

April 30, 2008



# KFOR Chronicle

# KFOR

Edition 4

**KFOR on duty  
in the mountains**



## Presenting the first copy of the KFOR Photo Book 2008 to COMKFOR



Dear comrades,

On Tuesday 15th April after several months of selecting pictures from various military professional- and hobby-photographers, proofreading and laying out some hundred pages of informative text, the first KFOR Photo Book 2008 was presented to Commander of Kosovo Force Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac.

This KFOR Photo Book 2008 is telling the true story about the self-sacrificing contribution of each soldier to the history of KFOR in Kosovo:

**A** contribution which each KFOR Peacekeeper will remember through the rest of their lives.

**A** story telling about the daily work routine of multi-national peacekeepers in an environment far away from their loved ones.

**A** story telling about soldiers conducting various types of duty such as patrols, check points, boarder surveillance, crowd riot control, CIMIC activities and keeping close relations to international community.

**A** book showing that KFOR is all time ready to act to any situation and accomplish the mission.

With the KFOR Photo Book 2008 soldiers will get a considerable keepsake which represents Headquarters of Kosovo Force, all Multi-National Task Forces and all battalions under direct command of COMKFOR Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac.

The KFOR Booklet 2008 is as unique as the KFOR mission. General de Marnhac was pleased to receive the first book showing his unique troops acting under the motto "Peace with Determination".

Best wishes,

Major Gernot Schwarzenberger  
Chief Editor

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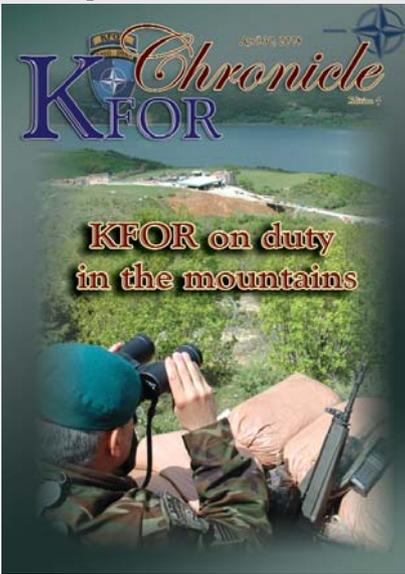
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Romania  
Ukraine



*Two weeks ago TF Dragas captured one illegal border crosser at Morina/Morine border crossing. Let's take a closer look at the soldiers in TF Dragas.*

Cover photo by Maj. Gernot Schwarzenberger  
Austrian Air Force

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# KFOR CHRONICLE



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# A PIECE OF ITALY IN

Story by OR-9 Marco Vegni,  
Italian Army Aviation

Photos by Maj. Gernot Schwarzenberger, Austrian Air Force  
and Maj. Oleksii Morozov, Ukrainain Army

Since April 2000 the Task Force "Ercole" has worked at the Djakovica/Gjakove military airport.

The Task Force was initially composed of AB 205, AB 412 and CH 47 helicopters of the Italian Army Aviation, SH-3D helicopters from the Italian Navy and NH 500 from the Italian Air Force.

In 2001 the numbers of personnel in the Balkan area were reduced and the Italian Navy left Kosovo in December of that year. In December 2002 the CH 47's of the Italian Army Aviation had returned to Italy. Finally, in December of 2003 the Air Force returned to Italy, leaving the AB 205 of the Italian Army Aviation alone with the task to represent Italy in the skies of Kosovo.

## Essential MEDEVAC capabilities

Now the 7th Aviation Battalion "Vega" hands over the mission to the 21st Army Aviation Battalion "Orsa Maggiore". This department is originally based next to the

City of Cagliari on Sardinia which is one of the most beautiful islands of the Mediterranean Sea.

Lt. Col. Vincenzo Dimitrio, took over the command of Task Force "Ercole" on January 18, 2008, and will lead the task force until the end of July. During this period, he and his men will ensure the connections for the transport of personnel and material among the various places of Kosovo whenever ordered by the Command Group of Multi-National Task Force West (MNTF W).

"The assignment that makes the irreplaceable helicopters," explains Dimitrio, "is the service of Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC)."

Transporting injured personnel who need immediate medical cares in the nearest hospital is also fundamental to reduce pain, permanent damages or even the death. "Ercole" provides uninterruptedly helicopter service, day after day. The helicopter is equip with night vision goggles (NVG) for the crew; which allows flying during the night with a greater margin of safety. These type of emergency operations involve the entire Task Force; from the fire rescue personnel to the refuelling team, from the air traffic team to the medical personnel up to the flight crews which includes also pilots and technicians.



Mission planning with OR-9 Vegni and OR-8 Falduto



Refuelling after flight

OR-8 Maurizio Ciarmatori with his Bell 205 crew over Peja



# IN Kosovo

## The "workhorse" of the Task Force

Task Force "Erocle" operates with a single engine helicopter Augusta Bell 205, a modified version of Bell UH-1 "Iroquois." This aircraft is equipped with a Lycoming engine with 1800 Horse powers that allows to transport up to the cruising speed of 180 Km/h (100 Knots) with 12 passengers or eight soldiers completely equipped. The helicopter has a range of 2.5 flight hours extendible up to five hours with additional fuel tanks. A rescue winch enables the crew to operate in various circumstances; such as the inability to land or hovering near to the ground. In the MEDEVAC configuration it can carry up to six stretchers with the assistance of medical personnel. A hook is able to transport external loads up to 1.800 kg of weight.

Augusta Bell 205 can absolve multiple missions like escort, self-defence, protection, close combat support; having the possibility to be armed with machine guns and rocket launchers enabling it to guarantee fire coverage during dropping and lifting troops.

"Fortunately these weapon systems, even if perfectly efficient, stay in our arsenal where I hope they remain there unused for the future," concludes Dimitrio. "I prefer to think that our aircrafts are instruments for a process of reconstruction than of destruction."



Top: Maj. Papalini with members of his maintenance team  
Bottom: TF Erocle Cdr. Lt.Col. Vincenzo with crew





# Peace with D

## Visit to Klina/Kline municipality



**APR 2** Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac, Commander of Kosovo Force, met with the mayor Sokol Bashota during his visit to Klina/ Kline municipality on April 2. During the talks de Marnhac stressed that KFOR is determined to face any kind of situation to maintain security. COMKFOR congratulated Klina/ Kline municipal leadership for good management of the situation after the Kosovo declaration of independence. Klina municipality is the first municipality in Kosovo that has welcomed the Serbs back to the municipality and they move freely and without any problems. At the end of this visit COMKFOR, accompanied by the Klina/Kline municipality mayor, also visited Videjë, a village with mixed population, and talked with several citizens. de Marnhac expressed his satisfaction from the coexistence of the different communities and promised that KFOR will continue to maintain security for all citizens.

