



KFOR CHRONICLE



TOGETHER AS ONE

**MNBG EAST
JOINT SYNCHRONISED
PATROL**

**CHANGE OF
COMMAND COM KFOR**

**INTERNATIONAL
PILGRIMAGE TO
LETNICA**

CONTENT



PICTURE: SBUKTHARD BLEUL

Pilgrimage to Letnica, Page 10

COM KFOR's WORDS	3
TOGETHER AS ONE	4
MNBG EAST: JOINT SYNCHRONISED PATROL	6
MNBG EAST: POIGNANT REMEMBRANCE	8
JRD SOUTH: INTERNATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO LETNICA	10
JRD SOUTH: VICTORY DAY AND TURKISH ARMED FORCES DAY	12
JRD CENTER: CZECH'S CONTINUE TO HELP AS THEY PREPARE TO LEAVE	14
JRD CENTER: FIELD ARTISTS SWEDEN ROX	15
MSU: CHANGE OF COMMAND	16
HQ KFOR: CHANGE OF COMMAND - COM KFOR	17
HQ KFOR: CHANGE OF COMMAND - NIC	20
KSF: 95TH NIJMEGEN MARCH	21
PROFILES	23



PICTURE: PAO CAMP SAIKOVAC

Helping each other. Page 14



PICTURE: UNKNOWN

Rock around the clock! Page 15

FOR OVER TWELVE YEARS THE SOLDIERS OF KFOR HAVE CONTINUOUSLY ACCOMPLISHED GREAT THINGS IN KOSOVO, BUT MANY ISSUES REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED.



My dear comrades of KFOR, I would like to take this opportunity to tell you all how honored I am to be your new commander. For over twelve years the soldiers of KFOR have continuously accomplished great things in Kosovo, but many issues remain to be resolved. Our mission together as one team has already started out in a rather energetic manner, and promises to remain so over the course of the next year. I have no doubts that you are all up to the tasks that lie ahead of us. Unlike when KFOR first arrived in Kosovo, the major issues now facing the region are more political in nature than military. However, this does not mean that we no longer have a place here. On the contrary, the presence of KFOR is extremely important. While the various political entities involved strive to solve the problems facing Kosovo, it is KFOR that impartially safeguards all the peoples of Kosovo - be they ethnic Albanians, Serbians, Turks, Goranis, Romas, Ashkalis, Egyptians, Bosniaks, or other ethnicities - and guarantees their safe and secure environment and freedom of movement. We are serving here together during a very

fragile time. Many tough issues that in the past were left to be faced have now come of age and need to be dealt with. We see the realization of this in the north every day. Even though the soldiers of KFOR are deployed throughout the north that does not mean that the Kosovo Serbs, who live there and are opposing some of the political decisions that have been made, have become the opponents of KFOR. KFOR is impartial, but is not neutral. However, we do not choose sides based upon ethnic or national allegiances. KFOR always sides with safety, security, and freedom for all the people in Kosovo, and likewise always sides against those actors who would endanger them. There are those who say that KFOR is currently operating outside of its legal mandate. Do not let this trouble you. I assure you that this is truly not the case. We are not authorized nor do we possess the capability to unilaterally solve all of Kosovo's problems. Consequently, KFOR goes to great

lengths to ensure that it always remains within the scope of operations and authority that have been granted to it by the international community and NATO. Those who are at odds with the political decisions that are made often declare that we have overstepped our bounds. The reality of these situations is that these same individuals do not themselves understand what authorities KFOR has or does not have. This can cause some pangs of conscience on the part of our soldiers. Do not let it. I will never give you an unjust mission to accomplish. KFOR's presence in Kosovo sets the conditions for success. Your teamwork and engagement are the guarantors of peace. I look forward to the challenges of the coming year and to serving as your commander. There is strength in our unity. As long as we work "Together as One" our goals will be achieved. ■



COM KFOR Major General Erhard Drews

PICTURE: T. JAKOBS



On 20 September 2011, Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Drews meets with Grand Mufti Naim Ternava.



With the arrival of a new COM KFOR also comes the unveiling of a new KFOR HQ logo. The KFOR XVI logo incorporates the motto "Together as One", underlining KFOR's dedication to provide safety and security for all the people of Kosovo by close cooperation with local authorities and international organizations. The two stars represent the rank of COM KFOR, Major General Erhard Drews; and the NATO, four pointed compass rose is symbolically embedded within the boundary of Kosovo.

