

July 31, 2008

KFOR Chronicle

KFOR

Edition 7

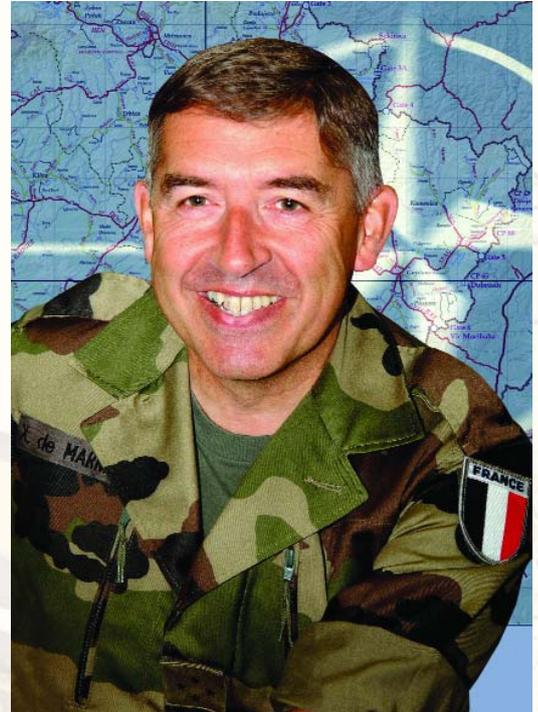


**Adieu, Hungarian Guards!
Welcome, Hungarian Maneuver Battalion!**

An "Interesting" Year:

During the past eleven months, we have been witnesses to some challenging, complex, and historical times here in Kosovo. When I first took the reigns as COM KFOR, I shared with you my motto, "Peace with Determination". Over the course of these last eleven months, it has been you, the Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, and Sailors, who have shown the determination to make a difference for all the people of Kosovo.

As a part of the KFOR family, we have worked together to ensure the safe and secure environment for all of Kosovo has been maintained. The many historical events of the past year are in deed significant for Kosovo. You have heard many times during the past several months say, "We are in interesting, or confusing times." However, it is through your commitment, and sacrifices, as dedicated and professional servicemen and women, that all of the people of Kosovo have a chance for a brighter future. While there is still a degree of tension and much confusion, we have also witnessed significant improvements in infrastructure, and an increase in the willingness of all the people of Kosovo to be more tolerant towards a prosperous future. This is what I have referred to so many times as, "Facing Reality."



A short summary of my time while serving as COM KFOR include to this point:

- 126 hours in my aircraft
- 83 hours flying in helicopters
- 42 visits with ChoD's
- 25 Visits with MOD's
- 13 visits with SACEUR
- 12 visits with COM JFCNP
- 3 visits with the NATO SEC GEN
- 35 Municipality visits
- 20 Commander's Conferences
- 325 FRAGO's released

Now, we must look forward to paving a way for the new command team, and striving to make this transition as seamless as possible. I would like to take this opportunity as COM KFOR to thank each and every one of you for your efforts and accomplishments who have made a difference for all the people of Kosovo. Each of you has proven to be a good Ambassador for your respective nations and you should be proud of what we have accomplished together. This past year marks a significant and memorable time in my military career. It has been an honor and a true privilege to have worked with each of you, and to have had you as part of our KFOR family. It is because of you, and through you that KFOR has a good and sound reputation here in Kosovo. As we all move on in our military careers, I wish you all the best, continued success, and God's speed.

Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac
Commander Kosovo Force

KFOR Chronicle got a new Editor in Chief

A very warm welcome to all readers of KFOR Chronicle!

At the moment we are facing a time of changes in the political theatre in Kosovo. Minor important for the whole world but still essential for KFOR Chronicle is its "change of Editor in Chief". Maj. Gernot Schwarzenberger (Austrian Air Force) left at the end of May 2008 and handed over to me, Maj. Andreas Brückner (Austrian Army) in Austria. Since the beginning of July 2008, I am the new Chief Internal Information Officer in HQ. Therefore, responsibility for the monthly KFOR Chronicle will be mine.

During my military career I got the chance to change from the infantry and reconnaissance to the public affairs. I served among others for four years as a public affairs officer. My first mission abroad took me to the Golan Heights, where I acted as an Information Technology Officer within UNDOF for almost a year. Back home, I am now a CIMIC officer at the Regional Military Command of Upper Austria.

Now it is up to you! Yes, I am talking straight to you as our reader.

You like the way we are publishing interesting information of the Kosovo Forces?

You lived to see some very important events with your comrades?

You took some marvelous pictures of the Balkan area?

Do not hide them! Try yourself as a journalist or photographer for KFOR Chronicle. Share your exciting stories and pictures in more than 7000 printed copies per edition with more than 16.000 KFOR soldiers from 34 countries. You will be also able to find it in the Internet: www.nato.int/kfor

The KFOR Chronicle team is waiting for your input - NOW!

Send it to kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int



Cover photo by
Armend Aqifi

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

Chief Public Affairs
Office:
Col. Jean Luc Cotard,
FRA Army

Chief Internal
Information & Editor in
Chief:

Maj. Andreas Brückner,
AUT Army
bruecknera@hq.kfor.nato.int

Journalist
Maj. Oleksii Morozov,
UKR Army

Photographer & Layout
Mr. Armend Aqifi

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TOR COS KFOR

Transfer of Responsibility of KFOR Chief of Staff

*Text by Major Oleksii Morozov,
Ukrainian Armed Forces, and
TSgt. David Green, US Air Force
Photos by Armend Aqifi*

The 3rd of July, 2008 was a special day for the Kosovo Forces. On this day, Brigadier General David H. Berger replaced Brigadier General William T. Wolf as KFOR Chief of Staff. The transfer of authority ceremony took place in the KFOR Headquarters.

