



Operational Commander's Visit



EUFOR Multinational Battalion Change of Command

COMEUFOR Major General Johann Luif's last Forward for FORUM

Readers,

As we enter a new year for the Mission, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on our recent efforts and highlight EUFOR's required focus for the coming period. Much work has been conducted by HQ EUFOR Staff to ensure Contingency Plans reflect the ever-changing dynamic of our operational environment. Recent HQ work has also ensured we are able to properly measure our mandated objectives. Work of this nature is often not seen outside of the HQ until it is required; however, our HQ Staff have worked well as a team to ensure the requirement was well understood and that they are familiar with the approved products.

Following the EU Accession Pathway work, the EU new approach to BiH in late 2014 was timely. The EU Special Representative ensured EUFOR continued to be an integral part of the comprehensive approach in support of BiH, and it is this focus that has driven our work in 2015 and should continue to guide us throughout 2016. Through our focused efforts, EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina's (AFBiH) relationship has continued to deepen at all levels. This has also been achieved through the continued good work of the EUFOR Capability Building and Training (CB&T) Plan and its practical application. Delivery of capacity building, training and mentoring continues at a pace as EUFOR works closely with the AFBiH through their Joint Staff. This has improved the AFBiH's common understanding of CB&T, whilst their working relationship with NATO delivers a coherent effect in support of their continued strategic level development.



COMEUFOR Major General Johann Luif

EUFOR and AFBiH Joint Exercises have also played an important part in this process. Be it last year's Exercise QUICK RESPONSE, or the planned

Infantry Brigade Combined Training and REGEX Workshop Exercises this year; we are working together to advance capability and move the Armed Forces from a security consumer to a security provider in support of BiH's continued safe and secure environment.

The success of EUFOR is only made possible by the commitment of so many across the Mission. Our

focused and professional HQ EUFOR and HQ Camp Comdt base support staff; committed Multinational Battalion; and dedicated LOT Houses highlight just a few of those who support the Mission. The continued motivation of all our Troop Contributing Nations, locally employed staff, and contractors are essential, and I thank you all with much appreciation.

Bosnia and Herzegovina should be proud of the progress made by its Armed Forces. However, there is still much work to be done. EUFOR will therefore continue to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with AFBiH, to ensure they are well supported in achieving their desired objectives. On taking over as your Commander just over a year ago, I asked for all personnel to work as a team in achieving our mandated objectives. I am delighted to say that the entire Mission has gone above and beyond to ensure we did just that! As I look back over my time as COMEUFOR, I do so with a sense of pride in all we have achieved. I would therefore like to thank you all for your commitment and professionalism, and I wish you success in all you seek to achieve in the future.

Major General Johann Luif

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Dear Readers,
Having served just 3 months as the EUFOR Mission Spokesperson, it gives me great pleasure to bring you the first EUFOR Forum for 2016!

As ever, visits to the Mission and HQ EUFOR form an important part of our work. Be that from Ministers or Staff Training Courses, the Mission continues to work hard in supporting events that display our professionalism and commitment. Most noteworthy was the visit of our Operational Commander, General Sir Adrian Bradshaw KCB OBE. During this visit, the General awarded our Mission Photographer, WO1 Herbert PENDL with a Commendation Letter for his dedicated efforts. Herbert will be a great loss to the Mission; however, we wish him the best of luck in the future.

The Capacity Building & Training (CB&T) Division supported the signing of the EUFOR and Armed Forces BiH Agreement on Capability Development, and delivered training to the Armed Forces BiH Demining Battalion, logistics,

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Lieutenant Commander Liam Byrd
EUFOR Spokesperson

communications and maintenance teams. The Camp Butmir Gym article reminds us of what is made available by its committed staff; the Multinational Battalion Badging Ceremony and Change of Command highlight changes of personnel; and we note our LOT Houses and Dobra the Dog's birthday! We thank key personnel who have departed the Mission, and report on the sad loss of those in the past and more recently.

If you want the opportunity to highlight a story please get in touch by sending us an email: euforpio@eufor.europa.eu. Finally, please do take a look at EUFOR in the Social Media space. We remain active on **Facebook**, **Twitter**, and **You Tube**.

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EUFOR Mission Operational Commander's Visit



COMEUFOR (second from left), the Operational Commander (third from left) and COM NATO HQ Sarajevo (fourth from left) at the start of their brief

The EUFOR Mission Operation ALTHEA Operational Commander, General Sir Adrian Bradshaw KCB OBE was welcomed to Headquarters EUFOR, Camp Butmir on Monday 29 February 2016 by Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif at the start of a 2 day visit.

This visit also saw one of the Mission's longer standing members recognised. Warrant

Officer 1 Herbert PENDL (Austrian Army) will have served as the EUFOR Mission Photographer from 3 December 2011 to 25 March 2016. For his exceptional and comprehensive commitment, and highly creative approach in support of the betterment of the AF and people of BiH, the General graciously awarded him the EU Operational Commander's Commendation Letter.

General Bradshaw assumed the role of NATO's Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR) in March 2014. Under an arrangement known as the 'Berlin Plus Agreement', DSACEUR's role includes the key command position of EUFOR Mission Operation ALTHEA Operational Commander.



Operational Commander awards WO1 Herbert Pendl (right) with his EU Operational Commander's Commendation Letter

Chilean Ambassador Visits Headquarters EUFOR

On 17 February 2016, the Chilean Ambassador, Ms María Verónica Chahin Sarah visited Headquarters EUFOR in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

During an office call with Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif, the Ambassador was thanked for Chile's continuing support to the EUFOR Mission. EUFOR's Chilean soldiers were also praised for their dedication and professionalism. On completion of this call at the HQ, the

Ambassador met with members of the Chilean contingent who are supporting EUFOR. With over 12,000 kilometres separating

the Chilean capital Santiago and Sarajevo, Chilean personnel in EUFOR have, by far, the greatest distance to travel of the Troop

Contributing Nations within the Mission. Their support and professionalism continues to be of great benefit to the Mission's aim and objectives.

María Verónica Chahin Sarah is a lawyer and has over 30 years of experience in public service.



Chilean Ambassador, Ms María Verónica Chahin Sarah with COMEUFOR, Major General Johann Luif

Swedish Minister of Home Affairs Visits EUFOR



EUFOR honour guard in Camp Butmir

On 23 February 2016, the Swedish Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Anders Ygeman accompanied by the EU Special Representative, Mr. Lars-Gunnar Wigemark, visited Headquarters EUFOR in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

During an office call with Chief of Staff EUFOR, Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza, the Minister was thanked for Sweden's continuing support to the EUFOR Mission including the presence the nation has within the Headquarters EUFOR.

