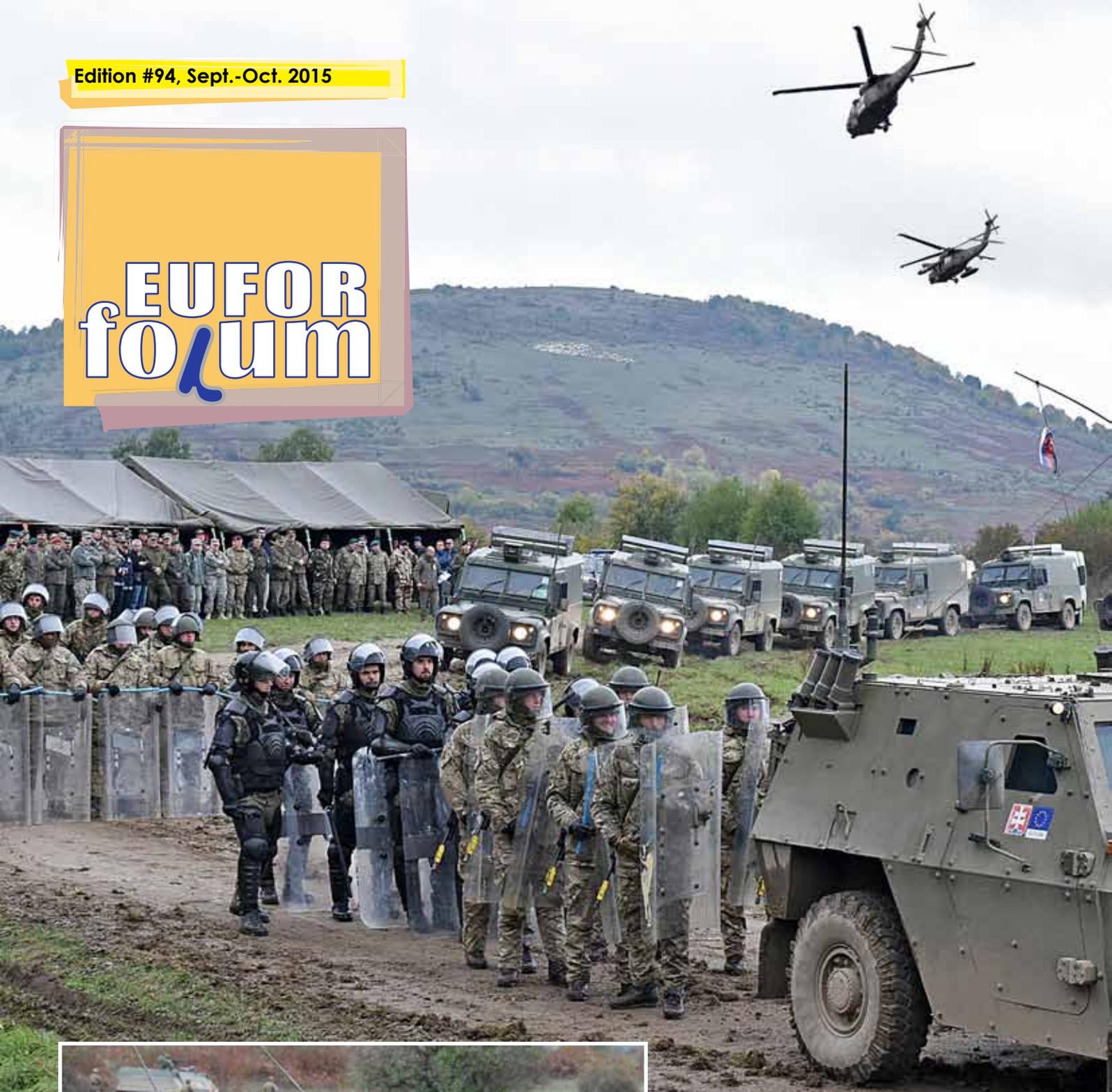


Edition #94, Sept.-Oct. 2015

EUFOR forum



 **EXERCISE**  **QUICK RESPONSE**
13 - 22 October 20**15**

Major Nick Colhoun, Commanding Officer United Kingdom Intermediate Reserve Company



**COM EUFOR with Major Nick Colhoun at
the Exercise Quick Response Closing Ceremony**

Exercise QUICK RESPONSE provided a robust proof of concept, confirming the UK Intermediate Reserve Company's ability to deploy in short order. It also highlighted the advantages of establishing close coordination and liaison

from the outset to enable the maximum amount of concurrent activity at all levels. The accomplishment of this deployment was no mean test of the sub-unit's ability and was achieved successfully thanks to the support of the EUFOR HQ staff and a number of key enablers who augmented the Company.

