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EUFORUM



EUFOR Rescue

...Pages 10&11

EUFORUM: How to spend your next holiday ...page 19

COS EUFOR

Brigadier General Gerd Bischof



Dear readers of EUForum and comrades of EUFOR,

Today, 19th March, I took over the responsibilities of Chief of Staff EUFOR. For the next six months I will serve in this capacity with pride and respect. I know that I have inherited from my predecessor a professional team and we will continue to do our best for the Commander of EUFOR and this mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the same time I will be the head of the German contingent within the mission. These 120 Germans, brave men and women, civilians and military, dedicate their service to this country. We are part of an international community which contributes to a safe and secure environment in the region.

I am honored to stand here as a soldier and also as a messenger for the European Union in a mission, which continues to be complex and challenging. As a career soldier of 38 years I am well aware of your collective experience which will be invaluable to me and the mission.

Born in 1953 I joined the Federal Armed Forces in 1972, served as platoon leader and a Deputy of the commander of an NCO Training and security squadron. After receiving my master degree in Business Economics, I became an

Air Traffic Controller in the Fighter Wing 71 "Richthofen". During the period 1985 to 1987 I participated the General Staff Officers Course in Hamburg, several posts at troop level, command level and ministerial level followed. Further studies of security

Policy and arms control in Geneva enriched my military life. This enabled me to become the Executive Manager for Comprehensive Security Policy in the Federal College for Security Policy Studies in Bonn. My career seems to be oriented to the intersection between the military and politics. I served in NATO headquarters as Chief of the Cabinet of the Chairman Military Committee, at that time General Klaus Naumann, from 1996 to 1999. I had the privilege to serve as branch chief Military Policy in the Federal Chancellery in Berlin from 2003 to 2007 before I became the Commander of the German Air force Training Command in Cologne in 2007. The command, which comprises all air force training facilities in Germany and abroad, is made up of some 10.500 men and women. I will return to this command at the end of the mission.

I thought I owe you this short note, so that we become acquainted with each other. I am looking forward to meeting and working with you all.

Contents

EUFOR Events

The Future in Your Hands	4
COM EUFOR's Visit to RCC5	5
COM EUFOR Visits	6
DCOM EUFOR's Visit to RCC5	7

EUFOR Activities

Joint EUFOR / NATO Defence Industry Factory Inspection	8
EUFOR Helicopter Rescue	10
JMA Inspection of Uzamnica ASS	12
Football Tournament in Doboј	12
Training Support to AFBiH	13

Inside EUFOR

New Bulgarian Contingent Takes Over	14
Historical Office	15
LOT Visoko at Breza Coal Mine	16
"Cervantes Program"	16
LOT Travnik Cooks for Elderly Home in Novi Travnik	17



I am OF-3 Major Bruce Foster and as the new EUFOR Spokesperson I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to explain how EUFOR provides a safe and secure environment for all the people of BiH. A Royal Marine with 19 years service, I have been lucky enough to deploy world-wide and have been told on numerous occasions that I have a face for radio.

I look forward to meeting you, so please call Butmir Extension 5216 and the Press Office team will help you to tell your stories.

EUFOR Forum

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The Future in Your Hands

On 12th April 2010 COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, was delighted to visit schools in Sarajevo as part of the EUFOR Schools' Competition. Said General Bair: "The youth of Bosnia and Herzegovina are our future peacekeepers and it is super to see them using art to express their hopes for their nation to join the European Union." The winners of this year's competition can look forward to trips to Slovenia, Hungary, Austria or Turkey. Additionally, EUFOR and NATO contributory nations are donating individual prizes. Last year's winners enjoyed fascinating trips to France, Germany, Hungary and Slovenia where they had the opportunity to learn about the European Union at first hand.

By Major Bruce Foster



COS EUFOR Decorates Irish Non Commissioned Officers

This March, Regimental Sergeant Major John Egan, (Chief Air Travel Officer) and Chief Petty Officer John Donaghue, (Ops Division Training Branch Support Clerk) both completed 40 years of service with the Irish Defence Forces.

COS EUFOR, Brigadier General Gerd Bischof, marked this auspicious occasion with a formal medal ceremony and presented both men with their

Operation 'Althea' medals and a small personal token. COS EUFOR extended his warm congratulations to both men and stated: "40 years spent in the service of your country is a milestone which is achieved by very few and certainly by fewer still while on a mission of this nature in EUFOR."

Both veterans of overseas deploy-

ments, RSM John Egan and CPO Donaghue have served in 9 and 10 overseas missions respectively.

