

# EUFOR FORUM

March - May 2024

European Union Force in BiH



#139



**In this edition:**



**COS EUFOR Handover  
Takeover Ceremony**

**Pages 8-9**

**EUFOR Strategic Reserve Force Arrival**

**Pages 11-14**



Pages 4-5

## Deputy Commander EUFOR appointed

*Brigadier General Lorenzo Dal Maso from the Italian Armed forces has been appointed to the position of DCOM EUFOR.*



Pages 6-7

## Mine Risk Education together with EOD Team

*On 06 March, LOT Novo Sarajevo organized another MRE in the Police Academy of the BiH Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs.*



Page 16

## Camp Butmir meets it's resident "VURAN"

*Armored Wheeled Vehicles, which set out from Türkiye on March 25, 2024, arrived on March 28 at EUFOR Butmir Camp.*



Page 18

## EUFOR celebrated International Women' Day

*On the 8th of March EUFOR celebrated International Women's Day, an important event that has been observed and celebrated since the early 1900's.*

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Major General László Sticz

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We also thank  
EUFOR Multinational Battalion  
EUFOR LOT Houses

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## Editor in Chief



Captain Sarah Donnelly

*Dear readers of EUFOR Forum Magazine!*

*I am delighted to publish my second edition EUFOR FORUM as editor in Chief.*

*The last few months were very busy ones for the EUFOR and for the Public Affairs Office. A lot of important events have been held including the arrival of our new DCOM, HoTo of COS, the arrival of the Strategic Reserve force, the celebration of International Women's*

*day and numerous visits and office calls of COM EUFOR.*

*In edition #139 you will find information about our new DCOM and find useful information about the Strategic Reserve force, the celebration of important religious events and the role of the LOT houses.*

*I want to thank all branches who supported our efforts on media activities for EUFOR Althea.*

*EUFOR Forum is about the soldiers and personnel of EUFOR. It is a chronicle and memories of your time spent in BiH as part of Operation Althea. So as always, we invite you to share your experiences and have those experiences recorded in print and shared digitally.*

*Send them to [euforpio@eufor.europa.eu](mailto:euforpio@eufor.europa.eu) if you have anything that you would like covered or have an article or photograph you would like to share.*

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**European Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
26 April at 07:50

Na poziv gradonačelnice Sarajeva Benjamine Karić, francuski, italijanski i rumunski vojnici Strateških rezervnih snaga EUFOR-a i pridruženih vodova imali su priliku posjetiti i upoznati sarajevsku Vijećnicu. Gradonačelnice Karić, hvala na dobrodošlici i gostoprimstvu!

On the invitation of #Sarajevo Mayor Benjamina Karić Benjamina Karić rod. Londrc French, Italian and Romanian soldiers of #EUFOR Strategic Reserve Force and its supplementary platoons had the chance to visit and to get to learn about Sarajevo City Hall. Mayor Karić, thank you for your warm welcome and hospitality!

Esercito Italiano Armée de Terre Armée française - Opérations militaires Ministerul Apararii Nationale, Romania - www.mapn.ro



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**Brigadier General Lorenzo Dal Maso**  
EUFOR Deputy Commander

Dobro jutro, dame i gospodo.  
Ja sam brigadni general Lorenzo Dal Maso,

As the United Nations mark on the 4th of April the annual International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action, in his video address DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Lorenzo Dal Maso highlights the importance of Mine Action in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the support EUFOR provides to BiH.

COM EUFOR Major General László Sticz visited the 5th Brigade of the Armed Forces of BiH in Dubrave Barracks where he emphasized to Brigadier Fahir Žilić, COM 5th Bde the excellent cooperation #EUFOR has with #AFBiH and specifically with the 5th Bde.