Brigadier General Wolf has been on duty as the KFOR Chief of Staff for twelve months. In his farewell speech, he thanked the soldiers of Kosovo forces for their outstanding job during his tenure. Obviously, it was a rather sad day for the General and it was very difficult for him to deliver his words to the audience.

Recognizing the outstanding service of the Brigadier General Wolf, the commander of Kosovo Forces Lieutenant General de Marnhac awarded him with NATO Non Article 5 Medal.

"General Wolf's personal involvement in the planning and execution of many various operations, ranging from the events in February at the gates and again in March, in North Mitrovica, ensured KFOR's continued success. It was this success that allowed KFOR to execute our mission to provide a safe and secure environment and ensure freedom of movement to all the people of Kosovo. Furthermore, General Wolf's direct participation in overseeing the implementation of multiple FRAGO's in association to our continuously changing situation resulted in outstanding planning and preparation for most any future scenario", the Lieutenant General de Marnhac said in his speech at the time of this ceremony. He added, "It is an extremely calm feeling to know that your Chief of staff so understand you, that you can then focus some of your attention on any of other myriad of issues, events or meetings. In the case of General Wolf, his sharp intellect and keen ability to multitask, in addition to his superb technical and tactical proficiency, made him a trusted advisor. Too often, Commanders find themselves surrounded by advisors who do not have the courage to tell the truth. Fortunately, you are not one of those officers".

Continuing his speech, General de Marnhac welcomed Brigadier General Berger, who came to Kosovo from the position of the assistant Division Commander of the 2nd Marine Division at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, USA, stating, "I have every confidence that you will also be highly successful in this very challenging and demanding assignment, during these crucial times. With this being your first NATO assignment, it is a strong statement of your abilities for the Marines to send you here".

The Brigadier General Wolf leadership qualities and calm demeanor always brought out the best in KFOR personnel. He will not soon be forgotten. All the best to him and his family!

Brigadier General Berger's career challenges and success stories is a glimpse to what KFOR can expect in the near future. We can honestly say, "We won't miss a beat".





Brig. Gen. David Berger
U.S. Marines, COS KFOR





Peace with D



On National Day of French Republic, July 14, 2008, the Commander of Kosovo Force (COMKFOR) Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac presided over awards ceremonies at Camp De Lattre De Tassigny (Novo Selo/Novoselle) and at Film City. During the ceremony the COMKFOR decorated several peacekeepers with French national government awards. Later that day General de Marnhac attended a reception organized by the Embassy of France in Kosovo.



The next day, Lieutenant General de Marnhac visited Multinational Task Force (West), where he met with Brigadier General Biancafarina, commanding. After a briefing on current operations in the MNTF (W), COMKFOR took part in a shooting exercise, organized by the MNTF (W) staff.



On July 16, 2008, Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac presided over a ceremony devoted to the completion of Hungarian Guard and Security Battalion's mission in Kosovo. (Read more at pages 22-23)



etermination



On July 19, 2008, the COMKFOR organized a meeting with French soldiers who came to Kosovo from Deployable Force Headquarters 2 (city of Nant). During this event the Commander of Kosovo Force thanked the soldiers for their outstanding service for peace and stability in Kosovo.



General de Marnhac visited Multinational Task Force (South) on July 21, 2008. During this visit COMKFOR familiarized himself with the operational environment in the MNTF (S) Area of Responsibility.



On July 23, 2008, the KFOR Commander arrived at the opening ceremony for a newly rebuilt pedestrian bridge in Mitrovica/ Mitrovice. During this inauguration ceremony, General de Marnhac cut the ribbon, marking the bridge open.



Ukrainian Conti

*Story by Captain Bohdan Senyk, Ukrainian Armed Forces
Photos by Captain B. Senyk, M.Grocholski (Gazeta
Wyborcza, Opole) and N. Dobryszczyka (Axel Springer
Polska/AF EAST NEWS)*

Everybody who visits Camp Bondsteel can meet the soldiers with the blue and yellow flags on the sleeves of their uniform. Since 1999 the servicemen from the Ukrainian Armed Forces have taken part in peacekeeping operations in Kosovo. Functionally, they are the part of the Joint Polish-Ukrainian battalion, which has been acting under the command of the Multinational Task Force "East" Commander and is located on Bondsteel.

The Polish-Ukrainian peacekeeping battalion (POLUKRBAT) was created on the basis of United Nations resolution 1244, the Military Technical Agreement between Poland and Ukraine and the decisions of the Presidents of both countries. From 1998 to 1999 this unit took part in the peacekeeping mission in Bosnia. Rotation 10 of the Ukrainian contingent, which continues Ukraine's contribution to the peace and stability in Kosovo, has been formed primarily with the servicemen of the 72nd separate mechanized brigade, which is



Contingent in Kosovo



located not far from Kyiv, the capital of Ukraine. By order of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine the 72nd separate mechanized brigade Deputy Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Zahorodniy, has been assigned as the Commander of the Ukrainian national contingent in Kosovo.

The Area of Responsibility of the Ukrainian contingent includes the territory of Strpce/Shterpc municipality, which is in the southern part of Kosovo. The Ukrainian peacekeepers provide a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement in the area of responsibility for all the people of the municipality, whatever their nationality is. To execute these tasks, permanent checkpoints, as well as 24 hours patrols and temporary control and observation posts, have been organized on the main roads in the AOR. They also conduct joint patrols with the Polish soldiers and with policemen from the Kosovo Police Service.

In order to ensure a constant presence in the AOR, a part of the Ukrainian contingent is located

at the camp in Brezovica/Brezovice village.

