



**EUFOR  
Delivers  
Urban  
Close  
Quarters  
Combat  
Training  
to the BiH  
Armed  
Forces**



In my final FORUM address to you, the EUFOR troops, I wish to express my gratitude for your hard work and commitment to the mission during my time in post. Over the last 2 months we have seen further achievements across the areas of CB&T, Mine Risk Education and weapons and ammunition security and had multiple confirmations that the work we do here in BiH is making a real difference.

By targeting the investment of resources as well as harmonizing the cooperation with NATO, our CB&T programme for the AFBiH has seen great progress. At the AFBiH Training Conference in February, EUFOR was highlighted as the single biggest contributor to the training and improvement of AFBiH capabilities in the past year.

To support a more effective Mine Risk Education package across the country we have invested in and received new plastic mine models so the children and at-risk persons receiving the briefs can get a much better idea of the threat, hopefully reducing the chances of mine casualties in the long term.

By continuing the 'Comprehensive Approach' (looking at military, political and economic aspects together) in supporting and maintaining a Safe and Secure Environment, EUFOR has addressed issues such as demining, ammunitions and weapons inventory, inspection and disposal.

Supporting the BiH authorities in this way is leading the country towards a future where the explosive remnants

of war are eradicated and the public can be confident in the security of stored weapons and ammunition.

Our media campaigns have reached more people than ever before and there has been a significant growth in the understanding within the public of the CB&T work done by EUFOR. This has improved the public's perception of us and there appears to be a growing desire to see EUFOR remain in the medium to long term.

In the last week of February the Balkans Study underlined that there is still a threat to the stability of BiH and confirming the requirement of EUFOR's presence in this country.

Looking forward there are a number of important events in the calendar before I end my time here. Most notable is the month-long exercise in Kalinovik where our troops have the opportunity to practice and demonstrate a range of skills and abilities. The climax of this will be 2 days of displays in front of VIPs from the local and international community on 22-23 March. These distinguished visitor days are a great opportunity for us to ensure that this key audience is impressed by the capabilities of EUFOR.

I will leave the mission with a Change of Command ceremony on 28 March and my successor will be Major General Anton Waldner. Please continue to show the same levels of determination and commitment that you have shown me.

**Major General Friedrich Schrötter**



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Hello readers, welcome to the new look FORUM magazine. We have changed the Logo, front page and the design of the magazine throughout for a more modern and military appearance. We have also included a new section on the back page called “Soldiers’ Corner” containing some useful information about changes in Camp Butmir and a look forward to events over the next 2 months. I hope to develop this magazine further in future issues, to include information and articles of interest to EUFOR military personnel.

If anyone has any suggestions or wishes to include something they believe may be of interest then please get in contact.

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## Head of Directorate for Coordination of Police Agencies Visits EUFOR



On Monday 23 January the Head of the Directorate for Coordination of Police in BiH, Mr Mirsad Vilić, visited EUFOR HQ for a meeting with COMEUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter.

They discussed the security situation in BiH and challenges faced by law enforcement agencies in their work. They also talked about ways to improve their cooperation in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between EUFOR and BiH police agencies. The MOU was created in 2013 to formalize information exchange between these signatories.



## Head of Banja Luka OHR Visits HQ EUFOR

On Monday 16 January 2017 the Head of the Banja Luka Office of the High Representative (OHR), Ambassador Marianne Berez, visited EUFOR HQ. Ambassador Berez, a Hungarian national who also holds the role of Deputy High Representative, took over as head of the Banja Luka Regional Office in December 2016 and was invited to Camp Butmir by COMEUFOR to discuss key topics and promote mutual collaboration.



The EUFOR Honour Guard greets General Kostarakos on his arrival

## Chairman of the EU Military Committee Visits BiH

**“The EU Military Committee believes that EUFOR is essential in sustaining a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina”**

On 30 and 31 January the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Mikhail Kostarakos, paid a visit to key personnel and institutions relating to Operation Althea in Sarajevo. He was accompanied by Lieutenant General Günter Höfler, the EU Austrian Military Representative Rear Admiral Gluszko Waldemar, the Deputy Director General of EU Military Staff and Brigadier General Arnaud Ladrangé, the EU Deputy French Military Representative.

