for collaborations to all KFOR soldiers. This can be a challenge since 36 nations have different standards, requirements and procedures for their soldiers. My first weeks on the job were very demanding given that I had to gain knowledge of the personnel, as well as the way they operate in a very different multinational environment. However, in the past five months, I have enjoyed interacting and learning from all the soldiers I have met in the HQs as well as in the task forces. This experience was valuable and of great benefit for me.

Family reaction: I would like to thank my family and relatives at home for supporting me so well for the time I am abroad. My wife and four children were well prepared to deal without "Daddy" many times before, but they are looking forward to seeing me at home soon.

Plans after the mission: I will return to my unit in Leipzig, where I will share my experiences with my comrades. I am also looking forward to working in my home and garden.

One of my long-term objectives is an assignment at the German Infantry School, to share my experiences with young NCOs. Another one is an assignment in the US, where I would like to work at the US NCO Academy.



Name: Giovanni Porcaro

Rank: OR-9

Nationality: Italian

Home Unit: Armoured Brigade "Pinerolo" Headquarters

Unit in KFOR: MNTF W Public Information Office (PIO). Media Operations NCO

About the mission: This is my sixth mission in the Balkan region but it is my first time in the PIO. This is a good experience for me because I have always worked in the intelligence branch and now I am working in the opposite kind of job improving my point of view.

Family reaction: My family: wife, one daughter and one son, nevertheless they are accustomed for my absences because of my job I have to call them two or three times every day to assure them.

Plans after the mission: In April, when Armoured Brigade "Pinerolo" Headquarters will finish this mission, I will be retired, because I will complete my 36th year on duty. I'm not very happy for this but I wish all my comrades to have the same satisfaction that God and life gave to me.

Name: Apaches

Rank: Private

Nationality: French

Age: 3 years old

Race: Belgium shepherd

Home unit: 132nd Dog Handlers Battalion

Unit in KFOR: Dog Handlers Platoon, French Battalion, Multinational Task Force North

About the mission: This is my first mission abroad, and it's very interesting (and funny) to meet people who have never worked with us before. Even if I don't look to be nice, I'm a real peacekeeper. I would do everything for my handler, and I won't let anybody cause trouble as long as I'll be here. I like the Crowd Riot Control exercises very much; they are a good opportunity to put into practice the long training hours we have daily in our platoon.

Family reaction: I don't know - I haven't seen them since I entered the Army. My handler, 1st Lieutenant Marescaux, is only my family; he is here with me, and we support each other. So I'm at the best place! He is really a brother in arms for me!

Plans after the mission: I'll have a few weeks rest at my battalion, being checked by strange servicemen with white coats, in order to be sure I feel good. Then, I hope, we will join another theatre as I am at the beginning of my career as a service dog!



Belo Brdo/Belloberdë



Photo by Armend Aqifi, KFOR Chronicle