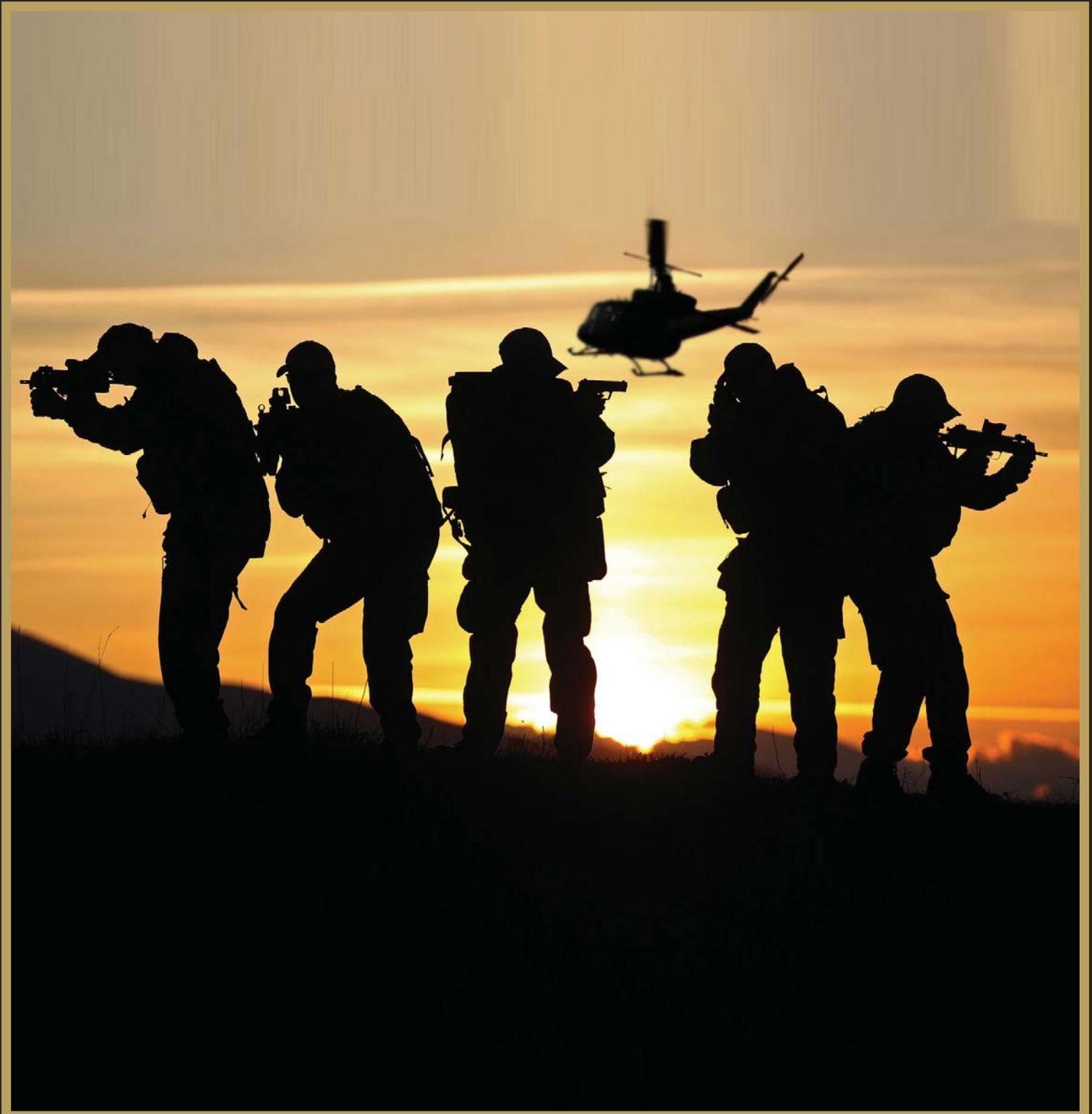




# KFOR CHRONICLE



**UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL**  
- KFOR's -  
Close Protection Teams

**OPERATION JEEP**  
IN THE NORTH

**KFOR SPRING**  
FESTIVAL

# CONTENT



“UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL” KFOR’s Close Protection Teams

