



# KFOR CHRONICLE



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BYPASS BLOCKED

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MONEY MEN (and WOMAN)

Direct but diplomatic, candid but courteous, to the point but always polite, Colonel Adolf Conrad, Commander Joint Regional Detachment North (JRD-N) believes in telling it as it is and does so in a no nonsense manner. A straight talker and a keen listener, he has established a vital communications link on behalf of KFOR Commander Major General Erhard Drews with Serbs in northern Kosovo. Through his scheduled meetings respective views are conveyed, information is transmitted and opinions are made known. This important interaction facilitates an engagement, an exchange, and an expression of particular points of view. His weekly work presents an on-going opportunity to continue this connection, a conduit conveying different and often differing standpoints. Herein lies the challenge and it's not a task for everyone. This interactive, on the ground role, dealing with real people, and live issues, is however one welcomed by Colonel Conrad. Despite the sometimes pressurized, tense, difficult circumstances Colonel Conrad regards it as one of the best jobs he's ever had. Making a continual assessment



PICTURE: A. HAJRULLAHU

of the situation is important work, and the satisfaction for me, is that it is accepted as such. It has value and is a job that really counts. It is upon this awareness that subsequent decisions are informed. In no so small way Colonel Conrad's efforts, and those other inputs of the Liaison Monitoring Teams (LMTs) of JRD-N under his command are making a significant contribution. The events recently experienced in northern Kosovo have to have had a cause, but equally require a solution. By successfully and

sensitively fulfilling its mandate, KFOR contributes greatly to facing up to that challenge. The ultimate solution will be a political one and very much in that sphere will the answers be reached and a future forged for the people of northern Kosovo. The prospect of this success must be sustained. Reinforcing the resolve, trust and confidence in KFOR therefore is worthy of our best efforts. The Commander and LMT's of JRD-N are everyday actively supporting this worthwhile undertaking. ■



## Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion

**A**N explosion in a ground floor flat in the 3 towers area of Mitrovica early in the month caused the death of a father, and slight injuries to 2 of 4 children. The subsequent setting up of a Kosovo Police static point within the 3 towers complex itself, resulted in a violent mob of 200 attacking this, destroying the container and causing the 2 KP to flee southwards. In response to heightened tensions, one Company of

the Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM), on a rotating basis, deployed into the 3 towers western, ethnically mixed, area of north Mitrovica a few days later. This has allowed the Multinational Specialized Unit (MSU) concentrate their presence and patrolling on the eastern (little Bosnia) area of northern Mitrovica. ■



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: KTM



# Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion



PICTURE: KTM



# BYPASS BLOCKED

Early this month KFOR physically closed the unauthorized bypass in the vicinity of the Jarinje (Gate 1) official Boundary Crossing Point. This action was undertaken by KFOR in order to enhance its contribution to a Safe and Secure Environment. This bypass is now impassable due to the physical barrier put in place by KFOR. This operation was fully in line with the framework of KFOR's mission. ■