Besides the above mentioned activities, the Ukrainian soldiers along with soldiers from Poland, Lithuania and the United States successfully conduct CIMIC activities and work together within the Liaison and Monitoring Teams, improving living conditions of the local population.

The servicemen of the Ukrainian national peacekeeping contingent within POLUKRBAT clearly understand the importance and necessity of their job here. Several Ukrainian soldiers have previous experience conducting peacekeeping operations in Bosnia, Lebanon, Sierra Leone, and Iraq. Participating in the peacekeeping operation in Kosovo, they do their best to help the people of Kosovo feel their lives are safe and secure and they can build a prosperous future.



Swedish CIMIC - Pleas



Don't forget to remember your health



*Text and photos by 1st Lt. Hannah Larsson,
Swedish Army*

The school looks nice on the outside, but inside, they were damp and the classrooms were barely equipped. In the little village of Slatina in the north of Kosovo, the children don't have much. Swedish, Irish and Czech medical teams went there to set up a provisional health center.

Major Lagun, medical adviser of MNTF(C), noticed the misery in the Kosovo Albanian village of Slatina. He engaged the Staff Medical Officer of the Swedish contingent, major Åkermo, in the plans of setting up a provisional health center for a day in the school. They also received assistance from officers of KPC.

The closest ambulanta is in Pudojevo, some miles further south. That is far when you don't have a car or even proper shoes to walk in. Approximately 60 children go to school in Slatina, and they first received a performance by major Lagun in how to brush their teeth properly and also got their very own tooth brush and paste. But most of all, the children were longing for a new football. A rather

peculiar priority when there's so many basic needs such as fresh water, clothes and medicines missing. The Swedish medical team brought some clothes, oil, canned foods, flour and salt for families in crisis. Children were brought into the classroom, which turned into a temporary doctor's clinic, four by four and were checked in their throat, ears, skin and scalp by the nurses and doctor.

"Several have infections in their throat and airways. But no one has scabies", says major Åkermo.

The Swedish medical team decide to order louse combs. As the word spread in the village, more adults turn up to get their blood pressure checked out and ask for advice about swellings or aches. Soon, the waiting room is full of patients - just like in an ordinary hospital. The villagers are very thankful.

"This is the first time we're doing this sort of cooperation with KPC", says the Irish major Dolan. We'll try to come here every sixth week.

Several hours the Swedish medical team is heading back to its base Camp Victoria.

"These things affect you and make you want to help people", nurse Eidefors concludes the day.



Story by Captain Paolo Rolli, Italian Army
Photos by Task Force Psyops

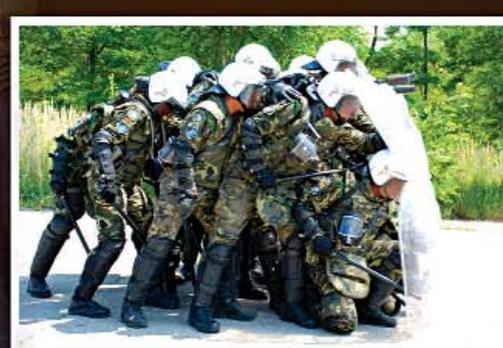
A Hot

The tight collaboration and the good existing harmony between the different task forces that make-up KFOR, were further demonstrated on June 26. On this torrid summer day, Slovenian, Spanish and Italian components, who belong to the Multinational Task Force West and under the command of Gen. B. Agostino Biancafarina, had performed an effective training session concerning a public peace operation.

In the practical and useful training area of Camp Vrelo, close to Pristina, the multinational asset composed by well-trained and highly professional CRC (Crowd Riot Control) personnel carried out numerous training tasks throughout the day concerning public peace. The aim of the activity was to train personnel in order to control possible mayhems, by neutralizing them with adequate and moderate actions. This would help guarantee the maintaining of a quite and peaceful environment.

The scorching sun and the very high temperature allowed a more realistic and challenging training exercise, roughly testing the preparation and the resistance of Slovenian, Spanish and Italian soldiers who, throughout the day, also had to wear special heavy suits for public order.

Slovenian and Spanish platoons were engaged with practicality by a group of KFOR soldiers who, for this occasion, were behaving as rioters. The program of the day was rich with various operations, carried out by soldiers on foot and with armoured vehicles. The different phases were: arrival and deployment, lightening and covering manoeuvres. Area and basic riot control went through the instruction of the rioter chiefs, who manage to make the most aggressive demonstrators inoffensive. The entire control process is carried out through the use of individual equipment and smoke bombs. They also used tear gas



Training Day



when the tension is increased by the demonstrators by throwing various objects. This action warrants the use of such equipment to control the situation

The above-mentioned operations saw the concurrence of the MNTF-W Task Force Psyops, intervened with a Tactical Psyops Team. Also, with the employment of a team equipped with loudspeakers (on foot and on an armoured vehicle) allowed the Commander of the CRC forces to give some important announcements to the rioters. At the end of the day, every single soldier of each task force involved in the activity were proud of the great job performed during the training. At last, everyone understood the need to also be prepared for this kind of eventuality.





Demining in Kos

MINA MINE MINA MINE MINA

*Story and photos by Sec Of Capt. Thomas Diethelm,
Chief PAO SWISSCOY/KFOR*

Occasionally, the lead car of the "Mine Action Team" disappears entirely in a cloud of dust. The dirt road is steep and narrow. It is a rough ride into the mountains near the Albanian border.

Welcome to Kosovo's Wild West!

There are just a few small mountain villages up here.

Horses are still used for transportation. With its high mountains and great views, this part of Kosovo could be great hiking territory.

