

EUFOR forum

MAGAZINE



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Sport plays an important part in the life of Camp Butmir. Results of the recent table tennis and badminton tournaments are reported on the Sports page.



Editor in chief

Welcome to the 118th edition of the EUFOR Forum magazine! This is my first edition as Editor in Chief and it has been a pleasure to join EUFOR in time to mark the mission's 15 Year Anniversary in such style at the Hall of the Armed Forces BiH.

I would like to thank all of the people who have contributed to this issue, either with stories or photos or just by letting the Public Affairs Office (PAO) know that you are doing something of interest and enabling us to gather our own material.

We are always on the lookout for the next story and I would encourage you to let us know if you are doing something interesting. You don't have to be a journalist, just give us the key details and we'll do the rest.

I would like to thank Lt Cdr Tim Leckey for his stewardship as he returns home to his family and I look forward to meeting more of you throughout my tour here and helping to tell your stories.

Lieutenant Commander Carl Perry

Commander EUFOR
Major General Reinhard Trischak

EUFOR Public Affairs Chief
Lieutenant Colonel Nicolai Tschol

Forum Magazine Staff
Spokesperson
Lieutenant Commander Carl Perry

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NEW DCOS



My job is to coordinate and provide all aspects of EUFOR manpower management, medical, logistic, CIS support for HQ EUFOR and EUFOR troops, as well as force protection and real life support at Camp Butmir.

I'm from Bulgaria, where I work as Chief of Staff in 3rd Fighter Air Force Base and this is my first mission in BiH. Before this mission I was in Afghanistan as Logistic Group Commander in Kabul. I arrived here to work as a member of EUFOR to

assure safe and secure environment to this beautiful country and to their hospitable citizens.

Colonel Plamen Petkov

NEW Chief J5



My role is to provide planning support to COMEUFOR and also coordinate the Operational Assessment and the 6 monthly reports.

I'm a Royal Air Force Engineering Officer when back in the UK and this is my first time in BiH as well as working in such a diverse environment. I hope I can

explore the country, but above all, I'm very much looking forward to meeting new people and learning from all the different cultures serving at Camp Butmir.

Wing Commander Manjeet Ghataora

NEW DIRSO



My job is to provide support to EUFOR HQ staff by establishing and managing the daily routine and coordinating activities throughout the week.

Back in Hungary I serve in the Army, however, this is my fourth time in BiH where I previously served supporting IFOR, SFOR and also EUFOR. Watching this beautiful country develop over

the years has really left me spellbound and I look forward to seeing how it progresses during my tour.

Lieutenant Colonel Gábor Hraska

NEW Spokesperson



My role as Spokesperson includes promoting all the good work that EUFOR does in BiH, often through social media.

I am a Royal Navy officer from the UK and I am enjoying working with people from so many different backgrounds. This is my first time in BiH and I hope to see more of this beautiful country.

Lieutenant Comander Carl Perry

NEW CHIEF AIR OPS



As a former fighter pilot and now transport pilot in the Austrian Air Force, I enjoy working in a multinational environment as the Air Operations Chief.

Serving as a 'flyboy' myself, I am responsible for all kinds of air operations.

I have also had the chance, in the last seven years coming back to this mission, to explore the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a pilot in the Pilatus PC6 or as a passenger in our helicopters, and even

privately on my motorbike. But there is lots more to see and I'm ready to find out.

Colonel Bernd 'Shark' Piff

NEW CSM



I provide the main contact between COMEUFOR and the contingent nation's senior NCOs, I also escort COMEUFOR to events and appointments and I am responsible for the Honour Guard at important visits.

It is an honour to take over the role and responsibility as CSM and the senior NCO in EUFOR.

This is my 2nd time in BiH, in 2016 I was with the

MNBM as S3 NCO. The job is a new experience, working in a multinational environment and improving my English language."

Warrant Officer 1 Mario Stuhlfarrer

EUSR and COMEUFOR: close coordination between the main EU instruments



On 18 November 2019 the EU Special Representative (EUSR) and Head of the EU Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ambassador Johann Sattler, arrived for a briefing series at the EUFOR Headquarters in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. The visit was part of the close coordination between the main EU instruments in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Commander EUFOR, Major General Trischak outlined the core tasks and main activities of EUFOR as well as persistent security challenges in the country before handing over to his subject matter experts. Areas of close cooperation between the EU Office in BiH and EUFOR are in particular the BiH Masterplan for the disposal of surplus ammunition and weapons, the support to mine action and situational awareness in general.

