

# EUFOR forum

MAGAZINE



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The CB Gymnasium provides great training opportunities for all EUFOR and NATO personnel within the camp; the experienced staff members are well-qualified in sports development and coaching.

**Editor in chief**



Welcome to edition number 112 of the EUFOR Forum, but for me it is edition number 1, as such I am excited to be the new editor in chief, having taken over from Lt Cdr Paul Clark.

My sincere thanks to all those people

who have contributed to this edition, as ever we rely on your creative skills to make this magazine a success.

If you have something of interest which you feel would make an interesting article or photograph then please send it into us in the the Public Affairs Office (PAO).

PAO team are always willing to help with article content (adding colour) and photography (structure and impact), so please feel free to drop in any time to talk to us, especially if you bring biscuits!

**Lieutenant Commander Brian Bennett**

Commander EUFOR  
**Major General Martin Dorfer**  
EUFOR Public Affairs Chief  
**Lieutenant Colonel Nicolai Tschol**

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We also thank the contribution from the EUFOR LOT Houses

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## Real Life Services for Camp Butmir

Two groups within the HQ Camp Commandant (CMDT) team who provide Real Life Support (RLS) for Camp Butmir are the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Dining Facility (DFAC). Both are interconnected in the Camp CMDT Branch with locally employed civilian staff who ensure the welfare of “residents” and visitors, through the provision of facility management services and the catering for military and civilian staff.

### What else does the DFAC provide?

In addition to the restaurant service the DFAC also provides catering support to EUFOR and NATO for VIP visits, National days, medal parades and other events such as hosting international visitors. DFAC also provides catering support in feeding additional troops participating in the annual OPREHL 2 “Quick Response” Exercises.

### What updates has the DFAC had in 2018?

2018 has seen vast improvements made to the DFAC: the two main restaurants, including kitchen, store rooms, and admin areas, underwent a complete decoration with a new coat of paint. New catering equipment has allowed the DFAC to maintain its high catering standards, and the ability to improve health and hygiene and safety at work practices. Additionally the finishing of the new DFAC façade certainly has made the building more attractive and appealing to the eye.

### What is Department of Public Works?

DPW is responsible using assigned budgets for engineering services and utilities to accommodate in billeting and office space using the 804 structures on site. Routinely the DPW are responsible for the following:

- Billeting team supervising the 1,800 bed accommodation that accounted for 260,000 bed nights in 2018.
- Daily janitorial tasks to clean, prepare, and maintain office and accommodation space of 32,500 m<sup>2</sup>, and open areas of 600,000 m<sup>2</sup>, maintained.



Camp Commandant

Sport tent renovated

DFAC, repainted

- Laundry returns to residents up to 1,000 military bags and 600 kg of clean clothing and linen weekly.
- Professional trades can expect to attend 5,500 maintenance calls annually.

### What has the DPW done this year?

In EUFOR/NHQSa HQ, the 91 person team that makes up HQ CAMP CMDT DPW are an experienced group; many have served on this site from the beginning. These men and women offer their military colleagues, who can serve tours up to 12 months in BiH, the confidence and competence of a professional organisation, providing RLS as part of the HQ CAMP CMDT Branch.

In 2018 the main improvements were:

- Building 200 interior revamp works.
- Renovation work for COMEUFOR's and COM NHQSa accommodation.
- Road repairs and road-painting/signage.
- EUFOR sport tent renovation.
- Fire escape protective painting in accommodation buildings.
- Replacement of windows in accommodation buildings.
- Bridge reconstruction works.

Their drive, energy, commitment, and loyalty is recognisable in a location built with infrastructure for a short-duration operation, but because of their hard work and professionalism, Camp Butmir continues to stand the test of time.

## France re-joins EUFOR



A bright and sunny autumn day was the setting for a flag raising ceremony held at Camp Butmir on Wednesday 14 November.

The occasion was the return of France as a Troop Contributing Nation (TCN) to EUFOR after a gap of three years.

