

KFOR

Chronicle



12th Edition

December 31st 2009



KTMM

Training is the Best Preparation



The Commander's Perspective

Dear Comrades!

It was a pleasure and an honor for me to have spent the recent four months with you, to have this prestigious Command and to support the development of Kosovo and consolidate the building of peace.

The security situation has improved significantly. I do not see any threats from the outside. This is the result of your profound work of the past 10 years and also during the recent months. Therefore, I thank you heartily.

I know that most of the KFOR family would have normally celebrated Christmas and the New Year period with their families and relatives. I really appreciate the sacrifice that you have made with your work here in Kosovo. The last week of an outgoing year has great importance in most of our cultures. For the end of 2009, the KFOR family had to replace your family and I wish that you can enjoy comradeship and celebrate Christmas and the New Year with your comrades.

I hope that you had the opportunity to have contemplative, private moments to be with your relatives at home in your mind.

The KFOR mission is now facing a really challenging phase of transition. We will rely on more flexible operations, deploying forces very quickly and decisively whenever and wherever necessary. In 2010, KFOR will continue its work. I hope we can intensify the work with our main partners, the Kosovo Police and EULEX in order to transfer more of the responsibility.

For 2010, I wish you all the best, but especially health and a safe and sound return to your families.

Moving Forward!

*Yours
Markus Buehler*





Unity is worth it!

Religion is very important when it comes to people's values. Analysis of the surrounding world and a deeper understanding of values and beliefs is necessary to understand our global world.

If we look only at the three religions whose origin is in the Near East – Judaism, Islam and Christianity – we can see many similarities. We have a long tradition by living according to the revelation. We are the people of the books, we pray, build mosques, synagogues and churches, we read the Holy Books and listen to interpretation and exegesis, we praise our Lord and we pray.

But there are also differences - one of these is how we look upon Jesus. Was he the son of God or was he the last prophet in the Old Testament?

My own country, Sweden, is today a multicultural and multireligious country. Judaism became permitted around 1780, Islam in the middle of the 1900's. In Sweden we like to cultivate the myth that says we are liberal and broadminded, but our history says otherwise. However, that is history; and now is the time to focus on the current in order to build a common future.

I believe in good dialogue and that we – despite religious traditions – can discuss what it means to take God seriously. From this conversation, understanding and respect for one another's traditions can grow. In my country, ecumenicalism, i.e. cooperation between different religions, often deals with cooperation between Protestants and Roman Catholics and in between different Protestant traditions. We should remind ourselves that the word ecumenicalism is wider than that – it is from the Greek "oikoumene" which means the whole inhabited world and deals with dialogue and cooperation between all different religions.

An important detail in ecumenicalism is to learn and to know the other part. I believe all ecumenicalism starts with friendship. It is always easier to have a dialogue with someone you know.

We live side by side and we will decide ourselves whether this life together should be characterized by respect, humanity and acceptance or if it shall be a continuation of the historical cruel persecution in the form of crusades, pogroms, violation and bestiality. Professor Hans Küng says there will be no peace among nations unless there will be peace among religions, and there will be no peace among religions unless there is a dialogue between the religions and that we together go back to the fundamentals of our religions. My hope is that we should take this seriously and together build a world that is characterized by peace, understanding and humanity.



Kristina Lundberg has served as the Swedish Chaplain in Camp Victoria since Oct. 19th 2009. She has been working as parish priest in the Lutheran Church of Sweden since 1994 and also works at the diocese level, as the theological advisor to one of the bishops. She is involved in ecumenical councils in England and in Rome.

Before that she taught at the University of Uppsala (New Testament Greek).

Kristina is married to LtCol Lars Lundberg MD PhD. They have one daughter, Louise (24), and two sons, KarlJohan (23) and Rikard (19).

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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 I

Photos by Sergeant Stefanie Willuweit, German Army



December 01, 2009

Kosovo Force Commander (COMKFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, welcomed the Minister for International Defence & Security of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland Right Honorable Baroness Ann Taylor of Bolton. During the meeting, issues concerning the current situation in Kosovo were discussed.

December 09, 2009

COMKFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, greeted the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, Admiral James G. Stavridis. Admiral Stavridis thanked COMKFOR and the entire Kosovo Force family for the progress obtained in strengthening Kosovo security.



December 14, 2009

Kosovo Force Commander welcomed Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic, Mr. Jaroslav Baska. During the meeting both sides discussed the current situation in Kosovo and issues relating to Slovakia's contribution to KFOR.





December 14, 2009

Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, greeted Minister of Defence of the Portuguese Republic Mr. Augusto Santo Silva. During the meeting, the current situation in Kosovo was discussed.

December 15, 2009

NATO Joint Force Command Naples, Admiral Mark Fitzgerald, considered the update of the security situation with Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, Kosovo Force Commander.



December 17, 2009



Deputy Chief of Defence Staff of Austria, Lieutenant General Othmar Commenda was invited by the heads of KFOR. During the meeting, Major General Satta explained the event-driven transition process to and through the future force reduction.

