

KFOR

Chronicle



6th Edition

June 30th 2010



Kosovo Wide Exercise



The Battle Group Commander's Perspective



Multinational Battle Group Centre (MNBG C) and the Task Forces and Brigades before us have always been a truly multinational formation. It is the basis of our force layout with the units and Liaison and Monitoring Teams from Czech Republic, Finland, Slovakia, Sweden and Turkey. Multinationality is the key factor of our HQ, where Ireland in addition to other countries is represented.

Language is one part of the multinationality, variety of culture, habits and working procedures bring their own styles. My one-year-experience as a Commander of MNBG C I would assess that we have succeeded to turn the multinationality as our strength. That's not always been easy and the constant rotations are also challenging.

In our HQ English is the tool for communication and the basic understanding of NATO planning process provides the platform. An important part of multinationality is that we respect and learn from the variety of expertise we have in our staff. For non native speakers, this environment is an endless learning process where the set backs are fully compensated with a good feelings. "I managed and we did this together". The same can be identified in the excellent cooperation between our units.

My mission in KFOR will end late July. I have a great appreciation towards our mission and KFOR family. This has been a once in a life time experience, especially from the professional point of view. I would like to highlight two important lessons. First, is the role of training and exercises in an operation where the situation is fortunately rather calm and stable. We must maintain and improve our capabilities and credibility to engage the units and leaders for various exercises.

Second, strategic communication is the other line of operation which I will take with me. It has been great to experience the different elements like the key leader engagement and information operations support our mission.

KFOR operation has been a success and NATO remains committed to maintain peace and stability in the area. The mission continues and multinationality will be one of its strengths also in the future.

*Brigadier General Seppo Toivonen
Finnish Army
Commander MNBG C*





Unity is worth it!

Dear Comrades!

This is my third deployment to the Kosovo and I have been here since 14 May 2010. My duty includes religious welfare for the German soldiers in Prizren as well as in Film City; however, all soldiers, no matter what country or faith can talk to me or any other military chaplain.

I also coordinate religious welfare in the Kosovo. As Theatre and Chief Chaplain, my office at the HQ KFOR in Film City is currently maintained by my Admin Master Sergeant Franz Schöner, who will be replaced by Staff Sergeant Frank Seeger. Senior Airman Marian Rothkegel is my Admin Support in Prizren.

The Theatre Chaplain acts as advisor to the COM KFOR in spiritual matters and supports the religious welfare in the Area of Responsibility. My role is maintaining constant contact with the national pastoral care.

As the Chief Chaplain, I manage a number of issues such as visits, interviews and invitations to meetings of the pastors. My job is to find solutions and suggestions for the ministry.

Similarly, the Chief Chaplain keeps contact with local clergy and religious leader of all religions and denominations, in order to promote mutual understanding.

Especially in theatre, soldiers have an immense responsibility to serve the peace of the people. Therefore, it is essential that peace is in our hearts.

Faith can be a great help understanding that I am not the master of others, but that there is only one Lord, the giver of life, connected with the mission to live responsibly and to act correctly and well. The military chaplaincy will help in a special way and offer this service to the soldiers.



Siegfried Weber, born in Karlsruhe / Germany, 48 years old and a priest of the Archdiocese Freiburg. For 10 years, I have been a Chaplain in the German Armed Forces, known as the "Bundeswehr" and in 2009, I have become a Dean. I am the Chaplain for the RFOC (Response Forces Operations Command) in Ulm and also Deputy Chief Chaplain in the military district Southern Germany.

Events

Two major events have already been carried out. One of the events is the pilgrimage of 100 KFOR soldiers to Lourdes in May 2010. In June we went to the 59th international evangelical soldiers gathering in Southern France. Another big event will be the pilgrimage of KFOR soldiers to Letnica on 15 August 2010.

<p>Commander KFOR Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, German Army</p> <p>Chief Public Affairs Office Colonel Michael Kötting, German Air Force</p> <p>Chief Internal Information & Editor Major Michael Keuschnig, Austrian Army keuschnigm@hq.kfor.nato.int</p> <p>Journalist Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko, Ukrainian Army panchenkos@hq.kfor.nato.int</p> <p>Webmaster Technical Sergeant Sandy L. Wilcox, United States Air Force</p> <p>Photographer and Design Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu</p>	<p>E-mail & web: kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int www.nato.int/kfor</p> <p>The KFOR Chronicle is produced and fully funded by HQ KFOR. It is published for KFOR forces in the area of responsibility. The contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the coalition governments' defense departments.</p> <p>Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Internal Information Section of HQ KFOR's Public Affairs Office (PAO) in Pristina, Kosovo.</p> <p>PAO HQ KFOR reserves the right to edit content to conform to style and space requirements. Articles run on a space-available basis.</p> <p>The KFOR Chronicle is printed by RASTER Tel: 038 601 606</p>
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Nations within KFOR:	
NATO Nations	
Albania	Luxembourg
Bulgaria	Netherlands
Canada	Norway
Croatia	Poland
Czech Republic	Portugal
Denmark	Romania
Estonia	Slovakia
France	Slovenia
Germany	Spain
Greece	Turkey
Hungary	United Kingdom
Italy	United States
Non-NATO Nations	
Armenia	Morocco
Austria	Sweden
Finland	Switzerland
Ireland	Ukraine



MOVING I

Photos by Combat Camera Team Master Sergeant Lars Pöttsch, German Army and Afrim Hajrullahu



June 3, 2010

The Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, welcomed the Chief of Defense of the Serbian Armed Forces, Lieutenant General Miloje Miletic in the HQ KFOR. During this meeting the issues concerning latest security developments in Kosovo were discussed.