[tinyurl.com/43b8nk79](https://tinyurl.com/43b8nk79)



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#EUFOR #EUFORBiH #EUFORforBiH #StrongPartner #supportingBiH #training #readiness #dayandnight #MEDEVAC #medic #helicopter

**CONGRATULATIONS FOR THIS GREAT STEP FORWARD**

EUFOR congratulates Bosnia and Herzegovina on the European Council's decision to open accession negotiation. BiH continues to make progress in this area and this marks a key step forward on the path towards EU membership. EUFOR remains committed to supporting the population and the authorities of BiH on this path.

# Deputy Commander EUFOR appointed in an official ceremony



**Brigadier General Dal Maso receives an EUFOR patch from Major General Sticz**

4

A ceremony to officially appoint the Deputy Commander (DCOM) EUFOR was held on 14 March 2024, in Camp Butmir. Brigadier General Lorenzo Dal Maso from the Italian Armed forces has been appointed to the position of DCOM EUFOR.

Brigadier General Dal Maso has a vast military experience and has served in numerous overseas missions throughout the world. He joined COM EUFOR Major General László Sticz and COS EUFOR Brigadier General Ovidiu Lungu

as part of the EUFOR Command Group. This group will work in unity and cooperation with all the nations of EUFOR as well as BiH authorities to implement the tasks of EUFOR in line with EUFOR's mission.

In his speech, COM EUFOR Major General Sticz highlighted that as DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Dal Maso will primarily focus on EUFOR's contacts and cooperation with the Armed Forces of BiH (AF BiH), a function that has one of the highest priorities in EUFOR activities as Operation Althea's mandate unquestionably tasks EUFOR to support the interoperability development of AF BiH through combined training and exercises. DCOM's portfolio will also include the implementation of the Masterplan on Ammunition, Weapons & Explosives Disposal, humanitarian demining in BiH as well as monitoring the activities of local authorities in the area of Law Enforcement. Furthermore,



**Colour party arrives on parade**

Joint Military Affairs Branch would also be supervised by DCOM for providing situational awareness regarding – among others – the operations of the Defence Industry Factories. ***“I am convinced that with your contribution and support as my deputy, EUFOR Althea will continue to be a valuable presence in this country”***, Major General Sticz assured Brigadier General Dal Maso of his trust.

Brigadier General Dal Maso, who is returning to serve in this wonderful country after a little more than 25 years, emphasized in his speech, that Europe has recently renewed its interest in BiH to support it along the path of European integration, as well Italy is contributing to the progress and prosperity of BiH and to staunchly endorse the European perspectives of the whole Western Balkans region. In that regard, his assignment is also a clear demonstration of how active an actor Italy is in this process, he added.

***“I am aware of the responsibilities and challenges that my assignment entails, but I am ready to accept them very willingly and I can assure everyone as of now that I will give the best of myself and use all my energies and skills to carry out the mission in the best possible way, always guaranteeing impartiality”***, concluded the newly appointed DCOM EUFOR.

The establishment of the position of DCOM EUFOR displays EUFOR’s commitment to BiH and demonstrates the mission’s ability to adapt to better aid BiH on their path to EU integration. EUFOR welcomed Brigadier General Dal Maso to this position, his arrival would improve EUFOR’s unity and efficiency by enabling further key leader engagement which would better support and drive progress in BiH.

EUFOR is a strong, capable and reliable partner to the BiH and remains committed in supporting the authorities of BiH in maintaining a safe and secure environment.



COM EUFOR, DCOM EUFOR and COS EUFOR arrive on parade



Soldiers on parade



DCOM EUFOR addresses the parade

# Mine Risk Education together with EOD Team



EOD team provides information on danger of mines

6

Mine Risk Education (MRE) is among the longest running and most widely known activities of EUFOR. With the help of MRE, several hundreds of thousands of people all over Bosnia and Herzegovina have already been educated about how to reduce the risk of landmines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO),

greatly contributing to a safer and more secure environment in BiH.

MREs are organized by EUFOR Liaison Monitoring Teams (LOT) for police and fire fighter stations, civil protection units, schools and even nurseries so the widest possible audience is reached. These trainings are always tailored to the

audience; for example while civil protection units themselves also conduct mine awareness events, making the EUFOR MRE more of a coordination event for them rather than a training, children need to be taught about the danger of mines in a way more suitable for their age group.

