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EUFOR forum



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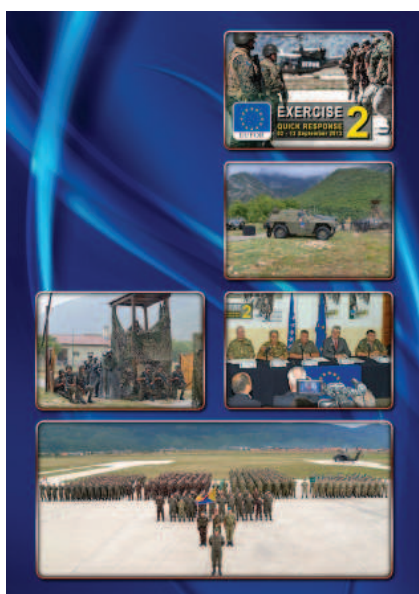
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CONTENTS

**Intermediate Reserve Force
"Mission Ready in Theatre" 6**

EUFOR and NATO Commanders attend commemoration at Prokoško Lake 13

EUFOR COM attends KFOR NATO Change of Command Ceremony 15



Quick Response 2

EUFOR FORUM
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EDITORIAL

Welcome EU FORUM reader to this latest edition of the EUFOR magazine. This publication is regularly produced for you, to see what EUFOR has been involved with over the past few months.

It has been another busy period for EUFOR; most of you will remember, and were probably involved in some way with the recent, very successful Operational Rehearsal "Exercise Quick Response 2". Planning has already started on the back of this for the next CATEX in December followed by the next big Op Reh scheduled to take place in June 14.

The Public Affairs Office (PAO) is continually looking to improve the contents of this magazine; we therefore need your feedback, good and bad. We want to create a product worthy of your time and attention, and in order to do this we need you to tell us what you like and dislike. Ultimately, EU FORUM exists for you – to serve you, to inform you, and provide you with most relevant information available.

To assist us in all this we have established a Social Media presence, which we can all use to share feedback and ideas. Social media is exceptionally important in today's public affairs world as it gives our audiences the ability to communicate with us easily and more quickly.

If you would like to submit an article, or picture of your experiences here in BUTMIR please use the contact details opposite. We can assist you throughout the process and look forward to hearing from you; we spend a lot of time trying to make the product you're holding in your hands as interesting and useful as we can and we don't want this to go to waste. The stories should reflect your experiences while serving here with EUFOR and each of them should be relevant to you.

From all the members of the Public Affairs Office, and on behalf of COM EUFOR, we hope that you enjoy reading this edition of FORUM.



EUFOR Exercise Quick Response 2 Opening Ceremony



On 03 September 2013 approximately 200 EUFOR troops, 250 servicemen from their Intermediate Reserve Force and senior military officers from the Headquarters EUFOR gathered in Camp BUTMIR for the opening ceremony of the two-week “Exercise

Quick Response 2”. Commander of the EUFOR, Major General Dieter Heidecker, opened the event by highlighting the importance of the role that EUFOR is playing in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). He said: “The basis for this Exercise is that EUFOR is to support the au-

thorities in maintaining the Safe and Secure Environment in BiH.”

When required, EUFOR can rapidly deploy Over the Horizon Forces to sustain the security and safety in BiH. In order to train and test this key capability, EUFOR rehearses these deployments on a regular basis. This month’s operational rehearsal is the latest in an ongoing series of military exercises conducted by EUFOR and will put into practice the deployment and integration of two light infantry companies, one from Austria and the other from Slovakia.

The 10-day exercise focuses in PSO-Training within a fictive scenario training with the Armed Forces of BiH (AF BiH).

Other objectives were aimed to evaluate the interoperability between the EU Partner States’ Armed Forces, to enhance the readiness of EUFOR to deploy its Intermediate Reserve Forces and to strengthen li-



ation and cooperation between EUFOR, the Armed Forces of BiH and the local Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs).

During the first phase of the exercise, a one-week situational training program was performed by EUFOR troops in Camp BUTMIR, SARAJEVO and the nearby RAJLOVAC barracks involving convoy operations and patrolling missions to prepare for next week's Field Training Exercise (FTX). This training will also include dismounted infantry tactics and response to situations that might threaten the Safe and Secure Environment in the country.