The initial exercise phase clearly demonstrated the demand placed on the key resource of time; a demand that undoubtedly would be magnified in the event of a full operational deployment. On arrival in Theatre and in order to ensure the rapid achievement of mission readiness by the IR Company there is a clear need to conduct Company level battle preparation, especially with regards vehicle and equipment preparation, concurrent to the reception process and integration with the Multinational Battalion.

My second observation concerns the unquestionable benefits gained from the conduct of combined training with the Multinational Battalion and the AFBiH, namely the enhancement of mutual understanding and interoperability at the lower tactical level. The experience gained even at the basic tactical levels is equally relevant when placed in the uncertain

European and indeed global security context in which we all operate; a context in which the application of effective alliances, and at lower levels the execution of effective combined

tactical actions, will be vital to the achievement of operational success.

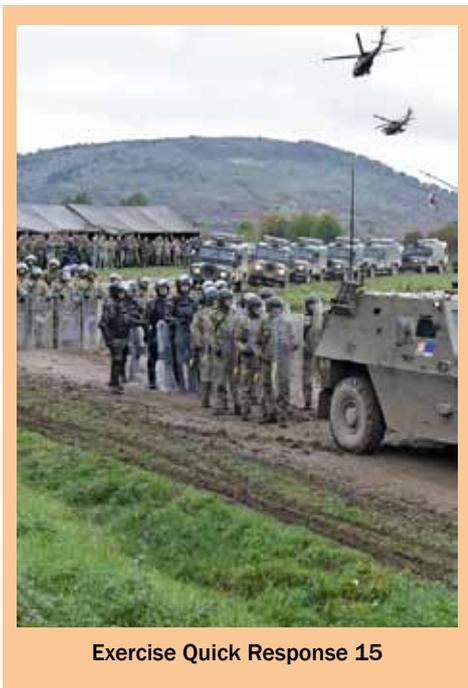
The exercise exposed the subtleties in language and terminology that we all must be live to, the native speakers all the more so, to ensure effective communication in a multinational operating environment.

Furthermore the differing tactics, techniques and procedures employed by the IR Coys within the Multinational Battalion were highlighted, all derived from their respective experiences. Developing a good understanding of these differing approaches to the same problem set, and the implications they have on our own way of operating, is critical to the delivery of tactical effect. The exercise provides the ideal platform to fully test and understand these approaches, thereby enhancing the combined capability of EUFOR's Multinational Battalion.

To conclude, the gaelic saying, formerly the motto of the 51st Highland Division, encapsulates the benefits of the professional relationships developed during the course of this exercise: La a'Blair s'math n cairdean "Friends are good on the day of battle".

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Exercise Quick Response 15

A warm welcome to another edition of EUFOR Forum. September and October have been dominated by Exercise Quick Response 15, with EUFOR personnel from within Camp Butmir and around Europe participating. The Distinguished Visitors Day provided a very public opportunity for EUFOR to display its skills, and was attended by a large number of senior officers and press representatives.

During the past two months EUFOR has also continued its work in Capacity Building and Training. In this edition you will find stories on MAHE exercises in Derventa, combined training in Dubrave, ammunition disposal and teambuilding marches conducted by the MNBN.

In this issue you can also read about charitable works and sporting feats achieved by EUFOR soldiers.

Yours Aye, Ben



Lieutenant Commander Ben Timpson, EUFOR Spokesperson

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Polish Brigadier General Andzej Tuz visits EUFOR



Brigadier Andzej Tuz meets COM EUFOR

On the 10th of September the Acting Chief of the Polish Armed Forces Operational Command Brigadier General Andzej Tuz visited EUFOR Camp Butmir. He met COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif during an office call, and spoke about the Polish contribution to EUFOR Althea Capacity Building and Training.