June 4, 2010

Deputy Commander of KFOR, Major General Antonio Satta, greeted the Commander Army Rapid Reaction Brigade of the Portuguese Army, Major General Raul Cunha. During the meeting both sides discussed the current situation in Kosovo and issues relating to Portugal's contribution to KFOR.



June 10, 2010

COM KFOR Lieutenant General Markus Bentler welcomed the State Secretary of the Ministry of Defense of Sweden. During the meeting COM KFOR mentioned the very self-confident and highly professional work of the Swedish troops and the future force adaption.

FORWARD



June 14, 2010

COM KFOR Lieutenant General Markus Bentler greeted the Chief of Defense of the Danish Armed Forces, General Knud Bartels. During the meeting COM KFOR briefed General Bartels about the security and political situation in Kosovo and emphasized the highly professional and very self-confident work of the Danish troops.

June 23, 2010

The State Secretary at the Federal Ministry of Defense of Germany, Mr. Rüdiger Wolf visited the HQ KFOR. Mr. Wolf discussed with COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, the security and political situation in Kosovo.



June 24, 2010

During his visit to the HQ KFOR, Commander Allied Joint Force Command Naples, Admiral Mark Fitzgerald discussed the features of the security situation in Kosovo with COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler.

High Level Meeting w

*Story by Major Michael Keuschnig, Austrian Army
Photos by Afrim Hajrullahu and Combat Camera Team
Sergeant Lars Pötzsch, German Army*

On 3 June 2010, the Chief of Defense (CHOD) of the Serbian Armed Forces (SAF), Lieutenant General Miloje Miletic, visited for the first time HQ KFOR for a High Level Meeting with the Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR) Lieutenant General Markus Bentler. The meeting took place in the framework of the Joint Implementation Commission (JIC), which is derived from the "Kumanovo Agreement" between KFOR and the SAF. Such meetings within the JIC framework are

regularly organized also with military leadership of Albania, Former Yugoslavia Republic of Macedonia (FYROM*) and Montenegro.

COM KFOR Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, welcomed the SAF delegation and introduced the KFOR delegation. Lieutenant General Miloje Miletic expressed his gratitude for the invitation and hospitality. Further he also how impressed he was with locations and facilities in Film City.

The meeting took place in a very cordial atmosphere that underlines the good relationship that has developed over the years. In this "one on one" meeting COM KFOR and the Serbian CHOD covered general issues such as:



ith the Serbian CHOD

KFOR's future development, the situation at the border with FYROM, the return of Serbian refugees, the overall situation in Kosovo and thereby also the election in North Mitrovica. Concerning this last topic COM KFOR Lieutenant General Markus Bentler and Serbian CHOD Lieutenant General Miloje Miletic agreed that this could only be solved politically, not militarily. They also talked about the ongoing process of the transfer of responsibilities of a number of religious, cultural and heritage sites to the Institutions in Kosovo.

The objective of the meeting was to enhance the cooperation and thus the level of security astride the

Administrative Boundary Line (ABL). They also discussed issues of common interest, like the fight against smuggling, the security of the crossing points and the problem of the illegal crossing of the ABL.

These high level meetings enhance the relationship and cooperation between KFOR and the SAF for the benefit of all the people in the region. The talks significantly contribute to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region.

* Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name



A Day with

Story by Captain Martin Scherer, German Army
Photos by Combat Camera Team Master Sergeant Lars Pötzsch, German Army

“Good morning”, says Lieutenant General Markus Bentler and smiles to his Aide-de-Camp (ADC). It is seven o’clock in the morning and time for breakfast for the Commander of Kosovo Force (COM KFOR). When the ADC picks him up, Lieutenant General Bentler already did his workout to keep fit for the long and busy days. Fruit, yoghurt, a pancake with jam and a cup of coffee are his ingredients for a good start of the day. The COM KFOR likes to have breakfast among his soldiers and talk to them, not only about their mission, but also about yesterday’s soccer match.

After breakfast Lieutenant General Bentler walks over to the HQ Building, where the battle rhythm of HQ KFOR follows a tight schedule. After checking his mail and reading the assessments that were made during the night and morning hours, he gathers his Command Group for the Morning Update to coordinate today’s approaches towards the upcoming challenges. Together with his Deputy Commander, the Chief of Staff, the Chef-de-Cabinet, the Political and Legal Advisors and the Chief of the Public Affairs Office the Command Group forms an inner circle, who keeps KFOR moving forward in the right direction.

Back in his office his staff already finished the preparations for the regular video-conference with Admiral Mark Fitzgerald, the Commander of the Joint Force Command Naples. COM KFOR regularly reports about the current issues, achievements, challenges and exchanges views with his supreme commander.

While Lieutenant General Bentler talks with the Admiral his helicopter arrives at the Film City helipad. He challenges his soldiers of the Multinational Battle Group North with an exercise today. The General leaves his office with his ADC and walks through the Camp to the helipad. His Close Protection Team and the Combat Camera Team are waiting there and the engines are already running when COM KFOR and his team mount the helicopter and take off. No time to lose during the busy day of COM KFOR.

