

October 2008



EUFOR Forum online at www.euforbih.org

EUFOR Transfers Further Responsibility to AFBIH

Foreword Brigadier General Joachim Wundrak Chief of Staff EUFOR



EUFOR members,

In my first few days as the new Chief of Staff, I have already experienced how enjoyable and demanding working in this international environment is. Our Mission ALTHEA gives us the opportunity to broaden our understanding of the views and behaviour of peoples from twenty-six nations. It is a great pleasure for me to work with you in this team; together we must continue to strive to achieve the highest standards possible in our active work. Nevertheless we should always keep in our minds that we can only achieve this through working together as a team. Trusting each other is the key in this process. Believe in your abilities and the abilities of your comrades. All of this will ensure we are most effective in supporting BIH on its path towards European integration in the Stabilization and Association Process.

I do not intend to add to speculation about the future of Mission ALTHEA. As professionals we have to continue our

work to high standards until the very last day of the mission, whenever that might be. As soldiers we have to fulfill our task!

Additionally, we must not lose sight of the fact that we are all working as part of the European community for the right of the people of BIH to live in a Safe and Secure Environment. In this Endeavour our personal contributions are the challenge for each and every one of us.

But there is more. Among the people of BIH, EUFOR enjoys a very good standing, because we behave with integrity and discretion towards each other and equally in our dealings with the people living in this wonderful country. Be careful and sensitive regarding your statements. Never forget that you are all ambassadors of the International Community and your countries.

I am now looking forward to working with you in this great environment of professionals and remember we have one mission and we are one team!

EUFOR Forum

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Political Security Committee Visits EUFOR



The Political Security Committee (PSC) based in Brussels, along with the Operational Commander General Sir McColl visited EUFOR on Thursday 18th September. The purpose of the visit was to brief and familiarize the PSC delegation regarding EUFOR's assets, capabilities and

key achievements to date. The committee received a number of briefings, which was supported by an assurance for our ongoing commitment to the Mission ALTHEA.

For those who are unaware of the PSC, it is a permanent body within the European



Union dealing with Common Foreign and Security Policy, including European Security and Defence Policy.

Exercises Conducted by B Coy



From the 15th to the 19th September, B Coy of Multinational Battalion (MNBN) conducted exercises at Bileca.

The purpose of this training was to maintain the capabilities in Military Operation in Urban Terrain (MOUT) operations, common procedures of MNBN and enlarged the knowledge of BIH terrain. B Coy also conducted living fire exercise.

New Chief of Staff for EUFOR

On the 12th September 2008 EUFOR's new Chief of Staff (COS), Brigadier General Joachim Wundrak (Germany) took over his duties from the outgoing COS, Brigadier General Robert Löwenstein (Germany) who departed after 6 months in BIH.

Brigadier General Löwenstein said on his departure:

"I am very pleased with the substantial progress that BIH has made during my time as COS. I only mention, as examples, the signing of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement to the European Union, and the achievements in the sector of Joint Military Affairs. Specifically, I have been delighted with the close cooperation established between EUFOR and AFBIH, an enabler to the significant progress of AFBIH taking responsibility of key functions previously



under the authority of EUFOR. I firmly believe BIH is on the road to complete stabilisation, but the final goal will only be achieved by the will of its people".

Brigadier General Wundrak said he is

very much looking forward to serving in BIH and is keen to reinforce the message that EUFOR is a force for good. Adding "I intend to continue working together with the Armed Forces of BIH and in bringing the country closer to the European Union".

CV Brigadier General Wundrak

Brigadier General Wundrak was born in 1955 in Kerpen / Germany. He joined the German Air Force after High School in 1974. This was followed by undertaking Officers education and a University degree in Electronic Engineering (1975 –1980). Then followed Basic and Advanced Flying Training with LUFTHANSA (1980-1982), after which he moved on to become a Transport Pilot DO 28 and C-160 with ATW 62 (1982-1988) before attending the General Staff Course (1988-1990). He then became Branch Chief Plans & Policy Air Transport Command (1990-1992) before becoming Squadron Leader ATW 63 (1992-1994). Between 1994 and 1995 he was employed in Air Staff MOD Bonn, Air Transport. Then moved on to be the Military Assistant to German Air Chief (1995 –1998), before

becoming Wing Cmdr ATW 62 (1998-2000). In the years 2000 until 2002 he was a Liaison Officer at the Permanent Joint Headquarters in the UK. After this he returned to Air Staff MOD Bonn, as Branch Chief Airborne Systems (2002-2004), before moving into the post of Assistant Chief of Staff Operations (2004-2006). His most recent employment was as the Deputy Director European Air Group (2006-2008) before taking up his present appointment as COS EUFOR.

Brigadier General Wundrak is married, with two children (a son and daughter).



COS EUFOR visits RCC4 AOR

On 20th September 2008 the new EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Joachim Wundrak visited RCC4, LOT Tuzla and LOT Brcko. Chief of RCC4, Lt Col Klaus Seidl welcomed them at the Helicopter landing site in Tuzla, and after that the delegation was transferred to HQ RCC4 in Dubrave.



