

June 30, 2008

KFO Chronicle

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KFO

Edition 6



The Rifles 'Mission Ready'

Today KFOR is the backbone - the future will be in the hands of the Kosovars



In the face of all tension and change in Kosovo, KFOR is an important and stable factor for the unity of the country. This was revealed by a survey made by UNMIK, showing that KFOR has found approval amongst 89 % of the Kosovo people - Serb Kosovars as well as Albanian Kosovars alike.

It highlights, KFOR is needed and is rendering a valuable contribution for the sake of the country. Apparently, we are guaranteeing the degree of security for many Kosovars in order to stay at all.

We can be truly proud of this, but at the same time, it is deeply disillusioning!

Nine years after the start of KFOR Mission, Kosovo is still far from a self-sufficient freedom. After nine years we are still indispensable.

The time has come for **Kosovars of all ethnic groups** to go and contribute to the increasing share of their own future - we should vigorously call for this. Their own effort must make KFOR expendable!

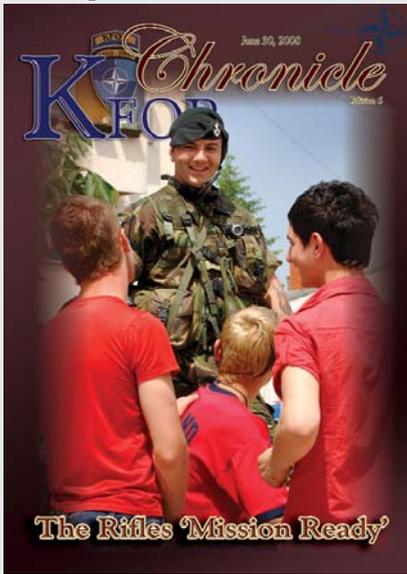
It is **their** country and future. **They** are responsible for shaping the time to come. We as KFOR should constantly convey this message and thus, make the Kosovars perceive they have to take over responsibility for themselves and for their country.

KFOR can prevent violence - however, it is a genuine task of the local people to establish and enhance peace. **Pass on this message kindly, but with determination.**

Major General Gerhard Stelz
Deputy Commander Kosovo Force



<p>Commander KFOR: Lt. Gen. Xavier de Marnhac, FRA Army</p> <p>Chief Public Affairs Office: Col. Jean Luc Cotard, FRA Army</p> <p>Chief Internal Information & Editor in Chief: Maj. Oleksii Morozov, UKR Army</p> <p>Photographer & Layout Mr. Armend Aqifi</p> <p>Special thanks to TSgt. David Green, U.S. Air Force, for his invaluable support</p>	<p>The KFOR Chronicle is produced and fully funded by HQ KFOR. It is published for KFOR forces in the area of responsibility.</p> <p>The contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the coalition governments' defense departments.</p> <p>Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Internal Information Section of HQ KFOR's Public Affairs Office (PAO) in Pristina, Kosovo.</p> <p>PAO HQ KFOR reserves the right to edit content to conform to style and space requirements. Articles run on a space-available basis.</p> <p>The KFOR Chronicle is printed by KOSOVA SOT Tel: 038 548 402</p>	<p>Nations within KFOR:</p> <p>HQ KFOR Canada Estonia Hungary Netherlands Norway Portugal United Kingdom</p> <p>MNTE (C) Czech Republic Finland Ireland Latvia Slovakia Sweden</p> <p>MNTE (N) France Belgium Denmark Greece Luxembourg Morocco Estonia</p> <p>MNTE (S) Austria Bulgaria Germany Switzerland Turkey</p> <p>MNTE (W) Italy Hungary Romania Slovenia Spain</p> <p>MNTE (E) United States of America Armenia Greece Lithuania Poland Romania Ukraine</p>
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A British soldier from C company on patrol in the village of Srbica chatting to local kids.

Cover photo by Cpl. Steve Hughes RLC

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2 Rifles Battlegroup 'M'



*Story by Captain Paul Smyth, SO3 Media Ops 2 RIFLES
Photos by Cpl Steve Hughes*

The United Kingdom is one of the nations that, in rotation, provide reserve soldiers for the Commander of KFOR should there be a need. Some 600 riflemen from the 2nd Battalion, The Rifles, have been deployed to Kosovo as it faces its most challenging period since declaring independence from Serbia.

High up in the mountains in the north of Kosovo overlooking Leposavic/Leposaviq, a multiple of British soldiers in their Snatch Landover's are heading for three isolated ethnic Albanian villages.

The only way in is through a Serb-dominated part of Kosovo north of Mitrovica/Mitrovice up the main road leading to the Serb/Kosovo boundary. The 2nd Battalion, The Rifles, is also operating in Serb enclaves as well as Albanian ones. One of the Battlegroups four bases is at a Serb monastery in Devic, west of Mitrovica.

The British riflemen have adopted new tactics in the enclaves and no longer man static positions but patrol in and out of the villages day and night on foot, in vehicles and sometimes by helicopter.

As the vehicle borne multiple reaches the first the village, they pass the



'Mission Ready' In Kosovo



abandoned ruins of homes destroyed by Serb forces during the conflict in 1999.

"With the political situation as it stands, we've been sent here by NATO to reassure the locals that nothing is going to happen, that we are here to protect them and also to deter any violence," says 2nd Lt. Alex Horsefall who is leading the patrol.

"The situation in Kosovo is calm and steady, but there's an underlying tension and this is, in our mind, a pre-emptive deployment to be able to give the Commander of NATO forces flexibility to be able to surge troops into an area where things might happen," says Lieutenant Colonel Rob Thomson, The Battalion's Commanding Officer.

The 2 Rifles Battlegroup headquarters is based in Novo Selo and is part of the French-led Multi National Task Force North (MNTF-N). Although the Battlegroup is based to the north of the capital Pristina and will be responsible for much of the area surrounding Mitrovica/Mitrovice, it will provide the KFOR Commander with the extra flexibility to reinforce anywhere in Kosovo to ensure a safe and secure environment and promote stability.

"Last time I was here it was very different. We were on a war footing and we came in fully armed," said Corporal McMullan of 11 Platoon, C Company who was here in 1999. "The locals are very keen to interact with us but back then it was very hostile. The change is amazing. It's so cosmopolitan now, it's a totally different country."

