



# A great success!

Forces at all times ready and able to respond quickly and effectively

 **EXERCISE**   
**QUICK RESPONSE 2016**





Page 04-10



Page 11-24



Page 25-29



Page 30

## In this issue:

- 03 - Editorial EUFOR Commander
- 04 - EUFOR Events
- 11 - EUFOR/AFBiH Quick Response 2016
- 25 - EUFOR Capacity Building & Training

Answer the questions below  
**20 prizes to be won!**

You are invited to send your answers until 10 November 2016 to:  
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This competition is not subject to legal recourse. A EUFOR T-shirt and an USB stick will be awarded to the 20 correct answers drawn from the ballot.

1. What's the aim of the Quick Response exercise?
2. Which units were involved in the Quick Response exercise?
3. When BiH started contributing to peacekeeping missions?

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**A great success!**  
Forces at all times ready and able to respond quickly and effectively

**EXERCISE QUICK RESPONSE 2016**

Exercise Quick Response 16, Capacity Building & Training, Disruptive Values Day

## IMPRESSUM

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**Dear readers,**

Exercise "Quick Response 2016" completed in October, successfully allowing all contributing nations to be able to conduct larger Brigade Level Peace Support Operations should they be called upon.

Training events took place throughout BiH leading up to the main phase of the exercise in Manjača near Banja Luka.

Over 700 troops and 70 supporting vehicles were based in the tented city and successfully conducted training and tasking injected by the Exercise Control Team. With a Brigade sized force, EUFOR hosted a platform for AFBiH and contributing nations to complete the larger enhanced scenarios delegated to them. Exercise "Quick Response 2016" proves decisively that EUFOR along with our comrades from AFBiH and our reserves from EU and NATO nations are at all times ready and able to respond quickly and effectively to any potential threat to Safe and Secure Environment in BiH. While this exercise is primarily designed to practice our contingency plan the participation of units from Armed Forces BiH serves to showcase their forces' significant progression in Capability Development and Capacity Building and their growing potential for increased participation in international peace support operations.



**Commander EUFOR**

I would like to express my appreciation to the EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN, comprising of Austria and the UK), Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH), KFOR (Portugal and Hungary), and the opposition force provided by EUFOR's Turkish contingent in making this exercise a success.

**Major General Friedrich Schrötter**

### Visit to Ammunition Storage Site Krupa

Commander EUFOR Major General Friedrich Schrötter recently visited the Ammunition Storage Site (ASS) Krupa. The visit was vital in order to get a clear picture of the current situation at prospective Ammunition Storage Sites located throughout BiH. After a cordial welcome and briefing by AFBiH Colonel Mrković, Commander EUFOR was given an introduction to the site and the various processes and storage areas.

The brief included the ongoing project “Explode” funded by the OSCE, Security Upgrade (SECUP), funded by the UNDP and the KTP (Kontrolno-Tehnički Pregled) inspection. After the very detailed briefing, COMEUFOR visited the Ammunition



**AFBiH representatives brief Commander EUFOR on the Krupa Ammunition Storage Site**

Storage Houses accompanied by the AFBiH staff. At the end of the visit Major General Schrötter pointed out the importance of monitoring improvements and ensured the EUFOR's support.



### AFBiH officer at the Royal Air Force College Cranwell

**Faris Sitnić, Cadet of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH), successfully completed the Royal Air Force (RAF) Academy Cranwell and became an officer of the AFBiH.**

The ceremonial parade that was held at the Royal Air Force College Cranwell, marked the successful completion of training for Faris and his 111 fellow cadets from the UK and many other countries.

This parade was even more special due to the fact that a member of the royal family, His Royal Highness, the Duke of Wessex was member of that class.

Faris Sitnić began his education at the Royal Air Force Academy last year after graduation in Mechanical Engineering faculty in Sarajevo, and he submitted an application for employment with the BiH Ministry of

Defense as a civilian. In March this year, two cadets of the AFBiH also successfully completed their studies at the Academy and upon their return to BiH assumed their duty of sub-lieutenant in the AFBiH.

Training at the Royal Air Force Academy is part of the support that the Office of the Military Attaché of the British Embassy provides to the Ministry of Defense and AFBiH. In August this year, through the same bilateral activity with the British Embassy the AFBiH sent three cadets to the Royal Air Force Academy.



## KFOR Change of Command Ceremony

**Allied Joint Force-Naples Commander, U.S. Navy Admiral Michelle Howard inspects KFOR troops at Camp Film City, Pristina, Kosovo**

On 2 September, Commander EUFOR, Major General Schrötter attended the Kosovo Force Change of Command Ceremony between Major General Guglielmo Luigi Miglietta and Major General Giovanni Fungo at Camp Film City Pristina.

The ceremonial salute was taken by the Allied Joint Force-Commander Naples, U.S. Navy Admiral Michelle Howard, the Italian Chief of Defense, General Claudio Graziano, President Thaçi and senior representatives of Kosovo's Institutions and the International Community.