Fir -Tree Beautifies the

Story and Photos by Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko, Ukrainian Army

Many years ago, people believed that evergreen trees were endowed with magical properties. During the winter, when all the other trees were brown and bare, the evergreen stayed strong and green. People considered the evergreen as a symbol of life and as a sign that spring would soon return.

According to a 16th century legend, the tradition of bringing a tree indoors was started by monks and church founder Martin Luther in Germany. Luther was returning home one winter night when he saw the stars in the sky through the tree branches. Luther was astounded by the sight and when he arrived home, he was eager to tell his family about it. For a better understanding, he went to the woods and cut down a small fir-tree. He brought the tree

indoors and decorated it with candles, which represented the stars he had seen.

Like Martin Luther in the 16th century, today we bring in the fir-tree to beautify our Christmas celebration. The 21st Swiss Contingent (SWISSCOY) of KFOR is no exception. On the 5th of December 2009, early in the morning, the SWISSCOY crew from Camp Casablanca began to execute their mission – to cut a Christmas tree and deliver it to the camp. This mission got full permission from the local authorities and representatives of the environmental organizations.

At first, the SWISSCOY crew needed to reach the mountain spot by two heavy tracks, one crane and two cross-country vehicles. The forest met the crew with almost impassable roads, old wooden bridges and mountain streams.

However the brave Swiss soldiers were without fear at the



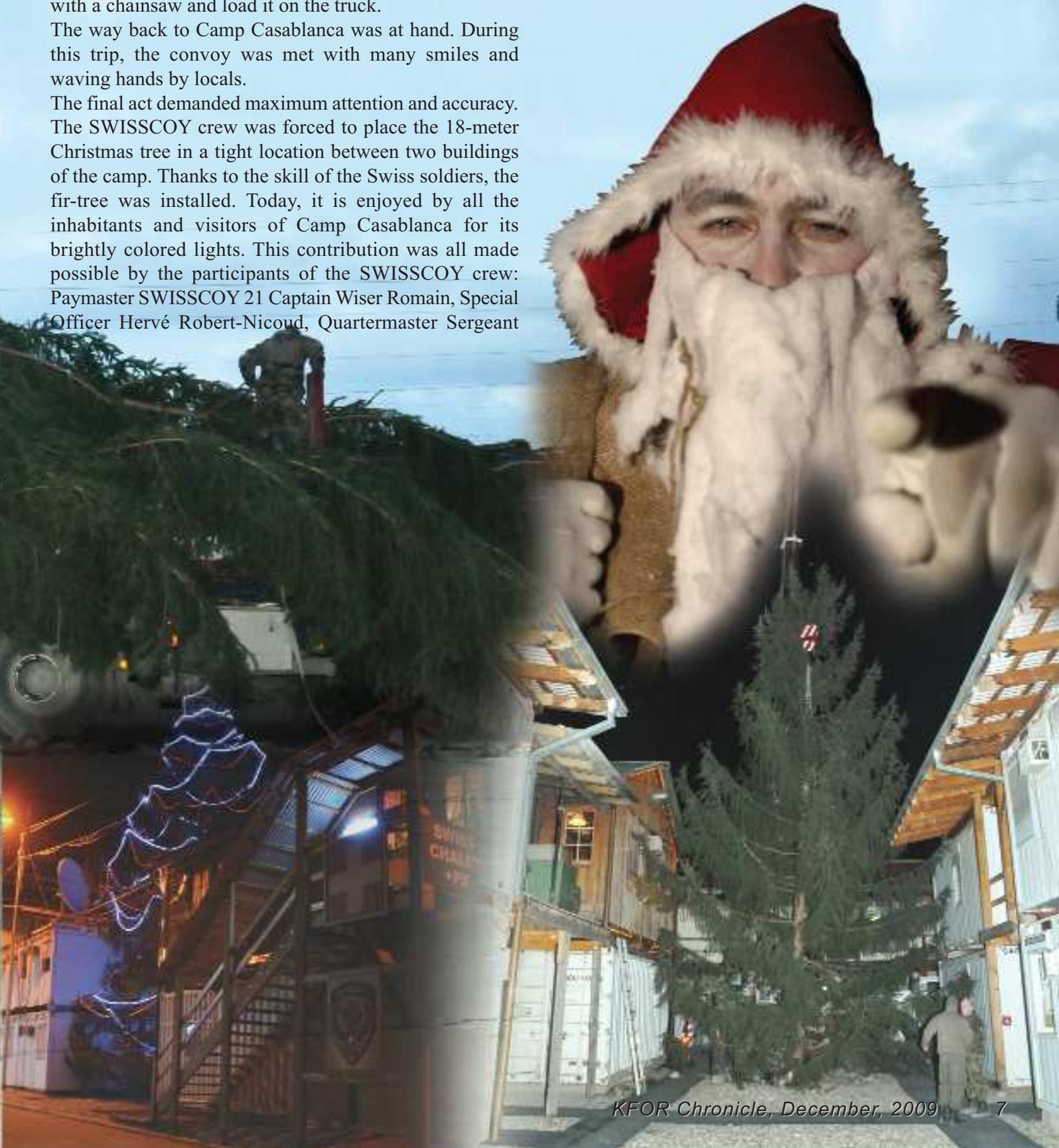
Christmas Celebration

face of such adversity. After they arrived at the spot and deployed their equipment, the weather conditions became worse. The sudden decrease of temperature and thick fog put additional obstacles in the way of completing the mission. In such a situation, it was decided to cut the tree with a chainsaw and load it on the truck.

