

# KFOR

## Chronicle



5<sup>th</sup> Edition

May 31<sup>st</sup> 2010



# Nations Committed in Kosovo



# The Battle Group Commander's Perspective

One of the great benefits of participating in the KFOR mission is the opportunity to interact with Soldiers of many nations. During my time in Kosovo, we have transformed from Task Force - East to a Battle Group East. While both of these titles were preceded by "Multinational," this has not been the case at the headquarters until just recently.

MNBG E headquarters now has a true multinational leadership staff. Maj. Andrzej Glowacki, of Poland, is now the Assistant Deputy Commander Maneuver under U.S. Col. Robert Fode. Capt. Tomasz Golis, of Poland, will serve as Assistant Chief of Operations for the Joint Operations Center under U.S. Maj. Brad Brown. Soldiers from Greece, Poland, Romania, Turkey and Ukraine will also be assuming positions of responsibility on the headquarters staff.

With the addition of Turkey in March, units in MNBG E now include KFOR peacekeepers from Turkey, Greece, Poland, Romania, Ukraine, Armenia and the United States. As part of the new partnership, Turkish, Polish, and Greek Soldiers will be traveling to the U.S. to provide a multinational training environment for the next rotation of U.S. Soldiers preparing for their role in supporting KFOR. This multinational training will make for a seamless transition to U.S. KFOR 13 later this summer.

With the move to Deterrent Presence phase of KFOR, we have also increased the opportunities to work with other Battle Group headquarters and Soldiers across Kosovo. This has been a rewarding experience, and we have learned and benefitted from each of those encounters.

At Camp Bondsteel, Battle Group East Soldiers have recently welcomed troops from Hungary and Sweden for cross-training events, familiarization patrols of the Battle Group area of operations and medical training. The visiting Soldiers are also able to learn and familiarize with Battle Group East weapons, dog handling tactics and helicopter aircraft loading. At several recent exchanges, U.S. and German Soldiers had the opportunity to operate and qualify on each other's weapons. These Soldier-to-Soldier training events contribute greatly to KFOR's ability to carry out its mission by bringing multinational partners together and creating a joint military force capable of operating as a team across Kosovo.

Battle Group East units have also travelled to other sectors in Kosovo to take advantage of the chance to work together with multinational partners. Recently, Battle Group East's aviation Soldiers flew to Battle Group West to train with aerial fire buckets, sharpening their skills to assist the people in Kosovo in a fire emergency if needed. The Italian Air Force expertly supported Battle Group East's training in the Battle Group West area.

United with our multinational partners, KFOR and Battle Group East have the strength to respond anywhere, anytime as a third responder to possible threats to safety, security and freedom of movement in Kosovo.

Building long-term relationships are vital to the work we do around the globe. We never know when or where we will have the opportunity to serve together again, but I know that with each exercise, each opportunity to teach each other, and each mission we conduct jointly, we become more capable as ambassadors for our countries. Until we serve together again, always vigilant!



**Brigadier General Alan S. Dohrmann**  
US Army  
Commander MNBG E





# Unity is worth it!

## To be people-oriented

"Pastoral care with a face", nicely describes what I would define as being a people-oriented chaplain. I am not sitting and waiting, I am on the move and I am looking for and offering opportunities to meet. The most important question for me is not whether somebody is religious and what denomination he/she is. Much more important than that is the individual and his/her situation and the concerns he/she might have.

I see military ranks, but I don't want to be impressed by the fact that somebody is a private, a NCO or an officer because I consider the individual behind the rank to be more important. Each person decides for their self, if, when and what they wants to share with me and how we could do this.

## Trust as most important Asset

To get to know each other and to learn to take each other's measure needs time and trust cannot be established overnight but only slowly.

As a military chaplain I am not to give orders and I can claim for myself that on the one hand I follow the rules but on the other hand I don't have to obey orders. Everyone can count on my discretion and on the protection of what I am told in a private conversation.

## Relying on Cooperation

As a military chaplain, I rely on the cooperation and I am glad and grateful if I can take part in the sharing of information when arrangements are made and the resulting plans can be implemented. Numerous positive signs at the beginning make me optimistic and I hope that I can make my contribution to a successful outcome.

## Keeping the Sky open

It is my aim to communicate in worshipping, the life of "the congregation", which questions, sorrows, longings and concerns I encountered and which joy, gratitude and hope I could experience. I often meet the congregation in the service as a small, sometimes as a surprisingly big group of faithful followers. It is important for me to jointly manage to create and to keep open this time and this space for the encounters with God as the community of the seekers and believers.



My name is Robert Bömelburg. I am 52 years old and I have been married for 29 years. We have three adult children and have been living in Rheine, a small town in the Münsterland of North-Rhine Westphalia, for 16 years.

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## Nations within KFOR:

### NATO Nations

Albania	Luxembourg
Belgium	Netherlands
Bulgaria	Norway
Canada	Poland
Croatia	Portugal
Czech Republic	Romania
Denmark	Slovakia
Estonia	Slovenia
France	Spain
Germany	Turkey
Greece	United Kingdom
Hungary	United States
Italy	

### Non-NATO Nations

Armenia	Morocco
Austria	Sweden
Finland	Switzerland
Ireland	Ukraine



# MOVING I

*Photos by Combat Camera Team Sergeant Stefanie Willuweit, German Army*



May 5, 2010

The Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, welcomed the Commander of the Allied Joint Force Command Naples (COM JFCNP), Admiral Mark Fitzgerald. The issues concerning the latest security developments in Kosovo were discussed. Besides his visit to HQ KFOR, COM JFCNP accompanied by COM KFOR, visited an exercise in the Multinational Battle Group South Area of Responsibility.

