



# **KFOR**

## **PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE**

### **Media Advisory**

### **Joint KFOR-EULEX-KSF exercise “Balkan Hawk”**

On **30<sup>th</sup> June 2011**, KFOR and EULEX units will conduct the regular joint Field Training Exercise “Balkan Hawk” at **Camp Vrelo**. A second part of the exercise will simultaneously be performed at Gjacova / Djakovica airfield.

Media are cordially invited to attend the press program on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 from 1100 until 1330 at Camp Vrelo including a press point with Commander KFOR, General Erhard Bühler, and representatives of EULEX and the Kosovo Security Force. There will be no media event in Gjacova / Djakovica.

For the first time in the tradition of “Balkan Hawk”, units of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) will take part in the exercise within their legally defined competences. The organization will contribute civil protection operations such as Fire Fighting, Search and Rescue operations (S&R), Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC), the conduct of Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and Hazardous Material handling.

The main purpose of this exercise in the tradition of “Balkan Hawk” again is to further strengthen the co-operation between EULEX and KFOR. This will be realized by training standard operating procedures such as common command, control or communication. The KSF units will take part as crisis response forces to deal with assumed natural and other disasters and emergencies. The experiences made after having carried out the tasks allocated to the KSF during the exercise should contribute to the enhancement of the core capabilities of the KSF, especially after having trained it in a multinational context. An important goal of the training operation aims to help this organization to reach the Full Operational Capability (FOC). The basic scenario of the coming exercise “Balkan Hawk” is based on the assumption of a heavy earthquake in the central area of Kosovo. It has a significant impact not only on the infrastructure of the region but also on an important airport where buildings have broken down and many people are victims of the catastrophe. Together with KFOR and EULEX the KSF will be on the scene and will conduct search and rescue and evacuation operations. The Kosovan force is also going to



deal with the threat caused by hazardous materiel and is prepared for fire fighting in the same area. In addition to rescue operations EULEX and KFOR are responsible to deal with unrests caused by looters and radicalized persons. This “airfield scenario” part of “Balkan Hawk” will be conducted at Djakovica airfield.

The part of the exercise to be performed in Camp Vrelo and the events in Djakovica will be played simultaneously. Therefore there will be a media opportunity only in Camp Vrelo.

The Camp Vrelo events will consist of different situations as well. According to the tradition of “Balkan Hawk” it comes to violent demonstrations and disorders after the heavy earthquake. Like in the airfield area of Djakovica in the “urban area” of Camp Vrelo too looters and radicalized persons will try to make use of the catastrophe and will be on their way to storm the Vrelo municipal building. EULEX forces protect this building but are strongly outnumbered by the growing crowd of demonstrators. EULEX calls KFOR in. A first wave of KFOR soldiers are coming in by helicopters and reinforce the international police force. However the situation becomes worse due to the increasingly stronger and much more aggressive crowd. In the end Commander KFOR orders his tactical reserves to support the heavily attacked police and military forces defending the Vrelo municipal building. In the end the KFOR Portuguese elite forces arrive by helicopter as the second wave and get the situation under control.

The role of the KSF units which take part in the exercise will firstly consist of EOD tasks. During the clashes an unexploded object (UXO) is found and has to be defused. The KSF team rushes in and will skillfully do this job. Secondly a car is set on fire. Again the KSF with their fire fighting unit will be alarmed and arrive on the scene to deal successfully with the arson attack. Further it is planned that the KSF will assist in MEDEVAC operations.

Media will attend the decisive phases of the exercise when the situation of the EULEX force and the first KFOR contingent worsens and becomes increasingly dangerous and the KSF has to deal with the UXO. It will be seen by the media when the second wave of KFOR arrives and gets the situation under control. At the end of the press program the press point will follow.

This Field Exercise “Balkan Hawk” as part of a long existing common EULEX-KFOR training cycle aims at enhancing the interoperability and abilities of the two forces and show that both of the organizations are able to counter any escalating threat to the safe and secure environment and the public order in Kosovo. The participation of the KSF with its capabilities to deal with natural disasters and to assist the international forces represents a new dimension of the “Balkan Hawk” exercise series. Those capabilities belong to the different training courses organized by



KFOR within the framework of monitoring and advising KSF in order to foster its legally defined tasks.

The exercise will be an opportunity for the KSF to demonstrate the readiness and professionalism of its units. At the same time this will be a further chance to train integrated planning, communication and operation of all the forces responsible for the safety and for disaster relief in Kosovo. Thus it will increase the efficiency of all those who are responsible for the welfare of the people.

KFOR and EULEX together with other institutions in Kosovo and International Civil Presences are both aiming at stability and peace in this part of Europe based on their respective mandates.

The **press program** including camera points and a **press point** will be offered to interested media on the **30<sup>th</sup> June 2011 from 1100 hours until 1330 hours** in Camp Vrelo.

*Media are kindly invited to attend the press program at Camp Vrelo.*

*A bus will wait for you at Newborn place, downtown PRISTINA at 1030 hours.*

Media representatives should confirm their attendance by **sending an email to KFOR-NATO Media Information Center (NMIC) [paonmic@hq.kfor.nato.int](mailto:paonmic@hq.kfor.nato.int)**, not later than Wednesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of June 2011 by 17.00 hours