



KFOR CHRONICLE



- KFOR -
ON LAND, AIR ...AND SEA!-

KFOR VCP's ON
UNAUTHORIZED ROUTES
IN NORTHERN KOSOVO

"STAND -
OFF AT
ZUPCE"

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JOINT IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION

Over the past twelve months KFOR displayed patient resolve, composed determination and a purposeful persistence when addressing the difficulties presenting. To face the challenges of the barricades and bypasses and decide firmly on courses of action, took perseverance, a calm composure and a restrained tenacity when the time to execute arrived. In the event there were a number of such moments, and KFOR was not found wanting. This was in many ways a unique year for KFOR, demanding as it did not only a response, but a number of responses to a whole range of problems. These actions were reacted to, and indeed were overcome. I am confident then that when, in time, the full story of KFOR comes to be written, the KFOR XVI chapter will read well. Mention will be made of solutions found, sensitivity shown, people communicated with, uncomplaining forbearance of KFOR soldiers in one of Kosovo's worst winters, and a confident calmness displayed amid provocation, political posturing, and the ratcheting up of rhetoric and tensions on both sides of the border. All this done in the interest of seeing the future of Kosovo developing.

KFOR had to endure hostile actions, violent reactions, resulting in many wounded soldiers, some seriously. There is no doubt KFOR was tested, equally and unequivocally certain, it passed. The key principle of Freedom of Movement for all was not compromised. For that I have you, the soldiers of KFOR to thank. We served here

“Together as one” during a very challenging and sensitive time. You had to contend with a complex situation, certainly not one for the faint-hearted. The execution of your orders was extraordinarily conducted. KFOR now, as in the past, continued to impartially safeguard all the people of Kosovo, contributing to their safe and secure environment. I am very pleased and extremely proud of how you have performed your duties, particularly during the clashes and serious outbreaks of violence. Through your actions and sacrifices you have proven the worth of KFOR and what it has, and continues to, contribute to the stability of the situation. Your performance was very convincing.

It is time for me to return home, as I have seen many others do so at the termination of their KFOR tours of duty. I leave knowing you will remain determined and focused to develop the opportunities to improve the conditions on the ground whereupon peace and prosperity can benefit all in Kosovo. It is my sincere wish that a political solution will develop in what is left of 2012 and throughout the coming year, which aims at improving the real life of the people here. Sooner or later there will be a resolution to the disputed matters in Kosovo.



PICTURE: S. MUELLER

This will be successfully achieved through the determined use of dialogue and demonstrated understanding. You removed the physical barricades so others can render the political obstacles to progress obsolete. You obliterated the obstructions to freedom of movement so others can negotiate movement towards forward advancement.

COMKFOR MAJOR GENERAL ERHARD DREWS

KFOR -ON LAND, AIR ...AND SEA!

KFOR's Operational Reserve Force (ORF) has recently augmented its assets with one Italian Army marine squad, equipped with two light fast boats. The squad belongs to the Italian "Lagunari" army marine Regiment, stationed in Venice. Each craft is capable of carrying a fully equipped infantry squad plus its crew. The 115 hp engines can produce thrusts up to 40 knots. These fast and powerful craft give the KFOR an amphibious capability. Their purpose is to provide KFOR with a rapid mobility over inland waters in Kosovo. ■



STORY: LTC Tito Tolla KFOR ORF Public Affairs

PICTURES: A. ALAGNA / ORF

DOG 31 ORF



KFOR -On Land, Air ...and SEA!



PICTURES: A. ALAGNA / ORF

DOG 31 ORF



VCP's ON UNAUTHORIZED ROUTES IN NORTHERN KOSOVO

Late July into August saw the putting in place of a number of KFOR Vehicle Checkpoints (VCPs) on unauthorized routes adjacent to the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) across Northern Kosovo. Cars, vans, busses and commercial trucks less than 3.5 tons were however permitted to pass. The

synchronized use by KFOR of a combination of Temporary and Random Vehicle Checkpoints for the first time ever resulted in the unauthorized routes in northern Kosovo all being closed together at the same time. This unprecedented and unexpected situation was sustained for a duration before some of the Vehicle

Checkpoints were lifted. Earlier in July unidentified people on the Serbian side of GATE 1 had prevented commercial trucks using the official boundary crossing point there. This situation subsequently ceased after KFOR placed the Vehicle Checkpoints on the unauthorized routes along the ABL.



A Vehicle which overturned on uneven ground, attempting to bypass a V.C.P.



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: VINCENZO DI CANIO

Text of COMKOR's" Opening Remarks"

It is WITH a QUESTION that I wish to begin, this time by way of me asking

... WHAT is the difference now, compared to the situation, this time last year?