Poland contributes personnel in the headquarters of EUFOR as Military Police within Camp Butmir, and also contributes to the Capacity Building & Training effort. Polish personnel instruct and mentor the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in areas such as the movement of military vehicles. This assists them as they develop their ability to conduct Peace Support Operations abroad and support authorities in disaster relief within Bosnia and Herzegovina.



COM EUFOR with the Brazillian Ambassador

Major General Ricardo Menanteau visits EUFOR

On the 26th of October, Chilean Major General Ricardo Menanteau met Commander EUFOR Major General Johann Luif at Camp Butmir. Greeted with an honour guard assembled from soldiers of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion, Major General Menanteau then proceeded to an office call with Commander EUFOR. During the office call the Chilean contribution to EUFOR was discussed, including the presence the nation has within the EUFOR headquarters and further afield. Chile has 6 personnel within Camp Butmir, and a further 8 located in a Liason and Observation team in Banja Luka. Chile is one of 21 nations contributing men and women to EUFOR.



COM EUFOR greets Major General Ricardo Menanteau

Brazilian Ambassador visits COM EUFOR

On the 28th of October His Excellency Manoel Antonio Da Fonesca Couto Gomes Pereira, Brazilian ambassador, visited Camp Butmir. During his visit he had an office call with COM EUFOR, who described EUFOR's objectives and current projects.

September and October Medal Parades



Major Nigel Yates salutes Chief of Staff Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza during the September parade

On the 29th of September and the 29th of October, EUFOR held medal parades to award the Operation Althea medal to outgoing members of the EUFOR mission.

The September parade was led by EUFOR Chief of Staff Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza, who said

‘Each one of you represents a practical and positive affirmation of support from your governments to EUFOR and the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina’ as he addressed soldiers from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Romania, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luij led the October parade, and passed on his thanks to the soldiers families, acknowledging the sacrifice they make when their partners are away with the EUFOR mission.

By Lt Cdr Timpson



Distinguished guests and medal recipients at the October medal parade

Exercise Quick Response 15



From the 13th until the 22nd of October EUFOR conducted Exercise Quick Response 15.

The purpose of this exercise was to demonstrate the ability of EUFOR to bring its intermediate reserve troops from around Europe into Bosnia and Herzegovnia, and also to provide an opportunity for the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovnia (AFBiH) to train alongside EUFOR.

The training was built around a fictional scenario which required the international force to conduct peace support operations in the host nation.



UK and Slovakian soldiers conduct Crowd Riot Control

Taking part in the event alongside permanent EUFOR personnel from Turkey, Hungary and Austria were additional troops from Slovakia, the United Kingdom, Bulgaria and Romania.

On the 20th of October, during the exercise, EUFOR and the AFBiH held a Distinguished Visitors Day during Exercise Quick Response 15. The event

was attended by Dr. Emir Suljagić Deputy Minister of Defence for Policy and Planning and Lieutenant General Anto Jeleč Chief of the Joint Staff of the AFBiH, alongside Commander EUFOR Major General Johann Luif.

The event featured a Live Demonstration, during which the visitors witnessed a display of Peace Support Operations. The scenario for the display included EUFOR and AFBiH troops conducting crowd and riot control, dealing with minefields and casualty evacuation.

In a statement during the press conference, COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif said,



Distinguished visitors listen to Commander of the Multinational Battalion Lt Col Bacher provide an introduction to the live demonstration

‘EUFOR has an Executive Mandate to be ready to support the BiH authorities in the maintenance of a Safe and Secure environment if requested to do so. EUFOR has never been required to do this. However, we must ensure we are prepared to. This exercise is part of EUFOR’s routine training for this Peace Support Operations role.

Commanding Officer of the Multinational Battalion Lt Col Reinhard Bacher said,

‘The training area in Manjača was excellent, providing plenty of space for the exercise. This allowed the soldiers to train at a company level with few restrictions.

The training itself was a good experience, and provided a good opportunity to work alongside the

AFBiH. I was impressed with their efforts, they were well prepared for the Peace Support Operations scenario.

At times the exercise required patience from everyone involved, but the Multinational Battalion displayed a high grade of professionalism and motivation

throughout.

