

MNBN Change of Command Ceremony



On Wednesday the 12th of August a ceremony was held marking the change of command of the Multinational Battalion.

See pages 4-5



**EUFOR ALTHEA Operation
Commander General Sir Adrian
Bradshaw visits Camp Butmir**

EUFOR Althea Operation Commander General Sir Adrian Bradshaw

Dear readers,

COM EUFOR, MG Johann LUIF, has kindly offered me the opportunity to address you with a few words in this issue of EUFOR Forum. Holding the dual roles of NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe and Operational Commander of EUFOR Althea, since February 2014 I have regularly visited COM EUFOR and BUTMIR Camp. In addition I have

toured LOTS, Ammunition Storage Sites, military camps and facilities throughout the country and attended regular joint Exercises in order to follow the whole range of our activities closely. As an example, during the Disaster Relief Operation 'Joint Effort 14' I witnessed the strong commitment and dedication of EUFOR Althea's partnership with AFBiH in reaction to the terrible flooding of summer 2014.

I would therefore like to express my sincere appreciation for all the positive contributions of EUFOR Althea's personnel in the past eleven years. From the LOTS' daily interaction with the local population, to CB&T activities in a wide range of areas such as bridge building, disaster relief training and mine risk awareness activities, the professionalism and dedication of all EUFOR personnel, alongside AFBiH and also alongside BiH citizens has been visible at all levels and in all areas. This record of achievement makes me confident that EUFOR Althea will continue to serve as a valuable contributor, supporting the BiH authorities in the maintenance of a Safe and Secure environment. Our efforts in these areas are a crucial element of the overall EU Comprehensive Strategy for BiH.

During my regular meetings with Armed Forces



BiH, and government officials throughout the country, we collaborate together in our effort to support the 'Dual use of Forces concept' that is in both domestic disaster relief and contributing to international peace support operations abroad. We are developing our approach to support and respond to the needs of the AFBiH in the best way possible in these main tasks.

My main focus for the coming period will remain the pursuit of CB&T for the AFBiH and the preservation of the SASE within BiH, through our continued commitment and support to local authorities. By pursuing and improving our CB&T programme in conjunction with NATO Headquarters Sarajevo and AFBiH, EUFOR will contribute to the development of more professional and capable Armed Forces BiH. By maintaining our current situational awareness and capabilities, we stress the importance of EUFOR Althea's presence as a reassuring element in BiH.

Looking ahead, during October Exercise Quick Response 15 we will see the co-operation between EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in action again. This annual exercise will train the two forces in Peace Support Operations, a key part of the EUFOR role. I am sure many involved will have memories of the last exercise, during which both EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina responded to the real life flooding that effected so many around the region. The selflessness and courage displayed during this period was a great example of the benefits of such joint exercises and potentials of our partnership.

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MNBN Change of Command Ceremony

“Summer afternoon - the two most beautiful words in the English language”

— Henry James

July and August are traditionally quieter months for EUFOR, but within the pages of this FORUM you can read about a wealth of different activities undertaken by our men and women. This includes the Op Commanders visit, the HOTO ceremony of the MNBN, visits by British Royalty, the Japanese Ambassador and the Ramadan Iftar dinner.



Lieutenant Commander Ben Timpson

Within this issue you can also see photos of how Camp Butmir has evolved over the years.

Don't forget that you can keep up with EUFOR news at www.facebook.com/euforbih and www.euforbih.org. And remember, this is your magazine so do let us know if you have any feedback on this issue.

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MNBN Change of Command Ceremony



Austrian, Hungarian and Turkish soldiers parade the MNBN flag in front of the assembled personnel

On Wednesday the 12th of August a ceremony was held marking the change of command of the Multinational Battalion. Lieutenant Colonel Michael Köck handed over to Lieutenant Colonel

Reinhard Bacher during the event which took place in the Blackhawk hanger.

The event was witnessed by a number of personnel from

throughout EUFOR. Senior National Representatives from EUFOR joined COM NATO HQ Sarajevo Brigadier General Giselle Wilz, the Austrian Ambassador to BiH His Excellency Martin Pammer and Colonel Aytuğ ŞEKER, Military Attaché of the republic of Turkey in Sarajevo.