PICTURE: T. JAKOBS



COM KFOR accompanied by Commander Multi National Battlegroup East (MNBG E), Colonel Michael Schwartz, visits crossing point Dog 31.

TOGETHER AS ONE



PICTURE: T. JAKOBS

On 22 September 2011, COM KFOR invites EULEX Head of Mission and former COM KFOR Mr Xavier Bout de Marnhac to sign the visitors book during a visit to HQ KFOR.



PICTURE: T. JAKOBS

On 22 September 2011, The German Ambassador, His Excellency Dr Ernst Reichel meets with COM KFOR, during an office call.



PICTURE: FLORIAN REICHENBACH

On 27 September 2011, Kosovo Force Deputy Commander (D COM KFOR) Brigadier General Johann Luif, welcomes Mag. Norbert Darabos Austrian Minister for Defence, to Camp Film City, Pristina.





“All I can say is that the relationship has grown into a great friendship both professionally and socially; it has created a lifelong friendship. It has also allowed us to get to know them and their families.”

These are the words of Captain Paul Lauritzen, Deputy Commander of Multi National Battle Group East’s (MNBG E) Joint Implementation Commission (JIC), describing the strong relationships that developed between the different armed forces that conduct synchronized patrols, a task the JIC oversees.

The JIC was created in 1999 with the mission of ensuring overall compliance with the provisions of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244, the Military Technical Agreement (MTA), and the Temporary Operating Procedures Agreement (TOPA) for operations astride the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL).

The JIC ensures compliance by establishing liaison arrangements

between KFOR, local Kosovo authorities and the Serbian armed forces (SAF) along the ABL with Serbia.

A fundamental way of achieving this is by conducting synchronized patrols along the ABL with the SAF. Since the creation of the JIC there has been much change and movement forward.

According to Captain Lauritzen, the purpose of the synchronized patrols is to provide a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for the people of Kosovo; and to show the people that there is a constant KFOR presence enforcing the MTA between the SAF and the people of Kosovo.

“These patrols show a KFOR presence and stop people from moving illegal items through the border,” said Ukrainian Army 1st Lieutenant Artem Pomaz, platoon leader of the Ukrainian 2nd Special Platoon, who has conducted a number of synchronized patrols.

“We also gather information, observe activities and look for new smuggling routes. We report all of these things to the JIC.”

The patrols also provide an excellent opportunity for soldiers from all nations to work and interact with one another, and to learn from their respective experiences.

“My experience of working with other nations has taught me the various caveats and operational procedures that other nations have,” said Captain Aleida Barrera, who is the other acting JIC Deputy.

“(It) has helped me build better rapport in this environment and I continue to learn from them. I have now seen both sides of the ABL and have a greater understanding of the Serbian and Albanian perspectives.” Ukrainian Army Staff Sergeant, Vaym Libichenko, agrees.

“Synchronized patrol missions help us build good relationships. Soldiers see each other’s tactics, learn from each other, cross train and share information, helping us all to mature.”

Synchronized patrols have not just benefited individuals; they have provided an opportunity for mutual respect and growth between nations.

“The relationship between the JIC and the SAF is very professional and very cooperative,” said Captain Lauritzen. “We meet locally in the north and the east monthly.

We have coordination level meetings monthly to finalize issues discussed, and we have command level meetings bi-monthly to discuss the activities for the last two months.”

The JIC will continue to play an important part in KFOR into the future.

POIGNANT REMEMBRANCE FOR ALL

Ten years after the Twin Towers fell, Americans honored the lives lost that day with memorial ceremonies and quiet moments of reflection. Both at home and abroad, Americans sought to remember the details of where they were when they saw and heard the tragic news.

While Americans may have felt alone on 9/11, they certainly were not alone this past month in paying their respects. People all across Kosovo came together at memorials, as they have ever since 2001.

In Pristina, the Kosovo Philharmonic Orchestra (KPO) celebrated in song the sacrifices of the heroes of 11 September 2001. Beginning with "Hodie Christus Natus Est," the choir took the audience through the dark moments of 9/11 with two haunting musical arrangements, sung by candlelight.

Ergin Brahim, 1st tenor with the KPO and a world-respected classical vocalist, said that he enjoyed the performance very much and stressed the importance of remembering those who have been lost. He and the singers moved out quietly, and were replaced by a full orchestra. The mood lightened with the playing of several stirring pieces, which were accented by a beautiful solo performance by Sergeant Eric Roberts of "Air" from "Air and Scherzo" by Henry Cowell. His light movement through the score brought to mind the hope of recovery and mending in the wake of September 11.

