

KFOR

Chronicle



2nd Edition

February 28th 2010



Full Operational Capability Exercise



The General Officer's Perspective



Fellow KFOR members,

Let me take this opportunity to briefly introduce myself: My name is BG Miroslav Kocian, I am an Slovakian Air Force Officer. I arrived in the middle of January here in Film City to take command of the KFOR Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG). The position of JLSG Commander is not a new experience for me. Over the past year I have served as the Commander of the JLSG in Allied Force Command Heidelberg. I am looking forward to meet the challenges that lay ahead. I am blessed to have the support of both my wife and my son in my decision to lead the first operational deployment of a NATO Joint Logistics Support Group.

In the short period the JLSG has been here in KFOR, we have travelled to all the battle groups and met with most National Support Elements (NSE) of the Troop Contributing Nations (TCN). We are working to build a relationship and the trust that I believe is needed to work effectively together and to accomplish this mission. The JLSG is here in support of COM KFOR, the Multinational Battle Groups (MNBG), and all TCN. We will conduct the tasks of receiving, staging and onward movement (RSOM) troops ; handle matters related to transport and movement control; medical and engineer support; and contracting management to name a few.



My vision for the JLSG is to be agile and flexible in order to support KFOR's move towards Minimum Presence. The JLSG concept is simple: We will be effective and efficient by identifying and correcting the shortfalls and redundancies in the KFOR Logistics Operations. Our mission here is to support in reducing the logistical footprint in the KFOR Theatre of Operations, while maintaining logistical effectiveness.

Make no mistake about it, the JLSG HQ and its subordinate units, comprised of COMMZ(S), MED, RSOM, Trans and ENG COYs, are up to the challenge and will make a positive impact in the KFOR mission.

I would like to end by thanking every single one of you for your contribution to the people of Kosovo, your respective nations and the NATO Mission here. Also, the sacrifices that you and your families have made are greatly appreciated.

Brigadier General Miroslav Kocian
Slovak Air Force
Commander Joint Logistic Support Group





Unity is worth it!

One of these days when you will be reading these lines, people professing the Christian faith will be observing the Lenten season. Those are days that inspire reflection upon how to be able to deal with deeply human needs such as forgiveness, reconciliation, and peacefulness. These periods or days of commemoration help us, in circumstances of day-to-day life, to remind, orient or re-orient ourselves in order to instill vitality in ourselves, in our communities and in our coexistence. Such times focus on needs and challenges that are ultimately imbued with an importance that transcends culture and religion—they address existential moral concepts defining our being and interaction as humans.

Seen from a purely human viewpoint, there probably is nothing more challenging than speaking about and, as a consequence, practice the notion of forgiveness. What should be our understanding of forgiveness? One of the possible answers is the following: As a rule, forgiveness is an unconditional and unearned gift to a not necessarily deserving wrongdoer. This gift replaces negative feelings towards wrongdoers by love and generosity. Despite everything they have done they must continue to be treated and regarded as members of the human community.

Thus: We carry out an act of forgiveness whenever, after having been wrongly and wilfully injured by another person, we thereupon overcome the grudge we harbour against the wrongdoer by trying to offer him or her kindness, putting aside our morally justified right to anger and postponing its exercise—and once this act of forgiveness has taken place, we must definitively renounce this right to anger and hostility.

But neither must forgiveness be misunderstood as meaning the wrongdoing did not occur in the first place; as meaning what has been done is rendered forgotten, or meaning the misdeed was excusable. On the contrary: Forgiveness means admitting that was done wrong and should not be repeated. In the final analysis, forgiveness must not be confounded with reconciliation, the resumption of a relationship. For reconciliation is a renewal of trust, and sometimes that is not possible. Forgiving can open the door to reconciliation. On the other hand, victims may forgive those who wronged them but without ensuing reconciliation.

The act of forgiving renders human togetherness 'human' in the truest sense of the word because it changes the persons letting go of their anger, it heals them and renews relationship. Forgiving is human and reopens communication because it includes another person, the wrongdoer, offering him or her in turn the possibility to change as a result having been forgiven. Consequently, forgiveness preserves human interaction. Its promise-filled meaning for the individual and for the community as a whole can be summarized with the words of Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: "None is uplifted higher than in the act of forgiving."



Military Chaplain Matthias Ebinger
Coordinating Chaplain KFOR
Matthias Ebinger has been serving as military chaplain in Camp Prizren (DEU), HQ Pristina and as Coordinating Chaplain KFOR since 14 January 2010.

In 2007, he took over the Protestant military chaplaincy in the garrison town of Sigmaringen, in southern Germany. Prior to that, he worked as minister in two parishes of the Protestant Church established in the Land (state) of Baden Württemberg, which is his home congregation. Before studying theology and entering the service of the church, he underwent vocational training for a commercial qualification.

Commander KFOR Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, DEU Army	E-mail & web: kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int www.nato.int/kfor
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Nations within KFOR:	
NATO Nations	
Belgium	Luxembourg
Bulgaria	Netherlands
Canada	Norway
Croatia	Poland
Czech Republic	Portugal
Denmark	Romania
Estonia	Slovakia
France	Slovenia
Germany	Turkey
Greece	United Kingdom
Hungary	United States
Italy	
Non-NATO Nations	
Austria	Sweden
Finland	Switzerland
Ireland	Ukraine
Morocco	



MOVING FORWARD

Photos by Sergeant Stefanie Willuweit, German Army



February 11, 2010

The Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, welcomed the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defense of Germany, Mr. Thomas Kossendey. During the meeting, the issues concerning the current security situation and rights of national minorities' in Kosovo were discussed.

February 15, 2010

COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, greeted the Commander of Joint Operations Staff of Germany, Rear Admiral Andreas Krause. During the meeting, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler briefed Rear Admiral Andreas Krause on the event-driven transition process and the future reduction of forces.



FORWARD



February 18, 2010

Commander Allied Joint Forces Command Naples (COM JFCN), Admiral Mark Fitzgerald (COM JFCNP), discussed the features of the security situation in Kosovo with COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, during COM JFCNP's visit to HQ KFOR.

