

EUFOR forum

MAGAZINE



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2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012

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Lieutenant General Luciano Portolano, Head of the EU Command Element (EUCE) and Chief of Staff Joint Force Command (Naples) visited EUFOR Headquarters.



5000 days of EUFOR 10-11,14-15

Dzenan Hadzovic made a report about 5000 days of EUFOR.



My Favorite Pictures 12-13

On his end of tour, EUFOR photographer Staff Sergeant Gernot Payer made a selection of his favourite pictures.



Multinational Battalion Exercise ZENITH 18

From 18th to 20th of June, the Multinational Battalion (MNBN) conducted their forward command post exercise, ZENITH.

Editor in chief



5000 days of EUFOR

After serving here as the new Chief PAO for more than 4 months and finalizing preparations for Exercise Quick Response I can finally

focus on the EUFOR Forum. Forum edition #110 is covering the history of EUFOR within the last 5000 days. The next big anniversary for us will be 15 years of EUFOR which will follow in 2019.

EUFOR took over from SFOR on the 2nd of December 2004. The first edition of Forum was done on the 5th January 2005, so covered the mission from the very beginning. After several years with the same style the Forum magazine needed to be refreshed. I hope you like the changes.

Actually the PAO team is preparing for Exercise Quick Response, our biggest exercise throughout the year. The next edition of the EUFOR FORUM will bring all the stories from the exercise for you.

If you have a story for us, please contact us and be part of the EUFOR story in FORUM Magazine.

Lieutenant Colonel Alex Kovacs

Commander EUFOR
Major General Martin Dorfer

EUFOR Public Affairs Chief
Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Kovacs

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We also thank the contribution from the EUFOR LOT Houses

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COS EUFOR



As the Chief of Staff of EUFOR, what are your main roles and responsibilities?

My responsibilities can be grouped into three major areas. The first is to assist COMEUFOR in his planning and conduct of the operation, which entails advising, translating his intent into actionable concepts, plans and orders, coordinating the support, evaluating the effects of our actions and contributing to his overall control over the troop activities. The second is the coordination and direction of the staff activities, which includes direct supervision of all divisions and branches, except the Commander's personal advisory team. The third one is to liaise with NATO HQ Sarajevo and other NATO commands, and also with international and local authorities in order to achieve coordinated common effects, in line with COMEUFOR's guidance. I am also to deputise our Commander in his absence or as directed. And additionally, as in all military organisations, I am also to perform other duties as directed by my Commander.

We will soon be celebrating 5000 days of EUFOR. I know you have experience of the handover from SFOR, Do you think the Mission has changed much over that time and how do you see its future?

I was Hungary's Deputy Military Representative to the EU Military Committee in Brussels at the time when the decision was made on launching Operation ALTHEA, so yes, I could see the start of the Operation. Later, as Head of the NATO Permanent Liaison Team to the EU Military Staff (EUMS), and further, as Director for Concepts and Capabilities in the EUMS, I could follow ALTHEA's evolution quite closely.

As BiH as an independent state developed, less and less military capabilities were needed to support the safe and secure environment. Now, I believe, we are at the absolute minimum in terms of military capabilities needed to focus on getting the best possible situational awareness and initiating a robust reaction, if the

situation requires. Pending on EU Council Decision, COMEUFOR's role as responsible for the Military Annex of the General Framework Agreement on Peace (GFAP), better known as Dayton Peace Agreement implies that our Mission remains in place until the military requirements of the GFAP are fully complied with.

After Exercise Quick Response has finished, what will be your focus going forward?

The most important, I believe, is to capture, analyse and address all lessons that will be emanated from the conduct of the exercise. A military organisation, in my view, always has to be a learning organisation, capable of candid scrutiny and renewal where and when needed.

We also should monitor the political developments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, since the General Elections in October are of enormous importance from the point of view of the country's Euro-Atlantic Accession. And we will have to educate and train the new rotations of EUFOR and reserve forces commanders, so we will conduct an Operational Rehearsal Level 1 exercise in the last quarter of this year.

Do you have a message for both the civilian and military readers of the FORUM magazine?

I would like to recognise each and everyone's professionalism and devotion to the Operation, and I would like to ask them to remain faithful to our common goals. And, in addition, if they are successful in finding the human aspect, fun and joy accompanying their efforts, they will just reinforce the entire ALTHEA community's common faith in making a good example to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Continued on page 4



Exercise Quick Response 2018 is fast approaching. As Exercise Director what are your main areas of focus as we get closer to the start?

Indeed, we are in the final preparation phase for our annual Operational Rehearsal Level 2 exercise in 2018. Exercise Quick Response 2018 is planned to be very ambitious, but also very demanding to EUFOR HQ and to the Force Elements and the Reserves. At this stage, we are finalizing the exercise plans and all documentation related to the conduct of the exercise, and preparing those for signing by COMEUFOR.