I was also pleased that we had the opportunity for some socialising among the different nations on the Sunday of the exercise, which provided a different environment to get to know each other’

By Lt Cdr Timpson



COM EUFOR together with a Slovakian soldier

Exercise Quick Response closing ceremony



COM EUFOR hands plaques and Certificates of Recognition to leaders during the closing ceremony

On the 22nd of October a closing ceremony was held for Exercise Quick Response 15. The ceremony was presided over by COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif, who made a concluding speech thanking the personnel attending for their efforts during the exercise. The ceremony featured all the soldiers who took part in Exercise Quick Response 15, including personnel from Slovakia, Turkey, the United Kingdom and Key Leaders from Romania and Bulgaria.

During his concluding speech COM EUFOR praised the commitment and professionalism of the Intermedia Reserve companies taking part in the exercise. He went on to congratulate them on their performance and wish them a safe journey back to their respective countries.

Leaders from the different contributing nations received Certificates of Recognition for their contributions, which were then passed on to their soldiers during the ceremony.

By Lt Cdr Timpson



COM EUFOR addresses the parade

COM EUFOR witnesses destruction of weapons in Glamoc



Aircraft bombs being destroyed on the Glamoc range

On Wednesday the 16th of September COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif visited an ammunition disposal site in Glamoc. During this visit he witnessed the destruction of different types of weapon, ranging from aircraft bombs to small arms ammunition. The destruction of

the ammunition was carried out by an Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) team together with civilian contractors. This destruction is part of a comprehensive Master Plan of AFBiH to manage their weapon stockpiles, including the destruction of unsafe ammunition

within Bosnia and Herzegovina. Careful coordination between the international agencies supporting AFBiH's effort is a critical element of success. The coordination of activities among several of these partners at Glamoc destruction range is telling of the success of this complex project.

Mentoring and advice

EUFOR contributed to the destruction of this ammunition by providing subject matter experts who advised the AFBiH on the transport of the ammunition to the destruction site. They also made recommendations on the schedule for the destruction of the weapons, based on their risk category.

By Lt Cdr Timpson



A small arms ammunition furnace at Glamoc

MNBN

teambuilding Alpine march



Turkish MNBN soldiers reach the top of Bjelašnica

During September and October the Multinational Battalion conducted two ‘Alpine Marches’, walking in the area around Bjelašnica.

The purpose of the walks was to allow the soldiers to have some time away from their work environment to teambuild and enjoy the countryside.

The Turkish contingent conducted their walk on the 14th of September, with 103 personnel joining the trek, including some Austrian personnel.

The Hungarian MNBN Company conducted their walk on the 1st of October. Beginning in cold, foggy conditions they were soon rewarded with clear



Hungarian MNBN soldiers at the top of Bjelašnica

skies when they reached their objective, the peak at Bjelašnica. This was the site events during the 1984 Winter Olympics.

Lieutenant Colonel Reinhard Bacher, the commander of the MNBN said: ‘I am happy that the second alpine march worked so well. I thought all the participants performed very well in the conditions’

By Lt Cdr Timpson



Right and below: MNBN soldiers make their way up the mountain during the march



 **EXERCISE** 
QUICK RESPONSE 15
13 - 22 October 2015





MAHE Exercise in Derventa

From the 28th of September until the 9th of October, a 'Military Assistance in Humanitarian Emergencies' (MAHE) exercise was conducted in the area around Derventa. The scenario for the exercise involved heavy rain and earthquakes, focusing on the response of the authorities to these events. Taking part in the exercise were an Engineering Battalion of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) alongside civilian agencies including the Fire Brigade, Police and Civil Protection. EUFOR provided a Mobile Monitoring Team to train the AFBiH personnel involved.

Military decision making

As the exercise started, a Crisis Centre was formed in the municipality of Derventa. The Crisis Centre responded to exercise incidents and maintained situational awareness, based on the real environment of the Derventa area. Within the Crisis Centre



AFBiH soldiers assist a medical team during at a river crossing

representatives from the military and civilian response agencies coordinated their response to the situation, aiming to build upon the ability of the different teams to work effectively together. The EUFOR Mobile Monitoring Team

provided advice and mentoring on the way the AFBiH personnel made decisions during the exercise.