February 22, 2010

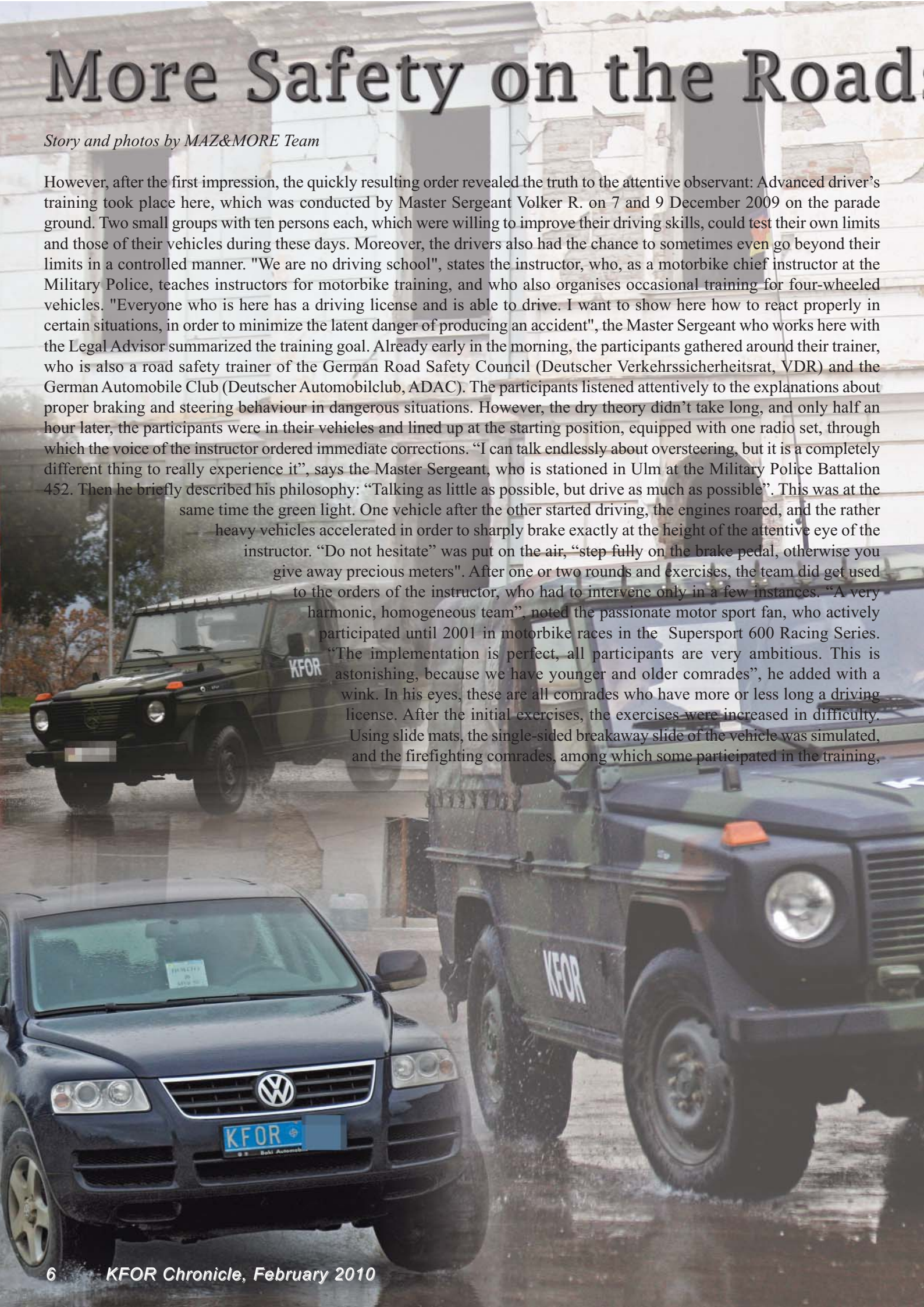
COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, welcomed the Commander of the Allied Land Component Command Headquarters Madrid, Lieutenant General Cayetano Miro Valls. The issues concerning the event-driven transition process to and through the future reduction of forces and the role of the Joint Logistical Support Group were discussed.



More Safety on the Road

Story and photos by MAZ&MORE Team

However, after the first impression, the quickly resulting order revealed the truth to the attentive observant: Advanced driver's training took place here, which was conducted by Master Sergeant Volker R. on 7 and 9 December 2009 on the parade ground. Two small groups with ten persons each, which were willing to improve their driving skills, could test their own limits and those of their vehicles during these days. Moreover, the drivers also had the chance to sometimes even go beyond their limits in a controlled manner. "We are no driving school", states the instructor, who, as a motorbike chief instructor at the Military Police, teaches instructors for motorbike training, and who also organises occasional training for four-wheeled vehicles. "Everyone who is here has a driving license and is able to drive. I want to show here how to react properly in certain situations, in order to minimize the latent danger of producing an accident", the Master Sergeant who works here with the Legal Advisor summarized the training goal. Already early in the morning, the participants gathered around their trainer, who is also a road safety trainer of the German Road Safety Council (Deutscher Verkehrssicherheitsrat, VDR) and the German Automobile Club (Deutscher Automobilclub, ADAC). The participants listened attentively to the explanations about proper braking and steering behaviour in dangerous situations. However, the dry theory didn't take long, and only half an hour later, the participants were in their vehicles and lined up at the starting position, equipped with one radio set, through which the voice of the instructor ordered immediate corrections. "I can talk endlessly about oversteering, but it is a completely different thing to really experience it", says the Master Sergeant, who is stationed in Ulm at the Military Police Battalion 452. Then he briefly described his philosophy: "Talking as little as possible, but drive as much as possible". This was at the same time the green light. One vehicle after the other started driving, the engines roared, and the rather heavy vehicles accelerated in order to sharply brake exactly at the height of the attentive eye of the instructor. "Do not hesitate" was put on the air, "step fully on the brake pedal, otherwise you give away precious meters". After one or two rounds and exercises, the team did get used to the orders of the instructor, who had to intervene only in a few instances. "A very harmonic, homogeneous team", noted the passionate motor sport fan, who actively participated until 2001 in motorbike races in the Supersport 600 Racing Series. "The implementation is perfect, all participants are very ambitious. This is astonishing, because we have younger and older comrades", he added with a wink. In his eyes, these are all comrades who have more or less long a driving license. After the initial exercises, the exercises were increased in difficulty. Using slide mats, the single-sided breakaway slide of the vehicle was simulated, and the firefighting comrades, among which some participated in the training,



