



February 29, 2008

# KFOR Chronicle

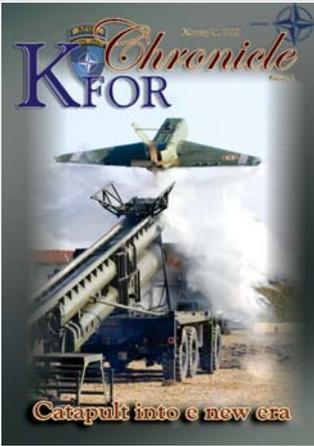
## KFOR

Edition 2



**Catapult into e new era**

[This Month's Features]



After many false downs, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV's) seem set to assume a wider variety of roles.

Cover photo by OR-8 Jean-Charles Thorel, French Army

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](mailto:kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int)  
[www.nato.int/kfor](http://www.nato.int/kfor)

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Commander KFOR:  
Lt. Gen. Xavier de Marnhac,  
FRA Army

Chief Public Affairs Office:  
Capt. Bertrand Bonneau, FRA Navy

Chief Internal Information & Editor in Chief:  
Maj. Gemot Schwarzenberger,  
AUT Air Force  
[schwarzenberger@hq.kfor.nato.int](mailto:schwarzenberger@hq.kfor.nato.int)

Journalist  
Capt. Valerii Petrushka, UKR Army

Photographer & Layout  
Mr. Armend Aqifi

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# COMKFOR LETTER REGARDING KOSOVO'S INDEPENDENCE

In this time of uncertainty following Kosovo's Declaration of Independence, one thing is certain. KFOR's mission remains unchanged. We will continue to provide a safe and secure environment for all the people of Kosovo regardless of ethnicity or location. KFOR will execute this mission with impartiality and in a determined manner. As always, KFOR will not tolerate any acts of provocation or violence.

It is of utmost importance that KFOR remain impartial and not interfere with the very delicate political process that is ongoing. We must all take care not to be seen as participating in social events either supporting or renouncing Kosovo's Independence. Our role in Kosovo is only to provide the military means to maintain security and to support the International Community in the execution of its very difficult task of navigating the challenging steps ahead.



Just prior to and on the day of the Declaration, I had the opportunity to visit some soldiers in the course of executing our mission and also viewed various patrols and check points from the air. I am extremely pleased with the outstanding professionalism of the members of KFOR. I remain completely confident that regardless of any situation that may develop, KFOR will succeed in executing our mission.

It has been a tremendous honor to serve with all of you during this historical period and I thank you all for your continued support and outstanding performance. I urge every member of KFOR to continue in the same outstanding manner in which you have embodied our motto, "PEACE WITH DETERMINATION"

**Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac**  
**Commander Kosovo Force**



# NATO Defence Ministers disc

*Courtesy NATO webpage*

North Atlantic Treaty Organization Defence Ministers met in Vilnius, Lithuania, on Feb. 7-8, 2008, to take a long term look at the Alliance's key challenges in Afghanistan and to reaffirm their solid commitment to maintain the presence of Kosovo Force in Kosovo.

Defence Ministers met with non NATO KFOR contributors to review KFOR's state of readiness and ensure that it can continue to guarantee security through this volatile period. Ministers agreed that KFOR has the forces, the reserve and the mandate it requires and that it will continue to ensure a safe and secure environment in Kosovo under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer said that the KFOR meeting was important because it

showed through the participation of the meeting the commitment for KFOR.

"Our meeting today is timely, as it takes place against the backdrop of events in Kosovo and in the region," said Jaap de Hoop Scheffer.

"KFOR has to protect the majority and the minority alike, all local people without exception, and create a climate of security and stability in these difficult times in the region given the status process where NATO doesn't play a direct role as you all know. KFOR has its mandate. KFOR will work together with the Kosovo Police. KFOR will have to work together with UNMIK and UNMIK Police more specifically as the political process unfolds. I say again NATO has no direct role in that political process. It was important that we had the non-NATO partners supporting KFOR with us."





# Discuss key challenges in Kosovo



## Statement by the Secretary General in reaction to the Kosovo declaration of independence



After the Kosovo declaration of independence, NATO is following ongoing developments closely. The North Atlantic Council will meet tomorrow to assess the situation.

All parties should recognize that KFOR will continue to fulfill its responsibility for a safe and secure environment throughout the territory of Kosovo, in accordance with UNSCR 1244, unless the Security Council decides otherwise. KFOR will continue to provide security for all citizens of Kosovo, majority and minority alike, in an impartial manner, just as before.

KFOR's force levels and chain of command are not altered by today's events.

During this sensitive period, KFOR will respond swiftly and firmly against anyone who might resort to violence in Kosovo.

NATO urges all parties involved to exercise the maximum restraint and moderation.



# Peace with D

## COMKFOR visits to the Municipalities Assembly



The Commander of Kosovo Force Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac, made a visit to the Municipal Assembly of Glogovac/Drenas Feb. 12, 2008.

During his visit, General de Marnhac met with the President of the Municipal Assembly Mr. Nexhat Demaku and municipality delegation.

"We need the support of all local leaders because you are the part of maintenance of security and stability in Kosovo. You have to support KFOR, Kosovo Police Service, United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo police and other community," said General de Marnhac.

"KFOR is ready for all situations and will continue to provide a safe and secure environment to the citizens of Kosovo. All the best for future and I want to say that my motto as COMKFOR is 'Peace with determination'."

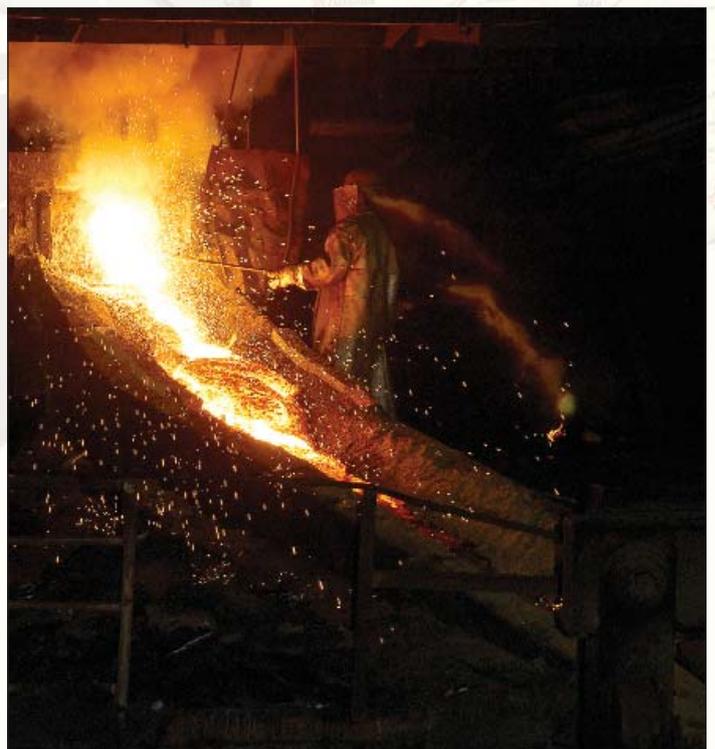
After the municipal visit, General de Marnhac had a visit to the "Ferronikel" factory nearby Glogovac/Drenas and assessed it as the hope of the economic development of Kosovo. General Manager Kostas Lamnatos explained and showed to COMKFOR

all working process of this factory.

