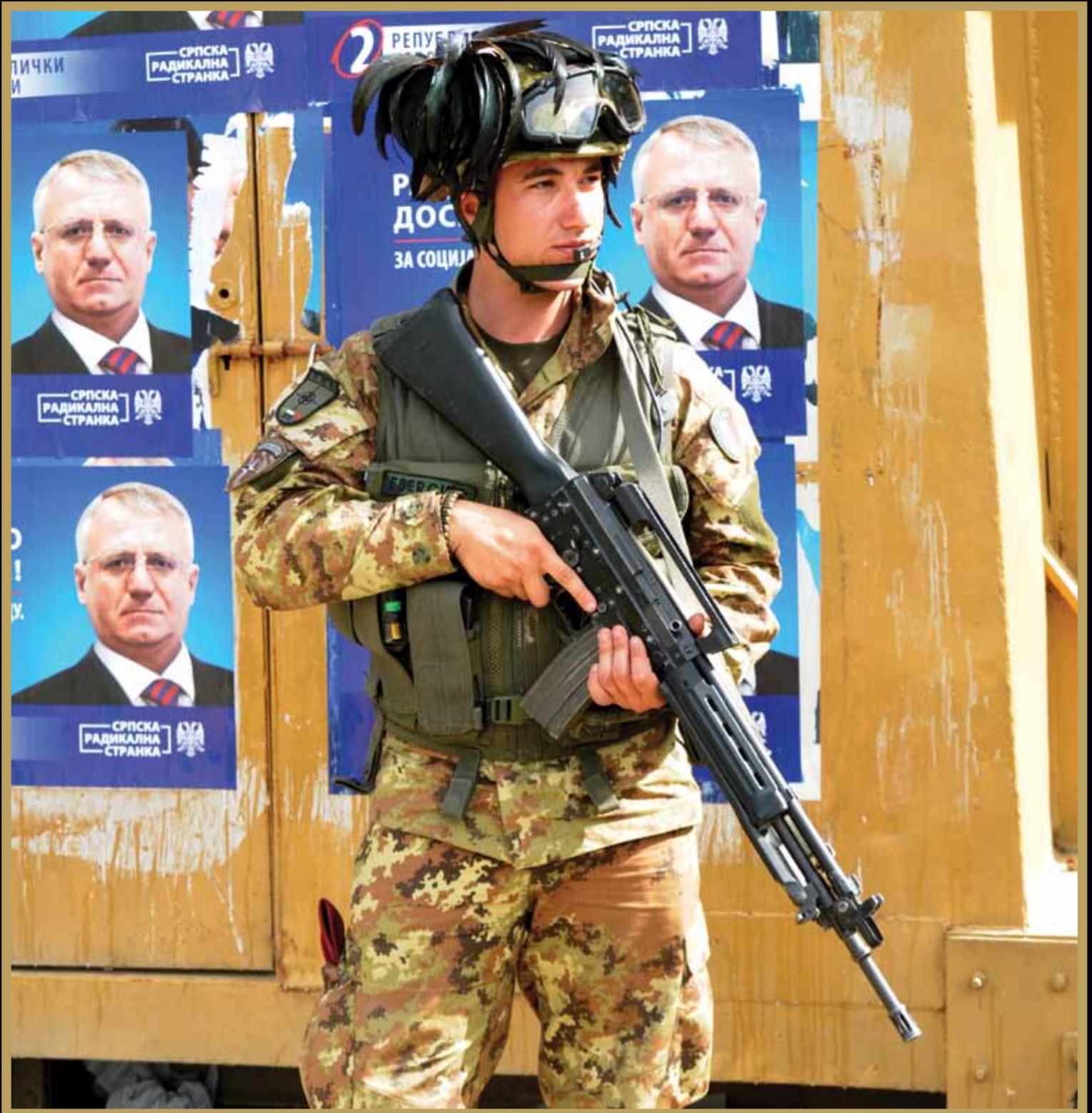




KFOR CHRONICLE



- KFOR -
READY TO REACT

- BATTLE -
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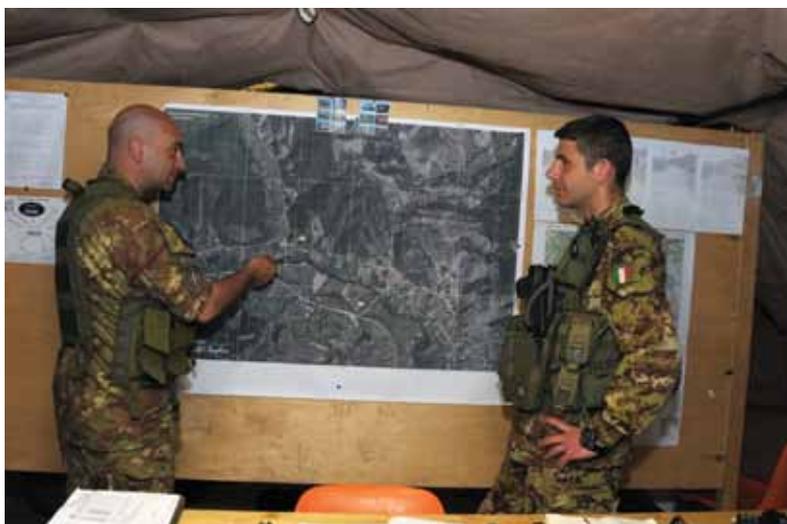
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The success of both the 6th and 20th May's smooth conducting of the Serbian Elections in Kosovo could be said to emphasize an achievement of democratic values, representing a unifying point for the entire population. The OSCE-run balloting facilitation enabled 109,000 eligible voters in Kosovo to exercise their right to vote in the Serbian parliamentary and presidential elections in 90 polling stations in 28 locations. It was a highly noteworthy day for Kosovo and its people. KFOR fully appreciates the professional performance of the Kosovo Police. They performed an outstanding job in close cooperation with OSCE and EULEX. The Elections passed without problems, no incidents were reported Kosovo-wide. This happy circumstance was no accident and you, soldiers of KFOR, are to be commended for creating this climate of calmness, along with the Kosovo government, politicians, police and people. The success of this extremely challenging task was due in no small part to KFOR's state of readiness which included the flying in of reinforcements, much detailed prudent planning, the necessary liaison with appropriate authorities, and the realignment of our forces' posture on the ground, prepared to respond quickly to any outbreaks of violence wherever they may have arisen. In executing my intent during this period of potential volatility, KFOR's field commanders and soldiers, fully deployed, conducted a 3-phased operation, over a 72-hour duration, to ensure a secure environment adequate and appropriate for the OSCE facilitated polling process. I salute your resolve, your commitment, your taking-on of the challenges and the facing up to the potential dangers involved. You did so in a commendable manner.