s - Save Driving Training

obviously enjoyed it to produce much less grip on the surface with their hoses. The importance of traffic safety can be shown with the current accident figures of the 24th German Contingent KFOR and ORF forces: There was a total of 35 accidents, fortunately without serious injuries. 1.2 million kilometres driven until the beginning of December means one accident every 34368 kilometres. "The last German Contingent had a total of 53 accidents, and we have in half of the time already 35", says Lieutenant Colonel Klaus-Dieter S., who, as G4 Maintenance Staff Officer, is responsible for the bureaucratic processing of the accidents. He thoughtfully adds the following: "We even haven't got winter". Three serious accidents have been taken down so far, which resulted in an instant exclusion of these vehicles from traffic. In about half of the accident numbers, the civilian population was also involved. "One has to be conscious of the fact that the driver is responsible for the vehicle", explains Lieutenant Colonel Jörg B., who, as a Legal Advisor Staff Officer, is from time to time confronted with the legal consequences of accidents. "On the one hand, the disciplinary superior verifies if the official obligations were violated in these cases, what is especially always the case when the maximum authorized speed is exceeded. On the other hand, the Field Office of Defence Administration determines the responsibility over the type of fault". For example, for damages caused under ordinary negligence, the German Government assumes liability. If the driver seriously neglects the required duty, and if this violation of duty is the cause for the resulting damage, a liability limit will be determined. "Driving into a crossroad when the sign of the red light is on, ignoring the road sign which indicates 'Stop', or drunken driving are such examples", says the Legal Advisor. If the driver has evidently acted intentionally, he or she is of course fully liable. "What most people are not aware of: As a rule, duty liability insurances are not liable for damages even in the case of gross negligence. Many people are completely surprised when they hear that the insurance refuses to bear the costs for the claim settlement". "We could avoid most accidents", says Master Sergeant Volker R. in the lunch break of the driver training, when the participants shared the impressions they gathered so far. "Most of the time, only minor points can be criticised during a driver's life, and these points have to be considered". After a delicious lunch, all participants dug deep into their reserves. Combined exercises, consisting of braking and steering manoeuvres, required a high degree of concentration and sensitiveness from all participants, and sometimes, the vehicles didn't really follow the driver's instructions. "This is also desired", says the instructor with a slight smile. "When one experiences his own limits and those of the vehicle, it may be the case that these limits are exceeded. Then it is better, that one can test this here in a controlled manner, before one gets afterwards involved in a precarious situation in road traffic". And one can indeed get involved very quickly in such a situation: One participant reported that one day before, he had had to step fully on the brake pedal in order to stop early enough in front of a dog. He had had no alternative options, on the left side was the oncoming traffic, and on the right side, there was a ditch. When he ended his remarks and said that everything went well finally, nearly all persons standing around nodded, as if they wanted to say: We also experienced such a situation! The final opinion was unanimous: Here, we could learn a lot! This was a small step in order to be better prepared for "unwanted cold formings of steel".



KTM Exercise - Imp

Strong Rhin

Story by Major Renato Assis, Portuguese Army
Photos by Corporal Silva Rui, Portuguese Army

MIGHTY SOUTHERN WINTER KNIGHT

Between 18 and 23 January 2010, in the Proximity Operations scope, the KTM-Group, materialized by CHARLIE Coy (C Coy), carried out the MIGHTY WESTERN WINTER KNIGHT Operation, in the Multinational Battle Group – South (MNBG-S) Area of Responsibility. The main objective was to train COMKFOR's reserve integration and deployment. As additional tasks, there were activities carried out that involved intelligence collection.

The operation was divided into three phases: joint patrols to hotspots and Property with Designated Special Status (PrDSS), training on air maneuver deployments, CCoy deployment to PrDSS training sites – to the ZOCISTE/ZOQISHTÉ Monastery by land, and to the ARCHANGEL Monastery by air. Concerning INTEL gathering, meetings with local Liaison Monitoring Teams and local authorities were held to identify and report the population's economic situation; especially in the aforementioned hotspots, among other, less significant, INTEL requirements.

For the execution of this operation, CCoy carried out a total of 17 mounted patrols and 6 foot patrols, covering 10.612km.



Improved Performance to II and III

*Story by Major Renato Assis, Portuguese Army
Photos by Captain Martin Wieland, Austrian Army*

MIGHTY AIR STRONG RHINO III SABRE

On 18 February 2010, at Camp Montieth - Gnjilane, the KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM), planned and organized the STRONG RHINO III exercise, under the supervision of KFOR - J3 CONOPS. The exercise had, as its main objective, to train and test the coordination and Command and Control (C2) between KFOR and EULEX forces. In addition, for KTM subunits, their mission was employment in hotspot defense and ensuring freedom of movement at the site.

This exercise was framed in a generic scenario for the activation of a former Property Designated with Special Status (PrDSS), a Serbian monastery, established in a multi-ethnic environment, threatened by rioters. The main tasks were to ensure close security to the Monastery (BRAVO Coy), outer security to the monastery (CHARLIE Coy) and to watch the movement of demonstrators (Special Operations Detachment). After EULEX requested support and after BRAVO Coy and Command Group's airlift deployment, the monastery perimeter was secured. BRAVO Coy also placed pressure on the rioters, with EULEX support—and by coordination with KTM command. It was also necessary to request an Air Medevac to simulate the evacuation of a KTM soldier. Simultaneously and after CHARLIE and ALFA Coy's wheels deployment, CCooy began scattering rioters from the pre-established area and the monastery's outer security area, by mounting two Vehicle Check-Points, under pressure from protesters. After ENDEX, the Battalion's redeployment was executed by wheels.

In addition to KTM and EULEX forces, Multinational Battlegroup East forces - the rioters and the American Blackhawk (used for AirMedevac), 2 Croatian MI 171 Choppers and the KFOR Imagery Intelligence Team also participated.



Full Operation The Final Step in Testing Fle

Story by Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko, Ukrainian Army

Photos by Captain Dominik Westerkamp, German Army, Corporal Vincenzo Romano, Italian Army and Combat Camera Team

The recent positive changes taking place across Kosovo have allowed NATO Kosovo Forces to continue the adaptation for the improving security situation under the “Deterrent Presence” plan. During January and February 2010, each KFOR Battle Group (BG) under the guidance of the KFOR Headquarters has been taking practical measures to act under a new command structure.

As a paradigm of these activities, the Full Operational Capability (FOC) and Field Training Exercises (FTX) were performed by the BGs that demonstrated their readiness to act in the new structure and operational task conditions.

