

May 31, 2008



KFOR Chronicle

KATO - OTAIN

KFOR

Edition 5



KTM

Ready to react everywhere

Continue to light the way to a brighter future



As I close in on a full year here on the ground in Kosovo I cannot help but think what KFOR has been through over the past eleven months. Together, the KFOR Team has seen many historical moments and all along the KFOR Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine, and Civilian employee have served proudly and with distinction. Coming from 33 different Nations and varied backgrounds and experiences, you have come together here in Kosovo for the one mission we have had since 1999: to maintain the Safe and Secure environment for all of Kosovo. Through your actions you continue to light the way to a brighter future for all the people here. These gains were not made without sacrifices and while you have been separated from your loved ones for months at a time, you have continued to serve proudly, with distinction and always with a smile on your face. All of you have worked through many long days and nights, and many fought to quell the violence of March 17th, but through it all, you have served proudly and honorably with dedication and courage. It has been a great personal and professional honor to serve with the entire KFOR Team over this past year. I thank all of you for your sacrifices, your hard work, and your professionalism and I pray that this experience proves to be a lasting blessing for all of you, your families, and for all the citizens of Kosovo.



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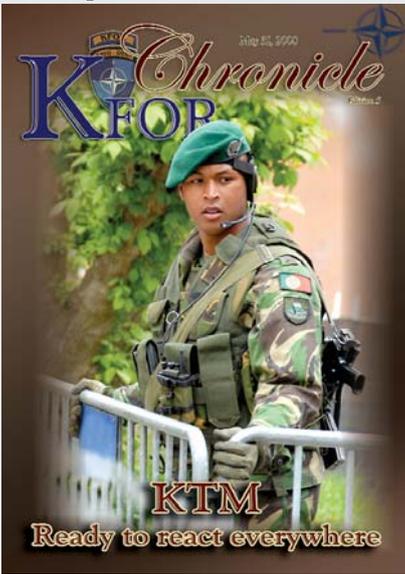
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KFOR Chronicle Team visited the KTM paratroopers, which were deployed in North Mitrovica, for one day in late April. After the March riots 2008, you should get a sense for the different duties fulfilled by the Portuguese soldiers inside and around Mitrovica Courthouse.

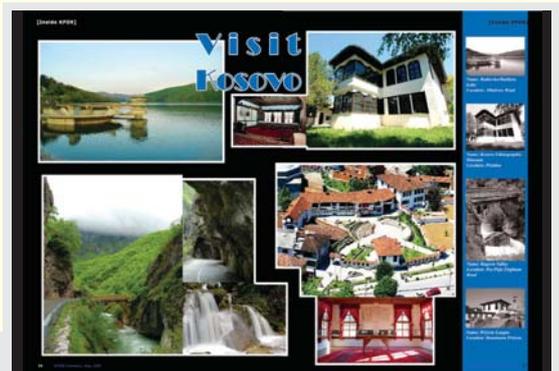
Cover photo by Armend Aqifi

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KFOR CHRONICLE



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MNTF West gets a new Co

Text by Major Oleksii Morozov, Ukrainian Army

Photos by Armend Aqifi

On April, 30, a sunny warm day, the transfer-of-authority ceremony of Multi-National Task Force West (MNTF W) took place in Camp Villaggio Italia, Pec/Pejë. During the ceremony, the new MNTF W commander Brigadier General Agostino Biancafarina replaced Brigadier General Nicolo Falsaperna.

At the beginning of the ceremony, all soldiers from Hungary, Italy, Romania, Slovenia and Spain aligned for saluting to the Commander of Kosovo Forces Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac and to both Italian generals. In his farewell speech, the outgoing MNTF W commander General Falsaperna stressed to his soldiers, that they did in Kosovo an important service. "You have to look directly to the eyes of children to understand what they expect from their future," he said.

General Falsaperna thanked local civil and religious authorities for the mutual understanding as well as

representatives of different communities for their support. He also expressed his satisfaction with the cooperation provided to him by international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

General Falsaperna also thanked 16,000 women and men serving for KFOR. He was proud to have been one of them. "General Falsaperna has provided excellent leadership for this Task Force during the past six months", COMKFOR General de Marnhac said in his speech. After that, the

KFOR commander addressed to the soldiers of MNTF W: "I wish to publicly recognize you for having given Brigadier General Falsaperna your unwavering support. Whenever I have had the opportunity to interact with you, I was immediately obvious why Brigadier General Falsaperna was successful. Thank you, soldiers of MNTF W, for your great work!".

In regards to General Falsaperna, COMKFOR wished him good luck to his continuing assignment as Brigade Commander in Sicily: "Mission accomplished, great work! Good luck for your future!" Welcoming the

incoming commander, General de Marnhac said:

"General Biancafarina, welcome to the KFOR family! The job in Task Force West's area of



Commander

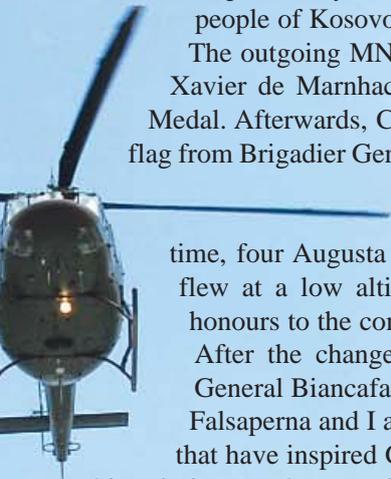


responsibility is not finished. You must continue to do everything possible to support the people of Kosovo on their way to a prosperous future."

The outgoing MNTF W Commander General Falsaperna was awarded by Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac with the the NATO Non Article 5 Medal. Afterwards, COMKFOR took over the Task Force flag from Brigadier General Nicolo Falsaperna and handed it over to Brigadier General Agostino Biancafarina. At that time, four Augusta Bell 205 helicopters from Task Force "Ercole" flew at a low altitude display over the parade ground, granting honours to the commanders.



After the change of command the new MNTF W commander General Biancafarina stated some words to the audience: "General Falsaperna and I attended the same Academy course. So guidelines that have inspired General Falsaperna's command during his mission maybe very likely the same as mine for the next months. To the men and women belonging to Multi-National Task Force West I wish good luck for the next months, sure that it will be a period full of the best and most personal and professional satisfactions."





Peace with D



Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac, Commander of Kosovo Force, visited the mayor of the Lipljan/Lipjan Municipality Mr. Shukri Buja in his office in the municipal building on May 6.