Sweden's EUFOR members provide valuable expertise in the area of Capacity Building and Training, which is one of EUFOR's main tasks in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Their support and professionalism continues to be of great benefit to the Mission's aim and objectives.

Irish Ambassador Visits Headquarters EUFOR

On 25 February 2016, the Irish Ambassador, Mr. Seán O Regan visited Headquarters EUFOR in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

During an office call with Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif, the Ambassador was thanked for Ireland's continuing support to the EUFOR Mission. EUFOR's Irish soldiers were also praised for their dedication and professionalism. On completion of this call at the HQ, the Ambassador met with members of the Irish contingent who are supporting EUFOR in its Headquarters. Their support and professionalism continues to be of great benefit to the Mission's aim and objectives.

Mr. Seán O'Regan is the Irish Ambassador for Slovenia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.



The Irish Ambassador, Mr. Seán O Regan, meets Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif

Visit to HQ EUFOR by Polish Armed Forces Operational Commander

On 9 February 2016, Operational Commander of the Polish Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Marek Tomaszycski visited the Headquarters of the European Union Force (HQ EUFOR) in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

Welcomed by an honour guard assembled from soldiers of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion, Lieutenant General Tomaszycski then conducted an office call with Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif. During this call, Major General Luif thanked Lieutenant General Tomaszycski for the support of the Polish Armed Forces. Poland's continued important contribution to EUFOR was discussed, including the essential positions they hold in HQ EUFOR and across the wider EUFOR Mission.

Poland has personnel employed in various branches of EUFOR. This includes supporting the EUFOR Military Police function, and Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) in support of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH). The Polish Armed Forces also support the EUFOR Mission through their Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) House, based in Dobj.



Operational Commander of the Polish Armed Forces, Lt Gen Marek Tomaszycski inspects the honour guard assembled from soldiers of the EUFOR MNBN with COMEUFOR, Major General Luif (left)

Visit to HQ EUFOR by Commander of Turkish Land Forces



Commander of Turkish Land Forces meets HQ EUFOR Staff Officers

On 4 February 2016, Commander European Union Force (COMEUFOR), Major General Johann Luif welcomed Commander of Turkish Land Forces, General Salih Zeki Çolak who was on an official visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and to the Headquarters of EUFOR in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

Commander of Turkish Land Forces was met on arrival at HQ EUFOR by a Guard of Honour from EUFOR's Turkish soldiers serving in the Multinational Battalion (MNBN). During an Office Call the Generals discussed the overall security situation in BiH and the wider region; EUFOR's ongoing Mission objectives; and more specifically recent EUFOR Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) activities in support of the Armed Forces of BiH. General Luif thanked General Çolak for Turkey's continued high level of cooperation in the field of Peace Support Operations in BiH, and the important contribution of Turkish troops and capability to the EUFOR Mission Operation ALTHEA.

Turkey is one of the largest troop contributing nations to the EUFOR Mission. It provides key personnel to essential Staff Officer positions in HQ EUFOR alongside that of the MNBN and other various commitments in support of EUFOR. Turkey also provides manpower in five of the EUFOR Liaison and Observation Teams (LOTs) based in ZAVIDOVICI, TRAVNIK, ZENICA, LIVNO and JABLANICA. COMEUFOR highlighted the professionalism of the Turkish troops under his Command, and noted the significant contribution and commitment they make to Operation ALTHEA.

General Salih Zeki Çolak was appointed Commander of Turkish Land Forces in August 2015.

NATO's Deputy Commander Allied Joint Force Command, Naples visits HQ EUFOR

On 19 January 2016, Deputy Commander Allied Joint Force Command (DCOM JFC) Naples, Lieutenant General Alain J. Parent visited HQ EUFOR, Camp Butmir and was met by the Chief of Staff (COS) EUFOR, Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza.

On arrival Lieutenant General Parent proceeded to an office call with COS EUFOR. During this call, as DCOM JFC, Lieutenant General Parent was updated on the EUFOR Mission. This was followed by a formal lunch with NATO Headquarters Sarajevo.

The mission of COM JFC Naples is to prepare for, plan and conduct military operations. Lieutenant General Parent assumed the function of DCOM JFC, Naples on 24 July 2015.



Lieutenant General Parent (left) meets with Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza (right)

European Union Staff Group Visits EUFOR Support Division



Attendees at the start of the meeting led by Mr David Palmer (second from left)

From 28 January - 3 February 2016, European Union Staff Group (EUSG) represented by Mr David Palmer (Executive Officer J1\J4 Chief) and Wing Commander James Lapsley (OF-4 GBR and Staff Officer J1\J4) visited HQ EUFOR Camp Butmir.

Working visits of this nature occur throughout the year; however, the focus on this occasion was centered on specific outputs of EUFOR's Support Division team. With a flexible agenda that took in to consideration many issues that required staff planning and coordination, a sound strategy with effective judgments in support of EUFOR's future, were included amongst the resultant conclusions.

EUFOR's Deputy Chief of Staff Support Division (DCOS Spt), Colonel Zinoviev said: "We are working together, as a team, and are focused on a common goal of continued support of Operation ALTHEA's success".

Turkish Joint Command and Staff College Group Visit to EUFOR and Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 1 February 2016, as part of a visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Turkish Joint Command and Staff College Committee visited HQ EUFOR in Camp Butmir.

The 2 instructor and 23 staff from Turkish Land Forces, Navy and Air Force were led by the Education Chief of Staff College, Colonel Cengiz Akin. After an office call with COMEUFOR, Major General Johann Luif the



COMEUFOR meets the Staff College lead Col Cengiz AKIN

group was briefed by the HQ J2 and J3 Staff. Whilst in Camp Butmir, the group also visited the Peace Support Operation Training Center (PSOTC) and the Turkish National Support Element. On departing Camp Butmir, the group also visited the EUFOR LOT House in Jablanica and paid a visit to the beautiful town of Mostar.

COMEUFOR visits Director of State Investigation and Protection Agency

On 12 January 2016, the COMEUFOR, Major General Johann Luif visited the newly appointed Director of the State Investigation and Protection Agency (SIPA) Mr Perica Stanić, in Sarajevo Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The Director updated COMEUFOR on the Agency's current priorities and plans. The Director also stressed



COMEUFOR (left) meets SIPA Director (right)

the need for a continued uncompromising approach to the fight against terrorism, with a focus on prevention such as that seen during the recent Operation DAMASK 4. Congratulating the Director on his recent appointment, COMEUFOR stressed that EUFOR would continue to support SIPA's work and that sustained mutual coordination and the exchange of relevant information

is key. COMEUFOR also stated that EUFOR appreciated SIPA's continued efforts against all aspects of crime in and its efforts as a state-level agency to maintain the rule of law in BiH.

