

November 2009

EDITION 48

Austrian Blackhawk Arrival

EUFORUM

Magazine



Geospatial support to AFBiH

Faces Behind the Flights



**EUFOR
Cup
Soccer
Competition**



**Sarajevo "Olimpija"
Half Marathon 2009**

Chief of Staff EUFOR Brigadier General Gerhard Kemmler



Brigadier General Gerhard Kemmler was born 25th December 1948 in Lage, Germany and joined the German Air Force April 1968.

Brigadier General Gerhard Kemmler attended the Officers Training in Germany and Weapon System Training in the United States of America from 1968 to 1971. He then took up the role of Operations Officer in German Missile Wings (Pershing).

From 1981 to 1983, he attended the General Staff Course in Hamburg, Germany.

After a period as an Operations Staff Officer at the German Territorial Northern Command between 1983 and 1985, he became a lecturer for operational issues at the Federal Armed Forces Staff Academy in Hamburg, Germany.

In 1989 he became a Bn-Cdr of Missile Wing 1, Landsberg, Germany.

Following a tour as an Operational Staff Officer at MOD Bonn he took up a position at NATO HQ Brussels, in the IMS, Strategic Planning Branch.

In 1996, he assumed a position of Dep Cdr and COS 3rd German Air Force Division, Berlin, Germany.

In 1999 he was assigned to the Planning Staff, MOD Bonn and Berlin as Branch Chief NATO.

Brigadier General Kemmler assumed the position of Chief Joint Operations Branch and ADO in the OPS Division, SHAPE, in July 2002.

From Nov 2004 until May 2005 he was the Director of Operations for the EU Operation ALTHEA in the EU OHQ at SHAPE under Berlin plus.

From June 2005 until July 2008 he led the Military Advisory Branch at the permanent representation of Germany to the European Union in Brussels, Belgium.

Since August 2008 Brigadier General Kemmler has been Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff Air Operations Command in Kalkar.

Brigadier General Kemmler is married and has 3 children.

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Dear readers,

Welcome to the latest edition of EUFOR Forum which pictures a very busy month driven by an increased interest of the media and the diplomatic world on BiH and consequently putting the mission in the spotlight.

One of the key reasons for this is that the presence of mission ALTHEA truly reflects the success it has met across the country at the moment. As a matter of fact EUFOR is still an executive mission, in the lead in the military portion of the security sector reform. Truly impartial, very much focused on its mission, we feel EUFOR Althea has truly benefited BiH on its path towards Euro-Atlantic integration. EUFOR will continue to work with the International Community and BIH agencies in the support of continued stability in BIH. Further, we are now supporting the local Authorities observing, monitoring and inspecting any forces, facility or activity in BiH that the EUFOR believes may have military capacity and the feedback of these activities is very positive as Bosnia and Herzegovina is now far more secure. AFBiH progress has been very encouraging – there are areas where AFBiH is the responsible authority, BIH Authorities have repeatedly demonstrated their competence & ability to maintain SASE in BIH.

At this stage we can only consolidate the results achieved in the last years and further stimulate the competent authorities to keep the improvement process ongoing. All this has been possible thank to all of you and our best result is to picture all that in the most accurate way.

Sincerely,

Lt Col Giovanni Ramunno, Press Office Chief

EUFOR Forum

www.euforbih.org

Commander EUFOR
Major General Stefano Castagnotto
 Chief EUFOR Press Office
Lt Col Giovanni Ramunno

EUFOR Forum Staff:
 Director:

Captain Antonio Petralia

Editors:

Lt Cdr Andy Willis

Mr Haris Daul

Layout:

Mr. Jasmin Zeherovic

Photographs contributed by:

OR-4 Vincenzo De Lucia

OR-4 Dani Lapaz

Submissions can be made via
 e-mail to cpic_forum@eufor.eu.int

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Visit of General **Sir John McColl**



17 September 2009 - General Sir John McColl KCB, CBE, DSO, the Operational Commander of EUFOR and Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR) visited Sarajevo. During his short visit

General McColl met Major General Stefano Castagnotto and senior military members of EUFOR before having an office call with the High Representative/EU Senior Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

Valentin Inzko. He returned to EUFOR HQ in Camp Butmir and paid an official call on COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto.

By Lt Cdr Mandy McBain

Visit of the **Signal Commander** of the Chilean Army

16th September 2009 - Brigadier General Alvaro Polloni, The Signal Commander of the Chilean Army visited EUFOR HQ where he paid an official call on COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto and DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Jose Carrasco. COM EUFOR briefed the Brigadier General on EUFOR activities, the current security situation within BiH and praised the contribution made by the 32 strong Chilean contingent. During the 5-day visit Brigadier General Polloni will visit the Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) 1 in



Banja Luka and a Liaison Observation Team House (LOT) in Sanski Most. At the end of his visit he will return to Camp Butmir and have the chance to meet more of the Chilean Troops and take part in the Chilean National Day Celebrations.



