

# KFOR Chronicle

## KFOR

October 31, 2008

Edition 10



# "One Loop, One Team, One Coffee"

## KFOR Deputy Chief of Staff Support



My first tour of duty in Kosovo was in 2003. At that time I was a member of the Joint Implementation Commission (JIC). I returned to Kosovo at the beginning of 2008. I cannot help but think how different the situation is now in the region (AOR) and what KFOR has contributed to it.

After nine months as DCOS SPT, I want to reflect back on the past months to see the work already done by the Division as well as the challenges we have in front of us, mostly as a result of the changes in Kosovo and in KFOR too.

Looking back, the Support Division has faced different challenges in all areas of responsibility. Examples include supporting the growth of the MCA, the enhancement of the KFOR communication network, the improvement of the DLOS system, the upgrade of Camp Nothing Hill and Camp Vrelo, different engineer projects to preserve Freedom of Movement (FOM), the emplacement of the Air Scan in Skopje Airport, numerous train derailments and the preparation for the COMKFOR change of Command ceremony.

Real life is a permanent challenge. In this regard a special mention to the Support Group is deserved. Responsibility for the three KFOR camps: Film City, Camp Nothing Hill and Camp Vrelo require much work. I also wish to recognize the efforts of the Medical personnel and the financial branch. The continuous effort done to ensure KFOR sticks to the budget and the contracting, fiscal and contractual support in Theatre have been remarkable. There cannot be successful operations without appropriate funding.

The future is challenging too. This includes not only improving daily support to KFOR troops but maintaining a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) and FOM during the transition period over the Institutions of Kosovo. Frequency management, commercial explosives control and environmental issues are subjects of concern. Every day new issues appear and the lack of resources of Kosovo's Institutions makes the resolution complex.

No matter what the future holds, the Support Division is ready to face it. Our motto "One Loop, One Team, One Coffee" shows the cooperative attitude, the close cooperation and the good mood of all its high qualified members.

It is truly a personal and professional honor to serve with my Division Team and support the day of all KFOR soldiers.



**BG RUIZ DE OÑA**

# KFOR CHRONICLE

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**MNTF North gets  
 a new commander - Pages 4/5**



**KFOR Headquarters' Guardians TOR - Pages 10/11**

**COMM (Z) South, Thessaloniki - Pages 16/17**

**Adventure playground opened in Pristina - Pages 18/19**

**Breath Deeply - Pages 22/23**

**The week of KFOR in Gjakova - Pages 26/27**

**KTM Training towards Full Operational  
 Capability (FOC) - Pages 28/29**



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**Nations within KFOR:**

<b>NATO Nations</b>	<b>Non-NATO Nations</b>
Belgium	Armenia
Bulgaria	Austria
Canada	Finland
Czech Republic	Ireland
Denmark	Morocco
Estonia	Sweden
France	Switzerland
Germany	Ukraine
Greece	
Hungary	
Italy	
Latvia	
Lithuania	
Luxembourg	
Netherlands	
Norway	
Poland	
Portugal	
Romania	
Slovakia	
Slovenia	
Spain	
Turkey	
United Kingdom	
United States	

**KFOR Structure**

**HQ KFOR**  
**MNTF Centre**  
**MNTF East**  
**MNTF North**  
**MNTF South**  
**MNTF West**  
**KTM**  
**MSU**

# MNTF North

*Text by 1st Lt. Chakir, Moroccan Army*

*Photos by Armend Aqifi*

On Thursday, 2 October, at 11:00 in the morning, Brigadier General Michel YAKOVLEFF succeeded General Claude MATHEY in taking charge of the Multinational Task Force North (MNTF-N). The ceremony took place in camp of Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny in Novo Selo and was presided over by DCOM KFOR Major General Stoltz.

In his speech, Deputy Commander of KFOR Major General Stoltz expressed his gratitude to Brigade General Mathey for his personal commitment in handling all tasks. He fully succeeded in maintaining a safe and secure environment in the very sensitive area in the north of Kosovo.

Before leaving, General Mathey warmly thanked all the French, Danish, Greek, Moroccan, Belgian, Luxembourgian and Estonian soldiers and also all the reinforcing units from the 19 nations from the other Task Forces that served under his command during this



# gets a new commander

mandate to guarantee peace and stability in his area of responsibility.

General YAKOVLEFF, new commander of MNTF-N, has been commanding the 7th Armoured Brigade (Besançon) since the 1st of August 2008.

His career with troops took place mainly in the Foreign Legion, where he served from 1983 to 1993, with the 1st foreign armoured regiment (1st REC in Orange), and with the 13th Foreign Legion Half-Brigade (Djibouti). He commanded the 2nd squadron of the 1st REC during operations "Desert shield" and "Desert storm" in 1990-1991, then served as chief operations with the 3rd Dragoons Regiment (Stetten Akm, Germany) from 1995 to 1997, and commanded the 1st REC from 2001 to 2003.

Brigadier general Yakovleff is a graduate of the United States Command and General Staff College (Fort Leavenworth, KS, USA), Armed Forces Staff College (Norfolk, VA, USA) and Joint Defence College in Paris (1995).

His missions led him to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Senegal, Guyana and almost all the Balkans countries.

He is also a former alumni of the Centre des hautes études militaires (CHEM) and Institut des hautes études de défense nationale (IHEDN).

In his latest assignment, he was the military assistant of Mr Jean-Claude Mallet, commission president of the White Paper on Defence and national security.





# Unity o

September, 30, 2008. Within KFOR Headquarters the Kosovo Force Commander organized a meeting with the senior officials of international organizations, acting in Kosovo. The head of EULEX, Mr. Yves de Kermabon, the Special Representative of European Union in Kosovo, Mr. Peter Feith, and the Special Representative for the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) Mr. Lamberto Zannier were invited to Film City Camp by COMKFOR.