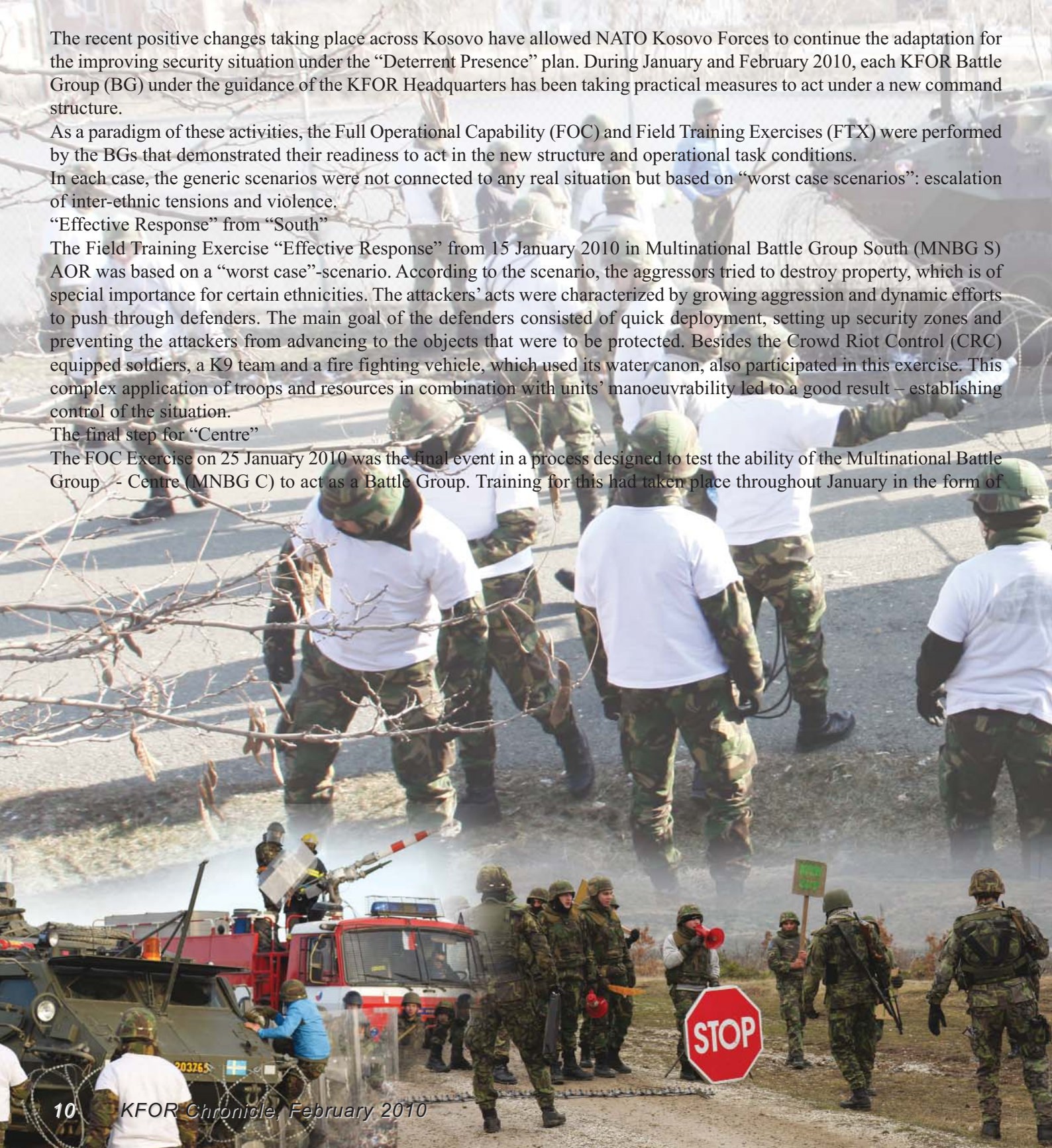
In each case, the generic scenarios were not connected to any real situation but based on “worst case scenarios”: escalation of inter-ethnic tensions and violence.

“Effective Response” from “South”

The Field Training Exercise “Effective Response” from 15 January 2010 in Multinational Battle Group South (MNBG S) AOR was based on a “worst case”-scenario. According to the scenario, the aggressors tried to destroy property, which is of special importance for certain ethnicities. The attackers’ acts were characterized by growing aggression and dynamic efforts to push through defenders. The main goal of the defenders consisted of quick deployment, setting up security zones and preventing the attackers from advancing to the objects that were to be protected. Besides the Crowd Riot Control (CRC) equipped soldiers, a K9 team and a fire fighting vehicle, which used its water canon, also participated in this exercise. This complex application of troops and resources in combination with units’ manoeuvrability led to a good result – establishing control of the situation.

The final step for “Centre”

The FOC Exercise on 25 January 2010 was the final event in a process designed to test the ability of the Multinational Battle Group – Centre (MNBG C) to act as a Battle Group. Training for this had taken place throughout January in the form of



Operational Capability Flexibility and Responsiveness

Table Top Exercises, Command Post Exercises and internal FOC exercises. The focus of the exercise was to ensure a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement. Roadblocks, enhanced patrolling tasks and vehicle check points engaged all Manoeuvre Companies: Irish, Czech, Slovakian and the Swedish, from the early morning hours until the redeployment in the evening. When all organic assets were deployed and the situation looked grim, the Kosovo Force Commander (COMKFOR), Lieutenant General Marcus Bentler, allowed his Tactical Reserve 2nd Layer (the SWISSCOY from MNBG S) to be deployed as an additional force, giving the troops valuable experience of interoperability moving forward with unity of effort.

The flexibility and agility of “West”

On 27 and 28 January 2010, with the main objective to test the new command structure within the Multinational Battle Group West (MNBG W), the Field Training Exercise “Effective Response” was performed. According to the scenario, the peaceful demonstration gradually went over to the direct collisions between rioters and law enforcement units. The situation escalated when KFOR’s involvement became evident. In such a situation the decisive importance for MNBG W’s units was a fast reaction, quick manoeuvrability and a well-timed deployment. The quick decision making process of the new multinational staff was successful in issuing timely, simple and precise directions. The troops, with their high readiness level, achieved the aim of a rapid deployment, in order to get promptly on the spot and be ready to react.

The new names as a change in conducting operations

On 1 February 2010, one visible sign of transition to the “Deterrent Presence” took place, when all KFOR Multinational Task Forces were renamed Multinational Battle Groups. This is to signify the task force’s transformation to a more responsive and flexible force structure.

As all the exercises showed, the new BG structure will be able to provide security at any time and any place in Kosovo. Such a result was achieved due to new strategies based on the active usage of the best characteristics of modern forces: mobility, flexibility and agility.

According to Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, “(...) way ahead, is to have these kind of exercises on a regular basis and also in the future to keep up the good level of skills and professionalism”.

The transition to a Deterrent Presence Force does not change the aim of KFOR’s mission: to maintain a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all the people in Kosovo.

KFOR continues to ensure a safe and secure environment under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.

Camp “Villa

*Story and photos by 1st Lieutenant D’Alessio Ivan,
Italian Army*

Camp “Villaggio Italia” is located in Belo Polje, within the Pec/Peja municipality, which is famous because of its nearby Orthodox Patriarchate. The Patriarchate of Pec is a group of medieval churches built in the 13th and 14th centuries, along the river



ggio Italia”

Pecka Bistrica.

“Villaggio Italia” camp is located on the side of a mountain and was established in 2003. It is able to host around 2600 troops. Now, it accommodates around 2000 troops.

There are two dining facilities: mess 1 is able to host 600 people in two shifts, while mess 2 provides food for 1000 people, in three shifts. The staff personnel of both messes cooks typical Italian food and Romanian courses, while goulash is served once a week and the typical Hungarian breakfast, twice a week.