PICTURE: E. SCHÖNEBERG



PICTURE: MNBCE

READY TO REACT

As normal, early mornings in KFOR HQ Film City, the blackbirds were up early, only on Sundays 6th and 20th May, Serbian Election Days in Kosovo, awake far earlier, were the HQ Staff manning the Joint Operations Centre (JOC). Neither were they alone, because throughout Kosovo, already fully deployed was the entire Force, with reinforcements, some 6,600 in all. KFOR was in a state of readiness to react to preserve a safe and secure environment Kosovo-wide, having realigned its forces' posture on the ground, with a strong presence but a low profile. The preceding period was one of tension and increased volatility, with a rising potential of widespread demonstrations and possible inter-ethnic violence. A special emphasis therefore was placed on the provision of presence patrols close to Kosovo Serb en-

claves and Properties with Designated Special Status (PrDSS) throughout South Kosovo and in the vicinity of polling stations in areas of mixed population in North Kosovo. Vehicle checkpoints were conducted at selected locations including unapproved boundary crossing points along the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) to inhibit the infiltration of uninvited actors to North Kosovo. Also dedicated Quick Reaction Forces were positioned and available to give support in response to any incidents arising. KFOR's deterrent presence proved an effective contribution to the overall effort in conjunction with the Kosovo Police Service and EULEX thereby ensuring the elections days passed off peacefully and in time for the blackbirds to return uninterrupted.