Mr. Buja stated that cooperation between the Municipality and KFOR has been good. He said that Lipljan/Lipjan is a microcosm of Kosovo/Kosova society and that all ethnicities are present in the municipality.

General de Marnhac congratulated the people of Lipljan/Lipjan on the responsibility and maturity they had shown during the Declaration of Independence celebrations. He referred to the challenges faced by Kosovo/Kosova, namely the implementation of the

Constitution and the upcoming Donor's Conference, and said that the international community and the authorities in Kosovo/Kosova must work hard to set the conditions for improvement. COMKFOR concluded by asking the people of Lipljan/Lipjan to continue their support for KFOR and asked them to take responsibility for the development of their country. The delegation then visited the kindergarten in this municipality. After this, they paid a visit to the Orthodox Church.

On May 8, Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac and Lieutenant General Zdravko Ponos, Chief of Serbian Armed Forces General Staff, met in NIS (Serbia).

Generals de Marnhac and Ponos discussed about the security situation along the administrative boundary and the respective area of responsibility of Serbian Armed Forces (SAF) and KFOR.

The two generals underlined the importance of a regular cooperation as well as opened and professional relations between KFOR and SAF at all levels.

They strongly emphasized the need of constant exchange of information as well as performing joint activities and synchronized patrols along the administrative boundary.



On May 9, COMKFOR paid a visit to the Kosovo polje/Fushë Kosovë municipality. First, he met the Mayor, Mr. Burim Berisha, in a private meeting. During the talks Mr. Berisha stressed that political climate in the municipality is calm at the present time. After the meeting with mayor, General de Marnhac gave a speech to municipality assembly. He joked to the assembly that he is not running for election to the assembly. COMKFOR said, it was very encouraging to see so many women in the audience. He stressed that this was not his first time to visit Kosovo Polje/Fushë Kosovë. The last time he visited the municipality in Dec. 2005, when he was DCOM KFOR.



COMKFOR said, there were a lot of challenges facing the people of Kosovo/Kosova in the future and that all their energy would be required to meet these challenges. General de Marnhac said KFOR will have completely same approach for all communities living in Kosovo.

After the address to the assembly, he visited "BITEK" latex company in Donje Dobrevo/Miradi e Poshtme. During this visit he was informed about the work of this company. Owners of this company have highly appreciated COMKFOR's visit saying that this visit is an encouragement for them.

etermination



Three days later, on May 12, Minister of Internal Affairs and COMKFOR made a visit to the Kosovo Police Service. During this visit, the First Intervention Team of the KPS presented special weapons and equipments and demonstrated its readiness to react in different situations which may occur in the terrain: different methods and means of penetration to the buildings, releasing hostages, arresting armed and dangerous persons, various tactics of attack and self-defence.



On May 13, COMKFOR visited the Nothing Hill camp. At the end of the visit he met with journalists from local mass-media.



On the 15th of May 2008, Commander Allied Joint Force Command Headquarters Naples Admiral Mark Fitzgerald visited Kosovo Force. He met Lieutenant General de Marnhac, COMKFOR, and other officials. He also met soldiers on the field. Furthermore, the JFC Commander visited Mitrovica, where he discussed with municipal leaders regarding the security situation in Kosovo north. At the end of the visit, Admiral Mark Fitzgerald met the media at Slatina Airport. KFOR will continue its mandate based on 1244 UN Resolution until a decision is made for any change, whereas the political developments after June 15 when the Kosovo Constitution comes into force, will be decisional for the future of NATO troops in Kosovo, said Admiral Fitzgerald.



Congratulations on 300 times

*Story by Major Gernot Schwarzenberger,
Austrian Air Force*

Photos by OR-2 Nicolas Bernard, French Army



KFOR and the Serbian Armed Forces (SAF) celebrated its 300 Joint JIC meeting (JIM) on May 13, 2008, in Rudare, Serbia, 15 kilometers northeast of Gate 3. In marking such a major occasion, it is key not only to acknowledge past accomplishments, but also to pause for a moment to take stock and consider what the future may hold.

The Military Technical Agreement (MTA) was signed in 1999 just before the UNSCR 1244. It was the birth date of the Joint Implementation Commission (JIC). The primary task of JIC is to monitor, liaise and minimize conflict in the fulfillment of the MTA requirements. In order to have a harmonized and synchronized approach at all levels to the SAF, the

Multi-National Task Forces have their own JIC branches. They facilitate communication and understanding between KFOR and all Serbian parties. KFOR Headquarters JIC has an coordinating, advisory and directing role toward the JIC teams of the MNTF's.



KFOR and SAF of success



8 years of cooperation between KFOR and SAF means 8 years of mutual understanding and stability astride the ABL.

In this 300th meeting representatives from the Multi-National Task Forces, UNMIK border police as well as the Police of Serbia (MUP) and the SAF exchanged information concerning the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) violations and incidents in the Ground Safety Zone (GSZ) and Air Safety Zone (ASZ) which occurred in the period from 29th April to 12th May 2008.

Col. Miodrag Popovic, chief of Military Technical Agreement Implementation Commission, Serbian Armed Forces, stated that the cooperation between SAF and KFOR can be characterized with a certain level of confidence and trust. "The excellent cooperation between SAF and KFOR is a result of the thorough implementation of the MTA," the father of two children explained.

All about liaison

The chief of KFOR's JIC, Danish Capt. (Navy) Karsten Andersen introduced during his opening remarks also representatives from HQ KFOR J6 (signals) Branch who were participating for the first time at this meeting.

"Having good and prompt liaisons together requires good communication assets," Popovic highlighted. The establishment of hot-lines has improved communications

between SAF

and KFOR on all levels enabling a fast reaction to de-conflict misunderstandings - should they arise.