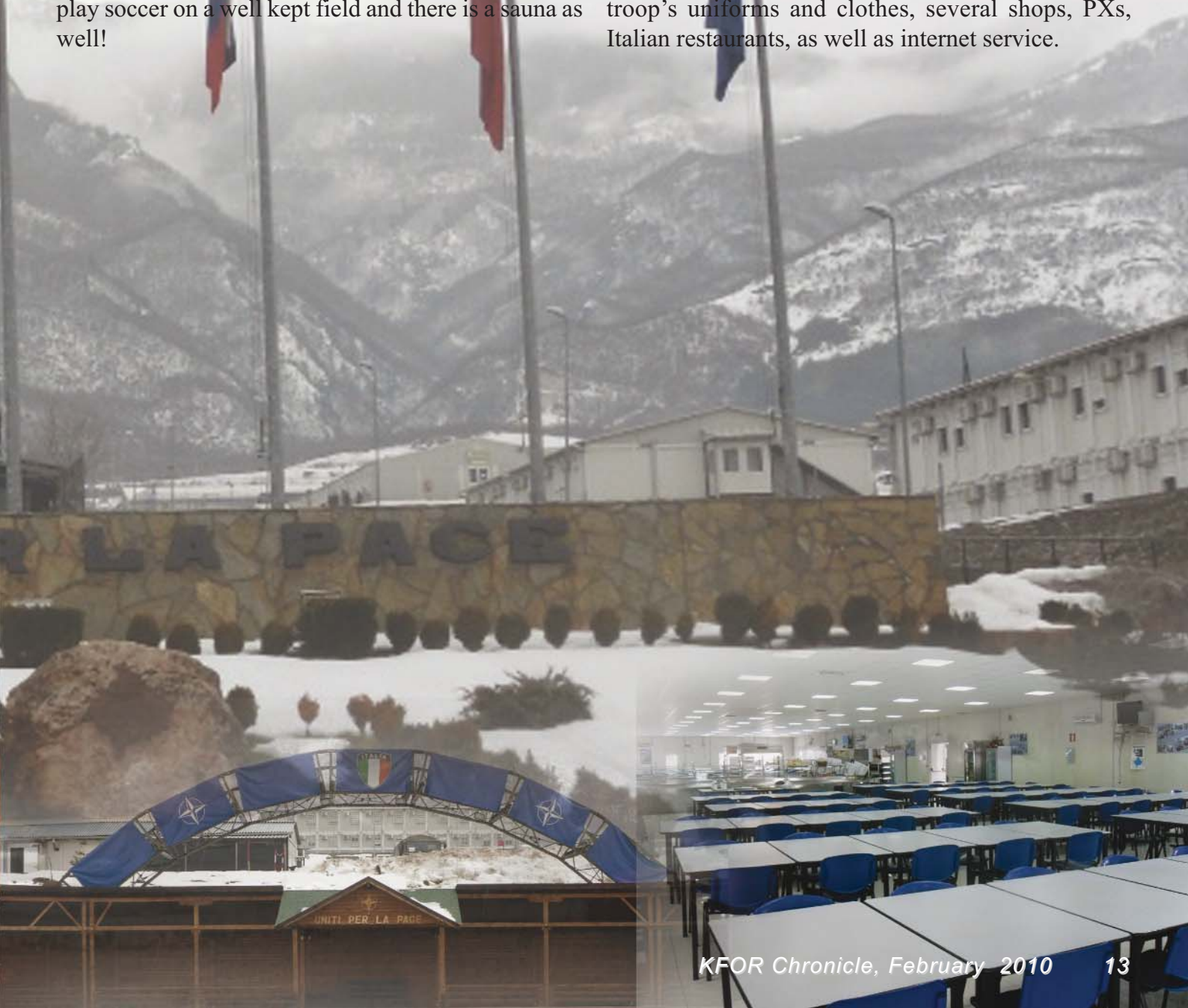
There are two well equipped gyms, which are open everyday, except on Mondays. However, it is possible to run along the perimeter, within the camp and also play soccer on a well kept field and there is a sauna as well!

The Health Center is well equipped and manned with 1 Senior Medical Officer, 1 duty doctor, 1 radiology technician, 2 nurses, 2 assistants and 2 drivers.

Inside the camp, a well arranged mail service is available, managed by the Italian post, which is used by Italian troops and very useful for soldiers of different nations.

The camp hosts “Radio West”, which is a military broadcast network. It broadcasts the news, music and the transmissions have been entertaining the soldiers, since 1999.

In regards to spiritual assistance, the camp has a chapel available to soldiers of different contingents. In addition, there are washing stations for washing troop’s uniforms and clothes, several shops, PXs, Italian restaurants, as well as internet service.



JLSG Progress

Story by Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko,
Ukrainian Army

Photos by Combat Camera Team and Afrim Hajrullahu

On 30 January 2010, the Kosovo Force Commander (COMKFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, declared that the newly formed KFOR Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG) Headquarters had reached its full operational capability (FOC). During the ceremony, the official JLSG flag was raised in front of the KFOR HQ main building, ushering in a new era in KFOR Logistic support.

In his speech, COMKFOR underlined that JLSG is a part of the changing face of the KFOR structure. "The new battle groups will have fewer resources for logistical support. That is why the JLSG is so important. The work of the JLSG will help make the KFOR team more agile and mobile to ensure SASE and Freedom of Movement in Kosovo", COMKFOR said.

The JLSG is a mission tailored NATO organization,

which was formed and deployed to Kosovo on its first operational deployment in January 2010. The JLSG's mission is to assure effective logistic support to KFOR during the Deterrent Presence Phase of operations and to provide efficient logistic solutions to the nations while reducing the overall logistic footprint in theatre. The JLSG's key tasks include conducting Reception, Staging and Onward Movement (RSOM) of troops, engineer and medical support tasks, transportation and movement control and contracting.

The JLSG HQ composition reflects the already mentioned key tasks, with COM and COM Group, a Joint Logistics Operation Centre (JLOC), a Movement & Transportation (M&T) Section, a Plans Section, a Medical (MED) Section and the Resources Management Cell (RMC). Responsibilities, tasks and the positions in the KFOR HQ related to medical, fuel supply and transportation moved into the JLSG HQ as of the FOC date.

The JLSG organization consists of subunits located



Pressing Forward

throughout theatre including the headquarters elements of the RSOM unit located in Film City. COMMZ(S), also dealing with RSOM tasks, is located in Thessaloniki.

At Camp Rigas Fereos the JLSG Transportation Coy and Engineer platoon has started their support activities to all units and nations in the KFOR area of responsibility. The hospitals within the JLSG structure, the DEU Role 3 and USA Role 2E, are located at FC Prizren and Camp Bondsteel respectively. In April, a Swiss EOD team will also join the JLSG. The KFOR JLSG has more than 400 personnel under operational control.

The most remarkable change that the JLSG brings to KFOR is that multinational logistic support will be coordinated and executed on a centralized level, leaving Battle Groups and nations to focus primarily on their operational tasks and, where feasible, reduce their organic logistic support elements.

The JLSG is commanded by Brigadier General Miroslav Kocian, Slovakian Air Force, from Headquarters Allied Force Command Heidelberg. The majority of the JLSG HQ Staff are from Headquarters Allied Force Command Madrid, where they have participated in several NATO Reaction Force (NRF) rotations as a JLSG HQ.

“For today, the JLSG must be fully operationally capable, because for the first time ever a JLSG will be put to task in a NATO theatre.” There is still much work to do in Kosovo, but we have to do it with fewer resources. There will be many challenges in the days ahead”, underlined COMKFOR. “I am very confident in you and in the KFOR transformation. So welcome to the KFOR team and I look forward to working with you on the challenging and demanding missions ahead”, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler said in conclusion of ceremony.