By Lt Col Sean Clancy



COM EUFOR's Visit to RCC5

On 24th March 2010

COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, accompanied by Chief of Operations Colonel Ibrahim Sahinol, MA1 Colonel Norbert Pallan, former Chief IAD Colonel Paolo Sfarra and Special Advisor Lt Col Robert Hiedl, paid a visit to Regional Coordination Center (RCC)5 and Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) Zenica, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Erkan Eruç and Major Hasan Yücel respectively.

Major General Bair and his staff were welcomed to the RCC 5 house and introduced to RCC 5 personnel. There was a big surprise for the RCC Chief as it was his birthday, Major General Bair and his staff wished him many happy returns and presented him with a cake they had brought along. Following this warm surprise they then received a briefing by RCC 5 Chief about the main concerns and current events in the RCC 5



Area of Responsibility (AOR). During the briefing there were questions and a useful exchange of opinions.

Support of Local Authorities

Following the visit, the group took a short city tour, ending at LOT Zenica, during which the visitors had a chance to visit the historical and mission critical areas of the locality. After arriving at the LOT House, Major

Yücel introduced LOT personnel to COM EUFOR, and this was followed by a briefing, which was very much appreciated by the COM, providing a thorough update of the present situation together with an insight of the LOT activities.

Afterwards, COM EUFOR and his staff together with the RCC and LOT personnel had a traditional lunch in Salcinovic Restaurant and then drove to Fortress Vranduk to receive an excellent briefing from Zenica Museum official, Ms. Adela Saric.

We also have to mention that throughout the city tour and the visit, Zenica Centar Police Station police officers escorted the party, taking all necessary precautions and providing an excellent service.

By Captain Soner Sekerci



COM EUFOR Visits



◆ COM EUFOR and the Hungarian Ambassador, His Excellency Dr. Laszlo Toth.



◆ COM EUFOR with Dr. Karl-Theodor Freiherr zu Guttenberg, German Minister of Defence.



◆ COM EUFOR and COM NHQSa with the Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Franco Frattini.



◆ COM EUFOR and COM NHQSa with NATO North Atlantic Council (NAC) Secretary General, Anders Foch Rasmussen.



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

DCOM EUFOR's Visit to RCC5

On 15th April 2010 DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Tibor Nagy, accompanied by Lt Col Murinko and Lt Cmd Enic, paid a visit to Regional Coordination Center (RCC) 5, Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT) Zenica and LOT Visoko. These are commanded respectively by Lt Col Erkan Eruç, Major Hasan Yücel and Major Ýsa Kalayci.

Brigadier General Nagy and his staff were welcomed in the RCC 5 and LOT houses and introduced to their personnel. In each house DCOM received a briefing by the respective commanders about the main concerns and current events in their Area of Responsibility

(AOR).

During his visit DCOM EUFOR had the opportunity to meet the 1st Infantry Battalion of the 5th Brigade of AF BiH and received a briefing by it's Deputy Commander Major Edin Talic.

Orientations to the area and a briefing from Zenica Museum official at Fortress Vranduk were also part of the program, where Zenica Crkvice Police Station police officers provided escort and took all the necessary precautions.

By Captain Soner Sekerci



Mayor of Pale Thanks COM EUFOR for Helicopter Rescue

On 26th March 2010 at a civic reception held in Pale, the Mayor of Pale, Mr Slobodan Savic, gave public thanks to the COM EUFOR Major General Bernhard Bair and his EUFOR contingent for their lead on a helicopter rescue of 4 people trapped by an avalanche in the Zelengora mountains on the 20th of March.

In his reply to the mayor's speech COM EUFOR stressed that it was team work between the BiH authorities and EUFOR that saved lives on the mountain and he saluted all those involved in the operation who ranged between the personnel



◆ COM EUFOR Major General Bair with the Mayor of Pale, Mr Slobodan Savic.

who dealt with the initial emergency call to the medical staff in the Kosevo hospital in Sarajevo.

"The level of communication and understanding demonstrated by the efficient and timely rescue last weekend clearly verifies the cooperation, liaison and confidence which exists between EUFOR and the Ministry of Defence, the armed forces, Ministry of Security; police, civil authorities and emergency services of BiH", said Major General Bair.

Read about the EUFOR helicopter rescue on pages 10 & 11.

By Major Bruce Foster

Joint EUFOR / NATO Defence Industry Factory Inspection of Unis Pretis d.d. Vogosca

In April, a Joint Defence Industry Factory, (DIF) inspection team, made up of EUFOR HQ JMA and NATO HQ SA personnel, conducted a comprehensive investigation into the past and current affairs of the Defence Industry Factory UNIS PRETIS d.d. Vogosca, Sarajevo. Led by JMA MOVCON & DIF Inspector, Maj Alexander Bauer, the team of JMA Ammunition Technical Officer, Mr. Jim Carr, Technical Specialist Mr. Dejan Vickovic and NATO Equipment / Logistic Advisor Lt Col. James



Cook considered the safety and security of the Unis Pretis facility and assessed the factory's capacity to dispose of unstable and surplus ammunition for the Armed Forces of BiH.