By Capacity Building and Training-Staff



Members of the EUFOR Mobile Monitoring Team alongside AFBiH and civil authorities

EUFOR trains the AFBiH in Geographical services



AFBiH course members together with map printing equipment they were trained on

From the 7th of September until the 16th of October 2015, EUFOR conducted five “GEO Courses” for the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) at the Tactical Support Brigade Barracks in Rajlovac. In total 7 personnel from the AF BiH participated successfully.

What is Geographic Services?

Geographic Services assist military or civilian units with geographical data, including printed or digital maps. Geographic Services collect the geographical data, use the data in Geographical Information Systems, and prepare the maps for military or civilian purposes.

Wide geographical knowledge is useful not only during

operations; it is also indispensable in crisis situations to neutralize the effects of natural disasters, (fires, earthquakes, floods) and mine decontamination.

The knowledge of NATO geospatial systems increases the possibility of cooperation with multinational troops so that AFBiH are capable of participating in combined exercises, Disaster Relief and Peace Support Operations. These Geo training courses were designed to start from the very basics of Geo knowledge, such as map reading and terrain interpretation. This year the UK Embassy donated hardware and software to the GEO Cell of the AFBiH. The AF BiH GEO Cell is now able to prepare and print out their own basic maps.

Train the Trainer

The attendees of this course were trained by the EUFOR GEO Cell. 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 INSTRUCTORS, they will be mentored by the EUFOR GEO Cell.

Developing the capacity and capabilities of the AF BiH is one of the most important tasks for EUFOR. This is done by providing training, mentoring and monitoring as well as technical advice at all levels to the AFBiH.

By Major Hasan Mutlu, TRB CIS Specialist

New EUFOR personnel receive Key Leader Training



New EUFOR members taking part in Key Leader Training

From the 15th to the 18th of September, new personnel joining EUFOR attended Key Leader Training, a course designed to give them the information about EUFOR that they will need during their time in the mission. 18 people attended the course, receiving a certificate of completion from COS EUFOR Brigadier General Zoltán Mihóczy.

Core mission knowledge

The Key Leader Training included presentations on the history and political situation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and presentations from all the different

sections of the EUFOR mission. The attendees were also given a detailed briefing on the mine threat

“It is crucial that every member of EUFOR appreciates not only the different aspects of EUFOR, but also the circumstances of Bosnia and Herzegovina.”

within the country, and given a practical display on the risks. The course also included visits to Srebrenica and the ‘Tunnel of Hope’ located in Sarajevo.

Wider awareness

Speaking as he awarded certificates to the attendees, Brigadier General Zoltán Mihóczy said,

‘It is crucial that every member of EUFOR appreciates not only the different aspects of EUFOR, but also the circumstances of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

With the training you have received on this course you are now prepared to take up your position within the EUFOR Althea mission’

By Lt Cdr Timpson

MNBN conducts combined training with AFBiH in Dubrave



Members of the EUFOR MNBN alongside their AFBiH counterparts

From the 5th until the 9th of October, the Multinational Battalion (MNBN) of EUFOR and infantry from the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) conducted combined training in Dubrave. Led by the Capacity Building and Training branch of EUFOR, the joint training was set up to instruct soldiers tactically in peace support operation techniques.

EUFOR were represented by the Hungarian company of the MNBN, which had advisory responsibilities during the training.

The training included key topics necessary for Peace Support Operations including skills for running checkpoints and observation posts, and responding to incidents while patrolling. Alongside this the training

focused on allowing the AFBiH to achieve these tasks in a multinational environment, using English language voice procedures and learning about the challenges of adapting to another nations operating procedures.

Austrian Captain Marco Spörk was part of the team that led the training, and commented,

‘The benefit of this training was the mutual sharing of information between the two forces. The AFBiH soldiers were professional and experienced. Because of their contribution combined with the well organised training programme I think this training was a success’

By Austrian Captain Marco Spörk and Bulgarian Captain Mityo Panchev



Running a vehicle checkpoint



AFBiH soldiers carrying out checkpoint drills

EUFOR and NATO members run Sarajevo Half Marathon



The NATO and EUFOR members prior to taking part in the race

On the 20th of September 28 members of EUFOR and NATO took part in the Sarajevo Half Marathon, running a distance of over 21 kilometers. The event has been run since 2007, and this year a record 1,500 participants from 32 countries took part in different

events on the day.

