

# EUFOR forum

MAGAZINE



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2017 2016 2015 2014 2013 2012

ANNUAL EXERCISE 3 - 7 september QUICK RESPONSE 2018.

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**COMEUFOR visit to Fire Department**

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**Multinational Battalion Mountain March**

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**Novi Grad Mountain Rescue Team Train with EUFOR Helicopter**

The Mountain Rescue Team from Novi Grad, Sarajevo arrived at Camp Butmir to practice their skills and enhance their cooperation with EUFOR by taking part in a combined training day with the EUFOR Search and Rescue (SAR) helicopter.



**COMEUFOR visit to Mine Detection Dogs Training**

COMEUFOR paid a visit to a Mine Detection Dogs training centre at Vogošća near Sarajevo.

**5 Editor in chief**



Welcome to edition 111 of the EUFOR FORUM. The number 111 is actually considered unlucky in parts of the UK but here in the PAO office we are very happy with the content of this latest magazine.

This edition is focussed for the most part on Exercise Quick Response 2018. You will find summaries of each day of the exercise, articles on the opening and closing ceremonies, a picture only centre spread and an interview with the MNBN Commander LTC Pilles.

Many thanks to all those that have contributed not only to the exercise but to all the other stories as well, but we cannot rest on our laurels. We still need you to send us your stories for the next and future editions, so please get in contact with the PAO team if you have anything of interest to tell us. Finally this will be my last FORUM as Editor in Chief and I would like to say a personal 'thank you' to all those that have made my time here in Camp Butmir both enjoyable and rewarding. I have enjoyed it immensely and have been very lucky to have been here during a busy and very interesting period. I am sure you will support and encourage my successor, Lt Cdr Brian Bennett, when he arrives at the end of November.

**Lieutenant Commander Paul Clark**

Commander EUFOR  
**Major General Martin Dorfer**  
 EUFOR Public Affairs Chief  
**Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Kovacs**

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**You took over the Battalion shortly before Quick Response 2018 (QR18) – Tell us about the Battalion and what the build-up period was like?**

The Multinational Battalion (MNBN) is the only continuously established manoeuvre element of EUFOR. It consists of a battalion staff with members from Turkey, Hungary and Austria. Two of these companies are constantly deployed, at this moment that is one Turkish Company and one from Austria which is rotating yearly with a Hungarian Company. The main tasks of the Battalion are force protection of Camp Butmir, to be prepared as a reserve element and to perform combined training with the AFBiH. We were also the main training audience for exercise QR18, prior to the exercise we were reinforced by companies from the UK, Romania, Bulgaria and the Kosovo Tactical Reserve Battalion.

**What was it like to command soldiers from many different nations and what were the highlights of the Exercise for you?**

The integration training with all these different elements was both exciting and challenging and it was a real honour to command them. We were all ‘thrown in the cold ice water together’ as we say in Austria, and we got on with our tasks, trained well together and prepared ourselves during the integration training to be fully ready for the LIVEX. I can say I have a great impression of all the nations involved, they were all keen and motivated and I was very satisfied with their performance. The highlights for me personally were firstly commanding the Battalion and acting as Parade Commander for the Opening Ceremony in front of over 500 of my soldiers. Secondly, working closely with SIPA for the scenarios at the airport and in particular the Media Day which was a huge success all round; I found them to be professional, open, very friendly



Lieutenant Colonel Oliver Pilles

and cooperative. Lastly, I would like to mention the work of my HQ staff, without their hard work and dedication we would not have been successful.

**You mentioned your Combined Training with the AFBiH. How does this work?**

The Combined Training with the AFBiH is very important and we carry out regular training all over the country with the 4th, 5th and 6th Brigades. These events involve a lot of coordination and pre planning. This will involve training planning conferences and a period of ‘train the trainers’ before we get to the main events. These main events could be anything from riot control situations to live fire exercises. The soldiers and Officers

from the AFBiH are professional, very helpful and we enjoy good cooperation together.

