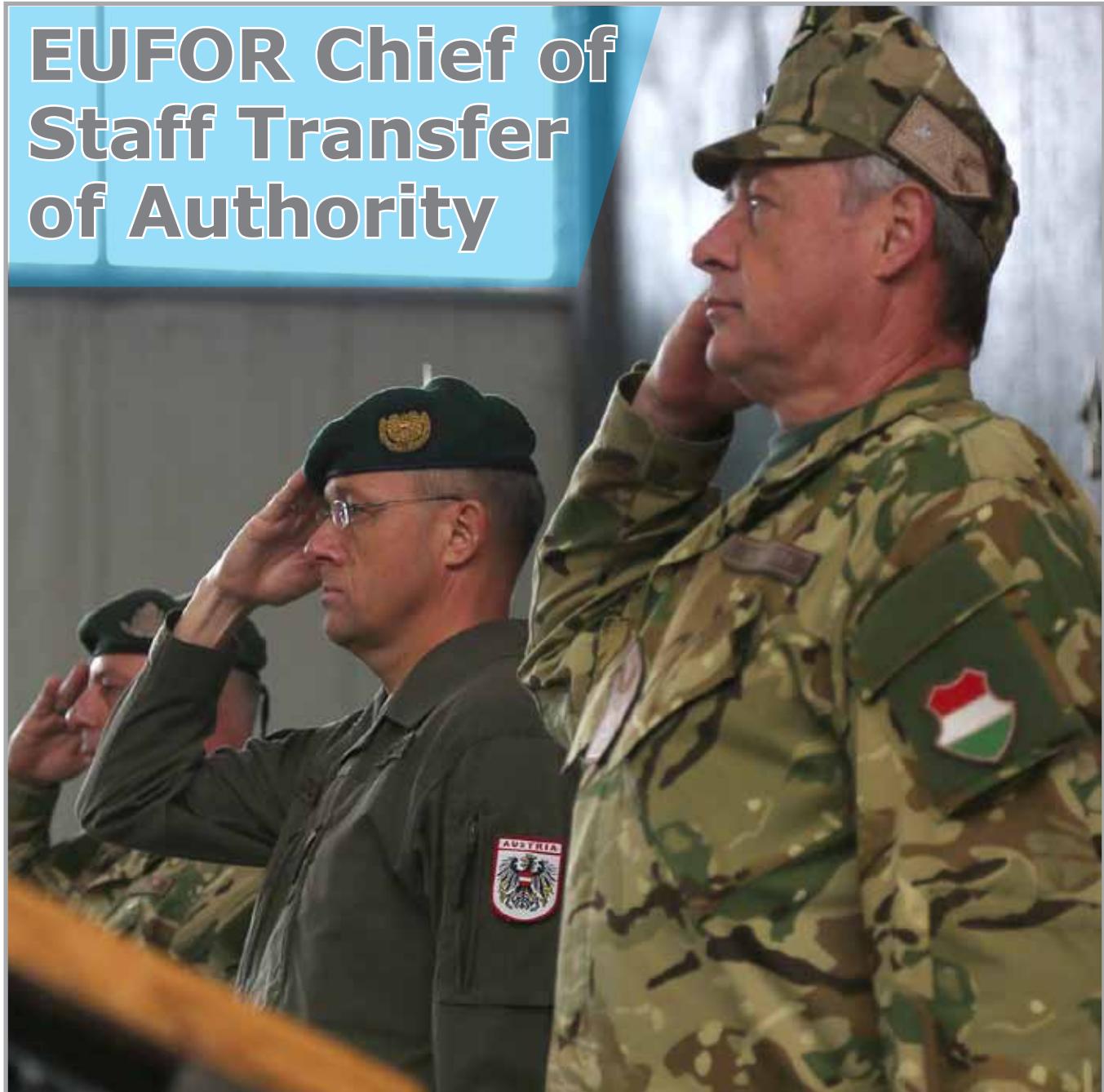


EUFOR forum

MAGAZINE

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Sarajevo



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Support Operations



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Editor in chief

Welcome to edition #114 of the EUFOR FORUM

This is the third and final edition I will be editing before I hand over to my relief, Lieutenant Commander Tim Leckey.

Many thanks to all those that have contributed to the Forum with photos and stories. As ever, we 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.

I would like to say a personal thank you to all those that have made my time as the Spokesperson enjoyable and rewarding. I have enjoyed it immensely and have been very lucky to have had the opportunity to act as the EUFOR "roving reporter", getting the message out about the work we do in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I am sure you will support and encourage my successor when he arrives at the end of May.

