



**Mine Risk Education delivered to
kindergarten children in Sarajevo**



When I took over the Chief of Staff of EUFOR position from my predecessor a few months ago I was asking myself what the focus areas would be, which are important for both this operation and myself during my one-year tour in Camp Butmir.

We all know that at this headquarter EUFOR ALTHEA's mandatory task is to contribute and to ensure the safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

We must retain the capability to be able to contribute to the deterrence capacity of BiH authorities. To achieve this my intention is to continue further developing interrelationships with Law Enforcement Agencies (LAEs) to make EUFOR ALTHEA more visible. However, our work as a unit cannot stop there. We must remember that even though the situation seems fairly stable now, this can change in an instant, and we need to be prepared.

At the same time, we have another obligation, which is not part of the executive mandate. However, I consider it as important as the previous one, to support the Armed Forces BiH's capability development.

What is the best way to accomplish all this task? I believe that relationship building is a very important tool for this purpose. After all, humans are social creatures and are therefore reliant on relationships between each other in order to grow.

We can count not only on the excellent cooperation

with the Armed Forces BiH, the local authorities, the international communities and Non-Governmental Organizations in Bosnia and Herzegovina but our colleagues in EUFOR and NATO Headquarters Sarajevo as well.

Serving in the EUFOR operation creates an excellent opportunity for our colleagues coming from 19 nations cooperating not only in the duty environment but on social events or during physical training activities throughout Camp Butmir facilities. I strongly encourage all of you to make use of this time by making friends both in and outside of the office rooms.

As you probably aware of that I was a Chief of Staff in 2013. I have been met with warm welcome since I came back and hope this will continue until the end of my tour in Camp Butmir. I am looking forward to meeting new challenges together with our EUFOR officers, NCOs and all civilian contractors.

Lastly, I would like to emphasize that leaving one's family behind in order to help those in need is an honourable deed. However, it must not be taken granted that just being present is enough. Therefore, I would like to urge you all to do everything in your power to safeguard the future of the families here in Bosnia before returning home to your families. After all, that is why we are here.

Brigadier General József Szpisják



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Dear readers,

This is my first edition of the Forum magazine. I was assigned to EUFOR as the Spokesperson and Forum editor just over a month ago. Lieutenant Commander Michael Fitzpatrick is now safely back home and I wish to publicly thank him for all his efforts during his tour. It's my pleasure to deliver this magazine with articles demonstrating the important work EUFOR does in this country. We aim to make the forum as interesting and useful as possible. I hope you enjoy our selection of articles featuring EUFOR activities inside and outside Camp Butmir. In the next few months our focus will be on our Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT). Their personnel made up of soldiers from 7 nations living in 17 houses across the country are essential partners to the local communities they operate within. Autumn will then focus more on other objectives of our mission: capacity building and training as well as ensuring a safe and secure environment. Nevertheless, if anyone has got suggestions to include something in one of the next editions, do not hesitate to get in touch. Please support me by continuing to send in your photographs and information about the good work you do out there on the ground.



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COMEUFOR Meets Dragan Čović



COMEUFOR in discussion with Croatian Member of the Presidency

On 26 April 2017 COMEUFOR Major General Anton Waldner visited the BiH Parliament to meet with the Croatian member of the Presidency, Dragan Čović. They discussed the current security situation in BiH and progress of BiH on its path to EU and NATO.

Major General Waldner emphasized during this inaugural visit that EUFOR will remain a reliable and flexible partner of BiH and added that he will continue to provide an active contribution to overall stability and security in the region.

COMEUFOR Meets Bakir Izetbegović



Maj Gen Waldner is greeted by Izetbegović

On 8 May 2017 COMEUFOR Major General Anton Waldner visited the BiH Presidency to meet with the Bosniak member of the Presidency, Bakir Izetbegović. They discussed EUFOR's Executive Mandate and the country's desire to become part of the EU.

