



EUFOR forum



EUFOR Cup 2010

Foreword by Lt Col Bernd ROTT

Commander Multinational Battalion/EUFOR

Thankful for the opportunity I have the great honor to address you as the newly appointed Commander of EUFOR's Multinational Battalion (MNBN). I take it, that you are all quite familiar with the TOO, the operational concept and the manifold tasks of this truly international and well established unit. The mission unchanged; it is the framework responsibility that represents the new challenge. AUSTRIA has taken over from SPAIN, which deployed maneuver and command elements since the battalion's very creation. I therefore and foremost would like to take this opportunity to thank my distinguished Spanish predecessor LtCol Angel R. HERREZUELO PEREZ and his staff for their competent and friendly support during the takeover process and to express my congratulations for all the battalion's extraordinary accomplishments throughout their tour of duty. Successful mission accomplishment for a battalion composed of soldiers of four different nationalities, in a country still suffering from the remnants of war, most definitely will constitute quite a challenge, and asks for the common effort of all the responsible leaders and supporting specialists.

Born in the Tirol, one of AUSTRIA's mountainous regions, I was soon introduced to mountaineering and I learned to understand obstacles as challenges to be taken on. Consequently I joined up with a mountain warfare unit and graduated from military academy as a career infantry officer. Having qualified as a master sniper, close combat instructor, explosives specialist and a member of the alpine training cadre, I was granted the opportunity to form and lead the "Hochgebirgskompanie 6" (mountain warfare company 6), a unique Special Forces unit tasked with high alpine reconnaiss-



sance and respective direct action in forbidding terrain. After a tour of duty on the GOLAN HEIGHTS, I was to establish AUSTRIA's first all professional mountain warfare element and to lead that unit on an AFGHANISTAN deployment. An assignment as S3 in a battalion staff was followed by a deployment as G3 OPS / MNB SW / KFOR. My current posting is one as S3 of AUSTRIA's mountain warfare brigade.

Mountaineering and my chosen way of soldiering formed the one principle I try to base my leadership on: **TITUDNE VINCIMUS!** (Through Endurance We Conquer!). I realized that just as a successful expedition to some far-off mountainous region is based on endurance, mutual support, positive leadership, respect and team spirit within the crew, a battalion won't work lacking those qualities. I'm fully convinced that the foundation of the MNBN was strengthened over the years and I am most confident that basing our work on those virtues we will remain ready and prepared to fulfill our tasks.

I'd like to express my respect and best wishes to all the soldiers serving under my command, may their home base be in Austria, Hungary, Poland or Turkey. Without your hard work and dedication nothing could have been achieved so far. You've earned yourselves the respect and gratitude of the populace of this young nation. By ensuring and if necessary reestablishing a safe and secure environment, we will continue to contribute to the common EUFOR effort to pave the way for our host nation to become an integrated part of the European Family and a valued member of the International Community.

Let me finish with a motto just fit to summarize our common task: **Multinational Battalion: - BE PREPARED!**

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Dear all,

In this EUFORUM edition you will find a special poster, which you can use as your private calendar for the upcoming year 2011. Only a few more weeks and 2010 is over. Numerous exercises have passed, National Days have been celebrated, and dozens of Taskers and office calls are history. Additionally, many significant events such as the MRE (Mine Risk Education) event on the occasion of the 20,000 milestone of people taught Mine Risk Education in 2010, or the EUFOR Football Cup 2010 are over.



Lt Col Knut Scheutz
Chief Press Office

If you have any interesting article about your nation or maybe about yourself, please don't hesitate and do contact the press office. We will support you to bring your ideas to the EUFORUM. Even if your English is not perfect we can support you and your friends.

On a final note, for all of you who have to leave, all the best to you and your families and to our newcomers, "Welcome to the EUFOR-family serving in Bosnia-Herzegovina."