Turkish and Hungarian soldiers paraded during the ceremony alongside the Austrian MNBN personnel, who completed their time within EUFOR in August. During the previous six months the MNBN have been engaged in numerous combined training activities alongside the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as taking part in the Pegasus Spring exercise.

Addressing the troops in his



Lieutenant Colonel Reinhard Bacher receives the MNBN flag from COM EUFOR

farewell speech, Lieutenant Colonel Köck said,

‘It was a great honor for me to lead the MNBN in the last six months. Because of the international environment, different languages, cultures and tactical level combat techniques, I gained much experience and learned a lot’.

Lieutenant Colonel Bacher then gave his speech to the assembled soldiers saying,

‘I am really looking forward to working with you for the next 6 months and am expecting an interesting and challenging time for all of us in the battalion, achieving Full Operational Capability, Combined Training with AFBiH and as a highlight being a central part of Quick Response 15 in October’.

The ceremony included a parade of the color, and a symbolic passing of the MNBN flag between the incoming and outgoing commander and COM EUFOR. This demonstrates that the even in HOTO the MNBN is never without leadership.

COM EUFOR also spoke, expressing his gratitude and respect for the outgoing commander and underlining the serious responsibility that the ‘operational arm’ of EUFOR carries with them.

By Lt Cdr Ben Timpson



Lt Colonel Michael Köck hands over the MNBN flag to COM EUFOR



Guests stand to attention as the MNBN flag is paraded

Brigadier General Peter Wanner visits EUFOR



On the 29th July 2015 Brigadier General Peter Wanner, Chief International Relations Defence for Switzerland visited EUFOR.

During the visit Brigadier General Wanner had an office call with COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif. They discussed the EUFOR mission and the Swiss contribution to it, which includes personnel working within the effort to store and destroy surplus ammunition within Bosnia and Herzegovina. Swiss Colonel Martin Trachsler works as EUFOR Special Advisor on Weapons and Ammunition Disposal within this sector.

Capacity Building & Training

Swiss personnel also work within Capacity Building & Training. Examples of their work include training the AFBiH in the operation of forklifts, so that they have the skills to train future generations of operators.

Japanese Ambassador visits COM EUFOR



On Wednesday 22nd July His Excellency Mr. Kazuya Ogawa, the new Ambassador of Japan to Bosnia and Herzegovina, visited COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif. During the visit COM EUFOR explained the main tasks and the mandate of EUFOR, focusing on the Capacity Building and Training of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. He also discussed EUFOR's contribution to maintaining a safe and secure environment within the country, by providing support to local authorities if required.

Comprehensive approach

During the meeting COM EUFOR commented on the potential of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the importance strengthening it's armed forces as part of the EU comprehensive approach in the country. The Japanese Ambassador then spoke with COM EUFOR about the current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina before signing the guest book.

Austrian Chief of Defence Staff visits EUFOR



General Commenda receives salute from the Hungarian honor guard

On the 19th of August the Austrian Chief of the Defence Staff General Othmar Commenda visited EUFOR Camp Butmir. Greeted with an Honor Guard, General Commenda proceeded to an office call with COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif.

Austria is a large contributor to the EUFOR Althea mission, with personnel working in almost every facet of the operation including Capacity Building & Training, disposal of surplus ammunition and the Multinational Battalion. During the visit General Commenda visited Austrian personnel in Camp Butmir.

HRH The Princess Royal visits EUFOR

On 10 July 2015, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal visited EUFOR personnel based in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

Commander EUFOR Major General Johann Luif greeted The Princess Royal with an Honour Guard, alongside NATO and UK representatives. The Princess then spoke with Major General Luif and Commander NATO HQ Sarajevo Brigadier General Giselle Wilz about the role of EUFOR and NATO within Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Princess Royal proceeded to pay her respects at a memorial commemorating British personnel who lost their lives during active service in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The visit concluded with The Princess Royal meeting UK nationals, both armed forces and civilian, at a small reception in Camp Butmir.

A number of the guests present had met with her previously in



Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal signs the EUFOR guest book at the entrance to Building 200

their military careers, and shared their memories with the Princess.

Wing Commander Heather Millar of the Royal Air Force, at the time Senior National Representative for UK armed forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina said,

‘It was a real honour and privilege for the UK personnel to

meet HRH The Princess Royal at Camp Butmir today. She had a genuine interest in our important work, showing her continued support for the British Armed Forces around the world.

