



**EUFOR  
forum**



**Operation Commander of  
EUFOR Althea visits Sarajevo**

# Foreword by Operation Commander EUFOR

## General Sir Richard Shirreff



I am very grateful for this opportunity so early in my tenure as Operation Commander to address you all. I would like to start by thanking all the sailors, soldiers and aircrew of EUFOR, Operation 'Althea', for their ongoing effort and commitment to the mission. It is evident to me that your contribution to maintaining a safe and secure environment within Bosnia & Herzegovina is providing a stable platform for the political process to build upon. Therefore, I encourage the 26 troop contributing nations to continue the good work they are undertaking in maintaining the reputation of EUFOR in Bosnia & Herzegovina.

The lack of clear and decisive political advancement made since the elections in October

2010 is clearly very disappointing. It means, therefore, that EUFOR's mission with its executive mandate remains a key strand in the peace implementation process here in Bosnia & Herzegovina. So, EUFOR must maintain its ability to monitor through the LOT House system and then react to any situation in a decisive and professional manner. In addition, during 2011 we will need to re-inforce the good work that has already been undertaken in supporting the Capacity Building and Training of the Armed Forces of Bosnia & Herzegovina.

I wish everyone supporting EUFOR, Operation 'Althea' a successful mission and thank you for your ongoing professionalism and commitment.

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**Operation Commander EUFOR  
General Sir Richard Shirreff  
among the soldiers**

Dear all,

For the first time I address you as the new EUFOR Chief Press Office. It's my second tour in this country. During the past 13 years the character of the International Community's military mission to BiH has changed entirely. In 1998 the main issue was to prevent the re-occurrence of violence in a post war scenario. Now we are here to contribute to the prosperity of this country.



**Lt Col Gerhard Schweiger**

We must continue to remain open in our approach and keep a close contact with the population of BiH. To date, this has resulted in EUFOR having a very good reputation throughout BiH. This has not only been achieved by image campaigns and media activities but by the commitment of each single person serving under the EUFOR badge. This is something that we can all be proud of. It is the precondition for our credibility and credibility is the key for our success.

So let us always be aware of this fact. In our behaviour in traffic as well as in our attitude when dealing with the youth and the respect and tolerance we pay to religion and culture. To create a better future for BiH, after all that is why we are here.

Lt Col Gerhard Schweiger, Chief Press Office

## EUFOR FORUM

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[copic\\_forum@eufor.eu.int](mailto:copic_forum@eufor.eu.int)

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Commander EUFOR

**Major General Bernhard Bair**

EUFOR Press Office Chief

**Lt Col Gerhard Schweiger**

EUFOR Forum Staff:

Chief Editor:

**Mr Haris Daul**

Editor:

**Lt Cdr Mark Frost**

Layout:

**Mr. Jasmin Zeherović**

Photographs contributed by:

**Sgt Markus Rumpold**

The EUFOR Forum welcomes submissions. For deadline information phone the editor on  
+387 (0)33 495148,  
Fax: 495221;  
IPN 941-5148, Fax 941-5221

# Operation Commander of EUFOR Althea visits Sarajevo

General Sir Richard Shirreff, the Operation Commander of EUFOR “Althea”, was welcomed to Camp Butmir by an Honour Guard from the 26 contributing nations on 27th April. This was General Shirreff’s first official visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina since taking up the role of EUFOR Operation Commander on 4th March 2011.

During his two day visit to BiH, the Operation Commander attended a number of meetings and briefings on the situation in BiH and the current activities being undertaken in support of the EUFOR mission. In addition, to the mission of contributing to the maintenance of a safe and secure environment he was updated on the ongoing provision of training support by EUFOR to the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH).

The good relationship that has developed between EUFOR and the AFBiH was re-inforced in a practical demonstration of joint capability by the EUFOR Multi-National Battalion (MNBN) and troops of the AFBiH. The demonstration allowed the MNBN to show the wide variety skills they possess from crowd and riot control to close protection to a recce capability. On completion of the demonstration, General Shirreff took the opportunity to address the troops.

