

KFOR



Chronicle

04th Edition

April 30th 2010



KTM
Ready to Respond



The Battle Group Commander's Perspective

MNBG-N was restructured to a Battle Group (BG) in last January. The new restructuring has aimed at a significant shift of personnel and equipment. The late Multinational Task Force North (MNTF-N) numbered 2500 soldiers, whereas, MNBG-N is now 1,200 soldiers strong.

However, it's from the nature of its Area of Responsibility (AOR). Its geography casts the BG in a geostrategic and political key-scene in Kosovo.

Indeed, if the south of the Ibar River mirrors the other AOR in Kosovo where the majority of the population is Albanian with some Serbian enclaves, then the north of the Ibar is totally different because the population is quasi-exclusively Serbian. Moreover, this "Kosovo Serbs (KoS) Enclave" is in direct contact with Serbia.

Mitrovica/Mitrovice City illustrates perfectly the specificity of MNBG-N AOR. It is the melting pot of the current Kosovo problems, the direct confrontation of the two majority ethnicities, particularly on Austerlitz Bridge, the main Bridge. Little Bosnia, the Kosovo Albanians (KoA) enclave in Mitrovica/Mitrovice North, the real-estate competition between the ethnicities (the "Three Towers", Kroi I Vitakut), the Parallel Structures. There are two mayors in Mitrovica, one KoA in the South and one KoS in the North. There are several topics MNBG-N deals with day to day, e.g. electricity issues, legal infrastructure issues, where EULEX is trying to bring back the judges from different ethnic backgrounds, problems involving mosques, a demolished orthodox church which has been rebuilt, and a catholic church in Southern Mitrovica. Many orthodox churches are located in the north.

However, the unique mosque in the region was ruined in 1999, the extreme complexity of international organizations (International Civilian Office, in Southern Mitrovica, tries to move to the North, UNMIK is on both sides of Ibar).

Nowadays, the situation in Kosovo is calm. Nevertheless, some ethnic tensions have not been relieved yet, particularly in the North of the country.



Colonel Philippe du Chaxel
French Army
Commander MNBG N





Unity is worth it!

Taking place in May 2010 will be the 52nd Pilgrimage of Soldiers to Lourdes. There are also quite a few pilgrims from KFOR who are attending and so they will be part of an international group. In this way, soldiers and people from many countries all over the world will meet for collective prayer and interpersonal exchange. Knowing each other prevents them from becoming enemies - meeting and exchanging are actions of peace. Even people who do not believe in God never leave Lourdes in the same way before they came. They find that they have changed. Who can tell if this isn't a way of facing God? Anyway, open religious denomination forces us to get involved with other people around us and to try to understand them consistently.

The numbers of those who can go to Lourdes are far from the number of those who want to come. Not every mission allows the possibility of leaving for a few days. Those left behind may consider themselves as represented by international delegations and also those pilgrims should be aware of being carried by the prayers of their fellow soldiers abroad.

Prayers can give us courage, where we get to our limits and they can navigate our views upon God's peace. The pilgrimage to Lourdes can also make people aware of their pilgrimage of life that we accomplish with others and God, who gives us something to hope and aim for.



Marcus Wolf is the Catholic Chaplain for the German soldiers in Kosovo located in Prizren/Prizren and Priština/Pristine. After his military service and studies of theology in Germany and France, he worked as a Priest in various parishes. Currently, he has worked with soldiers in Germany and international theaters for almost six years.

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Nations within KFOR:**NATO Nations**

Albania	Italy
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

Non-NATO Nations

Austria	Sweden
Finland	Switzerland
Ireland	Ukraine
Morocco	



MOVING I

Photos by Sergeant Stefanie Willuweit, German Army



March 29, 2010

The Minister of Defence of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr. Karl-Theodor Freiherr zu Guttenberg paid a visit to HQ KFOR. Dr. Karl-Theodor Freiherr zu Guttenberg discussed with COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, the event driven transition process now and through the future force-alteration.

April 06, 2010

COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, welcomed the Commander of the 10th Armored Division of the German Army, General Major Erhard Buehler. They discussed the topic of Parallel Structures in the North, and the economy situation in Kosovo as well.



April 07, 2010



DCOM KFOR, General Major Antonio Satta, welcomed the Senior Mentor for USA KFOR, Lieutenant General John Le Moyne. During the meeting, the current situation was discussed. Also the problems with electricity in the North, corruption, weak economy and organized crime were topics of the talks.



April 09, 2010

The Slovak Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Miroslav Lajcak, visited the HQ KFOR. During his visit Mr. Lajcak discussed with COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, the event driven transition process now and through the future force alteration. COM KFOR emphasized the professional work of Slovak Soldiers.

April 13, 2010

The NATO Policy Coordination Group visited HQ KFOR, the Multinational Battle Groups and Kosovo. The aim of the visit was to see the development in Kosovo. The participants were briefed by COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler. COM KFOR informed them about the improved security and political situation in Kosovo.



April 21, 2010

During his visit to HQ KFOR, COM Allied Joint Force Command Naples, Admiral Mark Fitzgerald, discussed with COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, the current electricity situation in the North.

Transfer of KTM - New Power

*Story by Captain Nunu Neto, Portuguese Army
Photos by Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu*

On 24 March, the Portuguese KFOR TACTICAL RESERVE MANOEUVRE BATTALION (KTM) conducted a further Transfer of Authority (TOA) Ceremony at Camp Slim Lines. The 1st Mechanized Infantry Battalion (1MechInfBn) was replaced by the 2nd Parachute Battalion (2 Para) as KTM. The ceremony was presided over by COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler. Also present were the DCOM KFOR, General Major Antonio Satta, the HQ Staff, and other distinguished guests, both military and civilian, that kindly accepted to be part of this significant event. The local press was also present at the ceremony.

The ceremony, simple but of great significance, marks the biannual rotation of the Portuguese Contingent in KFOR. The TOA was conducted, firstly by the handover of the Portuguese National Flag, given to the incoming 2 Para Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Nuno Moreira, by the outgoing 1st MechInfBn Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Colonel Lino Gonçalves representing the National TOA between National Contingent



f Authority er from Portugal

Commanders. Secondly COM KFOR took the KTM flag from the outgoing Commander and handed it over to the incoming Commander, representing the Change of Command.