Parallel to that, we start to redirect our focus to the activation, deployment and integration of the Reserves participating in the exercise. This includes, but not limited to, all issues of Real Life Support, like accommodation, billeting, catering, supply, transportation, force protection, familiarization with the Area of Operation and a myriad of details.



ANNUAL

EXERCISE

QUICK RESPONSE

3 - 7 September

2018

2012

2013

2014

2015

2016

2017

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Every Year. Throughout BiH.

Working together to keep your country safe and secure.

Quick Response 2018 is a EUFOR-led peace support operations exercise. This year it will take place in the areas of Sarajevo International Airport, Brcko, Kalinovik, Mrkonjic Grad, Pazaric, and Tuzla.

The international exercise involves EUFOR's Multinational Battalion, Reserve Forces arriving from Bulgaria, Italy, Romania and the United Kingdom, the KFOR Tactical Reserve Battalion coming from Kosovo as well as BiH Police Forces, SIPA and the Armed Forces of BiH.

Quick Response annually practices EUFOR's capability to call in reserve forces to maintain a safe and secure environment in support of local authorities, law enforcement agencies and the Armed Forces of BiH.



The making of QR 18 Campaign

12 July 2018



NEW DCOS



Colonel Mevlut Kaplan

EUFOR Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) provides the BiH authorities with military expertise and technical support.

This is done by training, mentoring, monitoring and advising them as they head towards self-sustaining operational capability.

”
I'm the new Deputy Chief of Staff (DCOS) of the Capacity Building & Training (CB&T) Division. This is my first time in BiH and my first mission out of my country. I'm married and the father of twin daughters aged 6.
 “

NEW HQ Camp CMTD



Lieutenant Colonel Laszlo Balogh, HQ Camp CMTD

”
This is my second mission in HQ EUFOR. Firstly I served here as the Deputy HQ Camp CMTD in 2015 for a duration of six months. It is an honour to come back and continue this challenging job.
 “

HQ Camp CMTD staff are responsible for the Force Protection in Camp Butmir. We also provide continuous Real Life Support in order to facilitate any required expansion of the EUFOR or NHQ Sa Operations. Additionally, we are in charge of the Command supervision for security, operations, storage, morale and welfare activities, food services, engineering facilities, construction, repairs, maintenance, billeting, laundry, purchasing, contracting and supply accountability support.

HQ Camp CMTD is one of the biggest branches in Camp Butmir. When I assumed command of my appointment, my aim was to provide the most efficient and effective Real Life Support for everyone in Camp Butmir. I also aspire to improve the infrastructure and maintain services in Camp Butmir.

I have a keen interest in sport and maintaining a high standard of physical fitness. I have competed in a number of national and international IRONMAN competitions in the last decade.

NEW LCC Chief

I took over my duty here at the LOT Coordination Centre (LCC) on 10 June 2018 from my predecessor LTC Draganovsky and I will soon have completed my second month with EUFOR. It is my first deployment to BiH and EUFOR and my tour in Sarajevo will end in August 2019.

Previously I have been deployed to Iraq, Kosovo and Afghanistan. I am from the Slovakian Army, and my previous position in the Army was DCOS OPS at CSS BDE in Trencin. I am 48 years old, married and I have two children, one daughter and one son.



Lieutenant Colonel Stefan Rigas Chief of the LOT Coordination Centre

”
The LCC and EUFOR LOT house mission is to feel the pulse and show the EUFOR presence
 “

Working visit of the EUFOR Althea Operation Commander General Sir James Everard KCB CBE



DID YOU KNOW

Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) located in Mons, Belgium, is the strategic level headquarters of ACO and commanded by Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR).

Ahead of Exercise Quick Response 18, General Sir James Everard KCB CBE from the EU Operation Headquarters in Mons, Belgium, visited Sarajevo in his role as the Operation Commander for EUFOR Operation Althea. Commander EUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, and his multinational staff briefed the 4 star General on the EUFOR mission and in particular on the preparations for the EUFOR Exercise Quick Response 18.

This annual exercise practices

COMEUFOR welcomes General Sir James Everard KCB CBE

EUFOR's capability to call in reserve forces to maintain a safe and secure environment in support of local authorities, law enforcement agencies and the Armed Forces of BiH.

General Everard during his visit took the opportunity to meet with key military and political figures. He met with Brigadier General Marti Bissel, who commands the NATO Headquarters Sarajevo located next door to the EUFOR Headquarters.

With BiH Minister of Defence, Ms Marina Pendes, and Chairman of the BiH Presidency, Mr. Bakir Izetbegovic, General Everard discussed the support EUFOR gives to AFBiH and the BiH authorities in maintaining a safe and secure environment for the population of BiH.

Major Nicolai Tschol



Meeting with the Chairman of the BiH Presidency Bakir Izetbegovic.