Unis Pretis d.d. is located in a small valley, 10 km North of Sarajevo and consists of approximately 200 facilities spread over 4 km. Not all facilities are presently in use as various buildings have been rented to other companies and large parts of the infrastructure were destroyed by bombing during the '92 to '95 War in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Pre war, Unis Pretis was the largest artillery ammunition manufacturer in Europe. The Company

has large amounts of explosives on its premises and also the capability to destroy unsafe or surplus ammunition. In the past three years, Unis Pretis has destroyed more than 1,270 tons of AFBiH surplus ammunition through a UNDP

sponsored ammunition destruction program.

The inspection started with a thorough briefing by the Unis Pretis management followed by Major Alexander Bauer outlining the procedures for the inspection. The Inspection team then split into two groups to address firstly the security aspects of the site and then secondly to look at transportation issues and the destruction procedures of the past three years.

Presently, Unis Pretis has, depending on ammunition type, a destruction capacity of approximately 1,800 to 2,400

DEFENCE INDUSTRY FACTORY SITES (DIF):

In accordance with the General Framework Agreement for Peace, commonly known as the Dayton Peace Agreement from 1995, Annex 1-B Agreement on Regional Stabilization, Article II, g. is "the identification of and monitoring of weapons manufacturing capabilities."

DIFs are locations in which weapons and military equipment are manufactured, repaired or destroyed. The BiH Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MoFTER) conducts inspections of DIFs as regulated by the BiH Law on Manufacture of Arms and Military Equipment (AME) and reports to EUFOR JMA. EUFOR JMA monitors and conducts DIF inspections to ensure a Safe And Secure Environment under its executive mandate.



◆ The Joint EUFOR and NATO inspection team observe the destruction of artillery shells at the Unis Pretis facility.

tons per year. The destruction of the surplus ammunition is a pre requisite for NATO membership therefore this represents a significant contribution towards this goal. During the review of procedures between the Pretis management and DIF Inspection Team various options were scoped to further improve

Unis Pretis capabilities to destroy surplus ammunition and it was noted that there had been a significant improvement in the storage conditions of explosives and ammunition.

On conclusion of the visit, the Joint Inspection Team thanked the management of Unis Pretis for their excellent cooperation



◆ The Joint EUFOR and NATO inspection team audit company records.

UNIS PRETIS D.D.
VOGOSCA, SARAJEVO

Unis Pretis is one of eight Defence Industry Factories in the Federation of BiH and one of twenty DIFs in BiH. Unis Pretis was founded as a state factory in 1948 and soon became one of the largest ammunition manufacturers in Europe. In the late sixties, Unis Pretis was united with two other factories employing at the time 50,000 employees and producing up to one million units of artillery ammunition per year. During the '92 – '95 War in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Unis Pretis was seized by VRS Forces, and its continued production played an important strategic role in the siege of Sarajevo. The company today still produces mortar shells of all types, various artillery and tank ammunition, rocket ammunition, air bombs and rifle grenades. Additional to the military product line Pretis also produces spare parts for tractors, cars and bearings.

and Major Alexander Bauer emphasised the importance of transparency in the ammunition destruction process. This successful joint inspection under JMA lead is another great example for the effective liaison between EUFOR and NATO Forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

By Major Alexander Bauer

EUFOR Heli Rescue



◆ Left to right: Warrant Officer First Class Willie Reich, Captain Christian Schuller, Warrant Officer First Class Herbert Rindler with their Sikorsky S70-A-42 Blackhawk helicopter.

With a shattered left thigh, internal bleeding and in shock, Petar Golijanin's fellow survivors realized that he had no more than hours to live. At the very least he expected to lose his leg. The trip into Bosnia and Herzegovina's Zelengora mountains to film a documentary about the region's natural beauty had descended into horror as an avalanche had swept away the party of 4 and trapped them in freezing temperatures at an altitude of 1500m. On the night of 20th March, darkness fell rapidly and the nearest habitation was 20km away through knee high snow. Dragging their frightened colleague to safety would not therefore be an option. Frantic cell phone calls to the Bosnian emergency services initiated a rescue operation by a EUFOR helicopter based at Camp Butmir near Sarajevo. Says the rescue coordinator Lt Col Herbert Santner: "The local

authorities are not equipped to fly at night so the calls were passed to the EU Police Unit who immediately contacted EUFOR's Joint Operations Centre where I am the Chief of Air Operations. The avalanche survivors were equipped with GPS so we were able to establish their exact location via SMS messaging.