October, 6, 2008. The Commander of Kosovo Force, Lieutenant General Giuseppe Emilio Gay, along with the President Fatmir Sejdiu visited the Multinational Task Force "West" area of responsibility. Mr. Sejdiu and COMKFOR were welcomed by the MNTF "W" Commander Brigadier General Agostino Biancafarina in the Camp Villaggio Italia, MNTF "W" Headquarters.

October, 8, 2008. In KFOR Headquarters, Film-City Camp, the Kosovo Force Commander received His Excellency Lukas Beglinger, Swiss Ambassador in Kosovo.



October, 9, 2008. COMKFOR visited Multinational Specialized Unit Headquarters, located in Pristina/Prishtine. After having been welcomed by the MSU Commander Colonel Angelo De Quarto, Lieutenant General Giuseppe Emilio Gay was briefed about the activities, conducted by the MSU personnel, and had a meeting with Italian Carabinieri and French Gendarmes who serve in MSU.



# f Effort



October, 13, 2008. In KFOR Headquarters, Film-City Camp, the Commander of Kosovo Force Lieutenant General Giuseppe Emilio Gay met with Mr. Didier Boulaud, Senator of foreign affairs and defense (France).

October, 14, 2008. COMKFOR had a meeting with Lieutenant General Kenneth Hunzeker, the Commanding General for V Corps (US Army).



October, 16, 2008. Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay met the Ambassador of the Russian Federation to Serbia Mr. Alexander Konuzin.



October, 17, 2008. The Kosovo Force Commander presided over the ceremony of the presentation of his personal emblem, which took place in front of the KFOR Headquarters. In the presence of COMKFOR, DCOM, COS and others distinguished guests the KFOR Command Sergeant Major Massimo Tesone removed the piece of material, concealing the emblem, mounted on the wall of the KFOR HQ building.





# Unity of Effort



October, 20, 2008. COMKFOR paid a visit to the Multinational Task Force South. After having been welcomed by the MNTF S Commander Brigadier General Robert Prader and the MNTF S Headquarters staff, Kosovo Force Commander was briefed about the operational situation in the Task Force Area of responsibility. Afterwards COMKFOR visited German helicopter unit and got acquainted with its operational capabilities.

October, 23, 2008. Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay along with the KFOR Deputy Commander for Support Brigadier General Alberto Ruiz de Oña and the Headquarters Support Group Commander Colonel John Courtney visited Camp Vrelo. COMKFOR was briefed with the history of the camp and its actual infrastructure.



October, 25, 2008. In HQ KFOR, Film City Camp, COMKFOR visited the solemn reception, organized by the KFOR Tactical Maneuver Battalion (KTM) Commander on the occasion of the Commemoration Day for Portuguese Army.



# KFOR Photography Contest

Take part and show with your photographs, how beautiful, interesting and unique living in Kosovo is for KFOR soldiers!

- Have you ever wanted to participate in a photo contest?
- You are quite sure that your photos are the most beautiful and the best?
- Do you have photos, with special charisma?
- Do you have an eye for things that others don't see?
- Do you find the surrounding people in Kosovo interesting?
- Can you provide brilliant landscape photographs?



Then proceed! Images from troops involved in KFOR mission activities, humanitarian efforts, leisure pursuits and site seeing expeditions are welcome. All photographs must be in good taste and represent a positive KFOR image.

The KFOR Chronicle staff will pick three winning photographs. The winners will be chosen and will be published in the December 24, 2008 magazine edition. Submit photographs to [kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int](mailto:kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int) no later than December 7, 2008. Submissions should include the digital photograph, photographer's name and a short caption. The award ceremony will be on December 15, 2008.

*This contest is sponsored by MWA.*

**We Want You  
to Send us Your  
Best Shots!**



**Get clicking!**



**Get clicking!**

**1st Prize**  
 Digital Camera  
 Sony Cyber-shot W130



**2nd Prize**  
 iPod Nano silver  
 4 GB

**Get clicking!**



**3rd Prize**  
 16 GB USB Data Stick

# KFOR Headquarters' Guardians

Story by Major Oleksii Morozov, Ukrainian Armed Forces  
Photos by Combat Camera Team

Starting from October 13 2008, people visiting Film City Camp and the KFOR Headquarters can be surprised by the absence of the American soldiers on the entry to this camp. From this date the task of ensuring security for the KFOR HQ has been entrusted to the Austrian soldiers from the 2d company of Dulje Manoeuver Battalion.

During several months US military was protecting the HQ building, patrolling the camp, checking cars and people, entering to the Film City. Always polite and well-mannered, always smiling and friendly, they executed their challenging duties with high level of professionalism and responsibility, as well as with the very famous all around the world American practical approach.

But on October 13, the moment came to say goodbye to them. For this case the solemn ceremony of transfer of responsibility was organized within KFOR HQ.

On the HQ parade square incoming and outgoing guards lined up. The KFOR Chief of Staff Brigadier General David H. Berger, the KFOR Deputy Commander for Support Brigadier General Alberto Ruiz de Oña and other distinguished guests were present.

The KFOR Command Sergeant Major Massimo Franco Tesone gives orders and reports to the Headquarters Support Group Commander Colonel John Courtney. The Commanders of both guard units leave their places in the row and approach Colonel Courtney, who has been a direct chief for them during their time of duty. According to the order of the HSG Commander, American guardians' Commander takes HSG banner from the US soldier and hands it to Colonel Courtney. In his turn, HSG Commander hands it over to the Austrian guardians'



# Austrians Transfer of Responsibility

Commander. From this moment he and his subordinates are responsible for the security and sound sleep of the Film City inhabitants. Austrian servicemen picked up the baton from the US soldiers.

The KFOR Command Sergeant Major Tesone reports to HSG Commander about the transfer of responsibility and expresses the words of appreciation to all American servicemen on parade.

The ceremony ends. But we are sure that KFOR soldiers, KFOR employees and local civilian people will keep the gentleness and the great job of the US soldiers in their minds.

Thank you, American guardians, for your service!

Welcome to Film City, Austrian soldiers!  
We rely on your professionalism and your practicality!





