



## **New Commander of EUFOR Multinational Battalion**



Looking ahead, during Exercise Quick Response 2016 we will again see the co-operation between EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in action. This annual exercise will train the two forces in Peace Support Operations culminating with a large exercise in the state joint exercise area in Manjača, near Banja Luka. I am sure many involved will have memories of the last exercise, during which both EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina shared very valuable experiences. It is also an opportunity to exercise both the EUFOR HQ and KFOR HQ in support of this large scale exercise.

During 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 program 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.

**Major General Friedrich Schrötter**

# CONTENTS

**EUFOR attends 21st Anniversary Srebrenica Commemoration 4**

---

**EUFOR Medal Parade 5**

---

**Completion of training of the 17th generation of AFBiH soldiers at Pazarić 9**

---

**Disaster Relief Course in Slovenia 15**

---

**Visit to the Institute for Taking Care of Mentally Disabled Children and Youth Pazarić 16**



**New Commander of EUFOR Multinational Battalion**

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*“When the summer is winter, and the winter is summer, it is a sorry year.”*  
Spanish proverb.

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 HOTO of the MNBN, visits by the Chilean Ambassador and Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and also the Ramadan Iftar dinner. You can also read about the multitude of training delivered by our CB&T branch.

COMEUFOR, General Schrötter, has outlined the importance of the coming months as the result of two years of preparation and training culminating with OP



REHEARSAL LEVEL 2. The next issue will focus on all of the hard work undertaken by one and all leading up to this important event.

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

**Lt Cdr Carl Harwood**  
**EUFOR Spokesperson**

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## EUFOR attends 21st Anniversary Srebrenica Commemoration



Major General Friedrich SCHRÖTTER and Brigadier General Giselle WILZ pay their respects at the Potocari Memorial Stone.

At the Srebrenica commemoration on 11 July, Commander of EUFOR (COMEUFOR), Major General Friedrich SCHRÖTTER along with Commander of NATO Headquarters Sarajevo (COMNHQSa) Brigadier General Giselle WILZ

attended the commemoration ceremony at the Potočari Memorial Centre.

After the service both COMEUFOR and COMNHQSa paid their respects at the memorial stone.

## Visit to EUFOR by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, Daniel MITOV

The Minister of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) of the Republic of Bulgaria, Daniel MITOV visited the European Union Force (EUFOR) Mission Operation ALTHEA on 16 Jun 2016.

On arrival at the Headquarters of EUFOR in Camp BUTMIR, he was greeted by the Commander of EUFOR (COMEUFOR), Major General Friedrich SCHRÖTTER. During an office call with COMEUFOR, the Minister was updated on the progress



of Operation ALTHEA. This included details of the ongoing cooperation between EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) through the

Capacity Building and Training Program. This program focuses on EUFOR's continued support and ongoing cooperation in building a sustainable AFBiH. Bulgaria continues to be a key supporting Nation of OP ALTHEA in BiH.

During his visit, MoFA Daniel MITOV was accompanied by the Bulgarian Ambassador Angel Angelov, Bulgarian Embassy Military Attaché Colonel Ivo Kutev and Ms. Avgustina Tzvetkova, adviser to the Minister.

## Medal Parade for EUFOR commanded by Major General Friedrich Schrötter

A Medal Parade was held today at EUFOR Headquarters in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. Commander EUFOR (COMEUFOR), Major General Friedrich SCHRÖTTER, presented the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Medal Althea to 48 service personnel from 8 different nations, thanking them for their dedicated service in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).

“Through your great efforts, of liaison with external organisations, of planning responses, and of executing those plans, EUFOR is able to make a major positive difference to the lives of many of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In future months, there may be other challenges, but your efforts have shown that the personnel of EUFOR are ready, willing and able to respond in a positive manner.”, he said.

The EUFOR Operation Althea is currently made up of soldiers from 16 EU member states and 5 partner nations. Its primary roles are to provide capacity building and training support to the Armed Forces of BiH and to support BiH efforts to maintain a safe and secure environment, whilst providing support to the overall EU comprehensive strategy for BiH.