The Director thanked COMEUFOR for EUFOR's continued

support of SIPA's important mission. SIPA's mission continues to be the efficient prevention of terrorism, organised crime, serious financial crime and corruption. SIPA protects BiH citizens through the enhancement of their sense of security and trust in the security system, strengthening cooperation with the public and other law enforcement agencies.

Visit to EUFOR Mission Operation ALTHEA by the Chairman of the EU Military Committee

The Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Mikhail Kostarakos visited the European Union Force (EUFOR) Mission Operation (Op) ALTHEA on 4 March 2016.

On arrival at the Headquarters EUFOR in Camp Butmir, he was welcomed by an Honour Guard from the EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN) and greeted by the COMEUFOR, Major General Johann Luif. During an office call with COMEUFOR, the General was updated on the progress of Operation ALTHEA. This included details of the ongoing co-operation between EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) through the Capacity Building and Training Programme. This programme focuses on EUFOR's continued support and ongoing cooperation in building a sustainable AFBiH. The General also kindly

agreed to attend the Op ALTHEA Medal Parade. At this event, 126 personnel from 10 of the Mission's troop contributing nations were awarded their European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Service Medal, in support of Op ALTHEA.

During his visit, General Kostarakos was accompanied by Military Representatives: Lieutenant General Günter HÖFLER (Austria), Major General László DOMJÁN (Hungary), and Brigadier General David HUMAR (Slovenia). General Kostarakos Chairs the EU Military Committee (EUMC), which is the



CEUMC inspects HQ EUFOR Honour Guard

highest military committee within the European Council. It is responsible for providing the Political and Security Committee (PSC) with advice and recommendations on all military matters affecting the EU.

EUFOR and AFBiH Sign Agreement on Armed Forces Capabilities Development

On 1 February 2016, the Deputy Chief of Staff for operations of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH), Major General Mirko Tepšić and Chief of Staff of the European Union Force (COS EUFOR), Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza (Hungarian Army) signed an agreement which focused on evaluating and developing the capabilities of the AFBiH.

The signing of the Joint Order can be seen as the official start for the Joint Working Groups who focus on the enhancement of AFBiH's capabilities using the 'Capability Based Development Assessment' methodology. This methodology will facilitate EUFOR in providing AFBiH with the operational readiness they require, in support of their objectives.

It will also be instrumental in bringing about firm progress within the AFBiH. This approach facilitates the intent of the Commander of EUFOR, Major



AFBiH Staff (left) meet with EUFOR Staff (right)



COS EUFOR (left) exchanges the signed agreement with Maj Gen TEPSIC (right)

General Johann Luif to provide the AFBiH with the necessary support

to ensure improvements in operational readiness for the execution of tasks as defined by law.

The ceremony was held at the AFBiH Joint Staff Headquarters in Sarajevo. EUFOR Embedded Advisory Team members witnessed the signing. High ranking Officers of AFBiH Joint Staff and HQ EUFOR Staff were also assembled in support of the signing of this landmark agreement.

Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina Demining Battalion results for 2015

On 17 February 2016, EUFOR's Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) Division and Joint Military Affairs (JMA) Division Countermines Section attended the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) presentation of the analysis and results of Demining of the results of the AFBiH Demining Battalion (DEMBN) for 2015 in RAJLOVAC Barracks.

The meeting was also attended by Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif supported by his staff from JMA and the Countermines Section. AFBiH Chief DEM Cell Operations Command,

Lieutenant Colonel Refik Fazlic presented the results. Speeches were also made by AFBiH Operational Command Commander, Major General Dragan Vukovic; Deputy Chief Joint Staff Operations, Major General Mirko Tepsic; and Operational Command Deputy Operations, Brigadier General Mirsad Ahmic.

On completion of the De-mining presentation of results there was a static and dynamic display of the equipment used by the AFBiH DEMBN in support of their important outputs, followed by a Reception. This important event was also covered by local TV and news agencies.

Military Movement Control Workshop for Transportation Personnel from AFBiH

Practical training for Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina Military Movement Control (AFBiH MMC) personnel was held in Poland, 25-29 January 2016.

Six AFBiH MMC and Transportation Instructors (5 from the Logistics Command, and one from AFBiH Joint Staff J4) conducted a practical training course in the Polish towns of Oleśnica and Wrocław. The training included exercises in organizing, planning and executing of tasks relating to documents preparation, packing and loading of equipment, transporting and escorting assets and equipment transported within and beyond state borders.

First part of the training consisted of a visit to Polish Armed Forces Movement Coordination Center at Camp Oleśnica. The Polish military gave presentations on structure, organization and operating procedures, as well as the equipment used by the



Briefing on the practical moving elements of the training course

Movement Control Center in the field. In addition, they gave a demonstration of armoured and cargo vehicles convoy movements, with a supposition of armoured carrier and cargo vehicle's breakdown. This practical demonstration shows how these vehicles can be recovered by escorted oversize towing vehicles. Second part of the training included a presentation of Movement Regulation Team deployment with all necessary equipment, and a demonstration of setting up of checkpoints. The final stage

of training, at Wrocław Air Base, was an exercise encompassing planning procedures, packing and preparation of equipment, and its loading onto CASA C-295 transport aircraft.

Great value was gained from this training opportunity. Procedures presented to the trainees were then experienced by learning by doing. Gaining this advanced knowledge has ensured that the individuals have a level of preparedness that will allow them to implement movement control and coordination in support of the AFBiH's operational requirements. This training opportunity also rounded off the cycle of AFBiH joint training with the Polish Mobile Training Team (MTT) at the AFBiH MCC, which had occurred in close coordination with HQ EUFOR Movement Control Subject Matter Expert (SME). It also produced the desired results beneficial to the future functioning of the AFBiH transportation system, and further training of the declared Logistics Company.



AFBiH students being debriefed following a training serial

by Maj Nikolay TASEV

Basic Maintenance Course for ASELSAN 9600 Series Radio Devices

EUFOR conducted “Basic Maintenance Course for ASELSAN 9600 Series Radio Devices” for the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) by Turkish Mobile Training Team (TR MTT), between 09 – 27 November 2015 (3 weeks), at the Tactical Support Brigade Barracks in Rajlovac. Totally 16 personnel (14 NCOs, 2 CIVs) of the AFBiH successfully participated.

Why does AFBiH need Basic Maintenance Course for ASELSAN 9600 Series Radio Devices?