Well, it is not! We are joining an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team of the Office of the KPC-Coordinator (OKPCC). In 1999 the Serbian Army laid thousands of anti-personnel mines in this border region. Since March 2008 an 18-man-demining team has been clearing this particular site.



Kosovo's Wild West


 MINES

MINE MINA MINE MINA MINE MINA MINE

Between the bushes and small trees, yellow "Mine"-tape indicates the limits of the already cleared areas. A four-wheel drive ambulance is another indication that this place is not ideal for hiking.

Demining is not for everybody and not just because it is potentially dangerous work. The armored vest is heavy and the helmet extremely uncomfortable.

It is almost noon and hot. Very hot! It is easy to understand why deminers take half an hour break after every hour of work.

If a landmine is found it is either carefully carried to the nearby demolition pit detonated in place, depending on its condition. The demolition pit has the advantage of keeping metal pieces of the exploding mine confined.

Progress is painstakingly slow. With the help of highly sensitive metal detectors, deminers check the ground centimeter by centimeter. Every corroded nail and even the smallest piece of wire triggers off an acoustic signal and must be carefully investigated and removed from the soil.

During the past three months the team has cleared no more than 2.000 m². At this rate it would take the team a whole year just to clear the area of a football field! Actually even longer since work stops during winter.

There seem to be few mines and UXO (Unexploded Ordnance) left. At this particular site just one PMA-3 and one hand grenade have been found in three months of clearing involving nearly 10 percent of Kosovo's mine clearing capacity.

The situation was much different in June 1999 when demining began. Tens of thousands of landmines had been placed in Kosovo during the war, most of them by Serbian Forces. Additionally, NATO planes had dropped around a thousand CBU (Cluster Bomb Units) each containing a large number of bomblets. It is estimated that around 10 percent or 20'000 to 30'000 of these did not explode on impact.

Most of the demining happened between 1999 and 2001. Since then the situation has improved dramatically. "The demining of Kosovo has been very successful!" confirms Franz Bär of the Swiss EOD Center. As the Head of Humanitarian Demining, Bär has a lot of demining experience in Southern and Western Kosovo. He has also been training local demining teams since 2001.

The casualty numbers reflect this successful program: Since the end of the war in 1999, 113 people have been killed and hundreds injured as a result of mine or UXO explosions, among them some deminers. But most of the accidents occurred between 1999 and 2001. No landmine casualties have been reported in the last four years.

The goal of the demining program is to bring Kosovo to the mine risk level of other European countries. "But there will never be a last mine," cautions Franz Bär.



Fighting Fires



*Text by Lt. Col. Vincenzo Dimitrio, Italian Army Aviation
Photos by OR-9 Aldo Floris, Italian Army*

On 7 July, Task Force "ERCOLE", commanded by LTC Vincenzo Dimitrio, began to train crews for the 2008 Fire Fighting campaign.

In June 2007, Kosovar people saw AB 205 Italian helicopters from Task Force "ERCOLE" under Command

of the Multi National Task Force West, participate in the Fire Fighting campaign.

The training allows the crews to practice flight maneuvers near Lake Radonjicko/Radoniq, a few miles from the A.M.I.Ko. Airport, where the unit is based.

Over the years the Italian pilots have conducted intense training that has been a benefit for many veterans of the 21st "ORSA MAGGIORE", allowing them to safely

From the Air



practice difficult fire-suppression maneuvers in Sardinia, Italy.

On 11 July, an Italian crew was called upon by the MNTF-W command to provide assistance putting out the first fire of the summer in the woods south of Klina/Kline. The experienced crew of the 21^o Army Aviation "ORSA MAGGIORE" flew for one hour and 40 minutes, dropping 23 loads of water in order to extinguish the fire.

Many people have little understanding on what helicopters equipped with fire-suppression gear can do. This was an important breakthrough in promoting understanding of Task Force "ERCOLE's" capabilities as well as a sign of the solid commitment to the people of Kosovo.

As always, Italian Army Aviation completed the mission in a professional manner.



EURO 2008 IN

Text by Major Michael Barthou, Austrian Army

Photos by OR-5 Doris Heck, Austrian Army

EURO2008

The Germany-Austria meet during the European Soccer Championship dominated life in Camp Prizren on Monday, 16 June. But instead of heating up the almost proverbial competition between the two countries, this day was to serve to strengthen the mutual friendship among the soldiers - and succeeded admirably. This, despite the fact the game played at 1800 hours on the camp's sports grounds and pitching the two contingent teams against one another almost had the character of an international match. The German KFOR team was clad in the traditional white-and-red colors of the national team. The Austrians were in black shirts and red shorts. The national anthems of the two countries were played and, with some 300 spectators present, the surrounding ambiance was commensurate with the event, as well. Even a truly impartial referee was present in the person of Swiss Captain (OF-2) Pascal F.



However, his not altogether serious worst-case fear that he would have to be escorted by the Close Protection Team to the helicopter to be evacuated after the game, proved to be unfounded. All participants adhered to what the commander of the 20th German KFOR Contingent, Brigadier General Wilhelm Grün, expressed as his wishes in his welcoming address, namely, that this game be played as a friendly and that, in view of the not very skin-friendly ash court, injuries would be avoided to the maximum extent possible.

Nevertheless, the meet turned into quite a watchable game, in which both teams had their scoring chances. The German team, captained by SFC (OR-7) Holger M. (from HQ/SPT Coy), had the advantage of being able to draw from a pool of fresh plays nearly double the size of the Austrians' to reinvigorate their game. Still, the 13-player-strong team from the neighboring country stuck to the



GERMANY VS.



MNNTF SOUTH



tactics exhorted by their team captain, Sergeant (OR-5) H., to conserve energy and wait for a chance to counterattack from a reinforced defense. But halfway through the first half, it happened nevertheless - the German attackers detected a gap in the Austrian defense and, with a header, Dennis Sch. managed to turn a clean flank from right field into a 1-0 lead. This score remained unchanged until half time.