Phase two comprised of approximately 800 personnel including units from the AF BiH in the conduct of a joint FTX. The aim of this phase is to assure the training provided to the AF BiH and give them the opportunity to work with international military units in order to progress towards Euro-Atlantic integration. This week-long joint field-training exercise culminated in a display of combined military capability to distinguished visitors and representatives of the local and international media at the AF BiH barracks in LIVAC on 12 September 2013.

Exercise Quick Response 2 ran until 13 September 2013 when the companies from Austria and Slovakia returned upon their home bases at the conclusion of the exercise.

General Heidecker said "EUFOR is committed to assist BiH and its Armed Forces on a successful path to Euro-Atlantic Integration, as well as to have the capacity and skills to deploy and positively contribute to international Peace Support missions abroad."

Phase 1 (Integration)

General Dieter Heidecker the EUFOR Commander visited RAJLOVAC barracks, SARAJEVO to inspect the training taking place as part of the Integration Phase for Exercise Quick Response 2. The Commander was met by the Multinational Battalion (MnBn) Commander, Lt Col Christoph Blasch, and he inspected the gathered troops which consisted of elements from both the MnBn (HUN) and one of the EUFOR Intermediate Reserve companies (SVK).

Lt Col Blasch described that the aim of the training is to: "meet common objectives and ensure that training meets specific international standards."

The Slovakian soldiers are part of EUFOR's Intermediate Reserve (IR) forces and arrived in BiH on 30 August 13. The integration phase of the Exercise contains collective training with both the MnBn and IR forces and practices Peace Support Operations (PSOs) activities.

The MnBn and IR forces carried out a demonstration of the training they have been conducting for Major General Heidecker which includes the Evacuation of buildings, Direct Action to Rescue Hostages and Removal of Persons to a Safe Area.

The EUFOR Commander was impressed with the demonstration and commented that it was well conducted. He said "It is very important to regularly rehearse the activation, deployment and integration of our Intermediate Reserve Forces. EUFOR remains committed to support the authorities in maintaining the Safe and Secure Environment in BiH."



Intermediate Reserve Force “Mission Ready in Theatre”



On 07 September 2013, members of the Intermediate Reserve (IR) Force under the leadership of the Commander of the Multinational Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Christoph Blash, and under the watchful and critical eyes of Commander EUFOR, Major General Dieter Heidecker, underwent the final test before having proven their “Full

Operational Capability”. During a challenging and demanding drill, the IR companies from Austria and Slovakia, who have recently joined EUFOR as reinforcements for the operational rehearsal “Exercise Quick Response 2”, had to demonstrate their military skills by solving a series of demanding tasks typical for peace support operations. The exercise took place inside the RAJLOVAC barracks in SARAJEVO and included different scenarios that demanded accurate reaction to events such as civil disturbances, fighting in built up areas (FIBUA), protection of essential infrastructure and emergency procedures for persons needing assistance to evacuate. In the process the soldiers and their commanders were challenged to carry out search operations, reconnaissance and detection operations, patrols, checkpoint and traffic con-

trol point operations and conduct stability operations while simultaneously protecting wider security interests.

Most impressive for the spectators from HQ EUFOR was the conduct of the cordon and search operation. This is a simple mission in concept but quite difficult when applied to a terrain where the would-be subversive elements are hiding in a heavily built up area. The fundamental elements of a cordon and search operation consist of outer cordon, inner cordon, and assault.

As directed by their commander, the companies were thus divided into an outer cordon force, an inner cordon force, and an assault force. The Slovakian company was responsible for the outer and inner cordon and tasked to identify and stop personnel and vehicles that are departing the objective area.



They set up checkpoints and roadblocks along the major avenues of approach into and out of their objective, while the Austrians were tasked with the assault on a building where subversive elements were hiding. The assault force moved into the objective area last, secured the entry point and prepared to provide suppressive fire for the entry team should they come under fire. A second element moved through the entire objective and cleared it of all personnel before a third element searched the object for contraband, illegal weapons, or bomb-making material. Yet another element was securing all detainees and all contraband found. Once the search was complete and all detainees and contraband were secure for movement, the assault force withdrew.

