

EUFOR forum

MAGAZINE

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To take up the position at the head of a mission which has 20 troop contributing countries, including 5 non-EU countries, is something that many of my peers will never get the chance to do.



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Editor in chief



Welcome to edition #115 of the EUFOR FORUM

The first edition since I have taken over as editor in chief from Lt Cdr Brian Bennett.

I would like to thank all those who have contributed to

this edition, either by providing stories and photographs or by contacting the Public Affairs Office (PAO) in advance of your events allowing us to attend and gather our own material.

As always the PAO are keen to hear about your stories and are very happy to produce the bulk of the article only requiring a few quick and easy details from you.

If you have an event coming up or have something else of interest which you think would make a good article please drop in to the PAO for a chat and a coffee.

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Major General Reinhard Trischak

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EUFOR Change of Command

A team of EUFOR Operation Althea is in Brnska as part of the

Mine Risk Education in Dornje Vocičevu

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Change of Command Ceremony



On Wednesday the 26 June a Change of Command Ceremony was held at Camp Butmir where Major General Martin Dorfer handed over authority for the mission to Major General Reinhard Trischak.

Major General Dorfer has led the EUFOR mission since March 2018 and in that time has: continued to support the BiH authorities helping them maintain a safe and secure environment, delivered support to demining efforts and raised awareness among at risk groups, supported the disposal and management of surplus weapons and ammunition left over from the 1992-1995 war and carried out combined and collective training with the Armed Forces of BiH.

During his speech Major General Dorfer said: “EUFOR has come a very long way and together we are now in a much better place; we are stronger, much better prepared and now with even greater interest and support from our partner nations.”



Major General Trischak arrives from his previous role as the Director of the Military Policy Division based at the Ministry of Defence, Austria. He has been engaged in the Western Balkans region before and has also previously worked with the UN, EU and OSCE. His published work and lectures focus on the topics of military and security policy.

After a military parade and troop inspection Lieutenant General Rittmann, the EU Operation Commander for Operation Althea, symbolically handed over the EUFOR flag from Major General Dorfer to Major General Trischak. Major General Dorfer was then

presented with the Hungarian “Honours for the Alliance” medal by Brigadier General Horváth the former EUFOR Chief of Staff.

The parade was attended by: the High Representative, Dr Valentin Inzko, the Head of the OSCE Mission, Bruce Berton, Head of the EUCE, Lieutenant General Luciano Portolano, the Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Austrian Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Johann Luif, the BiH Chief of Joint Staff, Lieutenant General Senad Mašović, Defence Advisor Dragan Vuković, the Archbishop of Vrhbosna, Vinko Puljić as well as many of the Ambassadors and Defence Attachés to BiH.

“I look forward to working closely with my team here, as well as the key leaders and people of BiH in order to help achieve the goals of my mission and the goals of the population of BiH.”



Interview with Major General Martin Dorfer

Have you achieved everything you wanted to as COM EUFOR?

For 15 months I have been privileged to command this fine force. Fifteen months was probably not enough time to do all that I would have liked to do and to make the difference that I would have liked to make. But 15 months was time enough to appreciate that together we can and are making a difference.

What was your main effort during your tenure?

As Commanding General it was my intent to strengthen our credibility, visibility and cooperation. My mantra was a simple one 'One mission, One team'!

When I took over command I faced a complex situation. I knew that I was doing so at a time of change for EUFOR as it prepared to refocus on its core task of supporting the SASE. My main effort was, therefore, to implement the decisions of the Strategic Review 17, to shape EUFOR for the future, to shape our structure and our thinking and to enable us to efficiently and effectively succeed in our mission.

What events during your time have been particularly notable?

If I were to point to events demonstrating our resolve and our commitment, I point in particular to Exercise Quick Response 18. I would also point to the inspections of the Law Enforcement Agencies armaments, where I had to use my executive powers. In both actions we underscored our commitment and our credibility as a strategic asset of the EU supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As COM EUFOR what has impressed you about BiH?

