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Javier Solana Visits EUFOR



Carabinieri National Contingent Commander Colonel Vincenzo Costantini



Born in Alatri (FR) in 1952. He attended the 14th Course at the Officer School in ROMA (1967–68), and Specialized Military School for Electronic and Computer Sciences, as System Analyst and Project Manager. Besides attended the Statal University “La Sapienza” in ROMA, achieving a degree in “Italian Literature and Modern and Contemporary History”, and a Ph.D. in “Political Sciences”. He attended also the Pontificia Facultas Theologica S. Bonaventurae in ROMA, and the International Institute for law & Armed Conflict in SANREMO and GINEVRA (CH), getting Masters in “Peace Building Management”, and in “International Law of Armed Conflicts”.

During his career he served as Territorial, School and Battalion Commander in Tuscany, Lazio, Sardinia, Emilia Romagna, Liguria; furthermore was appointed Chief of the Telematic Systems Office at Carabinieri HQ in ROME. While achieving a significant expertise as staff officer, he has been employed abroad with different appointments such as Provost Marshal in KOSOVO and, as Director of National Shengen Information System of the Ministry of the Interior, in BRUXELLES, RIGA, LISBONA, LA VALLETTA.

I am really honored to be in charge in Sarajevo as Commander of the Italian Carabinieri National Contingent. My task is to offer the maximum support to EUFOR mission, especially by increasing the already great relationship with colleagues from IPU, EGF and our “brothers in arms” of the Italian Army. Jointly we are working to accomplish our mission, a crucial one, to ensure the rule of laws, first step to build a new secure society and a modern State. A famous writer of this Balcan area, Ivo Andric, wrote about Sarajevo that “both nears its end and is dying, yet simultaneously is being born and growing”; this beautiful city was very close to die indeed, but we are here to help it and its country to grow to a new life. This could be mistaken for easy rhetoric, but it isn’t, because rhetoric cannot contribute to getting Bosnia-Herzegovina engaged with the European Union and therefore also with the Euro Atlantic institutions through NATO. It is merely our concern, day by day “walking the thin line between flexibility and discipline”. That I asked to my Carabinieri, and they were and are very proud to offer to the entire community. I would like to take the opportunity to be as guest in this forum, to wish to the military and civilian personnel of Camp Butmir, to win this challenge, all together.

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Dear readers,

It's been a very busy month here at the Forum editorial board. Well, that was a very interesting month; it has taken a concentrated effort but yes we made it happen because we have been blessed not only with a high-quality group of readers but a wonderful staff that works extremely hard and we receive invaluable contributions from the people out in the field.

We are trying to offer a more crisp and contemporary and a more visually exciting design. The range of subjects explored by the editorial board is wider and their analysis deeper and more rigorous. Our feature articles have focused on the recent visits to COM EUFOR following the two day session of the EU defense and foreign ministers in Brussels where the 27 EU member states decided that the EU troops will remain in BiH although the work on planning the role and size of EUFOR will continue.

High Representative for the Common Foreign & Security Policy (CFSP), Javier SOLANA and the Minister for Foreign Affairs met recently COM EUFOR

And we've provided regular coverage PIFWC search operation which is still high in the agenda of ICTY. Further, take a look at Hassan Nuhanovic presentation of the dramatic events in Srebrenica. We share all this because our community of readers reflects the dynamism and vitality and openness and positive spirit and creativity of the mission. We seek to capture this not only on the editorial pages but also on our front pages and in the interviews page. Following the success of the previous edition we repeated the experience of inserting a poster in the centerfold of the present edition. The theme was an IPU exercise in providing support to local police forces in public order contributing to providing a safe and secure environment to BiH.

You, our readers, have also been challenged. You've been challenged by what we've written. You've agreed and you've disagreed. But most importantly, you're letting us know what you think, and we're listening. We can't do this without you. So keep writing letters, calling, e-mailing, stopping by, even come apply to be on staff. With your active involvement, Forum magazine will continue to be a round-table for all voices to be heard. With every new voice, the discussion will grow and will better represent the diversity of our mission.

Sincerely,

Chief Press Office, Lt Col Giovanni Ramunno

EUFOR Forum

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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 liability for material submitted.

The EU HR for the CFSP Javier Solana Visits EUFOR HQ

The EU High Representative for the Common Foreign & Security Policy (CFSP), Javier Solana visited EUFOR HQ on 19th May where he paid an official call on DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Jose Carrasco.



DCOM EUFOR briefed Mr Solana on EUFOR activities and the current security situation within BiH. Mr Solana then visited the Multi National Battalion (MNBN) and the Integrated Police Unit (IPU) and observed a EUFOR live exercise.