The way back to Camp Casablanca was at hand. During this trip, the convoy was met with many smiles and waving hands by locals.

The final act demanded maximum attention and accuracy. The SWISSCOY crew was forced to place the 18-meter Christmas tree in a tight location between two buildings of the camp. Thanks to the skill of the Swiss soldiers, the fir-tree was installed. Today, it is enjoyed by all the inhabitants and visitors of Camp Casablanca for its brightly colored lights. This contribution was all made possible by the participants of the SWISSCOY crew: Paymaster SWISSCOY 21 Captain Wisser Romain, Special Officer Hervé Robert-Nicoud, Quartermaster Sergeant

Michael Wyss, 1st Lieutenant Nicolas Barthe, Sergeant Angelo Lanfranconi, Sergeant David Serafini, Private Patrik Odermatt, Private Salvatore Lucini, Zugführer Alexander Nauschigg (Austrian Contingent) and Corporal Jaklitsch Simon (Austrian Contingent).



One Day With

*Story by Captain Niels Czajor, German Army
Photos by Sergeant Stefanie Willuweit,
German Army*

Radio Andernach spent a day at the side of the Commander of the Kosovo Force (COM KFOR) Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, and got an impression of the highest military representative's tightly scheduled working day.

Lieutenant General Markus Bentler has been in office for three months now, and the magic number of the first 100 days is within reach. On 8 September, he assumed the supreme command of KFOR for one year. His seat of office is the international headquarters (HQ) in the heart of Camp Film City, the former premises of a film studio on the outskirts of the Kosovar capital of Pristina. Approximately 12.500 soldiers from 33 nations serve in his Area of Responsibility.

His term will be characterized by the stepwise KFOR troop reduction under the condition of maintaining the military core capacities required for accomplishing the mission of stabilization and reconstruction. Another major issue is the expansion of the Kosovo Security Forces (KSF) as a disaster control service. This process requires tact and sensitivity, and the goal-oriented coordination of all national and international players and institutions involved.

The command and control task of the supreme commander and highest representative requires him to start early in order to be able to manage his daily workload:

04:50 am: Reveille. Morning PT is calling.

05:15 am: "The early bird catches the worm." Lieutenant General Bentler keeps fit in the gym by running and cycling together with his MA and the CPT Chief: "It helps you free your mind."

06:15 am: COM KFOR and his team have breakfast together in the dining facility. Lieutenant General Bentler's "first" secret: two pancakes, jam, and a cup of coffee.

07:00 am: Opening the E-mail inbox in the office of COM

KFOR. Inspecting the messages that arrived during the night.
08:00 am: Briefing room on the floor of COM KFOR: The inner circle comprising DCOM, COS, PAO, POLAD, and LEGAD give the supreme commander an assessment of the situational development of the previous hours. Bentler considers them a decisive command and control tool: "This think tank is important for coordinating common approaches in order to find the appropriate answers for the upcoming challenges. You need a creative team for this kind of work."

08:30 am: Heli pad: COM KFOR departs for Prizren aboard an Austrian helicopter. Stopover in Camp Casablanca due to fog. The camp is bustling with activity; Swiss and Austrian manoeuvre forces of the Reserve Battalion prepare to "ride out". The exercise Balkan Hawk IV has already started.

09:30 am: The flight continues to Decane. COM KFOR accompanies the deployment exercise of the Swiss, Austrian, and Turkish manoeuvre forces from above. No driving error escapes the eyes of COM KFOR.

11:00 am: Landing at the sports field of Klina. It is time for a snack. COM KFOR supervises the issuance of orders of the forces entering the assembly area. Concluding words addressed to the troops: "In a tense security situation, you as the KFOR reserve forces are the decisive factor for re-establishing public security. Your capability of orderly and timely arrival at the place of deployment warrants the success of an operation. Your commitment guarantees stability in Kosovo."

1:15 pm: Gain in time: The head of KFOR arrives earlier at the HQ than scheduled. Making use of the slack time, Bentler consults with his closest advisors in his office in order to prepare the upcoming appointments.

3:00 pm: Informational visit of the Turkish military representative with SHAPE (NATO headquarters), Major General Atilla Gürdere. Accompanied by the Turkish DCOM of Multinational Task Force South, Colonel Hasip Saygili, COM KFOR informed him about the current situation and the further development of "Deterrent Presence." The

h COMKFOR

objective is to ensure and coordinate the international military presence in Kosovo: "together in, together out."

4:00 pm: Interview with Radio Andernach about the schedule of the visit: "The representatives want to hear my assessment of the development of Kosovo, which they directly forward to their governments. I can only manage this with a good team supporting me and delivering the facts."

