

# KFOR CHRONICLE

October 1, 2007

Edition 9



# Peace with Determination

It has been a month since I came back to Kosovo as COMKFOR after being DCOM in 2005 and 2006. During the first month, I have paid visits to all the main officials and to the Task Forces. Obviously, these visits have been a good opportunity to meet people from the communities and soldiers on the ground. In addition to these very rich moments, both on the personnel and professional point of view, these meetings whether formal or not, gave me the opportunity to remind myself of my motto: Peace with determination.

Peace is for Kosovo and its inhabitants - all of them, especially the young ones. Compared to the situation two years ago, I am impressed by the undeniable signs of hope. I have noticed improvements in the local infrastructure, a growth of inter-ethnic tolerance and an expressed attitude against organized crime during a recent demonstration held in Pristina.

These improvements must be protected, specifically nowadays as Kosovo is engaged in the double process of upcoming elections and its future status. During this very important period, some individuals may be tempted to waste what has been shaped. That is the reason why KFOR will continue its mission with determination in guaranteeing a safe and secure environment within this double process.

As soldiers, each of you has a part to play in Kosovo. What I have seen during my last visit in TFs demonstrates your dedication to achieve your mission. Keep training, be strict in your job, be safe, do your best to maintain and strengthen the good reputation KFOR currently enjoys, and thanks to your determination - peace will remain in Kosovo.



## Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac

<p><b>KFOR CHRONICLE</b></p>  <p>Cover photo by Armend Aqifi</p> <p>Contact KFOR Chronicle: Phone Int: +389 2268 2897 Kos.: (038) 503 603 2897 KPN: 2897, 2402 FAX Int: +389 2268 2752 E-mail: kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int Internet: www.nato.int/kfor</p>	<p>Commander KFOR: Lt. Gen. Xavier de Marnhac, FRA Army</p> <p>Chief Public Information: Capt. Bertrand Bonneau, FRA Navy</p> <p>Chief Internal Information &amp; Editor in Chief: Maj. Ewald Klingler, AUT Army klingere@hq.kfor.nato.int</p> <p>Journalist Maj. Ihor Levchenko, UKR Army</p> <p>Journalist OR-6 Jason Smith, USAF</p> <p>Photographer &amp; Layout Mr. Armend Aqifi</p> <p>The KFOR Chronicle is printed by KOSOVA SOT Tel: 038 548 402</p>	<p>The KFOR Chronicle is produced and fully funded by HQ KFOR. It is published for KFOR forces in the area of responsibility. The contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the coalition governments' defense departments.</p> <p>Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Internal Information Section of HQ KFOR's Public Information Office (PIO) in Pristina, Kosovo.</p> <p>PIO HQ KFOR reserves the right to edit content to conform to style and space requirements. Articles run on a space-available basis.</p>	<p><b>Nations within KFOR:</b></p> <table><tr><td><b>HQ KFOR</b> Argentina Estonia Hungary Netherlands Norway Portugal United Kingdom</td><td><b>MNTF (S)</b> Germany Austria Azerbaijan Bulgaria Georgia Switzerland Turkey</td></tr><tr><td><b>MNTF (C)</b> Czech Republic Finland Ireland Latvia Slovakia Sweden</td><td><b>MNTF (W)</b> Italy Hungary Romania Slovenia Spain</td></tr><tr><td><b>MNTF (N)</b> France Belgium Denmark Greece Luxembourg Morocco Estonia</td><td><b>MNTF (E)</b> United States of America Armenia Greece Lithuania Poland Romania Ukraine</td></tr></table>	<b>HQ KFOR</b> Argentina Estonia Hungary Netherlands Norway Portugal United Kingdom	<b>MNTF (S)</b> Germany Austria Azerbaijan Bulgaria Georgia Switzerland Turkey	<b>MNTF (C)</b> Czech Republic Finland Ireland Latvia Slovakia Sweden	<b>MNTF (W)</b> Italy Hungary Romania Slovenia Spain	<b>MNTF (N)</b> France Belgium Denmark Greece Luxembourg Morocco Estonia	<b>MNTF (E)</b> United States of America Armenia Greece Lithuania Poland Romania Ukraine
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# Next 12 Months for Kosovo Fo

*Text by Maj. Ihor Levchenko, Ukrainian Army  
Photos by Armend Aqifi*

A change-of-command ceremony took place on the KFOR Headquarters helipad, Camp Film City, Pristina/Prishtine, on Aug. 31.

French Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac took over the command of KFOR from German Lieutenant General Roland Kather. United States Navy Admiral H.G. Ulrich III, Commander Allied Joint Force Command Naples, headed the ceremony.

The Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, Mr. Joachim Ruecker, the German Minister of Defense, Mr. Franz Josef Jung, the French Minister of Defense, Mr. Hervé Morin, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General John Craddock, the President of Kosovo, Mr. Fatmir Sejdiu, the Prime Minister of Kosovo, Mr. Agim Çeku and other senior officials from different countries attended the event.



Military District III (Wehrbereichsmusikkorps III). During his speech, Admiral Ulrich congratulated General Kather for a tour well done and awarded him with the NATO Non-Article 5 medal.



More than 100 representatives of local and international press, including broadcasting companies, covered the ceremony. They all came together for the moment of glory for the German and the French generals.

The ceremony started by the parade of German Federal Ministry of Defense's Guard Battalion and Orchestra of the

"I do feel some kind of sadness, and it is no secret, that quite a bit of my heart will stay here; Kosovo with its great people has become my second home - and as a bottom line my mission as the Commander of the Kosovo Force was certainly the greatest challenge within my nearly 40 years of service in the German Armed Forces, but at the same time it gave me



# Force Under French Command



the greatest sense of satisfaction", said General Kather in his farewell speech.

The President of Kosovo, Mr. Sejdiu, in his speech said, "General Kather, I take this opportunity, on behalf of the people of Kosovo, to thank you for your fruitful cooperation with the Presidency and other institutions of Kosovo, but most of all for your amicable rapport you have built and maintained with all the citizens, at the grass roots levels, all over Kosovo. As you leave Kosovo, I wish you all the best in your future endeavors back home, in Germany".

Mr. Sejdiu also welcomed General de Marnhac by saying, "Let me welcome you as the incoming COMKFOR. I herewith pledge our support, the support of the people and the institutions of Kosovo to you and all your colleagues in KFOR, as you embark upon a critically important stint with KFOR".

President Sejdiu awarded General Kather with the Gold Medal for military bravery, as a sign of honor from the Kosovo people.

The change-of-command ceremony concluded with the Orchestra of the Military District III performing the German and French national anthems.

New COMKFOR General de Marnhac is 56 years old. He was commissioned through the French Military Academy in Saint-Cyr in 1971 and chose to serve in the Armor and Cavalry branch. This is his second mission in Kosovo. From August 2005 to February 2006, he was assigned in Kosovo as deputy commander KFOR.





# On Tour with



### COMKFOR met Kosovo President

**SEP 3** Commander Kosovo Force Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac had his first official meeting with the President of Kosovo Mr. Fatmir Sejdiu.



### COMKFOR met Kosovo PM

**SEP 3** COMKFOR Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac had his first official meeting with the Prime Minister of Kosovo Mr. Agim Çeku.



### Inauguration of Mother Teresa Cathedral

**SEP 5**

COMKFOR Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac took part in an inauguration of the Mother Teresa Cathedral in Pristina/Prishtine.



### Wreath laying ceremony to Rugova's grave

**SEP 13** Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac met with the family of the first Kosovo President, Ibrahim Rugova, (died in 2006) and took part in wreath laying ceremony to his grave.