By **Captain Antonio Petralia**

COM EUFOR Inspects Multi National Batallion (MNBN) Troops



31st August 2009 – COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto inspected troop operations in Camp Butmir where a Recce Platoon conducted drills.

The purpose of this training was to maintain their capabilities in Crowd and Riot Control (CRC), Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) which are common procedures of

MNBN. The exercise also enlarged their knowledge of BiH terrain.

COM EUFOR witnessed the patrol activities and at the end of the visit he complimented the members of the MNBN and the other participants for the professional and important work they have been doing for the mission.

By Captain Pablo Rumeu Casares

Major General Wolf-Dietrich Kriesel Visits EUFOR

15th September 2009 - Major General Wolf-Dietrich Kriesel, Deputy Commander of Bundeswehr Operations Command, paid an office call on DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Jose Carrasco. Major General Kriesel is visiting Bosnia and Herzegovina to meet the German elements within EUFOR.

During the visit, DCOM EUFOR was able to brief Major General Kriesel on EUFOR activities and the contribution made by the 132 strong German contingent based throughout BiH.

By Haris Daul



EUFOR Spanish Contingent Donate School Material to the SOS Children Orphanage (Sarajevo)

16th September 2009 - Personnel from the EUFOR Spanish Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) carried out a cooperation project in the city of Sarajevo. At the beginning of a new school year, the Spanish Contingent donated stationery worth KM 3,500 to the SOS Children's Village.



"This is a direct donation of the Spanish Government, which is being implemented through our contingent. The SOS Children's Village is important to us because children, who have been forgotten by the rest of society, are staying here and they are fully taken care of," said Captain Pablo Rumeu Casares of CIMIC, who handed over a cer-

tificate of appreciation to Director Suada Colic.

In the orphanage no more than six or seven children live in every family house, thus making an SOS family. Children in the family address each other as brothers and sisters. Biological brothers and sisters live together. Every SOS family is integrated into a community and partici-

pates in its life. Therefore, the children are given the opportunity to establish relationships with others learn the life skills and develop self-confidence. The children are given the opportunity to grow up in a warm family atmosphere. At the SOS Children's Orphanage in Sarajevo there are 16 family houses in which 88 children live, 3 youth houses in which 40 youth persons live. Also as part of the Orphanage there are 12 young persons who live a semi-independent life and 5 totally independent young persons.

This project is one of the several developed by the Spanish EUFOR CIMIC personnel.

By Captain Pablo Rumeu Casares

Exercise PEACE PIPE

From 21st to 25th September 2009 EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN) carried out Exercise 'PEACE PIPE' in Comanche-Eagle Base, Rajlovac and Bijeljina. The purpose of the training was to increase the level of combined training in an environment as similar as possible to what the MNBN would probably have to face in a real operation. The Battalion checked the logistic and communication capabilities too.



On 23rd and 24th September the MNBN conducted a tactical exercise. They planned and carried out civil disturbance operations, protection and evacuation of members of the International Community (IC), evacuation of Liaison and

where they deployed three Companies, recce Platoon, IPU Platoon, ASGR Mobile Station and MNBN CP and in Rajlovac they deployed one Company.

By Captain Pablo Rumeu Casares

Observation Teams (LOT) and Regional Coordination Centers (RCC's), and seize/arrest operations against targeted (key) individuals. The exercise deployed in two different areas, Comanche Base

COM EUFOR Visits Liaison Observation Team (LOT) Mostar & Trebinje

8th September 2009 - COM EUFOR, Major General Castagnotto visited Regional Command Centre (RCC) 2 House in Mostar. COM EUFOR was welcomed at the helicopter landing site in Mostar by the Chief of the RCC2 Lt Col Jaime Mora-Figueroa. COM EUFOR arrived at LOT house where he was greeted by the RCC personnel.

In the RCC House Lt Col Mora-Figueroa gave a briefing about



the area of activity of RCC2 , the LOT structure in the area and activities of RCC in Mostar that covers a city with for its historical background.

Afterwards COM EUFOR moved to the LOT house in Trebinje where was welcomed by the LOT House Commander, Captain Veiga-Gasalla. He then received a brief about current issues and developments and enjoyed a short tour through the building where he met the staff, military and local employees.