4:30 pm: Forum meeting at ICO: Accompanied by POLAD, COM KFOR attends a meeting accepting an invitation by Peter Feith, the European Union Special Representative at the International Civilian Office. Together with the German Ambassador Hans-Dieter Steinbach and other international representatives, the current developments in Kosovo with regard to the local elections are examined.

5:50 pm: Reception of the NATO Assistant Secretary General Jiri Sedivy at the HQ with military honours: Aside from a briefing on the current state of troop reduction, the KFOR leadership informs Sedivy's NATO delegation about the status of the training of KSF, the competent disaster control service.

7:20 pm: Dinner in the Commander's Lounge: Lieutenant General Bentler, his deputy Major General Antonio Satta,

and his DCOS Brigadier General Salvatore Polimeno use the relaxed atmosphere for exchanging ideas with the NATO representatives while wine, fried salmon and rabbit is served.

9:30 pm: Concluding interview with Radio Andernach on the NATO representatives' visit: "Our objective is to create a leaner hierarchy. We will reduce our troops to 10,000 soldiers, from 27 camps today, to maybe eight in the future. The foremost issues are the training of our forces, and maintaining comprehensive situational awareness. Our predecessors accomplished their mission very successfully. Well, the first three months in this function are crucial. You need to initiate things. We have the right concepts at hand, now we have to convince the politicians of our work.

The following applies for my soldiers: Do not sink into routine! To consider our job an administrative task is completely wrong. We have to achieve more with fewer personnel. KFOR is held in high esteem, and we have to maintain it. It is important to me that you take your mission seriously. I need you all, every single one of you is important, important for the security of Kosovo. I need your commitment, I rely on you. I thank you for being here."



A New Life fo

*Story by Colonel Wolfgang Hanschke, German Army
Photos by Staff Sergeant Thorsten Waller,
German Army*

In October of this year, the Medical Center of HQ KFOR became aware of a Kosovar girl who has tragically lost her right leg five years ago. She had missed her footing and slipped into an open elevator shaft. Just at that moment, the elevator moved down and cut off her leg above the knee. Due to their poor economic situation, the family was not in the position to procure an artificial limb adjusted to the girl's age. After a medical examination, done at the initiative of Staff Sergeant Schaafe (paramedic with HQ KFOR Medical Center), the girl was found to have a

difference of 5 cm in leg length. Discussions of this case continued when Staff Sergeant Schaafe established contact with the NCO association of the DEU Federal Ministry of Defense, to request financial support for prosthesis attendance. The project was immediately approved and the planning was initiated.

In late November, the new artificial leg was fitted on the



For a Young Girl

premises of the ORS orthopedics company in Pristina/Prishtine. The girl received a prosthesis that can be easily adapted to her respective size in the future. Moreover, an additional joint was added that enables the girl to put on her shoes herself. She was also given an optional sports shoe in order to fulfill her wish of once again being able to play basketball. Future physiotherapeutic exercises with ORS will ideally help the young Kosovar girl get used to her new artificial limb. Everybody, including her family, was able to experience the improvements immediately after the prosthesis was fitted, when she climbed the stairs without support for the first time. Staff Sergeant Schaafe of the Medical Center and the NCO association of the DEU Federal Ministry of Defense deserve a special thanks: Their joint effort to organize and fund this effort made the success of this project possible.



Ten Years Presence - Fr

*Story by Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko,
Ukrainian Army*

Photos by Captain Martin Wieland, Austrian Army

On Sunday December, 6th 2009, the French Contingent of KFOR (FREEBAT) organized a 12km run in Mitrovica/Mitrovica. The run highlighted 10 years of French presence insuring a safe and secure environment within the city. The run started at 0930 hrs from in the Interethnic Market near the "Cambronne Bridge". There were more than 350 participants, including KFOR soldiers,

EULEX personnel and Kosovo civilians.

The 12 km run was conducted in north and south Mitrovica/Mitrovica settlements. It became an difficult for participants because the distance which included several upland areas. Both of the Mitrovica/Mitrovica settlements were located near mountainous terrain and it demanded additional physical training from the distance runners.

Furthermore, all the distance runners had to constantly pay attention to their health.

But most of participants, who volunteered to take part in the



ench Running Challenge

run (among them the Commander, Multinational Task Force – North Brigadier General Arnaud Sainte-Claire Deville), were in good physical shape and overcame difficulties. To their credit, all participants reached the finish line regardless of age, gender and level of preparedness.

The winner, Captain Bruno Beaufile from the support unit of FREEBAT finished the distance, in less than 45 minutes.

During the awards ceremony, prizes and gifts were presented by MNTF–N, Commander Brigadier General Arnaud Sainte-Claire Deville, Mayor of Mitrovica South, Mr. Rexhepi and the Commander of the FREEBAT, Colonel Ollier.

Particular thanks went to the organizers from FREEBAT, who managed everything from medical to logistical support of this event.



Attention! KFOR

*Story and Photos by Lieutenant Colonel Jos Senger,
Netherlands Army*

KFOR Drivers!

Now that winter has arrived, I would like to send a small note of warning to all KFOR drivers. In the coming weeks or days, snow will most likely fall all over Kosovo.