COMEUFOR Visits a Defence Industry Factory, Novi Travnik



On Tuesday, 6 June 2017, COMEUFOR, Major General Anton WALDNER, visited the BNT-TMiH Company (Machine and Hydraulics Factory), a Defence Industry Factory in Novi Travnik.

Mr. Adis Ikanović, Director of the Factory, welcomed COMEUFOR and EUFOR delegation. At a meeting, he briefed COMEUFOR on the factory's background, the current activities and future plans. Mr. Milomir Hršum, Main Inspector from the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations of BiH (MoFTER BiH), also attended the meeting. He briefed COMEUFOR on the inspection procedure. He stated that the BNT-TMiH Company has complied with all provisions of the applicable law defining this area. Mr. Hršum commended on the good co-operation between MoFTER and EUFOR during a tour of the production facility.



EUFOR Chief of Staff Visits Weapons and Ammunition Storage Sites

On 31 May 2017, the Chief Of Staff (COS) EUFOR, Brigadier General Szpisják, visited the Ammunition Storage Site (ASS) Krčmarice (Banja Luka) and Weapons Storage Site (WSS) Kozara in order to view the ongoing EUFOR activity of monitoring and mentoring the actions of AFBiH personnel in the areas of; weapons and ammunition storage, the physical security and control of weapon and ammunition stocks and also to engage with personnel of the AFBiH at all levels in order to ascertain any potential issues. The Brigadier General was particularly keen to identify how EUFOR can continue to support AFBiH efforts in all areas of WSS and ASS with regards to helping capacity building and training activities and also to the maintenance of a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) in BiH.

At Kozara barracks in Banja Luka the COS was met by the Deputy Commander of AFBiH Support Command, Brigadier General Knežević. General Knežević updated COS EUFOR on the current structure and deployment of Support Command, its Mission and the various subordinate Commands within its structure. The COS was particularly interested in the training of both soldiers and officers', the procurement of materiel for use by the AFBiH and the maintenance of vehicles and equipment. After the briefing the Deputy Commander accompanied the COS on a visit of the surplus weapons storage areas within Kozara Barracks, where he witnessed for himself the large amounts of surplus weapons and ammunition held by the AFBiH.

EUFOR has specific responsibilities for monitoring

surplus heavy weapons held by BiH. These responsibilities stem from the OSCE sub regional Arms Control Agreement of 1996 and the surplus heavy weapons of the former Army of the Republika Srpska (VRS) which are centralized at Kozara Barracks. The surpluses stored include Main Battle Tanks M84 and T54/55, Armoured Personnel Carriers, artillery pieces of various calibers and Armoured Vehicle Launched Bridges. COS EUFOR was briefed on the quantities held and the serviceability of the holdings of the various equipment's. COS stated firm control of these assets was vital to stability in the region and that EUFOR would continue to conduct its oversight tasks in cooperation with the Internal Inspection Teams of the AFBiH.

At ASS Krčmarice COS EUFOR met the Commander of the Logistic Battalion responsible for the ASS and the Commander of the ASS. After a briefing on quantities of ammunition held at the ASS, the ongoing 100% visual inspection and auditing of the ammunition held there and a discussion on Physical Stockpile and Security Measures in force at the ASS. COS then visited an Explosives Store House containing Surface to Air Missiles and Surface to Surface Missiles.

COS then witnessed the ongoing 100% inspection of the 125mm Armour Piercing ammunition. The inspectors explained in detail what elements of technical data they were capturing and what specific points they were examining on the ammunition itself. COS stated that they were undertaking very important work which was hazardous due to the unknown storage history of the ammunition and its age. COS reiterated that whilst it was necessary that they complete their task quickly and efficiently, he stressed that safety was paramount and reduced safety should not in any way be allowed to be introduced into the inspection system in order to make up time. COS thanked the inspection teams for their hard and diligent work and thanked the Commanders for their efforts.