PICTURE: PAO ARCHIVE



PICTURE: A. HAJRULLAHU

STORY: D. HARVEY



PICTURE: A. HAJRULLAHU

READY TO REACT





PICTURE: A. HAJRULLAHU

READY TO REACT



PICTURE: A. HAJRULLAHU



PICTURE: MNEB-N



PICTURE: A. HAJRULLAHU



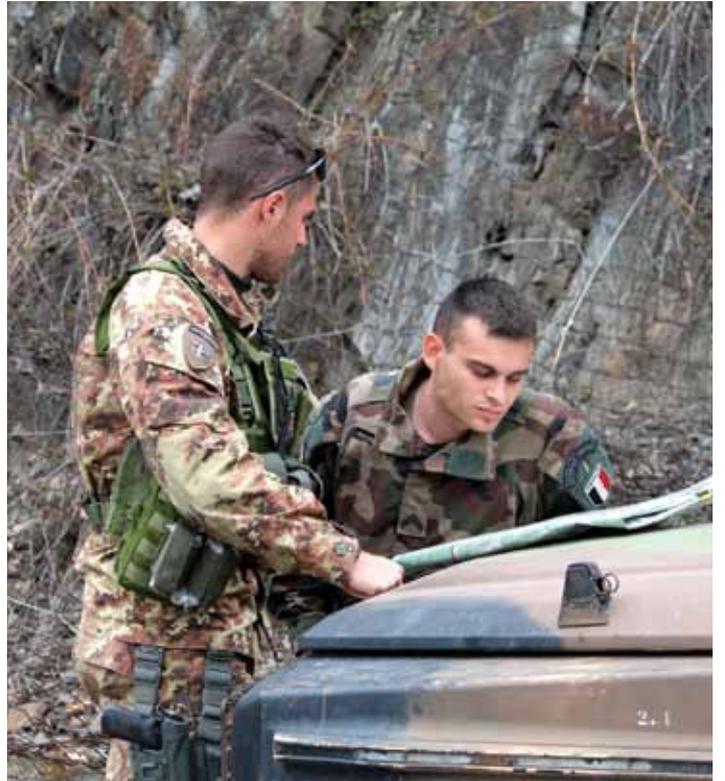
PICTURE: A. KTM

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PICTURE: MNBC-N



PICTURE: MNBC-N



PICTURE: MNBC-N





PICTURE A. KTM



PICTURE A. KTM

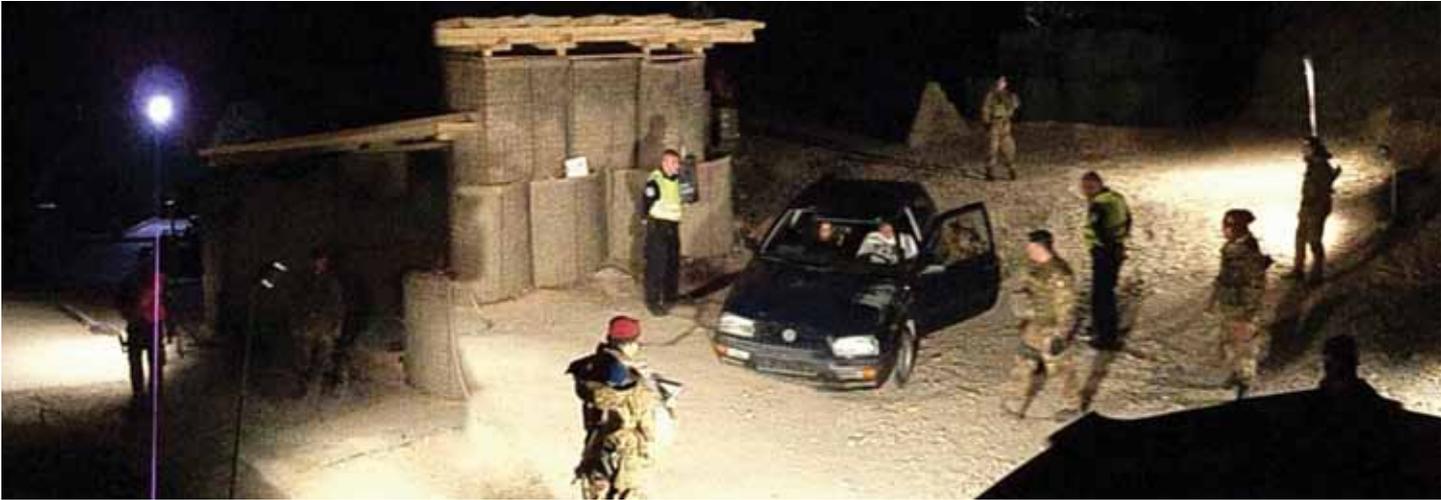
READY TO REACT



PICTURE: MWBCF



PICTURE: A. HAJRULLAHU



PICTURE: MINBG-N



PICTURE: PAC ARCHIVE

„BATTLE OF P KFOR CHRONICLE PHO

- DO YOU HAVE PHOTOS WITH SPECIAL ATMOSPHERE?
- DO YOU HAVE AN EYE FOR THINGS,
THAT OTHERS DON'T SEE?

