

January 2008

# EUFOR **Forum**

EDITION 27

EUFOR Forum online at [www.euforbih.org](http://www.euforbih.org)

A large outdoor ceremony, likely a memorial service, featuring numerous national flags on tall poles. Military personnel in various uniforms are present, some holding framed certificates or documents. In the center, there is a table covered with a red and yellow cloth, adorned with floral arrangements. The background shows a paved area and some trees under a clear sky. The overall atmosphere is solemn and formal.

# EUFOR IN GRIEF

# COM EUFOR



I learned with deep shock and sadness of the tragic accident involving eleven of our comrade soldiers from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) in a helicopter crash which took place on Saturday 12 Jan 08 ten kilometers short of SKOPJE airport.

The death of any soldier, sailor and airman during times of peace or conflict is always a sad and heart rending event and reinforces the dangerous nature of our work.

I have forwarded my deepest condolences and that of the entire EUFOR mission on the sudden and untimely death of such dedicated and committed personnel to the Macedonian authorities, their families and citizens of the country. Each one of them gave excellent service in the furtherance of peace in our mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We publicly record our appreciation and gratitude for their outstanding contribution to the mission of EUFOR. The Macedonian contingent continues to provide splendid support to EUFOR in its aviation and medical roles.

Regrettably they were so close to home when the accident occurred just as they were finishing the final leg of their journey and end of their tour of duty. They paid the ultimate sacrifice with the loss of their precious lives.

Their memory will be preserved in the hearts and minds of all who came into contact with them in their daily work. They will be remembered for the exceptional spirit and goodwill with which they performed their tasks for the betterment of EUFOR and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I attended the funeral of the victims and extended our sincere sympathies to the families and conveyed to them that the thoughts of all personnel of EUFOR are with them in this trying time.

“May they rest in peace”

Major General Ignacio Martín Villalain  
COM EUFOR

# EUFOR Forum

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Please give full names, rank and nationality of all persons referred to in articles and photos.

Digitised photographs should be submitted in JPG format with a minimum resolution of 200 dpi. The EUFOR Forum does not normally return materials and will assume no

# Javier SOLANA



Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), offers his heartfelt condolences to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) following the helicopter accident outside Skopje. Javier SOLANA, EU High Representative for the CFSP, spoke to President Branko CRVENKOVSKI and issued the following statement following today's helicopter crash outside Skopje involving part of the FYROM's contingent in EUFOR ALTHEA (Bosnia and Herzegovina):

“I am shocked and saddened by today's helicopter accident outside Skopje. I would like to convey my most sincere and heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims of the accident, as well as to my friends the President and the Prime Minister and to the people of the FYROM.

The accident is especially sad as the FYROM is making an outstanding contribution to the EU military operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, supporting security and stability to the region at a crucial time. This demonstrates the progress made by the country in recent years.

My sincere appreciation, my profound sympathy and my thoughts are therefore with you at this difficult time.”

# EUFOR in Grief

EUFOR can confirm that on Saturday 12 January 2008 at around 1200 Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) Mi17 Helicopter that was returning home at the end of mission crashed approximately six miles from Skopje near the village of Blace. On board the aircraft were eleven FYROM crew and passengers who were all killed. They were all members of the FYROM contingent who had completed their tour in EUFOR.

The helicopter launched from the EUFOR base in Camp Butmir at 0930 and was close to its destination.

EUFOR extends its condolences to the friends and family of those who were on board and we regret any loss of life.



## Wings Of The Angels

*A gentle wind blew cross the land  
Reaching out to take a hand  
For on the winds the angels came  
Calling out a mother's name.*

*Left behind, the children's tears  
Loving memories of the years  
Of joy and love, a life well spent  
And now to God a mother's sent.*

*On angel's wings, a heavenly flight  
The journey home, towards the light  
To those who weep, a life is gone  
But in God's love, 'tis but the dawn.*

# Commemoration Ceremony in Butmir



EUFOR came together on Wednesday 16 of January 2008 to formally commemorate the fallen aircrew of the FYROM contingent. The ceremony was led by COM EUFOR, Major General Ignacio Martín Villalaín and was attended by senior representatives of the OHR, BiH Government and other authorities and also many members of the International Community. A helicopter flypast occurred to mark the end of the ceremony.

EUFOR paid tribute to the exceptional professionalism of the Macedonian contingent and also the gracious manners that they have displayed. The contingent provides EUFOR with both an exceptional aviation capability and medical facilities that have continued to serve us well.