COMKFOR also made a visit to the Municipal Assembly of Zubin Potok Feb. 12, 2008. General de Marnhac met with the President of the Municipal Assembly Mr. Slavisa Ristic. Together, they gave a press conference.

A lot of journalists, guests and local population were present for this press conference. COMKFOR General de Marnhac talked about his main duty as COMKFOR. General de Marnhac said, "KFOR is responsible for the security in Kosovo, and I know that people in Kosovo work to maintain stable situations. We also work hard in order to provide a safe and secure environment."

In the end, General de Marnhac thanked everybody who was in attendance.



# etermination



## COMKFOR's visit to the region of Pec/Peje

The Commander of Kosovo Force Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac had a visit to the villages Siga/Sige and Brestovik in the region of Pec/Peje, Feb. 14, 2008.

COMKFOR General Xavier de Marnhac expressed satisfaction with the fact that the Serbian residents of these villages do not have concerns regarding their safety.

"I am glad that everything is all right and the situation in the villages is improving," said General Xavier de Marnhac.

"I noticed that the road is constructed by KFOR, Kosovo Police Service and Kosovo Protect Corpse. I am glad that there are no concerns regarding the security. KFOR is ready to maintain the situation in safe and secure level for all Kosovo citizens."

COMKFOR General Xavier de Marnhac was also interested in their medical condition and their medical treatment, which is offered to them. The Kosovo-Serbians told to General de Marnhac that there is a nurse, which is appointed by Serbia's Ministry of Health and that time after time they are visited from the doctors from Pec/Peje and from the village of Gorazdevac/Gorazhdec.

General Xavier de Marnhac was assured by the Kosovo-Serbian residents of these villages that they are feeling safe in Kosovo.

"We are not concerned about our safety because we are in our homes and we believe that there will not happen anything undesirable," said the representative of the Kosovo-Serbians of Brestovik Miodrag Dasic.

"Until now we have never had problems regarding our safety and if there has been a minor problem we have solve it together with our Kosovo-Albanian neighbours."



# Maneuver Battalion



*Story by Captain Manfred Leitner and  
Major Gernot Schwarzenberger  
Photos by OR-7 Helmut Vogl  
Austrian Armed Forces*

From the beginning of February the members of the Multinational Austrian-Swiss armored infantry battalion were on alert. It became obvious that the extended state of alert was a necessity.

"We underwent very intensive training and practiced repeatedly search operations, routine checkpoints activities, patrolling and crowd control related exercises including close cooperation to Kosovo Police Service (KPS)," explains the company commander of Scorpion-Coy, Captain Manfred Leitner at Camp Casablanca in Suva Reka/Suhareke.

## Success with KPS

In the long run it is important, to establish peace and order in Kosovo. Competences must be passed on to the KPS. Close and effective cooperation is now demanded.

"We already leave the checking of the identity cards and claim check to the KPS since they are the specialists in this area," sees OR-9 C. Adolf the common check points nowadays. "Furthermore the Police Officers have exact knowledge about the history in the area and know well, where something bad has happened during the war and at the time thereafter."

The cooperation has already been consolidated so far, that persons and vehicle control with KFOR and KPS can be started immediately after

arriving. The duties are clear from the start and language differences are hardly a problem anymore. Several vehicles and persons can be checked with even higher quality now in the same time.

The flexible cooperation has to be stressed particularly with the KPS stations. Appointments over places of common check points and foot patrols are agreed and carried out unbureaucratically. The engagement and the readiness for the cooperation have to be judged as absolutely high.

The population sees this cooperation positively. The confidence in the abilities of the KPS increases further. The execution of patrols and control activities are seen as necessary and conducive to safety.



# on Dulje on Alert

Therefore, this is another step to get KPS more independent in its order fulfillment. The demonstrative appearance of KPS side to side of KFOR shows the population, that KPS will be able to take over the responsibility.

## New peacekeeping quality with help of Xerxes

Despite the fact that Kosovo lies hundreds of kilometers from the mythic ancient Persepolis, the Persian Emperor Xerxes I of Persia "keeps a vigil" over the security in the province. "Today, during the days after declaration of independence we are conducting monitoring and patrol activities," said the Battalion commander Lt. Col. Volkmar Ertl, adding: "The situation remains calm. In case of unrest tensions leading to possible looting or violence against minorities so the safety and lives of local people might be in danger, we are ready to execute the crisis plans dubbed Xerxes."

Lt. Col. Volkmar Ertl assessed the overall situation before declaration of independence as calm and quiet. "The favorable security situation enabled us to partially change the operational assignment. The aim of this change was to make us less visible. Some patrol routes were altered, vehicle checks took a different scenario including close cooperation with Kosovo Police Service (KPS) and emphasis was laid on monitoring activities." The soldiers continued to conduct their routine tasks but they began to access remote locations and inspected only those vehicles that appeared to be involved in illegal undertakings or weapon transporting. "Our activities gained momentum with the upcoming date of independence. The Liaison Monitoring



Team under command of Maj. Anton Brugger monitored all "hot spots" as well as all political leaders on either side of the ethnies. A reduced notice to move time was put in place before and after the independence day.

## KFOR's goal was, is, and will be peace

The KFOR personnel were not directly involved in the independence process, their activities were restricted to monitoring the security situation.

When leaving Pristina/Pristhine, on the road sides we can still see coloured balloons and different flags telling from this historical event. Kosovo is in peace some days after declaration of independence and we do hope that the days and months to come sanity will prevail over emotions and ethnic frictions.



# Together in a good working

*Story by OR-4 Tegan Kucera, US Army  
Photos by PAO MNTF E and  
Combat Camera Team*

Soldiers from Multi-National Task Force (East), got the opportunity in February to riot against the Kosovo Police Service (KPS).

The Soldiers were rioting in order to "test" the KPS on how well they would react and respond to the situation. The training exercise also gave them the opportunity to practice what they would do if they were unable to control the riot.

"The objective of the exercise today was to incorporate Kosovo Forces (KFOR) and KPS together in a good working relationship under what could be very stressful conditions," said Maj. Joe Pehlman the deputy operations officer for MNTF (E).