This time last year; The Gates were restricted military zones and there was neither a customs nor a police presence ensuring the safe commuting of people and transport of goods. There were barricades all over Northern Kosovo, especially after 16 September when customs and police took over Gate 1 and Dog 31. The situation was tense and had a direct impact on people's Freedom of Movement.

Today: The Gates are functional. There is only ONE barricade left- that is on Austerlitz Bridge. NOW, our key principle of Freedom of Movement is gaining ground and people enjoy its benefits.

I am proud of this success and very thankful to the KFOR soldiers who achieved it.

What remains a visible obstacle is the barricade on the Austerlitz Bridge, over the Ibar river in Mitrovica. This symbol of

resistance is a reminder that the political process has to go further. Key to me is the fact that there are NO other roadblocks left, thus allowing for full Freedom of Movement on ALL the transit roads throughout northern Kosovo. Freedom of Movement in principal and in reality, as a standard and as a quality, has been restored and maintained.

To sum up: KFOR has removed the PHYSICAL barricades so others can commit to political progress, and successfully so. I am proud of this success and very thankful to the KFOR soldiers for achieving it. Those soldiers being wounded deserve our special gratitude and I respect them for having minimized the number of injured on both sides.

One additional success of KFOR was our operation, jointly with EULEX and KP, to assist in OSCE facilitated balloting process during the Serbian elections in May. As you know, the OSCE-run balloting facilitation enabled 109,000 eligible voters residing in Kosovo to exercise their right to vote in

parliamentary and presidential elections in 90 polling stations in 28 locations. It was a highly noteworthy day for Kosovo and its people, an achievement of democratic values. This was an example of what the International Community as a whole together with the Institutions in Kosovo can achieve.

There were other achievements and successes, large and small, the impressive progress of KSF towards FOC being one of them. Finally I am a realist, there are many challenges remaining. Political progress and socio-economic development do not fall into the remit of KFOR. However, I am confident that the hardworking and much tested population in Kosovo will eventually succeed in creating stable and prosperous conditions in which everyone can flourish in accordance with talents and ambitions. I am deeply grateful for each opportunity I had the chance to meet you. Thank you very much.



PICTURES: T. PILAWSKI, A.HAJRULLAHU

STAND-OFF AT ZUPCE

KFOR Troops and a group of unidentified individuals faced –off against each other for half a day at Zupce while negotiations were on-going and key leader engagement was conducted. The issue began around lunch time when a EULEX Monitoring, Mentoring and Advising Team (MMA) en route to Zubin Potok Police Station was blocked at Zupce. This denial of their full freedom of movement

was immediately reacted to by KFOR, securing the area by closing their nearby Permanent Checkpoints and establishing Temporary Vehicle Checkpoints. The adoption of this “Indirect Approach”, KFOR’s closure of the manoeuvre box around the area, isolated the problem; prevented reinforcements arriving to aid the road blockers; while at the same time KFOR and EULEX reinforced their positions with

increased numbers equipped and prepared for Crowd Riot Control (CRC) measures, complete with water cannon. KFOR’s determined intent obvious by this reaction and with their arrest of two of the road blockers, the negotiations none the less continued into the early night. A resolution was reached and a solution agreed upon, the joint KFOR EULEX operation concluded successfully. ■



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: TIM PILAWSKI



STAND-OFF AT ZUPCE



PICTURES: TIM PILAWSKI



Roses for British Soldiers

Kosovo President Rugova presented the soldiers from UKBG2 in Pristina with roses to wear on their berets Aug. 1 to commemorate the 1759 Battle of Minden in 1759, where the forbearers of the Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment fought.

"We have a tradition of wearing a rose in our hats on Aug. 1 every year. The tradition comes from the battle when the soldiers took wild roses from the fields and wore them in their hats to help them recognize their comrades," said Captain Bob Wallace. "The Battalion wears the rose on that day each year to celebrate the victory.

It is also the tradition to ask an important personality to present the roses to the soldiers."

Austria, Russia, France and Sweden, against Prussia and Great Britain fought at the Battle of Minden in 1789. It is amazing that all these nations are now working together as part of KFOR, and shows how far Europe has come. It should be an example to the people of Kosovo that differences can be resolved and that nations who were once fighting each other can be reconciled.

The soldiers from United Kingdom Battle Group 1, The Princess of



Wales Royal Regiment, are normally on the patrol of the streets of Pristina. Their duties were assumed Aug. 1 by soldiers from other nationalities of MNB (C).