## Visit to Suva Reka/Suhareke municipality

**APR 7** Five days later, on April 7, COMKFOR visited the municipality of Suva Reka/Suhareke, where he held a meeting with the mayor Dr. Sali Asllanaj and other municipal leaders. de Marnhac evaluated the security situation in the municipality as very stable and calm and praised the municipality leadership for their development plan. After the meeting, de Marnhac and the local leaders visited the High School "Skënder Luarasi", which has been provided with modern equipment funded by the donations of Austrian Government and Austrian KFOR contingent.



## Visit to the city of Prizren

**APR 10** COMKFOR Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac visited the City of Prizren on Thursday, April 10, which was hosted by Liaison and Monitoring Team (LMT) 1. After a welcome by 1st Lt. Stefan K., Sergeant Sebastian B. and interpreter Ejup B. in the building of the CIMIC Center Prizren, COMKFOR received a short briefing about the city of Prizren. Together with the LMT, de Marnhac then met with representatives of the different ethnic groups, the Administration directors and deputies for an exchange of ideas in the Municipality Building.



During the visit of the multi-ethnic school "Avdyl Frasherie" de Marnhac was informed about classroom teaching at the school and had the opportunity briefly to witness an English class. During the subsequent dancing and folklore presentation performed by the students, the Commander of Kosovo Force received a surprise gift: a framed painting awarded first prize in the painting competition "Future of Kosovo". The visit was rounded off by a joint lunch with high-ranking officials of the municipality of Prizren and LMT 1. On the way to the restaurant, there was spontaneous applause from passers-by when they recognized the COMKFOR. General de Marnhac was so surprised about this that he asked whether his visit had been prepared accordingly; which was not the case. The reactions of the pedestrians had indeed been spontaneous.

# etermination



## Meeting with the Mayor of Pristina/Prishtine

**APR 14** COMKFOR called a meeting with the Mayor of Pristina, Isa Mustafa on Monday, April 14.

"We informed the General about the current situation in municipality and about our priority duties that we face," the mayor of Pristina said. "I thanked General for KFOR forces contribution in increasing security for all citizens, communities and in improving of infrastructure".

Gen. de Marnhac stressed that security situation in the capital is calm and stable. "We are in close and continuing cooperation with KPS. This excellent cooperation has impact on securing calm and safer environment for all citizens," COMKFOR added. Afterwards the KFOR commander and the Mayor of Pristina visited the Museum of Kosovo where they were familiarized with the history of the country.

## Visit to Orahovac/Rahovec municipality

**APR 17**

COMKFOR also visited Orahovac/Rahovec municipality on April 17. During this visit General de Marnhac stated that the behavior of the minorities of this municipality is as an example for others. Afterwards, de Marnhac inaugurated a kindergarten in Peja/Pec that was donated by the Italian KFOR contingent.



## Visit of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly delegation

**APR 23** The NATO Parliamentary Assembly delegation visited Kosovo for two days. During their visit to KFOR Headquarters they met with DCOMKFOR MG Gerhard Stelz.

The head of the delegation, Mr. Michael Clapham, said: "The aim of the visit was to prepare a report on the situation in Kosovo and to get briefed about the Kosovar viewpoints regarding the future of Kosovo." Mr. Clapham evaluated the security situation as calm and sustainable.

According to Clapham this report will be presented in May to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and it is expected to be ratified by the Assembly in autumn this year. Clapham said that the security situation in Kosovo is guaranteed by KFOR troops led by Lt. Gen. Xavier de Marnhac and that great progress is being made in Kosovo after declaration of independence.



Story by OR-4 Tegan Kucera, US Army

111th Public Affairs Detachment

Photos by Captain Valerii Petrushka, Ukrainian Army

When thinking of Greece and its' cities, one will think of Athens or Sparta; but for Kosovo Forces (KFOR) the place they have become most familiar with is Thessaloniki.

For hundreds of thousands of years Thessaloniki has been serving not only Greece but also the Balkans.

Thessaloniki is the home to one of the largest ports in Europe, and in particular, is the port that serves all of KFOR. It supports all the troop movement and equipment of KFOR; the port moves anything from 2,500 Marines in one night, to helicopters and even tanks.

"It's a very real responsibility because you have to connect the right kind of people together to get the job done," said Lt. Col. George Reizopoulos the new acting chief of KFOR Communication Zone-South (COMMZ-S). "You have to connect military personnel, civilian organizations and national organizations to get what KFOR needs." Reizopoulos has been serving KFOR and NATO since the beginning, he has seen everything that has come through his port and has helped to get it into Kosovo. Originally, KFOR COMMZ-S situated in Camp Kodra, Thessaloniki, started out with over 150 Multi-National Soldiers and is now operating on around 10.

"All of us support the movement of nations with different cultures. The needs and culture of the people can be different, but we support them," said Reizopoulos.



# LOGISTICS



Right now the 10 Soldiers are made up of both Greek and Bulgarian Soldiers, Reizopoulos is Greek and likes that it is his country that serves KFOR so well.

"I think that without their help we couldn't accomplish everything that is part of our mission," said Reizopoulos.

The mission is a big one because there have been over 6,500 convoys from Greece to Kosovo through the years.

Reizopoulos said it was easy moving troops through Greece, but hard once they get to Kosovo because they need to have much

smaller convoys in order to get through the roads of Kosovo.

The Greek government provides KFOR many personnel who are part of COMMZ-S and many other Soldiers who are in Kosovo. It also provides the





# 4 KFOR

security, so that KFOR will not be hindered and gives KFOR boats special authority.

"KFOR boats have priority inside the port, that means if there are strikes inside the port our boats can still dock and load or unload," said Reizopoulos.

Whether the Multi-National Soldiers who make up most of KFOR know it or not, there are Soldiers in places besides Kosovo who are working to make their jobs easier.



# Finnish KFOR members assist sma

*Story and photos by Lieutenant Jaakko Heikkila,  
Finnish Army; additional photos by Finnish CIMIC*



In downtown Lipljan/Lipjan there is a small but nice and cosy dressmaker's workshop. The owner, Mrs. Ganimete Bajrami, is proudly showing us around in her enterprise. "I used to work here alone," she tells us. "After receiving help from Finnish soldiers I was able to buy more efficient sewing machines which make it much easier to work. I have also employed three more workers."

## **Small but effective steps for more employment**

Bekim Ramadani's metal workshop is in Gornje Gadimlje/Gadime e Esperme. Finnish CIMIC Project Manager Capt. Jari Alanen praises this particular small enterprise as "good example of a well-operating company in difficult surroundings". Mr. Ramadani is very satisfied with the cooperation between his business and Finnish KFOR troops. "Because of the support through this program I have been able to employ my brother and another worker from outside of our family. I could also buy more necessary tools and equipment. This support has also given me a mental boost to continue my business," Mr. Ramadani rejoices. "I am grateful to Finnish KFOR members. I am looking very hopefully to the future."



# 11 businesses (in Task Force Centre)



## Strict criteria for projects

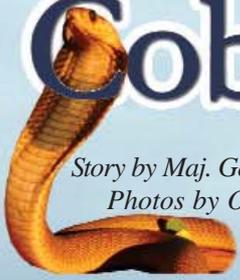
For the fourth time since 2004 KFOR Finnish CIMIC is assisting small businesses in Multi-National Task Force Centre area. The purpose of this Small Business Enterprise Program (SBE) is to create employment, strengthen municipality position to support local employment, and give tools for developing future employment projects.