General Kostarakos started his visit by attending a meeting in the Defence Ministry with the Minister of Defence, Mrs Marina Pendeš and Chief of Joint Staff, General Anto Jeleč. He then proceeded to a subsequent appointment with Commander NATO HQ Sarajevo, Brigadier General Giselle Wilz. The formal events of the first day completed with a discussion in the EU building with the EU Special Representative to BiH, Mr Lars-Gunnar Wigemark.

Minister Pendeš said:

“This meeting and the visit by General Kostarakos are an indication that the EU sees BiH and its Armed Forces as partners, and that the EU Forces see the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a partner. This is also a positive message to the MoD and AFBiH and all the inhabitants of Bosnia and Herzegovina “.

On the second day, the delegation travelled to EUFOR HQ, Camp Butmir where they were welcomed by an Honour Guard made up of Austrian and Turkish soldiers from the EUFOR Multinational Battalion. After a series of

Continued on next page



The EUMC Delegation with Minister of Defence Pendeš and MoD Staff

briefs from EUFOR Branch Chiefs, CEUMC met one-on-one with Commander EUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter for their final appointment in-theatre prior to the change of EUFOR Command in March 2017, where they discussed EUFOR's role in the future of BiH.

General Kostarakos said of the visit:

“This has been an excellent opportunity to share views on the current situation and the future of our very constructive partnership. I hope in the future there will be serious improvements in the defence reform of the Armed Forces

of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We have been assured that the EU agenda remains a strategic priority for the country. The EU Military Committee commends the work of the EUFOR mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina and believes that EUFOR HQ is essential in sustaining a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina”.

**EU sees BiH and its Armed Forces as partners, and EUFOR sees the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a partner.**

EUFOR Operation Althea, currently made up of soldiers from 15 EU member states and 5 partner nations, works closely with the MoD, conducting capacity building and training throughout the country to

promote a climate where the peace process can continue to move forward. The objective being that AFBiH will operate autonomously without the requirement for international assistance. EUFOR is fully committed to support BiH “on its path to a European future” and remains a vital enabling actor in the development and maintenance of a safe and secure environment.

The EU Military Committee was established in 2001 and is composed of the Chiefs of Defence of the Member States. It is the highest military body within the Council of Europe and provides advice and recommendations to the Political and Security Committee on all military matters within the EU. During an operation, the EUMC monitors the proper execution of military operations conducted under the responsibility of the Operation Commander.



General Kostarakos meets Major General Friedrich Schrötter



## Radboud University Visit

On Friday 20 January a multi-national group of 36 students and lecturers from Radboud University Nijmegen visited EUFOR HQ as part of a 7-day visit to BiH. The wider visit was part of their Post-Graduate Human Geography Masters Programme in Conflicts, Territories and Identities and they came to Camp Butmir to understand why and how foreign military are involved in the country.

After a welcome brief from the EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Albert Sáfár, and group photograph in front of the HQ building they received a presentation on the EU 'Comprehensive Approach' from the Political Advisor to EUSR and COMEUFOR. As the majority of the students were from the Netherlands, they were then given an insight from one of the three Dutch Officers in EUFOR. The brief covered some of the academically interesting elements of his job as a Staff Advisor to the Armed Forces BiH in the Capacity Building and Training Division.

Feedback from the students on the visit was entirely positive and whilst it appears to have been of benefit for their particular degree, it also gave them an insight into military life on the personal level.



General Bradshaw meets key EUFOR personnel.