May 7, 2010

COM KFOR Lieutenant General Markus Bentler greeted the Inspector of the French Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Hervé Giaume. During the meeting COM KFOR emphasized the highly professional work of the French troops and the future force adaption.



May 11, 2010

The Bulgarian Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Nikolay Mladenov, visited the HQ KFOR. During his meeting, Mr. Mladenov discussed with the Deputy Kosovo Force Commander (DCOM KFOR), Major General Antonio Satta, the security situation in Kosovo.



May 17, 2010

DCOM KFOR, Major General Antonio Satta, greeted the Chief of Staff Allied Forces Command Heidelberg of the German Army, Major General Richard Rossmanith. During the meeting, the current the situation in Kosovo and force adaption issues were discussed.

May 19, 2010

DCOM KFOR, Major General Antonio Satta, welcomed the Deputy Commander of the Austrian Armed Forces, Major General Dieter Heidecker. During the meeting the DCOM KFOR briefed Major General Heidecker about the security and political situation in Kosovo.



May 21, 2010

The NATO North Atlantic Council visited HQ KFOR as well as the Multinational Battle Groups. The aim of the visit was to see the development in Kosovo. The participants were briefed by the COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler. During the visit to the HQ KFOR, the NATO Secretary General, Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen and the NATO Joint Force Command Naples, Admiral Mark Fitzgerald discussed with COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, the current situation in Kosovo and KFOR.



# The Transfer of Authority

Story by Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko,  
Ukrainian Army

Photos by Captain Martin Wieland, Austrian Army

On 7 May 2010, at Camp "Villaggio Italia" in Bellopoje/Belo Polje the Transfer of Authority (TOA) Ceremony for Multinational Battle Group West (MNBG W) took place. This was the first time since the transforming from Task Force West into Battle Group West, that the NATO Flag was transferred from outgoing to incoming Commander of the MNBG W.

At the beginning of the ceremony all the guests were briefed on the history of the 9th "Bari" Infantry Regiment of the Italian Army, that fulfilled its mission in Kosovo, as well as

the combat history of the 24th "Peloritani" Infantry Regiment of the Italian Army, that replaced their comrades at Camp "Villaggio Italia".

After that, the parade started. The flags of all the nations that comprise MNBG W (Hungary, Romania, Slovenia and Turkey) took their position in TOA square together with 9th and 24th Infantry Regiments' flags. During the parade, the Commander of

Kosovo Force (COM KFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler inspected the formation.

Then, the outgoing Commander of the



# ity for the MNBG West

MNMG W, Colonel Vincenzo Grasso thanked all the International Community and local Institutions representatives for the joint efforts that have been made on the way to build for Kosovo a better future. He also underlined his gratitude to the COM KFOR and all the KFOR colleagues for their support and firm orientation in decision making process.

Addressing the audience COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler emphasized the important role that the MNMG W is continuing to perform. "The multinational soldiers of Battle Group West, standing here before us today are men and women of great honour and their accomplishments are to be celebrated. You are truly a dedicated group of soldiers and should be proud of the outstanding results you have achieved," Lieutenant General Markus Bentler said. In his speech, he also

underlined the great contribution of the officers and soldiers of the MNMG W brought in to the KFOR adaptation to the new security requirements. "Now we can rely on more flexible operations as we deploy forces very quickly and decisively whenever and wherever necessary," Lieutenant General Markus Bentler said.

In recognition of the outgoing MNMG W Commander, Colonel Vincenzo Grasso achievements, COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler awarded him with the NATO "Non Article 5" Medal.

In solemn atmosphere, the NATO flag was transferred from Colonel Vincenzo Grasso to the incoming MNMG W Commander, Colonel Davide Di Bartolo. This final event symbolized the TOA and assuming command for the new MNMG W Commander.



# The JLSG Transp

*Story by Lieutenant Colonel Panagiotis Geroglis, Greek Army*

*Photos by Major Carlos Himenes, Spanish Air Force and Major Stylianos Mavropoulos, Greek Army*

It was around 14:00 when a transportation request document from UNMIK, reached the Joint Logistic Support Group (JLSG) through KFOR HQ.

This was not a normal request, it was an "out of the blue" last minute request that pushed the partnership between UNMIK and KFOR closer together to find the

solution, which was the JLSG. In fact, the transportation request was urgent, fragile and of a sensitive nature.

The JLSG Commander allocates the request a priority. The planning and coordination was to be completed in less than 24 hours so that the actual transporting could begin immediately after. With the JLSG Movement and Transportation (M&T) section in the lead, the work began.

Respecting all established internal procedures and KFOR Standard Operational Procedures, the JLSG managed to issue a Warning Order (Warno) to its Greek





# Transporters in Action

Transportation Company (GRC Tpt Coy), complete the plan, and coordinate for escort and extra protection measures for the sensitive cargo.

Due to the efficient work of the JLSG HQ and the readiness of the GRC Tpt Coy their convoy was at the pick up point, the Pristina International Airport, when requested. The well planned movement was escorted by KFOR International Military Police (IMP), which helped secure the convoy especially during rush hour traffic. The KFOR IMPs also help the Kosovo Police and the UNMIK team in ensuring that the Cargo Terminal of the Pristina International Airport was secured, due to the "delicate" nature of the cargo. Within minutes a fork lift showed up with the shipment which was loaded speedily and efficiently on a Greek Transportation Vehicle.

