

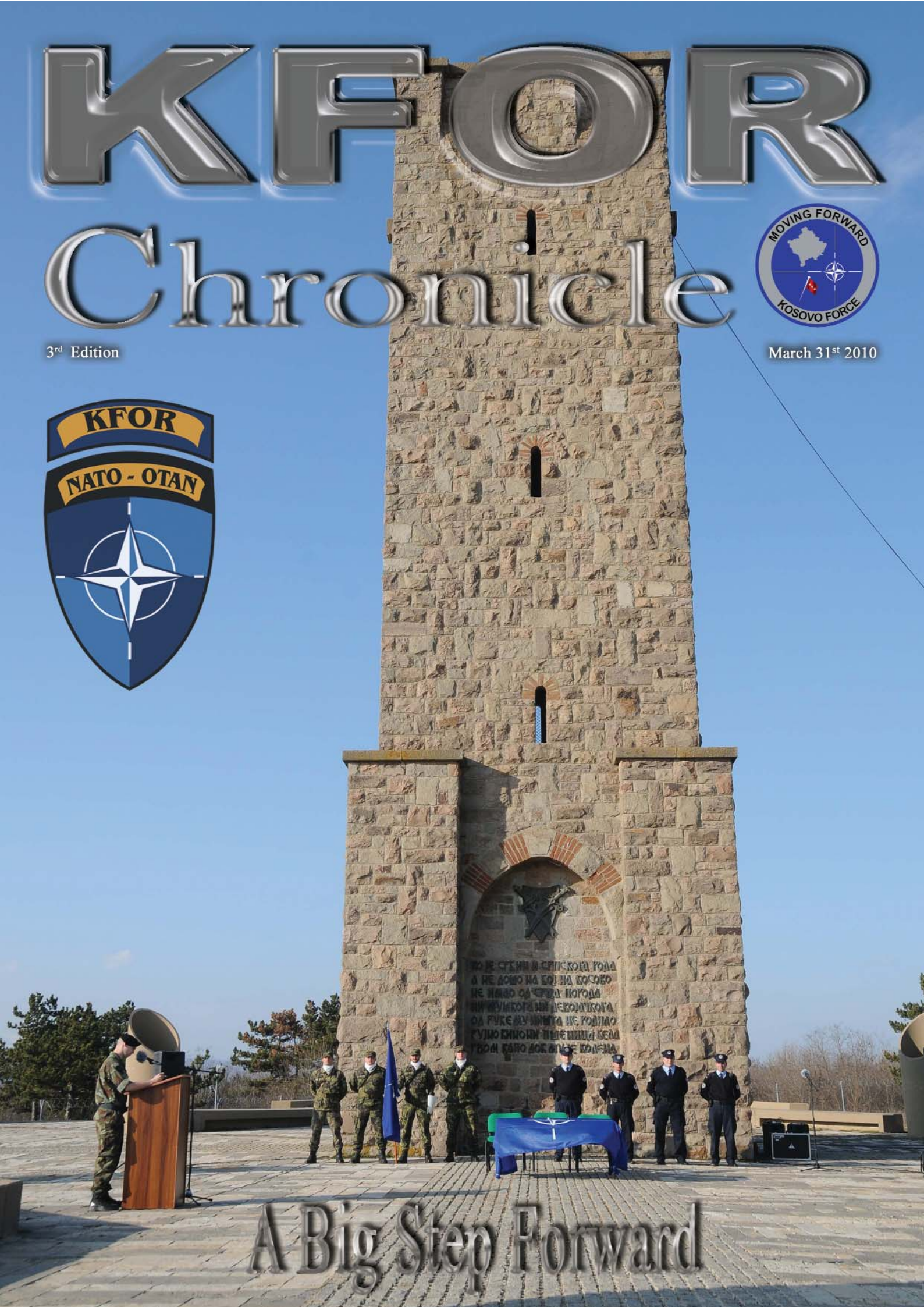
KFOR

Chronicle

3rd Edition



March 31st 2010



A Big Step Forward



MOVING I

Photos by Captain Martin Wieland, Austrian Army and Sergeant Stefanie Willuweit, German Army



March 6, 2010

The Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, greeted the Commanding General of the United States Army Europe, General Carter Ham. During the meeting Lieutenant General Markus Bentler briefed General Carter Ham on the current situation in Kosovo and KFOR.

March 15, 2010

COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, welcomed Commanding General Land Forces Command of Germany, Lieutenant General Carl-Hubertus von Butler. Topics discussed were, the issues concerning the event driven transition process and future force reduction.



March 16, 2010



COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, greeted the Director of Operations of the Swedish Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Andres Lindström. They discussed the security situation in Kosovo.

FORWARD



March 19, 2010

During his visit to the HQ KFOR, COM Allied Joint Force Command Naples, Admiral Mark Fitzgerald, discussed with COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, the process of handing over the responsibility for safeguarding of cultural and historical sites in Kosovo.

March 21, 2010

COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, welcomed the Supervisor of the Austrian Government Strategic Leader's Course, Lieutenant General Christian Segur-Cabanac. During the meeting, the current situation in Kosovo was discussed.



March 26, 2010



COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler greeted the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Admiral James G. Stavridis. SACEUR discussed with COM KFOR the current achievements in Kosovo and the future development of KFOR.



Unity is worth it!