COMEUFOR, Major General Friedrich SCHRÖTTER delivers his congratulatory speech to the 48 EUFOR OP ALTHEA Medal Recipients.



COMEUFOR, Major General Friedrich SCHRÖTTER presenting OP ALTHEA EUFOR Medals.



COMEUFOR, Major General Friedrich SCHRÖTTER presenting OP ALTHEA EUFOR Medal to UK Senior National Representative Wg Cdr Andrew VALENTINE.

# Change of Command in EUFOR Multinational Battalion



Officers of 3 nations bearing the colors

Austrian Mountain Infantry Specialist Lieutenant Colonel Christoph BLASCH is the new commander of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN). He took command of the battalion in a ceremony at Camp BUTMIR on Tuesday 9th August.

The first challenge for him and the entire battalion will be a large-scale exercise at end of September. During “Operational Rehearsal 2” multinational reserve forces will be deployed to BiH in order to undertake combined training with EUFOR troops and Armed Forces BiH.



New Commander Lt Col Christoph BLASCH addresses his soldiers

## Combined Training 5th Brigade AFBiH with Hungarian MNBN in Tuzla

Training branch of the Capacity Building and Training Division organized and conducted combined training (CT) of 3rd Company of 1st Battalion of 5th Brigade of AFBiH and Hungarian platoon of MNBN/EUFOR. The CT was an event included in Joint Integrated CB&T Plan 2016, which is signed by Joint Staff AFBiH J3 and DCOS CBT. The training took place at local training area Dubrave close to TUZLA from 20 to 24 JUN 2016. COMEUFOR - Major General Friedrich Schrötter together with COMMNBN - LTC Michael VITOVEC inspected the CT on 22 June 2016. DCOS CBT visited the event during the exercise day (23 JUN). All

distinguished visitors were delighted to see AFBiH and EUFOR working together to the development of the capabilities of the units to perform tasks in



Peace Support Operations (PSO).

The real activities started on 21 JUN with squad and platoon level training conducted by the platoon commanders and mentored by SME Infantry - Major Simeon TSEKOV and 1st Lt KOKAI, MNBN S3 officer. The main training tasks were Foot and Vehicle patrol, House search, Temporary Check Point, IED handling, Ambush reaction. On 23 JUN was conducted a Company level

exercise in the context of PSO which scenario was prepared by 1st BN S3, but they send only one officer to support that training. So the organization and conducting of the exercise was made by Training branch (7 officers took part) and especially the Chief Training Branch - LTC Paulus VAN DER VALK and SO TRAINING - Major Ernst GROEGER.

The two platoons from the MNBN and the AFBiH were part of a multinational company during the exercise. Despite the language barrier they worked together in very good cooperation. Both participants and observers of this final exercise have given high evaluation of the results achieved.



## Visit to Ammunition Storage Site (ASS) Krupa

On 1 August 2016, Commander of EUFOR (COMEUFOR), Major General Friedrich SCHRÖTTER visited Ammunition Storage Site (ASS) KRUPA. The visit was vital in order to get a clear picture of ongoing activities at the prospective Ammunition Storage Sites located around BiH. After a cordial welcome and briefing by Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) Colonel MRKOVIĆ, COMEUFOR was given an introduction to the site and the various processes and storage areas. After this very detailed briefing he visited the Ammunition Storage Houses accompanied by the AFBiH staff. He was shown the ongoing project EXPLODE, Security Upgrade (SECUP) and the KTP (Kontrol Tehnički Pregled) inspection. COMEUFOR was able to witness the KTP inspection, which has the aim to gather 100% of ammunition of



COMEUFOR, Major General Friedrich SCHRÖTTER inspects the 122mm Grad rocket storage.

AFBiH concerning materiel state. The main part of the visit was to show COMEUFOR the previous situation compared with the improved state of infrastructure. At the end of the visit COMEUFOR pointed out the importance of the improvements and ensured the support of EUFOR.