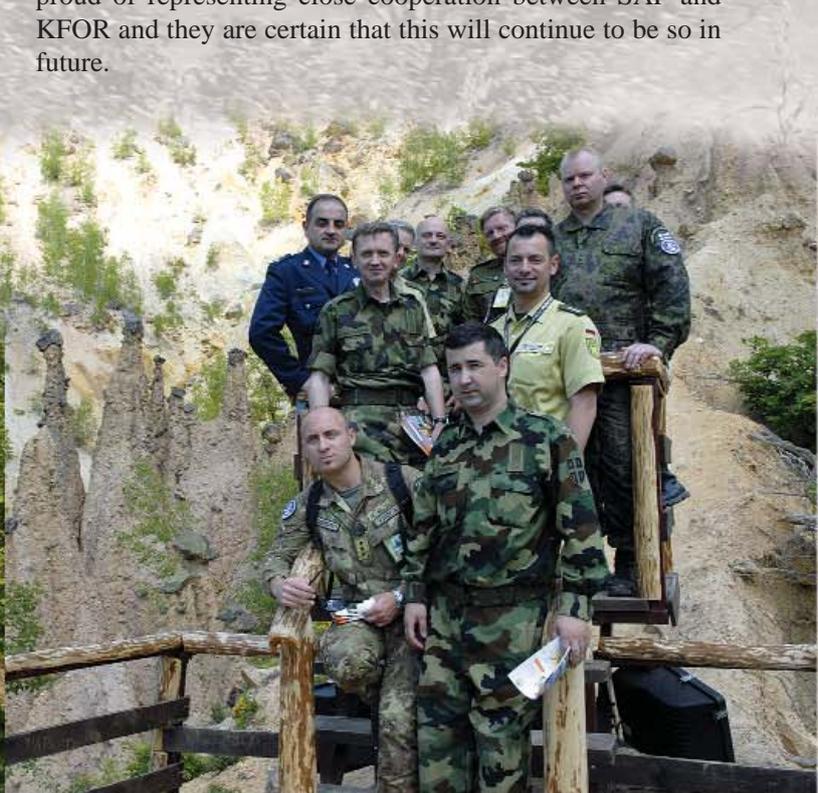
The Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) between Kosovo and Serbia needs the attention of SAF, MUP, KFOR and UNMIK. All together, these units efficiently deter smuggling of tobacco, alcohol, drugs and illegal woodcutting. They also prevent individuals from fraudulently crossing the ABL.

"Our JIC family is transboundary"

"In case of unplanned events like violations or incidents astride the ABL, we are ready for prompt exchange of relevant information about it," Popovic said.

"Meetings on several levels between SAF and KFOR provide a mean for confidence building and understanding. Problems should be solved at the lowest level possible in order not to raise tension," Andersen pointed out. "At the main level the very fact that we can celebrate the 300th meeting is the best proof of a mutual cooperation and respect of each other."

The meeting ended in a friendly note. While eating a typical dish, the participants had the opportunity to talk and strengthen relationships in the framework of a tight cooperation of JIC members. The participants remain hugely proud of representing close cooperation between SAF and KFOR and they are certain that this will continue to be so in future.



A K T Always prepared

Story by Major João Bernardino, Portuguese Army

Photos by Mr. Armend Aqifi

The 1st Paratrooper Infantry Battalion has the distinction of being the Kosovo Force Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM) between 19th March 2008 and September 2008.

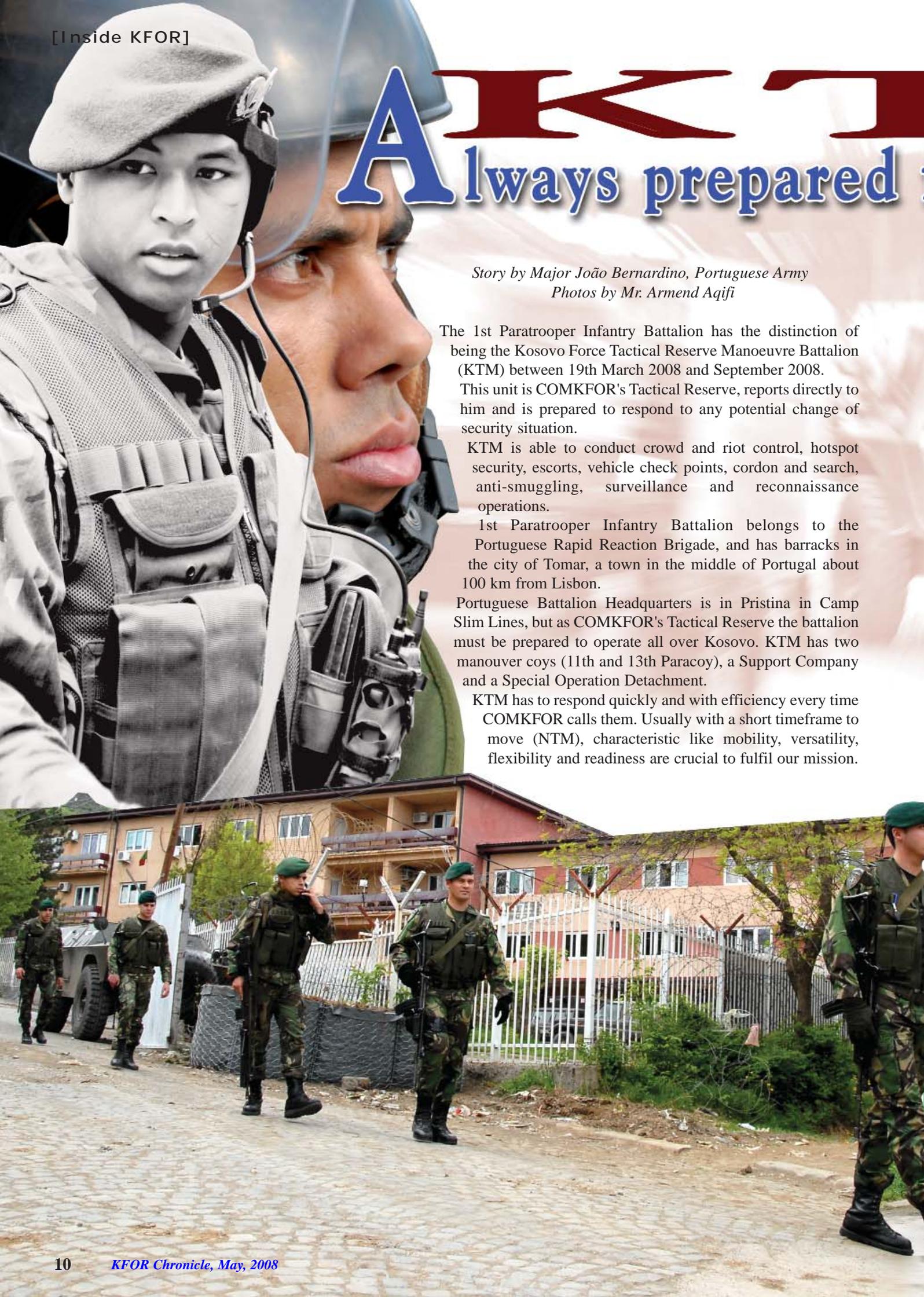
This unit is COMKFOR's Tactical Reserve, reports directly to him and is prepared to respond to any potential change of security situation.