STORY AND PICTURE: PIO – MNB Centre

Visir to the underground tunnel at Pristina Airport

The Russians take the journalist in a very excitant trip inside Tunnel of Pristina Airfield

KFOR's Russian Military Contingent opened the tunnel of the former Yugoslav Air Force to the media for the first time Aug. 2

at Slatina Airport. Rumours about the contents of the tunnels have spread over the years, but the visit showed that there is nothing to hide. Now everybody knows that the tunnel is empty and the Russians are using it as trucks' parking and as storage area.

The tunnel was used as a protection shield for Yugoslav Army military planes for many years. Located near the Goleshi hill, it was constructed in 1960 by a USSR company Metrostroy. Apart from a few Russian contingent trucks, the tunnel was entirely empty. The Russian Military Contingent Commander Major-general, Nikolaj Kriventson, explained that it is an ordinary tunnel used only to recover the aircraft as in all other airports.

"I hope this would bring everyone closer and that everyone will understand that the Russian contingent in Kosovo as an integral part of KFOR is conducting it's mission for peace," said Kriventson. The Russian Commander gave reporters information regarding the weaponry used by the Russian soldiers in Kosovo, as well as their uniforms, food and health services. The Russians are located in MNB (C), and they are in charge of Pristina Airfield and hospital. They also have an operative battle group in MNB(E)



STORY AND PICTURE: Giuseppe MATTIELLO

THE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR (History)



TIn the 16th century, the sergeant major or Sargento Mayor was a general officer. He commanded an army's infantry, and ranked about third in the army's command structure; he also acted as a sort of chief of staff to the army's commander. In the 17th century, sergeants major appeared in individual regiments. These were field officers, third in command of their regiments

(after their colonels and lieutenant colonels), with a role similar to the older, army-level sergeants major (although obviously on a smaller scale). The older position became known as sergeant major general to distinguish it. Over time, the sergeant was dropped from both titles, giving rise to the modern ranks of major and major general. The full title of sergeant major fell out of use until the latter

part of the 18th century, when it began to be applied to the senior non-commissioned officer of an infantry battalion or cavalry regiment.

Sergeant major refers to both a military rank and a specific administrative position. The rank refers to the highest enlisted rank, just above first sergeant and master sergeant, with a pay grade of E-9, NATO rank OR-9



COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR TO COMKFOR

The leadership position, command sergeant major, is the senior enlisted advisor to COMKFOR and carries with it certain ceremonial functions such as caring for the NATO flag, to command the medal parade and to conduct the honor guards. But, the most important tasks are to serve as observer, advisor and advocate for the noncommissioned officers and soldiers.

This task is a commitment and a challenge. Especially interesting for me were the many meetings and discussions with the command sergeant majors of other nations. So I was able to give me a picture of it, how motivated and professional soldiers of all nations do their job here. Joint trainings were good opportunities to know each other better, understand and comply with the order to be able to share.

The NCO's are the backbone of an army. This is not just a phrase. After nearly six months here in Kosovo, I can see that this is a fact in this mission. The professional work, especially the CSM's, has given me made my job easy here. In a few days now stands at the change of command. Thus ends my time here. I wish all the best here in the KFOR mission and for the future in their homeland. Together as one



JOINT IMPLEMENTATION COMMISSION



The Joint Implementation Commission (JIC) was established under the Authority of the Military Technical Agreement (MTA), dated 09 June 1999. The role of JIC in relation to the MTA was developed in the Agreement on Temporary Operating Procedures for Cooperation and Coordination astride the Kosovo Administrative Boundary (TOPA), dated 17 Aug 2001, and was focused on supporting the implementation of the MTA. In order to ensure overall compliance with the provisions of the MTA, HQ KFOR JIC is responsible for facilitating communication and understanding between COMKFOR and all parties. COMKFOR is the final authority in the interpretation of the MTA.

The JIC structure is divided into three (3) levels: High, Main and Local Level. High Level activities

cover the highest level border and boundary related liaison with SERBIA and neighbouring countries. COMKFOR and COS HQ KFOR represent the High Level of KFOR JIC activities. At Main Level, HQ KFOR JIC has relationships with the SAF MTA-IC in Belgrade, and with the counterpart POCs in neighbouring countries' central Institutions. HQ KFOR JIC is composed of Chief JIC and two (2) Senior Staff Officers (SSO). The TCN assigning Chief JIC can reinforce the branch with a national Admin NCO. HQ KFOR JIC has the support of the HQ DOS interpreters. Local Level consists of MNBG JICs. The responsibilities of MNBG JIC cells must be a reflection of HQ KFOR JIC responsibilities. HQ KFOR JIC mission is to facilitate communications and understanding between

