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PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Press release

Opening Ceremony of the Swedish Field House “KFOR LMT (Liaison Monitoring Team) Center - HEIMDAL” in Pristina

Today, on Saturday the 29 of January 2011, the Commander of Kosovo Force, Major General Erhard Bühler, officially inaugurated the Swedish Field House of the KFOR Liaison and Monitoring Team Center (LMT-C) in Pristina.

The Commander of the RLMT Center, the Swedish Commander (CDR) Kalevi WIKSTRÖM, the Deputy Mayor of Pristina, Mr. Abdullah HOTI, other local authorities and representatives and several distinguished guests attended the opening ceremony.

General Bühler again explained the new concept of KFOR. From 1st of March 2011 on KFOR will consist of two Multinational Battle Groups without regional responsibilities. These two Multinational Battle Groups will have only operational tasks given directly by COM KFOR. Both of the Battle Groups can be deployed everywhere in Kosovo corresponding to operational needs and under direct command of COM KFOR. He will decide who will operate in the different regions of Kosovo.

Regional responsibilities will exclusively be taken over by five Joint Regional Detachments (JRDs), which also are under direct command of COM KFOR. These regional responsibilities have nothing to do with operational tasks such as patrols or vehicle check points (control of cars). The JRDs will be composed of several local Liaison and Monitoring Teams (LMTs), which will be the KFOR point of contact for all people of Kosovo. Neither JRDs nor LMTs will have operational tasks. Administrative decision makers and people may come up to the members of LMTs and talk about their issues and concerns to the soldiers.

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General Bühler then highlighted the precious role of the Liaison and Monitoring Teams both for KFOR and the people of Kosovo, pointing out that these teams contribute to the mutual and friendly relationship between people in Kosovo and KFOR. He emphasized that the LMT's men and women work very closely to the population, establishing and maintaining a direct, permanent and trusted link at municipality level between local authorities, international organizations and KFOR.

The General also added that KFOR warmly recommends and encourages people to maintain a dialogue on a regular basis. He stated that he is strongly convinced that this is a very effective means to identify possible problems and risks for the citizens and that helps to solve potentially difficult situations in advance.

The LMT House "HEIMDAL" in Pristina consists of 11 members of various ranks and the Team Leader is Major Peter Hertzberg, who showed all the rooms to his guests after having taken over the key for the house from General Bühler. As well local employees will work at Field House "HEIMDAL", and on daily basis there will be around 30 people working. The area of responsibility will be Pristina Municipality and it is located in the main centre, in Mustafa Kruja 4 street, next to people, and local Institutions.

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