

A large black and white photograph of a helicopter in flight, viewed from below and slightly to the side. The helicopter is carrying a large red bucket suspended by a cable from its rear hook. It is positioned above a dense forest that is engulfed in flames, with thick smoke billowing upwards. In the foreground, a man in a dark uniform and headphones stands on a rocky bank of a river, looking towards the burning forest. The scene conveys a sense of emergency and environmental impact.

Edition #78, August/September 2012

# EUFOR forum



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**EUFOR**  
Helicopter  
Deployed  
to Fight  
Wild Fires  
in BiH

Memorandum of Understanding  
Between  
The European Union Special Representative  
for Bosnia and Herzegovina  
And  
The European Union Force  
Regarding  
The Sharing of Information and Assets



Ambassador Peter SØRENSEN  
EU Special Representative  
for Bosnia and Herzegovina

Dated: 10.07.12

Robert BRIEGER  
Major General, Austrian Army  
Commander EUFOR

Dated: 29 06 12

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EUFOR Helicopter Deployed to Fight Wild Fires in BiH

## EUFOR FORUM

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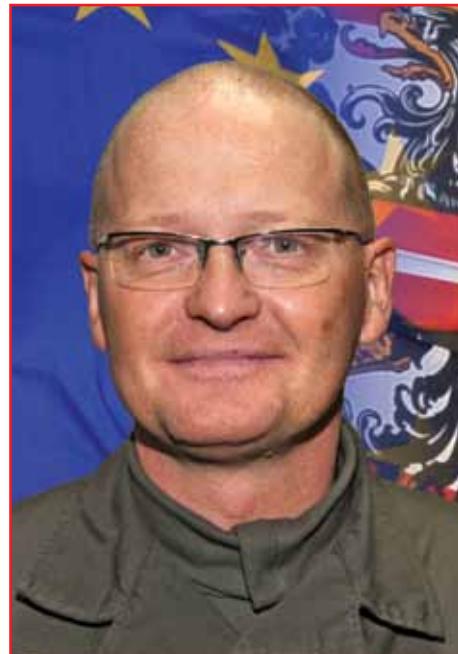
Printed in:

**Regraphics & Courier Service  
(HQ EUFOR)**

Dear All,

*Since the end of November 2011 I'm working as chief public affairs office in HQ EUFOR in Sarajevo. In these last nine months many changes have taken place in the Althea mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina and we are still facing new ones. In springtime EUFOR supported the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina during the snow chaos and in the last few weeks our helicopter crews were fighting against the wild fires side by side with the AFBiH and the local community. In the personnel structure of EUFOR Althea there is a reduction in troop numbers. In September we will have less people in Camp Butmir but EUFOR will be supported through the new concept of the intermediate reserve forces. We are continuing to work together with the AFBiH in Capacity Building and Training and this autumn we will run for the last time the EUFOR CUP (a soccer competition on BiH) with EUFOR in lead. From next year it is planned that EUSR/EU Delegation will take over the School competition (A drawing, painting, and project related event for children from 6 – 18 years old) and the EUFOR Cup. Inside the EUFORUM you will also find the signed MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between the EUSR (European Union Special Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina) and the EUFOR (European Union Force) regarding the sharing of information and assets and of course the signatures of the heads of this two organizations.*

*On the 16th of September at 09:00hrs there is the start for the Sarajevo half marathon and I invite you to run with me and enjoy the 21 km route in the city. Just 30 minutes before the official start all the EUFOR runners are invited to be at the starting line to have a common photo.*



**Lt Col Knut Scheutz**  
Chief Public Affairs Office  
EUFOR HQ  
Sarajevo

# EUFOR Helicopter Deployed to Fight Wild Fires in BiH



A EUFOR helicopter was in action for over 5 hours today fighting wild fires in the Konjic region.

An Alouette III helicopter flew a series of flights each time dropping 500 litres of water on forest fires in the mountainous area of Spiljani. Taking around 5 minutes to refill the water system from the nearby river Neretva, it is estimated that over 25,000 litres of water have been dropped in approximately 50 flights. The helicopter was in constant use from 0900 to 1400 hrs, stopping only brief-

ly for a crew change.