General Everard and BiH Minister of Defence Ms Marina Pendes

Lieutenant General Portolano visit to EUFOR HQ

On Thursday and Friday 5-6th July, Lieutenant General Luciano Portolano, Head of the EU Command Element (EUCE) and Chief of Staff Joint Force Command (Naples) visited EUFOR headquarters.

General Portolano was welcomed by COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer before being updated on the latest activities of EUFOR by the Heads of Departments.

The General also received information about the work of the 17 EUFOR LOT houses that are in touch with the local community and agencies to monitor the situation in BiH, before visiting the EUFOR LOT house at Novo Sarajevo to see the work for himself. Here he talked to the staff and learned about the local issues and areas of responsibility they deal with.



Taking the salute



Discussions between COMEUFOR and General Portolano

Visit of Minister of Defence of Poland to EUFOR

On Wednesday 8th August 2018, the Minister of Defence for Poland, Mr Mariusz Błaszczak, visited Camp Butmir to meet EUFOR staff and to meet Polish soldiers working at the mission.

Minister Błaszczak was greeted by the EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Gabor Horvath, he inspected the Honour Guard before meeting all the Branch Chiefs of EUFOR.

After exchanging gifts an office call took place in which Minister Błaszczak was updated on the current situation and ongoing EUFOR work by senior EUFOR Officers.

On completion of the office call with General Horvath Minister Błaszczak attended a Polish Military Ceremony with EUFOR's Polish soldiers to commemorate Polish Army Day. The Armed Forces day, known also as the Feast of the Polish Armed



Minister Błaszczak and Brigadier General Horvath take the salute

Forces is traditionally held on 15th August and is a national holiday in which parades are held throughout the country in commemoration for active personnel, veterans, and those lost in battle.



Exchanging the gifts

Turkish Minister of Defence visits COMEUFOR



Mr Nurettin Canikli and Major General Dorfer

On Wednesday 4th July the Minister of Defence for Turkey, Mr Nurettin Canikli met with COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, at Camp Butmir as part of a visit to Sarajevo.

Turkey is one of the largest troop contributing nations to the mission and play a significant part in helping to maintain the safe and secure environment in the country. Mr Canikli paid tribute to the soldiers when he addressed them at the Turkish contingent area.

Before arriving at the camp, Mr Canikli met with the Minister of Defence in BiH Marina Pendes and also laid a wreath at the grave of Bosnia’s first President, Alija Izetbegovic in Kovaci Cemetery.

Visit of the Irish Minister of Defence to Camp Butmir



Mr Kehoe meets COMEUFOR for an office call

On Thursday 12th July the Minister of Defence for Ireland, Mr Paul Kehoe, visited Camp Butmir. He was met by Major General Dorfer, COMEUFOR, with a full Honour Guard. The purpose of Mr Kehoe’s visit was to meet with the contingent of Irish soldiers serving with EUFOR, to receive a situational overview of the country and of EUFOR and to reaffirm Ireland’s commitment to the mission.

He expressed his appreciation for the work of his troops stationed at Camp Butmir and of the importance of the EUFOR mission to the people of BiH.

As part of his visit to the area Mr KEHOE also had meetings at the BiH Ministry of Defence and was taken on a historical tour of Sarajevo and of the Sarajevo tunnel.

Visit of Defence Attaches to Camp Butmir

On Friday 8th June COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, invited representatives of the Military Defence Attaché Corps in BiH for an afternoon briefing in EUFOR HQ, Camp Butmir.

Members from 13 different nations, both troop contributing and non-troop contributing, attended the event, which was used to discuss current challenges and foster good relations and cooperation.

COMEUFOR emphasized the efforts and achievements made by EUFOR’s weapons inspection teams and their cooperation with Law Enforcement Agencies throughout



Military Defence Attaché Corps representatives with COMEUFOR and COS EUFOR

BiH. Presentations were given by the EUFOR Chiefs of Staff to the Attachés giving them an overview of current activity such as combined training with AFBiH, demining and weapons disposal.

5000

days of EUFOR

DAY 1

December 2004, Mission ALTHEA Begins

(*Althea mythic Greek goddess of healing)



EUFOR assumed all missions of the SFOR except for the hunt for individuals indicted by the ICTY, which remained a mission for NATO. However, EUFOR did have police duties against organized crime, which was believed to be linked to suspected war-criminals.

EUFOR worked with the European Union Police Mission (EUPM) in Bosnia and Herzegovina and with the Bosnian police. European Union Special Representative (EUSR) was established to provide assistance for EU integration and political guidance to EUFOR.



Memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between EUFOR and BiH State Prosecution on the cooperation. EUFOR continued operation "Harvest" and through its Multinational Task Force (MNTF) managed to collect an impressive amount of weapons of different caliber and therefore contributed to more safe and secure environment for the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Operation "Spring Clean" was designed to detect and disrupt illegal activities by those involved in organized crime and corruption. EUFOR was in place to help to set conditions for BH Law Enforcement Agencies to do their jobs more efficiently.