Lieutenant Commander Brian Bennett

**Commander EUFOR
Major General Martin Dorfer**

**EUFOR Public Affairs Chief
Lieutenant Colonel Nicolai Tschol**

Forum Magazine Staff

Spokesperson

**Lieutenant Commander
Brian Bennett**

Layout

Mr. Jasmin Zeherović

Photographs contributed by

**Warrant Officer Ulrich Kallinger
EUFOR Multinational Battalion**

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The Forum Magazine does not normally return materials and will assume no liability for material submitted.

The contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the coalition governments' defence departments.



social media



@euforbih staff got a chance to meet @FedericaMog at the end of the EU Open day at the @eu_eas centre in Brussels today #longday #sorefeet #networking



Commander @euforbih observing the #disasterexercise at the abandoned Olympic hotel, Mount Igman: "it is a great opportunity to share knowledge, and for the public to see how we can support local agencies to provide a safe and secure environment". #gssnovigradsarajevo #redcross #sase

European Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Published · 8 May at 16:40 ·

Happy EU Day from EUFOR

Europe Day 2019 video 01:15

Performance for your post

251,136 People Reached

112,923 3-second video views

1,828 Reactions, comments & shares

Like	On post	On shares
1,249	437	812
59	16	43
199	53	146
1	0	1
3	2	1
5	2	3
105	33	72

251,136 People reached 9,951 Engagements

452 16 Comments 212 shares

Like Comment Share

European Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina
24 April at 16:35 ·

In the last couple days, our EUFOR LOT houses all across the country, gave away cinema vouchers to students and teachers from local schools. COMEUFOR and the staff in Camp Butmir wish all the best for the competitors, whilst we don't wish for any medical emergencies, we are ready to help if needed.

Transfer of Authority Ceremony for EUFOR Chief of Staff



On Tuesday 14 May, in a Transfer of Authority ceremony held at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, Brigadier General Gábor Horváth relinquished his position of EUFOR Chief of Staff (COS) to his successor, Brigadier General László Szabó.

The position of EUFOR COS is always held by a Hungarian Brigadier General; EUFOR COS is primarily tasked with leading the staff of EUFOR, but also to deputise for COMEUFOR when required.

COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer commended Brigadier General Horváth for his 13 months of duty, saying:

"The role of the Chief of Staff is to bring together diverse elements and people and to create a synergy within the staff of the Headquarters. Brigadier General Horváth has achieved this through his leadership, determination and personal example".





Addressing the parade, Brigadier General Gábor Horváth said:

“After almost thirteen months as the Chief of Staff of the EUFOR ALTHEA Headquarters, the time came to me to say farewell.

It was a fantastic tour of exploration, a huge amount of experience, a great deal of work, and a lot of friendship, camaraderie and joy at the same time to me.

One Mission, One Team has been the motto selected by MG Dorfer, COM EUFOR, and this motto served as a base for enforcing the unity of command, so important for all military Headquarters. I think that we made considerable steps forward in synchronizing the staff work and optimizing the required output. I wish we could maintain this steady improvement.

Contributing to the Unity of Effort of the International Community with maintaining a safe and secure environment was, and is, the primary mission of EUFOR.

Continuing the Cooperation at all possible levels with the BiH authorities was an invaluable principle that yielded probably the best results for EUFOR”.



“On behalf of the Minister of Defence of Austria, in recognition of your excellent performance and support to the Austrian Armed Forces present you with the Austrian Militär-Anerkennungsmedaille.”



Adress of Brigadier General László Szabó

“It is my great pleasure to express my first official words as the incoming European Union Force Chief of Staff here, in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During the last 2 weeks, I have worked with my predecessor Brigadier General Horváth and his staff.

This time was essential in my preparation, to properly take over the Headquarter EUFOR Chief of Staff assignment.

It has become very clear to me that the EUFOR team is well trained, professional and fully committed to doing their very best in support of our Mission.

During my service period I am committed to continue all efforts of my predecessor.

The key factor in achieving this goal for me is the focus on supporting the Commander of EUFOR and supporting the local authorities' efforts to maintain the Safe and Secure Environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Fellow members of EUFOR, I require you to provide continuous support and professionalism during your service. I also seek the progressing collaboration with NATO HQ Sa as well as International Communities, Armed Forces of BiH, Law Enforcement Agencies, Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations.