Finnish CIMIC is helping to finance development of the small businesses through a public invitation for bid. Those businesses that will meet the criteria and present most reasonable projects will get into the program.

Since 2004 over 130 enterprises have received SBE-support through Finnish CIMIC. In 2007 approximately 100 new jobs were created in small businesses. "The program will continue in the future," Finnish CIMIC leader Maj. Tomi Pekurinen assures. "We are continuously evaluating this concept and with cooperation of Pristina University we want to develop this to even better and better."



# Cobras hunting under the



Story by Maj. Gernot Schwarzenberger, Austrian Air Force  
Photos by OR-4 Serkan Bedir, Turkish Army and  
Maj. Gernot Schwarzenberger

When leaving Prizren in a southwesternly direction along Route Duck, a large sign with the Turkish national flag marks the location of Field Camp Sultan Murat; the home of the main part of Task Force Dragas. Not far away behind the guards, a golden memorial of the founder of the Republic of Turkey and "Father of all Turks", General Mustafa Kemal Atatürk is placed. His great meaningful words: "Peace at home, Peace in the world" are still true to this day.

## 24 hours, 7 days per week on duty since 1999

Lt. Col. (GS) Kerim Acar has commanded TF Dragas now for almost ten months. He is proud to provide a safe and secure environment as a part of the international KFOR community with his troops.

Prior to their deployment, the soldiers have to undergo eight weeks of rigorous preparation training in the 28th Mechanized Infantry Brigade in Ankara. Asked about the benefits of a mission abroad, the deputy commander of TF Dragas Maj. Ayhan Artuc answered, "We are enhancing relations with international military and civilian organizations, while providing a safe and secure environment for the people of Kosovo."

The TF Dragas Area of Responsibility includes the southernmost part of Kosovo, bordering Albania and the

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The population of Dragas region is mainly comprised of Kosovo-Albanians and Goranians. But one shouldn't be surprised to encounter Turks, Bosniacs, Romans, Ashkalis or Egyptians; the ethnicities which normally live in and around Prizren with larger groups.

"Turkish Task Force Dragas, as it has been up to this day, by committing to the principles of equality and impartiality in Kosovo, will continue to serve Kosovars of every ethnic origin," stressed Acar. "We keep close relations to all ethnicities via our Liaison Monitoring Teams."

In multiethnic youth centers, which were opened in Prizren and Dragas, children get numerous skill and language courses and carry out social and sports activities for free of charge and get the chance to meet new friends from other ethnic groups.

"The kids are the future of a peaceful Kosovo living together," the TF commander mentioned.

## Illegal border crosser caught

Heading Route Duck in direction to Albania, you soon recognize the Morina/Morine border crossing, and you see the



# Rainbow

soldiers of the acting platoon leader 1st Lt. Baris Ünal, whose platoon is responsible for monitoring and reporting illegal boarder crossers and smugglers in cooperation with KPS and UNMIK police.

"Two weeks ago during night, we stopped one person who was using a small path in the mountains to illegally cross the border. Apparently the person thought that he was more clever than us, but he was not aware of our night vision capabilities, and our Yildirim (thunderbolt) tower up in the hill," the Lieutenant remembered smiling.

At the end, the illegal border crosser was handed over to KPS. Capt. Ibrahim Cakiroglu, company commander of the 6th motorized infantry coy agrees about the cooperation between his soldiers and KPS and UNMIK police. The commando patch and a patch earned for more than nine years experience as platoon and coy commander in infantry units above his left breast pocket signify the young officer's excellent training.

## Comradeship in the mountains

Dragas/ Dragash municipality lays more than one thousand meters above sea level and includes thirty seven villages and has a population of approximately thirty five thousand. Here

is the home of 4th motorized infantry coy responsible for one of the highest mountainous areas. Capt. Mete Semercioglu, the company commander mentioned: "Our soldiers are performing their duty with a great effort and self sacrifice far from their homeland."

Maj. Metin Kabatas, who is the instructor for mountain commandos back in his home country, is the acting mission planning staff officer (S3) of the battalion. For him this mission is also a good opportunity to practice multi-nationality while maintaining peace in a high mountainous area with daily changing weather conditions.

"Yesterday we had snow showers. Today we are expecting the visit of Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. William T. Wolf, but it is still not certain if his helicopter is able to pass trough the clouds. Now ten minutes later the sun is shining," Kabatas said as he described the tricky situation.

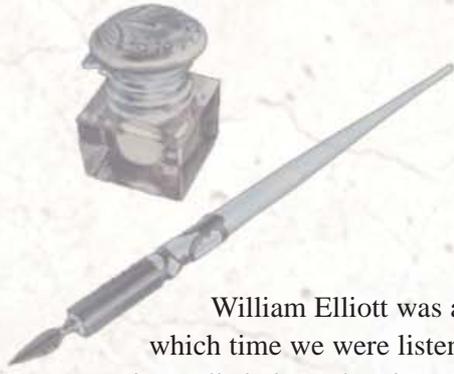
This challenging weather every day welds the soldiers together. A visitor will feel very soon the great hospitality and outstanding comradeship inside Turkish Army.

Before leaving TF Dragas accompanied by Maj. Vedat Yumsak, Spokesperson of MNTF S, the weather changed again. Dark clouds appeared into the sunny skies. The first raindrops poured into the proud faces of Turkish infantry soldiers while conducting a vehicle check point with their so called "Cobra" rece armored vehicles.



Remark: Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

# Twain



## 1. Blue flight

William Elliott was a military man, who served in Kosovo and I had a meeting with him during which time we were listening to classical music and having a cup of coffee. This meeting turned to be a journalistic interview in a discussion which was both emotional and had some romantic tones. My friend had style and a poetic spirit; looked like a real artist and he knew a lot about literature. In his narrations he was extremely gifted to give precise descriptions and portrays. My impression was that he was a military eager to gain new experiences, but he also was quite mature. He was a pilot. He was strange in his own manner. He resembled rather to a literature pilot and he was an erudite and I was quite surprised of that. He managed to create a pleasant atmosphere and he had a warm smile and gave persuasive and acceptable answers. I called him My Friend, because he knew so much about literature, he had some very interesting traits and I was rather surprised. When I asked him a question, he answered using the titles of different books. This was the first time I met a military with such wide range knowledge.

I found it interesting and I was caught by surprise given that I had never heard about some of the some books that he mentioned. All the titles of the books of different authors kind of had something in common. He mentioned the titles of 100 bestsellers since 1923 that were published in "The Time." We started our chat very spontaneously.

