

KFO  
NATO - OTAN

January 31, 2009

# Chronicle

Edition 1

# KFOR



**Ukrainian Contingent:  
MEDEVAC Exercise on New Year's Eve**



# COMKFOR's Order of the Day Number 2

The 2008 has been a very challenging year, but 2009 is going to be even more. This June we will also celebrate our 10th Anniversary and I can assure you that KFOR will continue - in line with its operational mandate - to cooperate with and assist the United Nations, the European Union, the IOK and the International Community to support the development of a stable, democratic, multi-ethnic and peaceful Kosovo.

We also know that, according to our schedule, 2009 will mark the accomplishments of and additional tasks for KFOR. In fact, the Kosovo Security Force will reach by September 2009 the Initial Operational Capability. It is a very ambitious project, for which we need assistance and full cooperation from everybody.

Given the mission assigned to the KSF, such as to react to crisis, natural disasters and other emergencies, all ethnic communities should feel the moral obligation to commit their best youths. And I so doing ensure their contribution to this very demanding profession, and have a say for a better future.



This year, KFOR would like to move a little bit further in providing a stable and secure environment.

We would like to focus our attention to those areas where more than one ethnicity is living alongside the other. There, tolerance has been achieved but cooperation is still far away.

So we would like to encourage a more constructive attitude of the people concentrating our common efforts on projects which may be helpful to different communities.

We want to turn those areas of potential conflict into opportunities for mutual understanding and cooperation. The task is challenging, but we are confident that through a different approach it is going to improve security and consolidate the basis for stability and prosperity. I gave to this idea the name "Kosovo

Development Zones": an idea which, I'm sure, if it is endorsed by competent authorities, could be highly beneficial to the people as well as to the reputation of Kosovo.

We are ready to support within our means and capabilities any kind of project that will foster the reconciliation and the cooperation among the inhabitants of Kosovo and we kindly ask the International Community Representatives to join us in this unity of effort in support of the Institution of Kosovo. I, my staff, and the MNTF Commanders will very soon identify in detail those zones that deserve a closer analysis.

You may, or not, know that this is my third time here, and for me likewise the majority of KFOR soldiers, Kosovo is like a second home. We have to transmit our determined enthusiasm and positive outlook, our vision for the future. We have to solve - with them - those problems that will present Kosovo as a model. An example of Unity of Effort!

Film City, 26 January 2009

**Giuseppe E. Gay**  
**Lt Gen ITA - A**  
**COM KFOR**

# KFOR Chronicle

Dear comrades,

I hope all of you had a good start into the New Year and you kept at least one maybe two of the many intentions you had at the very beginning of it. I appreciate and welcome you again as an interested readership. The KFOR-Chronicle Team is eager to accompany you until the end of your tour, hopefully with interesting stories.

Although the turn of the year is supposed to be a peaceful event it was shadowed by riots in the City of Mitrovica. But with increased presence of KFOR and its Partners the situation calmed down immediately.

This proves one more time that KFOR and its soldiers are currently indispensable to ensure and sustain a secure environment. Without a secure environment a sustainable economical development is not possible. Sustainability is an absolutely necessary prerequisite to build-up a regional infrastructure for the well-being of its people.

In the January edition, our team will offer you a wide scale of issues, starting with COMKFOR's Order of the Day Number 2 continuing with the letter of Brigadier General Yakovleff, the contribution of Radio Andernach (a radio station in Prizren) over CIMIC activities until the Change of Command in the Moroccan Contingent, and introducing some of our contingents.

Our team will endeavor to embed all KFOR-nations in our magazine in order to be an interesting platform for all of us. Enjoy it!

Comrades, let me remind you again. Everybody can become a journalist. Just send us an article approximately 400 words long and with seven to ten pictures and soon you too will be a part of KFOR-Chronicle.

## The KFOR-Chronicle Team Major Christian Zankl



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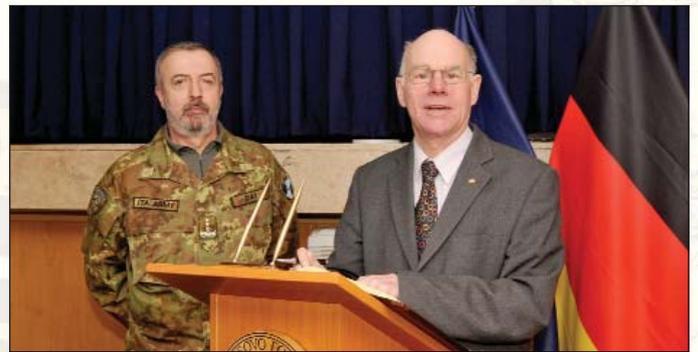


# Unity o



December, 23, 2008. In KFOR Headquarters, Film-City Camp, the Kosovo Force Commander Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay hosted Mr. Guido Crosetto, the Undersecretary of the Italian Ministry of Defense.

January, 7, 2009. COMKFOR received Mr. Norbert Lammert, the President of the German Parliament.



January, 7, 2009. The Heads of the Kosovo parliamentary group visited KFOR Headquarters and were hosted by the KFOR Commander.

January, 8, 2009. Within KFOR Headquarters, the Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay, had a meeting with His Excellency Mr. Bamir Topi, the President of the Republic of Albania.



January, 19, 2009. The Commander of Kosovo Force, Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay, along with President Fatmir Sejdiu, the Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Kosovo, Mrs. Janina Hrebicková and the Multinational Task Force Center Commander, Brigadier General Kyosti Hallonen, paid a visit to the Czech KFOR Contingent at Camp Sajkovac.

# f Effort



January, 19, 2009. COMKFOR visited the Kosovo Protection Corps Headquarters for the official KPC stand-down ceremony.



January, 19, 2009. In KFOR Headquarters, Film-City Camp, the Commander of Kosovo Force, Lieutenant General Giuseppe Emilio Gay, met with Major General Erdal Öztürk, Chief of Plans and Operations department, Turkish General Staff.

January, 22, 2009. Kosovo Force Commander met with Mr. Nils Ragnar Kamsvåg, Deputy Director General Ministry for Foreign Affairs (Norway).



January, 27, 2009. The Commander of Kosovo Force organized the New Year reception for the representatives of Kosovo's authorities, foreign countries Ambassadors, heads of the international missions, acting in Kosovo, and other distinguished guests.





# KFOR and the unrest in Mitrovica



After a few days of increased tension in the northern town of Mitrovica, on December 30 2008, KFOR intervened massively in support of a safe and secure environment. This timely action proved decisive in preventing a crisis situation before it could evolve into a large-scale unrest. KFOR reaction, at the behest of civil authorities, in support of local police forces, together with EULEX, provides an object lesson about the way KFOR will remain a major provider of security for the benefit of the population at large.

