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Press Release

Change of Command ceremony of the KFOR German Contingent and Change of Command and Disbanding ceremony of MNBG South in Prizren.

Today, 20th of January 2011, in Prizren, took place the Change of Command ceremony of the KFOR German Contingent between Brigadier General Stephan THOMAS and Colonel Wolfgang PIRNER. On the same occasion, COMKFOR, Major General Erhard Bühler, officially conducted the disbanding of the Multi National Battle Group South (MNBG S). Deputy Prime Minister, Prof. Hajredin KUQI, many distinguished guests and representatives of Kosovo's Institutions, local Municipalities and religious leaders attended the event.

The disbanding of the MNBG S marks a very important moment for the future process of restructuring of KFOR. This reflects the significantly improved security situation we have in Kosovo nowadays. 11 years of presence of Germans troops in the southern part of Kosovo are a successful story.

COMKFOR during his speech expressed his gratitude to Brigadier General Stephan THOMAS for his strong commitment during his mandate and welcomed the new appointed Commander, Colonel Wolfgang PIRNER. Major General Bühler also emphasized that the overall situation all over Kosovo is calm and stable and it is definitely not comparable to the situation in 1999 or 2000 and he pointed out that he is confident that the 2004 events will not occur again.

KFOR is now heading towards a new and smaller structure. Multinational Battlegroup South has been suspended today. An Interim Command will remain until first of March when a Joint Regional Detachment (JRD) takes over the current tasks.



KFOR will have in total 5 JRDs that will be located in Pristina, Camp Bondsteel, Camp Villaggio Italia, Novo Selo and in Prizren. They will be the KFOR point of contact for all the people of Kosovo. They will have no operational tasks.

KFOR will also have in future two MNBGs with no regional responsibilities. The two Battle Groups will be located in Camp Bondsteel and in Camp Villaggio Italia. They can be deployed everywhere in Kosovo corresponding to operational needs and under the direct command of Commander KFOR, Major General Erhard Bühler. They will operate with high flexible, mobile and air mobile units and will be able to react strongly and quickly on any situation all over Kosovo.