Radio Devices are used by military units/personal for voice or data communication. AFs use radio equipment not only for military purposes but also for civilian purposes like disaster relief operations. It’s quick & easy to communicate with those devices, while the units are mobile.

AFBiH was donated with ASELSAN 9600 Series Radio Devices between 1998-2010 by Turkey. AFBiH has 87 ASELSAN 9600 Series Radio Devices, and in years, some of them are got out of order.

With this course trainees gained more knowledge about;

- Importance and principles of maintenance (2 days),

- Operator’s tasks on maintenance of ASELSAN 9600 Series Radio Devices; daily, weekly and six monthly maintenance (3 days)



MTT Staff briefing students on the next serial

- Echelons of maintenance, fault warnings, malfunctions, errors, repair operations and repair practices (Hands on lab) of ASELSAN 9600 Series Radio Devices (2 weeks).

Instructors brought some spare parts, and finally 9 radios were fixed by instructors and trainees in that course as hands on training.

EUFOR’s training system – train the trainer

The attendees of this course where trained by a TR MTT. 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 TR MMT.

Capacity Building and Training is EUFOR’s main task

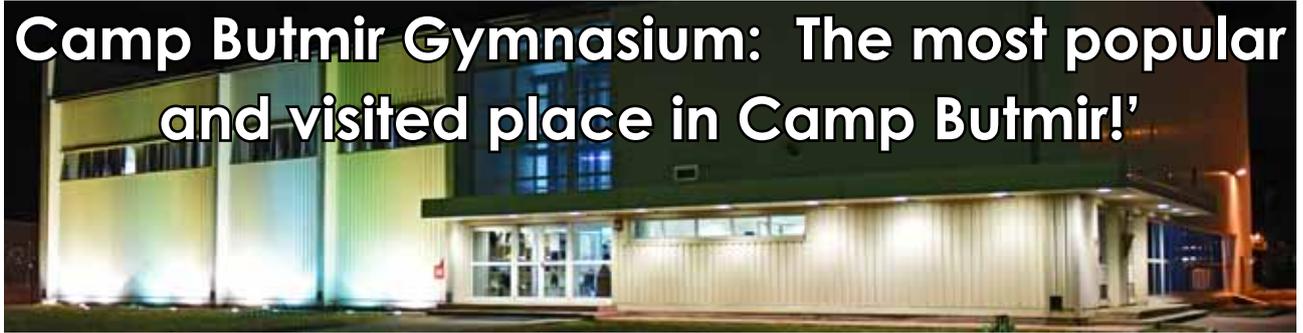
Developing the capacity and capabilities of the AFBiH is one of the most important tasks for EUFOR. This is done by providing training, mentoring and monitoring as well as technical advice at all levels to the AFBiH. For the coordination of all capacity building and training related activities, EUFOR created a special division.



Practicing basic maintenance on training equipment

Maj Ozan ACIGOZ

Camp Butmir Gymnasium: The most popular and visited place in Camp Butmir!



Introduction

Sport and physical exercise are essential activities for all personnel deployed on the EUFOR Mission, and continue to be an important part of military life. Such activities have a positive impact on the maintenance and development of psycho-physical. Exercise is also rightly necessary to successfully perform all of our tasks on a Military Mission. Sport is also an efficient tool for the breakdown of accumulated stress generated as a result of performing everyday duties.

Gym History

From 2000 to 2005 all sports activities and sports events at Camp Butmir took place in a 'Fest Tent', which eventually became known as the "Peace Keeper Pavilion"; managed by the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Office (MWR). Full logistical support

was provided by the US Company 'Kellogg Brown and Root'. The entire infrastructure, including employees, was owned by the US Army. At the beginning of 2005, a permanently constructed gymnasium facility was completed; this is the Camp Butmir (CB) Gym that we know and use today! The CB Gym facility is now divided into 3 interconnected spaces: fitness room, free weight room and sports hall. Modern exercise equipment offers the necessary means to keep fit, while team training sessions and organized sports competitions use all parts of the gym. Since September 2006, the CB Gym has been managed and funded by the HQ Camp Commandant's Morale, Welfare and Activities Office (MWA); as part of their responsibility to maintain and develop the morale and welfare of all NATO and EUFOR Personnel.

Recent Gym Projects

Sports competitions and tournaments represent the culmination of sports training and serve the purpose of gaining an insight into the psycho-physical fitness of an individual whilst enhancing teamwork. Furthermore, these events provide an excellent opportunity for international socializing and team building. In recent times this has included: basketball, volleyball, beach volleyball, and soccer tournaments. Last year we also saw: Badminton and table tennis tournament, the CB sport superstar competition, and fun runs and races up to and including a half-marathon! This year will be no different as the CB Gym team look to plan and organize up to 6 different sports events.

New projects and ideas being considered

The CB Gym is in constant, and often intense, so maintenance is a challenge. However, last year saw significant progress in terms of improving the entire infrastructure in the gym. This included purchasing new fitness equipment; painting internal gym walls; and laying down new lines, in the Sports Hall, for basketball, volleyball and badminton. Along with balancing the cleaning



Gym CV equipment in use

requirement, 6 new ceiling lamps have also been installed in the Badminton Courts in the Sports Hall.

The cardio machines continue to be of great benefit – especially during the winter period. However, due to the limited numbers and their extended use, it will be necessary to replace several worn-out machines in the near future. The team is also investigating the possibility of purchasing and installing new girders for volleyball net – so watch this space!



The Gym main suite

Gym staff

The Gym staff are responsible for the proper functioning of the CB Gym, along with the maintenance of the building and its sports equipment, sports planning, and the organising of sports sessions, competitions and other sports events. The team consists of:

Željko Puljić:

As the CB Gym Supervisor, he is master of kinesiology (sport science) and has a Black Belt in Taekwondo.

Elmir Bjelan:

As the CB Gym Maintenance Coordinator, he is a Certified European Health and Fitness Association (EHFA) Personal Trainer by EHFA

Dragana Krstic: As GYM Facility Maintenance Coordinator, she is the Assist Gym Supervisor in the conduct of collective physical trainings; assists in the re-arrangement of gym equipment,

as required; and performs routine inspections and cleaning all gym equipment.

All gym users have free access to the CB Gym Staff, in the creation of individual and team sports activities, and to assist in the proper implementation of methodical training. CB Gym staff also conduct various sports training sessions. These are focused on the development and maintenance of physical abilities (strength, endurance, speed, flexibility and coordination). They create muscle balance and the improvement

understanding and knowledge of sports science.