# KFOR's Military Public Affairs Office

## Our premise "We have to talk"



Article by  
Lieutenant  
Colonel  
Peter Buch

### KFOR HQ Public Affairs Office

The main task of KFOR's Military Public Affairs Officers is to keep the public via the media well informed about KFOR's military activities.

It is notable that a Public Affairs Officer's title is as simple as his or her job is difficult. Public Affairs can be defined as knowledge to be disseminated openly and shared by all



# Public Affairs

## "Tell the truth"

the people. The difficulty lies in obtaining correct and truthful information, sometimes under stressful circumstances, and disseminating it in a timely fashion without jeopardizing the security of our forces and their operations.

### Public Affairs - A command responsibility

In a democracy, military forces are responsible and accountable to the public for the performance of their mission. Therefore KFOR Military Public Affairs is a command responsibility of the highest priority. Public Affairs Officers are the spokespeople for their Commanders, the public interface for KFOR's operations. Their task is not to be confused with that of Public Relations

Officers, whose job it is to maintain a favorable public image for their product, company or person they represent.

Information should be provided in such a way that media representatives and citizens concerned are able to make their own judgment as independently as possible. An organization such as KFOR must be as transparent as possible within its security confines and accept constructive criticism.

The success of KFOR's Public Affairs efforts during times of crisis and conflict builds directly on this fragile relationship and its achievements in peacetime. Modern high-tech communications has revolutionized the pace and capabilities of news reporting which has evolved into instant, real-time coverage of military operations. Laptop computers linked to the World Wide Web have taken instantaneous communications to a totally new level.

### Information - Not everybody is familiar with military terms

First and foremost, the journalist must try to understand the issues he or she is reporting on. This is principally where the Public Affairs Officer earns his or her living, feeding the journalist with information, correcting misunderstandings and misinformation. As good as he or she is, however, the article that appears in next day's newspaper is totally out of his or her control - and quite rightly so in the interests of protecting free press and open debate. Therein lies the element of trust. The Public Affairs Officer must develop a good relationship with his or her network of journalists so that they trust him or her to give them reliable information, while he or she trusts they will report him or her correctly. Likewise his or her Commander will undertake interviews, both written and spoken, as long as he or she is not misquoted, or his or her comments taken out of context. This is an unwritten code of conduct that serves both sides well.

### Credibility - The basis of Public Affairs

The credibility of the Military Public Affairs Officer reflects the credibility of KFOR and is therefore jealously guarded against any requirement for biasing people, which is the purview of Psychological Operations (PSYOPS).

This leads to the relationship of KFOR's Military Public Affairs with the functions of Psychological Operations and Information Operations. Public Affairs is a continuous effort to disseminate information to all audiences whilst analyzing feedback, with activity peaking in times of crisis. PSYOPS and Information Operations are specifically brought to bear in times of crisis and during military operations and are carefully targeted at the adversary or potential adversaries. Whereas, with Information Operations and Psychological Operations the ends justify the means, Public Affairs cannot afford to take any route that would undermine its credibility and destroy its carefully constructed trust relationship with the media/public

Ultimately, the success of KFOR's Public Affairs efforts will be reflected by the media. KFOR's responsibility to the Alliance and Kosovo populations it serves is to inform them in such a way that they may democratically make their own judgment. Whilst we may not always succeed, our policies and doctrine must continue to protect this objective. As KFOR addresses more and more complex issues, so the Public Affairs Officer must remain proactive in explaining its role and missions, the old, the new, and increasingly the possible way ahead.





*Text and photos by 1st Lt Hannah Larsson,  
Press and Information Officer  
of the Swedish Army*

**At the Military Police station at SWECON's Camp Victoria, the berets are colourful. In each team, there are officers from five nations to complete with their specific experiences.**

Sweden, Finland, Ireland, the Czech Republic and Latvia are part of the MNTF(C)'s Multinational Military Police Element, MNMPE. That's what makes the job fun, says Sgt. Josefin Jarlheden and Sgt. Lars-Erik Sköld, two of the Swedes working as MP's.

"We get to see how others work. Some are civilian police officers while others are career MP's and that adds to our total knowledge." The fact that every nation in KFOR has their own MP on the spot, has to do with the rule of law.

"A Swedish soldier will always have their own police to be questioned and investigated by since we obey Swedish law", says Josefin Jarlheden.

Today's assignment is Operation Safeguard, a large traffic control operation. For KFOR it is important that the soldiers themselves make good example, especially in traffic situations.

"We are not here to put a person away, but to alter and consolidate their behaviour", says Lars-Erik Sköld. "And that can sometimes mean writing a report."

In a briefing at the MP station, the teams get their orders by Capt Michael Daly on where to stand along the roads in MNTF(C)'s AOR. Their tasks are to control ID's and that the soldiers have their alpha packs in their vehicle. On road Hawk, the Swedish Sergeants find a good place to stand. Attention is extremely important for MP's working in traffic.

"Traffic is what injures most police officers."

MP's do joint operations with Kosovo Police, KP.

"We have joint speed control operations. They neither have radar, which is not as modern as laser, nor licensed personnel to use it, so we use our laser", says Lars-Erik Sköld.

MNMPE has three main tasks. Patrolling, to calm and enhance security, investigation and criminal duties. So, how do the KFOR soldiers record look?

"Very good. Except for the traffic, where we have investigated some accidents, of which none was serious, I think it looks really good", Josefin Jarlheden assesses.

"Close to perfection. We are met with kind treatment. KFOR soldiers understand why we are doing what we are doing", says Lars-Erik Sköld.

Furthermore, the MNMPE is responsible for close protection of high rank officers or statesmen, and also escorts of vehicle convoys.

