

# KFOR

## Chronicle



4<sup>th</sup> Edition

April 30<sup>th</sup> 2011



# Together for Progress



# COM KFOR PERSPECTIVE

My dear comrades!

I would like to congratulate you all on a job well done throughout the first quarter of 2011. KFOR had a full plate of tasks to be accomplished, and you did so with your customary professionalism and competence. I thank you all for your respective efforts in performing our mission.



This past quarter has brought many structural changes to KFOR. With the progress made in the overall security in Kosovo by the establishment, training, and operational use of the Kosovo Police (KP) and Kosovo Security Forces (KSF), KFOR's force structure was able to be reduced from its 10,000 personnel battle group centric organization to a liaison and monitoring centric organization of approximately 5,000 personnel. We reduced from five battle groups down to two, and reorganized their Liaison and Monitoring Team (LMT) elements into five separate Joint Regional Detachments (JRDs). This new structure simultaneously allows KFOR to step back from a first responder role and let the Institutions in Kosovo (IiK) assume this responsibility, while also retaining the capability and flexibility to respond to any potential crisis as required.

As you know, one of our KFOR lines of operation is "to assist to strengthen KSF capabilities." It is mainly the task of HQ KFOR's Military Civil Advisory Division to monitor and advise this civil protection force. The results are really encouraging. Today, the KSF is one of the most attractive organisations of the IiK. In the recruitment campaign that ended last month, more than 4,000 young people from all ethnicities and genders volunteered for the 400 open positions in the KSF. After reaching their Initial Operational Capability (IOC) in 2009, all KSF efforts now converge towards reaching their Full Operational Capability (FOC) as soon as possible. Through a joint KFOR/KSF assessment cycle, FOC criteria are developed and performance evaluated, to ensure that progress is being made. But criteria are not all. KFOR and KSF will deepen their cooperation by getting to know each other better both at the HQ and unit levels. We will whenever possible invite KSF representatives to participate in our training, sports, and social activities. Planning for exercises AGILE LION 4 and 5 is underway, to include KSF involvement.

Another milestone achieved this past quarter was the handover of part of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\* (FYROM) border mission to the Kosovo Police Boundary and Border Police (KP BBP). As you know, KFOR units have conducted joint patrols of all the borders and boundaries of Kosovo for the past decade. As these borders and boundaries become more stable, and the IiK become more capable of providing their own security, KFOR is able to handover such border and boundary security missions to the IiK. Such a transfer of responsibility is indicative of the progress being made here in Kosovo. One border section with FYROM and another with Montenegro are all that remain to be transferred to the KP BBP, and the outlook is good that this will occur before the end of the year.



# COM KFOR PERSPECTIVE

We have seen a lot of events on Kosovo's political scene in the first quarter of 2011. Let me mention just the most important ones. After the repetition of elections in several municipalities in January 2011 and the certification of the election results in the beginning of February, the Government was established on 22 February 2011. The new Government faced a lot of challenges since the very beginning of its work. It had to pass the 2011 Budget in the Assembly in order to overcome the budgetary provisory of the first three months, while also fulfilling the pre-election promises to raise the salaries of employees in the public sector – a decision which meant a heavy burden to the Kosovo budget. It also had to start EU mediated negotiations with Serbia in Belgrade, facing strong opposition both in the Assembly and by the public. Last but not least, it had to face the decision of the Constitutional Court declaring the election of the President on 22 February 2011 unconstitutional. I am glad I can say that the Government and the leaders of the political parties managed to overcome all those problems. Kosovo now has a young and dedicated President, a Government approved by the majority in the Assembly, a budget which allows the functioning of Institutions in Kosovo, and the dialogue with Serbia on the technical issues continues in a constructive way.