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: JRD-N

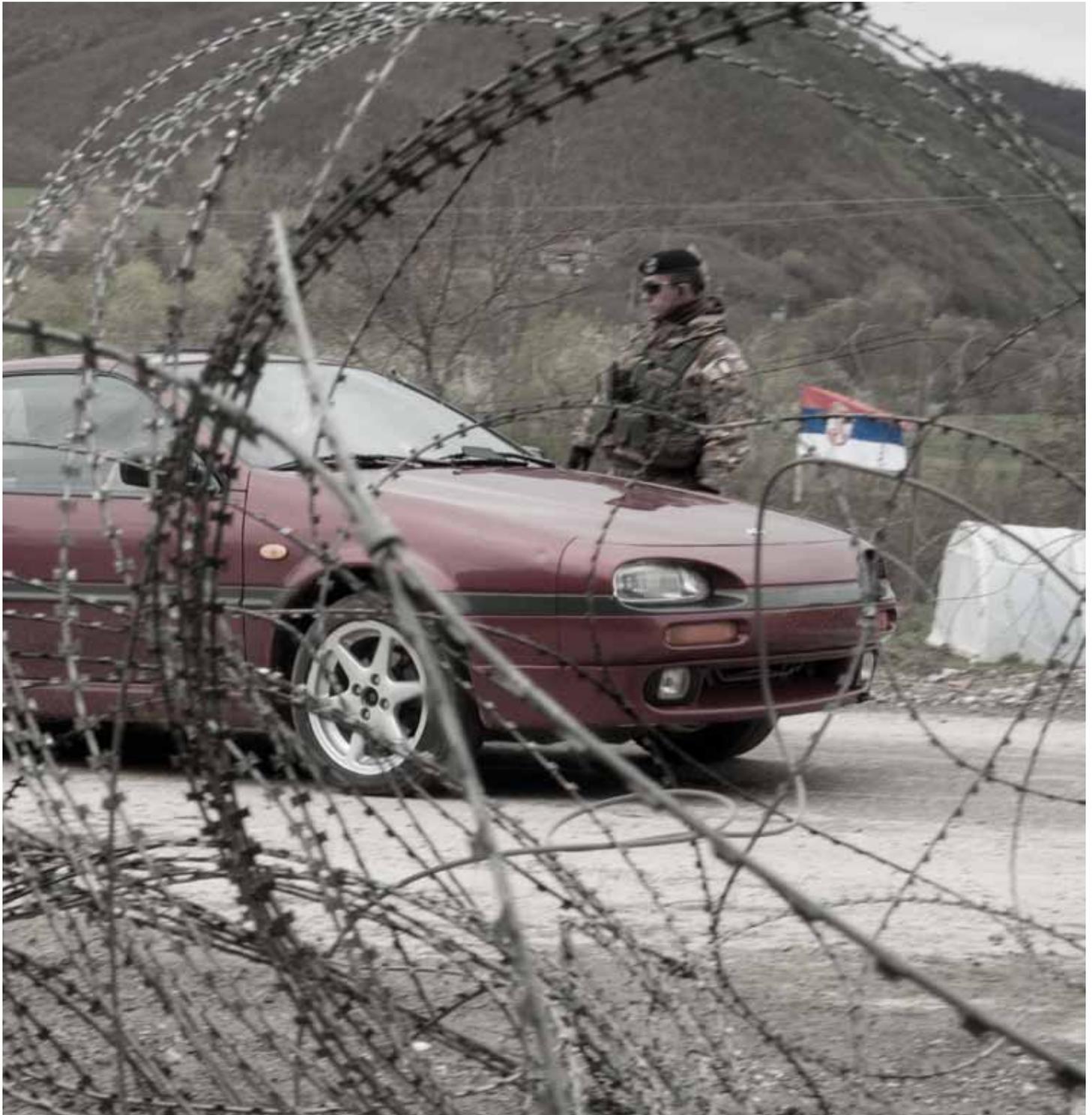


# Italian Operational Reserve Battalion

KFORs newly deployed Operational Reserve Battalion (ORF) are up and running at Jagnjenica Vehicle Checkpoint (VCP). They have just completed their first full month in theater

having effected the change of command in late March. The extended VCP positions have been expanded, enlarged and their protection enhanced. When not busy operating this

static checkpoint they are busily conducting mobile patrols and training for future potential involvements.



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: A. HAJRULLAHU



## Free Travel into Life



Every road user knows this sign: dead-end street. Especially when I am a stranger in a town, I can easily lose my way and end up in a dead-end street. The only way out is to reverse or to drive backwards if turning around the car is not possible.

In our life there are also some streets and paths which lead us into a dead-end street. When, for example, nothing seems to be going right in our service or our work, when fellow soldiers avoid us; when we cannot talk anymore in our partnership, when we haven't got anything more to say to each other; when home makes us feel the need to run away, when it constrains us, when it makes us lose our breath; when a friendship breaks; when someone whom we love gets seriously ill or dies, when we ourselves or a person close to us feels weary of life.

In such a dead-end street are also the disciples of Emmaus (Luke 24, 13-35). Their friend and Lord, their Rabbi Jesus Christ had been brutally crucified. He was dead. Dead is dead. Mourning without hope, deep despair accompanied these two Followers. All they had believed in, the hope which Jesus had given with his message about Gods unconditional love and mercy, seemed to be destroyed. Nothing made sense any more. They had been so deep in the dead-end street that they didn't even recognise Jesus when he walked next to them on their way from Jerusalem to Emmaus. They were anchored so deeply in the past that they did not look ahead, only backwards. They were stuck. That's how it is in life: when one door gets closed ahead of us, there is always another one which gets opened. The tragedy, however, is

# Dead End Sign



that we always only see the closed door and not the open one.