As part of his visit to EUFOR,



General Shirreff accompanied by Major General Bair paid a visit to the Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) House in Novo Sarajevo. The LOT House is manned by personnel from Slovakia and comes under the co-ordination of the Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) South. Lieutenant Cani, the Deputy Commander of the LOT, welcomed the Operation Commander and introduced the personnel serving in the LOT

House. The General was briefed on the role that the LOT Houses play in maintaining situational awareness across BiH.

General Shirreff also undertook a number of official meetings with the Chief of the Joint Staff of AFBiH, Lieutenant General Miladin Miločić and Dr. Selmo Cikotić, BiH Minister of Defence. As well as informally meeting with the High Representative, Dr Valentin Inzko.



Before returning to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) near Mons, Belgium General Shirreff said, “I am delighted to have the opportunity to visit Bosnia and Herzegovina so soon after taking over as Operation Commander of the Operation “Althea” mission. I felt that it was vitally important that I came to the country to see with my own eyes the current situation in order to gain a better understanding of the situation that exists here in BiH.”

By Lt Cdr Mark Frost

# EUFOR participates in Mine Action Day Ceremonies



As part of the International Mine Action Day events in Bosnia and Herzegovina, members of EUFOR visited a de-mining site in Hadžići. There they witnessed a demining operation demonstration before presenting the new safety guideline manuals to the de-miners.

Lieutenant Colonel Broeksma of EUFOR's Joint Military Af-

fairs Branch, stated, "That EUFOR supports the vision to have BiH free of mines by 2019 but that it will require the appropriate budget and the involvement of both the general public and the politicians."

He praised the dedication and courage of these individuals who are working to bring about a safer BiH for everyone.



He continued that, "These safety guidelines manuals will help to support the de-miners who are undertaking an important job to bring greater safety to BiH and we must remember safety is not a choice but an obligation!"

Lt Col Broeksma then presented the first copy of the guidelines to the Director of BHMAC, Mr Gavran and the de-miners at the site. The production of this document has been a co-operative project with the BHMAC.

The United Nations' International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action is observed on 4 April each year. This day aims to raise awareness about landmines and progress toward their eradication.

By Lt Cdr Mark Frost



## Visits to HQ EUFOR



## COM EUFOR visits female saved by EUFOR Medical Evacuation

On 20th April 2011, Major General Bernhard Bair, COM EUFOR, was welcomed to Bihać with words 'Thank you that I am alive'. Major General Bair was in the town to meet a young lady that a EUFOR helicopter airlifted to hospital in Sarajevo on 2nd February last year. This was the first Medical Evacuation undertaken by EUFOR after General Bair had taken up the post of COM EUFOR. He was keen to see how her recovery had progressed over the last twelve months since that emergency trip to Sarajevo.

Major General Bair said, "I am



delighted that EUFOR were able to help Loredana and her family. To see how well she looks and that she has been able to return to her studies is absolutely fantastic news." He continued "We, of course, want to remain a positive presence in the country, having the personnel and the equipment to assist the people and the

National Authorities in dealing with serious incidents and saving lives, if requested."

During the visit to Bihać, COM EUFOR paid a call on Prime Minister Lipovača where they discussed the lack of progress at State level to establish a government and how disappointing the current situation is.

In addition, they talked about the importance of the State Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the key role that they have to play in the future of the country. This included the crucial need for the Country's legal system to effectively function in order to enable BiH to move towards the goal of joining the EU.