I was deeply impressed by the commitment and professionalism



Major General Dorfer handing back Command of EUFOR to Lieutenant General Rittimann

of the Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. They are a state building institution, a model of reconciliation but yet they are challenged and questioned day by day. They are under-resourced; do not get the attention that they deserve and despite all that they do the best to serve the people of BiH. Furthermore, they contribute to UN, NATO and EU Peace Support Operations. The soldiers with the Flag of Bosnia and Herzegovina on their shoulders are united ambassadors of the country.

Finally, what message would you like to pass to the readers of Forum Magazine?

Major General Trischak, is the right person to take EUFOR further and to tackle the challenges ahead. I congratulate him on his appointment as Force Commander EUFOR and wish him every success in his command. Today is my time to say farewell and to go home to my family. I would not have succeeded here without your support. Thank you all for sharing your time with me. I wish you all the very best!



Major General Dorfer and Lieutenant General Masovic (left) during a joint exercise

Interview with Major General Reinhard Trischak

How does it feel to become the new COM EUFOR?

It is a great honour for me to be appointed as the Commander of EUFOR and to take command of the EU executive military arm in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I am grateful to my country for nominating me for this appointment, and also to the Operation Commander, General Olivier Rittimann for the confidence he has shown in me to perform this very important international role. I will put all my effort and experience in this new position in order to live up to that confidence.

What are your main aims as the new COM EUFOR?

My vision for my time here is to continue with the core mission of EUFOR: to help all of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to live together in a stable, viable, peaceful and multi-ethnic nation; to contribute to the safe and secure environment by supporting the institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina; and to be committed to assisting the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina with a successful path to European integration.



Major General Trischak addressing the press

How do you intend on building on the work of your predecessor?

I intend a seamless transition between General Dorfer and me. I must say that he set a very high standard here in his dealings with international and local politicians and diplomats, and I realise that I have a high standard to live up to. I will do all in my power to meet expectations.

At the end of your tour how would you judge whether your time here has been successful?

It is my intention to bring the situation here closer to an acceptable end-state within the confines of the

EUFOR mandate, in close cooperation with BiH authorities.

If I can do that, I will have built on the excellent work carried out by my predecessors.

Finally, what message would you like to pass to the readers of Forum magazine?

I look forward to working closely with my team here, as well as the key leaders and people of BiH in order to help achieve the goals of my mission and the goals of the population of BiH.

Biography of Major General Trischak

Born: 1963

Lives in: Eisenstadt, Austria

Previous Operations: Golan Heights (UNDOF) and Kosovo (KFOR)

Command and General Staff College: Austria and Fort Leavenworth, U.S.A.

International forums engagement: UN, EU, NATO and OSCE.

Publishes and lectures on: Military and Security policy.

Career highlights:

Commanding Officer of the Austrian Special Forces,
Branch Chief EU Military Policy Division,
Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff Austrian Military representation,
Director Concepts and Capabilities Directorate,
Director Military Policy Division Ministry of Defence







On 26 June, Major General Reinhard Trischak assumed command of EUFOR. To welcome him and to honour Major General Martin Dorfer, the outgoing commander, a parade was held at Camp Butmir.



A vehicle parade came first, then a fly-by before troops from all 20 nations supporting the mission marched past and saluted the Generals.



EUFOR Specialist Ammunitions and Weapons Advisors meet with NATO/EU delegation in Rajlovac



EUFOR and HALO Trust representatives

On Wednesday 29 May, in Rajlovac, a briefing was given by EUFOR Special Ammunition and Weapons Advisors (SAWAD) to a NATO delegation in order to summarise the progress made by the BiH Ministry of Defence (MoD), and the AFBiH, in weapons marking, registration and management.

BiH MoD are reducing their stockpiles of weapons and ammunition through a transparent process of disposal and are rapidly moving towards a sustainable ammunition and weapons life-cycle management system, this is being supported by a range of organisations, including the HALO Trust and EUFOR.

The Programme Manager for the HALO Trust, Mr Alexander Maier, said: “Very good progress has been made since November 18 when Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)

started being marked and registered. So far over 12,000 pieces have been registered and we are on track to complete the process by 2020.”