The situation was contained at a lower level of unrest throughout three successive phases (December 30-31, January 2-3 and January 6-7). COMKFOR ordered reinforcements by other Multinational Task Forces into the town, under TACON of TF-N, in order to demonstrate resolve and solidarity between all KFOR units. The first units to deploy were KTM and MSU, both of which were well acquainted with Mitrovica thanks to previous operations and exercises. They are now alternating with units from TF-W and TF-S (currently Austrian and Italian coys).

Thanks to this reinforcement, KFOR has maintained high visibility in town, with the effect that the situation has remained calm. Cooperation within both police stations is steadily improving. Political representatives from all communities have proved influential in cooling things down. Thus a political process has been set to defuse tension and set the stage of orderly decrease of KFOR presence in the short term.

Close cooperation between all agencies responsible for security - local police forces, EULEX and KFOR as third responder - was the key to managing the situation. In that respect, tension remains contained and a new political environment is gradually emerging, which should prove conducive to a more positive and long term trend. Solidarity and resolve of all KFOR troops was instrumental in establishing this new situation.

**Brigadier general (FR) Michel YAKOVLEFF**  
**Multinational Task Force North Commander**



**COM JFC Admiral Fitzgerald, MNTFN Commander Brigadier general Yakovleff and COM FREBAT Colonel Laurent during a footpatrol through Mitrovica / Little Bosnia on January 21 2009**



# "Great Coordination" in the first-ever joint Kosovo Force (KFOR) - European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) exercise



KFOR and EULEX carried out their first-ever joint exercise, which took place at the KFOR base Novo Selo, in Camp De Latre De Tassigny.

The French and Romanian Special Police Units of EULEX worked closely together with KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM) and helicopters units.

Several hundred soldiers and police officers took part in the scenario, which involved EULEX calling for KFOR support, during a violent demonstration.

In case of disturbances in Kosovo, the first line to deal with the situation is the Kosovo Police. They can be supported by EULEX Special Police Units and, if the situation deteriorates,

then KFOR will be brought in as a third line responder.

"From my point of view it went very well. It was an opportunity to perform an exercise, coordinate forces, and integrate forces in action," said the Portuguese Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Jocelino do N.B. Rodrigues, commander of the KTM Unit of KFOR.

"The coordination was great because every police officer and every soldier on the ground did their best to create this coordination. It was a real success," said the commander of the special police unit of the French Gendarmerie, Herve Massiot.

The exercise took place on Saturday 17 January 2009.





# Radio 1 ANDERNACH

*Soldaten  
senden für  
Soldaten*

## Radio Andernach – Portrait

*Story by Capt. Scheidtweiler,  
Chief editor Radio Andernach KFOR*

The German Welfare Radio Station Radio ANDERNACH is located in Mayen, in the Western part of Germany. Over 80 soldiers care about the program for the German soldiers. It is - of course - a radio from soldiers for soldiers. Therefore the personnel understands the listeners and their needs.

But to stay in touch with the soldiers in mission there are editorials in the fieldcamps. The editorial here in Kosovo is located at the fieldcamp in Prizren. 4 soldiers prepare a special program for KFOR. The head of the team is Capt. Nicolas Scheidtweiler. He got a university degree and is responsible for the organization of the editorial and is the point of contact for the German staff. Furthermore, there is an editor, a German OR-6, Staff Sergeant Dungenheim, trained in media works. He prepares the show and goes on reports in the AOR.

There is also a staff dealing with technical matters, composed of two NCOs, Staff Sergeant Seeger and Sergeant Gomzi. Both are responsible for the equipment, music and all technical questions around the radio. The radio is using high-end equipment to guarantee the quality of the shows.

But this is only the personnel. More important is the program. The welfare radio has a 24/7-radio wheel. That means you can listen music, news and reports around the clock. The main part of the program is sent via satellite from Germany to Kosovo and Afghanistan and broadcasted in the missions. Here in Kosovo on the frequency 106.9 MHz in Prizren and on 107.7 MHz in Pristina. The regional program for the Kosovo starts a 3 o'clock p.m. It's a 3-hour-show which includes stories and news about the KFOR-camps and the mission. The name of the show is "Hallo Balkan!" But the stories are not only German

stories; they are about international soldiers as well. And this is the task, the editorial is using free capacities to promote the success of the Swiss, Austrian and other soldiers.

A big part of the editorial-work here in Kosovo is the Meet & Greet-Show on Sundays. This is a show, where soldiers from the camps can greet their fellows within KFOR. And everybody is invited to use this service. You can find the grey-magenta Radio ANDERNACH-Boxes in the different bars and cafes. Just put the post-card into the box and the editors collect it on a weekly basis. And on Sundays your fellow will get the greetings and can listen to your music-wish for him.

Just switch the radio on and scroll to 106.9MHz in Prizren and 107.7MHz in Pristina.





**ANDERNACH**  
*Soldaten senden für Soldaten*  
-andernach.de





# TF MIKE/KTM C

*By 1st. Lt. Albino Jesus,  
TF MIKE CIMIC/NBQ Officer*

The NATO CIMIC Strategic concept refers to "The interaction between Alliance forces and the civil environment (both governmental and non-governmental) in which they operate is crucial to the success of operations". This concept, which is well developed in the initial pages of the AJP-9 highlights the importance of the coordination between military forces and civilian actors for the accomplishment of the mission. This acknowledgment is not new, but the most recent conflicts have given it a renewed importance, together with a pool of various (Media, collateral effects, International and Non Governmental Organizations, etc.) which role becomes more and more important in the new generation of modern conflicts.

CIMIC actions developed throughout the coordination and cooperation of mission support between the military forces and the civilian actors. We include the local population, the local authorities, as well as international non governmental agencies.

After the assignment of the first Area of Responsibility (AOR) to TF MIKE/KTM, and getting my Commanders' Direction and Guidance (D&G), I started establishing the link with the local Kosovo authorities and some of the international entities present in the AOR with the propose of developing CIMIC actions in support of the population of Drenica region.

TF MIKE AOR comprised essential Srbica/Skenderaj municipality inside of the heart of Drenic, and a piece of Kosovska Mitrovica/ Mitrovica South municipality. Drenica/Drenas is one of Kosovo's poorest regions and Srbica/Skenderaj municipality reflects this sad reality, as one of the most deprived municipalities. This could be the result of the defense tenacity faced by the Balkan Peninsula dominant powers found when fought to conquer it.

## **KTM establishes liaisons within KFOR and Kosovo community**

KTM established liaisons with the majority of the local leaders; exceptions were made with the Srbica/Skenderaj mayor, by D&G of MNTF - N Commander. KFOR troops established an outstanding cooperative relationship with the Schools and Health directors Mr. Jashar Lushtaku, and Dr. Nazif Goxhult respectively, which highlight its municipality main shortfalls and problems.

They were not concerned with Srbica/Skenderaj itself, because we could see, in loco, that the upper town is developing very well. Their concerns are oriented for the surrounding areas to and from which accesses are very hard and done throughout narrow roads without any asphalt. Inside of Srbica/Skenderaj municipality, one of the poorest areas according to the Liaison and Monitoring Team (LMT), there is a valley that starts in the village of Rudnik/Runik and

went south to the village of Turicevac/ Turiçeve. It is a region with a very high rate of unemployed people and where there is not enough electricity voltage for domestic use.

