



Austrians train AFBiH in rescue techniques

Commander EUFOR

Major General Johann Luif

Readers,

Bearing in mind the serious challenges that Bosnia and Herzegovina was faced with last year, 2015 began as a year of better opportunities, which nonetheless require both decisive commitment and resources.

The EU perspective became more tangible with the 'EU new approach for BiH' launched in December 2014. This led to several concrete political steps throughout the past six months

Notably, in the frame of this process the Stabilization and

Association Agreement was brought fully into force on the 1st of June and anchored the country to the EU accession path, while BiH began work to outline an Agenda for reform, which shall respond, among other things, to the protesters' grievances of February 2014. While political progress takes shape, the political and security situation is still affected by potential destabilisers.

Political exploitation of the attack on the police station in Zvornik or the recent resolution of the RS National Assembly to call a possible referendum on State level judicial institutions and the authority of the High Representative are clear signs of hampered political progress. These developments remind us of the importance to tackle such issues on a day by day basis. The emerging Reform Agenda and the Structured Dialogue on Justice constitute the most appropriate forums for this. In that sense, not only ensuring a safe and secure environment but



also moving the country forward in political, social, and economic terms remain essential tasks for the EU in BiH.

Supported by EUFOR capacity building and training, the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina have shown both the willingness and determination to respond to challenges. One only has to remember their tireless contribution during the flooding of last year to see the human and professional qualities their men and women demonstrated. However, the professionalization and modernization process of AFBiH remains

constrained by budgetary issues, as these demanding activities have underlined the requirement for more equipment, more funding and more investment. Quite simply for AFBiH to reach its potential, it needs to be given the tools to accomplish its tasks.

Giving AFBiH the funding to better equip itself would not only improve its current capabilities, but also allow EUFOR to diversify the areas of training and mentoring. We have the expertise of 22 nations at our disposal and could provide additional training in a number of new areas if AFBiH equipped itself accordingly.

Bosnia and Herzegovina should be proud of the progress made by AFBiH in the past decade. While AFBiH is a comparatively young force, the resources needed for its development should be recognized in order to further upgrade itself to international standards.

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Commander EUFOR
Major General Johann Luif

EUFOR Public Affairs Chief
Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Pehr

EUFOR Forum Staff:

Spokesperson:

Lieutenant Commander Ben Timpson

Layout:

Mr. Jasmin Zeherović

Photographs contributed by:

Warrant Officer 1st Class Herbert Pendl

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Readers,

I am delighted to join the EUFOR team as Spokesperson, and look forward to sharing your valuable work through our website, social media and news outlets.

Inside this issue you will find details of the Austrian Senior National Representative HOTO Ceremony, the visit of the Slovenian Defense Minister and the Chief of Swiss Armed Forces Joint Staff. In the CB&T section, you can see stories on Exercise Dynamic Response, the Mountain Rescue Techniques Course and CIS Training as well as many others from the past two months.

Your photos, articles and information are really important to our effort to show what EUFOR is achieving in BiH. So if you have something you can contribute, or want to show what you have done, get in touch and we will make it happen.



Lieutenant Commander Ben Timpson

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COM EUFOR impressed by Dynamic Response



On the 12th of June COM EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif, alongside COM NATO, attended a briefing and demonstration during Exercise Dynamic Response. EUFOR provided 18 personnel to assist and advise during the exercise, which simulated Disaster Relief.

Building on experience

Exercise Dynamic Response is designed around the theme of 'Helping civilian structures in the event of flooding', and the scenario is closely based on the devastating flooding experienced last year. Designed and executed by the 6th Brigade Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH), it ran from the 8th until the 15th of June.

Civil and Military Cooperation

The first part of the exercise enabled the command teams to practice their response to a humanitarian disaster. For the first time, this exercise was attended not only by military forces but by members of the Civil Defense of the Republic of Srpska and Federal Civil Protection Administration of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In an interview at the event Major General Mirko Tepšić, AFBiH Deputy Chief of Joint Staff spoke of this combined approach;

'This was a good way to improve our cooperation and coordination to execute tasks we had given ourselves after the lessons learnt

in the floods last year, and this is the way cooperation with civilian organizations can be improved'

Impressive Demonstrations

Major General Luif began the visit by meeting Major General Mirko Tepšić, and Brigadier General Radovan Ilic, 6th Brigade Commander. He received a briefing on the planning and execution of the exercise, before observing a live demonstration of Flood Rescue techniques. These involved not only AFBiH soldiers, but members of local Mountaineering and Rafting clubs. The visit concluded with an exhibition of the AFBiH Combat Simulation Centre, a facility used extensively during the planning of Exercise Dynamic Response.