Major Sesto Terrazzini was the fastest of the NATO and EUFOR runners, completing the race in 1 hour, 29 minutes and 5 seconds.

‘To run the Sarajevo Half Marathon was a great experience,

especially running in the rain! For the first time as runner I broke the wall of 1h 30’. I’m very happy and proud to have achieved something so important, representing both EUFOR and my country Italy’

By Lt Cdr Ben Timpson



Major Sesto Terrazzini finishes the half marathon



Crowds begin the Sarajevo half marathon

MNBN Exercise in Kalinovik



Hungarian soldiers imitate rioting civilians as they attack the Turkish Crowd and Riot control troops

On the 7th of September Turkish and Hungarian soldiers of the Multinational Battalion conducted training in the former military barracks of Kalinovik. The training was based around a fictitious scenario in which the Kalinovik barracks was

an ammunition storage site, threatened by a crowd of angry civilians. The Hungarian soldiers were tasked with playing the civilians, attacking the Turkish soldiers as they defended the hazardous site.

The training required the use

of an EOD team, and also required the Turkish forces to use their skills to de-escalate the situation. To improve the realism the Hungarian forces were instructed to put pressure on the Turkish soldiers, displaying aggressive behavior and refusing to leave the area.

Lieutenant Colonel Reinhard Bacher, Commander of the Multinational Battalion said after the training,

‘I am happy with the performance of the soldiers during this training. Both sides showed motivation and commitment, which is an excellent basis for worthwhile training’

By Captain Marco Spörk



Turkish troops prepare to deploy during the exercise

LOT House Foča educates children on Mines



A civilian MRE instructor alongside members of LOT House Foca delivers the training to schoolchildren

On the 29th of September Slovakian personnel of a LOT (Liason and Observation Team) in Foča visited 'Sveti Sava' primary school to deliver MRE (Mine Risk Education) lessons to 62 of the children there. MRE teaches children about the dangers of

mines, explaining likely mine locations and what to do if they come across them.

EUFOR has a number of civilian MRE instructors who work with LOT houses to provide this training.

Positive environment

Captain Andrej Kukla said at the event,

'The children had lots of questions, and the training was held in a really positive environment. MRE is a really important topic, and it is rewarding to be part of the effort to make children aware of it'

After the presentations the Foča LOT House team gave the children presents and donated some school equipment.

By Captain Andrej Kukla

Camp Butmir Fire Department educates local children

On the 7th of October the Fire Department within Camp Butmir delivered lessons about fire safety to children of the Elementary School Sveti Sava in East Sarajevo. Over the day 25 children attended the lessons, covering basic rules for preventing fire and what to do if a fire is discovered.

Paul Hulme, Fire Chief at Camp Butmir for the last two years, said, 'It was an enjoyable day, the team enjoyed seeing the children learn about this subject which we deal with every day'



Schoolchildren listening to the fire training

The Fire Department of Camp Butmir employs over 27 civilians, providing protection for the

buildings within the camp and the helicopters that operate from it.

By Mr Paul Hulme

Turkish personnel of LOT Livno distribute food to local people

On the 25th of September members of the EUFOR Turkish Liason and Observation (LOT) Team based in Livno distributed food parcels to needy individuals within their area. The team gave this food as a gesture of good will to the community, strengthening the relationships between the LOT team and the people they live with.

By Major İlker Emirze



A Turkish LOT House member hands over a food package to a local woman

LOT House Foča donates toys to local school

On the 5th of October Slovakian members of the EUFOR Liason and Observation Team (LOT) in Foča donated toys to the Sveti Sava primary school in Foča. The toys were collected from the families of the Slovakian LOT members, who wanted to give a gift to the children in their area.

Captain Andrej Kukla was part of the donating team, and said, 'We were happy to be able to make this donation, it's great to see the children enjoying the toys'

Maintaining links with the community

EUFOR has 17 LOT Houses throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. The LOT teams

contain personnel from around Europe, and their task is to maintain relationships with their communities. This allows EUFOR

to understand the environment within Bosnia and Herzegovina.

