



EUFOR forum



Bjelasnica Inter-military Ski Competition

Brigadier General József SZPISJÁK, New COS



We welcome our new Chief of Staff HQ EUFOR, Brigadier General József SZPISJÁK

There are times when a rotation of personnel is having a significant impact on the entire mission and this particularly is true when it occurs within the higher level of leadership. Please allow me to therefore convey our best wishes for his future to Brigadier General Ernő Péter SIPOSS on the occasion of his final departure from EUFOR and to extend a warm welcome to Brigadier General József SZPISJÁK.

After the completion of more than one year of service with Operation EUFOR Althea as the Chief of Staff HQ EUFOR, it finally was time for Brigadier General Ernő Péter SIPOSS to say goodbye to “Paradise” - as he used to call this mission – and to return to his home-base in Hungary. He has now been replaced by his compatriot Brigadier General József SZPISJÁK, who formally has taken over as the new Chief of Staff during an official handover-takeover ceremony inside Camp BUTMIR on 1st of March 2013. We have learned that General SZPISJÁK was

taken quite by surprise, when he was notified by the Hungarian Ministry of Defense about his new appointment within EU-

FOR at rather short notice, leaving very little time for getting familiarized with all the challenges and practices within the EUFOR environment. Luckily, he has quite extensive overseas missions experience he is able to thrive from.

General SZPISJÁK has previously served in the Training and Equipment Synchronization Cell (TESC) in Iraq in 2006 - where he was awarded with the NATO Meritorious Service Medal for outstanding personal initiative and dedication beyond his duty – furthermore, as a Staff officer at the NATO Supreme Allied Command Transformation (ACT) Education Branch and as a Training Officer with the NATO Training and Equipment Co-ordination Group (NTEGG) at ACT in Norfolk/USA, amongst a number of other foreign assignments. General Sir, once again, a warm welcome to EUFOR from all of us and much soldier’s luck throughout your entire tour of duty!

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**Bjelasnica Inter-military
Ski Competition**

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Dear Readers,

the first two months of this year have passed, but even during this relatively short period of time we again were experiencing quite some changes, especially as far as rotations of personnel were concerned. It is the nature of Peace Support Operations such as ours that troops are frequently rotating in and out though. While some of us are very happy to be



able to return to their families and friends back home, others are having very mixed feelings about leaving their colleagues and the mission area behind. In any case, I sincerely hope that you will all take along some good memories of your stay here, once your time with EUFOR will have come to an end.

Apart from the emotional aspect, unfortunately this way we are also regularly drained of valuable expertise and challenged by the task of having to bring the skills of all those newly arrived troops up to the required level. As far as our foreseeable future challenges are concerned, we will continue to support our Commander's main effort to contribute to solutions that might finally bring the issue of disposal of surplus weapons and ammunition to a satisfactory conclusion, as this would greatly help also our colleagues from the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina to free necessary resources in order to concentrate on more essential tasks.

In addition, we will have to get fully ready for the Operational Rehearsal, taking place in our Area of Operations over the period from 15th to 26th April, amid the live deployment of Intermediate Reserve Companies from their national peacetime locations in Hungary and the United Kingdom. This joint exercise will also involve the EUFOR Multinational Battalion and a Company from the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As you can see, interesting times are ahead of us and let's hope that we will all be able to gain plenty of exciting, new and valuable experiences. To all of you who are going to finish your assignment in the near future, I want to thank you for your contribution to our mission and wish you a safe return home.



The EUFOR Team at Bjelasnica.



Female Champion – and second best time overall (male/female category) – EUFOR's Captain Monica Kaspar (achieved 46.7 secs average)



A Competitor from AF BiH Gives Their All

Building Friendship Through Sport: Bjelašnica Inter-Military Ski Competition

The first inter-military agency ski competition was held on 14 February 2013 on the slopes of MOUNT BJELAŠNICA and included 74 skiers from NATO HQ Sarajevo, EUFOR ALTHEA and BiH partners in the Armed Forces, Intelligence and Security Agency, State Border Service, Prosecutors Office and Internal Affairs Ministries.