During welcome coffee and some self-baked Austrian cake in RCC4 house, the new COS introduced himself and he briefly informed everyone about his understanding of EUFOR's work in BIH. After that they informed COS on all the current topics and ongoing issues. Because COS was most interested in the personal opinion of the RCC and LOT personnel, an open-minded discussion followed.

Included in the schedule of this high level visit, was a short sightseeing tour to Tuzla. First the column stopped on Ilincica hills, to get an overview of the centre and the eastern part of Tuzla. Lt Col Seidl pointed out all distinctive landmarks in the landscape and the most important buildings. A quarter of an hour later, the delegation reached downtown for a walk to Kapija location –71 young people died there after the detonation of a mortar's shell and 120 were heavily injured on 25th May 1995. Further stations included the salt place and the ancient mayor's house.



After this short visit of the old town the delegation moved to LOT Tuzla.

LOT Tuzla

The visit started in front of the LOT house where the commander of LOT Tuzla, Major Michael Spiwak reported to Brigade General Wundrak with introduction to the LOT Tuzla personnel.

Brigade General Wundrak was briefed about the overall situation within the whole Area of Responsibility (AOR) of Tuzla that also includes the Area of Responsibility of Lukavac. AOR Lukavac was handed over from the Polish LOT house in May 2008. During the briefing there was a very open and interesting discussion about various topics like political, economical and social situation within Tuzla and Lukavac area.

An additional issue was the imminent elections on 5th October and referring to that topic the present situation regarding the local police.

The visit of Brigade General Wundrak was an honour and also a pleasure for the whole team of LOT Tuzla. Moreover it was a very



good opportunity to report personally to a high ranked and in all issues very open minded representative of EUFOR. After the visit, COS EUFOR moved to visit LOT Brcko. Weather conditions prevented flying, requiring the journey from Tuzla to Brcko to be undertaken by road.

LOT Brcko

General Wundrak was welcomed and hosted by Major Herranen (OC LOT House Brcko) and Lt Col Kotala (Contingent Commander FIN and Deputy Commander RCC4).

Soon after COS EUFOR arrived at the LOT house, Major Herranen gave a presentation on LOT Brcko AOR which includes Brcko District and two municipalities from Posavina Canton (FBIH); Orasje and Domaljevac. The brief also consisted of organizational and personnel presentations, the current situation in the AOR, including the Opstina profiles, special elements and ongoing issues. He also briefed on LOT house weekly working schedule, daily tasks and how LOT team "feels the pulse" and reports accordingly.

During the brief General Wundrak met with LOT Brcko members, when discussions proved to be fruitful due to two LOT members, SrLt Kaartinen and Lt Ukkonen having been in the AOR for almost ten months. General Wundrak was very interested about the situation in the area and reminded the Team of the importance for the need of continued hard work.

General Wundrak and his personnel then continued their trip to the Sarajevo by car.

Key Leader Training in LOT Bratunac

The 4th September was an unusual day for the members of LOT Bratunac. As the house is meant to usually provide housing for only 8 of the Austrian members of the Liaison Observation Team (LOT), it was quite challenging for them to be tasked to receive, provide the necessary infrastructure and brief the participants of the EUFOR Key Leader Training (KLT). These Key Leaders were in EUFOR ALTHEA mission area to receive a first general overview of EUFOR's AOR, mandate, responsibilities, tasks and also possible hot spots prior to their actual deployment to the mission in different key functions like RCC Chiefs, different HQ EUFOR branch heads and the respective deputies up to, the for this time highest ranking participant, the incoming COS from Germany BG Joachim Wendruk.

The total number of the visiting party was not less than 38 persons representing at least 10 countries (AUT, DEU, ESP, FIN, FRA, HUN, IRL, ITA, NLD, TUR) and thereby proving the really multinational composition of our mission. Except for the fog in the morning, weather conditions were fortunately quite good which made it possible to have coffee breaks outside the house on the terrace – inside would have been very uncomfortable if not just impossible due to the very limited space available.



The day should have begun at 0800 hrs with the landing of the helicopter but foggy weather caused a detour to find a suitable landing site. Fortunately the delay was not so important to cause any major changes to the overall daily schedule. After the final arrival of the first lift to LOT House Bratunac and a welcome coffee this group received two briefings. The first one was given by LtCol Kotala, Deputy Chief RCC4 and FIN NCC. He explained the LOT system, briefed on a RCC in general and of course more detailed on RCC4 and its AOR, tasks, responsibilities, hot spots etc. in particular.



Then the Cdr of LOT Bratunac, Maj Trausnitz, AUT, who gave the future Key Leaders the LOT House level briefing.

Meanwhile the helicopter had returned to Camp Butmir to pick up the second group of participants. After their arrival to the LOT House and a joint coffee break with the other group, they all left for Potocari. A member of the

historical office provided a guided tour through the memorial of the Srebrenica massacre of 1995, the graveyard and provided detailed explanations of the historical background accompanied by a movie. The mayor of Srebrenica, a former Bosniak fighter and survivor of

the then incidents, also gave a speech about his experiences, before the whole group enjoyed lunch break in a Srebrenica restaurant, where they discussed the lessons of the morning.