For the latter EUFOR provides an objective and unbiased assessment of the security situation contributing to a fact-based perception of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Prime Minister of Slovenia Visits EUFOR



On 9 December 2019, the Prime Minister of Slovenia, Mr Marjan Šarec, visited Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, to meet EUFOR HQ staff and Slovenian soldiers working at the mission.

Prime Minister Šarec, accompanied by Chief of the General Staff of the Slovenian Armed Forces, Major General Alenka Ermenc, was greeted by Commander EUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak, and inspected the Honour Guard before meeting all the Branch Chiefs of EUFOR.

The Prime Minister received



briefings on EUFOR's current activities and the security situation in BiH. During an office call, Major General Trischak thanked Prime Minister Šarec for the valuable contribution the Slovenian troops make in helping create a safer, more secure BiH.

Slovenia is an important troop contributing nation, providing the Chief J3/J7 and other elements. It is one of 20 countries in the EUFOR mission, providing troops to Operation EUFOR Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and has been part of EUFOR since the mission began in 2004.



Commander EUFOR meets with Austrian Minister of Defence

On 5 December 2019, Austrian Federal Minister for Defence, Thomas Starlinger, and the Chief of Defence, General Robert Brieger, visited Camp Butmir. The Commander of EUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak, and other members of the Austrian contingent welcomed them to the camp. During an office call they discussed the security situation and the valuable contribution the Austrian troops make to helping create a safer more secure BiH.

Minister Starlinger brought the troops a present of a dartboard and enjoyed pleasant conversation with them over lunch.

Austria is an important troop contributing nation, providing not only the Commander, but also Commander of the Multinational Battalion and the Air Operations Chief, amongst other key personnel.



EUFOR's Commander welcomes Minister of Defence for Hungary

On 9 December 2019, the Hungarian Minister of Defence, Dr. Tibor Benkő, visited Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, accompanied by the Deputy Commander of the Hungarian Defence Forces, Lieutenant General Gábor Böröndi. Commander EUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak, his Hungarian Chief of Staff, Brigadier General László Szabó, and other members of the Hungarian contingent welcomed them to the camp.

Minister Benkő took the salute from the Honour Guard before meeting with Major General Trischak. During the office call they discussed EUFOR's on-going activities and the security situation within BiH; Major General Trischak thanked Minister Benkő for Hungary's continued support to EUFOR.



In the afternoon, Minister Benkő took the opportunity to spend time with the soldiers of the Hungarian contingent. He addressed the troops before handing out Christmas gifts and engaging in conversation.

Hungary plays an important role in EUFOR, not only contributing the Chief of Staff and HQ Camp Commandant, but also providing a company of soldiers as part of the Multinational Battalion, which plays a key role in the combined training exercises run with our partners in the AFBiH, alongside other duties.

EUFOR Welcomes The Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic



On 13 December 2019, The Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic, Mr Peter Gajdoš, met with EUFOR HQ staff and Slovakian soldiers serving with the mission on a visit to Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

Minister Gajdoš was accompanied by the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, General Daniel Zmeko, and they were welcomed by Commander EUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak. An Honour Guard was formed and Minister Gajdoš performed an inspection; he took the salute and was introduced to EUFOR Branch Chiefs.

During the visit of Minister Gajdoš, issues including the political and security situation in BiH were discussed, as well as EUFOR's current activity in support of maintaining a safe and secure environment. Major General Trischak thanked Minister Gajdoš for the valuable contribution the Slovakian troops have made in helping create a safer, more secure BiH, and for the Slovak Republic's continued support to Operation EUFOR Althea.

COMEUFOR visits Vitezit explosives factory

The Commander of EUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak, spent Thursday 14 November 2019 visiting the Vitezit explosives factory in Vitez, along with representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the relevant State and Federation level Ministries who are all taking a keen interest in the potential security implications of the factory's bankruptcy.

Major General Trischak said, "The purpose of my visit here is to witness first-hand the situation at the factory, view the hazardous materials and the level of security at the storage sites so I can accurately assess the risks to the safe and secure environment."