The second half, too, saw both teams as even-ranked and creating nice chances to score. The biggest for Austria came literally with the final whistle. But the header bounced back from the goalpost, preventing an otherwise well-merited draw. The German team won 1-0.

On Monday evening, the supporters of the German and Austrian national teams brought a red-hot alpenglow to the "Alpenhof" that serves as Austrian NSE. The German-Austrian support team around Lieutenant (OF-1) Christopher B. - with help from many busy male and female soldiers - had

turned the square across from the "white" headquarters into a top-of-the-line public viewing arena. Accordingly, in his speech, the commander of Multinational Task Force South was full of praise for this accomplishment: "My sincerest thanks to those who came up with the idea and to the support team." Brigadier General Robert Prader awarded certificates to the two teams involved in the match in the camp. In an animated mood and hoping for an exciting and, more specifically, fair match, several hundred spectators had settled in comfortably on the benches by kick-off time. Previously, raffle tickets had been sold, and quite a few tried their luck at goal-wall shooting or table football. The overall proceeds of the event came to 580 euros. This amount will go to the fundraising charity of the 20th German KFOR Contingent, which will be donated as a whole at the end of the contingent's tour of duty. But isn't there something missing? Ah, yes: The Germany-Austria meet ended with a score of 1-0.



CRC at all Levels



*Story by Maj. Oleksii Morozov, Ukrainian Army
Photos by Armend Aqifi*



"Next to the "Vrelosk" village municipality building, the demonstration took place with the goal to change the legally elected Mayor, Mr. X, by another person. Mr. X with his collaborators closing themselves inside the municipality building and refusing to leave it.

The demonstrators started to throw rocks in the windows of the building while others continued to shout slogans with the demand of Mr. X's resignation.

The legally elected Mayor phoned the police authorities and asked them for support. Due to the fact that police authorities were occupied with another situation in a different place, international authorities requested support from KFOR. COMKFOR ordered KTM to reestablish public order in the "Vrelosk" village and to provide the necessary security conditions to allow the "Vrelosk" Municipality authorities to continue executing their responsibilities".

The phrases you have just read don't belong to the press report. It is not even the reality. But the situation, described above, is one of the most potential situations that KFOR soldiers can deal with. The mentioned words were taken from the scenario of the exercise, which took place on June 20th, 2008 in camp Vrelo. KTM and MSU personnel participated in the exercise, but their functions at that time were completely different, because 1 Platoon of MSU Carabinieri along with KTM Reconnaissance Platoon and a part of KTM Logistic Company played the role of the demonstrators, whereas the KTM soldiers should improve their readiness for crowd and riot control activities. It is necessary to mention here, that the aim of this exercise was to test and validate the paratroopers from KTM at all levels: battalion, company, and platoon. Planning of the operation, organizing of command, control and communications, the ability of the commanders to specialize in accordance with the situation and change the disposition of their forces, the capacity of the soldiers to improvise when different incidents occur, the movement synchronization and the using of special equipment - all these points have been worked through by the KTM

...n, at the same time,



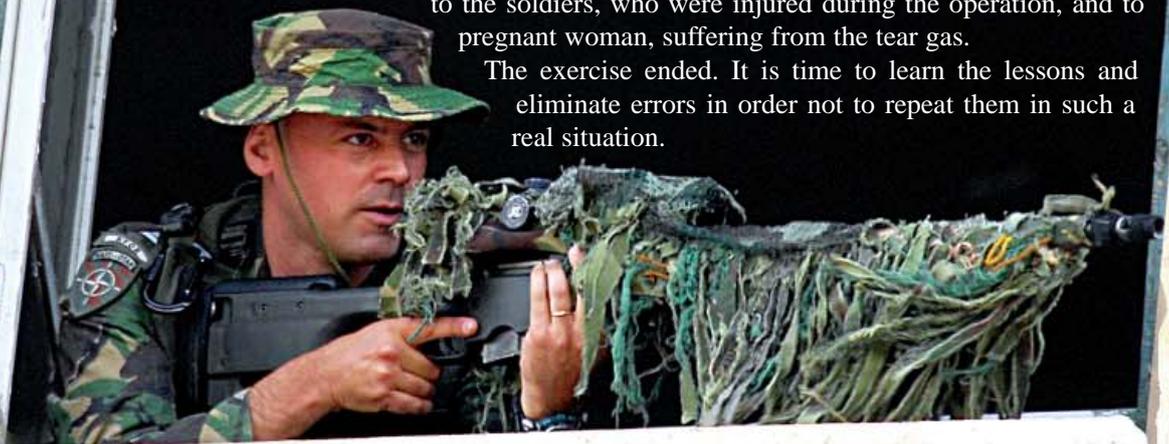


they improved their physical conditions. Wearing, during several hours, the special protective equipment and helmets in the middle of the summer was a testament on how physically demanding it can get.

The Combat Camera Team (CCT) personnel from the French Army had also got the great opportunity to prepare them to the actions in the close to reality conditions. Despite the hot weather, the bottles and wooden pieces thrown by the "demonstrators" into the KFOR soldiers, the chief of the CCT lieutenant Zimrani, the cameraman adjudant Lemerancier and the photographer 1st sergeant Bernard continued to fulfill their functions in the front ranks of the soldiers, covering the activities of the "demonstrators".