Once loaded it was "High alert" for all involved personnel, which included the JLSG M&T representative, IMPs, drivers, co-drivers, loaders and the Airlift Officer. By fulfilling all the necessary documentary procedures, the convoy departed from the Pristina Airport to the UNMIK Base in Pristina, without any loss of time and providing zero benefit to anyone who would think otherwise.

During the road movement the "High alert" mode was still in effect, and the personnel in the convoy were extra vigilant since there was no room for failure. During the actual transporting everyone showed professionalism, by keeping the right balance between distances and speed, full observation in all directions, and their preparedness to respond to any possible incident. Simply put, the convoy moved in perfection,

since the driver's skills, escort and security skills, were all to the maximum, showing why the GRC Tpt Coy and KFOR IMPs once again are top performers.

The Convoy entered the UNMIK base and went directly to the special storage depot, where the cargo was unloaded and all the necessary signatures were acquired. With the paper work completed the GRC Tpt Coy returned to Camp Rigas Fereos and the IMP's and JLSG representative returned to Camp Film City. Task accomplished.

But for the "Transporters" the mission is not complete. Debriefing, mission report, and after action lessons are identified and are necessary. These reports will help improve productivity and efficiency for future KFOR AOR missions.

As you have read, the units in the JLSG are prepared to help KFOR live up to its motto of "MOVING FORWARD". The JLSG with its skills, capabilities, special assets and equipment is here to support KFOR's mission, which sometimes includes other agencies. The JLSG is here to support KFOR's plans, even if sometimes it is at the last minute. Of course it does help when you have the best "TRANSPORTER" in KFOR (even without an Audi A8RS!!!)\*.

\* (Hoping that you've seen the movie "TRANSPORTER", be aware, if there is a need for an Audi A8RS, GRC Tpt Coy will be more than happy to add it to its assets).



# "VANS" DO

Story and Photos by Captain of Italian Carabinieri Carmine Apicella

On 20 May 2010, in the presence of representatives of Kosovo Police, a Ceremony took place in the MSU Camp of Prishtinë/Pristina. Two new special anti-riot vehicles were handed over to the Kosovo Police (KP). The vans are two IVECO 50 C18 and represent the most recent technological innovations. Both vans have specific sophisticated equipments and their value is about 180.000 Euro.

The two IVECO 50 C18 have the following main characteristics:

- engine cc.2998,

- diesel fuel,
- 6,18 mts length,
- 1,99 mts width,
- airbags both for driver and passenger,
- ABS and anti-deflation tires system,
- self-blocking differential,
- n.2 sliding side doors and double back door,
- protection grids for windows and headlights and
- a fire fighting system for tires, petrol tank and engine.

The IVECO 50C18 may reach speed 160 km per hour of maximum speed and is provided with air conditioning and a additional "WEBASTO" heating system. It can reach every area in the region and it consents to face



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any kind of threat to Public Order and Security, carrying up to ten fully equipped officers.

The officers on board of such vehicles form the "operational basic module", which is able to either face small groups of insurgents or carry out rescue operations of injured or isolated officers during incidents and turmoils. The vehicles are equipped with trapdoors on the top, useful for both tear gas launches and observation.

The donation of the two IVECO 50 C18 refers to a wide-ranging plan of donations in favor of KP, started by the Italian Ministry of Defense and the Carabinieri Corp, following a schedule for development implementation of KP equipments.

Starting in 2008, several training courses in Criminal Investigations have been held by experts of R.I.S. - Raggruppamento Investigazioni Scientifiche (the Forensic Investigation Unit of Carabinieri Corp). Some of those training sessions were dedicated to crime scene investigation techniques and therefore 28 suitcases full of criminal investigation equipments for evidences, traces and fingerprints were given to the participants.

As far as the Scientific Investigations branch is concerned, the Kosovo Police has been provided with two electronic devices named S.P.I.S.; this equipment allows identification of unknown subjects through registration of their fingerprints, personal features and countermarks, which are necessary to create their own identikit.

In accordance with the 2010 civil-military cooperation programme, three more SPIS electronic devices are scheduled for the current year. Such devices will be

linked to a network allowing interconnection among the five regional directorate of KP.

Telephone-tapping special equipments and photo/video survey kits were donated as well. Therefore, K-9 Instructors from Carabinieri Corp - who were purposely sent from Italy - recently held a complete six-month training course for reconditioning and specializing 26 dog units of KP. On this occasion they were given three young German Sheppards, trained respectively as anti-drug, explosive devices search and mob controlling.

As known, the MSU Regiment accomplishes numerous and diversified tasks, under KFOR's direct command. Among such tasks, patrolling and info-gathering activities stand out. Moreover, these activities - which contributed to create good relationships with the local population - allowed MSU officers to carry out their task with excellent results and to export to Kosovo the confidence for national and international Institutions that they normally inspire in Italy.

This confidence is fed daily through two different means: on the one hand, by developing local institutions and infrastructures with funds from Italian Government; on the other hand, by a "door-to-door" activity led every day in favor of needy families, to whom are given clothes, toys, food and medicines gathered in Italy by several charity associations and carried in Kosovo by motor column arranged on purpose.