On 06 March, LOT Novo Sarajevo organized another MRE in the Police Academy of the BiH Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs. These trainings are usually held by LOT Novo Sarajevo interpreters Izet Eljšani and Adnan Arnautlija, as they are certified instructors of this topic. During the MRE, types, characteristics and effects of mines were explained, different mine field warning signs were shown and the participants, 30 cadets of the Police Academy also had the possibility to closely examine some de-activated mines and UXOs.

But this time, the MRE came with a twist as after the presentation in the classroom, a dynamic demonstration was held outdoor by the EUFOR Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Team and their sniffer dogs. More than 350 spectators – judicial, federal and cantonal police cadets with their squad leaders and academy instructors – were watching Titan, the Belgian malinois dog demonstrating his high level of obedience, a skill which can save his and his handler's life in case things turn serious. Next, the EOD Team's other Belgian malinois member, Khaly was tasked to detect if there was any explosives hidden in a car. When Khaly indicated a suspicious item, Titan was sent to sniff and confirm the finding. After the confirmation, the EOD team leader sent a robot to remove the item from the car. This robot enables its operator to handle



EOD robot

explosives remotely, even on difficult terrains or inside buildings, with the robotic arms which are capable of subtle movements, similar to human hands. Then a member of the EOD Team – wearing his full protective gear, an EOD suit weighting more than 50 kilograms – carefully approached and removed the suspicious item. In a real situation, the supposed mine or UXO would have been exploded on site or in an UXO disposal area, whichever the EOD team leader deems safer. For this demonstration, the next program point provided opportunity for the cadets to directly ask the EOD members, try on the EOD suit or pet Titan and Khaly. Needless to say, this part of the day proved to be the most interesting for most of the participants.

While some cadets were interested in the length of EOD dog training, Cadet Zaim Hamzić went straight for the EOD suit which he found a little uncomfortable and less flexible than he expected, while he was not bothered by its weight at all. It turned out that Cadet Hamzić was slightly too tall for that very suit, however, a little discomfort and inflexibility caused by the protective gears are always there for the EOD members, as safety must come first.



Titan, EOD dog

As Sead Šarić, commander of one of the cadet squads said, MRE is very useful and effectively contributes to the training of the cadets who will be serving as police officers in different departments in BiH, especially that some of them will even become EOD members themselves. Major Lubos Januška, leader of LOT Novo Sarajevo explained that all 19 LOTs of EUFOR are conducting numerous MREs, while his team is in a special position of working in the capital, where there are a lot of schools, police departments and fire fighter stations. As he mentioned, LOT

Novo Sarajevo conducted approx. 190 MREs in 2023, and he predicts the same number for this year, having an average of 4-5 MREs per week.

Speaking of LOTs' and EOD's first ever joint MRE, all participants of the training welcomed the initiative while Major Januška and 1st Lieutenant Tamás Köbli, leader of EOD Team both emphasized that the theoretical MRE and the practical EOD demonstration complete each other and together they provide a deeper understanding and awareness about mines and UXOs.



How to put on the EOD suit?



EOD staff and equipment

# Chief of Staff EUFOR Handover Takeover Ceremony



8

15th May 2024 marked the occasion of the Handover Takeover ceremony for EUFOR Chief of Staff appointment from Brigadier General Ovidiu Lungu of the Romanian Armed Forces to Brigadier General Herbert Roman Sailer of the Austrian Armed Forces.

The ceremony was attended by Defence State Secretary of Romania H.E. Simona Cojocaru, Chief of Staff Operation Headquarters Althea Johannes Lachner, Office Manager of the Chief of Staff Operation Commander Operation Althea, Director of

Staff EU Command Element, Commanders of the Operational and Support Commands of the AF BiH, Ambassadors of Austria, Romania and Poland, Deputy Chief of Defence of the Romanian Armed Forces, Commander of the Austrian Land Forces and the Commander of NATO HQ Sa.