Observing and advising

For this exercise EUFOR provided 18 staff officers in Embedded Advisory Teams, subject matter experts in areas ranging from Air Operations to Logistics. These EUFOR personnel passed on their knowledge and experience to the AFBiH personnel involved during the exercise, supporting them as they progress in their ability to manage incidents like the simulated flood.

Watching the demonstrations Major General Luif commented, ‘What we saw today was very impressive. It is very important to have such exercises to be prepared for real missions. I am very proud as Commander of EUFOR that we were closely connected with this exercise, to give them the advice to develop this very challenging situation’



COM EUFOR welcomes new NATO COM Brigadier General Giselle Wilz



In a meeting on Monday the 18th June COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif welcomed the new Commander NATO HQ Sarajevo, Brigadier General Giselle M. Wilz. During the meeting Brigadier General Wilz spoke with her EUFOR counterpart and signed the official guest book.

Brigadier General Wilz takes over from Brigadier General Petty, who served in the role for over a year. Commenting on the handover, Major General Luif stated ‘I am pleased to welcome Brigadier General Wilz. The partnership between EUFOR and NATO is essential, and I look forward to continuing its success together’



Admiral Mark Ferguson, commander of Allied Joint Force Command Naples, passes the flag to Brigadier General Giselle Wilz, NATO HQ Sarajevo commander

Turkish Mehter Military Band Visits EUFOR



On Thursday the 11th of June the Turkish Mehter Military Band performed in front of the HQ Building in Camp Butmir. The band has the distinction of having the longest heritage in the world, and the large crowd of EUFOR personnel who gathered to watch it were treated to a spectacular performance featuring both voice and instruments. COM Eufor personally thanked the band leader after their efforts.



Operations Chief of the Turkish General Staff visits EUFOR

Operations Chief of the Turkish General Staff, Lieutenant General Erdal Öztürk visited the Turkish national contingent on the of 20th May 15.



During his visit to Camp Butmir Lieutenant General Öztürk took the opportunity to have an office call with COM EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif. Major General Luif thanked Lieutenant General Öztürk for the continuing support of Turkey to the EUFOR mission and remarked on the professionalism of the soldiers under his command.

Turkey is the 2nd largest of the 22 troop contributing nations who provide soldiers to Operation Althea.

Turkish personnel hold key positions within EUFOR HQ, have Liaison Observation Teams in Zenica, Zavidovici, Travnik, Jablanica and Livno, also providing one of the 2 companies that form the Multinational Battalion.

European Parliament Rapporteur visits COM EUFOR



On the 18th June 2015, Dr. Cristian Preda, European Parliament Rapporteur for Bosnia and Herzegovina, met with Commander EUFOR Major General Johann Luif.

The meeting was part of Dr. Preda's visit to BiH lasting from the 17th until the 20th of June.

During the visit at Camp Butmir, Major General Luif outlined to him the structure of EUFOR and discussed the main effort of its mission, Capacity Building and Training for the Armed Forces BiH.

Slovenian Minister of Defence visits EUFOR

On 19 June 2015, Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif, hosted the Minister of Defence of Slovenia, Mrs Andreja Katič, during her visit to EUFOR.

After she was welcomed with an Honour Guard at Camp Butmir, Mrs Katič spoke with Major General Luif about EUFOR's mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Capacity Building and Training programme for the Armed Forces of BiH. Accompanying Mrs Katič, the Chief of the General Staff of the Slovenian Armed Forces, Major General Andrej Osterman also joined the office call.

COM EUFOR took the opportunity to thank the



Minister of Defence for the support of the Slovenian Armed Forces and also praised the contribution of the Slovenian troops serving in the mission.

Mrs Katič then met members of the EUFOR Slovenian contingent whilst in Camp Butmir. The Slovenian contingent is one of seventeen EU troop contributing nations in the mission.