(Schild „freie Fahrt“)

Every road user likes this sign, all limits end and one can overtake again, drive really fast and test the speed of the car. Free travel!

The disciples of Emmaus experience this thrill when Jesus sits together with them and breaks the bread. The scales fell from their eyes, Jesus sits there with them, the crucified, the man presumed dead is alive, has risen from the dead. When they break the bread they look upwards, the door into life gets opened again for them. They can leave the dead-end street and restart their journey into life. Their heart was burning, says the Bible: They could feel life again. Jesus Christ, the Son of God is alive and is in the midst of us. He has lead us out of the dead-end street into the new life. So they set out for Jerusalem to tell the friends of Jesus: “The Lord has risen indeed”.

Free travel into life, this Easter message was given to us as a present. We can live our life while trusting the resurrected, who is among us, here in theatre, in our partnerships, in ourselves.

Happy Easter – a happy free travel into life.

*Yours Myriam Krug-Lettenmeier  
Coordinating Chaplain*



# 10 YEARS AGO

## Freedom of movement in action



to finance the operation and the BATGEN Company, commanded by Captain Valles, took charge of the project. On 20 February 2002, work began on a new bridge that will once more allow KFOR to demonstrate its commitment to the people of Kosovo: Freedom of Movement. ■

For some Kosovars, freedom of movement is very, very close. One bridge away actually. This is the case for the inhabitants of Prilizje, a small minority village in MNB(N). Its access to the rest of Kosovo was very difficult, because the bridge linking them to the road network was out of use. The heavy road traffic ruined the road and the structure of the bridge over the years. The MNB(N) BATGEN (Engineer battalion) had already supported the structure of the bridge by bringing a self-propelled bridge, but this could only be a temporary solution. The engineers rendered their diagnosis: the bridge could no longer be used for the traffic, and had to be rebuilt. The French CIMIC office offered



STORY AND PICTURES: PIO MNB-N

## The Shamrock comes to Kosovo

**K**osovo - Saint Patrick's Day was 17 March, the National Day of Ireland, and KFOR Troops from Banski Rid to Lipjan celebrated it in Irish Style!

To entertain the troops in true Irish Style, "The Shades," a 3-piece acoustic, electric and drum band from the west of Ireland who played traditional and modern music was sent for. The entertainment started early at Banski Rid in Skopje Friday night, where the Shades entertained most of the troops stationed there. Saturday night, the Shades moved up to KFOR Main. The party consisted of all different KFOR nations as well as personnel from the different NGOs in Kosovo. There was traditional Irish food for all guests with Bacon and Cabbage, Irish Salmon and brown

bread. The weekend was finished off with a Saint Patrick's Day Parade in Camp Clarke where all the troops of No. 6 Transport Company were presented with shamrock as a symbol of Saint Patrick's contribution to Ireland. The shamrock is a small clover type plant that only grows in Ireland. After the ceremony, guests were treated to a number of surprises including a demonstration of the Irish national game 'Hurling'.