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is currently made up of soldiers from 16 EU member states and 5 partner nations. Its primary roles are to provide capacity building and training support to the AFBiH and to support BiH efforts to maintain a safe and secure environment, whilst providing support to the overall EU comprehensive strategy for BiH.



AFBiH Colonel MRKOVIĆ briefs COMEUFOR Major General Friedrich SCHRÖTTER on the KRUPA Ammunition Storage Site.



COMEUFOR, Major General Friedrich SCHRÖTTER witnesses the safe disposal of a High Explosive (HE) projectile.

## Completion of training of the 17th generation of AFBiH soldiers at Pazarić



193 soldiers from the 17th generation of candidates form up on parade.



COMEUFOR, Major General Friedrich SCHRÖTTER presenting certificates.

An oath-taking ceremony and Contract signing for Military Service in the AFBiH took place at the Basic Training Centre of the TRADOC of the AF BiH 27 July 2016. This officially marked the completion of training of the 17th generation of candidates for the accession to Military Service in AFBiH. The ceremony was

attended by Deputy Minister of Defence Mr. Boris JERENIĆ, Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff of the AFBiH for Resources Major General Senad MAŠOVIĆ, Deputy Commander of the OC AFBiH for Resources Brigadier General Ivica JERKIC. The ceremony was also attended by Commander of NATO Headquarters in BiH

Brigadier General Giselle WILZ, Commander EUFOR Major General Friedrich SCHRÖTTER, representatives of the Military-Diplomatic Corps accredited to BiH, representatives of commands and units of the AFBiH, members of the families, relatives and friends of new soldiers. The number of candidate that swore in and signed the first contract for Military Service in the AFBiH is 193, of which 20 were female. They will be deployed to the commands and units of the AFBiH for service and further specialist training. The first to congratulate the candidates on the successfully completed training, taking the oath and signing military contract were Deputy Minister of Defence Boris JERENIĆ, Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff of the AFBiH Major General Senad MAŠOVIĆ and Commander of the Centre for Basic Training Lieutenant Colonel Jasmin GANIĆ.



COMEUFOR, Major General Friedrich SCHRÖTTER and other military VIP's take the parade salute.





## PILOT PROJECT: Mine Risk Education (MRE) in Kindergarten “Kestenko”

26 August 2016, in Kindergarten “Kestenko”, KOSTAJNICA municipality, the Chilean (CL) LOT House organized a very special Mine Risk Education (MRE) with children between 3 and 5 years old. This was a pilot project from CL LOT House, because it was first time that CL LOT has delivered MRE in Kindergarten.

Twenty-four years after the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, 120,000 land mines are still buried beneath the former front lines, and for that reason, MRE is one of the largest topics in EUFOR activities. EUFOR’s education program provides children of school age



educative classes that stress the importance of mine awareness and prevention of injuries. With this MRE pilot project in Kindergarten “Kestenko”, EUFOR program was implemented on the pre-school age children too.

The MRE was represented by little children, director Sasa GRUBLJESIC, child-care workers, Ms Kristina NIKOLIC as MRE instructor and interpreter of CL LOT House, and three members of CL LOT Team, Major Sergio BENFELD, Lieutenant Alexis RAMIREZ and Corporal Sebastian GALLARDO.

The MRE was organized by the idea of MRE instructor,

Ms NIKOLIC, as an interactive theater show, with participation of all children and members of CL LOT Team. The idea was widely accepted by the infants and educators of establishment who expressed their satisfaction with project which was successfully achieved.

Director of the Kindergarten “Kestenko”, Sasa GRUBLJESIC, stated: “This was first time that we have organized MRE in our Kindergarten. When Miss NIKOLIC suggested to me the idea about the MRE in the form of the theater show, I was thinking it could be really interesting because it is something new and different. It was accepted very well by our children. Since the start, the kids reacted great with the MRE instructor and LOT Team and they were really interactive in the theater show. It is not easy to hold attention of children during this type of activities, but finally children were asking if representatives of the LOT House will come again. We are ready to continue this kind of cooperation with EUFOR”.