A single Armed Forces at the state level (AFBiH) were created with the strong support of EUFOR. Their Operational Command was placed within EUFOR Camp Butmir.

BiH took over from EUFOR the responsibility for controlling its airspace above 3.000 meters, however EUFOR retained control over the lower sky below 3.000m.



On 14th of December 2006 BiH signed an agreement to be a part of the Partnership for Peace (PfP). This represented a positive development and one of the achieved goals of BiH on the road to NATO.

In 2007 MNTF were disbanded. Several EUFOR camps Bosnia-wide were closed such as Camp Doboje, Camp Zenica, Camp Mostar-Ortije, "Eagle" Base in Tuzla and Camp Rajlovac in Sarajevo.

EUFOR remained present in three main areas of the country with significantly reduced number of troops (2500).

EUFOR retained the right to conduct inspection and movement control of the weapons and ammunition, but handed over responsibility over control of 39 weapon storage sites as well as collection of weapons.

DAY 1000



2008 was very sad year for the EUFOR when 15 soldiers died in two separated helicopter accidents. Lives of 11 from FYROM, 2 German and 2 Spanish soldiers were tragically lost when their helicopters crashed by performing their duties.

5000

days of EUFOR

In 2009 EUFOR signed three MOUs with AFBiH and formally handed over the responsibility for the control of the military movement, ammo storage sites and radio frequencies authority to the AFBiH, which allowed AFBiH to take full and direct control over the mentioned issues.

Representatives of the Ministry of Security (MOS), RS MOI, FBiH MOI, Brcko district and cantonal MOIs, State Regulatory Agency for the Radiation and Nuclear Safety and EUFOR, signed MoU on “civilian movement control of weapons and military equipment”, which regulated this issue for the future and gave responsibility to the BiH institutions.



BiH Mine Action Center (BHMACH) took over complete responsibility for the mine-clearance activities, as an instrument of the BiH Ministry of the Civil Affairs.

The MOU between UN Development Fund for Women, EUPM and EUFOR, enhanced mutual understanding and cooperation between military, police, civilian personnel and citizens, particularly women in BiH.

DAY 2000



In 2011 troops were downsized to 1500 persons. “Project Soteria” was officially handed-over to the COS AFBiH. “Soteria” was the EUFOR-led project to assess six prospective ammunition storage sites across BiH. The assessment was conducted in partnership with AFBiH, NATO and OSCE.

In 2012 Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) mission started. For the first time in its mission, EUFOR personnel were working within the AFBiH structures, side by side with AFBiH soldiers, making joint efforts and helping AFBiH reaching their goals. Within relatively short period of time, EUFOR has designed a new training concept with an emphasis on Mobile Training Teams and Embedded Advisory Teams working closely with AFBiH



EUFOR provided massive support to BiH and its people during the record-breaking snow falls. EUFOR personnel and helicopters were involved in providing food, medical supplies and evacuation of the people from the endangered areas. EUFOR also supported BiH in cleaning the snow from the roads which paralyzed the country.

DAY 3000



In 2013 MOU between EUFOR, BiH MOS and 17 LEAs was signed in the EUFOR HQ. This agreement formalized cooperation in information exchange between EUFOR and Key LEAs in BiH. Since the closure of EUPM in 2012, information exchange did not reach the previous level.

Even more than before, EUFOR made strong contribution by assisting the local agencies and community in the fight with massive forest fires during the summer season all over the region of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Although the number of troops had been reduced to approx. 600 a year earlier,

Continued on page 14



My Favorite Picture

After one year of duty as a photojournalist for EUFOR/HQ, it's time to say goodbye. It was a great opportunity for me to see a lot of this mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, a great and beautiful country. Let me thank you to all whom I met in and around the Camp Butmir with my dear colleagues from the PAO and the COM office. Good luck to all of you, maybe there is a time we can meet again.

Gernot Payer, OR-7



Best of Photo



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otographer
goodbye!
o be a part
rzegovina,
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otographer



5000

days of EUFOR

Continued from page 11

EUFOR retained capability to support peace and security in the country. “Quick Response” 1 and 2 were organized in April and September demonstrating the ability of EUFOR to activate, quickly deploy and integrate its troops in and outside of BiH.



During the worst floods that ever struck the region, EUFOR made an enormous contribution and supported BiH, its people and institutions in all possible segments. Over 900 people were rescued, over 40 provided with emergency medical treatment. In well-coordinated operation along with local institutions and AFBiH, EUFOR made an important contribution in cleaning the worst affected areas, restoring roads and communications and delivering humanitarian aid for those in need.

MoU between EUFOR and MoD was signed in order to provide the framework for the co-operation between EUFOR and MoD and to consolidate and streamline nine previous agreements. EUFOR-led exercises and CB&T programme enabled AFBiH to be used not only for conventional military operations but also domestic tasks.