## **Providing the population with scholar and medicine material**

TF MIKE, through foot patrols, local needs assessment, and with the intention of improving KFOR image, delivered medicine at Rudnik/Runik health center. Also in Rudnik/Runik, KTM proposed to finance the set up of the local school doors. The project is waiting for KFOR approval. Keep going south, in the same valley, we found Kalodernice/Kladernica village, where the children walk an average of 30 minutes to go to school each day, independently of the weather conditions. At this village school we delivered a set of scholar materials, which were the joy of teachers and students during day time and their parents at night when they arrived at home.

Also in the small village of Turicevac/Turiçeve the name of the KTM will not be forgotten, because a considerable amount of medicines were distributed in the local health center, which will contribute to relief the pain of the neediest families.

At the village of Oucarevo/Aqarev there is a goat's path implanted in craggy cliffs, in which there is no protection against the mountain winds. Last winter a child drowned from slipping and falling into the Klina River, which runs one hundred meters

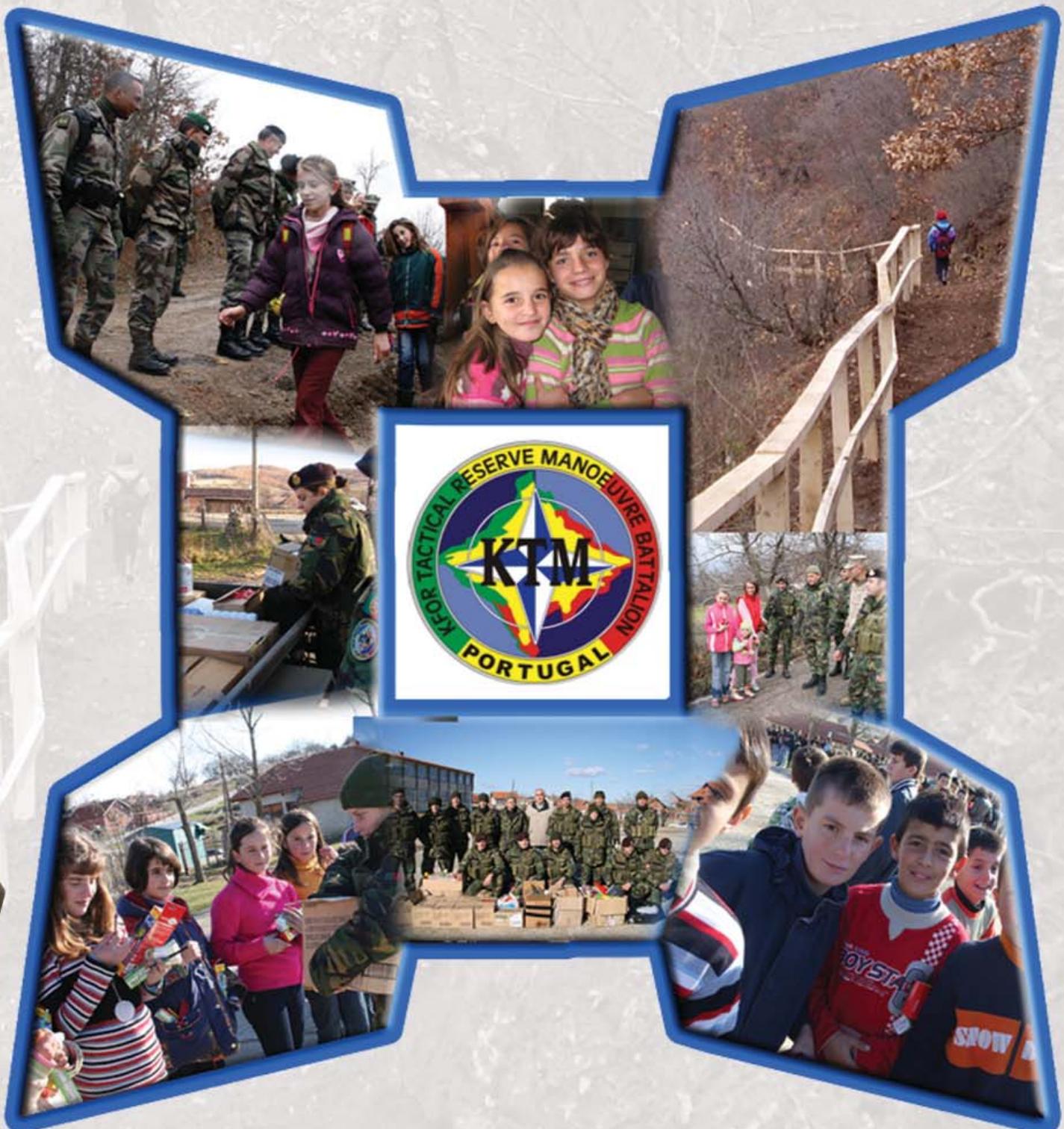


# CIMIC ACTIVITY

above. Children use this path everyday in their way to school. Facing this situation, TF MIKE, in coordination with MNTF - N CIMIC team, got the Money to finance the materials and with lots of hard work of its Engineer Team, built up the "Great China Wall", an expression used by MNTF - N Commander to classified the work, when he visited the wood fence. The access has become much more safe for the Aqalev school students and for all the people that go through it. For the moment KTM has performed the following CIMIC

actions: distribution of medicine and scholar material in three health centres and four schools respectively, built up a path protection fence in an extension of approximately 3 kilometres.

KTM personnel keep working with breath and stamina in CIMIC actions, either with its own materials, brought from Portugal, or by submitting projects to the KFOR HQ J9, always having in mind improving KFOR image and acceptance within the Kosovo Theatre of Operations.





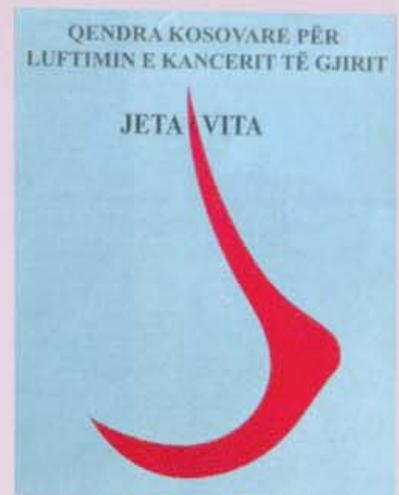
# A New Chance

*Text by Lt. Col. Elisabeth A. Decker, US Army  
Photos by Armend Aqifi*

When the clock struck midnight on 31 December it brought more than the New Year, it brought hope to the women of Kosovo. Personnel assigned to Film City gathered at the Norwegian NSE to celebrate the New Year. In exchange for a donation, personnel were given an exemption card allowing them to attend the event in civilian clothes. As a result, they collected €757 for JETA/VITA, a local NGO. The money was presented by CAPT Sven Andresen (DEU-N) and LTC Svein Amundsen (NOR-F) to Nafije Latifi and Besa Selemi from JETA/VITA. The money will be used to increase breast cancer awareness.

