



20 Years • NATO in Bosnia and Herzegovina



14 DECEMBER 1995

Signature of the Dayton Peace Agreement in Paris.

Front left: Slobodan Milošević, Alija Izetbegović, Franjo Tuđman.

Back left: Felipe Gonzalez, Bill Clinton, Jacques Chirac, Helmut Kohl, John Major and Viktor Chernomyrdin.



The Dayton Peace Agreement (formally known as the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina) was signed on 14 December 1995 at the Paris Peace Conference to mark the cessation of hostilities that tore that country apart between 1992 and 1995.

Reinforced by United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1031, the Peace Agreement outlined a key role for the NATO in overseeing the military framework needed to establish security in the region.

The resulting NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) was the Alliance's first major crisis response operation, providing a multinational peacekeeping force of 60,000 troops that was deployed on 20 December 1995 for a one-year mission to provide military support for the civilian aspects of the Agreement.



NATO Secretary General Javier Solana (left) and Supreme Allied Commander Europe George Joulwan visit Sarajevo on 11 January 1996

The NATO-led operation in Bosnia, Operation Joint Endeavour, was NATO's first-ever ground force operation and its first-ever deployment "out of area".

It was also the largest military operation ever undertaken by the Alliance, bringing together NATO and non-NATO countries in an unprecedented coalition for peace involving 36 states.



1 Young boys play in the ruins of Sarajevo.



2 Six days after the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement, NATO deployed a UN-mandated Implementation Force (IFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



The Dayton Peace Agreement and the IFOR mission helped usher a new era for the Alliance as new partnerships and peacekeeping became central to NATO's transition into a post-Cold War environment.



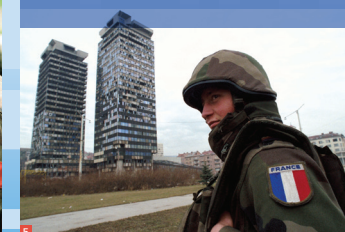
An American soldier has an IFOR armband put on his uniform after arriving at Sarajevo airport.



3 The NATO countries participating in IFOR were Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States.



4 Non-NATO contributing countries were Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, Hungary, Jordan, Latvia, Lithuania, Malaysia, Morocco, Pakistan, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Sweden and Ukraine.



5 French soldier from IFOR in Sarajevo.



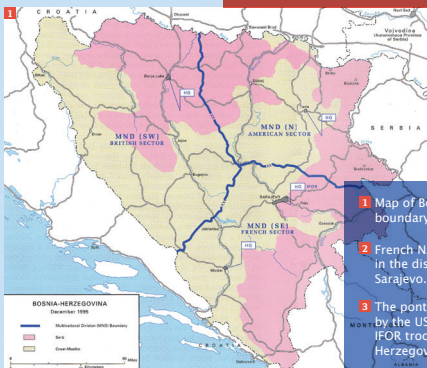
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General George Joulwan



19 January 1996 The Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General George Joulwan, points to a map of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



1 Map of Bosnia and Herzegovina showing the entity boundary line and IFOR divisional boundaries.

2 French NATO soldiers disarm an anti-tank mine in the district of Stup, a front-line area of Sarajevo.

3 The pontoon bridge erected over the Sava River by the US Army's 1st Armored Division, allowing IFOR troops to cross from Croatia into Bosnia and Herzegovina.



4 Camp Demi - US Army post.

5 A Ukrainian soldier providing security outside the city of Tuzla.

6 Bosnian/Serbian checkpoint in Sarajevo manned by Italian troops.

7 An elderly woman jokes with an Italian soldier as she walks by an IFOR checkpoint.

8 Ukrainian checkpoint on a bridge outside Sarajevo.

9 UK Armed Brigade in Sipovo



12 Mission accomplished ... SFOR begins



10 Reconstruction of a bridge near Sipovo by UK troops.

11 British Royal Engineers build permanent bridges clear of the water, on good foundations, to re-open the route to heavy traffic.

12 Cover Photo of IFOR INFORMER Vol. 1, N°23 (18 December 1996)

13 A US Army sergeant prepares to change the Implementation Force acronym, IFOR, to the Stabilisation Force acronym, SFOR.

14 Entrance of the SFOR HQ