My fellow comrades! Your service here in Kosovo remains as relevant as ever. We are getting closer to attaining our mission goals, but still have a considerable way to go. As the day to day mission here has become less and less of a kinetic nature it has become easier to become complacent in our tasks. I challenge you not to become so. Only by remaining steadfast in our commitments, both as individual soldiers and as an organization, will we persevere in our goal of keeping Kosovo safe and secure. To this end may we all continue to be

**"Together for Progress!"**

\* Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

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**NATO Nations**

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

**Non-NATO Nations**

Armenia	Morocco
Austria	Sweden
Finland	Switzerland
Ireland	Ukraine



# TOGETHER FO

*Photos by Staff Sergeant Stefanie Hoffmann, German Army*



Major General Rahman Rama, Land Force Commander, Kosovo Security Force (KSF) and Chief Military Civil Advisory Division (MCAD), Brigadier General Enrico Spagnoli, attend the first KSF NCOs conference on 29 March 2011 at Pristina Barracks.

Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler, welcomes Lieutenant General Hubertus von Butler, Chief of the German Army Command, to HQ KFOR, Camp Film City, on 29 March 2011.



COM KFOR meets members of the Luxembourg contingent during his visit to Novo Selo on 01 April 2011.

Staff Sergeant (OR-6) Anica Kuyumdjan, Public Affairs Office (PAO) HQ KFOR, receives her NATO KFOR service medal from KFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Wilton S. Gorske, during the Medal Parade held in Camp Film City on 07 April 2011.





Mr Agim Çeku, Minister for the Kosovo Security Force, and Deputy Kosovo Force Commander (DCOM KFOR) Brigadier General Marco Serronha conduct a press point at the launch of a humanitarian project between KSF, KFOR and the Municipal Assembly of Ferizaj/Urosevac on 08 April 2011.

COM KFOR welcomes Commander Allied Joint Force Command Naples, Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III, on the occasion of his visit to HQ KFOR on 15 April 2011.



On 18 April 2011 COM KFOR chaired the Commanders conference hosted by Commander Multi National Battle Group West, Colonel Carlo Emiliani, at Camp Villagio Italia in Peje/Pec.

On 19 April 2011 COM KFOR paid an office call to newly elected President of Kosovo, Her Excellency President Atifete Jahjaga, at Government Buildings, Pristina.



# First KSF NCO

*Story by Commandant Eugene Doyle, Irish Defence Forces*

*Photos by Mr Afrim Hajrullahu*

The Kosovo Security Force (KSF) held its first Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) conference on Tuesday 29 March 2011 at the Land Forces Command (LFC) in Pristina Barracks. This represented another major milestone in the progress of the KSF. Brigadier General Enrico Spagnoli, Chief Military Civil Advisory Division (MCAD) in KFOR and Major General Rahman Rama, Land Forces Commander, KSF, attended the conference. Also in attendance were members of MCAD staff and a number of Sergeant Majors, from both KFOR and KSF. Brigadier General Spagnoli, in his opening address, stressed that the NCO Corps is the backbone of every military organisation and it is vital that senior NCOs take the

initiative.

“You exercise the power of your choices: to do the right thing and to make it prevail at whatever cost; to always speak the complete truth; to assume responsibility; to be accountable for mistakes as well as rewarded for accomplishments; and to make these choices without calculation of risk or reward,” he said. Major General Rama stated that KSF appreciate the help of KFOR officers and NCOs. “The development of NCOs cannot be achieved overnight. This is a first step. I’d like to thank KFOR for the initiatives and courses it has conducted,” said Major General Rama. Following the opening speeches, the agenda and purpose of the conference was outlined by Command Sergeant Major Fetah Zejnullahu, LFC, KSF, who thereafter chaired the conference.

Items on the agenda included the KSF NCO concept,



# Conference

the NCO situation in LFC, the requirements for NCO development, NCO education and the next steps in development. The KSF NCO concept, which had been approved in July 2010, was described as a good tactical concept which provides details of the work of NCOs and how to support officers in accomplishing the mission.