COMKFOR and the Serbian Security Forces in order to ensure overall compliance with the provisions of the Military Technical Agreement (MTA). Moreover, JIC is responsible for all border and boundary (BB) issues with neighbouring countries and carrying out liaison with Serbian, Montenegrin, Albanian, and FYROM 1 counterparts. JIC has the responsibility to investigate and resolve border and boundary violations and incidents. JIC cells have to be observant of possible violations and must have constant contact with counterparts to clarify events, request adequate explanations and apologies where necessary. Formal meetings termed High Level Meetings are held between COMKFOR and central authorities of the neighbouring countries. These are normally performed with

a formal agenda, press conference and delegations (e.g. POLAD, JIC, PAO and MLO Belgrade), depending of the subject matter. In preparation for High Level Activities, HQ KFOR JIC has the responsibility to coordinate the planning process. In the framework of the cooperation regulation agreed in the TOPA with SERBIA, a Joint JIC meeting is held, normally every two (2) weeks, between HQ KFOR JIC and SAF MTA IC. The KFOR delegation is led by Chief JIC, and is composed of representatives from HQ KFOR and EULEX. The SAF delegation is composed of officials from the SAF MTA IC and Ministarstvo Unutrasnjih Poslova – (MUP) representatives. Co-operation between KFOR and SAF has remained excellent over the years with straight forward

dialogue via the JIC process. Dedicated JIC teams at all levels are vital in order to ensure open and consistent channels for exchanging information. The JIC process has been successful in ensuring that accurate and timely information is passed. The successful conduct of Synchronized Patrols on either side of the ABL is a good example of the cooperation at local level of the JIC process. JIC elements also deliver briefings for In-Theatre Training (ITT) and Key Leader Training (KLT) on a regular basis. The current KFOR JIC Branch is led by Col Viljo Hyvarinen from FINLAND who took up his appointment as Chief JIC on 01 Jul 12. Col Hyvarinen is supported by Lt Col Conor Burke from IRELAND, an officer with

extensive overseas service, as Deputy Chief and SSO Ops. Lt Col Jari Lehtoranta from FINLAND holds the SSO Plans portfolio and the team is ably assisted by Staff Sergeant Niina Hannonen from FINLAND. The final words concerning JIC are from Col Hyvarinen: “JIC is about teamwork, both within our branch and with our counterparts in neighbouring countries. KFOR JIC operates very closely with the Serbian MTA IC. Our work within JIC is a combination of diplomacy and military and one must be flexible because anything can happen during the day. I can honestly say that JIC work is definitely not boring. JIC is the best branch in KFOR HQ. Finally to all KFOR people: Do not cross the ABL!”