Brigadier General Lungu was appointed as COS EUFOR in May 2023 and since then has consistently worked to ensure unity of effort across all EUFOR HQ Branches and Units. During the ceremony, Brigadier General Lungu was presented with the EUFOR Operational Althea Common Security and Defence Policy Medal. He was also presented with the Polish Armed Forces 'Golden Medal' for actively supporting peacekeeping activities of the Polish Armed Forces in an international area and the Emblem



Colour party



of Merit in Service of the Romanian Army second class as a token of appreciation of his commitment, professionalism and responsibility in fulfilling his duties.

While addressing the parade, outgoing COS EUFOR Brigadier General Lungu thanked a number of key people who provided him with support and comradeship throughout his time as COS EUFOR.

He also wished incoming COS EUFOR Brigadier General Sailer future success in his new role. He concluded by stating:

***'Today the European Union Force is better, more focused, and readier than ever to continue implementing its role, mandate, and mission.'***

During the ceremony, an exchange of EUFOR badges took place, symbolising the handover of authority. Incoming COS EUFOR Brigadier General Sailer addressed the parade and thanked COM EUFOR, DCOM EUFOR and the outgoing COS EUFOR for their friendly welcome and support.

COM EUFOR Major General László Sticz also made an address and highlighted that the Chief of Staff has to bring together a diverse set of people and cultures and create a synergy within the staff of HQ EUFOR. He welcomed Brigadier General Sailer to the mission and expressed his gratitude to Brigadier General Lungu for his commitment to EUFOR and for the support he has given to COM EUFOR.

Major General Sticz stated Brigadier General Lungu ***'Now hands over to Brigadier General Sailer a Headquarters with sufficient flexibility, procedures and ability to respond to any type of tasking under time pressure and other challenging circumstances'***.



Incoming COS EUFOR, COM EUFOR, outgoing COS EUFOR and DCOM EUFOR



Incoming COS EUFOR addresses the parade



# EUFOR successfully conducted a medical evacuation

In the early hours of 06 April, the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina requested support from EUFOR in searching and rescuing two civilians. On the decision of COM EUFOR Major General László Sticz, an EUFOR helicopter flew to the last known location of the missing persons.

After their location was identified, EUFOR MEDEVAC helicopter flew there and the flight doctor and the paramedic were winched out to examine and stabilize the civilians as they were reportedly injured and close to hypothermia.

After hoisting them up, the helicopters returned to Camp Butmir from where the civilians were transported to hospital in Sarajevo by ambulance. The whole operation was conducted during the night, in a mountainous region.

EUFOR is ready 24/7 to support the authorities of BiH – Forward, Onward, Together!



COM EUFOR meets search and rescue team



10



## COM EUFOR awarded the members of EUFOR who were involved in rescue operation with a Commander's Coin

In order to recognize the efforts of those who were directly involved in this operation, COM EUFOR Major General László Sticz awarded them with a Commander's Coin.

As MG Sticz emphasized, although these people's job descriptions indeed contain these tasks, it should never be left unnoticed or without recognition when members of EUFOR go well beyond their everyday tasks, and these highly qualified professionals from Austria, Hungary, Italy and the Netherlands proved that they are great ambassadors of their field of profession, their armed forces and their nation.

# French soldiers of EUFOR Strategic Reserve Force arrived



French troops arrive in Sarajevo



On 07 April French soldiers arrived to Sarajevo International Airport and were welcomed by COM EUFOR Major General László Sticz and Deputy Mayor of Sarajevo Anja Margetić.

The battalion-size French unit make up the Strategic Reserve Force of EUFOR and is supplemented with an Italian and a Romanian platoon. They patrol across BiH and train with EUFOR in-theater forces and elements of Armed Forces BiH to increase cooperation and interoperability between EUFOR and AFBiH. This also further strengthens the support of EUFOR to local authorities in maintaining the safe and secure environment for all the people of BiH.