JETA/VITA, which means "life", is an organization founded in 2005 to support women's health issues in Kosovo. It was started by Nafije Latifi and Vera Lumi-Shala as a "small step to help other women". Their main goals from the beginning have been to inform women about breast cancer and to

increase the survival rates of women after diagnosis. One of the problems they face is that most women are not aware of the importance of doing self-breast exams. JETA/VITA produced and distributed 20,000 copies of a colour brochure discussing self-breast exams, breast cancer screening, diagnosis and treatment. They strive to erase the taboos of talking about cancer. They have organized workshops and conferences to bring women together to talk about their experiences with the disease and the problems they had to overcome. One of the basic problems is the limited availability of mammogram facilities and doctors. It is estimated that there are only three reliable mammogram machines in Kosovo. This is one reason women in Kosovo are diagnosed with more advanced stages of breast cancer which are more difficult to treat. JETA/VITA is developing a plan for a mobile mammography unit to travel around the country to provide screening. Once a woman is diagnosed the next obstacle is obtaining treatment. The two options available are expensive private



# for "Life"

clinics or going to another country for care. JETA/VITA's long term goal is to bring the medical specialists together to form a treatment team to provide comprehensive care for all women in Kosovo.

JETA/VITA receives phone calls almost daily from women seeking help. With limited resources, they can only offer information and emotional support but they hope to expand their services in the future. Ms. Latifi thanked KFOR for the donation and especially for the support given to the women of Kosovo.





# Joys of winter

*Text and photos by  
Capt. Anna Darabos Tabi,  
Deputy Chief of PAO MNTF-W*



It happened, one Sunday afternoon, in January, in the Villaggio Italia camp. Deep silence was everywhere, and the landscape was covered with thick snow, but suddenly the uproar of laughter disturbed the immobile calmness.

Fitting themselves with snow-shovels and wearing warm clothes, many soldiers with different nationalities arrived at the Radio West building, where they found themselves in the middle of a feverish activity. The Multinational Task-Force West (MNTF-W), Public Affairs Office and the Radio West personnel, as organizers, received the participants of the Big Snowman Building Competition, and welcomed them with warm tea and lot of cakes.

It must seem unusual, in a military camp, for the personnel to accept a challenges in snowman building activity, but the huge amounts of snow that has fallen in the preveous days, aroused everybody's soul. The so called dormant child-life feeling. The idea of this funny competition came from the snow exemption of the camp, there were many witty and wittier creations, naturally made of snow.

Many snowmen were presented in the "Villaggio Italia". Each unit, independently of nationality, prepared its own personal "snow-friend", in front of the barracks. You can see the comic side of this situation, at this period, it was possible to find more snowmen than soldiers in the barrack. We immediately found the new unit of MNTF-W, the so called MSSU. This abbreviation stands for "Multinational Special Snowmen Unit", equipped with only one type of light "weapon": with brooms.

During the competition, the rules of engagement were very simple. With the total strength of ten, man and women combined groups; every team had to create, within two hours, a kind of snow monument, using accessories that they wanted.

At the beginning, it was alredy possible to see that the competition was not a real competition. Everybody helped everybody. The jury members forgot all about their roles, quickly got rid of the pen and the paper, and with full enthusiasm they went for construction. Without bias against the



jury's president, Major Pietro Piccirilli, but as it would have helped the Italian's team, in a little bit more enthusiastic way.

The boys and girls shoveled, condensed, trampled and watered the snow jointly, and beside this it afforded them great pleasure to strew it into each other's neck. It is necessary to admit it was not possible to identify what would be the final result of the joint effort for a long time, but finally each monument was silhouetted. The two most remarkable teams were presented by the Italians and the Slovenians.

The last mentioned team constructed an Egyptian pyramid, and the Italian group, a female dancer, that was rather plain. What's more! She was so foul faced (it is my opinion only) that it was impossible not to like her.

After two hours, the participants got together in order to take a family photo. Everybody who wasn't starved yet, and didn't die of exposure, drank and ate cakes. However, we wanted, but couldn't, declare a winner, because the ceremony was interrupted by a very hard, agony, impassioned and "cruel" but very amusing snowballs battle. About the mood of the competition, and the different kinds of masterpieces that were born, let the photos taken, tell the story. Although the snow has already melted, and by this time, there are no traces of the snow sculptures, I hope that everybody who took part in the event, will preserve the memory of that afternoon.





# MEDEVAC EXERCISE ON NEW

*Text and photos by Lt. Col. Volodymyr Kolesnyk,  
Press Officer of Ukrainian Contingent in Kosovo*

On December 30, 2008, despite the New Year and Orthodox Christmas holidays to come, the Ukrainian peacekeepers from Polish-Ukrainian Battalion "POLUKRBAT" within the Multinational Task Force "East" conducted planned exercise of the evacuation of the KFOR soldiers, conditionally injured in the traffic accident which happened in the Ukrainian contingent area of responsibility. This exercise summarized the Ukrainian peacekeepers' trainings with using the American helicopters "Black Hawk" and has been conducted in the conditions maximally close to the reality.

The personnel of the 1st special company under the command of Captain Alexander Lesnoy and the medical service of the Ukrainian peacekeeping contingent under the command of Major Mikola Nazarchuk as well as local police representatives were involved in the training. The soldiers from the Polish contingent played the role of the KFOR servicemen injured in the traffic accident.

So, the exercise has started... Patrolling according to the appointed route the area of responsibility, the patrol, headed by the 2nd special platoon's commander 2nd Lieutenant Alexander Legchanov, discovered a traffic accident involving a bus of Polish soldiers with different kinds of injuries.

Having evaluated the situation, the patrol commander immediately reported the accident to the Camp "Breza"

duty officer, then informed the local police and ordered the helicopter for the hard injured soldiers' evacuation. Having arranged the protection of the accident spot, he organized the first aid to the wounded. It is necessary to add that at the time of the previous trainings with the participation of American instructors, which took place on Camp "Bondsteel", the Ukrainian soldiers received first aid skills and worked out the evacuation of the injured personnel by helicopters as well as all the procedures connected with airlift.

And we can not forget to mention the essential roles in such cases played by the Camp "Breza" as well as Camp "Bondsteel" duty officers. They must work perfectly because all the information goes through them and the time for taking the decisions depends on their impeccable job.

The duty officers did their best, and within minutes the Humvee with the Ukrainian contingent medical personnel, and the local police patrol came to the spot.

2nd Lieutenant Alexander Legchanov ordered the subordinates to prepare the landing zone for the helicopter. The Ukrainian soldiers quickly found the zone and marked it with smoke, giving the signal to the helicopter's crew when approaching.