The BiH authorities currently hold over 62,000 SALW consisting of over 300 different types of weapons, the aim is to rationalise the holdings and reduce the number down to 22,500



Colonel Trachsler (EUFOR SAWAD) speaking to the media

registered weapons, which will be stored in safe and secure conditions.

Major Alberto Prince, a EUFOR representative, said:

“The marking and registration of these small arms and light weapons is a part of the second stage of a 3-phase plan which started with the disposal of excess stocks of old ammunition, approximately 1200 weapons are being marked and registered every month in Rajlovac.”

When the excess weapons have been destroyed, donated, or sold, the reduced stockpile will mean lower maintenance costs and ensure maximum traceability of these weapons from a non-proliferation perspective; this project is a major confidence-building measure in terms of EUFOR’s primary aim to support and maintain a safe and secure environment in BiH.

EUFOR mine training exercise completed on Mount Igman

On Tuesday 28 May the sound of a mine exploding and anguished screams coming from the trees disturbed the otherwise peaceful scene on Mount Igman; this marked the beginning of a mine training exercise for the Austrian contingent of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN).

The Austrian EOD team quickly started to meticulously work their way towards a badly injured casualty, marking the safe routes in and out of the risk area; before delivering life-saving first aid they called for a helicopter to evacuate the casualty to hospital.

Movie style special effects make up was used on Corporal Berahriu who played the role of the casualty making it look as if his face was burned, his right arm was blown off, and his leg had been impaled by a piece of wood.

Commenting on the exercise Corporal Berahriu said: “The make-up really added to the realism of the exercise helping ensure EUFOR is well prepared for the possibility of worst case scenarios.”

When asked about the exercise, Captain Gregor Brosch-Fohraheim, from EUFOR’s MNBN said:

“EUFOR is continually training so that soldiers can maintain their military skills to provide a safe and secure environment for the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina”.

Observing the exercise was Brigadier General Lászlo Szabó, EUFOR Chief of Staff and Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Sanz the MNBN Commander.

At the end of the exercise the teams were debriefed to help further improve their performance in future military exercises.



- 1 Casualty awaiting help
- 2 Checking the area for other mines
- 3 Casualty being evacuated from risk area
- 4 First aid medical care
- 5 Helicopter evacuation

LOT Dobož compete in Mountain Marathon



Neither the horrendous weather, nor the mountainous terrain prevented the EUFOR team from LOT Dobož completing the 15th International Mountain Marathon Ozren on 2 June. The event which was organised by the Petrovo municipality attracted approximately 300 competitors from as far afield as Serbia, Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Germany and Sweden. Different routes from 6.2km to 101km could be selected by the competitors; the EUFOR team decided to complete 24.5km this time and allow their replacements to attempt 101km next year!

by Major Damian Ostapiak



EUFOR Explosive Ordnance Disposal team train with the Federation Civil Protection Agency

On 14 June, EUFOR's Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team, co-ordinated by the Joint Military Affairs Countermines Section, worked together with Sarajevo's Federation Civil Protection Agency to conduct demolition training at an approved site in the vicinity of Vares.

The training was designed to allow the EOD teams to practice the safety procedures necessary when disposing of surplus explosives. Whilst some members of the Federation Civil Protection Agency ensured no-one came onto the site, the leader of the EOD team Second Lieutenant Tamás Köbli, supported by selected members of the Federation Civil Protection Agency, chose a suitable site for the explosion, checked the electrical connections running to the explosives and then requested permission to "explode" from the safety manager.

Second Lieutenant Tamás Köbli said "It was a really useful day, not only did we destroy a quantity of explosives, but we also got to conduct some excellent training with our partners in the Federation Civil Protection agency".