**Commander EUFOR General Schrötter together with the delegates and VIPs attending the Kosovo Force Change of Command Ceremony**

Admiral Howard thanked General Miglietta for the important results achieved during his mission. In her speech, she stated, "I have personally been impressed by your calm judgment, professionalism, and your ability to reach out across the spectrum of religious, political, and military leaders to find solutions to complex issues."

Subsequently Admiral Howard welcomed General Fungo and wished him all the best for his appointment as Commander KFOR. General Miglietta expressed his gratitude to NATO senior Commanders Admiral Ferguson and Admiral Howard for their consistent guidance and support. He also thanked the Italian Chief of Defense, General Graziano for his generous trust and copious support.

"All KFOR soldiers, commanders and I have been particularly honored to have cooperated so closely in such a productive way. Our motto - "Shaping the Change" - expressed itself in the way we operated", concluded General Miglietta.

KFOR's Tactical Maneuver Battalion was deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to support the annual large scale exercise „Quick Response 2016“ from 30 September to 5 October 2016.

# New Commander for EUFOR's Multinational Maneuver Battalion



**The Multinational Maneuver Battalion (MNBN) is made up of troops from Turkey, Hungary, and Austria. MNBN is prepared to operate throughout BiH to maintain readiness in support of a safe and secure environment.**

Chief of Staff EUFOR, Brigadier General Albert Sáfár, recently presided over a change of command ceremony in Camp Butmir to mark the handover of command within the Multinational Battalion (MNBN). The parade consisted of Austrian and Turkish troops.

The MNBN is EUFOR's immediate reaction unit and operates in support of maintaining a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

At the end of his tour as the Commander of the MNBN, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Vitovec said that the mission was outstanding experience in many ways: "I had the chance to live and serve in a multinational environment which is on one hand challenging but

on the other hand extremely satisfying. Commanding a unit comprising soldiers of three different nations was an experience that will always accompany me through my future military life. At the end of the day the most important fact is that we are all soldiers and no matter what nationality soldiers always think in the same way." Lieutenant Colonel Vitovec thanked all HQ EUFOR staff members for the cooperation and the support given to the MNBN throughout the previous six months. He expressed special thanks to his staff and the companies of the MNBN for their professional work during his command. Furthermore he wished them the best of luck for their future jobs and appointments, and passed on his best wishes to Lieutenant Colonel Christoph Blasch for his new appointment.

"It's a great honor to be entrusted with the command of the Multinational Battalion and I am looking forward to serving together with soldiers from three different nations – namely Austria, Hungary and Turkey. I am taking command at a quite significant period, as EUFOR is preparing for exercise "Quick Response 2016". During that large scale exercise MNBN will not only receive and integrate reserve forces from the UK but also

conduct combined training with troops from the AFBiH, alongside KFOR's Tactical Reserve. I am confident that the MNBN is fully prepared to accomplish all tasks related to this exercise as well as all other future challenges", the newly appointed Commander Lieutenant Colonel Blasch concluded.



Austrian Mountain Infantry Specialist Lieutenant Colonel Christoph Blasch is the new commander of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN). The first challenge for him and the entire battalion was a large-scale exercise at the end of September. During "Quick Response 2016" multinational reserve forces were deployed to BiH in order to conduct combined training with EUFOR troops and Armed Forces of BiH, exercising the maintenance of a safe and secure environment.

For the experienced mountain infantry specialist Lieutenant Colonel Blasch this is the second tour as the commander of MNBN.



Lieutenant Colonel Blasch presented with the colors by the Chief of Staff EUFOR, Brigadier General Albert Sáfár

The MNBN is prepared to conduct operations autonomously or in support of the BiH authorities or European Union/International Community Agencies in Theatre when requested. Furthermore MNBN also supports capacity-building and training of the Armed Forces of BiH. If required, the Battalion can be reinforced by Reserve Forces on short notice.



### Visit of UK Vice Chief of Defence Staff Lieutenant General Gordon Messenger

On 2 September, Vice Chief of Defence Staff, Lieutenant General Gordon Messenger, visited EUFOR Camp Butmir during a two day official call to Bosnia and Herzegovina. After visiting the Training and Doctrine Centre Travnik (TRADOC) he was hosted by Commander EUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter and Commander NATO HQ Sarajevo, Brigadier General Giselle Wilz.

Accompanied by the UK Ambassador to BiH, Edward Ferguson and the Defence Attaché Lieutenant Colonel Paul Marshall the delegates took part in a

**Vice Chief of Defence Staff, Lieutenant General Gordon Messenger lays a wreath at the Camp Butmir memorial accompanied by the EUFOR UK Contingent and the UK Ambassador to BiH, Edward Ferguson**

wreath laying ceremony at the British Memorial at Camp Butmir. The UK Senior National Representative Wing Commander Jamie Miller briefed the guests on the UK contribution to the mission. EUFOR Wing Commander Ian Tripp went on to explain the importance of the UK contingent's contribution to Operation Althea and the progress of the mission.