KTM is able to conduct crowd and riot control, hotspot security, escorts, vehicle check points, cordon and search, anti-smuggling, surveillance and reconnaissance operations.

1st Paratrooper Infantry Battalion belongs to the Portuguese Rapid Reaction Brigade, and has barracks in the city of Tomar, a town in the middle of Portugal about 100 km from Lisbon.

Portuguese Battalion Headquarters is in Pristina in Camp Slim Lines, but as COMKFOR's Tactical Reserve the battalion must be prepared to operate all over Kosovo. KTM has two manoeuvre coys (11th and 13th Paracoy), a Support Company and a Special Operation Detachment.

KTM has to respond quickly and with efficiency every time COMKFOR calls them. Usually with a short timeframe to move (NTM), characteristic like mobility, versatility, flexibility and readiness are crucial to fulfil our mission.



KTM for the worst case

Operation "Mitrocourt"

In addition to daily routine tasks, KTM carries out several joint exercises with Task Forces Units.

KTM was deployed in North Mitrovica from March 28th to April 28th. It was responsible for an area within the city that included the Mitrovica Courthouse. KTM protected the courthouse and in order to maintain a safe and secure environment conducted day and night patrols.

During foot- vehicle- or mixed patrols KTM soldiers show respect for inhabitants. For example, on April 23, a KTM soldiers met a funeral cortege while patrolling on their way a Kosovo-Serbian. KTM vehicles stopped and turned off the engines, soldiers went out of their vehicles, two of them took a safe and security position and the others assumed a respected attitude to the members of the passing funeral cortege.

KTM commander Lt. Col. Serra Pedro said, "It is important to know the traditions of local people. We are peacekeeping soldiers and our mission here is to contribute a safe and secure environment in Kosovo. We respect multiethnic inhabitant's habits and institutions."

The mission in Mitrovica was not easy at all. The Portuguese soldiers had just arrived in Kosovo and the shadow of 17th of March riots was still in the air. 1st Sergeant Mario Dias told during a foot patrol in northern part of Mitrovica: "Now the local people see KTM with respect, but in the beginning the situation was tense. During our patrols we gained their respect and trust".



KFOR ON TRACK

Story by Major Gernot Schwarzenberger, Austrian Air Force

Photos by Mr. Armend Aqifi

Moving supplies and troops throughout Kosovo is one of many critical aspects to a successful mission of KFOR.

The team responsible for keeping the steady movement of these essential items in and around Kosovo are the members of Joint Transportation Coordination Centre (JTCC) based at Headquarters of Kosovo Forces in Camp Film City, Pristina.

Freedom of movement is a key to operational deployment, whether it's reinforcement or the rotation of soldiers from one area of operation to another. An example of freedom of movement is the railway system that is quite extensive

throughout Kosovo. The rail system is a safe and cheap alternative to using the roads.

"You must never try to make circumstances fit the plan, you must always make the plan fit the circumstances." - George S. Patton 1944

"KFOR has the right to Freedom of Movement, vital to the area of responsibility," said Italian Lt. Col. Paolo Balzano, assigned in J4 (Logistics Branch), as Chief Rail Desk in Joint Transportation Coordination Centre (JTCC). KFOR's JTCC is the only theatre organization authorized to process requests for KFOR rail movements within the theatre.

A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) details the responsibility for planning, co-coordinating and requesting any rail movement. It identifies and issues priorities for rail infrastructure, in close coordination with the Engineers, to maintain and improve rail operations. Every Wednesday a meeting is held at Kosovo Polje Railway station. Its purpose is to discuss with the managing director of the Kosovo Railways, Mr. Xhevat Ramosaj, current procedures for the use of rail transportation by KFOR Troop Contributing Nations, to make the rail movements smoother and more effective in the future. "I know that to achieve better transportation for KFOR, there are many obstacles and difficulties in our way. Nevertheless, with clear objectives, good prepared actions and plans, I believe that we will achieve desired results," the managing director said.





Railways in Kosovo

In 1874, the first railway line Djeneral Jankovic/Hani i Elezit via Kosovo Polje/Fushe Kosove to Mitrovica/Mitrovice was constructed. Today, the Railways network in Kosovo consists of approximately 400 km of operational single track line. Passing tracks are available at all bigger railway stations. KFOR primarily uses two main lines; the North-South Line (approx. 200 km long), from Gate 1 near Lesak/Leshak to Kosovo Polje main station and then to General Jankovic-Blace border crossing; the West-Centre Line (approx. 120 km long) from Pec/Pejë to Pristina/Prishtine.

Railway lines are the linkage between the most important centers of Kosovo except Djakovica/Gjakove and Gnjilane/Gjilan. Railway lines of Kosovo have direct links also with neighboring countries such as FYROM and Serbia and through them with other countries as well.

Collecting ticks



*Story by Dr. Maj. Roman Wölfel, German Armed Forces Central Medical Service and
Maj. Gernot Schwarzenberger, Austrian Air Force
Photos by German Armed Forces Institute for Microbiology*

By request of the KFOR Medical Director, Dr. Col. Rüdiger Trapp, a team of the German Armed Forces Institute of Microbiology conducted in early May a seven day reconnaissance and support mission on Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever virus in close cooperation with the National Institute of Public Health of Kosovo (NIPH).

What is Crimean-Congo fever?

Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever (CCHF) is a viral disease sporadically occurring. Because of its high case fatality rate and transmissibility it poses a significant threat for the local population as well as for KFOR personnel operating in possible endemic regions. A tick bite or contact with an infected animal or person may transmit



for force protection

the virus that causes the illness. Within a few days, the infected person suddenly gets fever, muscle ache, dizziness, neck pain and stiffness, and headache. Soon the person begins to bleed underneath the skin, from gums, nose, and in internal organs. Without treatment, these bleedings may be fatal.

Crimean-Congo virus is considered a public health problem in Kosovo because disease outbreaks occur in warm and moist weather as the tick population grows. Although there is no vaccination available for military, the use of insect repellents on skin and clothing should help to prevent the tick bites that might transmit Crimean-Congo infection. In addition, troops are taught not to enter stables or to touch human or animal blood. Still, Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever will continue to pose a threat for KFOR personnel in endemic regions.

Safety first

The aim of the microbiology experts during the reconnaissance was to improve medical KFOR force protection through improvement of CCHF control by the civilian public health authorities.