Despite intermittent dense mist changing the scope of the challenge, the 74 competitors remained undaunted giving their best efforts throughout the 26-gate slalom race, finishing with nothing left to give.

Certificates and medals were awarded to the fastest 3 men and women competitors: Monica KASPAR (EUFOR and Austrian



Competitors Assemble for the Start of the Competition

Army) taking gold and first place for the women (46.8 secs) and Jasmin DUPOVAC (AF BiH) winning gold for the men with the fastest overall average time of 46.5 secs.

Sponsored by NATO HQ and organized by the AF BiH, the event was proved a success and showed a very positive example of inter-departmental team work.

“One of the main tasks of EUFOR in BiH is to assist AF BiH in capacity building and training and we work closely with our partners in NATO who provide assistance with Defense Reform”, stated COM EUFOR, “However, one of the things we can do to help take our partnerships further is engaging wholeheartedly in competitions like this: it is a shining example of the benefits that can be achieved from friendship through sport.” he added.



COM EUFOR and Brigadier General Sakib Foric Congratulates the Overall Winner, AF BiH's Jasmin DUPOVAC (achieved 46.1 ses average)



COM EUFOR and Captain Monica Kaspar, Female Champion.

COM EUFOR Attends National Day Event in Banja Luka at Invitation of RS President



THE Commander of EUFOR, Major General (MG) Dieter HEIDECKER, attended ceremonies marking RS National Day on 09 January 2013, at the invitation of RS President Milorad DODIK.

Also in attendance were several BiH officials, including the Chair of BiH Presidency Nebojsa Radmanovic, and numerous delegates from diplomatic corps and wider international community.

COM EUFOR appreciated the invitation to the ceremonies and also the opportunity to meet with the wide range of assembled representatives from both BiH and international organisations. This allowed a useful opportunity for an informal exchange of ideas on the activities of EUFOR and Operation ALTHEA with a wide range of stakeholders and which may lead to the basis of more formal talks and discussions in the future.

EUFOR MEDEVAC Helicopter Training Flight Delivers Gift of BAM 6,100 to SOS Kinderdorf in Sarajevo



The SOS KINDERORF team with members of the EUFOR Austrian Medical Contingent.

A routine EUFOR MEDEVAC training exercise took place on the morning of Friday 8 February 2013 and, as part of the exercise, conducted a winch lowering of the senior doctor within the Austrian Contingent, Major MD Stefan Schachner on to a site close to SOS Kinderdorf. Clearly visible during the descent was a gift wrapped cheque for BAM 6,100 which was presented to the assembled children and SOS Kinderdorf's Director, Mr Damir Mahmić.

The money had been raised by the EUFOR Austrian medical team over the last 6 months through organised fund-raising events held at Camp Butmir which were supported by troops of all the contributing nations at EUFOR ALTHEA and NATO HQ Sarajevo.

Major Schachner commented: "The Austrian medical team were keen to raise funds for the local community and particularly children, as they are the future of any nation. We are always delighted to help in this way and there was great support from troops across EUFOR and NATO HQ for an organisation which is doing great work for children throughout BiH."

The funds will be used to finance much-needed replacement windows for the family-style houses which provide a supporting home environment for the children cared for on the site.

"The sum raised is significant and will make a big difference to the replacement window project", commented Mr Mahmić, "but what is also important to us is the opportunity to form a

strong bond of friendship with the team at EUFOR.”

The MEDEVAC helicopter – an ALOUETTE III – arrived at the SOS KINDERDORF site at 1100 on Fri 8 February 2013, following which a presentation took place involving both the children and staff from SOS Kinderdorf and the team of EUFOR fundraisers.

The Helicopter Commander, Lt Martin Fuetsch explained: “It is important to maintain operational readiness for medical evacuation services, particularly in time of severe snow in BiH. In order to do this we must conduct continuation training at least 3 times per week. Today’s event was doubly successful as we were able to incorporate an imaginative means of delivery of the EUFOR fund raising cheque within one of our routine MEDEVAC training exercises. The entire crew were delighted that this provided some fun and excitement for local children.”