In his farewell speech Lieutenant Colonel Lino Gonçalves expressed his gratitude to all who have supported his battalion throughout the last six months, and wished the best of luck to 2 Para's soldiers. Speaking to his soldiers of 1st MechInfBn, Lieutenant Colonel Gonçalves asked them to keep focus and to do just what is asked of a soldier. To serve without expecting any recognition or reward, because like the 1st MechInfBn motto says: "The future will tell about us".

Lieutenant Colonel Nuno Moreira, the new KTM Commander, thanked COM KFOR and all the distinguished guests for their presence, which he considered to be a sign of the great responsibility the new battalion now inherits.

He also thanked the outgoing battalion for their support on the hand over take over process, which gives 2 Para a very good head start for the beginning of its mission, and wished 1st MechInfBn a safe return home. Speaking about 2 Para, Lieutenant Colonel Moreira said that, once more, he puts all his trust in his soldiers, with confidence that all challenges will be met, as has happened in its previous deployments in Bosnia and Herzegovina, East Timor and most recently, in Afghanistan. He ended his speech by stating that 2 Para is ready to serve, now under COM KFOR's orders, certain that once more, COM KFOR will be proud of another KTM Portuguese Battalion.

COM KFOR thanked the professionalism of the 1st MechInfBn and stated that KTM performs one of the most difficult tasks in KFOR. He referred to the qualities of flexibility and immediate reaction capability, as the KTM's assurance of success. COM KFOR ended his speech by stating that KTM must be the best among the best and wished a successful mission to the new KTM in support of KFOR's efforts getting Kosovo "MOVING FORWARD".



First SWISSCOY

Story by Specialist Officer Juerg Hostettler, Swiss Army
Photos by Specialist Officer Juerg Hostettler and Specialist Officer Christoph Zehnder, Swiss Army


By the end of March, the SWISSCOY took over its Liaison Monitoring Team (LMT) House in Malishevë/Malisevo. It's the first time in SWISSCOY's history to have Liaison & Monitoring Teams within KFOR. For the House Commander, Major Juerg Caspar, it's a great step. He was here in 1999 shortly after the NATO bombings. Serving in SWISSCOY 1 and now coming back ten years later, "I often had flashbacks in the beginning. In 1999, the region was devastated and it took me some time to adapt to happy and laughing children running around in the fields, like I see them now," he said. The improvement is tremendous. "For

me it was just a logical step to adapt LMT's within KFOR and now within the SWISSCOY. Of course, we couldn't exist without the rest of the KFOR, but in the end this process is another clear sign that we are moving forward."

Juerg Caspar's Team is stationed in Malishevë/Malisevo, about 45 minutes from Pristina/Prishtinë, and operates from a new 4-floor house in the middle of the town. The team consists of eight NCOs and officers. "We go out and talk to people, see what's going on in their lives and what they are concerned with," said Major Caspar. "It's easy to talk to the local population, since we are not carrying rifles and flak jackets. Also, they got to know us very quickly."



LMTs in Kosovo



Sergeant Tim A., already quite familiar with the city of Malishevë/Malisevo explains: “We are here on a 24/7 basis and exactly that is the strength of the LMTs. People know they will see us again and that relationship gives them confidence in telling us how the situation really is. I’m expressing a genuine concern about their status. We’re talking to them, shaking hands with them, having a cup of coffee and they’re telling us things we would never hear just driving around in a Piranha Armored Personnel Carrier”.

Just coming from a briefing with his staff, Major Caspar is thrilled how things are going: “Most of us in our everyday

lives deal with people and that’s our big advantage. We’re not soldiers all the time, due to our military system. Even though some of us were on missions like EUFOR and ISAF before. Most have civilian jobs and an expertise in other fields. So as LMTs, we are able to use this expertise in dealing with the public”.

On the way to a meeting at SWISSCOY’s Homebase, Camp Casablanca, Major Caspar said with a stern look: “But, we should not forget that one of the most important roles the LMTs play is, that we are the eyes and ears and we can ring the alarm, so “fire-fighter” units could be sent in before the fire gets too big.”



New Logistic Sup

Story and photos by Captain Emiliano Bartolomei, Italian Army

The Combat Service and Support (CSS) Regiment (Rgt) of Multinational Battle Group West (MNBG-W) has a new inspiring “soul” since February 2010, when the 6th Manoeuvre Regiment replaced the 1st Transport Regiment in Camp “Villaggio Italia”.