On top of combined training we also have our internal MNBN training serials to keep our soldiers sharp. This will involve things such as first aid, weapons drill, mountain marches, mine awareness training or setting training exercises for the Quick Reaction Force (QRF)

**Could you tell us a little about yourself and your background?**

I am 48 years of age and an Infantry Officer, I have been serving in the Austrian Armed Forces for 28 years and this is my second mission in the Balkans but the first one in BiH. I have been here since the 7th of August and I took over the Command of the MNBN on the 14th of August, I will stay here in BiH until the end of February next year. Beside that I’m also a Military Mountain Guide and Ski Instructor, so I have already managed to lead 3 of my staff members to the highest point of BiH, the Maglic Mountain at 2386m.

## Operation Commander presided over an International Medal Parade



General Everard and COMEUFOR take the salute

On Wednesday 10th October an International Medal Parade (IMP) took place at Camp Butmir.

Presiding over the parade was General Sir James Everard, the Operation Commander of Operation Althea. General Everard was visiting Camp Butmir as part of a number of meetings in Sarajevo and presented medals to the soldiers.

On parade were soldiers from 12 troop contributing nations; Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Turkey, Austria, Bulgaria, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece and the United Kingdom.

General Everard praised the soldiers contribution to the mission saying how it was a reflection on their countries commitment to BiH and to EUFOR.

General Everard thanked the soldiers for their individual efforts saying:

**'Thank you for your contribution to peace and stability in BiH'**

'This shows the importance your countries pay to BiH', he said.

On completion of the medal parade COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, and General Everard wished farewell to 6 members of the UK Company who are cycling the 1,000 miles home as part of a charity event.



General Everard presents medals to EUFOR troops

## Chairman of the EU Military Committee General Kostarakos visits EUFOR



CEUMC and COMEUFOR meet Minister of Defence Pendeš

On Thursday 4th October the Chairman of the EU Military Committee (CEUMC), General Michail Kostarakos visited Camp Butmir and completed an Office Call with COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer.

The main purpose for his visit to EUFOR is to commend, on behalf of the EU Military Committee, the work of the EUFOR mission in BiH and to emphasise its essential roles in helping BiH authorities to maintain the safe and secure environment and to provide mentoring, monitoring

and training to the country's Armed Forces.

Later in the day he also visited the German Embassy and The Ministry of Defence which was a great opportunity to express the EU's gratitude to Bosnia and Herzegovina Armed Forces personnel for their participation in EU CSDP missions. Bosnia and Hercegovina is now for a second year providing a high quality contribution to the military mission in Central African Republic, for which the EU is very grateful.

Lastly, since this visit is close to the end of the CEUMC's tenure, it is a perfect moment to praise, once again, the personnel of the EUFOR Op. ALTHEA for their professionalism, their dedication to the mission and their outstanding performance.



COMEUFOR and CEUMC exchange gifts

## COMEUFOR visit to Fire Department



COMEUFOR and Fire Chief Mr Paul Hulme after training

On Friday 17th August Major General Martin Dorfer paid a visit to the EUFOR Fire Department to see for himself how they train to deal with any emergency presented to them in Camp Butmir.

The Fire Chief, Mr Paul Hulme, introduced the General to his team before instructing how to wear the full personal protective equipment when dealing with a fire.

On what was already a warm day, COMEUFOR was then taken to the fire training area of the camp and fitted with the full breathing apparatus before joining the fire crew in a training exercise to rescue an injured person and extinguish a fire.

In complete darkness, General Dorfer joined the fire crew in the smoke filled compartment that was showing temperatures of over 300 degrees to experience what it feels like in such harsh conditions.

After successfully completing the training COMEUFOR expressed what a difficult job the fire crews would face when this happens for real and also praised the professionalism and dedication of the Fire Chief and his staff.



**Colonel Hristov Milen,  
Deputy Chief of Staff of the  
Support division**

I am the new Deputy Chief of Staff (DCOS) of the Support division. This is my first mission in HQ EUFOR. Support division is one of the biggest in EUFOR HQ.

The SPTD staff are responsible for human resources, J4/6 planning and execution, all financial issues in EUFOR, medical advice and support and real life support in Camp Butmir.

Previously I have been deployed to Afghanistan, my position was TAO (Transparency, Accountability and Oversight) senior advisor. I am from the Bulgarian Army and work for the MoD like a state expert. I am married and I have one son.



**Wing Commander (OF4)  
Andy Crabtree,  
Chief J4 J6 and UK Senior  
National Representative**

J4 and J6 provide EUFOR HQ co-ordination to Logistics (including TRANSCOY) and Communication Information Systems efforts, in constant liaison with NATO HQ Sarajevo.