Her visit was a great boost for morale and has left the contingent in Sarajevo feeling highly valued and appreciated’.

By Lt Cdr Ben Timpson



The Princess receives a salute from the Austrian honor guard



The Princess pays her respects at the UK memorial

EUFOR Operation Commander visits Camp Butmir



Left to right: COM EUFOR Major General Johan Luif, EUFOR ALTHEA Operation Commander General Sir Adrian Bradshaw, Head of EUCE Lt General Leonardo Di Marco and COM NATO HQ Sarajevo Brigadier General Giselle Wilz

On the 2nd of September EUFOR Althea Operation Commander Sir Adrian Bradshaw visited Camp Butmir.

The visit included meetings and discussions with COM EUFOR, Lieutenant General Leonardo di Marco, Head of the European Union Command Element (EUCE) and COM NATO HQ Sarajevo Brigadier General Giselle Wilz.

General Bradshaw discussed key current issues within EUFOR, including the EUFOR support given to the disposal of surplus weapons and ammunition within

Bosnia and Herzegovina.

General Bradshaw has held the role of Operation Commander since March 2014, when he assumed the role of NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR), and visits EUFOR personnel regularly as part of his responsibilities. Under an arrangement known as the 'Berlin Plus Agreement', this key command position also commands the EUFOR Operation ALTHEA.

After his visit to Camp Butmir General Bradshaw then spoke at a press conference in the Hotel

Europe in Sarajevo.

The subject of the press conference was Exercise Quick Response 2015. General Bradshaw made an opening statement where he detailed the purpose of the exercise, which is to conduct Peace Support Operations training alongside the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) as part of EUFOR's mandate in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The press conference was attended by both television and print journalists from around Bosnia and Herzegovina, and

General Bradshaw accepted questions on a range of subjects including the exercise and migration within the Balkans.

Exercise Quick Response 15 is an annual exercise demonstrating the capacity of EUFOR to train and operate alongside the AFBiH. It will take place during October and will include soldiers a number of European nations. These troops will join soldiers from around Europe already serving within EUFOR. The exercise will take place in Manjaca, hosted by the AFBiH. Manjaca was chosen as the location for the Exercise as the area is large enough for the troops to train freely. The exercise will focus on Peace Support Operations and will take place between the 13-22nd of October.

The 2014 Exercise Quick Response coincided with heavy flooding in the country, and



General Bradshaw answers questions from the assembled television and print media

EUFOR quickly changed their plan in order to assist the Bosnia and Herzegovnia authorities in their disaster relief.

Soldiers from around Europe joined the AFBiH to rescue

civilians and provide essential support.

This year's Exercise is part of a long term commitment to working closely with the AFBiH

By Lt Cdr Ben Timpson



Left to Right: EUFOR COS Brigadier General Zoltán Mihóczy, COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif, EUFOR ALTHEA Operation Commander General Sir Adrian Bradshaw, Head of EUCE Lt General Leonardo Di Marco and COM NATO HQ Sarajevo Brigadier General Giselle Wilz

History of Camp Butmir



Aerial view over Butmir 2 prior to occupation, including military aircraft shelters for MIG aircraft visible today. The current DFAC building is visible in the background, at the time of the photo used as the boiler room. The tower is a cooling tower for the boiler.



Construction of Butmir 1. In 1997 Camp Butmir began to be used as a Logistics base by SFOR.

During the conflict the area that would become Camp Butmir was located at the front line (or separation zone) between the opposing forces. Heavily impacted by mines and unexploded ordnance, this former Yugoslavian Special Police Force base would eventually be taken over by SFOR in 1997.

Pre Occupation

The agreement for obtaining the ex-Yugoslavian police facilities (today's Butmir 1 area) for locating the SFOR logistic forces from "Zetra" stadium was reached with BIH authorities



Aerial view over accommodation buildings. The foundations of Building 200 are being constructed at the top of the image.

A MIG 21 located in the Butmir 2 area, alongside unexploded ordnance prior to occupation.



(The Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs) at the end of 1996. In spring 1997 EOD Teams cleared the Butmir 1 Area of mines to military acceptable standards. In September 1997 SFOR Logistics moved into Camp Butmir.