The deployment of the Strategic Reserve Force of EUFOR is called "Exercise Meleager", after the son of Althea, aiming to symbolize the strong ties between EUFOR Operation Althea in-theatre and reserve forces.



Deputy Mayor of Sarajevo Anja Margetić

# Ceremonial integration of reserve forces into EUFOR structure



Colour party arrives on parade

12

During a symbolic ceremony held in Camp Butmir, the battalion-size Strategic Reserve Force from France, supplemented by an Italian and a Romanian platoon, has been integrated into EUFOR structure on 12 April 2024. The event was honoured with the presence of the Ambassador of the Republic of

France to Bosnia and Herzegovina H.E. François Delmas, the Ambassador of Italy to Bosnia and Herzegovina H.E. Marco Di Ruzza and the Ambassador of Romania to Bosnia and Herzegovina H.E. Anton Pacurețu as well as Ms. Anja Margetić, Deputy Mayor of Sarajevo and Mr. Nikola Vujičić,

representative of the Town Hall of East Sarajevo.

The troops and their equipment have been recently deployed from France, Italy and Romania to Bosnia and Herzegovina by air, rail and road, and from now on they will be commanded by Major General László Sticz, Commander of EUFOR.



In his speech, COM EUFOR reminded that a total of 23 countries, including EU Member States and non-EU Troop Contributing Countries are present within EUFOR, the European Union's military peacekeeping mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Some of these countries have also committed to provide reserve forces for EUFOR, which are regularly deployed to BiH. Major General Sticz added, that despite all recent political and media speculations, these forces recently deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina did not



come here to respond to any kind of eventuality. This deployment and the exercise they conduct, Exercise MELEAGER have been planned well in advance and is the manifestation of regular training objectives. COM EUFOR also emphasized that these reserve force elements are exclusively available for EUFOR, and not for any other organization.

COM EUFOR reminded the troops that while they are wearing the EUFOR badge on their shoulders, they are obliged to conduct their assigned tasks within the EUFOR force structure, based on the mandate of EUFOR and the Dayton Peace Agreement, and according to the six guiding principles of EUFOR: unity, impartiality, credibility, cooperation, integrity and progress. Major General Sticz also invited them to be a proud and professional member of EUFOR Operation Althea.

As part of the ceremony, Ambassador Delmas, Ambassador Di Ruzza and Ambassador Pacurețu addressed the parade in their native languages. In their speeches, they all emphasized the importance of EUFOR's role in supporting the local authorities in maintaining a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the security of BiH is in direct relation to the security of the Western Balkans and also, to the security of Europe.

In the framework of Exercise MELEAGER, the reserve force trains together with in-theatre EUFOR elements as well as units of the Armed Forces of BiH. They conduct familiarization training which ensures that, if they are ever requested to deploy, they will be familiar with EUFOR and BiH procedures and be able to integrate quickly to complete the tasks assigned to them. This ensures that a safe and secure environment is continuously maintained in BiH.

Meleager was the son of Althea, after whom the European Union force in Bosnia and Herzegovina is named. Choosing this name for this deployment, Exercise MELEAGER aims to symbolize the strong ties between EUFOR in-theatre and reserve forces.

### Troops of the Strategic Reserve Force (SRF) of EUFOR arriving with their equipment in Bosnia and Herzegovina







Soldiers from EUFOR and the Armed Forces of BiH are on the ground, conducting combined training to develop interoperability.

14



Shooting drills and patrol exercises in Orasje punctuated the week of the Strategic Reserve Force  with the AFBiH 

## Exercise videos



EUFOR and the Armed Forces of BiH are practicing together in Exercise Meleager



EUFOR Strategic Reserve Forces in Orasje

# International medal parade



COM EUFOR addresses the parade

An international medal parade was held in Camp Butmir where members of EUFOR from Greece, North Macedonia, Poland and Türkiye received the European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy Medal (CSDP) for Operation Althea in recognition of their service in as part of EUFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Common Security and Defence Policy Service Medal - first awarded to EUFOR members in 2004 - is an international military decoration awarded to

individuals, both military and civilian, who have served with CSDP missions. The EU blue ribbon has either a wide gold centre stripe for headquarters and combat forces, or a wide silver stripe for planning and support.