By Captain Antonio Petralia

RCC 4 Excursion to ICMP

25th August 2009 - During the 22th Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) Conference of the Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) 4 and its 7 LOTs, a very enlightening excursion was organized to the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) offices in Lukavac and Tuzla; The Lukavac Re-association Center (LKRC), the Podrinje Identification Project (PIP) and the Identification Coordination Division (ICD). The schedule of the excursion was coordinated by the ICMP Headquarters in Sarajevo. 30 officers from four different countries, under the command of Chief RCC 4 Col Friedrich Teichmann, attended the excursion, which was organized by the Deputy Chief RCC 4 Lt Col Antti Castrén. The visit lasted four hours and ended with lunch at RCC 4,

Camp Edelweiss.

Since November 2001, ICMP has led the way in using DNA as a first step in the identification of large numbers of persons missing after armed conflicts. ICMP has developed a database of nearly 90 000 relatives of 30 000 missing people, and more than 30,000 bone samples have been taken from mortal remains exhumed from clandestine graves in the countries of former Yugoslavia. By matching DNA from blood and bone samples, ICMP has been able to identify 15 000 people who were missing from the conflicts and whose mortal remains were found in hidden graves.

The visits went very well in all three locations. All our goals were achieved perfectly. The visit gave us a very good view



on this important international activity, which has been ongoing for many years and will be ongoing for the future. This

information gave us a much better ability to do our work here in the mission. We understand that ICMP's work is of highest importance for thousands and thousands of people in the post conflict situation in order to heal the wounds that they still carry with them.

The personnel of RCC 4 and all LOTs express appreciation and warmest thanks to ICMP staff for their efforts in Sarajevo, Lukavac and Tuzla. Besides the very high professionalism, our hosts showed a very friendly approach and excellent hospitality to our party.

By Lt Col Antti Castrén

Faces Behind the Flights

On 17th August 2009 started the most important helicopter maintenance activity performed by professional personnel of the Air Task Force AVES, maintenance team of AB 205.

This helicopter is being used by above mentioned unit for support and carrying out EUFOR missions.

This kind of activity is related to the hundred hour's maintenance inspection of the AB 205 numbered 324. The mechanics and electronic technicians for ten days successfully performed their task and resolved with competence and professionalism all the technical problems that occurred. This activity was also characterized by the technical support of the Second Support Regiment of "Orione" from Bologna contact team. They were requested to carry out the specific maintenance operations that are in competence of the second level maintenance such as use of penetrating fluid substances by applying technical regulations related to the helicopter's cell.

The AB 205 helicopters are in service more than 40 years by the Italian Army Aviation named also EM.

These helicopters are being used for various missions such as logistic (CASEVAC), tactical and operatives tasks with the possibility of configuration by



specific equipments that make them useful in many situations.

The helicopter maintenance operations sometimes are not so easy to be carried out due to the lack of tools and shortage of spare parts, especially when unit is abroad involved in a mission such as ours is. As the matter of the fact, if we consider that presently we operate far from the logistic support, every damage and each mechanic failure which requires necessary intervention and appropriate material can not be immediately resolved due to the lack of above mentioned spare parts or tools could as well easily endanger and compromise the operative capability of a unit.

Only a precise planning, timely sent requests for necessary spare parts and the respect of priority support by the higher maintenance level for the unit employed abroad, makes the operative capability on satisfying level.

Another aspect which requires consideration during the main-

tenance activity is continues safety measures awareness which requests constant technician's attention.

Some drills and trainings are being performed by skilled and professional technician that are not directly involved in the maintenance

activity related to pre and post check activities such as following of the basic working rules. For example the most important basic rule is to check the tools that have been used after every maintenance activity.

In the end and very important to mention is the working environment and mutual relations between maintenance teams that are of high importance for every employee in the unit.

The maintenance team has been organized and supervised by Maggiore Andrea VITA and maintenance activities have been conducted by 1° Mar. Ltn. Gaetano Cerciello.

By Major Andrea Vita



EUFOR Cup 2009



On the 14th and 15th of October, EUFOR, together with Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH), hosted a soccer tournament for teams of children aged 13-15. The event, held at Olympic Hall Zetra, opened with a welcome address from DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Carrasco, and two days of fun, sportsmanship and excellent soccer followed.

Over 400 players coming from elementary schools from all areas, backgrounds and ethnicities across Bosnia and Herzegovina were represented in the 48 teams that played in the Olympic Hall in a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

After an exciting and close final in front of a number of VIPs, the overall winners for the event were the team from the 'IV' Primary School in BRCKO. Three exciting trips to see football matches in

the UK, Netherlands and Germany were donated as prizes, and the winners chose to travel to London to watch Tottenham Hotspurs play. The second placed team was 'Camil Sijaric' primary school from Nemila who chose to visit FC Wolfsburg in Germany, and the third placed team from the 'Kladani' primary school will travel to the Netherlands to watch FC Utrecht play two matches.