The NCO situation in LFC was outlined by the Sergeant Majors of LFC, Rapid Reaction Brigade, Operational Support Brigade and Training and Doctrine component. A detailed discussion ensued on senior NCO appointments in the KSF organisation chart, both filled and unfilled; and the necessity for detailed, up to date legal regulations was identified. NCO training and education were also discussed. A complicating factor is the current strength of KSF. For example, the Rapid Reaction Brigade is presently at 50% strength, so it was recommended that this should

be taken into account when filling senior NCO appointments.

The conference resumed after lunch when a point paper was circulated for further discussion. A range of subjects such as legislation for KSF, an NCO school and the enhancement of discipline were discussed. Lieutenant Colonel Mike Ashford, Office of Defence Cooperation, outlined three programmes that are currently running: International Military Education and Training, Foreign Military Finance Programme, and State Partnership Programme. As part of the State Partnership Programme, he described the existing link between Iowa National Guard and the KSF and mentioned the possibility of an exchange in the future. Following a summary, the first KSF NCO conference was concluded. More conferences of this nature will follow.



# Transfer of Authority in Mul

Story by Staff Sergeant Anna Doo, 200th PAD  
Photos by Captain Giovanni Pacitto, Italian Army

Hundreds of service members, representing ten countries, participated in the official Transfer of Authority ceremony of Multinational Battle Group East (MNBG E) from Colonel Francisco J. Neuman to Colonel Michael D. Schwartz at Camp Bondsteel on Saturday 02 April 2011.

The Transfer of Authority is rich in history and ritual, dating back to the eighteenth century during the reign of Frederick the Great of Prussia. During that time, flags were created with symbols and colors unique to each Unit. Soldiers would dedicate their loyalty and trust to the flag as a representation of the Unit, and to the Unit Commander. During a Transfer of Authority ceremony, the flag would be passed to the individual

taking command showing a shift of authority. This action was performed with the Unit present so all could see who was assuming responsibility of the group. The allegiance of the troops belonged to the flag and the leader who held it. This tradition is still in practice today.

As part of the Transfer of Authority ceremony, the commander performs a review of the troops' condition and state of readiness prior to battle. During the 02 April ceremony, Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler, was given the opportunity to review the incoming MNBG E KFOR XIV soldiers. Standing in front of him were soldiers from France, Germany, Greece (Hellas), Morocco, Poland, Turkey, United States of America and Ukraine. Colonel Schwartz, of Clovis, New Mexico, Commander of 111th Maneuver Enhancement



# tinational Battle Group East

Brigade, based in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, and the soldiers under his command, officially accepted responsibility of MNBG E from Colonel Neuman, of Ponce, Puerto Rico, Commander of 92nd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the soldiers in his battle group.

“It is an honor to assume the KFOR mission, and I look forward to continuing to build on the work accomplished by my predecessors. We have come together from all over the United States and have built a strong, cohesive organization,” said Colonel Schwartz. Prior to and during the ceremony, the multinational aspect of the NATO mission here was apparent. A U.S. soldier, 2nd Lieutenant Christopher Tebo, and a French soldier, Sergeant Quillien, were discussing their duties in their respective formations. Both Lieutenant Tebo and Sergeant Quillien lead patrols and both are looking forward to the

deployment as a way to gain more experience.

“I will learn a lot from my soldiers, from my chain of command, and from other fellow soldiers who are around,” Lieutenant Tebo said.

Sergeant Quillien expressed the same sentiment of gaining experience for his fellow sergeants, and for himself while here in Kosovo.

During the ceremony, the Greek Band played the sharp resounding notes of all the ceremonial music and marches, and each nation stood in formation responding to the commands of their respective leaders with crisp movements. The uniforms aligned in front of Major General Bühler, Colonel Schwartz and Colonel Neuman were all different, yet when mixed together in the melting pot of the NATO mission, they create a force focused on providing a sense of security for those in Kosovo.