### A Military Friendship through Sports

During the visit of members of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment at the AFBiH Training Centre in Pazarić, two football friendly matches were played. The first against the „Radnik“ Football Club from Hadžići, and second against the Training Command and Doctrine Center team.

Both matches were played in a very fair manner. All players enjoyed the event, and exchanged gifts afterwards.

The sports activities were supported by the Secretary of the Ministry of Defense of BiH, Muhamed Smajić, and the UK military attaché in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lieutenant Colonel Paul Marshall.

Given that those were friendly matches, the result itself was not in the forefront and all teams were satisfied with the overall success of the event.

**The Royal Irish Regiment members and their colleagues from the Armed Forces of BiH**



## **Operation Commander General Sir Adrian Bradshaw visit to EUFOR**

On 6 September 2016, the Operation Commander of EUFOR Operation Althea, General Sir Adrian Bradshaw was welcomed by Commander EUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter. Upon arrival he was greeted by the EUFOR Branch Chiefs and an honour guard from the Multinational Battalion (MNBN) comprising Austrian and Turkish troops.

His first appointment was a meeting with Colonel John Campbell, the newly appointed Director of

Staff of the EU Command Element, Naples. Following that, General Bradshaw had a joint office call with Commander EUFOR and Commander NATO HQ Sarajevo, Brigadier General Giselle Wilz.

General Bradshaw was appointed the Operation Commander in March 2014, when he took the post of Deputy Supreme Commander of the Allied Forces (NATO) in Europe.



**EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Albert Sáfár, Operational Commander EUFOR, Sir Adrian Bradshaw and Commander EUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter receive the ceremonial salute**

## **EUFOR continues to support the Armed Forces of BiH**

On 19 September 2016, Minister of Defence, Marina Pendeš held a meeting with Commander EUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter, during which they discussed the support of EUFOR to the Armed Forces BiH and the upcoming exercise "Quick Response 2016".

General Schrötter informed Minister Pendeš on capacity building and training activities aiming at the achievement of interoperability of AFBiH with European and other International Military Forces. Minister Pendeš thanked General Schrötter for the support EUFOR provides to the Defence Institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Another key issue of their meeting was the annual exercise „Quick Response“



**BiH Minister of Defense Marina Pendeš and the EUFOR Commander Major General Friedrich Schrötter**

involving EUFOR, AFBiH as well as European Reserve Forces (Tactical Reserve Forces, KFOR, NATO). The Minister expressed full support for the joint activities carried out by EUFOR and the Armed Forces of BiH and stressed that such large scale exercises are a great opportunity to practically assess and apply the capabilities achieved by troops.



## EUFOR Swedish Flag down Ceremony

EUFOR soldiers lower the Swedish Flag

On 12 September 2016 Commander EUFOR Major General Friedrich Schrötter conducted the official Swedish Flag Down Ceremony in Camp Butmir. The ceremony was attended by the Swedish Ambassador Anders Hagelberg, Secretary Lissola, Colonel Wredes, Lieutenant Colonel Toft and other distinguished guests.

Commander EUFOR said: "Sweden has a long and proud tradition and history of military service in support of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Thirteen Swedish Battalions served from 1992 to 1999. The first four battalions served with the United Nations Force and the other nine battalions served with NATO. From 2004 to 2008 Sweden commenced support of Operation "Althea" with a Swedish Support Unit of 70 personnel serving with the EUFOR Task Force NORTH in Camp Eagle Base Tuzla. Sweden also supported EUFOR "Althea" with



Commander EUFOR Major General Schrötter presents the Swedish Flag to Colonel Wredes

Liaison and Observation Teams living and working in the local community and also with Mobile Training Teams sharing expertise in the areas of demining and handling of ammunition. So, while today is in some ways a sad day as we bid farewell to our Swedish colleagues, it is also a proud day of celebration for Sweden and EUFOR as we celebrate the significant contribution of Sweden to bringing peace and stability to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina", Commander EUFOR concluded.

# Quick Response 2016

Exercise "Quick Response 2016" was the culmination of nearly two years of planning and took place in the AFBiH military exercise area Manjača, near Banja Luka. The first troops were deployed on 25 September.

Commander EUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter, pointed out that the annual EUFOR and AFBiH exercise demonstrated to the people of BiH that their Armed Forces are able to work autonomously and in partnership with EUFOR and European partner nations including NATO-Forces in large scale exercises and military operations.



# EXERCISE



# QUICK RESPONSE 2016

# World's second heaviest cargo aircraft **landed at Sarajevo International Airport**



The impressive Antonov 124 is a cargo aircraft designed for strategic airlift operations. It was used to fly in vehicles and equipment from the UK.

