

## Official opening of Bridge in Lužani



The bridge was built, with material funded by the EU Floods Recovery Programme, by BiH Armed Forces engineers from Derventa as part of the EUFOR Capacity Building and Training Programme.

See page 9



# EUFOR Chief of Staff Handover Takeover Ceremony

## We welcome our new Chief of Staff HQ EUFOR, Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza



There are times when a rotation of personnel has a significant impact on the entire mission and this particularly is true when it occurs within the higher level of leadership. We would like to convey our best wishes for his future to Brigadier General András Szűcs on the occasion of his departure from EUFOR and to extend a warm welcome to Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza.

After the completion of 14 months of service with Operation EUFOR Althea as the Chief of Staff HQ EUFOR, it finally was time for Brigadier General András Szűcs to say goodbye and to return to his home-base in Hungary.

He has now been replaced by his compatriot Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza who formally assumed the duties as the Chief of Staff EUFOR during the official handover-takeover ceremony inside Camp Butmir on 30 April 2015.

During his speech at the ceremony General Mihócza, after wishing General Szűcs every success in his next assignment, said "I am extremely fortunate to take over the role of COS and to inherit the strong relationships General Szűcs has established during his tour. Looking forward my intention is to continue to develop those relationships and to improve and simplify the way we work in the EUFOR Headquarters so that we can become much more efficient in the execution of our Mission".

Brigadier General Mihócza joins EUFOR from Hungary where he held the post of Deputy Chief of Staff, Joint Forces Command, Hungarian Defence Forces. From 2011 until 2013 he served as the Hungarian Military Representative to NATO and the EU Military Committees in Brussels.

General Sir, once again, a warm welcome to EUFOR from all of us.

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**EUFOR Chief of Staff Handover  
Takeover Ceremony**

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Dear Readers,

Thank you to all of you who have been in touch with the Public Affairs Office keeping us informed of events in and out of Camp Butmir and providing us with information and photographs for articles.

The last 2 months have been busy with visits from General de Rousiers, the Bulgarian President and the new EUSR. We have also seen the HOTO of COS and a number of change of commands within Troop Contributing Nation.

As well as the visits, the CB&T section and the MNBN have also been busy and in the following pages, you can find details of the bridge reconstruction activities between EUFOR's Mobile Training Teams and the Armed Forces BiH and an MNBN medical evacuation exercise.

This is my final editorial as I finish my tour at the beginning of June. The last 6 months have flown by and when I return to the UK I will take with me many happy memories from my short time in BiH and EUFOR.

Don't forget that you can keep up with EUFOR news at [www.facebook.com/euforbih](http://www.facebook.com/euforbih) and [www.euforbih.org](http://www.euforbih.org). And remember, this is your magazine so do let us know if you have any feedback on this issue.



**Lieutenant Commander  
Pippa Routledge**

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## EUFOR Chief of Staff Handover Takeover Ceremony



Outgoing Chief of Staff EUFOR Brigadier General András Szűcs, Commander EUFOR Major General Johann Luif and Incoming Chief of Staff EUFOR Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza.



Major General Johann Luif presents Brigadier General András Szűcs with his European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Service Medal Operation Althea

On 30 April 2015, Brigadier General András Szűcs completed his 14 month tenure as the Chief of Staff of EUFOR. He formally handed over to Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza during a Handover Takeover Ceremony at Camp Butmir.

Brigadier General Mihócza joins EUFOR from Hungary where he held the post of Deputy Chief of Staff, Joint Forces Command, Hungarian Defence Forces. From 2011 until 2013 he served as the Hungarian Military Representative to NATO and the EU Military Committees in Brussels.



Commander EUFOR Major General Johann Luif and incoming Chief of Staff EUFOR Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza.

Speaking at the ceremony Brigadier General Mihócza said, “It is a real pleasure to work in an international organisation that shares a common cause and works together for the future progress and development of Bosnia and Herzegovina”.

The ceremony was hosted by Major General Johann Luif, the Commander of EUFOR. Also in attendance were His

Excellency Mr Lars-Gunnar Wigemark, Head of the EU Delegation and EU Special Representative in BiH, Deputy MOD Emir Suljagić, Major General Sándor



Fuesku, Commander of the Joint Force Command of the Hungarian Armed Forces, and other officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Union and many other countries.