After the landing, the American helicopter's crew along with Ukrainian servicemen immediately started to download three "heavy injured". The rest of the wounded were transported by medical cars. That marked the end of the exercise.



# YEAR'S EVE

We absolutely have to mention the perfect artistic skills of the Polish soldiers who played very realistic roles of the injured, and a great job to the American officer who professionally made them up and provided realism to the "artificially made" traffic accident.

Having summarized the results of the exercise, the Ukrainian contingent's Commander Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Komisarov thanked everybody for their job and stressed: "In those conditions, when the medical evacuation is being done by helicopters, it is very important to have mutual understanding and coordination between the rotary-wing aircraft crew, medical personnel, and the servicemen involved. That is why I estimate this exercise was extremely important from the point of view of the Ukrainian peacekeeper's preparation for execution of their tasks".





# HELLENIC BATTALION INTRODUCTION

*Text and photos by  
Lt. Georgios Athanasiou,  
HELBAT CIMIC Officer*

On November 12, 2008, the rotation of the Hellenic Battalion (HELBAT) completed successfully and the newcomers began their mandate in Kosovo. The 645 Mech. Inf. BN is stationed at "Alexander the Great" compound in southern Mitrovica and is subordinated to Multinational Task Force North. A fully-manned, well-equipped and well-trained contingent, 645 Btn is already performing its tasks under KFOR rules, directives and orders, in order to maintain a safe and secure environment in its area of responsibility.

Serving in a peacekeeping mission abroad and particularly in Mitrovica, is a very special "training" and a new experience for many Greek professional soldiers. Manned with personnel from various branches as well, this casts a special dimension on the Btn, however, the mission itself and the security overrules all wishful thinking in the barracks, consequently, there's a harmonic internal cooperation. Each one adds his own experience on the wider mission.

According to the HELBAT Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Ioannis Ioannidis, "the safety of the personnel is our first priority, but we are here to help MNTF-N to bring stability and peace in our AOR". Life in the barracks can be frustrating some times but daily activities keep the soldiers busy. The objective requires the development of special capabilities; consequently, daily training is priority number one for both COM and officers.

On the one hand, there's CRC training, check-points, day & night patrols, guard duties, all these add a burden on one's shoulder. "Staying alert" keeps us busy, says COM/HELBAT and he makes sure that his soldiers perform their duties in a perfect manner. 645 Btn organizes also humanitarian assistance to local civilians according to its capabilities and assets. This CIMIC activity contributes to the best possible extent to the development of peaceful relationships between 645 Btn and the locals in its AOR. On the other hand, there's a lot to do in leisure time. After his duties, the Greek professional soldier can rest, have a coffee, chat with his comrades, watch TV, go to the gym, play basketball and surf the Internet. As most people are aware, Greek "imagination" coins many outlets and it's hardly a problem for a Greek soldier to wind down after a long day. Singing, eating and drinking, dancing, watching football (very popular indeed) are natural amongst personnel and boredom stays out of the camp!

One has to confess that being away from his family is painful and Kosovo-life entails the same thing, that's why contact with loved ones is as much easier through telephone calls, internet, and leaves during the 6-month mandate.

The 645 BN has already been embedded into MNTF-N's life and is already a factor of stability in the region, and performs its tasks responsibly. So, why not pay a visit? Everybody is welcome to enjoy a Greek afternoon at "Alexandros the Great", would you join us?







# With love and care donated from the





# The men and women of the USNIC

*Text and photos by MSgt. Dan Ingrassia, USNIC*

SSgt Matthew Vanderhorst, a U.S. Security Forces member assigned to the USNIC, Film City Kosovo has always had a passion for reaching out to less fortunate children. At his home station, Wright Paterson AFB, OH in the United States, he is an advocate for the Ronald McDonald House. The Ronald McDonald House, affiliate of the famous McDonald's food chain, is a home where the parents of children that are in nearby hospitals can stay at night for reduced or no cost. This inspired him to get involved with helping the local children of The Downs Syndrome Association of Kosovo.

This is not the first charitable event USNIC personnel have been involved with assisting the children of Kosovo. Earlier in December, SrA Tiara Watson organized a visit to a children's orphanage and deliver 10 boxes of goodies and personal care items. So it was no surprise to see how eager USNIC personnel were to help when he proposed the idea to purchase physical rehabilitation equipment for children suffering from Downs Syndrome here in Kosovo. A goal was set to raise 200 Euro by Christmas to purchase two stationary bicycles and donate them to the children. With the assistance and donations of USNIC personnel that mark was easily reached. On 19 December, at the center for Down Syndrome Kosovo (DSK) in Pristina, the stationary bicycles were donated to The Downs Syndrome Association of Kosovo with small plates reading "With love and care donated from the men and women of the USNIC."

SSgt Vanderhorst was happy with team work of the USNIC personnel: "Everyone assigned to the USNIC made this possible. I'm glad we had the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of the children both at the Orphanage and the Downs Syndrome Association."





# MNTF(C) helps the fire fight

*Story by Sr. Lt. Mika Väisänen, Finnish Contingent PIO  
Photos by Sgt. Declan Sheridan and  
Coy Sgt. Tony Grehan, MNTF C LMT5*

Last November Sgt Declan Sheridan and colleague Company Sergeant Tony Grehan from the Irish Liaison and Monitoring Team (LMT) for KFOR's Multi National Task Force Center, while on patrol, visited Lipljan fire station to liaise with the staff as part of daily LMT routine. This visit would prove significant, in that it identified some major equipment deficiencies in the fire station.

Sgt Sheridan and Coy Sgt Grehan were kindly invited to take a tour of the fire station by the Station Commander Mr. Agim Bylykbashi. Both Sgt Sheridan and Coy Sgt Grehan were extremely impressed by the commitment and professionalism of the fire fighters.

As a result of this initial meeting Sgt Sheridan and Coy Sgt Grehan were anxious to assist the fire brigade in any way that they could. They immediately submitted a report to their superiors at MNTF(C) and were given permission to liaise with their Finnish colleagues in the MNTF(C) Fire Service, in order to ascertain if they could offer any





# Members of Lipljan to put out fires



assistance or advice. A plan was drawn up supported by the deputy Task Force Commander Col Andrew Kilfeather, resulting in the donation of surplus fire fighting equipment valued at EUR 18,000 from the Finnish Contingent (FINCON) to Lipljan Fire Service. The equipment consisted of two water pumps, one air compressor, hoses and hose connectors, one chain saw, hose nozzles and safety ropes. In addition to the equipment outlined MNTF(C) also decided that it would provide RTA training and scene safety procedures training for members of the Lipljan Fire Service in the near future.

The donation was conducted on 17th December 2008 by the Finnish Contingent (FINCON) and the CIMIC team from MNTF(C). Chief of the Fire Department Mr. Haqif Rustemi warmly thanked each and everyone involved for donating the equipment. He noted:

"I welcome the new development of up coming training with MNTF(C) fire service personnel due to take place early in the new year. The budget for the fire service is only ten thousand five hundred euro per year, and of this, approximately three thousand euro is spent on insurance and maintenance of vehicles. This donation will be a huge benefit to the fire service and to the population in general."

