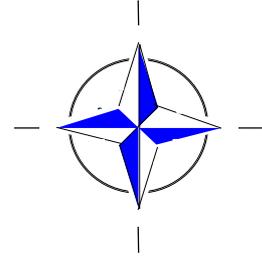




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PRESS RELEASE

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DOBOJ III BRIDGE OPENING CEREMONY

SARAJEVO — In keeping with the Hungarian tradition for initiating a new bridge, military engineers rolled two beer barrels across the Dobojski III bridge, followed by a column of Danish tanks Saturday. General Montgomery Meigs, commander of SFOR, officiated the opening ceremony at the Dobojski III bridge starting at 1430 hours on November 21.

Dobojski III is the third military bridge built by SFOR in Dobojski. 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 through Bosnia in accordance with the Dayton Agreement.

General Meigs spoke at the open along with Colonel John Lesperance, SFOR chief engineer, and Colonel Janos Vass, Hungarian Engineer contingent commander. Following the remarks, there was a ribbon cutting ceremony and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque that represents the countries involved with the bridge building project.

Construction began September 7, 1998, after a routine inspection determined that the main civilian crossing in Dobojski had deteriorated to the point that it was more economically to replace it. Dobojski III will stay in use until after the civilian bridge is rebuilt around the year 2002.

SFOR Hungarian Engineers completed the Dobojski 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 from 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.