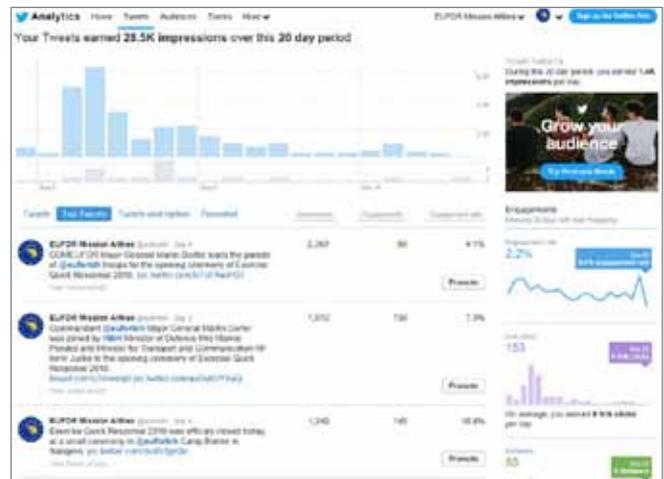
This co-ordination role was pivotal to the arrival, integration and eventual re-deployment, in good order, of all national elements during Exercise Quick Response 18.

This is my first mission in EUFOR HQ having previously deployed on Operations to Afghanistan, the Middle East, and Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

My background is largely in J4 Movements so I am looking forward to the new, exciting challenges and opportunities which come with being part of a multi-national team supporting Op ALTHEA.

I am married with 2 daughters, both of whom were born in Canada during my 3 years deployment to Calgary, Alberta. My home is at the UK's Joint Forces Headquarters in Northwood, London.

## One of the three main objectives of the Exercise 'Quick Response 2018' was 'Visibility' – the need of getting information about it to the public.



According to the Measurement of Effectiveness (MoE) research, conducted shortly after the Exercise, this goal has been achieved beyond expectations, approximately three quarters of BiH citizens have been informed about the Exercise and its activities.

There were three elements of such a successful information campaign: the public information campaign, continuous coverage through EUFOR social media channels, and local media reporting.

- The Campaign, that was launched on 22 August with the arrival of first troops, was focused on a short promotional video (and radio) spot. This was aired on 8 leading TV stations in BiH, network of radio stations, multiplex cinemas and the internet. Also the graphic design, that could be seen throughout the country on billboards, newspapers, and inside public transportation in the cities. The campaign was seen by 55% of all BiH citizens who had a positive opinion about it.
- EUFOR PAO team ensured that every aspect of the Exercise was properly covered, filmed and publicized on our social media channels practically in real time. Between the troops deployment and the closing ceremony 10 videos were produced and published on our Youtube and Facebook channels. The videos and other posts relating the Exercise reached more than 1.4 million BiH citizens over a period of 3 weeks, mostly on Facebook.
- The exercise generated a substantial interest of the Local Media this year. a total of 14 TV news stories and 25 daily newspapers articles were published as well as 111 online articles on some of the leading news portals in BiH.

by **Mustafa Comor**



# Exercise Quick Response 2018 Arrival of Troops and Opening Ceremony



Unloading vehicles from Antonov aircraft

‘Quick Response 2018’ is the annual EUFOR-led peace support operation exercise. This year it took place in the areas of Sarajevo, Tuzla and Brčko among others. After last year’s successful cooperation, this year’s exercise again brought together Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) Law Enforcement Agencies, the Armed Forces of BiH and EUFOR, in order to test their respective contingency plans.

EUFOR is able to draw on mobile and versatile Over the Horizon Reserve forces, if required, to augment in-theatre forces and deal with any threat to the safe and secure environment in support of the Ministry of Security and Ministry of Defence of BiH. EUFOR is governed by the UN Security Council’s executive mandate for this activity and is required to regularly rehearse this reinforcement. Therefore, ‘Quick Response 2018’ practices EUFOR’s capability to call in parts of their reserve forces and engage them in an international exercise. This annual international exercise involves EUFOR’s Multinational Battalion, the elements of the reserve Forces from Austria, Bulgaria, Italy, Romania and

the United Kingdom. It also includes the NATO Kosovo Force Tactical Reserve Battalion.