The members of the Lipljan Fire Service were very happy and extremely grateful for this donation. The LMT team also noted the excellent professionalism shown by the MNTF(C) Fire Service in offering their services to train the Fire Service of Lipljan. The fire fighters in Lipljan Fire Service have stated that they will look forward to the training days with their Finnish colleagues and will supply as many staff as possible for this training.

# Determined to Turkish troops



*Text by Lieutenant Ercan Onaricilar*

The mission of the Turkish Battalion Task Force (TBTF) is to execute peace support operations, provide a safe and secure environment, support activities of international organizations, synchronize CIMIC activities and protect Turkish national benefits.

The Turkish Republic, has been participating in peacekeeping operations throughout the world including the Korean War, and others such as in the Balkans, Afghanistan, and Lebanon. The command took over the Multinational Task Force South (MNTF S), KFOR, NATO in May 29, 2007 for a one-year term.

Towards this aim, it is with honor and pride that the Turkish troops serve to support Kosovo's peace, security and stability. While carrying out the peacekeeping mission of the Turkish Battalion Task Force's area of responsibility, within their capabilities, try to accelerate their efforts of humanitarian assistance, which are being carried out with the aim of increasing the living standards of the people of Kosovo, respectively.

As for the humanitarian aid aspect, Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) projects are being carried out by means of two main channels in MNTF S, namely multinational, and national until

February 2009. Multinational CIMIC projects mainly concentrates on engineering, which include road-building/maintenance and sewage system projects.

National CIMIC projects are mostly school maintenance projects. Last year there was a wide spectrum of maintenance and repair work in different primary schools, along





# keep the peace

## Troops in KFOR



with similar maintenance projects for children in some other schools and institutions the openings of playgrounds, sports centres, etc. A health scope, medical care and treatments were more emphasized. In Addition to these activities, food and clothes donations were delivered to the desitae families, and in the cold seasons wood and stoves were distributed in many districts.

Turkey's introduction and cultural cooperation, contributed to youth progress. Language courses in Turkish, Albanian, German, and English, as well as mathematics, handicraft, wood and cloth painting courses were opened in Youth Culture and Sport Centers in Dragash and Prizren.

As Turkish Contingent and Turkish Battalion Task Force, their efforts to support the people of Kosovo will continue to cover all municipalities and all people. The Kosovo Turkish Battalion Task Force is and always will be with the independent Kosovo people. From the perspective of Civil Military Cooperation of Turkish Troops the donations and assistance will continue for the friendship of the People of Kosovo.





# "Stefaniritt"

## Austrian Soldiers Practice Work

*Story by Capt. Pierre Kugelweis, Austrian Army*

*Photos by OR-6 Kurt Reinisch*

On "Stefanitag" (St. Stephen's Day), two maneuver companies of the Dulje Battalion moved out and into the largest town in the Austrian sector of responsibility to practice civilian riot control.

Major (OF-3) Karl Heinz Tatschl, Deputy Commander of the Austrian Battalion Task Force, explains the background: "Our task is to preserve a safe and secure environment for all inhabitants in the Austrian sector. This also includes thorough protection of diverse minorities and cultural assets. The violent unrest a few years ago was a clear indication that we must be prepared for all contingencies. For us as a professional Austrian formation it is natural to deal intensively with all conceivable threat scenarios. That is why we conduct our practice in the large town of Orahovac-Rahovec - in a location where

those minorities actually live together in one and the same place. In order to avoid confusing the local population with the sudden appearance of our soldiers, we notify the inhabitants of our exercises far in advance. At the same time, everyone can get a convincing look at the capabilities and efficiency of the KFOR soldiers." Major (OF-3) Reinhard Bacher, the officer responsible for planning this exercise, provides some details: "Exercise 'Stefaniritt' (St. Stephen's Ride) was based from the start on the lessons learned over

the past years. That is why the alert was given while the maneuver companies where still conducting actual current operations - which naturally were continued throughout the





# "t" in KOSOVO

## First Case Scenario at Christmas

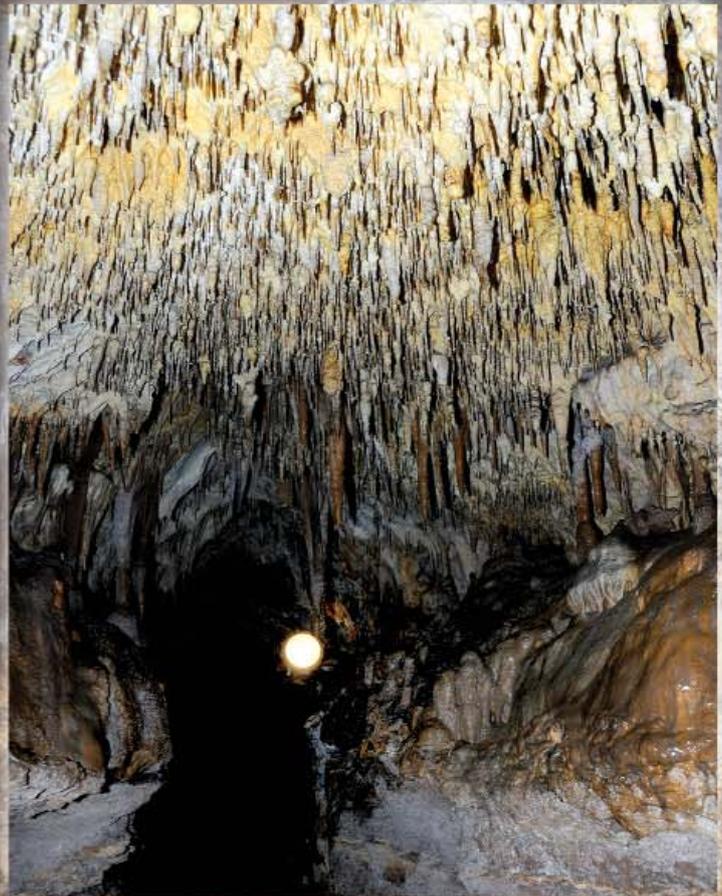
entire exercise. As a result, it became at first necessary for the maneuver companies to move quickly into the faraway waiting positions to remain in readiness there. Thus it was subsequently possible to become effective in the so-called 'hot spots'. They are those points where the residential areas of minorities come in contact with the homes of the town's majority. When people get threatened, KFOR intervenes to prevent further violence. An essential step towards prevention of violence is the activation of a cleverly thought-out protection wall, which prevents the conflicting parties from a clash in the first place. The important thing in this whole matter is that all protection forces reach the location in time to be able to become fully effective. The numerous preceding exercises fully paid off: Everyone was there in time in the hot zones." Captain (OF-2) Joachim Zmugg, deputy commanding officer of the company deployed, describes his

impressions: "Sudden moving-out is a necessary routine for us professionals, but the customary excessive traffic on the roads demanded optimum flexibility. As a result, it was only thanks to our familiarity with the local geography that we succeeded in penetrating the winding and narrow streets. There we met with a confusing labyrinth of alleyways in which we quickly managed to set the necessary measures in place to protect the population. That was not always easy, but thanks to the intensive rehearsal we were able to achieve it without difficulty."