The first stop is at Camp Novo Selo, where the Commander of the Multinational Battle Group North Colonel Eric Bellenger and his staff give a short situational update briefing to Lieutenant General Bentler. Only half an hour later COM KFOR is en route again.

Next stop is at the administrative boundary line to Serbia. The landing site is very small, but after a couple of turns which allow beautiful views across the lake Gazivoda, the pilots land the helicopter next to the narrow road. Danish KFOR troops have already taken position to refrain a crowd from attacking the crossing point called DOG 31. The Company Commander in full Crowd-and-Riot-Control-Gear reports to the General and explains the situation and his layout. Today Portuguese Soldiers of the KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion are acting as the rioting crowd and they are really doing a good job challenging their Danish comrades. Tension rises as bottles are flying and angry shouts flying through the air. But the Danish Coy proves to be very focused and agile, so they control the situation at all times. “Thank you for your highly professional work and the huge effort you put into this mission”, COM KFOR thanks the Coy Commander and is already on the way to the next location. On board he studies the next steps of the exercise, before the helicopter lands close to the Devic Monastery, where American troops also have to face an aggressive crowd. Lieutenant General Bentler smiles while he receives a situation update. He knows the American Coy Commander from previous exercises.

From Devic the flight continues to Camp Villagio Italia. After walking on the muddy roads during the exercise, it is time to clean the boots for Lieutenant General Bentler, because the Commander of the Multinational Battle Group West invited him to attend the ceremony to the Italian National Day. Colonel Davide Di Bartolo already waits at the Helipad and escorts his supreme commander to the parade square. Cordially COM KFOR rewards distinguished soldiers with medals at their end of tour. The following lunch prepared by the Italian chefs is breathtaking “as always here in Villagio Italia”, says Lieutenant General Bentler. But he does not only enjoy the



COM KFOR

food, but also takes the opportunity to talk to some of key leaders from the western part of Kosovo.

Only 30 minutes later COM KFOR is back in Camp Film City. But there is no time for rest on COM KFOR's calendar yet. After a short update by his military assistants he receives a journalist in his office for a short interview. After dozens of interviews he has given during his time as COM KFOR he became a real media professional. "Usually we have at least one a week", mentions Lieutenant General Bentler.

Now it is late in the afternoon.

Time for checking the e-mails again and usually papers are already piling up in the inbox. Even though Lieutenant General Bentler tries to visit his troops as much as possible, sometimes "my office staff chains me to my desk" complains COM KFOR with a

smile on his face.

Then it is time for the evening update, where the HQ staff informs COM KFOR about the latest developments and gives an update for the following days. No incidents today that would require further actions, so Lieutenant General Bentler finishes the work on his desk and leaves the office. Often he is invited to attend official functions in the evening, but today he has no further appointments. So there is time to watch his favorite soccer team play. His team wins. A good topic for the breakfast discussion tomorrow.



196th Anniversary of the found

Story by MSU

Photos by Major Michael Keuschnig, Austrian Army

On 5 June 2010, a ceremony took place in the Multinational Specialized Unit (MSU) Base of Pristine/Pristina in order to celebrate the 196th anniversary of the foundation of the Carabinieri Corps. The ceremony was attended by the Italian Ambassador to Kosovo Michael Giffoni, Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, Deputy Kosovo Force Commander and Italian Senior Representative, Major General Antonio Satta, the Deputy Minister of Interior of Kosovo Fatmir Xhelili, the Commanders of the five KFOR Multinational Battle Groups (MNBG) and HQ members.

The ceremony was also attended by United Nations, Red Cross, EULEX and Kosovo Police (KP) senior representatives and by Bishop of Pristina.

Furthermore, were present the representations of:

- Carabinieri Special Intervention Unit belonging to EULEX
- K9 units both from Carabinieri and Kosovo Police
- Military Police belonging to MNBG West
- the first ROA detachment of the Italian task force air in Dakovica
- International Military Police of KFOR HQ
- Polish Police and Carabinieri of the EULEX mission
- Kosovo Police and Austrian Military Police

Afterwards, speeches were addressed by the Italian Senior representative Major General Antonio Satta and the MSU Commander Colonel Gianni Massimo Cuneo. During his speech Colonel Cuneo stressed that the NATO missions in the Balkans, have represented the major effort of the Carabinieri Corps; he added that from July 1999 Regiment MSU has been deployed within KFOR to endorse its traditional tasks of controlling the territory, assistance to the local population, and support and



Evolution of the Carabinieri Corps

training to the Kosovo Police. Therefore Colonel Cuneo mentioned the presence of some witnesses of the effective cooperation between the Carabinieri and Kosovo Police, represented by three K9 units, whose dogs were donated to the Kosovo Police by the MSU Regiment and trained by specialized Carabinieri personnel. Therefore, two new special anti-riot vehicles were handed over. After the above-mentioned speeches, three different medal parade ceremonies took place: NATO medal “Non Article 5”, “simple and solemn commendations”, “appreciations for high professional on duty”. The medals were awarded by COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, DCOM KFOR and Italian Senior Representative, Major General Antonio Satta, MSU Commander Colonel Gianni Massimo Cuneo the Italian Ambassador in Pristina Dr. Michael Giffoni, and Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Magni, head of EULEX Financial Intelligence Centre.