Austrian SNR Handover/Takeover ceremony

On the 17th of June, the position of Austrian Senior National Representative was handed over from Colonel Jürgen Wimmer to Colonel Jürgen Schlechter. In a ceremony in the Blackhawk hangar, the Austrian contingent listened to the two men address them.

Colonel Schlechter first entered Bosnia and Herzegovina in December 1995, serving for seven months. Speaking at the ceremony he said, ‘I’d like to thank the representatives of the Troop Contributing Nations for the warm welcome you and your staff have



offered me. I promise you to do my best in order to fulfil my duty as branch head responsible for Joint Military Affairs. At the same

I will use all my skills, powers and commitment as the Austrian National Senior Representative to support our mission’

MNBN Boarding Training

On Monday 29th of June an Austrian platoon from the EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN) conducted helicopter boarding training, exercising their ability to quickly move personnel to areas around Bosnia and Herzegovina. The platoon conducted a number of flights, practicing their facility to rapidly

load equipment and transport themselves with the helicopter.

Essential training

The capacity to move swiftly around Bosnia and Herzegovina is essential to EUFOR’s capacity to assist local authorities if required. Training like this enables the MNBN not only to sharpen their skills but also to gain knowledge



of their surroundings and the time required to reach a location.

Ideal environment for practice

Austrian Warrant Officer Michael Zaller, Deputy Platoon leader said, ‘This training is very important as it should be a standard procedure for every soldier. The assets we have within Camp Butmir mean we have great opportunities to exercise this capability regularly’

Safe and secure environment

Alongside EUFOR’s central task, Capacity Building & Training of the AFBiH, EUFOR retains the ability to contribute to the Bosnia and Herzegovina authority’s deterrence capabilities if required.

EUFOR Medal Parade

On the 26 May 2015 40 personnel from the Austrian and Turkish contingents were presented with their European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Service Medal Operation Althea by COS EUFOR, Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza.

‘Congratulations to each and every one on parade’

In his speech, Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza stressed the importance of the Medal Parade in that it formally and publically acknowledged the contribution made by everyone on the parade to the success of EUFOR.

He continued by saying that each one of them represented a practical and positive affirmation of support from their Governments and Armed Forces to EUFOR and to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Austria and Turkey are the 2 largest contingents of the 22 troop contributing nations currently serving in Operation Althea



Austrians train AFBiH in rescue techniques



On the 16th of June a mountain rescue techniques course run by a EUFOR Mobile Training Team from Austria concluded. The most recent course lasted 10 days, and was the last of three courses of this type run since April. The subject of the course was training the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) troops how to use mountain rescue techniques to rescue people in Disaster Relief scenarios.

Preparing for the worst

After the disastrous flooding of June 2014, AFBiH decided to ensure they continued to build upon their experiences supporting the civilian population. One area they highlighted was the capacity to rescue people from inaccessible areas such as flooded areas which this course addressed. During the course AFBiH personnel were trained to secure casualties in steep, hazardous environments and to maneuver them an area of safety. The course concluded with a practical examination of the skills to confirm the progress made.



Sharing Knowledge

COM EUFOR visited the course on Monday the 15th, and watched the AFBiH conducting some of the rescue techniques they been trained in. Speaking at the event, he said:

‘Sharing knowledge such as the mountain rescue techniques demonstrated here today is a key part of EUFOR’s mission. Through the progress the personnel have made on this course, they will be better prepared to meet the challenges of providing assistance to the population in crisis situations’.

Captain Markus Wallner, director of the course commented:

‘It was pleasing to see the skills gained over the duration of the training. Many of the AFBiH soldiers were using these techniques for the first time, but they were motivated and keen to learn. After this training they will be in a position to teach others, so this capability can be spread’



APRA-40 System Handling and Maintenance

On 4th June a Logistical System Handling and Systems Maintenance course concluded, delivered by a Romanian EUFOR Mobile Mentoring Team (MMT) at the Tactical Support Brigade Barracks in Rajlovac. The MMT consisted of 7 instructors led by Major Claudiu GHERMAN.

Training started with a description of the main components of the system, identifying the parts and how the APRA-40 system functioned. On conclusion of the theoretical stage, the practical work started, focusing on correct handling, function verifications and incident solving.