## Head of the European Union Command Element visits EUFOR and NATO HQ in Sarajevo



On 25 March 2015, Lieutenant General Leonardo di Marco, Italian Army, Head of the European Union Command Element (EUCE) at the Allied Joint Force Command Naples (JFC Naples) visited the two Headquarters in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. The focus of his visit was on Capacity Building and Training in support of the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defence, he also received an update on the current and future cooperation between EUFOR and NATO in this area.

### Capacity Building and Training is a valuable contribution to the defence sector

The common approach of NATO and EUFOR has been one of providing support to all levels of the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defence.

The Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina are currently contributing successfully to peace support missions abroad and efficiently cooperating with other nations, which is an important contribution to the development of international crisis management. The Armed Forces also increased their capabilities and efforts to support local authorities and the people of BiH through disaster relief assistance and crisis management.

Lieutenant General Leonardo Di Marco is Head of the European Union Command Element, a role he has held since 29 April 2013, when he assumed the role of Chief of Staff, Joint Force Command, Naples.

## COM EUFOR Visits BiH Ministry of Defence



On 7 April 2015, Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif, paid a visit to the BiH Ministry of Defence (MOD) and was welcomed by the Minister of Defence BiH, Marina Pendeš. Also present were Deputy Ministers, Boris Jerinić and Emir Suljagić.

During their talks COMEUFOR congratulated the new leadership on their appointments and said that he was looking forward to a good working relationship with the MOD. He emphasised that his focus remained on the Capacity, Building and Training (CB&T) programme and to working closely with the Minister in defining the needs of the Armed Forces of BiH.

EUFOR's CB&T programme known under the slogan 'Arming with Knowledge' provides training, mentoring and technical expertise at all levels to the Armed Forces as well as advice to the Ministry of Defence. EUFOR's contribution to building up the capacity of the Armed Forces is an essential element of the EU's efforts in BiH.



## Bulgarian President Visits EUFOR

On 23 April 2015, Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif, welcomed the Bulgarian President, His Excellency Rosen Plevneliev, to Camp Butmir. He was accompanied during his visit by the Bulgarian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina His Excellency Angel Angelov.



to thank the President for the continued support of the Bulgarian Armed Forces and also praised the professionalism of the troops serving in the mission. President Plevneliev met several members of the EUFOR Bulgarian contingent whilst in Camp Butmir. The Bulgarian contingent is one of seventeen EU troop contributing nations in the mission.

During an Office Call with Major General Johann Luif, they spoke about EUFOR's mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Capacity Building and Training Programme for the Armed Forces of BiH. COM EUFOR took the opportunity

## EU Special Representative Inaugural Visit to EUFOR Headquarters



As part of his inaugural visits the Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina and EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark visited Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif at EUFOR HQ in Camp Butmir.

## Chairman of the EU Military Committee visits EUFOR

The Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Patrick de Rousiers, visited Bosnia and Herzegovina and HQ EUFOR Althea on 23 April 2015 and was welcomed by Commander of EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif.

The General discussed with COM EUFOR, EUFOR's role in assisting the Armed Forces BiH in capacity building and training in order to increase their professionalism, self-sustainability and interoperability at the international level. He then accompanied COM EUFOR to the medal parade where 38 personnel, from 7 of the 22 troop contributing nations to EUFOR, received their European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Service Medal Operation Althea.

During his visit General de Rousiers was accompanied by high ranking Military Representatives: Lieutenant General Günter Höfler



(Austria), Lieutenant General Gheorghe Sauv (Romania) and Major General László Domján (Hungary).

General de Rousiers chairs the EU Military Committee (EUMC), which is the highest military committee within the European Council and responsible for providing the Political and Security Committee (PSC) with advice and recommendations on all military matters affecting the EU.



# Bridge in Lukavica Rijeka officially opened



On 10 March 2015, the mayor of Lukavica Rijeka invited representatives of the Armed Forces of BiH, EUFOR and UNDP for the official opening ceremony of a bridge in this village near Doboj.

### The bridge – a result of common engagement

The material for the bridge construction was funded by the

EU Floods Recovery Program and managed by the United Nations Development Program. EUFOR training teams, consisting of engineering specialists from Hungary, mentored the Armed Forces BiH engineers who built it.

### Dual use of forces is of special value

Engineering, in particular bridge building, is one of the

skills that is of importance for assisting the population in disaster relief, international crisis management or in peace support operations. EUFOR, through its Capacity Building and Training Programme for the Armed Forces of BiH, supports this development.