In the 1980s, the song, “Everything Must Change,” achieved some popularity in the United States. Its lyrics begin, “Everything must change / Nothing stays the same / Everyone must change / No one stays the same...” These sentiments echo well what we soldiers learn over the course of our military service: change is ubiquitous, and change is difficult. Right now here in Kosovo, many changes are taking place, in and around KFOR. We would do well to keep in mind that change characterizes living things, and that organisms incapable of adjusting and adapting to changing environments, die. Military deployment to a foreign land initiates changes in all who undertake such missions, and we return home different from who we were when we left. In like fashion, our loved ones and friends change and grow during our absence, as well. For many people, the mere prospect of change occasions panic and distrust. Needless to say, this reaction proves decidedly unhelpful, and can prompt either rash decisions or complete inaction. In the face of change – whether personal or corporate – I have found solace in remembering that change is not an enemy, that it is part of the natural rhythm of things. “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die...” (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2). If I can remember simply to breathe – deep, intentional breaths – when I’m faced with the juggernaut which is change, I have a much better chance of staying calm and focused on my mission, than if I give in to terror and resignation – which inevitably leads to holding my breath. I suggest to my soldiers that when change looms on the horizon and threatens my sense of personal, professional, or family security, I do well to “name what’s true right now,” and then “do the next right thing.” By keeping the focus on “what’s true right now,” I can avoid conjuring up imaginary horrors that only heap more stress onto an already stressful-enough situation. By doing “the next right thing,” I don’t say or do anything to make matters worse. If I confide in a trusted friend or superior, I avoid falling into a sense of isolation which disheartens me further. Changes can challenge and invigorate us, if we choose to respond positively. Keeping a spiritual perspective in the midst of what’s happening can enable us to thrive during this – or any other – deployment.



Chaplain Captain Timothy J. Meier, is the Battalion Chaplain for Task Force Mustang (1-144 Field Artillery, 11th Armoured Cavalry Regiment). He has been a Jesuit for 32 years, and is the only Catholic priest in the California Army National Guard. He holds a doctorate in molecular neurobiology from Stanford University, where he was the Undergraduate Research Coordinator and Director of the Honors Program in the Biology Department, until he joined the military (with no prior service) at age 50, three years ago.

Commander KFOR Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, DEU Army	E-mail & web: kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int www.nato.int/kfor
Chief Public Affairs Office Lieutenant Colonel Hans Peter Buch, DEU Army	The KFOR Chronicle is produced and fully funded by HQ KFOR. It is published for KFOR forces in the area of responsibility. The contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the coalition governments’ defense departments.
Chief Internal Information & Editor Captain Martin Wieland, AUT Army	Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Internal Information Section of HQ KFOR’s Public Affairs Office (PAO) in Pristina, Kosovo.
Journalist Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko, UKR Army	PAO HQ KFOR reserves the right to edit content to conform to style and space requirements. Articles run on a space-available basis.
Webmaster Staff Sergeant Mejia Ezrick, US Air Force	The KFOR Chronicle is printed by RASTER Tel: 038 601 606
Photographer and Design Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu	

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	
Albania	Morocco
Austria	Sweden
Finland	Switzerland
Ireland	Ukraine

Fire Brigade Live Exercise

Story and photos by Maz&More Team

The truck and the 8 seater flatbed are ablaze. The on-scene commander of the camp fire brigade has already arrived at the site of the accident at parking area "Charlie" at Camp Prizren. All occupants have left the burning vehicles. This makes firefighting efforts a lot easier. On-scene commander Master Sergeant Marcus R. directs his station manager via radio from his emergency control vehicle. At the same time at the camp's fire station: Station manager Staff Sergeant Jürgen S. alerts the squad leader and his men: Burning vehicles caused by an accident on parking area "Charlie" – It is urgent. In the locker room the firefighters put on their protective clothing. Everything runs smoothly. The company's firefighters mount their vehicles. Here they go. The station manager remains at the fire station and supports the on-scene commander in coordinating the operation. His support may include the search for information regarding classes of hazardous material in the PC database and the order of additional water from the NBC Defence Company. He is permanent point of contact for the on-scene commander and further rescue personnel like medics or military police. The spectators at the burning vehicles can now hear the approaching siren. The emergency vehicles arrive shortly afterwards. The crews dismount. Squad leader Staff Sergeant Jochen G. briefs his team. The stowage boxes are opened and the firehoses run out. It takes only a short time to connect the hoses and the external foam proportioner. The foam which is used here is mixed from water, air and foam compound and is supposed to smother the fire by depriving it from oxygen. The first team wears respiratory protective devices and directs the foam pipe at the vehicles. White foam pours over the flames. It does not take long before the vehicles are covered by the white substance, only occasional flames blaze up; soon the fire dies out completely. The extinguished vehicles stand in a white lake. The first part of the exercise has been fulfilled, the vehicle fire has been extinguished. In