By Lt Cdr Mark Frost

## DCOM/COS EUFOR visits LOT House and MTT's in Derventa

On 15th April 2011, DCOM/COS EUFOR, Brigadier General Tibor Nagy, visited the Liaison and Observation Team and two Mobile Training Teams in the Area of Responsibility of Regional Coordination Center (RCC) East. The LOT commander, Lieutenant Colonel Francisco Martins, welcomed Brigadier General Nagy and introduced the LOT and MTT's personnel to the General. After that the Portuguese LOT commander, and the Austrian and the Slovenian MTT commanders gave the General and his



staff a short brief about their main activities, current issues, structures, tasks, strengths, locations and agendas. Brigadier General Nagy was able to personally see for himself the pro-

fessionalism and commitment with which the soldiers fulfill their duties. DCOM/COS EUFOR thanked LOT and MTT's personnel for their efforts.

By Major Jozsef Stricker

# Austrian Contingent supports 'Farmers Help Farmers'

The Austrian Non Government Organisation (NGO), "Bauern helfen Bauern" (Farmers help Farmers) conducted the distribution of humanitarian goods Between 7 and 9 April in the area of Bratunac and Srebrenica. Austrian Civil-Military Co-operation (CIMIC AUT) supported the NGO during this time with transporting and escorting of personnel. Over the 3 days, there were 170 packages, containing food, beverages, washing powder etc, with an overall weight of nearly 3 tons. The goods were distributed to more than 20 very small, extremely poor and remote villages. These villages are located in the partially devastated and abandoned area of Srebrenica and Bratunac near to the Serbian borderline.

'Farmers Help Farmers' was founded by Mrs Doraja Eberle in 1992 in Salzburg. The aim of the organization is to provide support to the poorest people in former Yugoslavia from during the war until today.

Her organisation consists of 45 volunteers, mainly from Austria, many donations come from Austria, Germany, England the US and other countries in order to help the



people in a very direct and non-bureaucratic way.

To date, more than 870 small wooden farm houses have been built, about 1500 truck cargos were organized, and a large amount of agricultural equipment like tractors have been provided. This is an ongoing project and their work will still continue into the future.

The main goal of "Bauern helfen Bauern" is to resettle the

people, mainly farmers who lived before the war in this region, in order to create new living conditions for them. On every half-yearly tour through this area the members of this NGO also check the progress of every family they have supported through the years and try to enlist new donors.

This NGO and its members is the only one in this region which maintains such a social contact with the local population.

The Austrian LOT Team Bratunac as well as CIMIC AUT have been involved and participated in many of the activities of this NGO. The successful accomplishment of the mission by the LOT Team in this area, which is still heavily marked from the wartime, will be essentially supported through these humanitarian actions.

**By Captain Otmar Lindner**



# Austrian Medal Parade

A formal Medal Parade ceremony for the Austrian contingent of the Multi-national Battalion (MNBN) of the EUFOR was held at Camp Butmir on 6th April. Following the completion of their six month tour of duty abroad, the Austrian soldiers received the EUFOR Service Medal for Peace-keeping - awarded in recognition of their merits on carrying out the assigned mission. Most of the medal recipients by now have returned home to Austria from Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, apart from a number of the HQ MNBN staff.

The highest ranking officer to address the medal recipients was Colonel Klaus Jenschik, who not only is the Austrian National Contingent Commander, but also the Chief of the Joint Military Affairs branch within HQ EUFOR. Representatives from all National Support Elements of the MNBN troop contributing countries as well as from different divisions within HQ EUFOR were also present during the ceremony. The outgoing Company Commander, as a sign of highest appreciation for a job well done, was also personally presented with the MNBN flag by the Commander of the MNBN, Lt Col Bernd Rott.

The soldiers were praised for the important part that they



**LtCol Bernd Rott, COM MNBN, saluting parade**

had played in the mission and for Bosnia and Herzegovina by maintaining peace in the country.

Today the country is calm, which is due to the joint success of diplomacy, EUFOR and the troops participating in the mission. Bosnia and Herzegovina is an example of the successful ef-

forts to establish peace, this is in part due to the personal commitment of all members of the Austrian, Hungarian and Turkish manoeuvre elements.