Pehlman said he wanted to see everybody working well together in a situation that allowed KPS to be able to hand the situation off to KFOR if they were unable to handle it, as well as for KFOR to hand it back when the time came for KPS to again take control.

"KFOR and KPS working together on command control during a riot situation is very important," Pehlman said. "This exercise integrates everybody and it gets what I call collaboration with each other."

In order to make the riot as real as possible the exercise had over 40 Soldiers from Camp Bondsteel pretending to be rioters angry about their lack of electricity. KPS was the first to respond and pretending not to be able to handle the situation they let KFOR take over for them. KFOR, after taking control of the situation handed

the reins back to the KPS.

"The ability to communicate is very important during this exercise because it is meant to test the ability to communicate through an intense situation," said Col. Elmina Mahmuti the KPS region commander for Gjinilane.

Mahmuti said the exercise is providing good cooperation between both KPS and KFOR even if the exercise is just that. She said she has had many dealings with KFOR but this exercise is a first and that she hopes the KPS will learn from the event.

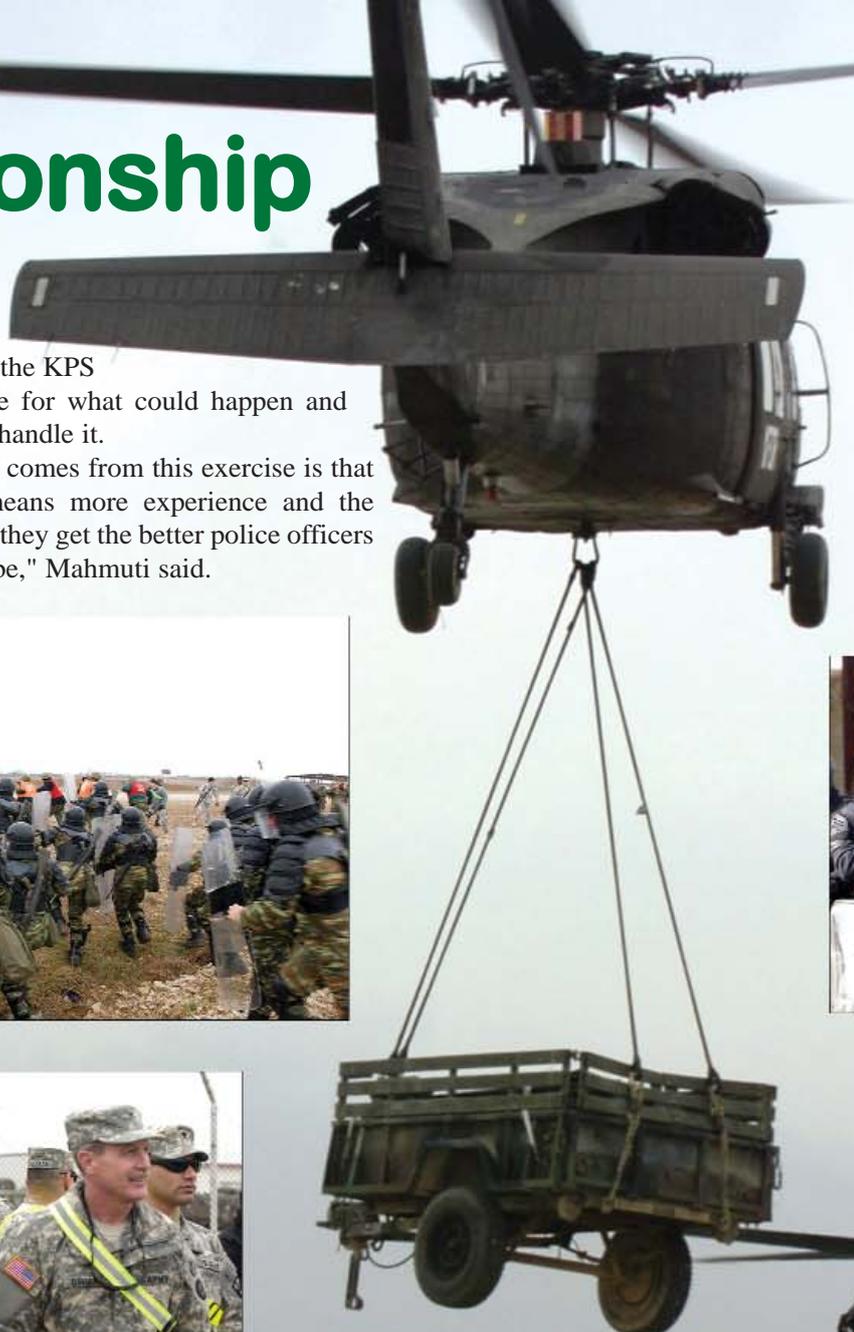
"I think to work with KFOR here will give the men a good chance to learn what they need to do," Mahmuti said.

She also added that she was happy the exercise took place on the Greek base Regas Fereos in MNTF (E) because it was out of the way of civilian eyes in



# relationship

order to prevent confusion. This is for the aide of the KPS as a future guide for what could happen and how they would handle it. "The benefit that comes from this exercise is that more training means more experience and the more experience they get the better police officers they're going to be," Mahmuti said.





# MAGIC



# MISSION KOSOVO

*Story by 1st Lt. Tobias Ammann,  
Swiss Army  
Photos by PAO Swisscoy*

There's a very specialized unit within the rows of the Swiss Army. A one-man unit, who's operation target is to bring some magic moments to the folks. The former Swiss magic's champion and tank-coy commander is a member of the American Magician Association. He usually performs twice the year for children and Kosovo Force troops in Kosovo. From Feb. 01 to Feb. 08, he came again in his "Magic Mission"...! That year he performed 18 times in one week: 10 times for local children and 8 times in KFOR Camps.

In local schools there are many children who haven't ever seen a magician live. Therefore they were very excited when they saw the announcements placed at the school doors. On the day of the show, as soon as the Swiss KFOR vehicles turned into the school area, they were

surrounded by "thousands" of happy screaming and shouting children. Here in Kosovo, small villages sometimes have more than 200 students of all different ages. The biggest crowd the magician had this year was more than 450 spectators in the morning as well as in the afternoon.

In his luggage the magician has a small stage he sometimes used - so also the far away standing children can see his show. He shows tricks with ropes, rings and disappearing rabbits in his performance. The magician decided to make the performance in local places in civilian clothes. As he is of the opinion that uniforms and magic tricks should not be identified as the same. Usually he does his shows in German and an SWISSCOY interpreter translates it to Albanian or Serbian. During his stay in Kosovo he visited many Basic schools and Colleges.

