

KFOR CHRONICLE



11th Edition

December 7th 2009



THE BEST THING WE CAN DO HERE



The General Officer's Perspective

On 7 August 2009, KFOR achieved a historical milestone when we transitioned from Focused Engagement to Deterrent Presence. During this critical phase of operations, the Operations Division would like to emphasize how Deterrent Presence will affect the KFOR soldiers on the ground and what should be expected of them. It is important to emphasize to all soldiers from all Task Forces how their actions can be decisive for the success of KFOR.

The main challenge of Deterrent Presence will be the significant adaptation of our force structure which keeps our core capabilities intact while reducing the number of forces and maintaining the same level of the Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) throughout Kosovo. Deterrent Presence is the most ambitious phase for KFOR since 1999 due to the necessity of coordinating the activities of all stakeholders including our international partners, the Institutions in Kosovo and the local civilian populace. Each officer, NCO and soldier from the Task Forces and Film City HQ are critical components to achieve the desired goals and wishes of our nations represented in SHAPE.

Over the upcoming months, the Task Forces and then the BGs will participate in a number of joint exercises and operations throughout the KFOR AOR. The goal of the joints exercises will be to enhance cooperation between EULEX and Kosovo Police. This ability will become increasingly important as KFOR continues its progressive process of unfixing troops. Additionally, KFOR personnel can expect to participate in Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) exercises which could involve Tactical Reserves (TACRES) in order to preserve our capacity to intervene against any threat jeopardizing the SASE.

KFOR soldiers would expect to receive some comrades from the Operational reserve Force (ORF) deployed for a training period IOT enhance KFOR determination and capacity to reinforce our layout whenever and wherever required under COMKFOR authority.

High visibility visits can be expected in order to highlight the many KFOR accomplishments in Kosovo. These VIP visits are essentials in supporting COM KFOR's goal of obtaining approval from the Northern Atlantic Council (NAC) to begin transition through the Deterrent Presence process and to move forward.

Success in Deterrent Presence will depend on the cohesion and the will of a team - a team built from 10 years of hard work in difficult conditions - Team KFOR. It is only through this team's determination and professionalism that KFOR can hope to fuse the efforts of our international partners to achieve success in Deterrent Presence.



*Brigadier General Leonard Philippe
French Army
Deputy Chief of Staff Operations*





Unity is worth it!

When you read these lines, in many KFOR nations, people have started the time of Advent, a time of reflection and a time of preparation for Christmas. For many it is a wonderful time of the year – family reunion is in sight, delicious food is being cooked and candles are being placed on Christmas trees as a symbol for the light of life that is about to come and join our common human lot.

Soldiers in particular are aware of the costs of their duty when they are away from their beloved ones during this special time of the year. They agree to inconvenience, to discipline and to abdication while others fully enjoy their life. Though, each person's life being secured, each day without violence is worth the mission to Kosovo. Peace in general is a sign for what Christmas is about. Constructive deeds and a faithful heart are not contradictory, not in the Christian, not the Muslim nor in any other faith.

In this respect it is time to say that NATO's mission to Kosovo really is a success! Based on the personal attendance of men and women from all KFOR nations, based on the conviction of different societies and their parliaments, the will to peace is being conducted and has succeeded where violence and ethnic denegation devastated the region ten years prior. Not only the people of Kosovo have benefited from the KFOR but also the participating nations and their soldiers. The great experience has a lot to do with Advent: the mutual effort and decisiveness of the many and the different have led to peace and improvement of living conditions for the people of Kosovo.

A shared vision for life has been the basis for peaceful development. In the Villaggio Italia, every visitor is welcomed by a deep and challenging truth. Written on a wall we read: pace per l'unita. Peace will grow by unity.

Obviously, for our mission, it was essential to focus on uniting beliefs, and interests for a common benefit. Unity is hard-earned and not always pleasant. It challenges the individual and the many by the need for compromise. However it's worth it. Peace is worth it, wiped-off tears are worth it, physical and mental integrity of human beings are worth it.

Every single beam from the light of life, that shines on us is worth it. May you and your families and the people we commonly serve experience a comforting, encouraging time of Advent! May peace grow by the common decisiveness to unity!



*Military Dean Peter Schmidt
Coordinating Chaplain KFOR*

Peter Schmidt serves as Coordinating Chaplain KFOR (DEU) since Sept. 10th 2009. Ordained in 1992 he worked in the USA and for different churches in Germany. His emphasis has been on pastoral care, worship services and conduct. Since 2007 he is head of the department of protestant military chaplaincy in Bonn at the first site of the Ministry of Defense. He is married to Verena Schmidt-Wittmann, professional violinist and singer. They have two sons, David (12) and Valentin (9).

Commander KFOR

Lt. Gen. Markus Bentler, DEU Army

Chief Public Affairs Office

Col. Manfred Wittig, DEU Air Force

Chief Internal Information & Editor

Maj. Andreas Brückner, AUT Army

Contributing Editor

Captain Martin Wieland, AUT Army

Journalist

Lt. Col. Serhiy Panchenko, UKR Army

Webmaster

OR-5 Mejia Ezrick, U.S. Air Force

Photographer and Design

Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu

E-mail & web:

kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int
www.nato.int/kfor

The KFOR Chronicle is produced and fully funded by HQ KFOR. It is published for KFOR forces in the area of responsibility.

The contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the coalition governments' defense departments.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Internal Information Section of HQ KFOR's Public Affairs Office (PAO) in Pristina, Kosovo.

PAO HQ KFOR

reserves the right to edit content to conform to style and space requirements. Articles run on a space-available basis.

The KFOR Chronicle is printed by RASTER
Tel: 038 601 606

Nations within KFOR:

NATO Nations

Belgium	Lithuania
Bulgaria	Luxembourg
Canada	Netherlands
Croatia	Norway
Czech Republic	Poland
Denmark	Portugal
Estonia	Romania
France	Slovakia
Germany	Slovenia
Greece	Turkey
Hungary	United Kingdom
Italy	United States

Non-NATO Nations

Armenia	Morocco
Austria	Sweden
Finland	Switzerland
Ireland	Ukraine



MOVING F

Photos by OR-5 Stefanie Willuweit, German Army, and OR-4 Maxime Phaine, French Army



November 05, 2009

COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, greeted the Catholic Bishop of the Federal Armed Forces of Germany, Walter Mixa. During the meeting issues concerning religious situations in Kosovo were discussed.

November 05, 2009

The Kosovo Force Commander welcomed President of the Assembly, of the Islamic Community of Kosovo, Xhabir Hamiti. During the meeting both sides discussed issues of tolerance between all the religious communities of Kosovo.



November 05, 2009

Lieutenant General Markus Bentler greeted Deputy Commander-in-Chief of the Ukrainian Land Forces, Lieutenant General Anatoly Pushniakov. Lieutenant General Anatoly Pushniakov discussed the current situation in Kosovo and issues relating to Ukraine's contribution in KFOR.



November 10, 2009

Commander Joint Forces Command Naples, Admiral Mark Fitzgerald discussed the update of the security situation with COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, during his inspection to the Multinational Task Force North.



November 10, 2009

Lieutenant General Markus Bentler invited a delegation of representatives of leading international organizations in Kosovo. With Head of Mission International Civilian Office/European Union Special Representative Mr. Pieter Feith, Special Representative, to the United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Lamberto Zannier, Head of Mission EULEX, Mr. Yves de Kermabon and Head of Mission OSCE Mr. Werner Almhofer, discussed the issues concerning cooperation with local law enforcement organizations.



November 12, 2009

COM KFOR welcomed Turkish Military Representative to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, Major General Atilla Grdere. During the meeting, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler explained the event-driven transition process to and through the future force reduction.

November 12, 2009

Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, welcomed NATO Assistant Secretary General Defense Policy and Planning, Mr. Jiri Sedivy. During the office call, he discussed the current situation in KFOR Area of Responsibility with COM KFOR.