Over the last ten years the Battlegroup has gained operational experience in Northern Ireland, Sierra Leone, Bosnia, Kosovo and Iraq, making this an extremely accomplished unit not only in war fighting but also for peace support as Lt Col Thomson explained:

"In terms of the capability of the Battalion, the operational experience is just phenomenal. You've got corporals in this battalion who did Iraq in 2003, South Armagh in 2004, Kosovo in 2005, back to Iraq in 2006-07 and back to Kosovo in 2008."





Peace with D



June 1, 2008. On the occasion of International Children's Day, Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac, Commander of Kosovo Force, hosted a multiethnic group of Children Ambassadors at KFOR HQ. The group included some disabled children from NGO "Little People of Kosovo". From Film-City, they delivered a letter for the children all over the world with the message, "we are all born free and equal." "Children are the future of Kosovo, the mission of KFOR is to ensure peace and stability for all people of Kosovo, especially for children" stated COMKFOR. Reminding his motto, "Peace with Determination", General de Marnhac said that "KFOR soldiers are determined to fulfill their mission because most of them are parents themselves".

"In this specific period of time, KFOR will not tolerate any disruption of peace", COMKFOR stated. He also reminded everyone, that the people, who may have this temptation, are responsible to build a good future for their children".

Finally, Commander of KFOR stated, "this is very symbolic that the children of Kosovo deliver this message of peace, friendship and tolerance to all the children of the world".

June 3, 2008. Commander of Kosovo Force Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac and French Armed Forces Chief of Staff General GEORGELIN visited the French soldiers, based in Mitrovica. Then, the Generals came to "Courthouse", where the Portuguese soldiers from KTM are on duty.



June 10, 2008. COMKFOR Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac visited the Urosevac/Ferizaj Municipality. During this visit COMKFOR met with Mr. Bajrush Xhemaili, the mayor of Municipality. Afterwards, General de Marnhac and Mr. Xhemaili visited a Kosovo traditional mill.

etermination



June 11, 2008. In the occasion of the 9th anniversary of KFOR's entry into Kosovo COMKFOR delivered his speech to the KFOR soldiers during the ceremony next to the Memorial monument on Film-City camp.

"It was on this day in 1999, that NATO's Kosovo Force began its mission under the authorization of the UN Security Council Resolution 1244. During these past nine years, the total strength and composition of KFOR has withstood significant changes, yet we remain focused on our mission to provide a safe and secure environment, and freedom of movement. It is an honor, and privilege to command this KFOR family, which today is comprised of nearly sixteen thousand Soldiers from



32 different nations. You are the ultimate professional Soldiers, who selflessly serve in order to help the people of Kosovo. Nine years ago, the international community took the responsibility to intervene with the use of force because of a tragedy of refugees and forced displacements. It was an endeavor directed at helping people, not because they belonged to any specific ethnic group, but simply because they belonged to mankind.

Unfortunately, during these past 9 years, 157 of those outstanding servicemen have made the ultimate sacrifice in support of the KFOR mission. It is to them and their families that we owe our deepest gratitude and sympathy.

From positive perspective, I can tell you we are on the right path. From my first tour here in 2005 as DCOM, and as I am nearing the completion of my tour as COM KFOR, I see many signs of progress, through all of the many CIMIC activities completed and ongoing, and everyone's commitment towards a successful mission.

We in KFOR know that is a dedicate time in Kosovo's history. We will continue to respond as required in an impartial manner against any acts of violence, and I am confident that the servicemen and woman of KFOR will continue performing in the same tradition that has provided such a positive reputation for us.

I wish to thank you for your service and dedication to your respective countries, and I am pleased to have you as part of KFOR family."

June 23, 2008. NATO Secretary General, Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer, made a visit to Kosovo. During his visit, the Secretary General met with the KFOR Commander, Lieutenant General de Marnhac, to assess the security situation, which COMKFOR assessed as calm but fragile. The Secretary General also met with President Fatmir Sejdiu and Prime Minister Hashim Thaci, and expressed NATO's commitment to ensure a safe and secure environment throughout Kosovo, according to the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244. The Secretary General held talks with the incoming Special Representative of the UN Secretary General, Mr. Zannier, the head of EULEX and the Deputy Head of the International Civilian Office (ICO), to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the various international organizations on the ground during this transitional period.



Afterwards, the Secretary General visited KFOR troops in the Northern Kosovo, to get a first hand look and assessment of security in the North.

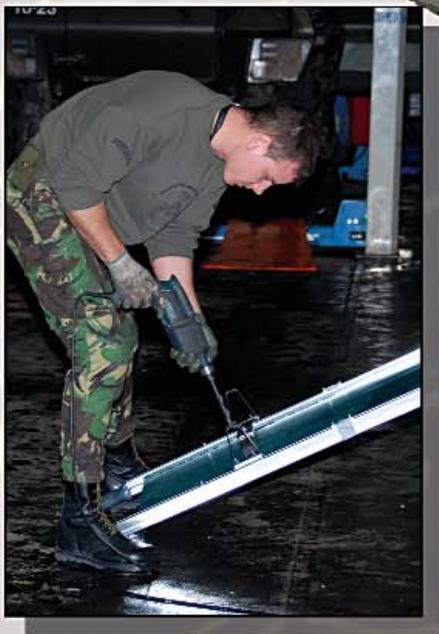
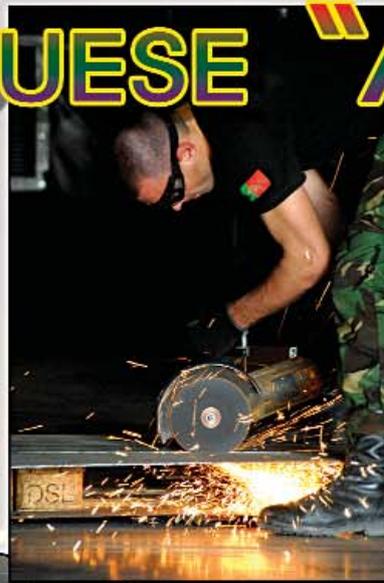
Finally, Mr. Jaap de Hoop Scheffer gave the press-conference at the Pristina military airport. In his speech he stated that the international forces were neutral on Kosovo's status, and they would continue to operate in the framework of the Resolution 1244.

"For the time being, and probably in the near future, KFOR will retain its presence in Kosovo, and there is no reason to reduce that level," said the NATO Secretary General.