The first of three Antonov 124 cargo aircraft, delivered the 30 vehicles required by the British troops who supported annual exercise 'Quick Response 2016'. The Antonov 124 is the world's second heaviest aircraft able to deliver 150 tons of equipment, perfectly suitable for the rapid movement of vehicles across the continent. Such strategic airlift capabilities enable the UK Intermediate Reserve Forces to deploy at very short notice.



## QUICK RESPONSE 2016: UK troops deployed for EUFOR Exercise

On 25 September, 120 British Soldiers arrived in an Airbus 330M of the UK Royal Airforce as the first tranche of reserve forces supporting exercise "Quick Response 2016". After reception and integration at Camp Butmir, the UK troops were deployed to the AFBiH military exercise area Manjača, near Banja



UK troops arrived at Sarajevo Airport in a Royal Air Force Voyager A330-200 aircraft



Royal Air Force Voyager A330-200 aircraft unloading cargo at Sarajevo Airport

Luka. 30 vehicles and military equipment were flown into Sarajevo by an Antonov 124 cargo aircraft, which is the world's second heaviest cargo aircraft able to deliver 150 tons of cargo.

## NATO KFOR Reserve Forces deploy to Bosnia and Herzegovina for exercise „Quick Response 2016“

240 troops from KFOR (Kosovo Force) deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina, through Montenegro in order to participate in Exercise "Quick Response 2016". KFOR participated in training with the EUFOR Multinational Battalion and Armed Forces of BiH alongside European Intermediate Reserve Forces.

KFOR's Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM) is normally stationed in Camp Slim Lines in Priština, Kosovo. KTM's capabilities include a wide range of security operations. KTM can be deployed anywhere in the theatre of operations and perform any task

**The convoys' departure from Kosovo to Bosnia and Herzegovina**



or mission for an unlimited period of time, being completely independent. The unit is commanded by a Portuguese officer and the unit comprises Hungarian and Portuguese troops.

KTM also acts as an "Over the Horizon Force" to reinforce the European Union Force (EUFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, if required. The multi-faceted exercise was conducted with over 750 soldiers, who had the opportunity to share skills and expand their knowledge and experience.



# Troops from across Europe contribute to **Exercise Quick Response 16**

Soldiers from the United Kingdom, Austria, Turkey, Hungary, Portugal were welcomed by Commander EUFOR Major General Friedrich Schrötter.

**"I warmly welcome all the nations who are contributing to this exercise. Your presence here confirms the commitment of the European Union nations to EUFOR, and your full commitment is vital to the success of the exercise!"**



***"Quick Response exercises are EUFOR's regular operational rehearsals that show the strong determination of the European Union to support the maintenance of a safe and secure environment in BiH."***

***"EUFOR is able to call in reinforcement at short notice. The rapid deployment of such intermediate reserve forces is rehearsed during annual large scale exercises."***



Over 750 soldiers comprising EUFOR's Multinational Battalion (Austria and Turkey) from Camp Butmir, Intermediate Reserve Forces from the United Kingdom, units from the Armed Forces of BiH, and KFOR's Tactical Reserve (Portugal and Hungary) made up a brigade sized force and trained together during „Quick Response 2016“.

The multinational troops had the opportunity to share knowledge and experience during combined training of a wide range of military skills.

**EXERCISE QUICK RESPONSE 2016**  
**25 SEP - 05 OCT 2016**

Over 750 soldiers from

- AFBH 5th Brigade
- EUFOR Multi-National Battalion (MNBt) (Austria and Turkey)
- Intermediate Reserve Forces from United Kingdom
- KFOR Tactical Reserve Battalion (Hungary and Portugal)

**Supporting elements**

- EUFOR Helicopter Support
- Austrian Army Engineer platoon
- UK, Austrian and Hungarian EOD teams
- 70 Support vehicles
- International Military Police

The troops will have the opportunity to expand their knowledge and experience of large scale peace support operations. This will include patrolling, escorting, convoys, medical evacuation, extraction and evacuation. There will also be an opportunity to refine their specialist skills of Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Non-Resistant Extraction Operations (NREO). This exercise practices EUFOR's capability to call in reserve forces in order to maintain a safe and secure environment in close cooperation with local authorities. This exercise gives A/Bt an opportunity to operate 'relatively' and demonstrate their increasing capability.



# Measuring military readiness

Annual „Quick Response“ exercises are designed to rehearse several military capabilities. A key issue is the activation and deployment of reserve forces on short notice. Furthermore, Headquarters EUFOR exercises command and control capacities for large scale operations.

AFBiH have the opportunity to demonstrate and evaluate their increasing capability as a security provider as well as progress regarding interoperability with European and NATO partners. All units involved trained the application of their military skills in a multinational environment and significantly expanded their knowledge and experience.