## LOT FOČA members visit TRAČAK NADE



From left: Interpreter Sasa KALAJDZIC, 1st Lieutenant CINCAROVA, Sergeant BEKE and small clients of TRACAK NADE, director Ms. Jelena VILOTIC

LOT FOČA members visited TRACAK NADE 18 August 2016. This is an organization, which takes care about children with special needs. Currently the organization has 57 members and small two room office situated in FOČA town. Unfortunately this is not enough space for their activities. Apart from difficult a financing of this organization, because the FOČA Municipality does not have enough money to support all installations for vulnerable persons within the area, they are planning to expand the office for another room. They have a really good cooperation whit the Local Hospital and Medical Faculty in FOČA. The students come to do some leisure activities with the children, for example drawing, sport games etc. They are grateful for any visit, because this results in changed stereotype of the day.

Indeed, it was very nice meeting LOT FOČA members

with director Jelena VILOTIC and her nurse children to see what happens at the facility.

Deputy Commander of LOT FOČA House, Captain Robert SEMAN and his 2 I/C Peter BEKE and Team Leader 1st Lieutenant Ludmila CINCAROVA along with interpreter Sasa KALAJDZIC attended during this event. They were happy to share small presents, such as crayons and writing materials and playing

games and balls with kids of the centre. Additionally, they brought plum cakes baked especially for this event, with aim to present traditional Slovak taste. One by one, the clever and skilful children showed the LOT FOČA members some pictures of the town and surroundings, which they could look at.

Captain SEMAN said: "Although, this is not typical financial project, it is a way, to show not only EUFOR presence, but our true interest in their problems and honest expression of empathy."

1st Lieutenant CINCAROVA, Team Leader, added: "In a few words, we can say, that was not our first and of course not our last visit. We definitely will be in contact with these small friends, because they need our sympathy and what is more, they always think positively and their optimism is a significant value, which was concentrated in these two rooms."



1st Lt CINCAROVA offering a cake

## New EUFOR personnel receive Key Leader Training

From the 21-24 June 2016, new personnel joining EUFOR attended Key Leader Training, a course designed to give them the information about EUFOR that they will need during their time in the mission. 11 people attended the course, receiving a certificate of completion from COS EUFOR Brigadier General Albert SÁFÁR.



the country, and given a practical display on the risks. The course also included visits to LOT House BRATUNAC, Srebrenica Potočari Memorial and the 'Tunnel of Hope' located in SARAJEVO.

Wider awareness  
Speaking as he awarded certificates to the attendees, Brigadier

### Core mission knowledge

The Key Leader Training included presentations on the history and political situation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and presentations from all the different sections of the EUFOR mission. The attendees were also given a detailed briefing on the mine threat within

General Albert SÁFÁR said,

'It is crucial that every member of EUFOR appreciates not only the different aspects of EUFOR, but also the circumstances of Bosnia and Herzegovina. With the training you have received on this course you are now prepared to take up your position within the EUFOR Althea mission'

## CBTD Bi-Monthly Division Meeting

On 27 July 2016, the Capacity Building & Training Division (CBTD) Bi-Monthly Meeting took place in Camp BUTMIR.

In a two monthly circle, CBTD of HQ EUFOR hosted a divisional meeting in order to exchange the information between CBTD elements that are posted in Camp BUTMIR, in staff positions in SARAJEVO or embedded in AFBiH's structure all over the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).

As attendees, all members of CBTD as well as a representative from NATO Headquarters Sarajevo (NATOHQSa) have been welcomed by DCOS CBT, Col Tayfun CAGAN in his opening remarks. DCOS CBT also mentioned that this meeting is the last for him; his successor will come in soon and thanked everybody for their support to him and to Capacity Building and Training Division. He also expressed his confidence that the new DCOS and the successors of the entire personnel will continue the good work that everybody has done so far.

As main part of the meeting, presentations from NATOHQSa Advisor, Branch Heads, Subject Matter Experts, Specialists, Embedded Advisory Teams

(EAT) and Capability Development based review (CBDR) working group (WG) leaders were held. The aim was to inform the audience about recent and planned activities and also about "quick wins", shortfalls and way ahead. DCOS CBT gave guidance for training, mentoring and monitoring activities as well as the internal procedures emphasizing the importance of the results obtained by Capability Development WGs and the importance of keeping the information flow inside and outside CBTD.