Sergeant Roberts, a saxophonist deployed to Kosovo with the 111th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade as



part of a musical team known as Bandsteel, hails from Albuquerque, New Mexico, and is attached to the 44th Army Band.

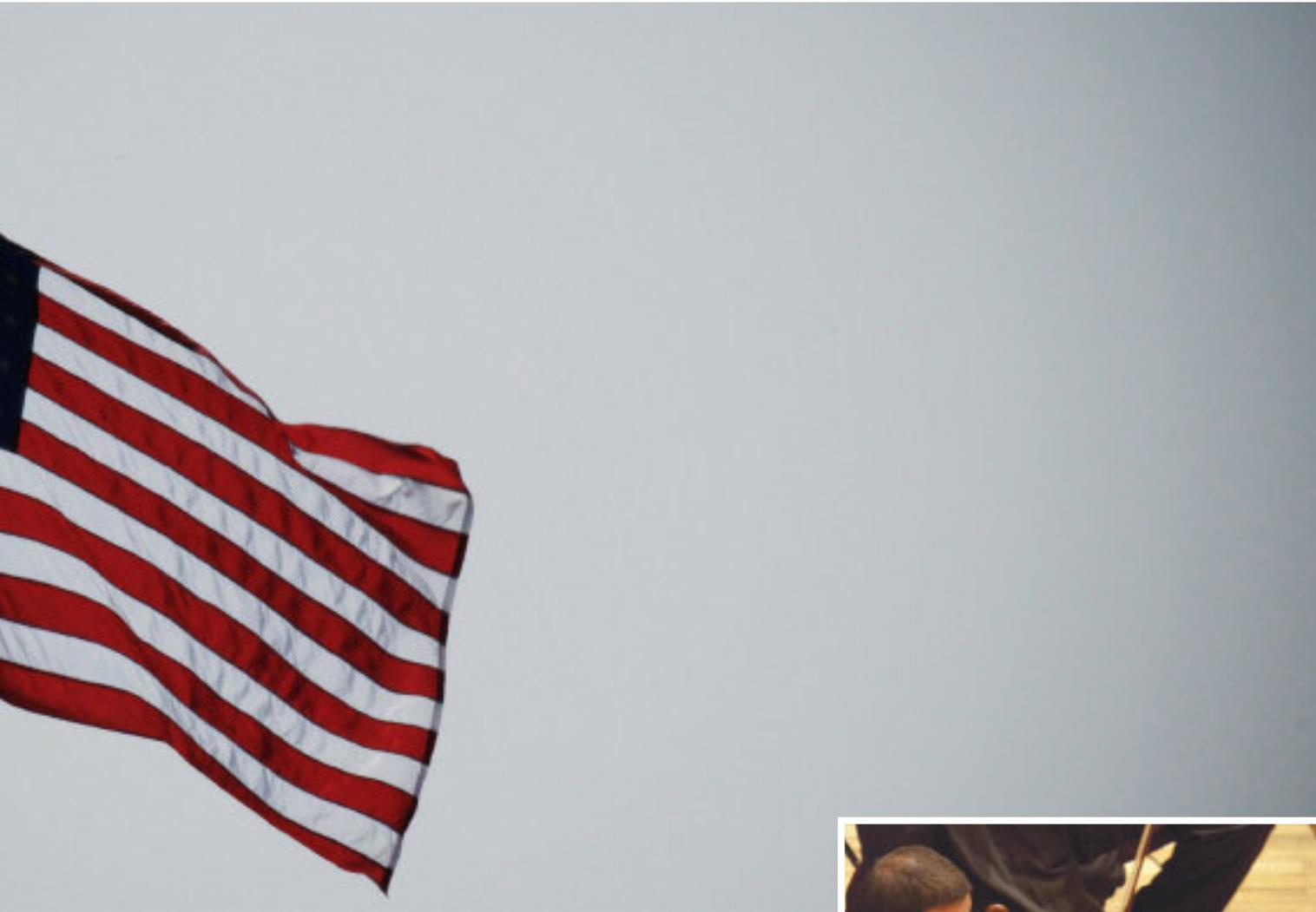
Several more musical performances rounded out a lovely night and the audience, led by Her Excellency Mrs Atifete Jahjaga, President of Kosovo, gave the orchestra a standing ovation, with the president personally thanking Roberts.