STORY AND PICTURE: G. MARTEL

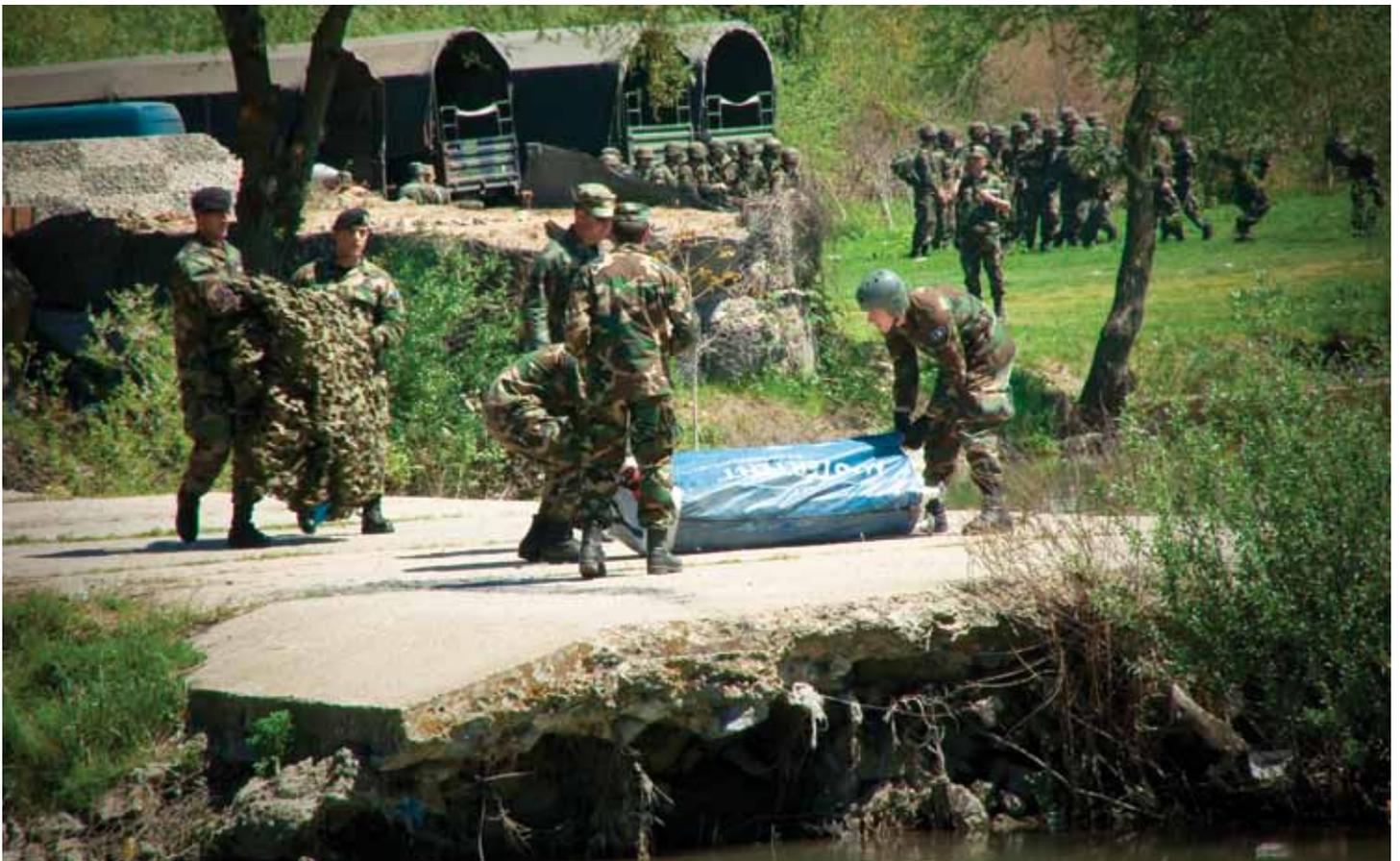
## KSF “EAGLE 1” EXERCISE

Kosovo Security Force (KSF) conducted the field exercise “Eagle 1” from 20th to 30th of April 2012. The exercise took place in the vicinities of Peja, Prizren and Gjilan. The exercise was planned as a Disaster Relief Operation based on different scenarios during which KSF has to act in support of the population of the respective municipalities. Prior to the Exercise all units of KSF conducted, trained and improved their capabilities related to their core missions such as FIRE FIGHTING, DEMINING or HANDLING of HAZARDOUS MATERIAL and SEARCH AND RESCUE. The Exercise tested each core capability on the basis of a specific disaster scenario. The

layout of the exercise saw the KSF supporting municipalities and local authorities in disaster relief situations, when they were not able to cope with the disaster within own means only anymore.