the meantime the firefighters have repacked all their equipment and are on their way to top off the water of their fire engines. The camp fire brigade currently has one fire engine with 2,400 litres of water supply and two vehicles with 1,000 litres capacity each. Two unserviceable containers on parking area "Charlie" have been prepared and are now ignited. The second "hot" phase of the exercise starts. The on-scene commander orders the emergency vehicles, which had only just left the scene, back to parking area "Charlie". The containers stand at the edge of last exercise's foam path. Thick smoke emerges. The flames inside can be seen through the windowless openings. By now the wind has blown the extinguishing foam of the two extinguished vehicles over the complete area. Once again, the same picture. The emergency vehicles rush to the scene, the firefighters jump out, are briefed, put on their protective equipment and run out the firehoses. By now the complete parking area is covered in smoke. Turn the water on! The doors of the first container are widely opened - Thick smoke pours out. The first two firefighters wearing respiratory protection enter the inside and carry the hose in front of them. The second team is ready to go. The second container must be forced open. After the doors have been opened the flames are quickly extinguished by firefighting water. The fire brigade managed a textbook solution of the second exercise and delivered the spectators an impressive demonstration of their skills and capabilities. The camp fire brigade is a subunit often unnoticed but which always stands ready for the safety of everyone. We only become aware of their 24/7 duty when it smokes and burns and our firefighting colleagues arrive within a few minutes. The camp fire chief has twelve soldiers to do this dangerous work. Fire Senior NCOs and NCOs guarantee a smoke and fire-free environment inside the camp. Our camp fire brigade of the 25th DEUCON comes mainly from Special Engineer Battalion 464 from Speyer and is reinforced by three reservists. The camp fire brigade is part of the Camp Support Company.



A Small Step Back bu

Story and photos by Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko, Ukrainian Army

On 18 March 2010, in the presence of the official representatives of KFOR, EULEX and the Kosovo Police, the lead responsibility for the safeguarding of the Gazimestan Monument was handed over from KFOR to the Kosovo Police (KP).

The transfer of this security task took place according to the decision taken by the North Atlantic Council and reflected NATO's confidence in the capability of the KP to execute this important task. In executing this new task, the KP will be monitored, mentored and advised by EULEX.

In his speech at the beginning of the Transfer of Authority ceremony, the Commander of the Multinational Battle Group Centre (MNBG-C), Brigadier General Seppo Toivonen, said that the Kosovo Police has proven its capabilities during the preparation phase as well as during the familiarization period. "KFOR securing tasks at the Gazimestan monument site was terminated after the signing of the handover documentation (...) Kosovo Police, as the designated agency of the Institutions in Kosovo shall assume full responsibility for all securing tasks at the Gazimestan monument site from the date of signing (...) KP as the agency of the Institutions in Kosovo has been in charge for continuing security of the monument site", Brigadier General Seppo Toivonen said.

After that, in a solemn atmosphere, the handover documentation was signed by the representatives of KFOR, EULEX and KP.



ut a Big Step Forward

In his turn to speak, the Director of Regional Directorate of KP for the Prishtine/Prishtina region, Major Emin Beqiri said: "I would like to assure all the communities, institutions and international partners of our commitment in fulfilling our mission and guaranteeing public order and security, in respecting the law, protecting the citizens, their property and cultural heritage".

In accordance with its mandate to ensure a safe and secure environment in Kosovo, KFOR, as third responder, is prepared to support KP to guarantee the security of this site and will be able to intervene rapidly, if there is a requirement. Over the last few months, KFOR and the Kosovo Police have conducted several joint exercises in order to ensure that in case of an incident, the two organizations are prepared to cooperate efficiently. In addition, KFOR consulted with leaders of all relevant institutions and communities to explain the process of the handover and security assurances thereafter.

This transfer of lead responsibility from KFOR to the KP was an important first milestone in the process of transitioning the lead authority for the protection of cultural and religious sites in Kosovo. There will be further such transfers over time.



Multinational Exercise

Story by Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko, Ukrainian Army
Photos by Captain Martin Wieland, Austrian Army and
Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko, Ukrainian Army

On 10 and 11 March 2010, NATO Forces in Kosovo (KFOR) conducted joint KFOR-EULEX Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) Exercise "Silver Saber" in Camp Vrelo.

The main goal of the exercise was to see the joint efforts between KFOR and EULEX providing a safe and secure environment and to guarantee the freedom of movement all over Kosovo.

The exercise was organized by HQ KFOR J3 and consisted of two main parts, static and dynamic demonstrations.

During the static demonstration, all that were present had the option of getting familiar with the CRC weapons and ammunitions that are used by the nations taking part in the exercise. The variety of weapons was used, to include small arms as a means of combating,

with significant quantity of crowd's members. After that, the demonstration started. The participants included as "Friendly Forces" one Coy from KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM), one Coy from Multinational Battle Group Centre (performed by Swedish Contingent), one Coy with two platoons from Multinational Battle Group East (performed by US Contingent), two platoons from Multinational Battle Group West (performed by Hungarian Contingent), and one platoon from EULEX (performed by Italian Carabinieri and Polish Police).

The "Opposing Force" was comprised of one platoon from Multinational Battle Group South (performed by Swiss Contingent), and two platoons from Multinational Battle Group North (performed by French Contingent).

According to the scenario, the rioters tried to enter a EULEX protected area. At first, the EULEX platoon demonstrated their skills in repression of rioters, overcoming of barricades and the



Exercise Silver Saber

final offensive. Then the main forces from KFOR came on the scene. The KTM Coy using tear gas pushed the demonstrators away from the guarded area. However, the morale of the rioters still remained high. Under the cover of barricades, the rioters began throwing plastic bottles with water, snowballs and dirt at the KFOR forces. Reinforced by the Swedish and Hungarian Soldiers, KFOR troops used special vehicles that went through the barricades and forced rioters to retreat.

The final act was to force the rioters, played by American soldiers, to become peaceful in order to put an end to the unrest.

It should be noted that during the exercise a Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) took place. The transportation of injured soldiers to the hospital was organized by the joint efforts of the Swedish medical team and the MEDEVAC helicopter from Multinational Battle Group East.