As an annual Peace Support Operations exercise, Exercise Quick Response is not only a test for the EUFOR reserve system but also redesigned to allow EUFOR and AFBiH to train together. The training activities are jointly agreed upon by EUFOR and the Armed Forces of BiH.

The final version of the 2015 Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) Activities was signed on 15

December 2014, in Joint Staff Sarajevo by MG Mirko Tepšić, Deputy Chief of the JS for Operations and BG András Szűcs, Chief of Staff EUFOR. The AFBiH-EUFOR CB&T 2015 Activities consists of a detailed list of all training courses, the list of projects for the period of 2015-2018 and the Training Calendar for the 2015.

DAY 4000



Large scale brigade-level exercises showed that EUFOR along with partners from NATO and AFBiH, including reserves are at all times ready and able to respond quickly and effectively to any potential threat to a safe and secure environment (SASE) in BiH. EUFOR were for the first time able to utilize the NATO KFOR Tactical Maneuvers Battalion (KTM) from Pristina, Kosovo to the exercise area in Manjača, near Banja Luka. It is important to be able to demonstrate rapid deployment of these elements consisting of Portuguese and Hungarian

troops. These troop elements arrived in BiH at extremely short notice utilizing armored and support vehicles.

5000

days of EUFOR



The project Explode included destroying high hazard ammunition and complex weapon systems, supporting AFBiH in the reduction of military ammunition stockpiles to manageable quantities, training of senior military officers to enhance their capacities and implementing infrastructure upgrades to improve the safety and storage conditions of military weapons and ammunition depots. The project is implemented in partnership with the BiH MoD, EUSR, UNDP and OSCE.



Launch of Project “SAFE-UP BiH” in cooperation between OSCE, BiH MoD, AFBiH and EUFOR in order to upgrade safety and security of the BiH Weapons and Ammunition Storage Sites.

Exercise “Quick Response 17” involved EUFOR and EUFOR allocated Reserve Forces, AFBiH and for the first time BiH Law Enforcement Agencies-testing of EUFOR CONPLANS in realistic scenarios.

EUFOR supported NATO Euro-Atlantic Disaster Relief Exercise in BiH. Also the same year, the first Strategic Review of EUFOR Op Althea was conducted, retaining the focus on SASE , phasing out part of the CB&T activities and continuing its support to AWE disposal and demining projects.



In 2018, MOU between the Ministry of Civil Affairs of BiH, NHQSa and EUFOR was signed in regards to the use of Aerial Pictures for de-mining efforts. Another Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Service for Foreigners’ Affairs and EUFOR regarding Information sharing.

For the first time EUFOR conducted announced inspections of armament stocks of the BiH Law Enforcement Agencies. These inspections included Storage Sites at the level of the State, the Entities and Cantons and of Brcko District, and shall enhance transparency with regard to the existing stocks, procurement activities and storage conditions of LEA’s weapons.



With the opening of the Chemical and Thermal Analysis Laboratory at TROM DOBOJ a milestone was reached in the “SAFE-UP” Project, cooperation between the OSCE, the MoD of BiH, AFBiH and EUFOR. This laboratory enables AFBiH to implement a safe und sustainable life-cycle management of Ammunition.

Dzenan Hadzovic

DAY 5000





LOT Coordination Centre - gathering all the information



LOT Coordination Centre (LCC) Staff

The LOT Coordination Centre (LCC) deliver “near real time” situational awareness in order to meet COMEUFOR’s critical information requirements that give him a solid base for the decision making process.

The 17 EUFOR LOT houses are spread around the country and split into 5 geographic areas. Each house has an Officer in Command supported by an NCO and three LOT teams. The main task is the collection of information by liaising, monitoring, observing and meeting with local people from all walks of life. They do this in an open, transparent and impartial manner. It is important to stress that they are not intelligence assets.

The job of the LCC is to then gather all the information, filter it all and then fuse it into useable data and reports for the relevant departments in EUFOR HQ. The LCC operates on a 24/7 basis monitoring the situation across BiH and are the “eyes and ears” of the organization.

As well as managing all LOT activity they also conduct high level meetings, liaise with other agencies and conduct mine risk education (MRE). With

The main task of LCC is the collection of information by liaising, monitoring, observing and meeting with local people from all walks of life

approximately 50 MRE trainers they carry out this vital work and so far in 2018 they have delivered MRE to 11,483 people in 361 sessions.

The LCC, situated close to the main gate of Camp Butmir is run by an OF-4, currently Lt Col Stefan Rigas of the Slovakian Army. His staff includes two Deputy Chiefs who run the Operations and Information branches, coordinators for the 5 areas, information support staff and two civilian interpreters.

If you would like more information about the LCC and what they do, please call them or drop in to say hello.