As your Provost Marshal, I would like to remind all KFOR drivers to drive safely. You can expect to find ice and snow on roads and this will make it quite dangerous for driving.

As you are all aware, KFOR vehicles are well prepared with the necessary equipment to

enable us to complete our tasks. As part of our preparation for winter conditions, our vehicles come complete with snow chains. It is essential that you make yourself familiar with the procedures for fitting snow chains.

You should also complete your "Before Operating Checks" to ensure that you have your vehicle ready for the road by ensuring your lights are in working order, and that you have sufficient de-icer to enable you to clear your vehicles windshield.

If you have to drive in fog, remember to be prepared, proper use of your fog lights and reduce your speed in accordance with the driving conditions. It is better to take longer for your journey than to not to get there at all.

If you drive on MSR DOG, LION and CAT, be prepared for bad driving conditions, as these roads are liable to heavy snowfall. At the moment, MSR DOG is undergoing road repairs

Ensure you have your "Drivers Handbook" with you and it is up to date with the current phone numbers of the Military Police within the area you are in.

If you have any questions about traveling in Kosovo, don't hesitate to contact the nearest Military Police Station.

The Military Police are here to assist you.



FOR Drivers



KTM Training is the B

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

On the 2nd and 3rd December, 2009, in CAMP VRELO – 15 km from Pristine/Pristina, the KFOR Tactical Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM) conducted the FLIGHT OF THE TIGER exercise, attended by the KFOR Commander (COMKFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler. The main objective was to train and to test the coordination, Command and

Control (C2), Cordon and Search, Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) operations, amongst the Battalion's subunits.

This exercise was conducted in a hypothetical cordon with a search house scenario, to find a U-target and illicit material therein. A part of "Bravo" Company (BRAVO COY), the Command Group, a proportional part of "Alpha" Company (ALPHA COY) and the TOC approached the objective by land, closing the cordon. The SOD and a majority of BRAVO COY were deployed by air with two



KTM Best Preparation

helicopters to establish the cordon and to guarantee security for the U-target detention by the SOD.

During the exercise, it was necessary to request an Air Medevac chopper to simulate a BRAVO COY casualty evacuation. Simultaneously, BRAVO COY with the support of two K9 teams, conducted a search for illicit material, weapons, explosives and drugs.

During several stages on the route the convoy was attacked by rioters. The attacks finally stopped because of a road block.

After the removal of the roadblock and scattering of the rioters, the exercise ended.

In addition to KTM forces, the Multinational Task Force South (MNTF-S)'s K9 teams, one American Blackhawk and two Croatian MI 117 choppers participated in the exercise as well.



JOINT LOGISTICS

Time to Do

*Story by Colonel Jozef F. M. Kuklinski,
Netherlands Army*

Photos by Captain Martin Wieland, Austrian Army

On 22 December, Chief of Staff Joint Logistics Support Group, Colonel Jozef Kuklinski, presented Christmas charity gifts to the children of HANDIKOS - Centers for Basic rehabilitation in Mitrovica/Mitrovce. The gifts are a donation from the personnel of the NATO HQ in Madrid. Colonel Kuklinski was accompanied by LTC Perez Palacios, LTC John Bulsing, Captain Kris Leibfarth and Master Sergeant Johannes Kress, all members of the Madrid JLSG "Cibeles" advanced party.

The Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG) is the newest KFOR unit and will establish a new position in the logistic support to KFOR. While in all areas adjustments to the KFOR structure are being prepared, the JLSG has begun building up its logistics capabilities in and outside Kosovo. In KFOR, the JLSG will bring new Transportation units, an Engineer unit, a Reception Staging and Onward Movement (RSOM) with the capabilities to support all the deployments and redeployments. Portions of the JLSG already exist in KFOR,

capacities like the Thessaloniki COMMZ(S) and the Medical Facilities in support of KFOR. "Third Level or Theatre Level Logistics" will be concentrated under the JLSG. Its main aim is to increase the level of logistics cooperation between Nations, NATO, the National Support Elements and the Task Forces or Battle Groups. The mutual assistance and cooperation will then allow the Nations to reduce the "logistic footprint" without limiting the required service level. At the end, the nations participating in KFOR should notice a reduction in the overall cost for the operation, something that will be welcomed during this period of economic crisis.

The JLSG Headquarters (HQ) in KFOR will be located at Film City in Pristina and the units can be found in almost all KFOR compounds. Since November, a JLSG advanced party arrived from Madrid, where one of the NATO JLSG Headquarters is stationed. In NATO HQ at Madrid and Heidelberg, you can find 2 JLSG elements. At this moment, all are in the building-up phase and KFOR is the first operation in which the new international logistics concept has been introduced. New in NATO is the involvement of the nations



SUPPORT GROUP Donate Gifts

participating with a National Support Element (NSE) in KFOR. NSEs will receive and give support on the request of JLSG, to other nations. The result might be that the NSEs do not need to have all logistics specialized equipment at the maximum level available, but that they can fall back on the help and assistance of JLSG and other nations for support whenever necessary. JLSG is also going to play a major role in fuel supply. Via NAMSA (the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency), the fuel for vehicles, generators and helicopters is going to be delivered by the JLSG. At the end of January, the JLSG HQ and the major units will be Full Operational Capable and the execution of logistics in KFOR will be at the hands of the JLSG.