The twelve five pointed stars around the outside edge of the medal represents the European Union. The reverse contains the Latin phrase, Pro Pace Unum, meaning "United for Peace".

15



COS EUFOR presents medals



EU flag is raised



COM EUFOR presents medals



DCOM EUFOR presents medals

# Camp Butmir meets its resident “VURAN”



The Vuran - tactical wheeled armored vehicle

Entirely designed by BMC in Türkiye, the vehicle features a robust and sturdy structure, standing at a height of 3.2 meters. Its armor complies with STANAG 4569 Level 3 (MRAP) standards.

The Vuran 4x4 can be armed with either 7.62mm or 12.7mm machine guns, granting it offensive capabilities. Its ability to engage enemies at various distances makes it a versatile combat asset. The vehicle can also be equipped with a multiple-barreled rocket launcher, a mortar cannon, and a remote-controlled weapon system.

With a ground clearance of 345mm, the vehicle can overcome challenging terrains and obstacles. Its 310-liter fuel capacity, combined with an operational range of 1000 kilometers at 60 km/h, ensures extended missions without worrying about refueling.

BMC’s vehicle is capable of performing tasks such as protecting sensitive points and installations, patrolling between police posts, convoy protection, region, and route reconnaissance, as well as providing physical border security even in the most challenging weather conditions during border surveillance missions.

**Major Ahmet Karademir**

Reference: <https://www.bmc.com.tr/en/defense-industry/vuran>

16

Six Vurans were allocated by the Turkish Land Forces Command for use in the Turkish Motorized Infantry company. These Vuran Armored Wheeled Vehicles, which set out from Türkiye on March 25, 2024, arrived on March 28 at EUFOR Butmir Camp.

Produced by BMC in the Tactical Wheeled Armored Vehicle group, Vuran stands out with its 9-person carrying capacity, high protection, and mobility. The newly configured BMC Multipurpose Armored Vehicle Vuran 4x4 provides protection against mine and ballistic threats with its monocoque type armored cabin and windows, shock-absorbing seats, V-structured lower part, weapon station, and emergency exit hatch.

BMC Vuran stands out with its front

and rear cameras, automatic fire extinguishing system, Run-Flat tires, central tire inflation feature, remote-controlled automatic weapon station option, A/C heating and cooling features.

These include the ASELSAN SARP Dual remote-controlled weapon station, CBRN protection system, jammer, smoke mortars, fire extinguishing system (for personnel compartment, engine compartment, exterior of the vehicle, and tires), frame for windshields, cable cutting arms, and hydraulic winch.

Vuran 4x4, powered by the Tuna engine, an achievement by BMC Power as the first military engine entirely designed in Türkiye, boasting 4 cylinders and 400 horsepower.





# EUFOR celebrates important religious events



Iftar dinner in Camp Butmir

EUFOR recognises the importance of embracing and celebrating the diversity of religious traditions of its Troop Contributing Nations and the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. A number of different religious celebrations has been hosted in Camp Butmir.

COM EUFOR Major General László Sticz hosted an Iftar dinner on 08 April in Camp Butmir for the Muslim members of EUFOR. The evening prayer was led by Deputy Grand Mufti of BiH Mr. Enes Ljevaković and Military Mufti of the Ministry of Defence of BiH Mr. Hadis ef. Pašalić, and was followed by a pleasant feast.

Orthodox Easter is a significant and sacred season in the calendar of the Orthodox Church. It is a holiday which consists of a series of celebrations. By celebrating all religions it ensures impartiality in EUFOR, which is one of its core values. This year, events of Orthodox Easter were held between 03-05 May and were celebrated by members of EUFOR.

