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# EUFORUM

*Magazine*



New Poster



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# Major General Bernhard Bair

## Commander EUFOR



Since taking over the role as commander of EUFOR forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina, I have taken time to travel around the country as much as possible. I have met many of its people, including key players in a number of important areas such as politics, religion and security. Throughout these last few weeks I have been consistently impressed with the warm reception I have received. This is a reflection on the relationship between EUFOR and the Bosnian people, which I perceive to be very positive and encouraging.

Also of note has been the optimistic attitude of the people, which is a significant element of the requirements for a successful future for Bosnia and Herzegovina, both internally and within the wider scope of the European Union. There are still challenges ahead on the road to European integration, but it is clear to me that the country is firmly on the correct path and making good progress.

EUFOR continues to play an important and integral role in the European Union's efforts to support the necessary actions and reforms that will enable further progress towards European integration. The troops of Operation Althea will con-

tinue to contribute to the enduring stability and security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as we have since the Operation's launch in 2004. We remain ready to respond to any security challenge anywhere in the country.

On the 25th of January, the Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union made the decision to develop the EUFOR mission towards the provision of capacity-building and training support to the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. This will be done alongside our current role of maintaining the safe and secure environment. The planning for this important tasking is now well under way and this will help to further increase national ownership of the security situation and ensure future stability within the country.

It is clear to us here in EUFOR that the European Union remains committed to Bosnia and Herzegovina and will not neglect its duty of assisting the development of the country at this important juncture. EUFOR's role is an important element of this commitment and we will continue to make a significant and tangible contribution to the maintenance of the safe and secure environment.

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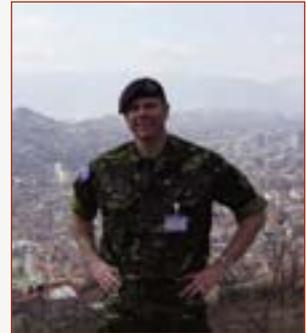
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Dear readers,

I have now come to the end of my tour in EUFOR HQ, Sarajevo, and will soon depart for home shores. Whilst I am naturally looking forward to returning to my home, my family and my friends, working here with you all has been quite an experience, and I will miss many aspects of Bosnia and Herzegovina and life in Camp Butmir.



Most of all I will miss the people. As a seagoing Naval Officer, I have served on a number of occasions within multinational task groups, but herding groups of warships is somewhat different from working face to face on a daily basis with servicemen and women and civilians from over twenty different nations! I have very much enjoyed being part of the camaraderie of EUFOR Althea, and have been consistently impressed with the people I have worked with in the past six months.

Whilst all the contributing nations have their differences and foibles, professionalism ensures that they present few problems, and I have noted a common theme that is embraced throughout EUFOR: We get things done and we achieve high standards.

I believe that EUFOR's presence here has been nothing but positive for the people of BiH. From a personal point of view, I am immensely proud to have served with you all and I wish you well in your future endeavours. Cheers, and 'BZ'\* as we say in the Royal Navy.

\*Naval signal code for 'Manoeuvre Well Executed' i.e. Well Done!

Sincerely Lt Cdr Andy Willis, EUFOR Spokesperson

## EUFOR Forum

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## The EUFOR Althea Operation Commander, General Sir John McColl, Visits Sarajevo



17th March 2010 – General Sir John McColl, the Operation Commander of EUFOR Althea, and Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR), paid an official visit to Sarajevo. During his stay, General McColl, accompanied by Lieutenant General Eduardo Zamarripa, Head of the EU Command Element (EUCE), met with COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair; the High Representative, Dr Valentin Inzko; the Chief of the Joint

Staff of AFBiH, Lieutenant General Miladin Milojevic; and the British Ambassador, His Excellency Mr Michael Tatham. He also attended a number of meetings and briefings regard-

ing the continued important presence of EUFOR in BiH, in light of the decision of the Foreign Affairs Council of the European Union on the 25th January 2010 to develop the EUFOR Althea mission, alongside the current role of maintaining the safe and secure environment, towards the provision of capacity-building and training support to the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



By Lt Cdr Andy Willis

## Handover-Takeover Ceremony Chief of Staff

19th March 2010 – COM EUFOR Major General Bernhard Bair 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 Gerhard Kemmler handed over responsibility to the new Chief of Staff Brigadier General Gerd Bischof. COM EUFOR Major General Bair awarded Brigadier



General Robert Kemmler with the ALTHEA Peace Mission Medal.