### Visit to Decane Monastery

**SEP 14** COMKFOR Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac made a visit to the Decane Monastery, one of the main orthodox churches in Kosovo.

# h COMKFOR



**Visit to MNTF C**

**SEP 15**

Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac made his first visit to MNTF C as COMKFOR.



**SACEUR visit**

**SEP 17**

COMKFOR Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac met with Supreme Allied Commander Europe General John Craddock during his visit to Kosovo.



**Portuguese MoD visit**

**SEP 18**

COMKFOR Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac met with Mr. Nuno Severiano Teixeira, Portuguese Minister for National Defense, during his visit to HQ KFOR.



**Danish MoD visit**

**SEP 18**

COMKFOR Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac met with Mr. Soeren Gade, Danish Minister of Defense in HQ KFOR, during his two-day visit to Kosovo.



**TOA of KTM**

**SEP 22**

Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac presided over the transfer-of-authority ceremony of the KTM Battalion at Camp Slim Lines.

# MSU Regiment



*Text by Captain Alessandro Coassin  
Photos by CCT*

A transfer-of-authority ceremony for the Multinational Specialized Unit was held Aug. 26, 2007, at Pristina/Prishtine, Kosovo.

Lieutenant General Roland Kather presided over the ceremony in which Col. Domenico Libertini handed over the MSU command to Col. Andrea Guglielmi by the symbolic passing on of the NATO/MSU flag.

The event took place at "MSU CAMP" between 11 a.m. and noon. Besides COMKFOR, UNMIK Police Commissioner Richard Monk, KPS Commander Gen. Shermet Ahmeti, representatives of Multinational Task Forces and local authorities attended the event.

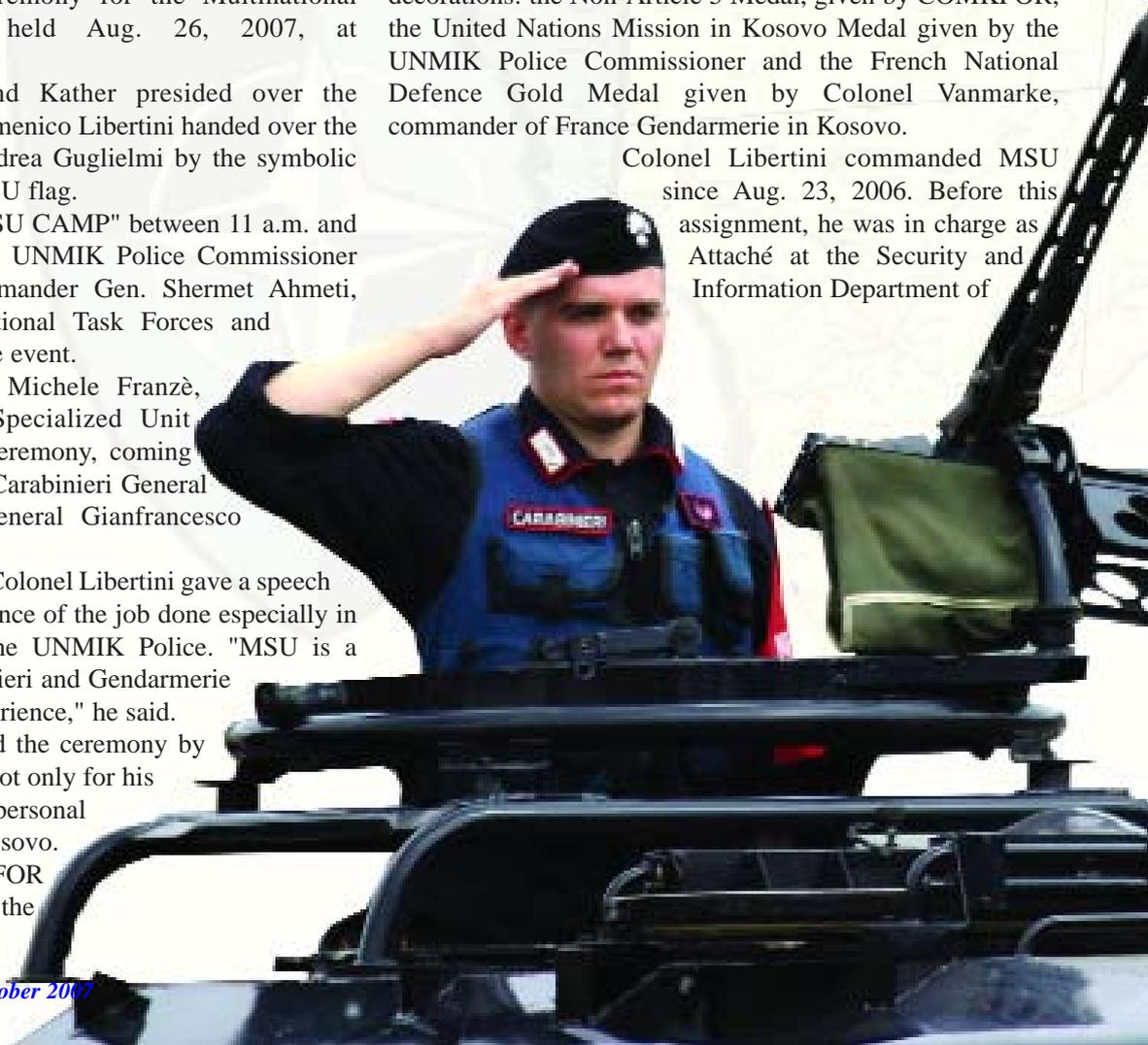
Also, Lieutenant General Michele Franzè, Carabinieri Mobile and Specialized Unit commander, attended the ceremony, coming from Italy as a delegate of Carabinieri General Commander Lieutenant General Gianfrancesco Siazzu.

During the military parade, Colonel Libertini gave a speech that emphasized the importance of the job done especially in support of the KPS and the UNMIK Police. "MSU is a laboratory in which Carabinieri and Gendarmerie can develop a common experience," he said. General Kather personalized the ceremony by thanking Colonel Libertini not only for his leadership, but also for his personal actions during his tour in Kosovo. During his speech, COMKFOR underlined the trust given to the

unit and commended the capability that it shows daily in a difficult theatre like Kosovo.

At the end of the ceremony, Colonel Libertini received three decorations: the Non-Article 5 Medal, given by COMKFOR, the United Nations Mission in Kosovo Medal given by the UNMIK Police Commissioner and the French National Defence Gold Medal given by Colonel Vanmarke, commander of France Gendarmerie in Kosovo.

Colonel Libertini commanded MSU since Aug. 23, 2006. Before this assignment, he was in charge as Attaché at the Security and Information Department of



# Commander TOA

Defense General Staff; Chief of Staff of Specialized Unit Division; Chief of Plans and Military Police Office of Carabinieri Headquarters; and Commander of Carabinieri Territorial Department of Latina. He is married and has two children.

Colonel Guglielmi, among his major assignment, was in charge as: Commander of the Territorial Branch of the Provincial Headquarters in Genoa (Dec. 12, 2005 - Aug. 11 2007); Chief of the Terrorism and Organized Crime Section at the Intelligence and Security Department of the Defence Headquarters in Rome (2004 - Dec. 2005); OICP/Interpol Liaison Officer posted in Athens at the Hellenic NCB (1999 - 2004); Director of the Crimes Against Persons Section at International Organization of Criminal Police - National Centre Bureau Rome (1997 - 1999).



# Dangerous Echo

Many hazardous mines and explosives are present throughout Kosovo. Different organizations have the job of clearing these weapons to make the region safe for everyone. This following story tells of the work the Kosovo Protection Corps is doing. Similar to the work KPC does is the work of the Swedish Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team. Read the story on pages 12-13 to learn about the mission of the Swedish EOD.