CB Gym Sports Classes

An organised programme of events is open to all and includes:

Circuit Training Session: every Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1730-1900.

Physical Training Class: Two to three times a week on different days and times (more info at the CB Gym Reception Desk).

Spinning Class: Every Tuesday and Thursday 1730-1830.

Sports Events can also be organised based on the needs and interests of individuals and their Divisions and Formations. CB Gym staff would also like to meet all military physical-fitness instructors based in Camp Butmir. So, if you do have a useful sports / fitness based skill-set and would like to help out by running sessions then do get in contact. Otherwise, continue to enjoy the CB Gym or look to add it in to diary, as it is a very useful capability that is staffed to support your needs, morale and fitness.

by the Gym Staff



Elmir (left), Dragana (centre) and Željko (right)

and maintenance of the health status of the individual; prepared in line with that individual's physical ability, age, and other associated characteristics. The old adage "No pain no gain" is not applied here. All sport sessions at CB Gym are delivered through the modern principles of sports training, supported by an in-depth

EUFOR Helicopter Supports Rescue During Mountain Accident

On Sunday 7 February 2016, a call was received by EUFOR's Austrian National Contingent Commander (NCC), Colonel Peterlini from the Austrian Defence Attaché (DA) in Sarajevo, Colonel Doctor Pesendorfer. The DA had been informed that a serious accident had occurred on the Bjelašnica mountain, so he swung into action to gain the direct support of EUFOR. Without any delay, HQ EUFOR's Air Operations team sought permission from Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif to launch one of the EUFOR Operation ALTHEA's air assets. Knowing it was a life threatening situation, the Commander immediately gave the green light for EUFOR to support this important request.

At Camp Butmir, one of EUFOR's Austrian Army Alouette helicopters took off at 14.30 hrs. This quick reaction time was made possible by the aircraft being configured for daylight flying. It took the Air Crew just 25 minutes to reach the scene of the accident; however, the weather conditions were extremely challenging with high winds of 50+ knots causing heavy turbulence around the eastern side of Bjelašnica. The steep terrain throughout that area meant landing EUFOR's helicopter was simply not possible. The extreme weather conditions also made winching from the helicopter too dangerous to attempt. At this stage the Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) Mountain Search and Rescue (MSR) had



EUFOR Alouette flies close to mountain range

managed to reach the scene on the ground. A coordinated rescue effort then followed with the MSR executing a plan to move those in danger to lower ground where they could be recovered to safely.

In close coordination with BiH Agencies, the helicopter was directed by the HQ EUFOR Chief Air Operations Officer to a landing site at Babin Do. Here it remained on standby awaiting the arrival of the MSR team who were transiting from the high ground. However, as darkness approached, the helicopter would need to be reconfigured to fly during night hours. Given that the MSR team was still some distance from the prearranged site, a decision was made for the helicopter to return to Camp Butmir to be reconfigured for night flying operations. During this period, an Armed Forces BiH (AFBiH) helicopter arrived at Babin Do. Once the MSR team arrived at Babin Do the injured individual was airlifted to safety by the AFBiH Helicopter.

The EUFOR Alouette III helicopter can support day and night flying operations; however, the configuration to support both does differ. Moving between these operations requires reconfiguration on the ground. The advantage of a day time configuration is that a shorter reaction time to launch is possible; a useful factor when the aircraft is needed to support potentially life-saving operations such as this incident.

On Tuesday 9 February, COMEUFOR received a letter from the BiH MSR Station, Sarajevo. This letter of gratitude offered thanks to EUFOR for providing support during this rescue mission on Bjelašnica. EUFOR is extremely proud of the quick reactions; desire to assist; and the professional approach of its HQ Staff, Air Operations team and helicopter Air Crew. Working in coordination with BiH MSR and the AFBiH, EUFOR was able to assist individuals in their hour of need.

Badge Ceremony of the European Union Force Multinational Battalion

On the 13 January 2016 at Camp Butmir, there was the badge ceremony for the new Hungarian soldiers of the European Union Force (EUFOR) Multinational Battalion (MNBN). Following this symbolic ceremony both the Hungarian Company, and staff serving soldiers, were formally accepted in to the MNBN by their Commanding Officer - Lieutenant Colonel Reinhard Bacher (Austrian Army).

At present, the EUFOR MNBN consists of Austrian, Hungarian and Turkish soldiers. In his speech to all those present at the ceremony, Lieutenant Colonel Bacher explained the important elements of the MNBN Badge. With the inner circle made up of the Austrian, Hungarian and Turkish National flags, this is surrounded by 12 stars which signify the overarching European Union Mission within which the MNBN operates. The abbreviation 'MNBN' is also included at the base of the circular badge, which is backed by a vertical sword. This sword denotes the military strength and necessary assertiveness that comes with being a member of the MNBN.

MNBN new staff members and the Hungarian Company, which forms part of the MNBN, were invested with their badges. Lieutenant Colonel Bacher personally invested the Company's Platoon Commanders. In his speech, Lieutenant Colonel Bacher said the challenging and



Commander MNBN (right) badges a new member



Commander MNBN (center) greeting a new member

favourably words: "The Hungarian soldiers I became acquainted with are working at a very high level and they are living comradeship and reliability. Continue with this high standard – I am happy and proud to have you under my Command."

The EUFOR MNBN's mission is to be prepared to conduct operations autonomously or in the support of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and the EU. Based in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, essentially their



Badge of the MNBN

function is to assist in the continued maintenance of a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) in BiH.

EUFOR Multinational Battalion Change of Command Ceremony



COS EUFOR inspects the MNBN



Parading the EUFOR MNBN Flag

On Wednesday the 24th of February a ceremony marked the Change of Command of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN). The Multinational Battalion is composed from three different nations who serve together as one in EUFOR.

The command of the Multinational Battalion was handed over from Lieutenant Colonel Reinhard Bacher to Lieutenant Colonel Michael Vitovec , both

members of the Austria contingent in EUFOR. Lieutenant Colonel Vitovec summarised in his speech during the ceremony, ‘The EUFOR Althea mission is challenging and interesting.

I am fully aware of the important role the Multinational Battalion plays in Capacity Building and Training for the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in conducting Combined Training together’



The new Commander MNBN (Lt Col VITOVEC) makes his address

Safe and Secure Environment

The MNBN exercises regularly with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) and in autumn of this year another exercise alongside reserve troops from across Europe will take place. The exercise, called Operational Rehearsal, will train EUFOR’s capability to bring in reserve forces to assist BiH authorities in maintaining a safe and secure environment if required. The exercise happens every year, in co-operation with AFBiH and troop contributing nations.

by Maj Stefan KLOCKO

COMEUFOR Visits Slovakian LOT House Novo Sarajevo

On 17 December 2015 COMEUFOR with the Chief of the LOT Coordination Centre (LCC) visited Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) House, Novo Sarajevo.