She said later, "The performances were all beautiful. The American soldier was astonishing and I enjoyed his playing very much." Mr Christopher Dell, U.S. ambassador to Kosovo, also complimented the orchestra and said it was an interesting touch to incorporate a U.S. soldier in the memorial, calling it unique and refreshing. Music was not the only way the people in Kosovo

marked the events of 9/11. Following the performances, a candlelight vigil was held by the Kosovo Ministry of Foreign Affairs to pay silent respects to those who were lost. Locals flooded to Mother Theresa Square to light their own tapers and to help their children do the same, telling them their memories of 9/11.

Petrit Selimi, the deputy minister for foreign affairs, stated, "This event was organized in order to express the deep gratitude and sympathy the people of Kosovo have for the United States. Every Kosovar keenly felt the tragedy of September 11; everyone remembers exactly where they were on Sept. 11, 2001."

In addition to playing in Pristina, Bandsteel also played a set earlier



that day to a group of U.S. Soldiers and local citizens in Ferizaj/Urosevac, as part of the municipalities' 9/11 memorial service.

The set included classics such as "Amazing Grace" and "Johnny Comes Marching Home". A local girl, Beltine Biqmeti, sang the "Star Spangled Banner" as a show of support to the Americans serving in Kosovo.

Commander Joint Regional Detachment East (JRD E) Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Stark said their memorial service helps maintain ties with the local community. "They're honoring our loss and that just reinforces our friendship," he said.

Later in the evening students from a local school performed a play at Ardiana Theater honoring the

victims of 9/11 by playing angels contemplating their loss and the senselessness of the tragedy.

Naim Ferati, the Ferizaj/Urosevac director of culture, youth and sports, said, "We express our deepest condolences.

It was very shocking for everyone around the world." With such a vast outpouring of support from a country so far from the United States, Americans can take solace in that friendship.

"For the Soldiers who are in Kosovo, we love the friendship of the people and when we go back home with our families, we'll tell them about events like tonight," said Stark. ■



INTERNATIONAL PILGRIMAGE TO LETNICA

About 130 KFOR soldiers, mostly from Germany, Austria, Portugal, Italy, Hungary and the USA, took part in this year's "International Soldiers' Letnica Pilgrimage" to the Marian Pilgrimage site of Letnice/Letnica in the south-eastern part of Kosovo.

They formed part of the several thousand pilgrims of all ages and from various countries, including Kosovo and the neighbouring Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. They gathered in the little village on 15 August 2011 in order to celebrate a mass in the open with the catholic Bishop of Prizren/Pristina Monsignore Dodë Gjergji on the occasion of "The Feast of the Assumption of Mary into Heaven".

The so-called "Black Madonna", a statue made of precious black timber, depicting Mary holding the infant Jesus in her arms and wearing white garments, is placed in front of the altar during the mass and afterwards is carried around the church in a procession.

It was at this place that Mother Teresa experienced her call to be a nun; she had visited this site as a pilgrim a few times as a child and as a young woman together with her family.

Accompanied by their military chaplains, the KFOR soldiers gathered three kilometres from Letnica in order to march together on the pilgrim path through the valley, over creeks and up a steep hill. Above the picturesque pilgrim site, they stopped to pray and enjoy the beautiful view from the mountain.

Letnica is one of the most scenic places in the Balkans and for many people it is a source of living faith, beyond borders of confession and even religion. For the Catholic Christians in Kosovo, this was the site of worship which maintained their faith over the centuries.

Tradition has it that, even before the battle on the "Field of Blackbirds", there was a church on this site in 1398. Today, a neo-Romanesque church with a white twin-tower façade towers above the little village on a hill.



During the pilgrimage the KFOR soldiers followed the processional cross with the pilgrimage flags ahead; as they made their way, they meditated, sang and prayed in the valley and on the hill. Under the searing sun, the pilgrims celebrated the mass together using texts in different languages. In his sermon, Bishop Dodë called for peace which has to emerge from one's own heart. After the mass and a lunch break, the pilgrims made their way back to their vehicles.

It was a pity that many soldiers interested in taking part were unable to attend due to the heightened tensions in the north of Kosovo. However, for those who were able to attend, this pilgrimage experience has been hugely enriching.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, a small medal was awarded in recognition of this pilgrimage; and everyone appreciated the opportunity to spend a wonderful day together with people from a wide range of backgrounds that will remain strong in the memory for a long time to come.