Lieutenant Colonel Stefan Rigas, Chief of the LOT Coordination Centre (LCC)



COMEUFOR visits to Novo Sarajevo and Visegrad

A busy day of community visits took place on Wednesday 13th June. The EUFOR Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) houses at Novo Sarajevo and Visegrad were the destinations for COMEUFOR. The purpose of the two visits was to meet the EUFOR staff working in the houses and to get an update on their work in the community. The EUFOR LOT houses are the ‘eyes and ears’ of EUFOR throughout BiH, they provide situational awareness and are vital for engagement with key local leaders.



Inside EUFOR LOT House Visegrad

During the SARAJEVO visit COMEUFOR also witnessed a Mine Risk Education (MRE) lesson delivered to pupils at POFALICI Primary School. The lesson was delivered by OF-2 Lubos JANUSKA, OR-8 Juraj ZUBEK and translated by Izet Eljsani.

MRE provides children and adults 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 it.



COMEUFOR with staff from EUFOR LOT House Novo Sarajevo

COMEUFOR visit to Banja Luka

On Wednesday 6 June 18 COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer visited a number of units from the Armed Forces of BiH. The first visit was to the museum of the 3rd regiment at Kozara barracks, Banja Luka, where he met with Lieutenant Colonel Radojčić. They discussed the regiment’s duties and COMEUFOR was impressed with how all the artefacts on display at the museum are donations.

The second visit was to the Logistic Command HQ and Personnel Management HQ where COMEUFOR met with Major General Marko Stojičić and Colonel Milovan Nisić to discuss preparing the Armed Forces of BiH logistically for commonly

accepted military standards. They also discussed manpower, doctrine and recruitment during the meeting.

The final visit of the day was to the 6th Infantry Brigade in Banja Luka. COMEUFOR was hosted by Colonel Radovan Jović who explained the current activities and the following days combined training exercise with EUFOR’s Multinational Battalion. Colonel Jović said:

‘The high level of professionalism and co-operation between EUFOR and the Armed Forces BiH is excellent’.

An excellent day of visits which enhanced the cooperation between EUFOR and the Armed Forces BiH and their development towards a self-sustaining operational capability.



COMEUFOR meets Major General Stojičić



Multinational Battalion Exercise Zenith



LTC Markus Schwaiger

“The complex scenario and the number of incidents were especially demanding for the battalion command post as well as for the companies, platoons and squads. The given tasks were fulfilled positively from battalion down to squad level. Furthermore I want to highlight the attitude and the professionalism of every single soldier during the whole exercise, because this would be most important in the event of a real threat.”

From 18th to 20th of June, the Multinational Battalion (MNB) conducted their forward command post exercise, ZENITH. A very realistic overall scenario was chosen and provided a good opportunity to challenge the troops at every level.

The main effort was to exercise with the whole battalion and to improve the cooperation within the EUFOR Headquarters, Battalion Headquarters and the companies.

Therefore EUFORs manoeuvre unit deployed all troops to the area of Pazarić. After installing the forward command post the troops were faced with demonstrators in front of the main gate. Negotiations with the aggressive crowd failed and the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) was called to end the demonstration.

During the three days of exercise a 24 hours duty roster was installed to ensure a realistic training environment. The Multinational Battalion secured a fictive weapon storage site and did patrols in the area of Pazarić. During routine duty several incidents of varying difficulty were injected. The troops were faced with incidents ranging from low level, like

unauthorised civilians who wanted to access the storage site to more challenging ones like, house searching operations executed with a whole company.

One of the highlights was the visit of the force commander on the last day of the exercise. Commander EUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, did an inspection on spot, to get an authentic picture of the exercise. He got a situational update at the forward command post, provided by the Multinational Battalion Staff, led by the commander, Markus Schwaiger. Afterwards Commander EUFOR also took the chance and visited the company command posts of the Hungarian Company and the Turkish Company.

Lieutenant Patrick Moser





De-mining visit to Travnik municipality

The site is run by the NGO Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and COMEUFOR was welcomed to the site by their Regional Director for Southeast Europe, Mr Sven Jonas Zachrisson.

The General was updated on activities including de-mining and land release as well as NPA's holistic approach to the community which includes mine risk education and regular information flow to the local people on progress made.

The terrain they are working in is very steep forestry in the mountains, on the southern slopes of Mount Vlasic, which makes their job even more hazardous.

COMEUFOR was impressed by the professionalism and efforts of the staff he met and said he would ensure continuing full cooperation from EUFOR in its support for the organisation.



Initial briefing on demining activity



The intricate method of demining

Anti-personnel mine removed from Zeljeznica river



On 23 July EUFOR soldiers noticed suspicious metal objects in the water underneath a bridge over Željeznica river. The soldiers from Operation Althea's Polish contingent took pictures of the possible mine threat from safe distance and reported instantly to EUFOR countermines. Commander Albert Proszowski, Chief Countermines, identified the object as a PMR-2 anti-personal mine.

The mine was removed the next morning by the RS



Civil Protection Agency (CPA) guided to the location by Commander Proszowski.