The visit started with a briefing by the LOT Commander, Major Michal KOSINA and staff on the current situation over the 4 months since COMEUFOR last visited. COMEUFOR was interested in the current security situation in LOT Novo Sarajevo AOR, including the strike and protest actions that took place in the AOR. COMEUFOR noted that the LOT AOR included a high percentage of state and federal governmental buildings. It was also acknowledged that Mine Risk Education (MRE) is one of the most



COMEUFOR with the LOT on his arrival

important tasks within the team's AOR.

Following a formal inspection, COMEUFOR spoke with LOT members about training in Slovakia before they deployed to BiH. The LOT Commander

said: "COMEUFOR's comments support the great work that my team conduct across the AOR. We will therefore continue to complete our work in the professional manner that is required of us."

by Commander LOT Novo Sarajevo

COMEUFOR Visits Polish LOT House Dobož

On 27 February 2016 COMEUFOR visited LOT House Dobož. The visit started with LOT Dobož Commander, Major Piotr ŚMIGIELSKI's introducing his team and offering a report on their recent activities.

LOT House Deputy Commander, Captain Rafał HYC then briefed COMEUFOR on events in the LOT's

AOR which had occurred since COMEUFOR's last visit on 2 November 2015. The main topic of the briefing covered cooperation with local authorities and the opinions of the LOT House EUFOR soldiers drawn from their important contact with the local community. COMEUFOR was very interested in Mine



COMEUFOR being briefed by the LOT

Risk Education (MRE), which is conducted by instructors nominated from LOT House Dobož. He emphasized that MRE is one of the best door openers that we have as a Mission, and is a clearly visible means of a LOT House assisting its local community.

COMEUFOR expressed his appreciation to all LOT

members for their work and commitment. He said: "Thank you for your MRE engagement conducted in schools. It is a very important sign of our presence in the local community and our commitment to them. Being aware of mines may save human lives."

by Commander LOT Dobož

Dobra's Birthday – with EUFOR in her Heart

It has been some time since EUFOR has heard from one of the Mission's longest serving members. So, for those of you who have missed her, or may not have heard from her before, here is an update!

Dobra, the dog, is one of the oldest members of EUFOR Mission. Originally from Prnjavor, she was inherited by the Chileans from the British Forces who were previously stationed here, and every year since she has continued her support of the Chilean LOT team with her unconditional friendship. One of the team's current NCOs has known Dobra since 2008 when he first served in Prijedor. Then she was only 9 years old, so he was glad to meet his faithful partner again.

Her key function is to act as the guardian of the Chilean LOT House in the city of Banja Luka. Dobra is the first to wake up every morning and is always ready to help to prepare equipment and vehicles for the team's daily tasks. She is always watchful in performing surveillance and patrols around the house, and she finishes her daily activities, together with the Duty Officer, before bedding down for the evening.

In recognition of her service to EUFOR and her commitment to the LOT House's local community,



Dobra on duty

in 2014, Dobra was awarded with the Operational ALTHEA Medal by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, in Brussels. On 1 February 2016, Dobra celebrated her 17th Birthday! She received congratulations and affection from her comrades, and was awarded with a new uniform – decorated with badges of recognition from the Chilean team. She also received a new collar and a special canine beauty treatment; all of which were well received with a look of happiness and an energetic



Dobra's ALTHEA Medal Certificate

and cheerful wag of her tail.

Although she is not appreciated by the cat community in the neighborhood, Dobra is much loved by the community's children and the EUFOR soldiers. Recognized for her self-discipline and friendship, Dobra your Chilean friends

say "Happy Birthday and thank you for your loyalty and company. Long may it continue".

If you like our friend and want to know more about her, you can visit her on Facebook as "Dobra Prijedor".

by Commander Chilean LOT Banja Luka



Dobra with the LOT Staff

Command Sergeant Major Interview

Readers,

The role of the EUFOR Command Sergeant Major (CSM) is an extremely important one. As the Commander's senior Non-Commissioned Officer in the Mission, the CSM ensures the Commander and HQ EUFOR remain fully informed of all issues relating to the Non-Commissioned ranks serving in the EUFOR Mission Operation ALTHEA. Here the current CSM, WO Siegfried Pock talks to EUFOR Forum about his career and the important function he completes on behalf of us all.

When were you appointed CSM and what experience did you already have of the Mission?

“On the 20 November 2015, I took over the prestigious post of Command Sergeant Major of EUFOR. However, before entering this particularly interesting field of work, I had already served Commander EUFOR as his Administration NCO1 in HQ EUFOR. So, having already served 14 months in EUFOR, I would not consider myself to be a newcomer to the Mission!”

What were your first experiences of Peace Support Operations?

“In 1976, I joined a Peace Support Operation for the first time as a junior NCO with the Austrian Battalion of UNDOF, working in the Golan Heights. After catching the ‘International virus’ of interest in this line of work, I returned to UNDOF for a total of 3 times, covering various positions including Company Sergeant Major.”

Do you have any previous experience of operations in this region?

“In 1999 I was employed as the leader of the



Austrian Water Purification team in support of the humanitarian disaster relief Operation ATHUM / ALBA, in Albania. Remaining in the area, I then moved directly from that Mission to join KFOR's first and second missions in 1999 and 2000.”

Have you operated in Bosnia and Herzegovina before?

“I arrived, for the first time in Bosnia and Herzegovina, for a tour of duty in 2006-2007. I then returned once more to Kosovo as the Administration NCO, supporting the Deputy Commander of KFOR, who at that time was a certain Brigadier General Luif!”

What has been the most important part of your role as CSM?

“Since taking over from my predecessor, Zsolt Berek, in November

2015, my focus as CSM has been to firmly maintain the highest standards of discipline and behavior of all personnel in the Mission. In close coordination with COMEUFOR, I also take care of all protocol related issues in support of events such as International Visits or Medal Parades.

Above all, I consider myself to be the point of contact for all soldiers, whatever their rank or nationality.”

What has been the most enjoyable part of your role as CSM?

“I would underline how interesting and important this cooperative international working environment is for me. To get to know so many different nations and cultures is a key factor in the success of a CSM. I am extremely privileged to be able to hold his position, and am proud to be the Command Sergeant Major of the EUFOR Mission Operation ALTHEA.