THEN PROCEED!

IMAGES FROM TROOPS INVOLVED IN
KFOR MISSION ACTIVITIES, HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS,
LEISURE PURSUITS AND SIGHTSEEING EXPEDITIONS
ARE WELCOME.

THE WINNERS WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE
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INCLUDE THE DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPH, PHOTOGRAPHER'S NAME AND
A SHORT CAPTION.

PICTURES 2012"

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ITALIAN ORF BATTALION

Last month the KFOR Chronicle introduced the newly arrived Italian Operational Reserve Battalion (ITA ORF). Now some two months proper into its tour of duty with KFOR and having consolidated itself fully into its mission in an area of operations which overlaps both ethnic Albanian and Serb areas, we examine more closely this historic unit.

The 11th Bersaglieri Regiment is the lead unit of the ITA ORF; whose home base is in North-Eastern Italy. The Bersaglieri (literally “Sharp shooters”) Corps was founded on the 18th of June,

1836, whose purpose is to be an elite assault infantry unit trained to high physical endurance and marksmanship standards. Perhaps, the most famous battle fought by The Bersaglieri was when, in the year 1870 they conquered Rome, then governed by the Vatican State, ending the temporal power of the Pope, and completing the unification of Italy. The 11th Bersaglieri Regiment was fully committed in both World Wars. More recently, it has deployed in Kosovo (2002), Iraq (2004, 2005), Lebanon (2007, 2009), Afghanistan (2011), Kosovo (2012)

Nowadays, notwithstanding the cutting edge modern equipment of a fully mechanized unit, it retains the visible outward signs of its long tradition. The feathered hat and helmet, for instance, bears black capercaillie feathers, meant originally to disguise and camouflage the fighter. The “Fez” red cap dates back to 1855, when during the Crimea war, Zouaves troops from the French Army presented their caps to the Bersaglieri as a sign of respect for their bravery. Another distinctive trait of the Bersaglieri is the fast jog pace they keep on parades, instead of marching.



STORY: LTC. T. TOLLA

PICTURES: A. HAJRULLAHU

ORF Battalion, led by its commander Colonel Alfonso CORNACCHIA, has performed its mission from Camp De Lattre in Novo Selo since the 30 March 2012. It was fully committed being, continuously deployed for 72 hours, during both the 6th and 20th of May election period from its Forward Operating Base, accomplishing its responsibility for the KFOR mission through the professional conducting of observation posts, vehicle check points, foot and wheeled patrols, escort to EULEX convoys, and prepared to grant freedom of movement with its road engineers, EOD