Normally we would launch an Alloutte III helicopter which is

on 90 minutes standby throughout the hours of darkness but the forest in which the survivors were sheltering had trees 30m tall and the winch on the Alloutte is only good for 25m. Instead I decided to scramble a Sikorsky S70-A-42 Blackhawk which is the export version of the American military's UH60L. With more powerful engines and a winch that can lift up to 272Kg



◆ Hanging by a thread. First out of the aircraft, Warrant Officer First Class Willie Reich with WO1 Herbert Rindler on the rescue wire.

and operate down to 82m we could rescue all the survivors in a single, rapid mission. My Blackhawk cruises fast at 120 knots (200km/h) and I concentrated at maintaining at least 150m clearance from the rising ground. Captain Schuller takes up the story:

“To help me, I have a radar altimeter which beeps and warns me to pull-up if we fly a bit low. The helicopter has a state of the art glass cockpit which means that the instrumentation and navigation is straightforward using large computer generated displays and I can concentrate on flying as fast and safely as possible. It was a clear night so the Night Vision Goggles worked well from the ambient star light. Within 25 minutes we were approaching the target area and the crew made their last minute preparations by adjusting harnesses and checking their survival equipment. Alerted by the thumping beat of the approaching rotor blades the avalanche survivors lit a fire and flashed their torches and I was able to bring the aircraft into steady hover above tree canopy very quickly. First to leave the warmth of the helicopter’s cabin and descend on the winch was Warrant Officer First Class Willie Reich. With 25 years of experience as a mountain leader he was able to assess the conditions on the ground and prepare those able to walk for extraction. Next down the wire thread was the crew doctor Marcus Osarowsky and Warrant Officer First Class Herbert Rindler. Herbert is normally a flight engineer and trained paramedic operating with Allouette IIIs but faced with the emergency, needs must, and the hybrid crew proved to be a resounding success on the night. Between them they eased the relieved casualty into a special vacuum rescue bag and stretcher that immobilized his broken leg and shielded him from the freezing downwash whipped up by the rotor blades. Only 3 hours after the first call to the emergency services, the Blackhawk was touching down outside Sarajevo’s main hospital and a tearful family was reunited safely. Thankfully due to the prompt action by all those involved in the rescue the surgeons managed to save Petar’s leg and it is anticipated that he will make a full recovery in due course.

By Major Bruce Foster

9 facts about the Austrian EUFOR Blackhawk helicopters

1. Austria operates a total of 9 Blackhawks.
2. Blackhawks stay airborne for a maximum of 2 hrs 15 mins without refueling.
3. Austrian crews spend a month at a time with EUFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina.
4. A multi purpose helicopter, the Blackhawk delivers a range of roles to the Austrian armed forces including battlefield mobility, cargo transportation and fire fighting.
5. When operating in the fire fighting role the Blackhawk is equipped with a bucket capable of lifting 3000l of water.
6. Camp Butmir’s Blackhawks are from Austria’s Medium Transport Helicopter Squadron assigned to the Aviation Support Wing.
7. When in Austria, the Blackhawk’s are based at Brumowski airbase Langenlebar, approximately 30km West of Vienna.
8. The Blackhawks have complemented the smaller Bell 212 helicopters in Austrian service.
9. Austrian Blackhawk pilots travel once a year to America to train on emergency procedures in a simulator.



◆ Night Vision Goggles permit the aircraft’s pilot to fly at night. The S70-A-42 version of the Blackhawk operates with a glass cockpit, (computer screens instead of analogue dials that allow the pilot more time to concentrate on flying the mission safely).

JMA Inspection of Uzamnica ASS

On 25th March 2010 a Joint Military Affairs (JMA) inspection was conducted in Uzamnica Ammunition and Storage Site (ASS) in Visegrad under the leadership of Chief JMA, Colonel Holzer. He was accompanied by JMA's subject matter expert Major Necmi



Genc, Chief Verification Unit, Mr. Dejan Vickovic, JMA Liaison Officer and Ms. Jugoslava Siljak, Interpreter.

In this inspection JMA also had a "guest", Major Winie Scheepers, Policy and Plans Officer. His goal was to obtain information about the current situation of ASS and WSS after the last amendments scheduled in EUFOR plan and if necessary to amend plans accordingly.

Speaking about the general characteristics of the Uzamnica

ASS Visegrad we can say the following: this site was a target during NATO air raids, but was empty at that time. BIH provided funds for minimal repairs.