I am looking forward to working with all of you in this multinational environment and the continued success of Operation ALTHEA. I strongly believe that we are able to fulfil our tasks only with collective co-operation. I assure you that I have already gained an appreciation of

the concept of “One mission – one team!”.

To my predecessor, General Horváth we owe a huge debt of thanks. During his time he has delivered an outstanding contribution in support of our Mission. I would like to thank you for all that you have achieved in your time here and for your support during our handover – takeover period.

I wish you every success in your next assignment. Thank you all for taking time from your day to participate in this event. I am delighted to be here and extremely proud to serve EUFOR.

General Dorfer

I am ready to respond to day-to-day activities and new challenges. Whilst the challenges we face are demanding, I promise that during my one year EUFOR mission I will do my very best to help our team accomplish our goals successfully.”

EUFOR Operation Commander visits Sarajevo



Lieutenant General Olivier Rittmann, Lieutenant General Esa Pulkkinen, and Major General Martin Dorfer saluting the Honour Guard at EUFOR HQ in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

The new EUFOR Operation Commander, Lieutenant General Olivier Rittmann, visited EUFOR at Camp Butmir, from Monday 1 to Thursday 4 April.

Also visiting was Lieutenant General Esa Pulkkinen, Director General of the EU Military Staff, who visited 1 - 3 April.

Both Generals met with COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, and COS NATO HQ Sarajevo, Colonel Tibor Papp; additionally they paid a visit to LOT house Mostar to meet with EUFOR soldiers who work in the local communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Commenting on his role as Operation Commander for EUFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lieutenant General Rittmann said: "It is a great honour to be taking over as Operation Commander from General Everard. I believe EUFOR is making significant contributions to Bosnia and Herzegovina's safe and secure environment,



It is a great honour to be taking over as Operation Commander from General Everard.

OPCOMMANDER

which is such a vital part of the country's path towards EU integration".

The Operation Commander and the Director General of the EU MS attended office calls with the EU's Special Representative to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark, Chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces BiH, Lieutenant General Senad Mašović, and also with Minister of Defence of BiH, Ms. Marina Pendeš, on Tuesday 2 April.

After the meeting with Minister of Defence Pendeš, Lieutenant General Rittmann said:

"EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina have built a strong relationship. The AFBiH are eager to participate in combined and collective training with EUFOR exercises. EUFOR is committed to supporting the AFBiH as they continue in their work on surplus weapon and ammunition disposal, and demining tasks".



Lieutenant General Esa Pulkkinen greets staff outside EUFOR HQ in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo

Roundtable: Contribution of Women to Peace Support Operations



Speakers of the panel

On 5 April 2019 a round table on the Contribution of Women to Peace Support Operations was held in the Army Hall, Sarajevo, in cooperation with the Ministries of Security and Defence.

Female members of the Armed Forces of BiH and BiH Police Forces serve in peacekeeping missions abroad along with their male colleagues from different countries and make substantive contributions to peacekeeping operations worldwide. Female peacekeepers have access to population groups and venues that might be closed to men, thereby improving awareness regarding potential security risks.

Keynote addresses were delivered by Dragan Mektić, Minister of Security of BiH, Major General Martin Dorfer, COMEUFOR, Brigadier General Mirsad Ahmic, General Inspector of the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) and Samra Filipović-Hadžiabdić, Directress of the BiH Gender Agency. Afterwards

panels discussed women from AFBiH and female police officers from BiH participating in peace support operations. One of the panellists was Lieutenant Narida Gerber, a member of EUFOR Operation Althea.

The Ministries of Security and Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina invest significant efforts into

increasing the number of female members of Police agencies and Armed Forces BiH deploying with BiH contingents to Peace Support Operations (PSO).

Commander EUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer said: "As a commanding officer of a Peace Support Operation I firmly believe that



Minister of Security of BiH Dragan Mektić delivering keynote address



I firmly believe that women's participation in security forces significantly contributes to dispute resolution.

COMEUFOR

women's participation in security forces significantly contributes to dispute resolution. Female police and military officers provide diverse means towards de-escalation of tensions and building of trust with communities, thereby advancing stability and rule of law."

UNSC Resolutions under the Women, Peace and Security umbrella remind that peace processes must be representative of the civilian population affected, and this means not only the presence of women at the negotiating table but adequate diversity within Peace Support Operations personnel. It is our job as military and security forces to ensure that we are aware of these issues and able to respond accordingly. At the same time it is the obligation of commanders to ensure that women are closely involved in the decision making process, that women are visible in Peace Support Missions and that their concerns are heard, reflected and acted upon.