Brigadier General SZPISJÁK told on a T54 main battle tank.



Storage of main battle tanks M84 in the Kozara Barracks.



Europe Day Ceremony in Sarajevo

On 9 May 2017 EUFOR and the EU Special Representative in BiH, in cooperation with the Armed Forces of BiH, conducted a ceremony at the Army Hall in Sarajevo to celebrate Europe Day. COMEUFOR Major General Anton Waldner and EUSR Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark presided over the parade which consisted of troops from EUFOR, the Armed Forces BiH and the AFBiH Band. The theme of the event was "Sustainable Stability".

The event highlights the close cooperation between the EU and BiH, especially between EUFOR, its Troop Contributing Nations and the AFBiH. It shows the mutual support and respect that exists between them in working together for peace, security, stability and a more prosperous future. The event was attended by Mr. Sifet Podžić, Joint Committee on Defence and Security of BiH; Mr. Boško Šiljegović, Parliamentary Military Commissioner of BiH; H.E. Dr. Valentin Inzko, the High Representative in BiH; Major General Senad Mašović, Deputy Chief of Joint Staff Resources; delegates from BiH and the EU and representatives from other nations.

The ceremony outside the Army Hall in Sarajevo consisted of a fly-past by helicopters and aircraft from EUFOR and the AFBiH, the laying of an EU Wreath and speeches by the EUSR and COMEUFOR. It was followed by a VIP Reception in the Army Hall.

COMEUFOR said "Today's ceremony was conducted, not only to mark Europe Day but also to commemorate our fallen soldiers who lost their lives in the pursuit of peace here in Bosnia and Herzegovina. By its presence, EUFOR helps in the achievement of a Sustainable Stability in this country and we remain committed to the Capacity Building and Training of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina."

The EUSR stated: "The EU institutions are here to support and assist, but the main effort and the call for reforms has to come from within. Everybody has a stake and responsibility in this process of moving towards the EU, including the citizens who hold their leaders accountable." He further commented: "There is now solid ground to continue the reforms and the positive dynamics. A lot has been achieved, and the onward movement of BiH, focusing on real concrete improvements to citizens' lives, towards EU membership needs to be maintained." He also said that good governance and progress in the Rule of Law would require peace and stability, which were the reason for EUFOR's presence and reminded the audience that the European Union was fundamentally a peace project.

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Europe Day is an annual event and for EUFOR this was only the second time that an EUSR and EUFOR-led, AFBiH supported, event has occurred in Sarajevo to mark the occasion. Whilst the event took place on Europe Day it is only one of many events that will be conducted in BiH, by the EUSR, during the month of May.

events

EUFOR Althea at EU Open Day in Brussels



Federica Mogherini with the EUFOR Althea PAO Team

To celebrate Europe Day, the European institutions in Brussels opened their doors to the public on 6 May 2017, from 10.00 to 18.00 hours. The Public Affairs Branch from EUFOR Op Althea set up a stand in the building of the European External Action Service (EEAS) where they promoted the mission to the visitors and other EU officials.

The stand was visited, amongst others, by the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, and the Director of the EU Military Staff, Lt General Esa Pulkkinen.

The EU Open Door Day 2017 was a unique opportunity for citizens to discover how the European institutions work, what their main priorities are and what concrete actions they undertake. Throughout the day, visitors participated in debates, gathered information and enjoyed guided tours of the buildings.



Members of the public appreciating their small gifts

visits

Austrian Commander of Land Forces Visits EUFOR HQ



On 10 May the Commander of the Land Forces of Austria, Lieutenant General Franz Reissner visited EUFOR HQ, Camp Butmir with a delegation from Austria for a meeting with Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner. He was greeted by an Honour Guard made up of Turkish troops from the Multinational Battalion.

Austria has around 300 soldiers in BiH as part of Operation Althea including the Air Detachment comprising AB212 helicopters and PC6 aircraft as well as 3 LOT Houses across the country in Bratunac, Brcko and Tuzla.