EUFOR FORUM

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EUFOR Educates 20,000 People in 2010

On 10th November 2010, in Dejcici EUFOR staff passed the 20,000 milestone of people taught Mine Risk Education in 2010. To mark the achievement a plaque was presented to the Director of Dejčići Primary school by Deputy COMEUFOR Brigadier General Tibor Nagy and gifts were given to the Children in the lesson.

In his speech General Nagy said how important EUFOR sees the Mine Risk Education as a way of reducing the casualties experienced in the country. Whilst the numbers of casualties is reducing already this year 4 people have been killed in mine accidents. The Director of the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMAC), Mr Dušan Gavran, thanked EUFOR for their commitment to the programme and hoped it continued in the future.

BiH is one of the most Mine Impacted countries in the world and Mine Risk Education is an important pillar in the demining strategy. EUFOR staff work at the request and direction of BHMAC providing MRE to schools all across BiH.

Introduction

Today Mines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) affect the daily lives of almost 25% of BiH population. The results of the 2007 general assessment (survey) prepared by BHMAC of the mine situation in BiH identified the mine problem as affecting 921,513 persons in 1,631



communities, with 122 communities in the most highly impacted areas, 625 communities in the medium impacted areas and 884 communities classified as living in areas of low impact. For this assessment the criteria for determining the level of a communities endangerment by mines is the ratio between the population size, the risk area and number of incidents since 2004. With 10% of population in highly impacted communities and 30% in the medium impacted communities, the results of this 2007 General Survey place BiH in the group of the most mine impacted communities in the world .

Demining Strategy

The Demining strategy for BiH states in its vision the requirement to have by 2019 “a country free of the threat of landmines and unexploded ordnance, where individuals and communities will live in a safe

and secure environment, a country conducive to development, to peaceful and normal life and where all mine victims are fully integrated into their societies.” If this goal in BiH is to be achieved MRE will be as important as the operational demining.

Mines Risk Education

Internationally MRE is recognised as a pillar in the Demining strategy for a country post conflict and this is no different in BiH. It is defined by the UN as “an element of mine action, which by its psychological, cultural and social aspects represents a super structure of overall mine action”. MRE is a component of Mine action with a goal to reduce the risk of landmines and UXOs, which people property and the environment are exposed to. In BiH this process is vital in planning of mine actions for impacted communities, other sub process are (a) previous assessment of at

risk communities, (b) survey of areas at risk, (c) assessment of risk to impacted communities and (d) the assessment of needs and capacities of impacted communities. These sub process are coordinated as part of an MRE plan which is an integral part of the operational demining project ie to involve impacted communities as accredited organizations conduct demining/clearance operations.

In BiH, MRE is composed of three related activities and controlled/administered by BHMAC;

(1) Public information dissemination, primarily used for warning the public about risk exposure to mines and uxos and offering information and recommendations.

(2) Education and Training; this refers to the educational activities (EUFOR MRE Teams) through which the risk of injury from mines or uxos is reduced and awareness of the risk is increased among individuals and communities in order to affect behavioral change in popula-

tions residing/working/study-ing/visiting in mine risk areas. These activities are performed in formal or informal settings by BHMAC accredited instructors to National Standards prepared by government. Liaison with BHMAC allows for targeting at risk communities to prioritize this important training.

(3) Community Mine Action Liaison, is a system of procedures of exchange of information that refer to mine and uxo presence and their potential risk.. The goal of involving communities in mine action activities is to provide solutions for the needs and priorities of the community through mine action projects.

Background to EUFOR's involvement in MRE

EUFOR has had an involvement in MRE since National Standards were approved by Government in 2003. Indeed prior to this date EUFORs predecessor SFOR were involved in the education of local populations since 1996. The number

of attendees to these training lessons conducted by the SFOR/EUFOR MRE teams stand at 190,490 in BiH most mined affected communities.