We all can be proud of each and every soldier who has qualified for the EUFOR medal. It shows that our peacekeepers are disciplined, qualified, and in cooperation with soldiers of other nations, they did an excellent job. We have seen the unconditional efforts, deep commitment, loyalty and professionalism of these men and women in the accomplishment of their duties and we will miss them dearly. Most certainly, not every war is just, but peacekeeping always is!

**By Captain Otmar Lindner**



**Medal recipients**

# MNBN Patrol & Commanders Challenge

## Spring 2011 – everybody won!



For those who don't know what a Patrol Challenge is - it's strenuous, it's physically rigorous and mentally demanding and it's a really tough test for the soldiers. The idea behind the challenge was to have the squads of the Austrian, Hungarian and Turkish companies of the Multinational Battalion (MNBN) first compete against teams from their own nation and then all the winning teams would then compete against each other.

At the forefront of this event, was the training element that included rigorous physical fitness workouts, internal information classes on various elements of light infantry tactics, rifle marksmanship, land navigation, road marches and many more skills that would be tested during the event. The aim of the competi-

tion was to provide a challenging patrol exercise in order to enable units and commanders to test and evaluate their actual training standards.

Each team consisted of one commander and seven servicemen and each of the 3 companies had to provide seven teams. Together with two teams from the Reconnaissance Platoon, a total of 23 teams would compete. The exercise particularly tested the initiative of the teams to a degree which genuinely made the event suitable for both combat support arms and professional reconnaissance troops.

At the start of the event, all Patrol Commanders received their orders on the exercise for briefing to their respective teams before they were sent off to the different stations. Meeting up with

agents en-route they were tested and evaluated on various tasks and, depending on the number of points scored by their patrol, teams were awarded a certificate of merit, a bronze medal, a silver medal or a coveted gold medal. Only the Patrol Challenge medal recipients qualified for the even more demanding Commanders Challenge.

While the Patrol Challenge only required the fundamentals of patrolling missions, designed to evaluate leadership potential using tactical scenarios by giving the soldiers the opportunity to utilise the training as patrol leaders and assistant patrol leaders, the Commanders Challenge was designed not only to develop and evaluate leadership but also to build teamwork early in the camp cycle. The demanding role

of the Patrol Squadrons required individuals who were fit, strong, determined and able to use their own initiative. Above all, they had to be able to operate as part of a small, close knit team and be able to shoulder the considerable responsibility that was required of even the most junior members of their patrol team. The outcome was an exciting and demanding set of 'stands' which incorporated a wide range of subjects that made the challenges ever more rigorous, as they were also testing intelligence, common sense, ingenuity and stamina. Overall, these challenges provided the participants with a new perspective on their own individual ability to perform challenging tasks and to make difficult decisions in demanding situations.

The challenges included basic rifle marksmanship together with the knowledge of the characteristics of the basic national Army rifle plus foreign equipment recognition, how to fire it accurately, and how to assemble it correctly. In addition, land navigation, terrain association, individual movement techniques while crossing over, through, and around obstacles and even the carrying of heavy loads and pushing lorries all formed part of the challenge.

Morale in all teams remained high throughout, with everyone sticking together and supporting one another. A very creditable performance came from the two best teams from T-Coy (Turkish Company), who gained the silver



**Overcoming obstacles**

and bronze medals. OR-5 Stefan Hafner from the Austrian A-Coy, the patrol commander of the gold medal winning team, summed it up: "This challenge truly required a great deal of determination and commitment to complete, but to do so was extremely rewarding in the end - no pain, no gain!"

MNBN Commanding Officer Lt Col Bernd Rott, who was responsible for running the exercise, said during the award ceremony, "This competition has

been a resounding success and any team that managed to complete the course deserves huge credit. Those who were awarded medals can take great pride in their standards of physical robustness, military skills and leadership. All teams clearly met the established standards in physical fitness, weapons training, communication, combat patrols and demonstrated their proficiency in many other military skills."