**I presume that your first piloting was special and I would like to know your impressions from your first flight?**

William Elliott: It was a unique moment in my life. I felt myself to be too small in the endless sky and it was a great pilot feeling. It happened in 1984 (1984, George Orwell). I experienced this special moment shivering. The Painted Bird (The Painted Bird, Jerzy Kosinski) was part of my flying surprise. He and I experienced this unforgettable flight, which was the Power and the Glory (The Power and the Glory, Graham Green) which I had been dreaming since my childhood. My grandfather had a special personality and he loved the sea and the kids in my neighbourhood and the kids were so happy to meet him. He hugged and Loved children (The Man Who Loved Children, Christina Stead), and every time he asked me about my wishes I told him that I want to become a Pilot! He was surprised with my determination. Since I always gave him the same answer, he used to bring me up above his head in a position like I was flying. This was my childhood's unforgettable flight, which I can even call it my first flight when my friends were



# a story



shouting there goes: The Old Man and the Sea (The Old Man and the Sea, Ernest Hemingway) while we were running along the paths of my childhood dreams in a world that we aspired to be.

## What are your impressions when you are up in the sky?

One day before the flight I received a phone call from the French Lieutenant's Woman (The French Lieutenant's Woman, Jon Fowles) who wished me good luck. She was a friend of my family for quite a long time and I received this phone call as spiritual satisfaction. There are some special days in life; I would even call them historic days, such as the day you are born, the graduation day in academy, marriage, your first born child, etc. The date of my first flight can be included in the range of special dates of my life since it was a journey, Gone with the Wind (Gone With The Wind, Margaret Mitchell), with my youth dreams, with my fragile love. Your mind works in a completely special state at such heights.

I particularly emphasise the expression of my darling Mona, who whenever I told her Goodbye gave me the impression of liveliness and of the thought as if I were losing great dear moments. I had managed to decipher the love formula. She was beautiful like Lolita (Lolita, Vladimir Nabukov). She was of a different age, but she also had some similarities, which made her look great in my eyes. She was prudent and strange enough, but she loved the clouds in the sky and their weird forms which created a strange fascinating interconnection. I understood it sometimes later when during the quiet September nights she explained their interconnection to me. I could imagine how I kept flying through those clouds and now I felt close to them by trying to understand their language the way my darling Mona described it. This was A dance to the Music of the Time (A dance to the Music of the Time, Antony Powell) which talked to me in every flight. They looked so poetic in their content. They were white, transparent and tangible. This was an open contest of the endless beauty. Our conversation was interrupted for some moments by classic music composed by Ludwig van Beethoven. It was the "Moonlight Sonnet." It was the music that silenced us and we started to listen to one of the worlds' greatest composers. We parted there in order to meet next time in another blue flight.

## 2. At the Doctor's

People usually hesitate to go and see a doctor. They do it only on rare occasions. And whenever you visit your doctor you've got the impression that you have no health problems whatsoever, and that you have the force, strength and the patience to overcome even those minor health problems. In many occasions people blame bad luck for being sick. Dr. Jeschonnek, a surgeon, had something specific in his character and profession. I had visited a physician, who had recommended me to visit the surgery ward in Multinational Brigade South where Doctor Jeschonnek was working. I was suffering from a disease called Sinus Pilonidalis. It was not a serious disease but it had to be cured. When I visited my doctor, he greeted me with extraordinary hospitality. He explained to me in details the minor surgical intervention that I had to undergo. I had no clue about medicine and all I was doing was nodding to his suggestions and recommendations. He was reading the fear inside me and fortunately for me, he was a doctor with a great psychological understanding. During his explanation the whole process seemed easier. Following the preliminary procedures, blood transfusion and test results, the date for my surgery was set for 11.12.2006 at 0900 hrs. The whole procedure went in accordance with the doctors' suggestions and predictions. The operation lasted for 45 minutes and then I was feeling quite well and I had no complication whatsoever. I underwent the surgery in an improvised and well-equipped field hospital. The huge tent was connected to a narrow corridor leading to the surgery room. The neon lights were permanently on. This field hospital had offered a great deal of medical assistance to local civil population. I was hospitalised for one night and I was released one day after the surgery. I will never forget the field hospital, the narrow corridor and my great friend, Dr. Jeschonnek.

*Stories were written by Mr. Mexhid Havolli, a member of the Film City Headquarters Support Group.  
Mr. Havolli supports KFOR through his efforts in the HSG Supply Warehouse.*

*Story and photos by Major Gavin Kennedy, Irish Army*

### **Saint Patrick Day in Kosovo**

As one of the most important days in Irish history and heritage, March 17th is celebrated in many cities and countries throughout the world as Ireland's National Day or Saint Patrick's Day. The Irish Contingent in Kosovo also took the opportunity to recognize and celebrate this day. The ceremony took place in Camp Clarke, where invited guests took part in the celebrations. The guests included Brig. Gen. Gerry Hegarty, Commander of Multinational Task Force Centre (MNTF C) and Brig. Gen. Patrick Hayes Commanding Officer of Southern Brigade, Ireland. The 37th Infantry Group Medal Parade was conducted to honor members of the unit who have served in KFOR for the past six months. The Commander of MNTF C, Irishman

Brigadier General Gerry Hegarty, was invited to present the NATO Medal. During his speech Gen. Hegarty said he was extremely proud of the performance of the 37th Infantry group here in Kosovo. He thanked all the Irish soldiers for the hard work and long hours that they had put in, particularly since the period of the Declaration of Independence on February 17th. Gen. Hegarty also noted the sense of pride that was felt by the 48 young soldiers of the Group, who were receiving their first overseas medal. Following greetings from guests, the troops marched along the parade ground headed by Pipers and Drummers from the Irish Defence Forces, who travelled from Ireland to participate in this special occasion. At the beginning of the ceremony the troops and guests were presented with shamrock to wear. The shamrock is an essential symbol of St. Patrick's Day and of Ireland.

# A touch o



## History of St Patrick and the Shamrock

St. Patrick was born in the latter half of the fourth century, somewhere in Roman occupied Britain. In his teens he was kidnapped and brought to Ireland and sold into slavery. For six long years Patrick lived upon the Slemish mountains with only his sheep for company. The land was bleak and the conditions harsh, but Patrick found solace in his faith. Legend has it that one night he heard a voice calling to him to escape. It told him, "See, your ship is ready." This he did and moved to Britain and then France. There he joined a monastery and



## of Irish legend



studied under the Bishop of Auxerre. He spent 20 years working as a monk in Marmoutier Abbey. In 432 AD Patrick was called to Rome where he was made a Bishop. Patrick returned to Ireland in that year. In 433 Patrick decided to confront the High King of Tara, who was the most powerful man in Ireland. The King was impressed with Patrick's bravery and decided to accept Christianity. During his meeting with the King, Patrick plucked a shamrock from the ground and tried to explain to the druids and the King, that the shamrock had three leaves just like God had three personas - The Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. Patrick spent the next 30 years spreading the Christian religion throughout the island of Ireland. Patrick died on March 17th 461AD.



The Shamrock or seamrog in Gaelic means "little clover". According to Irish legend, the druids in Ireland looked at the shamrock as a sacred plant because its leaves formed a triad. Three was a mystical number in the Celtic religion. Then St. Patrick used the shamrock in the 5th century to teach people about Christianity as he travelled around Ireland. He told people that each of the three leaves illustrated the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit of the Holy Trinity.