The children who witnessed the helicopter landing came from SOS KINDERDORF and from nearby schools. Typical of the SOS KINDERDORF children’s comments was a statement from Aldin, who said: “It was great to see the helicopter, which was so big and it was wonderful that it was able to come and visit us.”



Major MD Stefan Schachner delivers the donation cheque of BAM 6,100 by ALOUETTE III MEDEVAC Helicopter.

COM EUFOR Courtesy Call with the President of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina (FBiH)



THE Commander of EUFOR, Major General (MG) Dieter HEIDECKER, attended a courtesy call with the President of FBiH Živko BUDIMIR in Sarajevo on 22 January 2013.

MG HEIDECKER briefed President BUDIMIR on current EUFOR priorities including Capability Building and Training for the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the requirement to dispose of surplus ammunition and weapons stocks.

President BUDIMIR appreciated the opportunity to discuss EUFOR’s current tasking and, while noting several areas are not in his current direct portfolio of responsibility, found it useful to be fully appraised of how EUFOR is currently focusing its work effort.

Both MG HEIDECKER and President BUDIMIR valued the opportunity to meet and exchange views on their respective priorities and key action areas for 2013.



Opposite Editorial by General Sir Richard Shirreff, Operation Commander Operation Althea EUFOR

In 2005 the politicians of Bosnia and Herzegovina agreed on and adopted the Law on Defence.

The years following the adoption of this law in BiH have clearly demonstrated the successful implementation of positive reform for defence.

The Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina is today an excellent example of how a country can move from the end of conflict and strife to a situation where it possesses modern armed forces, under civilian control and oversight, which have the capacity and skill to deploy and positively contribute to international missions overseas. Such remarkable progress has turned Bosnia and Herzegovina from a security con-

sumer to a security provider. The progress made in Bosnia and Herzegovina has also allowed EUFOR to evolve its focus from ensuring the implementation of the military parts of GFAP and being a guarantor of a safe and secure environment, to providing Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) for the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF BiH).

Our focus has now moved from simply monitoring the situation in the country, and being prepared to intervene, to engaging on the work we can do together. Last month I visited the unit from Bosnia and Herzegovina on active duty in Afghanistan and witnessed these soldiers, from different ethnic groups, working together in close-knit teams and setting an excellent example of what can be achieved when focus is put on the right issues and towards achieving common goals. The people of Bosnia and Herzegovina have every reason to be proud of the valuable

contribution being made by its military personnel towards international peace and security.

There are, however, a number of issues holding back the successful implementation of defence reform which are hindering EUFOR from providing even more assistance to the AF BiH. One of the most pressing issues is the safe management of around 17,000 tons of surplus ammunition, which is of no use to Bosnia and Herzegovina, yet a significant amount of the resources of the AF BiH is tied up guarding and managing these stockpiles. This is not a productive use of the skills and expertise of AF BiH and has a significant cost in terms of lost opportunities. In this regard, the international community stands ready to provide all the support necessary to invigorate the rate of disposal of these surplus stockpiles and also to help with the streamlining and rationalisation of the current logistics support required to maintain these sites. There are

three main reasons why Bosnia and Herzegovina should use the support that the International Community is offering in dealing with these surplus stockpiles.

Surplus stockpiles of ammunition and weapons pose a threat to the Safe and Secure Environment. An unintended explosion could have disastrous effects as has been seen on several occasions in countries within the region. Furthermore, there is always a risk that the ammunition could be stolen or disposed of illegally which could threaten the lives of people in BiH and elsewhere in the world were it to fall into the wrong hands.

There are financial benefits from disposing of the surpluses. Money can be retrieved either from selling usable ammunition through legal channels or by selling the constituent parts of the ammunition once it has been made safe. By disposing of surplus ammunition, storage sites could also be sold or put to other use, creating a positive financial return and hence lessening the burden to tax payers. By limiting the number of storage sites in use, security measures could be rationalised and focused on a few remaining sites thus freeing up scarce financial and human resources.