The EUHR for the CFSP, commented on the decisions made at the European Security & Defence Policy Council meeting held in

Brussels yesterday. Mr Solana stated, "The Council welcomed the positive contribution of EUFOR towards the safe and secure environment in BiH". He added that the EUFOR continued to provide reassurance and remained ready to respond to the possible security challenges throughout the country. It is planned that, in the future, ALTHEA will be developed into a capacity-building and training operation. Preparations are under way and reviewed regularly. A decision on this

transformation can be taken once the necessary conditions have been met. The approval of the Concept does not prejudice a political decision on the possible evolution of Operation ALTHEA.

By Lt Cdr Mandy McBain, EUFOR Spokesperson



◆ DCOM EUFOR, Javier Solana, Valentín Inzko and COS EUFOR

COM EUFOR Major General Castagnotto Meets the Chief Prosecutor of the ICTY Mr Serge Brammertz

COM EUFOR Major General Stefano Castagnotto had an official office with Chief Prosecutor of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, Mr Serge Brammertz on 5th May.

Mr Brammertz met with General Castagnotto in the EUFOR HQ in Camp Butmir. During his visit he was briefed on the current EUFOR activities and the ongoing co-operation between EUFOR and ICTY. Many of the operations that the Mission conducts are at the request of the ICTY. The visit that lasted approximately two hours concluded with a lunch hosted by the General.

By Lt Cdr Mandy McBain, EUFOR Spokesperson



◆ Mr Serge Brammertz during his meeting with COM EUFOR

On 12th May COM EUFOR Major General Stefano Castagnotto took part with his Commanders in a Field Study of the Bihac region. The party arrived by helicopter in to the BiH Military Barracks and were greeted by Captain Ramic AF BiH. They departed for the former JNA underground airport facility at Zeljava and received a comprehensive brief from Captain Ramic and his staff and a short tour of part of the Airport.

Commanders Field Study of the Bihac Region

As part of the tour, the group consisting of key EUFOR personnel, moved to a viewing platform which overlooked Bihac. There they received a ground orientation and overview from the EUFOR Historical Office about the inter-Bosniac conflict between 1993 and 1995 and the involvement of the AFBiH 5th Corps.

On completion of this presentation, the group departed for the Kostela area to receive a further historical brief about this interesting and important region. The discussion was enhanced by eye witness accounts about the battle and its ongoing relevance to the current political and economic situation. The EUFOR Key Leaders then resumed their tour by visiting Ostrozac Castle. This fascinating fortress, now a poor image of its former glory due to war, age and a lack of maintenance, is well known as the 'Park of Sculptures'.

The Commanders departed for the BiH Military Barracks where COM EUFOR thanked Captain Ramic AFBiH for his comprehensive brief and time during the day. As the Helicopters left the region they did a short aerial tour of the terrain and the battlefields before heading back to Camp Butmir.



◆ COM EUFOR MG Castagnotto talking with AFBiH Captain Ramic

The tour was enlightening and interesting for all of the attendees, some of whom had served in the region previously. The content of the day contributed to the ongoing EUFOR Mission and the Keys

Leaders understanding of the importance of a Safe and Secure Environment.

By Lt Cdr Mandy McBain, EUFOR Spokesperson



European Union Open Day in Bruxelles

The Council of the European Union, together with other EU institutions held the Annual Open Day in Brussels on 9th May 2009. It was an incredible chance for people to join organized tours of the EU buildings, to sit through interactive information sessions to visit stands and find out how the Council works.

The event saw the participation of thousands and thousands of people. According to the decision of COM EUFOR Major General Stefano Castagnotto, representatives of the External Cooperation Division, from Press and Infoops Offices, participated and promoted EUFOR mission not only through the provision of promotional materials but also by answering and interacting with the general public. It was a thrilling experience meeting such a varied multitude of people and at the same time it was stimulating trying to satisfy not just their curiosity but their interest about ALTHEA mission in BiH.

The event represented also for the EUFOR delegation an impressive and challenging chance to exchange experiences and ideas with colleagues from other EU missions. Involved in the EU Open Day were representatives of Press Offices from the EU Integrated Rule of Law mission from Iraq, the EU Border assistance mission in Rafah, the EU POL mission



◆ Senad Kamenica, Major Fabio Cavallari, Lt Col Kevin Bingham and Mirna Stankovic

from Afghanistan, the EU Operation ATALANTA - the anti-piracy naval operation from the coast of Somalia - and many many other representatives.

The EU Open day also provided the opportunity to discuss with the Office of the Spokesperson Private Office of the Secretary General/High Representative issues of interest trying to adjust the Press and Infoops production to better fit the EU policy.