## [Inside KFOR]

Story by Captain Gkiouzelidis Triantafilos, Greek Army  
Photos by Mr. Armend Aqifi

The 646th Hellenic Mechanized Battalion is one of the two Hellenic battalions contributing to Kosovo Forces. The battalion is based at camp Alexander the Great in Mitrovica. On a daily basis the soldiers interact with the local population in addition to all the other operational obligations that they have to fulfill. At least twice per week they distribute humanitarian aid to local families, to people that need it, no matter their ethnicity. Poverty has no ethnicity.

Often, the battalion doctor pays a visit to families providing medical and pharmaceutical treatment, which brings courage to people of Kosovo.

The battalion soldiers' tasks vary from checkpoints and patrols to guarding monasteries and other infrastructures.

"We have good relations with local authorities", said Lt. Michail Papadopoulos. "Every week we conduct regular meetings about the security situation in our AOR with the mayor, local leaders and Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) and Kosovo Police Service (KPS) in order to execute our mission

# HEROES FIGHT

in the best possible way".

Talking to the soldiers you can easily realize the high level of their professional skills and their devotion to their mission.

"I am far away from my family, but I am here to help the Kosovar people," said OR-5 Panagiotis Mestanis. "You have to see their faces when we provide to them food or medical treatment. They are so thankful to KFOR. This look in their eyes is enough to make you forget all the difficulties you face and makes you work for the sake of these people."

No complaints, no sad faces, the Greek soldiers try to do their job in the best possible way.

The commander of the Hellenic battalion (HELBAT) Lt. Col. Goutis Panagiotis and his staff officers are doing their best to maintain the good ambience among the soldiers; keeping their moral high, by providing them good living conditions and, when the circumstances, allowing some spare time to organize a football match against KPC or KPS.



# IT LIKE GREEKS

Winston Churchill, 1941

Having a look back to the Hellenic history, we can see that Greeks have a brilliant background in military operations since the times of Alexander the Great (330 b.c.), going up to the times of Sparta and its king Leonidas (480 b.c) and continuing to more recently times with the Greek liberative war (1821 a.d.).

On March 25th, Hellas celebrated the 187th anniversary of the declaration of the Hellenic Independence. It is a celebration commemorating the liberation of Hellas and the rebirth of the modern Hellenic state after nearly 400 years under the Ottoman empire.

A ceremony held at the Hellenic camp Rigas Fereos in Urosevac/Ferizaj with a lot of distinguished guests. Among them Chief of Staff Brig. Gen. William T. Wolf and various other military and political representatives were present.

The Commander of the Greek contingent Col. Theodoros Panas, laid down a wreath in memory of the Greek heroes that

sacrificed themselves and he stressed that freedom is something unique and precious and we, all of us, have to be grateful to our ancestors for their sacrifices.

"It is one of history's great ironies that Greece, the birthplace of democracy, was for centuries subject to foreign domination," stated Col. Panas. "On 25th March of 1821 the Greeks took the sacred oath to liberate their own country or to die."

According to historian archives Greeks pledged to fight for "Eleytheria e Thanatos" that means for "Freedom or Death".

"We must always remember that the freedom we enjoy today is due to a large degree to the sacrifices made by men and women in the past, in Greece and in other countries all over the world," said Col. Panas during his speech.





# The best audience

## Swedish entertainers rocked

Story and photos by 1st Lt. Anna Norén,  
Swedish Army

In March the "Muddy Mess Lounge" in Camp Victoria, Multi-National Task Force Center (MNTF C), took to a change. All the sofas were put away and instead a stage was built in the corner. And on two nights the normally quiet mess was transformed into a club, complete with lights, a live band and a boiling sea of dancing, singing people. The Swedish entertainers had arrived.

The band, Victoria's Secret, joined the Swedish contingent for a week. During that week they managed to squeeze in two gigs at Camp Victoria and one at Camp Ville, and they also provided a final acoustic performance to sweeten

SWECON's traditional waffles on Sunday afternoon.

"We have the best audience in the world, playing here is extremely rewarding," commented Capt. Henrik Johansson, drummer and group commander.

Entertainers coming to the mission area is a tradition that counts more than 50 years back. Even if the artists usually spend only one week with the rest of the soldiers they are in fact a part of the contingent.



# nce in the World

## l the house in Camp Victoria



"Having entertainers come here is good for the mental health," says welfare officer Capt. Conny Kristiansson. "The idea is to give the soldiers something else but work to think about for a little while, a break and a change."

The idea to heighten moral seems to work, on the nights that Victoria's Secret performed there were plenty of high spirits and big smiles. The enthusiastic audience clad in camouflage jumped, cheered and sang along with the band whether it was hip-hop or heavy metal. The last gig in Camp Victoria the crowd couldn't get enough and the band had to play for half an hour extra. Robbie Williams "Let me entertain you" was part of their repertoire and "Yes please" the natural response of the soldiers.



# Flying Hedgehog over



*Story by Captain Barnabas Bartok,  
Hungarian Army  
Photos by Major Gernot Schwarzenberger,  
Austrian Air Force*

The Hungarian Guard and Security Battalion (HGSB) is an Infantry Battalion which began its Kosovo mission in 1999. Through the years, the main tasks of the battalion have remained the same.

These tasks are to provide security for Headquarters Kosovo Forces in Camp Film City, for Camp Vrelo and to secure the Hungarian Camp Szent Laszlo.

The HGSB also provides a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) to reinforce these KFOR installations in case of any emergency.

The Guard and Security Company of the battalion is designed to quickly fulfill these tasks.