In memory of the Carabinieri fallen in line of duty,

honours were then rendered with the lay of a wreath. Nowadays the Carabinieri still represents to the people both a soldier and a law enforcer on duty for the community and a vigilant guardian for the state, even in the most distant and isolated locations of Italy.

Since 2008, the Carabinieri Corps is also present here in Kosovo within the EULEX mission. It is relevant to remind the presence of the Carabinieri Corps in several theatres all over the world, such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Bosnia, Lebanon, Palestine, Cyprus, Haiti and many more, acting within humanitarian missions or peacekeeping forces and always giving a fundamental contribution to security and stability, the importance of which is esteemed worldwide.

Recently Austria has requested to join the MSU with a platoon of military police, which will regain the full multinational connotation; from Austria, are already operational one officer and two warrant officers as observers.



The 54th Anniversary of the Mo

Story by Lieutenant A. Lamtakham, Moroccan Army
Photos by Afrim Hajrullahu

In 1956 the King Mohamed V of Morocco founded the Royal Armed Forces. Their mission is to defend the territorial integrity and the national institutions, as well as assist the population in case of calamity. 54 years late, on 14 May 2010, the Moroccan contingent of KFOR celebrated their anniversary at the Camp "Maréchal de Lattre", in Novo Selo. The ceremony was attended by 250 civilian and military guests, including Mayor of Vushtrri/Vucitrn, Mr. Mulaku, and Imam of Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, Berisha.

Based in Kosovo since 1999, the Moroccan contingent was an integral part of the Multinational Task Force North. It is also playing an important role in the Multinational Battle Group North (MNBG N). The ceremony was presided over by the KFOR HQ Deputy Chief of Staff for Support, Brigadier General Cevat Yazgil, in presence of the KFOR Deputy Commander Major General Antonio Satta, and MNBG N Commander, Colonel Eric Bellenger.

After the inspection of the troops by Brigadier General Yazgili, Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Lkhiel, the Commander of the Moroccan Contingent, read the order of the day of the King of Morocco, His Majesty



Moroccan Royal Armed Forces

Mohamed VI, Supreme Leader, and Chief of the General Headquarters of the Royal Armed Forces: "On this beloved occasion, we renew our joy and satisfaction about what has been accomplished by the contingent of our Royal Armed Forces in Kosovo, within the framework of peace keeping mission. Furthermore, we pay tribute to the gratefulness and the esteem that the international community shows for it." Afterwards, a march-past closed the military ceremony.

In his speech Lieutenant Colonel Lkhiel

traced the history of the Royal Armed Forces and emphasized their devotion to peace keeping all over the world, in accordance with the international law: "In conformity with the directives of His Majesty the King Mohamed VI the Royal Armed Forces participate also in peace keeping missions all over the world to bring relief to the suffering populations". Major General Antonio Satta thanked the Moroccan soldiers for their manners and professionalism.

The ceremony ended in a cocktail and lunch, prepared according to the Moroccan-style, in honour of the guests.



350TH JIC MEETING IN

Story by Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko,
Ukrainian Army and KFOR Chronicle archive

Photos by Major Michael Keuschnig, Austrian Army

On 10 June 2010, the representatives of the HQ KFOR Joint Implementation Commission (JIC) conducted the 350th JIC jubilee meeting with the Serbian Armed Forces (SAF). The meeting was held on the main level in Prolom Banja (Serbia), northeast of Gate 3. KFOR was represented by the Chief of HQ KFOR Joint Implementation Commission, Colonel Peter Öberg. The Serbian side was led by the Head of the Military Technical Agreement Implementation Commission, Colonel Miodrag Popović. Representatives of EULEX and Serbian Police also participated in the meeting. The significance of this event resulted in the successful exchange of information between KFOR and SAF since the JIC was founded 11 years ago. During the meeting, all participants involved agreed on the calm and stable situation astride the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) and stated the success in

cooperation process. Colonel Popović underlined the outstanding cooperation and identified the way to further improve methods. Colonel Öberg thanked all soldiers from KFOR and SAF for fulfilling their mission astride the ABL. He also thanked the officers of Multinational Battle Groups (MNBGs) and SAF Brigades for their contribution.

About Joint Implementation Commission:

The Joint Implementation Commission was founded in 1999 under UNSCR 1244 and in the Military Technical Agreement (MTA). These basic documents were signed after the 78-day air war. The primary task of JIC is to monitor, liaise and deconflict the fulfilment of the MTA requirements. JIC facilitates communication and understanding between KFOR and all Serbian parties in order to ensure overall compliance with the provisions in the MTA. In



PROLOM BANJA SRB

order to have a harmonized and synchronized approach to the Serbian Armed Forces, all the MNBG's have their own JIC branches which work together mostly with the SAF, but also with forces of the bordering countries. HQ KFOR JIC has a coordinating role toward the JIC teams of the MNBGs.

The JIC is also responsible for contacts with Albania, Montenegro and FYROM* regarding border related issues. There are also agreements between them and KFOR regarding thus and joint activities like synchronized patrols and meetings.