Overall, the exercise proved the high effectiveness of a joint application between KFOR and EULEX forces, as well as concerted actions of the multinational units in case of a situation's escalation.

According to the Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, who observed the exercise, "(...) KFOR will continue the consolidation of the force into a security force for all Kosovo people to verify their land and air capabilities of movement, as a respond to eventual incidents whenever and wherever in Kosovo".



The New Leaders

*Story by Captain Radovan Virijant, Slovenian Army
Photos by Captain Martin Wieland, Austrian Army and
Captain Radovan Virijant, Slovenian Army*

Between 9 and 16 March 2010, HQ KFOR organized the first Key Leader Training (KLT) of 2010. The mission of the KLT is to familiarize future Key Leaders within the HQ KFOR structure and operations with their new tasks, the overall situation Kosovo - wide and to help prepare for a smooth transition without loss of continuity. This will ensure that Key Leaders have the necessary knowledge and information to begin their duties without degradation to mission accomplishment. HQ KFOR organizes a KLT once every three months with an additional "Command Group KLT" every six

months. The "Command Group KLT" allows future Key Leaders to meet current Key Leaders in HQ KFOR, MNBG's, MSU, KTM and other international organizations/agencies.

The KLT in March started on Tuesday, the 9 March with 39 participants from 12 different nations. COM KFOR and COS KFOR opened the event with welcoming speeches. The first evening ended with an "Ice Breaker" social hosted by COS at the Norwegian NSE. During the eight days of the KLT, participants received 38 different briefings in HQ KFOR as well as briefings provided by international civilian organizations and agencies from EULEX, UNMIK, ICO and OSCE. During the KLT program, participants also made visits to the five MNBG's in Kosovo in order to receive



Leaders KLT

briefings about the MNBG's tasks, structure of forces and an organized reconnaissance in their Area of Responsibility (AOR). MNBG North provided reconnaissance of the Mitrovica area, MNBG Center provided a guided tour through Pristina and MNBG South provided a guided tour in the Prizren area. During the visit to the MNBG's, KLT participants had the opportunity to visit various Property Designated with Special Status (PrDSS). MNBG South organized a visit to the Arch Angel Monastery PrDSS, MNBG West provided a visit to the Visoki Decani PrDSS and MNBG Center provided a visit and briefing at the Gazimestan monument. During all visits, MSU provided an escort in order to ensure safe travel to all the destinations.

The KLT participants also had an opportunity to watch one of the biggest KFOR exercises in Kosovo – the Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) “Silver Saber” at Camp Vrelo.

The KLT concluded on the 16 March with a Farewell Dinner hosted by COS at the German Ark.

After the KLT was finished, 15 of the participants started working in KFOR positions, while the others will come back to theatre in the next few months.

HQ KFOR J3 CONOPS has the overall responsibility for the preparation, organization and execution of the KLT sessions.



New MP Team in

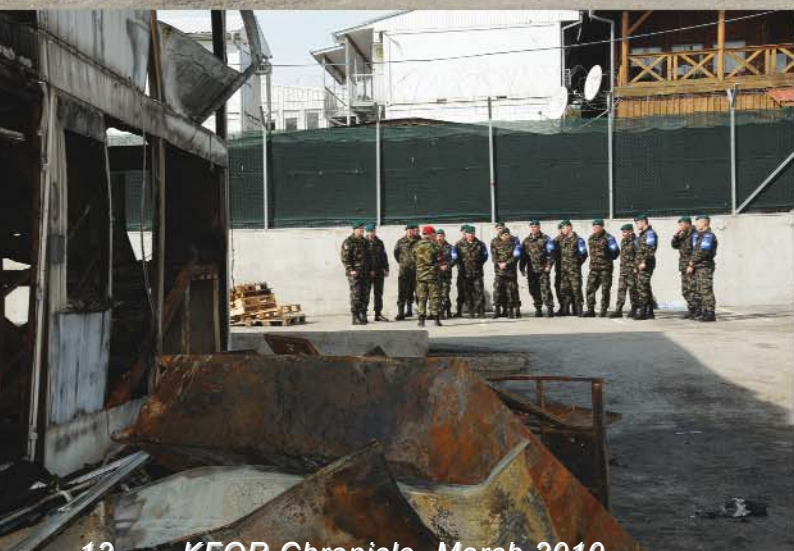
*Story by Lieutenant Colonel Jos Senger,
Netherland Royal Marechaussee
Photos by Captain Martin Wieland, Austrian Army
and Afrim Hajrullahu*

Military Police contribute an unique, specialized skill coupled with core individual competencies that are not found in other areas of NATO forces. Employment of these skills and competencies are guided by a Provost Marshal in support of the commander's objectives. Military Police support commanders at all levels through the conduct of Military Police Activities. Specifically, these are enabling functions that are conducted by designated

military personnel who are organized, trained and equipped using specialized MP techniques.

As the KFOR Multinational Battle Groups are downsizing, the MP assets to the Battle Groups are also being reduced. That means that under Deterrent Presence, less Military Police are available in Kosovo. However, all parties agree that there is a need for an International Military Police presence. As of the 1 September 2010, IMP KFOR will consist of at least 50 members.

On Friday 26 February, the KFOR Provost Marshal (PM), Lieutenant Colonel Jos Senger, Commander of



KFOR Film City

IMP KFOR, officially installed the first twenty IMP's. The PM held a comprehensive brief for the new IMP. After his brief, the Dutch police officer from the Royal Marechaussee, distributed the NATO IMP KFOR armbands to the military policemen.