In the afternoon the programme continued the second group received the two briefings while the first one was flown back to Camp Butmir. Finally we are sure that the Key Leaders did not only have an intense but also a very informative day at one of EUFOR's annual hot spots, LOT Bratunac.



Families of EUFOR Helicopter Crash Victims Visit Crash Site



Major General Villalain and the Senior German National Representative of EUFOR, Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Robert Löwenstein. Both officers again expressed their condolences to the families and General Villalain added “their loss was not in vain, they made a valued and important contribution to EUFOR’s mission to maintain the current Safe and Secure Environment in BiH”.

Families of the EUFOR personnel killed in June’s helicopter crash visited the crash site north of Travnik on 9th September, where a small but moving service was held. The families laid wreaths at a memorial stone in the area, in memory of the Spanish aircrew victims: Lieutenant Santiago

Hormigo & Sergeant Joaquin Lopez and German passengers, 1st Lieutenant Tim Heinen & Master Sergeant Zoran Krakic.

The service was also attended by the EUFOR Commander,

EUFOR Concludes Inspections of AFBIH Ammunition Storage Sites (ASS) and Weapon Storage Sites (WSS)

Earlier this year, AFBIH became the lead organisation for the inspection and management of ASS and WSS in BiH. However, EUFOR continued to undertake in conjunction with AFBIH a 100% inspection of the sites. On the 12st September this was successfully concluded and marks further progress as EUFOR transfers another function to the AFBIH.

AFBIH are now directly in charge for the inspection and management of their ASS and WSS. This demonstrates the continued assurance between AFBIH and EUFOR, to progress matters of Joint Military Affairs.



COM EUFOR, General Villalain stated:

“I have been pleased with the progress and cooperation with AFBIH during the inspection process, and although now concluded, EUFOR remains committed to lend support by means of technical expertise as required”. He added “this continued cooperation and progress emphasises the commitment between AFBIH and EUFOR to maintain a safe and secure environment in BiH”.

Spokesperson Media Summary September 2008

During September the pace of media and EUFOR activities stepped up as anticipated after the summer lull. A number of high level visits and events took place, including:

European Gendarmerie Force (EGF) Commander Visits EUFOR

On 3rd September, Lt Gen Santos, General Commander of the Guarda Nacional Republicana and president of EGF High Level Interdepartmental Committee from Portugal, called on the Acting Commander of EUFOR, Brigadier General Roberto D'Alessandro and EUFOR's Integrated Police Unit (IPU) Force Commander, where General Santos was apprised of EUFOR's support to BIH authorities. See more on page 12.

EUFOR Supports IWCS Mammogram Machine Bid



A Press Conference was held on 4th September to announce, the International Women's Club of Sarajevo, had successfully installed a mammogram machine at the Health Institute for Protection of Women & Motherhood. The fund raising campaign had been supported by EUFOR for some time. More on page 15.

EUFOR Awards Operation ALTHEA Medal at KOZARA Barracks

On Thursday 4th September, the EUFOR Chief of Staff (COS), Brigadier General Robert Löwenstein, visited EUFOR personnel in Banja Luka to decorate qualified members with the Operation ALTHEA Medal. The ceremony was attended by a number of Ambassadors and senior dignitaries. See page 15.

Families of EUFOR Helicopter Crash Victims Visit Crash Site

On Tuesday 9th September, families of the EUFOR personnel killed in June's helicopter crash visited the crash site north of Travnik, where a small but moving service was held and where the families laid wreaths at a memorial stone in the area, in memory of the victims. Page 8 has more.

New Chief of Staff for EUFOR

As of 12th September EUFOR's new Chief of Staff (COS), Brigadier General Joachim Wundrak took over his duties from the outgoing COS, Brigadier General Robert Löwenstein who departed after 6 months in BIH. More on page 4.

EUFOR Concludes Inspections of Ammunition and Weapon Storage Sties

Earlier this year AFBIH became

the lead organization for the inspection of ASS and WSS in BIH. EUFOR and AFBIH jointly continued an inspection programme which is concluded and is now no longer a EUFOR responsibility. See page 8.

Political Security Committee Visits EUFOR



EUFOR received a High level visit on the Thursday 18th September from the PSC and Operational Commander. Read more on page 4.

By Lt Cdr Kerry Corkett Royal Navy, GBR.



The Half Marathon in Camp Butmir



More than 10 percent of the Hungarian contingent participated in the 23rd Nike Budapest Half Marathon in Camp Butmir on the 7th September.

These men conquered the 21,097.5 meter in nearly the same conditions as fellow sportsmen in Budapest. The temperature was the same but the altitude in Camp Butmir was 400 meter higher than Budapest. In Budapest, runners accomplished the distance in one of the most beautiful capitals of Europe. Butmir's soldiers ran 6 rounds around the Camp.

All 17 starters finished the competition within the time limit of 2 hours and 30 minutes. The winner in Camp Butmir was OR-4 Jozsef Urban who completed the run in a very creditable 1:29:04. This result is enough to place him in the 140th position. 10 of the 17 runners had already run the half-marathon in Budapest or Afghanistan.