On Tuesday 15 January, COM EUFOR attended the funerals of the Macedonian contingent in Skopje and afterwards he with the Macedonian President, Branko Crevenkovski, and the Minister of Defence, Lazar Elenovski. They expressed many thanks for the solidarity that EUFOR has shown in this troubled time.

This loss will not diminish these capabilities and EUFOR continues to provide the safe and secure environment that BiH enjoys.

EUFOR has conducted its own investigation into the fuel used and the results show that there were no problems and began flying again on Monday 14 January. COM EUFOR has promised full support to the Macedonian authorities who continue to carry out the investigation.

# EUFOR Change of Command

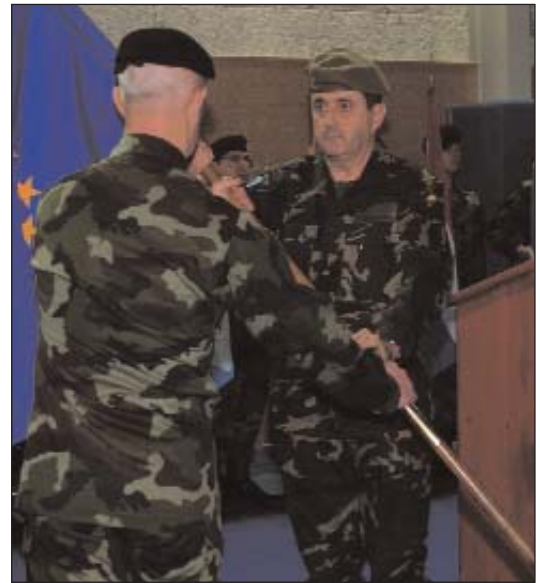
**On 4th of December at Butmir Camp a change of command occurred within EUFOR.**

Rear Admiral Hans-Jochen Witthauer completed his one year term as Commander of EUFOR and he handed over to General de Division Ignacio Martín Villalaín of the Spanish Army during a ceremony on this day.

During the ceremony, Rear Admiral Hans-Jochen Witthauer thanked “the impressive array of ambassadors and representatives of Troop Contributing Nations EUFOR assembled to demonstrate their governments’ commitment and interest in the continuing success of Operation ALTHEA.” He made a special note of the High Representative and EU Special Representative Ambassador Doctor Miroslav LAJCAK for his impressive grasp of political military relationships and his cooperative approach in this arena. In addition he extended his thanks to Dr Javier Solana for his excellent stewardship of the strategic direction of ESDP and his gratitude to the Operational Commander General John McColl and his predecessor General Sir John Reith for their shrewd guidance and wise counsel. He finally thanked his considerable number of friends from NATO and the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina who were amongst the honourable guests.

General de Division Ignacio Martín Villalaín gave a press conference

afterwards and stated his strong desire to ensure that the work of EUFOR continues in the same manner as the last few years. Much progress has been made in ensuring and maintaining a safe and secure environment in order to allow the Stabilisation and Association Agreement that was initialled today, prior to a full signing, as a step towards European integration.



# New Commander for EUFOR Multi-National Battalion

On 17th December 2007 at Butmir Camp, EUFOR conducted a change of command ceremony to mark the handover of command within the Multi-National Battalion (MNBN). Lieutenant Colonel Enrique Segura handed over command to Lt Colonel Francisco Mugica after nearly one year of command. During this time he has overseen a number of key events, noticeable Exercise Trojan Buttress in August when the MNBN took part in a joint exercise with the over the horizon reserve forces. This event displayed the capability in bringing in rapid reinforcements should the need ever arise. EUFOR has the ability to call on Over the Horizon forces. These are four ready battalions, one each from the UK, France, Germany and Italy.

The MNBN consists of four manoeuvre companies from Hungary, Poland, Spain and Turkey who provide the bulk of the forces. In addition there is a long range reconnaissance troop that can provide surveillance throughout BiH. These are all commanded by a Headquarters element.

The MNBN has been in existence since February 2007 when EUFOR transitioned from three tasks forces down to one battalion and the Integrated Police Unit (IPU). These forces are based in Camp Butmir and have a strong capability in ensuring the current safe and secure environment.

Lt Col Francisco Múgica was born on 12th November 1959 in Vigo, Spain.

He joined the Spanish Naval Academy in 1979. Commissioned in 1984, his first appointment was the Special Intervention Unit in Cartagena where he served for



two years; he has attended two diver courses to obtain the qualification as a combat diver. Thereafter, he was assigned as a platoon commander of the second rifle company, I Battalion, Spanish Marine Brigade, serving one year. Thereafter, he was promoted to Captain and appointed as a Rifle Company Commander, during a period of two years. He has also served as staff officer in different posts in the Spanish Marine Brigade, including Battalion and Regimental Group S-2 and S-3 sections.