*Text and photos by OR-7 van Duijn and Maj. R. Veen,  
Dutch Army, KFOR/KIKPC/MIT-2*

During the conflict in Kosovo, a lot of mines were deployed by the Serb forces, and bombs were dropped by NATO airplanes. These mines were mainly used in the southern border areas, while many cluster bombs were dropped on concentrations of Serb forces all over Kosovo.

Today there are still a lot of mines and UXOs (unexploded ordnances) left in Kosovo. Not all the areas where these explosives were used are safe. People can still be wounded or even killed many years after the conflict. Other hazards are hand grenades and other explosive devices that the inhabitants of Kosovo have been known to use for personal reasons. This situation does not contribute to a safe and secure environment in Kosovo. A safe and secure Kosovo is the aim of COMKFOR. Many of these incidents have been reported by the media, but there is a side to this work that does not reach the wider public.

Who takes care of these left over hazards that silently wait for their next victim somewhere in Kosovo? Apart from support from the various branches within UNMIK, KFOR and KPS, it is the De-Mining Battalion of the KPC that deals with these issues on a daily basis. This battalion is a part of the Civil Protection Brigade that operates from the Osman Geci barracks in Pomazatin/Pomazotin, a small village some 10 km

west of Pristina/Prishtine. The headquarters (HQ) of this De-Mining Battalion is situated near Vrani Do/Vranidoll since there are not enough buildings in Pomazatin to accommodate this unit. The seven de-mining companies, each with 18 members, can be found all over Kosovo. They act whenever there is a UXO threat. The threats are defined by a UN office called the Office of the KPC Coordinator. This organization pinpoints the area where mines, bomblets or grenades can be found and assesses the threat they present to the population. They then inform the HQ of the De-Mining Battalion of the situation and direct a de-mining company to the area to take care of the problem. The de-mining progress is monitored by the OKPCC.

During our stay here in Kosovo, we as a KIKPC inspection team visit these specialized units and have the opportunity to get a clear picture of what de-mining in Kosovo is all about. Let us describe some aspects of battle field cleaning operations. The terrain where these men work is often on steep hills with dense vegetation. Due to the steepness, they must stop working during rain because of the danger of sliding downhill. Vegetation has to be cut in the process in order to make sure all the UXOs are discovered and neutralized. Sometimes they have to cut fallen trees and remove them from the area. They must also deal with the snakes hiding underneath the vegetation. They have to do their de-mining no matter the temperature, wearing their



# Mines from the Past

THE  
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company sets up a base and attaches orange ribbons reading "mines" around the trees in the area. The area is divided in squares of 50 meters by 50 meters. These squares are called "boxes". Then, two-meters-wide mine free lanes are cleared and the "boxes" are determined and marked. Each box is assigned to a de-miner. This box is cleared in lanes of one meter wide at a time. Swinging their detectors from side to side and probing it in the shrubs, the de-miners cut away vegetation and carefully dig where they suspect danger. Concentration is critical, therefore they work in shifts of 60 minutes work and 30 minutes off. There is no room for error.

Found UXOs are destroyed on the spot with the use of a small hollow charge. Other metal parts and rubbish are collected and deposited in a safe spot near their base.

The total harvest of last month: 45 mines, 24 cluster bombs, 12 hand grenades, 12 30mm projectiles, one mortar round, 2800 grams of TNT and 20 igniters were found while clearing

55,346 square meters.

These men are highly motivated. They are working in small teams, under challenging conditions. During their work they have to rely on each other in these dangerous boxes performing a very demanding but rewarding job. They make Kosovo safe for now and all the future generations.

They work outside the focus of the media, taking care of dangerous echoes of the past.



# Advanced Demoliti

**One of the more advanced assignments for the Swedish EOD squad in Kosovo is the ability to perform explosive ordnance disposal during riots. This exercise took place in the old mining site in Kishnica/Kishnice, not far from Camp Victoria. The aim of the exercise was to dispose of unexploded ordnances that are threatening personnel performing crowd riot control.**

*Text and photos by 1st Lt. Ola Björnör, Swedish Army*

Dressed in full CRC gear while carrying sandbags, blast-pipes and explosives, the EOD team advances towards the UXO. The scenario today is that a hand grenade has been thrown behind the base line of the CRC unit and has for some reason not exploded.

In this state it's imperative for the CRC unit to take ground ahead to get away from the grenades' "kill-zone". We will then approach the UXO and place blast-pipes with sandbags on top of it. This reduces the hazardous area to 50 meters for personnel and 5 meters for buildings and vehicles. The most dangerous part, for us as well as the UXO, is to be hit by other thrown objects such as stones. If the situation allows it, we will dispose of it right away. We also now have the possibility to wait until all personnel are at a greater distance from the UXO, says Captain Jan-Erik, EOD team-leader.

With protection from the CRC shields, the team leader prepares the charge that will send the UXO to hand grenade heaven. The charge is placed over the UXO and then the blast pipes are lowered over and the sandbags are placed on top.

It's important that we perform exercises like this, says EOD-specialist Nils. Today I would say that we showed a good



performance as well as good results, although in a real situation there will be real stones hammering on the shields; that will make some difference.

The tasks for an EOD squad varies in Kosovo. A large portion of the call outs come from the local population that



# on in Kosovo



still finds UXOs from the war back in 1999. Just a couple of days ago, one team went out on a call that was reported as an anti-tank mine. While on site, the team identified the object to be a round magazine to a machine gun. After a usual check of the surroundings the team also found the machine gun.

"We were a bit lucky that time", says Captain Jan-Erik, "but objects seldom travel alone". When the CRC exercise was over, the EOD squad took the opportunity to dispose of knives and other illegal weapons that had been confiscated at check points by the Swedish Infantry Coy, Bravo-Coy.

I think it's very important work to collect and destroy all illegal weapons here in Kosovo. That is one way to contribute to a safe and secure environment for all parties involved, concludes Captain Jan-Erik.



# Once a Marine,

Text by Maj. Vedat Yumsak, Turkish Army and  
Maj. Ramazan Gencer, Turkish Army  
Photos by Cpt. Alican Ozcan, Turkish Army



Is there a sea in Kosovo or are you making a joke? This was a famous question in MNTF S in May when people first heard about the news that a marine coy would be deployed to the theater soon. But certainly it was not a joke, as at the end of the month, KFOR got an additional 110 dependable soldiers who were determinantly ready to carry out all necessary tasks in all kinds of operations wherever and whenever there was a need. And these were the brave marine boys of the Turkish Contingent.



Although there seems no remarkable similarity between the amphibious and peacekeeping operations for a civilian at first glance, soldiers know that marines are always among the best soldiers of an army. And with its high adaptation skills, Turkish Marines were able to get rapidly familiar with the environment in Kosovo, and prove their efficiency in situational awareness, readiness and reaction. "Once a marine, always a marine" is the motto of these good young soldiers - the new reserve manoeuvre unit of the MNTF S. Hours after finishing its deployment to Camp Sultan Murat, Prizren, Kosovo, the Marine Coy was ready to carry out a wide range of tasks both in the AOR of MNTF S and generally in the whole AOR of KFOR. If COMKFOR needs a reliable reinforcement manoeuvre unit which is composed of soldiers who only need a few minutes to take their rucksacks full of the appropriate equipment according to the task, to get into their trucks to be ready for a reconnaissance, for a vehicle or foot patrol, for setting up observation posts or vehicle check points, for house searches or crowd control operations, or for any other kind of framework operations, these marines are ready.