Project 48

In 1998 the establishment of SFOR Headquarters within Camp Butmir started (Project 48). This included the construction of the Main HQ Building, the Dining Facility, Medical Facility and 26 accommodation buildings. In 1999 SFOR moved from Tito barracks into Camp Butmir.

By Lt Cdr Ben Timpson



Aerial view of Butmir 2 after the construction of Butmir 1.

EUFOR flag lowering ceremony recognises French troops



Deputy of the French Ambassador Madame Catherine Veber receives the French flag from COM EUFOR

On the 31st of August, a flag lowering ceremony took place in EUFOR Camp Butmir, recognising the ending of the French military presence within EUFOR. Deputy of the French Ambassador, Madame Catherine Veber and Warrant Officer Gueneau of the French Defence Attache attended the ceremony.

The departure of the last French military person from EUFOR brings to an end a commitment that has been unbroken for 23 years. During the course of this service, 116 French soldiers lost their lives, a fact that is recognised by a memorial within Camp Butmir.



EUFOR soldiers lowering the French flag during the ceremony

Speaking at the ceremony, COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif said, ‘While the French military presence here is ending today we should acknowledge that France remains a very important financial contributor to EUFOR Althea’

‘France has had a military presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina continuously since the establishment of 1992, through IFOR, SFOR and most recently, EUFOR. This very significant commitment is very much appreciated by all’.

By Lt Cdr Ben Timpson

EUFOR medal parade celebrates personal contribution



Major Macel Van Eeden receives his medal from Colonel Todor Hitrov

On Tuesday the 25th of August a medal parade took place awarding 39 members of EUFOR with their European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Service Medal Operation Althea. The medal recognizes military personnel who have worked within EUFOR. COS EUFOR Brigadier General Zoltán Mihóczy presented medals during the ceremony and addressed the recipients.

International participation

Speaking during the ceremony, Brigadier General Mihóczy said, 'Each one of you represents a practical and positive affirmation of support from your governments to EUFOR and the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina'.

Continued commitment

During his speech Brigadier General Mihóczy thanked the personnel present for their work during their time with EUFOR,

which with the assembled recipients encompassed all aspects of the mission.

By Lt Col Knut Scheutz



Lieutenant Colonel Thorbjorn Hagman receives his medal from COS EUFOR

Multinational Battalion Hungarian Company Full Operational Capability



MNBN Hungarian soldiers during the simulated Crowd Riot Control part of the exercise



Hungarian soldiers receive a briefing during the exercise

On the 18th of August 2015 the Hungarian company of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion took part in an evaluation exercise held in Rajlovac barracks. In a specially prepared area the Hungarian company encountered a realistic scenario, and were given tasks by the Multinational Battalion staff.

As part of the one year rotational system the Hungarian Company have taken over responsibility from their Austrian counterparts. The evaluation exercise was designed to prove that the company could meet Full



Soldiers clear a blockage from the road during the exercise

Operational capability and are able to fulfil all tasks given to them.

The scenario included elements of Crowd Riot Control and the clearance of explosives. The company were also tested in their ability to evacuate people, including casualties. After the exercise concluded the Multinational Battalion staff analysed the performance of the Hungarian company.

The Commanding Officer of the Multinational Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Reinhard Bacher said,

‘It was very interesting to compare the Crowd Riot Control techniques used by the Hungarian company and the Austrian methods. I am very satisfied with the motivation and commitment displayed by each soldier under my command during the Full Operational Capability evaluation. As such I certify that the Hungarian company have reached Full Operational Capability!’

By Capt Manuel Burgstaller



Austrian personnel conduct Medical evacuation



Hungarian MNBN soldiers assemble

Senior NCO Dinner

On the 1st of July, Command Sergeant Major Zsolt Berek invited the contributing nations Senior Non-Commissioned officers to a working dinner in the VIP dining area within the DFAC.

The position of Command Sergeant Major came into being on the date of the dinner, with one of the main tasks being the establishment of a network between the multinational NCO's within EUFOR.

The dinner gave an opportunity for the NCO's to build friendships that would help them face challenges during their time with EUFOR.



EUFOR senior NCO's alongside the new Command Sergeant Major Zsolt Berek

Command Sergeant Major Berek said: "NCOs are one of the most important levels of military leadership. Here we are in multinational environment,

where we have differences but many similar challenges. Together we are stronger and as Senior NCO's we have to show this to our enlisted soldiers".