November 25, 2009

The former Austrian Ambassador to Kosovo, Dr. Albert Rohan, was invited to an office call with Lieutenant General Markus Bentler. They discussed the current political situation in Kosovo.

The day before, Ambassador Dr. Albert Rohan was awarded the highest distinction of Kosovo by President Fatmir Sejdiu for his particular engagement as a UN-Negotiator and for the preparation of an solution proposal for the status of Kosovo. In addition he was given the title "Doctor honoris causa" of the University of Pristina.



Transfer of Authority

Story and photos by Specialist Chris Erickson, U.S. Army

Multi-National Task Force – East is a U.S. led task force. The Headquarters is the 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade from North Dakota. MNTF-E includes nearly 2,200 soldiers, including Task Force Hellas and Task Force POL/UKR (Polish/Ukraine). The charter mission of MNTF-E is maintaining a Safe and Secure Environment and providing Freedom of Movement for the people in Kosovo.

On 14 November 2009, a new U.S. led Kosovo Forces (KFOR) task force officially took over responsibility of Multi-National Task Force - East (MNTF-E), during a Transfer of Authority ceremony at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.

At the mid-day event, incoming commander Brig. Gen. Alan S. Dohrmann, 141st Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, of the North Dakota National Guard, assumed command of MNTF-E from Brig. Gen. Keith D. Jones, 40th Infantry Division of the California National Guard.

Brig. Gen. Jones and his soldiers have been maintaining safety and security in Kosovo since they arrived in February of 2009. Brig. Gen. Dohrmann said he looks forward to continuing that important mission with the help of multi-national partners from Task Force Hellas (Greece) and Task Force



Authority MNTF-E

POL/UKR (Poland and the Ukraine), as well as units from Armenia and Romania.

“For me to complete my mission, and to continue on the path to a brighter future, we – the international community, Non-Governmental Organization, the Institutions in Kosovo, Municipal leaders, Religious leaders, other formal and informal leaders, and, most importantly, the people in Kosovo – must work together as a team to build the brighter future that we all want for our children – wherever we call home,” Brig. Gen. Dohrmann said.

The incoming soldiers, under Dohrmann’s command, started arriving in Kosovo late October.

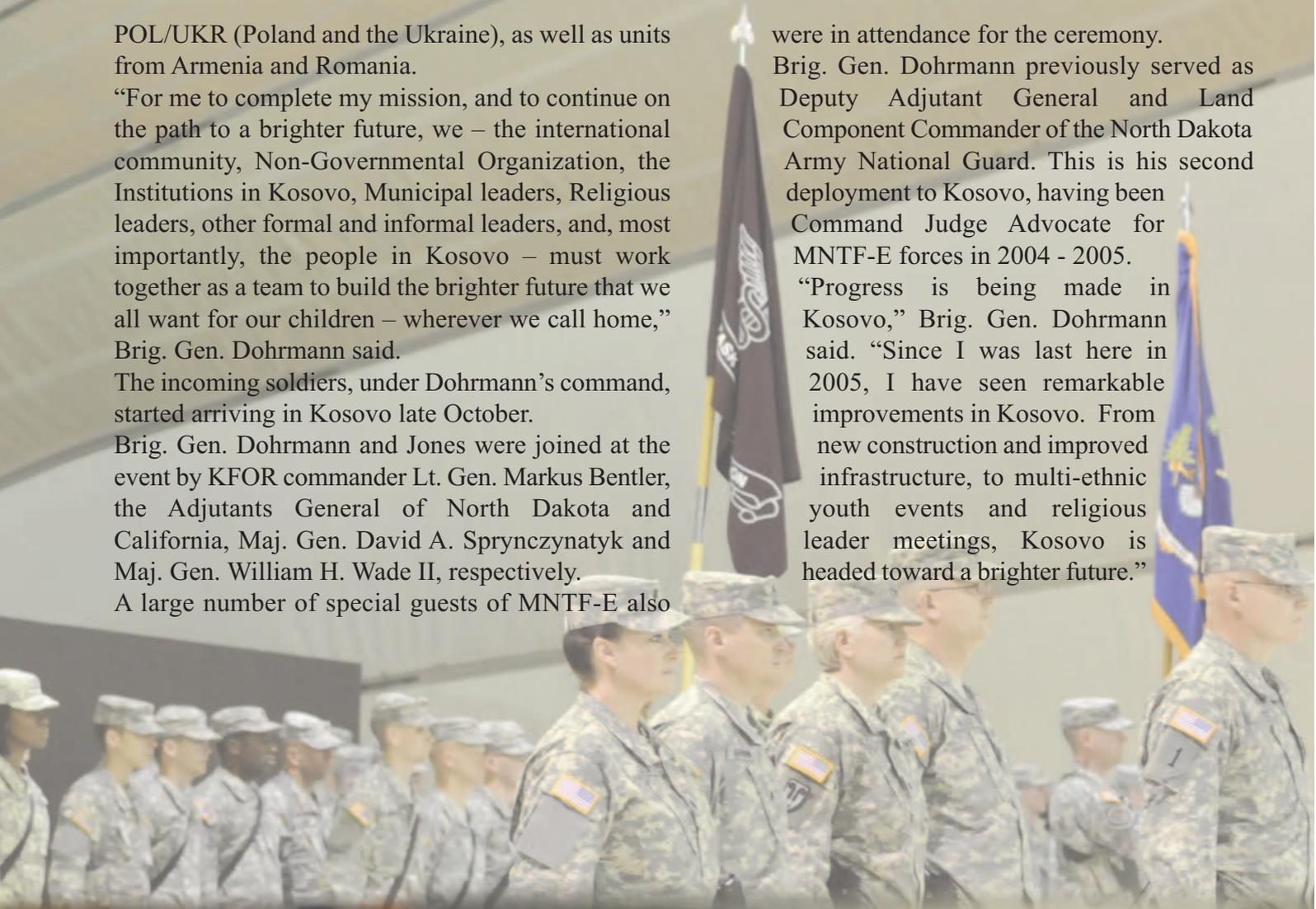
Brig. Gen. Dohrmann and Jones were joined at the event by KFOR commander Lt. Gen. Markus Bentler, the Adjutants General of North Dakota and California, Maj. Gen. David A. Sprynczynatyk and Maj. Gen. William H. Wade II, respectively.

A large number of special guests of MNTF-E also

were in attendance for the ceremony.

Brig. Gen. Dohrmann previously served as Deputy Adjutant General and Land Component Commander of the North Dakota Army National Guard. This is his second deployment to Kosovo, having been Command Judge Advocate for MNTF-E forces in 2004 - 2005.

“Progress is being made in Kosovo,” Brig. Gen. Dohrmann said. “Since I was last here in 2005, I have seen remarkable improvements in Kosovo. From new construction and improved infrastructure, to multi-ethnic youth events and religious leader meetings, Kosovo is headed toward a brighter future.”



The Diary of a 9

*Story by OR-8 András Farkas, Hungarian Army
Photos by Lieutenant Melinda Nádasdiné and
OR-4 Zoltán Tóth, Hungarian Army*

Hiking is an outdoor activity which consists of walking in natural environments, often on hiking trails. It is such a popular activity that there are numerous hiking organizations worldwide. Here in Kosovo, there are many beautiful places worthy to be seen. The feeling and the view provided by nature in this part of the country can be hard to describe with words. After some hard weeks of work, there is nothing more relaxing than picking up some guys, a map, a compass and plan a trail to walk on.

On the 11th of October 2009 at 0500 hours a team consisting of 16 members, three female and thirteen male soldiers, left the base of MNTF-W, Villaggio Italia, to make their way up Mount Zuti Kamen (2522 m) to prove to themselves that they could do it. A hike without consequences. The only goal was to get to the top!