Swiss Chief of Armed Forces Visits EUFOR HQ



On 11 May 2017 the Chief of the Armed Forces of Switzerland, Lieutenant General Philippe Rebord visited EUFOR HQ, Camp Butmir for a meeting with Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner. This was his first visit to the EUFOR Althea mission since taking over as Chief of the Armed Forces in January 2017. He was greeted by an Honour Guard made up of Turkish troops from the Multinational Battalion.



Mine Risk Education delivered to kindergarten children in Sarajevo

On Tuesday 13 June 2017, a team from EUFOR and the Armed Forces of BiH attended Kindergarten Višnjik in Sarajevo to provide Mine Risk Education to a class of 60 children aged between 4 and 5 years old.

The aim of Mine Risk Education is to reduce the risk of landmines and unexploded ordnance to humans and the environment and to make BiH a safer and more secure place.

EUFOR provides Mine Risk Education all over the country to vulnerable and risk groups such as farmers, forestry companies and in particular children of all ages in order to raise awareness and promote safe behavior. Currently there are 123 Mine Risk Education instructors (54 EUFOR and 74 AFBIH) who are involved in the joint EUFOR and AFBIH MRE project "Find out more about

mines" conducting mine risk education in mine affected communities all over BiH. The education is delivered in a fun and interactive way in schools and kindergartens whilst still ensuring that the important message is understood.

Elvira Baručija, Professor of Preschool Education at the "Višnjik" Kindergarten said: "A presentation on Mine Risk Education for kindergarten children is very significant, preschool aged children will have never seen a mine and do not know what mines look like. Through the presentation they will be introduced to the appearance of mines and the fact that they are deadly" she went on to explain "The children will adopt the correct way to react in these dangerous situations, learn that mines mustn't be touched, that it is very important to advise an adult of any mine seen and which number to call in such situation."

Mine Risk Education provides children with the knowledge of the possible threat and how best to avoid it. The content is delivered by EUFOR's Liaison and Observation Teams (LOTs) and Mine Information Coordination Cell (MICC). The training is closely regulated by the BiH Government to international standards. Each LOT is provided with an educational 'package' so they are able to travel to schools, workplaces and homes to give

the presentations to those who need them. LOTs have been conducting joint MRE lectures with the Armed Forces BiH in order to enhance the country's ability to operate independently, part of the Capacity Building and Training mandate of EUFOR.

1st Lieutenant Eva Pilsakova from the Slovakian Armed Forces, is the deputy commander of the LOT house in Sarajevo and she stated: "Reaching out to the community, regarding important matters such as mine risk education is what the LOT Houses do well. It is great to see so many children so engaged and learning potentially lifesaving skills."

In 2016, 20,611 children and personnel in at-risk areas received EUFOR Mine Risk Education. Conservative estimates that the number of communities affected in BiH stands at around 1,417 and there are still 1,141.1km² of suspected hazardous areas for mines throughout the country.

Džejna Skopljak, the Mine Risk Education Manager said "When carried out effectively, Mine Risk Education can strengthen communities, reduce the risk of death or injury in mine incidents and support in mine clearance activities." She went on to say "you only have to see how engaged these children are with the lesson and practical activities. Hopefully this understanding and awareness of the dangers of mines will stay with them for life and prevent any further injuries or worse."

EUFOR fully supports the demining battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH by monitoring, advising and assisting their humanitarian demining operations in order to increase their operational and logistical effectiveness.

EUFOR Operation ALTHEA, currently made up of soldiers from 14 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.



Deputy Commander of the EUFOR LOT Novo Sarajevo distributing Mine Risk Education booklets to the children



Children and staff from Kindergarten Višnjik in Sarajevo, with EUFOR and Armed Forces BiH personnel.