In the evening hours the Swiss magician performed in the following KFOR-

Camps: Airfield Toplicane, Camp Casablanca, Camp Sultan Murat, Headquarter MNTF S, Headquarter KFOR, Airfield Dakovica and Camp Ville. He wanted to bring also some magic moments to the KFOR Soldiers to distract them from the daily routine.

The tricks he showed to the bigger children were more sophisticated. Besides his illusions with the ropes and the rings (the rabbit would have been too simple) he performed tricks with balls and cups and an invisible card set. Another delight was the "ID-Card-Tester", which dismember the KFOR-ID-Card of a spectator and the shock was written into the face of the owner. And the words of the magician: "Oh! I am sorry, I do not magic for a long time!" were not very helpful at that moment?! In the end of the show the ID-Card appeared again in the invisible card, which gets visible during the trick. It was just magic...

*Story by Captain Ricci Michele, Italian Army  
Photos by OR-3 Francone Dario, Italian Army*

Soldiers of Task Force Falco continued the positive series of conducting international operations in Kosovo.

"Task Force Falco is a multi-national unit composed mainly of Italian soldiers from the 9th Infantry Regiment "Bari" including two companies consisting of Slovenian and Hungarian soldiers," explained TF-Commander Colonel Filippo Bonsignore.

This time the unit has conducted together with the multinational Danish battalion the operation "Northern Monica".

### **White Soldiers do their best**

"A large part of my troops, from the 9th Infantry Regiment located in Trani, in the south-eastern part of Italy are also called the "White Soldiers", said Colonel Bonsignore.

The "White Soldiers" had employed to Multi-National Task Force North (MNTF N) in order to increase the interoperability and to improve the operative procedures according to the different units of the nations employed in the operation "Joint Enterprise".

Danish and Estonian comrades and the Italian Delta Coy, commanded by Captain Ricci Michele, had operated together in the northern part of Kosovo and at the border of Serbia to ensure a safe and secure environment and the freedom of movement to all local citizens.

"The professionalism of our soldiers has been appreciated from the foreign military parts involved in this operation

# White Soldiers march



and from the local population which welcomed heartily our infantry men as professional peacekeepers," proudly said Capt. Michele. "Particularly in this delicate historical moment for Kosovo we have to do our best."

### On the roads of Mitrovica/Mitrovice

During operation "Joint Enterprise" Delta Coy gave a valid support to the Danish unit expressing on the ground some series of activities to go and show presence of KFOR troops.

The activities started on the 22nd and finished on the 24th of January.

Delta Coy and their Danish and Estonian comrades have seen for a long time the roads of the municipality of Mitrovica/Mitrovice during joint patrols and while conducting check points.

All men and the women of the 9th Infantry Regiment

"BARI", aren't new to this type of international operation. In fact, the Italian unit has worked together with almost all contingents present in Kosovo during the last five months. "On the other hand we were able to improve our experience with helpful knowledge from our Danish and Estonian friends," the Captain pointed out.

A series of intense activities like Operation Recent Fox, High Plain Drifter, Leonida, Twin Monitor, Vigilant Knight and Perfect Stranger were carried out.

"Wherever we have been, our soldiers have done a good figure and received the best regards from Danish and Estonian soldiers," Captain Ricci Michele was proud to say.

TF Falco will continue in the future combined exercises with other KFOR troop contributing nations.

# ed towards Mitrovica



# KFOR Medical Com



*Story by Major Gernot Schwarzenberger,  
Austrian Air Force*

*Photos by Captain Valerii Petrushka,  
Ukrainian Army*

The Medical Directors of all five Multinational Task Forces as well as Chiefs and other professionals of KFOR medical units of 17 nations gathered on Saturday 9th February in Camp Film City, seat of Headquarters KFOR, for an important medical co-ordination meeting. The main objectives of the meeting, set by its chairman and KFOR Medical Director, Colonel Dr. Rüdiger Trapp, were to enhance knowledge on the different medical roles and responsibilities in theatre, to optimise the operational information flow between the different levels of care and areas of responsibility, to inform on recent developments concerning the health and medical situation in Kosovo and, in particular, within the KFOR troops and, last but not least, to meet face to face in order to accelerate the decision-making process and, after all, efficient patient regulation and treatment in emergencies.

## **Knowledge, courage and willingness are the keys to Kosovo's future!**

The group was honoured to be addressed by the Minister of Health, Prof. Dr. Alush A. Gashi, on that day still member of the Provisional Institutions of Self Government of Kosovo, who thanked the KFOR medical community for the strong support they have always provided to civilian health projects and medical facilities. He emphasised his desire for the continuation of that excellent co-operation, in particular during the current historical period of Kosovo. Colonel Dr. Trapp stressed the importance of close co-ordination between NATO and the Ministry of Health in defining the medical screening process for the future Kosovo Security Forces and their medical support organisation. He highlighted the Minister's remarkable consistency and sustainability in creating awareness for deficiencies, addressing them, developing remedial plans and pushing for their implementation. It is Minister



**Minister of Health of Kosovo, Prof. Dr. Alush A. Gashi; Colonel Dr. Rüdiger Trapp; Director of KFOR Medical Units, Prof. Dr. Rüdiger Trapp**



# munity Well Prepared



**Alush A. Gashi; KFOR Medical Director, the National Institute of Public Health of Naser Ramadani**

Gashi's conviction that knowledge, courage and willingness are the keys to Kosovo's future!

Completely in line with this approach, the Director of the National Institute of Public Health (NIPH) of Kosovo, Professor Dr. Naser Ramadani, presented a very frank and comprehensive overview on Kosovo's public health system, epidemiological developments, main health problems as well as major achievements, and the

vision and strategy to improve the health system. Cooperation between the NIPH and KFOR works well and is likely to be extended within the next months.

## **National responsibility, international standards, multinational strength**

When recalling the medical support roles and responsibilities in theatre, Colonel Dr. Trapp pointed out the tremendous achievements of NATO in the field of medical support, which can be summarised in the overarching principle that "The aim of military medical care in operations is to achieve outcomes of treatment equating to best medical practice". Backed by the Medical Directors of KFOR's five Multinational Task Forces, who briefed on their areas of responsibility, he highlighted examples of the state-of-the-art medical treatment facilities and medical evacuation assets in theatre. Although medical support is ultimately a national responsibility, NATO Commanders on all levels and, on their behalf, the co-ordinating Medical Directors, share this responsibility. Thorough planning to meet the treatment timelines from advanced trauma care through damage control surgery to definitive treatment,

common knowledge and understanding of NATO medical procedures and a well developed communication culture are three basic pillars to enable Medical Directors to meet their responsibility.

The KFOR Medical Coordination Meeting, which also addressed the KFOR health status, medical incidents, medical reporting, technical communications issues, several projects of civil-military co-operation in the medical arena and the indispensable co-ordination with the civilian health system of Kosovo and International Organisations in theatre, was regarded by all participants as a considerable contribution to the multinational strength of the established KFOR medical support organisation. It is well prepared for possible challenges. Follow-on Medical Coordination Meetings will be held regularly.