The sun had just started to rise when the members of the Hungarian Contingent arrived. The famous Valley of Rugova was where the hike began, continuing to the top

of Mount Zuti Kamen. The team was led by OR-8 András Farkas, the CSM of the Hungarian Contingent. The Conquistadors hiked with backpacks weighting 15 kilos, including their weapons and their required equipment.

The way to the top was a challenge for the members of the team. The terrain grew steeply. The more we hiked the more fatigued we were. The point of reference on the map has a quick growth of about 400 meters for every 1000 meters, however, the distance was not more than 5000 meters to the top of Zuti Kamen and the team had to make several stops to take a rest. We took a 10 minute rest every hour of hiking to recover.

After a couple of hours every single step we made was painful, but nobody complained. These guys knew that all the effort we made during the hike would be worth it as soon as we reached the top. On the way up to the peak, you have the time to think about the job you have to do, the mistakes you made, the way you want to live in the future and how to save the nature for the next generation. They also deserve to enjoy these beautiful places in good condition. These untouched areas are part of the world we live in as humans. We are the people in charge to save these places for the next generation!



Miraculous Hike

Some hours later, with just a few steps from the top, and the peak of Mount Zuti Kamen in sight, one has the feeling that he can defeat nature but being honest, we, as humans, could never overcome nature. She just lets us enjoy the environment we live in, if we respect her enough. Those who have the opportunity to see nature from time to time will always respect the power of this beauty. Although humans currently comprise only a minuscule proportion of the total living biomass on earth, the human effect on nature is disproportionately large.

On the top of Mount Zuti Kamen, you got the feeling you were looking for the whole trip! Looking around and seeing the encompassing landscape, you understand how big the world is and how weak we, as humans, are! The team on the hike wrote down the name of the participants on a piece of paper and placed it in the geocaching box hidden on the peak of this beautiful mountain! On the way back to the withdrawal point, the weather turned into heavy rain, so the members of the team had to continue the rest of the way in difficult weather conditions. The hikers dealt with slippery rocks and steep slopes in addition to strong winds.

Just 2km from Mount Zuti Kamen is the famous Lake Ljkani at an altitude of 2100 meters, next to the foot of

Mount Maja Druve (2210 m). Passing the lake, we turned north-northeast and met the sheepfolds of Ljumbardska Planina, a homestead with wooden houses at an altitude of 2000 meters. These people continue to live just as they would if they were in the 18th century, giving a fascinating perspective into the past. Here the time seemed to be at a stand still. No one was in a rush and there was no pollution, or hectic citizens, just those few living in harmony with nature. A neat place with sheepfolds and spring waters running down the valley like it should be.

The team performed its Sunday walk and were back to the designated area in thirteen hours. It took us eight hours to get to the top and five more hours to get back to the withdrawal point.

It was not the first trip the team has made here in Kosovo. Three weeks earlier the same team performed a 62 km march to the peak of Mount Cvrlje (2418 m), then we made the 2nd march and we are scheduled for the second Danish NSE march as well. At the end, everybody was exhausted but wealthier with new experiences, plentiful recollections and memorable souvenir from a country where we are serving our mission. Thank you Kosovo for the beautiful moments you have given us!



INTERNATIONAL BRIDG

*Story by Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Sawyer,
U.S. Army*

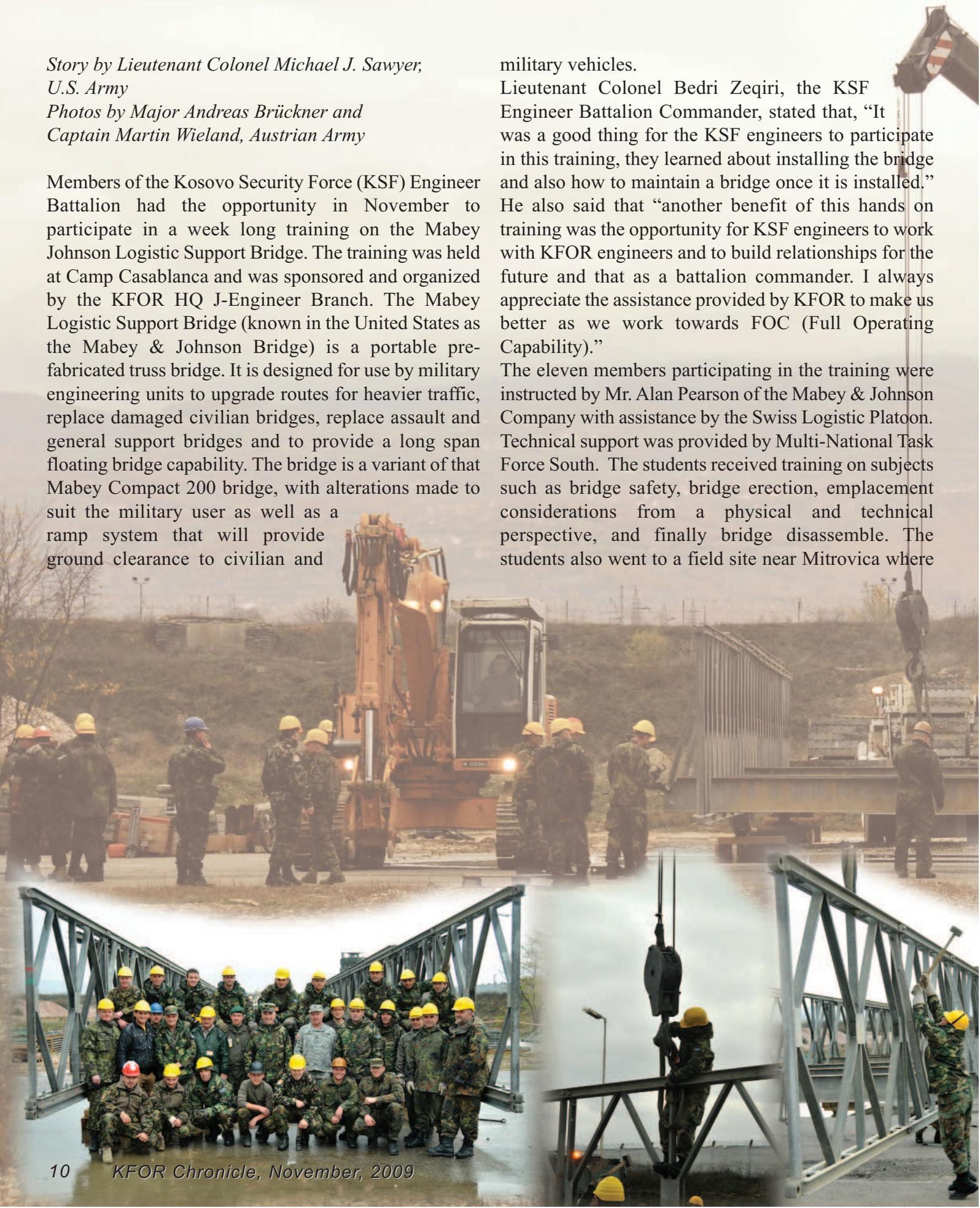
*Photos by Major Andreas Brückner and
Captain Martin Wieland, Austrian Army*

Members of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) Engineer Battalion had the opportunity in November to participate in a week long training on the Mabey Johnson Logistic Support Bridge. The training was held at Camp Casablanca and was sponsored and organized by the KFOR HQ J-Engineer Branch. The Mabey Logistic Support Bridge (known in the United States as the Mabey & Johnson Bridge) is a portable pre-fabricated truss bridge. It is designed for use by military engineering units to upgrade routes for heavier traffic, replace damaged civilian bridges, replace assault and general support bridges and to provide a long span floating bridge capability. The bridge is a variant of that Mabey Compact 200 bridge, with alterations made to suit the military user as well as a ramp system that will provide ground clearance to civilian and

military vehicles.