The court appointed liquidator, Mrs Behrija Huseinbegović, and Deputy Director of the Federation Directorate of Defence Industry Factories, Mr Enver Mujezinovic, briefed Major General Trischak on the situation at the site, namely: the best approach to solving the potential security issues regarding storage and guarding of the hazardous materials. Major General Trischak stated, "It must be the first priority of the liquidators to ensure the security of the site and the removal or destruction of these chemicals in order to mitigate against potential danger to the population."

Along with the representatives from the UNDP and the Ministries, Major General Trischak gained a good overview



"It must be the first priority of the liquidators to ensure the security of the site and the removal or destruction of these chemicals in order to mitigate against potential danger to the population."

COMEUFOR

of the actual situation and will be engaging with key leaders in BiH and from the international community to ensure that they have a clear awareness of the risk the hazardous materials could potentially cause if they are not managed properly.

Although the filing for bankruptcy of the factory is causing many challenges for all involved, COMEUFOR noted the willingness of the factory authorities to engage with

EUFOR and their stated intention to achieve the best and safest outcome regarding the storage and destruction of the stocks of hazardous materials.

Swiss Diplomats Visit Camp Butmir

The Commander of EUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak, held a meeting with the Swiss Ambassador, Her Excellency Andrea Rauber Saxer, and Head of the Department for Eastern Europe, Eastern Asia, Council of Europe and the OSCE within the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Anna Ifkovits Horner, during an official office call at Camp Butmir on Tuesday 3 December 2019.

Major General Trischak briefed the diplomats on EUFOR's current activities and discussed the valuable contribution that Swiss troops make to the mission here in BiH.



From left: H.E. Andrea Rauber Saxer, COMEUFOR, Anna Ifkovits Horner

2004 - 2019

15 YEARS ANNIVERSARY



To mark the 15 year anniversary of Operation EUFOR Althea, we have taken a look back on the memorable moments and milestones of the mission.

Adaptive force structure Agile to respond

Since the establishment of EUFOR on 2 December 2004, much has happened. Operation EUFOR Althea replaced the NATO-led Stabilisation Force (SFOR) and initially consisted of 7,000 troops. The ability to reinforce the EUFOR mission with 'Over the Horizon' troops from partner nations has been demonstrated since 2005 with the first Operational Rehearsal.

Since 2012 EUFOR has comprised of 600 troops, from 20 nations, working together for a Safe and Secure Environment in BiH. The introduction of Exercise Quick Response in 2013, demonstrated the ability of EUFOR to continue to activate, quickly deploy and integrate reinforcing troops in and outside of BiH, regardless of the standing force structure. It also enabled EUFOR to exercise with and to develop AFBiH as a modern force at the level required to support International Community efforts such as Peacekeeping Operations.

Exercise Quick Response has evolved, as well as demonstrating the ability to quickly reinforce EUFOR within the 'Berlin Plus' agreement to draw on mobile and versatile forces held at readiness to deal with any military contingency that arises, it is an annual Peace Support Operations exercise. It is designed to allow EUFOR and AFBiH to train and exercise together, alongside Law Enforcement Agencies, in scenarios such as securing critical infrastructure sites.





A force for peace and stability

One of EUFOR’s key objectives has always been to maintain a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) of continued peace, preventing a resumption of violence.

Beginning in 2004, Harvest Operations are an example of how EUFOR has supported civilian authorities to make people aware of the necessity of handing in their weapons. Project Explode (EU funded), with BiH MoD, EUSR, UNDP and OSCE, supported AFBiH to destroy ammunition and complex weapons systems. Projects “SECUP” and “SAFE-UP” helped to upgrade safety and security of the BiH Weapons and Ammunition Storage Sites according to international standards. Ongoing projects include “EUSTAR” (EU funded), provision of assistance to stockpile management and ammunition surplus reduction, and “EXPLODE+”, urgent action on ammunition destruction and disposal.

Operation Spring Clean in 2005 was part of EUFOR’s contribution to the fight against organised crime in BiH in association with Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA’s), including local police, the State Border Service and the Indirect Taxation Authority.

The Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) programme began in 2012, embedding EUFOR personnel within AFBiH structures in a joint training effort, with AFBiH troops participating in EUFOR exercises. With more than 5,000 AFBiH troops trained, CB&T concluded with the signing of Training and Co-Operation Plan for 2019 between EUFOR and AFBiH, who are now self-sustaining in terms of individual training.