From the JMA's perspective, the goal of the inspection was to observe the latest situation of a site with poor infrastructure and to track progress. Generally we can say that the inspection was extremely positive. Said Colonel Holzer: "We were very pleased to observe some progress as a result of

intensive efforts by EUFOR and the AFBIH's endeavors to comply with the work schedule". According to information obtained from the AFBIH personnel they will carry out the long expected transportation of unstable ammunition and its disposal during April and May and try to finish as soon as possible. Initial preparations have already been completed and are expected to continue.

We hope that all these efforts will be a beginning and we take one more step towards our main goal, a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) in Bosnia and Herzegovina guided by cooperation between EUFOR and AFBIH.

By Major Necmi Genc

Football Tournament in Dobož

On 31st March 2010 Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) Dobož participated in a football tournament, which was organized by the Dobož Police. The tournament took place in the sports hall of the Secondary School in Dobož.



Over 160 players participated coming from various Police Stations. The LOT Dobož Team was reinforced by LOT Teslic and soldiers from the Polish

Contingent in Sarajevo. Each team comprised 10-12 representatives. The referees were firm but fair and did a good job but as always, they had to

endure some teasing from fans and players.

Police Station 1 from Dobož won the first place in the tournament, with LOT Dobož finishing in 4th place. LOT Dobož would like to congratulate the winners and send their thanks to all the teams and Commander of Police Station 1 in Dobož who invited LOT Dobož to the Tournament.

By Captain Soner Sekerci

Training Support to AFBiH



From 29th to 31st March 2010 training in Check Point Control Operations was held for an MP Platoon of Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) in Camp Butmir. The MP Platoon of the Tactical Support Brigade is made up of 29 personnel (1 Officer, 4 NCOs and 24 Soldiers). The twin aims of the training were to firstly, practice checkpoint controlling techniques needed when an MP Platoon assumes the responsibility of physical security of a contingent or controlling traffic on the road outside of the compound. Secondly, ensure that AFBiH MP Personnel have the required skills to conduct checkpoint control.

The MP Platoon was given an overview on Checkpoint Control

Operations (CCO) by Lt Juan Antonio Sanches Anton, Commander of Spanish Coy. He highlighted the common mistakes conducted in Checkpoint Control activities and the importance of obstacles used to stop suspicious vehicles. He also stressed cooperation with other Security Forces and Intelligence Services with the focus on practical skills.

Alpha Platoon of the IPU supervised practical training activities in the field. These were based on different scenarios related to checking both routine and suspicious vehicles. Instructors demonstrated the controlling techniques needed to be conducted while checking the vehicles and this was fol-

lowed by a practical exercise for the AFBiH participants.

COM IPU, Colonel Jose Manuel Santiago Marin, along with Lieutenant Colonel Emmanuel Gerber, DCOM IPU and Major Yavuz ASIK, NATO/NAT Intelligence Advisor observed the training of the MP Platoon in the field. On completion the IPU Commander addressed the platoon regarding the importance of continuous and persistent training in the field. He pointed out that it was his pleasure to provide training support for AFBiH.

This training activity was the second in a series of events on a training programme in Check Point Control for the different personnel of the MP Battalion. The first one had been held in Rajlovac Barracks on 18th January. The next topic will cover "Military Operations in Urban Area" and is being planned for April. The Sustained Training Program for the MP Platoon is one example of a win-win situation that the AFBiH and EUFOR/NATO have achieved together.

By Major Yavuz Asik



New Bulgarian Contingent Takes Over



◆ Colonel Russinov awards Op ALTHEA medals to Soldiers of the 8th Contingent.



On 29th March 2010 the official handover-takeover, (HOTO) ceremony between the 8th and 9th Bulgarian Contingents took place in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. It is now the responsibility of the 9th Bulgarian Force Protection Company to maintain the security of Camp Butmir. The ceremony was attended by EUFOR COS Brigadier General Gerd Bishof and a range of other dignitaries.

On completion of the HOTO, a Medals Parade

for the 8th Bulgarian Force Protection Company was held. Soldiers were awarded with the "ALTHEA" medal in recognition of their merits in carrying out their assigned mission. Brigadier General Bishof thanked them for their daily contribution to the safety of the camp personnel and to the accomplishment of the EUFOR mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

By Major Marin Gospodinov

Pegasus Trophy

On 20th March 2010 the "5K" run for the Pegasus trophy took place. "5K" usually refers to a road race or cross country event. Much of the distance's popularity is due to the challenge it offers to both novices and accomplished professionals. It is a distance

race that demands a great deal of endurance as well as speed. Tactics also play a key role, and the combination makes it attractive to many. Ten teams start the race, with a total of forty runners and ten teams finish it, accomplishing the Pegasus trophy

moto – the real meaning is not to win, is to participate. It was a fantastic event, showing that the IPU is a family, full of cohesion, Esprit de Corps, mutual aid, loyalty, perseverance and determination in all IPU elements.