The final reason for increasing the disposal rate of these surpluses is to get the AF BiH into even better shape: officers and soldiers could dedicate more time to training and professional soldiering, instead of guarding redundant am-



General Sir Richard Shirreff, Operation Commander Operation Althea EUFOR, greets troops from the AF BiH contingent serving on active duty with the ISAF Mission in Afghanistan.

munition sites. This would allow them to benefit more from CB&T offered by EUFOR and other international partners. The AF BiH would then be in a position to focus all its efforts and resources on the task ahead instead of managing surplus ammunition stockpiles which are now nothing more than a burdensome and costly legacy of the past.

Next week I will be visiting Bosnia and Herzegovina and one of the key reasons for doing so is to engage with national and international partners to form an alliance of stakeholders who are committed to increasing the rate of progress of weapons and ammunition disposal. Admittedly, there are technical, administrative and financial problems that could hinder the rate of disposal but these are not insurmountable if all key local and international stakeholders work together closely. Together we can achieve significant progress in the near future. The International Community stands ready to

support the efforts of the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in accelerating the rate of weapons and ammunition disposal, but the authorities will also have to undertake a certain amount of work. Decisions need to be taken. Resources need to be allocated. An immediate action plan must be agreed.

The opportunity to deal with this difficult issue is now before us and we should seize this chance to fully commit to an ambitious and achievable plan of work to eliminate the burden and risks posed by these surpluses: let us finally consign them to history, where they belong.

It is now time to act proactively, seize the opportunity before us and work unstintingly on this task in order to ensure a safer and productive future for the people of BiH and its professional armed forces.

General Sir Richard Shirreff
Operation Commander Operation
Althea EUFOR
Deputy Supreme Allied
Commander Europe







Jablanica



Mostar



Novo Sarajevo

COM EUFOR Paid Visits to LOTs Novo Sarajevo, Jablanica and Mostar

COM EUFOR, Major General Dieter Heidecker, as part of his inaugural tour, has recently paid visits to the first 3 out of a total number of 17 EUFOR Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT), namely to Novo Sarajevo, Jablanica and Mostar. The teams in the LOT houses briefed the General on the present situation in the area and the ongoing LOT activities, but were also given the opportunity to exchange ideas with their Commander. The LOT House system allows EUFOR to feel the pulse of the country and so far all teams have succeeded well in developing a warm and professional relationship with their neighbours and the local authorities.

COM EUFOR visits LOT Travnik and LOT Zenica

On 24 January 2013 the Commander of EUFOR, Major General (MG) Dieter HEIDECKER, accompanied by Deputy Chief of Staff Operations, Colonel Fatih ILHAN, was visiting the Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT) in Travnik and Zenica. Both teams are composed of members of the Turkish Contingent of EUFOR and their great hospitality was felt throughout the day.

After having been briefed about the current situation in their area of responsibility by the members of LOT Travnik, the guests were invited to take a small tour around Travnik, a town in central Bosnia and Herzegovina, 90 km west of Sarajevo, which is famous for having a rich cultural heritage. The tour also included a short walk to Travnik Castle, also known as fortress Kaštel, in the old town sector. The members of LOT Zenica also provided an outstanding briefing regarding their day-to-day work and then gladly took advantage of the possibility to exchange their views with COM EUFOR in a relaxed atmosphere. Zenica is the fourth-largest city in Bosnia and Herzegovina, located about 70 km north of Sarajevo, situated on the Bosna River and surrounded by a mountainous and hilly landscape. The town's old quarter also contains several attractions, including a former synagogue, dating from 1906, the town mosque, an Austrian fountain and an old bey's farm house, just to mention a few.



Travnik



Travnik



Zenica

Joint Force Training Banja Luka



Between 10-14. December 2012 Austrian Soldiers went to Banja Luka for a Joint Force Training with the 6th Brigade AF BiH. One Platoon from the A-Coy was integrated into the 1st Coy. The training was under the command of the CoyCdr AF BiH with following main topics; check point,

temporary check point and convoy training.