It is better to see it once t





# than hear about it 100 times

*Story by Captain Valerii Petrushka, Ukrainian Army  
Photos by Major Oleksii Morozov, Ukrainian Army*

If you were in Kosovo, you know that Kosovo has a lot of beautiful places such as Rugova Valley, Tito's bunker, Mirusa Waterfall, different kinds of Monasteries, nice lakes, etc. If you also want to have good rest, you should go to the Gadime Cave. It is a really interesting place in Kosovo. This is the only tourist cave, open to the public. It became a site to visit in 1974 after a large amount of debris was removed. The Marble Cave is situated about 20 kilometers south of the capital of Pristina/Prishtine, in the hill of Murtur, in the valley of River Klysyra. The river flows through the village of Gadimlje/Gadime, and by the higher hill, Gadime, situated there. Both hills are composed basically of the old Paleozoic marbles that can be found only on the eastern edges of the Kosovo valley. These marbles are covered with volcanic lava and tuffs dating back from the time of the formation of the Kosovo valley. Later on, the whole region was over flown by the Kosovo Lake that has withdrawn lately.

The cave was discovered by Ahmet Diti while he was doing some work nearby his house in 1969. It was explored during 1970s by speleological teams from Yugoslavia, but large parts of this cave are still unexplored because many passages are blocked from river deposits.

The Gadime Cave was made by the underground river that flowed through the Murtur Hill before the Klysyra River made its valley. This was the time that preceded the existence of the lake in the Kosovo Valley.

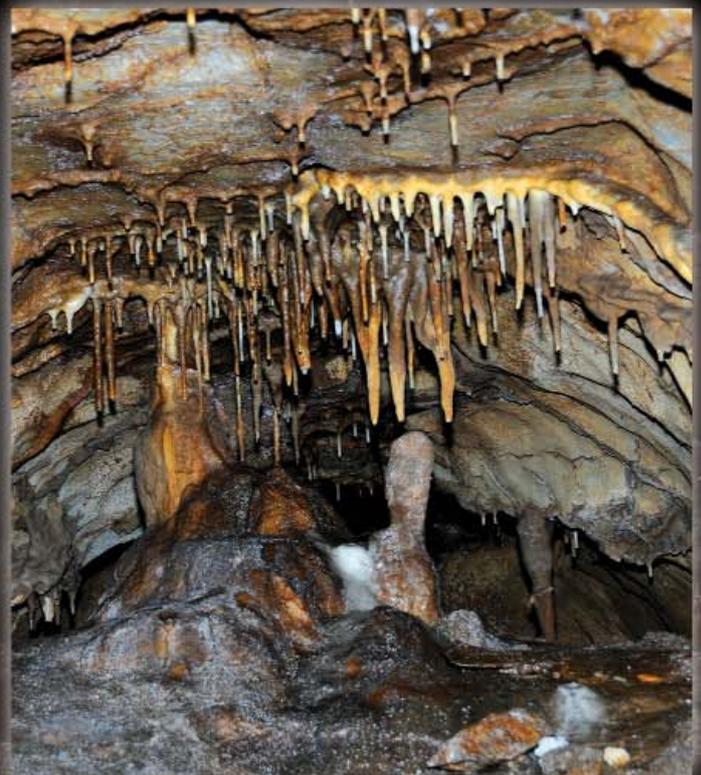
Later on, the cave was stuffed with clay, and only after the River Klysyra cut a path, the cave entrances were rediscovered. However, by its appearance in marble and richness in the marble ornaments, the cave represents a unique

speleological discovery.

The Gadime Cave is unique with its dimensions, richness and mineral sediment variety; it is well equipped for visiting. This cave contains a quantity of large galleries. It has three natural entrances situated at 576, 582 and 584 meters above sea level, and only six-10 meters from the river bed. It has been named because of the marble rocks of different colors and various patterns in which it is made. It is separated in three galleries: western, northern and eastern gallery.

The cave is about 1,500 meters long, but the tourist part is around 500 meters long. Characteristics for this cave are the aragonite formations, and marble blocks of stone from which it takes the name, and it is very well decorated all over.

Once you visit the inside of the Marble Cave, you will wish to go back again. It is a beautiful natural treasure.





# The Change of Command in Moroccan Contingent

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

On the 22nd of December 2008 at 10H45, Lieutenant Colonel Abdlmjid Chazi replaced Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Allaoui as Moroccan contingent Commander.

The Ceremony was presided over by Brigadier General Michel Yakovleff, Multinational Task Force North Commander, and Brigadier General Noureddine Lahkim from the Moroccan Army. It took place at the military airport of Pristina.

Before the beginning of the ceremony General Lahkim was convivially welcomed by MNTF-N commander in the airport and the two authorities had a warm discussion around a typical Moroccan cup of tea.

Having received the report from the outgoing commander the two Generals inspected the parade, rendering homage to the troops. In his speech, General Michel Yakovleff stressed: "In the moment of your first section's departure accompanying Lieutenant Colonel Allaoui, I want to express my very big satisfaction at the end of your mission. I had the honour to command you, and I can attest of the high quality of your services. By your discipline, your indestructible loyalty, your sense of the mission, you have honoured the Royal Armed Forces and your great nation". Expressing his gratitude to the outgoing soldiers MNTF North Commander



stated: "I greet you all now as you are going back home. I know that other missions are waiting for you there. I do not doubt that you will fulfil them with so much efficiency as those you have fulfilled here. I am happy that you will meet your families, all your nearest and dearest ones, and your beautiful country. Good journey to each one of you".

From his side, the Moroccan committee chairman Brigadier General Lahkim after thanking General Yakovleff of his trust and friendly words took over the MORBAT flag from Lieutenant Colonel Allaoui and handed it over to Lieutenant Colonel Chazi signifying the change of command.

The new MORBAT commander is an infantry man who was born in Casablanca on March 23th 1962. He graduated from the Royal Military Academy on 1986 and has served during his carrier in different wheeled



and mechanized units in Morocco. He got his Army Staff College's certificate on 1998 and the Command staff college on 2003. On 2007, he graduated from the NATO Defence College in Rome. He is married and father of 2 charming boys.



**Name:** Esen Aydinsakir**Rank:** OR-6**Nationality:** Turkish**Home Unit:** Gendarmerie Region Command-Turkey**Unit in KFOR:** Tu Army-CIMIC Team

**About the mission:** This is my second mission abroad, but my first time in Kosovo. My first mission was in Afghanistan (ISAF) in 2008. Having served overseas with CIMIC in Afghanistan, I found the Balkans was an opportunity to undertake a very different operational tour. This was a good opportunity for me to see how life in Kosovo really is. I am acting as a member of Turkish CIMIC Team. My job is to cooperate the relations between civil and military units. I have received a lot of experience because I work in a multinational environment, and we do our job like one team. My colleagues are very kind and helpful, and what is most important is that we can really have a good laugh together. I am sure that at the end of this mission I will have gained both professional experiences and good friends equally.