Lieutenant Colonel Bedri Zeqiri, the KSF Engineer Battalion Commander, stated that, "It was a good thing for the KSF engineers to participate in this training, they learned about installing the bridge and also how to maintain a bridge once it is installed." He also said that "another benefit of this hands on training was the opportunity for KSF engineers to work with KFOR engineers and to build relationships for the future and that as a battalion commander. I always appreciate the assistance provided by KFOR to make us better as we work towards FOC (Full Operating Capability)."

The eleven members participating in the training were instructed by Mr. Alan Pearson of the Mabey & Johnson Company with assistance by the Swiss Logistic Platoon. Technical support was provided by Multi-National Task Force South. The students received training on subjects such as bridge safety, bridge erection, emplacement considerations from a physical and technical perspective, and finally bridge disassemble. The students also went to a field site near Mitrovica where



ENGINEERING BUILDING EXERCISES

A Mabey & Johnson bridge has been installed for nearly ten years. While at the bridge site, the members were able to put into practice the training they had received on conducting maintenance of an existing bridge.

Refresher training is tentatively planned for next spring.

As described by Major Peter Pinkava of the KFOR HQ J-Engineer

Branch, "This training was an excellent chance for KSF members and KFOR soldiers to build bridges to the future. First, all participants got their theoretical lessons about basic engineer skills for bridging operations and practical training on the training construction site to get more familiar with the Mabey & Johnson Super Panel Bridge. Second, and this was one of the major aims of this training, due to the common work on the bridge site people

of different nations as technical background get in contact with each other to discuss different topics around training, technical matters and living conditions. I'd like to give a special thank you to the Swiss National Contingent Commander, OF-4 Goeldi, for the social events which gave a good opportunity for all participants to form a solid group over the term of the course. The members of the KSF showed a very high motivation because of the possibility to present themselves as part of the multi-national training group. They showed a high interest regarding all engineer techniques to be able to prepare their further structures, planning of equipment and training. Finally, I'm proud

to say that all participants, especially the members of KSF, reached the course aim so that they are now able to conduct bridge operations. Bridges should not only connect streets – they should connect people!"



Commemorate the Armistice

*Story and photos by
Lieutenant Colonel Herve Grimonprez, French Army*

Fulfilling their mission within the KFOR, to provide a safe and secure environment in Kosovo, the French soldiers celebrated the 91st anniversary of the 11th November 1918 Armistice.

General Arnaud Sainte-Claire Deville, the Multi-National Task Force North Commander, wanted to praise the participants in the First World War End celebration.

“Many people hoped that war would be the last one. However, as you know, it was not the case. Thus, the 1918 lessons have always been topical.”

Within the enclosure of Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny Camp in Novo-Selo, the French soldiers, marked this event while rubbing shoulders with their Greek, Danish, Moroccan and Luxembourgish counterparts. On this occasion, many decorations were awarded.

“Today, while we are gathered, we want to show that the self-sacrifice of all soldiers who fell in this atrocious battle, which bathed Europe and the world in blood, was not in vain. Indeed, it brought wisdom to our nations. We, their sons, stand today in a moment of silence to

have their memory. This honorific ritual bears no relation to the ritual silence of death, but to that of weapons. While we are honoring their self-sacrifice, we reaffirm our commitment to an everlasting peace and a better life for all people here in the Balkans.”

In Pristine/Pristina, French soldiers of KFOR Headquarters and a detachment from the FREBAT, under the command of the Colonel Ollier, commending officer of the 12th Armored Regiment of Olivet, paid homage to the “Dead Soldiers” in the French Square of Prishtine/Pristina Cemetery. In the presence of Mr. François-Xavier Deniau, the French Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo, and Mr. de Kermabon, Head of Mission EULEX, General Philippe Leonard, REPFRANCE and OPS Assistant General of COMKFOR, presided over this commemorative ceremony.

In Skopje, in the presence of the French and the German ambassadors to Kosovo, a detachment from the BATFRA and a delegation from the Old Combatants of the 1st Regiment of Spahis de Valence, performed a commemorative rite in the French Military Cemetery.



CRC Exercise MNTF-N

Story by LTC Herve Grimonprez, French Army
Photos by LTC Serhiy Panchenko, Ukrainian Army

For every mandate, a complementary instruction is carried out for the units of the French Battalion that are to be deployed in Crowded Riot Control (CRC). This is a complement to an initial formation before the engagement in the theatre. The aim is achieved thanks to the collaboration between the general's gendarmerie counselor and the mobile gendarmerie squadron (FPU), deployed within Eulex.

For the last two days, the formation aimed to acquire knowledge and ability required of a military force in a maneuver CRC unit.

On November 18th and 19th, the 5th company of the FREBAT, based in Camp Belvedere, composed of soldiers from the Armored 12th cuirassiers regiment of Olivet, finished the CRC formation of the 32nd mandate. The first day was dedicated to the theoretical revisions and then to practical, specific, individual, and collective expertise. On the second day, a synthesis exercise permitted participants to acquire all of the

operative modes of a company level maneuver.

This exercise was aimed at briefing the unit of such a particular task. The operation opened by initially facing a quiet demonstration. The company was brought there to manage the situation that more deteriorated over time. The exercise required the unit to maneuver in the face of a constantly shifting set of opponent forces, potentially escalating out of control. The company used various processes: wave of repression, offensive jump, load, evacuation of an open or closed space, and extricating of flaming barricades by corps of engineer means. This exercise required specific protective equipment adapted for the CRC to face aggressions from the adversary. The best scene of the exercise was undoubtedly the crossing of a flaming barricade by the engineer's assets and armored vehicles, then extricated by the CRC company that was redeployed in front of the demonstrators.



Balkan

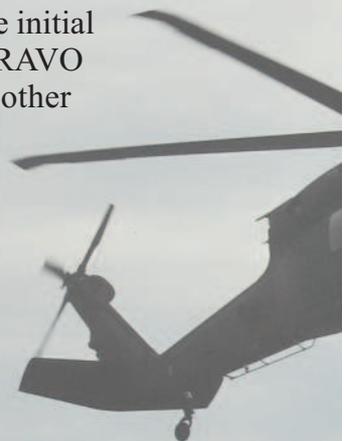
*Story by Major Renato Assis, Portuguese Army
Photos by Captain Martin Wieland, Austrian Army*

On 12 November 2009, the KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM) performed an operational rehearsal, designated Balkan Hawk 4 at Camp Montieth, Gjilan/Gnjilane, which was planned, organized and conducted by KFOR – J3 CONOPS. The main goal was to demonstrate KFOR capabilities of deploying Kosovo wide in any condition a strong layout, including to support EULEX and assuming full tactical primacy. KFOR Deputy Commander (DCOMKFOR), Major General Antonio Satta and Deputy Chief of Staff Operations DCOSOPS Brigadier General Leonard were present at this exercise.

A hypothetical Property with Designated Special Status (PrDSS) activation was created as the scenario, materialized by a riot threat, to a EULEX HQ. This threat was symbolized by 48 people, from one Danish and one Czech platoon. The EULEX Forces were constituted by one Italian Carabinieri platoon, which had the mission of securing their Headquarters.

After the reception of the KFOR Commander, KTM

deployed two Companies, CRC equipped, to Camp Montieth. The KTM's command group, one Special Operations Detachment team, and part of CHARLIE COY were deployed by air, with five helicopters, to establish contact with EULEX forces and to prepare the initial RED BOX and BLUE BOX. BRAVO COY, ALFA COY, TOC and other Special Operations Detachment team were deployed by land convoys, and were stopped by a rioters' roadblock. After the removal of the obstacle, BRAVO COY established the BLUE BOX perimeter, and CHARLIE COY assured the RED BOX one. After some hardliner attacks, an AirMedevac request was necessary to simulate a KTM



Hawk IV

soldier evacuation. The exercise ended with the rioters' scattering. The Battalion's redeployment was executed the same way as its deployment.