Major Gherman commented, “The Romanian team came here to share knowledge and practical experience and we salute the level of high professionalism of the BiH forces. Through very good communication and determination on both sides the established objectives were successfully achieved.”

By the end of the course, the Armed Forces BiH soldiers had gained the skills required to ensure future training on and maintenance of the equipment.

The EUFOR Capacity Building and Training Division in cooperation with BiH Operational Command provided the logistical support that made this training course possible.

by Capt. Călin-George



EUFOR Disaster Relief Training Exercise turns real

From the 18th to the 29th of May, a MAHE (Military Assistance in Humanitarian Emergencies) Exercise was conducted in Derventa. The exercise came close to being a real situation as heavy rain raised the risk of flooding during the two weeks.

Civil and Military Organizations combine in Crisis Centre

Austrian and Slovenian personnel part of a EUFOR Mobile Monitoring Team trained engineers from Armed Forces Bosnia and Herzegovina, during an exercise simulating heavy rain and earthquakes in the area around the river Ukrina. As the exercise started, the military forces co-operated with the local Civil Protection Department, Fire Department, Police and the Red Cross to establish a Crisis Centre.

As the exercise continued, heavy rain started to threaten the area.



Heavy rain threatens real flooding

The civilian and military forces involved in the exercise prepared themselves to respond to a real flooding risk, bringing themselves to full readiness to support the local area. Fortunately, conditions improved and the river calmed, and the participants were able to finish the exercise without further incidents.

Arming with knowledge

EUFOR uses Mobile Training Teams such as the one used in this exercise to assist in developing the skills of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, training them to respond to humanitarian emergencies such as flooding. EUFOR's contribution in this area is an essential element of its efforts within Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Crowd control and convoy training in Tuzla



From the 8th until the 12th of June in Tuzla, a platoon of Austrian soldiers from the EUFOR Multinational Battalion undertook combined convoy and crowd control training with the 4th Brigade Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH). The Peace Support Operation training focused on practical exercises, after the personnel were given the theoretical briefings on the topic beforehand.

International skills

Commander of the Multinational Battalion Michael Köck said, 'Topics like convoy and crowd control training are very valuable. This training has had reciprocal benefits for both the Multinational Battalion and the AFBiH'



CBTD teams meet to discuss achievements and goals

On 3rd of June 2015, the Capacity Building & Training Division (CBTD) Bi-Monthly Meeting took place in Camp Butmir.

This meeting occurs every two months, and is used to exchange information between the Capacity Building and Training teams in Camp Butmir and those working with Armed Forces Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH).

Common Purpose

The meeting featured presentations from the teams on recent activities such as the mentoring of AFBiH in Disaster



Relief exercises, and gave guidance on improvements to the operation of CBTD. During the meeting Deputy Chief of Staff CBTD Colonel Hakan Soner Aplak praised the performance of his personnel, and emphasized the importance of the continued co-operation between the different teams.

Essential component of the mission

EUFOR's mandate is focused mainly on CBTD, through which it assists the AFBiH to develop its capacity and skills. Multinational teams use their knowledge to support the training of AFBiH in areas such as Medical Evacuation and Disaster Relief Support to Civil Authorities.

Turkish Mobile Training Team contribution recognized

On the 15th of June certificates of appreciation were presented to members of a Turkish Mobile Training Team who ran the CISCO Network Academy Course. 11 Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) personnel were successfully trained on the last course that ended 12th June, one of 8 CIS (Communication and Information) courses being conducted this year by EUFOR. The certificates were presented on behalf of COM EUFOR by Colonel Jürgen Wimmer, Chief Joint Military Affairs.

Preparing for joint missions

CISCO Network Academy Course covers the fundamental network topics about routing. The



aim of the course was to make AFBiH trainees gain theoretical information and practical experiences on routing. This information and experience gained through the training will help

participants work as part of the networks built for joint missions.

Train the Trainer

Mobile Training Teams teams are provided by troop contributing nations for the time period of the training. Their task is to train future trainers of the AFBiH in order to assist the AFBiH to achieve a robust and self-sustainable training structure. The participants of this course are now ready to educate other personnel in this subject. During their first steps as new teachers, they will be mentored by EUFOR's Mobile Mentoring Teams.