The planning for this year’s exercise had been going on for months but the arrival of the troops began in the short period leading up to the exercise and began with the impressive sight of the Voyager and Antonov aircraft bringing troops and equipment from the UK. This was swiftly followed by the arrival of the Kosovo Force Tactical Reserve Battalion and their Italian colleagues who crossed the border together

at Klobuk. The Austrian Company completed the long drive from their barracks in Klagenfurt, Carinthia after a long road trip lasting 12 hours. The arrival of the Bulgarian and Romanian troops meant that everyone was in place for the opening ceremony and the start of the exercise.

Monday 3rd September saw the opening ceremony of Exercise Quick Response 2018. COMEUFOR was joined by the BiH Minister for Defence Mrs Marina Pendeš and Minister for Transport and Communication Mr

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KTBRN troops arrive at the border



Panoramic picture of troops ready for the opening ceremony

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Ismir Jusko as well as distinguished guests from the Armed Forces of BiH, Law Enforcement Agencies and Defence Attaches from a number of Embassies in Sarajevo.

COMEUFOR praised the soldiers efforts so far and reminded the guests how this is a truly international effort.

“I want to especially welcome the units on parade which are not normally part of EUFOR - LEA, AFBiH, Charlie Coy 3 Parachute

Regiment from the United Kingdom and NATO’s Force Tactical Reserve from Kosovo along with troops from the 25th Inf Bn of Austria, Bulgaria, Romania, Italy and Hungary who joined us specifically for this exercise.”

Minister Pendeš spoke of her hope for a successful and integrated exercise when she said:

“I expect that the mutual co-operation between police agencies in BiH, institutions of defence and the Armed Forces of BiH will result



Some spectacular video footage of the opening ceremony, taken by drone, along with all the QR18 videos and pictures can be found on our website at: <http://www.euforbih.org/qr2018>

in an overview of the capabilities of defence and security institutions in order to be able to jointly respond to the current security challenges together with the colleagues and partners from EUFOR.”

## Exercise Quick Response – Day One



Turkish soldier at Pazaric

Day one of Exercise Quick Response 2018 saw training scenarios in the regions of Sarajevo International Airport, Pazaric and Camp Butmir.

The scenario covered at the airport was a VIP convoy attack, which also involved securing perimeters, taking and dealing with casualties, a bomb threat and a medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) by helicopter. The multi-phase scenarios tested the procedures of the airport authorities, civilian authorities as well as the Special Police Unit SIPA, the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) helicopter and units of EUFOR.

This provided excellent training for all involved as well as providing a great spectacle for those that witnessed the events and the invited press that gathered for the story.

At Pazaric the scenario involved the defence of a Weapons Storage Site (WSS) as well as defending terrorist threats, crowd control and casualty evacuation. The events were dealt with predominantly by the Turkish Company of EUFOR’s Multinational Battalion with



SIPA team move in

close cooperation and support of the AFBiH. A successful days training was witnessed by COMEUFOR and Lieutenant General Mašović, Chief of the Joint Staff AFBiH

Within the grounds of Camp Butmir, a Crowd and Riot Control (CRC)

scenario was testing the soldiers of both the British and Hungarian Companies. This would be good training for things to come as the Exercise progressed and developed.

All three scenarios were completed professionally and all goals were met.



COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer expressed his satisfaction with the opening day saying: **'Exercise Quick Response 2018 is the largest in our series of exercises this year and I can say that we have had a good start'**



Bomb disposal expert at the airport

# Exercise Quick Response 20

Exercise 'Quick Response 2018' that took place from 3-7 September, practiced EUFOR's capability to call in parts of their reserve forces and engage them in an international exercise. This annual international exercise involved EUFOR's Multinational Battalion, the elements of the reserve Forces from Austria, Bulgaria, Italy, Romania, the United Kingdom, the NATO Kosovo Force Tactical Reserve Battalion, including the Armed Forces of BiH and BiH Police Forces.



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## Exercise Quick Response – Day Two



Austrian Troops arrive at Dubrave

In the early hours of day two of Exercise Quick Response 2018, the British Company from C Coy, 3 Para took part in a scenario in Sarajevo International Airport which included searching, securing and defending the airport in the event of an attack.