## **Determination for high quality medical support**

Colonel Dr. Trapp closed the meeting with a slide showing a sword, twined by the snake of Aesculapios, against the background of an evening atmosphere over Kosovo, calling it a symbol for the determination of the multinational KFOR medical community to provide high quality medical support under any circumstances.





“Familiarity” by Brig. Gen. Bund

# "I am a fan of Picasso"

## An officer and an artist - the other side of a general

Story and photos by OR-7  
Steffen Maluche, German Army

Soldiers' ways to pass their leisure time in a foreign theater of operations, the hobbies they pursue, the private passions they continue living out while on mission abroad - these peculiarities are as varied as are the soldiers behind them, and the only limiting factor is lack of opportunity. Most people never discover the aptitudes and talents made invisible by the equalizing effect of military uniforms. What does a soldier's human and private side look like, off-duty and stripped of official military bearing? The commander of the German Kosovo Force Contingent, Brigadier General Robert Bund, is an officer, art lover and artist all in one.

### First attempts at painting

"At the age of ten, maybe twelve, I made my first attempts at painting. Before I created my first own pictures, I first tried copying existing works of art," said General Bund. "The first work I copied was 'Young girl with a dove' by Pablo Picasso - a relatively small picture that fascinated me already at that time."

General Bund said that he never felt attracted by any such training or courses. He is a self-taught artist. Still, by reading suitable literature and by way of practice, he has experienced a continual further development over the years.

### Most particularly artistic styles

Apart from realism, his preferred styles are Impressionism, Expressionism and Cubism. General Bund is quite particularly impressed by the work of Picasso. Even this artist's late stage, which departs from Cubism, is a source of inspiration for him. He is especially fascinated by works like Picasso's bullfight sequence, done in shades of black and white.

"I am a fan of Picasso," said General Bund. Likewise, the esthetics of the impressionists, their brushwork, and the precision of van Gogh but also the work of Nolde put a spell on him. "By contrast, I oftentimes find the modernity in today's paintings too upsetting, too emotional."

General Bund said that he sees himself more as an art lover who does painting himself. He paints mainly for relaxation or to process his thoughts, emotions and experiences.

### Ideas

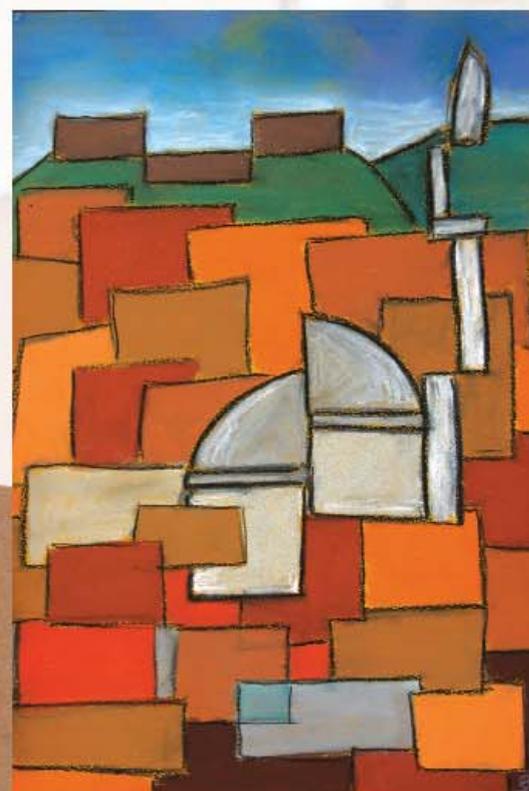
"Southern France, a region where I travel often, is a permanent subject that I turn into paintings," said General Bund. "Another subject, a highly emotional one, is hate. This specific subject will clearly be given an abstract treatment. A

soft and mostly realistic watercolor painting is too light-weight for such an abstraction. But I am not yet entirely sure if this latent work will not be relegated to my spiritual baggage for the time being and be realized at a later date in Germany."

Probably in March or April the KFOR's soldiers can expect an exposition of the works. There is the idea of organizing an exposition at Camp Prizren, Multi-National Task Force South, together with local painter Sami Ahmeti.



Brigadier General Robert Bund drawing initial contours and lines



# "Lunchtime for S



*Story by Captain Thomas Geissmann,  
Swiss Army  
Pictures by OR-7 Patrick Reich,  
Austrian Army*

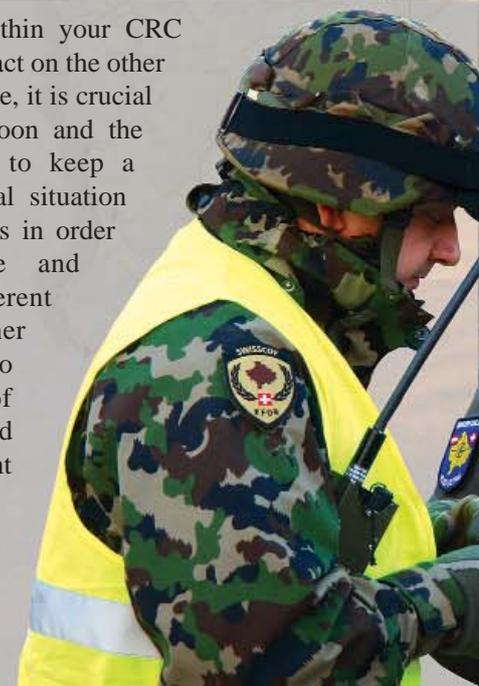
CRC is the abbreviation for "crowd and riot control" and has become an important instrument for most of the KFOR contingents over the last several years. During the incidents of March 2004 CRC measures were used, and therefore have led to a general increase in CRC capacity - also within the Swiss contingent SWISSCOY. Hence, CRC training is an important element for Swiss infantry units during their preparation to the KFOR mission. In cooperation with the Austrian contingent AUCON, several exercises in Camp Casablanca were conducted recently, aimed at repeating and further improving the CRC skills of SWISSCOY.



## Essential preparations

"Although the soldiers knew that it was only an exercise, and that their opponents were their colleagues from AUCON, they still got a little stressed when watching 50 people approaching them yelling and shouting", says Warrant Officer (OR-8) Alain Kohler, one of the responsible training experts. "But in the end, that is exactly what we wanted to achieve: creating a realistic environment in which we can provoke individual or collective misbehaviour and analyse their consequences", Kohler further explains. In CRC - especially when training how to block and redirect an unfriendly crowd on several axes - one of the greatest challenges is the complexity of manoeuvring and synchronising different elements within one CRC unit.