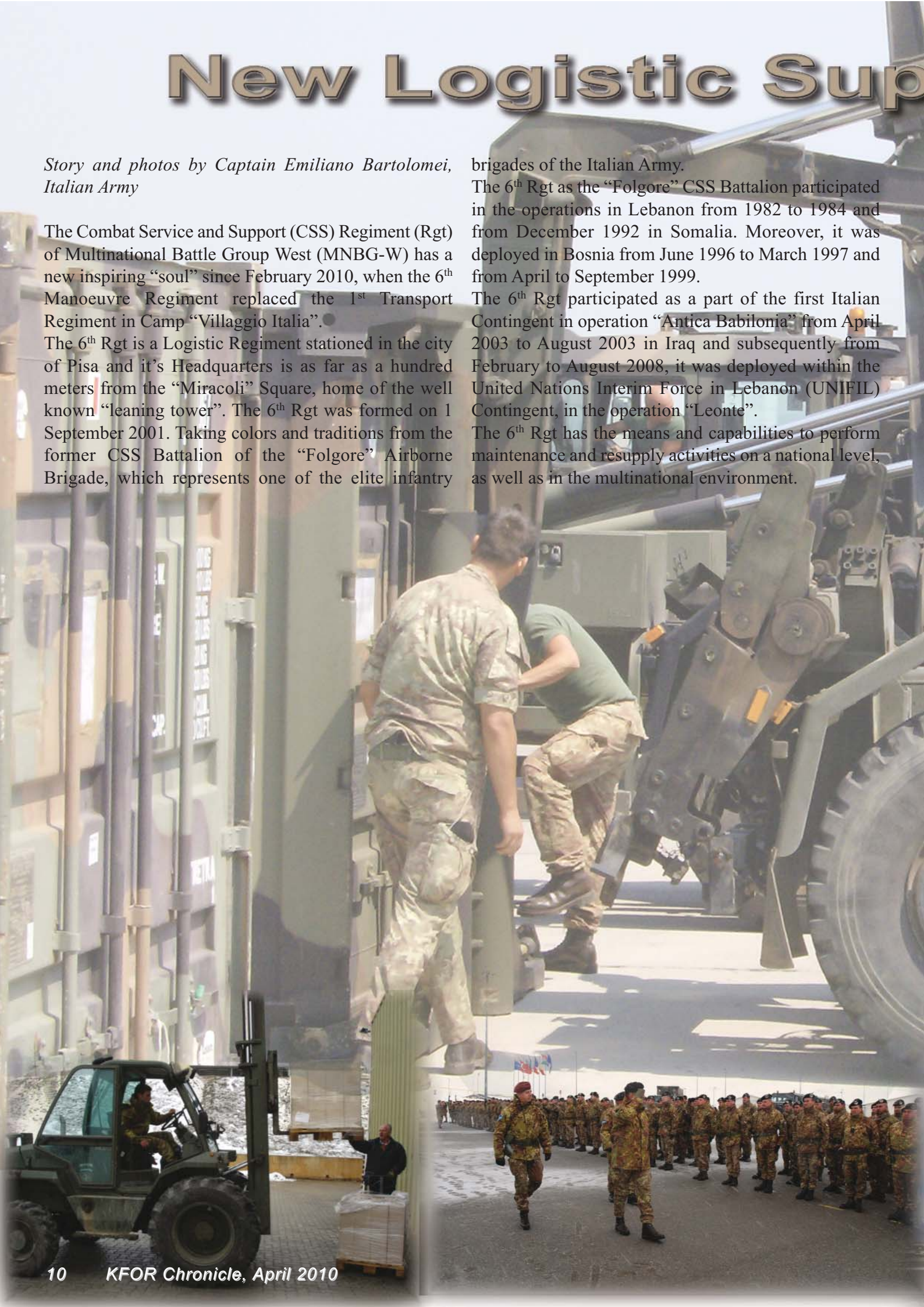
The 6th Rgt is a Logistic Regiment stationed in the city of Pisa and its Headquarters is as far as a hundred meters from the “Miracoli” Square, home of the well known “leaning tower”. The 6th Rgt was formed on 1 September 2001. Taking colors and traditions from the former CSS Battalion of the “Folgore” Airborne Brigade, which represents one of the elite infantry

brigades of the Italian Army.

The 6th Rgt as the “Folgore” CSS Battalion participated in the operations in Lebanon from 1982 to 1984 and from December 1992 in Somalia. Moreover, it was deployed in Bosnia from June 1996 to March 1997 and from April to September 1999.

The 6th Rgt participated as a part of the first Italian Contingent in operation “Antica Babilonia” from April 2003 to August 2003 in Iraq and subsequently from February to August 2008, it was deployed within the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) Contingent, in the operation “Leonte”.

The 6th Rgt has the means and capabilities to perform maintenance and resupply activities on a national level, as well as in the multinational environment.



Support for MNBG-W

For the “Deterrent Presence” posture of KFOR, the Commanding Officer of the 6th Rgt, Colonel Nicola Mallardi, received the task to create a brand new, lighter framework unit which is capable of providing the closest, effective and efficient logistic support to the MNBG-W. It became possible by taking the necessary capabilities from the other regiments of the Italian Logistic Brigade, creating a solid, cost-efficient and sensible unit. A unit is able to perform all the logistic activities, going from the transports to the medical care premises through the camp site management, to the national contingent materials supervisory office, provisioning office, dining facilities management etc. The transport assets have been taken from the 8th Transport Regiment based in Udine, in the northeast

corner of the Italian boot.

The 10th and the 8th Rgts have been serving with the 6th Rgt in other operational areas and their “brotherhood” comes with a strong bond made of friendship and respect, which links the men belonging to the two units. The national contingent materials supervisory office has been provided by the 10th Rgt, which has 10-years of experience on this extremely sensitive task in Kosovo. It is an extraordinary emotion for a commander to look at a machine he has just “assembled”, test it while dealing with daunting challenges and see that it is fully proficient and is working properly.



About Camp

Story by Sergeant 1st Class Michael Hagburg, US Army

Photos by Sergeant 1st Class Michael Hagburg and Sergeant Joshua Dodds, US Army

Camp Bondsteel is the primary American Army base for KFOR Soldiers in the Balkans region. Operated by U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR), Camp Bondsteel serves as the headquarters for KFOR peacekeeping forces in Multinational Battle Group East (MNBG-E) in Kosovo.

Camp Bondsteel is located on 955 acres (360,000 square meters) of rolling hills and farmland near the city of Ferizaj/Urosevac. Its outer perimeter is about eleven kilometers or nearly seven miles long.

It was established in 1999 to house United States forces in support of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and NATO. About 4,000 U.S. service members were initially stationed at Camp Bondsteel. The camp is named after Medal of Honor winner Army Staff Sergeant James L. Bondsteel, honored for heroism in Vietnam.

“Bondsteel,” as it’s simply known, is currently home to soldiers of many nations - currently soldiers from the United States, Poland, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine live on post. Soldiers live in Southeast Asia (SEA) Huts.

There are about 250 SEA Huts

used as both living quarters and offices. Each building has five living areas that house up to six soldiers each with a shared bathroom. Female and male sea huts are separate, although married soldiers are allowed to live together.

In addition to the SEA Huts, there are about 250 living containers at Camp Bondsteel. These also are



Camp Bondsteel

occupied by soldiers and by the camp's civilian employees.