3 COS MAINTENANCE OF STANDARDS

14 TEN YEARS AGO

17 BAN Ki Moon UNSG visits Kosovo

18 Rudare Iron Cross

19 Holy Archangel Monastery- Removal of Defence Works

20 KFOR SPRING FESTIVAL

22 1st KFOR World Beach Volleyball Competition



OPERATION JEEP IN THE NORTH



Visit of Gen Sec NATO an NAC



KFOR FAMILY FESTIVAL

Impressed on arrival by the high calibre of the KFOR soldier, it is the maintenance of standards where KFOR's new Chief of Staff Brigadier General Steven Duff from the U.S. will place his emphasis. "KFOR as a mission is mature and it has good processes which are well-established so there is not much room for improvement. The standards that have been set by you and your predecessors, are of such a high quality that it must be our on-going goal to maintain them. I hope to see that it is". Already well versed in overseas deployments it is however the magnitude of KFOR's multinational make-up that brings an additional dimension for him to serve in. Despite its diverse make-up Brig Gen Duff is however clear in his mind about where KFOR's contribution to Kosovo is nested, "The military arm is in support to the political, it is a political solution that will ultimately resolve the issues here. My goal is to see that this peace-keeping effort is performed to the best of our abilities. This will be achieved by continuing, when necessary, to assert the resolve demonstrated at the Rudare Road-block Removal Operation in June; displaying the readiness to react was exemplified during the Serbian Elections in Kosovo throughout May; conducting and sustaining operations validating your determination as demonstrated by your soldiering through the snow during the worst winter in Kosovo since 1984; and being responsible for maintaining your unwavering code of conduct as evidenced during the Jagnjenica clashes in late November last year. You have

been responsible for successfully contributing to a Safe and Secure environment and Freedom of Movement and we will unstintingly maintain our efforts in support of that. Your past standards are the future benchmark by which we will continue to proceed. That is my clear intent". An experienced soldier, the majority of General Duff's time in the military has been spent in Special Forces in the U.S. and abroad, but He brings a wider perspective with him also having served 5 years in the Police Force of his home town, Mobile, in Alabama on the Gulf coast, subsequently working in industry on the production side in process control of a chemical plant. This blend of practical involvements has resulted in a keen insight and a knowledgeable understanding of life in and outside the military, "Lead by example in all things,



possess a good work ethic, stay physically fit, have fun if you can, don't neglect your sense of humour, and most importantly do not forget your family, remember sooner or later you will leave the military"



PICTURE: A. HAJRULLAHU

## “UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL”-KFOR’s Close Protection Teams

Maintaining a safe and secure environment for all peoples of Kosovo is part of KFOR’s mandate. Ensuring COMKFOR and DCOMKOR are safe and secure to fulfill their many roles successfully, is the tough task of their Close Protection Teams (CPTs). Often referred to in general terms outside the military as “minders”, “shadows”, “bullet-catchers”, these “bodyguards” inside the military are members of close protection teams and require much specialized training, preparation and dedication. There are as many skills to master as there are real-life responsibilities to undertake, risk- assessment, route planning, weapon-handling, driving, and first-aid, being a few. Long days and long nights

are spent watching, anticipating, staying alert, concentrating for every conscious moment on the present, while unconsciously considering what is coming next. Always aware, afraid of a momentary lapse of concentration or otherwise of not recognizing, for that one fleeting fateful second, that one tell-tale movement, give-away sign or hint, alerting you to danger being imminent. Unobtrusive but well placed, the CPT members are poised and ready to react quickly and efficiently in that split second circumstance. It’s a tiring, demanding and sometimes dangerous task. It’s not for everyone. As for whom minds the minders, well teamwork, integrity and loyalty are essential elements for this highly demanding role. ■