Water provided was not only drinking water; the runners could enjoy the refreshing shower from a rubber tube. To summarize, the Nike Budapest Marathon was completed in a friendly manner and was a great pleasure and experience for everyone involved.



Sarajevo The Half Marathon

Second Sarajevo Half Marathon took place on Sunday, 21 September, gathering more than 250 participants from a number of countries.. The Second Sarajevo Half-Marathon was entitled Include Me! and it was dedicated to the fight against social exclusion.

The race started the 18 of September 2008 in front of the shopping center TOM in Lukavica (East Sarajevo) and the finished in front of the olympic center Zetra (Sarajevo). The promotional walk was organized on the route from Skenderija to Zetra plateau, beginning at 10:00 hours, after which the participants greeted the runners of the competitive race and announced the Half-Marathon's winners. The organization of this event also marked 100 years of athletic sports in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

National Days

Turkey



Slovakia



Belgium



Spain



European Gendarmerie Force (EGF) Commander Visits EUFOR

On Wednesday 3rd September, Lieutenant General Luis Nelson Ferreira dos Santos, General Commander of the Guarda Nacional Republicana and president of EGF High Level Interdepartmental Committee from Portugal, called on the Acting Commander of EUFOR, Brigadier General Roberto D'Alessandro and EUFOR's Integrated Police Unit (IPU) Force Commander, where General Santos was appraised of



EUFOR's support to BIH authorities in actively maintaining the current safe and secure environment in the country.

qualified members with the Operation ALTHEA Medal, an award worn with pride by all EUFOR recipients.

General Santos also visited the Portuguese contingent of the IPU, where he decorated

The IPU took the opportunity to give a practical demonstration, which illustrated its

effective contribution to EUFOR's mission, before briefing the General regarding the positive progress of BIH authorities to police the country with minimum EUFOR support.

The European Gendarmerie Force is an initiative of 5 EU Member States - France, Italy, The Netherlands, Portugal and Spain -, all having security forces with military status, aiming

to contribute to the development of the European Security and Defence policy and to endow Europe with a greater capacity to conduct all police missions in crisis management operations, in parallel with the military intervention.

EUFOR HQ Air Ops Visit to Rescue Coordination Centre

Major (ESPAF) Diaz, Chief of Air Ops

A visit to the Rescue Coordination Center of BIH (BIH RCC) was paid on the 9th September by a team of Air Ops personnel at the Banja Luka Airport facilities.

The BIH RCC is a civilian agency responsible for the coordination of all available ground and air assets for the conducting of Search and Rescue (SAR) operations, in case an airplane or helicopter accident occurs in the BIH territory. This responsibility is assigned by the International Civil Aviation Organization (OACI), a United Nations Organization.

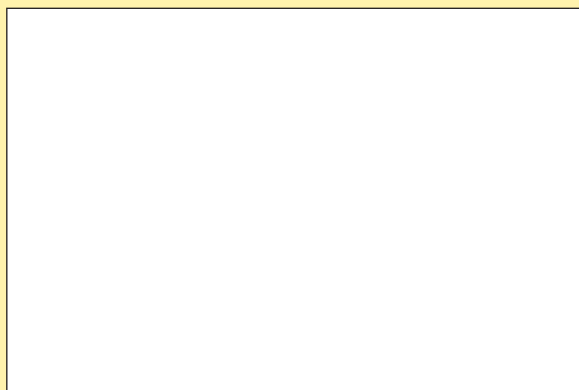
The exception in BIH due to the Airspace Normalization Process is that SAR operations for EUFOR/NATO aircraft being lost or crashed in BIH territory would be lead by EUFOR. That is the reason why a Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 2002, so that close cooperation between EUFOR and BIH SAR Authorities permit a

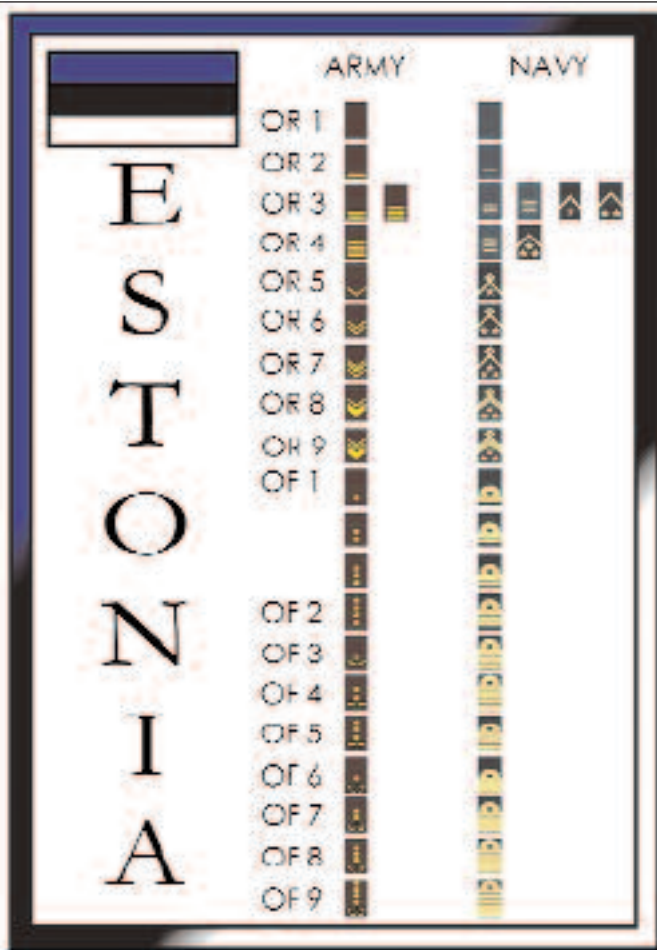
more rapid response in case it is needed.