The prize for fair play and sportsmanship was awarded to



Closing speeches were given by COM EUFOR, Major General Castagnotto and Marina Pendes, the BiH Deputy Defence Minister, and they then awarded the trophy and prizes to the winning team. Further prizes were awarded by His Excellency the British Ambassador, Mr Michael Tatham; His Excellency the Spanish Ambassador, Mr Alejandro Alvargonzalez San Martin; Lieutenant General Miladin Milojcic (Chief of the Joint Staff AFBiH); Major General Ante Jelec (Operations Commander, AFBiH); Major General Lukasz Chimiak (Deputy Chief of Mission, Polish Embassy); Brigadier General Sakib Foric (Deputy Operations Commander, AFBiH); and Mr Roland Roelofs, the Operations Manager of FC Utrecht.

the team from the Mostarsko Blato Elementary School in Siroki Brijeg, who had successfully overcome some difficulties in attending the tournament due to recent football-related events in their home town.

On the day before the start of the event the Spanish National football team and the Spanish Minister of Defence, Ms. Carme Chacon, visited camp Butmir and donated some strips of the National team to representatives of the participants in the EUFOR Soccer Cup 2009.

By Lt Cdr Andy Willis

Geospatial support to AFBiH

The establishment of Geospatial capabilities within the BiH Armed Forces was originally proposed last summer by COM EUFOR and COM NATO HQ Sa. However, at the same time, both HQs offered training courses on the reading and interpretation of maps and Geospatial information managing to AF BiH.

As requested by the NATO Advisory Team, the EUFOR Geo Section happily accepted the enormous task of training the BiH Armed Forces in Geospatial related information.

The handover of about 65,000 standardized NATO maps to AF BiH took place on 29 July 2009, with a first initial training of their usage provided by the HQ EUFOR Geo Section. A working group Joint Force Command AF BiH was installed to define the requirements to help build Geospatial Capabilities inside the AF BiH, and an additional training of about 33 people of the AF BiH in Geospatial matters was asked to be provided.

On 29, 30 September and 1 October 2009, three sessions of Geospatial training for AF BiH took place in Camp Butmir. 35 BiH Officers and NCOs were successfully trained in Geospatial matters by the all the components of the HQ EUFOR Geo Section: Lt Col (DEU A) Josef F. Burkart, Mr. Giovanni Giovannetti and Mr. Martin Boehnlein. Also offering

their invaluable assistance were Ms. Ljiljana Nisic and Ms. Kanita Focak as interpreters, and Maj (TUR A) Asik Yavuz of the NATO Advisory Team as the coordinator.

The main goal of the training was to establish a Geospatial Element within the AF BiH and, consequentially, create a well-trained select group of Geo users within the AF BiH units. During the training different aspects of Geospatial support were discussed.

An overview of the Geospatial support in the military operations and exercise were introduced by Lt Col Burkart. As BiH member of NATO PfP, the understanding of the different aspects of the Geospatial support for the AF BiH personnel is important due to the fact that it is strictly connected with their integration in international missions.

The technical aspects were introduced by Mr. Giovannetti during the continuation of the training, and an overview on the geographic reference systems and cartographic representations were shown to the trainees. In addition to the overview, a brief introduction on the GPS – Global Positioning



System and on GIS – Geographic Information System were provided.

Towards the end of the training, Mr. Boehnlein provided a practical training on the interpretation and usage of maps with the introduction and solution of real cases such as the creation of an altitude profile with the use of standard maps.

The first step towards bringing AF BiH to their Geospatial support autonomy was made, however, it is crystal clear that the handover of 65,000 maps and a one-day training course for a few BiH Officers and NCOs is not enough for the AF BiH to have and/or successfully operate their own Geospatial support. As to the interest shown and according to the needs of the AF BiH, it is vital to continue to offer them the knowhow, the knowledge and the tools in order for them to be fully integrated in the military Geo community, and eventually, operate on their own accords.

By Lt Col Josef Burkart

Italian CIMIC Activity

30th August 2009 – The Italian Army National Contingent, together with Italian Red Cross promoted the project "Friends Without Frontiers", that allowed to 35 bosnian children to spend the summer holidays in Italy. The children left Sarajevo on 29th July 2009 in order to be hosted by italian families and spend a quite period of serenity making cultural visits, excursions and receiving medical cares. They belonging to different ethnics and religions of the country came back to their families of Tuzla, Visegrad and Sarajevo on 30th August



2009. The activity, realized in cooperation with the Italian Embassy in Sarajevo and the Italian Red Cross Regional Committee of Campania has been supported by the soldiers of Italian Army National Contingent. The soldiers on duty in Visegrad informed local population about the activity and provided to select the children belonging to the poorest families. The project "Friends Without Frontiers" started 13 years ago, when Italian Red Cross brought the first children out of Bosnia Herzegovina, making possible to live a period of their life far from the suffering caused by the war.