The dual use of forces is the most economical way to run a military force.





# Official opening of Bridge in Lužani



On 3 April 2015, the Mayor of Derventa, Mayor, Milorad Simić opened the newly completed bridge in the village of Lužani, also present were EUFOR's Deputy Chief of Staff Capacity Building and Training, Colonel Hakar Soner Aplak, representatives of the Armed Forces of BiH and a number of local residents.

## EU Recovery Programme

The bridge was built, with material funded by the EU Floods

Recovery Programme, by 14 BiH Armed Forces engineers from Derventa as part of the EUFOR Capacity Building and Training Programme. Construction of the bridge was the final stage of a 3 week Bridge Building Course delivered by a EUFOR Mobile Training Team of engineering specialists, 7 from Austria and 3 from Slovenia. To mark the end of the course Colonel Aplak presented certificates to the students on the course.

## Dual use of force

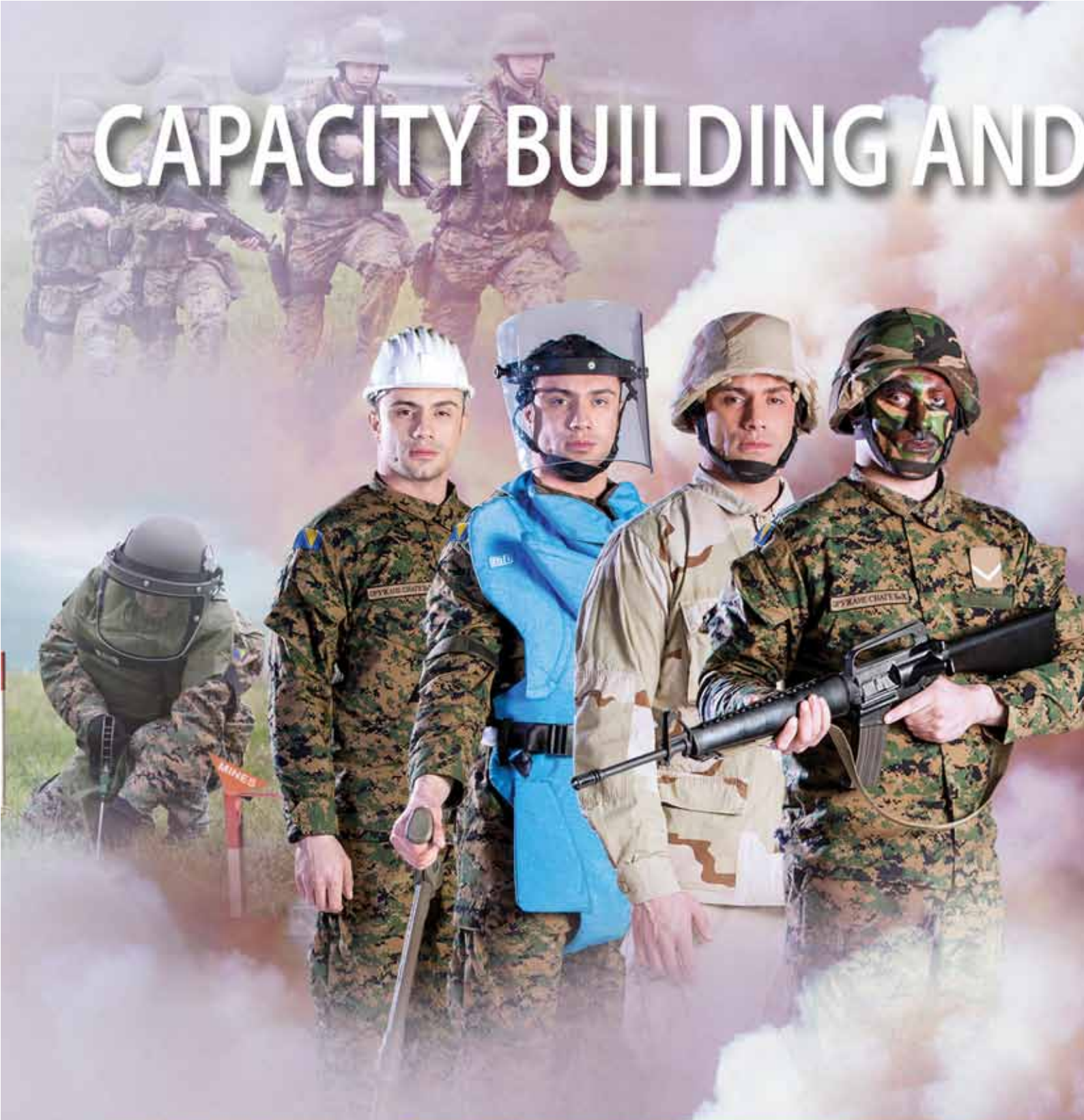
Colonel Aplak when asked about EUFOR's role in the project said "This has once again been an opportunity for the Armed Forces BiH and EUFOR soldiers to work together.