# Army Police – always on watch



# KFOR logistics under He

*Text by Major Andreas Brückner, Austrian Army  
Photos by Captain Mikaël Le Gouareguer, French Army and  
Communication Zone South (COMMZ-S)*

Whenever we are talking about Greece, we are thinking on Mount Olympus, Acropolis, sandy beaches, traditional white houses, lying in the sun ... in short terms - on holidays. If somebody, serving with KFOR, states "I am going to Thessaloniki for duty reasons!" nobody might trust him, but it is true. Yes - almost in the center of this very famous city, beloved by thousands of tourists, there is a NATO logistics base. I am talking about Camp KODRA. It is hosting Communication Zone South (COMMZ-S) led by LTC George Reizopoulos (Greek Army). Camp KODRA is an old NATO camp. In 1972, an Advanced Command Post of former Allied Forces Southern Europe was established there to support operations all over Balkans. It was transferred into the Rear Support Command in 1998/1999. In 1999 Kosovo Forces were deployed through Thessaloniki port to mission area. During the summer of this

year the headquarters of the Rear Support Command was moved to Skopje and only the movement and transportation cell remained in Camp KODRA. In September 1999 Communication Zone South was born out of this cell. The number of personnel in Camp KODRA was originally 100 and got reduced over the time down to 10. At the moment Greek and Bulgarian soldiers are serving there. It is under the operational command of Allied Joint Forces Command Naples and under operational control of KFOR through DCOS Support. This means COMMZ-S has to support other NATO matters like exercises in Balkans area as well, but it is not dealing with any Greek national business. Nowadays, also a J8 detachment is located there to deal with all KFOR business in Greece related to customs and financial issues.

"Our mission is to deal with the reception, staging and/or movement of KFOR contingents and their equipment. No matter if it goes through Thessalonikis Port, International Airport, by rail or on the road," stated LTC Riezopoulos. The reason, why especially Thessaloniki was chosen as a



# ellenic sun



place for COMMZ-S, is that traditionally it is the main gateway to the Balkans. The infrastructure is very good. The roads and the railways are useable for heavy equipment transportations, the port of Thessaloniki is the second largest in Greece and there is the Airport as a kind of backup.

Inside the port there is no fixed place that belongs to KFOR, but COMMZ-S stays in very close contact with the port authorities and there is a certain area that is signet to KFOR. This means, there KFOR has priority number 1. If it is not needed, it can be used by civilian companies as well.

Here are a few numbers just to give you an idea what COMMZ-S had to deal with according to KFOR over the years. They had to manage amongst others about 6.500 convoys on the road form Thessaloniki to Kosovo, load and/or unload more than 1.100 vessels (= ships) and transfer more than 130.000 troops - impressive!

OK, now we heard all about duty, but there is something else. Believe it or not - KFOR soldiers are also allowed to stay there over night off duty. Sure, it is on your own expense, there has to be a free accommodation and it has to be allowed according your national regulation. If all these things are checked and accomplished - have a nice stay in Thessaloniki.

Thanks to LTC George Reizopoulos, Commander COMMZ-S, for giving KFOR Chronicle an interview.



# Adventure playground

*Story by Lieutenant Caitriona Nic Caba  
ADC DCOM MNTF(C)*

*Photos by 2nd Lt. Heikkila Jaakko, Finnish Contingent PAO*

Keeping in mind the saying "Children are our future" the Kosovo Force soldiers continue to conduct the CIMIC operations directed to improving the life conditions of the small Kosovars. The opening of a kindergarten playground in Pristina/Prishtine which took place on October 7, 2008, proves it.

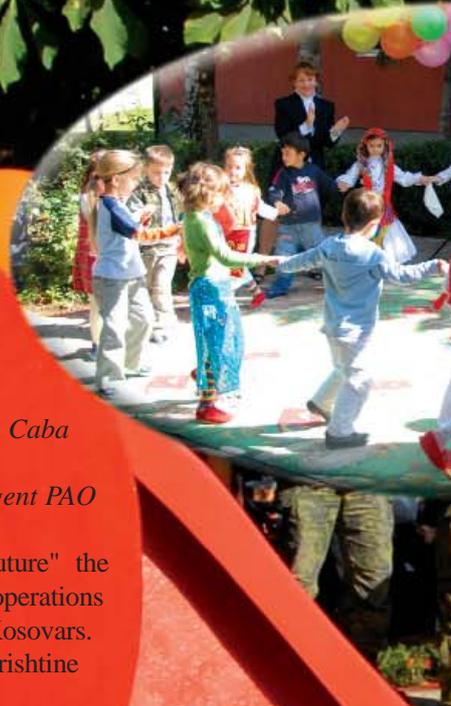
In close coordination with Pristina/Prishtine Municipality the soldiers from Multinational Task Force Centre provided support to the education of Kosovo's future through the construction of an adventure playground.

The project was a Finnish initiative undertaken by the Civil-Military Cooperation cell of the Multinational Task Force Centre and was funded by a grant of 3,500 euros from the Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Deputy Commander of MNTF Centre, Colonel Andrew Kilfeather, attended the ceremony along with the Mayor of Pristina/Prishtine Dr. Isa Mustafa and the Director of Education Agim Gashi. The parents of the children were also between the distinguished guests. In the friendly atmosphere, decorated with multicolor air balloons, the symbolical cutting of the official red ribbon was made by both KFOR and Municipality representatives, the Mayor and Colonel Kilfeather, in order to signify joint support and financial contribution to this project.

At the end of the official part of this solemn ceremony the representatives of local authorities as well as Deputy Commander of MNTF (C) Colonel Andrew Kilfeather made reference to the importance of investing time and money into children as they are the future of Kosovo.

But the holiday can not consist of the official part only! And children knew that and prepared themselves well.

Wearing traditional clothes, they showed the guests their skills of singing and dancing. And when we see the happiness in the small people's eyes, we really understand that it is a great deal to invest into those children's future!



# and opened in Pristina



# “If You Missed IT-You

*Text by Major John E. Moran IV  
PAO MNTF (E)*

*Photos by SGT Anthonie Seymour,  
70th MPAD, MNTF-E*



It was not the usual scene at Camp Bondsteel Medal of Honor Hall on a brisk fall evening in October. The briefing room usually used for lengthily power-point presentations and weekly professional development briefings had a different air to it this evening. It was filled with an unfamiliar atmosphere. It was something you would recognize from your son's or daughter's band or choir concert back home. There was an apparent energy in the air that was obviously brought here from outside the gates of Camp Bondsteel.