## Visit to EUFOR Op Althea by Op Cdr General Sir Adrian Bradshaw KCB OBE

On 21-22 February the Operational Commander of EUFOR Operation Althea, General Sir Adrian Bradshaw, visited EUFOR HQ, Camp Butmir. He was met by COMEUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter, and formally greeted by the mission's Branch Chiefs and an Honour Guard consisting of Austrian and Turkish soldiers from the Multinational Battalion (MNBN). The main reason for the visit was a meeting between General Bradshaw, COMEUFOR and key personnel from the EU Command Element and the EU Staff Group.

General Bradshaw was appointed Operational Commander in March 2014, when he took the post of Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR); according to the Berlin Plus Agreement, the person performing this key command function also commands EUFOR Operation Althea.



General Bradshaw meets key EUFOR personnel.



## Overcoming Obstacles to Resolve the Small Arms Stockpile Problems

Ms Čarapić Briefing on the project

On 9 February 2017 an event was held in the Hotel Europe, Sarajevo, to mark the publishing of the ‘Small Arms Survey (SAS) in BiH: The Role of EUFOR Mobile Training Teams for Weapons and Ammunition Management’ working paper. The event was jointly hosted by SAS and EUFOR’s Special Advisor for Weapons and Ammunition Disposal. Ms Jovana Čarapić from SAS moderated the discussions of the panel which consisted of the BiH MoD Deputy Chief of Joint Staff, Major General Sena Mašović, EUFOR SAWAD, Colonel Martin Trachsler and Ms Sezin Sinanoglu from the UN Development Programme.

As the SAS organisation is Swiss-led, Ambassador Andrea Rauber-Saxer from the Swiss Embassy gave the welcome address. This was followed by a presentation on the project by Ms Carapic, covering background, achievements and outlook.

The panel then spoke in turn about the project from their own viewpoint where General Mašović applauded the achievements to date but stressed there were still

obstacles to overcome before the planned completion in less than 2 years’ time. Ambassador Rauber-Saxer said: “Capacity building and training play a key role in establishing an effective [weapons and ammunition] life-cycle management system. This is what was achieved by the tri-national EUFOR Mobile Training Team”.

EUFOR has the executive mandate to maintain a safe and secure environment in BiH, and a non-executive mandate to support capacity building and training of the Armed Forces BiH (AFBiH). SAWAD’s role is to oversee the design and implementation of the Ammunition, Weapons and Explosives Master Plan activities in BiH as well as heading the EUFOR Mobile Training Team which is responsible for the Physical Security and Stockpile Management capacity building and training of the AFBiH.

Established in 1999, the Small Arms Survey is a global center of excellence whose mandate is to generate impartial, evidence based, and policy-relevant knowledge on all aspects of small arms and armed violence.



Swiss Ambassador Rauber-Saxer Introducing the Working Paper



Major General Mašović and Colonel Trachsler on the panel

## SECUP Handover and SAFE-UP Launch

### Minister of Defence hails Security Upgrades a Success

On 26 January 2017 a joint conference to hand over the results of the “Security Upgrade of BiH Weapons and Ammunition Storage Sites” (SECUP) and to launch the project “Safety and Security Upgrade of BiH Weapons and Ammunition Storage Sites” (SAFE-UP) was held in Army Hall, Sarajevo. The event was hosted by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Ambassador, H.E. Jonathan Moore, and attended by the BiH Minister of Defence, Marina Pendeš; Chief of Joint Staff, Anto Jeleč; and Commander EUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter.

After opening remarks from Ambassador Moore, the project manager of SECUP, Mr Gerhard Faustmann, presented the results and achievements of the 3-year venture. This was followed by a speech from Minister Pendeš and the formal handover of the project results by Mr Faustmann. The event concluded with a brief from the project manager of SAFE-UP, Mr Alexei Sardin, which officially launched the start of the new project.

Minister Pendeš expressed her sincere gratitude to the OSCE Mission to BiH and to the donor countries: Switzerland, Germany, Norway, Great Britain, Turkey, Denmark, Czech Republic and Liechtenstein for their assistance in the successful implementation of the SECUP Project. She also expressed her conviction that the SAFE-UP Project would achieve the same success as its predecessor.