Lieutenant Colonel Horst Unterrieder, EUFOR's demining and EOD officer, who helped organise the days training said "EUFOR's EOD team, as usual did their job perfectly, although I am not surprised as they are professionals. I would like to warmly thank Mr Sead Vrana Chief of EOD Federal Civil Protection Agency. We were impressed with their professionalism and how quickly we managed to build a productive working relationship."

by Commander Mariusz Kuchta

International Medal Parade at Camp Butmir

An International Medal Parade for 97 troops was held on Friday 21 June at Camp Butmir. EUFOR's Chief of Staff, Brigadier General László Szabó presided over the event.

Delivering an address at the start of the event Brigadier General Szabó said: "Each one of you on parade today represents your country's contribution to EUFOR's unity of effort and also your personal commitment and your family's sacrifice and support." He added "Thank you for being the perfect personification of 'One Team – One Mission'."

After his address Brigadier General Szabó presented medals to the troops, helped by Colonel Ali Tanis, Colonel Milen Hristov and Colonel Johann Jamnig.

Among those receiving their medals was 1st Lieutenant Giopp from the Swiss Army, he said: "I have been here now for 2 months and 7 days; normally I am based in a single nation LOT house so it is nice to see the international group here today." He added, "When the EU anthem played, after we had all received our medals, it gave me shivers."



Captain Vincenzo Migliaccio, who has completed five months of his six month tour and was the only Italian at the medal parade, said "I am proud to receive the medal at the end of my tour." He adds it to the UN and NATO medals he already holds.

After the ceremony those who had received their Operation Althea medal were invited for a buffet lunch with the Chief of Staff.

The Operation Althea medal was first presented in 2004 and is a version of the Common Security and Defence Policy Service Medal. It is inscribed with the Latin phrase "Pro pace unum", which translates as "United for peace".

Queen's birthday celebration held at Ambassador's residence

On Friday 7 June, His Excellency Matthew Field, the British Ambassador to BiH, invited six members of EUFOR's British contingent to a garden party held at his residence in honour of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second's official birthday. As the sun shone down, drinks and canapés were served on the lawn while a brass band played a selection of traditional British pieces.

The Ambassador gave a short speech paying tribute to some of the Queen's achievements and reiterating Britain's commitment to BiH. He said: "We almost made it to the end of the speech without mentioning Brexit. Anyone who has met me, seen my interviews, read my blog, or bumped into me in the shops, will have heard that the UK is doing



more not less in BiH." He added, "This year we have seen the return of BBC to BiH. We have contributed more troops to EUFOR and we hope soon to have a direct flight again. We are doing more business together."

Wing Commander Dave Carter, the Senior British Representative from EUFOR said: "It is great to see not only Britain's military commitment but also the strength of our political commitment to BiH as it progresses down the path of European integration."

The full transcript of Ambassador Matthew Field's speech can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/queens-birthday-celebration-2019-in-bosnia-and-herzegovina-ambassadors-speech>

Major General Martin Dorfer pays farewell visits to the heads of BiH Defence



On Friday 21 June, Major General Dorfer met with the BiH Minister of Defence Marina Pendes at the Ministry of Defence building in Sarajevo. Major General Dorfer thanked her for the trust she had placed in him and also the spirit of co-operation in which they had worked together.



After his visit with the Minister of Defence, Major General Dorfer met with the BiH Chief of Joint Staff Lieutenant General Senad Mašović and his deputy Major General Gojko Knežević. Major General Dorfer wished them both well for the future and also thanked them for their engagement and co-operation with EUFOR during his tenure.

Lieutenant Generals Rittimann and Portolano

To honour the outgoing Commander of EUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, the EU Operation Commander, Operation Althea, Lieutenant General Olivier Rittimann and the Head of the EUCE, Lieutenant General Luciano Portolano, visited EUFOR at Camp Butmir, on Wednesday 26 June.

After a meeting with Major General Dorfer the two Generals attended the change of command ceremony. Lieutenant General Rittimann, who oversees the EUFOR mission in BiH, symbolically handed over the EU EUFOR flag between Major General Dorfer and his replacement, Major General Trischak, before giving a speech to the parade.