Major General Dorfer concluded: "I believe that today's event will make a tangible difference to the numbers of women contributing to Peace Support Operations; everyone's individual contributions today are highly valued and crucial. We heavily rely on military and police women working side by side with men in order to achieve success and to ensure that heterogeneous members of a mission become one effective team in Peace Support Operations."

by Lt Col Nicolai Tschol

COMEUFOR makes official office call to BiH Presidency Member Željko Komšić



COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, met with Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) Presidency Member Željko Komšić, in Sarajevo on Wednesday 27 March during a formal office call to the elected member of the BiH Presidency.

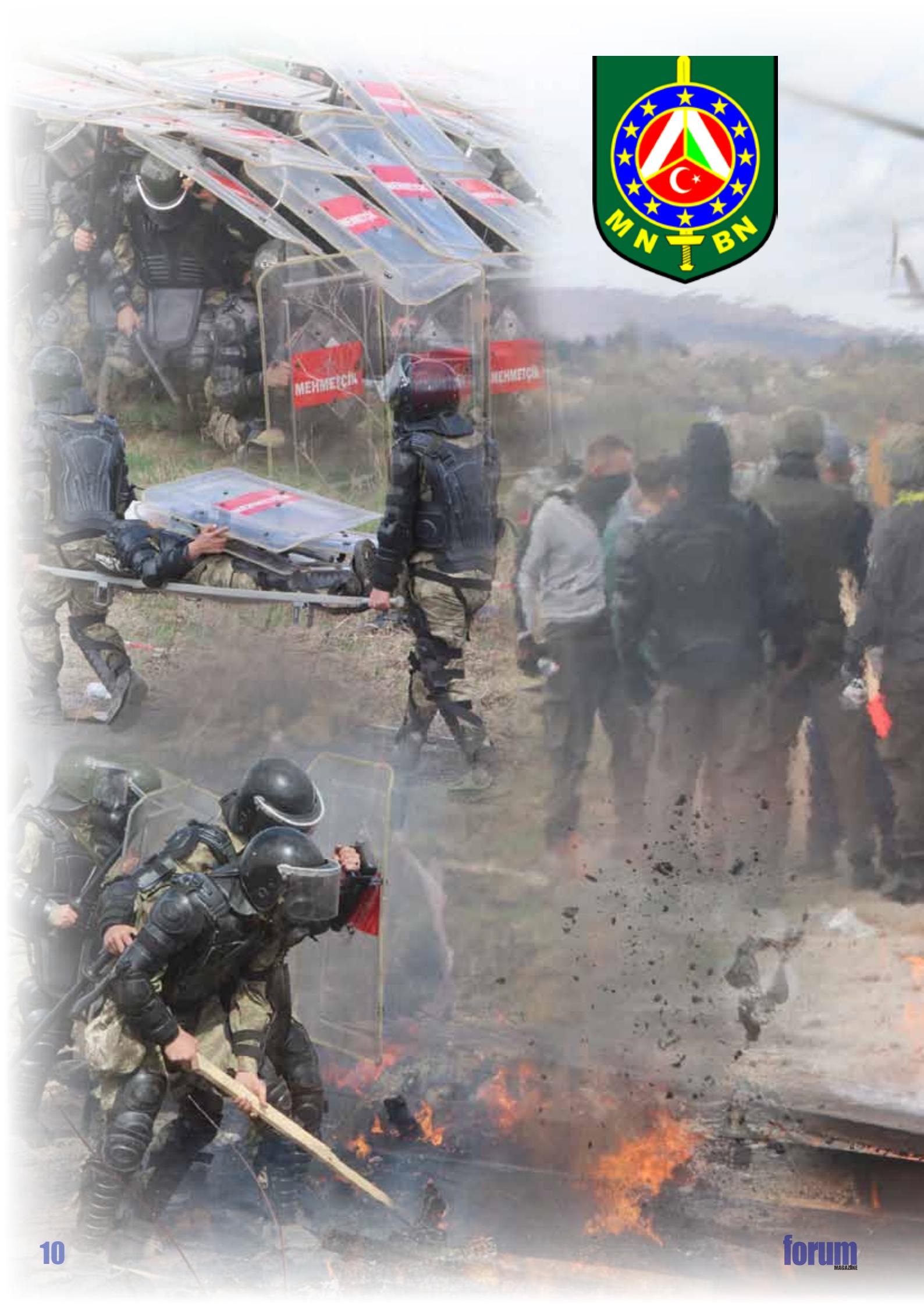
During the meeting they discussed a number of issues concerning Bosnia and Herzegovina's security and political situation, as well as the path to EU integration.