COMEUFOR said: “I am proud of what this project has achieved and of EUFOR’s role in it; ensuring the coordination of the international community and providing specialist advice to the disposal teams. For the future, our contribution to the SAFE-UP project is a key element in our wider goal of achieving a safe and secure environment in BiH and I look forward to EUFOR’s continued involvement in this important venture.”

The aim of Project SECUP was to



**BiH is a positive example to other countries in upgrading security of weapons and ammunition storage sites**

upgrade the security infrastructure at the BiH ammunition and weapons storage sites thus reducing the risk of weapons and ammunition proliferation and improving national Physical Security and Stockpile Management Standards. As project SECUP finished at the end of December 2016, project SAFE-UP was realized in order to upgrade the security infrastructure of further prospective ammunition storage sites, .

EUFOR’s role is to coordinate the international organizations and community, including acting as a link to the Armed Forces of BiH, in order to avoid duplication of effort. EUFOR also provides crucial expert technical advice on project implementation and explosives disposal.



## COMEUFOR Oversees Inspection of Ammunition Facility

On 16 February 2017 COMEUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter, together with the EUFOR Joint Military Affairs (JMA) Inspection Team visited the Igman ammunition manufacturing company in Konjic. The purpose of the visit was for EUFOR to familiarize themselves with Igman production and monitor the inspection of the manufacturing facility by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations (MoFTER) Inspectorate.

On arrival, COMEUFOR was met by the General Director of Igman, Đahid Muratbegović, and the MoFTER Chief Inspector, Milimir Hršum. An initial brief was given in the Igman HQ building which covered the company background, product output and the purpose of the MoFTER inspection. The party then travelled up to the underground manufacturing facility where Mr Muratbegović guided the group through the abundance of machines and manpower required for the manufacturing of small arms ammunition from billet to bullet.

COMEUFOR said “I am interested in two particular elements on this visit; future development of the Company and the method and results of the inspection itself. Both are key to ensure the company progresses and keeps up in the current market, which will also directly benefit the BiH economy.”



Igman General Director briefs COMEUFOR on the manufacturing process

The Igman Company manufactures small arms ammunition for civilian and military purposes and exports its products worldwide. Founded in 1950, in former Yugoslav times Igman produced up to 150 million rounds on an annual basis but after the Dayton Agreement because of a loss market for the product the output dropped down to only 10% of this. Through FBiH investment (the Federation Government is a 51% stakeholder) and an upward trend in the market, production has now increased to nearly 110 million rounds per annum.

EUFOR Joint Military Affairs are responsible for contributing to maintenance of a Safe and Secure Environment in BiH in order to achieve the Operation Althea end state by supervising BiH Defence Industries. Assessing the conduct and competence of ammunition inspection teams is a small but important element of this.

**Future development of the Company and the method and results of the inspection itself are key to ensure the company progresses and keeps up in the current market, which will also directly benefit the BiH economy.**



COMEUFOR meets with the Igman General Director



## EUFOR Delivers Urban Close Quarters Combat Training to the BiH Armed Forces

### Interview with Captain Emir Helić of the BiH Armed Forces

“I am a Captain Emir Helić, Commander of the Declared Unit that was evaluated in 2012 under the concept of operational capabilities for the pool of NATO forces. The AFBiH Declared Units are the units declared for the pool of NATO forces with the goal of improving the capabilities of AFBiH up to the standards of NATO. Every unit has to pass a four-year long assessment during which it adopts NATO procedures in its daily work, improves its procedures through training and adopts its procedures and training along with acceptance of new weapons so it can become interoperable with NATO. Bearing in mind many EUFOR contributing nations are at the same time NATO members, combined training with EUFOR helps us significantly in improving our capacities and capabilities. Through joint and combined training with EUFOR we adopt new skills and capabilities more quickly and easily.