Kosovo Security Force With a S

Story and photos by Lieutenant Colonel Jørn Emil Busch Halvorsen, Norwegian Air Force

On 5 January 2010, the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) deployed 14 personnel, including two fully-equipped Search and Rescue (SAR) teams with medical and supporting personnel to Albania in response to a request from the Albanian government to provide relief assistance from flooding. On the 10 January 2010, the KSF detachment was reinforced with an additional 17 members, resulting in a total force of 31 KSF members for the remaining duration of the mission. KSF was also mentored by KFOR personnel with extensive training and experience in performing similar operations.

The KSF detachment, with their small rubber boats and

divers with wetsuits, rescued people that were isolated in their homes due to water levels up to 1.5 meters. The SAR capacity from KSF proved to be very valuable for the rescue operation, and according to the Albanian authorities, KSF rescued as many as 281 civilians during the operation. On the main day of the rescue operation (7 January 2010), KSF rescued 215 civilians out of the heavily flooded village of Kuc, an operation that also tested the KSF members' skills and equipment during darkness. Two of the rescued people needed assistance from the KSF doctors. The flood covered a huge area, and the KSF operated altogether in six different locations during the mission. KSF became the primary "boat rescue unit" for the part of the operation that was lead by the Albanian Army. The mission success was mainly caused



Successful First Mission Abroad

by the suitability of the equipment, and the professional and dedicated performance by the KSF members.

The mission abroad created new challenges, especially related to communications and logistics. KSF quickly learned that they had no internal communication between units that were more than 1 - 2 km apart. This challenge found a creative solution when the commander bought local mobile phone cards for the respective KSF members, and thereby created an effective and cheap "long range communication system" within KSF. Another communication issue was solved by using a local internet café and e-mail for communication back to the commander and the operations center in Kosovo.

KSF received excellent support from the Albanian authorities, and were accommodated in a military camp just outside the village of Vau Dejes. The daily cooperation with the 1st BN of Rapid Reaction Brigade, Albanian Army, gave clear tasks and good communication with the Battalion operation center while performing the rescue missions.

On the morning of 16 January 2010, the flooding was significantly reduced and the state of emergency was eased. The operations shifted from an active mode of operations into a readiness and alert state. On the day of departure, 20th of January, the KSF members participated in a ceremony where they received many good words and certificates of appreciation from the Albanian Army.



KFOR

*Story by Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko,
Ukrainian Army
Photos by Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu*

Carnival (Carnaval, Καρναβάλι, Carnevale, Carnestoltes, Carnaval, Karneval, Carnaval and Karnawał) is a festive season which occurs immediately before Lent; the main events are usually during February. Carnival typically involves a public celebration or parade combining some elements of a circus, mask and public street party. The origin of the name "carnival" is disputed. Variants in Italian dialects suggest that the name comes from the Italian carne levare or similar, meaning "to

remove meat", since meat is prohibited during Lent. Another possible explanation comes from the term "Carrus Navalis" (ship cart), the name of the roman festival of Isis, where her image was carried to the sea-shore to bless the start of the sailing season. The festival consisted in a parade of masks following an adorned wooden boat, that would reflect the floats of modern carnivals.

On 13 February 2010 at the German National Support Element ("German Ark") in Film City Camp the Carnival celebration took place. The preparation for this event continued for more than two weeks. The most active participation in preparations was conducted by officers and soldiers from the German NSE and J4 Section of HQ. The performance was



Carnival

successful! From the start, all incomers were charmed by magic “Latina Band” sounds, a local band from Pristine/Pristina. Music performed by the “Latina Band” created an elated and romantic mood for all participants. After this “warming-up” period, the carnival gained momentum. The traditional costume dressings, bright masks and dances, like Polonaise, created a ginger and friendly atmosphere. The volunteer crew from the KFOR HQ J4 Section provided a traditional carnival performance from the City of Cologne. The most amazing point in that case was the multinational composition of this crew, which included one American, one German and one Ukrainian officer. It added a good mood to the friendly spirit which dominated the German Arc.

The Kosovo Force Commander (COMKFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, also took

active part in the celebration. In his address to the participants, he congratulated attendants with this festive event and wished success for the whole KFOR-family. Part of the money collected from Carnival was donated to the Centre of the Mother and Child of Pristine/Pristina.



U.S. KFOR Soldiers Handover of Camp Nothing Hill

Story by Specialist Drew Balstad, 116th Public Affairs Detachment, US Army

Photos by Specialist Drew Balstad and submitted by Captain Richard A. Szabo, US Army

U.S. KFOR Soldiers handover responsibility of Camp Nothing Hill to Italian force.

LEPOSAVIC, Kosovo – U.S. Soldiers in Multinational Battle Group-East's 1-144th Maneuver Task Force (MTF) recently turned over security responsibilities in this area, including Camp Nothing Hill near the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) with Serbia, to forces of the Italian army.

Bravo Company, plus a platoon from Charlie Company and the tactical command center of the 1-144th had been at Camp Nothing Hill since Jan. 4, when they took over for a contingent of Turkish soldiers. They served in the Area of Operations conducting framework patrols as well as a Quick Reaction Force (QRF), trained to respond to Gate 1 within 30 minutes, as well as situations anywhere else in the sector in less than 60 minutes.

"Our Soldiers' performance at Camp Nothing Hill was outstanding," said Maj. David J. Craig, Lake Forest, Calif., 1-144th Battalion Operations Officer, assigned as the commanding officer of the U.S. Contingent at Camp Nothing Hill. "In the short time we had the mission up there, we

quickly adapted and became familiar with the area of operation."

Camp Nothing Hill is only a few miles from the ABL between Kosovo and Serbia and 70 miles from Camp Bondsteel, MNBG-E's main headquarters. This made Camp Nothing Hill the most distant outpost for U.S. Soldiers in Kosovo at the time the 1-144th was stationed there.

Craig said the 1-144th Soldiers executed quick-reaction and MEDEVAC exercises, including a joint operation with French forces in which two Soldiers were involved in a simulated vehicle rollover and had to be taken by air for medical treatment in a French Puma helicopter.

The 1-144th also worked with other Multinational forces during their mission at Camp Nothing Hill.

"The Belgian LMTs (Liaison and Monitoring Team) played a vital role in familiarizing our Soldiers to the Leposavic municipality and the entire Camp Nothing Hill area of operation," Craig said.

One of the more unique missions that took place at Camp Nothing Hill, according to Craig, was when MNBG-E Task Force Med commander, Col. Edwin Moore, Beverly Hills, Fla., and Maj. Lauren Simpson took part in patrols with 1-144th Soldiers.

"They learned about our mounted patrol techniques and provided minor medical care to elderly patients in the very



Handover Responsibility Hill to Italian Force

remote mountain villages,” he said.

During the mission to Camp Nothing Hill, the Soldiers got a special visit from Brig. Gen. Alan Dohrmann, Bismarck, N.D., commander of MNBG-E, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jack W. Cripe, Dickinson, N.D., MNBG-E’s top enlisted soldier, as they showed their support for the U.S. Soldiers and toured the area.