Other key topics covered were EUFOR's support to local authorities in providing a safe and secure environment, demining, and surplus weapon and ammunition disposal.

COMEUFOR expressed his appreciation of the contribution of the Armed Forces Bosnia and Herzegovina to European Common Security and Defence Policy operations.

Regarding BiH's EU-integration path, they both agreed on the importance of showing to the world that BiH can act as a "security provider" domestically, and in the international field, when supporting peace support operations.







Flag Raising Ceremony at Camp Butmir as Portugal re-joins EUFOR

Despite the heavy clouds over Sarajevo, spirits were high in Camp Butmir on Wednesday 27 March with the official flag-raising ceremony to mark the occasion of Portugal rejoining EUFOR.

In attendance were members of the EUFOR mission representing

all 20 troop contributing countries, COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, and Chief of Staff NHQSA, Colonel Tibor Papp.

Portugal has contributed a member of its Gendarmerie to the EUFOR mission, Chief Sergeant Daniel Ribeiro

Formally welcoming him into the EUFOR mission, COMEUFOR



With Portugal re-joining EUFOR, it brings the total of troop contributing countries to 20, with 15 from EU countries, and 5 from non-EU countries.

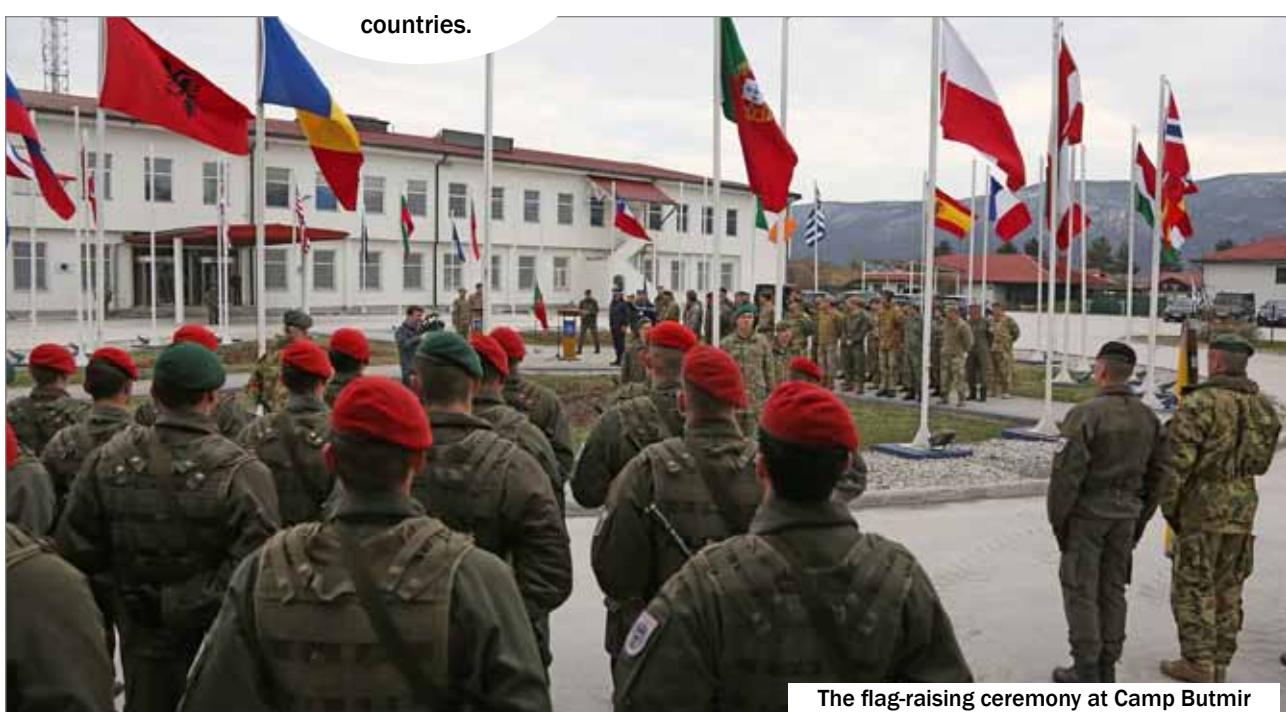
said: "Chief Sergeant Ribeiro, your nation has a proud record of service here in Bosnia and Herzegovina, it now falls to you to lead it on. I have full confidence that you will".