This energy and enthusiasm can only be captured while you gather a group of young people together with a common cause. No matter what the event, they have excitement and they are eager to perform their best. That energy set the stage for the Shropshire Music Foundation Concert. These young people have grown up most of their lives with the presence and the security of KFOR. They were here tonight to entertain those very same troops that have allowed them to live in peace.

Up on the stage was a platoon of children ranging from about 8 to 16. They wore white choir T-shirts and jeans. Some of the choir members had piccolos and harmonicas



# ou Really Missed IT”

in their hands. Some had red and blue neckties as if to quasi-formalize the event. Off to the right in the "pit" was a small 4 piece band that would accompany the Choir. The talent both as a group and as individuals was quite amazing to say the least. You could see the troops enjoying each and every song. The children sang in Albanian, English, and Spanish. They would play both piccolo and harmonica solos. The large applause made the gratitude of the troops very obvious to the Choir. They responded with smiles and ultimately a traditional dance around the audience. The concert culminated with the smallest child singing two, "rap" songs his older brother had wrote.

As the concert ended, the children gathered for group photographs. It was an event that would instantly remind you of your own young children after an event back home. A lot of them located their escort and gave them a hug. Some of them gave a formal handshake. This was the children's way of saying thanks for all the kindness and sacrifice KFOR has made over the past 9 years. After all, "they" are the reason "we" are all here. When they left the Medal of Honor Hall that night, unfortunately for us, all their youthful enthusiasm went with them.



[Inside KFOR]

Text by Captain Aline Simon, chief PAO MNTF-N  
Photos by Capt. Robert SINNOU (CRNBC officer) and  
Lt.Col. Luis Pereira, Portuguese Army

Odours often trigger the strongest memories. Smell of "disulfide oil" will probably remain in the mind of the Mitrovica inhabitants even if it's, today, no more than a memory.

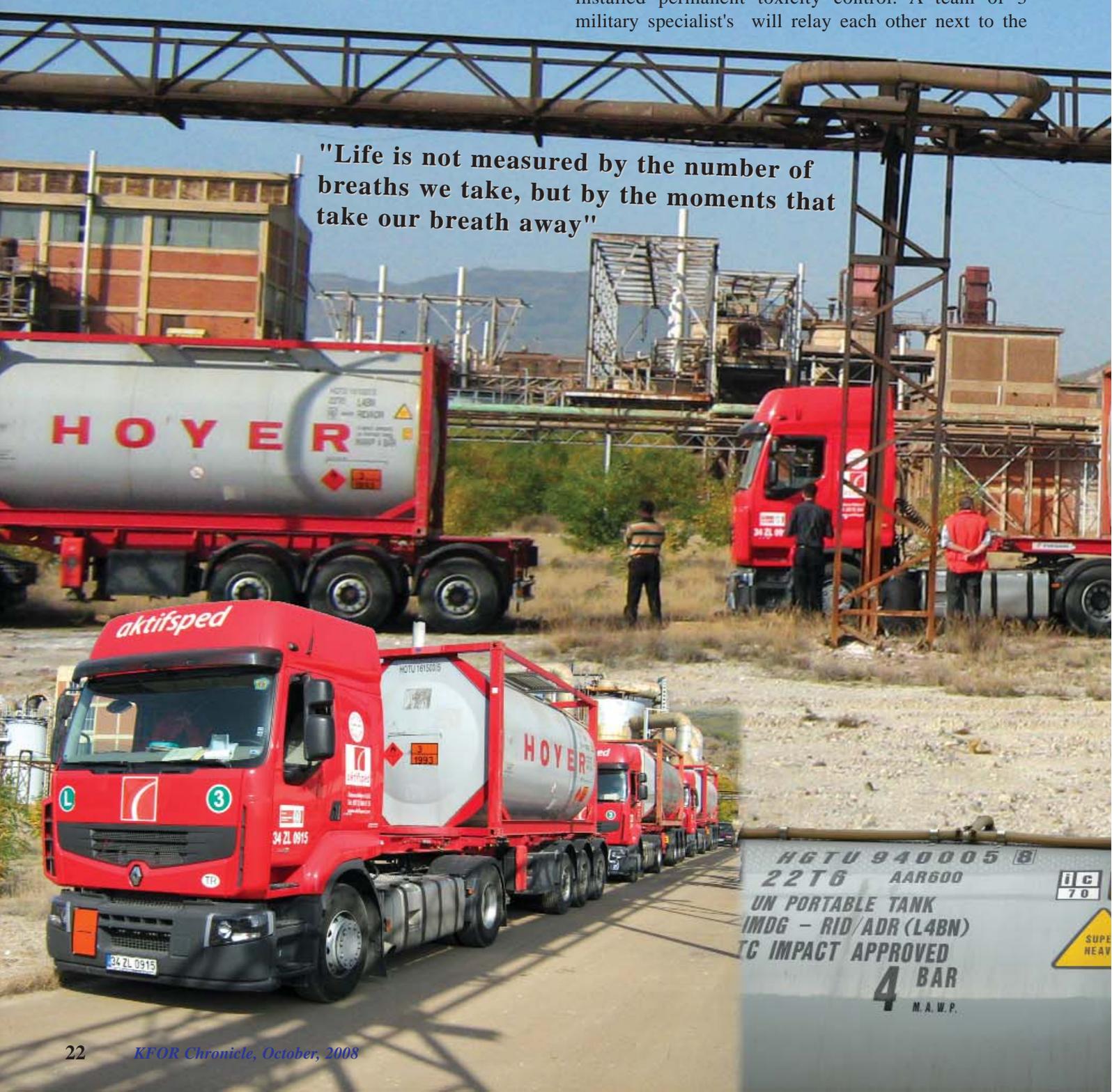
The story begins in May, when the people living in Mitrovica complained about a tenacious, strong and unusual smell. The investigation led to 3 trucks parked in the Mitrovica Industrial Park (MIP) factory, loaded with "disulfide oil". The factories management efforts to reassure the population on the non-toxicity of the product were in vain, the unease caused by the odour was too strong. The locals actively asked for a fast solution.