In attendance was the Ambassador

of France, His Excellency Guillaume Rousson, COMEUFOR Major General Martin Dorfer, Commander NHQ Sa Brigadier General Marti J. Bissell and Colonel Jean-François Caparos, French Police Attaché. General Dorfer addressed the ceremony and welcomed France back into EUFOR by saying:

“We are delighted to raise the flag today in order to celebrate and welcome back our good friend France, to EUFOR, and to increase the number of TCN from 18 to 19 countries. This is another important step in EUFOR’s history after its mandate was extended by the United Nations Security Council last week and it shows both the UN’s and the EU’s continued commitment to BiH”

General Dorfer concluded by saying:

**“We welcome back France to add to the significant contribution that all Nations within EUFOR make and we very much look forward to working with our new colleague under our common motto: One Mission, One Team”**



## EU Political and Security Committee Ambassadors



From Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 November, the EU Political and Security Committee (PSC) visited Bosnia and Herzegovina, their visit included briefings at HQ EUFOR in Camp Butmir, Liaison Observation Team (LOT) House Novo Sarajevo, and Rajlovac Barracks.

During the PSC's visit to HQ EUFOR on Thursday 29 November they were briefed on the political and security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Welcoming the 34-strong PSC delegation, COMEUFOR said: "This is a great opportunity for us to provide an overview of the mission and to show how EUFOR contributes, on the PSC's behalf, to the safety and security of Bosnia and Herzegovina".

Thanking COMEUFOR after the presentations and questions, the PSC Chair, Sofie From-Emmesberger said: "This presentation helps to put many elements of our visit into context, and we are all looking forward to the field visits tomorrow".

On Friday 30th November the PSC visited the EUFOR LOT House Novo Sarajevo. They were briefed by LOT Co-ordination Centre (LCC) Chief, Lt Col Stefan Rigas of the



Slovakian Army. Describing the work of the soldiers in the LOT Houses, Lt Col Rigas said "The LOT Houses are the eyes and ears of EUFOR, and we are always open, transparent and impartial".

Describing the daily activities of the LOT Houses, Maj Pavol Pocklan of the Slovakian Army said: "We live amongst the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina; our job is to feel the pulse of the local population and show presence for EUFOR".

EUFOR has 17 LOT Houses which are manned by small teams of soldiers, assisted by local interpreters. The 17 LOT Houses include soldiers from 7 different countries.

One of the most important roles of the LOT House soldiers is to assist with the delivery of Mine Risk Education (MRE) to schools. LOT House Novo Sarajevo delivers MRE to approximately 5000 school children every year.

After the presentation on the LOT Houses and a brief tour of the facility, the PSC concluded their programme with a visit to Rajlovac Barracks in Sarajevo to see the work being carried out in the marking and registration of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).

Over the course of the 3-day visit, the PSC met with representatives of the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities, civil society, international organisations, as well as representatives of the business community, and start-up companies.

The main functions of the PSC are to keep track of the international situation, and helping to define policies within the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) including the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). The PSC plays a central role in the formulation and definition of EU foreign policy.

**COMOEFOR's End of Year Message**



*My fellow EUFOR colleagues, as we approach the end of 2018 many of us begin to think of the festive period, the New Year, and the fresh opportunities that 2019 will bring.*

*While some of you will be travelling home to be with your families, many of you will be here, working, and no doubt missing your loved ones.*

*I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to everyone, whether you are on essential duty or fortunate enough to be taking a well-earned break.*

*As well as thanking all of you for your hard work over the busy holiday season, I want to express my gratitude to you for the commitment and professionalism you have displayed throughout 2018.*

*But at this time of year I also want to thank your families. They contribute so much in their love and support to all of you. Without their efforts, and their patience, we would run the risk of losing our focus.*

*So thank you: airmen, soldiers, sailors, civilian staff, and your families at home; for those of you celebrating Christmas, I wish you a joyous one.*

*I wish you all a Happy New Year, and, as we approach the 15th anniversary of the EUFOR mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, I hope that you will all have a prosperous 2019.*

I am Command Sergeants Major Sándor Asztalos. I was born in Debrecen, Hungary in 1973. I entered the Hungarian Army on 1st September 1988 as a military cadet. After I finished the four-year military technical school I was promoted to the rank of sergeant in 1992.