“After four days of training with EUFOR, in the Zenica Barracks today this unit successfully demonstrated knowledge of urban terrain combat tactics and EUFOR’s help was necessary in adopting these new tactics, techniques and procedures. Today they conducted a practice raid into an urban area, entering and cleaning a compound not populated by civilians.”

“This unit has planned four activities with EUFOR. The aim of this is to prepare it for evaluation of the declared unit on the 2nd level under the OCC that will be conducted this year.”

**Many EUFOR contributing nations are at the same time NATO members, combined training with EUFOR helps us significantly in improving our capacities and capabilities**





COMEUFOR inspects the MNBN, flanked by the incoming and outgoing Commanders

## EUFOR Holds Ceremony for MNBN Change of Command

**Command of the MNBN was handed over from Lieutenant Colonel Christoph Blasch to Lieutenant Colonel Harald Zagler**

On Tuesday 21 February 2017 a ceremony was held to mark the Change of Command of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN) in the Helicopter Hangar at EUFOR HQ, Camp Butmir. COMEUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter, led the event where the Command of the MNBN was handed over from Lieutenant Colonel Christoph Blasch to Lieutenant Colonel Harald Zagler.

COMEUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter said: "I would like to express my gratitude and respect for the valuable contribution made by Lieutenant Colonel Blasch who will hand over his Command today, following a highly successful six months as Commander of the Multinational Battalion. The Multinational Battalion must be prepared at all times to conduct operations independently or in support of the local authorities or the international community, when requested, in order to protect the Safe and Secure Environment."

**The Multinational Battalion is one of the key elements, or under some circumstances even the decisive element, within the EUFOR mission in BiH, to contribute to a stable, peaceful and multi-ethnic dominated environment.**





COMEUFOR hands the MNB flag to the incoming Commander

Outgoing MNB Commander, Lt Col Christoph Blasch said to Major General Schrötter “your focus was always to ensure we were ready to execute missions successfully, taking care of your troops with heart. It was a great honour for me to get your open-minded advice and to have such great comradeship”.

Incoming MNB Commander, Lt Col Harald Zagler said: “The Multinational Battalion is one of the key elements, or under some circumstances even the decisive element, within the EUFOR mission in BiH, to contribute to a stable, peaceful and multi-ethnic dominated environment. To be able to take over the command of this Battalion is not only a great honour, it also marks the peak of my military career which started in 2001 with my graduation from the military academy.”

The MNB mission is to be prepared to conduct operations autonomously or in support of the BiH authorities or European Union/International Community Agencies in Theatre when requested, in order to maintain a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE). The MNB, based in Camp Butmir, is presently made up of soldiers from Austria and Turkey. It can be reinforced by rapidly deployable and capable reserve forces from EU partner nations at short notice. Those forces are held on standby in their respective countries and would only deploy on operations if the situation requires.

## EUFOR Althea Medal Awarded to 31 Personnel



On 24 January 2017 COMEUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter, presided over a medal parade at EUFOR HQ in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. He presented the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Medal Althea to 31 service personnel from 10 different nations and thanked them for their dedicated service in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He also used the occasion to present commendations to the Chief J4/J6 and the Deputy Chief of the Multinational Battalion.

Major General Schrötter stated to the parade: “Through your contributions, EUFOR was able to make a major and positive difference to the lives of many people in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In future months there will be further challenges, but your efforts have already proven that EUFOR is a strong, credible and effective force capable of meeting any demand or challenge. You should be proud of your personal and national contributions.”

The countries represented at this medal parade were Austria, Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey and the United Kingdom.





LOT Novo Sarajevo members outside the Caritas building.