By Captain Fabio Cavallari, Media Plans



The open day, with plenty of activities for young and old, is a popular tradition, already 14 years old. The focal point have been the commission headquarters, the Berlaymont building, at the heart of the European district in Brussels. It is the base for thousands of European civil servants, and 27 commissioners – from all EU countries.

Outside the Berlaymont, you could find activities for children., with presentations of new technology in agriculture.

The annual open day aims to promote more open politics by showing citizens what the EU does, where and how. Alongside the commission, other institutions in Brussels were open, too.

MNBN Cohesion March

Multinational Battalion (MNBN) executed a foot march in Mount Igman in order to improve battalion's physical fitness and cohesion.

The foot march carried out the south face of the mount and involve more than fifteen kilometres.

In the training activity participated all MNBN units, staff, reconnaissance platoon and the four rifle companies, which involved a deployment of more than 450 people and 100 vehicles to get the initial point.

During the food stop, MNBN personnel performed different sport activities like rugby and traditional plays.

By **Captain Santiago Romero Machín**,
MNBN Press Officer



Change of Command in **Multinational Battalion**



◆ New MNBN COM Lt Col Ramos-Izquierdo de la Cuadra

On 21st April at Camp Butmir was conducted the Transfer of Authority within the Multinational Battalion (MNBN). The Hand Over ceremony was presided by COM EUFOR Major General Stefano Castagnotto. Lt Col José Luis Carballo Alvarez handed over command

to Lt Col Ángel Ramos-Izquierdo de la Cuadra after nearly four months in command.

General Castagnotto, COM EUFOR awarded with the Althea and Italian peace mission medals to Lt Col Carballo, he wanted to state too the excellent work performed during his term as the MNBN Commander and wish to Lt Col Ramos-Izquierdo the similar success.

The new Spanish contribution to ALTHEA Mission,



◆ Flag handover during the parade with COM EUFOR MG Castagnotto and COM MNBN Lt Col Ramos-Izquierdo de la Cuadra

consist of 208 troops, mainly from the Spanish Marine Brigade, based in San Fernando, Cádiz, but also from the Spanish Navy and Army.

By **Captain Santiago Romero Machín**, MNBN Press Officer

EUFOR Medical Teams at Work



◆ Injured person was evacuated with MEDEVAC helicopter



◆ First aid and triage

Medical exercise was held in Camp Butmir on 14th May 2009. Goal of the exercise was to demonstrate to the observers from Armed Forces of BiH (AFBIH) medical reaction, giving of first aid and evacuation of the injured persons, both via land and via air by using medical helicopter.

According to the established scenario there was an accident in which a vehicle ran into a group of people on bicycles and proceeded to crash into fence. Three bicyclers were injured along with the driver

of the vehicle. One was seriously injured, two had medium injuries and one got away with light injuries.

After receiving a call from one of the participants in the accident, a stand-by team from the Medical Team of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia drove to the scene of the accident where they performed the necessary triage and gave aid to the injured. Considering the number of injured people and the severity of the injuries, German Medical Team

and AIRMEDEVAC were called in via JOC to help the severely injured person. In short time with the joint effort of both Medical Teams all the injured persons received expert and efficient medical aid. Evacuation was successful and the patient was transferred to further treatment.

This exercise demonstrated the readiness, efficiency and coordination of all stages of giving medical aid of the Medical Teams of EUFOR in Camp Butmir.

By Esmir Dzankovic

Visit of the Commander of the Austrian Joint Forces Command – Lieutenant General Günter Höfler

DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Jose Carrasco had an official office call on 15th May with Lieutenant General Günter Höfler, the Commander of the Austrian Joint Forces Command.

During his visit, Lieutenant General Günter Höfler will attend the Change of Command Ceremony of the National Contingent Commander in Tuzla on Saturday 16th May. He will also present some of the EUFOR



Operation ALTHEA medals to members of the Austrian Contingent.

By Captain David Oliver Ertler, Media Analyst

EUFOR Operation Against Mladic Target



◆ Members of the Portuguese GNR secured the location



◆ Police of Republika Srpska gave their full support

Early this morning EUFOR ALTHEA commenced search operations at two residences in North East BiH. The first, an apartment in BIJELJINA, is the residence of Rajko BANDUKA. The second property, a house in DIJELOVI, approximately 6km NW of BIJELJINA, is the residence of Radoslav BANDUKA, a relative of Rajko BANDUKA. Rajko BANDUKA is a former military associate of Ratko Mladic the Bosnian-Serb military leader indicted for war crimes by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

The mission was conducted at the request of the ICTY to look for information which could assist the ongoing search for Ratko Mladic. It was conducted as part of a wider regional strategy which has seen several similar actions taken against potential support network members in Serbia.