Ukrainian National Day

Story by Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko, Ukrainian Army

Photos by Major Petro Gasay, Ukrainian Army

There is no more noble mission than that of protecting your people and homeland. December 6th is the day when all Ukrainian people congratulate those who dedicated themselves to defending their homeland and pay honour to the blessed memory of those who lost their lives for asserting the freedom of Ukraine.

The one defining feature of the Ukrainian defense policy is

peacemaking. Active participation of the Ukrainian Defense Forces in peacekeeping and stability operations is considerably strengthening the authority of Ukraine internationally.

In Kosovo, the Defense Forces of Ukraine are represented by the Ukrainian National Contingent, which is comprised of the Polish-Ukrainian Battalion (POLUKRBAT) of Multi-National Task Force – East (MNTF-E).

On 6 December 2009, in Camp Breza, the celebration of the 18th anniversary of the creation of the Ukrainian Defense Forces took place.



Defense Forces Day

The event was attended by the POLUKRBAT Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Cesary Pacewicz, Chief of Staff of POLUKRBAT Major Matey Binkewich, Chief of CIMIC section MNTF-E, Major Robert Fudger, Chief of the local section of the Kosovo Police, Dragan Ivanovich and representatives of Shterpci/Strpce Municipality.

The festive ceremony was opened with the playing of the National Anthem of Ukraine. After that, the Polish Ukrainian Task Force flag was presented by the honour guards in front of the Ukrainian peacekeepers formation.

Ukrainian National Contingent Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Michailo Zabrodskiy, thanked the Ukrainian peacekeepers for a conscientious mission executed. "We are the straightening authority of our country and the Ukrainian Defense Forces in the world by the high responsibility and tight discipline that are mandatory parts of our activities. I'm sure we will meet our engagements with honour", Lieutenant Colonel Zabrodskiy said.

POLUKRBAT Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Cesary Pacewicz, said that the high professionalism of the Ukrainian peacekeepers in Kosovo is a good example of the Ukraine's contribution to the cause of peace in the world and he stressed that the Ukrainian National Contingent remains an inalienable part of the KFOR - family.

After, the parade of the Ukrainian contingent's sub-units, all attendees were given an opportunity to see the festive show, organized by the Ukrainian paratroopers. The soldiers demonstrated their best skills and the methods of mortal combat they were taught during their service.

At the end of the celebration, an amateur talent group from the Shterpci/Strpce Municipality performed.



The Last Da

Story by Captain Niels Czajor, German Army
Photos by Captain Martin Wieland, Austrian Army

A total of 842 women and men of KFOR, the European police mission EULEX and the

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe OSCE from 15 countries paid homage to the last DANCON March organized in Kosovska Mitrovica prior to the disbandment of the Danish base. The Commander of the Danish Contingent Colonel Lars Baier inaugurated the march by instructing the participants to respect the environment and not to be faster than him. He had barely finished when the crowd of participants, each carrying their personal weapon, helmet and a ten-kilo backpack, pressed onto the marching route. The distance of 25.2 kilometres was broken down into several sections, what proved to be convenient in particular for those participating for their first time. The trail featured appealing scenery and cheering children, but also a challenging tarmac and gravel surface and a steep ascent. Surrounded by the international KFOR family, the KFOR Commander (COM KFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler marched accompanied by many German soldiers based in Film City. For LTG Bentler, the international event was as a sign of international comradeship, and his participation only natural: "The DANCON march is a day of meeting, and gives all participants the opportunity to pass a physical challenge together." According to LTG Bentler, the interesting and



nCon March

varied marching route was good for training the military capability of coping with varying terrain, and demanded physical resilience. The Commander, who maintained a position in the top third, marched highly motivated towards the mountain range of Vidomiric on the sign-posted route together with an international marching column. In accordance with the motto "no mountain too steep", LTG Bentler enjoyed the appealing view during the ascent. In order to encourage some sceptics in his surroundings and to ease the atmosphere, the highest-ranking soldier in Kosovo said that there was no reason to worry about crossing the tiny hill. On the ascent, several participants who had started more quickly were caught up while taking a rest. After the scenic view of Mitrovica and the surrounding area had compensated the participants for the challenging climb, the route continued downhill for another 10 kilometres towards the Danish camp. On his arrival in the goal area, LTG Bentler and his fellow soldiers were happy to have mastered the strenuous task: "It feels great to have achieved a goal you have been determined to reach."



Finnish Independence Day

*Story by Lieutenant Satu Hoikka, Finnish Army
Photos by Lieutenant Satu Hoikka and
Private 1st Class Simo Viitanen, Finnish Army*

On Sunday, December 6th at 1400, the Finnish Contingents' (FINCON) began a celebration in honour of the 92nd Independence Day of Finland in Camp Ville, Lipljan. Festivities started with lunch in Camp Ville's dining hall, where all the leaders of MNTF (C) and Finnish soldiers attended.