Cooperation process:

The contact between KFOR and SAF can be divided in three levels: high, main and local level. COM KFOR attends High Level Meetings, where he usually meets with the Chief of the General Staff of the Serbian Armed Forces. The main level meetings are conducted by HQ KFOR JIC and Serbian Ministry of Defence MTA Implementation Commission. The commissions are in contact on a 24/7

basis. Representatives from UNMIK and European Union Planning Team used to take part in the meetings. Today they are replaced by EULEX. The Serbian Ministry of Interior has always been a part of the meetings and is represented by the Serbian Police. The meeting agenda includes issues regarding the security astride the ABL, violations of the MTA, information concerning forces on both sides of the ABL, exercises, operations and the preparations for the high level activities. On the local level, there are three forums for exchanging information: command, coordination and local level. Contacts are held with different intervals where JIC teams from MNBGs meet their Serbian counterparts. For urgent contacts hotlines have been established between the KFOR Battle Groups and the SAF Brigades. KFOR conducts boundary control with Serbia by synchronized patrols. This has been an important contribution to the safe and secure environment in the region.

* Turkey recognises FYROM with its constitutional name



Kosovo Wide

Story by Technical Sergeant Sandy L. Wilcox, United States Air Force

Photos by Afrim Hajrullahu and Combat Camera Team Master Sergeant Lars Pötzsch, German Army

On 16 June 2010, Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler began Kosovo Wide Exercise. This exercise was not in response to, or in preparation for, any current situation either on-going or expected within Kosovo. According to Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, “(...) this exercise is part of a training cycle aimed to further enhance KFOR’s interoperability and abilities to react to any given scenario”.

According to the scenario, peaceful demonstrations in

the North and in other Kosovo regions turned to the violations. At the same time KFOR was responsible for the security of very important people (VIP) visiting the region. Those were a few of the situations that KFOR put to the test. The KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion and Multinational Specialized Unit role was to ensure security of the VIP and ensure violence did not erupt. The exercise was monitored in large auditorium in the HQ building with representatives from each branch.

The Kosovo Wide Exercise was underway; when the initial Fragmentary Orders was released giving the current situation in the Multinational Battle Group North (MNBG N) area of responsibility. MNBG N was required to react immediately. This situation



The Exercise

placed the Multinational Battle Groups East, West, South, and Centre on alert. Each Battle Group contributed a few of its resources to the scenario, but the majority of the responsibility required action from MNBG N.

The Joint Operations Center (JOC) responsibility was to manage the situation on the ground and kept COM KFOR abreast of the situation. Each branch liaison officer provided a status briefing for Lieutenant General Markus Bentler every four hours. The JOC displayed a large screen that managed a real time status update of KFOR exercise, this information was readily displayed for all the liaison officers from each branch.

On 17 June 2010, all MNBG units were fully involved in Kosovo Wide Exercise. This is where each MNBG commander evaluated his resources, response time, strengths and weaknesses. With all MNBGs working together as a team, this was a great opportunity for each commander to gather lessons learned. The Kosovo Wide Exercise came to a close in the late afternoon on 17 June 2010.

According to COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, "(...) KFOR is always prepared for the worst. This is how we, the military are. We do not want to frighten anybody, we only want to prove that we are capable and committed."



About Camp

Story and photos by Specialist Officer Christoph Zehnder, Swiss Army

Camp Casablanca is located in the vicinity of Suhareka/Suva Reka, north of Prizren. It was established in 1999. The unusual name “Casablanca” (Spanish for “white house”) was chosen because of its

white buildings, which can already be seen from Dulje pass road.

Originally, the area was supposed to become a rubber factory, but never went into production. Instead the camp is now home and workspace to approximately 330 Austrian and 220 Swiss KFOR units. The big white factory buildings serve as car park and storage



Casablanca

depot for the Multinational Battle Group South. Austrian and Swiss units work side by side, each nation with its own responsibilities. The dining facility so called “Knödelbunker” – for example – is under Austrian lead, whereas the Swiss take care of the freshwater supply. Most facilities can be found along Longstreet, the “lifeline” of Camp Casablanca.

There are several sports and recreation facilities. The Austrian PX and the Swiss Chalet attract many foreign guests. In their spare time, soldiers can use soccer and volleyball fields, climbing wall, fitness rooms and sauna. But as temperatures rise, the swimming pool delivers a most welcome relief from the sun’s heat after a long working day.



Celebrating the Portugal's Day in Kosovo

Story by 1st Lieutenant César Monteiro, Portuguese Army

Photos by Combat Camera Team Master Sergeant Lars Pöttsch, German Army

The 10 June 2010 had for KFOR Tactical Reserve Maneoeuvre Battalion's (KTM) Portuguese Soldiers in Kosovo, a special meaning. Despite the distance, they celebrated the Day of Portugal and Luis Vaz de Camões, author of the Portuguese epical novel "Os Lusíadas" in where he describes the journey of Vasco da Gama discovering the maritime route to India, and the Day of Portuguese Communities around the entire world.

This day began early in Slim Lines, with the rise of the National Flag with honors.