The night exercise, with the support of the airport authorities, demonstrated EUFOR's ability to defend this vital asset in supporting the safe and secure environment. With a large area to cover, the scenario tested the soldier's ability to deploy at short notice and to cover a lot of ground to ensure the airports security.

During the daylight hours of Day Two the exercise scenarios moved to Mrkonjić Grad and Tuzla to concentrate on troop movements and cooperation with the Armed Forces of BiH and Law Enforcement agencies.

At Kula near Mrkonjić Grad, Hungarian troops from the Kosovo Tactical Reserve Battalion were diverted from a convoy in the area of Travnik to assist with the protection of an ammunition storage site.

This involved moving the convoy towards Mrkonjić Grad and liaising with both the Armed Forces of BiH based there and with the Republika Srpska Police.

EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Gabor Horvath was there to watch the arrival of the Hungarian troops and their interaction with the AF BiH and RS Police.

'I am impressed with the professionalism and cooperation between the EUFOR soldiers and the AF BiH and RS Police. It is for this exact reason that we exercise and ensure that this collaboration works well, which it has today'

Near Tuzla the Austrian company arrived in convoy at the forward operating base (FOB) Dubrave and liaised with the AF BiH before occupying the base. They will be based there for the night and will await further orders.



COS EUFOR greets Republika Srpska Police Officer

## Exercise Quick Response – Day Three



MEDEVAC helicopter arrives at Kalinovik

Day three of Exercise Quick Response 2018 saw the scenarios take place in Kalinovik and Brčko with the Turkish and Austrian Companies taking the lead.

In Kalinovik the Turkish company had to deal with the evacuation of a EUFOR LOT house with a number of ‘training injects’ that tested the Company Commander and his soldiers. This included Crowd and Riot Control, clearing a building, VIP rescue and escort, defending a terrorist attack, convoy control and the need for a helicopter medical evacuation (MEDEVAC).

In an action packed afternoon, the Turkish Commander dealt with everything thrown at him which concluded with him requesting the MEDEVAC helicopter from Camp Butmir which arrived to transport the ‘casualty’ back to the medical facilities at the camp. On arrival at Camp Butmir, the Austrian EUFOR medical staff continued the scenario and took the ‘casualty’ from the helicopter landing area to the camp medical facility.

Brčko saw the Austrian soldiers secure a landing site for a VIP aircraft flight and then escorted the VIP road convoy through a fictitious ‘dangerous’ area to meet with key leaders in the local community including the Mayor.

Close cooperation with the Brčko Police

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Turkish soldiers advance towards LOT house



Austrian troops cooperate with Brčko Police

was essential for this road move as they 'blue lighted' the convoy along the designated route. EUFOR LOT house Brčko was involved with the planning for the scenario and coordination with the Mayor's office.

A good days training in both areas ensured Day Three of the exercise was a success, close cooperation and communication between all EUFOR units and their colleagues in Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA's) and civilian authorities was vital to ensure things ran as smoothly as possible.



Brčko Mayor's Office

## Exercise Quick Response – Day Four



Riot Control

SIPA arrest a 'terrorist'

Today saw the end of the 'Live' phase of Exercise Quick Response 2018. The finale was held at Camp Butmir where COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer presided over a dynamic scenario and demonstration with in the grounds of the camp.

The demonstration included a number of action scenarios which included a Crowd and Riot Control exercise that was made more realistic with the 'rioters' using petrol bombs, a 'terrorist' incident that included the taking of hostages, securing of a helicopter landing site and also a MEDEVAC by winch.

The scenarios were an impressive display of the capabilities of EUFOR and Reserve Forces who were again joined by teams from SIPA and the Armed Forces BiH Military Police. This excellent collaboration and commitment to combined training ensured that the final day continued in the same successful manner as the whole exercise. Expert commentary was given throughout the



MEDEVAC by winch

whole event by the Exercise Director, Brigadier General Gabor Horvath, EUFOR Chief of Staff.

The gathered VIPs and press contingent were suitably impressed with the skills and multi-agency cooperation on show which ended with helicopters from both EUFOR and NATO's Kosovo Tactical Reserve Battalion demonstrating their skills in both troop delivery and medical evacuation before completing a fly past to conclude the event.