At night, 150 Finnish soldiers took part in the parade. The troops were inspected by the Finnish Contingent's commander LtCol Pasi Rekilä. During his speech, LtCol Rekilä stressed that all the Finnish soldiers should be proud of their important work of maintaining peace and stability in Kosovo. He also emphasized that based on Finland's good experiences in peacekeeping during the past five decades, it wants to be an active member in

building international security and stability in the future and that is the main task the country is committed to carrying out also in Kosovo.

At the end of his speech, the commander of the Finnish contingent expressed his gratitude to the Czech, Slovakian, Swedish and Irish contingents for good multinational co-operation in MNTF (C).

The MNTF (C) official greeting to the parade was brought by MNTF (C) Deputy Commander, Colonel Con Ryan, who thanked good co-operation with FINCON and highlighted Finland's contribution to various peacekeeping missions around the world. He also complimented Finnish peacekeepers who were awarded with the NATO Non Article 5 Medals in parade.

After the parade, attendants guests, and hosts gathered for a cocktail party to enjoy traditional Finnish delicacies.



y Celebration in MNTF (C)



MULTINATIONAL

*Story by Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko,
Ukrainian Army
Photos by Captain Martin Wieland, Austrian Army*

On Friday, December 11th 2009, at Camp Vrelo (Multinational Task Force – Centre Area of Responsibility) a Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) Exercise took place. This exercise was characterized by the participation of units from almost all Multi-National Task Forces.

Combined Force

The “friendly forces” were represented by:
One Company from the KFOR Tactical Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM);
One Company from Multi-National Task Force – North (MNTF-N);
One Company with two platoons from Multi-National Task Force – East (MNTF-E) and one platoon from

Multi-National Task Force – South (MNTF-S).

In turn, the “opposing forces” included one Company from Multinational Task Force – Centre (MNTF-C), formed by the Irish, Swedish, and Slovakian platoons. Active participation in the CRC took part at the Tactical PSYOPS Team from KFOR Headquarters.

The Exercise Scenario

The task of the “friendly forces” was to protect an important building, which was assigned as the building, against attacks.

Course Exercise

The CRC Exercise started with one MNTF-S platoon setting up the red box around the building and a blue box marked the several KFOR forces ready to be deployed into the area.

During the Phase 1 (MNTF-E vs Rioters) the rioters came and started gathering peacefully on the western side of the blue box perimeter. The crowd demanded



L CRC EXERCISE

the opening of the building. Proceeding the situation, MNTF-E deployed two platoons into the site. Rioters were getting more excited by the leader's speeches. After awhile they tried to enter the building. Street fights started and violence increased

In Phase 2 (MNTF-N rip MNTF-E) Multinational Task Force – North relieved Multinational Task Force – East. The situation was made more complicated by the increasing violence. The MNTF-N COY used tear gas to remove the rioters from the roadblock. Furthermore, the KTM forces deployed near the building and started to block one of the roads.

The final, Phase 3 (KTM rip MNTF-N) was characterized by the increasing number of the demonstrators and KTM relieving in MNTF-N at the same time. This phase perfected issues of unblocking barricades, counteracting the use of "Molotov cocktails" and evacuating injured soldiers

(AIRMEDEVAC). The exercise ended after the KTM COY pushed the rioters along the street from the building.



Ceremony of the Kosovo Security Force

Story by 1st Lieutenant Joerg Hendricks, German Army

Photos by Captain Martin Wieland, Austrian Army

The last basic course found its end in a closing ceremony in the “Bill Clinton Sports Center” in Ferizaj/Urosevac on Friday the 18th of December 2009. 276 KSF Trainees got their certificates of appreciation, for the 8-week basic course they completed in front of their families and friends. Both sides, KFOR and KSF took part in this ceremony. For this big event, the President of Kosovo, the Minister of KSF, the KSF Commander and the KFOR Commander were present and made a speech. The eleven best recruits were awarded for their results in the final tests. The closing ceremony of the basic course finished with a symbolized hand over/take over from the KFOR to KSF which was carried out by KFOR and KSF instructors.

In the ceremony, the 4 speakers made clear, that this basic course was the beginning of the KSF-organization. In the future, KFOR and KSF will continue to work together to improve the skills of the

KSF members for the mission and duties for which they were activated. For this, several courses are going to start at the beginning of 2010 like the “Signal Course”, “Force Police Course”, “Instructors Training Course”, “Transport & Movement Course”, “Driver & Maintenance Course”, “Search & Rescue Course”, “Engineering Course” and “Logistic Supply Course”. The structure of the NATO Training Teams had will change. A few of them will stay in Ferizaj/Urosevac and train KSF-members in these areas and some of the Battle Training Teams will be divided and sent out for the mentoring phase in KSF-Locations on specialized allocated positions.



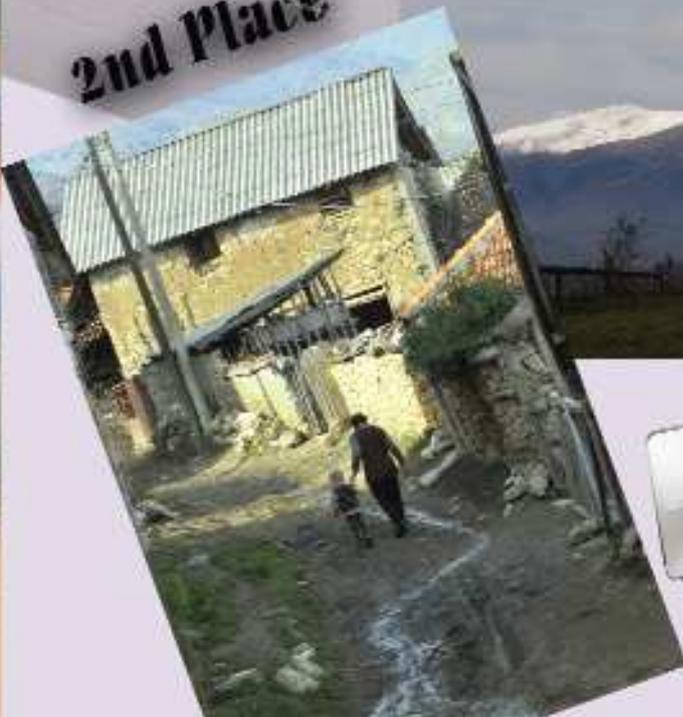
THE WINNERS OF THE KFOR PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST 2009



1st Place



2nd Place



3rd Place



Dear Readers of the 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 intentions you had at the very beginning of it. I appreciate and welcome you again as an interested reader. The KFOR Chronicle Team is eager to accompany you until the end of your tour, with interesting stories.

In the December edition, our team will offer you a wide scale of issues, starting with COMKFOR's seasonal greetings, continuing with important visits, a lot of exercises, CIMIC donations in the North of Kosovo, a running challenge in Mitrovica/Mitrovice, independence day of the Ukrainian and Finnish, etc.

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

Comrades, let me remind you again. Everybody can become a journalist. Just send us an article with approximately 400 words in English language and with seven to ten pictures in high resolution. And you will be part of KFOR Chronicle.

Finally, I look forward to providing you a lot of interesting, funny and exciting stories in the future KFOR Chronicles.

Captain Martin Wieland, Austrian Army



KFOR Chronicle Sudoku

Amateur

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

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3		2						
1	4				3	6		
					7		3	

Peacekeeper's Profiles

Name: Jozef KUKLINSKI

Rank: Colonel

Home unit: NATO HQ, Madrid

Unit in KFOR: JLSG HQ KFOR, COS JLSG

About the mission: This is my first mission to Kosovo, but I have been to this region before. The last time I was deployed to the Balkans was during the Bosnia and Herzegovina operation. Nowadays, Kosovo seems to be a fast developing region in the economical, political and cultural senses. My mission here, as Chief of Staff of the Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG), is to manage issues connected with the increasing level of logistics support to KFOR. Because JLSG is a new coordination unit for KFOR, I expect to achieve success in our task.

Family reaction: I'm married and have two children, one son and one daughter. My family is very supportive and respects my decisions.

Plans after the mission: I am going to return home and spend some time with my family. After that, I will begin preparations for my next mission, which will be at the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.



Name: Michael WYSS

Rank: Sergeant 1st Class

Home unit: Electronic Warfare Battalion

Unit in KFOR: Swiss Chalet Chief

About the mission: Because this is my first mission, I consider it an opportunity to gain new experiences. First, this mission teaches me to be flexible and persistent. Every day, I get new orders and find solutions. In my point of view, this type of experience is very important for a man who has decided to make the military a career. The mission in Kosovo has greatly broadened my mind through the meeting of soldiers from other nations and by the studying of their traditions and culture. Finally, my position here provides me the opportunity to make the transition to civilian life, where I plan to work in either the restaurant or hotel business.

Family reaction: I have a girlfriend who is waiting for my return. Sometimes I think it is hard for her when we are separated from each other. As for my parents, their reaction was one of calm and understanding.

Plans after the mission: I will return home and spend my vacation time with my girlfriend. After that, I will continue my education at the University of Lausanne, where I will pursue a Masters Degree in Management.



Name: Werner Walkowiak

Rank: Master Chief

Home unit: Naval base Wilhelmshafen, German Army

Unit in KFOR: LMT Prizren

About the mission: This is my 4th mission, in which I anticipate new experiences in my special aspects. I am working closely with civilians all over the area, to get information about the disposition and to find opinions regarding various issues. The effort 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. In MNTF-S, our team consists of 18 specialists. We are also used to working close together with other nations like Austria and Turkey. I am sure that at the end of this mission, I will have gained both professional experiences and good friends equally.

Family reaction: I'm married and have four children, two sons and two daughters. My family is very supportive and understands the importance of what I am doing. That really helps me to focus on the mission here and not worry about how things are going back home.

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 family. In 2010, I will retire and enjoy the rest of my life together with my family.



Christmas Impression in Camp Film City