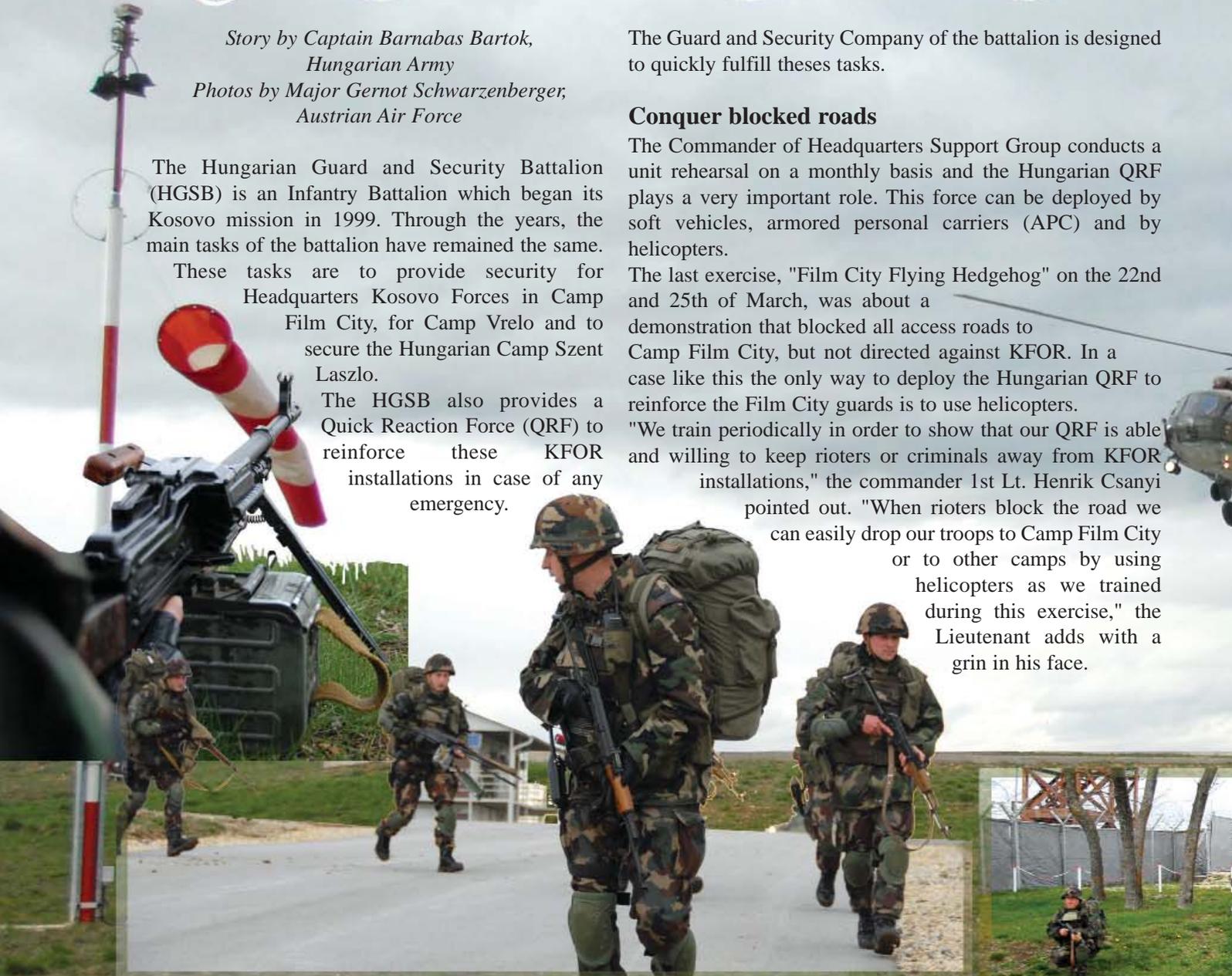
## Conquer blocked roads

The Commander of Headquarters Support Group conducts a unit rehearsal on a monthly basis and the Hungarian QRF plays a very important role. This force can be deployed by soft vehicles, armored personal carriers (APC) and by helicopters.

The last exercise, "Film City Flying Hedgehog" on the 22nd and 25th of March, was about a demonstration that blocked all access roads to Camp Film City, but not directed against KFOR. In a case like this the only way to deploy the Hungarian QRF to reinforce the Film City guards is to use helicopters.

"We train periodically in order to show that our QRF is able and willing to keep rioters or criminals away from KFOR installations," the commander 1st Lt. Henrik Csanyi pointed out. "When rioters block the road we

can easily drop our troops to Camp Film City or to other camps by using helicopters as we trained during this exercise," the Lieutenant adds with a grin in his face.



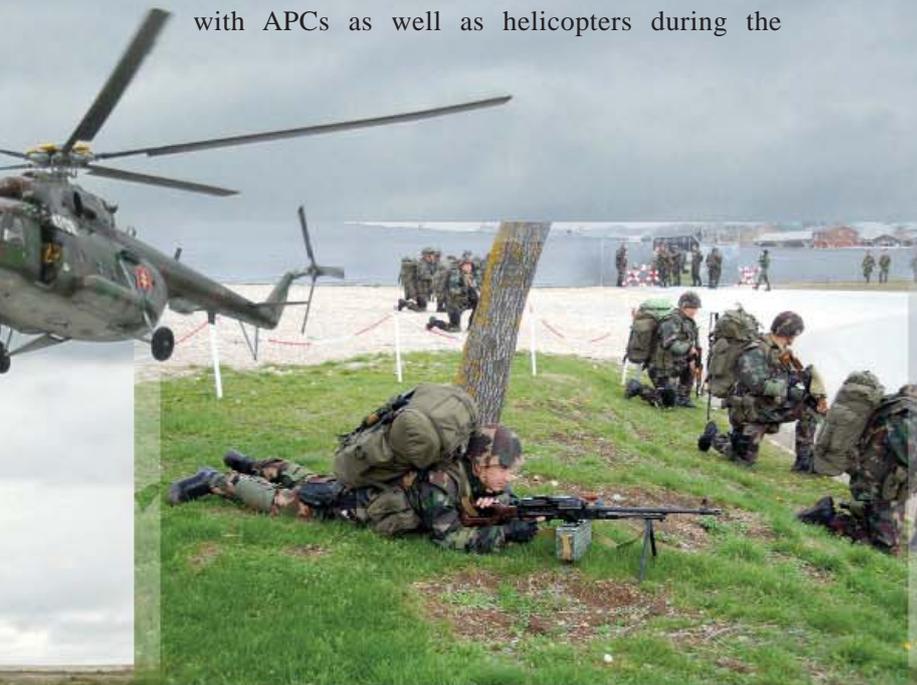
# er Film City

## Flying Hippo drops QRF troops

The airlift of the QRF was provided by a "Flying Hippo" MI-17 transport helicopter of the Slovakian helicopter unit. The exercise was overseen by Austrian Lt. Col. Erwin Walla, Deputy Commander of HQ Support Group, who is also responsible for physical security of Camp Film City. He was fully satisfied with the exercise.

The soldiers of the HGSB familiarized themselves with APCs as well as helicopters during the

exercises and demonstrated a highly professional performance. Thanks for the fully fledged Hungarian Guards and the Slovakian helicopter unit for their excellent co-operation which contributed to the sense of total security of the members of Camp Film City.



# All lieutenants....

Story by 1st Lieutenant Igor Piani, Italian Army  
Photos by Lieutenants Andrea Langerova, Severine Bollier,  
El Barj ang Igor Piani

It was 12 April, evening in Italian NSE, 50 people, confusion, someone was looking outside.

"He's arriving, please, come inside, please quickly!" says Lt. Orazio Leotta quite nervously. He is responsible for all evening organization.

It is not his first time organizing a meeting, but this one is different, this is important. This evening Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac is coming! It's a great opportunity to have COMKFOR here!

All the people take position, all young all.... lieutenants. Yes, lieutenants at their dinner.

The idea to organize a social event for officers came to the Italian organizer months ago; and a notice was sent to all Lieutenants inside the KFOR Headquarters in Camp Film City: "Hey guy, why don't meet together just to have time for us!

The evening would consist of about 20 new lieutenants, pizza, and the promise of a good evening. The invitation was forwarded to the lieutenants in KFOR (all the available) from all the Multi-National Task Forces.

The organization of the event was more cumbersome. It included transportations, accommodations, and other logistics. But upon the arrival of the first car full of colleagues the intensity of the preparation was forgotten.