EUFOR continues to work alongside AFBiH, aiming to increase capacity further, through more emphasis on collective training, within the agreed Training and Co-Operation Plan.

Supporting a stronger BiH

EUFOR has worked tirelessly to set the conditions necessary for the transfer of responsibility for key aspects of policy and

procedure to local authorities of BiH. Through committed support of government Ministries and Agencies, and Law Enforcement Agencies, BiH has moved from being a security consumer to the position of a security provider, evidenced through their contribution to international peacekeeping missions.

In 2005 a single Armed Forces at the state level (AFBiH) was created with the support of EUFOR. In 2007 EUFOR handed over responsibility for inspection and monitoring of 39 weapon storage sites and the “harvesting of weapons”. In 2009 EUFOR signed three Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with AFBiH, formally handing over responsibility for the control of military movement, ammo storage sites and radio frequency authority to the AFBiH.

In 2009, representatives of state and local government agencies signed an MOU which regulates the approvals for import, export, transit and internal shipment of weapons and military equipment, ammunition, dual use items and nuclear material for BiH and grants responsibility for these matters to BiH institutions.

In 2002, BiH Mine Action Centre (BHMIC) took over complete responsibility for mine-clearance activities, as an instrument of the BiH Ministry of Civil Affairs. EUFOR supports BHMIC and advises the EU on technical issues related to demining projects in which funds should be invested. EUFOR also monitors, advises and assists the demining operations of the AFBiH to increase operational and logistical effectiveness, having donated equipment, demining machines, dogs and also providing training. EUFOR supports all national mine action authorities to make BiH mine free by 2025.

An MOU between EUFOR and the BiH MoD was signed in 2014 to provide the framework for the co-operation between EUFOR and the MoD / AFBiH. EUFOR-led exercises and CB&T programme enabled AFBiH to be used not only for conventional military operations but also domestic tasks such as de-mining, medical evacuation and disaster relief.





Relief against natural disaster

EUFOR soldiers have often deployed to assist in different search and rescue operations, such as firefighting, helicopter evacuations and disaster relief activities.

EUFOR provided support to BiH and its people during the record breaking snow falls of 2012. EUFOR personnel and helicopters were involved in providing food, medical supplies and evacuation of endangered people. EUFOR also supported BiH in clearing snow from the roads which paralyzed the country.

EUFOR made a strong contribution by assisting the local agencies and community in fighting the massive forest fires, during the summer season of 2013, all over the BiH.

During the worst floods to ever strike the region, EUFOR supported BiH, its people and institutions. Over 900 people were rescued and over 40 were provided with emergency medical treatment. More than 750 members of AFBiH, around 450 EUFOR members with helicopters, trucks, engineering equipment and other resources participated.

A force in the community

From the start, Liaison and Observation Teams (LOTs) have been a characteristic feature of EUFOR. LOTs live in a community with the local population, keeping contact with the BiH authorities and citizens and providing situational awareness to HQ EUFOR.

Mine Risk Education (MRE) is delivered by the LOTs to more than 15,000 individuals per year. EUFOR provides Mine Risk Education (MRE) to vulnerable and at risk groups such as farmers, forestry companies, hunting clubs and in particular children of all ages in order to raise awareness and promote safe behaviour. EUFOR has supported kids' festivals and school visits by providing MRE.

The following pages contain images that formed a photographic exhibition during the 15 Year Gala event held to mark the anniversary of Operation EUFOR Althea. These striking images capture the most memorable events of the last 15 years.

Training with AFBiH

Troops from EUFOR's Multinational Battalion frequently conduct training with their partners in the Armed Forces BiH. Excellent cooperation has always been a hallmark of this relationship.



Weapons Destruction

On Monday 6th March 2006 the first harvested weapons destruction of the year was conducted by EUFOR at a steel factory in Zenica. 268 rifles, submachine guns and pistols, as well as 500 magazines and two bayonets were destroyed.





Days of Mourning

2008 was a very sad year for EUFOR when 15 soldiers died in two separate helicopter accidents. The lives of 11 soldiers from North Macedonia, 2 from Germany and 2 from Spain were tragically lost during these helicopter crashes.



Youth Outreach

On 13th October 2010 the first regional qualifiers of the hugely popular EUFOR cup kicked off in the Borik Sports Centre in Banja Luka.