"I look forward to Portugal adding to the significant contribution that all Troop Contributing Countries within EUFOR make".

COMEUFOR



COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, and Portuguese Chief Sergeant Daniel Ribeiro



The flag-raising ceremony at Camp Butmir

Polish President visits EUFOR in Camp Butmir



The President of Poland, Andrzej Duda, visited EUFOR at Camp Butmir, on Monday 15 April, spending several hours with the Polish troops.

After presiding over a parade of Polish soldiers, and presenting several of them with medals, President Duda met with EUFOR staff including Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Gábor Horváth, and the Polish Senior National Representative, Lieutenant Colonel Paweł Jedryczka.

Addressing the Polish soldiers at the parade, President Duda said: "You are a visible representation of the Polish commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Western Balkan region; I am very proud of your professionalism and dedication, and the significant part you play in the EUFOR mission".

On parade was Commander Mariusz Kuchta of the Polish navy, when asked about President Duda's visit he said: "The President wished us, and our families at home, a Happy Easter, it was a wonderful message from him; his visit is a great honour for us today".



After the parade President Duda and Polish representatives attended a service at the memorial garden in Camp Butmir to honour the Polish soldiers who lost their lives whilst serving in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Chairman of the Austrian National Council visits EUFOR



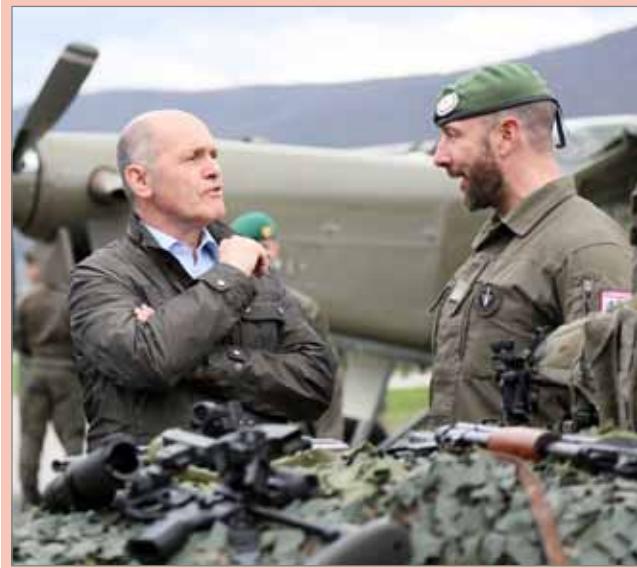
The Chairman of the Austrian National Council, Mr Wolfgang Sobotka, visited EUFOR at Camp Butmir, on Thursday 11 April.

After inspecting the Honour Guard, provided by EUFOR's Multinational Battalion, Chairman Sobotka met with COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, during an office call.

During the meeting, Chairman Sobotka and COMEUFOR discussed the political and security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Austrian contingent's contribution to the EUFOR mission.

Commenting on the EUFOR mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Chairman Sobotka said: "I am very impressed with the soldiers who are deployed on Operation Althea; Austria is fully committed to supporting the EUFOR mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

The EUFOR mission is made up of 15 EU, and 5 non-EU, troop contributing countries; Austria is one of the largest troop contributors.



EUFOR joins in Civil Protection Service Novi Grad Sarajevo Exercise on Mount Igman



The sound of an explosion rocked the abandoned Olympic hotel on Mount Igman, then as smoke billowed from the empty windows, voices screaming in panic cut through the warning sirens; thankfully this was all part of a training exercise with Red Cross volunteers playing the part of injured teenagers on Sunday 28 April.

The Civil Protection Agency Novi Grad Sarajevo and Gorska Služba Spašavanja (GSS - Mountain Rescue Service Novi Grad Sarajevo) were two of 7 organisations providing over 40 personnel to run the exercise; EUFOR contributed a Bell 212 helicopter to provide emergency evacuation support.

When asked about the exercise, Boris Riderle of the Civil Protection Agency said:

"This exercise involves a complex simulated situation with fire, a partially collapsed building, and a variety of casualties; it requires the Civil Protection Agency to set up an operations centre to co-ordinate the rescue activities".

Rescues from height, dozens of people moving around the area, and a chorus of noise from screams and sirens portrayed a potentially confusing situation for onlookers; but the focus and professionalism of the people involved was clearly visible on their faces throughout the exercise.