VICTORY DAY AND TURKISH ARMED FORCES DAY

For the Turkish people, “Victory Day and Turkish Armed Forces Day” is one of the most remarkable steps of our liberation struggle and we have celebrated it for the last 89 years on 30 of August. To illustrate the importance of this day, all promotions in the Turkish Armed Forces and graduation ceremonies from military schools take place on August 30. Having increasingly lost its power as a result of geopolitical and geostrategic circumstances, the Ottoman State, during its weakest period, took part in the World War I. The result was successful on many fronts - especially in the Çanakkale Front (Gallipoli War) ¹, which played a vital role in the geographical and political order of the world and ended with victory for the Ottoman Army. Nevertheless the defeat by its allies determined the end of the Ottoman State - the country was invaded and most of its army disbanded and disarmed.

Immediately after, many soldiers, intellectuals and citizens reacted strongly against the invasion. Moreover, many militias began to resist the occupation across the country. At this point the charismatic commander, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk (his surname, which means Father of Turks, was given to him in 1934 by the National Assembly), came to Anatolia on 19 May 1919 to reorganize these respective militias with the ultimate purpose of “independence or death”. Atatürk was very famous in Anatolia for his distinctive leadership genius and his order to Mehmetçik (the common name for the Turkish soldier) in the Çanakkale Front: “I do not order you to attack, I order you to die.” His arrival in Anatolia is accepted as the beginning of Turks’ liberation war. The Turkish National



STORY: CAPTAIN BURHAN ÇOLAK

PICTURE: PRIVATE EGEMEN TÜRKÖĞLU



Movement (Kuva-yi Milliye) in Anatolia culminated in the formation of a new Grand National Assembly (GNA) by Mustafa Kemal Pasha and his colleagues and the GNA successfully mobilized its resources.

After a series of battles, invaders were defeated with a decisive attack “The Great Attack” from 26 August to 30 August 1922 near Kütahya.

After the expulsion of all occupying troops from the country, the Treaty of Sèvres was abandoned and the Treaty of Lausanne was signed in July 1923. The Allies left Anatolia and Eastern Thrace (Trakya) and then the formation of the Republic of Turkey was declared in October 1923.

The establishment of the Turkish National Movement led to the end of the Ottomans. The demise of this deep-rooted state, gave way to a new, modern, secular, nation-state republic. Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, as a reformist of military origin, proved his ability to the nations of the world, by improving the state, which he founded, in every field. A completely new Republic now arose over the soil of Turkey, whose borders had been drawn with blood. Strictly adhering to Mustafa Kemal Atatürk’s principle, “Peace At Home, Peace in the World”², the Armed Forces of the Turkish Republic do not have any aggressive intentions, but it is employed when its independence, nation, country and honour are under threat.

As a member of NATO, the Turkish Republic is ready with the common ideals for its members also and will continue to support peace efforts in the world.

¹ It is also known as Gentles’ War and shortly after this war in a ceremony for Allies losses Atatürk in his message note down “Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives...You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore, rest in peace!”

² After his death many leaders, politicians, scientist and news agencies remark about him: “Atatürk has left Turkey without a single enemy. This is a thing that no other state leader of our time has succeeded in doing.”

[German Volkischer Beobachter Journal]
 “Those who want to rebuild peace, well-being and who want mankind to develop not only materially but also morally in the suffering world, must take Atatürk’s encouragement and leadership as an example.”
 [Professor Herbert MELZIG (Historian)]



SOLDIERS GAVE KOSOVO FAMILIES WOOD THAT REMAINS FROM THE ŠAJKOVAC BASE DISPOSAL

The village Hertice lies three kilometers as the crow flies from the Serbian border, near the town of Podujevo. It is a sizeable village with individual buildings scattered across hilly terrain and a population of 1052 people. How modestly the inhabitants live in this part of Kosovo is obvious immediately upon arrival to the village. Most of them have no jobs and are dependent on the assistance of their luckier relatives or the support of relatives abroad. The Czech Army Task Force Commander, Major Josef Nejedlý, approached the mayor of Hertice and asked him to identify some particularly socially disadvantaged families who were most in need of assistance from the Czech contingent. Mayor Florim Mucolli was more than happy to do so. As we arrive at the very edge of the village at the first house, sixty years old Adem Plakolli lives with his family of seven. He is grateful for the donated wood and cordially invites the Czech soldiers into his home for a cup of Turkish coffee. He tells us about his escape to Germany from the war in 1994, where he lived for five years. Another resident that the mayor chose, is forty five year old Hasbie Restelica. She warmly welcomed the Czech troops at front of the house where she lives with her four children; her husband having died six years ago. Like most other in the village, she has no job and depends solely on social help, which is 40 euros per month. For the children, the soldiers brought notebooks, pens, candy and a soccer ball. A happy child's smile is thanks for "a few little things". Throughout our meetings the Mayor continued to thank the Czech contingent for the help provided to his people by the personnel from Camp Šajkovac during the years. In 1999 the Czech soldiers built an Elementary School in three months. It was the first newly built school in Kosovo after the war. There is still a memorial board placed at the entrance to the school. Czech soldiers also helped to repair the road, which was destroyed by floods and also built the road from the village to the village Baloc. Even the dismantling of the Czech camp provided the opportunity to assist the locals – all the surplus wood from the Šajkovac base was given to the residents for their own use. The Czech contingent prepares to leave Kosovo now, but can be happy that it has left a lasting legacy for the people of Kosovo. ■