By Major Antonio Melo



Historical Office



◆ Mr. Muhidin Tutic, Ms. Azra Pecanin and Mr. Dzenan Hadzovic, the Historical Office team.

The EUFOR Historical office has been established at the beginning of the EUFOR Althea mission in Bosnia. The primary purpose of the office was archiving of all items of historical interest in order to keep track of the EUFOR's history in the future. This way would be possible to track the first peacekeeping mission led by EU, as well as for the future analysis and research, lessons-learned, assuring that no information is lost. On the other hand, archiving of EUFOR's activities would provide planning assistance to

daily activities and future operations.

Therefore, we are conducting our main tasks by preserving and storing information of historical significance as well as serving EUFOR members in all perspectives on a daily basis as proactive source of information.

The Historical office team has three members. Ms. Azra Pecanin (SWE) is the office's supervisor and person who deals with all classified materials. Other two members are Mr. Muhidin Tutic and Mr. Dzenan Hadzovic, who operate with

unclassified materials and also secondary activities such as historical presentations and historical battle tours.

Historical Office offers its services in holding presentations in various subjects and different periods of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its history. This includes ancient history from Roman times up to the war in BiH and post war consequences, together with overviews of general and detailed events in the above mentioned period.

Historical battle tours are conducted BiH wide, including tours to Sarajevo, Srebrenica, Mostar, Bihac, Jajce, Banja Luka

“Continue with forwarding no longer used documents for archiving in the Historical Office/ central archive, without your inputs there is no output. Secondly, you have a great opportunity to learn more about BiH and you can discover more with the help of the Historical Office - use it”, said Azra Pecanin when asked to send a message to EUFOR Forum readers

and eastern Bosnia. Similar to presentations, tours are part of ongoing EUFOR's training, but could also be scheduled separately upon request.

Having in mind all above mentioned, the historical office maintains good cooperation with all elements and divisions within EUFOR including MNBN and IPU, but also other organizations such as NHQSA, EUPM, OHR, ICTY etc.

By Dzenan Hadzovic



◆ Mr. Muhidin Tutic giving a historical briefing during a tour

LOT Visoko at Breza Coal Mine

On 24th March 2010, the Liaison and Observation Team Visoko had a meeting with The Technical Manager of Breza Coal Mine, Edin Cosic about the Coal Mine, their new projects, economical and political issues.

During the meeting the LOT Commander, Major Ýsa Kalayci, wanted to see working conditions of the miners. This was well appreciated by the manager and the miners. He had the chance to see the miners working conditions while working inside the tunnels. They had to go through the narrow tunnels of the mine approximately 400-500 m under the ground. It was a



breathtaking experience to witness the harsh working conditions. It was also an opportunity to show that EUFOR is with the people where ever they are!

By Captain Soner Sekerci

“Cervantes Program”

On 13th March 2010, Regional Coordination Center (RCC) 2 and Liaison Observation Team (LOT) Trebinje and Mostar 1 personnel, participated in the “Cervantes Program” which is dedicated to teaching Spanish Language and spreading Spanish Culture, totally free for the students, in Mostar and Trebinje. More than 100 students are currently attending

the course and the Spanish Contingent participates, in a very active way, mainly in Conversations classes.

The Cervantes program has been working in BiH for more than 10 years. It was opened in the Secondary School of Citluk in May 1999, in which the Spanish Contingent belong-



ing to SPABRI X, participating as teachers.

By Captain Daniel Cherino

Celebration of the Ataturk, Youth and Sports Day

On 19th May, under the auspices of the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, the Turkish Contingent and Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT) personnel will celebrate the Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day.

The Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day is one of the most important

events in the Turkish calendar. This holiday, celebrated since 1933, marks the Turkish War of Independence and honors the pioneer of this movement, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk.

Atatürk declared 19th May as the Youth Day since he handed his children’s future - the republic - to the Turkish Youth.

The aim of this festival is to motivate the youth to preserve the culture and values of Turkey.

Turkish Community in BIH also planned a celebration at Dom Mladih Concert Hall at 19.30hrs on 22nd May in Sarajevo. EUFOR staff are invited to the festival.

By Major Adem Enic

The Hum Mountain Hiking

On 8th April 2010, the Hum Mountain Hiking, an event arranged by Regional Coordination Center 2 (RCC 2) took place in the City of Mostar.