# A Touch

*Story by Specialist Officer Christoph Zehnder & Spec  
Officer Hostettler, Swiss Army*

*Photos by Specialist Officer Juerg Hostettler, Swiss  
Army*

The Swiss Army Master Magician has been on tour again. Together with SWISSCOY 22, he was again astounding school children and KFOR troops alike. It was his 17th Mission but every time something is new for him. This time he performed in different Kosovo Serbian and Albanian Schools and for the first time he went out with the Swiss Liaison Monitoring Team (LMT).

It all started when Roland amazed a delegation around the Swiss Chief of Armed Forces on a visit in Kosovo,

and Mission Magic was born. Since then, the magician performs around fifteen shows twice a year in Kosovo. Over the time the magic major also steadily improved his magic skills, became a member of the American Magician Association and is a winner of the Swiss Magic's Championship.

In some KFOR camps Roland Meister is already a regular. This time his tour lead to Air Field Topliçane, Camp Victoria, Camp Bondsteel and of course Camp Casablanca, where the Swiss and Austrian troops are based. Although some have seen him perform several times, they would not miss out on the show. "That's impossible!" or "How on earth does he do that?" is heard among the audience every night.



# of Magic

Roland Meister wears civilian clothes when performing for school children. "Performing in combat uniform would only distort the impression", the magician says. With his tricks the Swiss Army Magician touches the hearts of the people. "There is so much you can achieve with a little bit of magic", he explains.

In rural Kosovo, every kind of diversion is welcome. Many locals never had the chance to see a live magic show. So it's

not unusual, that his shows also attract a lot of adults. They realise that - more than a decade after the war - KFOR is still a lot more than just guarding and patrolling. In SWISSCOY 22 it was the first time for Meister to go out with the Swiss LMT. For the LMT located in Malishevë/Malisevo it was another part of building deeper relationships and trust with the people living in the area.



# Exercise in C

*Story and photos by Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko, Ukrainian Army*

From 4 to 5 May 2010, KFOR conducted an exercise in central Kosovo. The entire Area of Responsibility (AOR) of the Multinational Battle Group Center (MNBG C) was included.

This exercise was not in response to, nor in preparation for any current or expected situation within Kosovo. It was part of a training cycle aimed to test the combat readiness and operational capabilities of the KFOR Multinational Battle Groups within their current structures.

According to the scenario, KFOR had to find a solution in response to the increasing situations in different spots in the MNBG C AOR. The other important part of the exercise included guaranteeing

freedom of movement by providing security for very important people (VIP).

The exercise started at the military airport in vicinity of Sllatine/Slatina. Firstly, the rioters were made up of two platoons from the KFOR Tactical Reserve Maneuver Battalion (KTM), which began slowly moving forward to the main entrance shouting slogans against KFOR. They were recognized by the KFOR Military Police (MP) unit which is responsible for guarding this area. Due to the rioters' advantage in numbers, the MP unit took precautions and informed headquarters. The reinforcements arrived just as the first clashes between the MP and rioters started. Strengthened and later replaced by units with Crowd Riot Control (CRC) equipment, the defenders tried to quiet the crowd. But the rioters continued their approach



# entral Kosovo

aimed to penetrate the guarded area. After certain warnings, the soldiers from the Slovak Contingent began to push rioters from the main entrance. During this CRC-phase of exercise the issues concerning coercion and active influence of the crowd were conducted. Furthermore, the defenders used the fire truck for the dispersal of the demonstrators and the excavator for unblocking the road. The first day of exercise was finished after calming down the situation and the rule of law was established.

On the second day of the exercise KFOR had to

perform another task. It was to ensure the freedom of movement for the VIP during the visit to the Gazimestan Monument. Except for a few clashes in the vicinity of the guarded area, the Swedish Soldiers from the KFOR units fulfilled this task perfectly.

According to the Deputy Commander of KFOR, Major General Antonio Satta who observed the exercise: "KFOR will continue to conduct joint exercises in order to display the determination and capability to deploy forces effectively when needed as part of its commitment to deter any kind of violence or unrest to maintain a secure and safe environment and freedom of movement all over Kosovo."



# The Transfer of Authority

Story by Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko,  
Ukrainian Army  
Photos by Major Michael Keuschnig, Austrian Army

On 8 May 2010, at the parade ground of Camp “Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny” in Novoselle/Novo Selo, the Transfer of Authority (TOA) Ceremony for the Multinational Battle Group North (MNBG N) took place. The ceremony was attended by the Commander of Kosovo Force (COM KFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, representatives of international community, and Institutions in Kosovo. In the beginning of the ceremony, three paratroopers performed a parachute jump. They carried French and a NATO flags, as well as the MNBG N pennant. After the paratroopers’ precise landing, COM KFOR, Lieutenant

General Markus Bentler, accompanied by outgoing MNBG N Commander Colonel Philippe du Chaxel, inspected the troops.

Addressing the audience, the outgoing MNBG N Commander Colonel Philippe du Chaxel stressed that KFOR in the North did not lose any capacity after the transformation from Multinational Task Force North to the Multinational Battle Group North. “This is because of you Soldiers; because of your daily work, your personal engagements, and your professionalism, that you showed every moment. I want to express my deep gratitude and my great pride being your commander,” Colonel du Chaxel said. He also expressed his best wishes to his successor and to all incoming soldiers of the MNBG N. In his speech COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler underlined the importance of North region of





# Priority for MNBG North

Kosovo, as the most dynamic and challenging area, and stressed, that due to efforts of MNBG N the people of Kosovo are confident in KFOR. "KFOR can and will continue to provide safe and secure environment for all people of Kosovo, and the Multinational Battle Group North will step up and will meet all the challenges with great distinction," COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler said.