## EUFOR Personnel Brighten the Lives of Children

**“EUFOR’s LOT Novo Sarajevo brings joy to underprivileged children as part of a week-long effort to deliver charity goods around the community”**

On Friday 3 February personnel from the Slovakian manned LOT House Novo Sarajevo delivered groceries and kitchen accessories to Caritas, a Catholic charity in Ilidza which provides free meals to those who cannot afford

**The primary role of EUFOR’s LOT Houses is to maintain good situational awareness throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.**

it themselves. In the afternoon they travelled to a village called Kamenica in a Bosniak area. Here they handed out toys, clothes and food to 10 children, from less privileged families, who were delighted to receive the gifts. These activities were part of a cross-community charity event where earlier in the week the LOT members delivered donated goods to people in the local Jewish community, the Serbian Orthodox community and to the Red Cross. The funds came from a combination of donations from the 8 members of the LOT House and their families

back home as well as support from restaurant Druga Kuća in Sarajevo.

Captain Maros Zoffcak, the LOT House commander, praised his colleagues for their combined efforts in making these donations possible and stressed the importance of working as a team.

The primary role of EUFOR’s LOT Houses is to maintain good situational awareness throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. Seven different countries provide the military personnel to man the 17 LOT houses whose members actively interact with the populace to find out the opinions and needs of the population. Charity events like the above, show that the teams are willing to go above and beyond their required duty in order to make a difference in the community.



Children from Kamenica receiving their food and gifts.



LOT Cdr brief on activities of the day



Visit the public library renovated by Turkish LOT

## On Tour with Liaison & Observation Team Zavidovići

On 11 January ‘Naša Snaga’ camera team took the opportunity to visit the Turkish EUFOR Liaison & Observation Team (LOT) house in Zavidovići, a town in the Zenica-Doboj region, and to accompany its members on a small tour within their area of responsibility.

The Commander of the LOT, Major Ismet Demirelli, briefly outlined his team’s engagement and support for the people of Zavidovići: “During the last ten years, our LOT invested in total one million Euros in projects in this municipality.” As current examples he mentioned the renovation of the public library of Zavidovići and of a classroom for language courses in a local school.

Major Demirelli and Warrant Officer Bayram Gök, one of his team members, emphasized that they would not

just cooperate but “literally live” with the local citizens, with whom they had very friendly relations. Every day the three teams have numerous pre-arranged as well as spontaneous meetings with people such as the mayor, community chiefs, police officers, medical doctors, workers, retirees and many others.

In the early afternoon the new Head of the Zavidovići municipality, Mr Hasim Mujanović, received the LOT and a representative of EUFOR HQ for a meeting in his office in town. In a friendly conversation Mr Mujanović spoke about his personal aspiration to focus all efforts in ensuring a better life for the people in his municipality. Furthermore he thanked Major Ismet and his entire Turkish LOT house team for their commitment and support.

Turkish military personnel run five LOT houses in total. These are located in Zenica, Jablanica, Livno, Travnik and Zavidovići, which contributes greatly to EUFOR’s LOT house outlay throughout BiH.



Major Ismet and colleague from EUFOR HQ before departure into town

## EUFOR Mine Information Coordination Cell

**The EUFOR team tackling the mine threat - great achievements so far but still work to do**

In a small office in an outbuilding of EUFOR HQ sits the EUFOR Mine Information Coordination Cell (MICC). They are a sub-section of the Joint Military Affairs' Countermine Team, and part of the Capacity Building and Training Division of EUFOR Op Althea. With only a small team consisting of local civilians and a Military Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Horst Unterrieder as team leader, their mandate is clear - force protection of EUFOR personnel against the threat of mines and unexploded explosive ordnance (UXO).

As part of MICC's force protection mandate, a vital part of their role is to survey areas before the start of exercises to ensure the troops are given the most up to date information in order to be as safe as possible. When not directly preparing areas for the military force, the everyday work is broadly split into education of personnel and coordinating information to create useful reference material.

Džejna Skopljak leads the education elements, delivering the majority of the Mine Awareness Training (MAT) lectures as well as providing the teaching information and material to the Liaison and Observation Teams (LOTs), who deliver the Mine Risk Education (MRE) lectures. She is a familiar face on the camp as every EUFOR employee is obligated to receive the MAT lecture.