COMEUFOR gave a statement in which he expressed his satisfaction at a job well done:

**'Today's scenario and demonstration marks the end of the 'LIVE' part of Exercise Quick Response 2018 and I am delighted to say that it has been a success. After the exercise we will continue our training with AFBiH on the way to European integration. And we will support BiH authorities to serve the citizens in BiH under the common motto "One Mission – One Team".'**

## Closing Ceremony



Troops on parade at EUFOR HQ

Saturday 8th September saw the closing ceremony of Exercise Quick Response 2018 take place outside the EUFOR HQ building in Camp Butmir.

COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, addressed the paraded troops and spoke of his pride in addressing them and congratulated them on their achievements, in particular for achieving the strategic goals of Credibility, Visibility and Cooperation.

COMEUFOR was joined on the Dias by EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Gabor Horvath; both men addressed the troops before awarding citations and awards to a number of the participants.



General Dorfer summed up by saying:

**'In summary much has been achieved over the last few weeks. The success of our exercise is testament to those who planned it, coordinated it, conducted it, and controlled it. Finally thank you all for what you have achieved over the past weeks. I hope you are proud of what we have achieved, as you should be, as "one mission – one team".'**

## Novi Grad Sarajevo Mountain Rescue Team Train with EUFOR Helicopter

On Monday 15th October in perfect conditions, the Mountain Rescue Team from Novi Grad, Sarajevo arrived at Camp Butmir to practice their skills and enhance their cooperation with EUFOR by taking part in a combined training day with the EUFOR Search and Rescue (SAR) helicopter. They were joined by colleagues from the Ilidža rescue team, Civilian Protection Agency of municipality Novi Grad, and the Federation BiH Civilian Protection Agency.

The morning's activities including a two-way teaching and learning session in which the theory of mountain rescue was discussed, following this the teams checked how compatible their equipment was with the other unit.

Before lunch the practical element began with all the members of the team taking the chance to practice winch training with EUFOR's Allouette 3 helicopter.

The afternoon session was a 'real life' training exercise which involved preparing a casualty and calling in the helicopter for medical evacuation (MEDEVAC).

Mr. Ebrahim Džeko, Leader



Winch training



Video footage mountain rescue can be found on: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=70n-D9dVdpl>

of the Mountain Rescue Team from Novi Grad, Sarajevo explained how useful the training had been:

'This course is important in order to synchronize procedures of different players with EUFOR, and the system that is in place when the need for this rescue helicopter occurs.'



MRT with EUFOR aircrew



Loading the stretcher into the helicopter



## Change of command of the MNBN

In camp BUTMIR on 14th August 2018 the command of the multinational battalion was forwarded from Lieutenant Colonel Markus Schwaiger to Lieutenant Colonel Oliver Pilles.

During the ceremony Commander EUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, handed over the colours of the Multinational Battalion from the outgoing commander, LTC Markus Schwaiger, to the new commander LTC Oliver Pilles. Receiving the flag of the MNBN is symbolic for taking over the command and the responsibilities of the battalion.

At the moment the multinational battalion consists of a cadre, formed out of Austrian, Hungarian and Turkish soldiers together with a Hungarian and Turkish infantry company. In case of an alert in Sarajevo deployed troops could be reinforced by companies



COMEUFOR hands the MNBN Colours to Lieutenant Colonel Oliver Pilles

from Austria, Great Britain, Bulgaria and Romania.

The outgoing Commander MNBN, LTC Markus Schwaiger thanked Commander EUFOR for his leadership and the troops of the MNBN staff and companies for their very high professionalism during the whole time

of his duty. The new commander, LTC Oliver Pilles marked his appointment as Commander MNBN as one of his careers highlights and emphasized that he is confident he will handle the upcoming challenges and he is looking forward especially to the upcoming Exercise Quick Response 2018.

## Multinational Battalion Mountain March

On consecutive beautiful autumn days, EUFOR's Multinational Battalion (MNBN) took advantage of beautiful autumn weather in BiH to work on their physical fitness in the mountains.

More than 200 soldiers from the Battalion took part in a mountain march including 80 from the UK, 80 from Austria and 50 from Turkey.

The marches took place over two days and the soldiers marched to the top of Bjelašnica Mountain on Thursday 11th October and Mount Trebevic on Friday 12 October.