After that, in a solemn atmosphere, the MNBG N pennant was handed over from Colonel du Chaxel to the incoming MNBG N Commander, Colonel Bellenger.

The incoming 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment (1er Régiment d'Infanterie de Ligne), which replaced the 8<sup>th</sup> Marine Airborne Regiment (8<sup>th</sup> Régiment de Parachutistes d'Infanterie de Marine) of MNBG N, is the oldest

European regiment.

## *Regimental History*

The 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Regiment was created in 1479 by Philippe de Crèvecoeur.

1569 - Regiment received the name "Regiment de Picardie".

1785 - Name changed to "Regiment Colonel-General".

1791 - Regiment received the name "1er Regiment d'Infanterie" (in this year all old French regiments received a regimental numbers instead of a titles).

1794 - 1er demi-brigade de Bataille.

1796 - 1er demi-brigade d'Infanterie de Ligne.

1803 - 1er Regiment d'Infanterie de Ligne.



# About Camp

*Story by Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko,  
Ukrainian Army  
Photos by Press center of MNBG N*

The Camp “Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny” was established in 1999 and served as a shelter for the Brigade North’ Engineer Battalion in Kosovo. The camp was installed in the Novoselle/Novo Selo vicinity and was named in honour of Jean Joseph Marie Gabriel

de Lattre de Tassigny (2 February 1889 – 11 January 1952) - a French military hero of World War II and commander in the War in Vietnam.

After some reorganization, Camp “Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny” welcomes KFOR units of the North area of Kosovo. First, as the a brigade location, then as a Multinational Task Force North location, this camp is today the deployment location of the headquarters of the Multinational Battle Group North (MNBG N),



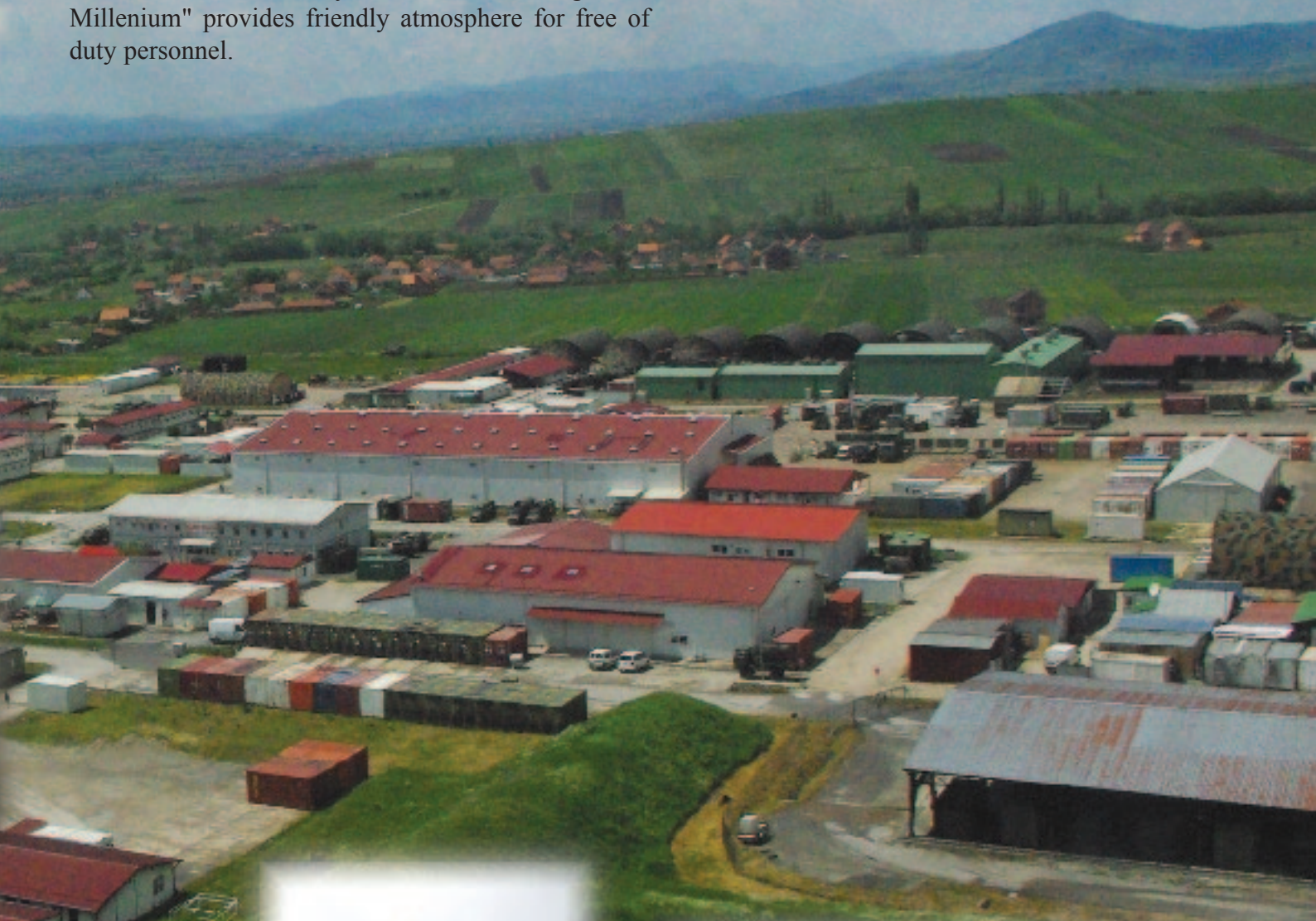
# o Novo Selo

which includes Belgian, Czech, Danish, French, Greek, Moroccan and Slovenian soldiers.