In 2010 EUFOR in consultation with BHMAC prepared a MRE instructors course for their Liaison Observation Team (Lot House) interpreters (locally employed civilians). This course was conducted by NGO Stop mines and on successful completion allowed EUFOR MRE Teams increase its capability in this field by 100%. These 46 Instructors set about preparing and developing plans to teach this important message in BiH most mined affected communities ie in the areas they live and work in. In the past 10 Months these instructors have travelled far and wide in consultation with BHMAC and have reached this milestone in MRE training. Teaching in excess of 90% of the MRE attendees in BiH in 2010 the figure of 20,000 attendees is arriving with the visit of EUFORs MRE training team to the primary school in Dejcici on 10 November. Credit for this achievement must be extended to all participants of the training, to schools, local organizations and communities for welcoming this education into their communities, to BHMAC for their support and additionally to the Regional Control Commanders (RCCs) for allowing their staff to qualify to this national standard and allowing time in the operational flow of their locations for this training to occur regularly in their areas of responsibility.

By Lt Thomas Lynam



Visits to HQ EUFOR



UN Security Council Extends EUFOR Mandate

On 18th November 2010, the UN Security Council extended the mandate of Operation Althea and NATO HQ Sarajevo for a further 12 months. COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, said "We will continue to work closely with the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina to ensure a safe environment for the peoples of the country."

Following the peaceful conduct of the recent General Election EUFOR has undertaken a planned reduction in forces with approx 1,500 troops from 27 EU and non-EU nations now stationed in the country. Under UN Security Council Resolution 1948 (2010) the mission retains its executive function and is able to deploy considerable reserve forces to the area at short notice, a facility that will shortly be rehearsed again.

COM EUFOR said "I also look forward to continuing the Training and Capacity Building that we have started with the Armed Forces of BiH since July 2010." This is the only notable change



to the mission and mandate of Operation Althea under the new UN mandate.

The UN Security Council first enacted EUFOR with Resolution 1575 (2004) with yearly renewals, with EUFOR assuming most roles and functions of SFOR from that time.

By Lt Cdr Andy Mullins

EUFOR Carry Out Medical Emergency Flight

On 27th October 2010, EUFOR undertook a Medical Evacuation to bring a seriously ill patient from Bihac to Sarajevo for specialist treatment.

The one of the Austrian pilots said "It was a tricky night flight due to the cold weather – we had to fly north via Teslic to avoid the worse of the snow showers."

Due to the condition of the patient a Multinational team was formed to conduct the flight. A Bosnian Doctor and Nurse from Sarajevo Hospital were joined by a German Military Doctor for the flight on an Austrian Black Hawk Helicopter.

The flight was carried out at the formal request of the Ministry of Defence, a procedure that is used occasionally when the



Helicopter, crew and Medical Team in Bihac

operation is beyond the capabilities of their staff. EUFOR is working alongside Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) to improve their

Aero Medical Evacuation Training through a dedicated Mobile Training Team.

By Lt Cdr Andy Mullins

Banovići Primary School Win EUFOR Cup 2010



24th November 2010 saw the climax of the 2010 EUFOR Cup where 192 entries were reduced to one winning team when Banovići Primary School won the final. After a close match that saw them beat Mustafa Ejubović Šejh Primary School 2-1 they claimed their prize and chose to visit Tottenham Hotspur in London. Mustafa Ejubović Šejh, from Mostar, will visit FC Wolfsburg as a reward for their efforts.

In awarding them the Cup COMEUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, congratulated them on their success and said to the all the teams "Regardless of the outcome of the competition, your participation is the true first prize and remember that you are the future of BiH.

The competition had been organized by the EUFOR military staff and was run in close co-operation with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, represented by Chief of the AFBiH Joint Staff Lt Gen Miločić who awarded runner up prizes. A number of prizes were donated by the countries contributing troops to the EUFOR Mission, including travel to Britain and Germany, and soccer strips for the top 8 teams competing in the national finals.