The initial Slovenian commitment consisting of twenty IMP's arrived in the last week of February. On the 1 March, these IMP's will begin their duties. Other nations considering contributing are Switzerland and Ireland. The IMPs are tasked with normal police duty. During their patrols, they will check military traffic in the KFOR AOR. However, their main goals are: mobility support, security and

policing. The IMP KFOR will do their jobs in close coordination with the IMP-station HQ KFOR. The patrols will be mixed with different nationalities and traverse all of Kosovo. There will be constant communication with the PMs of the Battle Groups (BG) and IMP will be available to assist the BGs on request. In the case of greater incidents, the Provost Marshal HQ can form an investigation team comprised of members of the IMP and MPs of the BGs.



Power in South - F

*Story by Captain Bernd Ruhland, Austrian Army
Photos by Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko,
Ukrainian Army*

Camp Prizren is located on the outskirts of the City of Prizren formerly used as barracks of the former Yugoslav Army. The mission of the troops serving there (infantry and artillery) was to secure the border to Albania.

The barracks were almost completely destroyed in the NATO air raids during the war in 1999.

Following extensive restoration work, three headquarters buildings still exist today. The current camp is comprised of 23 air-conditioned housing units and numerous billeting, office and special containers. Camp Prizren accommodates the headquarters of Multi National Battle Group South, which includes Austrian, German, Swiss and Turkish soldiers.



Field Camp Prizren

The newly erected messing facility opened on 19 March 2010, guarantees the soldiers the best possible subsistence supply.

The field hospital provides medical care in accordance with NATO Role 3. This is the best possible medical care available in theatre. The goal is to provide the same quality of medical care as at home. Recent accidents have shown that patient care can partly be guaranteed up to the level of a university hospital.

The camp has a gymnasium, a small sports ground, two well furnished fitness tents, a beach volleyball court, a polymeric rubber athletic track with flood lights and several jogging pathways. Furthermore, the soldiers can use a sauna and a tanning studio.

The camp has numerous welfare and recreation facilities (restaurants, bars and bistros), a post office, a hairdresser and a number of PX shops.



Engagement for Kos

Story by Major Nikolaos Angelis, Hellenic Army

Photos by Sergeant Damianos Sahanidis, Hellenic Army

As of 1 February 2010, the Hellenic Forces stationed in Kosovo have taken over the responsibility of guarding Film City Camp.

1st Coy/ 501 Mechanized Infantry Battalion consists of 4 platoons for this task, distributed appropriately for manning all relevant posts such as Check Point 1, the Main Gate, Restricted Area Personnel Control Point (RAPCP) at the HQ Building and Camp Vrelo on a 24/7 basis. 1st Coy has a very impressive reaction time for any foreseen emergency. It also takes part in all relevant security duties specified by Headquarter's Support Group (HSG). In spite of difficulties, the Hellenic Forces managed in a short time to overcome all obstacles.

We are in close cooperation with IMP, trying to prevent any potential dangerous situation from getting out of hand. Our primary objective is personnel and installation security within the Camp. This is achieved by adhering to all relevant Standard Operating Procedures's (SOP) and security measures and procedures.

Finally, we strongly wish and seek good cooperation with all personnel stationed inside Film City Camp for the benefit of harmonious and safe Camp functions. Responsibility for this lies not only within those tasked to enforce the rules, but also with those who are obliged to obey.



Sovo - Greek Guards



KFOR Becomes Slimmer

*Story by Captain Paulo Rodrigues, Portuguese Army
Photos by Corporal Rui Silva, Portuguese Army*

The 1st Mechanized Infantry Battalion (1st Mech Inf Bn) was established in Santa Margarida, on 15 March 1977 materializing with the signing of the 1st Battalion's Orders. In the following years and decades, the Battalion participated in various operational activities, both nationally and internationally, in cooperation with English, American, Italian and Spanish Armies.

In addition to its operational training, the 1st Mech Inf Bn was deployed several times to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in February 1997, in January 1999 and January 2001, to Kosovo from August 2000 to April 2001 (one Coy) and from March to September 2006, to East Timor as part of a UN

mission during the first half of 2003.

During the second half of 2004 and 2005, it was part of 5th Nato Response Force (NRF), having repeated the participation in this force, during 2008 and the first half of 2009, that time for NRF 12. It took part in this NATO force, as a mechanized task force, with the strength of nearly 700 soldiers and with the following requirements: Notice to Move (NTM) of 5 days, maintain a level of 95% in personnel and equipment; be self-sustainable for a period of 10 days and have a flexible command structure. This force was trained and prepared to act throughout all Spectrum of Operations (Article 5 and non-Article 5) for one and a half years. The mechanized task force training was carried out in three phases: National training phase, multinational training phase (multinational certification by participating in an exercise in Spain) and achieving Full Operational Capability (FOC), Employment of Stand-by.

When the NRF cycle ended the 1st Mech Inf Bn began specific training, in order to be deployed to the Kosovo Theater of Operations (TO). At this stage,

ner - Camp Reduction

cooperation with KFOR forces and EULEX.