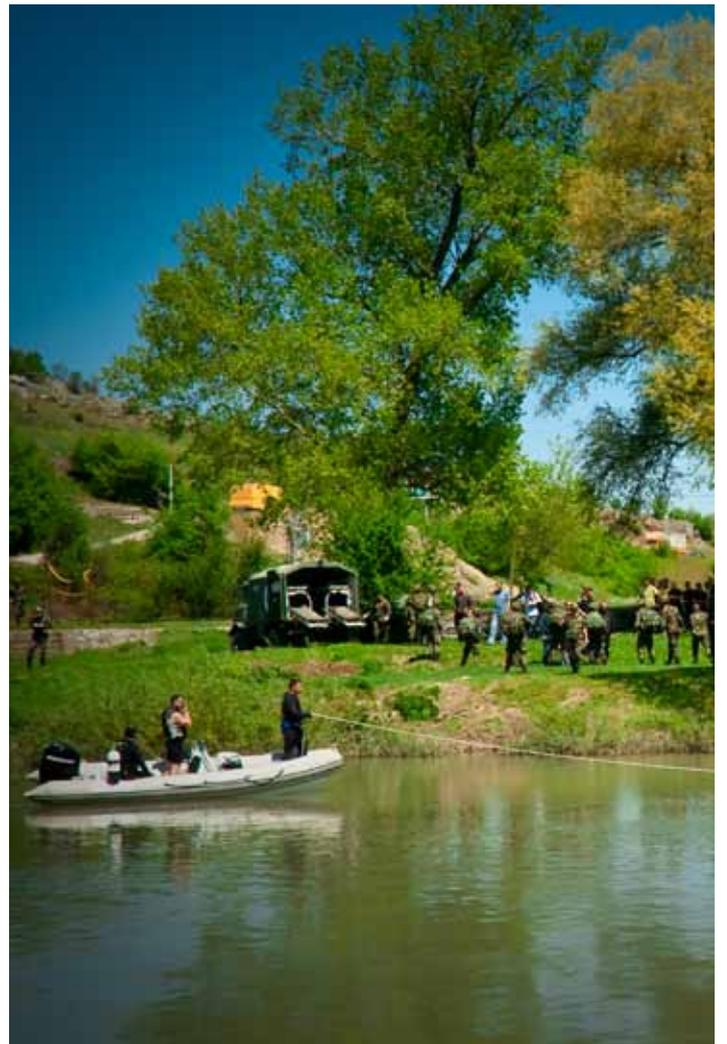
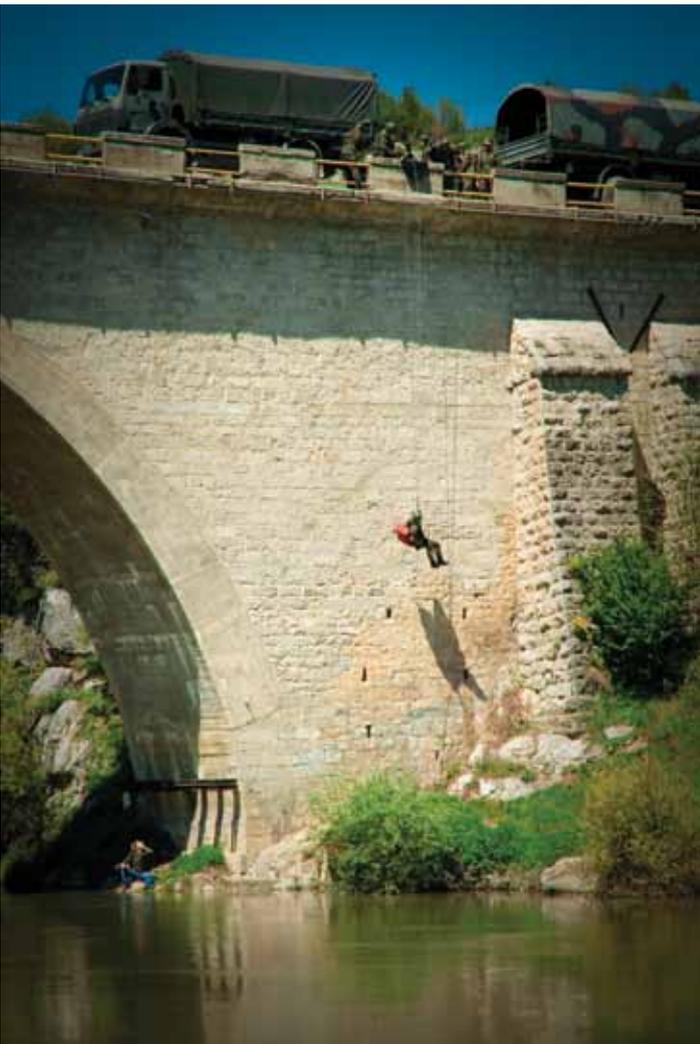
The exercise was a follow-up to exercise “Agile Lion 4” conducted at the end of September 2011. “Eagle 1” was planned by KSF and was conducted by KSF with its Land Forces Command as the controlling staff for its subordinated and exercising units like the Rapid Reaction Brigade and the Operations Support Brigade. The planning process for the exercise started in November 2011. KFOR assisted throughout the whole planning process and also supported the observer