Two teams consisting of a medical microbiologist Dr. Maj. Roman W. an entomologist Maj. Henri D. and two technicians worked in close cooperation with the physicians, epidemiologists and other regional public health staff of the Health Institute.

One team worked together with microbiologists at NIPH labs in Pristina. Laboratory technicians were trained in performing virus detection assay. Furthermore, training in laboratory biosafety procedures was conducted and personal protective equipment was provided to the lab workers. Several safe methods for preparation of tick vector and human specimens were trained.

In parallel, an epidemiological field investigation was conducted by the other team in close collaboration with regional health representatives. Their aim was to evaluate tick vector and virus spreading within the known endemic regions. Within five days the regions surrounding Prizren, Orahovac/Rahovec, Malisevo/Malisheve (in MNTF S) and Klina/Kline (MNTF W) were surveyed. Ticks were collected from cattle and surrounding areas. Geographical and ecological parameters were recorded for each sample. During the survey ten health workers from the NIPH were educated and trained in the proper use of personal protective equipment and its disposal after potential contamination with disease agents. Sampling techniques were explained and practiced in the field. "The regional health care workers as well as health technicians from Prizren and Pec/Peja showed great interest and enthusiasm in applied epidemiology and the field work, even in bad weather conditions," said Henri D.

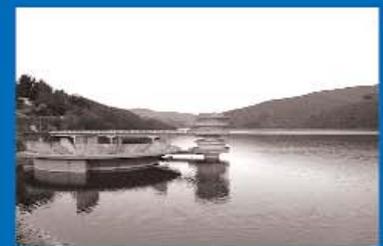
The director of NIPH, Dr. Naser Ramadani thanked for the close cooperation of KFOR, especially to the Medical Director, Dr. Trapp, and to the team of the German Armed Forces Institute of Microbiology.

In summary, the laboratory capacities for diagnostic procedures for CCHF virus in Kosovo were improved and extended during the recent mission. By this knowledge and the now available skills of NIPH personnel, future suspected cases of CCHF in the civilian population as well as in KFOR units might be diagnosed more rapidly than before with an increased confidence in the reliability of the results.



Visi Kosov

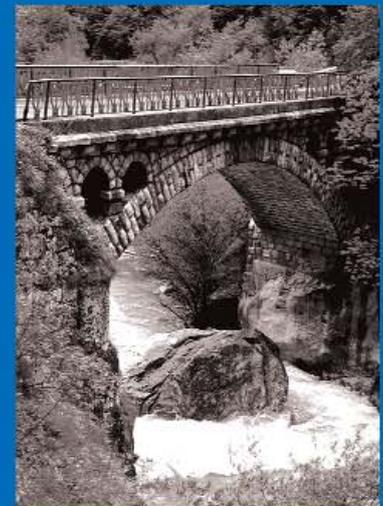




*Name: Batlavsko/Batllava Lake
Location: Route Albatross, MNTF Centre*



*Name: Kosovo Ethnographic Museum
Location: Pristina, MNTF Centre*



*Name: Rugova Valley
Location: Route Elephant, MNTF West*



*Name: Prizren League
Location: Downtown Prizren, MNTF South*

[Inside KFOR]

*Text and photos by Major Oleksii Morozov,
Ukrainian Army*

At the foot of the Pyrenees Mountains, the French town of Lourdes is situated. This town isn't big; only about 17 000 inhabitants. However, it is well known all around the World. More than five million visitors come there each year. You might ask, what is the reason to go there?

In the year 1858, the Virgin Mary appeared 18 times to 14 year old Bernadette Soubirous in the grotto of Massabielle in Lourdes. At the time of apparitions, a water source sprung up from the rock. The Lady gave the orders to Bernadette: "Come and drink at the spring and wash yourself there and ask the priests to organize the procession and to build a chapel at that place". The chapel has been built and water has been flowing from the Grotto uninterruptedly since the 25th of February 1858. This water is believed to possess some miraculous properties. During 150 years the people from different countries came to Basilique Notre-Dame du Rosaire (the Immaculate Conception Sanctuary) to pray there and to drink the water from this venerable source. Between those people there have been a great number of ill and handicapped people who haven't lost their hope for miraculous healing.

The wars of XIX - XX centuries haven't passed by Lourdes. During the wars Lourdes received and restored to health wounded and injured people. After the wars it prayed for death, consoled alive ones and implored to peace.

The year 1958. On the occasion of the 100th anniversary of Virgin Mary appearance German and French soldiers, encouraged by their religious and military authorities, gathered together in Lourdes for the first time after World War II to pray for peace and international reconciliation. Who, better than a soldier, knows about the miseries of war and the price of peace? Since then the International Military Pilgrimage (IMP) has been organized annually.

This year, the event celebrated its 50th anniversary. More than 24 000 soldiers from Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Ukraine, USA and others countries were presented there. According to the 5-years old tradition, the delegation of Kosovo Force also took part in the IMP. On board of the French Air Forces plane, representatives of KFOR HQ, all Multinational Task Forces, KTM and MSU arrived in Lourdes on May, 23. The celebration started with the military Parade of participating nations. The soldiers wearing different colorful uniforms marched through the town, greeted with cheers by the people on the streets. The KFOR delegation was headed by the Commander of Kosovo Force Lieutenant-General de Marnhac.

Especially impressive, was the Torchlight Marian Procession, which took place in the evening of 23 May. In the darkness of night, thousands of military and civilians pilgrims lit the candles, representing their cares, dreams and hopes, and formed the procession, moving towards the Basilique Notre-Dame du Rosaire.

50th Anniversary of Int



International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes



Various conferences and prayers in different languages, exhibitions and demonstrations, concerts of military bands and defiles were organized during those three days of the International Military Pilgrimage, which has been crowned in the morning of 25 of May with International Mass, such a culmination of this event. Even heavy rain hasn't damaged the solemnity of the ceremony. The pilgrims prayed for living in peace and mutual understanding.

"It was a great opportunity for the soldiers from different nations to gather together, pray, communicate and get to know each other," said Hungarian military chaplain Colonel Mihály Pintér from the Camp St.Laszlo.

"It is eighth time I visited Lourdes" OR-9 Elio Baggioni from MSU said. "The precedent times I was a member of Italian delegation as honor guard of the national flag, during the International Military Pilgrimages. But it is the first time I came to the IMP as member of KFOR delegation. Sometimes people come to Lourdes just as tourists, with the aim to know how this place is, to do sightseeing. And often, after their first visit, they would like to come back here other times. There is something special in this place that I cannot or I don't know to explain, but I feel better after having been here".