It was Dohrmann’s first visit to a U.S. force at Camp Nothing Hill.

“It’s always good when the commander comes out to visit,” Craig said. “I know the Soldiers really appreciate his interest in their mission.”

Also, as part of their visit, Dohrmann and Cripe went to Gate 1 along the ABL, a place where the 1-144th Soldiers were poised and ready in less than 30 minutes, if needed.

“The efforts of the Soldiers here to keep important areas, like Gate 1, safe and secure are tremendous,” Cripe said. “Their rigorous training has helped them achieve response times under 30 minutes, which is outstanding for this mission and in this challenging terrain.”

While at Camp Nothing Hill, the 1-144th also logged long hours of important duty in the guard towers around the base,

Craig said.

“The shifts in the guard towers could easily get tedious, but our Soldiers knew how critical it is to stay alert and the leadership ensured that our Soldiers were focused on the mission, Craig said.

Platoons would rotate every 24 hours from guard duty to patrols to quick-reaction missions, he said.

The 1-144th MTF is part of the California National Guard’s 1-144th Field Artillery Battalion, based in the Los Angeles area. The unit was deployed as part of the U.S. contingent of KFOR 12 (Kosovo Forces), MNBG-E for NATO peacekeeping operations in Kosovo.

“I commend the hard work, arduous training and long hours completed by these highly motivated Soldiers of the 1-144th who were stationed at Camp Nothing Hill,” Dohrmann said.

“The relationships they forged with other members of the MNBG-N family, the citizens who live in the area and with our Multinational partners from France, Belgium, Poland, Italy and others ensured the success of their mission.”



KFOR EOD

Story by Sergeant 1st class David Dodds
Photos by Afrim Hajrullahu

The Kosovo Security Force (KSF) could become the primary agency in charge of disposing explosive ordnance in Kosovo thanks to a series of new specialty classes being taught by KFOR EOD experts soon.

Warrant Officer Nicola Sgherzi is one of the instructors who are responsible for the education.

Approximately 25 KSF students are taking the first set of classes, which will begin March 1. In four weeks, the students will learn to identify and destroy basic conventional munitions throughout Kosovo. A second

four-week course will begin in April, taught by the best KSF students from the first iteration.

The important skills of de-mining and clearing landmines will be taught as a separate course to the basic-level KSF training. In the future, once certified, KSF EOD operations could be split into two units: a specific de-mining operation and another for all other types of explosive disposal.



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Trains KSF

KFOR class instructors say the aim of the training is to give KSF the ability to eventually take over the responsibility of ridding Kosovo of unexploded ordnance and landmines. Currently, KFOR EOD specialists handle the bulk of that responsibility.

KSF, an effective emergency response organization in Kosovo, already cooperates with civilian fire departments and relief organizations in a number of ways such as cleanup of hazardous materials and search-and-rescue operations.

KSF also recently proved its growing competence in civil protection and delivering humanitarian during flood-fighting operations in northern Albania.

KFOR has been tasked to train and mentor the KSF to become Kosovo's pre-eminent organization for emergency response. This duty now includes training KSF for explosive ordnance disposal.

All of the training ensures that KSF is continuing its path to becoming an effective pillar of security for the people in Kosovo.



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Drinking and Non-Potable

Story and photos by MAZ&MORE Team

The floor of the clean water cistern is hard to see. Light goes on; the workers get ready to start their work. Short commands signal the crew that preparations have been completed and work is about to begin. Before the soldiers who are tasked with the work are allowed to enter the unit, they must disinfect their shoes and all of their tools. The air is thick with an acrid smell from the disinfecting solution, which sterilizes the material but also makes the head swim. Therefore, it is very important that the workers – before entering the plant and before dispersing the aerosol – not only wear their yellow plastic suits, which protect them from the caustic agent, but also put on their NBC masks. The fine aerosols would cause extreme stress to lungs and eyes; within very short time they would make work inside the cistern impossible and threaten the health of the working soldiers.

Added to the difficult conditions are the high heat inside the close space and a vast amount of water vapour, making it hard to see. Orientation inside the water reservoir is almost impossible. The soldiers are groping their way

carefully forward, always keeping an eye on each other. Disinfecting the cistern is one of the tasks of the NBC Defence Platoon KFOR. The platoon conducts it regularly with organic assets. Because of the possible consequences of impure water, the men and women who formally had been assigned to the Combat Service Support Battalion and who now belong to the Support Battalion take their task very seriously. The water which is temporary stored inside the cistern must be free of health-damaging germs and suitable for human consumption. Therefore, already the processes of water purification and water distribution must comply with German drinking water regulations. The water's quality will only be tested at the final dispensing point, which is the place where the consumer will draw the water.

Staff Sergeant Marek N. explains: "This clean water cistern, which contains 200 cubic metres of water, is cleaned and disinfected at regular intervals." Before starting with their work the soldiers have already drained the cistern.

"As soon as the cistern has been drained, we can start our work. We use calcium hyperchloride solution for the



Water - Element of Survival

disinfection", explains Sergeant Denise A. First of all, though, the walls and floor are cleaned with a high pressure cleaner and 60 degree hot water.

After the solution has been dispersed and allowed to stand in contact, Corporal Sebastian H. and Corporal Daniel S. stand ready with the high pressure cleaner's spray lances to rinse off the cistern's walls once more with water.

The next step is to apply again a ten-percent calcium hyperchloride solution, using hand-held sprayers.

"This solution must be allowed to remain in contact for three hours", explains Corporal Daniel B., while he passes the hand-held sprayer to his colleague inside the clean water cistern.

Only regular cleaning of the cistern will guarantee in accordance with regulations and standards that the water inside the cistern will not be polluted.

"This complex cleaning process is repeated every four months", notes Corporal Patryk B. and suggests a careful management of drinking water resources.

To do their work, the soldiers need to make numerous arrangements with the responsible personnel of Camp Prizren.

"The most favourable time for disinfection is the time

when water consumption in Camp Prizren is lowest. That is the night from Friday to Saturday. During this time remains enough time after cleaning and refilling the water cistern to adjust the water's optimum chlorine content", explains NBC Platoon leader Lieutenant 2nd class Nico S., who is supervising the disinfection of the cistern.

There is only an emergency supply of water available to the soldiers during the time of cleaning. Therefore, one of the persons who must be involved in the planning process is the Camp Commandant as he has to order a no-showering policy for the respective time. The health supervisor must be informed about the planned cleaning as well. If there is a lack of clean water in Camp Prizren, there is an alert chain over which the NBC Defence Platoon will be informed.

The Camp Prizren soldiers' supply of drinking water is guaranteed by the water plant of the City of Prizren. Before this water is used, though, it will be treated again in accordance with German drinking water regulations. The drinking water's quality is tested with sample tests at the field hospital's laboratory by veterinarians and the health supervisor of the Medical Task Force.