Fighting Wildfire

Throughout the summer season in 2013, EUFOR assisted the local agencies and community in the fight against the massive forest fires which raged across Bosnia and Herzegovina. EUFOR Helicopters were used to drop water in areas that were difficult to access using other means.



Combatting Winter Disruption

During the record breaking snow falls in 2012 EUFOR provided support to BiH and its people. Personnel and helicopters were involved in providing food, medical supplies and evacuation from endangered areas. EUFOR's troops also helped to clear the snow from roads.





Kids Festival

On June the 11th at the 2012 kid's festival Turkish troops from EUFOR's Multinational Battalion educated the children about the danger of mines. EUFOR was one of the main sponsors of the annual week long kid's festivals which were based in Sarajevo.



Flood Relief

In May 2014 during the disaster relief exercise 'Joint Effort 14'. A EUFOR helicopter is used to evacuate civilians from an area which was cut off by flooding. Excellent cooperation between EUFOR, the AFBiH and Civil Authorities ensured those in most danger got the assistance they required.

Reaching the Unreachable

In May 2014 EUFOR and the Armed Forces of BiH transformed their annual military exercise 'Quick Response' into the disaster relief exercise 'Joint Effort 14'. The aim was to assist civilians in areas affected by the floods and landslides. Troops, helicopters, trucks and engineering equipment were quickly diverted to complete this important role.



Mine Risk Education

In May 2014 EUFOR and the Armed Forces of BiH transformed their annual military exercise 'Quick Response' into the disaster relief exercise 'Joint Effort 14'. The aim was to assist civilians in areas affected by the floods and landslides. Troops, helicopters, trucks and engineering equipment were quickly diverted to complete this important role.





Capacity Building and Training

The EUFOR Capacity Building and Training project was started in 2010 and concluded in 2018 with over 5000 soldiers attending training courses. It provided the BiH authorities with military expertise and technical support.



Prepared for Action

During Exercise Quick Response 2019, the Turkish Company of EUFOR's Multinational Battalion ready themselves to deal with a violent protest scenario at Sarajevo International Airport in the early hours of Thursday 10th October.



**Early Mornings,
Late Nights**

As the sun sets over Camp Butmir, Austrian troops from the 6th Mountain Warfare Brigade finish a long day's integration training with EUFOR's Multinational Battalion during the preparation for Exercise Quick Response 2019.

Strategic Airlift

On the 23rd of September 2019 an Antonov 124 flew in to Sarajevo International Airport bringing vehicles and troops from the United Kingdom to join EUFOR's annual exercise Quick Response, where the capability of quickly reinforcing in country troops with reserve forces from partner countries is tested.





Law Enforcement Cooperation

The personnel who serve on EUFOR's Operation Althea not only work together with international troops from all the contributing nations, but also enjoy close relationships with their opposite numbers in the Armed Forces BiH and the BiH Law Enforcement Agencies.



Recognition

The Operation Althea medal was first presented in 2004 and is a version of the Common Security and Defence Policy Service Medal. It is inscribed with the Latin phrase "Pro pace unum", which translates as "United for peace". It is presented to all EUFOR troops who have served the requisite time on the mission.

EUFOR Marks 15 Years of Successful Cooperation



Host Hana Sokolović, Dragan Zovko, Minister of Defence Marina Pendeš on stage with COMEUFOR

On Thursday 5 December 2019, EUFOR marked the 15-year anniversary of the formation of Operation EUFOR Althea at an event held at the Hall of the Armed Forces BiH, Sarajevo.

At the beginning, Minister of Defence of BiH, Ms Marina Pendeš and Major General Trischak, welcomed the guests and during the event Commander EUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak, European Union Special Representative, H.E. Johann Sattler, and Associate Professor of Security and Peace studies at the University of Sarajevo, Professor Zlatan Bajramović, took to the stage to give their insights on the history of the mission, memorable moments and important milestones and the EU Integrated Approach.

Commenting on the length of the mission, General Trischak said: “EUFOR will leave BiH as soon as

possible, but will remain as long as necessary.”

Continued on page 20



European Union Special Representative, H.E. Johann Sattler



Professor Zlatan Bajramović

The gala was an opportunity to look back on the successful cooperation in Bosnia and Herzegovina during 15 years of Operation EUFOR Althea. These events included working alongside the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and law enforcement agencies to build capacity and training, natural disaster relief efforts, community outreach, weapons and ammunition disposal, de-mining activity and the evolution of Exercise Quick Response, the capability to quickly reinforce in-country troops with reserve forces from partner nations.



Amila Terzimehić performing the dance Endscopia

Paying tribute to the AFBiH General Trischak said: “I have met no more dedicated and professional soldiers and Officers than those within the AFBiH”. Now that EUFOR’s individual training programme has ceased and AFBiH are self-sustaining, he added: “...they have progressed from a security consumer to a credible and respected security provider.”

Many distinguished guests attended, including Minister of Defence of BiH, Ms Marina Pendeš, Chief of the Joint Staff AFBiH,

“I have met no more dedicated and professional soldiers and Officers than those within the AFBiH. They have progressed from a security consumer to a credible and respected security provider.”

COMEUFOR

Lieutenant General Senad Mašović, High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Valentin Inzko, ambassadors and other dignitaries.

Artistic performances by former BiH champion rhythmic gymnast Amila Terzimehić performing the dance ‘Endscopia’; pianist and composer Helmar Hill and saxophonist Herbert Grubmair performing ‘There will never be another you’; and baritone singer Dr. Thomas Widrich who sang ‘The Quest’ were enjoyed by the guests.



Baritone singer Dr. Thomas Widrich



Saxophonist Herbert Grubmair and pianist Helmar Hill

EUFOR Soldiers Donate Blood

On 31 October, members of the EUFOR Liaison and Observation Team houses in Foca and Novo Sarajevo donated blood at the Red Cross Clinic in Novo Sarajevo in order to help those who most need it within Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Captain Jozef Krehlik, who is part of Slovakia's contribution to EUFOR's mission, said, "We wanted to offer our blood as there is always a demand for it and when people need blood it is so important that they can get it".

EUFOR maintains 17 LOT houses in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which are manned by 7 different troop contributing nations. These are used to stay in touch with local authorities and the population in order to be aware of local issues which could affect the security situation.



LOT Foča Help School Students Learn more about EUFOR

On 10 December 2019, personnel from the EUFOR Liaison Observation Team in Foča, in close connection with the Association of High School Students of BiH, gave a presentation to raise awareness of Operation EUFOR Althea.

When the Association of High School Students in Foča became aware of a general lack of knowledge among school children about EUFOR's mission in BiH, they naturally turned to the Liaison Observation Team for their help. The EUFOR team prepared a presentation to explain what EUFOR does, its purpose and the reason for EUFOR's presence in BiH. The presentation also covered how the international presence in BiH has developed over the years, from

UNPROFOR and IFOR to SFOR, before EUFOR came into existence 15 years ago this month.

The presentation was attended by 40 students and 2 teachers from local

schools in Foča and was received positively. The young audience thanked the Liaison Observation Team for producing an informative presentation and for giving their time.



Turkish Company Integration Training



EUFOR's Multinational Battalion, Turkish Company, was put through a challenging range of tests at Rajlovac, on 9 November 2019, to ensure their new joiners were up to the high standard of competence needed to be judged "fully operationally capable".



Platoon Leader, 1st Lieutenant Tahir Sen, said, "This exercise is a good chance to see the full capability of the company as they operate under

the command of the Multinational Battalion. It is important to conduct this kind of training under realistic

circumstances so that we know the troops are ready for any mission."

To pass this peace support operations training the soldiers had to perform exercises in Crowd Riot Control, Civilian Evacuation and Medical Evacuation.

Captain Ali Karabas received the certificate of achievement on reaching Full Operational Capability from COMEUFOR on behalf of the Turkish Company on 21 November 2019.

Exercising the Chain of Command

From 25-29 November 2019, EUFOR's Multinational Battalion conducted their quarterly Command Post Exercise at Camp Butmir.

The Command Post Exercise is a training serial involving EUFOR HQ command elements and the Multinational Battalion force elements.

It is designed to test operational coordination, procedures and communication channels using different types of reporting systems.

Major Gyula Dede said: "I was satisfied with the performance of both the HQ staff and the Multinational Battalion. All who took part demonstrated a good knowledge of the procedures and they worked well together. The exercise allowed everybody to gain valuable experience."



EUFOR conducts regular training exercises covering a variety of scenarios, using a wide range of equipment. This helps to ensure that EUFOR is ready to react to any situation that it may face in order to maintain the safe and secure environment.

Communication is Key to Success

Members of the Turkish Company of EUFOR’s Multinational Battalion conducted essential training on tactical satellite communications equipment at Camp Butmir on 27 November 2019.

Training was carried out on the state of the art communications equipment used by EUFOR and included general application of the equipment, battery exchange and the use of different antennas. Sergeant Ruby Thomas said:

“The Tactical Satellite (TACTSAT) training was a very productive and enjoyable experience. The training was well delivered and successfully put into practice. Regular repetition of this training helps to enable safe handling of the device.”

As a great example of the holistic approach to training taken by the Multinational Battalion, this training was delivered by Austrian soldiers who are bilingual and able to speak Turkish. The ability to deliver training to a group of soldiers in their native language aides greatly in the level of understanding achieved during training serials, helping to increases overall operational effectiveness.



EUFOR witness significant progress in minefield marking



On 19 December 2019, EUFOR Joint Military Affairs Countermines (JMA CM) team travelled to Travnik to receive a brief at the BiH Mine Action Centre (BHMIC) Regional Office on progress made in emergency minefield marking of Suspect Hazardous Areas (SHA).

Colonel Johann Jamnig, EUFOR Chief JMA, met the Assistant Director for Operations of BHMIC, Mr. Dragan Stojak, and the BHMIC Regional Office Director, Mr. Dragan Maroš. They reported 253 emergency marking signs had been placed in the municipality of Donji Vakuf from 13-27 November, with assistance from AFBiH demining personnel.

An estimated 197 more signs are required to complete marking in accordance with national regulations in this area. Additionally, marking of all existing SHA within their responsible area, numbering six municipalities in total, has been finalised and assessed.

Colonel Jamnig said: “Unmarked minefields are the most important priority for public safety...the first priority should be marking minefields.” Assistant Director Stojak responded: “...it will be made a priority.”

There are 20.5 km² of SHA in the Donji Vakuf region that remain SHA. This will create 10 Mine Suspected Areas prepared for ‘Land Release’ projects. During the implementation of the Country Assessment of all Mine Suspected Areas in BiH, EUFOR JMA CM realised that the situation with poor minefield marking of SHA was worse than expected.

In a letter to Ministers, COMEUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak, reminded BiH Mine Action authorities of their obligations to sufficiently mark SHA; reinforcing the need for cooperation, with 30% of all existing SHA in BiH either not marked or not sufficiently marked.

There is serious risk of large shortfalls in demining activity if a new Demining Commission is not appointed and then approved by the BiH Council of Ministers; the previous mandate expired in October 2018.

EUFOR Multinational Battalion conduct live firing



EUFOR's Multinational Battalion, Hungarian Company, conducted a live firing event in Pazarić, on 12 November 2019, in order to keep their shooting skills at a high standard. During the live firing event COMEUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak and the Commander of the Multinational Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Manfred Leitner, joined

Constant maintenance of shooting skills is an essential part of ensuring our troops are operationally capable.

the company to observe the soldiers skills and also to take the opportunity to fire the SZVD 7.62mm and the Gepárd M1 12.7mm rifles.

Captain Zsolt Aradi, whose soldiers took part in the training said, "Constant maintenance of shooting skills is an essential part of ensuring our troops are operationally capable. I was pleased with their performance at the ranges today."



Commander EUFOR meets BiH Presidency Chairman Komšić



Commander EUFOR, Major General Trischak, and the Chairman of the BiH Presidency, Željko Komšić, met in Sarajevo on Monday 18 November 2019. They discussed the current political situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the close cooperation between EUFOR and local authorities, law enforcement agencies and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Major General Trischak reiterated his commitment to the maintenance of the safe and secure environment and his willingness to cooperate with the authorities in BiH to achieve this.



Beside the contribution to the safe and secure environment, support to the Armed Forces of BiH through combined and collective training remains a key effort for EUFOR, thus facilitating the transition of Bosnia and Herzegovina from a security consumer to a respected security provider, with troops deployed in various missions across the world.

Lieutenant Colonel Nicolai Tschol

Military Police Join Forces



Between the 5-6 November 2019, EUFOR's International Military Police Detachment conducted training for 13 members of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina Military Police Battalion who are preparing for a deployment to Afghanistan.

The training covered techniques needed to conduct a wide variety of Military Police duties including: Investigator's duties at a crime scene, types of evidence, the 7 steps of crime scene investigation, collecting evidence, searching crime scene patterns, measuring and marking and also traffic control procedures.

The training which was requested by the AFBiH was split into both theoretical and practical exercises and

carried out by EUFOR's experienced International Military Police members from Austria, Poland and Slovakia.

The participants stated that the

training was very interesting and gave them confidence in their ability to perform their duties to a high standard during the mission in Afghanistan.



COMEUFOR meets Commander of the Operational Command of AFBiH

On 4 November 2019, Commander EUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak, held a meeting with Major General Radovan Ilić, the Commander of the Operational Command of AFBiH.

During a friendly and professional meeting issues relating to the security of BiH were discussed. Major General Trischak reiterated his commitment to the maintenance of the safe and secure environment and his willingness to cooperate with the authorities in BiH to achieve this.



COMEUFOR visits Vojkovici State Prison



COMEUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak, visited Vojkovici State Prison with H.E. Mr Drahoslav Štefánek, Special Representative of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe and Head of the Council of Europe Office in BiH, on 3 December 2019 in order to gain a first-hand impression of the facility.

BiH Minister of Justice, Josip Grubeša, and Acting Warden of the



State Prison, Marko Vujević, gave a tour of the facility and informed Major General Trischak that the prison meets the highest standards. A discussion took place about the prison's features and the way forward for the future of the facility. Major General Trischak also presented Minister Grubeša with a plaque to mark the occasion of the visit.

This impressive and modern facility has been co-financed by Bosnia and Herzegovina's European partners.

EUFOR Chief of Staff thanks Sarajevo International Airport

On 27 November 2019, EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General László Szabó, visited Sarajevo International Airport to meet with the Head of Security, Senad Malić.

The General thanked Mr Malić for the support the airport security team provided during Exercise Quick Response 2019 and presented a plaque in appreciation of their excellent cooperation.



Brigadier General László Szabó said that he hoped that the good relationship that has been developed, not only with the airport authorities, but also with law enforcement agencies, will continue in the future and that all parties will gain further benefits from this important joint training.

Exercise Quick Response 2019 ran between 7-11 October and is EUFOR's largest annual exercise. It demonstrates the ability to quickly reinforce the troops in theatre with reserve forces from partner nations.

Tournaments at Camp Butmir



Table Tennis

On 12 December 2019 a table tennis tournament was held at Camp Butmir. Over 20 participants competed in both Men's Singles and Men's Doubles and the competition saw a high standard of play throughout.

Poland dominated with Konrad Lewicki winning the singles competition and also the doubles title with his partner Dariusz Kowalonek. Konrad said: "I was very pleased to win with such a high standard of opponents. The tournament was well organised and everyone played with the right spirit."

Tournament Winners

Men's Singles

1st	LEWICKI Konrad POL
2nd	KOWALONEK Dariusz POL
3rd	OGRIS Michael AUT

Men's Doubles

1st	LEWICKI Konrad POL/ KOWALONEK Dariusz POL
2nd	KANDLER Stefan AUT /SPREITZER Manfred AUT
3rd	FALAH Allaeddine AUT / OGRIS Michael AUT

Badminton

A badminton tournament was held at Camp Butmir on 12-14 November 2019. This was well supported and titles for men's and women's singles and doubles, as well as mixed doubles, were contested.

Tournament Winners

Women's Singles	PACEKOVA Zuzana SVK
Men's Singles	FALAH Alaaeddine AUT
Mixed Doubles	LISZOKOVA Vera CZE/BARNA Marek SVK
Men's Doubles	HUTKA Norbert SVK/BARNA Marek SVK
Women's Doubles	PACEKOVA Zuzana SVK /LISZOKOVA Vera CZE



Calling all amateur photographers!

The photo competition is here again!
So get snapping and send your photos to **euforpao@gmail.com**. Each amateur photographer can submit up to three photos, with a minimum size of 2 MB before 15 February 20.

Submissions should include a short description (what, where, when, who) and the name of the photographer.

The best photos will be published in the next EUFOR Forum, and a prize will be given for the winning picture.