# Breath o

KFOR, also a neighbour of this location, offered to get involved in this operation and put to use its expertise capacity. Two toxic risk specialised military teams, a French one and a German one, were sent to the site. The verdict fall fast after a sample was sent to France. The product is not dangerous as long as it is not touched, not manipulated without protection and not ignited. This means that the content cannot be destroyed. And needs to be evacuated.

In order to avoid all incidents and to reassure the neighbouring population, the TFMN-N French battalion installed permanent toxicity control. A team of 3 military specialist's will relay each other next to the

**"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away"**



HGTU 940005 B  
22T6 AAR600  
UN PORTABLE TANK  
IMDG - RID/ADR (L4BN)  
TC IMPACT APPROVED  
4 BAR  
N.A.W.P.

# deeply



trucks, night and day, every two hours, from the 6th of June until the end of the operation, the 20th of October 2008. 12 samples were taken every day thanks to detection devices and toxicity measurements. The results were always negative, no toxicity on the site. "We knew there was no immediate danger" explains Mr. Asllan Vitaku, head of environmental issues in the Trepca complex, "never the less, we are relieved that this story is over".

TFMN-N French captain Robert SINNOU (CRNBC officer), was, for the KFOR part, project manager in this operation. Working in close relation with all the different parties (TREPICA, Minister of national security, Minister of

environment, CES society), he made available to all his perfect knowledge of the situation. "I'm delighted that this story finishes in a happy end, for the population, for the factory, for the protection of the Kosovo environment" says he delighted and clearly relieved.

Finally during the night, to avoid local disturbance, the Company CES, chosen by IoK, treated the 3 trucks. Three full nights were needed. But it's now done. The "disulfide oil" has been transferred and evacuated. It should be treated in the United States. Only the memory will remain.



# RLMT of MNTF S - we feed

Text by OR-5 Mag. Doris Heck

Photos by MNTF S

RLMT, this acronym stands for Regional Liaison Monitoring Team - a team which maintains in close contact with the population of Kosovo, in equidistance to all ethnicities. In our case, regional refers to the area of responsibility (AOR) of Multinational Task Force South (MNTF S) with headquarters in PRIZREN. RLMT consists of six LMT teams (two teams each manned with Austrian, German and Turkish personnel) operating in the field, and the RLMT command element with its nucleus, the Analysis Cell. All components together form the multinational LMT Company. RLMT is led by an Austrian officer, his deputy being a German, both having the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. An Austrian team lives in the sole "field house" in Kosovo, amongst the residents of ORAHOVAC, thus being able to obtain an even better picture of the local situation on the ground.

## What is Liaising and Monitoring all about?

Day in and day out, the teams are roaming the municipalities and villages, talking to the local residents, attending almost all meetings at municipal level,

and monitoring all religious and social events. They document - in writing and with pictures - what they have learned, seen and experienced.

## How is the information processed in detail?

On a daily basis, the teams draft reports in the English language. These "Daily Situation Re-ports" are prepared following a very specific format. The Analysis Cell receives these reports electronically, thoroughly reviews and analyzes them and "polishes up" the wording. This task requires a maximum of concentration and a precise knowledge of the respective background of the individual events. It is the Analysis Cell from where the employment of the LMT teams is coordinated and controlled in real time in the case of major events. This ensures that MNTF S is always provided with a current situation update.

## What LMT members want to accomplish or can provide for their Commander?

The main goal is to register and report the mood of the local population. "We represent KFOR throughout our entire AOR. It happens quite often that we also give the incentive for CIMIC projects. If you feel the pulse of the population you can also render a significant contribution to the prevention of surprises", states Lieutenant Colonel Kemethofer.



# Feel the pulse of KOSOVO



## What is the way ahead for LMT?

The importance of LMT teams will further increase. It is planned to establish and operate additional "field houses" throughout the entire Kosovo, as it has been successfully practiced for quite some time in Bosnia in the scope of the LOT (Liaison Observation Team) Concept. LMT teams are going to feel the pulse of Kosovo more thoroughly, thus rendering from well forward their contribution to having this country see a prosperous and above all peaceful future.

### RLMT staff of MNTF S:

LTC Karl KEMETHOFER, CO RLMT S: Austrian Army reserve officer; civilian profession: teacher, married, 2 children (30 and 28 years old)



"Being an LMT member means to serve in quite a special position with KFOR. We consider ourselves as the eyes and ears of our commander, and in doing so we try to provide him with critical data for his assessment. Being in charge of a multinational company comprising three different nations is a totally new personal experience to me which will widen my horizon in every respect."

LTC Hans-Jürgen PAUL, DepCdr RLMT S: Career officer, married, 1 son (career NCO)

"The job of an LMT is a very challenging and interesting task. The daily contact with the local population, the acquaintance with different individuals and their opinion on their personal development and the development of their country have been the primary focus of our efforts during this contingent. For me personally, the multinational cooperation with fellow soldiers from Austria, Germany and Turkey, the different input as well as the very successful and effective cooperation in the accomplishment of our common mission have been a remarkable experience."



Story by Lt. Nicolo Cordero  
Photos by Capt. Anna Darabos Tabi

During the last week KFOR soldiers "occupied" Djakova. Fortunately they didn't perform it with military means, but it happened perfectly under the aegis of peace. Many events have been carried out during this last period by the MNTF-W in the Municipality. The KFOR MNTF-W personnel with a small economic contribution of the Local Municipality, not only completed a sewerage drainage system in Herec and Zhubi (two villages in the Djakovica Municipality) but organised also the so called "Lyra Fest" on Saturday the 18th. This festival, that saw the participation of more than 1000 Kosovars, is a show that gives the possibility for the future Kosovo generation to demonstrate all their singing and dancing capabilities. The show has been a total success and both the people of the municipality, and the local authorities expressed their gratitude to the MNTF-W KFOR for the help in the organization of the festival and for the financing of the scenography.