"Moving one element within your CRC unit will have a direct impact on the other elements. As a consequence, it is crucial for the commanding platoon and the commanders themselves to keep a clear picture of the actual situation and possible developments in order to properly coordinate and harmonize the different elements." On the other hand, the soldiers need to show a great deal of discipline and determination to implement the directives given to them by the command.



# Swiss Piranhas"



## Piranha

Piranha is a well protected fully amphibious APC which can fire 12.7mm rounds on the move or while swimming to defeat soft and armoured targets. Ergonomically designed, it provides excellent comfort for the crew with its superior cross-country mobility. Piranha has proven amphibious features and high manoeuvrability due to joy stick steering control.

## Don't pick a fight with Swisscoy

Another difficult, but no less important, aspect is maintaining the flexibility of the armoured vehicles supporting the CRC units. In the Swiss case this would concern the wheeled armoured infantry fighting vehicle "Piranha". A lot of training is required in order to be able to deploy the vehicle so that it can move flexibly and in the end be a support to the soldiers. "The worst thing that could happen to you in a stressful situation such as a riot is an accident caused by own fault, for instance as a consequence of poor harmonization between the CRC units and the vehicles involved", explains Warrant Officer Kohler.

In addition to the "Piranha" the correct deployment of other special weapons such as rubber guns and tear gas was part of the CRC training. The partners from AUCON were themselves equipped with full water plastic bottles, bags of dough and wooden bars in order to challenge the trainees and provoke fatal mistakes. Although looking quite tough from the outside, the highly professional set up of the exercise was a good opportunity to repeat CRC skills and finally led to valuable experiences in the area. And in the end, "aggressors" together with "defenders" shook hands and went for a common chill out drink in the Swiss Chalet.



# Anytime and Everywhere in Kosovo

Story by Captain Valerii Petrushka, Ukrainian Army  
Photos by Combat Camera Team



Since end of August 2007, only some weeks before new Commander Kosovo Force Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac took over Command, a French Combat Camera Team entered the theatre as part of Public Affairs Office in the KFOR Headquarters at Camp Film City, Pristina/Prishtine.

A common CCT is appointed from the country which is leading KFOR troops. The mission of the French team will finish until the end of command tour of the current COMKFOR. The usually turn over of a CCT is approximately 2 months. Each team is composed of a leader (journalist), a cameraman and a photographer.

In order to give evidence to a variety of KFOR activities the CCT is deployable at anytime to everywhere in Kosovo. The team covers exercises, operations, trainings, duties, emergency actions and deployments of Multi-National Task Forces and also different kind of activities of every KFOR unit.



## COMBAT CAMERAS THE EYES OF

CCT also engages to cover COMKFOR's activities around the theatre and provide photos and videos of important events in the KFOR Headquarters at Camp Film City, Pristina/Prishtine.

Also part of their mission is to support Public Affairs Office and civilian Medias with pictures and videos, especial in case when Journalists or Camera Teams are not allowed to join deployments or exercises of troops.

The CCT creates archives of photos and videos available for the future. It's not difficult to find out these productions. Just open the KFOR website or the French Ministry of Defence website and you can see a lot of photos as well as videos.

During the year 2007, the Combat Camera Team was able to provide almost 30 thousand pictures and more than 100 video reportages around all over Kosovo.

"All of our productions are available to any militaries who want to handle them," said CCT-leader Lieutenant Elisa Bernard. "We are working for all of you, the Kosovo Force members. Part of our job is to emphasise you, your mission and your unit. Just come to our office, in the PAO building at Camp Film City and just ask. It will be a pleasure to help you."

"For me it is interesting to work together with soldiers from so many different nations in Headquarters or Multinational Task Forces. Trough our work we see a lot from Kosovo. Our team is fully integrated in the international Command Group and the cooperation with other nations is functioning very well," said photographer OR-4 Sonia Poullain. "Here we have the chance to meet comrades of all KFOR contributing nations and so we are able to learn about their culture. This was for all of us a great experience."

# RA TEAM KFOR

[Inside KFOR]

# DO GOOD DEALS FOR

Story by Captain Valerii Petrushka, Ukrainian Army  
Photos by Captain Moris Barseghyan, Armenian Army

As part of the Greek peacekeeping battalion, 34 Armenian "blue berets" are now serving in Kosovo. The Armenia unit, headquartered at Camp Rigas Fereos, Multi-National Task Force East, joined the peacekeeping mission in Kosovo in 2004.

At the end of 2003, a Memorandum of Understanding, concerning the allocation of an Armenian platoon under the Hellenic contingent in Kosovo was signed between Armenia and Greece. Following this event, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) agreed on the participation of

the Armenian unit under Hellenic command in Kosovo. The memorandum was then ratified by the Armenian Parliament. The Armenian unit assigned to the Kosovo peacekeeping mission is trained by the Armenian Peacekeeping Battalion which prepares officers and non-commissioned officers (NCO) specifically for peacekeeping missions abroad like that of Kosovo. Prior to deploying, various training and patrolling exercises ensure all members of the unit are trained and ready for the mission abroad.

"Armenian peacekeepers are proud to serve for establishing and maintaining security at KFOR family in Kosovo. Every day we get a new knowledge and improve the skills and after mission we will give this experience to soldiers in Armenia. I believe we do a good job for peace, therefore all people around the world want to live and bring up children in peace," said outgoing Armenian commander Captain Moris Barseghyan.

The Armenian unit is dispatched to the KFOR mission for a



# R PEACE

period of six months. During that time, the unit conducts missions such as maintaining vehicle check points and providing foot and vehicle patrolling in their area of responsibility; Urosevac/Ferizaj. In addition to those duties they also provide security for Camp Rigas Fereos and are prepared to assist as a quick reaction force and crowd and riot control asset.

December 2007 marked the sixth month of the current Armenian unit's mission and new peacekeepers arrived and replaced their colleagues.



"Training in Kosovo gives us a different situation to learn our mission. First of all, in Kosovo, we work together with different nations, and we work like one team. We try to improve our cooperation all of the time," said new commander of Armenian unit Captain Ashot Mkrtychyan.

"It's not our first mission for many Armenian soldiers in Kosovo they already had a good experience to serve abroad and give this experience for younger soldiers."

"At all times, we make our main responsibility to fulfill the commander's tasks," said OR-3 Vyachislav Zaytsev. "This involves maintaining weapons and equipments. It is also a lot of training and exercises. We have good preparations."





# Clever Harfang ke

*Story by Major Gernot Schwarzenberger, Austrian Air Force  
Photos by OR-8 Jean-Charles Thorel, French Army*

Captain Sébastien F. and his troops from the French Army at Camp Plana are keen to unpack their equipment - Harfang, a state-of-the-art reconnaissance UAV.