# KSF begins the construction of th

*Story by Mr Ibrahim Shala, Ministry Kosovo Security Forces (MKSF)*

*Pictures by Mr. Naim Shala*

On 08 April 2011 a joint humanitarian project between KSF, KFOR and the Municipal Assembly of Ferizaj/Urosevac was launched. The project will oversee the construction of a mountainous road in the village of Burrnik-Stanet e Gremes, with a total length of 7.5 kilometers.

Kosovo Security Force (KSF) Minister, Mr Agim Çeku; Commander of the Kosovo Security Force, Lieutenant General Sylejman Selimi; Deputy Commander KFOR (DCOM KFOR), Brigadier General Marco Serronha; Chief KFOR

Military-Civilian Advisory Division (MCAD), Brigadier General Enrico Spagnoli; the Deputy Mayor of Ferizaj/Urosevac Municipality, Mr Besim Zymberi and other officials attended the inaugural ceremony.

On this occasion, KSF Minister, Mr Agim Çeku, said that KSF specialized engineering units were demonstrating that they are ready and capable to accomplish more demanding tasks for the interest of the citizens of Kosovo. "I congratulate our units for the construction of this road and I believe that they will manage to accomplish the construction work as soon as possible in order to improve the living conditions of the local residents of this area and to enable them to have easier access and movement to their properties.



# The Burrnik–Stanet e Gremës road

I believe that this will not be the last activity of the KSF units, as we will be ready to act throughout Kosovo, wherever our help is needed” he said.

Minister Çeku stressed that the KSF has an excellent relationship with KFOR, the Ferizaj/Urosevac Municipality, and the community and thanked all of them for their wide-ranging support in order to accomplish this important project for the residents of this area. He said “I believe that we will all benefit from this project, but the main beneficiaries will be the municipality and the residents of this area who will be able to invest in tourism, to plow their land and to make use of their pastures”.

The residents of this area expressed their gratitude for this project, for the KSF and Ferizaj/Urosevac Municipality, who are providing a direct contribution to improve the living conditions and the movement of the local residents to their properties and pastures.

During the term of this project, 13 KSF members will receive certificates for being able to handle the heavy engineering machines and equipment. They will be certified by KFOR instructors and by instructors from the Ministry of Infrastructure.

The project is due to be accomplished within three months, as planned.



# 507 Hellenic Mechanized Battalion's

*Story by Captain Alexandridis Dimitrios, Greek Army  
Photos by Master Sergeant Mitsios Grigorios, Greek Army*

It's been almost 5 months, but now the mandate of the Hellenic Battalion, subordinated to Multi-National Battle Group East (MNBG E), is coming to an end. 5 months full of activities and constant effort to embed itself into its area of responsibility (AOR) and creating lasting bonds of trust with the local population.

Forging strong bonds with the locals takes time. Continuous, varied and relevant efforts are required to prove yourself as a reliable and trustworthy counterpart. KFOR units Kosovo-wide constantly try to make themselves relevant to the lives of local people; and the Hellenic Battalion is certainly no

exception. The Hellenic Battalion always tries to do its best within its means and capabilities, and the rewards are magnificent. It's the smile you offer and the big hand you extend to ease people's worries; it's the time taken to listen to a little child's story and share a hug! Hellenic Battalion has contributed significantly to the local population's needs during the last five months, distributing tons of food and clothing. During this tour approximately four tons of clothing and one ton of food has been distributed in the Ferizaj/Urosevac, Babljak and Recak areas during humanitarian operations. The source of this humanitarian aid was mainly the Greek-Orthodox Church.

Around the New Year the Hellenic Battalion made a



# powerful bonds with Kosovo people

donation of medical supplies to the Ferizaj/Urosevac public hospital and also conducted lectures in local primary schools to educate pupils on public health matters. February and March saw a significant number of medical examinations carried out at the Ferizaj/Urosevac Retirement Union.