What made these actions exemplary? It was the correct behaviour and instant reporting of the EUFOR soldiers, the quick EUFOR countermines assessment and the immediate cooperation with RS CPA who had a team on the spot to remove the identified threat in less than a day. Because mines don't care who we are.

Lieutenant Colonel Albert Proszowski

Chemical Analysis Laboratory Opens



Major General Martin Dorfer

Cutting the Ribbon

On Thursday 19th July COMEUFOR, Major General Dorfer, attended the official opening ceremony of the Laboratory for Chemical and Thermal Analysis of Ammunition in TROM Doboj as part of the SAFE-UP project.

Since 2013 International Partners have worked hard to support, in a coordinated effort with the Ministry of Defence and the AFBiH, to establish an ammunition life cycle management system.

For the first time the AFBiH will be able to conduct chemical and thermal analysis of ammunition on a larger scale. The generated results will have a significant input to the safety and security of ammunition storage, handling and disposal activities.

This laboratory is a result of great international cooperation between OSCE, MoD, AFBiH and the EUFOR Mobile Training Team. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved partners and to reaffirm the further commitment of EUFOR to this very important task.

EUFOR Engineers mentor Armed Forces BiH road building project



From 04 to 29 June 2018 a road construction project in the Military Training Area Manjača took place. The Engineering Battalion from Armed Forces BiH together with an EUFOR mentoring team from Slovenia and Austria completed this field project for temporary military roads.

More than 750 m of road were built and about 7 500 m² ground prepared.

With this training support the engineers from AFBiH will be able to finish the final work by themselves. As a follow on project it is planned to construct an urban training area at this location.

Major Nicolai Tschol

Srebrenica

It has been 23 years since the worst massacre of the Bosnian war, a war crime categorized both by ICTY and International Court of Justice as an act of genocide. It is estimated that 8372 people were killed by RS military in a period of seven days, following the capture of the enclave on 11th July 1995.

Prior the final attack, Srebrenica was already in an extremely difficult position, given the fact that the enclave was packed with refugees from the surrounding towns and villages and completely under RS military siege for a long period of time. The area was cut off from any supplies and was facing constant humanitarian catastrophe.

The final stage of Srebrenica's misery started on 8th of July 1995 with a ground offensive of the RS military, which simply overran the Bosniak opposition and the UN's Observation Points and within 4 days captured the enclave.

Mass killings started the following day after men were separated from women in the vicinity of the UN compound, or were captured trying to escape through the mountains. Mass killings took place in prearranged execution sites and often in proximity of already dug mass graves.

In attempt to conceal the size of the atrocities, body remains were removed and relocated in a careless manner resulting in cases where remains of a single person were found in 4 different locations in 200 square kilometers. The creation of secondary mass-grave sites made the process of finding and identifying persons extremely difficult and it's unlikely that all victims will ever be found, as time passes by and it's hard to find new evidence and willing witnesses.



Long-lasting ICTY trials have brought numerous high ranking RS officials to face overwhelming accusations, including the two highest ranking political and military officials, Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic. Both were convicted and given long-lasting prison sentences for war-crimes and genocide.

Having neither the capability nor the mandate, UNPROFOR failed to protect what was officially declared as a UN safe area, and this remains a lesson for all peace keeping missions in the future.

Having regard to its resolutions of 7th of July 2005, 15th of January 2009 and 9th of July 2015, EU formally declared 11th July as EU day of Srebrenica commemoration.

Srebrenica remains to be a frequently discussed subject among the Bosnian society considering the difficult reconciliation process and large numbers of people are still missing and have no known graves.

This year 35 newly identified victims were buried which raised the number of total found, identified and buried people of Srebrenica to 6.610.

Dzenan Hadrovic



DID YOU KNOW

Srebrenica Flower named "Remembrance" has been created by women's association from Gracanica, BiH.

There are 11 flower petals representing 11th of July, white color represents the innocence and the green center represents hope.



EUFOR Chief of Staff presided over an International Medal Parade



On Wednesday 01 Aug 18, EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Gabor Horvath presided over an International Medal Parade at Camp Butmir.

One hundred and one military personnel were awarded the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Medal for Operation ALTHEA. Awarding the medal, General Horvath told participants: “Each and every one of you has contributed to the success of the EUFOR mission, and the medal represents the practical and positive affirmation of your government’s commitment to the people of BiH.”

He spoke of the sacrifice made by families whose loved ones serve far from home, saying: “I am sure that your absence from home has been worthwhile. I wish you every success for the future.”

The duty of Parade Commander was given to Wing Commander Jim Doyle of the UK’s Royal Air Force who is renowned for having the shiniest boots in Camp Butmir, who said: “It was an honour to be asked to be the Parade Commander for the medal ceremony and to receive my medal at the same ceremony as



EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Gabor Horvath

“**Each and every one of you has contributed to the success of the EUFOR mission, and the medal represents the practical and positive affirmation of your government’s commitment to the people of BiH.**”

my three British colleagues at the mission.”