During the morning, they remembered homeland, playing some Portuguese traditional games with the aim of promoting harmony and friendship on this festive day. At the end, it took place the distribution of the awards to the winners and some words of appreciation to all who participated in this activity, in truly comradeship. On the afternoon took place a military ceremony, where the Portuguese soldiers from the 2nd Parachute Battalion/KTM were decorated with the NATO "Non Article 5" medal. A simple ceremony, but full of meaning, which was attended by His Excellency, the Kosovo Force Commander Lieutenant General Markus Bentler. A celebratory dinner followed the ceremony, where everybody had the opportunity to co fraternize and taste Portuguese traditional food and wine. This official celebration ended with the Portuguese paratrooper's traditional way of saluting all the invitees: the Paratrooper Yell followed by a glass of the famous Oporto wine.



KTM's Reconnaissance Operations KOSOVO wide

*Story by Captain Nuno Neto, Portuguese Army
Photos by KTM*

The Full Operational Capability of the KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM), achieved in the middle of April after a full training period, assured KTM soldiers that they possess the necessary confidence to conduct operations in Kosovo and act at Kosovo Force Commander Lieutenant General Markus Bentler's discretion, where and when needed, as 1st Layer Tactical Reserves (TACRES).

But being 1st Layer TACRES - able to be employed in a short notice to move, by air or ground, night and day, without caveats, prepared to face riots or any kind of situation that poses a threat to the Safe and Secure Environment and Freedom of Movement, Kosovo wide -

is a challenging undertaking, and for that KTM needs to have a close and clear knowledge of all Kosovo's Area of Operations.

Immediately after the FOC achievement, KTM started a Kosovo wide Reconnaissance Operations (Rece Ops), in all Multinational Battle Group's (MNBG) Areas of Responsibility (AOR) in order to gain the best possible situational awareness on every probable areas of employment.

Conducted in close coordination with each MNBG, the main purpose of these Rece Ops is to get familiarize with each MNBG AOR regarding terrain but also to feel the pulse of the population, their needs and concerns, and gives KTM the ability to perform well and with the right knowledge, gained by experience, ensuring the best performance in case of employment



OPREHs 2010 "Rese

Story by Lieutenant Colonel Francesco Migliore, Italian Army

Photos by Major Michael Keuschnig, Austrian Army

Level 1 Operational Rehearsal (OPREH) was conducted by KFOR at the beginning of June, with the Command Group elements of the CZE and DEU/AUT Operational Reserve Forces (ORF) Battalions. This activity is part of a continuing series of rehearsal events conducted by NATO to ensure that ORF are ready, when required for employment into the Joint Operation Area.

The Reserve Forces units are prepared, equipped and trained to conduct the full spectrum of operations; from routine Peace Support Operations to war fighting.

The capacity to rapidly deploy and employ reserve forces coming from Out of the Area of Operations allows reacting efficiently in case of a crisis.

Operational Rehearsals are not exercises, but live operations using the situation in Kosovo at the time as the "scenario". The OPREHs will take the form of separate pre-planned deployments and are an important opportunity to practice the procedures necessary to effectively employ the ORF in KFOR Area of Operation (AOO), validating KFOR's plans.

The developing, practicing operational and tactical movement plans, logistic support, and Command, Control, Communications and Intelligence to achieve the maximum effect of this OPREH. Furthermore, the capability of ORF units to be quickly integrated into



“Operational Forces in action”

KFOR operations upon arrival in the KFOR AOO is a critical aspect of the OPREH.

Level 1 OPREH, was conducted from the 31 May to the 5 June, the Key Leaders of the current ORF units familiarize themselves with the KFOR AOO and the current missions of deployed forces and performed in-theatre reconnaissance. They also practice staff co-ordination procedures and visits to assembly areas, in order to review infrastructure and training requirements.

The ORF units will benefit from rehearsal opportunity to better prepare them to conduct the mission as stated by Lieutenant Colonel Norbert Kopf (COM

DEU/AUT Battalion) “We are well prepared for upcoming tasks, not only with manpower, but also with tactical skills in case being alerted. Enough exercises were conducted, so we are mission ready”.

OPREH is a obvious demonstration of NATO determination to send a clear message to potential adversaries. NATO will continue to provide peace and stability in the region. NATO is prepared to fulfil its mandate, as stated by Lieutenant Colonel Jan Cifka, (COM CZE Battalion) “we fulfil all the tasks because we train very hard and our training is to fulfil this task. We accomplish every task we receive from COM KFOR”.



International

Story by Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko,
Ukrainian Army and Technical Sergeant Sandy L.
Wilcox, United States Air Force
Photos by Afrim Hajrullahu

On 23 June 2010 KFOR representatives took part in soccer tournament organized by the Olympic Committee of Kosovo at the Sport Centre in Pristine/Pristina downtown in commemoration of International Olympic Day. The festivities began with opening remarks from the Chairman of the Olympic Committee of Kosovo Mr. Besim Hasani, who welcomed all participants and wished them to win in a fair fight. There were seven soccer teams represented by KFOR, EULEX, Kosovo Police (KP), Kosovo Security Force (KSF) and different Institutions in Kosovo ("Olimpik", "Estrada" and "Qeverija").

The matches were played with a regular soccer rules; however, the elimatory matches were held in two groups, each game last 20 minutes. According to the last UEFA and FIFA regulations, the referee's staff was represented by "woman in black".