General Anto Jeleč, Commander EUFOR and the Chief of Staff salute their multinational brigade



EUSR Ambassador Wigemark and the generals of AFBiH and EUFOR at final exercise display



**EUFOR Operation Althea is currently made up of soldiers from 15 EU member states and 5 partner nations. Its primary roles are to provide capacity building and training support to the Armed Forces of BiH and to maintain a safe and secure environment, whilst providing support to the overall EU comprehensive strategy for BiH**

During the last 12 years, Operation ALTHEA has reconfigured twice in light of the improving security situation and especially the increased capacities of the domestic Law Enforcement Agencies in contributing to peace and stability.

Within the overall EU strategy, and as its main effort, EUFOR personnel conduct Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) tasks in support of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) in order to

facilitate their progress towards EU and Euro-Atlantic integration. EUFOR's approach to BiH is integrated with other EU and International partner organizations to create a coherent assistance programme. From an EU perspective EUFOR's main aim is through political engagement, and assistance programmes with a view to helping BiH make further progress towards European integration in the context of the Stabilisation and Association Agreement (SAA).



# Combined training – A Worthy Challenge

One of EUFOR's continuous efforts is „Capacity Building and Training“ which supports the consistent evolution of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH), as the country's security provider. Remarkable progress is being achieved regarding interoperability with international partners for peace support and crisis management operations.

Since 2012 annual exercise „Quick Response“ is a key event for testing, evaluating and expanding military capabilities and concepts. Large scale exercise were conducted in different regions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, including Sarajevo, Kalinovik, Mostar and Banja Luka.



*“The Combined Exercise “Quick Response 2016” is a very significant event for the Armed Forces of BiH to apply in practice the capabilities and skills acquired through collective training with the EUFOR Multinational Battalion. Exercise “Quick Response 2016” confirms the readiness and interoperability of the units of the AFBiH to act jointly with EUFOR.”*