This was followed by a practical demonstration of Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) techniques, featuring soldiers from the Hungarian Company as role-players, acting as a shrill crowd demonstrating against the EUFOR troops. Having made their presence know in a loud manner the crowd then got violent and started hurling projectiles at the EUFOR troops and vehicles. At this point the soldiers of the Slovakian Company, dressed in full body armour and equipped with riot gear, brought the mob under control using well practiced methods.

At the conclusion of the exercise, the Commander of the Multinational Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Christoph Blash, was able to report to COM EUFOR that both IR Companies have qualified and that his augmented battalion has reached its full operational capability and is now "Mission Ready in Theatre".

COS EUFOR visits exercise „Dynamic Response“



On 10 September 2013 Chief of Staff EUFOR (COS EUFOR) Brigadier General József Szpisják visited the exercise "Dynamic Response" on the Distinguished Visitors Day (DVD) conducted by the Armed Forces of BiH (AF BiH) in MANJACA barracks. There COS EUFOR met the BiH Minister of Defence Zekerijah Osmić, the Chief of Joint Staff Major General Anto Jeleč and many other local and international distinguished guests.

On this day the soldiers of the 6th Infantry Brigade under the lead of Brigadier General Radovan Ilić demonstrated the skills required when acting in response to an immediate threat. The AF BiH showed the gathered officials the ability of the AF BiH to perform complex military drill and activities.

Over 800 personnel from the 6th Infantry Brigade took part in the Life Fire Exercise (LFX).

The Exercise "Dynamic Response" which consisted of three levels of training over the past three months was conducted by the 4th, 5th and 6th Infantry Brigades. The exercise included a Computer Animated Exercise (CAX) with a Joint Conflict and Tactical Simulation (JCAT) system, a Field Training Exercise (FTX) and a Life Fire Exercise.

Minister Osmić said: "It makes me proud so see what has been executed so far."

Distinguished Visitors Day marks end of Exercise Quick Response 2



On 12 September 2013, EUFOR's two-week "Exercise Quick Response 2" climaxed with a Distinguished Visitors Day (DVD) at the BiH Army Barracks in LIVAČ.

The event began with a Press Conference which included the Minister of Defense for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Minister Zekerijah Osmić, the Head of the European Union Command Element Lieutenant (Lt) General Leonardo di Marco, the Commander of EUFOR Major General Dieter Heidecker and the Chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF BiH) Major General Anto Jeleč.

Lt General di Marco welcomed the representatives of local and international media and congratulated the Commander of EUFOR, Major General Dieter Heidecker,

for his "excellent leadership and the successful conduct of the exercise."

Defense Minister Osmić stated that: "This exercise reaffirms the determination of the EU, our partners and other international organizations to support the building of a safe and secure environment in BiH by training the AF BiH personnel and testing the capability of EUFOR, AF BiH and local police to work together."

Lt General di Marco said "The General stressed that Capacity-Building & Training of the Armed Forces of BiH and the ability to maintain the Safe and Secure Environment are at the core of EUFOR's mission and that providing a self sustaining training system and joint training possibilities to the AF BiH are greatly contribut-

ing to the Force reaching international standards."

In his address, Major General Heidecker briefly explained the purpose of the exercise and reminded that the number of troops permanently deployed in the EU-led military operation EUFOR was reduced in September 2012 due to the improvement in the Safe and Secure Environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He stated that due to this the force was restructured and that the EUFOR Multinational Battalion can be reinforced with additional over the horizon or "Intermediate Reserve" troops should they be required.

The Intermediate Reserve Forces are provided by 6 EU partner nations and allow a rapid surge in EUFOR troop levels should the

need arise. The process of activating, deploying and integrating these troops is rehearsed regularly and Exercise Quick Response 2 is one of these.