A miraculous

*Story and photos by Captain Martin Wieland,
Austrian Army*

It was a cold and windy day when a group of soldiers left Camp Film City in the direction of Former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). They expected a miraculous trip of wine tasting at "Bovin Winery". After a two hour trip, they reached a small factory surrounded by beautiful vineyards. A guide showed them the whole factory and the winemaking process from the very beginning when grapes are growing in the vineyards, until the end when they sell all these very delicious wines.

The Bovin Winery was established in 1998, as the first privately owned winery in FYROM. Under the direction of the Winery's professional management team, this ambitious objective was reached in 2001. Bovin's quality driven strategy of targeting the domestic market's high-end consumers, has paid the dividend of increasing exports by a factor of ten. Their wines are now found all over Europe, North

America and Asia.

The factory owns 25 hectares of prime vineyards in the Tikvesh wine district. The district has approximately 11,000 ha of grapes, which represents about one third of the total vineyard area of FYROM. The perfect weather conditions in this area make the production of these delicious wines possible. It is the driest area on the Balkan Peninsula, with a total annual rainfall of 500 – 600 litres per square meter. The maximum daily temperature during July and August is regularly around 40 degree Celsius. With a deep plowing layer, the rich soils supply the grapes with a constant supply of water. Additionally, gentle North winds provide natural protection from diseases.

The wines at Bovin are produced from grapes picked from selected vineyards, which are not irrigated and use environmentally friendly vineyard practices. After the interesting tour, the group was anxious to be served what turned out to be a delicious lunch, which consisted of various meats, cheeses and specialities of the local area. The guide



trip to FYROM

gave a lesson on how to pair wines with foods to enhance the enjoyment of winetasting. First, they started off with white wine and ended with red. They served a variety of wines such as Muscat, Sauvignon, Chardonnay, Merlot, Venus and Alexander. After an overall fantastic day of exceptional food and wine, the now experienced wine tasters departed the beautiful vineyard and returned back to Kosovo.



Life Threatening in New

*Story and photos by Major Patrick Van Hoerlande,
Belgium Air Force*

With less specialized assets in every National Support Element, it was expected that after the

transformation into a Multinational Battle Group, no nation would be capable to solely guarantee a rapid reaction to a life threatening incident.

Because the safety of our soldiers is our main concern, the only acceptable solution was to set up a multinational, interagency team. This had to be a fast intervention team at high readiness with all the necessary elements to face any imaginable situation.

Denmark, France, Greece and Morocco combined their assets and trained their people to work together as a team.

Although convinced of the necessity, achieving a multinational cooperation is hard at working level. Military personnel like Military Police,



Structure: “Fast Pelican”

medical teams, recovery specialists, etc have to work together with civilian fire fighters and Gendarmerie. Not only their specialties were different, but also their native languages. English may be the common language amongst officers in a HQ, but that is not true for the average soldier in the field. But with a common aim and lots of training, these difficulties can be overcome and turned into advantages.

The system works as follows: after a report that an incident has happened and that the life of a military or KFOR civilian is in danger, the Tactical Operation Centre (TOC) of the Multinational Battle Group North (MNBG N) will alert the “Fast Pelican”-team. This team will assemble in 5 minutes and after receiving the necessary information the team is ready to drive towards the scene to secure the victims.

The team consists of:

- a command element that guides the team and stays in contact with the TOC;

- a security element that assures the safety on route and at the spot of the incident;
- a medical element that gives the team it life saving capability and;
- a rescue element that can liberate a victim out of any situation.

Unless the information clearly supports the contrary, the whole team will be deployed. This is necessary because some remote places in MNBG N area of responsibility are almost a 2 hour drive away. Due to this, it is better to deploy too much equipment, than not enough.

The mission of saving lives is a strong motivator for this tested for the multinational cooperation at the basic level. As a mutual understanding and trust will increase, this experience will for sure serve as a basis for further expansion of the multinational in the Battle Group.



KFOR Chronicle Cartoon



KFOR Chronicle Sudoku

Amateur

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Profi

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Peacekeeper's Profiles

Name: BERNARDO Marco

Rank: Staff Sergeant

Home unit: 1st Mechanized Infantry Battalion of Portuguese Mechanized Brigade

Unit in KFOR: KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM)

Education: Army Sergeant School and Infantry Practical School.

About the mission: This is my first mission and through my job I have had the opportunity to meet a number of different nationalities and people and learn about their customs and culture. I have also learned about the local area, the region and culture of the Kosovo area and the Balkans in general. As a soldier of the KTM, as part of the TACRES I have constantly been on alert and ready to move at a short notice. This also has involved a number of exercises, which have increased my own and the unit's knowledge of the area. In general, this mission has given me the experience of working in a Corps level Multinational environment.

In all these challenges, I have never forgotten my love for physical training and running. This has led to me participating in both the 2nd and 3rd Czech and Dancon March.

Family reaction: I have one 5-year old daughter. My parents have supported me in accepting this mission and have supported each other whilst I have been away. This has given me the confidence to continue with my mission knowing that my family is fine.

Hobbies and free time: I dedicate my free time to sports activities, like running and spend as much time as I can with my friends.

Plans after the mission: In the future, after spending some time with my family after this deployment, I will go on another mission where I will continue to gain experience and knowledge of the military life which will benefit me in my career.



Name: VASILIADIS Vasilios

Rank: Lieutenant Colonel

Home Unit: 646 Mech Inf BN

Unit in KFOR: Last Commander of HELBAT (Hellenic Battalion) in MNTF-N, present Commander of the Hellenic Contingent in MNBG-N

Education: Military Academy, Infantry Basic School, Subunit Commanders School, Unit Commanders School, Staff College, War college;

About the mission: This is my second mission in Kosovo. The Hellenic Contingent in north, initially as HELBAT and as part of the MNBG N, is contributing to the SASE & FOM in its area of responsibility, which is one of the most sensitive regions in Kosovo, especially north of the Ibar river.

We have an excellent relationship with all the people in the region, regardless of religious and ethnical origins. Our contribution to a Safe and Secure Environment in the region is decisive and of course it is being realized in close cooperation with other nations, under the command of MNBG N.

My country, Hellas, where democracy was born will keep serving as peacekeepers and will continue being present in North Kosovo, reinforced by additional Hellenic troops due to the transformation of KFOR. The only difference is going to be that we will not operate any more from the Hellenic camp, Alexander the Great, due to its closure in the upcoming weeks from the French camp Belvedere for the rest of our mission.

Family reaction: I'm married and have 4 kids. Despite the absence from my family, which is really hard for my spouse and my kids, they can realize and understand the importance of my mission here in Kosovo. Especially my wife, who is a great person, supports me significantly and is by my side all the time.

Hobbies and free time: During my mission here, there is not any free time, as we operate 24/7. Back home, during my free time I like to read history books, to go trekking and swimming in the deep blue Hellenic sea, during summer and winter time as well

Plans after the mission: After my mission in Kosovo, I'll go back with my battalion (646 Mech Inf BN), to my base town, which is Komotini, to continue our national mission, while trying at the same time on a personal level to spend more time with my family, in order to fulfill - if possible - the time of my absence.



Mount Sharr