Other notable activities included a donation of medicines to the Christian Orthodox Monastery of Novo Selo and a donation of food and medical products to orphans of Serbian origin in February. In March personnel from 507 Mechanised Battalion volunteered for a blood donation at Pristina University Hospital; and the Hellenic Battalion is particularly

proud of a fund-raiser in support of a child in Ferizaj/Urosevac who had contracted cancer, which generated almost €1,000.

The donations outlined above, as well as many others organised by this unit, were very beneficial for the people of the villages who were most in need. These efforts are certain to have long lasting effects. Strong bonds have been forged so far between the Kosovo people and the Hellenic LMT. Local needs were largely met and the delight on their faces was the only proof required. Striving to positively affect people's lives takes effort and, hopefully, the greatest benefit will be peace itself!



# Change of Command of the Sw

## **Example, Commitment, Heart, and Humour: the Swisscoy's core principles**

*Story by Specialized Officer Enrico Campioni, Swiss Army,*

*Photos by Captain Ralph Heiniger, Swiss Army*

On Thursday 07 April 2011, the military airfield of Prishtina International Airport "Adem Jashari" hosted the Change of Command ceremony of the Swiss Army Forces "Swisscoy" in Kosovo. The event was presided over by Major General Jean-Marc Halter, Chief of Armed Forces Joint Staff, Switzerland.

After a six-month tour of duty, the Commander of 23rd Contingent, Lieutenant Colonel Robert Tischhauser, handed over command of Swisscoy activities to Lieutenant Colonel in General Staff (GS) Stefan Christen. Most of the Contingent is based in Camp Casablanca, near Theranda/Suhareka. Other Swisscoy elements are deployed to the Liaison and Monitoring Team (LMT) houses of Prizren and Malishevo in the South, and near Novo Selo in the North, or in Camp Bondsteel, Pristina and Prizren. The new Swiss posture in Kosovo reflects a reduced infantry role. Future efforts will concentrate on LMT activities and on KFOR Joint Logistic Support Group's daily business around the entire country. It's



# Swisscoy Contingents in Kosovo

also worth noting that Swisscoy will also provide a number of personnel to serve with the International Military Police (IMP).

Lieutenant Colonel (GS) Christen described in detail the magnitude of these “updated” Swisscoy’s tasks during his speech at the Change of Command ceremony. He also underlined the successful story of Swisscoy’s engagement in Kosovo to date, and the positive feedback from the local population, thanks in no small part to the work and development of the Swiss LMT’s.

Lieutenant Colonel (GS) Stefan Christen, a 42-year old professional officer, also highlighted that the core principles of his contingent will be “Example, Commitment, Heart, and Humour”. Additionally, these four core values will be augmented by other distinctive Swiss Army true values, like strong discipline, a confirmed expertise and a forthcoming human approach.

The 24th Swisscoy Contingent will continue its activities across Kosovo until mid-October, 2011.



# Minimizing Expenditure on Health b

*Story and Photos by 1st Lieutenant Kyriakidis Ioannis, Greek Army*

Beyond any economic or staffing crisis, the only thing that matters in the function of a primary care (Role 1) medical centre is its ability to handle patients and relevant issues in an efficient manner. Taking over the Role 1 Medical Centre in Camp Rigas Fereos, we had to deal with an overloaded budget, caused, in no small part, by a high number of admissions to the Role 2 Hospital in Camp Bondsteel, thereby significantly increasing costs. The challenge was to minimize costs of medical care, while not risking, in any way, the quality of the care given.

Our Role 1 Medical Centre serves over 800 individuals, including all Greek soldiers in KFOR, the Armenian Platoon of KFOR, EULEX personnel in the

region and civilian personnel. Additionally, a Greek vehicle supply train has to be inspected weekly in order to prevent the spread of infectious diseases that are currently endemic in Greece. Notwithstanding these primary tasks, we also engage in a significant number of humanitarian activities: regular medical supervision of the Pensioners Club and the Nursing Home in the Municipality of Ferizaj/Urosevac, provision of medication for the local hospital and visits to local schools, monasteries and organizations to emphasize basic aspects of public hygiene. Furthermore, we have “adopted” several native outpatients with rare diseases.