The bottles, full of water, and wooden pieces, imitating the stones, thrown by "the rebels" into the soldiers, the water from water truck, which has been used by "the rioters" against the KFOR troops, the tear gas grenades, launched by the paratroopers for breaking up the demonstration, the movement of combat vehicles - everything was real, and it created the atmosphere not of the exercise, but of the real operation. Even "the legally elected Mayor" was so impressed by the existent, that he had a "heart attack". Thanks to the paratroopers' medical team, Mr. X did not "died", because the soldiers have been ready to provide the first medical aid to him. They were also able to provide the medical aid to the soldiers, who were injured during the operation, and to pregnant woman, suffering from the tear gas.

The exercise ended. It is time to learn the lessons and eliminate errors in order not to repeat them in such a real situation.



Adieu, Hungarian Guards! Welcome

Text by Major Oleksii Morozov, Ukrainian Armed Forces

Photos by Armend Aqifi

For nearly 9 years, KFOR Headquarters servicemen, civilian personnel and all visitors met Hungarian soldiers at the main gate of Film-City. These soldiers were scattered around KFOR HQ with weapons in hand, ensuring security.

In 1999, according to the Hungarian Parliament resolution 55/1999, the training of the Hungarian soldiers for the first peacekeeping mission in Kosovo began. After this training, during the summer of 1999, the first rotation of the Hungarian Guard and Security Contingent arrived to Pristina/Pristine in the Szent-Laszlo Camp. This contingent came under operational control of KFOR Headquarters at 00.00 hours on July 27, 1999.

At that time, the main duties of the Hungarian contingent included, providing security for the KFOR HQ and for the radio transmitting station on top of Mount Golesh, which is next to the Slatina Airport. Apart from this, the Hungarian soldiers had the task of routine patrols, escorting VIPs and setting up vehicles check points. On April, 15, 2008, the Hungarian Guard and Security Contingent changed its name to the Hungarian Guard and Security battalion.

In 2001, the battalion was tasked with establishing a Preventative Medical Laboratory, which provided sanitary support theatre wide for the multinational forces in Kosovo.



ne, Hungarian Maneuver Battalion!

From 2003, and for the following two years, the battalion provided a Support Team to the Slatina Airport. In August 2003 the Hungarian battalion accepted the additional responsibility to guard and protect the Camp Vrelo on the slopes of Mount Golesh. Since that time the responsibilities of the battalion had not changed.

The HGSB was formed with soldiers from almost every unit of Hungarian Defense Forces. The main bodies of the rotations were provided by the 25th, 5th, and 62nd Brigades. The logistic support was provided by 64th Regiment. During the past 9 years, the Hungarian military had 18 rotations to Kosovo. Nearly 6000 Hungarian soldiers experienced peacekeeping operations.

On July, 14, 2008 the Hungarian Guard and Security Battalion mission came to an end. On this occasion, the solemn ceremony took place in the Szent-Laszlo Camp. The soldiers of the battalion were awarded with the NATO Non-Article 5 Medal.

The KFOR Commander, Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac, who presided over this ceremony, stressed in his speech: "As today marks the end of the "Guard Force" mission for the Hungarian Army, it is also the beginning of a new mission as part of KFOR. The Hungarian army is moving into a new role, as a maneuver Battalion within Multinational Task Force West, where they will take over as the lead element for Task Force Grof beginning in September 2008. I know, Hungary will be highly successful in executing their and KFOR's missions in the years to come".

Looking back over the 9 years of the Hungarian Guard and Security Battalion's successful service within KFOR, we can not help but mention the statement made on September 3, 1999 by General Sir Mike Jackson, former KFOR Commander: "**Since my Command Post is guarded by Hungarians I sleep peacefully**"

Thank you, Hungarian Soldiers, for your service!
Adieu and Welcome!



MNTF East gets a new

Story by Maj. Oleksii Morozov, Ukrainian Army
Photos by Armend Aqifi

On 10 July, 2008, guests arrived at Camp Bondsteel. These guests included the KFOR Commander, Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac, the President of Kosovo, Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu, and other international and local officials. On this occasion, the Transfer of Authority Ceremony took place between the Brigadier General John E. Davoren, the Commander of the Multinational Task Force East Kosovo Force 9, and Brigadier General Larry D. Kay, the Commander of the Multinational Task Force East Kosovo Force 10.

In the huge maintenance hanger, the troops of the MNTF East were aligned. The KFOR soldiers from the USA, Armenia, Greece, Lithuania, Poland, and Ukraine created the formation.

The Ceremony started with prayer for the leaders and soldiers of KFOR 9 and 10 rotations, their MNTF East partners, and the Kosovo civil structures. "We pray for this land of Kosovo, its people and its future," was said in invocation.

Continuing the ceremony, BG Davoren and Command Sergeant Major Cochran incased the 35th Infantry Division's colors, signifying

mission accomplishment and the relief of their current assignments as KFOR 9. After this, BG Kay and Command Sergeant Major Lederle uncased the 110th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade colors.

Soon after, COMKFOR Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac, provided his remarks. "This was a very successful US rotation," he said. "Your predecessors have set the bar very high," COMKFOR stressed, addressing to the soldiers of KFOR 10 rotation.

"KFOR has been very fortunate to have you in a command team," General de Marnhac said in his speech, as he addressed Brigadier General Davoren.

Welcoming Brigadier General Kay, the incoming Commander of MNTF-E, COMKFOR stated, "I am sure you will be highly successful in leading this Task Force during, what is sure to be, a challenging period."

"I am proud to have been here. My soldiers and I know that the time we have spent away from our families have allowed families here a chance at a brighter future," the Brigadier



Commander



General Davoren said in his farewell discourse. "I am confident that Brigadier General Kay will continue this legacy with the dedicated, discipline, trained and prepared soldiers he will command," General Davoren added.