In his closing remarks, Col Tayfun CAGAN emphasized that the Bi-Monthly Meeting is of outmost importance to share information and knowledge and we must be eager to learn what others are doing, because our daily activities affect others too. He also stated about the need to influence the counterparts from AFBiH CBDR WGs to work in close cooperation and that the Assessment Conference 16 must also contain the results from the joint WGs. He expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of working groups and the Bi-Monthly meeting as well as the overall performance of CBTD personnel.

by Maj. Florentin Ovidiu BRATOSIN

## Disaster Relief Course in Slovenia

Slovenian Mentoring and Monitoring Team (MMT) conducted a two-week Disaster Relief (DR) course in Slovenia.

This DR Course was the final CB&T module under the Engineering training area. During almost four years training project there has been five training events including FTX Derventa 2015, which was the first exercise conducted together with EUFOR, AFBiH and local civil authorities. Participants were seven officers and one NCO from AFBiH ENGBN and two civilians from Derventa Fire Brigade.

During the course students were introduced to Slovenian organization and procedures in DR activities. The course participants also visited the year 2000 landslide area in LOG nad MANGARTOM. Chief of the local Fire Brigade who was leading the operations there 16 years ago presented the landslide situation, actions taken and lessons learned.

“It has been interesting four years project to train our Bosnian colleagues in the area of Disaster Relief. This course completes the project.” course director, Major Miran KRISTOVIČ told.

Next EUFOR provided DR training will be conducted under the supervision of Disaster Relief Subject Matter Expert (SME). Which means the DR training will be more focused to all branches of AFBiH instead of Engineers only. ENGBN is at this moment the spearhead of AFBiH in DR knowledge. Hopefully the skills of the Engineers can also be used to the benefit of other training units.



## Novo Sarajevo LOT Members visited the Institute for Taking Care of Mentally Disabled Children and Youth PAZARIĆ

On 25 May 2016, the members of Slovak LOT Team, Captain Cyril HUDEC, Sergeant 1st Class Marián KUBEČKA and interpreter Elma DURAKOVIĆ visited the Institute of Mentally Disabled Children and Youth in PAZARIĆ in HADZICI Municipality. Besides charity aim, the LOT members had special surprise for the Children and Youth of this Institution.

Knowing that every single human being need Love and Compassion, that is why they decided to contact and invite the Association "Srce puno osmjeha" with the professional Clown.

The members of the Association Mr. Saša RISTIĆ and Ilija MYNKA provided the most professional performance by singing well-known songs with the entertainment that brought many smiles and happiness to people of this Institution.

"It was very nice to see everybody dancing and singing, including the personal and care givers. Our Children and Youth do not need much in order to be happy. We are very thankful for your kind charity", said Mrs Sabina ČAJIĆ, the PR of this Institution.

Mrs. Sabina ČAJIĆ thanked to the Captain HUDEC for donating clothes for children and youth in different age.

It was a very special occasion where the members of LOT Team experience that not much is necessary to be happy.



Captain HUDEC and Mrs DURAKOVIĆ with youth

**Our Children and Youth do not need much in order to be happy. We are very thankful for your kind charity**

Within the projects of this Institution, there are diverse craft sections, workshops in which children and youth take participation as well you may buy their handmade work.



Performance of boy from Institute

## Folklore Festival in JABLANICA



All participants walked down the streets in the cortege walk. Photos by OR-8 Aykut VURAL

On 7 August 2016, LOT JABLANICA monitored the “12TH INTERNATIONAL DANCING FOLKLORE FESTIVAL” in JABLANICA. This Folklore Festival is held every year in summer time in JABLANICA. The event was held to perform different traditional dances of all Balkan nations. Dancing is a universal language for different cultures to communicate with each other. Folklore has a key role for cultural understanding and contributing good relations among ethnicities. This event put different cultures and ethnicities together in a peaceful environment by the magical language of dancing.