COMEUFOR Presents Althea Medals at prestigious Ceremony



On 30 May 17 COMEUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner, 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 70 service personnel from 9 different nations and thanked them for their dedicated service in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

COMEUFOR encouraged the recipients to “wear this medal with pride because it signifies your service and your contribution to the EUFOR effort” and stated “EUFOR remains firmly focused on supporting the BiH authorities in maintaining the Safe and Secure Environment and on building the capabilities of the Armed Forces BiH through our capacity building and training activities”.

Captain Gillian Collins from the Irish Defence Forces was one of the parade participants receiving her medal as her tour in the operational theatre draws to a close. She said “It was an honour to be part of such a professional mission.”

EUFOR Operation Althea is currently made up of service personnel from 14 EU member states and 5 partner nations. The countries represented at this medal parade were Turkey, Hungary, Romania, Slovakia, Ireland, Finland, Spain, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Austria.

COMEUFOR Inspects Multinational Battalion Training Activities



COMEUFOR Maj Gen Anton Waldner inspected training activities of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion within Camp Butmir from 15-18 May 2017.

The Turkish Company conducted urban operation training and performed vehicle check points and guard duties. At the Austrian Infantry Company Maj Gen Waldner witnessed infantry weapons training involving machine guns, rifles and pistols. COMEUFOR was satisfied with the capabilities that his units demonstrated and had personal conversations with each of the servicemen and service women.





Operation Commander and COMEUFOR visiting Chilean LOT

EUFOR Operation Commander Visits Mission in BiH

From the 2-4 May 2017 the EUFOR Operation Commander General Sir James Everard visited Bosnia and Herzegovina to see various elements of the EUFOR mission in the country. This was his second visit as the Operation Commander to this theatre, his first being when he took over the role with a ceremony in Camp Butmir at the end of March this year.

On the afternoon of the 2 May he was greeted on arrival by Commander EUFOR (COMEUFOR) Major General Anton Waldner and an Honour Guard outside the HQ Building in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. After meeting key HQ personnel he had office calls with COMEUFOR and Commander NATO HQ Sarajevo, Brigadier General Giselle Wilz to discuss the situation in BiH from their perspective. He then took the opportunity to tour the HQ Building, visiting the various departments and receiving briefs from the branch chiefs on the work and challenges of their particular teams.

The second day started with a flight to Banja Luka where General Everard and

Major General Waldner visited two of EUFOR's Liaison and Observation Teams (LOTs) located in the city, one manned by Chilean soldiers and the other by Romanian.

General Everard explained that he was very keen to see the LOT Houses, of which there are 17 across the country, and that he was very impressed by the small teams living in the community, who are working very hard to understand exactly what's going on. He stated that he had seen enough during his visit to convince him that they have a very good understanding of the local situations where they live.

The day finished with a tour of the ammunition storage site in Krupa where the General was welcomed by Major General Husein Tursunović, the Commander of the Support Command of the AFBiH. General Everard then received comprehensive briefings from Colonel Rusmir Mrković, PhD, the Commander of the Logistics Command and Colonel Martin Trachsler, EUFOR's Special Ammunitions

and Weapons Advisor (SAWAD), about the successes in that storage site.

On the third and last day the Operation Commander met with EUSR Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark and was introduced to the Heads of Mission (HoMs) meeting where he witnessed the presentation of the political report of the EU HoMs on the political situation in BiH.



General Everard at the ammunition storage site in Krupa

Armed Forces of BiH Mine Action Analysis 2016

On invitation from the Commander of the Operational Command of the AFBiH, Major General Vuković, EUFOR Chief of Staff General József Szpisják attended the presentation of the AFBiH Mine Action Analysis 2016 on 04 May 17 in Derventa.

At the demining site Pjevalovac near Derventa the AFBiH Demining Battalion described their successes in Mine Action in 2016 and demonstrated live demining with different methods to the audience.