# “UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL”-KFOR’s Close Protection Teams



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: H. PREU



# “UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL”-KFOR’s Close Protection Teams



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: H. PREU



## OPERATION JEEP IN THE NORTH

Earlier this month KFOR troops were involved in an early morning operation in support of a EULEX action to locate a jeep in order to possibly seize items of potential evidential value. Having successfully located the jeep's whereabouts in a factory complex in the village of ZITKOVAC near ZVECAN, north of MITROVICA, KFOR carefully and skillfully put in place a cordon and secured the area while EULEX helicopter-borne members conducted a search and seize intervention. It proved to be a well-coordinated and a well-conducted operation in a difficult area to undertake such. Using the combination of surprise and speed, access to the jeep was quickly secured and having been expertly cleared by a KFOR Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team, the jeep was made available to EULEX. Two persons were detained at the scene. Concurrently KFOR troops maintained the integrity of the cordon

surrounding the area. At one stage pepper spray had to be used on one person who tried to climb onto an Armored Personnel Carrier (APC) in the KFOR cordon. Mission complete, the operation ceased at 0730hrs.



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: J. WAGNER

# KFOR EULEX

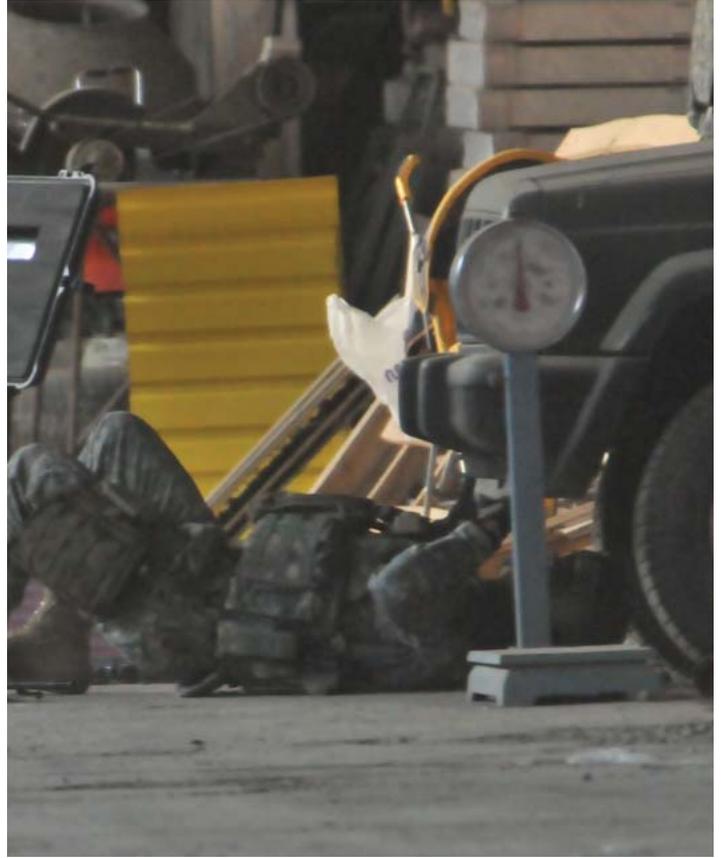


# OPERATION JEEP IN THE NORTH



PICTURES: J. WAGNER

# KFOR EULEX



## Rapid Guardian

CAMP MONTEITH - An airborne operation Thursday in the KFOR Multi-National Brigade (East) area of responsibility marked the beginning of Rapid Guardian 02-3 – an operational rehearsal of the U.S. European Command’s capability to quickly deploy forces into the region.

An airborne task force of 173 soldiers from the 173rd Airborne Brigade conducted a drop into an area west of Vitina consisting mostly of cornfields.

The 173rd is part of the Southern European Task Force, based in Vicenza, Italy.

Rapid Guardian provides an opportunity to practice the U.S. European Command’s capabilities to quickly deploy forces into the region in order to maintain a secure environment in the Balkans.

“Nobody is perfect, and you can always improve procedures and training,” said Lt. Gen. Marcel M. Valentin, KFOR commander.

Valentin and MNB(E) commander Brig. Gen. Douglas E. Lute viewed the airborne operation from the edge of the drop zone.

Col. Bill Mayville, commander of the 173rd, was the first paratrooper out of the aircraft on Thursday. It was his first jump as brigade commander.