**By Captain Otmar Lindner**



**Push it hard**

# Information Operations

As Civil-Military Co-operation (CIMIC) is often seen as the Santa Claus of the Armed Forces i.e. the bringer of presents, we as members of Information Operations (IO) sometimes have the feeling that colleagues from EUFOR see us as the fun time event organisation branch. For that reason and because there is much more behind the IO work, I would like to take this opportunity to inform you a bit more about our work.

Yes, we do organise an annual soccer and art competition for children from all over BiH, in fact they are the biggest national school's competitions in BiH! Yes, we do hand out promotional items. But no, we do not do that just for fun, there is a much wider perspective behind our activities.

IO has the general role of influencing the perceptions, attitudes and the behavior of our target audience. This must be carried out in line with EU political and military objectives. There are a number of more specialist fields that are controlled by IO branch and these include Psyops, CIMIC, Computer Networks, key Leader engagement and, especially for the soldiers on the ground, PPP (Presence, Posture and Profile). So, what does it actually mean? I will try to explain that in the perspective of the mission we are in, EUFOR.

EUFOR is in BiH to contrib-



ute to a safe and secure environment for people to live in. In a solely strategic way armed forces can do that by deploying a strong military force, however, it is always difficult to maintain a large military force indefinitely within areas of conflict. It is though, possible to try and tackle the problem where it started, in the minds of the people. If you can get people to believe in a better future for their country, reconciliation and the importance of peacefully living together and see positive results then, potentially, you have a stronger weapon than military force itself!

One of IO's main tasks is to show the citizens of BiH that they too can become part of the EU, and that multi ethnicity is necessary to reach this goal. Since young people are the future of any country, IO, along with the EU organizations in BiH, see

them as a major target audience. The youth are the future politicians, the future teachers, the future members of the armed forces and if they can work together for a safe and secure BiH then in due course when the political and security situation is appropriate there will no longer be a need for EUFOR's presence in BiH.

To reach the youth of BiH with this message we need to use all possible ways of communicating with them directly and indirectly. Our TEME magazine, our FACEBOOK profile and YOU TUBE are direct ways of communicating with the youth. The events we organise, like the EUFOR Cup (soccer competition) and the EUFOR School's Competition, are indirect ways of communication. With these events we attract the attention of the youth and we get chil-

dren from different backgrounds to come together in fun and competition. Through our FACEBOOK profiles we can see that even after the competitions the children often stay in contact with each other. In order to promote EUFOR and our events we produce promotional items, posters, calendars, leaflets etc. EUFOR's major success is its ability to attract major support from the international community and organisations – the English Premier League being one such supporter. This success is down to a lot of individual work by COM EUFOR and the IO team.

In order to reach as many people as possible with our messages we cover all events that we organize with our own camera, editing and print team. Through hard work and excellent personal contacts in the BiH media we get a lot of donated broadcast time

for our events on national media.

What I have just described is the 'tip of the iceberg' and barely touches all of the activities that we are involved in. There is, of course, much more work that we conduct such as covering COM EUFOR's activities, conducting surveys and assisting other EU organisations. Not forgetting our major campaigns that are run 3 or 4 times each year. These involve TV coverage and many of you will have seen EUFOR advertising on billboards around BiH.

Normally such an amount of work would be done by event

managers, script writers, producers, camera men, audio specialists, video editors, archivist, graphic designers, photographers, print specialist, journalist, editors, technical specialists, web editors, survey organisations, target audience analysts, communication specialists, Public Relations managers, etc , etc . Within IO all this work is carried out by our Chief, 2 military and 6 Locally Hired Civilians. Each and every one is a specialist in his or her own field and contributes to form an outstanding team. All we achieve is only made possible by the continued hard work, dedication and commitment, regularly outside of normal hours, of the highly experienced local members of the team.