KFOR soccer team was represented in the tournament by best players selected by different nations from each Multinational Battle Group and KFOR Headquarters. Team leader was Captain Heiko Dohlich and the KFOR-team coach was Sergeant Major Jens Knaurer from Joint Logistical Support Group. Both experienced by working many years for German soccer association. First game began with the Kosovo Police vs "Estrada" and ended with a KP victory 7 to 2. Both teams have demonstrated high speed and technique of possession. Then, a stubborn struggle between EULEX and "Qeverija" took place. The "Qeverija" led during the

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Olympic Day

game 2 to 0, but thanks to EULEX-players' efforts, score was aligned and finally EULEX won 4 to 2.

First challenge for KFOR-team was with KSF counterparts. KFOR scored its first goal in the first 3 minutes of the game and dominated their opponents the entire game. The first time score was KFOR 3 to KSF 0. The final time KFOR managed to score two additional points, bring their final score KFOR 5 to KSF 0.

The most exciting game of the evening was round two of the tournament KFOR vs EULEX. During the first time of the soccer game, both teams played defence very well, KFOR 0 to EULEX 0. With 2 minutes remaining on the clock, EULEX managed to score a goal, knocking KFOR out of the running for the first place.

KFOR placed 3rd tournament after the lost to EULEX. Prior to the last game of the tournament, the Chairman of the Olympic Committee of Kosovo Mr. Besim Hasani had a cake cutting ceremony and thanked all

the teams for their participation in the tournament. The deciding first place winner of the tournament was Kosovo Police vs EULEX. EULEX came in 2nd after their loss to the KP 1 to 5. The festivities ended with Mr. Besim Hasani presented Kosovo Police with a 1st place trophy and the remaining teams certificates of appreciation. KFOR remained in high sprits after the stiff competition they ended the night with KFOR chant.

Final results of each game:

KP vs "Estrada"	7 (4'; 5'; 6'; 8'; 10'; 15'; 20') – 2 (16'; 18')
EULEX vs "Qeverija"	4 (15'; 15'; 16'; 20') – 2 (3'; 13')
KFOR vs KSF	5 (3'; 4'; 8'; 13'; 18') – 0
KP vs "Olimpik"	4 (2'; 12'; 12'; 17') – 1 (18')
EULEX vs KFOR	1 (9') – 0
KP vs EULEX	5 (3'; 4'; 5'; 6'; 10') – 1 (1')



The Transfer of Authority

Story by Technical Sergeant Sandy L. Wilcox, United States Air Force

Photos by Major Michael Keuschnig, Austrian Army

On 24 June 2010, Multinational Battle Group South (MNBG S) held the Change of Command Ceremony of the German KFOR Contingent from Brigadier General Manfred Hofmeyer to Brigadier General Stephan Thomas at Camp Prizren. The ceremony began with the marching in of the colors by the four nations soldiers carrying their countries flags (Germany, Switzerland, Austria, and Turkey). The soldiers marched in after the German military band. Following the marching in of the colors, Chief of Staff MNGS S Colonel Klaus Anderle reported to the Commander MNBG S Brigadier General Hofmeyer. The Commander of MNBG S gave his parting speech to the distinguished guests and the soldiers under his command. During his speech, he mentioned the challenges that MNBG S has had during

his tenure and he also talked about the improvements that Kosovo has made since 2000. He mentioned how the last six months gave MNBG S a new firm course of action and numerous exercises that MNBG S participated in. In his speech, he bid a heartfelt farewell to his soldiers “May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be ever at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face and the rain fall softly on your fields, until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of his hand.”

After his speech, General Hofmeyer reported to the Commander of Kosovo Force (COM KFOR) Lieutenant General Markus Bentler. An inspection of the parade was accomplished by COM KFOR Lieutenant General Markus Bentler and Brigadier General Hofmeyer, as the band played. Both generals walked rendering a salute to the entire parade grounds, while the soldiers saluted their commanders. After the inspection of parade was complete, COM KFOR Lieutenant General Markus Bentler gave his speech. He thanked Brigadier General



Priority for MNBG South

Hofmeyer for his hard work and dedication to the mission. "As the Commander of Multinational Battle Group South, the largest battle group in Kosovo, BG Hofmeyer was extremely successful. The people of southern Kosovo are able to live in a safe and secure environment and have freedom of movement because of the dedicated efforts of the multinational soldiers from Austria, Germany, Switzerland, and Turkey. Your nations can certainly be proud of the work you are doing in Kosovo," Lieutenant General Bentler said. He also expressed his confidence in the incoming Brigadier General Stephan Thomas ability to lead MNBG S. In closing, COM KFOR Lieutenant General Markus Bentler presented Brigadier Hofmeyer a Letter of Appreciation for his accomplishments as MNBG S Commander. The band played a song to celebrate the occasion.

The NATO flag was passed from Brigadier General Hofmeyer to Lieutenant General Bentler and then to the new Commander of MNBG S, Brigadier General Stephan Thomas, signifying the beginning his tenure as the MNBG S Commander. Brigadier General Stephan Thomas took command of his troops and the honor guard posted the colors. The change of Command for MNBG S included an extraordinary event. Five helicopters did a fly over carrying the NATO flag as well as the flags of each nation that contribute to MNBG S (Germany, Austria, Turkey & Switzerland). Following the magnificent display of all five flags, the honor guard played the German National Anthem. The German National Anthem officially closed the ceremony and a reception followed the well organized event.