In his farewell speech, BG

Kemmler said: "Our shared Operation ALTHEA is only as good as the people who serve in it and we all have contributed to the successful implementation of our mission to ensure a peaceful life for all the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. I thank all the military and civil personal for your dedication, professional work ethic and personal sacrifices to the mission."

By Haris Daul

# Geographical Information System for LOTs

17th March 2010 - The EUFOR Information and Analysis Division (IAD) Geo Section conducted geographical information system (GIS) training in Regional Coordination Center (RCC) 4 Tuzla. The training lasted two days and was conducted by Mr. José Balsinhas from the NC3A GeoTeam using ikeGPS tools.



staff.

After then, an ikeGPS device was loaned to the RCC for a time period of 3 months.

### Quick, Easy and Precise

Thanks to the support of the NC3A GeoTeam, which provided scientific and

The ikeGPS is a tool able to provide standoff GIS data capture for Military in a fully-integrated, multifunction handheld device. It combines a laser rangefinder, GPS, digital camera, inclinometer, compass, and computer in a single handheld device. IkeGPS enables fast, safe and efficient field GIS data acquisition through Standoff Photo-Positioning. Multiple targets up to 1000 meters distant can be positioned from a single location, enabling the operator to remain in a safe and/or concealed location throughout the capture process.

a geotagged digital image of each target location, with crosshairs showing precisely which target was captured and other relevant data superimposed right on the image.

The first session on 17th March 2010 was dedicated to Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) Bratunac and LOT Derventa, which in April and May respectively will conduct a trial with this equipment.

On 18th March the second training session was held, this one focused on the overview of the equipment capabilities and the audience were other LOTs of RCC 4's Area of Responsibility (AOR) as well as some RCC

technical support to all NATO and EUFOR Geo bodies, new capabilities in the Geospatial data acquisition and dissemination, are now available for the LOT houses.

In this particular case, ikeGPS will be used to collect locations, attributes and photographs by the LOTs. The data collection will become quick, easy, and precise.

After the initial campaign of acquisition, RCC 4, with the support of EUFOR IAD Geo Section, will validate the capability for this specific use before a potential procurement for EUFOR.

By Giovanni Giovannetti



## Change of Command Ceremony in Tuzla



**2nd March 2010** – The Change of Command (CoC) ceremony of the Austrian National Element and the Regional Coordination Center (RCC) 4 took place in Tuzla on 2nd March in the presence of COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair and the Austrian National Contingent Commander, Colonel Josef Holzer.

COM EUFOR in his speech thanked the outgoing contingent Colonel Dr. Friedrich Teichmann for their achieve-



ments and a job well done.

Colonel Dr. Teichman spent seven months as RCC 4 Chief. He took the opportunity to

thank the soldiers for their outstanding contribution throughout his tour and wished the incoming Lt Col Robert Glanner, an officer with extensive mission experience, a successful tour.

In the RCC 4 Area of Activity (AOA), Austria has troops posted in LOT houses in Tuzla, Brcko and Bratunac. RCC 4, based in Tuzla, also has LOT houses manned by Greek and Portuguese troops.

**By Lt Col Knut Scheutz**

## Saint Patrick's Day in Camp Butmir

**16th March 2010** - In preparation for the Saint Patrick's Day, the Irish National Day (17th March), the Irish contingent presented COM EUFOR with Shamrock. Presentation of Shamrock is a long standing tradition in the Irish Defence Forces and throughout Ireland and on overseas missions Shamrock will be presented to troops.



Members of the Reserve Defence Forces will march in parade's in towns and cities

throughout Ireland today also. As it is the Irish National Day, members of the 11 Irish Component EUFOR BiH also received their Operation Althea Service Medal at a parade in Camp Butmir. Irish personnel have been serving in BiH since 1997 with SFOR and now EUFOR.

**By Major Gavin Young**

## Ammunition Storage Site Inspections

Between 15th February and 20th March 2010, a Joint Military Affairs (JMA) team of three, conducted a technical inspection and safety assessment spot check of the five worst Ammunition Storage Sites (ASS) of the Armed Forces of BiH



(AFBIH). The team consisted of Major Necmi Genc, Chief Verification Unit; Sgt. Aulsberry, Ammunition Examiner; and Mr. Dejan Vickovic, JMA Liaison Officer.