By Lt Cdr Andy Mullins



The Multinational Battalion in the spotlight

The almost daily business of the leadership of the Multinational Battalion EUFOR (MNBN) is to train its staff and units in joint and combined operations, to evaluate their readiness and supportability across the full range of military operations, to assess the military's ability to satisfy joint EUFOR security requirements, to enhance and evaluate interoperability between the different nations and to exercise critical service-unique deployment and redeployment skills. During a recent visit by a video reporter from one of Spain's largest newspapers, EL MUNDO, the different units from different nations within the MNBN were able to showcase their individual capabilities by demonstrating how to respond to the full spectrum



of crises by employing their appropriately sized and positioned mobile forces during a Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) exercise inside the RAJLOVAC training area. This truly international display of practices saw members of the Turkish Company conducting checkpoint operations while the Hungarian Company was professionally dealing with rioters consisting of role players from the Polish Company, followed by a LOT House Evacuation Exercise, also proficiently conducted by a Polish extraction team. Simultaneously the members from the Austrian Company conducted a site survey at one of the Weapons and Ammunition Storage Sites. The EL MUNDO journalist took away an excellent impression of EUFOR and the tasks that we are undertaking in Bosnia. As the focus of their visit was to see co-operation between the different nationalities and how EUFOR troops are able to contribute to security in BiH in



the wider context of the European Security and Defense Policy, they certainly were able to get a very good impression by what they saw.

In addition to the obvious contributions to readiness, those exercises demonstrate EUFOR resolve and capability to project military power anywhere in Bosnia and Herzegovina in support of local institutions. Such trainings provide an opportunity to practice the critical tasks and coordination essential to achieve the mission's goals. The operation's objectives of EUFOR are to create and maintain a safe and secure environment for the people of Bosnia. The Bosnian people today are more secure than before the Dayton Agreement, however, our international military force still serves as one of the best deterrents to major hostilities. During the many rehearsals the MNBN units have to undergo, they are constantly improving their skills to conduct Peace Support Operations, so they can practice and validate all EUFOR operational concepts and familiarize with the terrain and environment, allowing them to deal with any military contingency here in Bosnia and, if requested, also in the KFOR Area of Operations.

By Captain Otmar Lindner



Austrians celebrate their National Day



On 25th October the Soldiers of the Austrian Contingent celebrated their Austrian National Day, which is normally celebrated on the 26th of October. On this day in 1955 the Austrian parliament passed the constitutional law on Austria's permanent neutrality.

In his speech, assisted by a slide show, Colonel GS Lattacher, Austrian National Contingent Commander, explained the origins of the Austrian National Day. The interested audience got information about Austria's substantial steps after World War II (the "Four in the Jeep"), the enormous efforts by the Austrian people and the international community to rebuild the country, the Austrian State Treaty (with the proclamation "Austria is free"), and Austria's proactive way as a neutral state in the international community. He stressed that 60 years ago Austria received support from the international community and today they are supporting BiH.



The UN- and EU- Membership, and the participation in the NATO Partnership for Peace Program, underline Austria's active role in the international environment. Col Lattacher stressed that Austria has been taking part for 50 years, with about 100,000



The "Pibersteiner" in action.

Soldiers, in UN Peace Keeping Missions, and that today Austria contributes around 1,200 Soldiers in 12 Missions, with the main effort on the Western Balkans and in the Middle East.

As the Austrian Senior National Representative (SNR), he used the opportunity to thank the 340 soldiers from the Austrian contingent for their outstanding work in Bosnia and Herzegovina and to thank all EUFOR ALTHEA troop contributing na-

tions for their outstanding cooperation with the Austrian Contingent.

The arrangements of this celebration have been done by an organization team under the lead of Captain Werner Feyer tag, with support of Hungarians comrades who erected two tents.

The celebration started at 1730 hours in the Millennium Bar, where the Austrian National Contingent Commander Col (GS) Johann Lattacher gave

a warm welcome to all the international and national guests, especially to COM NHQSa, Brigadier General David Enyeart (US), DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Tibor Nagy (HUN), COS EUFOR Brigadier General Günter Giesa, Austria's deputy Ambassador to BiH, Mag Brigitte Pfriemer, the Austrian Defence Attaché Brigadier General Andreas Rotter and last but not least all the Soldiers of the Austrian contingent.