By Lt Claudio Cibelli

IPU Medal Parade Ceremony

30th September 2009 - A Medal Parade Ceremony for the personnel serving within EUFOR in Camp Butmir 2 was organized on the 30th September 2009.

The ceremony involved the IPU personnel of all nationalities. The military contingents of Portugal, France, Romania, Italia, Netherlands and Spain were awarded with the medal "EUFOR - ALTHEA" in recognition of their merits on carrying out the assigned mission. The Italian Carabinieri of the NCC SU were also associated to this event.

In total, 92 Militaries of the different Gendarmeries and Military police composing the IPU were awarded on the Honor Yard of Camp Butmir 2.

Colonel Oliveira, IPU Force Commander and his personnel were honored by the presence of

GNR General Commander, Lieutenant-General Luis Nelson Ferreira Dos Santos, COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto and by the highest diplomatic, military, civilian and international representatives in BiH.

In the greeting speech Col. Oliveira stated to all the participants that he was very proud of the unconditional efforts, deeply commitment, loyalty and professionalism of his men and women in the accomplishment of their duties

Lieutenant-General Luis Nelson FERREIRA DOS SANTOS attended the Medal Parade Ceremony as special guest and also paid visit to the Portuguese GNR contingent involved in the Mission ALTHEA.

The military ceremony ended



with the European Anthem. It have been full noticed the appropriate image and rigorous stand of the troops. A buffet-lunch was then served to all personnel and VIP guests.

By Captain Antonio Petralia

Chief of Staff EUFOR Visits Liaison Observation Team (LOT) Travnik

5th September 2009 – Then Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Robert Löwenstein, paid a visit to the Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) based at Travnik. LOT Travnik operates in the Southeast part of the Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) 1 Area of Activity. The Commander RCC1, Lt Col Jan van den Dool, and his successor from the 12th Oktober, Lt Col Jan van Zijp, accompanied the visit of the COS. The LOT Team Leader Captain Guido van der Rijst welcomed the COS and his staff and briefed them on the LOT house activities. After a light lunch the Brigadier General Robert Löwenstein thanked all persons of LOT Travnik for their hospitality and their thorough brief which clearly demonstrated that they understood their area of activity.

By Captain Antonio Petralla



Meeting with Bishop Vasilije Kacavenda, Episcope of Zvornik – Tuzla Eparchy

9th September 2009 - A delegation of Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) 4 had a meeting with Bishop Vasilije Kacavenda in his Residence in Bijeljina. Chief of RCC4, Colonel Friedrich Teichmann, was the head of the delegation with other two Officers, Major Tiago Lopes and Captain Nikolaos Bonias, one Interpreter Manda Stjepanovic and one notes and translation assistant Samira Delic.

Purpose of the meeting was to conduct liaison with the high level of the BIH society and discuss about current economic and religious situation, the future of BIH, Konjevic Polje



church issue and presence of EUFOR.

The RCC4 delegation was very well received by the Bishop Kadavenda who shared all his knowledge.

It was a very pleasant meeting during which Bishop Kacavenda expressed his opinions about the presence of International

Community in BiH, the support of International Humanitarian Organizations, economical and religious situation and the need to reduce the state apparatus. In conclusion, the Bishop stated that all people in BiH need to feel free and that no one should suffer. Also, big changes need to be done in the state structure and bad decision of those who are leading BiH need to be eliminated.

At the end of the meeting, Colonel Teichmann thanked Bishop Kacavenda for all his hospitality and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity granted.

By Colonel Friedrich Teichmann

Visits from the Kingdom of Netherlands

21st September 2009 -

His Excellency Mr Sweder Van Voorst, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to Bosnia and Herzegovina and Mr Henk Swarttouw, the Director of Security Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, visited



EUFOR HQ where they paid an official call to COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano

Castagnotto. COM EUFOR briefed the Ambassador and Director on EUFOR activities

and the current security situation within BiH and praised the contribution made by the 75 strong Dutch contingent based throughout BiH. EUFOR continues to maintain a close working relationship with other international players on operational matters and the cooperation with NATO continues to work efficiently.

By Haris Daul

RCC1 Medal Parade

24th September 2009 -

The RCC1 Medal Parade was held at Kozara barracks in Banja Luka for the personnel of RCC1 and EUFOR Dutch and Romanian contingents. COM EUFOR, Major General Castagnotto, participated at this event and decorated the qualified members with the Operational ALTHEA Medal. All RCC1 troops took the award with pride.