Other than KTM and EULEX Forces, Multinational Task Force North (MNTF-N), the Freedom of Movement Detachment (FOM Detach), and rioters, Multinational Task Force East (MNTF-E), two Croatian Mi 117 helicopters, and the KFOR Imagery Intelligence Team (IMINT) forces participated in the exercise. The main goal to achieve at the end of BALKAN HAWK 4 was to train and test the coordination, command and control (C2) between KFOR and EULEX Forces, as well ensure a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) and Freedom of Movement (FOM), as the main guideline for KFOR.



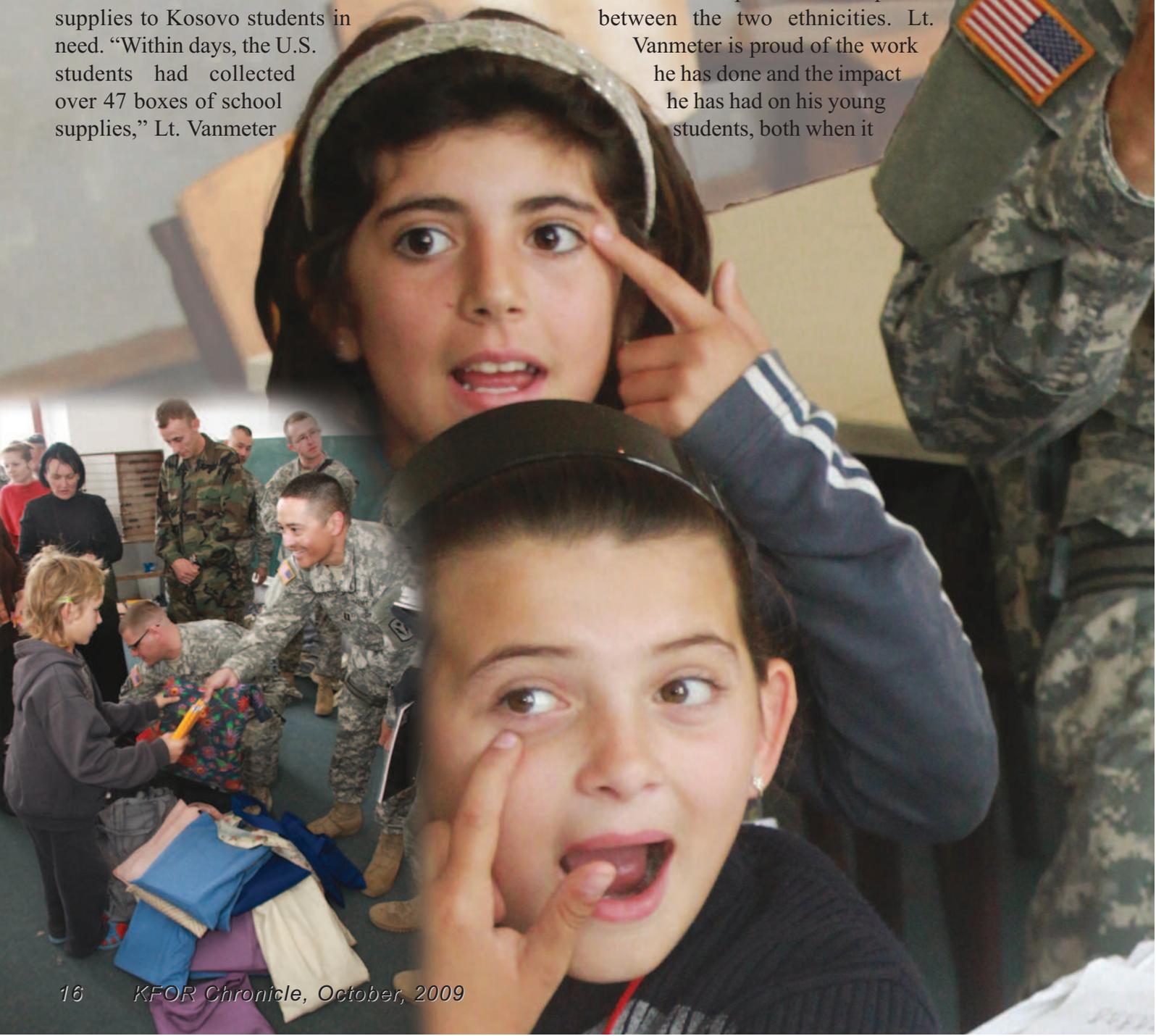
U.S. SOLDIERS DONATE

Story and Photos by OR-4 Nevada J. Smith, U.S. Army

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo – 1st Lt. Christopher Vanmeter knows something about what school children need. Lt. Vanmeter is with the U.S. Army's Headquarters & Headquarters Troop of the 18th Cavalry Regiment and a teacher back home at Ceres High School near Modesto, Calif. With that civilian background, Lt. Vanmeter wanted to find a way as a soldier to help the school children he came across in Kosovo. He brought the idea up to fellow teachers and colleagues back in the United States. The idea arose to have U.S. students donate school supplies to Kosovo students in need. "Within days, the U.S. students had collected over 47 boxes of school supplies," Lt. Vanmeter

said. It all happened so fast that there wasn't even a school to donate the supplies to, he added. Soon after, the opportunity came up for Lt. Vanmeter to put his civilian skills to good use in Kosovo and at the same time, find a good home for the mounting stockpile of donated school supplies. Lt. Vanmeter and his troop started teaching English classes at an elementary school in Mogila/Mogille. They also made sure that each and every student was well equipped with new school supplies. English is a common language between the Serbian and Albanian cultures and supports the part of KFOR mission to promote cooperation between the two ethnicities. Lt.

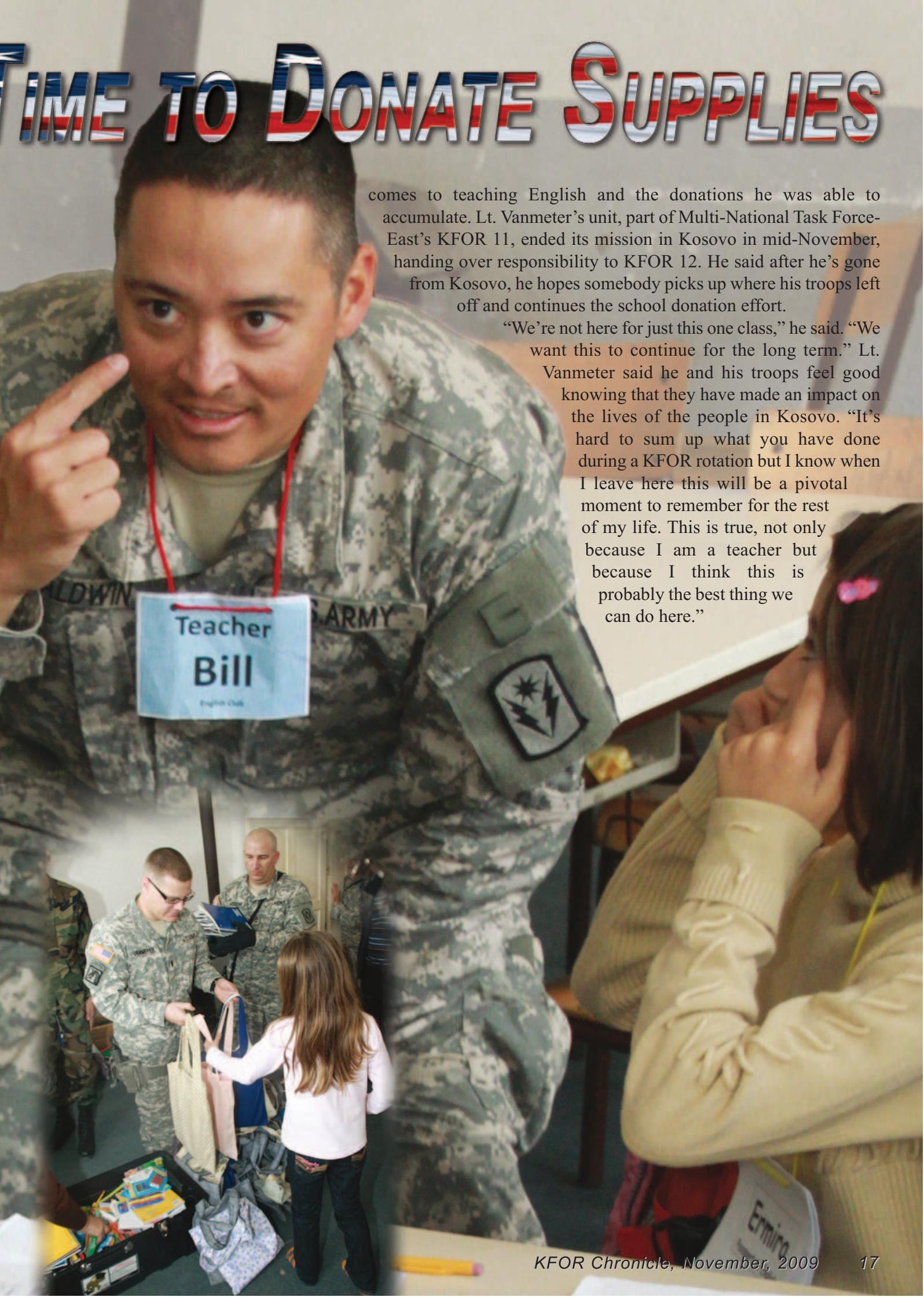
Vanmeter is proud of the work he has done and the impact he has had on his young students, both when it