and controller organization in monitoring and evaluating the exercise. KFOR is also going to support the preparation of the final evaluation report. As a result, NATO and KFOR military officers were actively engaged during the whole exercise. Kosovo Security Force informed the population that during the exercise from 20h to 30th of April, there would be movements of Kosovo Security Forces’ convoys along local and highway roads, and also dislocations in the vicinities of the above mentioned municipalities. On the occasion of holding this exercise, KSF reassured the citizens that it need raise concerns regarding their property and freedoms. ■



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: A. HAJRULLAHU



## MONEY MEN (and WOMAN)

My old accountancy teacher by way of explaining how money circulates within the economy once held up a coin to the class and running his finger along its rim, stated, “Money is made round, to go around”. Decades later and hundreds of miles apart I found to be equally instructive, the mantra of KFORs “Money Men (and Women)”, that, “Nothing in KFOR is free, everything must be paid for”. The function of J8, KFOR HQ’s Finance Office then, in providing financial support to KFOR activities, is to ensure that when any individual expenditure is made, that it has to, and can, withstand scrutiny. It is their task to have oversight

on the justifications and controls for each payment and the office is organized accordingly. The Budget Office plans the ability to pay by having necessary amounts of finance available; The Contracts office tenders for the specific item(s); The Fiscal Office approves the payment; The Disbursements Office makes the payment; and finally the Internal Review Office carries out quality control inspections. In order to ensure that difficulties, delays and problems do not arise, this structure, with the people and processes contained within, coordinate the planning and undertaking of each transaction, be it a large annual capital cost or a small once-off variable cost. For

those of us needing to purchase, plan well ahead and calmly, is their best advice. To avoid flaws emerging, surprises appearing and disappointment being experienced in the end, prepare your proposal well at the start. Avoidance of last-minute rushed applications is always best. The overall budget is an amount made up of NATO-born costs and Nation-born costs. As for the future, well it’s more and more moving towards electronic payments with less and less cash payments likely. Going back then to my old accountancy teacher, he’ll shortly have to hold up a computer keyboard and running his fingers along the keys will enthusiastically declare to the class “today, let’s make money move”. ■



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: A. HAJRULLAHU



## KFOR's 2<sup>nd</sup> Operational Reserve Force Battalion arrives to K



**550** Germans and 150 Austrians of the second battalion of the Operational Reserve Force (ORF) deployed to Kosovo at the end of April. This was part of KFOR's prudent planning and positioning to make sure there were enough forces necessary to do their tasks in relation to cope with the evident rising tensions in Kosovo. KFOR's mission is to preserve a safe and secure environment for all people of Kosovo in an impartial way. That is what the Force has done for over a decade, and that is what it will continue to do. Regarding as to where will they be stationed in Kosovo, this is an operational issue and COMKFOR will deploy the troops wherever they are necessary. ■



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: A. HAJRULLAHU



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German Army

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## 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 Kingdom,  
United States