He was assigned to the Spanish Navy Diving Centre as instructor in different diving courses, but mainly to the combat diver course. Meanwhile, he attended a CIS course in the Navy Communications and EW School.

He was promoted to Major in July 1996 and assigned as intelligence and operations (S-2 and S-3) section head in the Spanish Marine Regimental Unit in Cartagena. He graduated from Naval War College in 1998 and appointed teacher to the "Amphibious Operations Course" for officers at the Spanish Marine School. He was commissioned as

European Community Monitor Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina for six months from March to September 1999. Thereafter, he was appointed to deputy commander of the II Landing Battalion and later on as a Logistics section head (G-4) in the Spanish Marine Brigade HQ. He was appointed Commander of

the Spanish Marines Detachment in Trebinje, Bosnia and Herzegovina, from November 2001 to June 2002. On completion, he was appointed to Northwood HQ(UK) as Amphibious Operations Staff Officer on September 1st. He was promoted to LtCol on March 12th 2003.

On completion of this tour in England he was appointed to the Logistics Division in the Naval Staff HQ in Madrid. Thereafter, he was designated as a II Spanish Marine Battalion Commander on March 10th 2006. He was deployed to Lebanon with part of his Battalion on September 2006 during two months as First Response Force.

LtCol Mugica is married to Carmen and they have three sons.



# COM EUFOR Visits Srebrenica to Pay Respect

COM EUFOR, Major General Ignacio Martín Villalain conducted a private visit to Srebrenica on 27 of December 2007 in order to pay his respects to victims of the 1995 massacre.

In a personal gesture, he chose Srebrenica to be his first field visit since taking command of EUFOR on 4 December 2007.

Major General Ignacio Martín Villalain visited the Memorial Centre in Potocari, where he laid flowers and conveyed his personal thoughts in a message in the visitors' book of impressions.

Whilst recognising the loss of the families of the victims, COM EUFOR expressed his hopes that the memorial would serve as a spur to all us to prevent such atrocities ever occurring in the future.





# New Headquarters Personnel for EUFOR IPU

On 14 of December 2007 at Butmir Camp, EUFOR held a formal ceremony to mark the Full Operational Capability of the enhanced Integrated Police Unit (IPU) Headquarters. This HQ has received staff from the European Gendarmerie Force (EGF). The EGF is a multinational initiative of Dutch, French, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish Police Forces with military status. Its aim is to reinforce International Community capabilities on police missions. Next to the five EGF Member States already mentioned Hungary, Romania and Turkey also participate in the IPU by providing manpower and equipment essential to conducting IPU tasks.

The ceremony was commanded by the commander of the EUFOR IPU Colonel Giovanni Pietro BARBANO and many invites to politicians, ambassadors, military representatives were sent. Amongst key guests were Brigadier General Vincenzo Coppola, the Head of the EUPM and Lieutenant General Menze Beuvig who acts as the Commander of the EGF capability.

As a crucial asset of EUFOR the IPU has inherent information gathering and preventative orientation capabilities, and, under EGF management, will continue to contribute to the safe and secure environment through assisting in the maintenance of public order and supporting the civilian implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace.

In particular, the IPU, upon request



can support BiH Local Police in technical investigations and cooperate during execution of special activities. Furthermore the specialized element is capable to perform information gathering activities; crime analysis and investigation; search operations, document exploitation and escort operations. Most importantly the IPU provides the strength behind operations requested by the ICTY to search for persons indicted for war crimes.