“Our arrival demonstrates the U.S. and NATO commitment in maintaining peace in the region, the capability of our soldiers to rapidly reinforce NATO forces if needed,” Mayville said.

“We will proceed to work closely with our partners now and con-

tinue to train in Kosovo.”

Once on the ground, the soldiers boarded CH-47 Chinook helicopters and were flown to another part of the MNB(E) area, where they are to participate in training and peacekeeping patrols with KFOR units

for approximately two weeks. As the SETAF soldiers redeploy, a second iteration of soldiers from 1st Battalion, 35th Armor Regiment, part of the U.S. Army V Corps’ 1st Armor Division, will arrive in Kosovo with U.S. Marines from the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit, based at Camp Lejeune, N.C., to conduct similar operations. U.S. Air Force transport aircraft from the 86th Airlift Wing in Germany are supporting the deployments of personnel from Europe. Overall, Rapid Guardian 02-3 is expected to last approximately four weeks.

In conjunction with Rapid Guardian 02-3, approximately 100 soldiers from the U.S. Army V Corps’ 1st Infantry Division in Germany deployed as a supporting element with six AH-64 Apache attack helicopters and crews.

A German company of about 70 soldiers and one United Kingdom



company of about 120 soldiers – both from Multi-National Brigade (South) -- also are participating in ground operations.



STORY AND PICTURE: Rebecca M. Grzyb

## Spiderman drops from the sky

Peja/Pec, Dulje Pass – The four injured persons were crying. The driver's torso was hanging out the hatch; you could see his bloody arm. The armoured transport vehicle "Piranha" had left the street to an opened field. There was no indication of mines. Suddenly, a mine detonated with a loud explosion and the tank disappeared in a cloud of dust.

The first soldiers to arrive were the MPs. They blocked the street. One after another the EOD, the fire brigade and the medical troops arrive, but they could do nothing. Suddenly, the SAR helicopter with the "Spiderman" arrived. The Bell UH 1D hovered, carefully, as the force of its rotor could detonate

another mine. One man got out of the helicopter on the rope, and was slowly lowered. His nickname is Spiderman, because like a spider he landed on the tank.

He took the first injured person and fixed him to the rope and both were lifted up to the street, where the ambulance was waiting.

One by one "Spiderman" saved the other injured soldiers. All of them were transported to the field hospital in Prizren.

After the rescue work, the EOD took the charge and cleared the area, and the exercise ended.

The participants, from Austria, Germany and Switzerland were happy with result and the co-operation.



STORY AND PICTURE: LTC Manfred Siegmann

## Visit of NATO Sec Gen and NAC



The North Atlantic Council (NAC) and NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen visited Kosovo and KFOR during the second week of July. The NAC is the principle decision-making body within NATO and the only committee that was established by the founding Treaty. The Military Committee (MC) had visited the previous month and this is the oldest permanent body in NATO after the NAC, both having been formed months after the Alliance came into being. The MC is the

primary source of military advice to NATO's civilian decision-making bodies-the NAC and the Nuclear Planning Group. Their visit however was very much a case of the NAC going direct to source, in this case Kosovo and KFOR. The NAC is comprised of ambassadors of NATO and PfP member countries. A briefing by, then discussion with, Heads of Missions of the International Community in Kosovo, in which KFOR was very much prominent, was followed by a bilateral

meeting with Prime Minister Thaci after which Kosovo P.M. Thaci participated in the meeting of the NAC. The NAC next went on the ground on a tour of northern Kosovo. Before he departed Slatina airport NATO Sec Gen Rasmussen held a well-attended Press Conference, at which he stated that there is no military solution for the northern part of Kosovo, adding that there should be a political process which will lead to the full integration of that part. ■



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: T. PILAWSKI, A. HAJRULLAHU and S. MUELLER

## BAN Ki Moon UNSG visits Kosovo

United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon visited Kosovo during the last week of July as part of his 6-day tour of the Western Balkans. He first visited Slovenia, then Croatia and next Montenegro. Before visiting

Kosovo he visited Serbia where he met with the President Tomislav Nikolic and Prime Minister Ivica Dacic. In Kosovo the following day the UN Sec Gen met the UNMIK representative in Pristina, Heads of Missions of the International