But it's not finished...

The day before the festival, the MNTF-W CIMIC, also organized a football match in the city's football stadium between the Multinational Task Force West team and the local Vellaznimi Football Association of Djakovica. The team of the MNTF-W represented all the different task forces of the West: Italians, Spanish, Romanians, Slovenians, and Hungarians soldiers all together to try to beat the local team that in the past years had always been victorious.

# The week of KFOR in Djakova



Two weeks before the football match the trainer Warrant Officer Pace Giuseppe organised a full day of hard "soccer-work" to improve technical knowledge and physical condition of the soldiers. Mister Pace is a professional Italian soldier, but in his civilian life during spare time, he is also a very good football trainer. Due to his good job and thanks to the energy that the soldiers put in their training the final result of the match was 5-5. KFOR scorers were: Giovanni Chieco (IT) - two goals, Francesco Vuolo (IT), Andrea Merella (IT), Javier PALENZUELA (SP). After the last whistle from the referee the footballers welcomed Brigadier General Agostino Biancafarina Commander of the MNTF-W and Pal Lekaj the major of Djakova to take photos with them, infact they were both there to support their teams.

Congratulation to all members of the MNTF W football team and the members of Vellaznimi Futball Association as well. It was a good effort!

DR



# KTM Training towards Full O

Text by Major PRT Rui Rodrigues

Photos by Sergeant 1St Class PRT Agostinho Fernandes

After the TOA, on 25SEP08, the KTM initiated a 14-day intensive training to reach FOC, on 09OCT08. KTM's main activities were CRC Training, with cross training exercises with MSU, Heli Boarding Training (SA 330 Puma and UH 60 Blackhawk), Shooting Practice, Medevac Air Training (SA 330 Puma and UH 60 Blackhawk), Notice To Move (NTM) Training of KTMG and KTMF with Combat Readiness Evaluation (CREVAL), Ground and Air Reconnaissance (RECCEs) and also KFOR Key Conferences.

The main purpose of the CRC training held in Slim Lines and Vrelo Camps, was to maintain KTM's "high standard" level capability in CRC operations. These exercises were executed In Accordance With (IAW) the Operational Training Plan and the operational capacity requests of the Task Force MIKE. This exercises included the Planning stage; the Readiness test - 30 minutes NTM; the improvement of the Command, Control and Communications (C3); the ability to change the force's layout, vehicles and men integration, readjustment of the force IAW the Opposing Force (OPFOR) level of violence and the capability to conduct "hasty planning" when incidents occur; the capability to synchronize movements (Block positions, Relief in position, advancing and offensive bounds) and the transport of all the equipment. The means involved were 220 KTM soldiers, two maneuver Coys (ALFA and BRAVO), a Special Operations Detachment (SOD), a Signals Detachment, a Medical detachment and a Maintenance

Detachment; witch included 50 Vehicles; and 5 MSU Observers/Specialists.

The NTM exercises were coordinated with the vehicles loading plan checks. Lessons learned was a continuous process integrated in the training IOT (improve operational tempo). KTM operational readiness achievement fully reflects the training continuity and the consequent creation of automatic reactions for the most probable operational situations.

The Heli boarding and transport training gave the KTM the necessary skills to be quickly deployed Kosovo Wide. The KTM also realised a Kosovo wide air and land RECCEs in order to have a broader view and knowledge of the Theatre of Operations.

Task Force MIKE/KTM also carried out Air Medical Evacuation (AIR MEDEVAC) training to get its AIR MEDEVAC certification. The main purpose of this training was to get necessary knowledge about procedures established to use in medical evacuation involving UH 60 Black Hawk and SA 330 PUMA helicopters. The training took place at Plana and Bondsteel Camps and it was conducted by the French Air Evacuation team and US AIR MEDEVAC team respectively. Both teams were composed by a doctor, a nurse, a paramedic, a support element and the helicopter crew. This training allowed KTM Medical Personnel to expand its knowledge and certification on air evacuation, optimizing all the established protocols for this type of operations.

KTM performed other daily activities, in order to constantly keep the Task Force MIKE's high standards

Air Recce

Air MEDEVAC

Helicopter boarding

CRC

Notice To Move



Shooting practice Vehicle maintenance



# Operational Capability (FOC)

of response and NTM namely, doing vehicles, equipment and weapons maintenance, along with the Shooting Practice at Camp Victoria, which is also essential for individual and collective protection.

However a Task Force's training is never complete. In order to maintain an operational high standard and efficiency, the Force must have a continuous, hard and enduring training. Our main goal is to be operationally ready to respond to all COMKFOR assigned missions IAW the given NTM.



# Chips for Charity

Story by Capt. John "Garick" Chamberlin, US AF  
Photos by Andreas Brückner, AUT Army

**A** You may have seen the flyers around Film City for the weekly Poker Night which benefits the Pristina Children's Center. The full name is "The Center for Rehabilitation of Mothers and Children," a refuge opened in 1998 to help families recover from the trauma of the war, especially children who lost one or both parents. A few stalwart KFOR poker players from many national contingents gather three nights a week to play Texas Hold-Em and raise money for the Center, gathering about 200 Euro per-month to support this worthy cause. While this is certainly a success, it was not enough for OR-5 Steven Wilson, US Army. As a volunteer at the Children's Center, he saw first-hand how much they need support, and wanted to organize a fund-raiser to bring a big impact. His brain-child? The "World Series of Poker, Kosovo."