There are two large dining facilities on Bondsteel that feed soldiers 24-hours a day. There are also two laundry facilities, open seven days a week.

A modern full-service hospital provides health care to soldiers and to multinational military personnel throughout Kosovo. The hospital is manned by a U.S. Army Reserve medical task force that also works with local medical professionals on health and professional education projects.

Bondsteel has a large Post Exchange (PX) that sells food, clothing and other necessities as well as souvenirs, TVs, computers, video games and sound systems. Multinational soldiers from throughout Kosovo travel to Bondsteel to visit the PX. Near the PX are restaurants, such as Burger King, Taco Bell, Anthony's Pizza, and also a Cappuccino bar.

There are a number of small shops specializing in items and services as diverse as guitars, sewing, and Internet access. There are Morale Welfare and Recreation and fitness centers on Camp Bondsteel. These facilities offer pool, ping-pong, video games, Internet access, library books basketball/volleyball courts, exercise equipment, weight machines and free weights. Religious support for several denominations is provided on Camp. There is also an education center that offers a variety of college courses from American universities. In November of 2009, more than 300 Soldiers were enrolled in college courses.



Gate 1 E

Story by Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko,
Ukrainian Army

Photos by Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu

On 19 April 2010, NATO Forces in Kosovo (KFOR) conducted a joint “KFOR-EULEX” field training exercise in the vicinity of the Gate 1 location. The aim of the exercise was to strengthen the cooperation between KFOR and EULEX in order to provide a safe and secure environment and the freedom of movement Kosovo wide.

According to the scenario, EULEX, as an institution

responsible for safeguarding Gate 1, was faced with a huge amount of demonstrators who tried to enter into the protected area. Due to the increasing number of rioters with escalating intensity, EULEX requested support from KFOR.

The exercise started in bad weather conditions, heavy rain, which “generously wet” all the participants and added an additional obstacle to executing their tasks. The first clashes took place early in the morning. As tensions rose, the demonstrators moved towards Gate 1.

The situation became tense and intervention of a stronger force was needed. After the increasing in



Exercise

rioters, EULEX requested KFOR's support. The help came and it was performed by one platoon from Camp Nothing Hill, KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM) and the Multinational Specialised Unit (MSU). KFOR units helped the EULEX police on the spot and started to restore law and order. In the course of further actions, several tasks had to be accomplished like road unblocking; Medical Evacuation (by air and land) and the Crowd Riot Control were in progress.

The control over the situation was established through KFOR units' concerted actions. Then, EULEX helped

the KTM on the spot and restored freedom of movement.

In conclusion, it should be noted, that all the exercise's goals were completed successfully. KFOR and EULEX had shown the ability to conduct a joint operation all over Kosovo for maintaining a safe and secure environment and the freedom of movement.



Slovenian Easter at C

Story by Lieutenant Nataša Svetina, Slovenian Armed Forces

Photos by SVNCON 21 KFOR

Members of the 21st Contingent of the Slovenian Armed Forces prepared a traditional Easter celebration at Camp Villaggio Italia. On Palm Sunday, Christians celebrate the Triumphal Entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. That is the week before his death and resurrection, which is celebrated on Easter Sunday.

During the week preceding Palm Sunday, Slovenian Liaison Monitoring Teams helped the pastoral assistant of the contingent with gathering the necessary things for making a sheaf of greenery and plants – called "butara"

in Slovenian. "Butara" presents the palm fronds that were strewn before Jesus as he walked in Jerusalem. The size of the "butara" varies in different areas of Slovenia. In some regions, it may be several meters long. They are adorned with greenery such as twigs of heather, honeysuckle, spring flowers, colored strips of wood shavings and in recent times decorated also with oranges and apples. A large "butara" should consist of seven different types of wood: hazel wood, flowering dogwood, juniper branches, elder, box, and ivy. The teams had problems with gathering all this vegetation and special ivy, so a joint decision was made that juniper branches would be the base of the "butara". They made a "butara" 2.5 meters high with the Slovenian flag on



Camp Villaggio Italia

top. On 28 March, on Palm Sunday, the procession of "butara" makers proudly brought it to the chapel at Camp Villaggio Italia. In the chapel, full of Slovenian Soldiers, the pastoral assistant had a liturgy in memory of the Entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem. He conceptually linked Jesus' entry in the city to the contributions of the Slovenian Contingent in Kosovo – the message is the same - bringing peace and reconciliation among residents irrespective of religion, race or culture.

A week later, at Easter Saturday service in the chapel, the Slovenian military chaplain, visited the Slovenian Contingent in Kosovo, blessed traditional Easter foods like Easter eggs, ham, horseradish, Slovenian "potica"-

walnut roll cake and bread. Ham symbolizes Jesus' body, eggs his blood and new life, potica his crown and horseradish presents nails and suffering. Later, soldiers helped with preparing food for a traditional Easter breakfast. They colored eggs, grated horseradish, sliced ham, bread and potica. Easter eggs - called "pirhi" in Slovenian - are colored and decorated hard-boiled eggs or blown-out shells.

This year's speciality of Easter at Camp Villaggio Italia was that "Slovenian" Jesus woke up first, because of the early morning Slovenian holy service in the chapel. After the well-attended service, traditional Easter foods were displayed and served with due solemnity for Easter breakfast at the Camp Villaggio Italia canteen.



Greek JLSG Engineers - Sp



Specialists in their Business

*Story by Captain Heiko Dohlich, German Army
Photos by Captain Ilias Keskinis, Greek Army*

After the Joint Logistic Support Group (JLSG) Hellenic Heavy Engineer platoon reached Full Operational Capability at the end of March 2010, it was time to show the KFOR community the benefits of engineer capabilities by the KFOR JLSG.

A request for engineer support by MNBG-N in March brought the first opportunity for the JLSG Engineers to show their skills to all nations in the KFOR AOR.

The road and landing pad Site 103 (HLS 103), close to GATE 1, had to be redone by adding new layers of gravel to the road and the removal of earth walls and several other obstacles.

After a site reconnaissance conducted by members of MNBG-N, JLSG Engineers and KFOR J-Engineers (JENG), an assessment was done.