As you can see it is not always about size and in this case a small branch carries a lot of fire power!

**By Captain Maria Van Beurden**



# MNBN provides training in support of the War Crimes Justice Project

A team of local judges and prosecutors who are currently receiving specific on-the-job training through an OSCE sponsored education programme, under the context of Professional Development, visited EUFOR on 13 April 2011. The aim of the training, conducted by Lt Col Bernd Rott, was to help them to better understand the role of a military commander in a conflict situation. The War Crimes Justice Project is funded by the European Union and carried out by the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in partnership with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI) as well as the OSCE field operations in the region.

The Project aims to enhance the capacity of judiciaries in South-Eastern Europe to handle war crimes trials in an effective and fair manner, consistent with the highest international standards of due process. The project provides training and support to these staff members throughout the life of the project, with the goal that they continue to work within domestic institutions on war crimes issues long after the project's end.



The judges and prosecutors are faced with processing war crimes cases, from troops committing crimes on the ground to those that have command responsibility for subordinates who are alleged to have committed war crimes. The nature of their caseload is such that it bears social, political, and juridical imperatives that make it particularly vital that cases are adjudicated in line with international standards. When alleged perpetrators include persons who are not believed to have been involved directly in the physical perpetration of the underlying acts, for instance, where command responsibilities, ordering, or some other form of complicity is at issue, difficulties may arise.

Therefore the training pro-

vided by the Commander of the Multinational Battalion, who not only is in a command function but also has vast experience in the field of practical implementation of the rules of engagement and related topics, was very useful to help them in understanding the role of commanders and the situations they face during conflict. After a theoretical lecture, it was planned to put the judges in the driver's seat and to challenge them to make crucial decisions regarding the appropriate use of force i.e. based on information coming in via radio communications from squad to company level. Unfortunately due to the bad weather that day, with freezing temperatures and snow, the weather didn't permit for a lengthy training period. Howev-



er, there was enough time for the judges to realize, how difficult it can be for a commander to make decisions that might decide over life or death within a very limited amount of time and potentially limited information.

"This project is a key element in the transfer of responsibility for war crimes cases from the ICTY to national judiciaries. It is essentially about national ownership and capacity building – in the context of European integration", said Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, Director of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

Since its establishment in 1993, the ICTY has been the primary body responsible for trying persons indicted for serious violations of international humanitarian law committed

during the armed conflicts in the region of the former Yugoslavia in the 1990s. The Tribunal has played a pioneering role in the development of international criminal justice and has become a unique repository of institutional knowledge and specialised

skills. It has also generated a massive amount of evidence and legal documentation concerning the atrocities committed in the region.

The ICTY is no longer opening new cases, and it is expected to finish its ongoing proceedings by the end of 2014. The Tribunal was never intended to be able to prosecute all those alleged to have committed atrocities during the conflicts and, since 2003 it has been implementing its completion strategy. Part of this strategy involves the transfer of low- and mid-level cases, as well as case files, back to countries in the region and a commitment to assist institutions in national jurisdictions in the conduct of those proceedings.

**By Captain Otmar Lindner**



# Developments in Libya: an overview of the EU's response

## Overview of the missions and operations of the European Union April 2011

**Civilian missions: ongoing/completed**

**Military operations: ongoing/completed**

"Strengths take into account international and local staff"



Foreign affairs ministers meeting on 12 April called for an immediate ceasefire and respect for human rights in Libya. Those working within the regime face a choice: to continue to associate

themselves with the brutal repression of Colonel Gaddafi or to work for an orderly transition to democracy.

The humanitarian situation in the country and on its borders

gives cause for deep concern. There is a serious risk that conditions will deteriorate further due to displacements and migrations, if the conflict continues. The preparation of operation

"EUFOR Libya" to support humanitarian assistance in the region is well under way and will be launched, if requested by the UN.

Faced with rising numbers of refugees arriving on its southern shores, the EU is ready to show concrete solidarity with the member states that are most directly affected.