This was the case last June when a EUFOR BO-105 helicopter crashed, and BIH RCC supported the SAR operation with all means available.

During the visit several issues concerning SAR collaboration were dealt with by the BIH Directorate of Civil Aviation representative, Mr. Drago Radic, and the BIH RCC chief Mr. Milos Komlenic, resulting in a very productive meeting.

At the end of the visit, a plaque on behalf of the Ops Division Chief was presented by Major Pedro Diaz and Captain Ricardo Iglesia in appreciation for the warm welcome and readiness for collaboration with EUFOR.

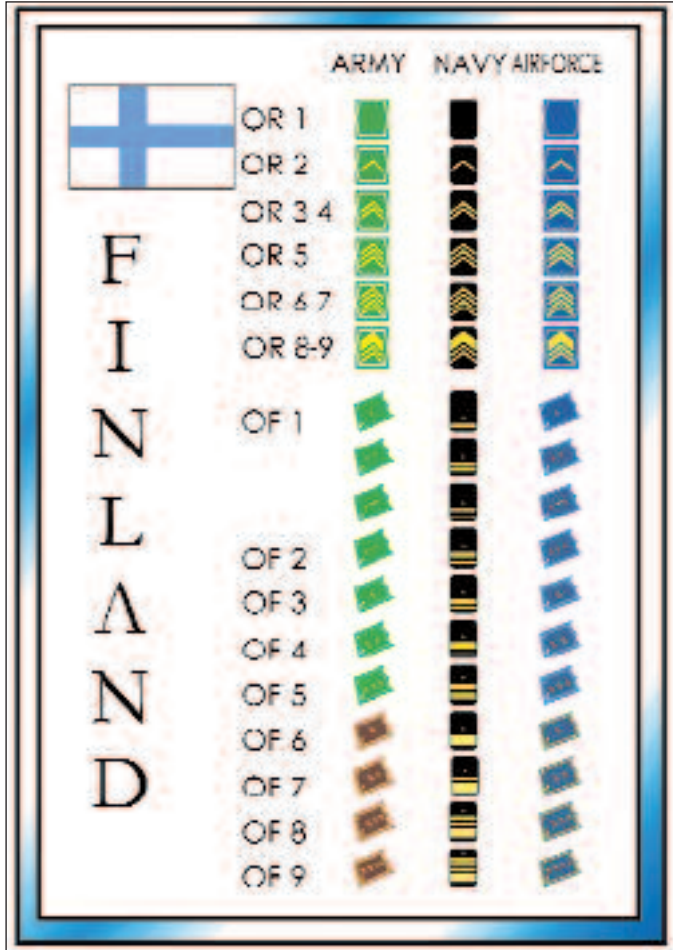




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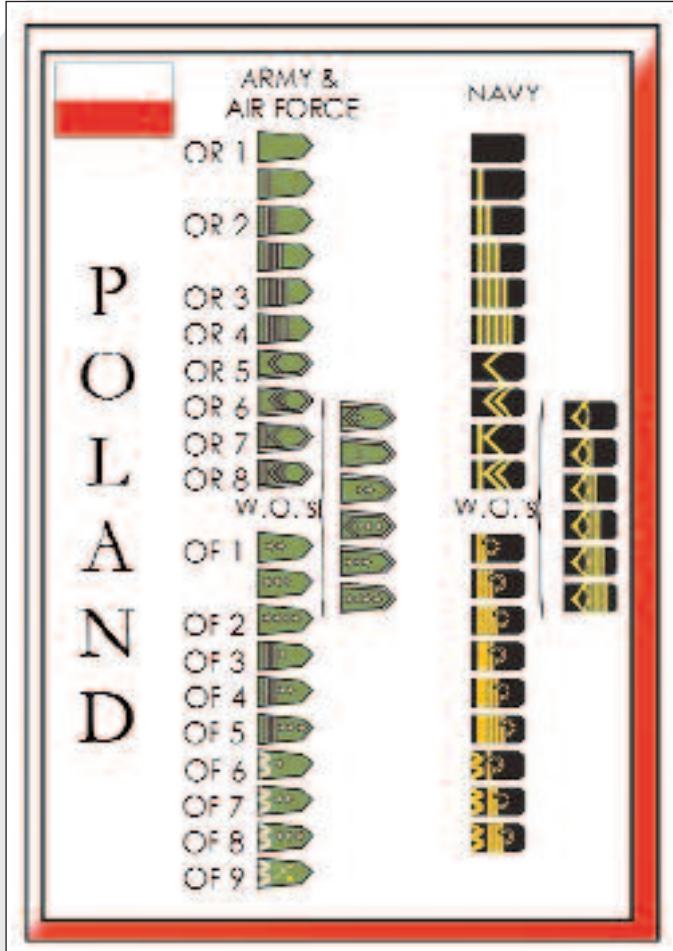
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CIMIC Actions of the Spanish Contingent

Spanish Contingent developed CIMIC actions on 18th September in Trebinje. The actions consisted in the delivery of five computers, five printers and one scanner to the Trebinje Library that with this equipment became one of the most advanced libraries in Republika Srpska in the computer area.