As with previous operations against Persons Indicted For War Crimes (PIFWCs) EUFOR forces

worked in close co-operation with NATO and the RS MuP. We would wish to emphasise that significant elements of the security are being performed by the RS MuP. We com-

Two cousins assumed to belong to his support network, have been the target of this major operation. The main objective, born in Sarajevo, was a captain in the VRS during the war and close to Mladic. He left the army in 2002. Living in Bijeljina with his family, he is one of Mladic's former associates and is considered by some to be one of his confidant. The second seems to have no links with the support network of this PIFWC's. However, he was a complementary target of the operation because he could hold objects belonging to his cousin which could serve the investigation.

mend them for their professionalism and commitment.

These operations are legally based upon the mandate of the ICTY, EUFOR and NATO under the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and the General Framework Agreement of Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We would also like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that any person providing information that leads to the arrest or conviction, in any country, of a war criminal indicted by the ICTY may be eligible for a reward. There is currently a reward of up to \$5M being offered for information that may help to lead to the arrest of Ratko Mladic. Moreover, Serbia has also pledged a €1M reward. Anyone with information should call BIH 065 516 674 or if outside BIH, 00387 65 516 674 or email mail@rewardforjustice.net.

By Lt Cdr Mandy McBain, EUFOR
Spokesperson

Visit to EUFOR by Students

EUFOR have been host to four visits by Students over the past month. Students have been from Italy, Belgium and two organisations from the Netherlands. In total 161 students were welcomed to Camp Butmir by either COMEUFOR, DCOMEUFOR or COS EUFOR, confirming how important these visits are to ensure that the wider European audience gains an understanding of what work EUFOR continue to do in BiH. The programme for most of the visitors meant that they received a varied selection of information which consisted of a presentation from the EUFOR Political advisor, Fabien Limonier which described the intervention of EU and NATO; a talk from Mr Dzenan Hadzovic one of the EUFOR Historians to give them an overview of the history of the country. A discussion and presentation from the Press Office from either the Chief Press Officer, Lt Col Giovanni Ramunno or the EUFOR Spokesperson, Lieutenant Commander Mandy McBain Royal Navy or the EUFOR Media Advisor, Mr Senad Kamenica.



On 29th April a group of 19 students from the Dutch United Nations Student Association visited. The students from many different Universities across the Netherlands meet up and travel each year to different countries to widen their knowledge of various international matters. During this week long visit to Bosnia

they met the EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy Javier Solana and had visited the Law Courts in Sarajevo. They had also enjoyed an in depth Sarajevo Historical Tour and a visit to Mostar.



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Students in April and May

The first visit by 24 students from the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium was on 22nd April. The students are doing a Master in International Humanitarian Action course. This Master, that will last 18 months, involves Universities from Europe and all over the world. In the multiethnic audience there were people from different countries as well as a representative of the Swedish Uppsala University. During their tour in Bosnia and Herzegovina they had visited Mostar and Zeprenica. The University of Louvain was founded in December 1425 with the goal to spread learning throughout the world, to support a passion for knowledge and research and to train those who, generations upon generations, deal with the burning issues of their time. The University kept this name until 1797 and since 1834 became the University of Louvain.



A delegation of Italian students visited on 13th May. These students were winners of a national contest organised by the Regional Council of Piemonte, visited Camp Butmir and the Italian Contingent. The 90 students and teachers from colleges from the Piemonte Region had the opportunity to meet personnel from the Italian Contingent in BiH and learn of their experiences in the country. During the visit, Italian Army Officers from EUFOR and Colonel Vincenzo Costantini from IPU Carabinieri briefed the students about the organisation and the tasks of Operation ALTHEA. They also had the chance to meet personnel from the 21st Orsa Maggiore Helicopter Unit and learn more about helicopters by getting close to them.

Later in May, 28 students from The University of Twente in Enschede, the Netherlands visited EUFOR as part of a one week visit to BiH. Following the talks there was time for the students to engage with the presenters and ask many questions. The students thoroughly enjoyed their morning at Camp Butmir and were very keen to learn more about the mission. They left with a better understanding of what EUFOR does and how the many elements of the Mission continue to work towards making Bosnia and Herzegovina a safe and secure environment.



MWA Volleyball Tournament

On 24th April the NATO Gym hosted the 2009 MWA Volleyball Tournament. Seven teams took part in an exciting series of fiercely contested matches.