Military Welfare Activities (MWA) – Eastern Bosnia Tour

It is not a secret that on a monthly basis EUFOR provides organised tours across Bosnia and Herzegovina.

These are organized by EUFOR’s Military Welfare Activities (MWA) team, which has its offices on the first floor of the Millennium Bar. The purpose of MWA is to provide opportunities for EUFOR and NATO personnel to visit, explore and learn more about the beautiful country in which we are based. One of the MWA tours in March will see us visit the East of Bosnia and Herzegovina; potentially known by few, sometimes neglected but definitely not advertised enough.

If you are among those who are planning to go on this trip, or if you are thinking about it, then let us tell you what to expect!

The first town that will be visited is Višegrad. Residing on the banks of river Drina, it sits relatively closely to the eastern Bosnian Border with Serbia. A small yet welcoming town, the most symbolic site most definitely

the old ‘Mehmed Pasha Sokolovic’ Bridge. Pictured at the base of the MWA Poster, the bridge was made famous by the Nobel Prize novel awarded writer Ivo Andric, who book “Bridge over the Drina” offers a deeply interesting historical appreciation of the bridge. Within the town, you will also visit the Andric Grad. A relatively newly built touristic attraction, it honours the great writer and is certainly worth a visit!

The next town to be visited will be Gorazde. One of the largest towns in the East, it suffered greatly during the war. You will have a chance to visit the war park overseeing to get a visual feel for its layout. Cut through the middle by the river Drina, which weaves its way through this interesting town, there is lots to see on both sides of the river.

Depending on the weather conditions and size of the group,

the trip may also include a visit to the National Park Sutjeska in Tjentiste. With a center piece being the WW2 monument, its surroundings are an impressive sight to see and should not be overlooked.



The Tour’s Poster

Just like most of the tours, this is a day-long trip that departs at 08.00 and returns to Camp Butmir usually by 18.30-19.00. The departure point for this trip is outside the Millennium Bar opposite the DFAC. The key to success is to book early; this will hopefully also avoid

disappointment. EUFOR’s Portal can be used as a means to book this trip; however, sending the team an email or calling is also acceptable (all details are held on the EUFOR Portal).

Look out for the posters that can be seen around Camp Butmir, and do book early as this can be a well-supported visit. However, if you miss March’s trip then do not worry. It will be coming around again, in due course.

by Dzenan HADZOVIC

EUFOR Medal Parade

On 23 February 2016, personnel from the Austrian and Dutch contingent of the European Union Force (EUFOR) Mission were presented with their EU Common Security and Defence Policy Service Medal Operation ALTHEA by the Chief of Staff of EUFOR, Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza.

In his speech, Brigadier General Mihócza stressed the importance of the Medal Parade in that it formally

and publically acknowledges the contribution made by everyone on parade. He stated that it showed that personnel in EUFOR are ready, willing, and able to support the EUFOR Mission here in Bosnia and



The EU Common Security and Defence Policy Service Medal Operation ALTHEA is awarded to all personnel who serve in EUFOR

Herzegovina (BiH). He also highlighted that each one of them represented a practical and positive affirmation of support from their Governments and Armed Forces of their nations to EUFOR, and ultimately to the people of BiH.

by Maj Stefan KLOCKO

EUFOR Mission Support Division Chief J4/J6 and UK Senior National Representative Handover Takeover

On 31 January 2016, European Union Force (EUFOR) Chief J4/J6 and United Kingdom Senior National Representative (UK SNR), Wing Commander (Wg Cdr) Jamie Cameron conducted a Handover Takeover with Wing Commander Andrew Valentine.

Wg Cdr Andy Valentine has now taken over as the OF4 Logistics (Log) and Communications Information Systems (CIS) Deputy Head. In this role, Andy will also act as the UK SNR for all UK Staff serving in EUFOR. Wg Cdr Cameron has played a significant role in the success of the EUFOR Mission.

With his expertise and experience he has contributed, amongst other priorities, to the success of the Level 2 Operational Rehearsal (OPREH L2). In supporting this important operational planning requirement



Wg Cdr Cameron (left) hands over to Wg Cdr Valentine (right)

he managed the deployment and recovery of the EUFOR Intermediate Reserve Companies (IR COYS) from the UK and SK, in to Camp Butmir.

Wg Cdr Cameron said: "Working as part of the EUFOR Mission has been rewarding and

demanding. Although I now look forward to new experiences, I wish the EUFOR Team well in support of their future endeavours". EUFOR also wishes him the very best and thanks him for his important contribution as the Chief J4/J6 and UK SNR.

HQ EUFOR Support Division J1 Chief Departs

On 14 February 2016, after almost 8 months the HQ EUFOR Support Division's Chief J1, Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Robusto has departed having been relieved by Lieutenant Colonel Donato Massimo Colacicco.

With his motto: "All together we can", Lt Col Robusto encapsulates his beliefs and ideals on how he has enjoyed an overwhelming experience in EUFOR's Support Division.

During Lt Col Robusto's farewell, EUFOR's Deputy Chief of Staff Support (DCOS Spt), Colonel Zinoviev has completed the motto with the word "Always" - "Always all together we can". Noting his well-known motto, we wish Roberto all the best for his future and his carrier.



Chief J1 (left) with DCOS Spt (right)

Commemoration Ceremony held at Camp Butmir



EUFOR Monument Park in Camp Butmir, commemorating the death of 11 people from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in a helicopter crash 8 years ago.

On 12 January 2016 COMEUFOR, Major General Johann Luif; Representative of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Embassy, Mr Aleksandar Krstevski; and the EUFOR Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's Senior National Representatives, Major Igor Nikchevski gathered at Monument Park in Camp Butmir to commemorate the death of 11 people from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in a helicopter crash 8 years ago.

EUFOR formed a Guard of Honour to pay their respects to the 11 members of the EUFOR contingent from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia who lost their lives in this accident. During the ceremony candles were lit by COMEUFOR, The Representative of the Former

Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Embassy, and the EUFOR Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia's Senior National Representative.

In his speech, Major General Johann Luif said: "Today we remember with great sadness the

loss of 11 members of EUFOR from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, who tragically lost their lives on 12 January 2008." He went on to say: "I hope this commemoration in Camp Butmir adequately reflects our

appreciation and understanding of the great loss and enormous pain still felt by their families, and your country. It allows us the opportunity to recall their lives, their exceptional spirit, their professionalism, and their contribution to the cause of peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina." The helicopter was en route from Camp Butmir to Skopje when it crashed due to bad weather on 12 January 2008. The 8 passengers and 3 crew members all lost their lives.