After that, Spanish Contingent also delivered computers, DVD's, printers etc. in the Vuk School and Nasa Radost kindergarten.

In addition, diverse individual fireman equipment was delivered to Lastva Fire Department. Equipment was donated by Melilla Fire Department, Spanish city located in the north of Africa.



RCC Chief meets Prime Minister of Canton Tuzla

New Commander of RCC 4, Lt Col Klaus Seidl (Austrian) called on the Prime Minister (PM) of Tuzla Canton on 8th September, at the Canton government building.

Lt Col Seidl expressed his positive first impressions about the region. He underlined the appreciation he has concerning the people living there and complimented the PM for his commitment to the development of his Canton towards the EU standards.

Regarding the cooperation with EUFOR, Lt Col Seidl indicated his intentions to use and develop the contacts built up by his pre-



decessor. The PM promised all the support he could provide and underlined the valuable work the EUFOR does, especially that of the LOTs for the population. PM sees such work as an important contribution

to their safety. Mr Mujic expressed his special thanks to the LOT house Tuzla for their exemplary cooperation with all the responsible persons within Tuzla institutions. The PM wished the RCC Commander all the best for his tour of duty.

EUFOR Supports International Womens Club of Sarajevo

The International Women's Club of Sarajevo, supported by EUFOR has been fund raising for some time with a view to improving medical facilities related to treatment for breast cancer. This very worthwhile endeavour has resulted in the successful installation of a mammogram machine at the Health Institute for Protection of Women & Motherhood (Zavod-Kumrovec) on 4th September.

EUFOR Acting Commander, Brigadier General Roberto D'Alessandro, said:

"EUFOR is delighted to have supported the International Women's Club of Sarajevo to increase breast-cancer awareness and treatment. We were able to help to pay for advertisements and promotional give-away materi-



als in order to increase awareness of the campaign and support efforts to raise funds to buy vital medical equipment. Helping women of all parts of society gain access to the state-of-

the-art Mammogram machine will make a huge difference to the successful diagnosis of breast cancer. This is a big opportunity to improve health and living standards."

EUFOR Awards Operation ALTHEA Medals at Kozara Barracks

The previous EUFOR Chief of Staff (COS), Brigadier General Robert Löwenstein, visited EUFOR personnel in Banja Luka on 4th September to decorate qualified members with the Operation ALTHEA Medal. These awards are taken very seriously by all EUFOR troops, who wear them with pride. This also reflects the professionalism and commitment of EUFOR personnel to continue to support peace and contribute to maintaining the current safe and secure environment in BIH.



The ceremony was also attended by Ambassadors and senior military officials from troop contributing nations, including Dutch, Swiss, Romanian and Bulgarian. Other dignitaries included, AFBIH CoS and representatives from OHR, OSCE, NATO and EUPM. Medals were presented both to EUFOR personnel from the Regional

Coordination Centre 1 (RCC1) based in Banja Luka and to Liaison Observation Team House personnel situated in key towns under the supervision of RCC1. Additionally, the COS awarded a special commendation to the Chief of RRC1, Lieutenant Colonel Lieverlo Van for his exceptional service to EUFOR.

Brigadier General Löwenstein said:

"It gives me great pleasure and pride to award the Operation ALTHEA Medals here today, which not only recognises the contribution of each individual recipient, but also underlines the ongoing commitment the EU places on the development in BIH. The personal endeavours of each and every member of EUFOR deserve this visual sign of appreciation."

History of Banja Luka

Banja Luka or Banjaluka is the largest city in Republika Srpska entity and the second largest city of Bosnia and Herzegovina after Sarajevo. It is also the capital of Republika Srpska. It has traditionally been the center of the Bosanska Krajina region located in the north-west of the country, on the Vrbas river. It is home to the University of



Banja Luka, as well as other numerous Bosnian institutions. The city is well-known in the former Yugoslavia for being full of tree-lined avenues, boulevards, gardens, and parks.

Early History

The name "Banja Luka" was first mentioned in a document dated February 06, 1494, but Banja Luka's history dates back to ancient times. There is substantial evidence of a Roman presence in the region during the first few centuries AD, including an old fort "Kastel" in the center of the city. The area of Banja Luka was wholly in the Roman province of Illyricum.

Slavs settled the area in the 7th century A.D., although the exact nature of their migrations remains something of a mystery. What is known is that the first mention of the city dates to 1494, by Vladislav II. The name is of Hungarian origin and means "the hole of a mine", from the Hungarian words *bánya* ("mine"), and *lyuka* ("his hole").

One of the first public structures after Kastel was a Franciscan monastery, built in 1378 in Banja Luka's neighborhood of Petriæevac by Bosnian Franciscans. It was the first of such buildings in Bosnia.