It was an event organized to enhance the current links existing among the different Military and Police Units, belonging to EUFOR and BiH.

142 runners took part in the event, with competitors coming from the 4th Light Infantry Brigade of Capljina; RCC 2 commanded by OF-3 Oscar Castro and its Liaison Observation Teams (LOTs); EUFOR Integrated Police Unit (IPU) commanded by OF 5 Jose M. Santiago; one Company from the EUFOR Multinational Battalion; and the Director of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Mostar Ms. Christel Nyman.

The total distance covered by the competitors was 4 kilometres: 1 downhill and 3 uphill. Once the hiking was finished, several diplomas were given to: the winner, the first woman, the most veteran and finally the last competitor.

By Captain Daniel Cherino



LOT Travnik Cooks for Elderly Home in Novi Travnik

On 26th March 2010 after their daily duties, LOT Travnik cooked for 60 elderly people of the old age home "KUCA NJEGE" in Novi Travnik. All the team members were enthusiastic about the cooking session. "KUCA NJEGE" is a multi ethnic elderly home with multi ethnic staff so this was a good example for BiH.

In the LOT Travnik house there is a Dutch person who is an older version of Jamie Oliver. Their chef made a delicious pasta for the residents and staff. Some of the residents were asking for second helpings. The staff of the "KUCA



NJEGE" were very happy that the LOT cooked for the residents because they then had more time to devote to their care. They asked LOT to come every day. Overall it has proven to be a successful evening.

Initiator of the action was OR-

7 van der Lelie. He was directly supported by OR-7 Hendriks, OR-7 Hersevoort and OF-1 Rietveld and indirect support was provided by OR-7 Kruik-Blom, OF-1 de Bra, OR-8 van Meel and OF-2 Strooper.

By OR-7 Hersevoort

Lt Alexander Strelau

Alexander Strelau is Lieutenant 1st class in the German Air Force. On 9th March 2010 he joined the German EUFOR contingent as ADC to COS EUFOR. This is his first overseas mission abroad and he is enjoying the challenge. He joined the Federal Armed Forces from Grammar school and his military training started at the Air Force Academy, Fürstenfeldbruck. During this year at the Academy, he was trained in the fields of infantry, military history and leadership.

In the course of this military education, OF-1 Strelau completed an internship in the historical division of the Air Force Academy. During this placement, he supported the historians with several research tasks. On completion of



his officer cadet training, in September 2004 he entered the University of the Federal Armed Forces in Munich. Here he primarily studied Politics and History with Public Law and Sociology as subsidiary subjects. He graduated in March 2008 and started his first duty as a platoon leader in an Air Force infantry company. In

August 2009 he volunteered to become ADC to General Bischof.

He told the press office: "During my mission, I hope to get on with my hobbies, such as running, and weight training". Alexander is often running around the camp perimeter but he also enjoys reading and meeting friends at Cafe Royale to drink a good cappuccino.

Lieutenant 1st class Strelau concluded the interview with these words: "I Like this experience in Bosnia Herzegovina because I like to work in an international environment, as well as meeting people from several countries, each one with different a culture and way of working".

By Captain Giuseppe Saponaro

Lt Dr. Éva Kalmár

Lt Dr. Éva Kalmár is the combat legal officer of the Hungarian Contingent. Born on the 16th June 1983 she joined the University of Szeged Faculty of Law in 2002 and graduated in 2007. Following 6 months working in a civilian court she decided to follow her specialist fields of international and military law and she volunteered to join the Army in 2008. Dr Kalmar now works at the HDF 25th György Klapka Infantry Brigade as a legal officer. This tour in BiH is her first mission abroad and she told the press office: "I hope to serve in many overseas missions during my career". She enjoys working in cooperation with other professionals for instance at crime detection. In fact her work is extensive: giving advice, solving problems, etc. Her principle is : „Salus rei publicae suprema lex esse!". Lt Dr. Éva Kalmár is very happy to work in