Mine Risk Education provides children and personnel in at-risk areas or jobs with the knowledge of the potential threat and how best to avoid it. The content is delivered by EUFOR's LOTs and closely regulated by the BiH Government to international standards. Each LOT is provided with an educational 'package' which enables them to travel to schools, workplaces and homes providing the presentations to those who need it. Promotional materials containing mine awareness slogans are seen by the MICC as being particularly useful in driving home the



key messages to the population. Recently, LOTs have been conducting joint MRE lectures with the Armed Forces BiH in order to enhance the country's ability to operate independently, which is part of the Capacity Building and Training mandate of EUFOR.

Mine Awareness Training differs from MRE in that it provides EUFOR personnel with the same key messages, but also includes guidance on how a person can remove themselves as safely as possible from a mined area should they find themselves in one.

Milad Ćerimagić is the lead for coordinating the mine information. He works closely with the BiH Mine Action Center (BHMAC), taking their most up-to-date information and converting it into a usable format for EUFOR to exploit. He produces standard map sizes for dissemination as posters and promotional material but also can give anyone, on request, a detailed map of a specific area anywhere in the country.

These maps can go right down to 1:5000 scale providing exceptional resolution of the terrain. Some of the information they can include is known mine incidents, mine records, cleared areas, lifted areas and places where landslides may have occurred. The MICC data is updated monthly from the BHMAC database.

In order to keep the threat intelligence as near-real-time as possible, information can also flow the other way. If someone finds a discrepancy with the information provided, e.g. lack of signs where there should be or an area marked on the ground which isn't on the maps, this information can be reported to the MICC who then check the records with BHMAC and amend as necessary.

**The MICC team are very proud of the fact that since Mine Awareness Training became mandatory for all EUFOR personnel in 2001 there have been no mine related casualties on the mission.**

## LCC New Year Reception



On 27 January 2017 the LOT community gathered for the first coordination meeting of the year. During the day the key events from the previous month were discussed with COMEUFOR, LCC staff and other HQ personnel.



In the evening the LCC hosted a New Year Reception to thank the HQ and other EUFOR contributors for their support in 2016. Almost 100 personnel braved the sub-zero temperatures to drink Glühwein and original Turkish caj and eat Bratäpfel (baked apples) and Keshtn (roast chestnuts) being served outside the LCC in Camp Butmir.

By Maj Alex Gstrein



MAT and Mine Maps are primarily for EUFOR personnel but can be provided to members of the international community on request. Mr Ćerimagić wanted to stress to EUFOR personnel that “the mine threat is real so whatever outdoor activity you wish to do, make sure you get the right information and educate yourself on the possible threat”.

Another service the team can provide is the production and dissemination of information materials at short notice. During the recent floods in 2014, many mine signs and mines themselves were displaced with the volume of surface water. The public had to be made aware of this increased risk so the MICC produced posters outlining the threat and were able to get them into the public sphere very quickly.

The MICC team are very proud of the fact that since Mine Awareness Training became mandatory for all EUFOR personnel in 2001 there have been no mine related casualties on the mission.

When discussing the team’s role they told an old good-news story for MRE which came about in the early 2000s. Two children were tending sheep when they came across an interesting object. The elder sister was prevented from

disturbing it by her younger brother who told her not to touch it, an action which ultimately saved their lives.

They called their parents and the object turned out to be a landmine. The boy said he knew what to do from a MRE lecture at his school the previous year.

In 2016:

- 20,611 children and personnel in at-risk areas receive EUFOR Mine Risk Education.
- 5,657 mine maps were produced and distributed by the team.
- 1,291 received Mine Awareness Training, most of whom were EUFOR soldiers.

Conservative estimates for the number of people still affected by mines, i.e. living or working in risk areas, is stated as 538,500, with the number of communities affected at around 1,417. There remains 1,141.1km2 of suspected hazardous areas throughout the country.

I would like to thank Lieutenant Colonel Horst Unterrieder and his team for their cooperation with this article and for their often underappreciated work in the background to keep our personnel safe.



