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Press release

KFOR hosts students from the University of Erfurt

Today, 11th July 2011, Commander KFOR General Erhard Bühler at Headquarters KFOR welcomed a group of students who are attending the “Willy Brandt School” of Public Policy at the University of Erfurt (www.brandtschool.de/projects/conflicts), an important and professional school in Europe. In the framework of their studies their visit is part of a course entitled “**Conflict Studies and Management: Practical Skills, Conflict Analysis and Management**”.

The seven international elite students coming from Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and India attended the lecture given by Commander of KFOR on the current situation in Kosovo as well as about the events that marked the Region in the last decades. The students in that way were given the chance to implement their studies and their research program in Conflict Studies and Management, as an important step in the completion of their Master, in response to the current challenges and needs of global public policy.

COMKFOR gave the students a complete overview about the general security situation in Kosovo, assessed as calm and stable: “the security situation has never been better”, he said and he pointed out that it is highly improbable that significant disturbances would occur. However, the security situation in North Kosovo is somewhat different and there is still a potential of violence which requires a strong presence of KFOR. KFOR provides especially in the north a robust framework of security by patrolling and controlling the area. General Bühler later on illustrated the actual, new structure of KFOR, as a concrete answer to the changed situation. He emphasized that the mission of KFOR is still under the 1244 UNSC Resolution, providing a safe and secure environment for all people living in the area.

General Erhard Bühler illustrated the new concept of KFOR, now based on its high readiness posture, its flexibility, and its mobile operational structure based on 2 multinational battle groups, deployable Kosovo wide. Because of the changed situation Kosovo wide, he also explained the mission of the newly five Joint Regional Detachments (JRD), and the need to communicate with and at the same time to listen to the political decision makers, to the multipliers such as teachers and

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businessmen and how they are the link elements to the Headquarters if KFOR support is needed somewhere.

Despite the actual calm and stable situation, because some political issues have not yet been solved as for the administrative Boundary line to Serbia, for which only KFOR has the responsibility according to the International law, General Erhard Bühler concluded that the mission of KFOR has still to be continued in the years to come.

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