The Demining Battalion in 2016 successfully cleared 2.512.648 m² land while 474 Mines and Explosive



Remnances of War (ERW) were destroyed. In a press statement EUFOR Chief of Staff General József Szpisják stressed, that because of the large number of mines and ERWs still remaining in BiH, Mine Action is one of the most important issues for a safe environment and normal and prosperous life for all BiH citizens.

AFBIH contribution to reach this goal is an important one and EUFOR Chief of Staff underlined EUFOR's willingness to provide further support to AFBiH Mine Action capabilities. It was a highly important event for both the AFBiH and EUFOR, which was attended by numerous BiH and AFBIH high ranking officials.



Weapon marking, registration and recorded keeping Workshop

On the 19 June 2017, EUFOR representatives in collaboration with the Small Arms Survey and the HALO Trust, conducted a workshop on 'Improving weapon control measures in Bosnia and Herzegovina' with a focus on Marking, Registration and Record Keeping. The event was held at the Hotel Sarajevo.

The workshop was opened by an address from Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner: "I would like to underline the importance of this process in our endeavor to guarantee a safe and secure environment in BiH." He went on to say: "Since 2013, we have achieved

a lot by working and cooperating together. Our work in reducing the stockpile of surplus ammunition and introducing a Life Cycle Management programme has been successful over the years."

The aim of the workshop was to provide a platform for the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina to progress with the planning and delivery of the comprehensive technical inventory in combination with marking and registration of the military weapon stockpile.

EUFOR continues to assist the Bosnia and Herzegovina MoD and the Armed Forces to carry out a comprehensive inventory of the military weapon stockpile and implement effective marking, recording and record-keeping practices which will in turn strengthen the security of military stockpiles within the country.

EUFOR Operation ALTHEA, currently made up of soldiers from 14 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.

COMEUFOR Witnesses AFBiH Exercise Dynamic Response 17-5



On 22 May 17 COMEUFOR Major General Anton Waldner was invited to attend the final day of Exercise “Dynamic Response 17-5” in Manjača. He and high ranking Generals from the AFBiH witnessed units from the 5th and 6th Brigades conducting a wide variety of military manoeuvres including live firings; an evaluation step for specific units of the AFBiH who are on the process of becoming NATO-approved ‘declared units’. The EUFOR Multinational Battalion participated in combined training with the AFBiH the previous week, as part of the same exercise.

The 5th Infantry Brigade deployed an infantry unit, an artillery unit, a supply unit, a signals platoon, an MP platoon, an engineer platoon, a CIMIC team and a HUMINT team to the training ground in Manjača. The 5th Brigade commanded and coordinated all those units while its infantry company was evaluated.

In total the AFBiH have 10 declared elements that take part in the NATO Operational Capability Concept (OCC) process preparing units for participation in Peace Support Operations together with NATO nations.



EUFOR and NATO Award Long-Term Employees in a Ceremony at Camp Butmir



94 civilian employees who have given 20 years of service to EUFOR and/or NATO in BiH were recognised in a ceremony at Camp Butmir on 19 May 17. Both, COMEUFOR, Major General Waldner and COM NATO HQ Sa, Brigadier General Giselle Wilz presided over the ceremony, each making a speech then handing out individual plaques to the employees being recognised.

COMEUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner, said in his speech: “...you are the constant here in Camp Butmir. You are the oil that keeps this organisation running. The important work that you do in the areas of linguistics, logistical services, engineering, catering, communications, billeting, clerical, cleaning, maintenance, finance, contracting, transportation and legal are vital to the success of our mission.”

COM NATO HQ Sarajevo, Brigadier General Giselle Wilz said: “We don’t often take the time to appreciate the sacrifice and service you and your families have given over the years, not only to NATO and EUFOR as organizations, but to the thousands of servicemen and women you have supported along the way.