KOSOVO ENERGY CORPORATION



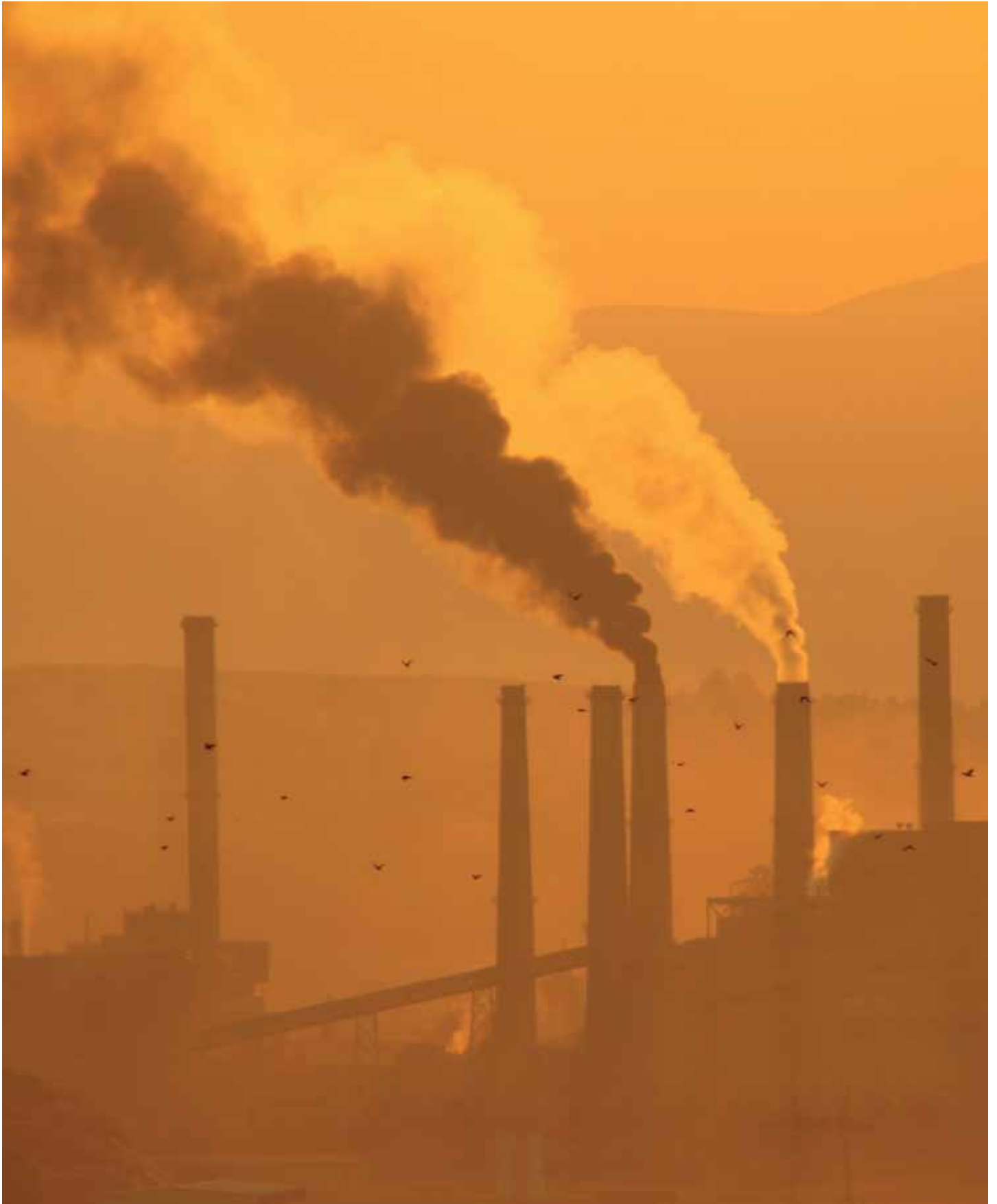
Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEK) is the sole power corporation in Kosovo. In different periods of time the company went through a lot of changes. For a long time Kosovo's power system was part of the former Yugoslavian power system. During this period energy production in Kosovo was concentrated on the production of energy from coal and a small quantity from water. Since the disintegration of the former Yugoslavia, there was no investment made in Kosovo's energy system. This situation continued until June 1999, when the war was finished and the employees were brought back to their working places. During 1989 – 1999 most of the local

experts had been dismissed from their work. After this period the investments made got the energy system functioning again, initially based on international support and later from local institutional support. Now the core business of the Corporation is the production of coal, energy production and energy supply, sales and customer care service. To accomplish these functions KEK is organized into four main divisions: Mines, Generation, Distribution and Supply Divisions. There are three open-cast mines, namely Mirash, Sibovc and Bardh mines, two power plants (PP), PP "Kosova A" and PP "Kosova B", around 18.898 km of distribution network covering the whole territory of

Kosovo and the operation is completed with engagement in the supply activity, including the sale of energy function. The functions of KEK are regulated according to the policies of the Energy Regulatory Office of Kosovo. Today there are approximately 400.000 customers in different levels and there are approximately 8000 employees in different sections. The most important goal for 2012 is to provide secure, reliable and reasonably priced services while being an environmentally-responsive, transparent and commercially orientated organization, that is responsive to customer needs. ■



NICE TO KNOW



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Printed by RASTER
Tel.: 038 601 606

NATO Nations within KFOR

Albania, Armenia, Bulgaria, Canada,
Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark,
Estonia, France, Germany, Greece,
Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Nether-
lands, Norway, Poland, Portugal,
Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, United
Kingdom, United States

Non-NATO Nations within KFOR

Austria, Finland, Ireland, Morocco,
Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine

The KFOR Chronicle is produced and fully funded by HQ KFOR. It is published for KFOR soldiers in the area of responsibility. The contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the coalition governments' defence departments. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Internal Information Section of HQ KFOR's Public Affairs Office (PAO) in Pristina, Kosovo. PAO HQ KFOR reserves the right to edit content to conform to style and space requirements. Articles run on a space-available basis.

SHARR MOUNTAIN DOG

Named after the Kosovo mountain range it is as a superb working dog that has earned this ancient beautiful breed its justified reputation. Unique to Kosovo, this rare breed's suitability as a guardian of flocks and livestock, against

wolves in particular, has given this mountain dog it's value through the centuries. Possessing a companionable temperament, their personality and loyalty has endeared them to their owners every bit as much as their tenacity, courage and bravery. ■



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: PAO Archive