The deployment of the EUFOR helicopter comes after a request on 17 July 2012 from Mr Sadik Ahmetovic, Minister of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, for EUFOR assistance in fighting the wild fires. Following a reconnaissance flight yesterday morning, the EUFOR helicopter commenced the first fire fighting flights later on that afternoon.

The Commander of EUFOR, Major General Robert Brieger said: "I am acutely aware of the difficulties that the wild fires are causing the

local communities and the authorities across Bosnia and Herzegovina. Although EUFOR currently possesses limited fire fighting assets which are used primarily within Camp Butmir, EUFOR will continue to support the fire fighting effort in the best way that we can."

He added: "I sincerely hope that the EUFOR helicopter proves effective; and that the wild fires affecting Bosnia and Herzegovina are brought under control and extinguished as quickly as possible."

**Lt Cdr David Collins RN**



**On 8 August 2012**, EUFOR received a request from the BiH Ministry of Security seeking assistance in fighting wild fires in BiH.

Brigadier General Ernő Péter Siposs, the acting head of EUFOR said:

"EUFOR possesses limited fire fighting equipment which is designed mainly for use within Camp Butmir. However, we will assist the BiH authorities within our means and capabilities to help them bring the wild fires under control."

**On 09 August 2012** EUFOR assessed the geographical extent of wild fires in southern BiH from the air. This information was passed onto the Ministry of Security in order to enhance their situational awareness and assist in co-ordinating fire fighting efforts.

EUFOR has also deployed a single helicopter fitted with its airborne specialist fire fighting equipment to the KONJIC area **on Friday 10, Saturday 11 and Monday 13 August**.

During the three days the EUFOR helicopters dropped over 35,000 litres of water in over 70 separate lifts. An Alouette III helicopter dropped approximately 14,000 litres of water in 28 lifts on Friday and approximately 10,000 litres of water in 20 lifts on Saturday. On Monday an AB212 helicopter was used to drop approximately 11,500 litres of water in 23 lifts.



## Commander of Swiss Land Forces Visits EUFOR



On 2nd August 2012, Brigadier General Ernő Péter Siposs, the EUFOR Chief of Staff, welcomed Lieutenant General Dominique Andrey, the Commander of the Swiss Land Forces, to Camp Butmir.

During an office call, Brigadier General Siposs apprised General Andrey of recent EUFOR activities including the valuable contribution that the Swiss soldiers are making in maintaining the safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The EUFOR Chief of staff thanked General Andrey for Switzerland's continuing support to Operation Althea and praised the Swiss soldiers for their dedication and professionalism.

Switzerland is one of several non European Union countries that contribute troops to the EUFOR mission. Currently Switzerland is providing 19 personnel to EUFOR, the majority of which make up the Liaison Observation Teams in Mostar and Trebinje. Other Swiss soldiers are currently working in the Regional Co-ordination Centre (South) in Sarajevo and in the EUFOR HQ at Camp Butmir.

On what is Switzerland's national day, General Andrey went on to meet Major Ruben Begert, Switzerland's senior national representative in EUFOR and the other soldiers from the Swiss contingent.

**Lt Cdr David Collins**

## Visit to Swiss Team at Trebinje



Major General Robert Brieger, the Commander of EUFOR and the Swiss Ambassador, His Excellency Dr. André Schaller visited the Swiss Liaison Observation Team (LOT) at Trebinje on 2 July 2012.

The purpose of the visit was to meet the Swiss soldiers and receive an update on recent LOT house activities in the area. Switzerland is one of several non European Union countries that contribute personnel to the EUFOR mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Currently Switzerland is providing approximately 20 personnel to EUFOR in variety of roles in Trebinje, Mostar and Sarajevo.

Major General Brieger thanked Dr. Schaller for Switzerland's ongoing support to Operation Althea and went on to praise the Swiss soldiers and their local interpreters for their hard work and professionalism. The General added that he was particularly impressed with the positive and the constructive relationships that had been cultivated between the LOT personnel and the local communities in the Trebinje region.

Major General Brieger and Dr. Schaller also called upon the Mayor of Trebinje, Dr. Dobroslav Ćuk. Together with a number of local dignitaries, they discussed a range of issues including tourism and how EUFOR can continue to support the local community. Major General Brieger spoke of the ongoing capacity building and training that EUFOR is providing to the Armed Forces of BiH.

**Lt Cdr David Collins**

## Austrian Deputy Chief of Defence visits EUFOR Headquarters



Lieutenant General Othmar Commenda, the Austrian Deputy Chief of Defence, was welcomed to Camp Butmir by his compatriot Major General Robert Brieger, the Commander of EUFOR on 18 July. His arrival for the two day visit was formally marked by an Honour Guard comprising soldiers from all 24 troop contributing nations.

During a busy programme, Lieutenant General Commenda visited the 6th Brigade of the Armed Forces BiH near Banja Luka. After being briefed on EUFOR's approach to training and building capacity of the Armed Forces BiH, Lieutenant General took the opportunity to watch a EUFOR Embedded Training Team working with BiH troops.

During an Office Call, Major General Brieger briefed Lieutenant General Commenda on the current situation in BiH and the status of the EUFOR mission. They engaged in a wide ranging set of discussions about EUFOR's role as the military component of the overarching European Security and Defence Policy mission in BiH.

As the largest troop contributing nation to Op Althea the Austrian soldiers were pleased to meet Lieutenant General Commenda. In addition to Major General Brieger, Austrian personnel are currently fulfilling a number of other important functions that support the EUFOR mission. These include key command advisory roles, support to air operations and engagement with local communities through the Liaison and Observation Teams in Bratunac, Tuzla, Brcko as well as the Regional Co-ordination Centre in Banja Luka. In addition, Austria also provides a company of troops for the Multinational Battalion. Praising the professionalism of the Austrian troops, Lieutenant General Commenda re-iterated Austria's commitment to BiH.

**Lt Cdr David Collins**

## VIP Delegation at the LOT-House Bratunac



From left to right: GBR Ambassador to BiH Casey, Cdr LOT Bratunac Maj Arlitzer, Cdr NATO HQ Sarajevo Brigadier Gen. Lord.

On the 11th of July 2012 the annual commemoration and reburial for the Srebrenica genocide victims of July 1995 took place at the Potocari Memorial Centre and Cemetery. More than 30,000 people attended the ceremony as well as national and international political officials and representatives of the International Community in BiH.

After the event LOT Bratunac had the honour to host a VIP delegation in the LOT house. COM EUFOR Major General Robert BRIEGER welcomed the European Union Special Representative Ambassador Peter SØRENSEN, the British Ambassador in BiH Nigel CASEY and Commander of the NATO Headquarters Sarajevo Brigadier General Walter T. LORD. The guests used the opportunity to refresh themselves, discuss the commemoration in Potocari and update themselves about other events in Srebrenica. The VIP delegation enjoyed the atmosphere and thanked for the opportunity to visit LOT Bratunac.

**Maj Andreas Arlitzer**

## Joint Training with AF BiH at Zenica



Between 25-29 June 2012 Austrian troops from the multinational battalion went to Zenica for a joint training exercise with platoons from AF BiH.

Initially training was undertaken in station drill procedures covering the following activities: temporary check-

point, contact drill, barma-drill (searching for IEDs close to vehicles) and finally crowd control.

Training teams then went to a drill ground near the base at Zenica. Here emphasis was placed on conducting correct actions in different situations, for example, enemy contact

whilst patrolling and reacting to changes during crowd control.

All the participants successfully completed the week whilst also strengthening relationships with other platoon members.

**Maj Alexander Kogard**



## EUFOR 8KM Trebevic Race

Fifty five personnel from the EUFOR HQ, Multi-National Battalion and Hungarian National Support Element took part in a 8km running race at Trebevic on 15 June 2012. All the competitors, 49 male and 6 female, successfully completed the race.

Congratulations go to the fastest male Roman Widlak in a time of 41'40" and the fastest female Luczné Magoňy Mária Szakaszvezető in a time of 1:01'34".

Everyone was particularly grateful to Captain Szekacs from the Hungarian Company for organising the event.

**Lt Cdr David Collins**



# Wild Fire



EUFOR  
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# Operations in BiH



## Skills Competition of MNBN

On the 29th of June 2012 the Turkish Contingent conducted a Skills Competition for the MNBN in Camp Butmir around the gym. It consisted of four sports branches: grenade throwing, penalty shot-out, tire throwing and bomb running.

The main purpose of the Skills Competition was to get people together from different nations and to provide challenges for the participants in various sporting challenges. During the opening ceremony the participants were addressed by Colonel Ünsal SIĞRI (DCOS Capacity Building and Training) who praised the MNBN for their recent work and wished all competitors good luck for the upcoming events

A total of 18 teams from HQ EUFOR, HQ MNBN, ReconPlt, T –Coy, A – Coy, H-Coy, IPU and TURNSE took part in the Skills Competition. Each team consisted of six people with four actively participating in the single events. The announcer of during the Skills Competition was Captain Aydin OZDEN and he commented and motivated during the event.

During the Skills Competition all participants tried to do their best. Nevertheless, especially for the penalty shot-out, there were some disappointing moments. Many teams realised that the penalty shot-



out is not as easy as it seems on sports channel!

The most challenging activity was bomb running, sprints and stops that covered a total distance of 300m. It was particularly hard, aerobically challenging and ultimately very tiring and also new experience for many of the participants. Although it looked easy

many participants found it to be near excruciating - just the right thing for tough soldiers.

After the Skill Competition, an award ceremony was held in the Millennium Bar. During the award ceremony participants enjoyed the delicious food, crisps and a wide variety of liquid refreshments.

**Burcin ONE OF 2 PIO MNBN**



## The Turkish Company in the Multinational Battalion Of EUFOR



The Turkish Company have been part of the Peace Support Operation since 1995 in Sarajevo and are currently commanded by Captain Mustafa PAMUK.

The company consists of one headquarter,

three infantry platoons and attached EOD and Maintenance teams. Totaly it includes 85 personnel.

The company consists of personnel assigned from Turkish Land, Air and Naval Forces.

### T-COY Commander

Captain Mustafa PAMUK was born in 1980 in Mersin (Turkey). He always wanted to be a soldier and entered Maltepe Military High School in İzmir.

After graduation from military high school he attended to Turkish Military Academy in Ankara for 4 years, spending much of his time practising shooting and developing basic infantry skills. When he was senior cadet in academy he selected infantry branch. In 2002 he graduated from Military Academy as a 2nd Lieutenant.

After graduation he worked for two years in 6th Border Battalion near Turkey-Georgia

border. After this he worked for two years in North Cyprus Turkish Peace Forces as a Anti-Tank Platoon Leader. He was then appointed as a HQ Commandant Platoon Leader in 55th Mechanized Infantry Brigade for two years in Kırklareli and subsequently as a Anti-Tank Company Commander in the same Garrison.

In 2010 he started a new mission on Domestic Safety OPs as Company Commander in Southeastern of Turkey. When he was selected for T-Coy Com in MNBN he was working as a Company Commander in 48th Motorized Infantry Brigade in Hakkari.

**Burçin ONEİ OF 2 PIO MNBN**



## Macedonian Contribution to EUFOR

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (MKD) has been contributing troops to Op Althea since 2006. Currently Macedonian troops run the Medical Centre in Camp Butmir.

Colonel Doctor Dushan Stojanovikj leads a team of ten staff who are responsible for providing Role 1 medical support at Camp Butmir. This includes first aid, immediate life saving measures and triage. In addition the Medical Centre also provides regular advice and guidance on healthy eating and the prevention of diseases and non-battle injuries to everyone working at Camp Butmir.

The Medical Centre is well equipped with facilities that include an emergency treatment room, a medical laboratory and two ambulances. In addition to Colonel Stojanovikj and his deputy, Captain Doctor Ana Janevska, the medical team consists of four



medical technicians (nurses), one laboratory technician, one logistician and two ambulance drivers. The team is kept busy with around 300 patients visiting the Centre each month.

The Macedonian team has a great deal of military and medical experience between them – and includes five members who have served in Afghanistan. With a reputation for providing an excellent and friendly service, all the medical staff take great pride

in their work and are enjoying their time in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Colonel Stojanovikj explains:

“I am very pleased to be here in Camp Butmir, it is my dream because as a doctor it's my job to help people. The best part of the job for me is that I meet so many people from different countries and cultures. That makes the job really enjoyable.”

Captain Ana Janevska adds: “The opportunity to work with patients from 24 nationalities and experience their different cultures is very interesting.”

Captain Zaklina Antevska sums up perfectly the team's views: “It is good to be working with EUFOR since we are part of Europe. We are very proud to be contributing to the EUFOR mission.”

The Macedonian contingent also contributes an As-



sistant Legal Advisor within the HQ EUFOR Legad office – the post is currently being filled by Captain Blerim Balanca.

Declared as an independent state in 1991, MKD's initial contribution to EU operations in July 2006 was a helicopter detachment which consisted of two Mi-8/17 helicopters with 21 people. November 2006 saw Macedonia send its first medical team to Camp Butmir.

Tragedy struck on 12 January 2008 when a helicopter returning from OP Althea crashed near Skopje, killing eleven soldiers from the Macedonian Army.

MKD's enduring contribution to Op Althea is a clear sign of its strong commitment to both regional and international security and peace support operations. It has been a candidate for joining the European Union since 2005 and is also an applicant for NATO membership. The current medical team is due to stay until November when they will be replaced by a new Macedonian team.

**By Lieutenant Commander David Collins, Royal Navy**



**The Medical Team (left to Right): OR-3 Burim Haziri (driver), OR-5 Gazi Abdii (laboratory technician), OF-2 Ana Janevska (deputy leader and physician), OF-5 Colonel Dushan Stojanovikj (leader and physician), OF-2 Zaklina Antevska (logistic officer), OR-6 Ijorin Djeljilji (medical technician), OR-5 Sanja Atanasova (medical technician) and OR-5 Biljana Sokolovska (medical technician).**

## Ten Interesting Facts about Macedonia

- The first railway in the Balkans was built in the 19th century between Salonica and Skopje.
- Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu more commonly known as Mother Theresa was born in Skopje on 26 August 1910.
- In 1905 two brothers, Milton and Janaki Manaki, shot the first filmed material in the Balkans in their native town of Bitola.
- Macedonian wineries produce more than 135 million litres of wine and over 150 million litres of natural brandy, while the breweries produce about 850 million litres of beer.
- MKD has 34 mountain peaks exceeding 2,000 meters. The highest is Mount Golem Korab which is 2,753 meters above sea level.
- More than half population (58.1%) live in urban areas, most of them in the capital, Skopje (c450,000).
- According to Gallup International, MKD is the most religious country in Europe with 90% of people polled saying they are religious.
- Ohrid is a city on the eastern shore of Lake Ohrid and is notable for having once had 365 churches, one for each day of the year.
- According to a 2002 census 64% of its population are Macedonian, 25% Albanian, 4% Turkish, 3% Roma, 2%, Serbian, 0.5% Bosniaks and 0.5% Vlachs.
- According to some scholars the beginnings of the Renaissance can be traced back to a fresco in Skopje known as "The Lamentation of Christ" which was painted in 1164 and is the earliest depiction of emotions on the faces of the virgin Mary and other figures.

# “Spiderman” in action at EUFOR ALTHEA

“Hello EUFOR Joint Operations Centre (JOC) ... I'm an Austrian soldier and while on a reconnaissance mission, my comrade got seriously injured when he stepped on an anti-personnel mine some 300m north of the football soccer field at Malo Polje cross country skiing area on the Igman mountain ... please come ... we need your help and assistance immediately!”

This single piece of information transmitted to the EUFOR JOC triggered a series of reactions and coordination efforts within EUFOR HQ, particularly within the JOC, Troop Contributing Nations (TCN), National Seniors and the sub-ordinate branches and sections such as the Capacity Building & Training (CB&T); JMA (Joint Military Affairs) with their Countermines Section (CM) since every second counts in such a serious mine related incident.

Further details during the initial emergency call were requested from the JOC Operator such as the number of injured persons, condition of the injured soldier, approx. grid references, distance from HQ Sarajevo, obstacles and any important visual reference points or significant landmarks on the nearby terrain in the country for the arriving helicopter MEDEVAC crews.

So EUFOR JOC is having a busy time in order to make



an accurate and timely evaluation of the situation in order to task to EUFOR EOD team and enable all involved subordinates to proceed according to their tasks. Simultaneously, JMA Countermines provides the deploying EOD Team and MEDEVAC Crew with a mine risk-assessment of the incident area and support the decision making process of the JOC.

Eight minutes after receiving the initial request for MEDEVAC, the JOC was able to provide substantial and vital/high valuable information simultaneously to the Austrian MEDEVAC Team at “ARCHER Base” and to the Austrian EOD Team for imminent action.

This time the setup of the above mentioned particular scenario was just an EXERCISE including preceding regular “Spiderman” (name association derived from the helicopter winch-cable rescue technique) training. However

the exercise was designed and aimed to create a more comprehensive understanding within the EUFOR HQ Structure & Chain of Command System. There is a need for a definite and comprehensive evaluation process (cooperation & coordination) of all involved branches and sections. Furthermore it is necessary to keep the information flow and related actions on a high pace in order to save lives.

Just 35 minutes upon reception of the initial MEDEVAC call to the EUFOR JOC, the Austrian MEDEVAC Helicopter, an Alouette III arrived at the scene. MEDEVAC Missions usually use this type of helicopter. In addition to a single pilot the Alouette III will carry a winch operator and an engineer/Medical Assistant. The tactical radius for the Alouette III is 120 nautical miles (~ 222 km) at a cruise speed of 90 KTS (knots = 165 km/h).

At EUFOR ALTHEA there

are currently a total 5 helicopters (2 x Bell 212 and 3 x Alouette III) deployed from Austria. Two helicopters are always available for tasking and one of each helicopter type is held in reserve.

Next to the accident scene, the Austrian Alouette III chopper accompanied by a second Bell 212 support helicopter carried the AUT EOD Team (total: 5 EOD specialists) with their entire 150 kg EOD equipment landed briefly for a last fact finding and orientation and safety briefing. Finally the "Spiderman" was flown on the winch to the nearby accident scene. All in all the "Spiderman" was able in just 6 minutes, after rendering first aid, rescue the injured Austrian Soldier out of the dangerous contaminated mine area and to hand over the responsibility to the MEDEVAC Doctor for further treatment for stabilization and air transport to the next medical facility.

JMA (Joint Military Affairs) as one of the CB&T Division Branches consists among specialists for Movement, Arms & Ammunition Control, Defence Industry Factory Inspector, Weapon Storage Site (WSS) & Ammunition Storage Site (ASS) Management Officers, also by the Countermeine Section with the Mine Information and Coordination Cell (MICC), all of them located at Camp Butmir.

While the JMA Mission is based on the execution of a se-



ries of tasks on contributing to the maintenance of sustained stability (Monitor-Assist-Advise-Train the parties in BiH/Building on capacity) in Bosnia and Herzegovina where the achievements of this branch are directly linked to the OP ALTHEA's end state, the Countermines Section within this framework, deals with demining operations by the Armed Forces. The legal basis for the JMA's Mission and Tasks derives from the Dayton Peace Agreement (General Framework Agreement to Peace – GFAP) and the Instructions to the Parties (ITP).

For EUFOR, the CB&T JMA Countermines (CM) Section is the focal point for all EOD/IED Disposal (IEDD) related matters and is usually consulted via the chain of command before any EOD/IEDD action is taken by EUFOR or MNBN EOD assets. It will contribute to all operational planning with a risk assessment related to UXO contamination.

In terms of EUFOR EOD

Team capabilities, EUFOR covers its EOD needs with three different EUFOR EOD Teams:

- COMEUFOR EOD Asset: One ALB (Albanian) EOD Team which is under direct Command of COMEUFOR. This ALB Team is to be tasked for all EUFOR related EOD and IEDD responses via Ops Division.

- National EOD Assets: One AUT and TUR EOD Team under national command and control to fulfill national tasks and requirements.

- Reinforcement (Rft) EOD Assets: An EOD Team, if deployed in theater, under the direct command of the Rft Commander and to be tasked primarily for all Rft EOD and IEDD response and secondly for all EUFOR related EOD and IEDD matters.

Besides the EUFOR EOD assets other authorities or assets such as the BiHMAC for the Humanitarian Demining and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) Disposal, the AF BiH and the BiH CPA (Civil Protection Agency) with some 14 civilian EOD Teams are deployed in BiH.

Given the circumstances and favorable prevailing weather conditions the EOD rescue and evacuation system named "Spiderman" is an excellent tool for mine victims who need instantly medical assistance even out of remote areas.

**Maj. Helmut LEOPOLD,  
CB&T Joint Military Affairs**

In this article Major László UJHÁZY from the Policy and Plans Branch at EUFOR elaborates on how new force structures have emerged after the Cold War that were more multinational in character than any other force structure before. This “combined-ness” made interoperability – in particular human interoperability – a key factor.

In supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina’s move towards Euro-Atlantic integration through, among other things, capacity-building and training of their Armed Forces, human interoperability gains special importance.

## New Force Structures – Human Interoperability – Capacity-Building and Training

To meet the complex, new challenges, of the post Cold War security environment, the emergence of smaller, but diverse and unpredictable threats to peace and stability, new and more flexible force structures were required. A perfect example of this approach was the Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) concept which was inspired by experience gained during the First Gulf War and NATO operations in the Balkans. The CJTF concept was initiated in 1993 and its foundations were laid by NATO Heads of State and Government at their Brussels Summit in January 1994. They tasked the Alliance to examine how its political and military structures and procedures could be developed and adapted to conduct its missions, including peacekeeping, more efficiently and



Capacity building and training with AF BiH

flexibly, as well as to improve cooperation with the Western European Union and to reflect the emerging European Security and Defence Identity. As part of that process, they endorsed the development of a CJTF concept as a means to facilitate contingency operations, including operations with nations outside the Alliance in situations not related to collective defence. One of the main features of the CJTF concept is its “combined-ness”, its multinational character, the fact that not only NATO member states, but also (non-NATO)

allies can participate in NATO-led operations. In this new situation, the human element of interoperability – human interoperability has become a top priority. The same refers to EU operations; I need only mention that currently there are 24 nations contributing to EUFOR.

Emphasis on human interoperability is by no means a new phenomenon. Armed Forces of various nations had been fighting side by side for a long time, but this level of cooperation started after the Second World War with the first United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations (1948-1949). NATO members also started to achieve interoperability through decades of joint planning, training and exercises since

1949, when the Organisation was brought about, but as the Alliance launched the Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme and the Mediterranean Dialogue in 1994 and started a new enlargement policy resulting in the full membership of 12 new (former PfP) countries, more attention was paid to this issue.

Interoperability refers to the ability of different military organisations to conduct joint operations. These organisations can be of different nationalities or different services (land, maritime and air) or both. Human interoperability means that forces, units or systems can operate together. This does not necessarily require common military equipment. It requires them to share common doctrine and procedures, and to be able to communicate with each other. Communication is not only a language issue; it is also about mindset and cross cultural interoperability.

Our operation is part of the EU's comprehensive approach to support Bosnia and Herzegovina's move towards Euro-Atlantic integration. As a part of this mission we are also tasked to support the country's Armed Forces in the areas of capacity-building and training. A key element to this is human interoperability.

**Maj László Ujházy, PhD**

## Skills Competition Camp Butmir 04 August 2012



Every second is important.



Strong men.



Together and precise.



2012 16 09

# SARAJEVO HALF MARATHON & FUN RUN

START /FINISH  
BBI Center  
at 9AM



Grad Sarajevo