The challenge of meeting all these varied tasks falls to the very small staff of our Role 1 Medical Centre, comprising just 2 physicians, 1 dentist and 3



# Out Not on Care: The Greek Record

medics/stretcher bearers, assisted by two drivers. Under these difficult circumstances it would be understandable if most patients were referred to the Role 2 facility in Camp Bondsteel. However, this practice would result in a significant increase in costs and degrade the meaning of primary care by overloading hospitals of higher roles with “easy” to treat patients.

During the last 4 months this small team of dedicated and hardworking personnel has recorded 784 visits to our Medical Centre. 89 of these patients were hospitalized or were short-stay inpatients in our patient ward and only 15 patients were referred to Camp Bondsteel Hospital. Overall, our team achieved a decrease of 80.8% in the number of patients sent to our Role 2 Hospital, while costs dropped more than

6-fold. All this was achieved with no reduction in the quality of care for patients.

In conclusion, the key to having a successful, potent and low-budget Role 1 Medical Centre are: (1) Direct and everyday interaction of the medical staff with all soldiers; (2) Constant vigilance and input regarding hygiene issues and improving the quality of life; (3) Regular checking of public areas and food; (4) Confidence of the physician in his knowledge, continuing education and making most of the medical equipment and personnel he has; and (5) Cooperation with chief sanitary services.

Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all our colleagues from the hospital in Camp Bondsteel for their excellent cooperation.



# KTM Transfer of A

*Story by Sergeant Minhava, Portuguese Army*

*Photos by Private Moreira, Portuguese Army*

On 23 March 2011, the KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM) conducted a Transfer of Authority ceremony at Camp Slim Lines, where Portuguese 2nd Mechanized Infantry Battalion (2BIMec) relieved Portuguese 1st Parachute Battalion (1BIPara). The ceremony was presided over by Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler. Also present were his Excellency Mr. Lóránt Balla, Hungarian Ambassador to Kosovo; his Excellency Mr. Christopher Dell, US Ambassador to

Kosovo; Major General Martins Ribeiro, Deputy Commander, Portuguese Land Forces Command (LCC); Brigadier General Marco Serronha, DCOM KFOR; members of the HQ Staff, and other distinguished guests, both military and civilian.

The ceremony, the first to include soldiers from the Hungarian contingent, commenced with the traditional salute to COM KFOR followed by the review of the troops on parade. This was followed by a brief message delivered by Major General Martins Ribeiro on behalf of the Portuguese Commander LCC. Thereafter, the Portuguese National Flag was handed over by the outgoing Commanding Officer, Lieutenant



# Authority Ceremony

Colonel Paulo Abreu, to the incoming Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Amaral Lopes, thus symbolizing the Transfer of Authority. At this time the Hungarian contingent joined the ceremony and united with the Portuguese forces on parade.

Lieutenant Colonel Amaral Lopes started his speech by thanking COM KFOR for his presence and also for the presence of so many honorable and distinguished guests. He said that “KFOR Commanders Tactical Reserve means a high state of readiness, and a high response to the several contingencies that may arise. This challenge is only within the reach of well prepared, disciplined and motivated forces”. Addressing his soldiers he highlighted “the core values

you possess, which are a permanent guarantee of the professional way you will carry out your mission in the following six months”. In his address COM KFOR General Bühler said farewell to the 300 soldiers of the 1BIPara and at the same time he welcomed the soldiers of the 2BIMEc of the Portuguese Armed Forces: “Together with Brigadier General Serronha and all comrades of KFOR we are proud to have you here and I am sure that your performance will be outstanding”. COM KFOR highlighted the new multinational environment at KTM and added that it will remain the backbone of KFOR’s ability for rapid reaction in the future.