The following party offered the international guests delicate food and Austrian specialties, cooked and prepared by OR-6 Eugen Rieser and Gerhard Salzger, Austrian Gösserbeer and Glühwein (glogg).

Hundred of guests enjoyed this perfect organized evening, featured by the Upper Austrian Band "Pibersteiner" (they already played here in Camp Butmir 2006) and had great fun in a cheerful atmosphere until midnight.

By Major Dieter Grassl



NCC Colonel GS Lattacher welcomed the distinguished guests COS BG Giesa and BG Enyeart by offering a traditional Austrian drink, escorted from NCO's in traditional uniforms.

EUFOR Soldiers Train For Mine Risk

All troops serving with EUFOR undergo Mine Awareness training to reduce the dangers of death and injury whilst in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

This complements training received in their own countries and ensures that all EUFOR

troops work to a common procedure.

Newly arrived troops undergoing Newcomer Training (NCT) were visited by Deputy COMEUFOR Brigadier General Tibor Nagy who was briefed on the instruction being given. He

witnessed the practical exercises and was challenged to find the hidden mine in a 1 metre square box. Manoeuvre Battalion Troops undergo further training and assessment each month to maintain their Mine Awareness.

By Lt Cdr Andy Mullins



DCOM attempts to find the hidden mine helped by Corporal Hofer.



DCOM EUFOR (right) being briefed by OR-6 Schwendtbauer on vehicle drills

COS EUFOR visits Romanian LOT Houses

COS EUFOR, Brigadier General Günter Giesa, visited two Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT) houses in the Area of Responsibility of Regional Coordination Center (RCC) West. The Romanian LOT houses in Cazin and Banja Luka in the northwest of Bosnia and Herzegovina were on his schedule. Following the introduction to the

personnel and a look at the facilities he received a short briefing on the local situation. The visit ended after a short tour of the operational area and Brigadier General Giesa thanked the LOT house teams for their excellent preparation and hospitality.

By Lt Cdr Andy Mullins



LOT Crew Banja Luka with COS EUFOR.



LOT Cazin staff with COS EUFOR.

MWA Indoor Soccer Tournament

The MWA Indoor Soccer Tournament took place Tuesday, October 26 until Saturday, October 30 at the Butmir Camp Rub hall.

With twelve teams registered and fired up, the tournament started on Tuesday with the first of four group play-offs. The best team of each group, which were "HUN HQ & guests", "Camp Butmir Fire Department", "Albercas Corner's (ESP)" and "Dream Team (POL)" reached the final games, played on Saturday.

On Saturday the Fire Department won against HUN HQ & guests as did Albercas Corner's versus Dream Team. So HUN HQ & guests and Dream Team played the third place and HUN HQ & guests won 5:3 after extra time. The final game was won 7:1 by Albercas Corner's against Camp Butmir Fire Department and the Spanish team was declared winner of the MWA Indoor Soccer Tournament 2010.

All teams gave their all and



1. PLACE	ALBERCAS CORNER'S
2. PLACE	FIRE DEPARTMENT
3. PLACE	HUN HQ & GUESTS
4. PLACE	DREAM TEAM
BEST GOAL KEEPER	Volker Deselaers (HUN HQ AND GUESTS)
BEST PLAYER	Manuel Puerta Lopez (Albercas Corner's)

enjoyed the games.

The following Awards Ceremony was held by Chief of Staff EUFOR, Brigadier General Günter Giesa, at the Millennium Bar. He thanked all participants for their effort and handed over

a certificate to every team which took part at the tournament.

Furthermore he handed over a trophy and medals to the first, second and third place teams. The second team also won a voucher of 20€ and the first a voucher of 40€ to be spent at the Millennium Bar.

Striker Manuel Puerta Lopez was chosen Most Valuable Player of the finals and got a trophy as the best player, so did Volker Deselaers as the best goalkeeper.

After the awards ceremony the MWA team invited everyone for refreshments and finger food. The MWA karaoke competition followed and proved to be an outstanding success.