All AF BiH soldiers incorporated experiences out of their missions in Afghanistan and Iraq. The whole line-up of possibilities was part of the szenarios, especially with checking persons or vehicles and ambushades.

During the convoy training the Coy was supported by a ME-DIVAC-team. After all of the szenarios a back briefing showed the results and all participants could profit a lot, also the talks during the breaks were very interesting for the soldiers and brought additional perceptions.



Saving a life with Austrian support

Because there is still an eminent risk from mines from the past civil war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Liaison Observation Teams (LOTs) of EUFOR conduct regular Mine Risk Education (MRE) lectures in schools.

Mine Risk Education (MRE) is an educational process to ensure that people are aware of risk from mines and Unexploded Explosive Ordnance (UXO) and are encouraged to behave in a way, which reduces risk to people, property and the environment. Mines and UXOs are a major threat to a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) for the citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). They also pose to economic and social development. Therefore it is essential that the local population is informed and trained, especially those in high risk areas.

One of the many attentive participants of the last school year was 11 year old Edhem Hasanović of Srebrenica, who owing to the knowledge he had gained, saved the life of his 13 year old sister Amra: when they were tending to his parents flock of sheep, Amra saw an object on the ground and wanted to kick it. Edhem realised that this object was a mine and could prevent his sister from getting in contact at the very last moment. The father, who was called for assistance identified the mine as anti-tank mine.

Experiences shows that there are still BiH citizens, who don't know how to deal with the threat from mines and UXOs. The example of young Edhem makes clear how important the Mine Risk



Slađan Panić (Interpreter and MRE Trainer LOT Bratunac), Amra and Edhem Hasanović, Major Rene Benedikter (Cdr LOT Bratunac)

Education lectures are; through committed EUFOR personnel approximately 12.000 students per year can be reached. EUFOR has a limited MRE capability but it is capable through the LOT houses and MICC to assist in establishing a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) in BiH.

Generally positive feedback from teachers, students and parents proof, that the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina appreciate the MRE courses being provided and benefiting from the clear messages on how to recognise, react and who to inform when they discover mines and UXOs.

COM EUFOR Pays His Respects at Memorial Centre Srebrenica - Potocari



THE Commander of EUFOR, Major General (MG) Dieter HEIDECKER, visited the Memorial Centre Srebrenica- Potocari at 1030 this morning (04 January 2013) where he laid a wreath in tribute to the victims of Srebrenica and also to all victims of armed conflict throughout the world.

Upon laying of the wreath, which was simply inscribed "In deepest respect", a minute of silence and reflection was observed.

Joint Military Affairs



Joint Military Affairs (JMA) is part of the Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) Division. JMA contains COM EUFOR's Subject Matter Experts (SME) on what were formerly General Framework Agreement for Peace (GFAP) (also known as the Dayton Peace Agreement) tasks. JMA has currently 12 staff members (6 civilian and 6 military).

The JMA mission is to execute a series of tasks to contribute to the maintenance of sustained stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).

In order to fulfill its mission JMA carries out functions such as oversight of:

- Regional Arms Control matters, oversight on the control of Ammunition and Weapons Storage Sites (ASS and WSS)
- The control on the move-

ment and export of Weapons and Military Equipment (WME)

In addition we monitor and mentor BiH agencies in tasks formerly carried out by JMA, in the follow areas:

- The inspection of Defence Industry Factories (DIF)
- Mine action activities.

All of the activities listed above have now been transferred to the BiH authorities and the main task of JMA is now to support both the BiH civil authorities and the Armed Forces of BiH in CB&T in order that they can successfully carry out these tasks. JMA staff members are also directly involved in CB&T on topics such as Movement Control and ASS and WSS management.