PORTUGUESE "A"



BEFORE



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

During the March 17th riots in Mitrovica near the Courthouse and Austerlitz Bridge, Kosovo Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM) learned that rioters and criminals threw hand grenades and Molotov cocktails under the armored vehicles back to the rear front in order to harm the soldiers behind the vehicles. The safe zone behind a car turned out to be a bloody dangerous place for the brave soldiers.

March riots 2008

"The March riots were for our soldiers from the paratrooper battalion of course a hard and painful time, but for the next time we have our lessons learned," said Battalion commander Lt. Col. Paulo Serra Pedro.

"We are not afraid of the truth and so we identified the weak point of our tactics." The weak point had to be eliminated soon. For KTM a very fast and easy solution was necessary because the past showed that the Portuguese Battalion was always one of the first ordered units to be called to the hot spots in Kosovo. "We are proud to be known everywhere as a hundred percent reliable and professional emergency unit with enough power to make critical situations changing," the Battalion commander said.

With some ingenious improvements invented and constructed by the clever brains of the Portuguese "A-Team" led under the command of technical officer Maj. Nuno Saude, the recon vehicles are now upgraded with additional armored shields. The shields are constructed in a sophisticated way in the front of every vehicle and easy to be activated when needed. The soldiers behind the cars can now feel safe from incoming hand grenades thrown under the cars.

A-TEAM



AFTER



mechanicals, painters and electrical mechanicals are used to think on solutions and not on problems," maintenance chief OR-7 Matos Pereira proudly mentioned.

A common transport truck was modified with steel plates and bulletproofed glass to an armored ambulance truck.

All necessary additional parts were taken out from the well equipped maintenance depot of the battalion. "We only have a few military transport flights from Portugal per month, so it was not possible for us just to request an armored ambulance vehicle," logistic officer (S4) Maj. Vitor Fernandes explains the common logistical transportation problem of maybe every logistic officer over the world. "We are a small army with limited budget so I am very proud to have such a technical talented and competent A-team."

The fully operational truck will be in the future for the medics a valuable and safe item for their work.

“Auto Mekanik” in Camp Slim Lines

"A similar problem we discovered with our MEDEVAC cars," maintenance chief OR-7 Matos Pereira said. KTM's standard ambulance trucks were in the past in this theatre only soft vehicles. "It turned out that it was very dangerous for the medics driving close to the wounded soldiers, because we would have risked the live of our ambulance drivers and medics too, when we expose them to exploding hand grenades and directed rifle fire against them. In particular, wounded soldiers rely on an extraordinary fast evacuation and professional first aid," Lt. Col. Paulo Serra Pedro described the tricky situation. As a matter of fact, wounded soldiers can be only evacuated in armored medical vehicles.

The end state was clear:

An armored ambulance was needed very quickly!

"The solution took us only a few weeks. My soldiers working as armament



Left to right: Private Peixoto, Private Santos, Private Torres, Corporal Cunha, Master Sergeant Matos Pereira, Private Veloso, Private Oliveira, First Sergeant Rodrigues

Austria lead MNTF S follo

Text by Major Oleksii Morozov, Ukrainian Army

Photos by Armend Aqifi

On May, 29, the transfer-of-authority ceremony of the Multi-National Task Force South (MNTF S) took place in Camp Prizren. During the ceremony, the new MNTF S commander, Brigadier General Robert Prader, replaced Brigadier General Ugur Tarçin.

The outgoing MNTF S commander Ugur Tarçin started his farewell speech off by thanking the troop contributing nations. "Our motto is "One team, One mission". In accordance with this motto, we managed to become a family and every individual who worked shoulder-to-shoulder in this task force was happily loyal to our motto", the general said. He added, "As in the past, I have no doubt that MNTF S will continue to fulfill its mission".

General Tarçin thanked the Commander of Kosovo Force Lieutenant General De Marnhac, HQ KFOR personnel and others who supported him during his mission. He also expressed his satisfaction with the cooperation provided to him by international organizations, local municipalities, Kosovo Police Service and Kosovo Protection Corps.

The outgoing commander welcomed his successor Brigadier General Robert Prader and his staff. General wished them success and good luck in their important mission. Finally, he thanked all his staff, his family and his country for their support.

"General Tarçin has provided outstanding leadership for this Task Force during his tour of duty this past year", COMKFOR General de Marnhac said in his speech. The KFOR commander addressed to the soldiers of MNTF S: "I wish to publicly recognize you for having given Brigadier

Ugur Tarçin your unwavering support. You are doing superbly and it is always a pleasure to see you performing our wide range of challenging tasks". COMKFOR wished Brigadier General Tarçin good luck for his future.

Welcoming the incoming commander, General de Marnhac said: "General Prader, welcome to the KFOR family! The job is not finished and much work remains to be done".

After that Brigadier General Ugur Tarçin was awarded by Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac with the the NATO Non Article 5 Medal. Granting honours to the outgoing commander, Austrian and Turkish helicopters flew at a low altitude display over the parade ground.

Afterwards, COMKFOR took over the Task Force flag from Brigadier General Ugur Tarçin and handed it over to Brigadier General Robert Prader. Turkish leadership in MNTF S was handed over to Austria.

After the change of command the new MNTF S commander General Prader stated some words to the audience:

"Military forces should never be used for their own sake, but always to achieve political objectives. With this certain kind of knowledge, we are concentrating and bringing our focus on all our efforts, to fulfil the tasks given to us by KFOR. With great pleasure but also with the appropriate humility and respect I have taken over the colours of the MNTF S. I am convinced that at the ending of our term, we will look back at a successful work which we shell have done in common".



Following a TOA



Welcome on board



ard, General Mathey

Text by Major Oleksii Morozov, Ukrainian Army

Photos by Armend Aqifi

On May 30, Brigadier General Claude Mathey replaced Brigadier General Christian Dexter in the position of the MNTF North (MNTF N) commander. The transfer-of-authority ceremony took place in Camp de Lattre de Tassigny (Novo Selo).

Having received the report from the outgoing commander Brigadier General Dexter, the Commander of Kosovo Force Lieutenant General de Marnhac inspected the parade, rendering homage to the troops.

In his farewell speech General Dexter thanked the soldiers of the Multinational Task Force North for their outstanding service in Kosovo during his tour of duty as the Commander.