# JRD-North CIMIC already in action

*Story and Photos by Lieutenant Magali Beynel, French Army*

On 11 March 2011, the Joint Regional Detachment North (JRD N) led its first Civil/Military Cooperation (CIMIC) project since its establishment in Novo-Selo.

In Grace village, in the municipality of Vushtri/Vucitrn, roadwork infrastructure was improved with the assistance of a detachment of the 3rd Engineers Battalion of Charleville-Mézière. As a result of this operation, traffic on the route has significantly improved. School buses can pass with ease and vehicles can now reach the health centre without any risk of getting bogged down.

This is not the first time that French intervention has assisted this village. Previous donations of medicines, as well as consultations by military medical officers had already benefitted the local health centre considerably. Nevertheless, the improvement of the

road is the first project for JRD-North, led by France since it was recently established in Novo Selo. Under the command of a French colonel, this new entity comprises approximately fifty people. It is responsible for the northern part of Kosovo and has the mission to maintain contact with local authorities and the population in its Area of Responsibility (AOR).

4 other JRDs have also been created as a result of the recent KFOR transformation and the passage to Gate 2. Each of the 5 JRDs has an area of responsibility (North, South, East, West and Centre). For JRD-North, five Liaison Monitoring Teams (LMT) comprising Swiss and Slovenian personnel maintain constant contact with the local population.

These new structures provide continuity in the mission, ensuring that the population will continue to see KFOR personnel working on the ground, helping to improve the living conditions in Kosovo and participating in the development of the country.



# Pristina Women and Children's Centre in Film City

*Story by Commandant Daragh O'Brien, Irish Army*

*Photos by Staff Sergeant Elisabeth Schöneberg, German Army*

The Pristina Women and Children's centre receives no government funding; as a result it is completely reliant on the support they receive from military personnel stationed at HQ KFOR in Film City. Consequently, on 10 April 2011 a joint effort was made by the American, German, Irish and Canadian contingents to raise money to support the centre.

Together they came up with the idea to hold a street party and offer food to their fellow KFOR soldiers with the proceeds going to support the centre. The American contingent provided the cheese burgers,

salad and chips. The Canadian soldiers provided the soda at no cost to the committee. The German soldiers took care of entertaining the children, which included face painting, dodge ball and other games. The Irish were responsible for bringing the children on base, putting up the tent for the children to eat in, and providing the BBQ. In return, the centre coordinated a show for KFOR soldiers.

The day was a tremendous success as over €1,000 was raised for the centre. This money will be used to purchase food, conduct maintenance, pay the electricity bill and take the children on trips that would otherwise be impossible.

“Together for Progress”



# Peacekeeper's Profiles

**Name:** Lisandra Pacheco de Albuquerque  
**Title:** Corporal  
**Nationality:** Portuguese  
**Unit Source:** KTM/TACRES/KFOR (parent unit 2nd Infantry Mechanized Battalion)

**Family reaction:** My family accepted my decision to come to the Kosovo theatre of operations, very well. They already knew that this was one of my goals when I decided to join the army. It is difficult being so far from home for so long but nowadays technology helps us to overcome the distance and feel a little bit closer to home.

**About the mission:** I have been in Kosovo only for a little over one month now and this is my first mission abroad. This is everything I was hoping for; to be able to have new experiences in a different environment from the one I was used to back home. I am a clerk and a driver so I am able to go and visit a lot of different places and experience the culture and the people. The military multinational aspect of it is great; I find it very interesting to meet forces from all over the world. No doubt this will be a unique opportunity in my life which I intend to enjoy in the best possible way!

**Plans for after the mission:** I intend to return to my home unit in Portugal to continue with my career, maybe I will try the Officers Academy or the NCO School.

**Hobbies:** I love playing football, practicing acrobatics, listen to music, reading, going to movies, travelling and being with people; these are the most important things in my life.