After all Courses of Action were assessed, the decision was made that JLSG will support MNBG-N request with its new engineer assets.

The first JLSG Engineers' task was born!

Immediately after the Easter Period, Captain Ilias Keskinis, the Platoon Leader of the Greek JLSG Engineer platoon started to deploy his engineer assets from CAMP RIGAS FEREROS to the construction site at GATE 1.

This job was done with great help from another JLSG unit, the Greek Transportation Company and Military Police from HQ

KFOR and MNBG-N.

The support by HQ KFOR JENG for this first JLSG Engineer task was outstanding. Everything was well prepared and a sufficient amount of material was delivered and available at the site prior to the JLSG Engineers' arrival.

The MNBG-N provided a good coordination of all framework arrangements, such as convoy support by Military Police in MNBG-N Area of Responsibility (AOR), Turkish Force Protection and additional France engineer assets.

It was assessed that it would take 13 days to accomplish the task, but due to the high caliber of talent and experience in the JLSG engineer platoon and MNBG-N, the work was completed in less than ten days with a high quality standard.

"The platoon has not only given a remarkable proof of its high efficiency, but also showed its ability to work closely together with other KFOR assets, such as French Engineers and Turkish Force Protection" said Commander JLSG, Brigadier General Miroslav Kocian, Slovakian Air Force, during his visit to HLS 103.

The JLSG Engineer capabilities currently consist of a JLSG Chief Engineer in the JLSG HQ, a Greek and a Turkish engineer platoon, mainly equipped with construction equipment such as dozers, loaders, graders, rollers and dump trucks. This common success proved again that JLSG is able to provide logistic support to all nations in KFOR AOR.



KFOR Tactical Reserves Cross Tra

Story and photos by Sergeant Jesica Geffre, US Army

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo—Swedish service members from Multinational Battle Group Center (MNBG-C) participated in training and familiarization exercises with Soldiers from Multinational Battle Group East 12-13 April.

Approximately 75 service members from Multinational Battle Group Center learned about the Multinational Battle Group East (MNBG-E) mission and area of operations, taking part in familiarization patrols in and around Gjilan/Gnjilane and Shtpce/Strpce. They also went through different stations to become familiar with MNBG-E weapons, using the Small Arms Virtual Trainer (SAV-T), K9 (dog handler) tactics and helicopter aircraft loading at Camp Bondsteel.

2nd Lieutenant Travis Hackey, Fargo, N.D., platoon leader for 2nd platoon, Bravo Company, led one of the Swedish platoons through the stations during the exercise.

“The whole focus of the exercise is familiarization with the different sectors so that a battle group can go to any area of operation in Kosovo and respond effectively.”

Staff Sergeant Jeffrey Gehrtz, Fargo, N.D., squad leader 2nd platoon, Bravo Company, helped oversee weapons familiarization in the SAV-T. The SAV-T system creates a simulated battlefield environment with scenarios that play out on a screen. Soldiers operate weapons that fire virtual rounds at the target.

“This particular training is very valuable for Soldiers. The simulator enables us to get more training in during a compressed amount of time,” Gehrtz said.

Private Max Ravan, Gothenburg, Sweden, really enjoyed the SAV-T portion of the exercise.

“This is very fun, they could put these in arcades,” he



in for Kosovo - Wide Effectiveness

said. "I've never seen a system like this. It is very realistic and a good way to get comfortable with the weapons before using live rounds."

The K9 portion of the training consisted of dog handlers demonstrating vehicle searches and detaining suspects. For the detaining segment, volunteers put on a "bite-suit," which is a protective jacket, trousers and helmet that guard the wearer from the dogs' dangerous jaws during the exercise. The volunteers then run from the dog and upon command, the dog detains the runner by taking hold and pulling the "suspect" to the ground. Private 1st Class Stefan Kaellman, Stockholm, Sweden, found the experience exhilarating.

"Now that I know how it feels, I wouldn't want to get taken down without the suit," he said. "I can see how effective this tactic would be in an actual situation."

Another segment of the training was airlift training. This helped the MNBG-C troops become familiar with loading and unloading a UH-60 Blackhawk. As well as learning about safety precautions to avoid entering areas that are unsafe due to the moving blades and familiarization with the seatbelt operations.

The last aspect of the training was a flight in the Blackhawks to sectors patrolled by MNBG-E so that

they could familiarize the MNBG-C service members with the area.

For many of the Swedes, this was their first time flying in a Blackhawk.

"It was awesome," said Specialist Anton Ceron, Stockholm, Sweden. "This is very interesting for us to work with different nations and to get to experience different methods of training."



“You are All Ambassadors” Germany’s Minister of Defense

Story and photos by Maz&More Team

Prizren - On Monday, 29 March 2010 the German Minister of Defense, Dr. Karl-Theodor Freiherr zu Guttenberg, made his inaugural visit to Kosovo and at the KFOR German Contingent. According to his own statement, this was “long overdue”.

After his arrival, the Minister of Defense first met the political leaders of the country in Pristina/Prishtine, the capital of Kosovo.

After talks with the President of Kosovo, Fatmir Sejdiu, and Prime Minister Hashim Thaci, Minister zu Guttenberg said, that Kosovo is on the right track for the initiation of the next withdrawal phase of NATO.

At KFOR Headquarters in Pristina/Prishtine, the Minister of Defense met Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, the Commander of the Kosovo Forces (COM KFOR). After joint talks, the Minister and COM KFOR faced the present international media and German journalists who travelled with Minister zu Guttenberg.

General Bentler said at the press conference that he had given the Minister of Defense information about the progress in Kosovo which had been achieved by KFOR during the last months. He also said that the

force structure has been adjusted and that above all, the institutions in Kosovo were increasingly given responsibility, because they are ready to assume responsibility. This finally enables KFOR to further adjust its structure to the developments in Kosovo.