I have served in a variety of progressively responsible positions at every echelon from squad to headquarters of brigade. In Hungary, I was a brigade Command Sergeants Major for 6 years, but now I am a course director at NCO Academy in Szentendre, Hungary.

I have replaced the previous EUFOR CSM, CWO Thomas Quintus Kuehnel, it is an honor to take over the position, the tasks, and the responsibilities.

**NEW CSM**



**CSM Sándor Asztalos**

Taking over as the Chief Public Affairs marks the highlight in my military public relations career. The mission has changed significantly since I served as Spokesperson of the Multinational Task Force North in Tuzla more than 12 years ago. But having been in this office just months ago, responsible for information campaigns, surveys and media monitoring, it has been a quick and smooth start into the new position with a warm welcome and familiar faces all around. There is a saying: if it's not on (social) media, it did not happen. I warmly invite you to make things happen together with us to promote EUFOR. Tell us your stories and be a visible part of EUFOR on our media channels.

**NEW Chief PAO**



**Lt Col Nicolai Tschol**

**Information is key to shaping our mission environment.**

My name is Lieutenant Commander Brian Bennett, this is my first time in BiH; my role is the EUFOR Spokesperson in the PAO branch. My job is to prepare and provide information via social media channels, and the EUFOR webpage, and provide press releases for the civilian media, to highlight the work done by EUFOR. I am from the UK, and I live in North Wales, my interests revolve around training for, and competing in, triathlons; I have a daughter aged 8 and a son aged 7.

**NEW Spokesperson**



**Lt Cdr Brian Bennett**

## Dr. Tibor Benkő, Minister of Defence of Hungary



The Hungarian Minister of Defence, Dr. Tibor Benkő, visited EUFOR HQ, at Camp Butmir, on 6 December 2018.

COMEUFOR, Maj Gen Martin Dorfer, welcomed Dr. Benkő to Camp Butmir, where he inspected the Honour Guard and met senior EUFOR HQ staff.

Dr. Benkő was accompanied during his visit by the Hungarian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, His Excellency Krisztián Pósa, Maj Gen Zoltán Mihócza, and Maj Gen László Domján.

During an Office Call with Maj Gen Martin Dorfer, they spoke in detail about EUFOR's mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. COMEUFOR 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.

## Peter Gajdoš, Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic



Clear skies welcomed Peter Gajdoš, Minister of Defence of the Slovak Republic, on Wednesday 6 December, during his visit to EUFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

After taking the salute from

the Honour Guard, Mr Gajdoš met senior staff from the EUFOR HQ in Camp Butmir.

COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, presented a EUFOR plaque to Mr Gajdoš during an office call, in which he outlined the importance of the Slovak Republic's military contingent to the EUFOR mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the conclusion of his visit to Camp Butmir, Mr Gajdoš expressed the Slovak Republic's ongoing commitment and support to the EUFOR mission, and the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## AFBiH Chief of Joint Staff



On Monday 3 December 2018, the Chief of the Joint Staff for Armed Forces Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH), Lt Gen Senad Mašović, visited Camp Butmir to meet COMEUFOR and senior EUFOR HQ staff.

Lt Gen Mašović was met by COMEUFOR, Maj Gen Martin Dorfer, after which he was invited to inspect the Honour Guard; he continued his visit with Maj Gen Dorfer during an office call.

## Chilean Rear Admiral Luis Sanchez Perez



On Monday 26 November, Rear Admiral Luis Sanchez Perez DJO (Chile), visited Camp Butmir. He was met by Major General Dorfer, COMEUFOR, with a full Honour Guard. As part of his visit to the area Rear Admiral Sanchez also had meetings in Sarajevo and conducted a visit to the Banja Luka LOT House.