More than a thousand men and women are sheltered at Camp "Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny".

There are 333 local civilian employees working in the camp. Two PXs (Danish and French) serve more than 1.500 customers every week. The lounge "le Millenium" provides friendly atmosphere for free of duty personnel.

The dining facility serves 700 meals at every lunch. Considerable attention also is paid to health care. There are two doctors and 16 medical staff (with one chemist and one veterinary) making ten appointments every week. The soldiers keep fit by using one fitness room and one cardio-training room.



# Nations Comm

*Story by Major Michael Keuschnig, Austrian Army  
Photos by NATO Media Library*

On 21 May 2010, the North Atlantic Council (NAC), led by Secretary General Mr. Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the Chairman of the Military Committee, Admiral Giampaolo Di Paola and Commander, Allied Joint Force Command Naples (COM JFCN), Admiral Mark Fitzgerald, visited the HQ KFOR. The NAC is the principal political decision-making body within NATO. It brings together high-level representatives of each member country to discuss policy or operational questions requiring collective decisions. In sum, it provides a forum for wide-ranging consultation between members on all issues affecting their peace and

security.

The Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR) Lieutenant General Markus Bentler's briefing was focused on the perspective, description of the mission's daily work to maintain a Safe and Secure Environment, its exercises, training and its operations in order to portray KFOR's achievements and capabilities.

The briefing was followed by a meeting with the Head of Missions of international organizations in theatre. In this meeting the Head of the European Rule of Law Mission (EULEX), Mr. Yves de Kermabon, assessed the overall situation in Kosovo as good. EULEX was consolidating the mission and making progress in the fight against corruption and organized crime. The mission is not working in the same way in all parts of Kosovo, and he



# mitted in Kosovo

described the cooperation with KFOR as outstandingly good.

The Head of the OSCE (Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe) Mission in Kosovo, Ambassador Werner Almhofer, stressed that the mission is working to strengthen civil society and good governance, as well as the human rights accountability of the Institutions in Kosovo (IiK) in the Rule of Law sector. He stated that the inter-organizational cooperation had been successful over the last years.

After the part with the International Community the meeting continued with the IiK representatives. The President of the IiK, Dr. Fatmir Sejdiu, thanked the NAC for the continued and unreserved support of NATO and KFOR. According to him, "The aim is to develop Kosovo into a homeland for all its communities, therefore more

progress in the integration process is needed." He also stressed the need for engaging with the international partners, as KFOR in stand-up of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) or EULEX in the Rule of Law, and especially the judicial system. "The transfer of responsibility from KFOR to Kosovo Police (KP) at the Gazimestan monument had been a positive step," Dr. Sejdiu said.

Secretary General Mr. Rasmussen ended the meeting by congratulating the IiK on progress achieved so far and their positive approach to the remaining challenges. "NATO would keep up the work on the KSF stand-up in line with the respective mandate," Mr. Rasmussen underlined. He also asked the IiK to stay in close contact with KFOR on this particular issue.



# New Security Achi

*Story by Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko, Ukrainian Army*

*Photos by Captain Martin Wieland, Austrian Army*

On 28 April 2010 at the Culture Hall in Gjakove/Djacovica, the ceremony of the hand over of control of the Administrative Boundary Line with Albania from the Kosovo Force (KFOR) to the Kosovo Police (KP) took place. It was a significant event that marked the positive achievements reached by KP in preparation and professionalism, as well as becoming more efficient in the execution of its tasks.

The Commander of Multinational Battle Group West

(MNBG W), Colonel Vincenzo Grasso represented KFOR in this ceremony. KP was represented by the Deputy Director General of the Kosovo Police, Ms. Atifete Jahjaga, the Director of the Police Academy, General Sheremet Ahmeti, and the Head of the Border Police Department, Colonel Shaban Guda, as well as other officers and policemen of KP. The representatives of Albania, Montenegro, were the FYROM\*, local authorities and the Institutions in Kosovo also attended the ceremony. The international community was represented by the Deputy Chief of EULEX, Brigadier General Lambert Lucas and the Chief Advisor of EULEX Border and Boundary Police, Mr. Kai



# evement in Kosovo

Skogstrom.

In his speech Colonel Grasso underlined the importance of this moment for the future of Kosovo. "I am really happy to do this, since the Kosovo police are proving professionalism to exercise this task," said Colonel Grasso. He also ensured that KFOR will still remain present in Kosovo and will support in necessary cases to assist the KP.

In his turn, the KP representative, Lieutenant Colonel Faton Alija, who took over the responsibility at the ABL

with Albania, said that special merit for this important responsibility goes to the hard work of the KP.

Afterwards in a solemn atmosphere the signing of documents took place that symbolized the transfer of jurisdiction from KFOR to KP in responsibility at the Administrative Boundary Line with Albania.

According to Colonel Grasso, the transfer of responsibility to the KP was one of the greatest security achievements in Kosovo.



\* Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name

# Multinationals to the Sum

Story by Captain Gerhard H. Fahn, German Army  
Photos by MAZ & More

On Friday morning 30 April 2010, in Prizren, at 08:20, at the bottom of the Cviljen, the sportsmen and women get ready for the group picture. They finished their warm up procedures and are now waiting for the start of the "Cviljen-fell" run.