For some, it was the first time in Camp Film City. The atmosphere is, if not a dream, something completely different from their daily tactical duties.

Other lieutenants arrived. Belgians, Czechs, French, Germans, Moroccans, Turkish, in this new dimension, all

equal, all with different experiences to share with colleagues; possibility to ask a piece of advice, exchange of information, and meet new friends. You could hear the enthusiasm in each conversation.

"The commander is coming!" Interrupted one of the lieutenants. "Colleagues... attention! " The noise immediately stopped!

The meeting began in a formal way, but the mood quickly lightened. Lt. Gen. Xavier de Marnhac's speech was like a father speaking to his sons; like a good teacher to his group of students:

"Many years ago I was in your positions," the COMKFOR started. "Sometimes worried, sometimes untroubled, but every time full of energy, proud to be military commander, because you are, at the ground level, commanders and your men are looking on you to receive tasks and bit of advice, spur and understanding. Rank by rank your job doesn't change a lot, perhaps for you this sounds strange, but subordinates look to you as a guide. The biggest difference between you and me is that you have direct, full and non-stop contact with them."

"When I was lieutenant..." - "Sir," a voice from the group of young officers appeared. "But you are lieutenant now, lieutenant ... general!"

With the ice broken, the dinner continued in an informal way; with a lieutenant general going from table to table in order to speak with the platoon leaders, to compare their points of view, to know the youngest of his commanders.

"A great event," Lt. Andrea Langerova said. "I had the possibility to discover the KFOR family!"

According to the saying that every thing is getting better, for the next time we hope that lieutenants' from every Multi-National Task Force will attend!



# and one General!



# Attack of the killer b

Story by Major Gernot

Schwarzenberger, Austrian Air Force

Photos by Mr. Armend Aqifi

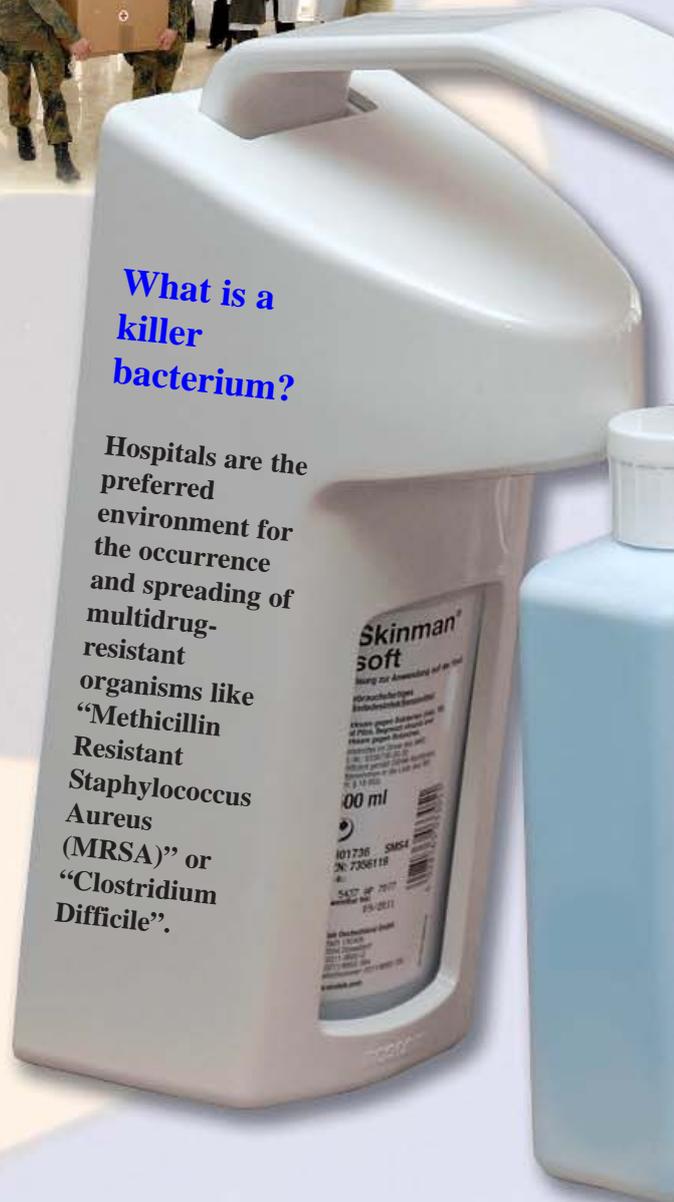
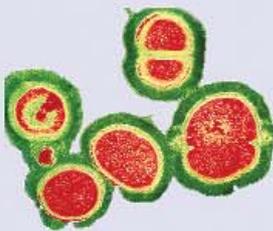
Medical facilities in Kosovo are benefiting from their excellent relations with the Kosovo Force through medical supplies and other assistance. In order to contribute to the improvement of hygiene the KFOR Medical Director handed over 115 wall dispensers and approximately 240 bottles of hand sanitizer liquid to two central medical institutions in Pristina/Prishtine on April 4th.

## KFOR Donation for Better Health

During the visit at the National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo, KFOR Medical Director, Colonel Dr. Rüdiger Trapp, pointed out that although only German military medical personnel were present, the resources for this donation had been provided by all NATO-KFOR contributing nations. "This is already my third visit to this institute led by Prof. Dr. Naser Ramadani, and I am very pleased to see remarkable improvements, in particular concerning your equipment. I am looking forward to a more intensive co-operation between us!" said Trapp in his speech.

Colonel Dr. Peter Lücke, Chief Hygienist of the German Armed Forces for operations in the Balkans, caught the attention of the key medical staff present during his briefing. "Most infections are transmitted with unclean hands. So it is necessary to have good hand hygiene; especially in hospitals," the physician noted.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), 70 percent of all health care costs are caused by infections.







# Citius, Altius, Fortius

*Story by Captain Valerii Petrushka,  
Ukrainian Army*

*Photos by Major Gernot  
Schwarzenberger, Austrian Air Force*

Six teams competed in the Multi-National Volleyball tournament in February and March. The tournament which was organized by Morale and Welfare Activities (MWA) Center and held in the Headquarters Kosovo Force at Camp Film City, Pristina/Prishtine. The teams consisted of various participants; with a good mixture of age, nations, as well as professions. In the first phase the teams had to compete for the opportunity to participate in the second phase - the semi-finals. Every team played one game against other fifth ones. The remaining four teams competed in the semi-finals. During the final round, the two losing teams from the semi-finals would compete against each other for the bronze medal; allowing the two winning teams to compete for the gold medal. The losing team of the championship game would take home

the silver.

"It was a difficult match," said JENGINEER team captain Portuguese Lt. Col. Luis Pereira after semi-final game with J2. "We could lose but, luckily, it did not happen."

After approximately two months of intense competition, the remaining four teams advanced to fight for the medals. In the beginning Italian team played against J2 for the third place and after that in the final game JENG and 'Rock-n-Roll' met each other in order to be 'Champions'.