**Name:** Milan Pelko  
**Rank:** Master Sergeant  
**Nationality:** Slovenian  
**Home Unit:** 14th Engineer Battalion, 72nd Brigade  
**Unit in KFOR:** Tradoc mentoring & Advisory Team / MCA  
**Military Education:** After enlisting in Slovenian Army I did all mandatory military courses and schools in Slovenia and also abroad (Germany, United States). I graduated from the United States Sergeant Major Academy - Mighty Class 58.

**About the mission:** This is my third overseas mission and second time in Kosovo. This mission is a little different for me, because here I work as a mentor to the KSF NCOs. I am trying to share my experience with them but at the same time I am learning every day as well. I have to say that I like to work in multinational environment because you get to know a lot of different nationalities and cultures and this makes your life richer.

**Family reaction:** I have strong support from my family, they know how soldier's life is and that being away is part of it. Yes they miss me and I miss them a lot too, but thankfully we have Skype which gives us the opportunity to talk and see each other often.

**Plans after the mission:** I will soon finish this mission (end of April) and I will go home to spend quality time with my family and then try to find new challenge, because life without challenges would be boring.

**Hobbies:** I like to do sports, almost everything and I enjoy very much reading books.



# Civilian's Profile

**NAME:** Ardian Nrecaj - Ardi

**JOB TITLE:** Linguist

**POSITION:** Public Affairs Analysis

**EXPERIENCE:** Ten years working for Northrop Grumman supporting US KFOR

**LANGUAGE:** Albanian (native), Serbian and English

**JOB IN PROGRESS:** This summer will be ten years that I am with Northrop Grumman working as a linguist in support of the US Army. It has been more than four years since I was assigned to provide linguist support to the Public Affairs Office for Multinational Battle Group East. Throughout this period I have had a pleasure working with several public affairs detachments and learning about public affairs, media relations and media analyzing. This kind of work has motivated me to pursue an education in journalism and mass communication. I believe that the experience I have gained working here will help me in my future career in public relations. Part of my work routine in the public affairs office, is to go through all daily newspapers and news web sites from Kosovo and the region and analyze what is being said. I translate stories; I help the PAO and unit members prepare and send the press releases to media outlets in Kosovo; I help the PAO unit to maintain a good relationship with the press in our sector. In addition, at the end of each week I help compile a report about the media coverage within Kosovo of KFOR activities.

I am very proud to have had the opportunity to be a part of the KFOR mission for many years here in Kosovo. It has been a great pleasure to work alongside the wonderful men and women in KFOR organizations. I am looking forward to the day when I will be able to use my experience gained as a PAO linguist to advance my career.

**FAMILY REACTION:** My family has been very supportive and proud of me in what I do. My brother is jealous because I get to hang out with all the multinationals in uniform.

**HOBBIES:** I love lifting weights at the gym, playing football (soccer for my American friends), and skiing.



## Change of Editor – KFOR Chronicle

After serving as Editor of the KFOR Chronicle for the last eight months the time has finally come for Commandant (OF3) Eugene Doyle to return home to Ireland after completing a handover of responsibilities to Commandant Daragh O'Brien, Irish Army.

Commandant Doyle's tenure as Editor coincided with a very challenging time for KFOR – the last eight months has brought a significant number of Changes of Command (CoC) and Transfers of Authority (ToA), not to mention the restructuring of KFOR and the consequent transformation of KFOR's role. The KFOR Chronicle has dutifully documented all the upheaval and stories that resulted during this time. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Eugene for his excellent contribution to KFOR throughout the last eight months, his patience and expertise during the handover/takeover period, and wish him a safe journey home to Ireland for a well deserved rest.

I would also like to take the opportunity to encourage all budding journalists out there to send articles and pictures to us here at the Chronicle. We can only document life in KFOR if you send us your experiences to share with the broader organisation. Ideally, articles should be between 400 - 450 words long with 7 -8 captioned photographs accompanying the text.

I look forward to hearing from you.



Daragh O'Brien  
OF-3 IRL A  
Editor, KFOR Chronicle



Photo by Afrim Hajrullahu