"With the contributions of all the battalions, we succeeded in maintaining a safe and secure environment, despite some very violent actions created by rioters and uncontrolled hardliners. I would like to underline the courage and the discipline of all my soldiers who were involved in these violent actions, mainly on the 17th of March in the court of justice in Mitrovica North. They demonstrated KFOR determination on the ground when performing the given missions. It is a privilege to command so many different units coming from different nations".

General also thanked COMKFOR and his staff for all the cooperation in a full spirit of confidence and dedication to the missions and wished to General MATHEY good luck in this "beautiful command position".

"The nature of the operations executed under the command of General Dexter indicates his sense of awareness of the situation in the North of Kosovo. Those operations were important factors in the Task Force North successfully maintaining the safe and secure environment in this area of responsibility. In addition, General Dexter's leadership in the aftermath of the events on 19 February and 17 March were instrumental in ensuring a safe and secure environment for all the people of North Kosovo", stressed COMKFOR in his speech. "Having visited this area of responsibility multiple times, I can say that the people in this part of Kosovo are very appreciative of the efforts of the soldiers of Task Force North",

General de Marnhac underlined, addressing to the soldiers.

COMKFOR wished to the General Dexter continued success as the Engineering Brigade commander.

Appealing to the General Mathey, Kosovo Force commander said: "I am confident that the combination of your experience, both as a joint operations officer and as the Deputy Director at the Centre for Higher Military Studies, will make you ideally suited to help, not only the soldiers of Task Force North, but also the people in this area be successful in the difficult and challenging times ahead. I am sure that you and all the soldiers of Task Force North will be successful and support me in carrying out KFOR's mission".

Afterwards, COMKFOR took over the Task Force flag from Brigadier General Christian Dexter and handed it over to Brigadier General Claude Mathey. "I feel very honoured and proud to be nominated as a new Task Force's commander. Honoured for commanding troops from different allies contributing nations, belonging permanently to the Task Force North or coming temporary to reinforce it. Proud for acting within the framework of the mission to support the people, who live in Kosovo, in building their future. I know I can rely on your professionalism, on your ability to face any situation in the respect of a strict impartiality and on your sense of humanity. You can count on my total involvement", the new MNTF North commander Brigadier General Mathey stated after the change of command.

Merci a vous pour votre bon travail, General Dexter! Bonne chance, General Mathey!



[Inside KFOR]

Text by Maj. Gavin Kennedy, Irish Army

*Photos by Lt. Jaakko Heikkila, Finish Contingent and
2nd Lt. Fredrik Windrup, Swedish Contingent*

MNTF(C) ran a two day military skills competition between 23-24 May 08. The competition took place in the picturesque area around Gracanica Lake. The competition was designed to test the limits of human endurance and skill and the mental and physical strains of each. The competition consisted of a 15 km course, which was hardened with obstacles. The course circled the lake in Gracanica, south of Pristina. The obstacles within the course consisted of firing on the shooting range, administering first aid to a casualties, conducting a water crossing, doing a rope bridge crossing, repairing a wheel on a car and finally, testing your shooting skills once again. In addition to the six man squad conducting all these tests, they also had to make sure they went as fast as possible between each of the obstacles.

The weather conditions during these two days were excellent.

As a result, the squad leaders had to make sure their squad members didn't get dehydrated. Plenty of water was the order of the day. Each of the companies provided at least one squad for the competition, with some providing up to three. This included the Sweds and the Irish. On the first day of the competition, there was a sense of tension as well as excitement at what laid ahead for the competitors. Speaking to some of the competitors, as they made their final preparations, one could not help but be impressed with their commitment to the cause. The first event was the shooting competition on the range and it was the second team from Alpha Coy that began to lay down a marker for the rest of the competitors. This team won the initial test and this was a lead they would hold on to. Next up was the first aid exam, which competitors were examined on their knowledge of first aid, followed by the ability to carry an injured colleague to a designated place. Brain as well as brawn were required here.

The next test was a crossing of Gracanica Lake by boat. Here, the squad leader had to communicate with all his members in

MNTF(C) MILITARY



order to ensure the craft was properly directed to its end point. Team work was the order of the day here. After crossing the lake, squads had to conduct a rope obstacle. Again, this was a test of ones physical strength as competitors were now half way around the course. Once completed, squads continued their hike around the beautiful surroundings of Gracanica Lake until they came upon the car maintenance test. Here, the squads had to replace a wheel on a car and then push it to a designated place. Finally, the squads had to move on to the final test on the shooting range. At this stage, competitors were extremely tired but driven on by their squad leaders, all managed to successfully complete the course. The competition had many visitors including the Task Force Commander, Brigadier General Hegarty. General Hegarty complimented all the squads for their commitment to the competition. In the end, it was the team from Alpha Coy (Miettinen, Parkkonen, Koivula, Saarinen, Korismo and Martikainen) who came out on top.



SKILLS COMPETITION





Germia Park

City Park, downtown Pristina



Germia, Pristina swimming pool

Visit Pristina



Air photo of Pristina



Kosovo National Library



Kosovo Government Building



it
ina

“Mother Teresa” street



Kosovo Museum



Photos by Armend Aqifi



Excellent job, D

Saturday 31st May 2008, soldiers from 1st mechanized platoon of the 12th Czech KFOR Contingent created VCP (vehicle Check Point) at the strength of one platoon at the route leading from border crossing Gate-3 to Podujevo/Podujeve. The VCP has been inspected by Brigadier-General Gerard Hegarty, the Commander of the Multinational Task Force Centre - MNTF(C).