This bridge is an excellent example of how these skilled military personnel can have a dual use and a direct and immediate impact on improving citizens' lives whilst supporting local communities.





# CAPACITY BUILDING AND



# ARMING WI



# TRAINING



# TH KNOWLEDGE

## ARMED FORCES BiH

## AF BiH and EUFOR Training Agreement 2016 /2017

On 4 March 2015, Deputy Chief of Operations and Training of the Joint Staff, Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH), Colonel Branko Rašeta, and Deputy Chief of Staff for Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) EUFOR, Colonel Hakan Soner Aplak, signed the Road Map Agreement 2015 - a plan for training cooperation between the two organisations for 2016 and 2017, in Camp Butmir.

### Road Map Agreement 2015

The Roadmap Agreement (RMA15) is a planning document

that will serve as a reference for future cooperation between EUFOR and the AF BiH. It is the result of previous (2014) assessments from both sides on how to improve the CB&T activities and on how to coordinate



the planning of training for the upcoming years. Colonel Hakan Soner Aplak, DCOS CB&T, said: “This document is very important

as we look ahead to our common future.”

### Armed Forces of BiH take over more responsibilities

Colonel Branko Rašeta, said: “EUFOR and AFBiH really understand each other and for that I’d like to thank you!” In order to achieve a self-sustainable training system for the AFBiH and to train AFBiH to international standards, with the capability to participate in Euro-Atlantic structures, AF BiH will take over more responsibility by engaging already trained AFBiH personnel, and allowing EUFOR to mentor, monitor and assist its activities.

## CIS NATO Military Communication STANAGs Course

From 15 to 27 March 2015, EUFOR conducted a “NATO Military Communication Standardization Agreements (STANAGs)” training for the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) at the Tactical Support Brigade Barracks in Rajlovac. This course was the second of eight on Communication and Information Systems (CIS), which are planned for this year. 13 personnel (5 Officers, 8 NCOs) of the AFBiH successfully participated.

### What is STANAG?

In NATO a STANAG defines processes, procedures, terms, and conditions for common military or technical procedures or equipment between the member countries of the alliance. The purpose is

to provide common operational and administrative procedures and logistics, so one member nation’s military may use the stores and support of another member’s military. STANAG also form the basis for technical interoperability between a wide variety of CIS essential for NATO and Allied operations.

### EUFOR’s training system – train the trainer

The attendees of this course were trained by a Turkish Mobile Training Team (MTT). Such teams are provided by troop contributing nations for the time period of the training. Their task is to train future trainers of the AFBiH in order to assist the AFBiH to achieve a robust and self-sustainable training structure. The participants of this course are now ready to educate other personnel in this subject. During their first steps as new teacher, they will be mentored by EUFOR’s Mobile Mentoring Teams

*by Major Mehmet Saglam*



# MNBN Medical Evacuation exercise

On the 16 March 2015 a medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) exercise was planned and conducted by the Multinational Battalion (MNBN) in the vicinity of Sarajevo. To ensure the exercise was as realistic as possible the actors, played by soldiers of the Austrian Coy, were made up to look injured, some with minor injuries and others with major injuries such as limb loss using fake blood and home-made props.



During the exercise soldiers reported the incidents to the tactical operation centre, located at Camp Butmir, where an assessment of the situation was made and if necessary the emergency helicopters, Alouette III and S-70 Blackhawk despatched. Both aircraft had the capability to reach the incident within minutes. The experienced pilots landed on the snow-covered Mount Igman (1500 m above sea level) to complete the MEDEVAC of the injured soldier.