TIME TO DONATE SUPPLIES

comes to teaching English and the donations he was able to accumulate. Lt. Vanmeter's unit, part of Multi-National Task Force-East's KFOR 11, ended its mission in Kosovo in mid-November, handing over responsibility to KFOR 12. He said after he's gone from Kosovo, he hopes somebody picks up where his troops left off and continues the school donation effort.

"We're not here for just this one class," he said. "We want this to continue for the long term." Lt. Vanmeter said he and his troops feel good knowing that they have made an impact on the lives of the people in Kosovo. "It's hard to sum up what you have done during a KFOR rotation but I know when I leave here this will be a pivotal moment to remember for the rest of my life. This is true, not only because I am a teacher but because I think this is probably the best thing we can do here."



Confirmation in KFOR - A

*Story by Chaplain Martin Roth, German Army
Photos by Major Andreas Brückner, Austrian Army*

Since 2001, Bishop Dr. Walter Mixa's pastoral sojourn in theatre in early November 2009 marks the third time during his tenure as Catholic Military Bishop that he visited the 2,200 male and female German soldiers currently stationed in Kosovo.

The first opportunity arose immediately after his arrival in the capital of Kosovo, Prishtine/Pristina, during his office call to COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler. In this extended information talk with Military Bishop Dr. Mixa, the focus was on explaining to him the current status of humanitarian assistance and the support provided to the administrative authorities and the international aid organizations in Kosovo.

On this occasion, the bishop expressed his wish that his visit contributes to ensuring "the peace-supporting mission in Kosovo does not disappear from public view and that, especially in Germany, the service rendered by the military men and women receives better attention and acknowledgement."

The highlight was a pontifical mass at the church of the international headquarters at the end of the visit, which Military Bishop Dr. Mixa celebrated together with Chaplain Martin Roth and Joachim Simon, the senior military dean responsible for chaplains on mission. For 25 year old Sergeant (OR-5) Stefanie W., the mass with the military bishop was of special importance: After an extended period of preparation supervised by the

Catholic Chaplaincy, she received the sacrament of the confirmation at the hands of Military Bishop Dr. Mixa. The mass was also the occasion for the newly confirmed young soldier received her first Holy Communion. At the conclusion of his visit, the military bishop thanked Lieutenant General Markus Bentler and his staff for the professional preparation of his tour. Extending his episcopal benediction, he wished all soldiers "the best of fortune, good health and God's blessing."



A Sign of Believing in God



TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY IN THE U

Story and Photos by LTC Serhiy Panchenko, Ukrainian Army

On the afternoon of 12 November 2009, the Ukrainian contingent of KFOR Transfer of Authority (ToA) took place in the Ukrainian National Contingent Camp Breza, Multi-national Task Force-East (MNTF-E). The Ukrainian national contingent is part of the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion (POLUKRBAT).

The event was attended by MNTF-E Deputy Commander Colonel Tom Loomis, POLUKRBAT Commander Lieutenant Colonel Cesary Pacewicz, his Chief of Staff Major Macey Binkevicz, The Ambassador of Ukraine in Former Republic of Macedonia Mr. Yurii Goncharuk, Deputy Commander-in-Chief Ukrainian Land Forces, Lieutenant

General Anatoliy Pushniakov, President of the municipal assembly, Stanko Jakovljevic, Strpce Municipality Education Director Marijan Ljubic and representatives from the MNTF-E Staff.

The ceremony of the ToA started with the National Anthem of Ukraine. After that, in a solemn atmosphere, the POLUKRBAT battle flag transfer took place. The 12th rotation Ukrainian national contingent Commander Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Storogenko and his successor Lieutenant Colonel Mykhailo Zabrodskyi started the Transfer of Authority.

In his speech, MNTF-E Deputy Commander Colonel Tom Loomis highlighted the importance of the multi-national partnerships for



UKRAINIAN NATIONAL CONTINGENT

KFOR's mission, thanking the Ukrainian peacekeepers for their conscientious carrying out of duties and expressed the hope for the continuation of outstanding acts by the new Ukrainian contingent.

As well, the POLUKRBAT Commander Lieutenant Colonel Cesary Pacewicz, stressed that the 12th Ukrainian contingent's professional investments played an important role in the KFOR mission.

The new Ukrainian National contingent Commander Lieutenant Colonel Mykhailo Zabrodskyi assured attendants of the ceremony that in following traditions and confidently

representing the flag of Ukraine in the international arena, the 13th Ukrainian National contingent is ready for executing the mission in their area of responsibility due to careful long-term training which they conducted at the Airborne Combat Training Center in Ukraine.

With the Transfer of Authority complete, the new Ukrainian contingent is ready to provide a safe and secure environment for the people of Kosovo.



CSS SOLDIERS NO LONGER MERELY

*Story by Colonel Antonio Velardi and
Captain Antonio Badagliacca, Italian
Army*

*Photos by ITALFOR/GSA - Joint
Multimodal Operational Unit personnel.*

The essence of Combat Service Support (CSS) has always been the practice of logistics but its men and women, no longer only specialized technicians, are now able to carry out multifunctional operations. Trained to coordinate and execute an intense support according to traditional CSS basic concepts, including supply, maintenance, transportation, health services, field services and new logistic tools, offered by modern technology, permits computerized reference data and instant digitized monitoring. Plans, procedures and decision making have become more flexible and quickly adaptable to changing situations.

Rapid movement and logistic facilities to the

Italian contingent of the MNTF-W, has been guaranteed by the Italian CSS Regiment, presently provided by 1st Transport Regiment under the command of Col. Antonio Velardi. The long experience in the matter developed during the participation to the most important peacekeeping, peace supporting and humanitarian assistance missions in Albania, FYROM, Lebanon, Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia and Kosovo, has taught us how to approach assigned tasks and operate in all logistic areas.