*Text and photos by Lt. Andrea Langerová, Czech Army
Translation by WO2 Radim Witosz, Czech*

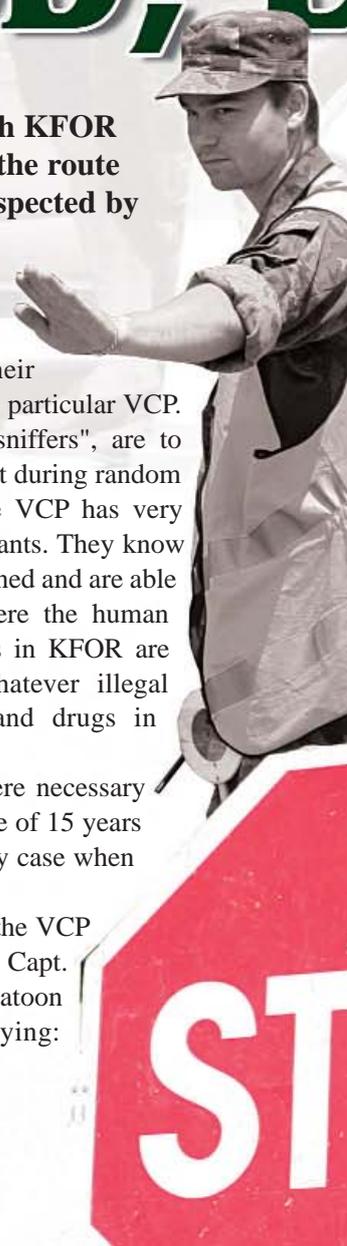
It was one of the biggest VCP organized during the last period by Czech Contingent. "Most of the time, we create VCP at the strength of a section, which is about eight soldiers. We try to create them two or three times a week, but today was a special occasion. The whole platoon is currently present" explains D company deputy commander 1st Lt. Jan Benes.

The main difference was not only in the amount of soldiers creating the VCP, but also in efficiency. Six cars can be checked out at once in one VCP at the strength of a platoon, but only one car in VCP at the strength of a section. Also, the work of recorders and VCP securing is a little bit different. The main task of a VCP is a random vehicle check. Soldiers probe if the local population do not transport illegally kept weapons, ammunition or drugs. In this case, there are KFOR soldiers competent to detain the individual and the vehicle and they call KPS, the local Kosovo police. The place, where VCP is created, is two or three time changed and soldiers carry out inspection about half of hour at each of these places.

Additionally, dog handlers with their service "pets" were not missing at this particular VCP. Task of special dogs, colloquially "sniffers", are to search suspicious vehicles and to assist during random checks. The presence of dogs at the VCP has very preventive impact on the local inhabitants. They know all too well, the dogs are very well trained and are able to find hidden items on places, where the human cannot. This is the way service dogs in KFOR are used to decrease probability of whatever illegal transport of weapons, explosives and drugs in vehicles.

The attendance of female soldiers were necessary too. A woman or children up to the age of 15 years can be searched only by women in any case when illegal items are found.

General Hegarty, who arrived during the VCP accompanied by D-Coy commander Capt. Janacek, thanked 1st mechanized platoon commander Lt. Lukas Tvrdy saying: "Excellent job, D-coy!".





O-coy!





Greek Coffee tradi

*Story by Major Gernot Schwarzenberger, Austrian Air Force
Photos by Captain Igor Piani, Italian Army and OR-3 Sandra G. Sanchez, Spanish Army*

"It started by accident in 1957: A representative from a very famous food company could not find any boiling water to make his coffee at an international trade fair in northern Greece. So he used cold. And thus was born the Frappé, the foamy, caffeine-packed drink that became an icon of Greek pop culture," says Greek Captain Triantafillos Gkiouzelidis. Our Captain- with his difficult name to pronounce- is often known just as "Captain Lakis." As a Press Officer for Headquarters Kosovo Forces in downtown Pristina he is responsible to have a close contact to national and international media from all over the world, concerning KFOR's public affairs matters. In his rare free time he tries to get to know other soldiers from KFOR contributing nations and their traditions. Last month he showed us the secrets of a very popular Greek tradition: "Frappé" "Frappé is not a simple beverage. A spoonful of instant coffee is combined with water, sugar and sometimes milk and then shaken vigorously in a cocktail mixer or by using a mixer. When to add the ice - during or after shaking or mixing - is hotly debated.

The resulting dark drink has a foamy head so large it resembles a half-pint of Guinness more than a coffee," Capt. Lakis describes the tricky procedure of preparing original Greek Frappé.

How to make a Frappé with Lakis, Laura and Sarah

For frothing the coffee you need a blender or a shaker.

Special heavy blenders are used in Greek Cafes as shown in the picture on the left.

Such a machine is not necessary for soldiers. A small electric hand blender can be found in all stores for household items or electrical appliances.

In general, they are offered as devices for frothing milk.

What sort of instant coffee you use is a matter of taste, of course. Although even we Greeks do not really agree on this question, most prefer Nescafé Classic.

Of course, you can experiment with the sort of coffee you use, but note that for preparing Greek Frappé the differences in taste are much bigger than just brewing up some coffee with hot water.

Ok, let's get down to work...

First of all, we need a glass. You don't have to use a special Frappé glass like in the picture below. A normal long drink glass works perfectly, too. We put one heaped teaspoonful of instant coffee into the glass.



Depending on your taste, you can add sugar. In Greece, there are three categories defined by the amount of sugar used:

sketo: without sugar

metrio: a heaped teaspoon sugar

gliko: two heaped teaspoons sugar

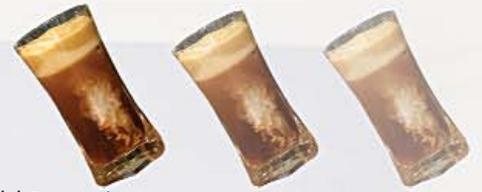
poli glikos or serbeti: a lot of sugar-as much as you want.



"Then you pour in cold water; do not take more than two fingers width, without specifying whose finger, (in this occasion lets use Laki's finger...)"



tion goes KFOR



Now you mix the ingredients with the blender until it is smooth. Go on until the froth is at least three fingers width high.

As a next step, add ice cubes. Fill up with ice-cold water, put a straw in and ... there you go, our **Coffee Frappé is ready!**



It's about time for the next decision: with or without milk or maybe with vanilla ice cream? With milk (me gala): add a twist of certified or condensed milk. With vanilla ice cream (frappe me pagoto): add one scoop of vanilla ice cream.

At the end you fill in with cold water.



Stir around with the straw and enjoy...



Note: Instead of using an electrical mixer you can also use a cocktail-shaker.





KFOR's Bridge Operation Course took place in Camp CASABLANCA, Suva Reka/Suhareke

*Text by Major Stefan Schulz, Austrian Army
Photos by Captain Thomas Diethelm, Swiss Army*

On Monday 9th of June a multinational engineer platoon gathered in Camp Casablanca. 9 different Nations, plus a 6 man KPC squad trained by Diego MENARD from Mabey & Johnson Ltd. England, UK formed the 15th KFOR Bridge Operation Course.