The event was attended as well by the Ambassador of

Netherlands to BiH, H.E. Mr. Sweder Van Voorst, Brigadier General J. Hardenbol and Brigadier General H.J. Mayers, both from the Dutch Armed Forces and Brigadier General S t a m e n k o Novakovic from the AFBiH.



Major General Castagnotto

said during his speech: "Today, I can proudly testify that you have earned the "European Security Defense Policy Service Medal", which you have received for the great job you have done. You are sending a message out to the

people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. And commenting on their specific task: " The LOTs are the essential link on the ground with local authorities communities and individuals and a practical demonstration of EUFOR's continue commitment to peace and stability in BiH."

After the Parade, a nice aperitif was enjoyed by everyone.

By Lt Col Giovanni Ramunno



Visit of Lieutenant General Othmar Commenda, The Deputy Chief of Austrian Defence Staff

17th September 2009 - Lieutenant General Othmar Commenda, The Deputy Chief of Austrian Defence Staff visited EUFOR HQ where he paid an official call on COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto. COM EUFOR briefed the Lieutenant General on EUFOR activities and the current security situation within BiH.



He also praised the contribution made by the 90 strong Austrian contingent based throughout BiH. Lieutenant General Commenda also called on the High Representative/EU Special Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) Valentin Inzko.

By Captain Wolfgang Stampfer

Austrian Blackhawk Arrival

29th September 2009 - An official fly-out ceremony was held at Archer Base in Camp Butmir. The day did mark the end of flying operations of the Swiss helicopter detachment. From 1st Oct 2009 Austria is taking over the task to provide tactical air reconnaissance and transport capability for EUFOR. The Black Hawk will fly on a permanent basis for EUFOR flying missions in BiH until the end of February 2009.

As a successor of the Swiss Cougar the Black Hawk is able to cover the same spectrum of tasks concerning power performance and load and passenger transportation capability during day and nighttime.

The detachment consists of eight persons: one pilot and detachment leader, one



helicopter crew comprising of two pilots and two crew chiefs, one technical officer, one heli ops officer and one admin.

Capt Schueller Christian, the



detachment leader and his team, are facing another challenging period in their careers. "After the mission in KFOR from June 2008 till June 2009 I expect another challenging time in a multinational environment. And I am sure that we will fulfill the required tasks very satisfactory", he said.

Col Vorhofer, Chief JMA and Austrian NCC, welcomes the Austrian helicopter detachment.

By Captain Wolfgang Stampfer

Withdrawal of Swiss Helicopters



29th September 2009 – Ambassador of Switzerland to BiH H.E. Mr. Rolf Lenz and COM EUFOR Major General Stefano Castagnotto attended the Swiss helicopter withdrawal ceremony from mission EUFOR “Althea” which was organized by Swiss Senior National Representative. The two recce and transport Cougar helicopters, to be replaced by Austrian helicopters, flew 2,635 hours for

EUFOR, made 7029 successful landings and a total of 12,900 passengers were transported. The Swiss pilots and the three flight engineers received a special commendation from the UNCHR representative Mr. NAVEED for their service. In the words of the Swiss Senior Officer: “A crew as little, only in personnel, as 2 pilots and 3 air mechanics flew day and night, summer and winter and the

service was always ensured”. COM EUFOR commented on their professionalism and dedication in the words: “It is an opportunity to recall the immense contribution that the Swiss Helicopter Detachment has made to EUFOR’s operations, involving over 1,280 missions”. Swiss still retains a number of troops as part of Mission.

By Captain Antonio Petralia

Takeover/handover Chief of Staff Ceremony

18th September 2009 – COM EUFOR Major General Stefano Castagnotto presided over the Handover-Takeover (HOTO) Ceremony of Chief of Staff in Camp Butmir in front of Building 200. After serving six months as Chief of Staff Brigadier, General Robert Lowenstein handed over responsibility to the new Chief of Staff Brigadier General Gerhard Kemmler. The parade consisted of troops and civilians from Headquarters EUFOR. COM EUFOR Major General Castagnotto awarded Brigadier General Robert Lowenstein with the ALTHEA Peace Mission Medal and Italian Ministry of Defense Peace Mission Medal.

By Captain Antonio Petralia





Admin NCO OR-9 Pascal Mantz

Please tell us something about yourself:

I am married and have 3 kids. 17, 9 and 4 years old. I'm leaving in the north of Luxembourg, very close to the Belgium Border. This part of Luxembourg is part of a hilly region called "Ardennes". An artificial reservoir is close to my home village. A perfect area for Mountain-biking and diving, my hobbies beside reading and Aikido.