Multiethnic Kindergarten in Brautnac

A fundraising campaign resulting in the opening of a climbing frame for a Kindergarten in Bratunac was undertaken by Austrian EUFOR members in July.

An Austrian infantry company from the EUFOR Multinational Battalion alongside the Austrian CIMIC (Civil/Military Cooperation) team identified the

Kindergarten as a project that would allow them to positively impact future generations in the area.

Soldiers within the infantry company became involved, and with their efforts the money for the climbing frame was raised within two weeks. The opening ceremony for the climbing frame on the 23rd of July was attended by Austrian Company Commander Captain Jürgen Gruber, alongside the soldiers who worked on the project. The children of the Kindergarten sang a traditional BiH childrens song for the soldiers in thanks for their contribution.

By Captain Manuel Burgstaller



The Austrian CIMIC team open the climbing frame alongside members of the MNBN

Turkish CIMIC project donates to library

As part of the Civilian-Military Cooperation activities, the EUFOR Turkish Military Contingent purchased books and resources for the Central Public Library in Zavidovici. This was celebrated in an opening ceremony held on 25th of June 2015.

The project included the replacement of windows and doors, painting and the provision of new shelves for library materials. A large number of books were also donated to the library in a range of different languages, enabling the creation of a new reading corner.

The ceremony was attended by the Turkish SNR, the Mayor of Municipality of Zavidovici,



Colonel Savas Celepoglu and local library members at the ceremony

Director of the Zavidovici Library and people of the Zavidovici area as well as the personnel from the

Turkish Military Mission in BiH.

By Major Hasan Mutlu

Turkish contingent hosts Iftar dinner

On the 29th of June the Turkish contingent hosted an Iftar to celebrate Ramadan, inviting other nationalities to join them in the meal.

Iftar is a meal eaten after sunset during Ramadan, which breaks the fasting that takes place during the day. 250 guests attended from a range of different nations and organizations, including High Representative Valentin Inzko.

Turkish Senior National Representative Colonel Savas Celepoglu said 'It was a very enjoyable evening. Many different religions and ethnicities came together for this event, and I think it was a great example of the co-

operation and understanding we have together'.

The Turkish contingent also organized the distribution of 550 packages of food to people within Bosnia and Herzegovina, a traditional act during Ramadan.

The Turkish contingent within EUFOR distributed food within Sarajevo, while LOT houses in Travnik, Zenica, Zavidovici, Jablanica and Livno also distributed food in their areas.

By Major Hasan Mutlu



Guests enjoy the IFTAR meal in the DFAC 'Banja Luka' restaurant

Closing ceremony for Romanian APRA training



AFBiH soldiers look on as a Romanian instructor explains the system

On the 31st of July a closing ceremony for Romanian led APRA (a multiple launch rocket system) training course was held, celebrating the successful completion of the courses by AFBiH personnel. This closing ceremony encompassed the third iteration of the System Handling and Maintenance Course' and the second and third level Maintenance Course.

The course was closed by the previous DCOS CBTD Col Aplak in the presence of the Romanian Defense Attaché and the incoming DCOS CBTD Col Cagan. Representatives from the AF BiH Operational Command also attended the event. The students were presented with certificates,

and in return the Romanian training team was presented with a certificate of appreciation by the AFBiH representatives.

Lead instructor Claudio Gherman commented, 'I have been impressed by the positive

attitude of the trainees throughout, they showed enthusiasm and asked intelligent questions. I look forward to them achieving success as they move forward with this piece of equipment'.

By Major Claudio Gherman



Successful AFBiH participants receive certificates of course completion

Italian Aircrew of “Lyra 34” remembered



The Italian Ambassador His Excellency Ruggero Corrias pays his respects at the memorial

On the 3rd of September the Italian EUFOR and NATO contingent remembered four Italian Airforce soldiers of the G-222 airplane “Lyra 34”. A wreath was laid by the Italian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Ruggero Corrias.