COMEUFOR, Major General Johann Luif lays a wreath on behalf of the EUFOR Mission

Sad Death of a Camp Butmir Employee, Ms Gordana Bjelobrk

On 12 January 2016, European Union Force (EUFOR) received the sad news that Ms Gordana Bjelobrk had passed away after a short but brave battle with cancer.

In support of Peace Keeping Missions in BiH for over 24 years, Ms Gordana Bjelobrk had enjoyed an extremely long and important career providing support to various Mission Commanders throughout this period. Ms Bjelobrk started working in the position of Chambermaid for the Sarajevo Sector UNPROFOR Commander, General Lewis MacKenzie (Canada). She then went on to support 4 other UNPROFOR Generals: Philippe Morillon (France), Francis Briquemont (Belgium), Michael Rose (United Kingdom) and Rupert Smith (United Kingdom). In 1996 Ms Bjelobrk continued to work for the newly established IFOR, and their first Commander, Admiral Leighton Smith. In 1997, SFOR established their HQ at the hotel complex in Ilidza. Here, Ms Bjelobrk supported 9 SFOR Commanders: General William W. Crouch, General Eric Shinseki, General Montgomery Meigs, General Ronald Adams, General Michael Dodson, General John B. Sylvester, General William E. Ward, General Virgil Packett and General Steven P. Schook. In December 2004, NATO HQ Sarajevo (NHQ Sa) and HQ EUFOR Operation ALTHEA were established and Ms Bjelobrk continued her work in support NHQ Sa as the Catering and Cleaning Assistant for 10 Generals: Brigadier General Bullard, General Sabato Errico, General Louis W. Weber, General Richard O. Wightman, General David Enyeart, General Gary E. Huffman, General Walt Lord, General Merle D. Hart, General Christopher J. Petty, and eventually our current NHQ Sa Commander, General Giselle M. Wilz.

When the original HQ and its Commander moved from Ilidza to Butmir Camp in May 2000, Ms Bjelobrk also moved. Here she supported the Commander's accommodation, laundry and catering requirements. Bldg 201B is part of Butmir Camp accommodation infrastructure that was built in 1999 as part of project '48'. The building was designed as a part of the '201' Compound and was originally designated for the accommodation of Commander SFOR. In 2007, This villa was named after Gordana by order of General Richard O. Wightman. He asked that DPW make a wood plaque with sign 'Villa Gordana' and install it on the building forepart as a dedication for Ms Bjelobrk's extraordinary dedication in support of the Mission's Commanders. Villa 'Gordana' remains the home of Commander NATO Sa to this day. Ms. Gordana Bjelobrk was laid to rest at 'Bare' cemetery; the funeral was attended by Commander NATO Sa, Brigadier General Giselle M. Wilz, and Chief of Staff (COS) to EUFOR, Brigadier General Zoltan Mihocza. COS NHQ Sa, Colonel Gyula Kovacs; EUFOR HQ Commandant, LTC John O'Neill; and Civilian and Military Personnel from Camp Butmir were also in attendance. Brigadier General

Giselle M. Wilz gave a speech during the ceremony and read out condolences from previous Commanders.

On 15 January 2016, a small ceremony was also conducted on Camp Butmir to mark the occasion of Gordana's name being added to the civilian monument within the Memorial Park. The ceremony was attended by Commander

NATO HQ Sa, Brigadier General Giselle M. Wilz, and representatives from HQ EUFOR including Deputy Chief of Staff Support, Colonel Zinovi Zinoviev; HQ Commandant, LTC John O'Neill; and civilian staff members. Ms. Bjelobrk will be sadly missed by all who knew her.



Ms Gordana Bjelobrk

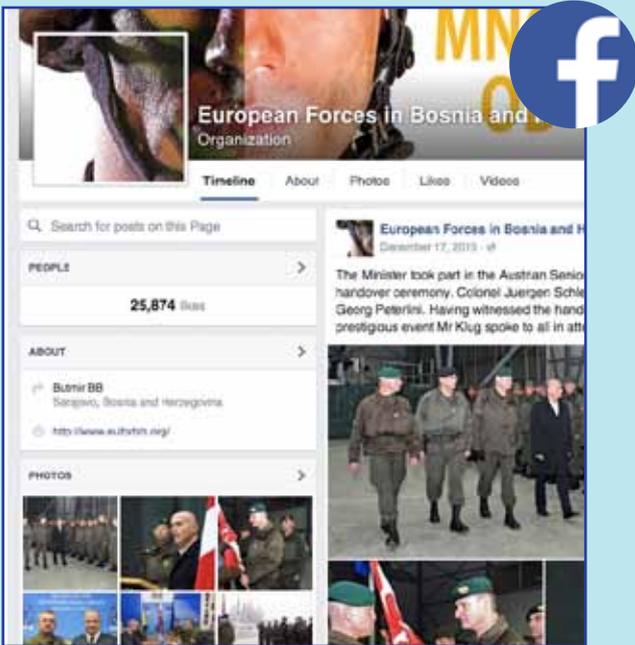


Mission Staff Memorial



Staff gather to remember

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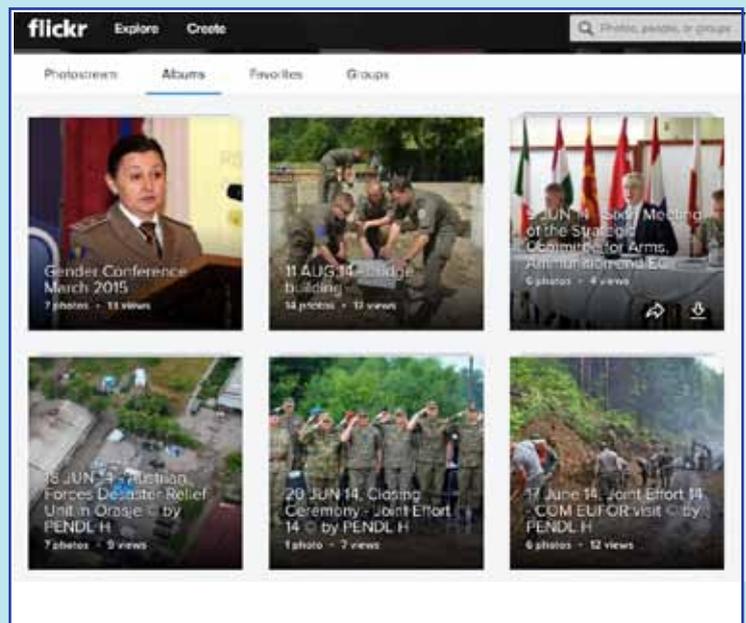
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