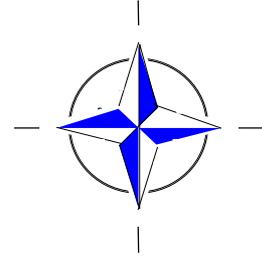




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PRESS RELEASE

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DOBOJ III BRIDGE OPENING CEREMONY

SARAJEVO — In keeping with the Hungarian tradition for initiating a new bridge, military engineers rolled a beer barrel across the snow-covered Dobož III bridge, followed by a column of Danish tanks yesterday. General Montgomery Meigs, SFOR commander, officiated the afternoon opening ceremony.

Dobož III is the third military bridge built by SFOR in Dobož. It has the distinction of being the longest free-standing military bridge in Bosnia, measuring a total of 157 meters. It is the 57th military bridge currently in-use in Bosnia. Its completion represents SFOR's continued dedication to improving freedom of movement throughout Bosnia in accordance with the Dayton Agreement.

Major Tibor Kovacs, deputy commander of the Hungarian Engineer Contingency, opened the ceremony and was followed by General Meigs. They both expressed gratitude for the co-operation between nations in completing the bridge within only ten weeks, despite adverse weather conditions. Tihomir Gligoric, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republika Srpska, also addressed the crowd of approximately 300 people as the first tank crawled across the bridge cutting a path through the falling snow. There was also an official ribbon cutting ceremony and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque representing the countries involved with the project.

Construction began September 7, 1998, after a routine inspection determined that the main civilian crossing in Dobož had deteriorated to the point that it was more economical to

replace than repair it. Dobož III will stay in use until after the civilian bridge is rebuilt around the year 2002.

SFOR Hungarian Engineers completed the Dobož III bridge November 20, 1998, however, it was officially opened for civilian and SFOR traffic the following day. The bridge stands as a monument to the multinational co-operation from the many engineers, soldiers and aviators of the Bosnia, Hungary, United States, Canada, France, Romania, England, Finland, Denmark and Sweden. Republika Srpska and Federation contractors were both used to augment the SFOR-engineer effort.