## EUFOR and AFBiH Training agreement 2019

### Historic moment for Armed Forces Bosnia and Herzegovina and EUFOR with the signing of a Training and Co-Operation Plan for 2019

A Training and Co-Operation Plan between EUFOR and the Armed Forces Bosnia and Herzegovina was signed on Wednesday 19 December at Joint Staff, Sarajevo.

The training plan was signed by EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Gábor Horváth, and Major General Ivica Jerkić, Deputy Chief Joint Staff Operations for Armed Forces Bosnia and Herzegovina.

After signing the training plan, Major General Jerkić said: "This is a historic moment that marks Armed Forces Bosnia and Herzegovina's step up to the level of mutual interoperability with EUFOR". The agreement between AFBiH and EUFOR covers liaison and co-ordination, specialist mentoring, combined training, and collective exercises.



Brigadier General Gábor Horváth (EUFOR), and Major General Ivica Jerkić (AFBiH) sign the Co-operation and Training Plan 2019

Commenting on the signing of the agreement, Brigadier General Horváth said:

**"By signing this agreement, EUFOR can join the Armed Forces Bosnia and Herzegovina in a new period of co-operation, and liaison".**

AFBiH is now self-sustaining in terms of all individual training after the successful conclusion of EUFOR/AFBiH Capacity Building

and Training programme, which has delivered courses to more than 5000 soldiers.



Brigadier General Gábor Horváth (EUFOR) meets AFBiH staff at the signing ceremony



Major General Ivica Jerkić (AFBiH) addressing the EUFOR and AFBiH staff at the start of the signing ceremony

## Austrian Minister of Defence



**Mario Kunasek, Austrian Minister of Defence arrives at Camp Butmir with General Robert Brieger and Major General Martin Dorfer.**

On Thursday 20 December, a delegation headed by Mario Kunasek, Austrian Minister of Defence, visited EUFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

After taking the salute from the EUFOR Honour Guard, Mr Kunasek discussed the current political and security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina during an office call with COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer. The 20-strong delegation included General Robert Brieger, Chief of the Austrian General Staff, and advisory staff from the Defence Ministry.

The Austrian contingent at Camp Butmir gave a number of demonstrations to the delegation, after which Mr Kunasek commented on the importance of their efforts to support EUFOR, and the safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Austria is the largest troop contributing nation to EUFOR, including the provision of specialists, such as doctors and pilots.



**Austrian Minister of Defence, Mario Kunasek, during his office call with COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer.**

## Brigadier General Milan Zurman



**COMEUFOR welcomes Brigadier General Milan Zurman to Camp Butmir with a warm handshake.**

On Wednesday 19 December, Brigadier General Milan Zurman, Chief of Staff Forces Command for the Slovenian Army, visited COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, at Camp Butmir.

During the office call, Brigadier General Zurman and COMEUFOR discussed the importance of the Slovenian Army's contribution to EUFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Slovenia is one of 19 troop contributing nations.



**Brigadier General Milan Zurman takes the salute from the EUFOR Honour Guard.**

## Multinational Remembrance Ceremony



On Sunday 11 November 2018 a multinational ceremony of remembrance was held in Camp Butmir, marking the 100th anniversary of the World War 1 Armistice. The service was led by Padre David McLean from Permanent Joint Head Quarters in the UK; staff from

all EUFOR contributing nations were present.

Red poppies were provided for all staff to wear, these are traditionally worn in the UK during the week leading up to 11 November as a mark of respect for all those who lost their lives in World War 1.

## Day of Romanian Armed Forces

On 25 of October, the Romanian contingent deployed within EUFOR paid its respects to all Romanians soldiers who have fought to preserve the freedom of their nation and the sovereignty of their country, especially those who were lost whilst clearing the Gorazde Corridor.