Folklore Teacher of the Neretva Association Dijana RAHIĆ said: “We are very proud of holding this kind of peaceful event in JABLANICA”

Neretva Folklore and Dance Association held the event. Approximately 500 people, from different places and countries (JABLANICA, KONJIC, HADŽI-

**Dancing is a universal language for different cultures to communicate with each other. Folklore has a key role for cultural understanding and contributing good relations among ethnicities.**

ĆI, ČAPLJINA, MOSTAR, PAZARIĆ, TARČIN, MONTE NEGRO, and TURKEY) attended. All participant groups walked through the streets in cortege. They performed their traditional folklore dances.

The event was attended by LOT JABLANICA Commander OF-2 Ahmet TOPOĞLU and Team Member, OR-8 Aykut VURAL.



Participants are from different places of BiH and other countries.

## Opening Health Center in Prozor



From your left; Mustafa USTUPLIC, director of Health Center in SCIPE, OF-5 Abdullah ÖZKANTAR, Head of Turkish Military Representative in BiH. Photo by OR-8 Fikret AYDÖNER

On 4 August 2016, LOT JABLANICA monitored the opening ceremony of donated equipment in SCIPE Health Centre in PROZOR. An ambulance and medical equipment were donated to the Health Centre in SCIPE by Turkish Government. There are no other health Centre's in

nearby villages except SCIPE. The health center was really suffering lack of medical equipment. The ceremony started with a thanks speech of Mustafa USTUPLIC, director of the Health Centre in SCIPE. After the speech the ribbon cutting ceremony took place. Better health is central

to human happiness and well-being. It also makes an important contribution to economic progress, as healthy populations live longer and are more productive. A well-functioning Health Centre will be beneficial for not only citizens in SCIPE but also people living in surrounding villages.

Mustafa USTUPLIC, director of Health Centre in SCIPE said:

“Health is very important and a real need for every individual. It has a huge impact on performance and efficiency. With these new equipment health center has become well efficient. So we are thankful to Turkish Military Representative in BiH.”

The event was attended by EUFOR DCOS Ops Col Abdullah OZKANTAR Turkish Senior National Representative, LOT JABLANICA members and around 250 people.



From left: Fikret AYDÖNER, OR-8, LOT Team Member. Amra ZAHIROVIC Interpreter of LOT. Ahmet TOPOĞLU, OF-1. LOT Commander, Abdullah ÖZKANTAR, OF-5, Head of Turkish Military Representative in BiH. Photo by OR-8 Aykut VURAL

## Renovation of Kasindol Hospital by Turkish CIMIC



The Turkish Military Mission to EUFOR in BiH has conducted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on 14 April 2016 in Kasindol Hospital, as part of their CIMIC activities.

Kasindol Hospital is located in Istocno Sarajevo Municipality and Turkish Military Mission financed the restauration of the pulmonology department.

Director of the Pulmonology Department Dr. Olivera Macar and Turkish Senior National Representative Colonel Abdullah OZKANTAR inaugurated the opening of the freshly renovated and painted building in the presence of distinguished guests from local community Kasindol Hospital, journalists, administration, religious institutions, local government etc.

Dr. Macar thanked EUFOR and Turkish Military Mission for recognizing the importance of this hospital, great cooperation and positive communication

she had with them additionally expressed her satisfaction that the patients will be treated in much cleaner and healthier conditions.

Colonel OZKANTAR stated that the biggest satisfaction for him and for the other members of Municipality and Turkish Military is to see a smile on the faces of employees of this department and their patients.

During the ceremony, Colonel OZKANTAR visited patient named Goran BOŽIĆ who is been treated for tuberculosis also wanted to thank Turkish Military Mission for his donation and stated that he is feeling psychologically much better after being treated under the new conditions.

At the end, both sides expressed their wishes that this is just the beginning of a new cooperation and mutual understanding, which will hopefully last a long time.





# TOGETHER FOR YOUR SAFETY *for school*



**PAZI - MINE PAZI - MINE PAZI - MINE PAZI - MI**