The competition had a truly international flavour with representatives from Armed Forces of BIH (AFBIH) team, two Polish teams, a team from German NSE, a Turkish team, a Team Zubri composed of EUFOR soldiers from different countries, a Polish Maneuver Company (PMC) team and a Carabinieri team. The audience, which grew as the competition progressed, supported

enthusiastically as smash after smash and point after point the competitors worked towards a thrilling final between Team Zubry and PMC.

The tournament was eventually won by Team Zubri who defeated PMC winning the first set 25 to 20 and the second 25 to 15. Third place went to AFBIH Team.

The tournament was organized by the Moral and Welfare Activities (MWA) Office and Zeljko (Haris do you know his surname?), director



of the NATO Gym. The officials were all local professional referees who stated that "it was an exhausting experience refereeing such a fierce but fair competition".

By Captain Fabio Cavallari, Media Plans

Self Defence Course in the IPU Gym

On 4th May the final exams of the Self Defence Course and Techniques of Kung Fu Win Chun style took place in the IPU Gym. The Course that started the first week of January and lasted five months, was organized by OF-1 Alessandro Chiappetta IPU Platoon Commander and Kung Fu Win Chun style instructor. The Course was attended by fourteen participants from Turkey, Portugal, BIH and Italy. The aim of the lessons was to provide the attendees with the basic knowledge and skills of personal self defence, defending from stick and knife attack, disarming and arresting aggressors.



OF-1 Chiappetta, that is carrying on a family tradition, as a matter of fact his brother is an international instructor of Win Chun, stated "I would like to continue providing self defence lessons during my mission in Bosnia so to fit military and police personnel of skills that might help them in their future". Thank also to the massive, decisive and punctual support of the IPU Gym personnel, represented in the Course by instructor Hajrudin Jutrovic, the exam captured the attention of all the Gym submitters.



By Captain Fabio Cavallari,
Media Plans

Run to Europe



◆ Members of EUFOR and particularly MNBN participated en masse

The Delegation of the European Commission to BiH and the Directorate for European Integrations (DEI), in cooperation with the Association “Marathon Sarajevo” marked Europe Day, 9th May, with a symbolic race called “Trkom u Evropu” (Race to Europe). The race began at 11 o’clock on the Square of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Over 400 runners of all ages and categories entered the race. Many of the participants came from EUFOR.

Before the race began, Dimitris Kourkoulas, Head of the Commission Delegation in BiH, addressed the participants saying: “Run fast, because your country needs Europe, and Europe needs you”.

Europe Day is an opportunity to present the activities and ceremonies of the European Union to BiH citizens, according to Nedeljko Maslesa, Assistant Director of DEI. He encouraged those running in the Race to Europe, noting the importance of participation, and saying the best of them would win.

Route of this 4 km-long race was along Vilsonovo Setaliste. The top three finishers in the men’s and women’s categories won monetary prizes of 300, 200 and 100 KM, along with commemorative T-shirts.

By Haris Daul



A Personal View

Having read so many books about the siege of Sarajevo before I arrived in January I had to pinch myself as I stood on the starting line for the Run to Europe last Saturday morning. Surely I should be dressed in combat clothing rather than lycra and what was a band doing playing for our entertainment in a street full of people enjoying the carnival atmosphere. Well of course Sarajevo has moved on since the dark years of the early 90s and this charity run organized to celebrate EU Day was just another reminder that in many respects Sarajevo is just like any other European capital city. Around 250 runners of every size and shape and spanning the decades had joined together to complete a 4 km course along a side street that ran parallel to the infamous Sniper Alley. To one side the yellow façade of the celebrated Holiday Inn was visible but so was the new State Parliament Building giving a sense of progress and hope for the future. However once the whistle blew a sense of competition seemed to take over and I for one was not going to be embarrassed by a teenager. However the years have taken their toll and try as I did I was never going to close the gap on the youngsters from the local athletic club. However the sound of the Multi National Battalion bringing up the rear singing in unison and waving their flags spurred us on and who does not run faster when there are TV cameras around. It was a memorable event and another sign that normality is slowly returning to Bosnia. Hopefully those young boys and girls who took part and were too young to remember the war can look forward to many similar occasions in the future but perhaps next time they will be kinder to the older competitors.

By Lt Col Mike Smith

Lecture by Mr Hasan Nuhanovic – Srebrenica Survivor

On 27th April Mr Hasan Nuhanovic, a survivor of the Srebrenica massacre visited Camp Butmir. He was welcomed to EUFOR by the Chief of Staff Brigadier Robert Löwenstein. This lecture was the final one in the series of winter seminar lectures which have been held at the Camp over the last few months.