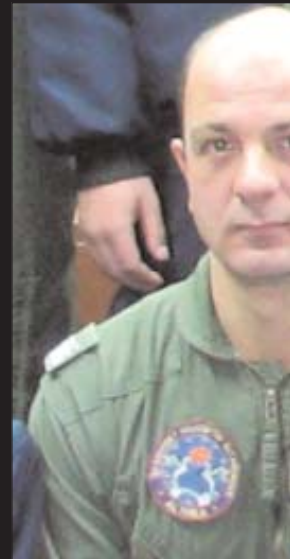




**ALEKSANDER TASKOVSKI**  
OR-6  
Electronic Technician  
5 Aug 1974 - 12 Jan 2008



**ALEKSANDER VASIC**  
OR-5  
Flight Safety controller  
21 Sep 1980 - 12 Jan 2008



**TONI DAVIC**  
OR-6  
Flight Technician  
04 Aug 1969 - 12 Jan 2008



**GORAN RISTOVSKI (Ricky)**  
OF-3  
Staff Officer  
27 Sep 1969 - 12 Jan 2008



**JANKO SIRIC**  
OR-6  
Flight Technician  
15 Jun 1972 - 12 Jan 2008



**BRANE SPASOV**  
OF-3  
Pilot  
08 Jun 1972 - 12 Jan 2008



**TONI SPASOV**  
OF-3  
Pilot  
29 Sep 1967 - 12 Jan 2008



**DIMITROVSKI**  
OR-8  
Technician  
69 - 12 Jan 2008



**IGOR GJORESKI (Hector)**  
OF-2  
Pilot  
6 May 1976 - 12 Jan 2008



**MIKI IVANOSKI**  
OR-5  
Electronic Technician  
21 Jan 1972 - 12 Jan 2008



**SPASOVSKI (Knight)**  
OF-2  
Pilot  
72 - 12 Jan 2008



**SLAVCO VASILEV**  
OR-8  
Flight Technician  
18 Jun 1971 - 12 Jan 2008



**ZLATKO VELJANOVSKI**  
OR-3  
Assistant Flight Technician  
02 Oct 1981 - 12 Jan 2008



**SPASOVSKI (Spider)**  
OF-4  
Pilot  
77 - 12 Jan 2008

# LOT Bijeljina

The Finnish LOT House in BIJELJINA has four main tasks, to conduct overt information gathering, to report regularly on the situation, to maintain liaison with local authorities and international organizations and to be prepared to report short notice events. The main goal of all this is situational awareness. Tasks in detail are determined according to operational orders, fragmentation orders, request for information and tasks are updated in the LOT-conferences in the RCC4 on regular basis. Basically, the LOT-house is “the eyes and ears” for the HQ EUFOR in its Area of Responsibility (AoR).

Bijeljina is located in the Republic of Srpska, in the triangle between the Sava River in the north, the Drina River in the east and the Majeвица Mountain in the southwest. The Bijeljina municipality covers 754 square km and is bordered with Brcko, Lopare, Ugljevik and Zvornik municipalities. The estimated population has grown after the war, currently, there are about 140 000 residents, although no census has been made since 1992. The majority of people in the area are Bosnian Serbs, but there are about 12-15% of Bosniacs and ~3% of other ethnicities, mainly Romas.

Bijeljina is a mainly flat agricultural area and is also a part of the bigger area called Semberija. It is the second biggest municipality of the RS, after Banja Luka. The situation in Bijeljina is calm and peaceful, although some minor ethnic tension is present, but it



is not a significant threat to the area’s stability. Because of the long border with Serbia, smuggling and organized crime are characteristic for this area which is closely linked together.

The LOT house is named “ILMARI” after the WWII Finnish fighter pilot who was the ace of the aces, Ilmari Juutilainen. The LOT-house itself is located in the vicinity of the town center, there is only about five minutes walk to the town center. The LOT BIJELJINA has nine liaison officers, who are divided into three patrols. Every patrol is assigned their own AoR. LOT house has three interpreters and two housekeepers, who take care of cleaning and cooking.

A normal working week for the LOT members is six working days with Sunday given over for recreation. There are always two officers

on duty at the house and two patrols are out patrolling or in a meeting. Meetings are the most important part of the LOT team’s work, because that is the most effective way of collecting information. Meetings are usually held in places where people to be interviewed are working or in some café bars and sometimes even at the LOT house itself. Patrolling is also one way of collecting information. Sometimes, local people approach the LOT members during patrolling and share their information, what ever it might be or they just want to have a chat with a foreigner. The LOT house is always open to people who want to come and share information or just to discuss any topic. The idea eventually is to meet as many people as possible. The concept of the LOT is therefore vital to the EUFOR mission and is one of the key activities conducted by EUFOR.

# LOT DERVENTA “Us among others”

LOT DERVENTA was inaugurated on 02 December 2004 and since then has been conducting patrols, meetings, liaisons with local authorities, receiving visits from national entities, MNTF(N), RCC4, HQ EUFOR and local organizations/entities. The LOT House continues to work with the IPU whenever they carry out operations and exercises in the area.

The concept of the EUFOR LOT house mission is the collection of overt information and liaison with local authorities and the local population to ‘feel the pulse’ of BiH. This information is about the evolving political, economic, social, environmental and security situation in its area of interest in order to provide situational awareness of its area.