Lieutenant General Rittimann said:



“Operation Althea, and EUFOR within it, is an integral, indeed vital part of the overall EU strategy for BiH and stands as a demonstration of the EU’s commitment to this country.” He added, “EUFOR is set on a solid track. We now need to consolidate our position and that is the task I will rely on Major General Trischak to do, making progress as Major General Dorfer did, maintaining the direction of travel and increasing the speed of delivery.”

Turkish Chief of Defence



As part of his visit to BiH, the Turkish Chief of Defence, General Yasar Guler, visited EUFOR at Camp Butmir, on Saturday 15 June.

General Guler first met with the Turkish contingent, under the command of Colonel Ali Tanis, who put on a parade in his honour. He then met key EUFOR staff including the Chief of Staff, Brigadier General László Szabó before the Commander of EUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer held a meeting with General Guler where they discussed the Turkish contribution to EUFOR’s mission as well as a variety of military and political issues.

Warrant Officer Ali Oner, who was involved in helping organise the visit, said: “It is a great honour and it makes everyone very happy that General Guler has been here to visit us.”

Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Austrian Armed Forces



On Tuesday 25 June, Lieutenant General Johann Luif, the Deputy Chief of the General Staff of the Austrian Armed Forces arrived at Camp Butmir in order to pay a farewell visit to Major General Martin Dorfer and attend COMEUFOR’s Change of Command ceremony the following day.

During the visit they discussed the contribution Austrian troops had made to the mission over Major General Dorfer’s tenure as COMEUFOR. Lieutenant General Luif also thanked Major General Dorfer for his efforts over the last 15 months as well as wishing him well in his next role.

Grueling Cross fit competition held at Camp Butmir



Cross fit results (Male)

Name (Nation)	Nation	Time
Tamás HORVÁTH	HUN	20:55
Daniel SPREITZHOFFER	AUT	23:16
Dusan GALAJDA	SVK	23:19

Cross fit results (Female)

Name	Nation	Time
Silvia PFALZER	AUT	27:25
Angharrad JANZEN -MORRIS	UK	28:15
Agnes SCHMIDT	HUN	31:44

On 28 and 30 May the gym staff at Camp Butmir held a CrossFit competition which involved, 2000m of rowing, 30 x burpees, 30 x pull-ups, 30 x press-ups (with a hand-clap), 30 x 30kg thrusts, and a 900 metre run. 14 extremely fit members of EUFOR entered the competition to find out who could complete this extreme challenge fastest.



According to www.crossfit.com, CrossFit is a “lifestyle characterized by safe, effective exercise and sound nutrition”. The website goes on to say: “CrossFit can be used to accomplish any goal, from improved health to weight loss to better performance”.

The CrossFit competition is one of the gyms monthly competitions organized in order to contribute to a healthy level of rivalry and co-operation between members of EUFOR.

Captain Laim Halpin who took part in the event said: “It’s a great challenge, very hard, but fun.” It didn’t seem to be much fun from the sidelines however! After

2000m of rowing, all the competitors were sweating and gasping for breath. Next came 30 burpees with a sideways jump over a low hurdle; this really took it out of the athletes and few of them were able to move onto the next event without a short rest.

After that came the pull-ups then the thrusts followed by the press ups! By the time of the run, the final event, even the fastest competitors were struggling. First past the post in the male category was Tamás Horváth, from Hungary, with an outstanding time of just under 21 minutes, the top female Silvia Pfalzer, from Austria, completed the event in a very fast 27 minutes and 25 seconds.

On finishing the event Daniel Spreitzhofer said: “It was hard, I hope I’ve done enough to get a top three finish.” Hopefully he was pleased with his very impressive second place, but no matter what their position all of the athletes competing can be rightly proud of being in the elite group of CrossFitters in Camp Butmir.



EUFOR-100% COMMITTED TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA



EUFOR is the military face of the European Union in Bosnia and Herzegovina, made up of 20 nations.

The EU-led force consists of the troops in BiH as well as reserves outside the country.

100% strong, reliable and committed to a viable and multiethnic BiH progressing together towards European integration.

EUFOR stands 100% ready to support peace and stability based on its UN Security Council Mandate.

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