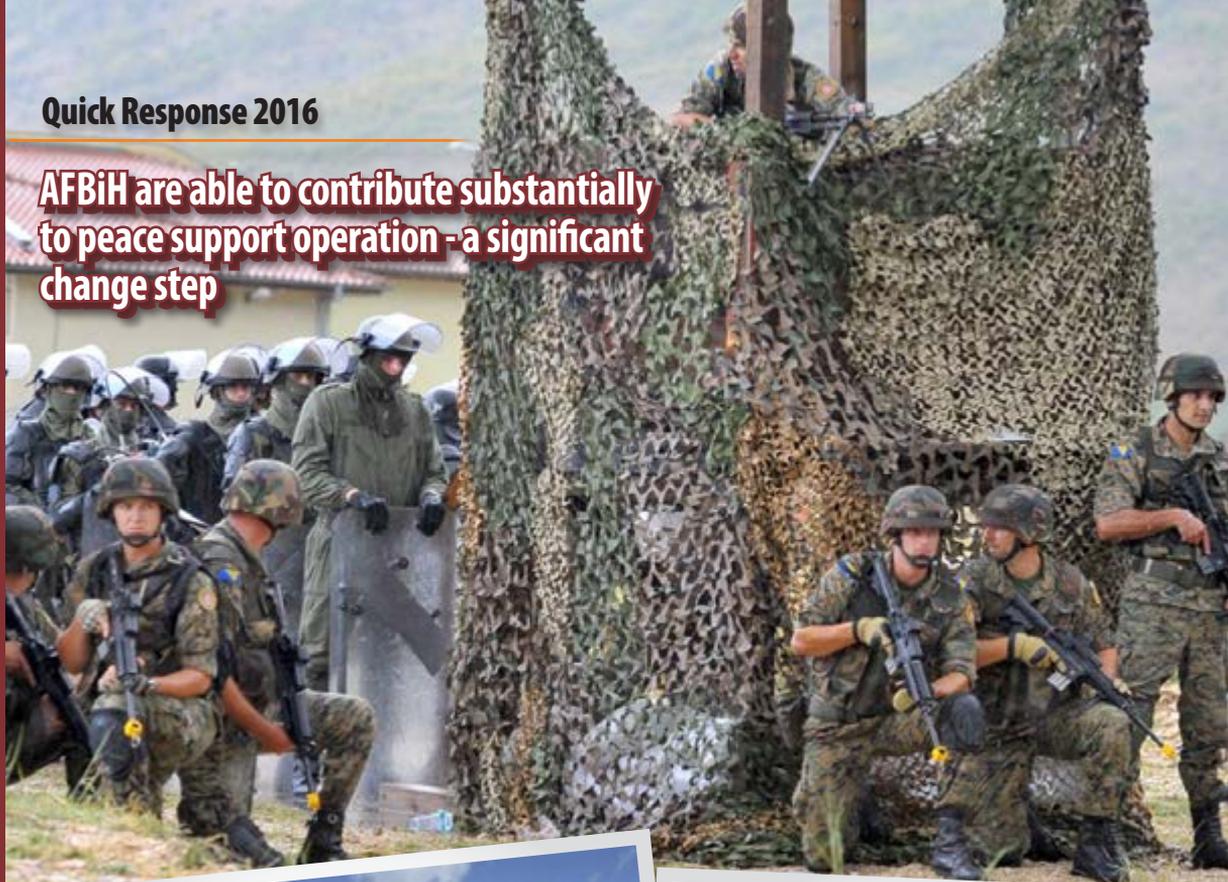
**Major General Dragan Vuković**



*“This annual exercise demonstrates to the people of BiH that their Armed Forces are able to work autonomously and in partnership with EUFOR and European partner nations in large scale exercises and military operations.”*

**Commander EUFOR,  
Major General Friedrich Schrötter**

**AFBiH are able to contribute substantially to peace support operation - a significant change step**



Developing capacity and capability of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina is a key task for EUFOR, and combined activities such as "Quick Response" exercises are important in the effort to attain international military standards, in line with

the concept of the so-called "Dual use of Forces". This concept aims to ensure the capability and flexibility of armed forces for both military operations as well as disaster relief operations in support of domestic authorities.

# Distinguished Visitors Day in Manjača

## *Forces at all times ready and able to respond quickly and effectively*

Exercise "Quick Response 2016" culminated on 5 October, when high ranking visitors and media representatives were invited to a dynamic display of multinational military training. The Exercise Control Team injected challenging scenarios which had to be resolved by the commanders of all echelons.

European Union Special Representative, Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark, Lieutenant General Anto Jeleč, Chief of Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of BiH, Commander EUFOR Major General Friedrich Schrötter, Commander NATO HQ Sarajevo, Brigadier General Giselle Wilz alongside numerous guests watched the display from their vantage point. In a fictional scenario a delegation of civilians was escorted to a meeting under convoy protection, when civil unrest and a small skirmish required intervention resulting in a medical evacuation. A rapid reaction force of AFBiH units in M113 fighting vehicles quickly secured the area before an explosive ordnance disposal team made sure the civilians could safely be evacuated from the area.

From their vantage point, the invitees saw helicopter support, armored vehicles of KFOR, sniper teams and a UK infantry company rapidly intervening on request. After the dynamic display Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark gave a press statement and said: "This exercise shows how EUFOR continues to play a critical role in BiH. I am particularly pleased to see the excellent co-operation and co-ordination between EUFOR and Armed Forces of BiH and I welcome participation of professional soldiers from a wide



range of EU Nations working together for a secure and stable Bosnia and Herzegovina".

This was followed by Lieutenant General Anto Jeleč, Chief of Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of BiH, who stated: "The relationship between EUFOR and Armed Forces of BiH is important for overlapping of different synergies."

Commander EUFOR Major General Schrötter concluded by saying: "While this exercise is primarily designed to practice our contingency plans, the participation of units from Armed Forces of BiH serves to showcase their forces' significant progression in Capability Development and Capacity Building and their growing potential for increased participation in international peace support operations. Large scale Brigade Level exercises such as Exercise Quick Response 2016 prove decisively that EUFOR Forces along with our comrades from AFBiH and European and NATO reserve forces are at all times ready and able to respond quickly and effectively to any potential threat to our Safe and Secure Environment".

## Quick Response 2016

**The Forward Operating Base (FOB), built by an Austrian Engineering Company, was fully prepared for the coordination of exercise tasking by the EUFOR Exercise Control Team. This FOB hosted all of the soldiers and contained the MNBN operations centre.**

During the first stage of the exercise the different units conducted internal training at platoon, company and battalion level. During the second phase all troops were united to a multinational brigade, which then had to react to tasks and incidents injected by the Exercise Control Team. EUFOR alongside AFBiH, massively reinforced by European reserve forces and KFOR's KTM, resolved the larger enhanced scenarios delegate to them.

Commanding Officer of the Multinational Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Christoph Blasch said: "The training area in Manjača was excellent, providing plenty of space for the exercise. This allowed the soldiers to train at a company and battalion level almost free of restrictions. The training itself was a good experience, and provided a good opportunity to work alongside the Armed Forces BiH. I was impressed by their efforts. They were well prepared for the Peace Support Operations scenario. Sometimes the exercise required patience from everyone involved, but the Multinational Battalion displayed a high grade of professionalism and motivation throughout."





**Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina proved to be a supportive and reliable partner throughout Exercise "Quick response 2016"**



## Contribution to peace support operations

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) started contributing to peacekeeping missions in April 2000. Since then, BiH has gradually increased its contribution in peace support operations. The largest BiH military contingent in a peace operation is the NATO mission "Resolute Support" in Afghanistan. Membership in NATO and the EU, as well as a strong regional cooperation and participation in other European and Euro-Atlantic integration processes, continue to be a main foreign policy goal of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During exercise "Quick Response 2016", Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) demonstrated progress towards international standards and interoperability. Their main focus remains on enhancing skills and capabilities for the cooperation with European and other international partners in peace support operations.