I joined the Army in January 1982 as unlisted soldier and was nominated NCO in September 1986. I have assigned to various jobs. Actually, I am CSM in a combat unit, who also takes care about our troops in Kosovo and at the ISAF-Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Since 1992, as part-timer inspector, I take part, on

about 1 year in advance on our predictable mission about.

How long have you been in EUFOR?

I arrived in the theatre start of August. I will stay until mid of December. My assignment in EUFOR HQ is to assume the administrative NCO in the Logs & Infra branch belonging to the Support Division.

I was stationed in Visoko during my prior SFOR mandate in 1998. I do realize that a lot of things have change in a signifying way. In these days, you may move around in a relative save environment. In 1998, this wasn't true.

I have done a CIMIC-Mission in Kosovo from 1999 -2000.

How do you spend your free time?

As I do know the area around Sarajevo a little bit from prior stay, I do not travel that much.

numerous inspections in behalf of the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty (CFE), Vienna Document (VD99) and Open Skies (OS).

Why did you choose to come for mission? (If it's your choice)

Well, in our army you have no choice. We are informed

I will only go to Tucepi on the Croatian coast for a diving week-end.

I prefer to read and make some sports during my "time out of the office".

Name and describe any interesting thing about your country that readers most likely do not know.

Luxembourg has been founded in 963.

Since then, Nations and countries are quarreling over the so-called "Gibraltar of the north". The Belgian Revolution of 1830-1839 reduced Luxembourg's territory by more than half and finally, by the 1839 First Treaty of London, Luxembourg become independent.

Actually, Luxembourg has a foreigner average of 46 % of his 493.000 inhabitants. Luxembourg's education system is trilingual: kids are learning in primary school Luxembourgish, German and French. In high school, English is scholarly as the fourth mandatory language.

Portuguese and Italian, the languages of the two largest immigrant communities, are also spoken by large parts of the population.

It is therefore usual that in a given place all possible languages, mainly from Europe, are spoken.

Spanish National Day



October 2009 - Spanish National Day (12 Oct Día de la Hispanidad) was celebrated on 10th and 11th October 2009 in Camp Butmir and Camp Butmir 2. DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Carrasco, welcomed COM EUFOR Major General Castagnotto, COM NATO Brigadier General Errico and COS Brigadier General Kemmler. Different kinds of national food and beverages were offered to the crowd and despite the rain, the participants enjoyed the event.

DCOM EUFOR BG Carrasco said: "With the advent of democracy in Spain, 12th October, a date that commemorates the discovery of America by Cristobal Colon in 1492, became the National Day of Spain. 12th October 1492 marks the emergence of a large Spanish speaking community of more than 350 million people who share language, values, and traditions."

By Captain Antonio Petralia



Chilean National Day

19th September 2009 - The Chilean Contingent in Bosnia celebrated the National Day and National Army Day. The event was attended by COM EUFOR Major General Stefano Castagnotto, DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Jose Carrasco and COS



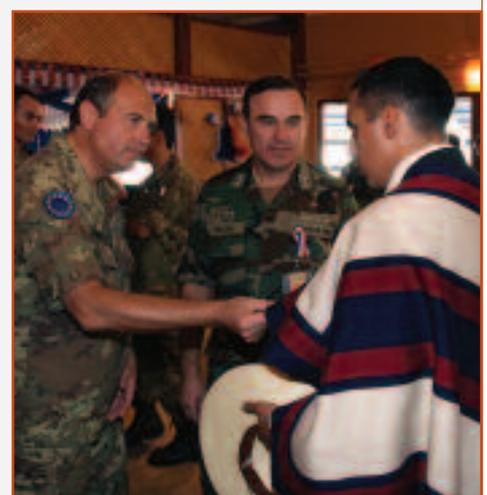
EUFOR, Brigadier General Gerhard Kemler. The celebration was also attended by the Chilean Ambassador in Hungary, H.E. Mr. Fernando Schmidt Ariztia, representatives from the BiH Government and the Ambassadors of The Kingdom of Netherlands, Turkey, Spain and Saudi Arabia.

In the first part of the ceremony the Chilean Contingent Commander, Lt Col Juan Ossa, addressed the audience to thank them for joining the celebration and afterwards he made a presentation with the history, geographic and political facts.

The Chilean Ambassador in Hungary, H.E. Mr. Fernando Schmidt Ariztia, took the opportunity to highlight the contribution of the Chilean Troops to provide a safe and secure environment in Bosnia along with the countries participating in EUFOR.

During the second part of the celebration, the authorities and special guests had the opportunity to share some moments with the Chilean Contingent and national food and drinks were served.