### Managing Safety and Security Concerns

The visit schedule was: Draga ASS Busovaca on 15-17 February, Car Dusan ASS Rudo on 22-24 February, Uzamnica ASS Visegrad on 25-26 February, Ljuta ASS Konjic on 3-5 March, Krcmarice ASS Banja Luka on 8-10 March. The general impression that the JMA verification team was that these sites are in a critical condition and remedial action must be carried out urgently. The goals of the inspections were: to conduct a spot check technical inspection and safety assessment of the above five sites,



### Recommendation for Future Steps

Commander of the Support Command of AFBIH Major General Gutic and COS EUFOR Brigadier General Kemmler, accompanied by their staff, visited Rudo ASS on 23rd February 2010 to get a clear view of the site conditions as well as the technical inspection and safety assessment process conducted by the Joint Military Affairs (JMA) team. Both EUFOR and the AFBIH officers recognized the safety and security concerns regarding these particular Ammunition Storage Sites and joined forces to identify appropriate remedial action. Both parties agree that these Ammunition Storage Sites (ASS) are in a critical condition and need to be closed down as soon as possible. Resources are

to recommend future steps to increase safety and security and to create a safety assessment for EUFOR personnel who will conduct activities on these sites. Car Dusan ASS in Rudo and Uzamnica ASS in Visegrad are specific cases due to the fact that buildings 17 and 10 respectively hold a great amount of unstable ammunition. Also these two sites in general are in a very bad condition.

limited in the AF BIH but, with a joint effort, initial progress is expected to be seen before the end of this year. EUFOR anticipates that there will be a Safer and more Secure Environment (SASE) in BIH, resulting from the technical inspections.

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By Major F. Necmi Genc

## MNBN Exercise “IRON WILL”



19th March 2010 - During the period 15th to 19th March 2010, the EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN) conducted an exercise across Bosnia and Herzegovina, with units deploying to many different points, including Tuzla, Caplijna, Rajlovac and Pazaric.

The training objectives established for the exercise were to: increase the MNBN cohesion; practice the “Decision Making Process”; establish the MNBN Tactical Command Post; increase the level of knowledge

of CONPLANS; put into practice Greenbox/Bluebox; verify connectivity and C2 in voice and data; test Air MEDEVAC

The EUFOR MNBN, currently under command of Lieutenant Colonel Antonio A. Otero García of the Spanish Marines, is made up of four motorized Companies and one Recce Platoon, which belong to four different European countries, Spain, Hungary, Poland and Turkey. A Battalion HQ, with personnel of the different nationalities, provides the MNBN Commander the necessary means to plan and conduct exercises and operations. The MNBN is composed of more than 500 soldiers.

SOP; perform live firing exercises; conduct joint training

between MNBN/IPU; carry out helitraining during day/night conditions and to train for tasks in support of International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

This regular testing of C2 techniques along with the deployment of troops ensures that the MNBN capabilities remain sharp and ready should they ever be needed.

It is important to stress that this was a EUFOR training exercise, not a real operation.

By Captain Juan Juárez



## COM EUFOR Visits



◆ COM EUFOR and COS EUFOR with former HR in BiH, Mr. Christian Schwarz-Schilling



◆ COM EUFOR with Lieutenant General Carlo Gibellino, the Italian Army Deputy Chief of Staff



◆ COM EUFOR with Lieutenant General Miladin Milojevic, Chief of Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH)



◆ COM EUFOR and COS EUFOR with Major General (retired) John O. B. Sewall, Head of Military Professional Resources Incorporated (MPRI)



◆ COM EUFOR with His Excellency Rami Rexhepi, Ambassador of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to Bosnia and Herzegovina



◆ COM EUFOR with OF-7 Andreas Krause, Director of the Joint Operations Staff of the German Armed Forces

## MoD Workshop on BiH Surplus Arms and Ammunition Disposal

**March 2010** - Due to slow progress in the disposal of surplus ammunition, the BiH Ministry of Defence, in co-operation with NATO HQ Sa and other members of the International Community, decided to hold a workshop about the "Implementation of the Agreement on Final Disposal of all Rights and Obligations Over Movable Property That Will Continue to Serve Defence Purposes and need for its further implementation" in Zenica from 8th to 12th March 2010. The opening of the workshop, co-chaired by COM NATO HQ Sa Brigadier General John Bullard, was attended by COM EUFOR Major General Bernhard Bair and his team from EUFOR JMA and LEGAD. This was to underline EUFOR's co-operation and support to NATO HQ Sa.