Ottoman Rule

During the Ottoman rule in Bosnia, Banja Luka was the seat of the Bosnian pashaluk, and the lords of the region built what is nowadays the main street of the city. Between 1566 and 1574 Ferhat-pasa

Sokolovic, one of the founders of the Banjaluka's town core, built over 200 projects ranging from artisan and sales shops to wheat warehouses, baths and mosques. Among his more important constructions were Ferhadija and Arnaudija mosques, during which construction a plumbing infrastructure was laid that served surrounding residential areas.

All this stimulated economic and urban development of Banja Luka, that soon after became one of the leading commercial and political centers in Bosnia. In 1688 the city was set to the torch by an Austrian army, but it quickly recovered. Later periodic intrusions by the Austrian army stimulated military developments in Banja Luka, which made it into a strategic military center. Serb churches and monasteries near Banja Luka were built in the 19th century. In the 19th century Sephardic Jews and Trappists migrated to the city, which contributed to the early industrialization of the region by building mills, breweries, brick factories, textile factories and other important structures.

Modernization

Austrian occupation brought westernization to Banja Luka. Railroads, schools, factories, and infrastructure appeared, and were

developed. This led to a modern city, that after World War I became the capital of the Vrbas Banovina, a province of the Kingdom of Yugoslavia.

It owed its rapid progress to the first Ban Svetislav Milosavljevic. During that time Banski dvor and its twin sister the Administration building, the Serbian Orthodox Church of the Holy Trinity, theatre and museum were built,

Grammar school was renovated, Teachers College enlarged, city bridge was also built and the park renovated. 125 elementary schools worked in Banja Luka in 1930.

In 1969, a devastating earthquake damaged many buildings in Banja Luka. A large building called Titanik in the center of the town was razed to the ground, and the area was turned into a central public square. With contributions from all Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia regions, Banja Luka was repaired and rebuilt. However, much of the old city center that had many small buildings and shops from Austrian-Hungarian and Ottoman periods were damaged beyond repair and were subsequently razed.

Landmarks

Due to its long history, Banja Luka has a rich culture. A number of museums can be found in the city, including the Museum of



Republika Srpska also known as the Museum of Bosanska Krajina, and the Ethnographic Museum, established in 1930. Banja Luka also has a national theatre, and library, both dating from the first half of the 20th century.

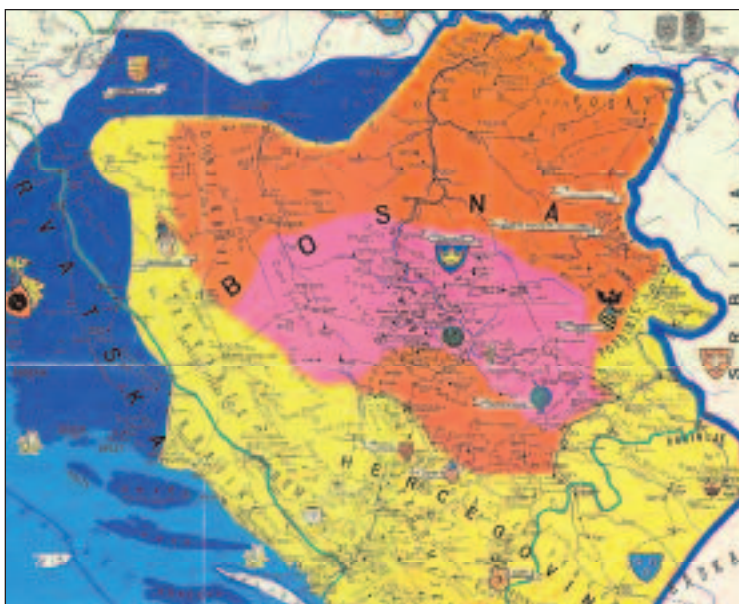
One of the most famous cultural sites in Banja Luka is the cultural centre "Banski Dvor" (Halls of the Ban), built in the 1930s as a spot of residence for the Bans of the Vrbas Banovina. The relatively poorly preserved fortress Kastel is found in the center of the city.