By Lt Volker Deselaers



Dayton Peace Accords - 15 years after

History of the DPA

There are several major reasons which impacted that war in BiH end's in November 1995. Those are: military situation in BiH 1995, more determined influence of NATO and large IC political presence in the Balkan area, primarily by USA.

As result of these activities was General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, also known as the Dayton Peace Agreement, Dayton Peace Accords.

DPA is the peace agreement reached at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio in 21 November 1995, and formally signed in Paris on December 14, 1995. These accords put an end to the three and a half year long war in Bosnia,

The conference took place from November 1 to Novem-

ber 21, 1995. The main participants from the region were FRY President Slobodan Milošević, Croatian President Franjo Tuđman, and BiH President Alija Izetbegović.

The peace conference was led by U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and negotiator Richard Holbrooke with two Co-Chairmen in the form of EU Special Representative Carl Bildt and the First Deputy Foreign Minister of Russia Igor Ivanov. One of the key participants in the US delegation was General Wesley Clark. Later to become NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) in 1997

After having been initiated in Dayton, Ohio on November 21, 1995 the full and formal agreement was signed in Paris, France, on December 14, 1995

witnessed also by French President Jacques Chirac, U.S. President Bill Clinton, UK Prime Minister John Major, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin (Contact Group countries)

The present political divisions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its structure of government were agreed upon as part the constitution that makes up Annex 4 of the General Framework Agreement concluded at Dayton.

The agreement mandated a wide range of international organizations to monitor, oversee, and implement components of the agreement. The NATO-led IFOR (Implementation Force) was responsible for implementing military aspects of the agreement and deployed on the 20th December 1995, taking over the forces of the UNPROFOR.

And Office of the High Representative (OHR) is an ad hoc international institution responsible for overseeing implementation of civilian aspects of the accord ending the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina . The position of High Representative was created under the DPA.

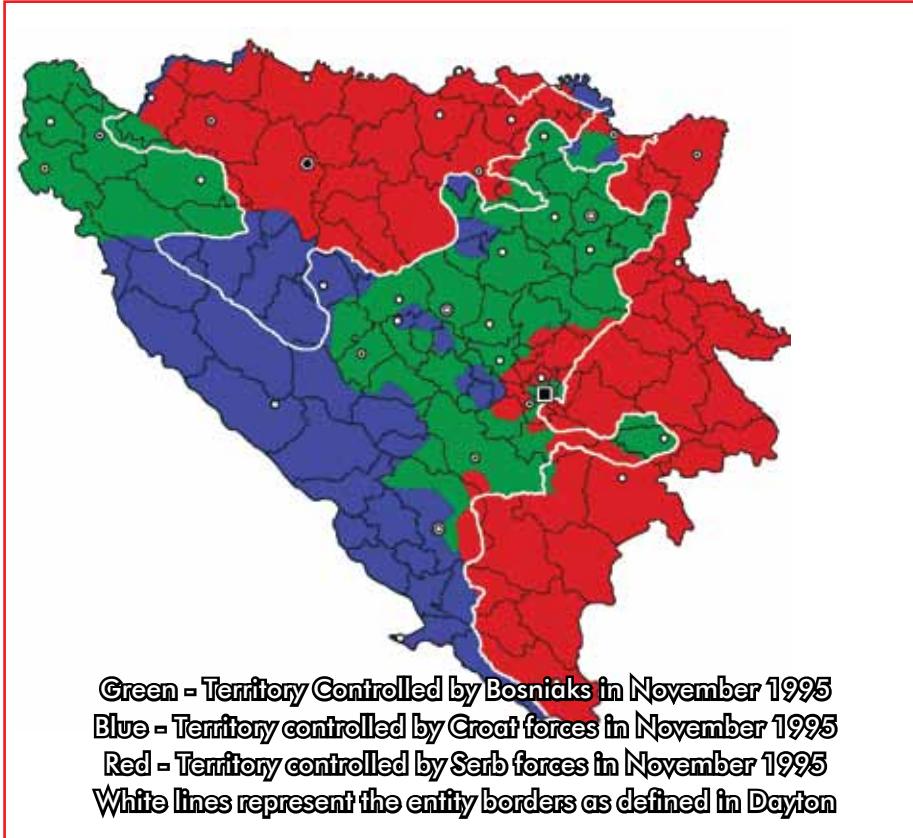
DPA today

DPA is peace agreement that it can not fulfill further requirements in the BiH integrations and developments. Political sy