# EUFOR Capacity Building & Training

- Training,
- mentoring,
- monitoring...

The European Union Force's (EUFOR) contribution to building the capacity of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) is an essential element of the European Union's efforts in BiH. EUFOR's Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) Division's main effort since 2010 has been advising, assisting and developing capabilities to support AFBiH in becoming a self-sustainable force.

Since 2010, when the European Union Foreign Affairs Council agreed that Operation ALTHEA shall focus on Capacity Building and Training, EUFOR has continuously provided courses and trainings to the AFBiH to support them to achieve a high level of professionalism. A specific branch of the CB&T Division – the Joint Military Affairs also advises, assists and monitors the AFBiH in the area of Mine Action activities, Movement Control of Military Ordnance, Ammunition and Equipment, Weapon and Ammunition Storage Management. Additionally, Joint Military Affairs verifies and monitors activities conducted by Defense Industry Facilities and provides Mine Risk Education to the local population of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



**Lieutenant Colonel Vesa Siiskonen (Finnish Army) – EUFOR Capacity Building and Training Branch (CB&T)**

„This is the second training event for vertical construction engineering in this area. Aim of the training is individual skills development of soldiers, but we are also improving training facilities for this engineering battalion. The US Embassy in Bosnia and Herzegovina donated construction equipment worth several hundred thousand dollars. Thanks to the donation and the assistance of EUFOR experts, at least two courses will be organized within the next two months”, Lieutenant Colonel Vesa Siiskonen, from the EUFOR Capacity Building & Training branch said.

The success of EUFOR's mobile Capacity Building & Training teams was enhanced due to equipment kindly donated by the US Embassy. It enabled the members of the AFBiH engineering battalion to train and work in a technically more advanced manner.

### **AFBiH Engineer Battalion Captain Miroslav Opačić**

„For the last several years we have been cooperating with Slovenian and Austrian EUFOR teams in the area of training. So far, this cooperation has been very successful without facing any difficulties and it was very significant for our soldiers. By this we acquire new knowledge and skills. That kind of trainings especially helped us during the flooding in 2014, when we have been engaged in providing assistance to the civilian population, together with the EUFOR soldiers who helped us a lot. The current training is therefore a continuation of our collaboration, which will not end after this training, but will go on in the future also, as long as there is a mutual interest“, AFBiH Captain Miroslav Opačić said.



Slovenian Major Ivan Arnejčič has five years of experience as a coordinator for Capacity Building and Training with the AFBiH Engineer Battalion, located in Derventa.

### **Major Ivan Arnejčič EUFOR Mobile Training Team Instructor**

"Since 2011 we organize trainings together with members of the Austrian Armed Forces. This unit is well trained in repairing destroyed infrastructure like kindergardens, schools, apartment buildings, but they are also able to build bridges. Many bridges were rebuilt and repaired by AFBiH engineers after the floods in 2014. Engineers are an asset of armed forces, which have a degree of capacity utilization of a circa 70% even in peacetime. Therefore, the training of these young men is very important, and we want them to gain engineering skills." When it comes to receiving of knowledge by the AFBiH soldiers, Major Arnejčič says that they are interested, motivated, hardworking, and willing to expand their skills. Only the lack of equipment, and material needed for this kind of training. However, due to the aforementioned grant by the US Embassy in BiH, the realization of the training in Derventa was possible. So this project will continue in 2017, it will advance to the so-called 'mentoring phase', followed by the "monitoring phase" by the end of 2018, in which AFBiH staff would be able to conduct such trainings on their own."



**Željko Dujaković**  
**AFBiH**

We asked the young soldier Željko Dujaković about the importance of such training projects for him and his AFBiH colleagues: "I am a professional soldier of the AFBiH, engaged within construction branch of our Engineer Battalion. These trainings are important for us because the AFBiH cannot afford it, and EUFOR has a higher level of techniques and resources. Cooperation with EUFOR is very good, we learn new skills. In this way the EUFOR experts arm us with knowledge!"

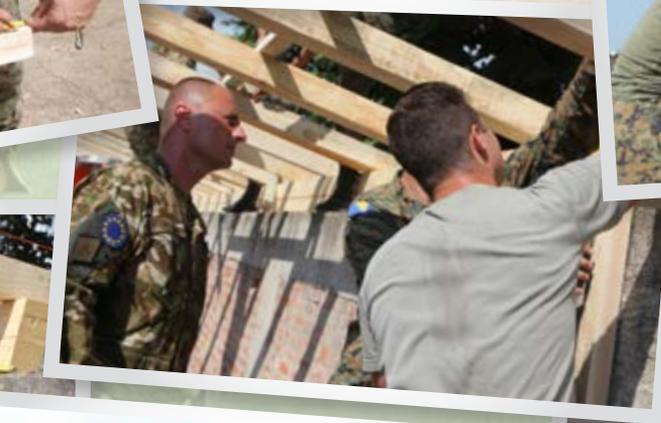


# Arming with knowledge



Vertical Engineering Training in Derventa





# Testing the capabilities- the prime task!

Exercise “Quick Response 2016” commencing at the end of September showed ambitious combined training with EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH). Many involved have memories of last year’s exercise, during which the two organizations together responded to challenging scenarios.