# Always a Marine



Today there is no critical terrain left in MNTF S AOR which either had not been stepped on, or not been reconned by the marines. They have participated in a total number of five big operations which were held by the MNTF S. They've also conducted rigorous training.

And so far, besides having been deployed to different parts of the AOR of MNTF S to participate in joint operations with different manoeuvre battalions of the task force, they also conducted some joint security operations in MNTF E AOR with the units of other multinational task forces, and also carried out some observation post duties along the southern border with Kosovo Police Service, too.

Indeed who are these marines? It can be easily said that, in war times, they are the units that are just in the center of the flexibility between the marching and sailing troops, who simultaneously act in land combat activities while performing practically amphibious operations. But on the other hand, with their high standard of military training, and with the team spirit among its soldiers, they also become

perfect troops for peacekeeping operations.

In 1997, the marines participated in Operation Alba, NATO's Humanitarian Aid and Peacekeeping Operation, which was held in Albania, and won the "Golden Eagle" award, being selected as the best troop among the participating nations. They also participated in NATO's evacuation operation of immigrants in Lebanon in 2006 after the unexpected developments in the region, and also another unit of them is currently in another peacekeeping mission with the NATO forces Surobi Sector, Afghanistan. Under the command of their higher unit, Amphibious Marine Infantry Brigade, the marines participate in NATO, Partnership for Peace and numerous other exercises, besides carrying out different kinds of joint exercises with the marine corps of other countries.

And now in Kosovo, in order to have a new success to the previous ones, the marines are once more combat ready for new tasks. "Once a marine, always a marine".



# The Military Police



*Text by Lt. Col. Ciska van Liempt-Nijland,  
Dutch Marechaussee,  
Photos by IMP*

All Task Forces in KFOR, including KFOR HQ, have a provost marshal and police units.

Each one has a different way of operating, according to national caveats and national structure, routines and restrictions. Most of the nations have their own national MPs in theatre, and the national MPs deal with investigations of personnel of their nation. But you must remember, how it is written in SOPs, all members of the force have to cooperate



with the MP of any Task Force. It does not matter of which nation you are, you have to respond to the directions given by any MP.

Although there are different cultural backgrounds and habits between the soldiers, the cooperation between MP stations has been fruitful from the beginning. MPs of every nation have shown their intercultural competence to the other nations. Thus, the working climate can be entirely described as open and trustful.

The general duties of all MP soldiers include performance of routine tasks for the troops. While monitoring military order and discipline inside and outside field camps, they also do military traffic control service. This includes not only speed checks but also escorting convoys or the reconnaissance of marching routes for heavy KFOR vehicles.

Also, several IMP units are skilled in crowd riot control measures. They use not only non-lethal weapons like tear gas or rubber bullets, but can also form special snatch teams to capture key persons of violent and aggressive behaviour against KFOR and, in worst case scenarios, are even able to use their own snipers to neutralize dangerous individuals.

Next to that, the IMP has well - trained dogs for drug or explosives and weapon searches. These are called K-9 operations. Especially during the execution of vehicle check points, these instruments have shown to be very useful when investigating vehicles of suspected persons or during house search operations. Special trained investigators, who can for example take fingerprints or make drug tests, often work together with dog handlers. Thereby, explosives searches are generally executed in close cooperation with EOD teams not belonging to the MP. Another special task of MPs is the function of close

# within KFOR Theatre



protection teams to ensure the safety and security of high - ranked officers or guests.

Due to the borderlines, MPs have a close cooperation to KPS Border and Boundary Police while doing regular joint patrols along the borderline or performing common tasks during VCPs.

Last but not least, there is the airport security duty. MPs conduct security check-in procedures and the search of hazardous goods among the baggage of returning KFOR soldiers at the airports.

It is important to mention, that MPs work for the KFOR troops, not against them, as sometimes claimed. The support and help for KFOR troops, like policemen do for civil society, is one basic task of every MP. In a certain way, they can be regarded as a service team for KFOR.



# MNTF W led CRC Course to KPS



*Text by Capt. Luca Cicogna, Italian Army  
Photos by OR-4 Alessandro Moghetti and  
TF PSYOPS MNTF-W*

Kosovo Police Service personnel were awarded certificates on September 21, following a crowd and riot control course conducted by MNTF W officers.

This course, which lasted five days, was held in Camp "Villaggio Italia" and was attended by 60 policemen from Pec/Pejë Regional Command. This training was aimed at teaching the KPS personnel concepts that could improve their ability to deal with CRC situations as well as to educate the future instructors from the ranks of the KPS itself.

The course program included a theoretical portion focused on legal aspects related to CRC, led by the Legal Advisor of MNTF W 1st Lt. Luca Bisbiglia, and a practical exercise with Italian soldiers of Task Force Aquila and Task Force Falco to demonstrate CRC equipment and procedures. In particular, Italian soldiers simulated a crowd to make a real environment for the exercise and to permit KPS officers to train on CRC procedures. The course showed and trained KPS personnel how to dress in the special CRC equipment always used during crowd and riot control activities. It was a good occasion for MNTF W soldiers and KPS' members to get to know each other.

Every day we are on the streets, performing the same activities for the security of all Kosovars, but we have no occasion to exchange ideas or maybe to spend time together.

KPS personnel show a very high level of skill and

professionalism, and it was a good experience also for MNTF W soldiers to work with police personnel.

Brig. Gen. Antonio Venci, the Commander of MNTF W, handed over the certificates to Col. Ahmet Hasi (Pec/Pejë Regional KPS Commander), and to his policemen. Colonel Hasi thanked KFOR for the support in joint activities aimed to increase the knowledge of KPS personnel and for the support provided by KFOR to guarantee safety and security in Kosovo.

General Venci expressed his personal satisfaction for the results and the friendly and mutual cooperation established with the KPS. He underlined KFOR efforts to increase KPS training, so as to give this organization the ability to intervene with skill and professionalism in a crisis situation and also to enable it to be autonomous for the planning and execution phases of training.



# Helping People Help Themselves



*Text by Capt. Mikko Autti, Finnish Army  
Photos by Capt. Mikko Autti and  
Capt. Jari Alanen, Finnish Army*

The Finnish contingent has a long standing background in CIMIC-projects. The Finns in the Multinational Task Force Center see CIMIC as a valuable resource since it interacts closely with the many assets that the country possesses in the field of peacekeeping.

The latest CIMIC-related donation was a water truck to be used by the Lipljan/Lipjan fire department. The purchase of the truck, valued at 17,000 Euros, was made possible by a donation from the Foreign Ministry of Finland. Earlier this year MNTF C CIMIC also helped the Pristina/Prishtine Pediatric Hospital by purchasing equipment worth more than 45,000 Euros.

The Finnish Foreign Ministry is the main sponsor of CIMIC in MNTF C. The annual budget is approximately 250,000 Euros, and the focus is on a very unique formula; the Small Business Enterprise Project. The Finns picked up the idea for the establishment of the Small Business Enterprise Project from the International Organization for Migration. The concept has received wide attention amongst the population in the Finnish area of responsibility. There is also an academic study being conducted at the University of Pristina with regard to the impact that the project has had on local communities.

Specific local businesses are chosen every year through a round of applications. If chosen to participate, the businesses are aided by purchasing tools and equipment to help them grow and employ more people. The qualification process is conducted in liaison with local municipalities, yet another example of the way CIMIC encourages Kosovo people to take responsibility for their own future.

A total of 160,000 Euros is spent annually on local

businesses in the Small Business Enterprise Project, and the main aim is naturally in increasing the local employment rate. However, there are also vital operational benefits involved in the project. "High unemployment increases tensions and drives people to demonstrations. Creating jobs means creating stability in Kosovo", says Major Otto Sunell, the head of CIMIC in MNTF C.