"Such sport events improve the health, mood and the show of teambuilding," said Italian team captain OR-9 Salvatore de Nisi.

As a result of competition 'R-N-R' team took first place thanks to a fantastic service and a perfect tactical reading. Second place was held by JENG and Italian team won the third place.

"It was, indeed, a hard game," said representative of 'R-N-R' team Slovenian Lieutenant Tom Pecar with nickname 'coach'. "They were very good players. We are not afraid of any





# us, Fortius

team, we must think only of our game and we must respect our opponents. All games from beginning of competition till final we have played with high concentration. That's why we are the champions."

During the award ceremony players were awarded sets of medals, cups, diplomas, as well as valuable prizes. The main referee Bujar Mehmeti told that these competitions are a good opportunity to get new friends and he expressed, "MWA will continue to organize other different kinds of sports tournaments such as football, tennis, volleyball, badminton, etc. The Olympic motto is Citius, Altius, Fortius, which is Latin for 'Swifter, Higher, Stronger'."

"Many people asked us what is the connection between the team's name and volleyball at all," said 'R-N-R' team captain, Slovenian Capt. Grega Sitar. "The story began back in 2006 at Camp Butmir in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina. Our international team did not want to put too much effort to find the appropriate name. Somebody

mentioned something like 'We do not care for the name, so let's Rock-N-Roll!'"

"The story is pretty much the same with the KFOR R-N-R volleyball team," continued Capt. Sitar. "Our team is also international and from the different branches within HQ KFOR: five Slovenian, two Greeks, and one Ukrainian. Maybe the tradition will continue also here. So, let's Rock-N-Roll!"



# MNTF S

## Connecting People

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

Imagine that you want to go shopping in the next village or to meet some friends in the next town, 6 kilometres away - but it takes you half a day to get there! That's unimaginable you say? No, it was not for the inhabitants of Pleneja/Planejë and Kojus/Kojush. The only connection between these two villages was a 6 km road in a very bad condition and posing a great danger to the traffic with its rough rocky formation. After his staff determined the best solution for this road problem, the Commander of Multi-National Task Force South (MNTF S), Brig. Gen. Ugur Tarcin approved the start of the construction of a pathway. This construction would be a complete new alternative road and would decrease the distance to 3 km. The preparations were finished before the German and Turkish Engineering Platoons of the Multinational Engineer Company of MNTF S started to work on 11th September 2007.

Heavy machinery was used and the Multinational Engineering Company soldiers put a lot of effort not only with their machinery, but also with their man power into this mission and faced all the challenges that arose after starting the project.

The hard winter conditions, the height of the district, and the long distance to the camps were the major problems the teams of MNTF S faced. But none of these were able to stop the determined soldiers of the Multinational Engineers Company. During the execution, the engineer assets of Turkish and German platoons demonstrated a good example of teamwork.

While the German excavator made the crushing the rocks work, right under the surface of the road meter by meter during the dozer, the grader of the Turkish Platoon spreaded and graded the material carried by the dump trucks. The platoon leaders monitored and supervised the whole project from the very beginning to the end.



After six long months the new road was finished; with a cost of approximately. 200.000 Euros. The opening ceremony for the road was held on 31st March, 2008. As Brig. Gen. Ugur Tarcin, along with the Mayor of Prizren Ramadan Muya were cutting the ribbon, there were more than a couple hundred villagers present with smiles on their faces. The ceremony continued with the speeches of officials followed by a folk dance by students.

As the guests left the ceremony, and the villagers walked back to their homes, everyone had the same feeling: mission accomplished...

### Many hands make light work

Planeja road construction was another valuable example of Civilian-Militarian-Cooperation projects of MNTF S: It was not only the KFOR Engineers who worked hard, the villagers were also active participants; giving their best in labor power. They villagers were key in the installation of water passages on two spots. They also provided gravel from their own properties.

For all the soldiers that are working for a safe and secure environment and for the improvement of the living conditions of the people of Kosovo in MNTF S, it reinforced the strong team spirit of our Task Force: "One Team, One Mission"; this time the phrase "team" including the villagers of Planeja.





**Name:** Hans-Jacob Rodø

**Rank:** OF-5

**Nationality:** Norwegian

**Home Unit:** Army staff

**Unit in KFOR:** KIKPC



**About the mission:** This is my second deployment; the first was in Afghanistan in 2006. The big difference is going from being a moving target whenever we left camp in Kabul, to here in KFOR where we actually get in contact with the local population; and as Chief of the Kosovo Forces Inspectorate of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KIKPC), I have a good opportunity to see all parts of Kosovo and also meet members of KPC on all levels and from the different PZ.

**Family reaction:** My wife understands and so do the kids. We are able to stay in contact regularly on the phone. My oldest son is now in Junior Officer Training/ISTAR, and the second is getting ready to go to U.S. as an exchange student for AFS. During my years in service I have been away for shorter or longer periods so the family are used to be separated from time to time. However, it is always a burden for the one who has to be responsible for everything back home.

**Plans after the mission:** My next tour starts the day after my tour to KFOR

ends. I will be the Norwegian liaison officer to PJHQ just outside London, UK. It's a 12 months posting and I will be able to bring my wife and youngest daughter along. And this is a posting we all are looking forward to. It is a challenge to prepare to move to another country during a mission, but so far planning has been running smoothly.

**Name:** Lamartine Station

**Rank:** 1st Lieutenant

**Nationality:** American

**Home Unit:** Nebraska Army National Guard

**Unit in KFOR:** Public Affairs, 35th Infantry Division

**About the mission:** This is my first deployment. I really enjoy the opportunity to work with my multi-national partners to accomplish the overall mission. I have developed strong friendships with many people with different backgrounds and experiences. It helps me look at opportunities from multiple perspectives and gain a greater understanding and appreciation for what we do. On another note, I enjoy working with the journalists here because they are professional, great to work with, and take an active role in building trusted relationships.

**Family Reaction:** My family is very supportive and understands the importance of what I'm doing. That really helps me focus on the mission here and not worry about how things are going back home.

**Plans after mission:** To go back to my civilian job of selling and inspecting homes. I'll take approximately 3 months off to get reintegrated with my family.



**Name:** Victor EFRIM

**Rank:** OR - 7

**Nationality:** Romanian

**Home Unit:** 307th Marine Rifle Battalion

**Unit in KFOR:** MNTF - W, TF AQUILA, Romanian 1st Marine Rifle Coy.



**About the Mission:** This is my first mission in Kosovo, but I participated in many multinational amphibious exercises in The Netherlands, Ukraine, Portugal and Poland. It is a great experience for me because I have the opportunity to work together with other peacekeepers from other nations. It is also a big honor for me and for my fellows marines, to bring our contribution for building a safety climate in KOSOVO. My main duty is marine squad leader and I am conducting my marines in accomplishment of our task.

**Family reaction:** I am married and I have two wonderful daughters. I had all the support of my family to come here. I miss them very much and I am looking forward to see them.

**Plan after mission:** I am planning to take my family on a trip for relaxing on special places.

# Vrbnica/Vërmicë Lake