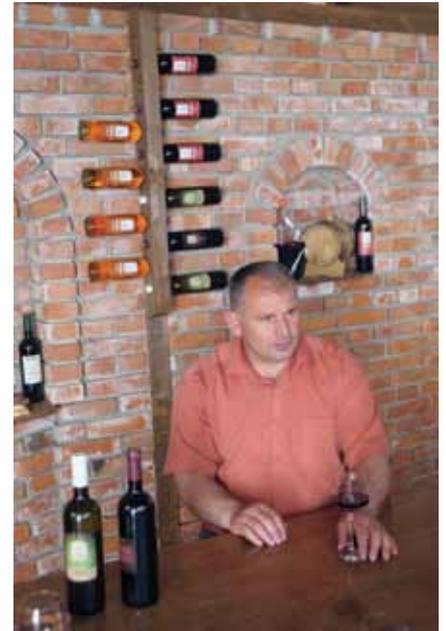
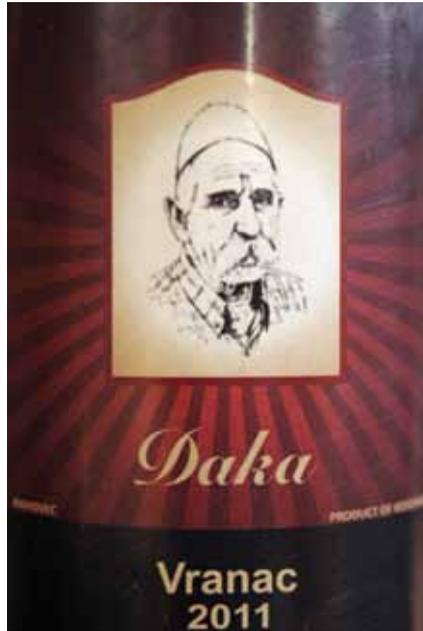
## Non-NATO Nations within KFOR

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

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## Daka Winery

On a superbly sunny Spring day at the end of April it is easy to forget the severe snows of last winter, the worst since 1984 at that! While the bad weather presented all the associated challenges that come with plummeting day and night time temperatures; harsh freezing conditions; unsparing wind chill factor and of course snow, snow and still more snow, it all had a potentially huge and more direct significance for the many large and small vine growers and wine makers throughout Kosovo. Curiously, the extreme adverse weather conditions of a hard winter neither impacted negatively nor hampered the many, some 50 or so in all, small time traditional wine makers as the vines did not sustain the damage they could have been thought to have. This was due to the falling temperatures not been prolonged into Spring proper. This meant that traditional wine makers like Gazmend Daka, from the Rahovec Region could continue to produce the wines made by his family and many like his, for generations. Modest operations economically they will not yield vast financial rewards however such enterprises do provide an income but more especially an associated satisfaction and contentment that will see these family traditions continue into the future.



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: A. HAJRULLAHU



**Name:** Balázs Kiss  
**Rank:** OF-1  
**Nationality:** Hungarian  
**Unit KFOR:** KTM Charlie Company  
 3rd PLT Leader

### MILITARY EDUCATION:

I started academy in 2006 at the age of 18. In 2010 I was promoted to 2nd lieutenant, and started to work as a platoon leader in a parachute company in a light infantry battalion. I volunteered for my first mission in Kosovo, where I spent 6 months. Now I am getting ready for return home and continue my work in my mother unit.

### ABOUT THE MISSION:

I worked in the Hungarian Company of KTM Battalion. We have participated in several operations in Kosovo, during which I got lots of experience how to lead a whole platoon. How to coordinate people from a single daily routine to a complex CRC action. I enjoyed the work in this multinational environment and I really appreciate every of nations' effort to make this country a better one.

### FAMILY REACTION:

As this is my first mission in abroad, my family understand my motivation. I get a great support from them but at the same time I miss them, and they told me several times they miss me as well.

### HOBBIES:

I like riding on a bicycle, reading books, doing archery or hanging out with my friends.



**Name:** Sušnik Alenka  
**Rank:** OR-6  
**Nationality:** Slovenian  
**Unit KFOR:** MNBG-W / Slovenian  
 Contingent / India Coy / 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon

### MILITARY EDUCATION:

I started working for Slovenian armed forces in 2003. I joined 18th cbrn defence battalion as soldier in light decontamination company. A few years later I passed NCO course and now I am squad leader in light decontamination company.

### ABOUT THE MISSION:

This is my second mission in KFOR. I am squad leader in Motorized Platoon / India Company / MNBG-W. My work is interesting and dynamic. I and my colleague in platoon have a good time together. Mutual understanding, support and clean relations are key to success.

### FAMILY REACTION:

I am thankful to my family for understanding and support. They understand all demands of my work. They are also proud on me. On the other side they hope this is my last mission.

### HOBBIES:

I like sport; it's the kind of lifestyle. I like running, tennis, hiking...