By Captain Ricardo Mesa



My name is Corporal Nicole Weigand and I arrived on 19 May in the theatre. In Camp Butmir I serve in the German Medical Branch as a driver. EUFOR is my first mission. When I heard that my unit was asked to go to EUFOR in BiH I applied for it. I thought that for the first time it should not be a more dangerous environment or war zone like Afghanistan. I have learnt a lot about the history of the country and I was able to visit many places of BiH during the Moral & Welfare trips of the German contingent. Especially interesting and touching was the visit to Srebrenica.

Being in an international environ-



◆ OR-4 Nicole Weigand

ment and after four months continuously in the mission area I can say that it was a great experience. I have also realized how good our life in Germany is and was conveying this also to my relatives and friends at home. After such a long time away from home I am homesick now and happy to go home. However, I know without doubt that it won't be my last mission.

I was born in Villaricca (NA) on 1 April 1977. I graduated from the "Istituto Tecnico Commerciale".

I started my military career on 11th November 1997 as a conscript in the "Wolves of Tuscania" which barracks located in Scandicci Tuscany. In 1998 I was transferred to the recruiting training school for volunteers "Acqui" in Sora. In 1998 I was transferred to the Military Medical Academy Headquarters in Florence. From 1998 for one year I was assigned to the 183° Regiment Parachute "Nembo" in Pistoia,

Tuscany. My first mission was in Kosovo from September 1999 to February 2000; I served KFOR two times again. In 2002 I was assigned to the 187° Rgt. Parachute Folgore in Livorno. In 2003 I was assigned to the 132° Rgt. Artillery Cor. "Ariete" based in Maniago.



◆ OR-4 Domenico Zaccariello

In the periods from September 2003 to March 2004 I participated for first time on two in the mission "ISAF" in Afghanistan. From September 2007 to June 2008 I participated in the mission ONU "Leontes" in Lebanon.

My current duty is the ORDERLY to Commander EUFOR at Camp Butmir in Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the nine months I have spent here I have been

lucky to have met so many people from other nations. Life is short and so I try to enjoy it to the fullest. I am very happy to be a part of this great EUFOR team and give my contribution for the better future of this people and this country.

I have many interests, including football and music.

Fun Run in Camp Butmir

19th September 2009 - A special event took place in Camp Butmir on Saturday when EUFOR personnel from HQ Commandant organised a fun run. The fun run was a great success and raised in excess of 6,000 KM. Over 400 soldiers and civilians of all nations took part in this run on a beautiful Saturday morning. Most of the participants were from the Multinational Battalion (MNBN). Major Carsten Hellemann, the Deputy



HQ Commandant, awarded the best male and female runners with a prize. The awards fell into two categories. Female

winner who was Erszebet Nagy (HUN), second place Vanessa Ortiz Velazques (ESP) and third place Ingrid Katona (HUN). The male winner was Cezary Famulski (POL), second place Pedro Jesus Nunez Aragon (ESP) and third place Denis Stonic (SVN). Major Carsten Hellemann also praised the team and the gym-supervisor Zeljko Puljic for the very well prepared and organized event.

By OF-1 Michael Hellriegel

Sarajevo "Olimpija" Half Marathon 2009

27th September 2009 - The first Sarajevo Half Marathon took place three years ago. It grew bigger and better every year since. The race is organized by a few enthusiastic runners gathered around NGO "Marathon" Sarajevo. You already remember them as organizers of races "Run to the Hills, 10K" in June and "Run to Europe" in May this year. Every year Sarajevo Half Marathon attracts runners from all over Europe and it is quickly becoming known as one of the top events in the autumn running calendar. This year, runners from 28 countries participated in this magnificent event, most of them from Spain, Hungary, Ireland and Poland. From EUFOR Camp Butmir and LOT houses there were 148 regis-



tered participants.

On 27th September 408 runners and hundreds of supporters and spectators enjoyed the race and a beautiful sunny morning. Temperature of 14 degrees Celcius was perfect for running. All required facilities were available directly at the start/finish area, in front of Olympic Hall ZETRA: enough parking space, wardrobe, toilets. Sarajevo Drum Orchestra helped in creating a great atmosphere and race started

exactly at 10:00. Excellent, almost flat course, led through the most interesting parts of Sarajevo. Along the course were frequent and well stocked aid stations. All runners got a unique medal and a t-shirt, and plentiful of food and refreshment at the finish line.

First to the finish line were Bosnian Djuro Kodzo in the male category and Olivera Jevtic from Serbia in the female category. The fastest participants from EUFOR were Cezary Famulski from Poland, and Bernarda Lovrin from Slovenia.

This Sunday morning was fun for all those present and a half marathon itself was very well organized. Include this race in your race calendar and you will not be disappointed.

By José M. Méndez

STAY ALERT!



SAFE DRIVING

THROUGH ENTIRE BIH

DRIVE CAREFULLY! BE PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED!