

EUFOR forum



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29 Apr 2013

Dear Dieter,

I write to thank you and congratulate you on an outstandingly successful operation rehearsal last week. The exercise achieved everything I wanted, and more, and its success is very much down to your personal leadership and example. I am hugely grateful to you personally for everything. There is no question that the events of last week will have had a strategic effect in demonstrating the validity of our concept of operations and the EU's ability to reinforce BiH if required. On top of this the second and third order impacts on the capacity of the BiH Armed Forces will, I am certain, be significant. The BiH company performed very credibly and I am hugely grateful to Lt Col Steingresz, CO MN Bn for integrating companies from Austria, Hungary, Turkey, BiH and the UK so successfully.

Thank you too for a superb visit in every respect. The programme was exceptionally well put together in allowing me time for meetings with key interlocutors in Sarajevo, time to see soldiers and visit the exercise plus catch up time for reflection with my staff. Above all, it was a pleasure to spend some time with you and your team. Final thanks go to József Szpisják, your very impressive COS, as well as your outer office team, Michael, Frank, Rosche, Monika and WO's Obwaller and Jauk who looked after us all so well.

I look forward to seeing you in October.

*Yours ever,
 Richard*

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Dear Readers,

A very busy two months have passed since the last edition of this FORUM and we were all able to witness quite exciting moments during this time. The highlight, without question, was EUFOR Exercise Quick Response 2013 which followed a very comprehensive planning phase and swung into full action with the arrival of troops from Hungary and the United Kingdom.

What followed was a potent demonstration of military skill, which proved EUFOR's

ability to successfully deploy and integrate 2 out of the companies normally held at readiness within its Intermediate Reserves Forces. During the first part of the exercise, the troops trained together with soldiers from the Multi-national Battalion under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Alfred STEINGRESZ. The second part of the exercise focused on integrated training and capacity building with the incorporation of a full company and key elements of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF BiH).

The exercise culminated in an impressive display of combined military capability to distinguished visitors at PAZARIC Barracks on 25 Apr 13. This event was opened by a Press Conference by General Sir Richard SHIRREFF, Operation Commander Operation Althea EUFOR and Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Commander EUFOR, Major General Dieter HEIDECKER, and the Chief of the Joint Staff Armed Forces BiH, Major General Anto JELEC, with representatives of all major media outlets of BiH in attendance.

After a briefing about the exercise scenario, conducted by EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General József SZPISJÁK, the EUFOR troops together with a company of the Armed Forces BiH demonstrated their skills in a dynamic display in front of the many high ranking visitors, including BiH Deputy Defence Minister, Mr Mirko OKOLIĆ and Mr Peter SØRENSEN, the EUSR and Head of the European Delegation. The visitors all appeared visibly impressed by what they witnessed throughout the afternoon.

I hope you will all take with you lots of good memories from those challenging yet extremely successful and exciting days and you can all be very proud of your achievements and the professional skills displayed. Each and every one serving of you with EUFOR will have contributed through your work, either directly or in a supporting role, to the positive outcome of the exercise and you should be very proud of your contribution. I'm sure you will keep your personal copy of this edition as a welcome reminder that you were part of the largest and impressive exercise held by EUFOR in recent years.

On behalf of the EUFOR Public Affairs Office, thank you for all your support in this busy period and best wishes for wishes for a successful and safe remainder of your tour of duty here in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Exercise Quick Response

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Change of Command For Multinational Battalion



After six months service in the Bosnia and Herzegovina area of operations, the outgoing Commander of the Multinational Battalion, Colonel Hartmut ÖMER, handed over command at 05 March 2013, to the new commander Lt. Col. Alfred STEINGRESZ.

The Change of Command Ceremony, held in Camp Butmir, was commanded by the Hungarian Deputy Battalion Commander Major Zsolt Penz with many special guests and VIP present.

Handover Ceremony

Deputations from a variety of nations gathered in Camp Butmir to in the presence of the Commander of the EUFOR, Major General Dieter HEIDECKER, who passed the standard of the multinational battalion to its new commander. Since 1996 Austrian soldiers have played a lead role in preserving the peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. A Turkish Infantry Company, Hungarian and Turkish staff officers and NCOs contribute to the

strength of the MNBNA battalion. This is a positive example of successful multinational cooperation which will continue under the new commander.

New Multinational Commander Has Extensive Overseas Command Experience

Lieutenant Colonel Alfred STEINGRESZ comes from Ried in Austria, which is also the base of 13th Infantry Battalion, the military unit, where he has spent much of his military career. As the 13th



Infantry's Deputy Battalion Commander, he had wide-ranging responsibilities for staff working in the battalion and has twice been appointed as a company commander which included command of the Austrian national element (AUTNE) in Kosovo (KFOR). In addition Lt Col STEINGRESZ has participated in numerous national and international exercises working with a wide variety of armed forces of many nations.

STEINGRESZ in his inaugural speech, laid out his leadership principles to which the MNBNA should adhere stating he and his soldiers should: "Fuehren mit Kopf, Herz, Gelassenheit und Humor," which means, "lead with intelligence, heart, toughness and humour "

Farewell and Looking Forward to New Challenges Ahead

The outstanding leadership of the battalion by Lieutenant Colonel ÖMER was emphasized by all speakers and he returned to Austria bearing the best wishes of all present and their congratulation on a job well done.

The new commander for the conduct of the Battalion was warmly welcomed to his new command post and is keenly looking forward to the challenges of the next 6 months and in particular the Operational Rehearsal 2.2 - Exercise Quick Response.

Exercise Quick Response (OPREH 2.2)

Summary of EUFOR Press Conference 1430 on 27 March 2013

In September 2012 the number of troops deployed in EUFOR the EU-led military operation ALTHEA was reduced.

However the public should be reassured that EUFOR retains the capability to support peace and security in BiH.

At the same time, EUFOR has also been focusing its efforts on its mission to strengthen the BiH Armed Forces through a robust capacity building and training program. This is geared to ensure AF BiH continues to develop as a modern armed force at the level required for euro-atlantic integration and that its military personnel have the capacity and skill to deploy and positively contribute to international missions overseas.

Even though the number of EUFOR troops permanently based in BiH has been reduced, the force has been restructured with over-the-horizon troops allowing a rapid surge in numbers, as and when needed. This mechanism makes use of rapid reaction troops stationed outside of the country but at an appropriate state of readiness to deploy to BiH should the need



arise. The public should be reassured that the training and exercising of this enhanced EUFOR force will demonstrate:

- The effective and efficient operation of Intermediate Reserve Forces validating EUFOR's ability to use over the horizon surge forces when and where necessary.
- EUFOR on-going capacity to perform the key military tasks necessary to preserve a safe and secure environment in BiH.
- That Soldiers from AF BiH are approaching the level of professionalism required for successful Euro-Atlantic integration.

Personal Message from COM EUFOR

The aims of the OPREH 2.2 as described in the Press Conference and laid out in our planning documentation were achieved in an impressive fashion.



The OPREH proved, for the first time that the EU can maintain standing reserves, deploy and sustain those reserves and operate, in the EUFOR context, as a multi-

national force. Units from Austria, Hungary, Turkey and the UK tested EUFOR contingency plans before deploying out of Sarajevo for a series of challenging exercises with elements of the AF BiH.

Exercise "QUICK RESPONSE 2013" was the biggest EUFOR exercise within the last 5 years and showed EUFOR and AFBiH training together. A total of approximately 800 per-

sonnel were actively involved in the conduct of this exercise.

I was deeply impressed by what was achieved by the EUFOR team. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks and gratitude to the Chief of Staff, all the HQ EUFOR and support Staff, the Commander of the Multi-national Battalion and all the participating contributing troops – noting particularly the UK and Hungarian companies of the Intermediate Reserve – for all their hard work and efforts in making Exercise Quick Response OPREH 2.2 such a resounding success.

“The Exercise has begun”



(EUFOR/Airport SARAJEVO) On Tuesday the 16th of April 2013 Brigadier General József SZPISJÁK, Chief of Staff EUFOR and member of the Hungarian Army, opened the Media Event after the landing of an ANTONOV airplane at Sarajevo International Airport with the words “The Exercise has begun”.

As part of the deployment of troops for Exercise “QUICK RESPONSE 2013” the ANTONOV aircraft, one of the world’s biggest transport planes, brought 15 vehicles and cargo for the U.K. troops participating in the exercise.

Brigadier General SZPISJÁK explained that

the exercise “QUICK RESPONSE 2013” is the biggest EUFOR exercise in the last 5 years and shows EUFOR and AFBiH training together. EUFOR is focusing its efforts on its mission to strengthen the BiH Armed Forces through a robust capacity building and training program.



Chief Logistic Officer of EUFOR, Wing Commander Odette Hardcastle from the Royal Air Force, briefed that the ANTONOV aircraft can carry loads of up to 80 tons and provides a unique capability to facilitate the quick deployment of troops and cargo.

Opening Ceremony kicks off EUFOR Exercise Quick Response 2013

In order to mark the official start of “Exercise Quick Response 2013” on 15 April 2013 all participants were formally welcomed and addressed by the Commander EUFOR, Major General Dieter HEIDECKER, and EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General József SZPISJÁK. This small ceremony took place inside ARCHER BASE, the Black Hawk helicopter hangar inside Camp BUTMIR. General Heidecker highlighted the importance of the role that EUFOR has still to play and thanked all participating nations for their valuable support and commitment. General

Szpisják expressed his sincere appreciation of the excellent work demonstrated by his staff that had paved the way for a successful start of the exercise. A total of approximately 800 personnel were actively involved in the conduct of the exercise.

Since EUFOR took over from SFOR in December 2004, it has been able to guarantee peace and to maintain a safe and secure environment - thus contributing to increased stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). When in September 2012 the number of troops deployed in EUFOR Operation ALTHEA was reduced it was done in recognition of the significant improvement in security in this country and the increasing role played by BiH authorities. Secondly, those reductions were conducted in the knowledge that, if needed, EUFOR can rapidly deploy Over the Horizon Forces to sustain security and safety. In order to train and test this key capability, such deployments are rehearsed on a regular basis.

This year’s largest such operational rehearsal had already put into practice a successful activation and a quick deployment and integration of two light infantry companies, one from the UK and the other from Hungary, into the EUFOR structure. The first part of the training phase would then take place between 18 -20 April in the location of Camp BUTMIR, SARAJEVO and nearby at RAJLOVAC barracks.

EUFOR, during a separate phase of the exercise and under a fictitious Peace Support Operation (PSO) scenario, positively engaged also a unit from the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF BiH) with the aim to further enhance their professional training and international interoperability. This training phase included a company and key elements of the AF BiH and commences on 20 April. It took place at in the areas of KALI-



NOVIK and PAZARIC and included a display of combined military capability to distinguished visitors and representatives of local and international media at PAZARIC Barracks on 25 April 2013. It was geared to ensure the AF BiH will gain further experience in working together with international military units and to continue to develop as a modern armed force at the level required for Euro-Atlantic integration.

EUFOR’s robust capacity building and training program is also designed to strengthen the BiH Armed Forces and that its military personnel to have the capacity and skill to deploy and positively contribute to international missions overseas. In addition to its military operations, EUFOR is supporting the normalization process and the Rule of Law in Bosnia and Herzegovina in close co-ordination with the International Community and International Organizations and last but not least EUFOR remains committed to helping the law enforcement authorities in their fight against organize crime and corruption in BiH.

EUFOR Exercise QUICK RESPONSE 2013: Overview and Report of Demonstration Day and the Operational Commander's Assessment and Comments



Exercise “QUICK RESPONSE 2013” was divided into 3 main parts:

The first part showed a successful activation and a quick deployment and integration of two light-infantry companies, one from the UK and the other from Hungary, into the EUFOR structure between 18 and 20 April in the location of Camp BUTMIR, SARAJEVO and nearby at RAJLOVAC barracks.

During the second part from 21 to 25 April EUFOR, under a fictitious Peace Support Operation (PSO) scenario, the EUFOR multinational battalion, composed with UK, Hungarian, Austrian and Turkish

companies, joined with a unit from the Armed Forces (AF) of BiH with the aim to further enhance their professional training and international interoperability. This phase of the exercise took place in the areas of KALINOVIK and PAZARIC and was designed to ensure the AF BiH would gain further experience in working with international military units and would continue to develop as a modern armed force at the level required for Euro-Atlantic integration.

The third part consisted of a Distinguished Visitors Day held on Thursday 25 April at PAZARIC “Zaim Imamovic Barracks”. An impressive military display took place in the presence of the Operational Commander of EUFOR ALTHEA, General Sir Richard Shirreff, the Deputy Defence Minister of BiH, Mr Mirko Okolic, Commander EUFOR, Major General Dieter Heidecker and Chief of the Joint Staff Armed Forces BiH, Major General Anto Jelec. Also present was a wide variety of distinguished visitors from BiH, EUSR, NATO and the International Community.

The dynamic demonstration of military capacity that took place in the third part of the exercise included full displays



of the following well-honed military capabilities needed for peace support operations including:

- The securing of areas from civil unrest and unruly demonstrators
- Crowd and riot control tactics
- Neutralising of the threat of explosive devices (EoD)
- Delivering troop re-enforcements by road and air
- Emergency medical procedures including air evacuation
- Liaison and passing of control to civil law enforcement agencies

Following this military demonstration the Operational Commander congratulated the participating troops for a superb demonstration of capability and team work. General Shirreff stated that the operation rehearsal and military display from multi-national troops was a clear demonstration that underlined the European Union's ongoing commitment to the support



of a safe and secure environment in BiH.

Sir Richard added that two remarkable achievements had been delivered from the demonstration that were worthy of particular note:

The first was the highly effective teamwork and levels of co-operation clearly in evidence between soldiers from the armed forces of

Austria, BiH, Turkey, Hungary, the United Kingdom and the multi-national team at EUFOR Headquarters.

The second remarkable achievement was the visible increase in both the capacity and capability of the AF BiH. The demonstration had shown the great professionalism of the AF BiH and that they are, without doubt, soldiers of quality.

The Operational Commander's assessed the exercise as highly successful and would undoubtedly have a wide strategic effect in demonstrating the validity of EUFOR's concept of operations and the EU's ability to reinforce BiH if required. It also delivered significant benefits on many levels for the Armed Forces of BiH, impacting positively on its professional reputation and its ability to achieve the standards necessary to be interoperable with NATO and other modern armed forces.



TRANSCRIPT FROM PRESS CONFERENCE: OPERATION QUICK RESPONSE 2013

Operational Commander EUFOR ALTHEA & DSACE: General Sir Richard SHIRREFF

I am delighted to be back in Bosnia and Herzegovina to visit EUFOR during the Operational Rehearsal and also to engage with our partners in the BiH Authorities. The demonstration of Exercise Quick Response features the Armed Forces of BiH working alongside multi-national forces from EUFOR.

There are some important issues in this regard that I would like to address:

- *Exercise Quick Response is designed to demonstrate the commitment of the EU, partners and other international organizations to support a safe and secure environment in BiH. My forces have during this exercise validated HQ EUFOR's ability to surge its troop contingent. This has been achieved by exercising all the practical stages of troop reception, integration and the testing of military outputs to ensure they are fit for purpose. This exercise ensures EUFOR can quickly increase its military capacity, using the troops of Intermediate Reserve, making it well placed to deal effectively with any security contingency that may emerge in the future.*
- *The second part of the exercise focuses on Joint Training and*



the presence of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in a training capacity within this exercise is most welcome: it provides significant collective training benefit and improves the capability of the AFBiH to contribute to peace keeping operations in overseas missions as part of Euro-Atlantic alliances.

In Afghanistan last year I met soldiers from the Armed Forces of BiH working on active duty. I was impressed to see your soldiers, from different ethnic backgrounds, working effectively together in close teams and integrating with other modern Armed Forces. They are well respected by other contributing nations and are an excellent example of what can be achieved when BiH trains and resources the AF BiH properly. The people of BiH should be very proud of their Armed Forces personnel and the work they are doing to deliver international peace and security. The AF of BiH shows a fine example of positive progress being made toward goal of Euro-Atlantic integration.

- *Exercise Quick Response provides a highly effective training*

opportunity for the troops from all contributing nations and delivers concrete outputs in terms of increased military capacity.

- *However there is much more still to be done before the AF BiH can become a full member of Euro-Atlantic Structures and I am concerned at the constant political impasse in resolving security issues. I call upon all parties in BiH to work together to deliver a proper Defence Review and vision, to resolve the issues of Defence property and munitions surplus and, to provide the AF BiH with appropriate resources. This will allow the AF BiH to focus on training and become a more capable force for good.*
- *It is the first duty of any government to provide its people with security that enables development, investment and social stability and well functioning Law Enforcement Agencies and Armed Forces are a key part of this framework.*
- *Regionally, the train is leaving the station and BiH has a stark choice. Mature politically and get on the train, or risk being left behind the other countries in the Western Balkans. The agreement between the Prime Ministers of Serbia and Kosovo should forge a new political future which*

opens the door for EU Accession talks. In the Summer Croatia, having progressed all the necessary reforms to their economy and modernized state and political institutions, will become a member state of the European Union. What next for BiH? BiH must not be left behind. Politicians must step up to the challenges of Euro Atlantic Integration, putting their differences firmly in the past where they belong, and follow the positive example of your neighbours.

COM EUFOR: Major General Dieter HEIDECKER

Today we will showcase key capabilities Exercise Quick Response, which has shown:

- *EUFOR's ability to surge its numbers of troops and capabilities, as and when required, using forces from the Intermediate Reserve. These are troops stationed outside of the country but held at an appropriate state of readiness to deploy should the need arise. You will see during this afternoon's demonstration 2 companies from EUFOR Intermediate Reserve forces – one from the UK and one from Hungary who were activated for the exercise – and are now fully integrated with the Austrian and Turkish companies of EUFOR's Multi-National Battalion.*
- *The second part of the exercise demonstrates the ability of the Armed Forces of BiH to work as a modern military force alongside the armed forces of other nations. Capacity building and training for AF BiH is key element of EUFOR's mission which includes developing the ability of AF BiH personnel to work effectively with coalition forces in security and peace keeping missions overseas. This exercise has provided an excellent opportunity to provide collective training and showcase the capabilities and professionalism of the AF of BiH. This is an ongoing process and EUFOR will continue to support the professional development of AF BiH. This will be achieved not only through individual skills training but also through collective training, including*



opportunities to participate in future EUFOR operational exercises.

- *It also demonstrates EUFOR's ability to work with BiH Law Enforcement Agencies and helps develop a*

workable Command, Control and Coordination process between the key agencies.

CJS AF BiH: Major General Anto JELEĆ

- *The Armed Forces of BiH accept, support and participate in the training activities provided by HQ EUFOR within the Capacity Building and Training effort provided to the AF BiH, which is aimed at achieving interoperability and attaining NATO standards.*
- *We have increased the level of individual training through the EUFOR teams embedded in the commands and units of the AF BiH and the Mobile Training Teams, and then we engaged in collective training, which is evident from the several MAPEX and situational exercises conducted earlier and the ongoing joint exercise "Quick Response" with EUFOR, at the ranges in Pazarić and Kalinovik.*
- *Our company-strength force, augmented by teams of engineers, MPs, CBRN and EOD specialists, supported by two (2) helicopters and with participation of seven (7) of our instructors/umpires, totaling 133 members of the AF BiH, have integrated with the EUFOR personnel deployed in BiH and the EUFOR Immediate Reserve personnel, who were mobilized and deployed from Great Britain and Hungary. They participate shoulder to shoulder in the exercise "Quick Response", designed as a peace-support exercise.*
- *EUFOR will remain an important tool for the development of independent and self-sustainable training capacities of the commands and units of the AF BiH.*







EXERCISE
QUICK RESPONSE
15 - 28 April 2013



EUFOR and AF BiH Military Skills Competition BANJA LUKA

The first military skills competition between EUFOR and AF BiH was held at the Manjaca Training Camp near Banja Luka on 29 April 2013 and attracted 9 teams from contributing nations to EUFOR, including the UK, Turkey and Austria who competed with teams from the Brigades of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF BiH).

The competition comprised of 4 stations at which they faced different military challenges. The stations required skillful completion of a variety of military challenges and were spaced out at significant distance across a challenging course. Team had to both complete their tasks with skill and accuracy and transit the course in the fastest achievable time.

Each station challenged a different skill set and the team challenges were grenades hurling and target shooting, a vehicle wheel change and manual tow over a set distance, navigation skills and finally, to stretcher carry of one member of the five man-teams for the final leg of the course. Penalty points in terms of one extra minute were awarded for any misses on the grenade throw or target shooting challenges.

In terms of pure speed across the ground, the fastest 3 teams were: EUFOR Turkish Contingent led by OF-1 ORHUN (1hr 18 mins), followed by EUFOR UK IRISH Guards led by LSgt



OWENS (1hr 18.1mins) and AF BiH 6 Brigade led by OF-1 HERIC (1hr 19mins).

However the competition was focused on overall military skills, of which speed over the ground, was just one factor, and once combined with appropriate time penalties the results indicated best overall skill



sets in terms of time, precision marksmanship and accuracy in hurling grenades.

The final results, acknowledging all aspects of the challenge and skills, saw a strong performance by AF BiH taking first and third place with EUFOR UK Irish Guards winning second place, with the scores as listed below:

- 1st Place: AF BiH 6th Brigade - led by OF-1 HERIC (1hr 23 mins)
- 2nd Place: EUFOR UK IRISH Guards - led by LSgt OWENS (1hr 30.1mins)
- 3rd Place: AF BiH 5th Brigade - led by OR5 RAKO (1hr 34 mins)

The victorious team was awarded an impressive military sword donated by the British Embassy Sarajevo to be housed in 6th Brigade Headquarters until the next challenge. All parties involved expressed their wish that the competition should become an annual event organised by AFBiH

EUFOR Football and Inter-Services Sports Competitions

EUFOR participated in 2 inter-services sports competitions in April and May and these events included teams from the UK element of EUFOR's Intermediate Reserve Company - the UK Irish Guards - who were mobilized as part of Exercise Quick Response.

The first competition tested skills in Basketball and Football at Kozara Barracks near Banja Luka 30 April. In extremely hot and sunny conditions teams from the Republika Srpska Police, EUFOR's National Contingents, Banja Luka Civic Authorities and the Armed Forces of BiH (AF BiH) were challenged in knock-out competitions in both basketball and football.

The RS police proved the most skillful and well-drilled overall winning first place in both football and basketball. Second place in football was awarded to



The RS Police Team take first place in the Kozara inter-service football competition.



The Irish Guards Soccer Team after winning 4th Place in the Kozara football competition.

the 6th Brigade of the AF BiH with the Banja Luka Civic Authorities take third place. In basketball the Irish Guards took second place with the team from the Air Defence Forces of BiH coming third.

The second inter-services and agencies sports competition took place on 6 May at the Zetra Stadium in Sarajevo. Teams from EUFOR including its Irish Guards IR Company, the British Embassy Sarajevo, SEPA and the Armed Forces of BiH joined with Otvorena Mreza in a friendly indoor charity soccer match to support Play for Life.

The team from SEPA was victorious overall, with a very strong, skillful and spirited performance, followed by the Armed Forces of BiH in second

place with third position being taken by the British Embassy.



EUFOR Chief Of Staff, Brigadier General József SZPISJÁK hits the mark during the penalty play-offs at Kozara Barracks.



The Chief of the Joint Staff from AF BiH, Major General Anto JELEĆ, awards the winners' cup to the Captain of the SEPA team at the Play for Life Sports Competition.

EUFOR Multi-National Battalion Trains With Soldiers of the 6th Brigade of the AF of BiH

From 18 to 22 March 2013 a joint training program held in Glamoc with Turkish soldier from EUFOR's Multi-national Battalion (MNBNA) and the 6th Brigade of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF BiH). The training was led by the commander of the Turkish Company within the MNBNA Captain Ergun Düzü.

Training Focuses on Managing Convoys, Military Escorting and Managing Emergency Situations

The focus of the joint exercise was to train essential skills in escorting transport convoys, the correct response to containing the threat posed by roadside mines and the need to overcome a range of technical challenges in an ambush situation.

An Impressive Performance

The Austrian commander of the Multinational Battalion Lieutenant Colonel Alfred STEINGRESZ, who is also in overall command of the Turkish Company, was impressed by the performance and levels of co-operation shown between the MNBNA troops and participating soldiers from AF BiH.

An important part of the exercise was demonstrating the ability to protect convoys: a range of potential convoy disruptions and threats



were simulated in a sequence of different and challenging scenarios. The convoy and escort training evolutions were supported by a Turkish EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) team and an ambulance squad in order to tackle all the relevant support skills need for convoy operations in a challenging collective and real time training environment.

Lessons Identified and Learning from Shared Experience

The experience of the soldiers of AF BiH gained in overseas missions in Afghanistan and Iraq was clearly evident and enabled them

to contribute valuable experience and skills throughout the training exercises. At the end of the exercises, there was a detailed debriefing of all the participating soldiers. All the training sequences were analyzed and evaluated by those who took part. The soldiers of all companies were able to benefit from each other experiences: this assists in developing a clear picture of how to maximize future performance and what is necessary to perfect individual and team military skills when dealing with particular scenarios such as escorting military convoys in difficult circumstances.

Sharp Shooting Challenge with Assault Rifles, Machine Guns and Sniper Rifles

The final part of the exercise involved practicing sharp shooting skills on the firing range in Glamoc using, not only standard issue assault rifles, but also a range of machine guns and sniper rifles.



AF BiH Engineers ready for new tasks

Within AF BiH the engineering capabilities are very important as they support their colleagues in combat, logistics, force protection, and, if necessary, their own population in a disaster relief. Engineers also support field fortification when AF BiH troops take part in a peace support operation and a safe and secure compound needs to be constructed. Before you can rely on your engineers, they have to be trained in their special skills. One of these skills is the special engineer reconnaissance or recce. With a recce, engineers are able to determine the condition of a road, a bridge, or terrain that is needed for combat units to cross. Very important in this recce is the search for mines and IEDs to ensure a safe passage for their colleagues.

EUFOR CBTD provided AF BiH Engineers a special course to train the engineers for these special skills. In the period from 18th March to 24th of April 2013 a Mobile Training Team from Austria conducted this course with the Engineer battalion in the barracks of DERVENTA, BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA. The mobile training team consisted of two officers from the Institute Military Engineering/Combined Arms School and one officer and three NCOs from the 3rd Engineer Battalion/MELK. The team was expanded with 4 interpreters from Austria. The task was to train Engineer officers and NCOs in the Engineer Reconnaissance, using the concept of CBTD system “train the trainer”.

On 18th of March the preparation of the course commenced with in-processing at HQ EUFOR and

preparing the hand-outs, presentations, and reconnaissance of the surroundings DERVENTA-DOBOJ-PRNJAVOR for the exercises. As of 1st of April, the actual training of 12 students (3 Off, 9 NCO) started with the training phase with focus on explosive ordnance clearance and reconnaissance, counter improvised explosive device, the concept of 4C (confirm, clear, cordon, control), 5m/25m-Check, road/route, bridge and stream reconnaissance using NATO-Standards and other international techniques. The 3rd week of the training focused on a live exercise road/route reconnaissance – including writing a roadbook and presentation of the reconnaissance results. This last item is part of the examination and was attended by EUFOR CBTD authorities. Immediately after the successful presentations of the students, DCOS CB&T, Col Sener, awarded the certificates to the students, together with the commander of the AF BiH Engineering battalion.

To complete the task, the mobile training team from Austria, together with the specialists of CBTD, assessed the training, reorganized the training material,



wrote national and international reports and ran the formal release of EUFOR. The course was successful and students considered training very useful for them in future. The commander of the AF BiH Engineer Battalion was satisfied with the results and was grateful that his staff and trainers got new ca-

pabilities for engineering tasks. Some of the students are recognised as future trainers and can be further trained with educational skills. To sustain and maintain the gained skills, this engineering recce course is also planned for 2014, but than AF BiH will provide it herself by new trainers and to new students. EUFOR will support the course with a mobile mentoring team from Austria.

2013 Halfway CIS Courses



EUFOR and AF BiH have defined several areas of interest for specific training, mentoring, and monitoring. One of these areas is Communication and Information Systems (CIS). These systems are essential to the command structure for AF BiH to support a robust and flexible command and control structure. This is fundamental if you want to write an email, prepare a document, make a telephone call, transmit a radio message, or send an order to a unit to perform a task.

Capacity Building and Training Division (CB&T Div.) is the focal point in EUFOR activities related to AF BiH to develop CIS capabilities and create a self-sustainable training system. For this purpose Training Branch has been providing specific CIS training, mentoring and monitoring for AF BiH trainers and experts. In 2013 already 4 CIS courses were mentored and another 4 will be provided till August. Subject of the previous courses were all related to radio communications. Coming four courses are related to IT subjects such as cabling and computer networks.

All trainings were conducted in the barracks of Tactical Support Brigade in Rajlovac between start of February till the end of March. Last Friday, 29 March, another group of young and highly motivated students were awarded with the certificates by the AF BiH trainers. In addition, the trainers were awarded with their certificate by representatives of EUFOR CBTD Division and the Turkish Mentoring Team.

CB&T delivers mentoring on Mobile Integrated FM Communications Course

Within AF BiH the CIS capabilities are to be developed to obtain specific objectives for proper support of the IT functionalities in AF BiH. One of these capabilities is knowledge of radio technology and how to operate them. AF BiH and EUFOR agreed that this course is supported by a so-called Mentoring Team. This team with 3 experienced instructors from Turkey was mentoring the course that was conducted by AF BiH instructors. Tactical Support Brigade / Signals Battalion from AF BiH, located at Rajlovac, supported the course from 4 to 15 March. In total 15 trainees (1 Officer, 5 non-commissioned officers, and 9 signal soldiers) took part in this course. After theoretical and practical exams, it was noted that all trainees passed the tests and on Friday 15 March the certificates were awarded to all instructors and trainees.



The Turkish MMT, First Lieutenant Uğur KARAOSMANOĞLU and Sergeant Major Sefa KOSTAK, congratulated the participants for their active approach to the course and willingness to learn. Certificates were delivered by the Chief of Training Branch and Major Mitar ADZIC from Tactical Support Brigade CIS Branch Chief (S-6), Major Elmir EZUKAN (S-6), and Major İsa BEZCİ (SME CIS) from HQ EUFOR.

One of the pillars of the EUFOR mission is to support capacity building and support AF BiH to create a self-sustainable training system. Activities from CB&T are focused on train, mentor, and monitor all the agreed courses. Training, mentoring and monitoring is not performed by CB&T itself, but is supported by special teams from participating countries. This support contributes to the development of AF BiH capability to organize and run their own training system.

CIS capacity of AF BiH grown tremendously

Communication and Information Systems (CIS) are essential to the command structure for AF BiH to support a robust and flexible command and control structure. Capacity Building and Training Division (CB&T Div) is the focal point in EUFOR activities related to AF BiH to develop CIS capabilities and create a self sustainable training system. For this purpose Training Branch has provided training, mentoring, and monitoring for AF BiH trainers and experts. From January till May 2013 six CIS courses were supported by CBTD with mentoring teams from troop contributing nation Turkey. In total there are now 90 students and 18 trainers awarded with a certificate for the new gained CIS skills.

The 6 courses provided vary in subject from cabling to radio communication. Here follows a short overview. In February the courses focused on basic radio communications and FM radio installing and operating. Radios are essential for communication between staff, commanders, and leaders in order to relay the right orders and give feedback on activities. In March the courses focused on the integration of FM- and AM-communication in the organization. Not only operating the radio but also realizes the proper arrangements with antenna constructing and cabling was performed. During the course regularly operational equipment was used to show the students the possibilities of the radios.

In April the CIS courses shifted to a



more practical setting for cabling. Preparing multi-core cables, internal and external connections, and use of UTP wires are some of the topics covered in these two courses. Turkey provided materials and consumables to demonstrate, learn, and practice the skills needed for internal en external cabling activities.

The majority of the students are relative young soldiers (male and female), enthusiastic and motivated to learn about IT and radios. Several of these students attended more than 1 course and a few of them can be nominated to become instructors themselves. All courses were mentored by Turkey's mentoring teams, sometimes for 1 course, sometimes for two courses in a row. The last two courses were monitored by the same team and that resulted in an application and award of the EUFOR Althea service medal.

All courses were conducted in the barracks of Rajlovac of the Tactical Support Brigade. The TSB S6 and his deputy supported all the courses with a suitable environment and service to all trainers, students and mentors. All CIS courses were visited by EUFOR authorities just to see and feel how the courses were conducted. All visits were highly appreciated by trainers and students. After the exams, all courses were closed with a certificate ceremony and, again, all ceremonies were attended by EUFOR CBTD authorities to award the trainers with their certificate and share the small celebrations afterwards.



Over the rest of 2013 a great deal of other CIS courses will be conducted by AF BiH and mentored by EUFOR CBTD with the help of TCN Turkey. Courses planned are switchboards, IT-operating systems, operating procedures, geographical information systems, IT-network, and IT-security.

Austrian Air-Medevac Team Perform Challenging Night Mission

During the period of this forum magazine, the Austrian Helicopter Detachment (AUT HELDET) Air-MEDEVAC team have performed two live missions to assist injured or serious ill EUFOR military personnel in need of ur-



gent medical attention while serving on duty at some considerable distance away from the Camp Butmir Medical Centre.

This article relates to a challenging night mission that occurred on 01 March this year and required a rapid response and the use of night vision technology. The Austrian Team who run LOT Bratunac had just returned to their base after a duty tour of the local area. One of their soldiers started feeling serious unwell as soon as he left his vehicle, complaining of weakness and chest pain. On entering the LOT House his condition seriously deteriorated. His comrades rushed to help, noting he had a high fever – over 39 degrees Celsius – and that he was clearly in need of urgent medical attention.

A call for help and advice was made to the Austrian Medical Center in Butmir and the Medic-advisor recommended air evacuation as the recommended course of actions. At 1733 the mission order was made to the Austrian helicopter detachment and a fully-crewed Alouette 3 Helicopter with medical team was airborne at 1807. Significantly this was 3 minutes after the end of civil twilight which would require the crew to use their night flying technology and well honed skills to successfully complete the mission.

The team comprised of 2 pilots (Lt Singer Thomas and MSgt Grill Martin), a paramedic (MSgt Muel-ler Bernhard) and a doctor (Maj Dr Lackner). They reached the designated landing site at Bratunac at 18:40 and were able to reassure and stabilize the patient. This being done, at 20:30 they were able to take off, recovering the patient back to Camp Butmir, where they

landed at 21:10 and were able to transfer the soldier to the Austrian Medical Centre for carefully monitoring and onward referral.

The Medevac team of EUFOR's Austrian Contingent has successfully performed many similar tasks and interventions of this kind, for both mili-

tary personnel and citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in acute medical distress and requiring rescue. Major Doctor Lackner pointed out such missions are not uncommon and the team has performed in many similar situations and can surely be proud of their contribution. The concerted effort of the AUT HELDET MEDEVAC team has undoubtedly saved the lives of several BiH citizens on numerous occasions in the course of the mission, when the existing civilian medical rescue service did not have resources available to respond in the time frame needed.

Lieutenant Singer Thomas emphasizes that Alouette 3 is the helicopter usually used for this kind of operation and is continuously on standby for flights night and day: it must at all times be ready to take off and be fully prepared at short lead-times. He explained, "This helicopter is particularly suitable for high-altitude operations and winching injured persons, and the Austrian military flight school standards are extremely high, which ensures a high level of professionalism for flying crews who can perform even in extreme or very challenging conditions".

Although EUFOR's main task is to support peace and stability for all BiH citizens, the range of rescue operations performed by Austrian Air-MEDEVAC team demonstrate their mission versatility, commitment and professionalism. While they are equipped to Air-MEDEVAC sick or injured EUFOR military personnel they also come to the aid of BiH civilians in need of urgent medical treatment and airlift. When such support is needed, the team is standing-by at readiness, prepared to take to the skies.

European High Representative Baroness Catherine ASHTON visits Bosnia and Herzegovina



As part of her Balkans tour, High Representative/ Vice President Catherine ASHTON visited Bosnia and Herzegovina on Thursday 18 April 2013. Baroness Ashton commenced her day in country with an official call on the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, where she expressed her disappointment that the political leaders of the country had not found an agreement on implementation of the judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case ‘SEJDIC and FINCI’ and urged the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina to hold their leaders to account. The EU Foreign Policy Chief then paid a short visit to Camp BUTMIR, where she was warmly welcomed by the Commander of the EUFOR ALTHEA military mission, Major General Dieter HEIDECKER, and EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General József SZPISJÁK. Together with the Head of Delegation/EU Special Representative Ambassador Peter SORENSEN and General Heidecker, Baroness Ashton travelled on board of an Austrian EUFOR S-70 “Black Hawk” helicopter from SARAJEVO to the POTOČARI Memorial Centre in SREBRENICA. There she paid her respects to the victims of the massacre committed there. After visiting the burial site, where she laid a wreath and walked among the graves, Baroness Ashton went to the memorial museum, where she signed the visitors’ book and watched the documentary film about the events in SREBRENICA. Throughout the event she was accompanied by members of the associations of relatives of the victims who shared with her their harrowing stories and experiences.

Common Security and Defence Policy Service Medal awarded to Turkish members of MNBN



After having completed six months of service with EUFOR in Camp BUTMIR in SARAJEVO, 105 soldiers of the 18th TURKISH Contingent under the command of Captain Ergün DÜZÜ and part of the Multinational Battalion (MNBN) participated in their end-of-tour medal parade on 26th March 2013.



Laying the Foundations for Engineering Excellence for AF BiH: Key Milestones Achieved at 6th Joint Engineering Conference



On 27 and 28 March the 6th Engineering Conference was held at Camp Butmir, HQ EUFOR. Aim of the conference was to discuss next years training calendar and specific needs for all the engineering activities within AF BiH. EUFOR Chief of Staff presented important guidelines to the conference in his opening remarks to govern the outcome of the conference.

Within AF BiH the engineering capabilities are to be developed to obtain specific objectives for proper support of the armed forces of AF BiH to achieve the NATO- and international requirements. To do so, a range of specific engineering courses, trainings, and exercises have to be coordinated and agreed upon. Just to make sure that every activity can be conducted with the right personnel, instructors, materials and equipment. Important for CB&T is the coordination with the external teams from troop contributing countries. The teams that support the engineering courses are from Austria and Slovenia. Most of the courses will be conducted in the Derventa area.

The conference was attended by teams from CB&T, Austria, Slovenia, and a significant number of representatives of AF BiH units like Joint Staf, Operational Command, Tactical Support Brigade, and

Engineering Battalion. One of the important issues of this conference was an assessment of the progress achieved by AF BiH on creating a self sustainable training system for engineering activities. One of the topics addressed in the conference was the development of a right mission statement for Engineering Battalion and their role and position in the planning cycles. This is crucial for allocating the right amount of money, personnel, and equipment in the right time to conduct the agreed courses. At the end of the conference all the objectives were achieved and a mutual awareness was present with all EUFOR and AF BiH attendances for further support and development of the right engineering capabilities.

One of the pillars of the EUFOR mission is to support capacity building and support AF BiH to create a self sustainable training system. Activities from CB&T are focused on train, mentor, and monitor all the agreed courses. Training, mentoring and monitoring is not performed by CB&T itself, but is supported by special teams from participating countries. This support contributes to the development of AF BiH capability to organize and run their own training system.

Marking a Thousand Days of Military Photojournalism in BiH



PENDL's work can be seen on the EUFOR website, in poster displays around the corridors and stairwells of the HQ building and also within recent editions of EUFOR Forum Magazine

Herbert received several gifts to mark the occasion including a special plaque presented by Brigadier General Lord.

The extensive portfolio of images capture by WO Pendl constitutes an enduring testament to EUFOR's efforts here in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). It has been used widely to promote and clearly communicate the work being undertaken across the range of troop contributing nations and the supporting civilian staff.

Forum magazine would, on behalf of EUFOR like to thank Herbert for his unstinting efforts and service and the excellent imagery he has produced for us.

EUFOR photographer WO Herbert Pendl celebrated 1000 days of service with EUFOR ALTHEA this year on Tuesday 30 April marking the occasion with an informal party in Camp Butmir. The function was attended by many colleagues and friends from across a wide range of nations working together with EUFOR and NATO.

Amongst the 30 guests were Commander Major General Dieter HEIDECKER, COM EUFOR and

Brigadier General Walter LORD, COM NATO HQ Sa. Many of the Austrians guests came wearing traditional attire and all those present enjoyed the buffet of Austrian sausages and cheese complemented with a selection of bread and salads.

WO Pendl spoke to the assembled guests about how much he had enjoyed his work in Bosnia and the range of different projects he had recorded for the Command. Excellent examples of WO





EUFOR

QUICK RESPONSE



EUFOR in and outside BiH