The start is at approximately 400m in elevation, next to the march route "Lion in the Bistrica Valley". At 08:30 sharp the servicemen and women from France, Austria, Switzerland and Germany are sent up on the track to the Cviljen, which has a length of 11,033m.

The runners started to scale the mountain at quite a good speed. As the German camp on the Cviljen is at 1,321m

in elevation, almost 930m elevation gain was to be completed.

The aim of the "fell run" is not to be a competition but to offer the servicemen and women the possibility to voluntarily meet the sportive challenge and thereby to increase their physical capacity. 149 runners met this special challenge.

Under the overall coordination of the Support Battalion, a mixed motley team of the Multinational Battle Group South, lead by First Sergeant Roland T., who organised this "Cviljen Fell Run". The various supply stations and the organisation of the transport of the runners and of the organisation personnel were well coordinated. The running track was picturesque, but very challenging. It had a gravel surface and deep furrows caused by the rain





# mit - the Cviljen-Fell Run

and a gradient of up to 15%. However, the remarkable view over Prizren, the mountain villages in the valleys passed and the snow-covered summits of the surroundings compensated the runners a little for their physical strain. The first runners crossed the finishing line after 62 minutes which means that they were only slightly slower than a vehicle would have been. The last runners crossed the finishing line in just under two hours.

One of the participants, 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Stephanie J. from the HQ KFOR, said about the fell run: "This was a very good race. The running track was very varied. There were some very steep inclines, especially between kilometre nine and ten; it was hard for me. I didn't know the running track and my aim was to finish in less than two hours. I would never have dared to believe that I would make it in 88 minutes. The fell running was well organised and there were enough supply stations. The smiles which gave information about the remaining distance were good."

The Commander of the Multinational Battle Group South, Brigadier General Manfred Hofmeyer, was enthusiastic about the commitment and sporting ambition of the servicemen and women. He had, like many other spectators, watched the fell run at the side of the running track and had also cheered on the runners. Despite the race being hard and demanding, all runners except one crossed the finishing line at the gate of Camp Cviljen. Here the runners found toilets, showers, changing tents and their own dry clothes which had been packed before in plastic bags. A field kitchen provided the runners with fruits and beverages and after the presentation ceremony lunch was served.

On the way back we saw full trash bags all along the running track. The race marshals had already collected all the empty plastic bottles of the runners. Exemplary!



# CIS Exercise in I

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

On 23 April 2010, KFOR HQ J6 Branch conducted a Communications and Information Systems (CIS) Exercise in the vicinity of Camp Nothing Hill.

The main goal of the exercise was to provide a stable connection between two mobile stations which were installed on the tops of two different hills in order to support KFOR units on the ground in case of their deployment in this region. All J6 branches representatives from



# Northern Kosovo

all Multinational Battle Groups took part in this exercise.

Firstly the representatives of KFOR HQ J6 Branch, supported by the members of the Multinational Battle Group North (MNBG N) J6 Branch, installed two mobile stations with antennas from Camp Nothing Hill. Then they checked and deployed all the necessary communication equipment. After the audit check of equipment, the steady communication at the desired frequency was obtained. Finally, in a short time, the ability to receive and to transmit orders was recorded.

"This exercise brought us an additional occasion to test

and to familiarize all CIS personal with the peculiarities of communication equipment available to KFOR HQ J6 Branch," the J6 Chief Plans and Projects, Lieutenant Colonel Jean-Claude Lavergne said.

According to the Chief of KFOR HQ J6 Branch, Colonel Karl-Heinz Rohde, this increasing of radio coverage in an inaccessible mountainous terrain is an important part of tactical units' control in the field. "This exercise was a part of KFOR HQ J6 Branch main responsibility - to provide of NATO information System and Communications in Kosovo to support the mission of the KFOR," Colonel Karl-Heinz Rohde said.



# KTM in Balkan Hawk

*Story by Captain Nuno Neto, Portuguese Army*

*Photos by Major Michael Keuschnig, Austrian Army*

This year's 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Training Exercise (FTX) BALKAN HAWK was conducted in Camp NOVO SELO. The main purpose of this FTX was once again to enhance the cooperation between KFOR, with its Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM), and EULEX.

A Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) scenario was created

in order to force EULEX to request a Relief in Position (RIP) by KFOR. KTM, after received the order, immediately projected by air, a CRC fully equipped Coy in order to support EULEX protecting the area and to prepare the RIP.

Using the two MI-17 from Croatian Detachment (also COMKFOR TACRES), the 1<sup>st</sup> Coy was able, in a short notice to move and in a quick response time, reach the riot area and assure its protection together with EULEX Force Police Unit. At the same time, the 2<sup>nd</sup>



# Field Training Exercise

Coy and the Tactical Command Post (TCP) supported by a Freedom of Movement - Detachment from MNBG C, a Tactical Psychological Operations Team and a Combat Camera Team from HQ KFOR, were deployed by road in order to establish the RIP and take control of the situation.

The AirScan capability was also deployed, giving KTM an invaluable Situational Awareness and Command and Control asset. KTM also used its sniper capability to screen rioter's actions and if necessary, to

counter any life threatening situations.

In the end, KFOR once more demonstrated the capability of deploying its tactical reserve unit Kosovo wide, supporting EULEX and assuming a full tactical primacy in any condition, fulfilling its mandate to keep peace and stability in Kosovo.