OR-5 Wilson organized a large tournament, requesting a 20 Euro donation to the Children's Center from each player. He solicited prizes from various Film City organizations, and began to sign-up players. On 26 October, over 30 participants came together at the Hollywood Center from across the KFOR spectrum, including soldiers and civilians from 11 nations. The prime reason for the gathering came before the game even began. OR-5 Wilson introduced Halime and Taibe from the Children's Center, who gave an introduction to the important work they do for the children of Kosovo. OR-5 Wilson then proudly presented them with the results of his efforts, 800 Euro donated by 40 players and donors. It could not have come at a better time, as the Children's Center has recently been hit by the global economic downturn, losing the sponsorship of a company who could no longer afford the regular donations that had provided food for 40 - 50 children every day.

The presentation over, it was time for the fun part. Players took to their tables, and the chips hit the felt. When the dust settled, six players won their tables to advance to the final table. Proving that poker is a game of skill, five of those six



were experienced regulars at the weekly games. Proving that beginner's luck can also play a part, the sixth was OR-7 Kaonis Thomas, US Army, the only player using a "cheat sheet" to remind him of the poker hand rankings. OR-7 Thomas was the night's "Cinderella Story." As a regular volunteer at the Children's Center, he simply came to donate to the cause. At first, he wasn't even going to play, but the staff convinced him that he might enjoy it and had nothing to lose by taking the chips and seeing what happened. And did it ever happen... After winning his table, OR-7 Thomas came to the final table with his cheat sheet and no expectations. This allowed him to use an unconventional style of play, which, combined with his amazing run of drawing the winner over stronger starting hands, led him to quickly destroy the competition. After playing three hours to get to the final table, OR-7 Thomas took first place in only 45 minutes among the "experts." The final blow came when he called OF-2 "Garick" Chamberlin's All-In Bet. OF-2 Chamberlin turned over Ace-3 suited, a hand much stronger than OR-7 Thomas' Jack-2, but when two Deuces came on the board, OR-7 Thomas was the champion. OF-2 Chamberlin, US Air Force, took second, OR-8 Dirk Schnichels, DEU Army, third, and OR-4 Dennis Martens, DEU Navy, fourth. The biggest winners, however, were the children.

A special thank you to OR-5 Wilson for his hard work organizing this fun and worthy event; to the prize donors, the Austrian PX, Deutscher PX, German NSE, Scandinavian PX, Service Center, Soldier Store, Souvenir Shop, Turkish PX, and especially Eclipse Food Services, and the German PX who donated the top prizes; and last, but not least, the players and volunteers who made it all happen. Until next year's championship, we look forward to seeing you at the weekly games, volunteering at the Children's Center, or however you do your part to make Kosovo a better place for everyone, on-duty and off.



**Name:** Anica Kozar

**Rank:** First Lieutenant

**Nationality:** Slovenian

**Home unit:** 18th Battalion RKBO (NBC or CBRN)

**Unit in KFOR:** MNTF (W) TF NIMROD

**About the mission:** It is my first mission, but not first time abroad for military reasons. I have been a soldier for nine years. I started my military career as a platoon commander, but my latest job in Slovenia was chief S1. Here in Kosovo my job is CIMIC. Before I applied for this mission I participated in a few CIMIC courses in Slovenia, Austria and Italy, and in CIMIC exercises. When I collected some knowledge about work and procedures I decided to apply for KFOR and I don't regret it. I am the chief of Slovenian CIMIC team. This team is like my family, we are together every day, mostly all the day, we all enjoy in what we do and we really have great time together. I think we all like to work with people, we all speak serbian language and now we are trying to learn some albanian words. Where is will, there is a way.

**Family reaction:** My family was not surprised at my decision, but my friends and the community were. I don't have any children and I have good guardian for my animals at home.

**Plans after the mission:** I always have a lot of plans for my future life. I would like to learn some new skills (in general). During my military career, I would like to be more attached to CIMIC activities, also in my home country. But first, vacation.



**Name:** Arvydas Linkevicius

**Rank:** Corporal

**Nationality:** Lithuanian

**Home unit:** National Defence Volunteer Forces

**About the mission:** I have joined Volunteer Forces of Lithuania in 1995 and this is my second peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. My first deployment to Kosovo was in 2005. I served in reconnaissance coy which was a part of Danish battalion located in Mitrovica, base Olaf Ray. Now I am back in Kosovo as a soldier serving in the Lithuanian platoon of PoUkrBat at base Camp BondSteel which is lead by USA. This mission is different for me - the other base, varied, improved casual life in Kosovo.

**Family reaction:** I'm already quite long in a military service and everybody in my family knows how important this job is for me, so they do not put any obstacles in my way (of career).

**Plans after the mission:** Because military service is my main hobby and duty, after going back home and having a little bit of rest, I am planning to participate in Lithuanian lead PRG mission in Afghanistan, Ghor.



**Name:** Michal Rázga

**Rank:** 1st Lieutenant

**Nationality:** Slovak

**Home Unit:** The Ground Forces Headquarters

**Unit in KFOR:** MNTF-C HQ, G9 Info Collection Officer (CIMIC)

**About the mission:** This is my first mission abroad and for me it is a really good opportunity to improve my skills in foreign languages, military knowledge and operational command. My responsibility here is different from home where I work with disciplinary matters. Here I am a part of CIMIC and my task is to help establish and maintain the co-operation of the task force commander and the civilian authorities, organisations, agencies and population. In CIMIC I am able to help and improve the feelings of the inhabitants in reflection to KFOR.

**Family reaction:** My wife understands me and she supports me in many ways. She decided to help me with my work and collected clothes in Slovakia for the poorest people here in Kosovo. I have a 1.5 year old son at home and sometimes I feel that my wife has a hard mission at home because she has to combine her work and raising our child.

**Plans after the mission:** There will be no place for vacation after returning home. I am going to attend the Joint Staff Officers Course in the Armed Forces Academy of General Milan Rastislav Štefánik directly. If I pass the exams successfully I will be promoted to Captain. Actually I don't know what my next appointment will be, but I would like to work in a staff position again.



# Decane/Decani Monastery



Photo by Major Oleksii Morozov