DPA have following annexes:

- Annex 1-A: Agreement on Military Aspects of the Peace Settlement
- Annex 1-B: Agreement on Regional Stabilization
- Annex 2: Agreement on Inter-Entity Boundary Line and Related Issues
- Annex 3: Agreement on Elections
- Annex 4: Constitution
- Annex 5: Agreement on Arbitration
- Annex 6: Agreement on Human Rights
- Annex 7: Agreement on Refugees and Displaced Persons
- Annex 8: Agreement on the Commission to Preserve National Monuments
- Annex 9: Agreement on Bosnia and Herzegovina Public Corporations
- Annex 10: Agreement on Civilian Implementation
- Annex 11: Agreement on International Police Task Force



Abrams tanks of the 1st Battalion, 77th Armor, 1st Infantry Division, cross the Sava River into Bosnia, October 20, 1996. They secured the withdrawal of the 1st Armored Division up to the end of the IFOR mandate on December 20. IFOR, the NATO implementation forces, had enforced the terms of the Dayton Peace Accord since 1995.

system in BiH is complicated and require change due to the BiH integrations toward NATO and EU which require more simple, effective, transparent and cheaper political apartus then BiH has with DPA. BiH today with 4 level of the power + District of Brcko, 140 ministers, huge budget expense on the admisistration do not have it.

All these decisions are on th BiH politicians who with the help of IC should find model for the improvements.

By Historical Office

Austrian Soldiers Support Social Deprived Families in Bosnia And Herzegovina

On 11th October 2010, Austrian soldiers of the Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) in the mission of EUFOR ALTHEA helped needy families in the region of Lukovac (north-eastern Bosnia). In particular, the humanitarian help comes in the purchase and distribution of burning coal. Especially during the cold season the relief operations of non governmental organizations and the international community are urgently needed.

The Austrian force under EUFOR ALTHEA is the only one with an element of CIMIC to support such efforts.

Distribution of 140 tons of coal

After all organizational activities had been done with a state-owned coal plant in Tuzla, the delivery took place within three days. Three civilian trucks were rented to supply the deprived families with 140 tons of burning coal. Even in undeveloped areas



the Austrian soldiers could cope with the logistical challenge.

Thanks and recognition

Special thanks must go to Annemary Kury, the original initiator of the idea. As a retired nurse, she has been doing admirable services in Bosnia and Her-

zegovina for decades. The project, with a total budget of €7,000, was funded by donations, which were raised by Ms Kury. The Austrian soldiers of the peace-keeping force EUFOR received much thanks and appreciation from the families.

By 1st Lt Marco Spörk



British Forces in BiH Remember Fallen Comrades

On 14th November 2010 at Butmir Camp, members of the British contingent in Bosnia conducted their annual Remembrance Service. The ceremony was attended by all the UK forces stationed here in Bosnia and Herzegovina and invited guests from the UK Embassy and other UK nationals living and working in BiH. Each year British Forces gather, wherever they are, in order to remember those comrades who have fallen whilst in service. Often known as the Poppy Parade because British troops wear the Poppy between the first and 11th November as a symbol of those who have fallen. A total of 59 British troops have lost their lives in BiH since 1995.

The ceremony centres on the traditional two minutes silence at exactly 11:00. The British Ambassador, Mr Michael Tamam, laid the first wreath on behalf of the Her Majesty's the Queen UK Government and this was followed by wreaths from the UK contingent.

Why do the British, and Canadians, wear, with great pride, the Poppy? Scarlet poppies (*popaver rhoeas*) grow naturally in conditions of disturbed earth throughout Western Europe. The destruction brought by the Napoleonic wars of the early 19th Century transformed bare land into fields of blood red pop-



pies, growing around the bodies of the fallen soldiers.