Many of the skills that were applied during the exercise had been trained and deepened during EUFOR Capacity Building and Training programmes. EUFOR has a number of appointed experts from

different troops contributing nations, who either directly train staff of the AFBiH or are involved in mentoring them once they conduct trainings on their own.

Large scale exercises, during which EUFOR rehearses operational readiness, contingency plans and reserve concepts, are a great chance for the AFBiH to apply, demonstrate, evaluate and improve skills and capabilities trained during CB&T programmes.

**Major Ernst Gröger**, Austrian Army, is one of the staff officers of EUFOR’s CB&T training branch. “Currently we are training the 3<sup>rd</sup> Company of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade of the AFBiH for the participation in exercise “Quick Response 2016”. This training is mainly about basic skills required for peace support operations, such as mechanized patrols, check points, evacuation operations and escorting. The tasks will also be the tasks that this company will have to fulfill during the exercise at Manjača. The soldiers of that company normally perform guard duties, so it was a combined effort between the brigade, battalion and EUFOR’s CB&T branch to train additional skills. Many are involved – the company command, MNBN platoon, EOD element, and medical element. After three weeks of training, I am pretty sure that these soldiers will be prepared to tackle challenges during the exercise “Quick Response 2016”.



## Second Lieutenant Aldina Dugonjić - AFBiH

I have been working with the AFBiH since 1 January 2014 and I am the commander of the Combat Support Platoon of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion, 5<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade located at "Dubrava" Camp and Airport in Tuzla.

The joint "Quick Response" exercise, which was held on the Manjača training ground allowed my soldiers and me to cooperate for the first time very closely with instructors from the EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN).

This four-week training provided us with time and resources, otherwise not available to our company, to join a longer and more serious training cycle. During the training, in cooperation with instructors from the MNBN, I had the opportunity to get insight into and exchange experiences on peace support operations. Also, this training and regional exercise is very important for the soldiers because they can gain



and expand their knowledge and skills in various activities such as patrolling, moving in a convoy, medical evacuation. For my company this was an ideal opportunity to show that we can act both independently as well as with units from the MNBN of EUFOR.

## Second Lieutenant Igor Erkić – AFBiH

"I serve as Commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon, 3<sup>rd</sup> Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Battalion of the 5<sup>th</sup> Brigade. During three weeks, we performed an extensive training within our company, in furtherance of our participation in the "Quick Response 2016" exercise, which took place in Manjača, in early October.

Training with EUFOR is very important," Lieutenant Erkić continuous, "and it represents an excellent opportunity to share experiences and knowledge. It is good to have an insight into how our colleagues from neighboring countries, in many aspects more advanced countries, solve certain tasks, what their procedures look like and to see to what extent we are ready to meet the challenges ahead. This is the first time for our company to participate in this very important exercise. I am glad that our colleagues



from EUFOR are here with us, not only because we can learn a lot from them, but because they also had the opportunity to see how much we know, what our capabilities are and just how much we can do when we get an opportunity".



# TEME Magazine Last Edition

Dear readers,

This is the last edition of the TEME magazine.

The editorial staff, represented by Ms. Almina Bašić, cordially thanks all readers for their faithfulness and their interest in this publication. For information about the European Force and its activities we invite everybody to follow us online at:

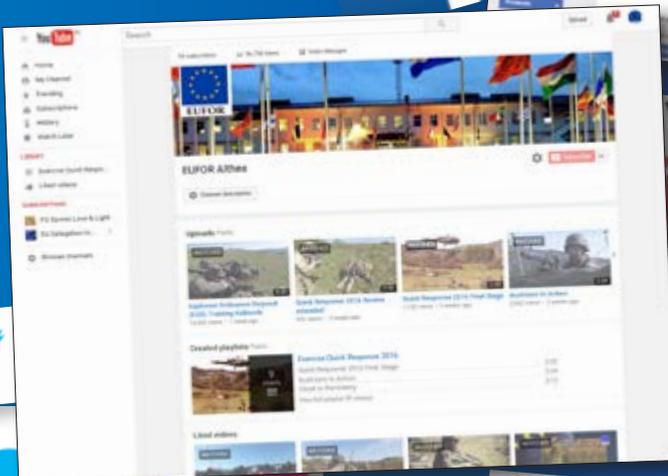
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