The currently active projects are in Lipljan/Lipjan, Pristina/Prishtine, Glogovac/Drenas and Shtime/Stimlje. The projects vary from metal workshops to dressmaking. "It is always a prerequisite that the businesses chosen for the program represent a wide range of ethnic groups," notes Captain Jari Alanen, the person in charge of the Small Business Enterprise Project. What counts most of all though, is the expected employment impact on the community. The Small Business Enterprise Project never donates direct monetary funds since this would not fulfill the main objective of CIMIC-work - Helping them help themselves.



# What About the Noth

*Text and photos by Lt. Col. Paul Sauvage, French Army*

On August 26, 2007, the commander of MNTF N, Brig. Gen. Arnaud came into the Nothing Hill compound in order to preside over the transfer of authority between Lt. Col. Galani, Italian commander leaving, and Lt. Col Sauvage, French commander arriving.

In fact, for one year, the Nothing Hill Battalion will be under the command of a French command post. Under OPCON of the MNTF N, this battalion located in the northern part of the province of Kosovo has to continue in order to successfully achieve the mission. The aim of the mission is to maintain a safe and secure environment with freedom of movement for KFOR and the local population throughout the AOR, from the South of Leposavic/Leposaviq to Gate One. The team will also work on the other hand to learn a lot about the population.



# ing Hill Compound?



The Nothing Hill Command Post and the general support are provided by French contingent. The subordinate units are composed of two coys with CRC capability. One French coy as "A coy" and one KFOR monthly rotating coy as "B coy." The battalion must be able to take under TACOM another coy as "C coy." Most of the time the coys are patrolling in the field for daily and routine operational activities. In addition, the battalion takes care of using all the opportunities to perform individual and collective training. Welcome to Nothing Hill.



# KFOR Participates in Se

*Text by Tech. Sgt. Jason Smith, U.S. Air Force  
Photos by Combat Camera Team and PIO HQ KFOR*



The Serbian 2nd Land Forces Brigade, with participants from Kosovo Force, put on a medical evacuation demonstration Sept. 10, 2007, within the five kilometer Ground Safety Zone of the Administrative Boundary Line.

The scenario involved medical helicopter airlift, which marked the first time since 1999 Serbian Forces have flown a helicopter into this area as part of an exercise. Since the helicopter was flying inside the GSZ, prior permission from Kosovo Force Commander had to be obtained. According to the Serbian military officials, the current process to obtain approval for flying medical evacuation into the GSZ can be time consuming. To demonstrate the permission process, 2nd LFB members and KFOR members acted out the exercise scenario.

First, a traffic accident between a KFOR vehicle and a civilian car was simulated. Members of the 2nd LFB, who were traveling with members of Multi-National Task Force North as part of a Synchronized Patrol, immediately set up a perimeter and administered first aid. The MNTF N Joint Implementation Commission reported the incident.

Next, a medical team stationed at the nearby Borance Base responded to the scene with an ambulance. Medical experts quickly concluded that the two injured KFOR members can be transported by ambulance to a medical team awaiting their arrival at the ABL. However, the driver of the civilian car has serious injuries and must be airlifted from the scene.

# Serbian Medical Exercise



During the reporting of the injuries, the Chief of the Team for Cooperation must continually leave the accident scene to find a spot where he can communicate with KFOR.

"There is not always radio or phone contact", said Col. Zivkovic, 2nd LFB commander and Sector A-1 commander, through an interpreter. "The steps to get medical evacuation are many and time consuming".

Following several simulated communication transmissions among everyone involved in the exercise, onlookers are told KFOR has approved the medical airlift.

From out of nowhere, a Gazelle helicopter buzzes the onlookers at a high rate of speed. The helicopter quickly makes a turn and lands at the accident scene flawlessly. Medical professionals on the ground load the patient onto the helicopter which takes off out of site within a minute of landing.

After the demonstration, Colonel Zivkovic turned to microphone over to French Col. Pellizzari, Chief of Staff for MNTF N, who said the level of cooperation of the participants was impressive. He thanked French Gen. Asset, Chief Nato Liason Office in Belgrade, for attending, and thanked his Serbian hosts for the demonstration. Colonel Pellizzari said

he hopes KFOR and Serbian Forces can continue to improve their partnership.



# New Commander Ta

*Text by Tech. Sgt. Jason Smith  
U.S. Air Force  
Photos by CCT*

Pristina/Prishtine, Kosovo - Lieutenant Colonel Joao Carlos Cabral de Almeida Loureiro Magalhaes accepted command of the Kosovo Tactical Reserve Maneuver Battalion in a transfer of authority ceremony on Sept. 22, 2007, attended by Commander Kosovo Force Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac. Colonel Magalhaes most recently served as the commander of the Intervention Brigade's 2nd Infantry Battalion. Prior to that post, he was a teacher at the Superior Military Studies Institute. As the new commander, Colonel



Magalhaes said his main responsibility is to guarantee that his force is always ready to perform the tasks assigned to the tactical reserve.

"We have to assure that the planning and conducting of the training and operations are effective, detailed and complete so that the goal of every assigned mission is achieved", said Colonel Magalhaes. "It is also essential that all the manpower, equipment and financial resources are managed in a



# kes Charge of KTM

way that allows 2nd Infantry Battalion to be ready to perform any task assigned".

Along with a new commander, KTM has a new rotation of Portuguese soldiers.

"The rotation was mainly in personnel", said Colonel Magalhaes. "All assets remained in place. I do not foresee any kind of changes other than those which are necessary to enhance KTM's performance".

Lieutenant Colonel Paulo Emanuel Maia Pereira, the outgoing KTM commander who had departed for Portugal prior to the ceremony, said in his point of view, the departing Portuguese soldiers have accomplished their mission over the last six months.

"What I can assure KFOR is that all of the Portuguese soldiers have given all their effort to accomplish all missions in a positive way", said Colonel Pereira. From KTM, KFOR

has received the loyalty, the respect and the best of the Portuguese soldiers' dedication, effort and determination in accomplishing all of the missions".

All of the departing Portuguese soldiers are grateful for the opportunity to have made a difference in Kosovo, said Colonel Pereira.

"KFOR's work in Kosovo is one of the key things that keeps this region peaceful and stable", said Colonel Pereira. "Those who had the opportunity to work within the KFOR family have an understanding of this crucial role this force has in order to give the people of Kosovo the opportunity to have a future they can believe in".

The rotation of the soldiers will be a silent thing, according to Colonel Pereira. He said after he and his soldiers leave, KFOR will continue to carry on the mission in a professional and efficient way.



# Greek Protectors of

*Text and photos by  
Tech. Sgt. Jason Smith, U.S. Air Force*

Sokolica/Sokollice - No matter the weather, time of day or level of danger, Greek soldiers can be found standing guard over one of Kosovo's most famous Orthodox monasteries.

Members of the 647th Mechanized Infantry Battalion have been protecting the Sokolica Monastery since 2002.

One squad, including one officer and 10 non-commissioned officers, is always on duty on monastery grounds watching for possible threats and preparing to take action in case of any emergency. Should a crisis present itself, additional forces are always on standby to quickly respond.

"My main mission here is to keep the monastery in a safe and secure environment", said Sergeant Tzivis, 647th MIB. "We protect it from the three Albanian villages nearby".

Mother Abbess Makaria, head nun, said Danish forces were the first Kosovo Force members to guard the monastery in 1999. She said with them, as with the Greek forces now, she looks at the soldiers as protectors rather than occupiers.