Besides representatives from all levels of the BiH Government, NATO HQ Sa, UNDP, OSCE, OHR and the Embassy of the USA participated in this workshop.

The workshop itself was split into three working groups. Group one addressed the sale and donation of surplus movable defence property, group two considered the destruction of unstable ammunition and mines and explosive ordnance and group three debated the procedure and dynamics of returning other surplus movable property to

the entities. EUFOR participated with the Arms Control Advisor Mr. Erwin Kauer, the Ammunition Technical Officer Mr. Jim Carr and the Legal Advisor Dipl. Iur. Igor Dimitrovski in all three working groups to monitor, assist and advise the BiH MoD and AF BiH. By the end of the workshop, each workgroup present-



## EUFOR delegation visited CROMAC



11th February 2010 - The EUFOR delegation visited Croatian Mine Action Centre with the aim of presenting the EUFOR staff with current mine situation, mine action activities, mine risk education and mine victims assistance in the Republic of Croatia.

CROMAC Deputy Director, Mr. Mirko Ivanusic welcomed members of this delegation lead by CS Michael Gerard Sheehan, Chief Mines Information Coordination Cell (MICC) and accompanied by Ms. Dzejna Skopljak, Mine Risk Education (MRE) Manager and Mr. Milad Cerimagic, Mines Information Coordination Cell (MICC) Data Manager. Representatives of CROMAC presented them CROMAC activities and Croatian mine action system as well as CROMAC Mine- information system portal as the latest achievement that provides all internet users with suspected hazardous area information.

By Captain Eduardo Jara

An essential part of the Yugoslav defence doctrine was the concept of "Total National Defence" with the aim to arm and equip about 8 million people. This concept of the Yugoslav People's Army (JNA), once considered the forth largest in Europe, also left its marks on Bosnia and Herzegovina, leaving 21 Ammunition Storage Sites (ASS) and 29 Weapon Storage Sites (WSS) behind. The BiH Defence Reform in 2008 stipulated that only 6 ASS and 2 WSS will remain in the new BiH Armed Forces structure. Now BiH Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of BiH have to deal with more then 30,000 tonnes of surplus ammunition, mines and explosives as part of movable defence property, sometimes near populated areas. Old ammunition from '50-es or wartime production from the war in 1990s, plus incompatible, bad storage conditions, lacking storage and maintenance records of the ammunition are worsening the problem day by day.

ed its recommendation to the Minister of Defense, which then should be turned in an action plan, to be approved by the BiH Presidency.

The slow progress in the implementation of Agreement on Moveable Property has both political and financial implications as far as the sale of surplus ammunition is envisaged and hence local politicians might be inclined to direct their efforts to that aim.

With the leadership of DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Nagy, EUFOR JMA, objected to one of the recommendations because of ITPs breach and the current agreement on final disposal, confirming the importance of EUFOR's role in the workshop as such and its expertise in that area within the International Community in BiH.

By Major Alexander Bauer



## German Contingent Handover

17th March 2010 - Lieutenant General Glatz, Chief Joint Operations Command, handed over command of the German Contingent from Brigadier General Kemmler to Brigadier General Bischof.

During the ceremony in the Helicopter Hangar of Camp Butmir, General Glatz contemplated the successful past and future cooperation of the European forces within the EUFOR Althea mission. The outgoing Chief of Staff, General Kemmler, looked back on six

months full mutual assistance and fulfilling duty. He addressed the German soldiers and thanked them for their consistent professionalism. The ceremony was accompanied by music from the Bosnian Music-Corps, who played the "Großer Kurfürsten Reitermarsch" and both the German and BiH National Anthems. In honour of General Kemmler's contribution



as Chief of Staff to EUFOR, General Glatz decorated him with the German national service medal "ALTHEA".

By Lt Alexander Strelau

## Spanish Marine Corps Celebrates its 473 Anniversary

27th February 2010 - The 473rd anniversary of the Spanish Marine Corps, the oldest in the world, was commemorated in Camp Butmir.

Lt Col Antonio Otero presided the event. The celebration was organized in order to commemorate the creation



of the Marine Corps. Lt Col Otero read a felicitation message in which Spanish predecessors for the last 473 years where remembered. There is paragraph that needs to be highlighted, and reads: "(...)



however, more important than the facts and than our personal beliefs, there is the sense of duty, of discipline and of loyalty, virtues which we admire and had represented and will represent our way of acting and the essence of

our Corps".