The aim of this course was to train platoon and squad leaders as engineer soldiers in bridge operations using Mabey & Johnson bridging equipment in planned operations but also in case of emergencies to ensure freedom of movement for KFOR troops.

After an overview across the main parts of the bridge and theoretical lessons, on Monday, the life bridge launching started on Tuesday. Bridge building is a hard and dangerous job especially in summer temperatures. 26 attendees worked hard to assemble all the necessary prefabricated parts to launch 9 bays Mabey & Johnson Compact 200 Bridge.

The length of the bridge is 27.45 m plus a 6 bays launching nose with additional 18.3 m. This bridge has a dead weight of 26 tons and is able to carry an 80 tons tracked or a 70 tons wheeled vehicle!

On Thursday, after the construction of the ramp, a "load test" of all course participants together with the German 20t crane took place. This was also a good photo opportunity..

In the afternoon the bridge was dismantled and stored in KFOR Bridge Park in SUVA REKA again.

A Swiss fondue dinner on Thursday evening in the famous Bar "Swiss Chalet" was a special donation from Swiss Coy to all attendees of the Bridge Operation Course.

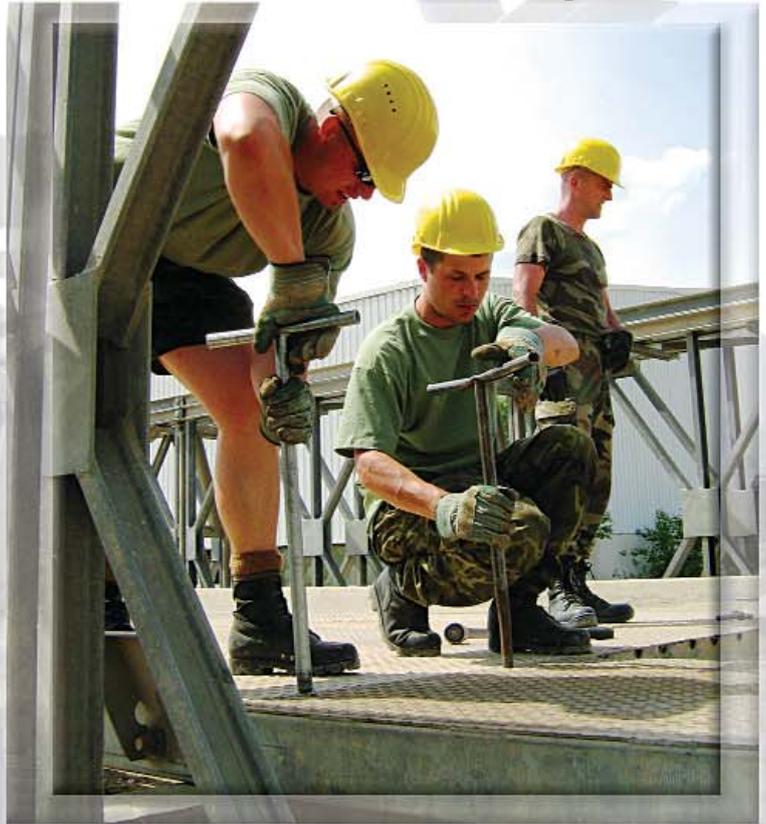
On Friday an inspection on a previous erected bridge was scheduled in

Mitrovica. As shown on the pictures the KPC squad was fully integrated in multinational platoon at all the works.

So everybody did a marvellous job under a KFOR's motto "Together We Can!"

15th KFOR Bridge





ge Operation Course



Austrian Helicopters in S

*Story by Major Gernot Schwarzenberger,
Austrian Air Force*

*Photos by Mr. Armend Aqifi and
"S-70 Black Hawks" photos by OR-7 Patrick Reich*

In mid-May, two light utility helicopters, (Alouette III), deployed to KOSOVO from Austria. This marks the second mission of the Austrian Helicopter Squadron in a foreign theater for operations. The first mission was their operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, (EUFOR), in 2006,

In the air for 2 days

13 May 2008; 0830 hours, on Air Force Base Fiala-Fernbrugg in the Austrian Alps: The sun already shined on the entire airfield as two Alouette III helicopters bearing the inscription "KFOR" took off and started their flight towards Kosovo. The flight was scheduled to take two days. The first day's leg brought the crews to Dubrovnik, Croatia, where both teams spent the night. On the second day, the two helicopters reached Camp Toplicane, Kosovo. Now, about 1,000km away from home, the international mission of the helicopters from Austria began.

Directly after arriving in Camp Toplicane, the Austrian Air Force flight crews were given a tour through the "aircraft carrier" of the Multi-National Task Force South. Following the tour, pilot Lt. Col. Manfred Linhard stated, "We, KFOR Austrian Aviation Team, are well aware of the fact that any time and in any condition we have to be ready. We must

fulfill the mission at the soonest possible time we are required to. That's why we will exchange our knowledge and experiences with personnel from other nations on the occasions of training, exercise, conference and joint mission."

Support for KFOR

For one year, the Alouette crews will provide assistance to the peace-supporting mission in Kosovo. The operations team consists of two pilots, two operations NCOs and three technicians from the helicopter wing and maintenance yard. Their main duties include, liaison, transportation, reconnaissance and medical flights. They also conduct troop transportation on occasion. In these roles, the Alouette IIIs replace the Austrian AB-212s in-theatre and is augmented by two S-70 Black Hawks of the Austrian Air Force.

When asked about the benefits of working in a multi-national environment, Lt. Col. Linhard said, "My team and I always enjoy working with multinational forces. It is a great learning experience during our rotation. We really enjoyed the training we did since our arrival." More than 7500 flight hours in difficult mountainous terrain were conducted. A variety of training sessions were produced as well. Training sessions, such as, the use of night vision goggles (nvg), winch training, high altitude flying and medevac training. A plethora other education signifies the fabulous training of the officer and his team.



Support of International Security

In Kosovo since 1999

The Austrian Armed Forces have been in Kosovo with one contingent since 1999. Starting in May 2008, Brig. Gen. Robert Prader will assume command of the Multinational Task Force South (MNTF S) for the first time in Austrian KFOR history. Currently, the German, Austrian, Turkish and Swiss aviation crews cooperate in MNTF S, investing in the future of a country that finally has a future again, thanks to the assistance from many countries.