Correct and complete transportation planning has allowed the Manoeuvre Battalion's Transport Company and Maintenance Support Company to deliver supplies, evacuate damaged equipment and move personnel to anywhere and at the right time. During these last months, modern trucks and other vehicles available to us have made movement and transportation across the theatre adequate and have always assured successful support. From Belo Polje to Duresh through FYROM and Albania, along lakes



LY IN THE REAR WITH THE GEAR

and rivers, across hills and high mountains. Transportation assets have reached every corner of the Balkan area. Transfer of authorities of all Italian TFs wouldn't have been possible without the combination of qualified personnel and efficient equipment. Well known procedures have also enabled meticulously prepared convoys to realize deployment, personnel replacement and any kind of supply and service needed. Combat service support of modern military forces requires appropriate technology and communication systems to face complex needs. Italian logisticians are now able to employ innovation in order to "read" instantly available information coming from the theatre and from home-stationed support elements. As for the most forward logisticians, the Interactive Movement and Transportation System (IMTS) is the command and control instrument shared by ITALFOR/GSA. The Joint Multimodal Operational Unit (JMOU), CSS's reception unit operating in seaports, airports and railway located around the "Joint Enterprise" operational area, is indeed entitled to sharing logistical and movement information, data with higher and adjacent elements. This recently established unit, composed of personnel belonging to all Italian armed forces has been tasked to direct and supervise shipping status of all cargo and personnel coming into and/or leaving the theatre by air, land or

sea. Modern computerized tools have permitted them to receive and accept hundreds of passengers and track large amounts of any class of supply. Moreover, for goods that have required national and international import/export practices, the JMOU has ensured that all customs procedures have been correctly carried out. In the last decade, the Italian CSS Regiment has experienced several facets of combat service support operations. Even in this occasion the most important lesson learned is certainly that the combination of detailed planning, fast-moving transportation assets and last but not least, well-trained reception units assures rapid response to any challenge and overcomes adversities within the borders of the home country as well as overseas.



Medical Training

*Story by OR-2 Johannes Steiner, Austrian Army
Photos by OR-5 Michael Kroboth, Austrian Army*

In the medical service, it is generally necessary to maintain a high level of professionalism as well as being up to date with the latest medical findings. Irregardless of the situation you are in, medical care is always of the utmost importance, however in an army environment even greater care has to be taken as the soldiers are solely dependent on the work of the medical staff. The medical team of Camp Casablanca has the mission to guarantee a West-European standard of medical support in Kosovo. So additionally to the daily ordinance times and the excellent cooperation with the German field hospital in Prizren, two MEDEVAC-Teams, consisting of a driver, a paramedic and a

doctor are always ready to move in the case of an emergency.

Nevertheless, no medical institutions, either civil or military are able to reach this goal on their own. Therefore it is necessary to build up a solid base of medical first aid knowledge within the community of soldiers. Nobody knows when the next misfortune will strike and any person could be the first at the scene of the accident and therefore be forced to help. For that reason, everybody in the army, regardless of rank, should be able to provide qualified first aid support for the patient until a professional medical team (MEDEVAC) arrives. For this reason, the medics organize regular training for the troops to ensure a sound knowledge base.

We were very proud to welcome the Austrian Command on the 24th of October in Camp Casablanca for a training session. Guided by skilled medical professionals, these were organised as three stations comprizing different medical scenarios which the



ing in TF-Dulje

commanders had to accomplish. The instructors taught how to treat bleeding wounds with bandages, how to rescue a driver from a crashed car and how to resuscitate a person. The medics took care in explaining the techniques to the interested participants in great detail and were able to refresh and increase their knowledge. All in all the training sessions should not only be an instrument to maintain a level of practice but should also strengthen the self-confidence of each and everyone to build the courage to act. For a healthy and accident free mission everyone must be prepared for the worst case.



THE NATO BASIC TRA

*Story by 1st Lieutenant Andreas Heinemann,
German Army*

*Photos by Major Andreas Brückner and
Captain Martin Wieland, Austrian Army*

Very often they are asked which unit they belong to when they walk along with their strange patches. Not very often a simple answer is given. The NATO Basic Training Teams (BTTs) at the NATO training center (NTC) are not well known but they have an interesting and important task. They train and educate the new members of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF).

Since the last ten months nearly all of the present KSF-members were trained by the ten BTTs from different nations serving in Ferizaj/Urosevac close to Camp Bondsteel. Indeed the whole

environment is highly international. Belonging to the Military Civil Advisory-Division (MCAD) in Pristina the teams are led by Turkish LtCol Ercan Ozinan, but Austrian, American, Bulgarian, French, German, Greek, Italian and Lithuanian KFOR-soldiers are also present to help developing the base of the young KSF-organization.

Depending on the background of the new trainees they are either educated in an eight weeks basic training course or four weeks accelerate course for advanced trainees (mostly former members of the Kosovo Protection Corps). The training is separated into practical and classroom lessons. After physical fitness in the morning the trainees face an eight hour schedule full of instructions like first aid, Search and Rescue (SAR), Explosive Ordnance Reconnaissance (EOR),



TRAINING TEAMS IN KOSOVO

navigation and many more.

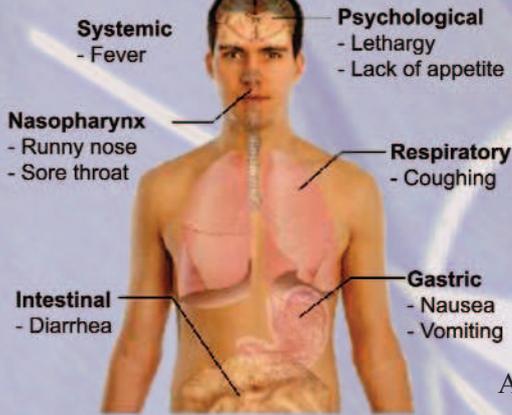
But every successful story has its end. Currently the last basic course is in progress and its ending finishes NATO commitment on basic training in Ferizaj/Urosevac. Only a few will stay to support and mentor the KSF by leading their own training. With that last course which is ending in December, almost 1800 recruits successfully completed the training under NATO responsibility and became members of the KSF.

But mission is not accomplished right now. After leaving the NTC most of the teams are going into KSF-facilities and assisted by mentor local forces. With their experience and knowledge in liaison with the KSF they are highly qualified to help building up a well working KSF-organization.





Symptoms of Influenza



Cover your nose and mouth with a disposable tissue

An information for everybody to improve individual health during the flu season.



HQ KFOR Medical Advisor
Col Dr. med. Wolfgang Hanschke
(German Air Force)



Regularly wash hands with soap and water

Influenza is an acute viral infection that spreads easily from person to person of any age. Seasonal flu is a world wide threat, which might effect military missions as well. Therefore, individual hygiene supports military readiness and prevents us from mission shortfalls.

Signs and symptoms

Seasonal influenza is characterized by a sudden onset of high fever, cough, headache, muscle and joint pain, feeling unwell, sore throat and runny nose. Seasonal influenza spreads easily. When an infected person coughs, infected droplets get into the air and another person can breathe them in and be exposed. The virus can also be spread by hands infected with the virus.

Prevention:

Drink enough - as dry respiratory mucous membranes are effected easily

Sleep enough - as sleep deprivation is compromising the immunological system

Smoking and alcohol consumption - are rising the risk for infection as they have an impact on the immunological defense

Social activities with close contact is a risk - the virus could easily be transferred

Individual hygiene - means to minimize the risk for yourself and others by reducing the transmission of the virus

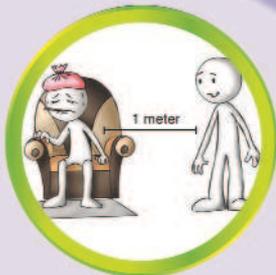
Warm and dry clothes prevent from undercooling - which reduces the immunological defence

Fresh air in your room - reduces the number of viruses and therefore their transmission

Vaccination is the most effective way to prevent infection!



Dispose of used tissues properly immediately



If you have influenza-like symptoms, keep a distance of at least 1 meter from other



If you have influenza-like symptoms, seek medical advice immediately



If you have influenza-like symptoms, stay home from work, school or crowded places



Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands



Avoid hugging, kissing and shaking hands when greeting

KFOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

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

- Have you ever wanted to participate in a photo contest?
- Are you 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 sightseeing 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 2009 magazine edition. Submit photographs to kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int not later than December 11, 2009. Submissions should include the digital photograph, photographer's name and a short caption. The award ceremony will be on December 16, 2008.