The Marine Corps have been working since 1537, which corresponds to Tercio Viejo del Mar de Nápoles, from which we come from. The date of the 27th of February is considered as its creation day due to the fact that it was the date when the Tercios de Armada del Mar de Océano, de Galeras, de Sicilia y de Nápoles set up.

After the event a cocktail was offered. Apart from the Marine Corps, his Excellency the Ambassador of Spain in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Deputy Commander and other military authorities assisted to his act.

By Captain Juan Juárez

## The IPU – Alpha Coy Activity in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Platoons of Integrated Police Unit (IPU) Alpha Coy periodically carry out Recce Patrols to the Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT) deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, in order to have a stronger cooperation with them, taking infor-



mation about their Area of Activity (AOA) and testing their capability of reaction in case of necessity.

During the activity, the IPU Platoon leaders meet the local Police Chief and they share information about security and public order situation within their jurisdiction. Relations between LOT

members and Local Police are good and characterized by thorough cooperation.

Carabinieri Platoon of Alpha Coy, led by Captain Domenico Candelli went to visit LOT House Zvornik, which is a part of Regional Coordination Center (RCC) 4 based in Tuzla. Zvornik is 150 Km away from Sarajevo,

reachable in 2 hours by car through M19 highway passing through the towns of Sokolac and Dusanovo.

LOT House Zvornik is led by OF-2 Nikolas Anastasiakis of Hellenic Army, a young and willing officer who briefed Italian Carabinieri Platoon on the local situation, showing a very good knowledge about social, economic and political matters.

Wherever the IPU Platoons have been within Bosnia and Herzegovina, they have received warm friendship and strong gratitude from the people who thanked EUFOR members for the job they are doing in the country.

By OR-8 Dell'amico Carlo

## DCOM EUFOR Visits RCC2

20th February 2010 - DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Tibor Nagy, paid an official visit to Regional Coordination Center (RCC) 2, Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) Mostar 1 and LOT Mostar 2 houses, accompanied by OF 4 Attila Murinko DCOM MA, OF Jakob Janos (Field Chaplain) and OF 4 Csaba L. Boros, DCOM XO.

The RCC 2 and LOT houses personnel were introduced to DCOM EUFOR, and after that, RCC 2 Chief Major Oscar Castro, RCC 2 Operations Chief Captain Daniel Cherino, LOT Mostar 1



Captain Juan M. Pontijas and LOT Mostar 2 Captain Roberto Aranda gave DCOM and his staff a brief presentation concerning RCC 2 area of activity, the current situation, main concerns, hot spots and other important topics.

After the lunch guided visit took place along the "Stari Most" (old bridge) and "Stari Grad" (old town), and the history of Mostar and BiH in general was explained.

By Captain Daniel Cherino

## Toys for handicapped kids in Mjedenica

8th March 2010 - The Spanish contingent of EUFOR deployed in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, went to Mjedenica's disabled persons centre in order to give toys to the kids.

The Spanish Civic Military Cooperation team (CIMIC) was welcomed by the director of the centre and, then, they assisted to a musical representation made by the children. After this event toys were given to all the kids who were there.

The aim of this centre is to help children, by doing certain activities, to overcome their disabilities in order to achieve a bigger independence, social integration and to make easier their transit to adult life, thanks to activities regarding basic cares for the special necessities of each person.

By Captain Juan Juárez



## Spanish Lunch in Mostar



Regional Coordination Center (RCC) 2 organized a typical Spanish Party in the house of Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) Mostar 2, in the area of Opine, Mostar.

Within the different events that RCC 2 is developing during its current mission, it made a stop in its daily work to prepare a typically Spanish meal in order to thank and get along with cooperative entities, contacts and friends of Mostar city.

In this chance, nearly fifty friends and RCC-2 members met enjoying ourselves during the 20th

afternoon. These were several hours of real Spanish taste, where do not miss, like is traditional, neither the "paella" nor "Rioja wine".

The music accomplished the great meal in every moment, and all people there could share new experiences and knowledges acquired in these two last months. Besides, during the event there was a moment to remind our collages fallen in service act in BiH lands, and of course, our families and friends in Spain, who we miss and are waiting for us.

By OR9 Manuel Calleja

## Bulgarian National Day

26th February 2010 -

The troops of the Bulgarian military contingent celebrated 132 years from the liberation of Bulgaria in Camp Butmir.