The minister expressed his satisfaction with the outcome of the mission which had started in 1999 and said: *“It is still a long road to go. Today this nice image was used, that we have travelled much of the distance and that we are close to the finish line. There are, however, still many things that could happen on the last 100 meters. Therefore, we have to carefully and decently take the next steps. We are approaching the goal which also allows for force adjustment – these, however, have to be coordinated with the whole NATO alliance. The principle was and is: together in, together out“*, the Minister commented on this aspect. A further force adjustment could be considered not before autumn of this year.

Afterwards, the Minister was welcomed on the airfield of the headquarters by Brigadier General Hofmeyer, the Commander of Multinational Battle Group South (MNBG-S), and



"Ambassadors of our Country" Defense Visits Kosovo

accompanied by him on his flight to the south of Kosovo.

In Camp Prizren, where the majority of the German KFOR military personnel is stationed, the Minister was welcomed by the Multinational Battle Group South with military honors.

After the briefing of Brigadier General Hofmeyer and an interview for "Radio Andernach" the Minister had reserved the whole evening for talks with the servicewomen and men of the 25th DEU Operational Contingent.

At the beginning of the talks, the Minister thanked the servicewomen and men. *"For the German public and policy the Kosovo mission has been marginalized, although it is very important for the security in Europe"*, he said. Zu Guttenberg praised the commitment of the servicewomen and men and their *"highly professional conduct"* and added: *"You are all ambassadors of our country"*.

While eating Weißwurst (veal sausage), Brezeln (pretzels) and having drinks, the servicewomen and men did not miss to ask "grassroots" questions about various topics. Until late at night, zu Guttenberg answered the soldiers' questions and only when he was sure to spoke to each and every one of them he went to rest.

At the beginning of the second visiting day, the Minister of Defense Karl-Theodor zu Guttenberg first made an information tour through the old part of Prizren. On the Fox Bridge, Brigadier General Hofmeyer showed the Minister the essential buildings of the town centre, explained their meaning and

informed him of the recent history of the town. On their way through the town centre, General Hofmeyer guided the Minister across the Shadervan, the central square to the Serb-Orthodox St. Georges Cathedral. Here the minister briefly talked to a German patrol and greeted policemen and women of the Kosovo Police. The information tour ended at the Catholic "Helping-Woman-Cathedral". Despite the relatively short visit, the Minister got a pretty good idea of the town. To "Radio Andernach" he summarized: *"I have the impression that the "Bundeswehr" makes an important contribution to religious-coexistence and a peaceful environment. I am particularly impressed by the fact that the Serb-Orthodox Cathedral is now being guarded by the Kosovo Police. A few years ago, this would have been inconceivable. It shows that we have taken the right course."*

After the following presentation of the Maneuver Company at the Archangel Monastery, the minister was impressed by the operational forces and also made use of the time after the exercise to talk to the soldiers in great detail.

Minister zu Guttenberg afterwards summarised: *"I have seen highly motivated forces and I am glad that we were able to have such intensive talks yesterday evening."*

"There was a wide range of things yesterday and we had very open and detailed talks. I think I left the "Oase" at half past twelve at night."

The Minister was then accompanied to the airport, where he flew to Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to visit the EUFOR troops.



Kosovo Security Force Cond

*Story by Lieutenant Colonel Michael J. Sawyer,
US Army*

Photos by Captain Martin Wieland, Austrian Army

The Kosovo Security Force (KSF) on 19 April 2010, conducted its first ever disaster response exercise on the grounds of the Kosovo Energy Company (KEK) Power Plant "B". The exercise was designed to integrate the capabilities and resources of the various elements of the KSF into an integrated scenario not seen before since the formation of the KSF on January 21, 2009. The led exercise scenario involved three nearly simultaneous events that required a KSF response. The first event was a car accident resulting in a fire abutting a simulated

Hazardous Material (HAZMAT) storage area which required the response of the KSF fire Fighting Company (COY) to extinguish the fire, the HAZMAT COY to remove HAZMAT material in danger from the fire, the Search and Rescue COY to extract injured personnel from the wrecked car, and finally the Medical COY to provide first aid and evacuate the injured personnel from the car. The second event was a demining requirement following the unearthing and discovery of an Unexploded Ordinance (UXO) on the plant grounds during the digging of trench for a pipeline. They required the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) COY to secure the area and conduct a through search for any additional UXOs. The final event was the rescue and recovery of an injured KEK employee from the top of the building to a waiting ground ambulance crew from



ducts Major Exercise at KEK

the Medical COY. The entire exercise was witnessed by the minister of the KSF, Mr. Mujota, Lieutenant General (LTG) Markus Bentler, COM KFOR, General Major Antonio Satta, Deputy COM KFOR and LTG Selimi, Commander of the KSF. The final event was a rappelling demonstration as two KSF Search and Rescue COY members repelled 103 meters down the side of the KEK main chimney. Sergeant Skender Hoxha, the KSF Civil Protection Regiment Commander, commented that “The purpose as a commander of the regiment of the Civil Protection is, that through training and exercises the unit can achieve international standards in the field of civil protection as well as achieving the complete operational capacities”. Following the exercise there was a media interview with Mr. Mujota and LTG Bentler in which the minister of KSF stated that the KSF has gained

abilities to take additional tasks. The exercise was also a unique step forward for KSF as it also brought together for the first time, other elements of the KSF such as the Force Police (FP) and a portion of the Rapid Reaction Brigade (RRB). The FP and RRB were tasked with providing “real world” protection to the site and also had the training opportunity to perform their KSF mission of providing a secure perimeter so the direct core responders (HAZMAT, EOD, Search and Rescue) could perform their tasks in a safe manner and prevent risk to innocent bystanders who could appear onto the scene. The next major collective training event for the KSF will be in June with a Command Post Exercise to stress the use of the Incident Command Response System to a natural disaster at the direction of the Institutions in Kosovo.



KTM - Full Opera

*Story by 1st Lieutenant Sima Azarnoush, US Army
Photos by Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu*

KFOR Tactical Reserve Maneuver Battalion's (KTM) Full Operational Capability (FOC) Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) Situational Exercise (STX) was conducted at Camp Vrelo. The purpose of the exercise was to train the employment of KTM in a full battalion CRC operation. The used practice scenario, was close to a most probable situation dealing with EULEX, in order for KTM to

intervene in CRC. Approximately 200 soldiers from the following elements attended the exercise: Manoeuvre Coys, Special Operation Detachment (SOD), Medical Team, Maintenance and Recovery Teams.