The Alouette III is a light liaison and transport helicopter with a three-blade main and rear rotor, an uncowed turbine engine, and a wheeled landing gear, and is licensed for transporting a total of 7 people. The onboard cable winch and an underslung load hook permit a versatile employment.

Due to its performance characteristics and configuration, this helicopter is especially well suited for employment in the high mountains in the Area of Responsibility of MNTF S.

The Austrian Armed Forces use the light utility helicopter "Alouette III" as a Jack-of-all-trades helicopter and rightly so:

Hauling of underslung loads.

Rescue and recovery sorties (without emergency medical equipment).

Medical evacuation.

Surveillance flights.

Fire-extinguishing sorties using a firefighting water container carried on the underslung load hook.

Liaison sorties of all kind.



LNO: The Man in the

What doe

*Text by Maj. Joa Bernardino, Portuguese Army
Photos by Armend Aqifi*

Many people have very little understanding on what the Liaison Officer's (LNOs) mission is. The commander uses a LNO to transmit critical information while bypassing layers of staff and headquarters. A competent, trusted and informed LNO is the key to being an effective liaison. The LNOs have many responsibilities and missions, as we can see in ANNEX A TO STANAG 2101. However, they don't forget they represent their commander. Additionally, LNOs are the COMKFOR's eyes, ears and mouth. Each day, they sustain COMKFOR, HQ KFOR staff, and Task Forces (MNTF's, MSU, GBR ORF BAT and KTM,) updates, which inform about the Kosovo AOR situation. But how do the LNOs describe their own mission?



The role of the LNO has become more complex in a non-combat scenario. They must gather intelligence and decipher information to present to the COMKFOR. LNO is the primary link between the JOC and the TF. Their job also has to do with maintaining situational awareness. Not only for their TF, but with other Task Forces to keep the information flowing freely. Often, they are asked to work 12-13 hours a day, seven days a week. They are a versatile and diligent group who represent not only their TF, but their soldiers in the most professional manner.

Maj. Main, MNTF East LNO

The evening staff update is the tip of the iceberg of their duties. Prepared step by step, the briefing slides aim is to answer such questions as: how can I report in a few minutes about so many various tasks performed by thousands of soldiers in the field, when usually at the end of the chain no significant incidents appear on the JOC watch? This is actually the daily challenge the briefers have to face: that every one in the Force HQ, whatever job they carry out, and whatever the current situation is, keeps in mind that soldiers live on the field, missions are conducted and situation is closely monitored.

Lt.Col. Philippe Sagon, LNO MNTF North



The LNO is generally like special glue, which keeps the boat in shape. A part with the joke, the LNO has to be fully prepared to face an emergency situation that needs an immediate deployment of their TF or commitments of one of their units under COMKFOR alert. Nevertheless, they have to brief daily COMKFOR and all his staff about the results of respective units on the ground.

OR9 Karl Runggaldier, MSU LNO

Of primary importance is the ability to read and consume the numerous daily reports produced across the KFOR family. Churchill seems to have experienced similar situations as he once said, "This report, by its very length, defends itself against the risk of being read." Amazingly, however, these multinational soldiers tear through these reports, searching out for anything significant to report both up and down the chain-of-command.

Capt. R Streatfeild, LNO GBR ORF BN



As a KFOR Liaison Officer to UNMIK-Police my main task is to be in connection with UNMIK-P personnel. I try to find answers for the information requests which firstly come from JOC Director and other HQ and UNMIK-P officers or sometimes from Naples or Brussels. I arrange meetings between KFOR and UNMIK-P when it is necessary and requested. In summary, my work is to pick up as much information as I can regarding the criminal and police cases which KFOR is interested in.

Capt. Eva Gombas-Kasa, LNO to UNMIK-P

The Middle

What does it mean HQ KFOR LNO'S?



LNOs maintain a good and strong relationship, because they have the same work and suffer the same pressure during the day.

These good relationships improve the problems resolutions and maintain a good JOC insider ambient.

Maj. Joao Bernardino, KTM LNO

Sometimes LNO's job is not as easy as they have to keep up with TFs requests and give them all the information they need. At the same time JOC asks the LNOs for plenty of information from TFs. LNO's strength is that they work together and maintain a strong friendship. That's the reason way that's a great job.

Cpt. Tommaso Formato, MNTF West LNO



Left to right: OR-9 Karl Runggaldier, Andrew Walker, Capt. Eva Gombas-Kasa, Lt. Col. Philippe Sagon, Maj. Joao Francisco Bernardino, Maj. Rupert Streatfeild, Maj. Jason Main, Maj. Tommy Wikstrom, Capt. Tommaso Formate, Col. Helmut Plieschneggera



Dynamic air show of T

Text and photos by Major Oleksii Morozov, Ukrainian Army

June 4th was a normal day for the majority of the Kosovo people. But for the pupils of Djakovica/Gjakove "Mustafa Bakia" school, this was a special time. Due to the invitation from the AMIKO Airport Commander Colonel Ignazio Nicolosi, Italian Army, a military bus delivered around 40 students and their teachers to the Djakovica/Gjakove airport in early morning. The children had a great opportunity to see one of the KFOR camps, get see the life of the soldiers first hand, and take a closer look at the Italian hospitality.

At 11:30am, distinguished guests were invited to the airfield, where the Task Force "Ercole" presented their combat and support vehicles, and auxiliary means. The children were permitted to climb into the cockpits of the helicopters and the cabins of vehicles. They took this opportunity to heart, touching the hand levers to get a sense on how it feels to be a pilot or driver. They also viewed the equipment and had pictures taken with the Italian soldiers. The girls especially enjoyed this.

Afterwards, the Task Force "Ercole" Commander Lieutenant Colonel Vincenzo Dimitrio organized the dynamic show of Task Force's operational capabilities for children and teachers. In front of the spectators, the Italian crew on board the UH1 Italian helicopter and the Slovenian crew on board the AB 412 Slovenian helicopter, (along with TF "Aquila" squad), demonstrated the troops airlift exercise and the activities of the dog unit. Then, the Slovenian helicopter played the role of the wrecked one and the soldiers worked through MEDEVAC and fire control exercises. The demonstration concluded, when the flight of both helicopters were greeted by the waving hands of the children and additional spectators.