In late 1914, the fields of Northern France and Flanders were once again ripped open as the First World War raged through Europe's heart.

The significance of the poppy as a lasting memorial symbol to the fallen was realised by the Canadian surgeon John McCrae in his poem *In Flanders Fields* (shown below). The poppy came to represent the immeasurable sacrifice made by his comrades and quickly became a lasting memorial to those who died in the First World War and later conflicts. The Royal British Legion organise sales of Poppies to fund their support for Armed Forces Personnel and their families. Last year they raised approx 34 Million Euro. (This year the collection pots in Echos and the Bull Dog Bar raised approx 250 Euros – thank you for all those that showed they support for this Charity)

It is difficult to imagine something truly poetic and beautiful generating from war and con-

flict. For most of us the experience of war is remote. Those who have been affected by its destructive force are fortunately in a minority, but this was not always the case. The First World War produced some of the most

gifted and progressive authors, poets and artists of a generation, each channelling their individual and collective experiences into their chosen art form.

By Haris Daul

The poetry of Wilfred Owen, Siegfried Sassoon and Charlotte Mew amongst others catches a truth we can remember and absorb in a consoling and illuminating way. John McCrae's 1915 poem reads:

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,*

*Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

Zdravo! My name is OR-9 Peter GANARIN, I was born in Innsbruck in Austria in 1959, I've joined the Austrian Armed Forces in 1978 and since 1999 my permanent assignment is with the 6th Alpine Brigade. I've joined Operation EUFOR ALTHEA on 12th November 2010 as the Sergeant Major and Tactical Operation Centre (TOC) Commander of the HQ Multinational Battalion (MNBN). This job came to me quite as a surprise, as Austria had to take over the responsibilities of the lead nation for this battalion from Spain at very short notice and therefore the formation of the staff had to be conducted very quickly. Accordingly, there was plenty of work waiting for me immediately upon arrival, as the MNBN HQ had to become fully operational within only a few days and we also had to set up our offices in a new building from scratch. Well, most of that labor has been



OR-9 Peter Ganarin

accomplished by now, thanks to the combined effort of all our multinational staff. It always is a great experience to closely work together with colleagues from different nations and this is one of the reasons why I've already participated in quite a few missions. My previous services were with KFOR in KOSOVO as a Command NCO and twice with UNDOF on the GOLAN HEIGHTS as a S3 NCO and as the Commander of the Command Group (call sign 52, for those of you who've been there before).

Additionally, I participated in several Pfp Exercises in Italy, Switzerland and France. I'm looking forward to work and certainly also socialize with you during my six months tour of duty here. Dovidenja!

By OR-9 Peter Ganarin

Hello everybody, I'm 2nd Lieutenant Miklos VETEK, 25 years of age, and I'm in this mission since July 2010 as a Platoon Leader within A-Coy (Hungarian Company) of the MNBN. I've joined the Hungarian Defense Forces in 2008 and this is my first mission abroad. For me it is great to see that all the soldiers from the different nations within the battalion are able to work so very well together. I particularly enjoy the many social events and competitions, where the nations can intermingle and compete against each other. The Hungarian National Day has served as a very good example in this respect. Above all, I'm deeply impressed by the professionalism and discipline of my subordinates. As an

artillery officer, I am regularly trying to teach them new skills and I'm very happy to see that



2nd Lieutenant Miklos Vetek

everyone is quite open to this. My special mission highlights so far were the MNBN Joint Training and Life fire Exercises, both, as an organizer and competitor. Back home I used to very successfully participate in a variety of shooting competitions with pistols and assault rifles. As I've missed the Hungarian Defense Forces Championship this year because of the preparations for this mission, I enjoy the possibilities provided here even more. My goal for the future is to become a teacher at the National Defense University in Hungary, but would first like to gain additional experience in this or other missions.

By 2nd Lieutenant Miklos Vetek