"Because we are human being gifted with reason and sensitivity, we can understand that an incomplete peace is better than a beautiful victory which leaves everyone materially, demographically and spiritually ruined... Every year, the International Military Pilgrimage which gathers together various armies from countries which were often at war, some recently, is a sign of this peace."
Mgr Jacques Perrier, Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes

[Inside KFOR]

"A Genuine The Multi-ethnic Chi



"The Success" Children's Camp in Lopusnic

Story by Capt. Gerhard H. Fahn, German Army
Photos by OR-4 Mirko Martzloff, German Army

Forging a common future is the motto of a multi-ethnic children's camp. The camp was held from 2 to 5 May and was organized by Protestant Chaplains Christoph Thiele and Dr. Martin Michel from Prizren. Thirty children from needy Albanian and Goran families participated in the camp. The project was prepared by the chaplains, the German KFOR Logistics Battalion (CSS Bn) and the CIMIC Center in Dragas.

The CIMIC Center had requested schools to select seven-to-eight-year-old students from socially disadvantaged families for the children's camp. Included in the preparations and conduct of the event were the Director of Education of the Dragas Region, the local police (Kosovo Police Service, KPS) and the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC).

The camp was installed adjacent to the school in Lopusnic, eight kilometers north of Dragas. In the morning, the soldiers of the CSS Bn moved in and put the tents and open hearths in place. The beds and mattresses were provided by the KPC. Each child also received a sleeping bag as a gift from the soldiers' association "LACHEN helfen".

In the afternoon of May 2, the children were picked up by a bus and brought to the camp. Capt. Jochen M., commander of the

automotive repair company of the CSS Bn, on site together with ten of his soldiers to be in charge of the organization of the event, reported: "The kids worked things out with each other quickly, and there were no problems." Thiele adds: "An encouraging fact was the resonance among the administration and the KPS. The aim was living and making experiences - joyful and serious ones - together. On Saturday, the children were taught by a woman doctor about first-aid measures, and an EOD team explained the dangers that can be posed by explosive ordnance. The program ranged from relaxation, for instance by playing soccer, up to topics such as preservation of the creation and proper treatment of humans and nature. The highlight was the children's Olympic games on Sunday afternoon and the subsequent prize awarding ceremony and camp fest to finish off the event.

In addition to Director of Education Prof. Ramadani, Brig. Gen. Wilhelm Grün, commander of the German KFOR Contingent and Lt. Col. Manfred Klaffus, commander of the CSS Bn, were present on Sunday afternoon to witness the boisterous mood of the event during the children's Olympiad. Many teachers and school principals of the children participating in the camp came by as visitors to show their interest. For OR-8 Robert S. from the CSS Bn, who was responsible for the organization, it was encouraging to see "how much energy and time the participating teachers put in." Thiele and Michel entertain the hope "that this multi-ethnic camp will have a positive effect on the entire region." For early August 2008, the German Red Cross, German KFOR units and the TMK have scheduled a similar five-day camp for 88 children from all over Kosovo in the region of Dragas.



Good bye to Swedish Fire



fighters



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

When Daniel Johansson sets fire to the wood in the large container black smoke bellows out and rises to the sky. The smoke divers Joakim Lind and Linus Lundberg puts their masks on and check their equipment for the last time before they enter the burning inferno. The Swedish Fire and Rescue Squad are practicing for the last time.

The team has been practicing smoke diving in a set of containers just outside Camp Victoria. Inside they can set up a number of different scenarios like an apartment or an industrial site, depending on what they want to rehearse.

"We want to make it as realistic as possible," says Deputy Squad leader 2nd Lt. Joakim Nilsson.

In today's scenario one of the smoke divers gets trapped inside the building and becomes unconscious, but Josefina Berglind and Sara Andersson are fast to his rescue and drag him outside.

The Fire and Rescue Squad of the 16th Swedish Contingent are the last. From here on, Camp Victoria will be relying on help from Finnish Contingent if there is a fire in the camp. During the six months in Kosovo the eight men and women of the team have only had to put out a few fires in the area of responsibility; these all being times when they have been supporting the local fire fighting force. But they have been busy, dealing with traffic accidents and supporting the Swedish Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team on a number of occasions.

"Our main tasks have been preventive work," says fire fighter Pvt. Josefina Berglind.

"All of the Swedish personnel have been given basic fire and rescue training," tells squad leader 1st.Lt Peter Kindblom.

They have also had time to support the people in Kosovo by educating them on fire and rescue training; such as the staff at the hospital in Pristina/Prishtine.

"The preventive work regarding fires was lacking a lot," states Squad leader 1st.Lt Peter Kindblom who went there last fall with fire fighter Pvt. Sara Andersson to make the first assessment.

"There was no fire hydrants, no fire exit signs and a lot of the fire escape doors were locked," reports Andersson.

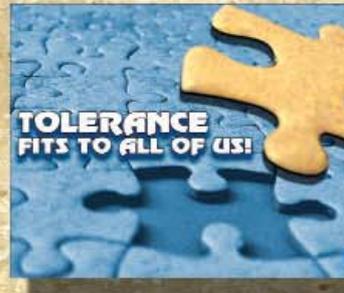
Together with the hospitals security team they worked out a fire and safety plan. They also spent a day training when the staff tried the fire extinguishers to put out the fire on a doll with a blanket. Not just the security team but some of the doctors and nurses also attended the training.

"They are more likely to be the first at the scene in case of a fire," says Andersson. "It's important to realize that fire safety is everyone's responsibility."

Now the Fire and Rescue Squad have closed the station in Camp Victoria and are heading home for Sweden.

"It has been a good time here, and very interesting to experience Kosovo up close," says smoke diver Pvt. Joakim Lind.

WINNER



TV KFOR



ING HEARTS AND MINDS



Story by Maj. Gernot Schwarzenberger, Austrian Air Force

Photos by Mr. Naim Shala

for4U
You

Psychological Operations, more commonly known as PsyOps helps COMKFOR Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac working toward a goal - a goal for the common good.

You may wonder what PsyOps does for KFOR. According to incoming Chief Production Development Center (PDC) 1st Lt. Andreas Hübler of the Austrian Air Force, their mission is an all encompassing one for the people of Kosovo.

"It is creating messages to change behaviour," said Hübler, "whether it is against violence by organized rioters, or educating the public on tolerance, it is a way to influence behaviour to promote a safe and secure environment."