STORY AND PICTURE: MAJOR IVETA LNĚNIČKOVÁ AND 1ST LIEUTENANT MIROSLAV JORDÁNEK

In late summer 2011, seven Swedish musicians, SWEDEN ROX, were offered a fantastic opportunity to travel from their homeland to Kosovo to entertain soldiers of the Swedish contingent with music and songs. Naturally, this was too good an opportunity to miss and so late one evening seven “field entertainers” arrived happy and tired to the Tre Kronor Bar. Despite their long journey some of them found a guitar and gave us a sneak preview of their skills and an idea of what was in store for the rest of KFOR in the days ahead.

The following night their “KFOR Tour” officially began with an intimate performance at the Irish House. Soldiers and civilians from different nations came together and enjoyed the music in a very comfortable atmosphere.

The following evening they performed a bigger concert outside the US. NSE. This time it was a bit more prominent with a larger stage and a bigger audience. Those who attended were rewarded with a concert that they won’t forget.

The day after the group left Camp Film City for a short trip to LMT C5, in Pristina, and played for the Swedish personnel who are stationed there. These three performances were all different and greatly appreciated in their own way, “however the “tour” was building up to a grand finale on the Saturday night back in Camp Film City. The headline performance was outside the Swedish NSE to several hundred soldiers and civilians. The audience was treated to a spectacular show with fantastic songs, rocking guitar solos and a great smoke and lights show. It was great to hear when everyone sang together with the band during the set. On the last day, SWECON personnel got a small private show back at the Tre Kronor Bar where it all started. There we had the chance to request desired songs before it was time for the field entertainers to go back to Sweden.





On 7 September 2011, at HQ Multi-National Specialized Unit (MSU) in Pristina the MSU Regiment Change of Command ceremony took place. Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler, presided over the ceremony and transferred command from Colonel Eduardo Russo to Colonel Mauro Isidori. Colonel Russo at the end of his one year deployment to Kosovo returns home where he will take up a prestigious position within the Italian Defence General Staff in Rome.

In the last twelve months MSU continued to carry out its mission in Kosovo, with the aim of helping this young nation to implement the hard journey to independence, self-sufficiency and peace. Under Colonel Russo's command the MSU Regiment has performed a wide variety of activities aimed at ensuring a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all Kosovo's citizens; supporting the local institutions; implementing and maintaining stability; and assisting with the modernisation of infrastructure

such as hospitals and schools. Colonel Russo mentioned a number of achievements that he is proud of, in particular were the significant donations arising from MSU CIMIC activities. The unit made 255 CIMIC donations totalling a value of 300,000 Euros. Foremost among these donations were those to Pristina Hospital, which received goods and medicines to a value of 80,000 Euros, as well as one to Mitrovica Hospital where goods and medicines for a value of 40,000 Euros were delivered. In addition to CIMIC activities in support of the local population, MSU continued to contribute to a safe and secure environment across Kosovo, conducting 786 vehicles check points, deploying 4,761 patrols and 9,052 units. In these operations 2,570 vehicles and people 2,841 were checked, and 487 searches were conducted in seizures of significant amounts of ammunition.