"MNTF-E is made up of soldiers from seven nations. Like Kosovo, our Task Force is culturally, ethnically and racially diverse. Yet today, we come together as one force, one mission and one mandate. We understand our mission and we

are committed in completing it in a fair and impartial manner while treating all with dignity and respect. Continuity, commitment and capability - the words that define the first steps of our journey and provide the promise which will ensure safety and security for Kosovo," the incoming Commander of the MNTF East Brigadier General Kay stressed in his discourse.

The ceremony was concluded by prayer. "We pray for the soldiers, that they will have the knowledge to know right from wrong, and the strength to do what is right and just. We pray for courage and strength and vision for the people of Kosovo and that they may know peace and security and prosperity," were the words of benediction.

We wish Good Luck to the Brigadier General Davoren and Brigadier General Kay, as well as to the soldiers of the KFOR 9 and 10 rotations!



The Moroccan Battalion

A change in structures but the same

Story by OF-1 Abdelilah El Ouardi, Moroccan Army
Photos by OR-4 Florent Ameslant, French Army

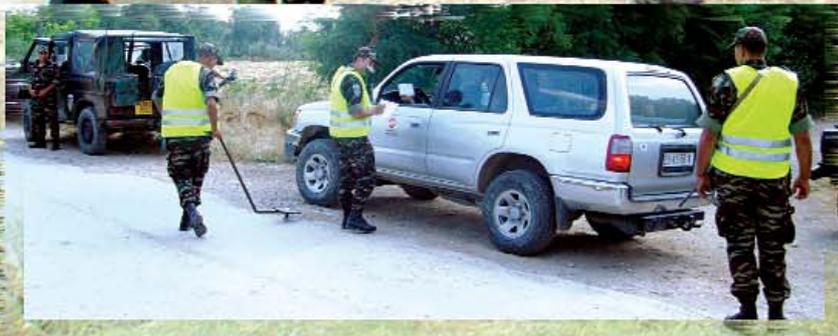
Since his appointment at the head of Multinational Task Force North of KFOR on May 30th, 2008, Brigadier General Claude MATHEY has been conducting regular visits to the units under his command.

During his visit to Camp De Lattre De Tassigny (Novo Selo/Novoselle) on Friday, July 11th, 2008, BG Mathey and his staff were welcomed by the Moroccan Battalion Commander Lieutenant-Colonel Mohammed Allaoui, along with his Deputy Lieutenant-Colonel Mohammed Bourra, Armoured Personnel Carrier Company Commander Captain Abderrahim Talbi, and his Deputy Lieutenant Adil Essegir.

The Moroccan delegation provided historical background and up-to-date situation briefs of the Moroccan contingent to the MNTF-N commander.

General Mathey did a review of troops, spoke to each individual and reviewed the unit's equipment. Once a group photograph was taken, BG Mathey, the Moroccan battalion officers, the general's staff officers were invited to enjoy a Moroccan lunch. This cordial moment proved once again the good French-Moroccan relationship and helped everyone get familiar with new faces.

Created on August 26th, 1999 by a royal decision of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI, Supreme Chief and Chief of General Staff of the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces, the Moroccan contingent, under the form of a field surgical



...serving peace in Kosovo

determination to accomplish its mission

military hospital was deployed to Kosovo in November 1999. Placed under NATO operational command, and deployed in the French area of responsibility, this hospital provides humanitarian, medical and social supports to the population of Kosovo without any ethnic distinction.

On NATO's request, the Moroccan contingent in Kosovo was reinforced by a mechanized infantry company equipped with armoured personnel carriers under the operational control of the French Battalion. On September 15th, 2006, the hospital returned to Morocco, but the reinforced mechanized infantry continues to operate in the theatre.

Nowadays, this 215 soldiers-strong unit is composed of a headquarters detachment and an armoured personnel carrier (APC) company. The unit is part of the Moroccan 7th

Mechanised Infantry Brigade. As part of the task force, it falls under French operational control and its function is to conduct escort missions for people and units of the area, to protect the Serbian enclaves of Priluzje/Prelluzhe and Grace by controlling the access through check points, and conducting day and night patrols in the vicinity of these enclaves. The Moroccan soldiers are also responsible for the defence of the Camp Novo Selo/Novoselle, as well as to guard the camps of Plana and Belvedere with the Belgians and the French soldiers.

The Moroccan contingent has undergone some changes in its structure; nonetheless, it is always fully engaged to participate in KFOR's mission.



Combined Medical support



and training in the MNTF S

Text by Lt. Col. Dr. Arne Müller, German Medical Corps

Photos by DEU Medical Task Force

In accordance with NATO-AJP 4.10 and other guidance such as HQ SOPs, etc. every nation is responsible for its own Role-1-Medical Support. Different standards in medical supply in each country mean different medical organization, procedures and equipment. Germany has one of the highest military medical standards among the NATO members because the medical-service-maxim in Germany is: "to care for a patient/casualty in same manner as if he was being treated in Germany".

Importance of coordination

In every theatre where German medical troops are deployed, a Rescue Coordination Centre (RCC) is established. This is a useful tool to have as a central coordination for ground- and air-MedEvac of casualties or patients. The RCC, which is on duty 24/7, is part of the GMed-Branch. A physician is in charge of the RCC. Multinational Task Force South is the only TF which has a RCC in the Kosovo-theatre. Potentially dangerous events such as like the riots that took place in March in Mitrovica /Mitrovice have shown that a sufficiently manned RCC is a necessary tool and a valuable means of support.

Act as one

On Thursday, 3 June, LTC Dr. Arne Müller of the MNTF-S GMed, received Austrian, Turkish and German medical teams at Field Camp Prizren. The meeting was to discuss multinational interoperability and to prepare for a combined medical training exercise. The emphasis had to be on communications, medical equipment and team building. The background of the exercise showed how combined Manoeuvre Battalions can be deployed to hot spots, as well medical support units working as a "combined" team.