Much of these activities involve site visits to ASS, WSS, DIF

and mine clearance activities, and liaison with both the BiH civil and military authorities at all levels. JMA staff members also monitor, assist and advise on the disposal of surplus weapons and ammunition and providing risk assessments and analyses for EUFOR Force Protection (FP) measures. To this end, JMA has SME's on Arms Control, Ammunition Movement, Storage and Disposal and Movement Control. JMA is deeply involved in the disposal of ammunition and weapons surpluses. The Armed Forces of BiH have some 17,000 tons of surplus ammunition and 20,000 weapons and armored vehicles. The disposal of these items is highly complex and extremely political and sensitive in nature. JMA acts as COMEUFOR's "honest broker" in these matters.

A very important part of JMA

action lies in the field of mine action. Bosnia and Herzegovina has a mine contaminated area of 1274 km² and is therefore one of the most mine contaminated countries in the world. This situation poses a threat to more than 20% of the local population, hampers the economic development of the country and causes many casualties.

The Countermines Section (CM) of Joint Military Affairs is responsible for development and implementation of EUFOR policy with respect to the Mine Action Activities conducted in Bosnia and Herzegovina. CM has five staff members (2 military and 3 local civilians). According to the Instructions to the Parties Change 25 the main CM focus is on the capacity and self-sustainability of the AF BiH in demining operations and mine awareness issues.

In this area CM monitors, mentors and advises on mine clearance operations in order to ensure that the AF BiH Demining Battalion operates efficiently and receives sufficient support from the Ministry of Defence and other superior Commands. To fulfill this task properly it requires from CM members the organization of and taking part in many meetings, workshops, visits to demining sites and close cooperation with BiH Mine Action Centre and other governmental and non-governmental organizations dealing with demining issues in BiH. Through active participation in the planning process of the AF BiH Mine Action Activities, EUFOR is able to influence the demining operations conducted by the Demining Battalion and if



necessary to react in cooperation with the proper Command in case of any irregularities or deviations from the plans.

The Mine Information and Coordination Cell (MICC) as an integral part of CM raises mine awareness among the local population and international community across BiH. Mine Risk Education, planned, coordinated and provided by MICC in cooperation with LOTs and the AF BiH instructors provides invaluable assistance for BiH and its people. With more



than 12,000 BiH civilians trained last year (mostly children) EUFOR is by far the most productive organization in this area in BiH.

Apart from the advising and monitoring role, CM is very active in the process of capacity building for the AF BiH, not only as a co-ordinator of the training but also entering in EUFOR Force Elements (4 Force Elements scheduled for 2013 will be covered by SME from CM).

Nevertheless, CM's activities are not confined only to the support of the AF BiH or BiH citizens. The contribution to EUFOR is also very important and it is carried out through involvement in operational planning and Force Protection. MICC keeps a mine database, distributes Mine Contamination Maps and gives Mine Awareness Training for newcomers. CM staff members are on call, ready to support JOC in terms of the countermine and EOD issues 24 hours per day.

Text and Photos: CB&T JMA

VIP Visit For Chilean Contingent Values Their Contribution to EUFOR and Gives Encouragement for Their Tasking in 2013

With the challenges of 2013 approaching, Chilean Air Force Major General (OF-7) Rolando MERCADO, Director of Operations and Strategic Planning, from the Defense Joint Staff, plus one Army LTC and one Navy NCO, visited the Chilean contingent in Bosnia and Herzegovina to salute on behalf of the Chilean Minister of Defense. This visit took place over the festive season, 23 -27 December 2012, and was Christmas salute from the Chilean Minister of Defense and is a tradition in the Chilean Armed Forces to salute all the Chilean troops that are serving abroad in peace support operations.

The first activity was for the Chilean SNR, LTC Cristian GUEDELHOEFER to present all the Chilean personnel who work at EUFOR HQ and NSE to MG MERCADO who commended them work and for being on mission during the Christmas Period. Christmas Dinner was spent in the Chilean-run LOT House in Banja Luka where MG Mercado hand delivered all the presents sent by families from Chile to their loved-ones serving on Operation ALTHEA. This was an emotional occasion for them,

being totally unexpected.