This contest is sponsored by MWA.



We Want
You
to Send



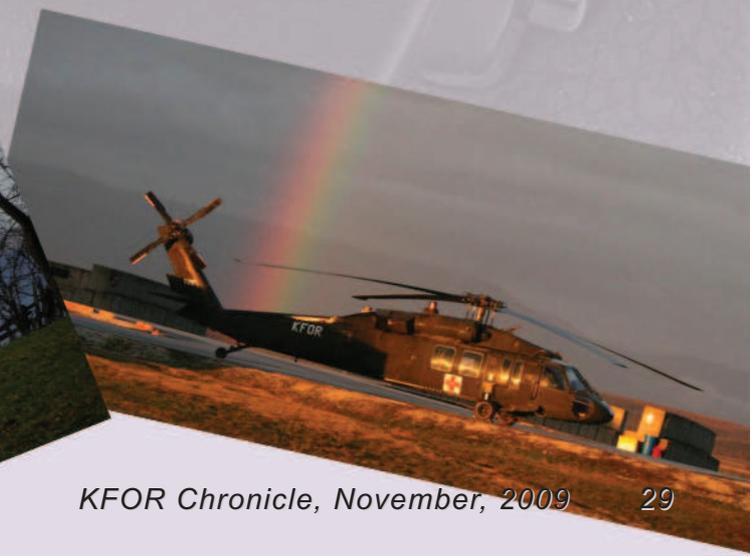
1st Prize
Digital Camera
Sony Cyber-shot



3rd Prize
16 GB USB Data Stick

Get clicking!

2nd Prize
SanDisk SANSa View
Audio / Video Player
With In Built Camera



KFOR Chronicle got a New Editor in Chief

Dear readers of the KFOR Chronicle

After five months of outstanding work, Maj Andreas Brueckner's (Austrian Army) tour of duty is over as Editor in Chief of the KFOR Chronicle. I will be assuming duties as Editor in Chief. My name is Capt Martin Wieland, also with the Austrian Army. As the new Chief, Internal Information in charge of publishing the KFOR Chronicle falls to me and I am enthusiastic to continue the great work of Maj Brueckner. My background consists of technical education, where I subsequently began my military career in 2002. In September 2007, I graduated as an Engineer Officer. I would also like to take the opportunity to introduce the great team working with me in Public Affairs. Our Journalist for KFOR activities, LTC Panchenko Serhiy, civilian photographer and layout director, Mr. Hajrullahu Afrim and last but not least, our Webmaster, OR-5 Ezrick Mejia, from the US Air Force.



Teamwork will be my goal, as with a mission such as ours, we must pull from all resources to ensure accurate and swift flow of information. I would ask that all of you become active with the Public Affairs office and share your experiences and mission successes. We welcome you to join in as a part of the KFOR chronicle, as a citizen journalist. Share photographs of your encounters or submit stories for the monthly editions which run 4500 copies each month. The KFOR Chronicle team is waiting for your inputs! Send your information to kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int. Also, view our editions on the internet at <http://www.nato.int/kfor>. I look forward to a productive and exciting future.

1st KFOR Chronicle Sudoku

Amateur

7		5	2			9	3	8
6			3				7	
	9	3		7				
8					7	1		
	7	2		1		6	8	
		1	6					7
				5		4	2	
	5				4			3
2	3	4			8	7		9

Profi

7	6							3
		9	3	4				
4	8			7				
5	9		1					
		6					7	
					7			8 2
				3				2 5
				6	8	1		
	4							9 8

Peacekeeper's Profiles

Name: Patrick R.H. White
Rank: Warrant Officer (OR-7)
Nationality: Canadian

Home Unit: Land Forces Atlantic Area Headquarters (LFAA HQ)

Unit in KFOR: FAO MCA Division/Kosovo Security Force (Ksf) NATO Donor Program

About the mission: Within KFOR FAO MCAD, our team is responsible for collecting, updating and developing plans for equipment, logistics and infrastructure as it pertains to the Kosovo Security Force. In particular my functions allows me to participate in the procurement process from beginning (assessing the requirement; contracting; procuring; and delivery) to fruition, as the essential equipment is handed over to the KSF. This unique mission in Kosovo has provided me with yet another invaluable opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills that only an operational multi national mission can provide. I am truly privileged to have experienced the complexities/culture of this region while working with professional soldiers.

Family reaction: I have been married for 21 years, my beautiful spouse and I have two wonderful daughters. My family has always been very supportive of my career choices and I believe they are very proud to know that I serve in the Canadian Forces.

Plans after the mission: Rest and relaxation with my family, is my goal once I return to Canada. Afterwards, I will resume my position within LFAA and pursue another operation tour in a different part of the world. I believe the rewards far out way any difficult challenges posed on an operational tour.



Name: Drazan Coric

Rank: Major (OF-3)

Home unit: Utility Helicopter Squadron, 91st Air Force Base, Zagreb

Unit in KFOR: HRVCON, Croatian Aviation Company

Nationality: Croatia

About the mission: This is my first mission in Kosovo, in which I await new experiences in my special and operational aspects. As a Crew Captain, I take responsibility for my subordinates. Our mission here in Kosovo is characterized by the existence of a variety of factors that have critical importance for successful activities such as weather conditions, especially the mountainous terrain, concerted actions of the crew, etc. But due to our predecessor's from the 1st Croatian Contingent experiences, we are capable to perform the assigned tasks. In my opinion the most important points in practice of every pilot are flying in different missions and getting familiar with as many landing sites as possible. In this case mission in Kosovo gives us a lot of these odds.

Family reaction: I have been married for two years and we are waiting for a child soon. Despite impending separation, my wife agreed with my temporary absence. We are always in touch.

Plans after the mission: I am really looking forward to returning home. I am going to take a vacation and give all of my attention to my wife. I will take care of my family and spend all my free time together with them.



Name: Robert Nagel

Rank: First Lieutenant (OF-2)

Home unit: KALVI infantry battalion

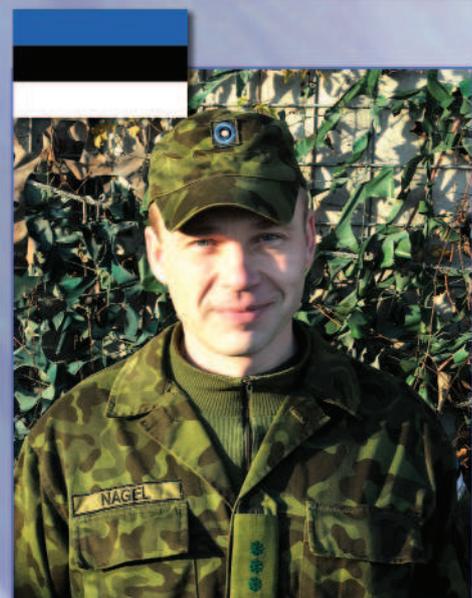
Unit in KFOR: DANCON HQ

Nationality: Estonia

About the mission: This is my first mission abroad and the first time in Kosovo. I think it is a good possibility I will get the experience, which will be important for me not only as for the officer, but also as for the person. Having skills in execution international missions is highly evaluated in my country. I work in the HQ Danish Contingent, Camp Olaf Rye, MNTF-N. Before this mission I have been taking part in training course in Denmark during the 3 months before I came to Kosovo. My position gives me great occasions to meet interesting people from other countries and improve my English. I am deeply convinced that I will return to Estonia with much more experience, which would help me in development of my career.

Family reaction: I am married and have three children. My wife was kindly disposed towards my intention to join KFOR. She is a great woman, who always takes care of our children and returns my lead. I appreciate her support in my career as a professional soldier.

Plans after the mission: I'm going to take approximately two months off to have a pleasant time with my family. After that I'll return to my home unit and maybe get appointment to another peacekeeping mission.



Sunset in Camp Film City



Photo by Major Andreas Brückner (Austrian Army) ©