Of course MSU also undertakes a wide variety of tasks aimed at improving the core capabilities and professionalism of the Kosovo



Police (KP). Some of the training activities that MSU performed in the last year include 9 weapon skills courses and a crowd and riot control (CRC) tactical techniques and procedures (TTP) course. These courses were attended by 258 officers and perhaps most importantly these courses also qualified 12 instructors, thereby guaranteeing that KP will not just have qualified personnel now, but will be able to produce personnel trained to the highest international standards for many years to come. ■



On Friday, 09 September 2011, a large audience came to join the official ceremony of the Kosovo Force Change of Command in Camp Film City, Pristina. There, the Commander of Allied Joint Force Command Naples (JFC N), Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III, presided over the change of command from the outgoing commander, Major General Erhard Bühler, to his successor, Major General Erhard Drews. Among the guests were Her Excellency, Mrs. Atifete Jahjaga, the President of Kosovo; Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo Mr Hashim Thaçi; and the German Parliamentary State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Defence, Mr Thomas Kossendey. In his address, Admiral Locklear said to the people of Kosovo "...I want you to know that NATO is steadfastly committed to your success in building a stable, prosperous future. NATO has spent twelve years contributing to a safe and secure environment as the primary means for continued stability and progress in Kosovo. We will continue that commitment to ensure democratic institutions develop and flourish. We are working toward a day when NATO forces in Kosovo will no longer be necessary." In his speech, Major General Bühler thanked all the men and women of KFOR for their excellent work and commitment to the mission, to Kosovo and its citizen and wished the very best to Major General Drews for his term in command of KFOR. The ceremony was accompanied by music from the German music band Heeresmusikkorps 10 of the German Armed Forces, a children's choir of the Loyola High school in Prizren and traditional dance numbers by Ansambl Vanace Gracanista and the Shola Dance Company of Pristina. ■





CHANGE OF COMMAND NIC

On 26 August 2011, at a discreet ceremony in Camp Film City in Pristina, a number of VIPs and selected guests were present to observe the change of command ceremony for the US National Intelligence Cell (NIC). In the presence of Captain (N) Paul D Ashcroft, Deputy Director of Intelligence, US European Command, Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth W Dean relinquished command to Lieutenant Colonel Carol A Schimmoller.

The ceremony began with a rendition of the US national anthem followed by an invocation by the Chaplain, Major Robertson, and the ceremonial passing of pennants between the outgoing and incoming commanders. In his address to the assembled guests, Captain (N) Ashcroft listed the many achievements of Lieutenant Colonel Dean and congratulated him and his team on a job very well done. He welcomed Lieutenant Colonel Schimmoller to the challenge of commanding the NIC; and noted that “the NIC has been extremely fortunate to have two such high calibre leaders”. Captain (N) Ashcroft also took the chance to compliment the personnel serving in the NIC for their contribution to such a successful and productive tour of duty.

In his farewell speech, Lieutenant Colonel Dean described his experiences in this “multi-faceted and complex” mission in KFOR. He thanked the 14 different nations represented in the ‘NIC Community’ that worked in close harmony, providing products that were relevant and timely. He reserved particular praise for



the personnel of the US NIC who “always implemented the eight universal laws of leadership – maintain absolute integrity, know your stuff, declare your expectations, show uncommon commitment, expect positive results, take care of your people, place duty before self, and get out in front”. Lieutenant Colonel Dean concluded by expressing his sincere thanks to the families and loved ones of deployed personnel who, despite bearing the significant burden of separation, provide the support that ensures that the mission here is accomplished. In her inaugural address, Lieutenant Colonel Schimmoller thanked Captain (N) Ashcroft for his attendance. She also thanked her predecessor for the smooth transition during the handover/takeover period, and offered particular praise and thanks for the contribution of Master Sergeant Wray for her organisation of the ceremony. Addressing the assembled guests,

she said “I am privileged to be part of (a) mission which continues to provide a safe and secure environment for Kosovo... My expectations are simple – integrity, professionalism, teamwork and mutual respect.” The short, dignified ceremony then concluded with an invitation to the guests to join the VIPs for refreshments. ■



After 410 kilometres training it was finally time for the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) team from Operational Support Brigade (OSB) to go to The Netherlands and participate in the famous 4-day march in Nijmegen.

The training had been done from beginning of April until the end of June, culminating in a three-day session that comprised 27+40+40 kilometres.

The team arrived in Nijmegen on Sunday 17 July and was accommodated in Camp Heumensoord; this

year there were participants from 28 different countries in the camp.

On the first evening the team participated in the opening ceremony in the Goffertstadion, which was decorated with flags from all participating countries.

During this ceremony there was a flag parade in which the KSF team proudly participated. The 4-day march is not only for military participants, the majority of those taking part are civilians from different countries – in total there were 41,316 persons starting the

march on the first day. After a day of relaxation and preparation, the march started early on Tuesday morning. There were almost 6 000 soldiers starting from Camp Heumensoord, so the groups were set off at intervals.