Due to the scenario of a collapsed stairwell, a set of ropes was set up stretching almost 100m and up to a height of nearly 20m; this allowed individuals to sit in a basket chair so they could be carefully lowered to the ground.

In charge of the rope rescue was Igor Ptočnik from the Slovenian Mountain Rescue Service: "We have been co-operating with the GSS Novi Grad Sarajevo for 2 years, this exercise gives us the chance to share knowledge on techniques like the high rope rescue method".



trainings

The scenario involved volunteer first responders treating burns, broken bones, and smoke inhalation; young volunteers from the Red Cross acted their part with realistic screams of pain, enhanced by make-up which included smoke/soot on their faces, burns on their arms and broken bones sticking through their skin.

Volunteer Emina Divobić was a victim of facial burns and smoke, commenting on the exercise she said:

“Some of us have just finished our training, acting the part and screaming in pain created pressure and really adds to the realism for everyone”.

Observing the exercise was Major General Martin Dorfer, COMEUFOR, commenting on the support of the helicopter in the exercise, he said

“EUFOR is proud to support this exercise; it is an important piece of collective training for all the agencies so they can display their ability to provide a safe and secure environment for the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina”.

EUFOR’s helicopter was used to evacuate casualties from the roof of the hotel, in the scenario 2 people were “too badly injured” to be moved through the building; the helicopter crew were able to use a winch to lower a stretcher before moving a short distance to a waiting ambulance.

At the end of the exercise there was a short clean-up and head-count; once all the equipment had been gathered there were smiles all round on the conclusion of a successful, and safely executed, exercise.



Video footage
mountain rescue
can be found on:



Training for members of Military Police of AF BiH



EUFOR’s International Military Police detachment conducted training for members of the Military Police of AFBiH in Camp BUTMIR from 23-25 April 2019. Fourteen members of the Military Police of AFBiH, all of whom were preparing for their deployment to Afghanistan, participated in the training.

Initial training serials included traffic control, speed-checking, and dealing with traffic accidents. Additional duties such as procedures and duties during VIP protection operations, planning operations, risk analyses, escorting, and protective pattern driving techniques were also exercised.

The training culminated with technical procedures and duties during investigation of crime scenes, this included: types of evidence, “7 steps” of crime scene investigation, collecting and packing evidence, searching crime scene patterns, and measuring/marketing positions on a sketch of a crime scene.

Each training day was divided into two parts, theoretical lecture and practical exercises; classes were conducted by experienced IMP NCOs from Austria, Poland and Slovakia.

Feedback from the Military Police of the AFBiH was very positive: the participants said that the exercises were exactly what they needed prior to their deployment to Afghanistan.

The IMP instructors ensured that everything was delivered in accordance with international military standards and strengthened the ability of the trainees to perform tasks during their mission, and in future Peace Support Operations.

We all function as a really good team

What have been the most interesting and challenging parts of the role so far?

Commanding soldiers from 3 different nations has been challenging and rewarding at the same time. The soldiers in the Multinational Battalion are all motivated, but they do have their differences. It is important for me to consider the subtle differences between the soldiers, and their backgrounds when I am issuing tasks or instructions.

Before I took command of the MNBN I had already worked in Camp Butmir, but being in command has given me a new perspective on the MNBN and the work we do here.

What are your main aims for the MNBN?

I want to bring the staff and soldiers together so that we all function as a really good team. We must prepare for the OPREH level 2 and make sure that all the soldiers are ready in all respects for Exercise Quick response later in the year.

I am due to handover to a new MNBN Commander in August, it is disappointing for me to miss Exercise Quick response, but I am happy to play my part in the build-up to the exercise.

What kind of training does the MNBN do?

The MNBN undertake training for one of their main functions, Force Protection of Camp Butmir. They also do training exercises to deal with control of crowds; this was the main part of their Full Operational Capacity (FOC) training.

What training do you do with AFBiH?

The MNBN has conducted 2 training serials with the AFBiH during my mission. Training serials include patrolling, dealing with check points and vehicle/personnel searches. The training is made challenging due to the severe manpower shortages in one of the AFBiH battalions.

Can you tell us about your career?

I joined the Austrian Army in 1994, after 8 years in the Mechanised Infantry I attended the Austrian Military Academy and graduated as a 2nd Lieutenant in 2005. After I leave EUFOR I am hoping to gain command of a Tank Battalion in Austria, but the competition for command of a battalion is fierce! In my spare time I like to work with wood, in particular I like making miniature furniture.