In this respect the PsyOps branch is attempting to melt the hearts of Kosovo citizens frozen by the past war with efforts of this compassionate team gathered from around the world.

PsyOps Branch in Kosovo Forces Headquarters has 16 soldiers from Norway, Denmark, Spain, France, Italy, Romania, Austria and Ireland, as well as 40 civilians from Kosovo and Serbia. The aim of the section is to change the attitudes of the people from hatred to tolerance, and there is still a lot to be done in Kosovo. "Kosovo is a country that deserves a better future", PsyOps chief, Norwegian Lieutenant Colonel Leo Westhelle and outgoing Chief PDC Major Peter Platzer of the Austrian Air Force both agreed: "It is evident, however, that things are improving."

Radio KFOR

Radio KFOR, now headed by Astrit Dushi, plays the most popular international and domestic music hits as well as broadcasting messages about, peace and tolerance. It supports KFOR's campaign against drugs, raises mine awareness and supports and covers projects of ambitious Kosovo citizens who want to help their country. The Target Audience Analysis section, headed by Romanian Maj. Mitica Mihai, is responsible for verifying and gathering information, they interview, contact, test and then analyse all PsyOps products all over Kosovo. This sensitive process is prepared and conducted by international and local personnel together. Their main goal is to know the results of the work.

For you "4U"

The print section, headed by Spanish OR-3 Sandra Garcia Sánchez is a team whose sole task is reaching the youth of Kosovo. This is the For You Magazine team, one of the most successful PsyOps projects printed in Pristina. In this magazine the journalists, headed by their chief editor, Leonora Shabanaj, work on bringing the youth of Kosovo closer to the world. With 92,000 copies in different local languages each month, this magazine has become the most popular magazine for young people in Kosovo. For You also organizes events throughout Kosovo, where young people of all nationalities are given the chance to meet and exchange thoughts and ideas through music, dancing and other common interests. There are also artists and designers responsible for visually promoting PsyOps messages in For You, as well as in other Kosovo newspapers and on billboards throughout Kosovo.

TV KFOR

Another integral part of the PsyOps Branch is the TV KFOR team. Their main responsibility is to produce programs and TV spots that support KFOR campaigns. In addition, they are there to record every event that is significant to KFOR and the people of Kosovo. Heading this powerful media asset is Romanian TV Director OR-8 Razvan Burtea who commented "This is a great job because we are working for a good cause."

This is just another facet of PsyOps supporting the work of KFOR. "A work that most soldiers who come to Kosovo might never recognize," said Austrian PDC Admin OR-9 Hermann Schnölzer.

Working for tolerance and peace is the mission behind PsyOps as they help a war torn country on the road to recovery by attempting to change debilitating attitudes into positive ones.



OR



CRC training inspired by de



Story and Photos by Lt. Andrea Langerová, Czech Army

Translation by OR-9 Radim Witosz, Czech Army

A Multinational Crowd Riot Control (CRC) training took part on April 29th at Hungarian Camp Vrelo. It was the first time when also dog handlers and their dogs from 12th Czech KFOR Contingent participated.

"The scenario of the training is based on real events happened in Gracanica/Gracanice, where demonstrations in front of the Kosovo police service (KPS) building were on daily order," explains 1st Lt. David Kares from the Staff Training Group of Multi-National Task Force Centre (MNTF C).

"Our fictive demonstrators are trying to seize the KPS office and make the biggest possible disorder. They are much more aggressive than at previous CRC trainings," said Kares.

The town of Gracanica/Gracanice is in the Swedish Area of Responsibility (AOR). As a result, the Swedes were the first who had to face wooden cubes thrown on their helmets. Wooden cubes are substituted for stones. They were thrown together with plastic bottles at their shields. The special Kosovo police unit ROSU, came to reinforce the Swedish soldiers with the aim to cope with the crowd. After that enraged rioters threw Molotov cocktails at "modern hoplites"

they then ignited tires. Also two car wreckages were in flames as part of the notional exercise. When the situation became very critical it was necessary to use smoke bombs simulating tear gas.

After the noise of simulated grenade explosions could be heard, armoured vehicles rushed against demonstrators along with heavy-armed soldiers from Task Group Charlie accompanied by the Czech dog handlers who were lead by their commander OR-9 Jaromir Valentik. Task Group Charlie is the reserve unit of the MNTF C Commander Brig. Gen. Gerry Hegarty. Above all it is assigned to cope with crowds. During the whole training the reserve was commanded by the MNTF C Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Col. Jaromir Durna.

The crowd finally was scattered. In this training the opponents and rioters were comprised by Finns, parts of opponents were soldiers from international logistic Coy and one Hungarian platoon also participated. The Czech Fire unit provided the fire protection for the training. There was also one Slovak physician with a Czech female medic on the hot spot.

A total of 30 generals and dignitaries from different nations observed the exercise. Among them was the Chairman of NATO Military Committee, Canadian General Ray Henault and Admiral Mark Fitzgerald, Commander of NATO Allied Joint Force Command Naples. The whole delegation had visited Kosovo for a day and in addition to the CRC training they took part in a briefing about Multinational Task Force Centre at the Monument object in Kosovo Polje/Fushe Kosove.

"We have headed the whole training to examine the cooperation among KPS and KFOR units belonging to MNTF C," explained Kares at the end.

Demonstration in Gracanica



CAMP NOTHING HILL - I

*Story by Major Gernot Schwarzenberger,
Austrian Air Force
Photos by Mr. Armend Aqifi*

Somebody once said that this Camp near Leposavic/Leposaviq is named "Nothing Hill" because about two years ago upon this hill there was really "nothing" except mud and a huge mess. This camp was built from an empty place and now our flags wave and give colors to a Kosovar territory.

Although the weather did not always cooperate, the hard work and joint effort of the engineering platoons and civilian workers, brought to life what was once simply an idea and made it reality.

Engineers doing an awesome job

The Austrian Air Force Technical Engineer Colonel Manfred Urregg is stepping through the mud. Since entering Camp Nothing Hill he seems to be everywhere checking the latest constructions. "Back home" in Kosovo Force Headquarters in Camp Film City, Col. Urregg leads 100 civilian and military engineers in Joint Engineers Branch (JEng) and has close cooperation to a civilian German consultant engineer office.

Leading these mixed professionals is from time to time not easy, but a typical office job. "Running from one meeting to the next, very often sitting behind a computer while watching plans and calculating project costs, can be very boring for a real soldier. That's why I escaped today to this place and I'm proud to see the results of all the hard work of my team," the Colonel mentioned.