MWA Events for September

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
6:00 PM Circuit Training 8:00 PM Pool Competition	8:00 PM Salsa Dance Lessons	6:00 PM Circuit Training 6:00 PM Self-Defence Training	8:00 PM Beer Promotion	12:00 PM Belgian Nat day 3:00 PM Personal Training programme	10:00 AM Sarajevo Sightseeing Tour	9:00 AM White water rafting Trip 8:00 PM Movie Night
6:00 PM Circuit Training 6:00 PM Self-Defence Training	8:00 PM Salsa Dance Lessons	6:00 PM Circuit Training 6:00 PM Self-Defence Training	8:00 PM Wine Party	3:00 PM Personal Training 6:00 PM Circuit Training 8:00 PM Disco party	9:00 AM White water Rafting 9:00 AM 5 KM Fun Run 6:00 PM Sarajevo Philharmonic	8:00 AM Hutovo Blato Botanic Garden 8:00 PM Movie Night
6:00 PM Circuit Training 8:00 PM Pool Competition	8:00 PM Salsa Dance Lessons	6:00 PM Circuit Training 6:00 PM Self-Defence Training 8:00 PM Free pool	8:00 PM Wine Party	12:00 PM Slovakian Nat. Day 3:00 PM Personal Training 6:00 PM Circuit Training	9:00 AM Mostar Sightseeing Trip	8:00 AM Medjugorje Sightseeing Trip 8:00 PM Movie Night
6:00 PM Circuit Training 8:00 PM Pool Competition	8:00 PM Salsa Dance Lessons	6:00 PM Circuit Training 6:00 PM Self-Defence Training 8:00 PM Free pool	8:00 PM Beer Promotion	3:00 PM Personal Training programme 6:00 PM Circuit Training	8:00 AM Tour to Tito Bunker	8:00 AM Tour to Srebrenica 8:00 PM Movie Night
6:00 PM Circuit Training 8:00 PM Pool Competition Final	8:00 PM Salsa Dance Lessons	6:00 PM Circuit Training 6:00 PM Self-Defence Training		3:00 PM Personal Training programme 6:00 PM Circuit Training		

Etymology of Bosnia

The first preserved mention of the name "Bosnia" is in the *De Administrando Imperio*, a politico-geographical handbook written by Byzantine emperor Constantine VII in 958. However, by this time Bosnia was mostly converted from a manichaistic religion introduced by Slavs to Bogomilism (a Christian sect that Slavic Bulgarians spread to Bosnia). The exact meaning and origin of the word is somewhat cloudy. The name "Bosnia" most probably comes



from the name of the Bosna river around which it has been historically based, which was recorded in the Roman Age under the name *Bossina*. More direct root of the river's names are unknown. Philologist Anton Mayer proposed a connection with the Indo-European root *bos* or *bogh*, meaning "running water". Certain Roman sources similarly mention *Bathinus flumen*, or the Illyrian

word *Bosona*, both of which would mean "running water" as well. Other theories involve the rare Latin term *Bosina*, meaning boundary, and possible Slavic origins.

The origins of the word *Herzegovina* can be identified with more precision and certainty. During the Early Middle Ages the region was known as *Hum* or *Zahumlje*, named after the *Zachlumoi* tribe of Serbs which inhabited

it. In the 1440s, the region was ruled by powerful nobleman Stefan Vukcic Kosaca. In a document sent to Friedrich III on January 20, 1448, Stefan Vukcic Kosaca called himself Herzog of Saint Sava, lord of Hum and Primorje, great duke of the Bosnian kingdom (*Herzog* means duke in German) and so the lands he controlled would later become known as *Herzog's lands* or *Herzegovina*. The name *Herzegovina* was first included in the official name of the

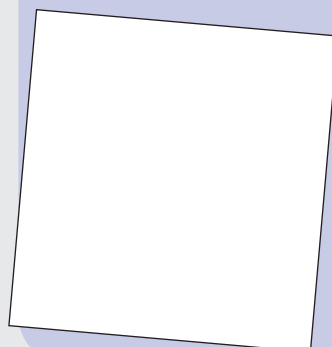
then Ottoman province in the mid-nineteenth century.

On initial proclamation of independence in 1992 the country's official name was the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina but following the 1995 Dayton Agreement and the new constitution that came with it the name was officially changed to only Bosnia and Herzegovina.

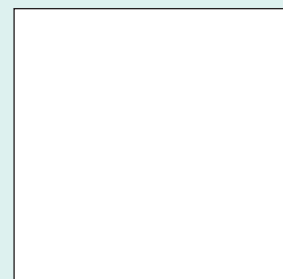
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Soldier in the Spotlight

I'm the OF-9 (Primo Maresciallo) Antonio Semonella. I was born on 27th July 1964 in Caivano - a small city near Naples. I began my career in the Army in April 1981. In my career I have been engaged with carrying out logistic assignments until some year ago when I started working in the Security Branch. In Italy I work in the Military Command for the territory of the Army situated in Florence. My mission in BIH is not my first mission. I participated also in these missions:



Antonio Semonella

- From April to August 2002 Joint Operation Guardian in Kosovo;
- From January to May 2003 Enduring Operation Freedom in Afghanistan;
- From October 2003 to February 2004 Ancient Operation Babilonia in Iraq.

My mission in Bosnia began on 16th April 2008 and my job is tied to the Italian National Support Element (NSE). From the point of view of the working engagement, it is a different experience than the precedence mission. It is also very instructive in terms of the relationship and the comparison with many representatives of many countries represented in EUFOR. This has allowed me to deepen my professional experiences and acquaintances. I use a lot of my free time to exercise regularly, and it is for that reason that I am a frequent visitor of the Gym. I love to play soccer and to run. In my relaxation time I love reading a book or listening to

music, and sometime playing the guitar. I am divorced, but my marriage left me with two beautiful children, Lisa of 17 years, and Andrea of 14 years. They are waiting for my end of tour in Florence. After all my wonderful experiences here, I wish to everyone an enjoyable stay in Bosnia.

Photo Corner

If you have an image of your child that you would like to have published in EUFOR Forum, please send them to us!



Lolo in Bathrobe