This Exercise has involved the deployment of 2 light infantry companies; one from AUSTRIA and the other from SLOVAKIA, and has resulted in an uplift of approximately 250 additional troops under EUFOR control. In addition, this exercise has also been planned and conducted in close co-operation and support from BiH's local Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) and development of this liaison will, in the future, lead to a greater fidelity and more realistic training scenarios.

Major General Heidecker said "the effective and efficient operation of Intermediate Reserve Forces has again...demonstrated EUFOR's capability to perform key military tasks and demonstrate its ability to preserve the Safe and Secure Environment." EUFOR has a strong focus on training with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina by running a Capacity Building and Training program and ensures that the AF BiH continue to develop as a modern armed force at the level required for Euro-Atlantic integration.

Chief of the Joint Staff of the AF BiH, Major General Anto Jeleč stated that the Armed Forces of BiH have been working together with the European Force for many years and that he is very pleased that they are able to demonstrate their capabilities through these joint exercises. He affirmed that the EUFOR Capacity Building and Training program enables the Armed Forces of BiH to develop and assure the competencies of their troops to International Standards.

Following the press conference, the guests were given a detailed overview of the Exercise and the DVD demonstration by the Chief of Staff of EUFOR, Brigadier General József Szpisják. This briefing was followed by both a static and dynamic display from the assembled troops.

The static display showed the gathered visitors examples of the weaponry and equipment used by the different nations, and the dynamic military display included a demonstration of military capability.

The distinguished visitors included officials from BiH, the

EUSR, NATO and the International Community who were all able to witness a full display of well-honed military capabilities such as "securing areas from civil unrest" and "crowd and riot control tactics".

Minister Osmić concluded "I express my gratitude to all the participants for their professional contribution to this exercise. The Ministry of Defence and the AF BiH are grateful to EUFOR for all their efforts in developing the capacities of the AF BiH, and I wish that the cooperation of training and other projects continues even more intensively in the future."







EXERCISE
QUICK RESPONSE
02 - 13 September 2013 **2**



EUFOR Exercise Quick Response 2 Closing Ceremonies



On 12 and 13 September 2013, EUFOR celebrated the end of another successful exercise with closing ceremonies held inside the AF BiH Army Barracks in LIVAČ and inside EUFOR's Camp BUTMIR in SARAJEVO. The closing ceremonies marked the end of Exercise Quick Response 2 which saw the activation and deployment of EUFOR's reserve forces from Austria and Slovakia and their integration into the EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN). Exercise Quick Response 2, the second of EUFOR's regular Operational Rehearsals (OPREH) in 2013, also included the planning and implementation of a joint Field Training Exercise (FTX) with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF BiH).

The Exercise ran from 02 to 13 September, and included a Distinguished Visitors Day (DVD) at the AF BiH Army Barracks in LIVAČ.

The DVD was attended by the Head of the EU Command Element, Lieutenant General Leonardo di Marco and the Minister of Defence for BiH, Minister Zekerijah Osmić.

During Exercise Quick Response 2, EUFOR conducted the full military process of Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration (RSOMI) of the IR Companies. During the Exercise the IR companies were under the Operational Command of the Commander EUFOR, Major General Dieter Heidecker and under the Tactical Control of the Commander of the MNBN, Lieutenant Colonel Christoph Blasch. Once the IR concept was completed the Infantry Companies took part in combined training with the AF BiH with the assistance of the local Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs).

On 12 September the Closing Ceremony in LIVAČ said farewell

to the participants from the AF BiH. The Chief of Staff (COS) of EUFOR, Brigadier General József Szpisják, expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the troops and officers for their outstanding performance. He then handed over certificates of appreciation to representatives of all the units involved and personally thanked all commanders and staff officers with a leading role in the Exercise, including the Commander of the AF BiH 4th Brigade, Brigadier Tomislav Comenda.

On 13 September the Closing Ceremony for the EUFOR HQ and IR elements took place inside Camp BUTMIR, SARAJEVO in the presence of the Commander of EUFOR. Major General Dieter Heidecker said: "All of my expectations for this Exercise have been fulfilled to the best possible extent and the Distinguished Visitors Day was a marvelous success."