"After the arrival of NATO (in Kosovo), 168 churches were destroyed", said Mother Makaria. "If it wasn't for

NATO, they would have all been destroyed".

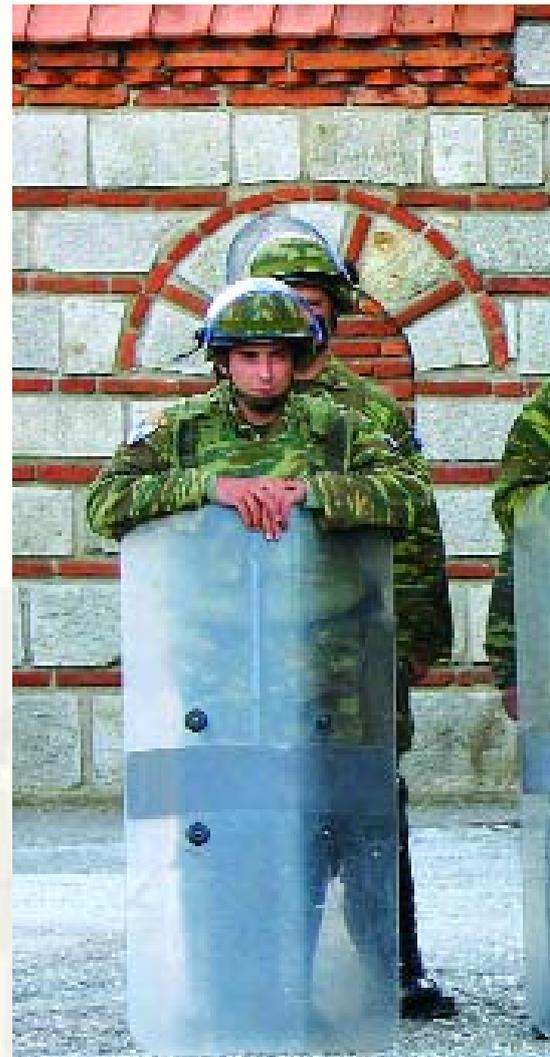
Mother Makaria said the Greek soldiers have the common bond of the Orthodox religion with her and the other sisters of Sokolica/Sokollice. This shared faith has allowed the two groups to live like a family.

"I am happy we have the Greek soldiers here", said Mother Makaria. "Last year for Holy Week we made services together. On Good Friday we had a special service with two groups of singers; one Greek and one Serbian. I sang with the Greek group, and we sounded better (laughing)".

Mother Makaria's agenda is one of peace. She feels her Kosovo-Albanian neighbors would respect the monastery even if the Greek soldiers weren't present, but she enjoys the protection.

"I'm not expecting something bad in the future, but it isn't all roses here", said Mother Makaria. "God will decide what happens with Kosovo, and everyone will have to accept His will".

Mother Makaria was clear that anyone in need was always welcome at the monastery. She has numerous stories of providing help to K-Serbian and K-Albanian people. She also has many stories of miracles occurring when people pray to the Virgin Mary for help. According to the Kosovo.net Web page,



this famous Orthodox monastery was built between the 14th and 15th centuries, probably by a landlord from the nearby town of Zvecan. The area probably earned its status as a monastery because legend has it that a sculpture of the Virgin Mary with Christ was brought there from the Banjska Monastery in order to hide the statue from the Turks.

Mother Makaria offers two additional stories of how the statue was brought to the monastery. It's easy to trust in Mother Makaria's historic accounts of the monastery because she is an educated and well-spoken woman. In addition to having a doctorate's degree in chemistry and a master's in theology, the 66-year-old nun is fluent in multiple languages. Regardless of what story is historically accurate, Mother Makaria is sure of the power of prayer to the Virgin Mary through this statue.



# 'Miracle' Monastery



"The statue gives children to husbands and wives who are told by doctors that they can't have children", said Mother Makaria. "One Muslim woman came here to pray. She was married for 11 years with no children. Her husband was a good man and stayed with her even though he could have left her after five years without children. She said the doctor told her she could not have children", Mother Makaria continued. "She prayed to Mary. She asked Mary for one son, and she received one son shortly after". Mother Makaria laughed as she told the story of the woman's return to the statue to pray many years after she gave birth to her son.

"I asked her why she was praying to the statue again", said Mother Makaria. "I know she had been given a son so

many years ago when she asked. She said that now that her son has grown up and isn't married, she needed to ask Mary for a bride for him".

All of the stories of the miracles and good deeds that have occurred at the monastery have been spread through the local villages, said Mother Makaria. This could be why a day will come when some people would try to bring harm to the site in some kind of political riot. Although the Greek soldiers hope that day will never come, they will make sure they are ready for any situation.

"Of course I'm proud to protect this monastery", said Sergeant Tzavis. "I am Orthodox, and that helps also. I miss my family, but I know this in an important site".

Sergeant Tzavis is not married, but said he misses his parents and girlfriend very much. This is his third mission in Kosovo and second at the monastery. At the end of this tour, he will have spent

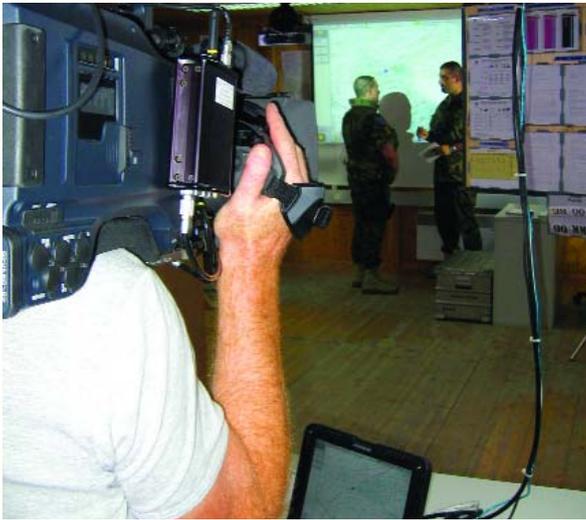
two years in Kosovo. Still, he stays focused on his mission and remains proud to serve.



# The Swiss

*Text by Spec Of Henrique Schneider*

*Photos by Spec Of Henrique Schneider and Maj. Katharina Faulak*



There will be a real movie starring the Swiss Coy 16. Yes, indeed! From Sept. 4 - 11, 2007, a well known Swiss director, Mr. Jürg Ebe, with his crew of eight people shot some movie scenes about the Swiss Coy.