Training week for EUFOR's Multinational Battalion



The EUFOR MNBN is currently made up of troops from Austria, Hungary and Turkey, and is motorised, equipped and trained to respond to a variety of situations; the battalion contributes to EUFOR's combined and collective training/exercises with the AFBiH.

Heliboarding drills in riot gear and live firing on the rifle ranges gave the Austrian and Turkish soldiers of EUFOR's Multinational Battalion (MNBN) a busy week during 18-22 March.

Regular training provides all soldiers with the confidence and ability to respond to a wide variety of situations; during a busy week of training, the EUFOR MNBN soldiers were put through their paces to ensure they were up to date with their "skills and drills".

During the heliboarding training Staff Sergeant Thomas S. said: "This is my second mission



with EUFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but my first as a platoon commander. My responsibility is to check that the soldiers are conducting their training to the correct standard".

For The Staff Sergeant it is another day of training, he is checking the soldiers' placement, footwork, pace, and precision; for the soldiers it is more action-centred, and the excitement of a ride on the Agusta Bell 212 helicopter as it swoops low over Camp Butmir.

After the airmount training it was the turn of the Turkish soldiers from the MNBN to do their regular live firing drills on the rifle ranges.

Half of the 80 Turkish soldiers were using MPT-76 rifles, the other half were using the HK-33E; after zeroing their sights with 6 shots they had to hit a target at a range of 200m, with at least 1 shot in the inner target area.

Commenting on the range day, Captain Erol Ergin said: "Soldiers are always training and practicing, this is how we ensure they stay proficient in all their core skills. The snowy conditions today are challenging, but a little bit of Turkish tea later will be a nice way to finish the day".



Lt Col Alfred Sanz congratulates one of the MNBN soldiers on his accurate shooting.



On Thursday 7 March, Péter Sztáray, State Secretary for the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, paid an office call to COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.



On Monday 6 May COMEUFOR Major General Martin Dorfer, met with James G. Foggo, Commander Allied Joint Force Command, Naples, when the Admiral paid a visit to NATO HQ Sarajevo at Camp Butmir.



On Thursday 16 May COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer met with His Excellency UK Ambassador Matt Field. EUFOR is part of the EU's integrated approach for BiH, including its application for EU membership.

International Medal Parade at Camp Butmir on EU Day



An International Medal Parade for 56 EUFOR soldiers, sailors, and airmen from 10 countries was held at Camp Butmir on EU Day, Thursday 9 May.

COMEUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, presided over the event; the Deputy Head of the European Union Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr Sinno Khaldoun, was invited as a special guest to address the troops on parade.

Thanking the troops for their dedication and hard work COMEUFOR said: "Your determination and focus has provided EUFOR with

exceptional service in delivering our core mission of supporting the local authorities in providing a safe and secure environment".

Commenting on the parade being held on EU day, Mr Sinno Khaldoun said: "Let me express my gratitude to all of you for what you are doing in support of our common cause, which is facilitating Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts on their way towards EU accession".

The parade was held on EU Day as part of EUFOR's celebrations to mark the day that represents peace and unity throughout the whole of Europe.





MWA International Soccer Tournament Winning Team



Badminton – men's singles – "double elimination" tournament final standings

1	Krysztof BUC OF-4	POL
2	Andrej IVANIC OR-2	SVK
3	Marek BARNA OF-3	SVK
4	Markus SPAETAUF OR-5	AUT
5	Manfred SPREITZER OF-9 (Retired due to injury)	AUT

Badminton – mixed doubles – knockout tournament winners

Badminton – Petr ZIMA OF-2 / CZE
Vera LISZOKOVA OF-3 / CZE



17 LOT HOUSES ACROSS BIH ON THE PULSE OF YOUR COUNTRY

BANJA LUKA 1 I 2, BRATUNAC, BRČKO, CAZIN, DOBOJ, FOČA, JABLJANICA, LIVNO,
MOSTAR, SARAJEVO, TRAVNIK, TREBINJE, TUZLA, VIŠEGRAD, ZAVIDOVIĆI, ZENICA

Whether they are patrolling the streets or talking to citizens and local authorities, EUFOR Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT) are ready to sense the situation on the ground. EUFOR LOTs are an early warning system with teams of soldiers living in local communities all over Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through the network of these EUFOR LOT Houses we stay in contact with you and your fellow countrymen and women. Together we can maintain a safe and secure environment and progress on the path to European Integration.

Different tasks, one mission.

www.euforbih.org