"In case of deployment of cross troops it is necessary to have an understanding how the other nations execute their medical tasks. Therefore we have to get to know each other and to find out how the medical task forces in MNTF South can fulfil burden sharing", the GMed stated.



After conducting radio-checks, an overview about the medical equipment of each nation's ambulance was given. Sergeant Major Zumhasch demonstrated German monitoring systems, artificial respiration equipment and defibrillators for cardiac life support. Later, the Austrian physician Dr. Shabiadze and the Turkish Captain Dr. Kaymak and their teams presented the equipment and the ambulances to the audience. Despite slight differences, the medical equipments and pharmaceuticals in each ambulance were similar and in a very good condition. Since the medical treatment depends not only on material, but also on the medical skills, it was nice to see that all medical personnel are well educated.

Ready for action

The meeting ended with individual discussions amongst the group while they enjoyed snacks and refreshments. "It was a good idea to conduct this kind of medical meeting" an Austrian paramedic said. "In summary, it can be stated that the goals of the training were fully accomplished", the GMed added.

It was a pleasure for all participants to meet each other and to learn how other nations fulfil their duties/tasks and the different kinds of equipment they use. Certainly additional steps will be taken and improvements made which will lead towards further cooperation.



MNTF C continues the search

Text by Maj. Gavin Kennedy, Irish Army
Photos by Capt. Paul O'Donoghue, Irish Army

There is no guessing how much undetected ordnance is in Kosovo. One thing that is certain is that there is enough ordnance to kill, maim and injure thousands of people as well as contribute to criminality. The task of locating such ordnance is carried out by the All Arms Search Teams (AAST) of MNTF C on a regular basis. Because of the serious nature of dealing with this problem, MNTF C is constantly training their personnel in order to deal with this threat. There is a huge variety of ordnance that an AAST can expect to locate. These range from grenades, rifles as well as narcotics. The primary task of the search team is to search and locate the illegal material. The training for Task Force Centre personnel is supervised by a Task Force Search Officer, Capt Paul O'Donoghue, who has just recently taken up his appointment in the mission area.

In the last few weeks, Task Force Centre conducted a number of training exercises in order to upskill their personnel, particularly those who have just recently rotated into our AOR. Capt O'Donoghue supervises the training that the unit search teams have to undergo in order to qualify them as AAST's. Team have to be trained in low risk searches ranging from area search to occupied house searches.

All soldiers in KFOR know that our primary task is to provide a Safe and Secure Environment. It is through the hard work and dedication of our search teams that a significant contribution is being made to this task.



Name: Arkadiusz SZKUTNIK

Rank: Lieutenant Colonel

Nationality: Polish



Home unit: 3rd Anti-Aircraft Regiment

Unit in KFOR: Multinational Task Force East, "POLUKRBAT" Commander

About the mission: The experiences I received from my first deployment to Iraq in 2004 will help with my mission in Kosovo. For me, being a battalion commander in Kosovo will increase my knowledge as a soldier even more. My soldiers and I are a great team. Importantly, the experience I gain working with a multinational community will be very helpful for me in the future. I want to wish all soldiers and friends all the best.

Family reaction: My wife, Zuzanna; our two children, Adrian, 16 and Wojciech, 15 understand all too well that my service in Army means time away from home. My family has become accustomed to this.

Plans after the mission: I am planning to go with my family on vacation where I hope to spend some time diving. After that I'll be deployed to Afghanistan.



Name: Giovanni RUSSI

Rank: OR-9

Nationality: Italian



Home Unit: 82nd Mechanized Infantry Regiment

Unit in KFOR: MNTF-W PAO (Public Affairs Office) MEDIA OPS

About the mission: This is my fifth mission; beginning with the MOZAMBIQUE in 1991, which was in the ONUMOS mission. I went on two missions in ALBANIA and once in BOSNIA. For the first time now, I'm in KOSOVO.

It is good for me to experience in the mission in Kosovo. Beside the multi-national atmosphere, this is my first experience in a PAO office and I'm sure it will be a good experience. Working at the PAO Office, I have an opportunity to acknowledge the local reality and also work with journalists. It is very fulfilling.

Family reaction: I'm married with Michela and we have two sons (Davide 16 years old and Pierluca 9 years old). My family understands me and my job and they support me in all my absences. I am sure it's very hard for them to live their daily lives without me and my support but they are proud about my peace-keeping mission in this country.

Plan after mission: I am planning to take my family on a trip for relaxing cruise around the Mediterranean Sea.



Name: Rêda AIT-LEMQEDDEM

Rank: 1st Lieutenant

Nationality: Moroccan



Home Unit: 7 Mechanized Infantry Brigade

Unit in KFOR: Moroccan Battalion

About the mission: This is my first mission in a NATO multinational environment and I am very happy. For me, this is an opportunity of paramount importance, given that it allows me to get in touch with people from other nationalities. This experience is something that really enriches me professionally and increases my personnel knowledge, too.

What I appreciate the most working in a multi-national environment is the teamwork that characterizes the missions that we perform.

Family reaction: I am single. My parents were very happy when I was assigned to Kosovo Force because it is a great opportunity and a chance to represent my country honorably.

I would like to thank my dear parents for all their effort and the support that they have provided for me.

Plans after mission: Upon returning to Morocco, I expect to do a little traveling with my family and to enjoy our time, having fun with my friends before returning to my job. I invite you to visit my wonderful country where there are a lot of beautiful places, monuments and natural panoramic views as well as extremely delicious Moroccan meals.

Mitrovica/Mitrovicë