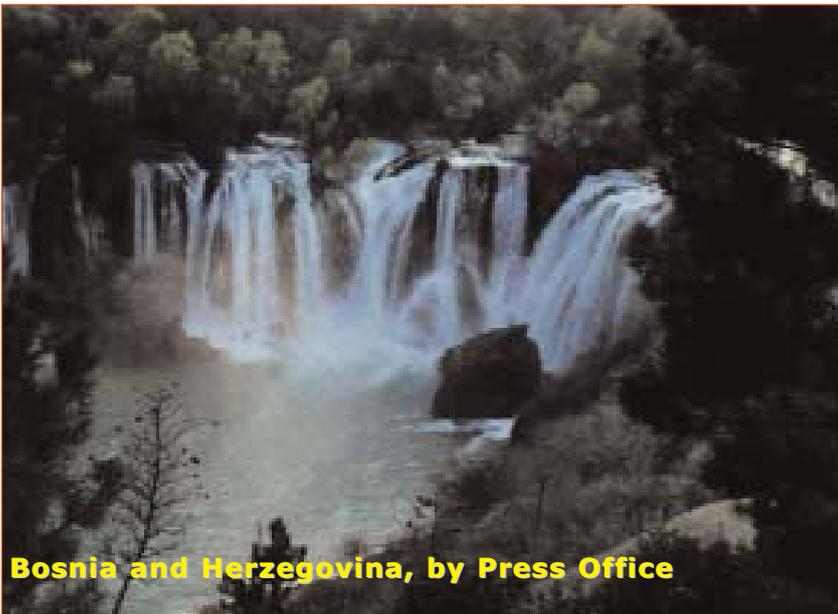


a multinational environment with a lot of different cultures and her principle hobbies are running and painting.

By Captain Giuseppe Saponaro



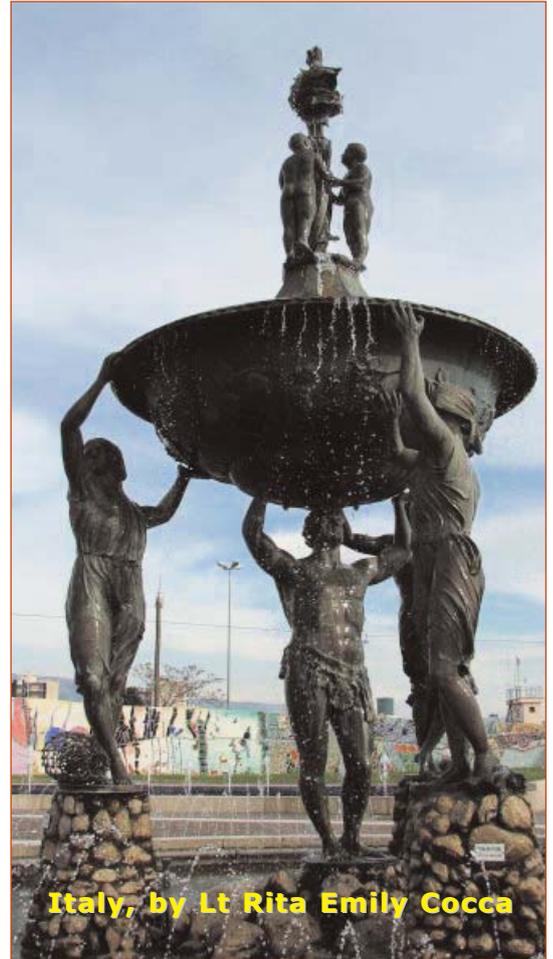
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, by Lt Jetnor Marke



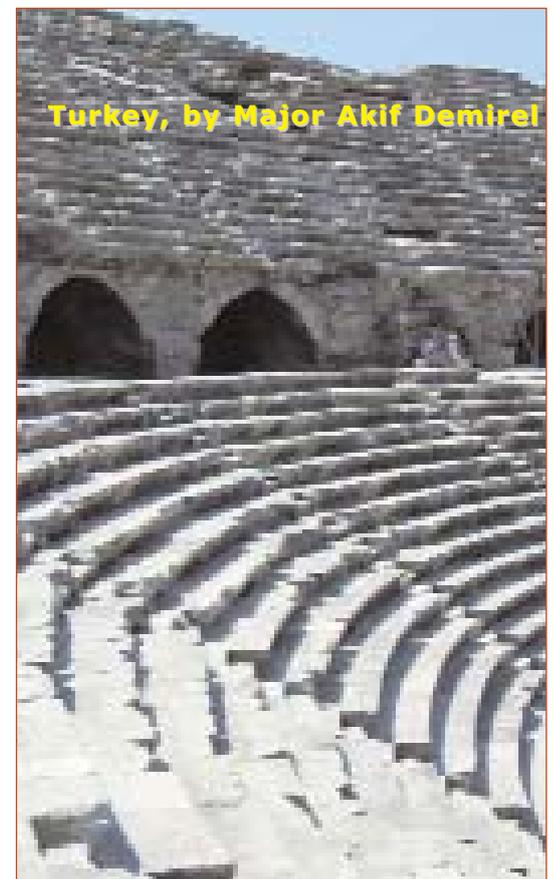
Bosnia and Herzegovina, by Press Office



Germany, by Captain Michael Soltner



Italy, by Lt Rita Emily Cocca



Turkey, by Major Akif Demirel



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