The military ceremony, organized in Camp Butmir, was attended by Major General Martin Dorfer, Commander of EUFOR, Brigadier General Marti Bissell, Commander of NHQ Sa, Major General Radovan Ilić, Commander of AFBiH Operations Command, Her Excellency Dana Constantinescu, the Romanian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Colonel Bogdan Ionescu, Romanian Defense Attaché to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

25 of October is the day when the



whole Romanian nation pays homage to its army and soldiers as symbols of independence and national sovereignty. The importance of the date, 25 October 1944, marks the day when the Romanian Army freed the last part of national territory still under foreign occupation.

The Romanian Army now celebrates its day as a member of

NATO and the EU, with a significant presence in different theaters of operations across the world. Homage is being paid to all soldiers who fell in battles through the years, and also to those who are on duty in Romania, in Afghanistan or the Western Balkans, or perform as observers for UN, EU or OSCE missions around the world.

The Romanian Army has been

## International Defence Attaches gather at EUFOR HQ in Camp Butmir



Commenting on the ceremony, Captain Harry Whittington of the UK Army said

**"I was incredibly moved by the ceremony, I don't mind admitting I shed a tear when the Last Post was played".**



Military Defence Attaches (DAs) from 14 nations were hosted by COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, on Friday 14 December in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

EUFOR staff briefed the DAs on topics which included: regional updates following the October elections, Exercise Quick Response in August/September 2018, demining, and the ongoing issues of weapon/ammunition identification and disposal.



COMEUFOR and Colonel Žarko Henigman

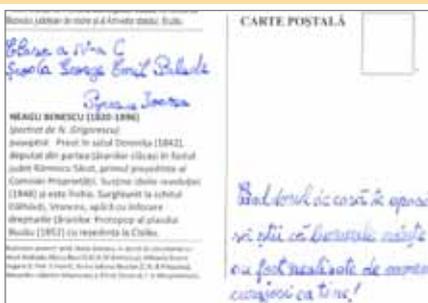
In his welcoming address, COMEUFOR said:

**"This is an important opportunity for EUFOR to provide updates on issues of significance to you, but primarily of significance to the safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina."**

After the briefings, Colonel Žarko Henigman of the Slovenian Army, Dean of the Diplomatic Military Corps in Bosnia and Herzegovina, said:

**"Gatherings such as this underline the strong spirit of co-operation that exists between EUFOR and the international community in Bosnia and Herzegovina."**

DAs work in diplomatic embassies, advising ambassadors on affairs which are directly, and indirectly, linked to military issues.



This year, Romanian school children wrote postcards to the soldiers stationed at Camp Butmir. The image of the postcard shows a message which reads: "When you are away and missing home very much, remember that the great things were accomplished by brave people like yourself."

present in Bosnia and Herzegovina since 1996, when an engineering battalion was deployed to help with the reconstruction of the country. Currently, Romanian soldiers are part of EUFOR and make a significant contribution to the success of the mission.

## International Medal Parades

### November 2018



On Tuesday, 27 November 63 soldiers from 4 troop contributing nations (Austria, Czech Republic, Switzerland and Turkey) received the Security and Defence Policy Medal Althea in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

COMEUFOR Major General Martin Dorfer thanked them for their dedicated service and stated,

**“EUFOR’s presence in this country is still of great importance”.**



Lt Col Alexander Kovacs receives his Operation Althea medal from COMEUFOR

### December 2018



EUFOR soldiers from Chile and Spain proudly wearing their Operation Althea medals.

On Tuesday 18 December, an International Medal Parade for soldiers from 6 nations was held at Camp Butmir with COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, presiding over the event.

Addressing the soldiers on parade, COMEUFOR said: “It is an honour to present these medals today, and such a pleasure to see soldiers from Chile in the West to Turkey in the East represented here”.

Lieutenant Colonel Sebastian Silva of the Chilean Army took the salute on behalf of the 51-strong parade from COMEUFOR at the ceremony.

Commenting on the chance to be the parade commander, Lt Col Silva said: “This is my first time in Bosnia and Herzegovina; it is such an honour to be chosen as the parade commander”.