Lieutenant Colonel Michael KÖCK, Commander of the MNBN, was pleased with the results of the exercise, saying, “MEDEVAC is the basis of our emergency procedures and must be trained at all costs. Solid preparation and realistic training ensures we are ready to react when faced with an actual emergency, to ensure the safety of our most important asset, our soldiers.”

*by Captain Manuel Burgstaller*

## Badge ceremony of the Multinational Battalion

On the 26 February 2015, the Multinational Battalion (MNBN) held a ceremony to present the “Battalion Badge” to all the soldiers, who have recently arrived in theatre.

### The badge

The badge has a green background with a sword in the middle, this stands for military honour, freedom and strength.



In the centre of the sword is a blue circle, which includes golden stars, symbolising the European Union and the three national flags of the participating nations of Austria, Hungary and Turkey.

### Part of a family

Lieutenant Colonel Michael KÖCK, Commander of the MNBN, personally presented the badge to all members of his battalion staff delivering some personal words and a hand shake. He then addressed all the soldiers and finished his speech by saying, “Now you are part of a family – wear the badge with honour!”

# Gender Conference held by EUFOR to mark International Women's Day

On 12 March 2015, EUFOR held a conference entitled 'Efficient Security Sectors include women at all levels', in the Army Hall, Sarajevo. The conference was opened by COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif and Mr Alexander Chuplygin, Acting Head of Mission of the OSCE. The Vice-President of the European Parliament, Ms Ulrike Lunacek, honoured the initiative for this event by sending a video message with her support for this subject.

"Bosnia and Herzegovina was the first country in South-Eastern Europe to produce a national action plan to adopt a gender perspective", Major General Luif stated in his opening remarks. He went on to say, "Bosnia and Herzegovina has achieved much but work still lies ahead for the governmental institutions of BiH. I am proud to state that EUFOR



Ms Samra Hadžiabdić-Filipović,  
BiH Gender Equality Agency



Mr Alexander Chuplygin, Acting Head of OSCE Mission, and Ms Nikolina Marčeta

has been supporting the capacity building of the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces of BiH in this sector, and I stand ready to continue with this support through EUFOR's CB&T capabilities."

## Competent speakers

The organiser of the conference, Gender Advisor of EUFOR, Ms Nikolina Marčeta, introduced the speakers to the

audience. Ms Tania Van Dijk, Deputy Head of the COE Office in BiH, Ms Stefanie Altman-Winans Head of the Public Affairs Office of the US Embassy in BiH, Colonel Mersida Mešetović, Ministry of Defence BiH, Ms Azra Hasanbegović - "Žena BiH", and Ms Samra Hadžiabdić-Filipović of the Gender Equality Agency BiH.

## Conference participants

Participants of the conference included the Ambassador from Greece, H.E. Mr Karolos Gadis, and the Ambassador from Indonesia, H.E. Mr Subijaksono Sujono and many delegates from national and international organizations. The Armed Forces BiH leadership was represented by General Tepšić, General Mašović, General Jerkić and General Stoičić.



Ms Stefanie Altman-Winans,  
US Embassy in BiH



## EUFOR Polish Military Contingent Change of Command

On the 16 March 2015, a Change of Command ceremony for the EUFOR Polish Military Contingent, took place at in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. The Polish Military Flag of Honour was handed over from Major Anrzej Szybisty to Lieutenant Colonel Zygmunt Glogowski.



After the Flag had been handed over the two commanders signed the handover protocol which was accepted by Colonel Piotr Sieminski, representative of the Polish Army Operational Command. In his farewell speech Major Szybisty stressed that it had been a great honour for him to command the Polish Contingent as part of Operation ALTHEA and to represent Poland in Bosnia and Herzegovina

In reply Lieutenant Colonel Glogowski wished the departing soldiers a safe return to their families in Poland and for his contingent success in task execution and good professional cooperation with the other EUFOR contributing nations.

### Service to EUFOR recognised

The ceremony was attended by Commander EUFOR Major General Johann Luif, Chief of Staff EUFOR, Brigadier General

András Szűcs and the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Anrzej Krawczyk

During the ceremony COM EUFOR, Major General Luif presented 2 soldiers with the Operation Althea medal and Mr Krawczyk presented the Ministry of Defence

medal to Major Kosiński, Liaison Observation team commander in Doboj.