The Council adopted further sanctions against the regime and will continue to deprive Gaddafi's regime completely of all funding derived from oil and gas exports.

Ministers met Mr. Mahmud Jibril from the opposition's Transitional National Council for an informal exchange of views.

### **Operation EUFOR LIBYA**

The EU is ready to mount a military operation to provide humanitarian assistance in response to the crisis in Libya. Under a formal decision adopted on 1 April 2011, the Council created the legal framework for "Operation EUFOR LIBYA", which would be launched at the request of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) in order to "contribute to the safe movement and evacuation of displaced persons and support humanitarian agencies in their activities in the region".

EUFOR LIBYA, an EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) operation, would support the mandates of UN Security Council Resolutions 1970 and 1973. It has an Italian commander, Rear-Admiral Claudio Gaudiosi, and its operational headquarters is in Rome, Italy. It



has a budget of EUR 7.9 million and would operate for an initial period of four months.

### **London Conference on Libya - International contact group**

The EU is committed to working with the international community for a democratic transition in Libya. It is a member of the international contact group established at the London Conference Libya on 29 March, along with key partners including the United Nations, the African Union, the Arab League, and EU Member States.

### **European Council of 24 - 25 March**

The spring European summit restated the EU's position, set by the extraordinary European Council on Libya and the Southern Neighbourhood of 11 March: Colonel Gaddafi must relinquish power immediately, and Libya must embark on a political transition, led by the Libyans themselves. The EU stands ready to assist a new Libya economically,

and in the building of its new institutions, in cooperation with the Arab League, the African Union and the United Nations.

The European Council of 24-25 March stated the EU's readiness to impose further sanctions on Libya, following those already adopted to implement the measures under UNSC resolutions 1970 and 1973. Additional EU sanctions would, the European Council said, ensure that oil and gas revenues do not reach the Gaddafi regime. Member states will also make similar proposals to the UN Security Council.

On 23 March, the Hungarian Minister for Foreign Affairs, János Martonyi, and Commissioner Cecilia Malmström had discussions in Cairo with the Egyptian government and representatives of the Libyan National Council.

On 22 March Mr Martonyi visited the Egyptian-Libyan border at Salloum and received first-hand reports of the situation from local authorities and NGOs.

By CSDP

Dear Readers of EUFOR Magazine,

I am 1st Lt Selçuk Gün. I joined EUFOR as a Platoon Commander in the Turkish Company. In my article, I will tell you more about myself and my experiences in order to provide a clear understanding of my thoughts.

After having finished the Military High School and Turkish Military Academy, I started my military career as a Mechanized Infantry Platoon Commander in Istanbul. I then had the opportunity to participate in various Peace Force exercises (both LIVEX and CPX) as Peace Force Team Commander, S-1, S-3, assistant of G-3 etc. During my mission in Istanbul, my battalion was assigned as NRF (NATO Response Force) and SRF (Strategic Reserve Force), each for 6 months. I also had the opportunity to attend group training in Charalitza, Bulgaria supporting the Bulgarian Armed Forces' efforts to qualify for mission readiness.

After 2 years in Mechanized Warfare and Peace Force operations, I then attended CSAR training. I have to admit that I am very proud of qualifying for CSAR training. Having finished the CSAR training, I was assigned to the Mountain and Commando Brigade in Hakkari as a Mountain and Commando Platoon Commander.

There, I executed a number of operations against terrorists in the South Eastern part of Turkey. This was a great opportunity for me to test my Commando and CSAR skills altogether. They all have proved to be successful considering that I had



**1st LT Selçuk Gün**

nobody KIA or WIA in my unit for the entire period of two years and some success in neutralizing the terrorists.