With the end of the deployment in March 2010, the 1stMechInfBn soldiers will return home with the feeling of mission accomplished and the feeling that they have contributed to the improvement of the Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) and the Freedom of Movement in Kosovo.

all the tasks were dedicated to the possible use as
C... KFOR TACRES were trained. With the
arrival in Kosovo in September 2009, several
training activities and operations were carried out
in order to acquire a thorough knowledge and
familiarity of the Kosovo theater, its people and its
problems, ensuring a Kosovo-wide intervention
capability in Properly Designated with Special
Status (PrDSS) and / or hotspots. High readiness,
flexibility and capability to be deployed by air
were the main "aim" that was achieved through an
intense training concept, with a special focus on
Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) operations and
knowledge of the terrain where KFOR Tactical
Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM) could be
employed. Over the past six months that the
1stMechInfBn was assigned as KTM, it has been
assessing its growing importance, especially after
the reduction of KFOR contingents. In addition to
the operations and of the High Readiness status, it
also undertook Civil and Military Cooperation
(C-MC) activities and training activities in close



EXERCISE BAL

Story and photos by Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko, Ukrainian Army

On 3 March 2010, the KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM) performed an operational rehearsal, designated Balkan Hawk 1/2010 at Camp Vrelo, which was planned, organized and conducted by KFOR – J3. The main goal was to train KFOR’s cooperation with EULEX units during a given scenario and to be prepared for reactions whenever security is at stake. It was another joint exercise to train soldiers and EULEX members after a rotation of people and the new KFOR structure. The Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, was

present at this exercise to get first-hand information on the capabilities of the soldiers.

According to the scenario, a hypothetical EU Administration Centre was threatened by rioters, materialised by one Company from the Slovak Contingent. The EULEX forces had one Italian Carabinieri platoon, which had the mission of securing “Blue and Red Boxes” around the EU Admin Centre

perimeter.

Due to the increasing number of demonstrators with its escalating intensity, EULEX requested KFOR support. After that, one part (“Bravo” Coy) of the KTM came on the spot by



UKAN HAWK

land convoys, inserted themselves and assisted the EULEX Police units in the Red Box. During this phase, the rioters' roadblock was removed with a bulldozer, as well as control of the Red Box was restored.

The demonstrators did not leave, but made attempts to penetrate a secured area. Their numbers increased due to the clashes between the EULEX unit and rioters. In such a difficult situation, EULEX was again forced to request additional support from KFOR. The decisive moment in the exercise was during the arrival of a second part ("Charlie" COY) of the KTM troops, which were transported by helicopters. Thanks to the decisive

actions of the reinforcements, the situation was kept under the KFOR units' control. After some hard lined attacks, an Air Medevac request was necessary to simulate a KTM soldier evacuation. The exercise ended with the rioters scattering.

More than 400 soldiers and policemen with numerous vehicles were engaged during the day and 260 KFOR troops were transported by helicopters.

This exercise underlined that EULEX and KFOR have complementary, but very different roles. For this reason, they have to train together as often as possible.



Bell Blessing at

*Story by Chaplain Matthias Ebinger, German Army
Photos by Afrim Hajrullahu*

“A bell accompanies our soldiers in the Balkans.” These words characterize in short, the nature of the new bell which was put into service with a bell blessing ceremony at HQ KFOR in Pristina on 13 March 2010. The bell’s history started at Olsen Nauen Bellfoundry in Tönsberg (Norway) at the beginning of this decade. The bellfoundry had casted the bell originally for Camp Banski Rid in Skopje, Macedonia. It was first rung during the 5th

Norwegian KFOR Contingent in 2002. With the camp’s handover in 2005, the bell was passed on as a gift to the Danish KFOR Contingent at Camp Olaf Rye. When this camp was shut down in January of this year, the bell was given on loan to the church at HQ KFOR in Pristina. The bell may well wonder whose further ways it will accompany in the future.

Even though the bell may not be easily heard with today’s noise level, its sound will always be an acoustic symbol of home, tradition, composure and comfort. Its design, sound and purposeless beauty address that part in us which



Camp Film City

makes us human; the bell provides us with the opportunity to be and to feel human. Its sound symbolizes that human life is more than the sum of years of our everyday lives. It interferes in our daily rhythm, interrupts our thoughts and our time. For one moment, it takes us away from our daily business. Our time and our work is time given to us; it is part of the eternal and vast time into which our time is embedded. For one moment we are allowed to rest, to think, to reconsider our life and to reorient ourselves.

By summoning people to religious celebrations, it connects people. These people, in turn, will think of their

fellow human beings and take care of them. That is why the bell – even though it may not always be obvious from the outside – serves community - building purposes.

The bell's principal characteristic is its peace-building service. This is the essential purpose to which the bell's services must always be compared. The poet Friedrich Schiller summarises this thought in short and to the point at the end of his poem "The Bell": "Peace shall be her first Sounding."

One wish may accompany this bell: That it will continue to serve the people, the community and peace.



End of Mission fo

*Story by Specialist Officer Juerg Hostettler, Swiss Army
Photos by Captain Martin Wieland, Austrian Army*

Medal Parade Aucon 21 & Swisscoy 21

Austrian and Swiss Contingent soldiers received their NATO Medal proudly mid March in Camp Casablanca, Suharekë/Suva Reka.

For a lot of young soldiers it was the first time to get a medal for their fulfilled mission. A lot of proud faces could be seen amongst the approximately 600 troops. Sergeant Adrian F.: "This is my first mission and I am proud to get a NATO medal. I am very happy and thankful that we succeeded without any major incidents. I will leave Kosovo in two weeks and will take a lot of positive stuff with me."