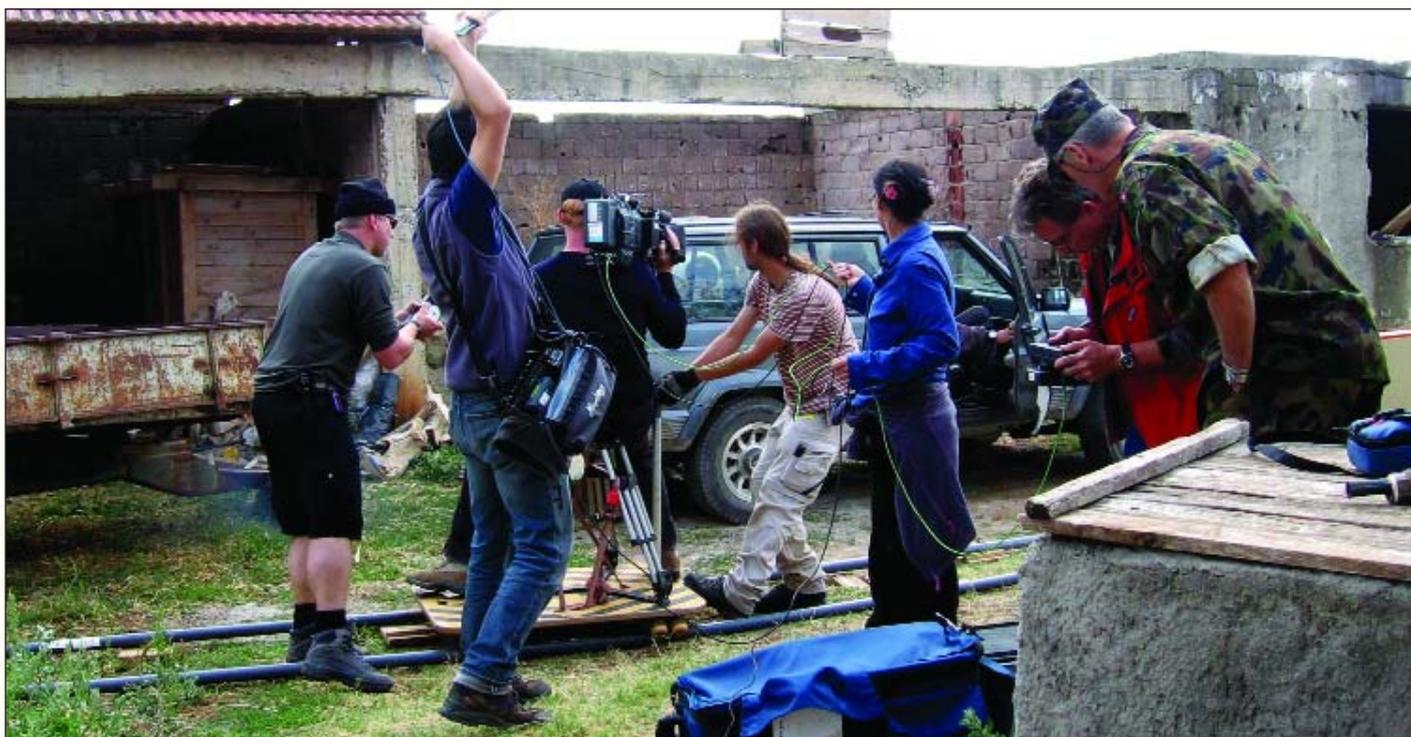
The Swiss Armed Forces are updating their corporate identity. One item of this is public relations, so they decided to make a movie in the style of the TV-Series "24 Hours". "20 Minutes in the Swiss Army" shows the main tasks we perform: the army, the air force, the disaster relief forces and peacekeeping operations. For the sequence representing peacekeeping operations the Swiss Contingent in Kosovo was portrayed.

By the way, the decision-making was truly international. As the director came to Kosovo for the first time in May, the Com Man Bn Dulje, Lt. Col. Roland Schmiel (AUCON), started to think about an idea and suggested: "Why don't you show the EOD-Team clearing a field, the Swiss Super Puma landing on it, and the Swiss Infantry getting out of the helicopter in order to perform a TCP catching some smugglers and handing them over to the KPS"? The director shook his head, looked up and smiled brightly: "That's my story"! So, it became definitely settled for the movie starring the Swiss Coy 16 and our Austrian friends.

After some fine-graining, the decision was made to shoot the scenes in September, and that was a piece of work! First of all, since we are talking about a movie, the participants have to be very patient. A single scene can be shot up to 10 times! So, you have to coordinate the troops and keep them motivated, even when the director says, "That was very good, let's do it again"! There are many partners to be managed, like the Swiss Infantry Platoon, the Super Puma, the German Helicopter UH-1 from which the air scenes were shot, the Austrian EOD comrades, the MPs, the Austrian dog experts, the Kosovo Police in Malisevo/Malisheve, and all the four local actors, which played the role of smugglers. Furthermore, you have to organize the whole



# Army Movie Project



logistics like places to film, food, lights, dresses...even sand for sandbags used for the movie!

The crew, eight people (two for the camera, two for sound, two technicians, the assistant director and the manager), were amazed by the fact that everyone was doing his best for the project, and after shooting lots of scenes still had to go to work. Of course! Being a movie star is only a volunteer activity, as soldiers we still have to get our tasks done. But, as we say in the Man Bn Dulje, we do more than just our job.

Sometimes it wasn't easy to film. Bad weather, wind, traffic and the coordination of more than 100 partners and stars, changed the schedule several times. All main scenes had to be shot in just one day; something the director never did before.

Normally, key scenes are done in two or three different days in order to maintain concentration and the focus. But this time, everything was due at the same moment - and it worked!

Thanks to the ultimate passion of all involved partners, the Swiss Inf Coy, the MPs, the KPS Malisevo/Malisheve, the Local Workers, the Swiss and German helicopters, the Austrian EOD and military dog teams and the MNLU, everything worked just fine. KFOR and especially the Man Bn Dulje is always multinational. In that sense special thanks to the Austrian S5 Team and Lt. Col. Schmied; without them we wouldn't have succeeded. That's the spirit of it all- of the KFOR family; and now, that spirit is soon on the screen...



# Seven Nations - One Shooting



Results:  
P 8 :  
1st place: OR 5 SACLI, Osman (TUR)  
2nd place: OF 1 EROGLU, Salih (TUR)  
3rd place: OR 9 KILIC, Harijn (TUR)  
P 80 :  
1st place: OF 3 IMHOF, Ulrich (SUI)  
2nd place: OF 3 YUMSAK, Vedat (TUR)  
3rd place: OF 4 DIMITROV, Dimitar (BUL)

*Text by OR-8 Hagendorn Alfred, German Army  
Photos by Maj. Yumsak Vedat, Turkish Army*

## **An experience of great value ...**

This was the definite opinion of all soldiers participating in the Seven Nation Shooting event at Orahovac/Rahovec Firing Range, hosted by MNTF S. The Commander of MNTF S, Brig. Gen. Tarcin, initiated this shooting event which was then organized by HQ Coy of MNTF S and conducted on Sept. 8, 2007.

At Section 1 of the firing range, a firing competition was carried out using two different types of pistols (German P 8 and AUT P 80). At section 2, the participants had the opportunity to become familiar with the different types of weapons that are used by the KFOR nations, and to try them. In addition to the German machine gun, the assault rifles used by the Swiss, Austrians, Turks, Germans, and Bulgarians, as well as the new German submachine gun MP 7 and the grenade pistol, were available for firing. It should be emphasized that there also was the chance to fire the sniper rifle G 22 under the supervision of an experienced sniper. General Tarcin and the DCOM MNTF S, Colonel Patzki, were in the place as the supervisory authority, and were

obviously impressed by the good and straightforward way of the nations to deal with each other. Another multinational event was the joint fire-fighting action, as smaller grass fires flared up several times, which were extinguished in a combined effort.

During the barbecue in Camp Prizren at the conclusive event, the long-expected presentation ceremony was held. The CO of HQ Coy, Major Sauer, handed out certificates to honor the three best marksmen of the competitions carried out with the German and Austrian standard pistols.

So a long and eventful day, with many conversations held in smaller and larger groups, came to an end.





**Name:** Ucha Bojadze

**Rank:** OR-4

**Nationality:** Georgian

**Home Unit:** 3rd Infantry Brigade

**Unit in KFOR:** Georgian Security Unit (Camp Prizren)

**About the mission:** This is my first tour of Kosovo. My unit has the task of ensuring security at Camp Prizren by checking vehicles and persons entering camp and conducting foot patrols within the perimeter. We come under the command of a Turkish Brigadier General who is in charge of MNTF S. I am proud to be employed with KFOR, and I perform my duties in strict compliance with my mission in order to complete my function successfully.