This celebration started on the evening of Good Friday with EUFOR members attending a liturgy service which was held in the Cathedral of the Nativity of

Mother of God in Sarajevo. On Holy Saturday, in Camp Butmir, the midnight mass was celebrated by the Metropolitan Bishop of Dabar-Bosna, Hrizostom Jević. Finally, on Easter Sunday COM EUFOR Major General László Sticz hosted an Orthodox Easter Lunch in the dining facility in Camp Butmir.

A number of guests attended this lunch including Chief of the Cabinet Ministry of Defence Mr. Salko Beba, Head of the Office of Orthodox Military Chaplain Archpriest Milorad Milinković, Head of the Sarajevo Orthodox Cathedral

Church Priest Nemanja Đureinović, Archpriest Vihor Klopanović, Priest Dejan Bakmaz, Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff Armed Forces of BiH Brigadier General Mirsad Ahmić and deputising the Commandant of the Peace Support Operations Training Centre in BiH Lieutenant Colonel Amer Riković. An Enjoyable lunch was had by all involved.

These types of celebrations help to enhance mutual respect and cooperation not only within EUFOR but also with the authorities and the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Liturgy service held in the Cathedral of the Nativity of Mother of God in Sarajevo

# EUFOR celebrated International Women' Day



Women of EUFOR



COM EUFOR presents a flower

*“The presence of female soldiers, marines, sailors and aircrew improves access to community members, amplifies situational awareness and provides necessary balance in times when peacekeeping success relies greatly on an ability to communicate with and adequately absorb concerns of the entire population”*

COM EUFOR invited COM NATO HQ Sarajevo, Brig. Gen. Pamela McGaha to speak. During this speech she thanked all women for their work and dedication to supporting NATO and EUFOR. She outlined this was her third time to attend this type of event in Camp Butmir and was delighted to see that it is growing every year.

Following this, light refreshments were served and the women who work in Camp Butmir had an opportunity to meet and talk to each other.

On the 8th of March EUFOR celebrated International Women' Day, an important event that has been observed and celebrated since the early 1900's. As part of this celebration COM EUFOR Maj. Gen. László Sticz hosted a reception for all female military members and civilian employees based in Camp Butmir. During the reception, COM

EUFOR gave a short speech where he welcomed all in attendance and thanked them for their contribution to the mission

Also during his speech COM EUFOR spoke about the obstacles women have overcome and highlighted the importance of the presence of females in the military stating:



# EUFOR across Bosnia and Herzegovina



**LOT House Bihac**

EUFOR is committed to maintaining a safe and secure environment (SASE) in Bosnia and Herzegovina and EUFOR's Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT) are one tool which EUFOR utilizes to do this. LOT houses are located all over the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina and serve as EUFOR's link to the local communities and authorities. They play a vital role in identifying threats to the safe and secure environment in BiH. There are 19 LOT houses in BiH which are operated by soldiers from Germany, Switzerland, Türkiye, Romania, Austria, Poland, and Slovenia.

The teams living in these houses provide an opportunity for the local population to stay in touch with EUFOR, and with the help of the citizens of BiH can maintain peace and stability throughout the country.

LOT houses are guided by the Coordination Centre in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. This Coordination Centre has been installed as a part of EUFOR to have full and timely situational awareness related to events in BiH and to propose actions related to security issues. While the EUFOR LOT houses have a limited area of responsibility,



**COM EUFOR receives a brief**



**LOT House Višegrad**

the Coordination Centre is responsible for the whole geographical area of BiH. Knowing what is important to the people of BiH enables EUFOR to provide support in maintaining a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In March COM EUFOR Major General László Sticz has visited all 19 LOT house to see firsthand the houses these teams are living and working in and also to learn in more details about the areas they monitor at the tasks they conduct. These tasks include conducting patrols, engaging with the local authorities and the local population and providing education regarding mines. By engaging with all local authorities LOTs ensure they have a view of the situation on the ground from all sides and also increase cooperation between these authorities and EUFOR. This engagement can also provide an early warning system to EUFOR HQ on issues in their area. All these tasks aid in maintaining a safe and secure environment in BiH and also aid the progress on the path towards European Union membership.