## Remembrance Ceremony on Anniversary of EUFOR Helicopter Crash

### Remembrance Ceremony for 11 EUFOR Soldiers

On 12 January 2017 EUFOR military and civilian personnel gathered at Monument Park in Camp Butmir to commemorate the deaths of 11 servicemen from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia who were killed in a helicopter accident on the same day in 2008. The Charge d'Affaires from the Macedonian Embassy, Mr Aleksandar Krstevski; Chief of Staff EUFOR, Brigadier General Albert Sáfár; and Commander NATO HQ Sa, Brigadier General Giselle Wilz attended this ceremony of remembrance.

EUFOR soldiers formed a Guard of Honour next to the Macedonian Memorial Stone to welcome the distinguished guests and take part in the commemoration. During the ceremony 11 candles were lit to signify the lives lost, after which the Macedonian Senior National Representative in EUFOR read out the names of the fallen.

In his speech, Brigadier General Albert Sáfár said: "I am delighted to welcome representatives from the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to today's commemoration ceremony, not only to stand beside us in unity as we remember our fallen comrades, but to send back word to their families and friends that their memory continues to be honoured and remembered at this time each year by EUFOR."

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is one of the five 'partner nations' in EUFOR who contribute troops but are not part of the EU. They currently have 3 military personnel working in BiH as part of Op Althea.

## Netherlands Flag Down Ceremony

### COMEUFOR thanks the Netherlands for its Military Support to Op Althea

On 20 Feb 17 COMEUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter, conducted the official Haul Down Ceremony of the Netherlands Flag in Camp BUTMIR. The ceremony was attended by the Dutch Ambassador Jurriaan Kraak, the Dutch Military Attaché Lt Col Plijner and distinguished guests.



**EUFOR MNBN Soldiers Lowering the Flag of the Netherlands for the final time.**

COMEUFOR said "The Netherlands have a long and proud tradition and history of military service in support of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Since 1991 over 40,000 Dutch soldiers have served the cause of peace in the Balkans with over 2,900 serving with EUFOR from 2004 to today.

Since 2012, the Netherlands has contributed key staff officers to EUFOR HQ in the Capacity Building and Training Division and the Plans Branch where they have made a significant contribution to the ongoing support and development of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina."

He added: "So while today is in some ways a sad day as we bid farewell to our Dutch colleagues, it is also a proud day of celebration for the Netherlands and EUFOR as we celebrate the significant contribution of the Netherlands to bringing peace and stability to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina."

## Change of EUFOR Althea Logo



The astute amongst you will have noticed that the EUFOR Op Althea Logo on the front of this magazine is new. A desire for a more military looking logo with a mission-identifiable design that could be used for both correspondence and badges led to its development.

It was adapted to the standard design of European Union Mission Logos, based on the official EU roundel used on sleeve badges which is 12 gold stars on a blue circular background.

It will now be used on all official documents and promotional materials instead of the rectangular badge. The plain roundel will remain the standard sleeve badge for all EUFOR personnel but staff are permitted to wear the new logo on their uniforms instead. The old EUFOR logo will remain on all EUFOR vehicles.

EUFOR branches and units can design their own badges on the basis of the new EUFOR Logo without the BiH map in the centre. The free space inside the white circle can be used for individual text and graphic design elements of the branches and units as shown below.

The following sleeve badge options (embroidery or print) are approved to be worn:



EU Roundel



Space for individual branch or unit design



Old EUFOR Logo – Will Remain EUFOR Vehicle Logo

## Other Mission Logos:



# soldiers' corner

## Changes in Butmir Jan/Feb 17

- New Steinadler store finally opens opposite the DIFAC.
- French PX moves next to the Spanish Bar and Europa PX expands into the space left behind.
- Lt Col Zagler took over from Lt Col Blasch as Commander of the MNBN.

## Look forward to Mar/Apr

- 8 March  
International Women's Day
- 28 March  
Change of Command  
(Major General Schrötter replaced by Major General Waldner)
- 4 April  
International Mine Action Day



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