Members of the Polish contingent work in the EUFOR HQ, are part of the Mobile Training Team and Liaison Observation Team in Doboj and have an Embedded Advisory Team in Banja Luka.

*by Lieutenant Colonel  
Zygmunt Glogowski*

## Polish Armed Forces Operations Commander visits EUFOR Althea Headquarters

The Operation Commander of the Polish Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Marek Tomaszyci, visited the Polish national contingent in Operation Althea on 13 April 2015.

In the course of his visit Lieutenant General Tomaszyci took the opportunity to have an office call with COM EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif. During the office call Major General Luif thanked Lieutenant General Marek Tomaszyci for the continued contribution of the Polish Armed Forces to EUFOR's mission.



## A Drop in the Ocean

Bosnia and Herzegovina – a sad and at the same time beautiful country full of contrasts. On the one hand it has kind and warm-hearted people, on the other hand, many people are living below the poverty line without the possibility to secure the basic needs required for their children to have a normal life.

One of the agencies which try to bring a spark of hope is The International Committee of the Red Cross in Foča. It is amazing to watch how a few enthusiasts fight to help despite all the obstacles.

That is why members of LOT Foča decided to help and collected a financial contribution to help the regional Red Cross in Foča represented by Ms Snežana Kovač. Red Cross workers bought the day to day necessities required such as food, toiletries and clothing for a family in need due to circumstances



outside their control. On 23 March 2015, the aid was handed over to the family in Popov Most by LOT Foča Commander Major Jozef Trochan and Team Leader Captain Andrej Kukla accompanied by Ms Snežana Kovač.

Hopefully, this symbolic “drop in the ocean” will mean that hope dies last.

*Article and photo: Captain Andrej Kukla*

## LOT Novo Sarajevo recognised by the Red Cross Organisation

On 14 April 2015 the annual Assembly of Red Cross Novo Sarajevo Municipality took place. In attendance were representatives and members of the local branch of Red Cross Novo Sarajevo, invited guests and Red Cross supporters.

The program started with a review of last year’s evaluation report followed by a presentation about the goals for the organisation during 2015. The new promotional movie made by youth members of the local branch of Red Cross was shown; this focused on the importance of the organisation, its activities

and introduced their web site.

Afterwards the chairperson Mrs Radica Bakič presented certificates of appreciation to individuals and representatives of companies and organisations who supported or helped the Red Cross Novo Sarajevo Municipality organisation during 2014.



Among those receiving certificates in recognition of their assistance, with delivering sanitarian and medical items to the most affected areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina after the floods, were the members of EUFOR Liaison Observation Team (LOT) Novo Sarajevo. The LOT personnel transported supplies from Sarajevo to Maglaj, Doboj and Tuzla. The Deputy Commander of LOT Novo Sarajevo, Captain Miroslav Štefanik, expressed his thanks for the award, wished the organisation and its members’ good luck and said that LOT Novo Sarajevo would gladly help again in such emergency situations.

*by Captain Miroslav Štefanik*



## EUSR and Mrs Wigemark visit Camp Butmir Memorial Park



Head of the Delegation of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina and EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark and his wife Mrs Rebekah Naomi Wigemark visited the Memorial Park in Camp Butmir on 7 May 2015 and laid flowers at each of the memorials in the park.

On a recent visit to Camp Butmir, Mrs Wigemark had the idea to place some flowers in the memorial park to acknowledge the sacrifices made by those to whom the garden is dedicated. The visit also came on the 70th anniversary of the end of World War Two. After speeches by Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif and

Ambassador Wigemark, Ms Wigemark accompanied by the respective EUFOR Senior National Representative laid flowers at each of the memorials.



The Memorial Park was the idea of American Colonel Ron Sketo, who was the EUFOR Headquarters Commandant from 2000 to 2001. He wanted the park to be a smaller version of the ‘Dayton Walk’ in the Dayton Ohio Airbase where the former leaders involved in the conflict signed the Dayton Agreement in 1995.

The design of the fountain in the centre is based on a snowflake, which was the symbol of the 1984 Winter Olympic Games held in Sarajevo.

Over the years a number of nations and groups have constructed various memorials in the park in honour of their respective personnel.