EUFOR and NATO Commanders attend commemoration at Prokoško Lake

The Commanders of EUFOR and NATO attended the 16th anniversary of the crash of a helicopter with a Russian crew carrying 12 UN and OHR members.

The commemoration was marked at the PROKOŠKO Lake near FOJNICA, where the helicopter crashed due to poor visibility and bad weather.

“We are here today to honour the memory of twelve men who died while carrying out their duties as members of the international peace mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). 16 years after the tragic event, ... although there is a significant progress, the vision of BiH as the prosperous and inclusive democracy in the heart of Europe has not still become reality.”, said the High Representative Valentin Inzko who emphasized that those

people had laid their lives for a better future for BiH.

Present at the ceremony were the Commander of EUFOR, General Major Dieter Heidecker, the NATO HQ Sa Commander, Brigadier General Hart D. Merle, representatives of several municipalities from the Bosnian Federation and members of the Bosnian Federation’s special police unit led by Dragan Lukač. Other representatives from the International Community, embassies and the BiH authorities also attended and they all laid flowers at the memorial to the victims of the helicopter accident.

Bosnian Federation President Živko Budimir said that BiH would remember the people who had laid their lives in an effort to make it a better and more stable country. “These were twelve of our friends who per-

ished on this mountainside sixteen years ago and did so because they were helping consolidate the peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They wanted to see this country as a modern and stable country with equal people and citizens and members of the EU. They came from other countries to help BiH and that is one of the reasons why we will remember them always. May God bless them all.”

This honour was to the memory of the twelve who died: Peter Backes, Livio Beccaccio, Andrzej Buler, David Kriskovich, Leah Melnick, Charles Morpeth, William Nesbitt, Marvin Padgett, Thomas Reinhardt, Jurgen Schauf, Georg Stiebler and Gerd Wagner.

The HR Inzko concluded: “The citizens of BiH are ready to accept the modern politic that brings security, prosperity and European integration.”



Meritorious Service Awards for EUFOR



Major General Dieter Heidecker, Commander of the European Forces (COM EUFOR) in BiH, and other prominent EUFOR military personnel were awarded the Maryland Meritorious Service Medal by Major General James A. Adkins.

General Adkins was visiting EUFOR HQ and NATO Sa HQ in Camp BUTMIR, SARAJEVO and attended a working lunch followed by an office call with the COM EUFOR.

General Heidecker welcomed

General Adkins and they discussed the political situation in BiH and EUFOR's mission to provide Capacity Building and Training to the Armed Forces of BiH and to support the Safe and Secure Environment through its executive mandate.

Colonel Martin Trachsler (Switzerland) was also present and provided a brief regarding the Ammunition and Weapons (AWS) in BiH. He described the MOD BiH led activity to reduce the surplus which is supported by the International Community (including the OSCE, UNDP, NATO and EUFOR).

General Adkins offered his support to EUFOR and stated that he "appreciates all [EUFOR] has done for the citizens of [BiH]."

Also receiving the Maryland Meritorious Service Medal were the Chief of Staff for EUFOR, Brigadier General József Szpisják, Colonel Trachsler and the Sergeant Major Johann Obwaller from COM EUFOR's office.

Major General Adkins was appointed as the 28th adjutant general of Maryland in June, 2008. As the adjutant general he is responsible for the daily operations of the Maryland Military Department which includes the Maryland Army National Guard, Maryland Air National Guard, Maryland Emergency Management Agency and Maryland Defense Force. He is the senior advisor to the governor for these state agencies and is responsible for the readiness, administration and training of more than 7,200 members of the Maryland Military Department.

General Adkins stated that he "appreciated getting the opportunity to recognize the contribution these people have made."



COM EUFOR attends KFOR NATO Change of Command Ceremony

Major General Dieter Heidecker, Commander of the European Forces (COM EUFOR) visited “Film City” in Pristina, KOSOVO on the occasion of the official Change of Command of the KOSOVO Force (KFOR). Major General Heidecker was accompanied by the Commander of NATO HQ Sa, Brigadier General Merle D. Hart. The ceremony was presided over by Admiral Bruce W. Clingan (US Navy), the Commander of Joint Force Command Naples, and saw Major General Salvatore Farina (Italian Army) take over command of KFOR from Major General Volker R. Halbauer (German Army).