"The main idea of this event was to promote mutual understanding between the KFOR



Task "Ercole"



soldiers and the people of the Djakovica/Gjakove municipality, as well as strengthen people's confidence in the operational capabilities of KFOR troops. "I would like to stress, we are ready to provide our means, not only for KFOR soldiers, but also for people who need our help. A good example of this would be the MEDEVAC operations", the commander of TF "Ercole" Lieutenant Colonel Vincenzo Dimitrio said. "In addition to MEDEVAC and the troops air-lift operations, our crews are capable to execute the air freight activities, and fight against fire. Not to mention, the reconnaissance and surveillance missions; even during the night".

The Task Force "Ercole" has been acting on Balkans Theater since December 1998. At that time, it was stationed in Petrovec (FYROM). Since June 1999, it was quartered in Banja/Banje (Kosovo), and in April 2000 the TF "Ercole" has been on duty in Djakovica/Gjakove.



The AMIKO Airport Commander Col. Ignazio Nicolosi speaking to children



The TF Ercole Commander Lt.Col. Vincenzo Dimitrio

TWO PHOTOS ON A WALL

O'mahoney came from Ireland and a well-bred family. What made her special was that she had a twin sister in a family with three other sisters who, together, lived in their family home in Dublin. The most distinguished from O'mahoney's sisters was the blond twin one, who came to inspire this story. O'mahoney was a very friendly person and talented in carrying out the daily work of a service woman. There were two dark-browed wooden-framed pictures hanging on the wall, which brought me back in time. I was communicating with those pictures through gestures and smiles. In one of the frames, you could see the entire family, while the other one showed O'mahoney's twin sister. This framed story portrayed something for me. Something, which revived a certain memory. She had the same face, smile and hair, and this adolescent infatuation of mine was appearing in front of me in the same image set in a different moment in time. It was a miracle! I was frozen in front of her picture that was hanging on the wall. Often in life, you find the reason behind the forms and changes that comes from experience, and you can always seeks ways to change things. This recollection of mine goes back many years in time, and it is not that I really wanted to remember it, but the old image kept coming back to me in a completely new period of time.

You could consider this as the theory of absurdity, but I am convinced that an image of someone's previous life lived in some other part of the world will come as a flashback, yet in a completely different location. I will give you some examples: When someone says to you "You're O.K. boy", as John Houston said to the world-famous actor Bekim Fehmiu, who had played in over 40 artistic movies of the most famous Balkan and World film studios, you face a momentary yet an unforgettable experience. You can't imagine how Bekim Fehmiu felt. He had stated: "This was one of the happiest moments in my entire life". The question is why? Clearly, he felt happy after having received appraisal from a world renowned actor, such as John Houston for a job well done. Each time you would mention Houston to Bekim Fehmiu, he would have had the same feeling, and even become melancholic. There is something mythical in all this.

Furthermore, we have the scene from the movie "Some Like it Hot" (1959) of the beauty and movie queen, Marilyn Monroe, where the winds blow her white dress up. It is an unrepeatabe scene, which generates rather emotional bondage with a distant past. And every time we recall that scene, our memory gives subjective character to it, thus producing the feeling of connection between the time when Marilyn Monroe lived and the present, which flies by rather quickly.

This was a picture hanged on my wall of memories, talking to me in a tone longing for a specific period of time and for one fond memory.

Story was 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.



Name: Olexander Zahorodniy

Rank: Lieutenant Colonel

Nationality: Ukrainian

Home Unit: 72 Separate Mechanize Brigade.

Unit in KFOR: Multinational Task Force East, Ukrainian national contingent within "POLUKRBAT".

About the Mission: Peacekeeping mission - point of honor, which the Ukrainian servicemen execute with flawlessness to achieve victory in different parts of the world. This is my first mission in Kosovo and 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 commanding experiences. It is also a big honor for me and for my fellows servicemen to bring our contribution for building a safety climate in Kosovo. It is a complete experience to meet other people, other nations, and other cultures. It challenges me to work together with other peacekeepers and see how we participate in building a better future for Kosovo.

Family reactions: 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 my wife is also military. She is a major of medical service and my daughter is also going to be a military. They understand I'm a serviceman 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 family and friends, I will go on vocation. Second one, I would like to finish my studying in the Military Academy. And of course I will discuss and use my Kosovo experience.

Name: Daniel Pérez Pérez

Rank: OR-3

Nationality: Spanish

Home Unit: FAMET Signals Battalion

KFOR Unit: MNTF-W ESP-NSE

About the mission: This is my first mission abroad and my first experience in a multinational environment. It's an honour for me to familiarize with the culture of the different countries composing the MNTF-W. It's like living at the same time in different places with different manners and habits. We have the great chance of knowing their procedures, their habits and assets, and to increase in this way my military knowledge. My every duty allows me to relate with task force "Tizona", which is a real pleasure for me because I can work closely with units from my country that otherwise I wouldn't have the opportunity to work with.

Family reaction: My family has been a great support for me in difficult moments along this mission. I'm continuing my family military tradition, my father indeed, is an OR-9 in the signal corps and I think he is very proud of me serving to my country in Kosovo.

After after mission: When I return to Spain after this mission I'm going to study in order to pass the NCO Spanish Army exam. But always serving the Signal Corp.



Name: Thomas Christian Kolodziejczyk

Rank: OR-1

Nationality: Danish

Home unit: Medic

Unit in KFOR: HQ PLT

About the mission: I am proud to be part of KFOR. To be honest, I think the way KFOR handles situations is unflappable. I work as a clerk in S1 (Administration), and also spend a lot of time in the TOC (Tactical Operation Centre). I perceive KFOR actions in a way that makes me feel safe. The entire environment of Kosovo is secure. For instance, when the KOS or KOA has a dispute about a piece of land, we don't judge and only stand and block them from beating each other. This shows me we support the democratic process, and we treat everybody as equals. This will eventually make them understand they must share the country they live in. I've been here for 4½ months. I look out from the window and all I see is the same godless square filled with old dusty concrete plates. This daily picture of course makes me wish that I was home, but I treat the mission the same, none the less. But I do look forward to going home.



Family reaction: My family's reaction was rather calm toward me going to Kosovo. There have been no Danish casualties in years, and the general perception is that Kosovo is calm and quiet.

Plans after the mission: Afghanistan with a light reconnaissance PLT.

Rugova Valley



Photo by Major Gernot Schwarzenberger