By Captain Andrej Kukla



Children of the Sveti Sava school enjoying the new toys

LOT Novo Sarajevo community work

On the 28th of October two members of the Slovakian LOT (Liason and Observation Team) House in Novo Sarajevo took part in a blood donation event organized by the Red Cross. Captain Peter Krenicky and Sergeant First Class Martin Kostros both gave blood at the event, which was run in coordination with the Institute for Transfusion Medicine of FBiH.

Sergeant First Class Martin Kostros said,

‘Giving blood is a very simple way to help save someone’s life, and we were glad to be able to be part of this effort’

On the 28th of October 2015, the members provided donations in the form of various clothes and footwear for people in Kamenica. These were handed over to Secretary of Local Community Kamenica Mr. Mirsad Balta.

The Secretary of Local Community Mr. Mirsad Balta was very grateful for this assistance. “Most of our inhabitants are in social need. They have problems with food, clothes, etc. Therefore we are very welcome to all types of support“, said Mr. Balta.

All donated funds were collected by members of Slovak LOT Novo Sarajevo, which they brought from Slovakia.

By Captain Peter Krenicky and Sergeant First Class Martin Kostros



Cpt Krenicky and Sergeant FC Kostros giving blood



LOT House members alongside Mr Mirsad Balta



The clothes being taken into the local community centre

EUFOR hosts disabled young people in Camp Butmir



The disabled visitors visiting the EUFOR's Alouette helicopter



In the gymnasium, the visitors took part in games including tug of war and a football match



Young people from the institute compete against each other

On the 22nd of September, a group of 16 children and 8 teachers from the Institution for the Protection of Children and Youth in Pazarić visited EUFOR in Camp Butmir. The organisation provides care for disabled children and young people in their area. During the visit the attendees visited the EUFOR helicopter unit and were given live demonstrations of the equipment, witnessing an evacuation drill. During the visit they also had lunch in the DFAC and offered some artworks for sale that the young people had made.

Cooperation and Friendship

The idea for the visit started when Commander EUFOR Major General Johann Luif visited the Institution for the Protection of Children and Youth to make a donation from the men and women in EUFOR. He then invited them to visit, resulting in the event.

Major Alexander Kovacs, the organizer of the visit to EUFOR Camp Butmir said,

‘The children were really excited at having the possibility to experience an unusual day in a military environment. EUFOR has a long lasting relationship and regular contact with the Institution, and will continue the tradition of friendship in the future’

By Lt Cdr Timpson

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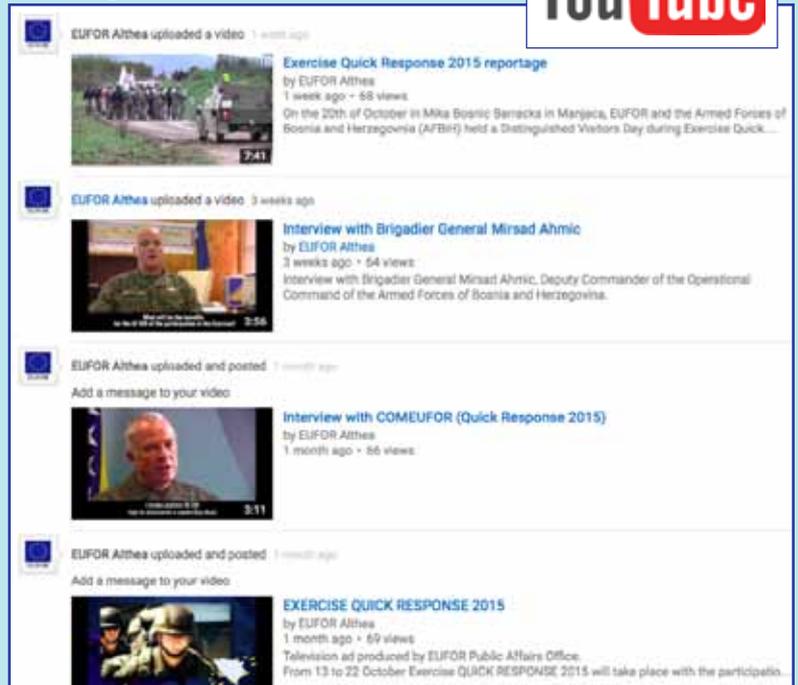
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