Several KFOR assets were at the disposal of KTM: Freedom of Movement (FOM) Detachment from MNBG-N, Tactical PsyOps Team, Combat Camera Team and the Air-Scan Element. These additional specialized elements were fully operational in order



ational Capability

to give the best help and are always necessary to support KTM in any real life situation. Elements from Alpha Coy acted as Opposing Forces (OPFOR) against Bravo and Charlie Companies. The OPFOR rioters threw water bottles, molotov cocktails and established roadblocks to obstruct KTM's FOM. KTM using CRC techniques gained control of the rioting crowd and secured the site to extract EULEX personnel.

An After Action Review (AAR) was conducted to

reassess operations and discuss lessons learned during the exercise. At the conclusion of the AAR, the KTM was deemed Fully Operationally Capable and ready to assume responsibility of the task as COMKFOR's 1st Layer Tactical Reserve (TACRES). The operational readiness achievement fully reflects the outstanding training gained during the STX. The KTM now has the confidence to react to any kind of situation, following COMKFOR's orders, never forgetting that training is always a continuous endeavour.



A Soldier and Artist

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

Soldiers' ways to pass their leisure time in a foreign theater of operations, the hobbies they pursue, the private passions they continue living out while on mission abroad – these peculiarities are as varied as are the soldiers behind them, and the only limiting factor is lack of opportunity. Most people never discover the aptitudes and talents made invisible by the equalizing effect of military uniforms. What does a soldier's human and private side look like, off-duty and stripped of official military bearing? Captain Cabanes, employee of the French National Support Element (NSE) in HQ Film City, is an officer, art lover and artist all in one.

He was born in the center of France but nowadays he lives in Strasbourg. Here in Kosovo, Captain Cabanes

is responsible for the French National Support Element (NSE) in the HQ in Pristina/Pristine and supports his French colleagues as much as possible.

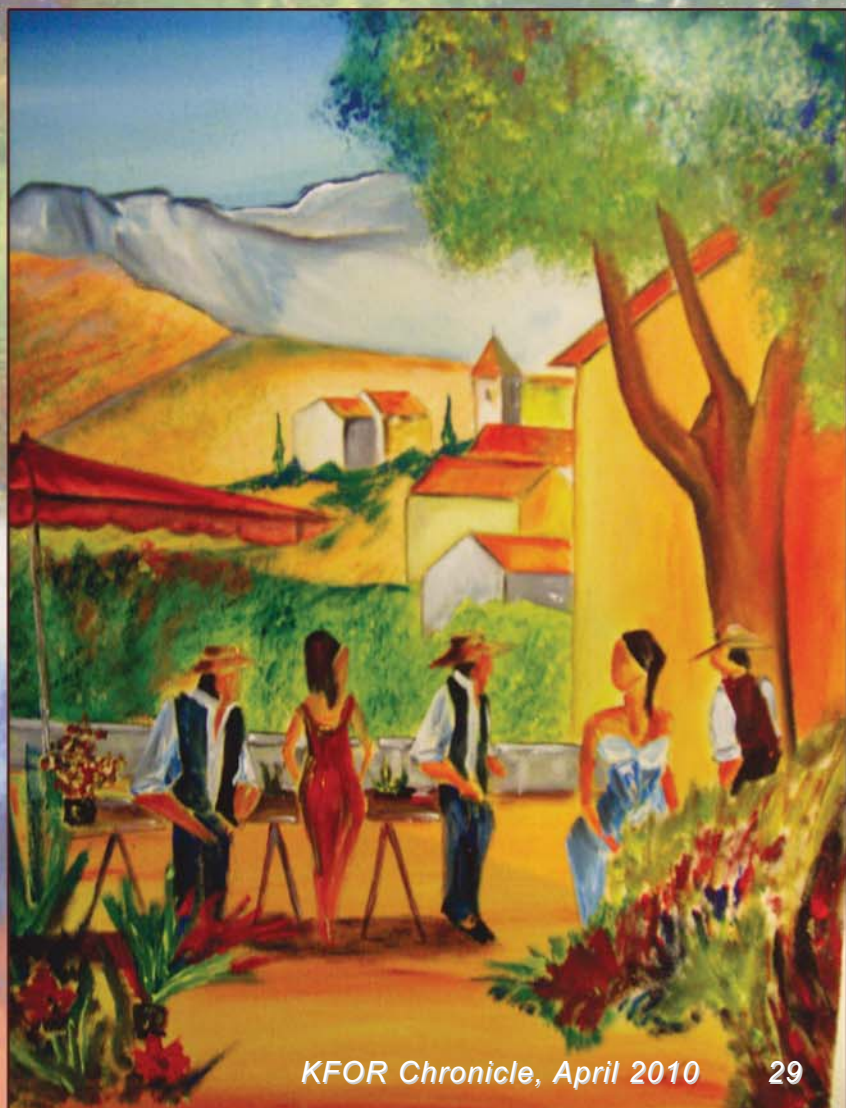
"I have spent more than 42 years active duty in the French Army, my heart is beating for artillery. I am married and have three wonderful children. At the age of six, I made my first attempts at painting" said Captain Cabanes.

His parents were already painters when he started painting. He understood very fast what art is, how it works and how wonderful it is to combine reality and art. Art, is part of his family's history. Even his children have made an education in art and therefore are keen artists. Captain Cabanes said that he has never had formal training courses and is a self-educated artist. Still, by reading suitable literature and by way of practice, he has experienced a continual further development over the years.