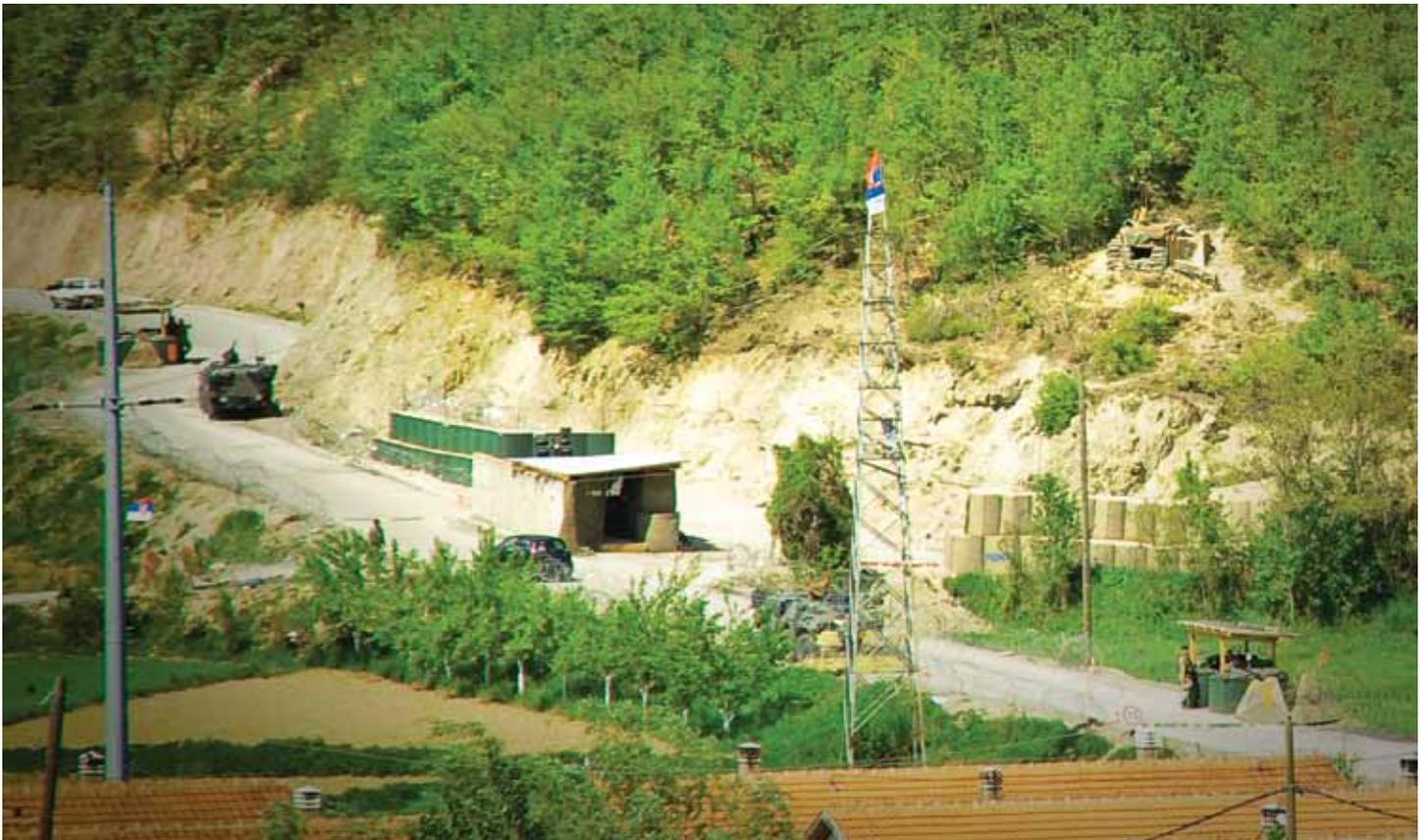
teams and Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) assets. However, it's most effective "weapon" is perhaps the attitude to dialogue, communication, liaison with local authorities, organizations and local population to promote understanding and mutual cooperation for security in Kosovo. One soldier's reaction to service in Kosovo being "It is so much different from others missions abroad. Actually, it is so different also from other areas in Kosovo where I was deployed before. We are fully aware that in this area so many factors influence present and future life and devel-

opment, a pretty complex situation. Regardless, we stand ready to accomplish our mission, against violence from wherever it comes".