During my operations in Hakkari on the South Eastern part of Turkey, I have come across the steepest mountains of my country and also the many beauties of nature. After applying my security measures and checks on my operational bases, I had sufficient time to listen to and to watch the reflections of nature. When you get far away from the city lights then the stars and aerial objects are quite clear, which allows you to witness many shooting stars during the nights. As tradition suggests, I took the chance to make many wishes, including that there should be peace all over the world, during these starfalls. Nature clearly can be a source of inspiration for anyone.

The "soul" of a soldier is crucial for his military success, especially when combined with outstanding training. When it came to choosing a symbol for my platoon, we all liked the motto 'Fast and independent like the Anatolian Tiger'. The Panthera

Tuliana Pardus was believed to be an extinct species since 1974. However, after a snow storm during a dark night, one of my men reported something weird but did not report it on the radio.

Arriving back to the observation post, he told me what he had seen and within seconds I grabbed the ASELSAN Thermal Camera mounted on my Infantry Rifle, and it was unbelievable. There, I witnessed the Panthera Tuliana Pardus, and fortunately I was able to take a photo of the creature that I had been craving to see so desperately. Here I'd like to share with you the thermal photo of this so-called extinct animal and the badge of my commando platoon. Maybe it was the soul of my platoon that was "calling" this rarely found creature ...



Finally, I'd like to express my gratitude for having the chance to participate in the EUFOR mission that is reflecting the values upon which the EU was established in military terms. Here, in Butmir Camp, I have witnessed the cooperation and competition among the troop contributing nations in order to increase the readiness level of EUFOR and maintain the peace in Bosnia Herzegovina. I'd like to finish my story with one wish: May peace and partnership prevail all over the world...

## EUFOR Football Cup Winners return from the United Kingdom

The winners of EUFOR's Football Competition in 2010, Banovići Primary School arrived back from London on 10th April 2011. The competition organized by the EUFOR staff and run in close co-operation with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina saw 192 teams from across the whole country competing for the cup. Banovići Primary School won a close match in the final to claim their prize of a trip to London. A number of prizes were donated by the countries contributing troops to the EUFOR Mission and the local embassies in Sarajevo.

The children have had a busy and very exciting trip in the



United Kingdom. They have toured both the home of English football, Wembley Stadium and Tottenham Hotspur's stadium, White Hart Lane. The young team also got to visit some of the main tourist attractions in London during their stay. This provided them with an insight into how the people of a different European country live and the

opportunities available to them.

The highlight of the visit was their attendance at the Premier League football match between Tottenham Hotspurs and Stoke City as VIP guests on the Saturday afternoon.

Major General Bernhard Bair, COM EUFOR, was at Sarajevo airport to welcome the children back from their trip. He said, "The children are the future of any country and it is fantastic to see children from across the whole of Bosnia and Herzegovina coming together to play sport against each other and at the same time having a lot of fun and making new friends."

**By Lt Cdr Mark Frost**

## EUFOR focuses on Health Issues on World Health Day

World Health Day provided EUFOR with a unique opportunity for all the medical professionals on Camp Butmir to come together to focus on health issues in BiH and to promote actions that can improve health in the Mission area and beyond. Major General Bernhard Bair, COM EUFOR thanked the doctors and their medical staff for their ongoing work and co-operation, in this multinational environment.

Under the guidance of the Force Medical Officer, LTC Dr



Angel Peev (BUL) the multi-national team of EUFOR doctors carefully assess their patients and only prescribe a medicine if it is deemed really necessary. In this way, they ensure that medicines, such as antibiotics, are not over used and drug re-

sistances developed.

World Health Day is celebrated every year on 7 April, under the sponsorship of the World Health Organization (WHO). This year's World Health Day will draw worldwide attention to the need to combat drug resistance. The aim of the WHO is to save lives and protect health by showing the value of medicines and what can be done to maintain the effectiveness of existing medicines and develop new ones.

**By Lt Cdr Mark Frost**



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[www.euforbih.org](http://www.euforbih.org)



skolskotakmicenje@gmail.com



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