"Sometimes it is a bit complicated", he said and smiled. It certainly sounds like there is a lot of understatement in this sentence, considering that there are soldiers from more than 9 different nations working in JEng-Branch. "But my men are doing an awesome job," the Colonel said with a proud grin.



Main electric distribution box and new dining facility with kitchen



Watch tower "Tatjana"



ENGINEERS MASTERPIECE

Ongoing advancements

Following the completion of the new camp, a whole battalion periodically composed of different nations is to be stationed here for a month each. Currently, an Austrian armored infantry coy along with a French coy is responding to various duties here. Especially the infantry companies benefit after a hard day full of patrols, checkpoints and trainings from an improved infrastructure at Camp Nothing Hill. Major Wilfried Tassenbacher, company commander of Tiger-Coy said: "During this month of employment it has a positive impact to the moral of our soldiers when they can get support from a well equipped camp."

Since the last two years a fully equipped kitchen, a gas station, guard towers, an ammunition bunker and a rain drainage system beside other upgrades have been planned, work contracts to civilian subcontractors have been signed and the constructions have been under constant supervision of the engineers. In the coming months additional improvements like a purification plant and container based accommodations will be additionally erected. "This is our small, but effective, contribution to KFOR keeping northern part of Kosovo a safe and secure environment," Colonel Urregg stated.

Site manager office



Ammunition bunker



Drainage system

Main gate



Gas station



The NATO Military Committee

Courtesy NATO webpage

On April, 28, the delegation of NATO military committee visited Kosovo Force. The purpose of the visit was to familiarize their members with the nature of KFOR's tasks, challenges and operational environment.

But what the NATO Military Committee is?

The Military Committee (MC) is the senior military authority in NATO, providing NATO's civilian decision-making bodies - the North Atlantic Council, the Defence Planning Committee and the Nuclear Planning Group - with advice on military matters.

The Committee's principal role is to provide direction and advice on military policy and strategy. It is responsible for recommending to NATO's political authorities those measures considered necessary for the common defence of the NATO area and for the implementation of decisions regarding NATO's operations and missions.

The Military Committee is made up of senior military officers from the NATO member countries who serve as their country's Military Representatives to NATO, representing their Chiefs of Defence.

The Committee meets normally every Thursday, following the regular Wednesday meeting of the North Atlantic Council, so that it can follow up promptly on Council decisions.

The current Chairman of the Military Committee is General Ray Henault from Canada.



Name: Rodrigo Lima

Rank: OR-3

Nationality: Portuguese

Home Unit: 1st Paratrooper Battalion / 15 th Infantry Regiment

Unit in KFOR: 11th PARA COY/1st BIPARA/KTM

About the mission: This is my first mission in Kosovo, and I will stay here for six months. I'm the squad leader, 3rd Section, 3rd Platoon of the 11th PARA Coy/1st BIPARA/KTM. This is my fifth mission. I went to East Timor (UNTAET), twice to Bosnia (SFOR), in the last year to Afghanistan (ISAF) and now to Kosovo (KFOR). I'm the antitank missile TOW operator, but I like to command the squad and work with my group.

I'm proud in helping the local people have a better future for themselves and contribute for the safe and secure environment in Kosovo, and during the mission, we have the possibility to make good friends from other countries.

Family reaction: My family supported my decisions, and they understand that it is necessary to take part in this peacekeeping mission, in order to represent my country and my flag, because I'm a paratrooper soldier and this is my job. Nevertheless, they are looking forward to my return.

Plans after the mission: First of all, I will be with my parents and friends, after that I will go on vacation, and of course I will share my Kosovo experiences.



Name: Eric Lemee

Rank: OR4

Nationality: French

Home Unit: storekeeper-accountant, the 5th Engineering Regiment

Unit in KFOR: MNTF-N HQ PAO, Photographer.

About the mission: This is my 14th year in the Army and the 10th mission abroad. It is the first time I intervene in Kosovo within MNTF-N HQ for the Public Affairs Office as a photographer. Previously, I have served as a VAB pilote at the Engeneering company, and afterwards as an infrastructure aid agent and coordinator. Thanks to my different professional areas, I have had the opportunity to intervene in Former Yugoslavia (thrice), French Guyana (once), Albania (once 1999), Senegal (twice), the French Polynesia (once) and in Kerguelen for a 13-month-stay. This new experience at the PAO in Kosovo is very enriching in terms of the diversity of the missions I have to do and because I am very often in the field and have a close contact with the population. Missions like the deployment of the Tactical

Command Post, KIKPC exercises, CIMIC actions, and so on, represent exchanges which allow the development of an excellent team spirit.

Family reaction: My wife understands the fact that I have to intervene abroad. She is actually very busy since she is preparing a Master's degree at Sorbonne University. Her parents are with her in order to help and support her while I am away. I feel absolutely much better knowing that she is not alone.

Plans after the mission: Once I am back home, I will be happy to see my family and discuss about all sorts of interesting subjects. We will have some holidays together which we will spend in Normandy. A couple of weeks ago, I applied for the Sergeant Rank. When I am back, I will have to attend a training-program in order to complete the knowledge I have as an accountant and storekeeper. In the mean time, I will concentrate myself on my duty which is for the benefit of this interesting mission. This new experience in the KFOR Headquarter, confirms the importance I assign to my job as a military.



Name: Kimmo Haatanen

Rank: Lieutenant

Nationality: Finnish

Home Unit: Anti-Aircraft Missile Battery

Unit in KFOR: Finnish NSE, Signal Maintenance

About the Mission: This is my second deployment. The first was also here in Kosovo in 2002 - 2003. I am about to leave the theatre in two weeks and head home. I have really enjoyed this mission. It was quite easy to come here, since I had my memories from the first mission still in my mind. Time has quickly passed. It has been very interesting and rewarding to be part of a multinational community again and to see all the things that are happening here in Kosovo. I have had a great cooperation with Task Force Center G6 (signals) personnel and I want to wish all my colleagues the best success in your work here.

Family Reaction: My wife and four children have been supportive and patient during my mission. I am really grateful for that. Of course, I miss them a lot and I expect to see them soon.

Plans after the Mission: I am planning to have a little vacation and perhaps travel in Europe. When I get home, I am going to stay there and take care of my children and let my wife return to her job in turn. Then, maybe after Christmas I plan to get back to my work in Finnish Defence Forces.



Sharr Mountains



Photo by Major Oleksii Morozov