But what the heck is a UAV some of you distinguished readers may ask?

An Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) is an unpowered drone. "UAV's can be remote controlled or fly autonomously based on pre-programmed flight plans or more complex dynamic automation systems", explained Captain Sébastien F., company leader of Harfang Detachment.

## Recce for KFOR

The French UAV-Team is a highly valuable asset for KFOR to keep installations safe from potential attacks and attackers, according to Sébastien.

"The principle is redundant reconnaissance", the captain said. "To use not only one system but at least two systems working together." This means that before a patrol goes out, a tactical UAV may scan an area of interest from the air to identify potential dangers.

The "Recce" unit, back home in France the 61st Artillery Battalion, is charged with keeping Kosovo safe.

## Soldiers of the future

"Since 2003 our army equipped us with this fascinating technology," Captain F. said. "UAV's give us a large panel of intelligence and surveillance purposes."

"Our mission here in Kosovo has two main tasks. First, to support the members of Joint Operations Centre (JOC) within KFOR HQ with live imagery of the current situation, as well as to back up J2 elements in the Multi National Task Forces on intelligence requests," said Sébastien.

## Harfang watches everything at anytime

The UAV, call sign Harfang, boasts a long range and flying time of more than 5 hours. Usually a platoon is responsible for employing one drone.

Harfang is also equipped with an infrared camera for night missions and radar allows the system to be operated regardless of weather. "With our smart UAV we are able to cover events in Kosovo wherever and whenever we want," the Captain said with a proud grin.

Air image analysts operating the UAV's high resolution camera, said it's all about making sure the path is safe for the people on the ground.

"It's very challenging, and you see a lot of things which you won't see in France," said a remote control pilot. "You can help the staff officers in HQ to have a better look at what is going on outside."

While the soldiers of 61st Artillery Battalion at Camp Plana are enthusiastic about exploiting reconnaissance instruments like Harfang, they are even more keen to identify potential threats and ensure a safe and secure environment for all the people of Kosovo.

## Air image of main bridge in Mitrovica



## Full power engine test run



# ops an eye over Kosovo



Camp Plana -  
"The Harfang has landed"



Point of no return



3 - 2 - 1 - catapult



"Start the engines!"

A Harfang system comprises the UAV, a ground control station with soldiers acting as pilots from the ground, a transportable hydraulic catapult and a ground data terminal with an air image analyst housed in the communications shelter carried on high mobility vehicles. For take off and landing neither runway nor road is required. The entire system can be operated from unprepared sites using catapult launch, and parachute recovery with airbags for sensitive cameras. A professional maintenance crew keeps Harfang operable including refueling and repairing system components. In France, Harfang is also known as "System de Drone Tactique Intermediaire" (SDTI).



Inserting parachute recovery system



Mounting to the catapult



Ready for take off



# Ready Everywhere is

*Story and photos by 1st Lieutenant Igor Piani, Italian Army*

"It's wonderful, to have the possibility to help the others," her eyes were shining when OR-2 Federica Marchiorato explained what her job here is.

"Since my arrival in the beginning of February, with my unit I am involved in a very fast rotation of activity: foot and motorized patrol, recce, vehicle check points (VCP) and everyday we change location with all related logistic problems. I am young and this is my first mission abroad, but I think that we are very well prepared and determined to carry out our mission."

"Before the deployment in Kosovo my colleagues tell me how fascinating it is to be a peacekeeper, but now, in



reality I have the occasion to get in contact with other people, cultures, and traditions. It's very interesting," said OR-2 Marchiorato.

"A while ago, during a VCP - one of the activity performed by the Operational Reserve Force Battalion deployed in Kosovo from Belluno (Italy) - I was approached by an old man that told us that in 1999 he crossed the Albanian border like a refugee, and I remembered that when I was young my grandfather told me something similar that occurred to him during the II World War."

The unit is one of the three NATO reserve forces available in a short notice. Periodically these units are deployed in the area to have recce of the possible area of responsibility and to familiarize with environment. These reserves are designed to be a mobile, versatile force

to augment in-theatre forces in order to deal with any military contingency.

The Italian ORF Battalion is a framework battalion based on "Julia" alpine brigade, 7th alpine regiment, and has been assigned to NATO deploys to Kosovo in order to participate in a routinely-scheduled exercise.

In the first phase of its deployment, the Italian ORF Battalion linked up with troops of the Multi-National Task Force West and Center, they were redeployed in the South of Mitrovica/Mitrovice, MNTF N.

"The situation was calm but tense," remembered the commander of the ORF Battalion Colonel Antonio Maggi. "But my soldiers have in their background different missions. Last year we were deployed in Afghanistan, now here, ready everywhere is necessary."



# s Necessary



# School Extension in Velica Hoca - an investment for the future

Story by Maj. Vedat Yumsak, Turkish Army and  
OR-5 Andreas Huber, Austrian Army  
Photos by MNTF-S

On February 14th the opening ceremony of additional rooms of the school in Velica Hoca/Hoce e Madhe took place. The ceremony was attended by the Commander of Multinational Task Force South Brigade General Ugur Tarçin and the Commander of Maneuver Battalion "Dulje" Lieutenant Colonel Volkmar Ertl. This project was planned and realized by Austrian Civil-Military-Cooperation (CIMIC) together with Sister Johanna, a very diligent Austrian nun, who works together with Austrian CIMIC since 2001. More than 65.000 Euro were spent to help the pupils of Velica Hoca/Hoce e Madhe.

## Tremendous bad hygiene conditions

During a visit to the school building in 2007, CIMIC and Sister Johanna saw the terrible condition of the sanitary facilities and took decision to start a refurbishment project. Apart from the renovation of the sanitary rooms there were additionally built up a new computer room and a library. The restoration works started in October 2007 and were finished at the beginning of the year 2008.

The total amount of 65.000 Euro, that was spent on that project was split up: 7.000 Euro were paid by the Department of Education of the Municipality of Orahovac /Rahovec. The other part of the invested money was organized by Sister Johanna by fund raising in Austria.

## Self-sacrificing Sister Johanna

Brigade General Tarçin and Lieutenant Colonel Ertl stressed in their speeches the importance of investments in education. Good education will be the basis for a successful future of



Kosovo. Both thanked Sister Johanna for her untiring effort and the excellent cooperation in the last years.

Serbian residents of the village and especially the students overwhelmingly attended the opening ceremony on that sunny day - the brightening sunshine was reflecting the happy faces of the inhabitants of Velica Hoca/Hoce e Madhe.