Amongst the many guests was the SWISS Ambassador to Kosovo, his Excellency Lukas Beglinger. As the highest



or Mn Baon Dulje

representative of Switzerland in Kosovo he gave the Medal to the SWISS National Contingent Commander (NCC) Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Hannes Göldi.

For NCC LTC Göldi, who served in Switzerland as a Regiment commander, it was a great event of honour.

NCC LTC Göldi:

"I could see that it was an important event for the soldiers. As I was proud to receive the medal. In order to succeed this 6 months of service in the Balkans, we had to endure. The daily routine can sometimes be dragging but our soldiers did well and were staying awake and alert. I am very glad, that our parts of this KFOR mission are over. I can say I am proud and thankful of our soldiers."

The roundup of the evening was a big party with an Austrian Live Band. In the beginning of April the new contingents of the Swiss and Austrian Army will take over the command and the authority.



KFOR Becomes Slimmer

Story by J4 branch

Photos by KFOR Chronicle archive

KFOR is transitioning to a lean, agile and fast moving force. With these changes comes the need to streamline our camps as well. The reduction of camps throughout the KFOR AOR is a high priority for the COM KFOR. We must be vigilant in stressing the point that KFOR is not withdrawing from Kosovo and KFOR remains committed to the mission in Kosovo. A gradual adaptation of the multinational military presence is a sign of the steady improvements that have been made throughout Kosovo.

Once a nation has decided to close a camp, the lead nation must verify property ownership with the Kosovo Cadastral Agency. This agency maintains the most current property ownership information throughout Kosovo. The property that is used for a camp is generally divided into two categories. The first is social or public lands; these are lands that are owned by the government or public entities of Kosovo. The other is private lands; these are lands which are owned by private individuals. Often a camp will have a mix of both types of property, requiring an agreement with several different entities, each with their own caveats and circumstances.

The process of handing a camp back over to the rightful owners is a very transparent process involving many stakeholders. The lead division within the KFOR HQ is the J4 Real Estate Advisory Team (REAT). The responsibility of the REAT office is to monitor all real estate used for camps throughout Kosovo and to provide common guidance and assistance to lead nations responsible for closing the camp. The J4 REAT office is just one of



ner - Camp Reduction

many entities within KFOR HQ that participate in the closing of a camp.

Other entities that have an important role include KFOR JENG, which offers advice on environmental concerns. Also, the KFOR LEGAD office, which offers advice on contractual agreements between the lead nation and UNMIK Office of Legal Affairs when the property is socially owned, and the national LEGAD office of the country who is using the camp when the property is privately owned. In either case, the responsibility lies with the national LEGAD office to draft the contractual agreements with their nation for turning over property. KFOR J4 Logistics Operations provides assistance in coordinating unallocated equipment for other uses, possibly in another NATO theatre or to other agencies within Kosovo. The Commander of the lead nation is deeply involved in the process as well; ensuring the national interests are taken into account during the hand over process.

Closing a camp that may have been used for the last ten years is not as easy as it sounds. The process is not as simple as deciding to close, handing over the keys to the gate and you're done. Many factors contribute to a successful camp closure. We must ensure that all environmental concerns are identified and rectified. All the equipment that is used at the camp such as troop housing, generators, office structures and equipment must be dismantled and returned to the nation, donated to another organization, or sold. Land reclamation procedures must be completed to ensure that the land is suitable for future continued use. All of this takes time and is detailed prior to planning. For this reason, KFOR is committed to handing over camps with the condition that it is at least in the same or in better condition than when the nation started using the camp, thus reducing property claims against the lead nation.



The Czech Tran

*Story and photos by Captain Magdalena Dvořáková,
Czech Armed Forces*

On 23 February 2010, the ceremony of the Transfer of Authority (TOA) between the 15th and 16th Contingent of the Czech Armed Forces took place at Camp Sajkovac.

The afternoon ceremony of handover and takeover was attended by the Czech Ambassador to Kosovo, her Excellency Janina Hrebickova, the Mayor of Podujevo, Agim Veliu, the commander of the Multinational Battle Group Centre, Brigadier General Seppo Toivonen and other commanders and representatives of national contingents of Multinational Battle Group Center (MNBG-C).

The lined up units of both contingents and honorary

guests watched the ceremonial signature of TOA documents by Lieutenant Colonel Jan Cífka, the commander of the 15th Contingent and Lieutenant Colonel Martin Kavalír, the commander of the 16th Contingent. Lieutenant Colonel Cífka symbolically handed over the state flag to Lieutenant Colonel Kavalír. In her speech, her Excellency, Janina Hrebickova, the Czech Ambassador to Kosovo, thanked the soldiers of the 15th Contingent for their service in Kosovo. "Twenty years ago, the Czech Republic on its own had to fight for its freedom and self-determination. It is amazing that today we are capable to help others who are in a similar situation. I have served my duty in Kosovo together with KFOR soldiers for eleven years and therefore I am able to continuously monitor their work. I am very proud of what you have done and I wish you many



Transfer of Authority

successes in your efforts,” said Mrs. Hrebickova. Brigadier General Seppo Toivonen, Commander of Multinational Battle Group Centre, expressed his gratitude to all service members of the 15th Contingent by saying: “You were a great contribution to MNBG-C. I know you served here longer than regular, but you helped the smooth transformation of Multinational Task Force Centre to Multinational Battle Group Centre”. At the end of the MNBG-C Commander’s speech, Brigadier General Toivonen welcomed Lieutenant Colonel Martin Kavalír and his contingent to Kosovo. He said: “I know you are well prepared to successfully continue fulfillment of the operational task of the Czech contingent. I am looking forward to our cooperation and I wish you good luck in your service here in Kosovo”. The last speech at the ceremony was given by

Lieutenant Colonel Martin Kavalír, the Commander of the 15th Contingent. “This has activated the 16th Contingent as a holder of operational tasks within KFOR. I brought here a unit, which has undertaken pre-deployment training in order to carry out all possible tasks that it may face during our deployment in Kosovo. I believe that together with the support of KFOR partners, we will not fail your expectations and we will execute our tasks at least as well as the 15th Contingent did”, he said.