**Family reaction:** My family is very supportive and understand the importance of what I'm doing. That really helps me to focus on the mission here and not worry about how things are going back home. I am sure they will continue to support me when I return to my country.

**Plans after mission:** I hope that I will be with my family as soon as possible. Then I will relax together with them. I am planning to tell them my entire story in Kosovo. With my military career on the one hand, I am planning to get my Ph.D. degree in Turkey. I am aware that I have to study hard to do that. On the other hand, there may be marriage plans after this mission.

**Name:** Toni Sundell**Rank:** Corporal**Nationality:** Finnish**Home Unit:** Finnish Police forces**Unit in KFOR:** MNTF (C) FINCON/A-COY/ HQ-PLT

**About the mission:** This is my fourth deployment abroad and second in Kosovo. My previous missions have been in Lebanon 2000, Kosovo 2003, Lebanon 2006 and now once again in Kosovo. So far I have served more than three years of peacekeeping operations in these parts of the world, and I guess this operation won't be the last either. I think that one of the main reasons why I keep applying again and again to these missions is the comradeship amongst the soldiers, in both the national and multinational camps. I'm also looking forward to spending the summer in Kosovo because the heat is really quite something for a northern guy like me.



**Family Reaction:** I'm engaged to be married, and of course my fiancée and my relatives hope for my safe return after the mission. Anyway, at this point it's quite easy to serve abroad since we don't have any kids back home to support and look after. I guess I'm lucky because my family fully supports me and understands how important these peacekeeping operations are to me.

**Plans after the mission:** Back home I earn my living as a policeman. But before I go back to work behind my desk, I would like to have a holiday. The plan is that when my mission here is over I'll pack my things up and head to Thailand for four weeks, practicing my dear hobby, scuba diving. After the holiday and maybe in a couple of years in Finland, I might apply again, but that's another story.

**Name:** Cédric KIRSCH**Rank:** Corporal**Nationality:** Luxembourgian**Home Unit:** Delta Coy (Recce), Luxembourgian Army**Unit in KFOR:** MNTF-N HQ

**About the mission:** I joined the Luxembourgian Army in 2002. This is my second time here in Kosovo. The first time, in 2002, I was a driver in the Luxembourgian Recce Platoon. I worked together with the Belgians in Nothing Hill camp. This time, I serve as a team leader. Delta Coy (Recce) is based in Novo Selo and we work closely together with the French. New camp, new mission, new people, but I'm sure of one thing that our mission is important. Every day I see things getting better in places I've seen 6 years ago.

**Family reaction:** I think it became routine for my family because it is not the first time I have been in Kosovo, and my brother is in the Army also.

**Plans after the mission:** I will have a little rest, and spend time with my family and friends.



# Film City

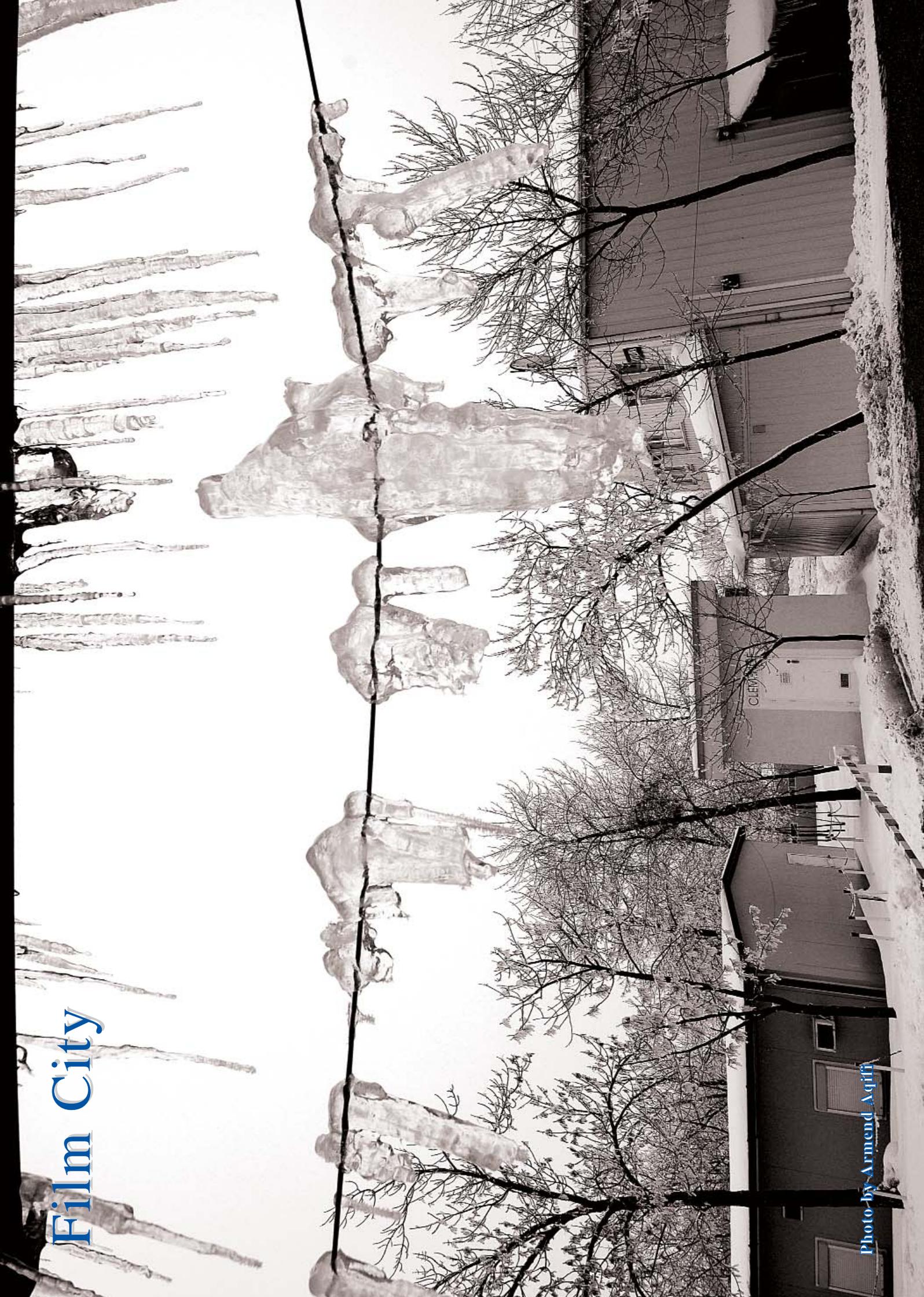


Photo by Armend Agifi