# Dear Readers of the KFOR Chronicle

After six and a half months of outstanding work, Captain Martin Wieland's (Austrian Army) tour of duty is over as Editor in Chief. My name is Major Michael Keusch, also with the Austrian Army and I will be assuming duties as Editor in Chief of the KFOR Chronicle. As the new Chief of Internal Information, the task of publishing the KFOR Chronicle falls to me and I am very pleased to continue the great work of my predecessor. I began my military career in 1996 and besides the career as an officer; my background consists of a technical and economical education at the Vienna University of Technology on the way to my masters degree.



I would also like to take the opportunity to introduce the great team working with me in the Public Affairs Office. Our Journalist for KFOR activities is Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko (Ukrainian Army), then is the Webmaster/Native Speaker, Staff Sergeant Ezrick Mejia, from the US Air Force and last but not least, our civilian photographer and layout director, Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu.

Teamwork will be my goal, as with a mission such as ours, we must utilize all resources to ensure an accurate and fast flow of information. I would ask that all of you become active with the Public Affairs Office and share your experiences and mission successes. We welcome you to join in as a part of the KFOR chronicle as a citizen journalist. Share photographs of your encounters, or submit stories for the monthly editions which run 4500 copies each month.

The KFOR Chronicle team is waiting for your inputs! Send your stories and information to [kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int](mailto:kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int). Also, view our editions on the internet at <http://www.nato.int/kfor>. We are looking forward to a productive and exciting future.

## KFOR Chronicle Sudoku

Amateur

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

Profi

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

Solution  
April Edition

Amateur

5	8	3	2	1	11	4	9	7
7	4	1	9	6	5	8	3	2
8	2	9	7	3	4	5	6	1
3	8	2	1	4	8	7	8	5
6	1	8	3	5	7	2	4	9
1	7	5	5	2	8	3	1	6
4	5	4	5	7	1	8	2	6
2	9	6	5	8	3	1	7	4
1	8	7	4	9	2	8	5	3

Profi

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

# Peacekeeper's Profiles

**Name:** Jaroslav SPISIAK

**Rank:** Staff Sergeant

**Home Unit:** 22<sup>nd</sup> Mechanized Battalion Michalovce

**Current position in KFOR:** Squad Leader of Echo-Company of 16<sup>th</sup> Contingent of Slovak Armed Forces in KFOR

**Education:** Noncommissioned officer's course - Advanced NCO's course

**Military background:** First, I entered the military as a conscript for nine months and I was already then proud for being a soldier. I found military service to be the right choice for me. That was eight years ago. Now I am still very confident in what I do and honored for being military. This is my second foreign mission. The first one was in Cyprus in 2006-2007. Over a year, I was serving at the same position as I serve here in Kosovo - a squadron leader. While serving under the multinational command, I appreciated most of the international environment which improved my language skills and extended my military experiences of working with foreign military units. I fulfilled new tasks and also discovered my physical limits in extreme climates. The high temperature usually over 40°C and air humidity around 98% was unforgettable as well as the location of our operation which was in the buffer zone.

**About Kosovo experience:** While in Kosovo, I do a familiar job. I am a squad leader but serve under different conditions. I am here for a short time, about two months, so it is hard for me to make some evaluations. As squad leader and search unit advisor, I carry out the tasks of CRC exercises, search operations and patrolling. Time flies for me here very fast; often we have many tasks that have to be done at once. I think there is nothing that can surprise me now.

**After mission in Kosovo:** I am married to a wonderful woman who accepts my job and has gotten used to me being away. So after I return from Kosovo, I will take her on vacations somewhere in the mountains where the air is clean and fresh for some mountaineering and then I will go back to work.

**Future plans:** I hope in my career in military service that next year I will probably deploy to Afghanistan.

**Hobbies:** Gym, PC and books



**Name:** Eric LEGOFF

**Rank:** First Sergeant

**Home Unit:** the 8<sup>th</sup> Marine Paratrooper Regiment (8<sup>ème</sup> Régiment de parachutistes d'infanterie de Marine (8<sup>è</sup> RPIMa.))

**Unit in KFOR:** Multinational Battle Group North (MNBG N) / Close Protection Team

**Education (Career Path):**

Enlisted in the 8<sup>th</sup> Marine Paratrooper Regiment, in March 1987.

Promoted to a non-commissioned officer, after receiving a training course at Saint MAIXENT's Non-commissioned Officers School

**About the mission:** This is my tenth mission after those in Chad, Macedonia, Gabon (six times) and Afghanistan in 2008. On this occasion, I often met the local population. I have learned more about their culture and customs. As far as the mission is concerned, it was interesting and rewarding. Here, on this theater, the mission is totally different. I am very happy to notice the day-to-day progress that has been made since my passing through Kosovo in April 1999.

**Family reaction:** I am a father of three children (8-years old, 3-years old and 3-months old). If the older can feel my absence, the two others are still too young to be aware of it. The advantage we have, nowadays, in this mission, is the permanent access to a lot of means of communication, allowing a daily contact with our families.

**Hobbies and free time:** I have a passion for sport, I play assiduously rugby. In addition, I devote a good deal of my spare time to shooting training to acquire more experience since it is a major component of my career.

**Plans after the mission:** After a four-month absence, my principal plan is to meet again with my whole family. Moreover, I would wish to share with the new recruits of the Regiment, during training courses, the experience I acquired in this mission.



# Fortress of Prizren



Photo by Afrim Hajrullahu