In his leaving speech Major General Halbauer said: “During the last year ... KFOR has moved to “Promoting Progress”. Promoting progress fully shows the dynam-

ics and the wind of change in terms of stabilization and normalization. KFOR’s mandate and mission is to contribute to a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) and Freedom of Movement.”

In the fourteen years KFOR has been in existence, each Commander has created a motto to describe their leadership approach. General Halbauer’s “FORWARD TOGETHER” represents the positive effort made by all soldiers and civilians of KFOR in realizing the objective of a SASE in KOSOVO, and shaping the environment for the ongoing political dialogue to succeed. Many distinguished visitors were present at the ceremony including the Head of the EU Command Element, Lieutenant General Leonardo di Marco and the President of KOSOVO, Mrs Atifete Jahjaga.

Mrs Jahjaga said: “Peace Keeping Forces in KOSOVO ... the people of KOSOVO congratulate you for accomplishing your mission throughout the years and for laying the foundations for a prosperous country. You have the thanks of the people of KOSOVO ... You have helped us become the masters of our own fate and enabled our will to become part of the European Union.” Major General Halbauer said: “I am grateful to institutions in KOSOVO ... and am thankful for the cooperation with partners like the EU, UNMIK and OSCE who have the goal of improving the political and social structure for a better KOSOVO.

“I am proud to have led such a capable multi-national force...it is with a heavy heart that I say farewell to the mission, these soldiers and to KOSOVO,” he said.



Traditional Oktoberfest celebrated in Camp BUTMIR in style



At the end of September COM EUFOR, Major General Dieter Heidecker invited members of EUFOR, the International Community and local VIPs to Camp BUTMIR for an extraordinary social event.

The overarching idea was to give everybody the chance to get to know one another better and a chance to communicate in a relaxed atmosphere. Building a healthier relationship through socializing in order to be able to work together in a more effective way is good common practice as it is well known that people who are happy at work are more productive, more creative and more successful overall.

With that in mind, it was decided that EUFOR would organize a small “Oktoberfest” celebration and have a mug of draft beer, eat traditional food such as pretzels, listen to live brass bands playing traditional as well as more up-to-date music, and enjoy the evening with hundreds of other people from the International Community. The evening was possible thanks to the generous support of Major General Dieter Heidecker, the Commander of EUFOR, and the soldiers of the Multinational Battalion under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Christoph Blash.

The Oktoberfest in MUNICH is the largest festival in the world, with an international flavor characteristic of the 21st century with some 6 million visitors each year. Approximately 500 visitors attended the Oktoberfest in Camp BUTMIR which was setup with an authentic and characteristic atmosphere and followed the style of the original event.

The festival was opened in the traditional way through the tapping of the first keg of Oktoberfest beer by General Heidecker with the cry “Ozapft is!” (“It’s tapped!” in the Austro-Bavarian dialect). General Heidecker then served the first beer to the lined up spectators and the event officially started.

All the guests, including the BiH Minister of Defence, Mr. Zekerijah Osmić, the Chairperson of the Joint Defence and Security Committee of BiH, Mrs. Dušanka Majkić, the Chief of the Joint Staff of the AF BiH, Major General Anto Jeleč, and representatives of the Diplomatic Corps and international organizations, enjoyed the traditional atmosphere. Traditional Styrian music was played by a folk band from Austria, and was followed by a musical performance from the military band of the Armed Forces of BiH. The visitors were also able to enjoy a wide variety of traditional food such as Hendl (chicken), Weisswurst (a white sausage) and Brezeln (pretzel) and sweets such as Apfelstrudel (apple pie) and Topfenstrudel (cheese cake).

Oktoberfest originally began with Crown Prince Ludwig, who later became King Ludwig I, who was married to Princess Therese of Saxony-Hildburghausen on 12th October 1810. The citizens of Munich were invited to attend the festivities held in the fields in front of the city gates to celebrate the royal wedding. Since then, this has become an annual event and it has turned into a 16-day festival running from late September to the first weekend in October. The festival is held in an area named the Theresienwiese (field, or meadow, of Therese), often called Wiesn for short, located near Munich’s center.