**Name:** Stefan A.

**Rank:** OR-7

**Nationality:** German



**Home Unit:** 4th Company of Mechanised-Infantry-Battalion 112, Regen

**Unit in KFOR:** MNTF S, 4th Company of Manoever Battalion Prizren

**About the Mission:** After 2004 and 2006 this is my third mission in Kosovo. The first two times I was member of the German ORF-Battalion and now I'm serving with my fellow comrades in the German Manuever Battalion. As the Company Sergeant Major I have to take care of all the worries of the Soldiers within our company and support them whenever they need help. My main duty at the moment is, to supply our coys, which are stationed outside Camp Prizren, with food.

**Family Reaction:** My wife was not very happy that I had to come on another KFOR-Mission after such a short time of being home, especially because two other family members are serving in Kosovo, too. My stepdaughter left at the end of January and my son-in-law will leave in April, one month before me. So it was two weeks that we showed our strong family power together.

**Plans after Mission:** After coming back to Germany I will have two weeks holidays and I will visit my daughter in Northern Germany. A good friend of mine is going to marry in June - he was also serving in Kosovo and was leaving one week after I arrived here.



**Name:** Verikios Gerasimos

**Rank:** OR-9

**Nationality:** Greek



**Home Unit:** 305, Athens

**Unit in KFOR:** J2X

**About the mission:** This is my first mission in Kosovo and my second peacekeeping mission. I was member of the Stabilization Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1999. Working within the multi-national environment likely is always interesting and allegedly you have the possibility to learn from each other and the opportunity to exchange different mentalities and ideas. My position within the headquarters Kosovo Force has given me the chance to learn further about the history of the province the political and social life as well as the particular problems and the living conditions of the Kosovo population. However, I believe that leaving the theater occasionally has enabled me to make some friends from both the international and local community. All in all, I believe this is a fruitful mission.

**Family reaction:** I am married with a wonderful wife and we have two fantastic boys. I had the support of my family to come and stay one year in total. Nevertheless I am looking forward to seeing them.

**Plans after the mission:** As soon as I finish with the paperwork and the necessary procedures due to my repatriation, I will take my leave. I am planning to organize a family trip to an exotic island. Then, I will return back to my previous unit where I will share my experiences gained in Kosovo.

**Name:** Csete László

**Rank:** OR-8

**Nationality:** Hungarian



**Home unit:** 25th Infantry Brigade

**Unit in KFOR:** Hungarian Guard and Security Battalion

**About the mission:** This is my first tour in Kosovo; however, I was a peacekeeper in Cyprus and in Bosnia. I am the First Sergeant of the guard and security company which guards Camp Film City and Camp Vrelo in Pristina. It is interesting to meet other people, other nations, and other cultures and it challenges me to work together with other peacekeepers and see how we participate in building a better future for Kosovo.

**Family reactions:** I have a stable family background; my wife and my son support me from home. Thanks to modern telecommunication means, I can talk with them almost every day so it is easy to keep myself informed about home issues.

**Plan after mission:** I continue my job in my unit at home as a tank company First Sergeant.



# Pristina/Prishtinë

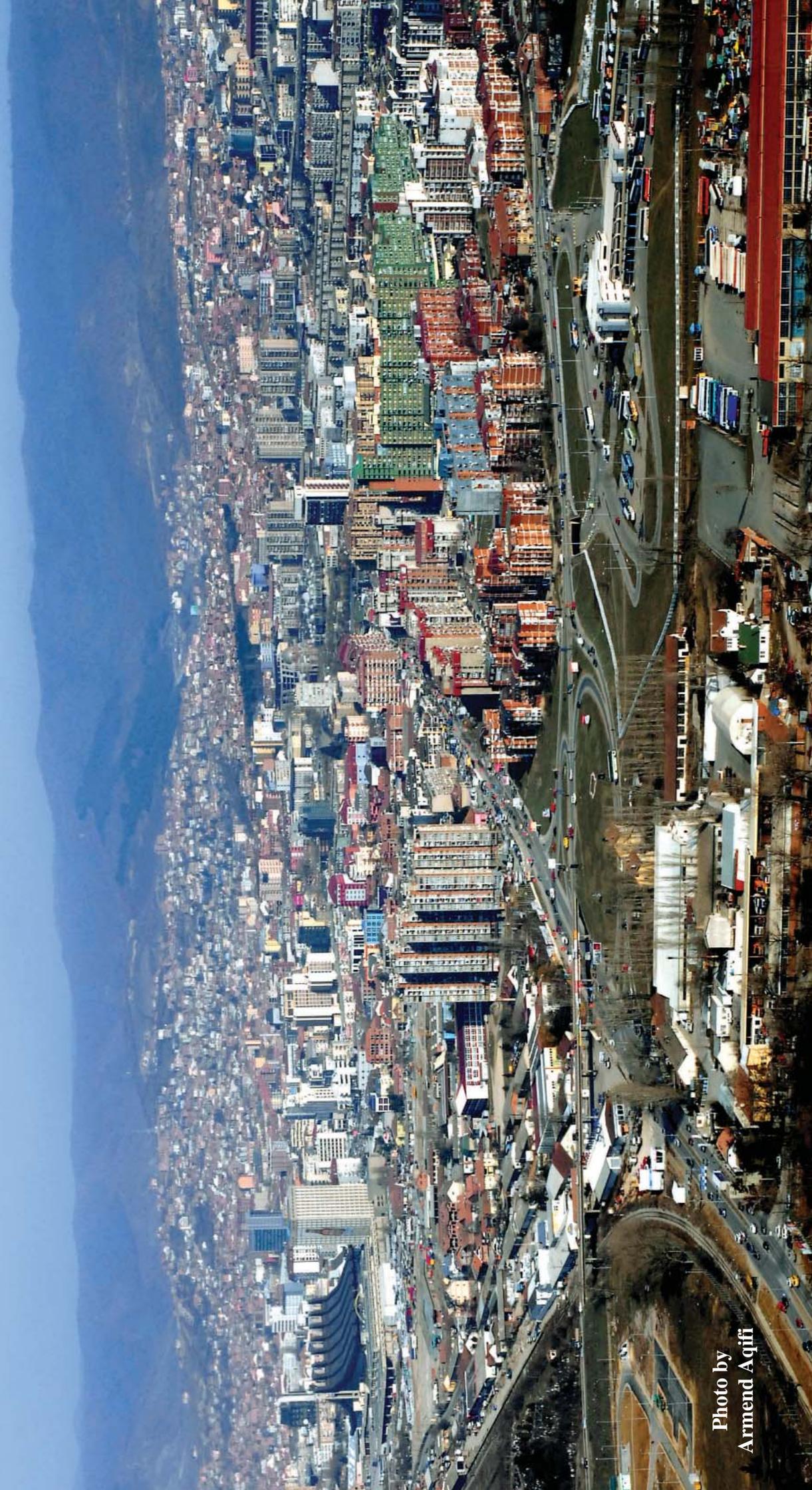


Photo by  
Armend Aqifi