Mr Nuhanovic gave a very informative and personal talk to a full audience during which he provided a detailed description and analysis of the events leading up to the massacre. Whilst being factual, he bravely shared his fears and feelings of frustration from his time as a UN interpreter in Srebrenica. The multi National audience heard his views of the many international

factors. This prompted an interesting debate and a good question and answer session when he was able to enlighten the audience to his work over the past 14 years during which he has been gathering evidence for his book. Many of the points he covered during his talk are in his book titled "Under the UN Flag" but hearing them from him made it rather more poignant and gave the audience an understanding of events.

The Chief of Staff closed the evening by thanking Mr Nuhanovic for his time and for being so honest



◆ Hasan Nuhanovic with COS EUFOR BG Löwenstein

and open when sharing his experiences with EUFOR audience. At the small reception afterwards Mr Nuhanovic signed copies of his book and continued the discussions with the many military personnel.

By Lt Cdr Mandy McBain, EUFOR Spokesperson

COM EUFOR Visits RCC1 and LOT Banja Luka

COM EUFOR Major General Castagnotto paid an official visit to the RCC1 in Banja Luka on Tuesday, 21st April 2009.

Chief RCC1, Lt Col Henk Stuit welcomed COM EUFOR and his escort at the helicopter landing site and after that the delegation was transferred to RCC1. In front of the RCC1 building in Banja Luka the RCC1 personnel was introduced to COM EUFOR.

After a short coffee and friendly chat with the RCC1 personnel, Chief and Deputy Chief of RCC1



gave COM EUFOR a presentation about the RCC1 Area Of Responsibility (AOR), the current situation, the activities and other

important issues.

Afterwards, COM EUFOR visited the Romanian LOT House in Banja Luka. The visit started again in front of the LOT House and LOT members were introduced to the COM EUFOR. After the OC's briefing the LOT house personnel had the opportunity to discuss important issues with the General.

The visit was concluded with a short tour through the city of Banja Luka.

By Major Georg Kaufmann, 2IC/RCC1 Coordinator

Linguistic Service Section

In this edition we would like to introduce the Linguistic Service Section to you. The service is a shared service for both EUFOR and NATO. In EUFOR chain of command, LSS is under EUFOR Press Information Office, and in NATO under CJ1.

The Linguistic Service Section (LSS) was established in April 2000 with the main aim to set professional standards and control all linguistic output from one central point. The LSS supports both



headquarters as of 2 December 2004. All linguists employed by NATO HQ/ EUFOR belong to the LSS. All linguists working in the LSS have passed the language test in accordance with standards set by SHAPE.

To request support, a Translation Request form, which can be easily found on Galaxy as well as Cronos system, or an Interpretation Request form is to be filled out and submitted to the Central Office of the LSS in building 233. A completed form can be submitted by hand, e-mail or fax. Our e-mail address is: linguistic.sb.admin@nhqsa.nato.int. Our fax number is IPN 941 5850 and IPN 941 4022.

Please be informed that the working

hours of the Central Office are Monday – Friday 0800-2000hrs, weekends and official holidays closed. For more information please do not hesitate to contact the Central Office on.

The head of the LSS Tabakovic Anida stated during our visit: "LSS is a crucial pillar of both headquarters and stands ready to support the mission of NHQSa and EUFOR HQ!"

By Captain David Oliver Ertler, Media Analyst

The LSS provides the following services for you:

Translation of documents from and into English, Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian; Interpretation support from and into English, Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian; Editorial assistance: for drafters of documents into English whose mother tongue is not English. Interpreters of the LSS are also providing the articles for EUFOR Media Analysis

Farewell Ceremony in Italian NSE

A Farewell ceremony was organized to thank the Italian National Support Element (NSE) personnel at the end of their six month mandate prior to them going home. On Monday the 27th April Colonel Marco Lallai had the hard task to say goodbye to OR-5 Carlo Russo, OR-4 Luca Giliarini, OR-3 Biagio Bove and other Italian personnel. In his farewell speech Colonel Lallai underlined the excellent support and the unconditional availability provided in all circumstances. At the end of the ceremony Colonel Lallai was pleased and enthusiastic to give the personnel leaving Butmir a crest in memory of their stay in BIH and the great contribution provided to the ALTEHA Operation. On the 29th April Chief IT NSE Lt Col Paolo Bartoli personally and sincerely thanked the NCOs for the outstanding job they carried out. Not only did they experience the switch of EUFOR Command from a Spanish leadership to an Italian one but they faced and solved the problems related to the increase of Italian personnel in EUFOR. They managed to overcome the difficult task with bright professionalism, cooperating with synergy and presenting themselves in a smart and friendly manner in the international EUFOR environment. [By Sergio Lomartire](#)



Hungarian Contingent Doctor Annamaria Varga



How long have you been in EUFOR?