**LOT House Jablanica**

# Basic Media Management in Peace Support Operations Course



20

The Peace Support Operations Training Centre (PSOTC) is a NATO partnership and regional training centre. The centre delivers training of military personnel, police officers and civilians from BiH and other countries in domain of PSO-focused collective security operations, in order to contribute to development of BiH Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces capabilities for participation in NATO, UN or EU led collective security operations.

In April, the PSOTC, in collaboration with the Faculty of Political Sciences at the University of Sarajevo, conducted a Basic Media Management in Peace Support Operations course.

This course was delivered by national and international instructors and subject matter experts and was designed to equip participants with fundamental knowledge essential to understanding the opportunities and challenges presented by

media engagement in Peace Support Operations. It also aims to provide participants with the basic knowledge necessary to understand both the opportunities and challenges that media present in Peace Support Operations.

Thirty three students participated in the course hailing from 15 different countries, including Albania, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Jordan,





North Macedonia, the Netherlands, Tunisia, and Qatar. Also among the participants were students from the Faculty of Political Sciences in Sarajevo and members of EUFOR.

During the course, the students received lectures regarding media management and undertook practical exercises in drafting press statements, interview skills and conducting a press conference.

In addition to instruction provided by PSOTC staff, participants were

**“ This course aims to provide participants with the basic knowledge necessary to understand both the opportunities and challenges that media present in Peace Support Operations.**

privileged to receive insights from subject matter experts representing a variety of organizations and institutions. EUFOR provided assistance for this course by delivering a number of lectures and providing a videographer to assist with some

of the practical exercises in the course.

The students all completed the course with a greater knowledge and understanding of the role of a Public Affairs Officer and the practical experience of what is involved in this role.



## HQ Meetings



COM EUFOR MG László Sticz attended the Budapest Balkans Forum in Budapest, organized by Hungarian Institute of International Affairs where he participated the panel 'Security Maintained: International Actors and Missions on the Ground'



COM EUFOR MG László Sticz, accompanied by PDHR/Brčko District Supervisor Jonathan Mennuti visited Brčko. They discussed with the District leadership and highlighted the positive political and security environment as the precondition for further socio-economic development.



COM EUFOR Major General László Sticz attended a meeting of the Attaché Corps serving in BiH. During the event, COM EUFOR outlined the role of EUFOR in BiH and discussed the security situation in BiH with the Attachés in attendance.



# Hungarian National Week in Camp Butmir



**Military band concert**



**Introduction of teqball tables**

This year, with the aim of establishing a tradition, all 23 nations of EUFOR are invited to organize a national week where they can introduce their national customs to their comrades.

Connecting their national week to their Day of the Defense Forces celebrated on 21 May, the Hungarian contingent organized a series of programs in several fields, including:

- Sports: military skills competition, football match between EUFOR flag officers and representatives of BiH, and introduction of teqball tables
- Culture: book and poem club, military band concerts & shows, folk dance and whip cracking demonstration
- Cuisine: authentic Hungarian military goulash (gulyás) party
- Military: Hussars in traditional costume, demonstration of air medical evacuation

All the programs were participated and enjoyed by comrades and colleagues of all nations and organizations of Camp Butmir!

22



**Hussars in traditional costume**



**Air medical evacuation**



**Military skills competition**

# Atatürk Commemoration, Run Youth and Sports Day



On 17th of May the Turkish Contingent organized the Atatürk Commemoration Run. The Commemoration of Atatürk, Youth and Sports Day is an annual Turkish national holiday which is traditionally celebrated on May 19 to commemorate Mustafa Kemal's landing at Samsun on May 19, 1919, which is regarded as the beginning of the Turkish War of Independence.

This five kilometer run was held in Camp Butmir and over 150 people from EUFOR, NATO and AFBiH took part in this event. The race was followed by the opportunity for participants to try archery and watch some traditional dancing as well as to enjoy some ice cream!

This superb event was thoroughly enjoyed by all who participated.





Heli MEDEVAC Training