In an office call with COMEUFOR, MG MERCADO was briefed about the environment of Operation Althea. COMEUFOR appreciated the renewal of yearly mandate released by Chilean Congress and which was well-reported in the Santiago Times, which quoted COM EUFOR affirmation of the significance of this renewal by Chilean Congress:

“The presence of the military contingent from Chile is highly significant politically as it shows EUFOR as an international mission with wide support outside of the confines of European and NATO-member countries.”

The positive impact of the visit on the morale and pride of individual Chilean troop was significant as paid testament by their comments on the visit.

“This visit was important not only because of the chance for Chilean Armed Forces authorities know “in situ” the reality of their troops overseas (more than 18.000 Kms from Chile), but also the chance to show a realistic support anytime and anywhere, put-



Inspecting Chilean LOT House in Banja Luka

ting always the soldier first”. LTC Cristian GUEDELHOEFER, Chilean SNR and Chief LOT Desk, IAB

“The presence of our authorities caused a “ripple effect” for us... first of all, concern about us, concern about our families due to they brought their Christmas presents, the chance to show our work far away from our country and, finally, the renewal of our covenant with our country, our Armed Forces and EUFOR”. MAJ Rodrigo VERA, Chief

“This visit has increased even more our high morale. We have always had an excellent level of permanent support not only from our country, but also from EUFOR and their authorities, especially during this visit. We really appreciate it and it meant a great deal to us!” OR-8 Miguel SEPULVEDA, LOT Desk Assistant, IAB

On the higher strategic level, MG MERCADO also took the opportunity to ratify his country’s commitment to this Mission and its importance within Chilean Foreign Policy. For Chile this is a very important mission as it represents an expression of commitment of its political, economical, social and military agreements between Chile and the European Union.



Distributing Christmas presents

The Spanish Armed Forces collaborate in printing doctrinal publications for the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina



The General Directorate of Publications and Cultural Heritage of the Spanish Ministry of Defense printed a total of 1,450 copies of various publications.

On 07 February 2013 in Travnik, the Spanish contingent deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) delivered to the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) of the Armed Forces of BiH (AF BiH) 1,450 copies of six doctrinal publications written by TRADOC personnel and which were printed in Spain under a joint collaboration agreement.

The request by the TRADOC Doctrine Division was sent to the ESP/AUT MTT (Mobile Training Team), currently deployed in the town of Travnik and performing advisory tasks to improve the training and doctrine of the AF BiH and coordinated by the Command for Operations of the Spanish Defense Joint Staff. The printing was completed by the Digital Publishing Subunit of the General Directorate of Publications and Cultural Heritage of the Ministry of Defense, and shipped by the Spanish Logistic

Transportation Support Unit of the Logistic Support.

The delivered manuals constituted the first publications made by TRADOC personnel since its creation, and are the first tactical level manuals produced for AF of BiH since its unification in 2007.

Each publications has been printed in the three official languages existing in BiH (Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian), in accordance with the format criteria established in current BiH Ministry of Defense regulations for military publications.

The symbolic delivery of the first batch of publications was performed by the Lieutenant Colonel Gonzalo Membrillo Marco, MTT Commander, to the BiH AF Joint Staff Commander, Lieutenant General Miladin Milojčić, who was visiting the TRADOC with his successor, Major General Anto Jeleč, during Joint Staff Command handover activities.

The official ceremony was also attended by the Second-in-Command of the AF BiH Support Command, Brigadier General Marko Stojčić, the TRADOC Commander, Colonel Robert Sušac, TRADOC Division and Section chiefs and the officers who collaborated in writing the manuals. The Armed Forces of the Kingdom of Spain were represented by the Military Attaché of the Spanish Embassy, Colonel Jesus Antonio Cortiñas Guntín, and Spanish personnel from MTT and EUFOR HQ.

During the presentation ceremony, Lieutenant General Miladin Milojčić thanked the members of the Spanish Armed Forces for this act of positive collaboration, highlighting the active support that EUFOR members are providing, in all aspects, to the Armed Forces of BiH.





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