COS EUFOR attends 4th Brigade NCO Day



On 17 September 2013, COS EUFOR, Brigadier General József Szpisják, on behalf of COM EUFOR, paid a visit to the Armed Forces of BiH (AF BiH) 4th Infantry Brigade Headquarters located in Capljina in Božan Šimović barracks.

The visit was aimed not only to meet with the commander of the brigade, Brigadier General Tomo Kolenda but to also observe the brigade Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO) day. General Kolenda welcomed COS EUFOR and briefed him on the AF BiH 4th Brigade.

After the office call, General Szpisják with other EUFOR personnel observed the activities of the NCO day, which is an annual event that was initiated five years ago by the brigade command sergeant major.

The event includes various sporting activities such as a 4 x 400m run in combat uniform, long jump, throwing dummy hand grenades, the assembly and disassembly of a M16A1 weapon, and aerial rifle shooting. The participating teams were from the units within the 4th Infantry Brigade.

This year representatives took part from the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Infantry Battalions, the Artillery Battalion, the Reconnaissance Company, the Military Police Platoon, and the Signal Platoon. Over the course of the well organized program the 2nd Infantry Battalion team was triumphant and proved they were the best overall. From the individual results, Sergeant Nebojša Radovanović was successful in achieving the gold award for the best NCO during the day. COS EUFOR also gave prizes to the oldest and the youngest participant in this demanding event.

EUFOR to support BiH Ministry of Security with wildfires in Jablanica



At the end of the summer, EUFOR received a request for the use of its resources to aid the Ministry of Security in its efforts to halt a wildfire in the area of Jablanica. Deputy Chief of Staff, Col Fatih Ilhan, said “EUFOR stands ready to assist BiH and its efforts to halt the wildfire which has been active since 3 August 13.”

He continued “EUFOR is not only in BiH to support the Safe and Secure Environment and provide Capacity Building and Training to the Armed Forces of BiH, if we have the capacity to aid state level institutions on their request we are able and willing to do within our resources without infringing on our core mission then we will. This support is in line with Capacity Building & Training and shows the importance of the double use of forces and material as a task for modern armed forces.”

The request from Samir Agic, the Assistant Minister of Security and Head of the Protection and Rescue Sector cited the seriousness of the situation which is still “very demanding and critical.” EUFOR will support this with use of 1 of its Alouette III Helicopters which will assist BiH Forces in firefighting and a Black Hawk helicopter which will provide support through the transportation of personnel and equipment.

The Austrian crews are well rehearsed in emergency aid and medivac procedures and will support the operation as long as it is required and resources allow. This is not the first time EUFOR has assisted Bosnia and Hercegovina in fighting wildfires; in July last year EUFOR provided its helicopters to the areas of Tomislavgrad, Konjic and Trebinje.

9/11 Memorial Ceremony and Run at Camp BUTMIR

In Commemoration of the 11 September 2001 attacks in NEW YORK, WASHINGTON and PENNSYLVANIA NATO Headquarters SARAJEVO hosted a 9/11 Memorial Ceremony and Run at Camp BUTMIR.

In remembrance of the three thousand victims who perished, the US Contingent organized and ran a 3 mile/5km circuit around the inside wire of the Camp. The event was very well attended even though there was a continuous downpour throughout. Brigadier General Merle D Hart, COM NHQSa, opened the proceedings with heart-

felt words given in honor of the victims as he recalled his own experiences of that day 12 years before.

Leading up to the event the U.S. National Support Element executed a two week marketing campaign to encourage participation from NATO, EUFOR and AF of BiH personnel. They secured food

and beverages for the runners and through charitable donations hosted the event (worth over \$1000.00). Twenty members of the US contingent provided support throughout the event and ensured a safe and successful competition was enjoyed by all participants. The top 36 runners received a remembrance T-shirt.





EUFOR LOT HOUSES ACROSS BiH