In the cold winter months of 1878 the campaign of the Russian army on the Balkans war theater was successfully completed.

On 3rd of March in the small town of San Stefano, near Constantinople was signed the preliminary Peace Treaty between the Russian and Ottoman empires. As a result on the political map of Europe again after 500 years re-emerged one of the most ancient European countries - Bulgaria.

On the Bulgarian Political Calendar there are some other important dates but the date 3rd of March is of particular importance for all Bulgarians. On this day we came back into the big



European family as free and independent people. At this date started the building of Bulgaria as a modern European country with all the necessary state institutions and symbols. The Bulgarian elite of that time leaded by the desire to give to the Bulgarians the best of the European democracy chose as a model for the new Bulgarian Constitution one of the most progressive for that time - the Belgian Constitution. All the fundamental rights of the Bulgarian citizens have been guaranteed. The way for an economic and

cultural development and a rapid integration into the advanced European countries has been paved.

Bulgarian people will never forget the self-sacrifice of generations of Bulgarian patriots as well as the crucial role of thousands known

and unknown Russian, Romanian and Finnish soldiers who gave their lives for the freedom of Bulgaria. The internationalism and compassion of all these people are the best lesson from the history which is used from the modern Bulgarians to teach their children. This historical lesson is also one of the reasons that the modern Bulgaria as a member of the European Union and NATO actively participate through its soldiers in operations which will help to other suffering people.

By Colonel Rumen Russinov



## Los Rosales Day

11th March 2010 - Regional Coordination Center (RCC) 2 and Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT) were formally invited to a "Los Rosales Day" celebration. "Los Rosales" is a centre, in Mostar, for children with special needs and was built with Spanish funds.

The children from the centre performed typical BiH dances and plays for their guests who included the RCC 2 Chief, Major Oscar Castro, the Mayor of the City of Mostar, Ljubo Beslic and the Head of Office of the High Representative in Mostar, Anatoly Viktorov.

By Captain Daniel Cherino



## International Childrens' Day

Throughout 23rd April, Turkish Contingent and Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) personnel will celebrate International Childrens' Day with Bosnian children.

Every year Turkish children celebrate the "Sovereignty and Childrens' Day" as a national holiday. Schools participate in week-long ceremonies watched by the entire nation. Among the activities children send their representatives to replace state officials in their offices. The President, Prime Minister, Cabinet Ministers and provincial governors all hand over their offices to children's representatives. These children then sign



executive orders relating to educational and environmental policies. Additionally, the children also replace the parliamentarians in the Grand National Assembly and hold a special session to discuss matters concerning childrens' issues.

Turkish officials have worked hard to internationalize this important day and their efforts

have resulted in large numbers of nations sending groups of children to participate. During their stay in Turkey, the foreign children are housed in Turkish homes and find an important opportunity to interact with Turkish youngsters and learn about each other's countries and cultures. The foreign children groups also participate in the special session of the Grand National Assembly.

The importance of April 23 as a special day for Turkish children inspired the international community. UNICEF decided to recognize June 1 as the International Childrens' Day.

By Major Adem Enic

## Soccer Tournament in Mostar

13th March 2010 - Regional Coordination Center (RCC) 2, in its effort to approach and integrate population in multinational and multiethnic activities, a soccer tournament was organized in Mostar City by RCC 2, taking part eight



teams; two of them belonging to 4<sup>o</sup> AFBiH Brigade allocated in Caplijna and Livac, another to the Police from Stolac, two civilian local teams of both parts of the city, another composed of Turkish LOTs from Siroki Brij and Jablanica and the other two formed by Spanish LOTs placed on Mostar, Caplijna and Trebinje.

The event was presided by BG Jerkic, the Commander of the 4<sup>o</sup> Brigade, accompanied by Maj. Oscar Castro, RCC 2

Commander, and his staff.

Since the beginning of the times, sport has been considered to be a means to gather people from different cultures, ideologies, beliefs and feelings. One more time sports spirit has showed to be a useful tool to join people in an event that turned out to be a very good oppor-

tunity not only to share leisure time but also to get to know one another, in an event where all of us enjoyed watching to flutter in the wind the EU flag together with the Spanish, Turkish and BiH ones.

After presenting the corresponding awards to

the winner and the runner-up, the Field Artillery Battalion and the Stolac Police teams respectively, and the diplomas of participation were delivered to each team; a light dinner was served in a nearby restaurant where everybody was able to share their experiences and talk friendly, hoping to see us again soon.