On this context, LOT houses have to fulfil the following tasks:

- Provide HQ EUFOR the situational awareness necessary to enable them to act in a timely manner;
- Liaise proactively with International Organizations, Governmental Organizations, Non-Governmental Organizations, Local Authorities, Local Police and local representatives of the BiH Armed Forces;
- ‘Feel the pulse’ of the local population and agencies, identify and report changes of the situation;
- Support EUFOR Operations by gathering and providing information about the local situation to incoming EUFOR units;
- Support information

campaigns by disseminating EUFOR key messages;

- Contribute to the measurement of success of EUFOR operations.

The LOT house interacts with the following:

- International community (OSCE, EUPM, UNHCR, etc.)
- Local authorities, military and civilian (Municipal Hall, Police, CPA, FMU, etc.)
- Local population, religious lead-



LOT DERVENTA is composed of 3 teams:

- **Commander Team**  
LTC Nuno FERNANDES  
SFC Paulo GONÇALVES
- **Team 1**  
MAJ Jorge BASTOS  
CPT Pedro SILVA
- **Team 2**  
CPT José MARTINS  
CPT Nelson REGO
- **Team interpreters**  
Donata KRNJIC  
Mirela BOJIC  
Zorica RISTIC



ers and other entities, groups or organizations

To accomplish these tasks LOT DERVENTA performs the following daily duties:

- Accomplish and Maintain Effective Situational Awareness through daily meetings
  - Patrol Area of Responsibility (by car or foot)
  - Interact with local residents, businesses, community groups and other local field agencies
  - Reply to “Request for Information”
  - Receive Walk In’s
  - Send Daily reports (information about meetings, patrols, contacts) to HQ
  - Liaison with other EUFOR elements to share information
  - Be prepared to support information activities as tasked
  - Receive visitors to LOT
- LOT DERVENTA Area Of Responsibility
- The area of responsibility of LOT DERVENTA includes the municipalities of DERVENTA and BOSANSKI BROD located in the Republika Srpska (RS) entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH).

# 1878-1918 Museum Sarajevo

“Sarajevo 1878-1918” is the first museum in Bosnia and Herzegovina that tells the story about the life and events in Sarajevo and wider during the forty- years long rule of Austro-Hungary. Last year the façade of the building in which it is located, on the corner of the streets Obala Kulina bana and Zelenih beretki was renewed and a little slide show has been placed in one of the windows to allow passers-by to see a part of the museum’s exposition. The miniature inner area of the museum was renewed and opened in 2005 but has actually existed since 1959. The Museum “Sarajevo 1878-1918” with a different thematic was established on the area of the former “Young Bosnia Museum – Gavrilo Princip” which was established in 1956 when, on the sidewalk in front of the museum, they placed a famous concrete drain of Gavrilo Princip’s footprints, on the very place where he, in 1914, assassinated the crown prince Franc Ferdinand and his wife Sofia. “Those footprints never actually were a monument; they were made in 1956 and are not related to Gavrilo at all. But before the war people used to place candles near those footprints, meaning they wanted to make saint out of him. Others were saying that they should not make a monuments to a killer, a terrorist”, says the higher custodian of the Sarajevo Museum and the author of the exhibition of the Sarajevo 1878-1918 annex Mirsad Avdic. In order to comply with both those who were for and against the footprints, the town fathers decided to grant the footprints when the mon-



ument to Franc Ferdinand, which had been removed from that place by the authorities of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia, was returned across the street, near the Latin bridge. Even though it is located in a relatively small area, on a hundred squared meters, the museum has 12 thematic units, from the 1878 Berlin Congress and the decision by the large powers to annex Bosnia and Herzegovina to Austro-Hungary, to the end of the First World War during which tenths of thousands of Bosnians got killed fighting in the units of the Austro-Hungarian army.

The museum displays the development of publishing, printing and publicity ...But also certain changes in the culture of living. “One does not sit on pillows and sofas any longer but on chairs and we have tried to present that too”, explains Avdic and adds that the Austro-Hungarian governance kept old handicrafts, today affiliated in workshops which will grow into an industry by time. The development of academic painting, architecture through sudden construction of cities, and certain experiments like the Eifel Bridge and the tram are also presented. Even though Austro-Hungary ruined many older build-

ings in the beginning, a special style of construction, a sub-style of Secession which imitates the Ottoman house adding modern elements to it, the so-called “bosanski slog” was developed during its patronage. The replicas of Franc Ferdinand and his wife Sofia in natural size take up the central part of the main room in the museum.



# Poland

**P**oland (Polish: Polska), officially the Republic of Poland, is a country in Central Europe on the boundary between Eastern and Western European continental masses, and is considered by the United Nations a part of Eastern Europe. Poland is bordered by Germany to the west; the Czech Republic and Slovakia to the south; Ukraine and Belarus to the east; and the Baltic Sea, Lithuania and Kaliningrad Oblast, a Russian exclave, to the north. The total area of Poland is 312,679 km<sup>2</sup> (120,728 sq mi), making it the 69th largest country in the world and 7th in Europe. Poland's population, concentrated mainly in urban areas, is over 38.5 million people which makes it the



33rd most populous country in the world.

The first Polish state was baptized in 966, within territory

similar to the present boundaries of Poland. Poland became a kingdom in 1025, and in 1569 it cemented a long association with the Grand Duchy of Lithuania by uniting to form the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth collapsed in 1795. Poland regained its independence in 1918 after World War I but lost it again in World War II, emerging several years later as a communist country within the Eastern Bloc. In 1989, communist rule was overthrown and Poland became what is informally known as the "Third Polish Republic". Poland is a unitary

state made up of sixteen Poland is also a member of the European Union, NATO and OECD.

## FACTS

**Full name:** Republic of Poland

**Population:** 38.2 million (UN, 2006)

**Capital:** Warsaw

**Area:** 312,685 sq km (120,728 sq miles)

**Major languages:** Polish

**Major religion:** Christianity

**Life expectancy:** 70 years (men), 78 years (women) (UN)

**Monetary unit:** 1 zloty = 100 groszy

**Main exports:** Machinery and transport equipment, foodstuffs, chemicals

**GNI per capita:** US \$7,100 (World Bank, 2006)

**Internet domain:** .pl

**International dialling code:** + 48

# Portugal

## FACTS

**Full name:** Portuguese Republic

**Population:** 10.5 million (Statistics Institute, 2005)

**Capital:** Lisbon

**Area:** 92,345 sq km (35,655 sq miles)

**Major languages:** Portuguese

**Major religion:** Christianity

**Life expectancy:** 73 years (men), 80 years (women) (UN)

**Monetary unit:** 1 euro = 100 cents

**Main exports:** Textiles and clothing, wood products, electrical equipment

**GNI per capita:** US \$16,170 (World Bank, 2006)

**Internet domain:** .pt

**International dialling code:** + 351

**P**ortugal, officially the Portuguese Republic (Portuguese: República Portuguesa), is a country in south-western Europe, on the Iberian Peninsula.



Being the westernmost country of mainland Europe, Portugal is bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the west and south and by Spain to the north and east. The Atlantic archipelagos of the Azores and Madeira are also part of Portugal.

The land within the borders of today's Portuguese Republic has been constantly settled since prehistoric times. Some of the earliest civiliza-

tions include Celtic societies, followed by incorporation into the Roman Republic dominions in the 2nd century BC, and subse-

quently into Germanic Kingdoms.

Portugal is a developed country, and it has a high Human Development Index and one of the highest quality of life ratings in the world. It is a member of the European Union (since 1986) and the United Nations (since 1955); as well as a founding member of OECD, NATO, CPLP and the European Union's Eurozone.

# A short guide to skiing resorts in Bosnia and Herzegovina

With high quality and consistent snowfall from December to March the mountains of BiH offer a climate for great winter sports. The XIV Winter Olympic Games proved to be one of the most successful of its time.

Well, although those days are long gone, the quality slopes are not. Olympic style skiing on Sarajevo's Mt. Bjelasnica and Jahorina are back in full swing. With a full range of facilities with new and modern accommodation skiing in Sarajevo once again sits on top of the best skiing in southeast Europe. Snowboarding, snow shoeing, cross country and tour skiing are gaining popularity and are great additions to a fun winter program on both mountains.

Sarajevo is not, however, the only ski center in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Vlasic Mountain near the ancient town of Travnik is the best established ski center in central Bosnia. With fresh additions of several new hotels and pansions Vlasic is not to be missed. In western Bosnia are two great off-the-beaten track ski and boarding destinations. Kupres and Blidinje Nature Park are situated in the vast wilderness area to the far west of the country.



**BJELASNICA - 2067 meters**

**VLASIC - 1943 meters**

Bjelasnica is a mountain in central Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is found directly to the southwest of Sarajevo, bordering Mt. Igman. Bjelasnica's tallest peak is 2067 meters (6782 feet).

Bjelasnica is a popular tourist attraction for hiking and skiing. It is only 20 minutes outside of Sarajevo. During the 1984 Winter Olympics, Bjelasnica was used for a number of Olympic events, and has several structures dating from that time, including hotels and skiing areas.

Bjelasnica's base is largely forested, however there are no trees above the 1500 meter tree line. There are numerous trails set up and maintained by local mountain clubs that lead to the bald peaks higher up. The mountains name probably stems from the root Bijel, which means "White". Today Bjelasnica is the biggest construction site in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Two roads and more then 100 km of mountain road make Vlasic Mountain one of the most accessible at the Balkans area, opened at all seasons. Its geographical position is unique, it is equally distant from the Adriatic sea and larger continental cities.

The highest peak named Opaljenik 1943 meters high, dominates the mountain. You can see snow at the mountain for almost five months a year with a few number of stormy days, and during summer time,





because of the richness in forest, meadows with the variety of flowers, river Ugar and catling which most successful product is famous “Cheese from Vlasic”, the mountain has all the pre conditions to develop different forms of tourist offers during the entire year.

Sports and recreation centre “Babanovac” on the hight of 1260 meters at Vlasic is connected to Travnik with two roads and that way it is the centre of winter tourism at this area. Recognisable for International competition in ski jumping named “Pokal Vlasic”, with 90 meters high diving board, considered as one of utmost natural and furthest on the south side. Its name is “Srebrena Pahuljica”, crowned as the best arranged ski winter centre in ex Yugoslavia in 1979. These days it is returning the lost glitter and experiencing expansion in tourism, being in the top of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its surroundings.



## JAHORINA - 1913 meters

Jahorina is a mountain in central Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is found directly to the southeast of Sarajevo, bordering Bjelasnica mountain. Jahorina is 1913 meters (6276 feet) tall, putting in the middle of the Sarajevo mountains height wise.

Like the other Sarajevo mountains, Jahorina is a popular destination for a variety of winter sports and activities. During the 1984 Winter Olympics, Jahorina was the location of many Olympic competitions. Today, Jahorina is still a popular destination for skiing, hiking, and sledding. Jahorina has over 40 km of ski tracks, along with modern facilities.

Various ski runs, from beginner runs to competitive ones are suitable for all skiers. Ski runs stretch between 1200 - 1900 meter altitude. There are four chairlifts and four ski lifts of total



capacity of over 7500 skiers per hour.

In vicinity of ski resort there are grill-bars with sunbathing spots where you can be served grill menus and warm and cold beverages.

Altitude 1872 m, total length of ski trails : 25 km, level of difficulty of the ski slopes : intermediate, possibility of night skiing, relatively demanding paths 1600 m, demanding paths 3600 m, undemanding paths 5 100 m

### Ski Lifts

Button lift 4, two-seater chair lift 4

## KUPRES

Ski resort in Kupres, western Bosnia stretches over 1200-1550m altitude and encompasses four ski runs with total length of 13 kilometres. There are four lifts with total capacity of 5000 skiers per hour. The resort offers day and night skiing, and snowboarding. It is a good choice for recreational skiers, ski beginners and families. There are many restaurants and an organized ski school. Nearby is Blidinje Nature Park with skiing facilities in the valley between Vranj and Cvrsnica.

This ski resort is recommended to recreational skiers, ski beginners and especially children.

# Evaluation Drill Conducted by Hungarian Coy

On the 26th of December 2007 the Hungarian Coy conducted an evaluation drill at Rajlovack during their common training final exercise.

The purpose of this common training was to integrate newcomers into EUFOR operations and evaluate common procedures in order to blend the unit in the MNBN.

The exercise was based on a simulation of a violent demonstration from the local population which required a LOT House extraction.

The activity carried out the following main phases. At first, the Coy Commander infiltrated Recce teams, detached from MNBN Recce Platoon, in order to get information from the area. Second, the Coy Commander conducted a crowd and riot control operation with one of his



platoons. At the end of the exercise an entry team evacuated the personnel from the LOT house to a Helicopter Landing Site to bring them safely by helicopter to Camp Butmir.

During the exercise the MNBN

Training Branch injected several incidents to check the reaction of the company.

With this training complete the Hungarian Coy is ready to carry out any task assigned from the MNBN Commander.



# Medal Parade

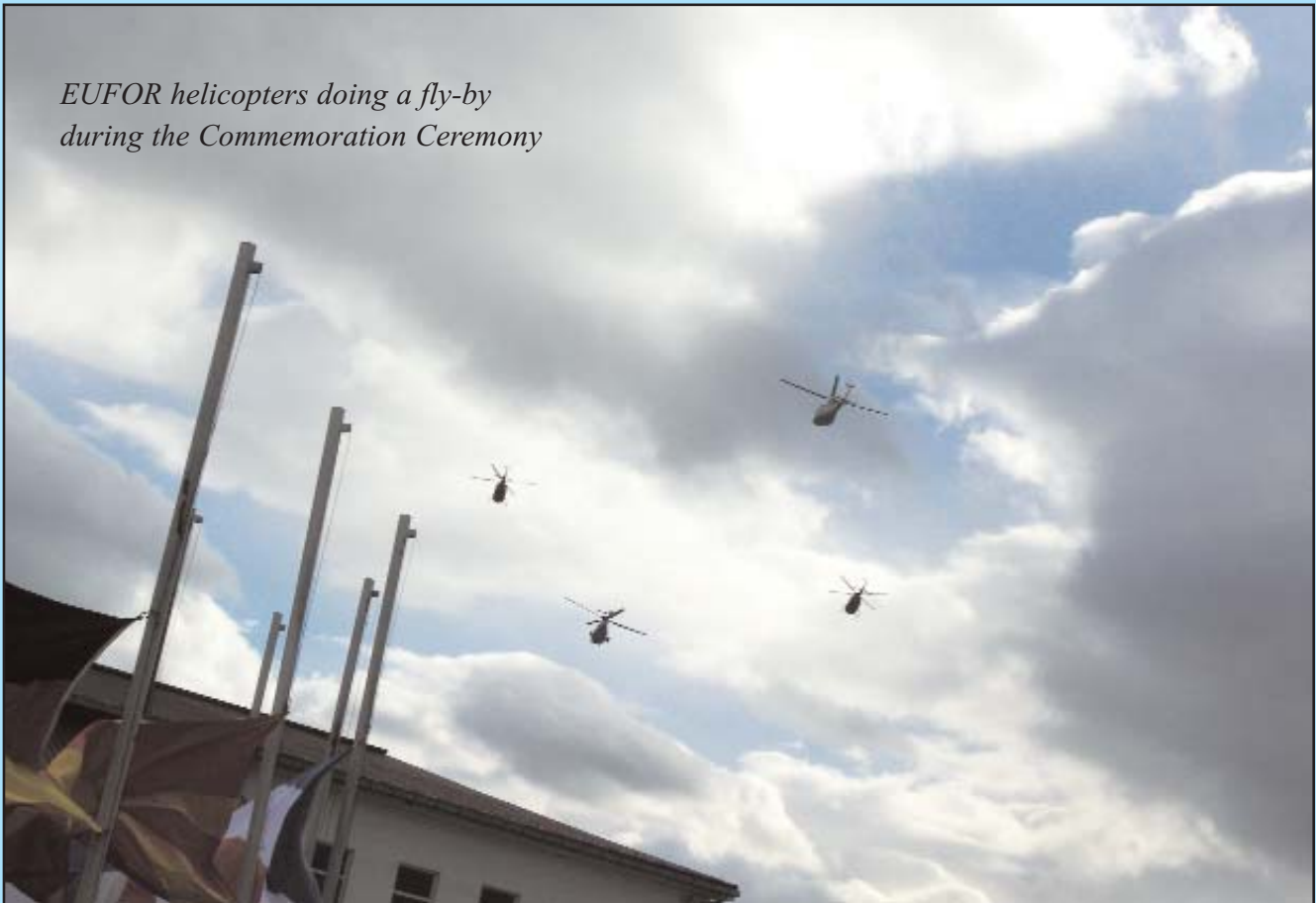
On Friday, 7th December 2007, a Medal Parade Ceremony took place at the Gym of Camp Butmir, for the Spanish contingent. The majority of this contingent was also replaced on 17th December 2007.

Held by Brigadier General Carmelo de Cicco, DCOM EUFOR, the act was followed by a Contingent's farewell reception witnessed by Major General Ignacio Martín Villalaín, COM EUFOR and a representation of personnel from all nationalities consisting of EUFOR.



# Photo of the month

*EUFOR helicopters doing a fly-by during the Commemoration Ceremony*



# OPREDJELJENI ZA BOSNU I HERCEGOVINU

KAO DIO EU PORODICE EUFOR JE  
OVDJE DA VAM POMOGNE

EC

EUFOR

EUMM

EUPM

EUSR