## End of an Era - Spanish NCOs leave Camp Butmir

In May 2015, the last two Spanish Non Commissioned Officers to be deployed to Operation Althea will finish their tours. After more than twenty years in Bosnia and Herzegovina and numerous rotations, Warrant Officer Carlos Acosta Lacalle and Sergeant First Class Óscar Gamero Ríos, will be the final Spanish NCOs to serve in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Warrant Officer Acosta started his tour in November 2014 as Admin Supervisor in HQ EUFOR working in the DIRSO Office. On completion of his tour in EUFOR HQ, he will return to Valencia, Spain to his previous assignment in HQ NRDC ESP.

Sergeant First Class Gamero started his tour the first week of December 2014 as Data Assistant



in the Capacity Building and Training division. On 31 May 2015 he will return to Spain to his previous unit, the 74th Anti-aircraft Artillery Regiment in San Roque.

Warrant Officer Acosta when asked about his time in BiH said, “Working in EUFOR for six months has been a very rich experience not only professionally but personally and during this

period of time I have appreciated the friendship from the colleagues I’ve worked with”, he finished by saying, “I would like to say that it is sad to think that the Spanish contingent will only consist of two Officers. I hope the Spanish flag will continue to fly for many years to come at this HQ”

First Sergeant Gamero pointed out that his first deployment in a multinational HQ has been a very exciting experience and he has learnt a lot about working with personnel from other nations.

Finally First Sergeant Gamero said: “It has been an honour to represent Spain in Operation ALTHEA and I hope I have maintained the high level of professionalism demonstrated by my Spanish NCO predecessors.”

## Commemoration ceremony in Mostar

The Spanish Ambassador to BiH Maria Aurora Mejia Errasquin, Chief of Staff of the Spanish TRADOC, Brigadier General Amador Enseñat Y Bera, the Mayor of Mostar Mr Lyubo Bešlić, representatives of the city of Mostar and 25 members of EUFOR gathered in Spanish Square, Mostar on 26 February 2015 to remember the Spanish Soldiers who were killed during peace keeping missions in BiH. Wreaths were laid at the memorial commemorating the Spanish soldiers.

### EUFOR Embedded Advisory Team TRADOC

The event also marked the departure of the Spanish contingency of the EUFOR Embedded Advisory Team (EAT) Training and Doctrine (TRADOC) led by Lieutenant Colonel Jose Sales. Lieutenant Colonel Sales said, “Over the past 23 years of their presence in BiH, Spanish service members have had excellent cooperation with everyone, in particular here in Mostar”.





## Opening Ceremony for Austrian CIMIC Project

It all started in October 2014 with a meeting between the EUFOR Liaison Observation Team Bratunac and the Director of the multi-ethnic kindergarten Srebrenica.

The Austrian LOT-Officers had noticed the poor and dangerous condition of the outdoor playground at the kindergarten and held a joint meeting with the mayor of Srebrenica to discuss how the Austrian Civil-Military Cooperation Team, led by Lieutenant Andreas Grassberger, could help to improve the facility.

The subsequent project, which was funded by private and corporate donors, included building an



outdoor playground with swings, slides, climbing towers as well as a large sandpit for more than 60 children. Furthermore a partnership between the kindergarten in Srebrenica and an Austrian kindergarten in Vienna was formed and the Austrian Kindergarten has provided educationally toys.

On 4 May 2015 the commander of the Austrian EUFOR-Contingent, Colonel Jürgen Wimmer, together with vice-mayor of Srebrenica Ms Biljana Rakić, opened the project to the public. The opening was attended by representatives of the OHR Office Bratunac, the Ministry of Education and local media, Colonel Wimmer

during his speech highlighted that cooperation between the ethnicities as well as cooperation with the international organisations and EUFOR was key to achieving a peaceful future for the children of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

*by Lieutenant Andreas Grassberger*

## EUFOR personnel raise money for the Pazarić Institution

On 21 April 2015 Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif presented a cheque to the Pazarić Institution for the Protection of Children and Youth near Sarajevo. The cheque was handed over to the Director of the Institute, Mr. Jasmin Ćerimagić, who thanked COM EUFOR for the donation saying “Money that is collected by EUFOR is not the most important part - it actually is a gesture of appreciation of our work.” EUFOR has a long lasting relationship and regular contact with the institute and Major General Luif said “The Institute



adds value to the whole society with the work they are doing by treating the people living there in the best possible way. EUFOR will

continue the tradition of friendship with the Institute in Pazarić”. The money was raised by EUFOR personnel in Camp Butmir.

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