COS EUFOR thanked all those on parade for their dedicated service in BiH. Seven of the 18 countries of EUFOR were on the parade: Austria, Chile, Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Turkey and the United Kingdom. “They contribute across a wide range of areas and are tireless in support of maintenance of the safe and secure environment in BiH.”

Spanish Memorial Services



On 19 June saw both COMEUFOR and EUFOR Chief of Staff take part in memorial services for 23 Spanish soldiers who lost their lives protecting BiH.

The services took place at the Spanish Fallen Soldiers monument in Camp Butmir’s memorial park on Monday and in Mostar on Tuesday. Both were attended by the Spanish Ambassador, His Excellency Jose Maria Valdemoro Gimenez and Major General Fernando Garcia Gonzalo-Valerio, Commander of the ‘Castillejos’ Division.

Need your help!

Not only are we soldiers in a mission, we are also members of the local community, and it is in this role that we need your help.



The son of a local employee is very unwell and needs help for a kidney transplant. Rijad Cosibegovic, a teenaged boy, has been unwell for a number of years and needs our help as he cannot be treated in BiH. There are donation boxes in all of Camp Butmir’s retail outlets. If you are able to open your heart and donate what you can for his medical treatment in Turkey both he and his family would be most grateful. No amount is too small so every KM or Euro will help.

“Blame the weathermen”

Back in 2008, we thought we will stay here one, maximum two years, but we fell in love with Sarajevo and here we are after 10 years. Having the military background as an officer in Romanian Air Force, and my colleague, Piotr, in the Polish Navy, we felt like fish in the water in this mission.

Even if Bosnia Herzegovina is not a big country, geographic features and position make the weather forecasting so challenging and never boring. We faced during these years a lot of critical situations when the accuracy of the forecast was crucial to fulfill the mission and we consider that we did the job as good as possible. The biggest accomplishment is to see at the end of the day all the aircrafts landing safely at the base, and we are proud that we have 10 years without any air incident or accident due to the weather. We also provided weather support for all the EUFOR LOT houses, land operations, air surveillance, forest wild fire fighting, heavy snow or floods rescue operations, MAPEX, operation rehearsals, Bosnian Air Force, film shootings, and off duty for barbecue parties, kitchen personnel, hairdresser, weddings, family visits and every time when people greet us with “how’s the weather?”.

During this years, we were privileged to work with so many quality people from so many countries, we have a lot of beautiful memories that will stay with us the rest of our lives. All the best, stay safe and, as the song say: everywhere you go, always take the weather with you.

Cristian Ionita and Piotr Sobolewski



Piotr Sobolewski & Cristian Ionita 10 years ago



Piotr Sobolewski and Cristian Ionita with COMEUFOR

EUFOR Road Safety

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) statistics for 2017, Bosnia and Herzegovina has the highest traffic related mortality rate in Europe, excluding Russia. With the annual rate of 12.6 traffic related fatalities per 100,000 inhabitants, BiH is almost four times riskier to drive in than the EU average and almost double when it is compared with the countries in its neighborhood: Slovenia (5.75), Serbia (6.9), Croatia (7), and Montenegro (9).

With several hundred vehicles on

the road at any given moment, EUFOR and NATO HQ definitely need to be aware of these statistics. Besides all the cars and trucks belonging to national contingents and EUFOR LOT Houses, the Trancoy manages a fleet of 138 vehicles.

According to Mr Mesic, the most frequent cause of accidents was disregard for traffic laws (especially speed limits) and the road conditions.

He emphasised the importance of being extra careful when driving through built up areas such as towns and villages throughout BiH, especially during the holidays, with a higher possibility of children running in front of traffic.

Outside these areas, drivers

need to be especially cautious around the so called ‘black dots’, the high risk points in the roads. The ‘black dots’ are usually the points in roads where similar accidents have been happening over a long period of time, often with fatalities.

BiH Federation government has recently undertaken a comprehensive study that has identified 122 ‘black points’ throughout the Federation. This study should lead to the proper marking of all these locations and hopefully correct the conditions that lead to so many accidents.

In the RS no such study has been conducted yet but the authorities have identified the 24 most dangerous roads in the RS in 2017. The deadliest road in the RS is the ‘Karanovac-Crna rijeka’ stretch of the road from Banja Luka to Jajce, where 9 people were killed and 6 seriously injured in only 9 months of 2017.

Mustafa Comor



Mr Tarik Mesic
Trancoy Fleet Clerk

“
Since 2016 NATO vehicles participated in 29 traffic accidents and EUFOR in 23, thankfully non with a fatal outcome.
”

ANNUAL
EXERCISE
QUICK RESPONSE
3 - 7 September
2018



IN COOPERATION WITH



2017
2016
2015
2014
2013
2012



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