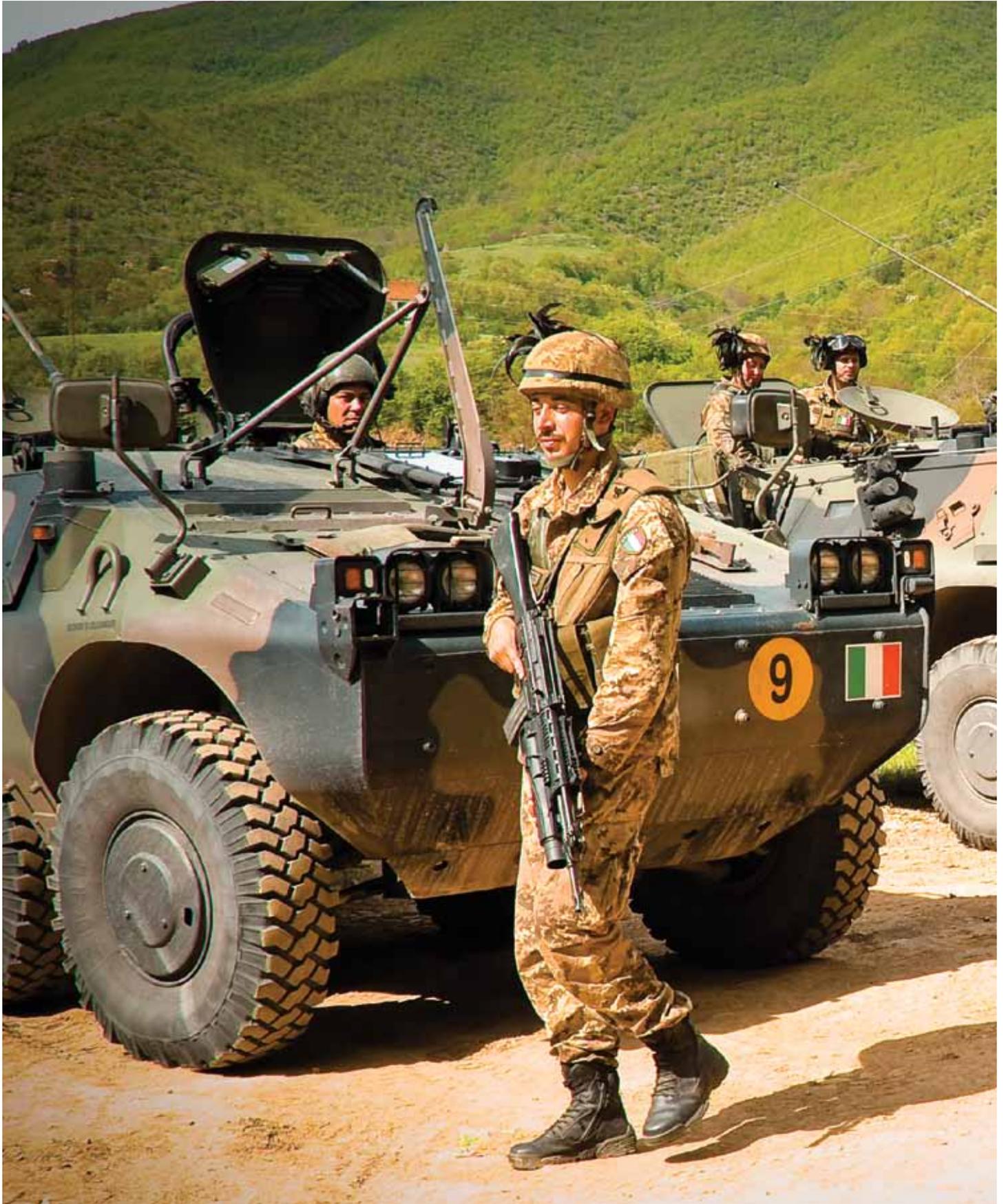
Additional assets of the ORF Battalion include elements from: 1 French cavalry squadron, 1 Combat engineer platoon (from 10th Combat Engineer Regiment), 1 CBRN platoon (from 7th CBRN Regiment), 1 Signal platoon (from 7th Signal Regiment), and 1 Military police team. They provide combat support and highly specialized skills, thus giving ORF Battalion all capabilities to accomplish its mission.



ITALIAN ORF BATTALION



PICTURES: A. HAJRULLAHU



HEADQUARTERS SUPPORT GROUP

Film City's Headquarters Support Group (HSG) holds a command status similar to that of a Battle Group or a Joint Regional Detachment. KFOR has Manoeuvre Commands, Geographic Commands, and two Support Subordinate Commands, (HSG and JLSG- Joint Logistics Support Group). COMKFOR is undoubtedly in command of KFOR, but Commander HSG is in command of Film City. The HSG appears to be small but in fact its responsibilities are large and many. All told, both directly and indirectly, the HSG operates with some 440 personnel (direct employees - military and civilian, contractors and concessionaires). Jokingly, Colonel John Hamill sometimes refers to himself as "The Mayor of Film City" but there actually is a lot of truth to this because that is what running Film City amounts to in reality.

“Water in, waste out” is his lighthearted mantra, when asked to describe what HSG does, but of course it has to take care of everything needed for life support in between; security, food, accommodation, electricity, water and waste disposal and IT provision as well as the provision of transport, engineering, medical, welfare and morale raising activities, fire-fighting, ceremonial and administration tasks to ensure the smooth and efficient running of the everyday life of a busy multinational headquarters. HSG also has outside concerns with responsibility for Camp Nothing Hill, Mt. Goles and the military APOD, as well as the many VCN sites dotted around Kosovo. For the benefit of soldiers who have limited outlets