Community, including COMKFOR Maj Gen Erhard Drews and later on the President of Kosovo Atifete Jahjaga and Prime Minister Hashim Thaci, before going to Decani Monastery and Prizen



# Rudare Iron Cross

Following on from the highly successful Rudare Roadblock Removal Operation in early June, the far less formidable “Middle” Rudare roadblock containing a 4.1 meter Iron cross in the center of the road came into focus. The issue of its dismantlement by the local inhabitants and if not, then by KFOR, became the subject of discussions for a number of weeks between KFOR’s Joint

Regional Detachment, North (JRD-N) Commander Colonel Adolf Conrad and the Mayor of Zvecan and other local representatives. A compromise was arrived at which saw the small barricade material removed by the local inhabitants however the Iron Cross to remain but with a 1.5 meter extension added to the base bringing its overall height, from the ground to the horizontal beam to 5.6

meters. The highest commercial truck being 5 meters tall thereby allowing 60 centimeters clearance for those vehicles. Additional improvements included the building of cement curbing around the base of the cross; widening of the road to the left and right of the cross; addition of speed bumps along the road to slow traffic, and speed limit signs and warning signs posted.



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: JRD-N

# Holy Archangel Monastery-Removal of Defence Works



KFOR left Holy Archangel Monastery on 10 May 2011, as part of its gradual unfixing process, disengaging sequentially from on-site round the clock permanent protection of properties with Designated Special Status (Pr DSS). However left in situ were many unmanned defence works,

Guard towers, Hexocs, barbed wire entanglements and the like. Upon request from the monastery, those in the vicinity of the front gate particularly were skilfully removed mid-month by KFOR Engineers much to the pleasure of a hugely appreciative “Father Michael”, whom after many years

was able to once again gain access to and from the monastery via this entrance. This undertaking was overseen by KFOR’s Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG) with KFOR’s new Chief of Staff Brig Gen Steven Duff on hand to see the final completed work.



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: JLSG

# KFOR SPRING FESTIVAL

Children by day and the child within you by night, was the theme of this year's expanded Spring Festival. Hosted in the main by KFOR's Headquarters Support Group (HSG), whose tireless and valiant efforts combined with the creative participation of activities, culinary tastes, entertainment and fun provided by many individual KFOR contingents, meant this year's KFOR Spring Festival was bigger, brighter, and better

than before. With hundreds of children of KFOR's Film City employees invited to attend a virtual wonderland of amusements and sideshows there was much merrymaking under blue skies and sunshine. Participation was the order of the day and every opportunity was taken by them to join in the entertainment with much excitement resulting. There was something for everyone in attendance. After a hectic day of joining

in, treats, and fulfillment it was eventually time to go home. With the fading sun however emerged the second part of the Festival's programme, a live band rock concert for KFOR Headquarter Personnel. If the children enjoyed the day, so too, the "Adults" enjoyed the night, savouring the unique atmosphere. This year, all in all it proved an excellent day, and night.



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: T. PILAWSKI

PICTURES: MNBG-W

# KFOR FEST



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German Army

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## NATO Nations within KFOR

Albania, Armenia, 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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By way of complete contrast to the 1st KFOR World Ski Competition, held last February, yet at the same time in keeping with the initiation of new KFOR-wide events, the 1st ever KFOR World Beach Volleyball Competition was held this month. Also common between both events was that the responsibility for the organization of each fell to the Headquarters Support Group (HSG) under Irish Colonel John Hamill and his staff. Trojan work on their behalf ensured the event was a highly successful undertaking, enjoyed by all, partic-

ipants and spectators alike. Competition was extremely keen and the standard surprisingly high with many close and exciting matches, some spectacularly so. Suffice to say then it proved a very popular event with 18 teams in all competing from the start. An initial knockout round leaving 9 teams to go forward in 3 groups of 3 Semi-Finals. The Final three teams similarly playing each other until the outright winner emerged. The occasion prompting planned celebrations granting an overall festive, joyous and very much a cohesive atmosphere. ■



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: V. SCHUFF and M. MARSEGAN

# 1<sup>st</sup> KFOR World Beach Volleyball Competition