By Major Oscar Castro

## First Camp Butmir Badminton Tournament

6th March 2010 - MWA held Camp Butmir's first singles badminton tournament in the gymnasium. Twenty players from eight different nations entered the competition, and some excellent badminton and sportsmanship ensued. Most of the matches were very close, with some very exciting battles. One nation's players dominated the competition, however, and the final was an all-



Slovenian affair, with the parity of skill levels of the two finalists resulting in a superb match

which kept the spectators engrossed until the last point.

Final results were: 1st OR-6 Jozef Acko (Slovenian Army), 2nd OR-6 Bostjan Velikogne (Slovenian Army), 3rd OF-3 Mark Lindsay-Smith (British Army). Trophies were awarded to the top three in

a short ceremony which closed the tournament.

By Lt Cdr Andy Willis

### OR-7 Adelina Velkova

OR7 Adelina Velkova was born on 5th April 1966 in Sofia, and joined the Bulgarian Army in 1995. She works in 61 Mechanized Brigade in Karlovo as a computer system specialist. She is married and she has two sons, Ivo, 20, and Nikolay, 11.

She joined EUFOR HQ as an admin assistant in the External Cooperation Division in October 2009. This mission is her first tour abroad, and she is enjoying the different experience. She told the press office: "In the time I have spent here I have been lucky to have met so many people from other nations. I have enjoyed



taking some tours around BiH that have been arranged through the MWA and I want to visit as much of the country as possible. I have enjoyed seeing the monuments and learning about this country in which the nature appears to be just like my home

country, but the culture is completely different".

OR7 Velkova enjoys a number of hobbies, including music, Bulgarian national dance and running.

After her six months in Sarajevo, she will, of course, be happy to see her home again, but it is important to underline her

last comment: "On the other hand I am sad to have to say "Good bye" to the new friends I have made here. However, I know without doubt that it won't be my last mission".

**By Captain Giuseppe Saponaro**

### OR-4 Niamh Casey

I am OR-4 Niamh Casey of the Irish Defence Forces. I was born on the 8th of November 1981. From a very young age I had aspirations to join the Defence Forces. Numerous members of my family have also been members of the Defence Forces since the foundation of the state. At home I serve with 2 Eastern Brigade MP Company which is based in the capital Dublin.

I am currently serving with the Provost Platoon of the international Military Police Company based in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. I am a member of the No 11 Irish Component which arrived in theatre on the 23 Jan 2010. I am the youngest member of the component and the only Irish Female in theatre. I am enjoying the mis-

sion so far.

Before joining the army in 2004 I was employed by Irish life Insurance. Working for the bank became very mundane and and it was then I decided to join the Defence Forces. My previous mission overseas was served in Africa with the 99 Bn in Chad where we provided a safe & secure environment for the local residents and hundreds of thousands of refugees in the area. I found this mission an enormous culture shock. The sights I observed on the many long patrols we conducted across the desert were a life changing experience.

I thoroughly enjoy working in

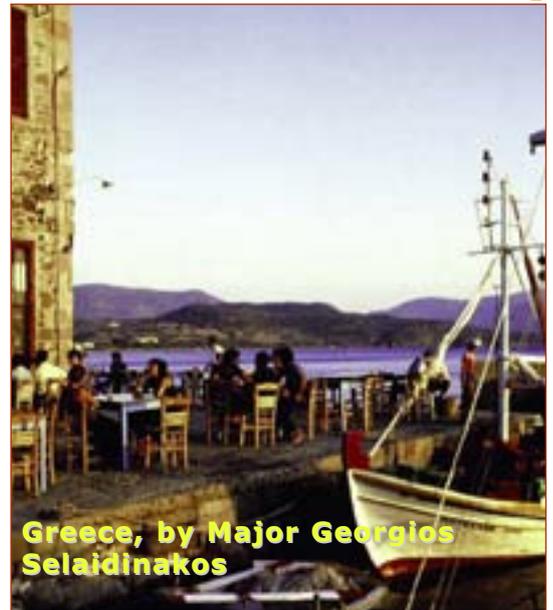


an international environment and hope to serve in many overseas missions during my career. My work involves patrols, escort security duties, traffic control and speed and documentation checks.