I have been with EUFOR since the beginning of March 2009 in the position of Hungarian Contingent Doctor.

And how long have you been a doctor for the Hungarian Army?

I joined the Hungarian Army as soon as I graduated - in 2001. I had a scholarship from the Hungarian Army in the last two years of my studies and so I joined the Army as soon as I became a doctor.

Did the scholarship require you to serve only for a certain amount of years?

Yes, two years. But as you can see, I am still in the Army even after eight years. (laugh)

Does that mean you enjoy the military career that much?

Yes, exactly so. I like it in the Army because it presents me with challenges I couldn't find if I was a civilian doctor.

What would you say is the biggest challenge you faced?

Working in the peacekeeping missions abroad has been a big challenge for me. I have been to Afghanistan and Kosovo before I came to mission in BIH.

What are your personal goals?

To perform as well as I can as a military doctor. Also, since I am married, to have a nice family life and children.

Bu Haris Daul

Change of Command in Austrian Contingent



On Saturday 16th May all Austrian soldiers were assembled in the Camp Edelweiss in Tuzla. The reason for the assembly was the medal parade and the Change of Command ceremony of the Austrian National Contingent Commander. Lieutenant General Günther Höfler, Commander of the Austrian Joint Forces Command and EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Robert Löwenstein, came to Tuzla to award the soldiers of Austrian contingent with the EUFOR ALTHEA Service Medal.

After the medal parade LG Günther Höfler handed over the command of the Austrian contingent in Bosnia and Herzegovina from Colonel Hermann Lattacher to the new EUFOR JMA Chief Colonel Peter Vorhofer. In his speech BG Löwenstein thanked Colonel Lattacher for his outstanding will to fulfill the JMA's tasks and handed him over a recommendation of COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto. After the official part, the Austrian contingent invited all the international, military and civilian guests who took part in the ceremony to a large buffet and dance.

By Captain David Oliver Ertler, Media Analyst

French Visit to Skender Kulenovic School



On Thursday 7th May, the French Senior National Representative Colonel Monbelli-Valloire and the French National Support Element chief Lt Col Nihouarn, accompanied by other members of the French contingent went to the Skender Kulenovic school in Sarajevo, Dobrinja. There, they met the pupils who signed up for the French language lessons. On this occasion, they handed over audiovisual equipment, movies, board games and school furniture to the French teacher Ms Lepara. This school which was completely destroyed during the war was rebuilt in 1999 thanks to the funds of the European Community and the French and Swiss governments. On the 4th April, Colonel Monbelli-Valloire also attended, on behalf of the COM EUFOR, the 10th anniversary celebration of the Skender Kulenovic School.

By Surgeon Captain Olivier Aoun, French Medical Chief



Italian National Contingent Command Interpreter Sanela Husakric



How long have you worked for EUFOR?

I started working for the Italian National Contingent in 1997. For the first five years I worked at the mess, then I was hired as an interpreter at the Command.

What opportunities did EUFOR give to you?

I have always liked children and helping others. I worked in the CIMIC branch for several years and I had, thanks to EUFOR, the opportunity to give my personal little contribution to the most needy people. We have helped hundreds of people, especially children, to travel to Italy to be treated; we have delivered gifts, food, educational materials, hospital facilities and medicines to many Bosnian structures. Seeing joy in children's eyes is the best gift I received from EUFOR.

What do you think about the work carried out by EUFOR so far?

Even during the war I lived here in Sarajevo. At that time it was unthinkable doing anything, especially hoping to have a future. We always had fear. Today, thanks to the work and sacrifices of many people and the work of thousands of soldiers who now works and have worked in the past here in Bosnia, we began to resume a normal daily life. Today I can take a walk with my husband. Today I can hope for a better future.

Define Your Personal Goals?

I have a 9 years old daughter. Dream of my husband and me is for our daughter to grow up as Bosnia gets closer and closer to Europe.

By Captain Daniele Guaragno

Soldiers in the SPOTLIGHT

When OR-9 Hans Hermann arrived in Camp Butmir in July 2008 for the 2nd time he had no idea that he will stay here for sixteen more months.

But let's start at the beginning. Hans Hermann was born in 1959 in Feldbach, which is located in the east of Austria. He joined the army in 1980 and served in the Austrian Armed Forces in the artillery branch as squad leader, platoon leader and motor transport NCO as well as military driving teacher. In Bosnia he serves as the contingent sergeant major, not just because he is the senior Austrian NCO in Butmir, but also because he knows everybody and is known by nearly everybody in the camp. He organizes all the Austrian events on the base, is an excellent cooker and even the employees of the HQ know his skills in baking Austrian "Sachertorte".