In what was both a challenging and enjoyable experience the troops pushed each other to see who would be the first to the top and be crowned 'King of the Mountain' and the first to experience the spectacular views of the surrounding country.



UK troops on a narrow path



Austrian soldiers on Bjelašnica

## Chief of Staff visit to Demining area and Ammunition Storage Site

On Thursday 9th August, EUFOR Chief of Staff (EUFOR COS), Brigadier General Horvath, paid a visit to a demining site and an ammunition storage site both of which are under the control of the Armed Forces of BiH.

The demining site was located at Hodbina close to Mostar and COS was given an update on the current work being carried out at the site, the challenges that are facing the demining teams and was then given a tour of the site while wearing protective equipment. All demining work is vital and this area in particular is very important for future road improvement works.

“I could see that the personnel



Brigadier General Horvath at the Hodbina demining site

of the Demining Battalion are very professional, very devoted and even if we are under very hot weather they are still going on with the mission”, said General Horvath.

Later the same day COS visited ammunition storage site Gabela and was given a brief on current holdings and made aware of the difficulties faced in the world of ammunition

storage. General Horvath was very interested with the information he received, saying:

**“I express my gratitude to the commanders and the soldiers of the Armed Forces BiH for their professionalism in this area”**

## COMEUFOR visit to Mine Detection Dogs Training

On Friday 24th August COMEUFOR paid a visit to a Mine Detection Dogs training centre at Vogošća near Sarajevo. The centre, which is run by the Norwegian Peoples Aid organisation, trains Belgian Shephard dogs to act as mine detection and explosives detection dogs all around the world.

Currently the Armed Forces BiH have 21 dogs trained at the centre over the last seven years and as of August this year the centre has 75 dogs in training to be deployed globally in such countries as Cambodia, Columbia and Somalia to name but a few.

In total, it takes 18-24 months to train a dog depending on its abilities and they then remain operational for approximately 8 years. Since 2006 the dogs

trained at the centre have found 4641 mines, 3969 cluster munitions and 322,450 fragments of explosives.

As well as training the dogs the centre also trains the handlers who control them and additionally spend a great deal of time on research and development projects to ensure their methods and training remain current.

COMEUFOR was very impressed with the skills of



Dog finds explosive materials buried in the training area

both the animals and their trainers as he was shown dogs at various stages of their training. The method is based on the dogs having fun and enjoying what they are doing and despite being thoroughly disciplined they are obviously happy in their work.



## Mines Information Coordination Cell



Džejna Skopljak, Mine Risk Education Manager

For a long time still the mine threat will be present in Bosnia and Herzegovina and continuous Mine Risk Education (MRE) and Mine Awareness Training (MAT) are essential in order to avoid potential mine and UXO victims. Mine Risk Education refers to mine action component with final aim to reduce the number of victims and to reduce long term danger by conducting education, media presentation and by raising population awareness.

Current mine situation in BiH:

- 8,525 suspected micro locations
- 79,000 mines and UXO's

The Mines Information Co-ordination Cell (MICC) is a part of HQ EUFOR – Joint Military Affairs Department. The MICC is located in Camp Butmir, building 225 in Sarajevo.

Mines Information Coordination Cell (MICC) has existed since 1997.

The MICC main goal is Force Protection.

**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.**

### Mine Casualties in BiH

Year	Killed	Injured
2017	3	4
2016	6	6
2015	1	1
2014	6	11
2013	3	10
2012	9	3
2011	9	14

In the last 19 years EUFOR MRE Teams have educated 333.453 men, women and children in mine affected communities. In a case where demining is not possible or has not begun from any reason, promotion of safe behavior is the only way to reduce a risk from landmines and Explosive Remnants of War (ERW). Mine Risk Education is a valuable tool for landmine/ERW risk reduction.

### MICC tasks include:

1. Gathering through liaison all mine/ UXO related information in BiH in order to maintain the highest level of Force Protection.
2. Provide EUFOR/NATO Level 2 Mine Awareness Training (Alpha, Bravo and Charlie)
3. Mine Risk Education (MRE) in cooperation with local authorities and Armed Forces BiH (AF BiH)
4. Mine Contamination Maps, Mine Awareness and Mine Risk Education Products



# FOR A SAFE AND SECURE BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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