We could not do what we do today for Bosnia and Herzegovina without your commitment and without your sacrifice.”

lot activities

EUFOR LOT Lecture at Faculty of Criminology in Sarajevo



On Monday, 22 May 2017, representatives from EUFOR visited the Faculty of Criminology in Sarajevo to brief students on the EUFOR mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Particularly focusing on EUFOR Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT) deployed throughout BiH in 17 LOT Houses, that serve as the 'eyes and ears' of the Commander EUFOR on the ground maintaining a safe and secure environment within the country.

Upon graduation, the students of criminology studies will mostly seek employment with security agencies, so this class was the opportunity to learn first-hand more about the concept of EUFOR LOT teams and also about the co-operation between EUFOR and security agencies in BiH, the local authorities and the population as a whole.

The students expressed their satisfaction with this opportunity to obtain more information, which had previously been available only from the media. An open question and answer session enabled the students to also learn more about the EUFOR mission.

Slovak EUFOR LOT Helps Families in Need



Slovakian LOT, Director of Red Cross Visegrad and volunteers

On Friday 12 May 17 members of the Slovakian EUFOR LOT House in Visegrad handed over a truck load of humanitarian aid supplies to representatives of the Red Cross who distributed the goods to 400 local families in need.

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

The Slovakian Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Foreign Affairs had organized collections among their employees in order to support families in need within the Slovak LOT houses' area of responsibility. A large amount of clothes, sleeping bags, blankets, health care and hygiene products were collected and then shipped to BiH.

The goods were donated to underprivileged families in the Han Pijesak and Visegrad municipalities.



Volunteers of the Red Cross in Visegrad handling the goods

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 locals 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.

lot activities

Presents for Primary Schools in Tilava and Lovke



Members of EUFOR LOT Novo Sarajevo (Slovakia), visited Saint Sava Primary School in Tilava and Pazaric Primary School in Lovke in June to deliver some donated gifts at the end of the school year.

Notebooks and gifts for Saint Sava School were donated by the Slovakian War Veterans Union, who already have a long strong affiliation for support with this school. Other activities like pupil exchange trips and visits have been organised in the past. The donations were delivered by Lieutenant Jana Kubikova and Staff Sergeant Peter Sulgan who said: "It is lovely to see the pupils being pleased by this small bonus at the end of the school year. We hope that the cooperation with this school will not only continue through the Mine Risk Education programme, but also through occasions like today."

Lieutenant Lucia Slivoskova and Staff Sergeant Marek Sutka also had some gifts and sweets to be delivered to Pazaric Primary School in Lovke to foster the relationship. The pupils together with the teachers had prepared a spectacular performance for the LOT members. "It was another unforgettable day. Nothing can make one more bright than to see happiness in children's eyes", the team stated.

These events are just an example what EUFOR LOT do out on the ground and how they are received within the communities.



visits

Visit to EUFOR Mission Operation ALTHEA by Hungarian Minister of Defence



THE Hungarian Minister of Defence, Mr István SIMICSKÓ visited Headquarters European Union Force (HQ EUFOR) on 29 May 2017.

On 29 May 2017, Commander (COM) EUFOR, Major General Anton WALDNER, welcomed the Hungarian Minister of Defence, Mr István SIMICSKÓ, to Camp Butmir. He was accompanied during his visit by the Hungarian Ambassador to BiH, His Excellency Jozsef NEGYESI and Hungarian Chief of Defence, General Tibor BENKŐ.

During an Office Call with Major General Anton WALDNER, they spoke about EUFOR's mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Capacity Building and Training programme for the Armed Forces of BiH. COM EUFOR took the opportunity to thank the delegation for the continued support of the Hungarian Armed Forces and also praised the professionalism of the troops serving in the mission.

EUFOR Operation Althea is currently made up of soldiers from 14 EU member states and 5 partner nations. EUFOR contributes to the maintenance and stability of a Safe and Secure Environment in BiH and helps to promote a climate in which the peace process can continue.



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