◆ OR-9 Hans Hermann

OR-9 Hermann is married, has two grown up daughters and lives in Paldau. The cultural diversity is what he loves most in Bosnia. Because of the many months he has spent in the country his friendships doesn't stop at the perimeter of the base. Even outside he has many friends in the local community. When asking him about his future and what he likes best in the mission he stated: "I would like to stay for six more months. ...

For me comradeship and the international cooperation is the most experiencing thing in this mission.

OF-1 Rita Cornacchia is an officer in the 17th Antiaircraft Artillery Regiment in Sabaudia (LT). She joined the Army in 2000 in the Military Academy in Modena. "First it was very hard because we're the first women in the Italian Army and we didn't know exactly what our future will reserve to us".

Before her tour here in Bosnia she was deputy commander of a "Skyguard" company.

Her mission as RCC-3 watchkeeper started on 13th March and will finish next September. Her duty is following and coordinating operations of the German-Italian LOTs in their AoR.

"It is my first mission abroad", she said, "I am very pleased with the opportunity to stay here and to work in a multi-national contest. Before I came to Bosnia and Herzegovina I have had some experiences in multinational training operations for antiaircraft units from France, Germany, Slovenia and Italy. Now I have the opportunity of increasing my military background because job here is total-



◆ OF-1 Rita Cornacchia

ly different from mine in Italy.

I'm interested in learning something about this country and to give my personal contribute for Bosnia-Herzegovina.

What I hope for my future carrer after my return to Italy is to become a company commander".

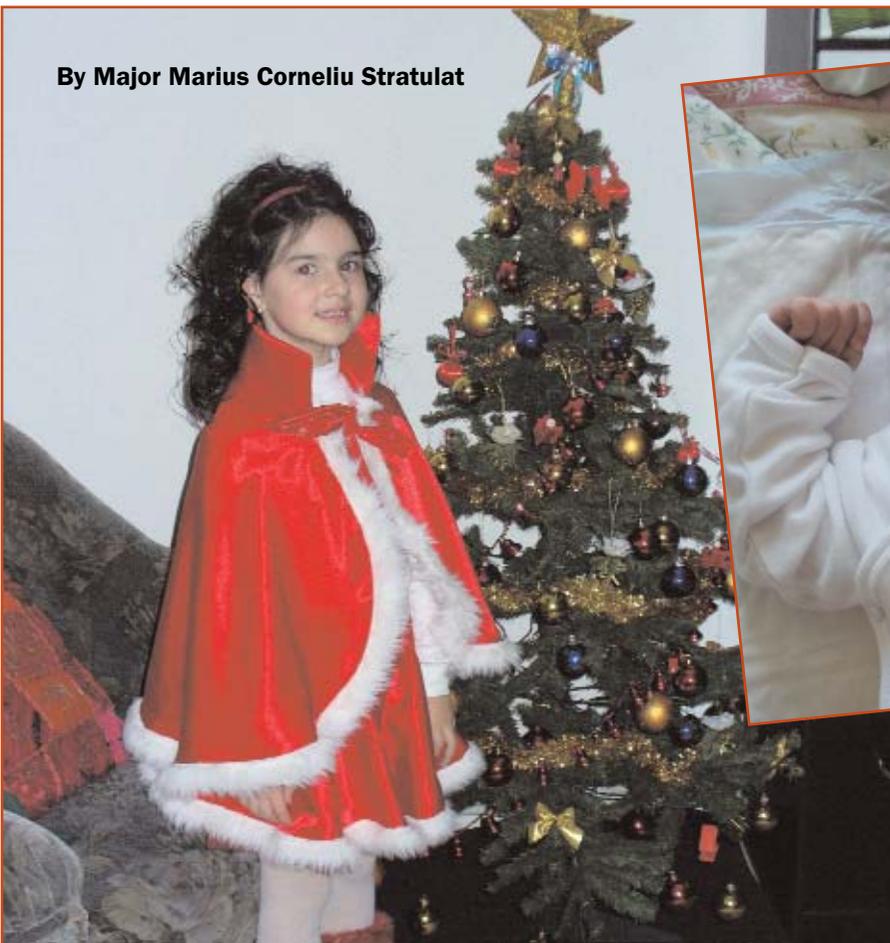
By OR-4
Antonio Ortiz
Martinez



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

Sofia and Alvaro

By Major Marius Corneliu Stratulat



7 year old Victoria Iustina Maria Stratulat

By Captain Marco Giunti



Pietro Giunti, the youngest EUFOR trooper!

Mind if I smoke?

**Yes
I
mind**



**EUFOR Campaign Against
Smoking in All Public Places**