LOT water project

Members of LOT house Zavidovici took part in implementation of a water supply renewal project in the Zivinice/Svojat local community. This project was financed by Turkish Government and completed in May.

The aim of the project was to provide a drinking water supply to 142 houses in the Svojat local community, which had great problems with water supply especially during the summertime.

The Senior National Representative of Turkish Contingent Col. Savaş CELEPOĞLU, Svojat LC president and Mayor of Zivinice municipality attended the opening ceremony of the Svojat water supply network. During the opening ceremony the Mayor of Zivinice Mr. Asim Aljic expressed his gratitude towards Turkish Government and emphasized that Turkey has implemented many infrastructure projects throughout the country. He also stated that Turkey was amongst the first countries that provided aid after the flood in May 2014.



Turkish LOT House donates medical equipment

On 14 May 2015 the Turkish contingent via its Liason Observation Team (LOT) in Travnik donated new equipment to the maternity department of Travnik hospital. The equipment was given in a ceremony attended by local medical and government officials. During their regular meetings with the local people in the hospital, the personnel of LOT Travnik had noticed that the hospital would benefit from more equipment for new born babies. Seeing the opportunity, a project was started resulting



in the donation of the equipment.

The ceremony was attended by a number of area representatives, including the Cantonal Minister of Health and Social Policies, Nikola Grubestic, and the Senior National Representative of the Turkish EUFOR contingent, Colonel Savaş Celepoglu.

Speaking at the ceremony, the Director

of Travnik Hospital Dr Mirsad Granov expressed his gratitude for the equipment, and spoke of the positive effect it would have for the local community.

Climbing camp educates children on Mine Risk Awareness

Around 20 children from BiH multiethnic schools – Zenica, Tuzla, Mostar and Sarajevo, participated in the Drežnica climbing camp from 29 June to 3 July. The camp was organized by the Austrian CIMIC team who provided donations and supported the event. “We initiated this project with the Colonel Michael Lasser from the EUFOR Embedded Advisory Team from Tuzla. We thought that climbing would be a perfect means to keep children of different ethnicities working together. From our perspective, it works very well”, says the 1st Lieutenant Andreas Grassberger, Austrian CIMIC Chief.

EUFOR LOT Mine Risk Education

The Swiss LOT House from Mostar, together with the EUFOR EOD team organized a Mine Risk Education (MRE) lecture for participants of the camp in Drežnica. The children had an



“The aim of the MRE is to reduce the risk of landmines and unexploded ordnance for humans and to make BiH a safer and more secure place” says private Mario Petrillo from Swiss LOT house in Mostar who provided lecture for participants of the camp.

“That is why the LOT Houses are doing MRE for BiH schools with the aim to inform children about the mines and UXO’s danger. Thanks to the MRE, there were not as many incidents as before, and this is a big success for all of us.

We are happy to see that the children’s knowledge about the mine situation in this country is very good. However, some children still have to learn there is a threat, and how to deal with it”

opportunity to see how much space is still contaminated with mines and the consequences of touching mines. EUFOR contributes to the BiH Mine Action Strategy by conducting Mine Risk Education.





Inside...The DFAC

Napoleon said ‘an army marches on its stomach’, and the men and women of EUFOR are well catered for by Head of Food Services Department and his team in the DFAC. The DFAC are caterers for a Multi National Unit therefore it is befitting to provide a varied service in order for all Nations to be treated equal. All catering related costs are reimbursable via Nation Borne Costs.

We spoke to Glen and some of the staff within the DFAC about their work.

Glen Meeking, Head of Food Services Department

Glen served in the British Army for 24 years, and has been in his role at Camp Butmir for 15 years.

What’s the most memorable event you have catered for?

‘Any event where we cater for ‘VVIP’ personnel is memorable, such as the NATO commanders New Year’s Reception. It means our skills levels have to go up, allowing the staff to show what they are capable of, which is very impressive’



What’s the most popular dish you serve in the DFAC?

‘It’s difficult to say because all the different nationalities have their own favorites. We have lots of Austrians at the moment, so schnitzel is a very popular dish!’

What’s your favorite meal?