in the Kosovo AoO, HSG prepares various sporting, cultural and tourist activities, as well as educational classes. So, a cinema in Camp plays recent films, tours to places of cultural and recreational interest are run, and classes are given in various languages, and musical instruments, among other things. Sport is well catered for too, with tournaments organized, and a large well equipped gym available to all soldiers of the Camp. Camp Nothing Hill is not forgotten either, with a recently adapted gym having been opened lately. The HSG is the strong but silent partner of KFOR. Silent when things go well, strong when matters need adapting or new challenges appear. The planning for taking up new and wider responsibilities on the anticipated approach to “Gate Three” is one such. This requires being prepared to accommodate a doubling of the current numbers and all that that implies. This challenge is compounded by a finite availability of land, given the increased housing development outside its perimeter. This constricted geographical position means the HSG has to look inwards and find imaginative ways of solving the needs, mindful of the many associated considerations, like fire-fighting access, coping at mealtimes, and many more such demands. The beginning of the further expansion of Film City is an exciting challenge which will be met by a very capable team of military personnel, local staff, and international civilian contractors who will apply to good use their valuable skills and years of experience, into the future. ■



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: A. HAJRULLAHU



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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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KTM COMMANDER

Lieutenant-Colonel JOSÉ MANUEL DOS SANTOS SÁ (44) was promoted to his current rank on 31st December 2009 and was Commander of the 1st Infantry Battalion (1st Inf Bn) of the 13th Infantry Regiment (13th Inf Reg) Intervention Brigade (Int Brig) since 6th April 2010. After which (July 2010 to December 2011) he was appointed Commander of the Infantry Battalion of the ERF EU BG (EUROFOR EUROPEAN UNION BATTLE GROUP) 2011-2 established under the 1st Inf Bn, and in 9th January 2012 he was nominated Commander of the



1st Inf Bn, National Deployed Force, Kosovo Force (KFOR). In the rank of Major, he was the Technical Advisor of the Project 5 (Training Centre for Peace Support Operations) under the Technical-Military Cooperation with the Republic of Angola, Chief of the Tactical Operations Centre of the National Deployed Force in Afghanistan / ISAF, Operations Officer of the and Head of Personnel, Logistics and Operations, Information and Security Departments in 13th Inf Reg. From March to September 2009 and still as a Major, he was the Deputy Commander of the 1st Inf Bn established as a National Deployed Force in Kosovo (KTM DCOM). He has 9 commendations, 3 given by the General Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, 1 by the Chief of Staff of the Army, 2 by the Major-General and 3 by Unit Commanders. He was awarded with two Medals for Distinguished Services (Silver), Military Merit Medal (3rd Class), S. Jorge Medal, Military Medal for Exemplary Behavior, NATO Medals (KFOR and ISAF), United Nations Medal (UNTAET/UNMISSET) and Celebration Medals of Special Services Commissions (KOSOVO, EAST TIMOR and AFGHANISTAN).



PICTURE: KTM



Name: Róisín Condrón

Rank: OF-2

Nationality: Irish

Unit KFOR: S4 PAO HSG

MILITARY EDUCATION:

I joined the Irish Defence Forces in 1996 as an Officer following a twenty-one month Cadetship. I have two previous overseas missions, KFOR as a Pl Comdr in 2004 and as a Civil/Military Liaison Officer in EUFOR 2006. Having spent a number of years in the Directorate of Human Resource Management, I now work in the headquarters of the Defence Forces Training Centre.

ABOUT THE MISSION:

I am the S4 PAO with Headquarters Support Group. HSG secures HQ KFOR against internal and external threats and provides real life support to HQ KFOR. I very much enjoy working within HSG which has become known as a ‘family’ of sorts.

FAMILY REACTION:

I am very thankful to my family for their unwavering support. They fully understand the demands of my work and constantly do everything they can to make being away from home as easy as possible for me. I have a young daughter whom I miss terribly but she is very well cared for by my husband and my parents in my absence.

HOBBIES:

I enjoy all sports, especially running and I try to incorporate it into my daily life. I also enjoy reading, music and socialising with friends and family.



Name: Hendrik Preu

Rank: OR-7

Nationality: German

Unit KFOR: KFOR HQ

MILITARY EDUCATION:

I joined the Army in April 2004 and after basic training I went to Photographic Laboratory Section. In 2007 I began my photographic education in Berlin.

ABOUT THE MISSION:

I am COMKFOR’s Photographer. I photo document COMKFOR’s work, traveling with him making a photographic record of what he does and who he meets. It is a very interesting and enjoyable position and I like my job a lot.

FAMILY REACTION:

This is my first mission abroad and consequently my parents were concerned when they first learned I was going to Kosovo, however having sent back a number of photographs to them, my pictures put them at ease.

HOBBIES:

I enjoy riding my mountain bike and I play volleyball.