KFOR Chronicle Cartoon



KFOR Chronicle Sudoku

Amateur

	6		5	7				1
	1	3	4		9	8		7
			8					9
		2			7			8
	7		9	8	2			1
8			3			5		
	8				5			
7		9	6		4	2	8	
2				9	8			5

Profi

3			5				4	6
2				3	1	8		
	4			6				
7							3	
	5	8					9	2
	2							4
				1			5	
		2	7	9				8
9	6				3			2

Solution
February Edition

Amateur

9	7	1	8	6	5	2	4	3
8	3	4	2	9	7	6	5	1
5	2	6	1	4	3	9	8	7
2	4	3	9	5	1	7	6	8
6	1	8	4	7	2	5	3	9
7	9	5	3	8	6	1	2	4
3	5	9	7	2	4	8	1	6
1	6	7	5	3	8	4	9	2
4	8	2	6	1	9	3	7	5

Profi

3	6	5	1	4	8	2	9	7
7	4	8	6	9	2	5	3	1
1	2	9	7	5	3	4	8	6
2	1	4	5	7	9	3	6	8
5	8	7	3	6	1	9	4	2
6	9	3	8	2	4	7	1	5
9	5	2	4	8	6	1	7	3
8	7	1	9	3	5	6	2	4
4	3	6	2	1	7	8	5	9

Peacekeeper's Profiles

Name: Sandro CALARESU

Rank: Lieutenant Colonel

Home unit: Italian Army General Staff

Unit in KFOR: DCOM Office

Education: Degree in Law; Master Degree in International Humanitarian Law; Qualification as Legal Adviser.

Languages Spoken: English, Spanish, French.

About the mission: This is my fourth tour in Kosovo where I have spent 3 and half years total. I have had the opportunity to live, through the years, the historical evolution of the mission and moreover the deployment of this region. As Military Assistant of the Deputy Commander I have the privilege to be fully involved in all aspects of the operational reality of KFOR, which enriches my professional experience day by day. Of course being in charge of assisting a "Two Star General" and directing the cabinet for a tour of one year is a demanding job, but working in this environment with highly professional people from so many nations, makes my job easier. Back in Italy my previous jobs consisted in liaising and coordinating with Military Attaches credited to the foreign Embassies in Rome. It was an interesting job, that gave me the opportunity of keeping in close contact with a high level international environment. I have been before to other missions, either NATO or United Nations Missions, across 7 different countries, to cover three continents from Europe to Africa and to Asia.

Hobbies and free time: My hobbies are very important in my life. I like living in open spaces and I cultivate especially agriculture interests such as olive oil production, wine production and horse riding. Of course I would like also to continue studying Law. I graduated as a Legal Advisor and I would like to get some more knowledge of International Law Affairs.

Plans after the mission: At the end of this tour I will be looking for some vacation and cultivating my hobbies such as looking after my olive trees, my horses and continue studying Law. I graduated as a Legal Advisor right before coming to Kosovo and I would like to get some more knowledge of International Law Affairs. After vacation, hobbies and studying, I will start preparing for the next mission. Where? I don't know, and it doesn't really matter, as long as I can contribute to peace.



Name: Frank ZUHLSDORF

Rank: Sergeant

Home unit: Naval Airbase, Nordholz, Germany

Unit in KFOR: TRANSCOY, Storigeman

Education: I learned logistics at the civilian company at Bocholt, and after that I joined the Navy. Then I continued my military education at Sylt, where I finished some courses in basic and logistic training.

About the mission: This is my second mission in Kosovo and third mission over all. Previously, I was in Lebanon. In comparison with my first time in Kosovo, I notice some positive continuing changes. Most of them are concerning life conditions of the local population which has allowed life in Kosovo to become much better.

I have been involved in some humanitarian activities, that were very important for the local people, during my first mission in Kosovo which was, October 2007 to October 2008. At first we organized a tractor donation for a local family. Secondly, there was a project dealing with the Mother and Children Centre in Prishtine/Pristina. Thanks to our efforts a lot of equipment for this centre was repaired and what is pleasantly surprised to me, is that this project is still alive. We are continuing to help them.

It was really surprising to me that after my first mission in Kosovo, I was awarded the "Medaille commemorative Francaise" by the French Ministry of Defence.

Family reaction: I'm not married. It was my personal decision to join the mission here and my parents had a good reaction towards it. We have a close relationship with each other and I call them twice a week.

Hobbies and free time: I like dogs and want to know everything about them. I'm trying to learn more about the military working dog and right now during my mission here, I am speaking with my friends, who are already involved in this activity.

Plans after the mission: I'm going to join to the German Dog Military School (K9).



Novo Brdo Castle



Photo: Afrim Hajrullahu