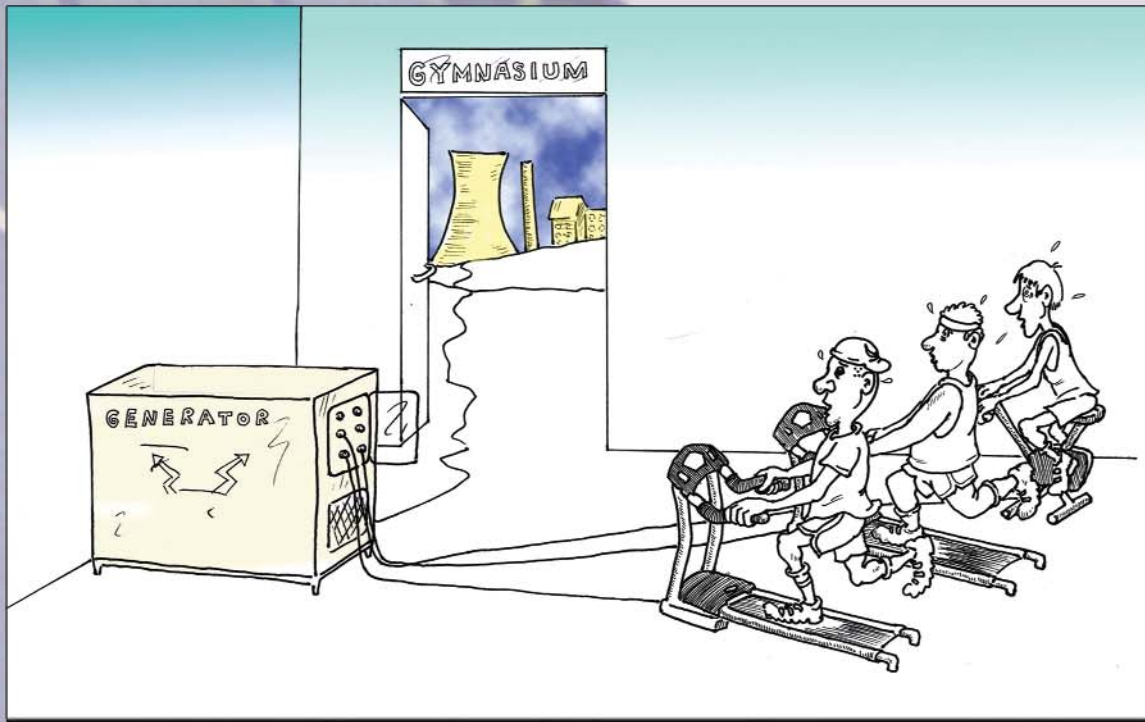


Artist Full of Passion

Apart from abstract painting, his preferred styles are nature, animals, nude painting, portraits and marine landscapes. He doesn't want to become rich from painting, but from time to time Captain Cabanes does sell his pictures to recoup the cost of the materials he uses for his painting. To share his intention is his biggest objective and therefore he makes yearly exhibitions in Haguenau, a small city approximately 25 km north of Strasbourg. "I never show the same, every exhibition is different. KFOR soldiers can expect an exhibition at the French NSE from 5 to 6 June 2010", Captain Cabanes said. He looks forward to this event and will appreciate all participants.



KFOR Chronicle Cartoon



KFOR Chronicle Sudoku

Amateur

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

Profi

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

Solution
March Edition

Amateur

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

Profi

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

Peacekeeper's Profiles

Name: Valeria PARADA
Rank: Major
Home Unit: Land Forces Command, Ukrainian Armed Forces
Unit in KFOR: JEC Info Ops
Languages Spoken: English, Polish
Military Career: Joined Army in 1997
Living abroad: Lebanon 2002-2003, Iraq 2005
Favorite movie: "The House of Spirits", Bille August 1993
Favorite book: Gabriel Garcia Marquez "One Hundred Years of Solitude"

This is my first tour of duty in Kosovo and overall my first in a NATO-led operation. Although I was deployed before to Lebanon with the United Nations, and to Iraq, in the framework of a multinational coalition, this professional experience is proving to be the most interesting. I am very proud to have this opportunity and I am also very proud to be the first Ukrainian female officer ever deployed to peacekeeping missions.

The Info Ops environment in which I operate is quite new to me, however I have the opportunity to experience strategic communications - the domain of public diplomacy, information operations and public affairs. I have no doubts that I will be able to bring some new ideas to my headquarters and a different approach to operations, even though I still have a lot to learn and a lot to contribute.

My days at HQ KFOR are quite intense, as I am also the Ukrainian Senior National Representative and in this capacity I had the opportunity to participate in the restructuring of our contingent at Gate 1 of the Deterrent Presence phase, thus getting familiar with the new KFOR configuration and assigned tasks.

At the end of this tour, I will take a vacation and spend some time with my daughter, who also is an officer of the Ukrainian Army, and to visit the best and everlasting friend of mine – my mother.

Then, I will be ready for new challenges in my next posting and future missions abroad.



Name: Evelina BOMARK
Rank: Lieutenant
Unit in KFOR: SWECON, Public Affairs Officer
Education: Bachelors degree in political science, studies in journalism
Languages spoken: Swedish, English and Spanish
About the mission: This is my first mission in Kosovo and my first mission overall. Back home in Sweden, I'm a civilian working for the Swedish Customs, so the military world is new to me. But I think it's very exciting and I like the fact that I can contribute with my knowledge and that I learn so much from everybody else. Before I started the training for this mission in Sweden, I did basic military training. My work as a Public Affairs Officer gives me the opportunity to see and experience what every part of the Swedish contingent does. I also appreciate meeting the soldiers from other countries and hearing about their experiences.
Family reaction: Everybody close to me has been very supportive. I don't think that they were surprised when I told them that I had applied for the mission. I've been abroad studying several times and they know that I like challenges and to learn new things. But of course it's tough to be away from my boyfriend.
Hobbies and free time: I love running. I've run the Stockholm Marathon, but my favorite distance is the half marathon. I had an injury a year ago and I'm not back to my regular shape yet, but I'm working on it. Besides physical activity, I like going to the theater, the opera and the movies.
Plans after the mission: When I go back to Sweden in October, I'm first going on a vacation to India. After that, I will go back to my regular work as a Public Affairs Officer at Swedish Customs. I'm also thinking about studying copywriting part time.



Mirusha Waterfalls