The first group started at 0430hrs and the KSF team finally got under way at 0615hrs. Leaving the camp the team passed under an archway made to resemble boots and a helmet; these boots are something they wanted to see again because, for the first three days this archway marked the finish point. On the last day the participants finished in the city on the Via Gladiola.

At 10 kilometres intervals, on the 44 kilometre march, there were rest areas where the participants could get something to eat and drink; they could also get some medical aid, if needed.

All along the route, members of the public turned out in huge numbers to greet the participants. ▶

Commander KFOR

Major General Erhard Drews,
German Army

Chief Public Affairs Office and KFOR Spokesman

Colonel Ralph Adametz
German Army

Chief Internal Information & Editor

Commandant Daragh O'Brien,
Irish Defence Forces
o'brien@hq.kfor.nato.int

Photographer & Design

Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu,
Staff Sergeant Elisabeth
Schoeneberg, German Air Force and
Staff Sergeant Florian Reichenbach,
German Army

Cover Photo

Staff Sergeant Elisabeth
Schoeneberg

E-mail & Web

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

Printer: RASTER

Tel: 038 60 16 06

NATO Nations within KFOR

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

Non - NATO Nations within KFOR

Armenia, Austria, Finland, Ireland,
Morocco, Sweden, Switzerland,
Ukraine

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.

Bands, both military and civilian, played as the teams passed and young kids offered fruit, water and candy. By day three, the team was tired but determination and, as they passed the Canadian Military cemetery in Grossbeck, there was an opportunity to pay respects and find inspiration.

Finally, on the last day, with about 5 kilometres to the finish line, the team were awarded their medals.

The medals were given out by Mr Sami Kastrati who is "Ministër-Këshilltar" at the Embassy of the Republic of Kosovo in The Hague and Lt Col Skott of KFOR. After getting their medals they could

finally leave their backpacks and march down the famous Via Gladiola where thousands of spectators had gathered, bands were playing, people were cheering and clapping their hands, and flowers were given to participants.

And so, after 162 kilometres, the march was finally over. The KSF team had a fantastic but challenging week, enjoying the hospitality from the Dutch people and meeting a lot of people from around the world.

They performed remarkably well and they all finished the march in good health and condition, of course their feet were a little bit tired but that's all part of the fun! ■



<http://www.4daagse.nl/>
if you want more information about the march.

STORY AND PICTURES: LIEUTENANT COLONEL STIG-OLOF SKOTT

PEACEKEEPER



Name: Marcello Vigliotta
Rank: OF - 4
Nationality: Italy
Unit in KFOR: Veterinarian

Military education:

I have 33 years service. I began in Military School "Nunziatella in Naples" in 1977, before entering the Military Academy in Pinerolo in 1980. In 1987 I was awarded my Degree in veterinary medicine and a Degree in Food safety in 1990. I have deployed previously to Albania in 1992 and Croatia 1996.

About the Mission:

It is a huge responsibility to ensure the good health of our troops by checking the safety of our food supplies, providing medical care to our military dogs and checking for disinfections. Basically, I love my job and I hope to increase food safety and public health during my period here.

Family Reaction:

It is my third time working abroad with the Army, 16 years after the last peace keeping operation I did. I have been married for 21 years. I miss my wife, my son Edoardo, who is 13 years old, and my old dog, KALI. I keep in touch with them several times a day.

Hobbies:

I like travelling and playing all type of sports. I have already completed 2 'Ironmans', the race with 3,8 km swimming 180 km biking and 42,195 (the marathon) running: 2005 in Nice, France and 2009 in Roth, Germany.

PEACEKEEPER



Name: Mohammed Lahlou
Rank: OR - 8
Nationality: Moroccan
Unit in KFOR: Moroccan Company within the MNBG-E

Military education:

Promoted to a non-commissioned officer after receiving a training course in the Royal Military School. I have been in the Army for almost 18 years, and this is my first deployment overseas.

About the Mission:

I am deputy of a platoon leader. It's a very demanding job, but I like it very much. I have spent more than three months in Kosovo, and I have made many friends from many nations. It's a great honor and pleasure for me, to represent my country in a multinational environment, and it is a very interesting experience too.

Family reaction:

I am married, and I am father of two children; Hajar, my daughter, is 8 years old, and Zakaria, is 2 years old. I appreciate greatly the support that all my family members provide me during my entire career as a professional soldier. My wife has accepted my double life. She understands the military way of life, and knows that I must serve abroad from time to time.

Hobbies:

I have passion of sport. Especially, running and playing soccer.