One soldier with a double-celebration was Cmdt Rory O’Reilly of the Irish Defence Force, he was awarded his Operation Althea medal just 2 weeks after being promoted. When asked about the medal parade, Cmdt O’Reilly said: “I’m delighted to receive my medal so soon after the great news about my promotion; I haven’t stopped smiling all day”.



Cmdt Rory O’Reilly (centre) celebrating the award of his Operation Althea medal, and his recent promotion, with EUFOR colleagues.



## EUFOR United - Sport in Camp Butmir



**Gymnasium staff (from left)**

**Coordinators:**

Elmir Bjelan - Certified Personal Trainer by EHFA,  
Dragana Krstić;

**Gymnasium Supervisor:**

Željko Puljić - Master of Kinesiology (Sport Science) Gymnasium Maintenance

**Physical fitness is an essential part of everyday life for all military service members and civilians deployed on the EUFOR mission. Well-developed physical fitness promotes good health, better performance, and injury prevention; it is the cornerstone for the successful implementation of the military mission.**

Overall military and civilian performance in the mission is based on a combination of individual strengths that create a network of productivity, both mentally and physically; individuals who are in peak physical condition can contribute more effectively to their teams.

**Camp Butmir Gymnasium**

The gymnasium provides great training opportunities for all EUFOR and NATO personnel within the camp;

the experienced staff members are well-qualified in sports development and coaching.

The gym is one of the most popular places in the camp: almost 40,000 visitors use the gym every year, that's more than 3,500 a month!

The gym has a large fitness suite, equipped with fitness and cardio

machines, a small fitness suite with free weights, and a spinning/crossfit area next to the sports hall.

The sports hall is regularly used for individual sports, such as volleyball, basketball, badminton, and table tennis, and is also used to host circuits, classes, sports tournaments, and even International Medal Parades.





**Gymnasium projects**

Due to the constant use of fitness equipment, especially cardio machines, it is necessary to perform regular servicing, repairs, and replacement of equipment. The gym is managed and funded by the HQ Camp Commandant’s Morale, Welfare and Activities (MWA) office, their obligation is to provide financial resources for creating, renewing, and improving training conditions. In 2018, the gym has made significant progress, which has included:

- Purchase of fitness and cardio machines (one treadmill, one Olympic squat rack, one Olympic bar, one rowing machine, two stationary bikes, one pectoral fly/rear deltoid machine and one weight tree)
- Purchase of small sports equipment (different types of balls, kettle bells, resistance training bands, TRX, and badminton rackets)
- Purchase of sport uniforms for gym staff
- Renovation of the soccer tent (to be completed January 2019)
- Purchase of spare parts and the repair of 4 treadmills (scheduled in February 2019)

With the winter period and the poor air quality, the upkeep of the cardio equipment is especially important.

**Sports programme – tournaments, competitions and sessions**

The annual gym sports program consists of monthly sporting events including: tournaments, competitions, sports classes/sessions, individual training plans and programing, and sports education.

Not only does the sports program facilitate individuals improving their fitness but it is also a significant factor in building a strong esprit de corps in an international environment.

The circuit session is still the most popular and the most visited sports activity in the camp. It is important to note that in the last ten years this session has never been cancelled due to the lack of participants. During the past 10 years there have been nearly 1,500 circuit sessions with a total of almost 30,000 participants.

With each new challenge, the gym staff is motivated by your support. We are looking forward to creating a new sports program for 2019, suggesting for new activities are always welcome.

**By Željko Puljić, gymnasium supervisor**



Tournaments / Competitions 2019	
<b>January</b>	CrossFit competition
<b>February</b>	Table Tennis & Badminton Tournaments
<b>March</b>	Table Tennis Tournament Soccer League
<b>April</b>	4K Fun Run
<b>May</b>	Triathlon - modified (5K Rowing/5K crossing/10K Run
<b>June</b>	6K, 8K Fun Run
<b>July</b>	Beach Volleyball League
<b>August</b>	10K Fun Run
<b>September</b>	Sarajevo Halfmarathon
<b>October</b>	Triathlon (modified)
<b>November</b>	Badminton & Table Tennis Tournaments



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