‘I’ve been away from the UK for a long time, so a traditional British carvery always reminds me of home. We use fresh food as much as possible, so we give all our dishes a homemade feel’

Can you tell us a joke?

‘No, none of my jokes are fit for publication in Forum’



Jasmina Pasic

Jasmina was born in Germany and grew up near Banja Luka. She has worked in the DFAC for 8 years

What do you like about working in the DFAC?

‘I enjoy the people here. It’s like a big family and the variety of the work keeps it interesting. Events like the Army Hall Christmas function are great to be part of’

What’s your favorite DFAC dish?

‘Steak with mushrooms. Definitely!’



Igor Samardzija

Igor is Sarajevo born and raised, and works in the administration of the DFAC after being a chef for years

What’s the local food visitors should make sure they try?

‘There is a dish called ‘Bosnian Pot’, which is a traditional stew slow cooked in a clay pot with small pieces of meat and vegetables. Definitely try that’

What food do people request the most?

‘Hamburgers. It doesn’t matter where you are from, everybody loves them’

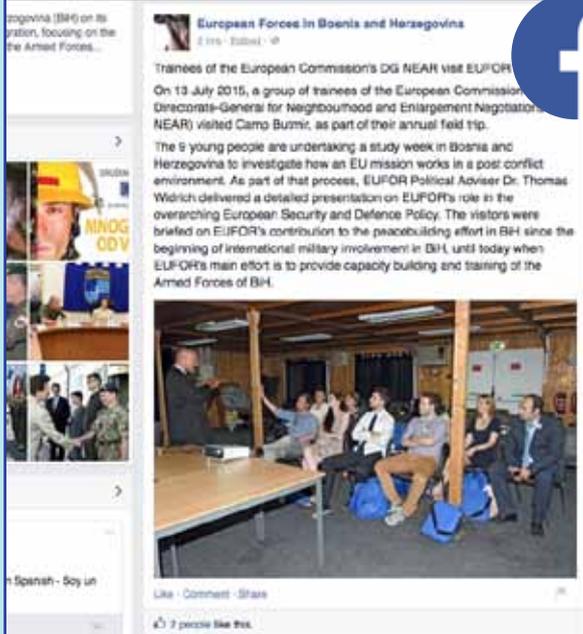


Every week in the DFAC, EUFOR consumes:

- 800**
kilos of potatoes
- 450**
kilos of tomatoes
- 9000**
eggs
- 280**
kilos of pineapple
- 15,000**
litres of bottled water

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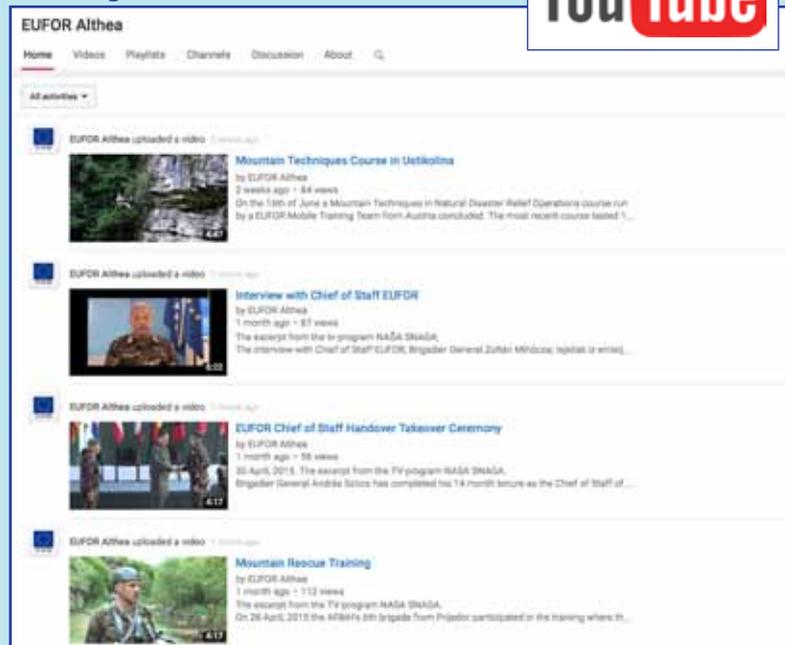
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