**Family reaction:** I am married but without children. My wife and indeed all of my family give me strong support. They are aware that the situation here is not stable but calm. We telephone each other several times a month.

**Plans after the mission:** First of all it will be great to see my family again. I have signed up with the Army for four years. This is my first year so I will have another three to go when I get back. There is a chance of extending my service engagement by another two years, which I will most likely take. On my return I am going to serve with the 3rd Infantry Brigade.

**Name:** Yury Shekhov

**Rank:** OR-4

**Nationality:** Ukrainian

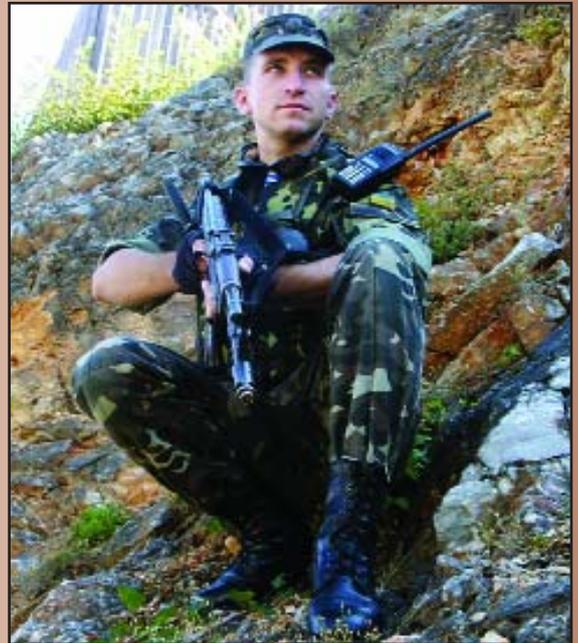
**Home Unit:** 95th Airborne Brigade

**Unit in KFOR:** MNTF E, POLUKRBAT

**About the mission:** This is my first mission abroad. I have served in Kosovo with my twin brother, Ivan, since April 2007. I am proud of helping the local people to have a better future for themselves and for their children. I'm also very happy to make good friends from other countries. Finally, I work hard to learn the new experience of a peacekeeping operation, which will be very necessary for my future job.

**Family reaction:** Our parents were happy to hear me and my brother were going abroad. They understand that it is necessary to take part in a peacekeeping mission for us because we're going to increase our skills to make high ranks. They are not worried about us too much - they know that I always support my brother and he takes care of me, too.

**Plans after the mission:** I will return to the Ukraine in two weeks, and first of all I'm planning to go on holiday with my friends. After the rest, I will return to serve as Ukrainian military paratrooper. I also hope to apply my KFOR experience in other missions abroad.



**Name:** Ole Solberg

**Rank:** Lieutenant Colonel

**Nationality:** Norwegian

**Home Unit:** Norwegian Command and Staff College

**Unit in KFOR:** KIKPC

**About the mission:** This is my first tour in an operation abroad, and it will be a good experience for me. Norway has been here since 1999, and I finished my doctoral degree based on studies of the Norwegian battalion that was here in 2000. My branch consists of ten different nations, and I will have the opportunity to learn more about different cultures. Since my branch is working directly towards the KPC, I am also fortunate to see all the different parts of Kosovo and meet the local population.

**Family reaction:** My tour was planned since long ago, and my wife and son were aware of the plan to go already one year ago. Being away from my family will probably be the most challenging part of this mission. I have been here for a week now, and my 8-year-old son already asks about when I am coming home.

**Plans after the mission:** My tour ends in March next year, and I will return to my job as a branch chief, teaching leadership, at the Norwegian Command and Staff College.

# Leposavic/Leposaviq

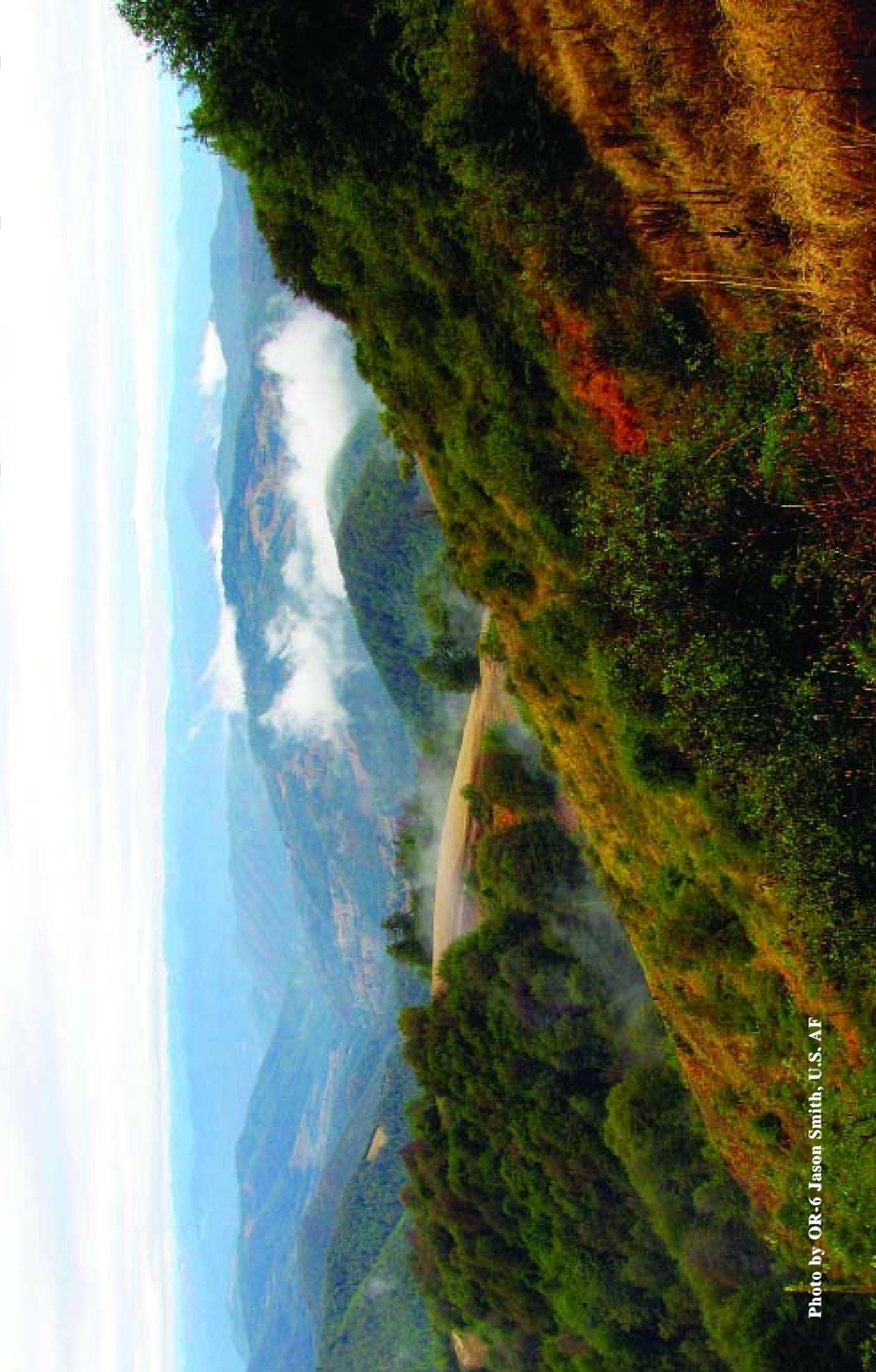


Photo by OR-6 Jason Smith, U.S. AF