Lieutenant Colonel Marco Betti, Lieutenant Marco Rigliaco, Warrant Officer Giuseppe Buttagliari and Warrant Officer Giuliano Velardi lost their lives on the 3rd of September 1992 whilst serving the UN humanitarian relief operation when their transport

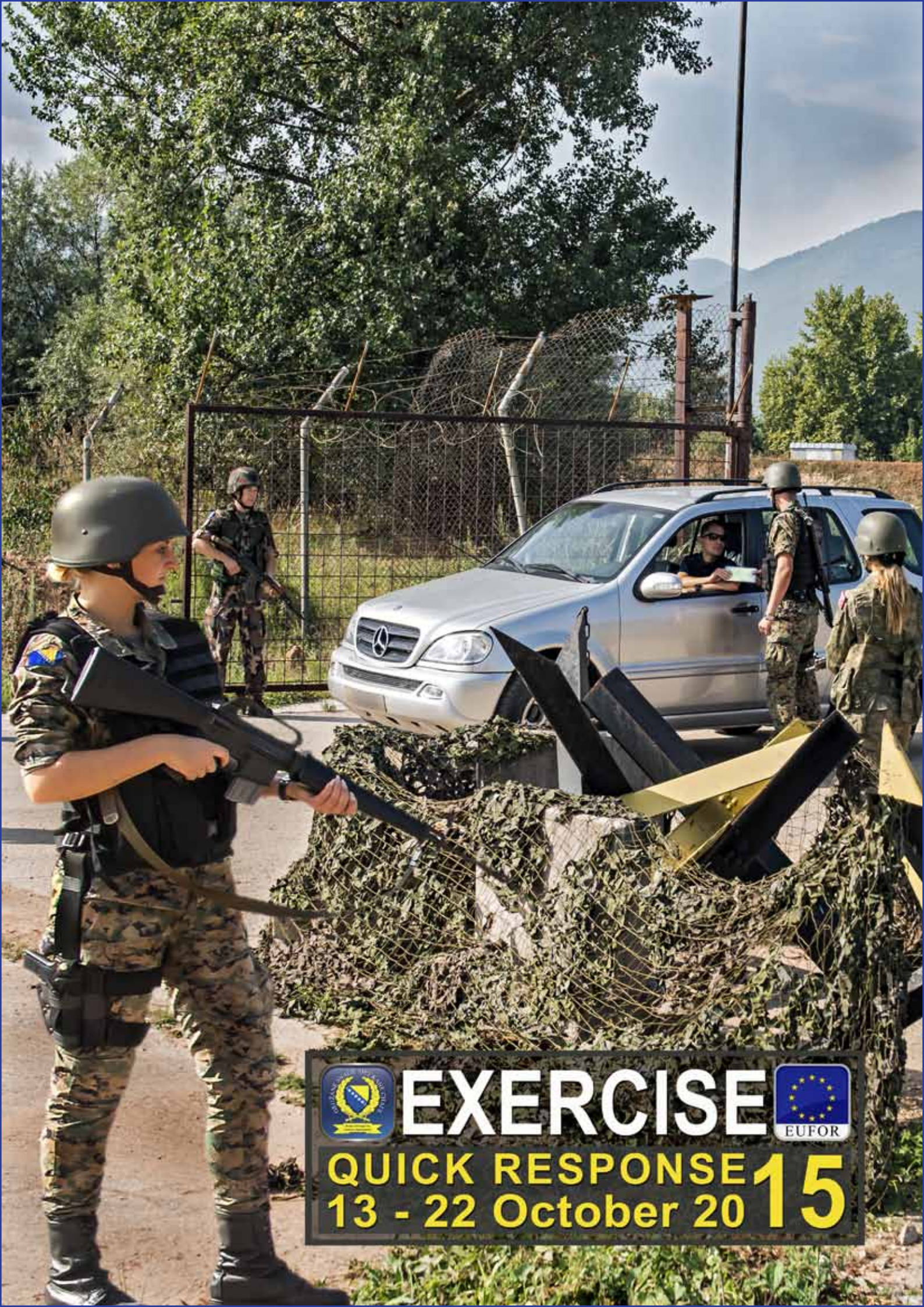
plane was hit by two ground-air missiles.

The simple and moving remembrance ceremony took place at the memorial stone on Zec mountain some 40 km north-west of Sarajevo.

By Major Stefan Klocko



Italian EUFOR members alongside the Ambassador at the ceremony



 **EXERCISE** 
QUICK RESPONSE 15
13 - 22 October 2015