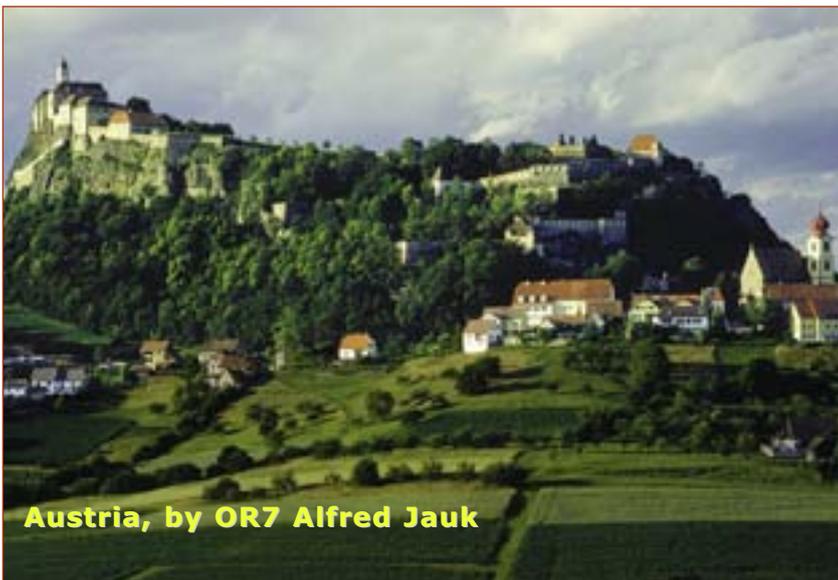
In my spare time I enjoy cycling, travelling, martial arts and music. My goals for the future are to return to college and complete a degree course in Criminology. For my end of tour leave I plan to drive across the USA, taking in places such as Miami, Texas, and Las Vegas.



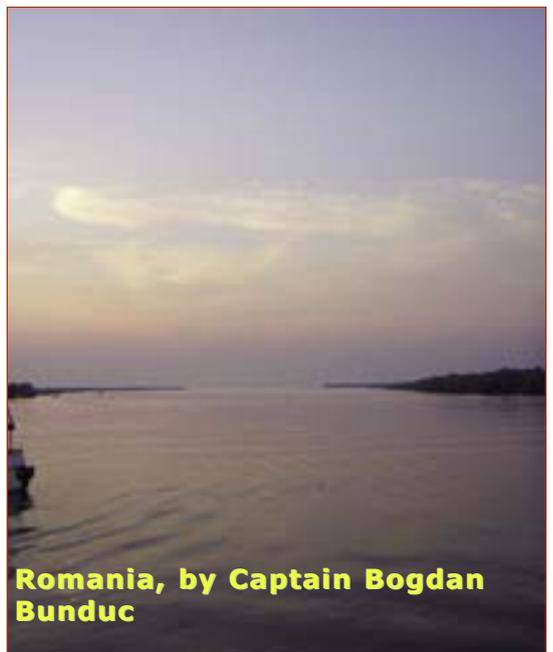
**Spain, by Captain Juan Juárez**



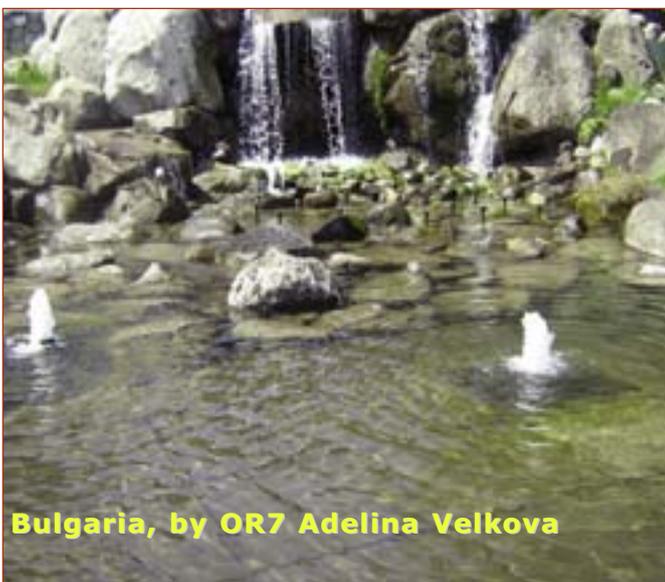
**Greece, by Major Georgios Selaidinakos**



**Austria, by OR7 Alfred Jauk**



**Romania, by Captain Bogdan Bunduc**



**Bulgaria, by OR7 Adelina Velkova**



**Portugal, by Lt Col Paulo Martins**



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