

# KFOR



## Chronicle

Special Edition

September 8<sup>th</sup> 2009



Change of  
Command Ceremony

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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

# COMKFOR's Foreword

## One year of Unity of Effort!



It is time to handover the command of the Kosovo Force to Lt Gen Markus Bentler. After one intensive and challenging year, I think we have progressed with our mission towards the end state. I want just to mention some key points that have marked our way during my command. From the operational perspective, KFOR has finally synchronized all the activities and the Effects Based Approach to Operations has provided, inter alia, a very useful tool to assess the situation. This has led KFOR on the way to the following phase, the Deterrent Presence. Talking about the non-kinetic approach, the introduction of the Kosovo Development Zones' Concept has brought KFOR, the Institution in Kosovo and the International Community to a better coordination and cooperation. Eventually, the New Tasks assigned to KFOR have been dealt with high professionalism and competence. We have successfully stood down the Kosovo Protection Corps and we are standing up the Kosovo Security Force (KSF). The latter has already achieved the Initial Operational Capability (IOC). This is giving to KSF the necessary boost for the future. I am leaving Kosovo with a bittersweet feeling: the joy for the great achievements, the displeasure for leaving Kosovo and my Kosovar Friends together with all the International Community Representatives and KFOR's Soldiers. I would like to thank you all and to wish you all the best for a brighter future.

Film City, 08 September 2009

Giuseppe E. Gay  
Lieutenant General  
Italian Army  
KFOR XIII Commander

QUARTERS KOSOVO FOR

UNITY OF EFFORT



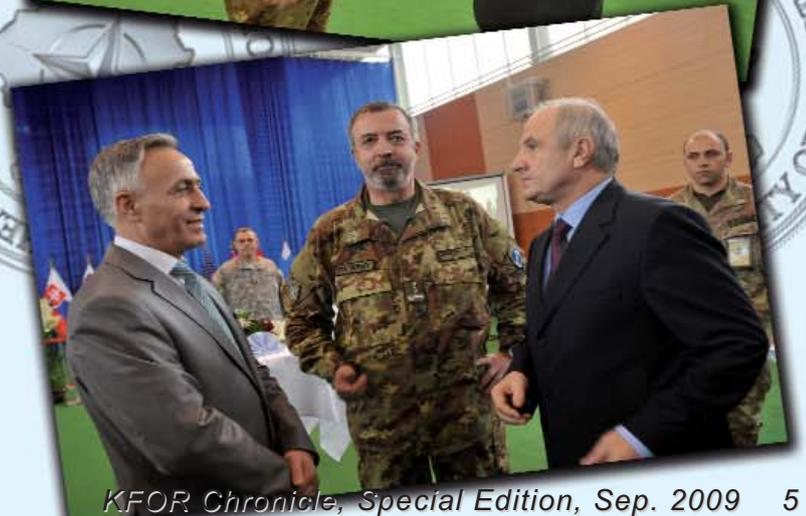
# New Year's



UNITY OF EFF



# Reception



# *Program overview*

## *Change of Command Ceremony*

*10:00 Guests Arrival*

*11:00 DCOM KFOR reports to COM JFC Naples*

*11:05 Inspection of the troops*

*11:10 COM KFOR speech*

*11:15 COM JFC Naples speech*

*11:20 President of Kosovo speech*

*11:25 Handover of the KFOR flag*

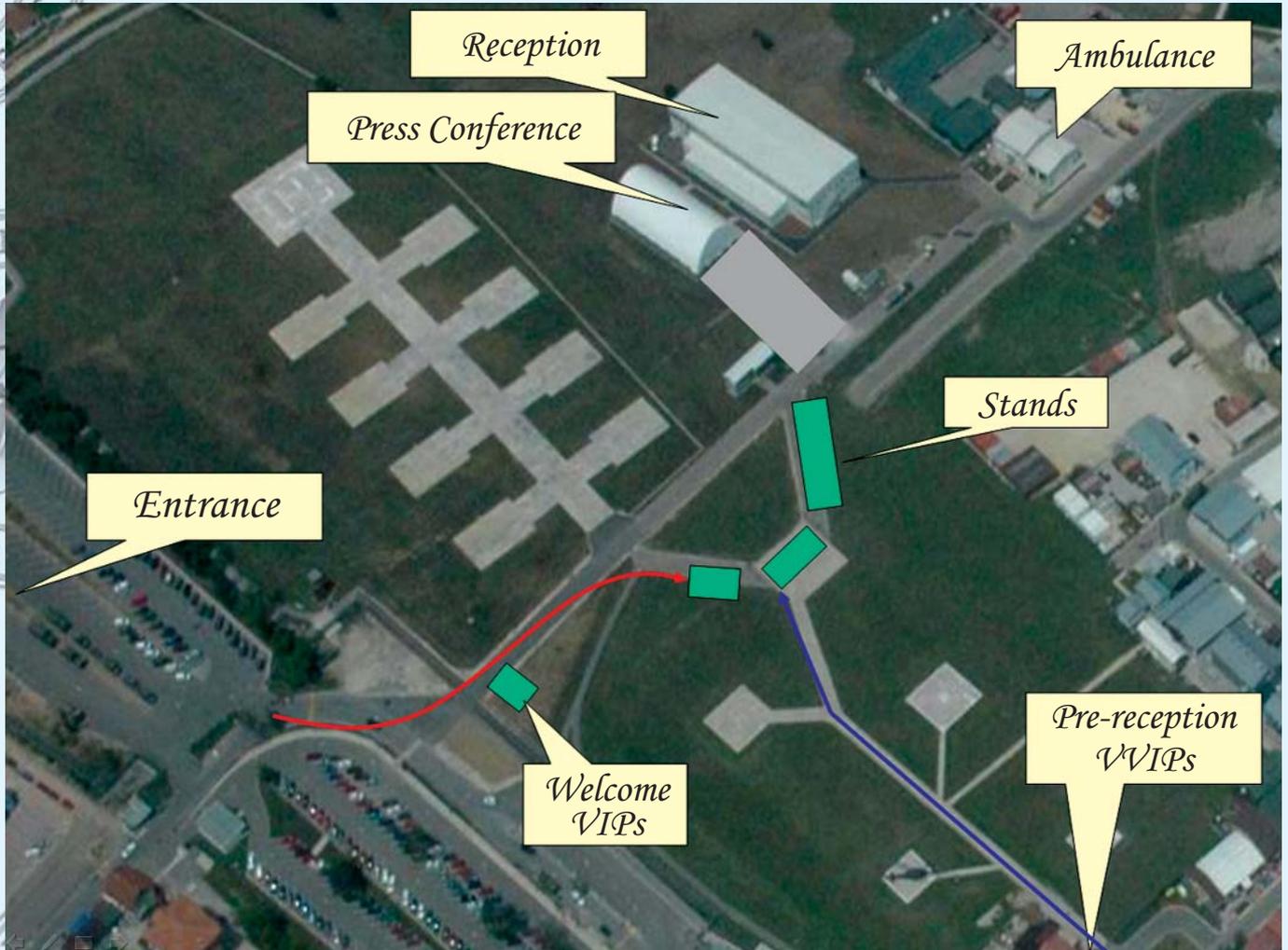
*11:40 Italian and German national anthem*

*11:50 Guests leave the parade ground to the reception*

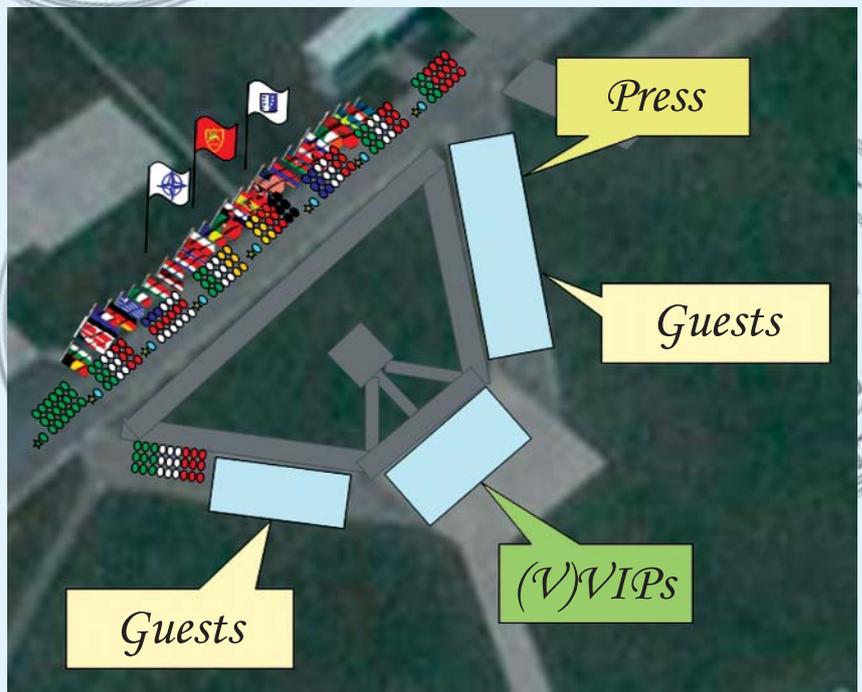
*11:50 End of Ceremony*

*12:20 Reception in the Sportshall*

# Map of the ceremony Camp Film City

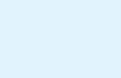


*overview*



*parade square in detail*

# KFOR's role in Kosovo



The Kosovo Force (KFOR) is a NATO-led international force. Under the UNSCR 1244, the mission of KFOR is to: establish and maintain a safe and secure environment throughout Kosovo, ensure freedom of movement and support the development of a stable, democratic, multi-ethnic and peaceful Kosovo. Initial KFOR tasks have included assistance to the return or relocation of displaced persons and refugees; reconstruction and demining; medical assistance; security of different communities; protection of patrimonial sites; border security; interdiction of cross-border weapons smuggling; implementation of a Kosovo-wide weapons, ammunition and explosives amnesty program and other aspects of the political, economic and social life of Kosovo.

In June 2008 the North Atlantic Council, NATO's highest level political authority, agreed to start implementing the "additional tasks", i.e. to assist in the standing down of the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) and in the establishment of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), as well as the civilian structure to oversee the KSF. These tasks are implemented in close coordination and consultation with the relevant local and international authorities.

In June 2009, NATO Defence Ministers recognized a positive evolution over a sustained period of time and decided to begin a gradual adjustment of KFOR's force presence. The pace of reductions in the KFOR troop levels will be decided by the North Atlantic Council as the situation evolves, taking into account security conditions. KFOR will continue to strengthen its ability to detect, deter and respond decisively to any threat to the safe and secure environment.



# Structure of KFOR



Armenia

United States of America

Austria

United Kingdom

Belgium

Bulgaria

Ukraine

Canada

Turkey

Croatia

Switzerland

Czech Republic

Sweden

Denmark

Spain

Estonia



Slovenia

Finland

Slovakia

France

Romania

Germany

Portugal

Greece

Poland

Hungary

Norway

Ireland

Netherlands

Italy

Morocco

Latvia

Luxemburg

Lithuania

Thessaloniki



# *Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay, Italian Army*

## *CV - outgoing COMKFOR*



Lt. Gen. Giuseppe E. Gay attended the Italian Military Academy in Modena, and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1971. Following two years of specialization training in Turin, he was assigned as a First Lieutenant to the 182<sup>nd</sup> "Garibaldi" armored Regiment and later, as a Captain, he commanded a tank company in the 13<sup>th</sup> "M.O.Pascucci" Tank Battalion. Following the Basic and Advanced Courses of the Italian Army General Staff College, he served as a Staff Officer at the North Eastern District's Estate & Facilities Office, the Army General Staff's Personnel Division, the 5<sup>th</sup> Army Corps' HQ (Chief G3), the Army General Staff's Logistic Division (Chief G4) and the 1<sup>st</sup> Command Force of Defense (COS).

LTG Gay's command experience includes Commander of the 7<sup>th</sup> Tank Battalion "M.O. Di Dio" in Vivaro, Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Regiment in Teulada, Deputy Commander and Commander of the 132<sup>nd</sup> "Ariete"

Armored Brigade in Pordenone - during this assignment, he commanded the Multinational Brigade West in Pec/Peja (Kosovo 1999 - 2000) - Deputy Commander of the Kosovo Force, in Pristina/Pristinë (2003 - 2004), Deputy Commander of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (2004 - 2007) during this appointment, he spent a tour as Deputy Commander (Stability) of ISAF IX in Kabul (2006) - Commander of Land Forces Support HQ (2007) and Commander of the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps - ITA (2007-2008).

He took over the command of KFOR from August 29, 2008 until September 8, 2009.

He has received numerous military decorations, badges and ribbons. Besides this he has been awarded the Italian Army Bronze Medal for Gallantry, the First Class Medal "Don Alfonso HENRIQUES" of the Portuguese Army, the German Army Gold Cross for Honor, Slovak military medal "For Service at Peacekeeping Operations of 1<sup>st</sup> degree" and Meritorious Officer Cross with Swords of Malta's Sovereign Military Order. He also was conferred with the title of Commander of the Italian Republic Order of Merit, and the title of Knight of the Italian Military Order.

LTG Gay holds a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree in Strategic Sciences from the University of Turin, a Bachelor's degree in International and Diplomatic Sciences from the University of Trieste and a postgraduate degree in Classical Sciences from the "Accademia Agostiniana" - Lateran University of Rome.

He is married to Anna and they have two adult children.

# *Lieutenant General Markus J. Bentler, German Army*

## *CV - incoming COMKFOR*



Lt. Gen. Markus J. Bentler was born on 16 May 1953, in Paderborn, Germany. His military career began 1 July 1972, when he enlisted in the Federal Armed Forces, Army (Infantry). Up to 1974, he completed training as an officer candidate. In 1974, he began his studies at the University of the Federal Armed Forces in Hamburg, Social Sciences, and graduated in 1977.

From 1977 - 1984, he took assignments as a Platoon Leader and Company Commander. From 1984 - 1986, he completed the General Staff Course, Federal Armed Forces College. Other assignments include G 2 Mechanized Infantry Division, 1986 - 1987; G 3 Armored Brigade, 1987 - 1989; and Deputy Army Attaché with the German Embassy, Washington DC, 1989 - 1992.

He became a Commander of a Mechanized Infantry Battalion and served in this capacity from 1992 - 1994, and he served as the Assistant Branch Chief, Armed

Forces Staff, MOD Bonn, 1994 - 1996. From July 1996 - June 1999, he was the Chief of Personal Staff of the Chief of Defense.

He attended the National Defense University/National War College, Washington DC, June 1999 - June 2000, with honors as a Distinguished Graduate (Masters Degree). From June 2000 - March 2001, he was assigned to the German Army Forces Command in Koblenz. He commanded the Mountain Infantry Brigade 23 from 2001 to 2004 - during this assignment, he served as Commander, Multinational Brigade Southwest, headquartered in Prizren, Kosovo (Dec 02 - Jun 03) and later became Commandant, Army Officer School in Dresden (2004).

He has received numerous military decorations, badges and ribbons. Besides this he has been awarded the German Cross of Honor of the Federal Armed Forces in Silver and Gold, the German Bronze Foreign Duty Medal KFOR and the Italian "La Croce commemorativa per la Missione militare di pace KOSOVO" (Commemorative Cross for the Military Peacekeeping Mission in Kosovo).

He is married, and his last assignment was as Commander, 10th Armored Division in Sigmaringen (2006 - 2009).

# *Change of Command Speech*

## *Lt. Gen. Giuseppe E. Gay, ITA Army*

**Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,**



Welcome to KFOR HQ and thank you for being here today.

It seems like yesterday when I took over the command from Lt. Gen. Xavier Bout de Marnhac and suddenly I am once again here in this parade area to hand over the command to Lt Gen Markus Bentler.

This could have different meanings. On one hand I could have been so busy to not appreciate how fast the time was running out but also it could be that I have really enjoyed this period and that in Kosovo I feel to be at home.

All in all I have spent in Kosovo more than two years of my life and I do think that Kosovo is a fascinating land that can easily provide you a whole range of emotions. I have impressed in my mind all the different aspects that characterize the land and the

people, the improvements but also the contradictions over the last years.

Being COM KFOR means being in command of a force of around 13000 troops representing 34 nations that has produced in the last 10 years, thanks to an intense and day by day work, peace and stability for the benefit of all communities living here in Kosovo.

As a sign of our successful performance, KFOR is beginning to move towards a next phase acknowledging that the situation in Kosovo has improved. NATO's gradual reduction does not mark the end of its commitment but aims to reinforce the positive progress that we have achieved. KFOR will continue to guarantee the safe and secure environment and the freedom of movement for all the people in Kosovo.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2009, KSF has completed successfully the validation exercise to achieve the Initial Operational Capability heading towards this first important goal in the Standing up process. A lot of outstanding work has been carried out during the last year but a lot needs to be done.

One year of great achievements and outstanding cooperation with all the Institutions in Kosovo. It has been a privilege to be in support and I take this opportunity to thank you all for your availability and for your cooperation.

But this last year has been a very challenging period also for all the International Community Representatives working in Kosovo. It has been a great pleasure to work shoulder by shoulder with all of you. Thank you very much for your cooperation and friendship.

Now I would like to address the KFOR Soldiers. This has been a year of security, commitment to development, and support to the population. I am extremely proud to have served with professional men and women of your respected calibre. You have performed with distinction and honour in all your activities. Your actions are an inspiration and example for all future KFOR soldiers. This has been one of the most rewarding periods in my professional career and I thank you for your uncompromising dedication.

Of course none of this would have been possible without the tireless efforts of the KFOR HQ staff. I am deeply indebted to them for all the long days and even longer nights they struggled to realize my intent and the missions of KFOR. I am grateful to you for your endless commitment to excellence and perseverance.

To Admiral Fitzgerald: I wish to express my sincere gratitude for your support, guidance and leadership. The trust you had in me and KFOR soldiers has been a true stabilizing factor in our performance.

To Lt Gen Bentler: I know you will continue the achievements that we have accomplished and expand them to even loftier heights. I am confident you will be very successful and I wish you all the best. I hope you will perceive how beautiful is Kosovo but also how deeply a soldier can love it, so deeply to keep alive forever the memory in his mind and heart.

My motto:

## **"Unity of Effort"**

has lead our endeavors throughout this last year in support of peace and stability in Kosovo. The introduction of the Kosovo Development Zones' Concept has brought KFOR, the Institution in Kosovo and the International Community to a better coordination and cooperation.

I am leaving Kosovo with a bittersweet feeling. The joy for the great achievements, the displeasure for leaving Kosovo and my Kosovar Friends together with all the International Community Representatives and KFOR's Soldiers.

I would like to thank you all and to wish you all the best for a brighter future.

May God bless you and your families.

# COMKFOR MAIN

## COMKFOR

*August 2008*

### Change of Command Ceremony

August 29<sup>th</sup> 2008



# ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

*September 2009*



*March*



*April*



*May*



*June*



*July*



*August*



## COMKFOR

*Change of Command  
Ceremony  
September 8<sup>th</sup> 2009*

# KFOR Impact on

By Lt. Col. Carlos Carrascosa Casado De Amezua,  
*J8 Deputy Chief*  
 Supervised by Mr. Konstantinos Spyraakis,  
*J8 Chief/Theatre Financial Controller*

United States and the European Community and the revenues of the Kosovo people living abroad. The last year the total amount of revenues was 583 million Euros.

## General Information

Kosovo has a population (2007) of 2,307,692 inhabitants. Nowadays it is one of the poorest regions in Europe. Its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2007 was around 2,307 million Euros; its GDP (Euro per capita) in the same year was around 1,000.

The unemployment ratio in 2007 was approximately 45% and in accordance with the Kosovo Institutions there were at the end of the year 333,000 registered job seekers. Roughly 60% of the officially unemployed are unskilled. Young people and ethnic minorities are also more affected than other groups.

However, the informal economy remains sizable and assumingly employs many of the officially unemployment. In 2006 the value of imports of all goods and partners was 1,315 million Euros and in the same year the value of exports was only 82 million Euros, that means a -1,233 million Euros Trade Balance.

This deficit is covered by the donations, especially from the

## KFOR Impact

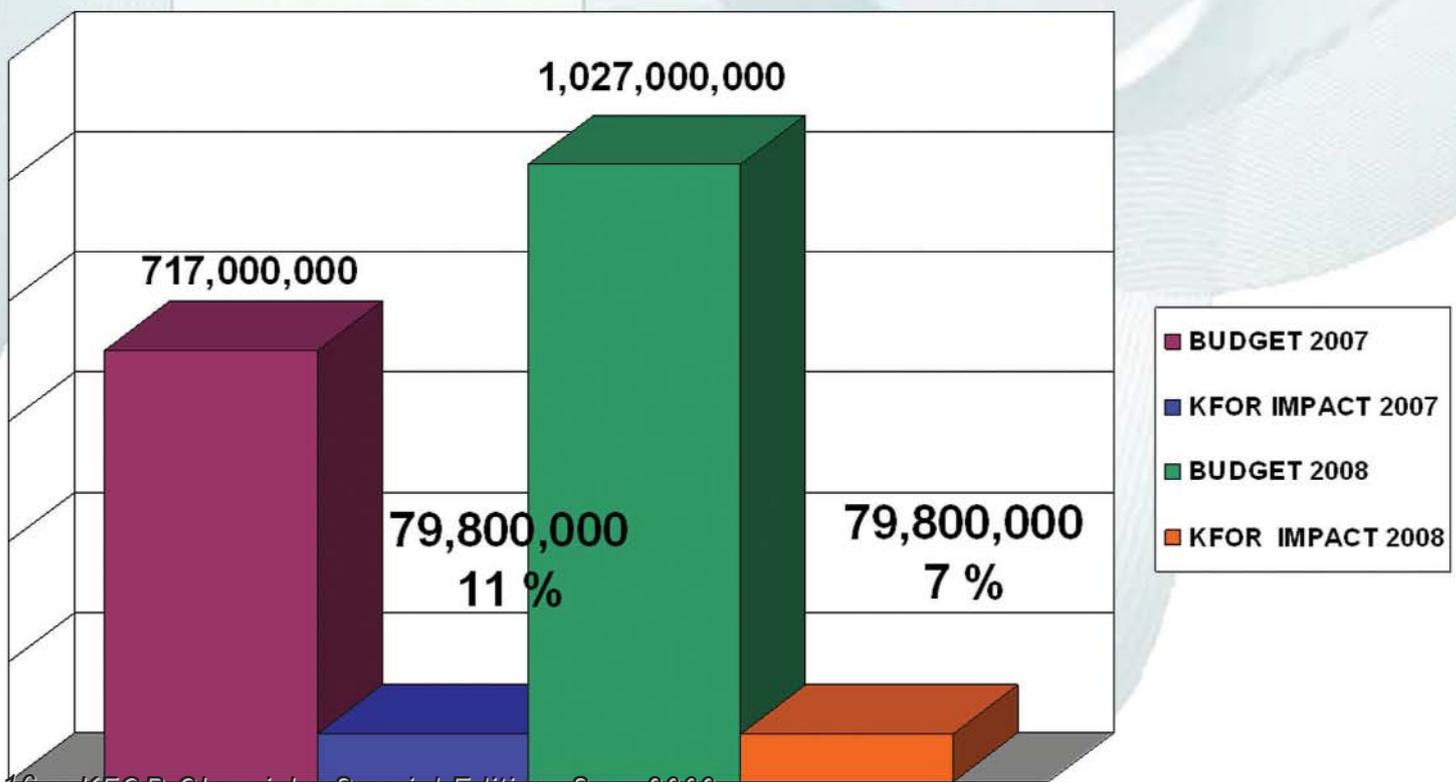
For the KFOR impact we have taken into account five main points:

The total amount of the salary of the Local Civilian Hired Employees in one year. We have in all Kosovo 4,852 employees and their average salary is 559.54. The final total amount calculated for this input is 32,371,280.

The total amount of the salary of NATO International Civilians (NIC) and International Civilian Consultants (ICC) that we consider, after different studies and enquiries, they spend in Kosovo in one year, is 1,116,000.

The third point is the total amount of payments KFOR has done inside Kosovo, for Kosovo companies and banks, from KFOR budget. The amount is 14,000,000.

Based in different enquiries and calculations we have made the assumption that KFOR soldiers spend an average quantity per day of 5 Euros in all areas except the Pristina area in which we consider they spend 10 Euros/day. The final quantity per year for the whole military personnel is 30,155,400.



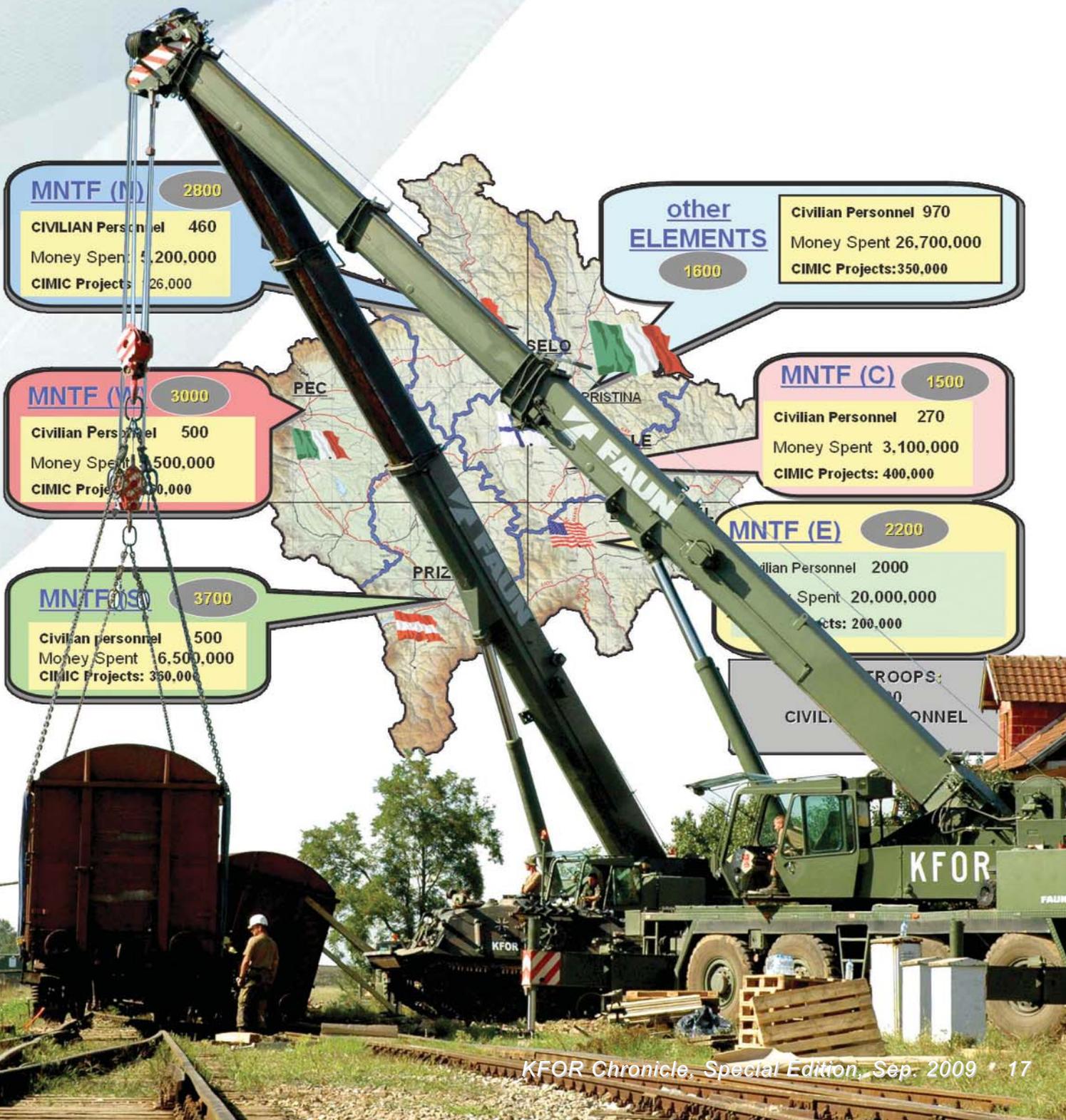
# Kosovo Economy

Finally we received an amount from J9 for the CIMIC projects done in Kosovo, 2,196,000.

The total amount of the previous five points is 79,838,681. If we compare this figure with the Kosovo budget (money spent) in 2007 and with the 2008 Kosovo budget we obtain the possible KFOR economical impact on Kosovo economy. This was in 2007, in comparison with the budget, 11.14% and in 2008 we consider it will be around 7.77% of the budget.

## Sources

- KFOR Internal Sources
- United Nations, UNMIK
- European Commission
- Kosovo Institutions
- Organization for Security and Co-Operation in Europe (OSCE)



# THE BLAST FOR SAFETY OF THE PEOPLE

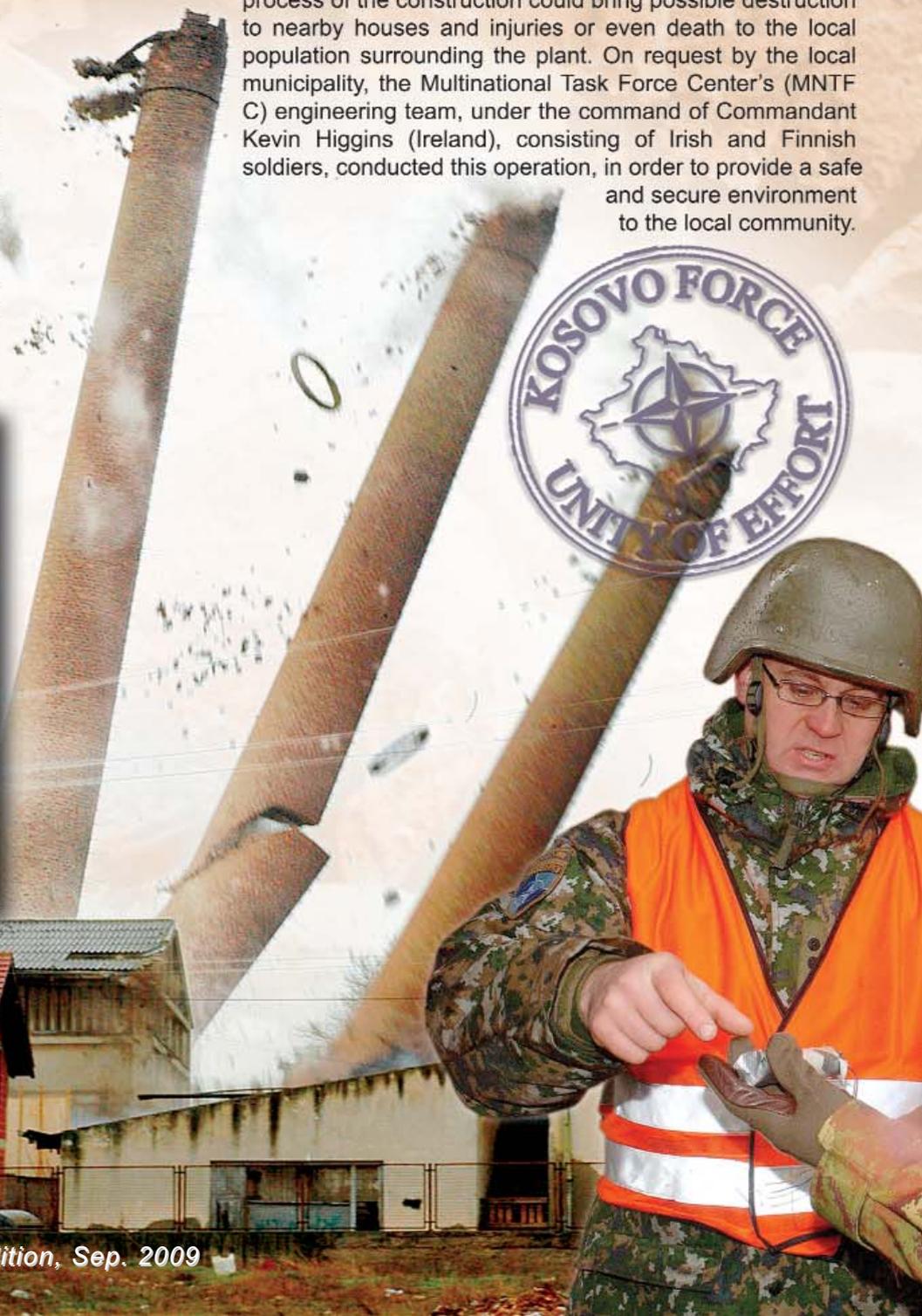
Story by Major Oleksii Morozov  
(Ukrainian Army)

Captain Ossi Leander  
(Finnish Army)

Photos by Major Oleksii Morozov and  
Combat Camera Team

On Thursday 29 January 2009, at 10:45, a 43 meters high chimneystack was demolished at a Sole Freezing plant located in Kosovo Polje/Fushë Kosova. Even though there was a big blast, this was not a terrorist attack. The blast was intended with an absolutely peaceful purpose. Actually, it was a bright example of the civil-military cooperation.

What was the background for this operation? The chimneystack was constructed of stones that were very old and with the natural course of time, they started to ruin. The weight of each stone was about 5 kilos, and it was clear that the aging process of the construction could bring possible destruction to nearby houses and injuries or even death to the local population surrounding the plant. On request by the local municipality, the Multinational Task Force Center's (MNTF C) engineering team, under the command of Commandant Kevin Higgins (Ireland), consisting of Irish and Finnish soldiers, conducted this operation, in order to provide a safe and secure environment to the local community.





It was a serious challenge for the engineers, since the chimneystack was located just between the plant building and one of the houses. From the third side, there was another building, belonging to the plant... Therefore, there was only one direction for the chimney to fall. Everything was professionally evaluated, with mathematical precision. All the necessary calculations were carried out; the explosive charges put in place and soldiers were ready. In the presence, and under the control of Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Giuseppe E. Gay, and MNTF C Commander Brigadier General Kyösti Halonen, the engineers blew the

charges placed in the bottom of the chimney. After the dust had landed, the audience could witness the precision of the calculations, and the professionalism of the KFOR soldiers. The only bricks on the ground were from the chimney. No additional damage had occurred to the surrounding buildings. The locals were now able to continue living their lives without being afraid of the possible injuries to them selves, their children, or their property, by the 280 tonnes of bricks above them.

"Everything went according to the plan", said MNTF C deputy chief engineer Captain Harri PELKONEN (Finland), who had planned the demolition.

For KFOR soldiers it was their everyday routine, nothing special happened.. But several people of Kosovo received once again the impression: they can trust and count on the KFOR personnel.



# First generation of the KSF

Article and photos by OF-2 Igor Piani

106 new recruits have joined to the Kosovo Security Force on 24 June 2009.

Their graduation was carried out in the Kosovo Public Safety Centre in Vucitrn/Vushtrri.

Higher officers from KFOR and KSF come from the first multi-ethnic recruitment of both genders graduation ceremony. Biondina Sylejmani is one of the Kosovars females who joined the Kosovo Security Force. On Wednesday, she took an oath that starting from that day she will be part of KSF.

The act of graduating after seven weeks spent in the basic training course for new recruits, is for her a special feeling, as she said that her dream has become true - to serve her country.

"It is a special feeling and privilege for me to be part of the KSF. It is also great honor; it is a dream that I had to serve my people."

Her trip started in January when, from the 21st of January till the 14th of February KFOR recruitment teams received more than 4900 applications at the established recruitment offices in the biggest municipalities. KFOR also operated with mobile recruitment teams to reach every community throughout Kosovo. Only 404 recruits were selected according to the KSF necessities and, days ago, the first 106 graduated.

"I hope this generation will serve as an example and model to the new coming generations," stated KFOR Deputy Commander, Major General Fugier. MG Fugier underline the importance of the event in his speech. - "Now the building of Kosovo's security depends on you". He called this generation of KSF new recruits the beginning of the new vision of the Kosovo of tomorrow.

75 Albanians, 10 Bosnians, 9 Turks, 6 Egyptians, 5 Ashkallia, and 1 Serb were the multi-ethnic applicants graduated.



# SF new recruits graduated



# Run for Peace

Local folklore group.



The future generation.

Story and photos by KFOR Chronicle Team

On May 9th, 2009, the local ministry of sports organized a great running event in Pristina/Pristine according to the motto "Run for Peace and Tolerance". This year also was the first time that KFOR members were officially invited to participate. The Morale and Welfare Activities (MWA) branch under the attentive eyes of the KFOR events manager, OR-9 Manfred Bamberger (Austrian Army), enabled an experience without any difficulty for the 275 KFOR members.

The start of the run was at 10:00 a.m. Approximately 700 participants of both genders representing myriads of nations attended the 21 km and the 5 km distance runs, in order to

Forever young!



"What is going on here?"



All of them are winners!

# and Tolerance

socialize and merely be a part of a great idea or even taking up the gauntlet for a hopefully satisfying result in the end. Further categories were for the children and handicapped persons. All of them mastered the big challenge with admirable willpower and tenacity!

Prominent participants also include the KFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General David Berger and KFOR Deputy Chief of Staff Operations, Brigadier General Kurt Schiebold.

The weather was beautiful. A local folklore group delighted the audience's eyes and ears so the atmosphere was perfect for the event. Interested spectators all over from Kosovo and abroad,

for sure, had lots of fun.

The final results are:

The category males over 40 years were dominated by our French comrades.

1st place: OR-9 Philippe Page (FRA) in 1:11:33

2nd place: OR-4 David Batista (FRA)

In the category females over 40 years the best KFOR result is also in French hands.

3rd place: OR-8 Patricia Legeay (FRA) in 1:59:01

The winner of the general category is Nicholus Muimbi (KENYA) in 1:04:47

Best KFOR-member here:  
12th place Gavin Sweeney (IRE) in 1:18:14

And the winner is ....



Pay the tribute to the heat.



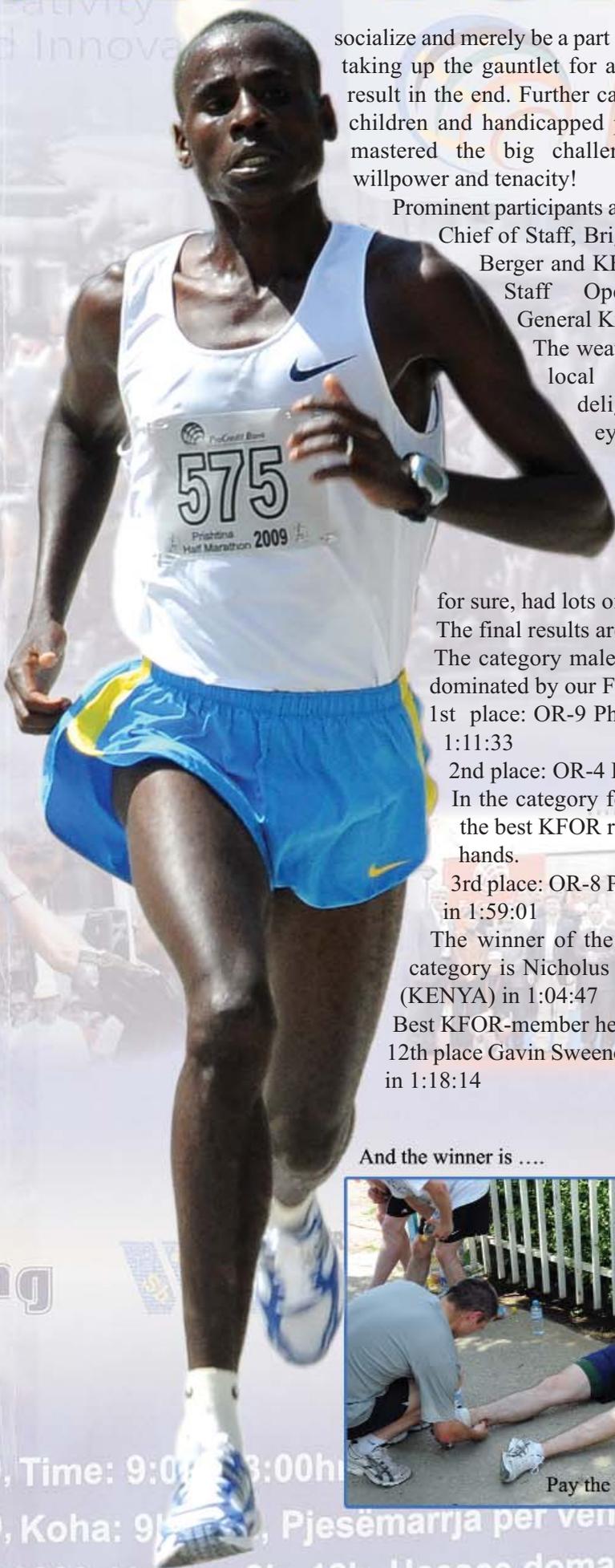
The average Austrian sportsman.



A little tired, but happy.



The second winner.



# Joint Effects Centre

## new step towards the Unity of Effort



Article by (OF-4) Zduniak Pawel,  
JEC Planning Influence Section Chief  
Photos by Naim Shala

Starting from October 2008, the new branch called Joint Effects Center (JEC) - was created in the HQ KFOR. This step can be described as the new, comprehensive Effects-Based Approach (EBA) towards merging all non-kinetic activities into one. The functions such as Information Operations, Psychological Operations (PSYOPS), CIMIC and Liaison-Monitoring Coordination Cell were merged together under one command, in order to increase the efficiency of all non-maneuver forces in Kosovo.

While a safe environment and freedom of movement in Kosovo may be accomplished through kinetic or non-kinetic means, as effects-based thinking is applied, there is likely to be an increased focus on non-kinetic activities. The recent operations have shown its significance by increasing the commander's choice of means, by which effects can be achieved at all stages of a crisis.

However, it is not only the movement towards an effects-based approach that has brought about this new emphasis on non-kinetic

activities. Increased attention on non-maneuver activities is caused due to the realization that we now live in an information-dominated environment. All crises occur under the spotlight of the international media. The impact of real-time media coverage of a crisis, the exploitation and manipulation of the media by some parties and the ever-increasing use of technologies such as the Internet have resulted in a world where information and non-kinetic activities play an increasingly important role.

The JEC Branch consists of the staff, one support and four executive elements: PSYOPS Centre, Liaison (LNO) Centre, Information Coordination Centre (ICC) and CIMIC Group South Detachment in KFOR. Although the Public Affairs Office (PAO) does not belong to the JEC, a close liaison is maintained in order to coordinate all KFOR activities related within the information environment.

Within the new structure, Information Operations advises on information designed to affect the will of the approved target audiences. Psychological Operations supports desired information throughout a variety of products, such as printed media, radio jingles and TV spots. CIMIC is contributing to this mission through the coordination of all activities between COMKFOR and civil actors, including the population, central authorities, as well as international and non-governmental organizations and agencies. Finally, the Liaison

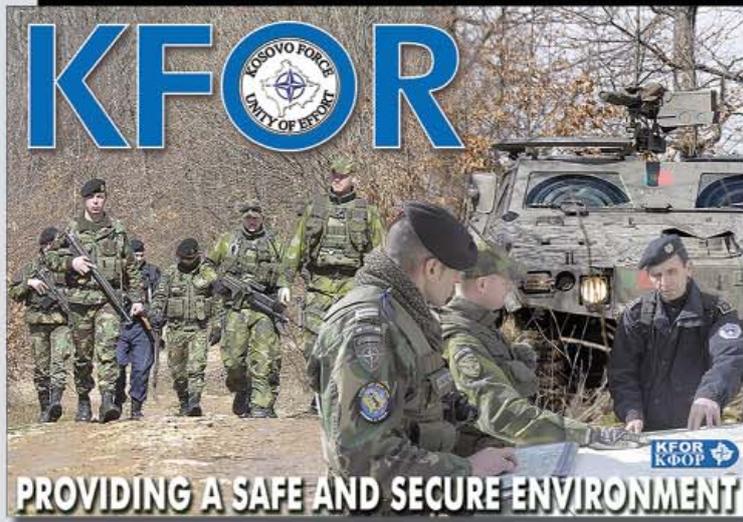
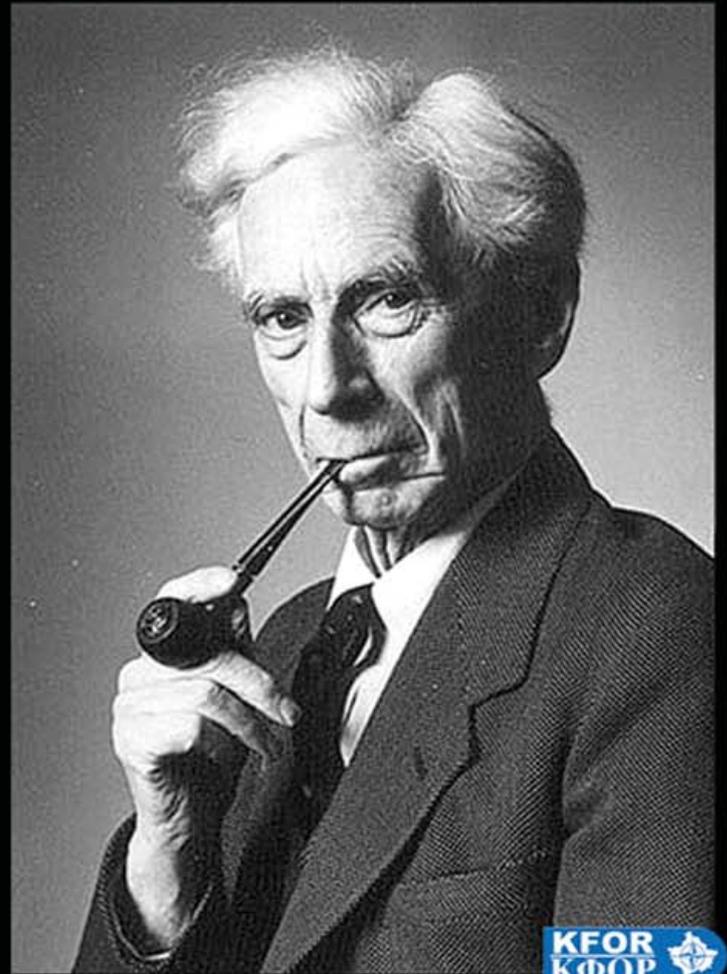
Monitoring Teams (LMT) providing constant feedback of ongoing JEC activities in a given area of responsibility, serving as the KFOR sensors on the ground. "This is a tremendous step forward. The soldiers from several countries with the different backgrounds and experiences are working together in order to achieve a common goal - safe and secure environment in Kosovo," says JEC Operations Chief - Lieutenant Colonel Eugen Popescu.





**"THE ONLY THING THAT  
WILL REDEEM MANKIND  
IS COOPERATION."**

**BERTRAND RUSSELL**  
ENGLISH PHILOSOPHER 1872-1970



However, the first steps were not easy. "We had to change our approach and way of thinking. Everyone of us arrived to Kosovo to fill a specific position, and suddenly we were informed that from now on, we would belong to the different sections and we would work with different personnel. Nevertheless, after the success of our JEC campaigns supporting the dissolution of Kosovo Protection Corps and creating the Kosovo Security Force, I can assess, that it was the right decision," says one of the most experienced JEC members, PSYOPS center noncommissioned officer, Sergeant Major Hermann Schnoelzer.

This is just one example of the comprehensive campaigns conducted by JEC throughout all of Kosovo. The future challenges include achieving increased level of cooperation and tolerance among different ethnicities in Kosovo, reducing the inter-ethnic tensions, corruption, environmental pollution, saving Kosovo's cultural heritage, supporting the international community and building local capacity. And finally, as always, for the JEC, the number one priority remains supporting the KFOR image - anytime and everywhere.





# 1st Internat





# ational Day





**"DEDICATED TO ALL KFOR SOLDIERS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES  
WHILE SERVING FOR PEACE, FREEDOM AND SECURITY IN KOSOVO"**