Silver Saber CRC

Story by 1st Lieutenant Gil Rocha, Portuguese Army
Photos by Major Michael Keuschnig, Austrian Army

Between 07 and 11 June 2010, KFOR promoted a Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) Course involving forces from the five Multi National Battle Groups (MNBG), Multinational Specialized Unit (MSU), KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM) and EULEX. The event was coordinated by J3 and was divided in 2 stages: the first, a theoretical part, which took place in Camp Film City, and the second, a

practical part, which took place at Camp Vrelo, KFOR's main CRC training area.

During the theoretical part, the concepts of Blue and Red Box were explained, according to COM KFOR directives, and complemented by the Legal Adviser's presentation of several past situations relative to incidents between rioters and KFOR or EULEX forces, with the purpose to discuss the legal use of force according to KFOR Rules of Engagement. This first part ended with the presentation of the CRC



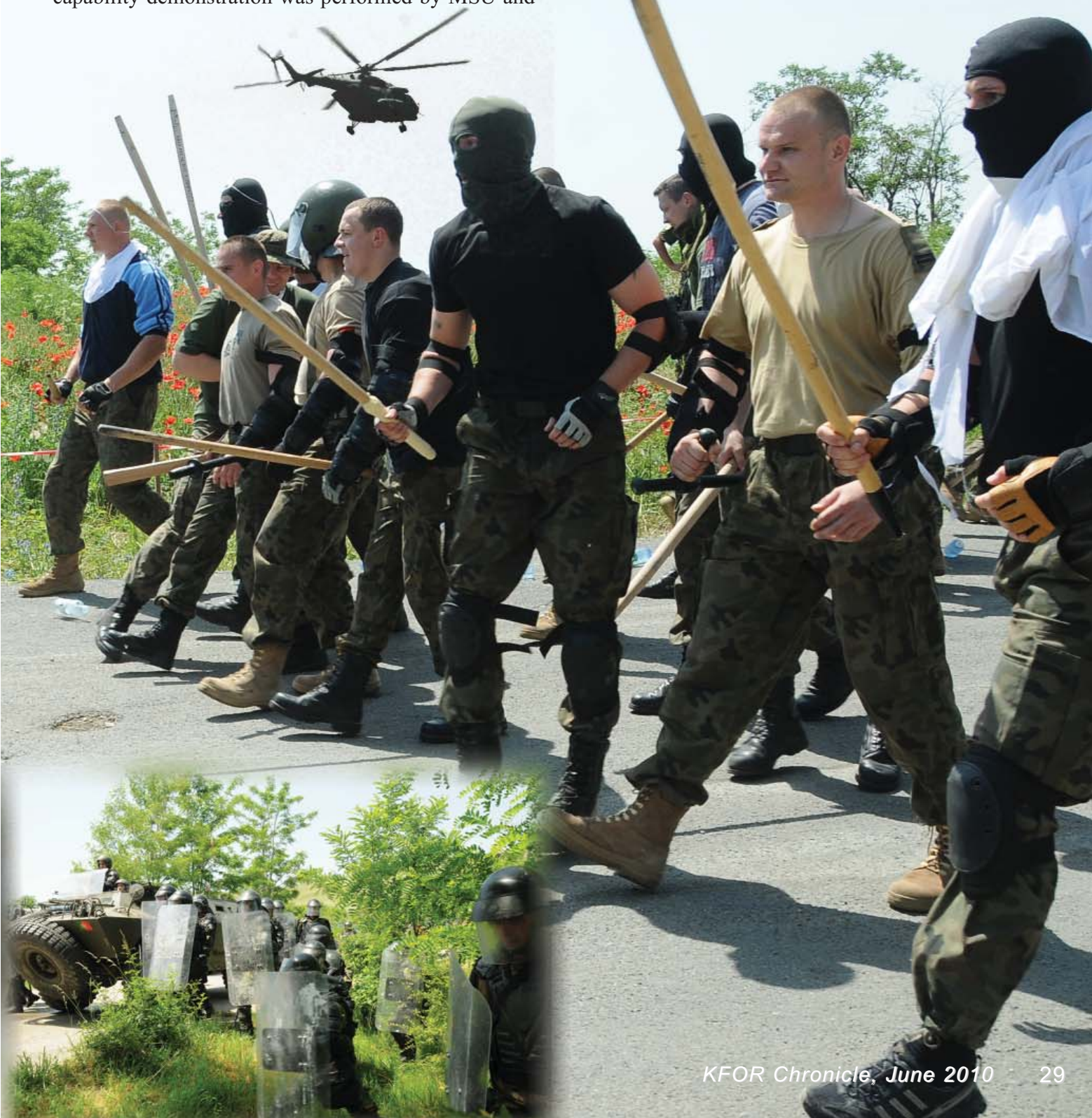
Exercise Center

capabilities, limitations and standing operational procedures of the different forces, as well as some Property with Designated Special Status (PrDSS) defense plans at the responsibility of the MNBGs.

On 11 June 2010, the practical part had the main purpose of demonstrating different CRC Techniques, Tactics and Procedures. All the forces participated in a static exhibition where everyone could interact and learn more about each other. After this, a dynamic CRC capability demonstration was performed by MSU and

a situational training exercise was created, involving MSU, KTM, MNBG South and a Freedom of Movement Detachment from MNBG Centre, with the objective of securing the Red and Blue Boxes of a fictional PrDSS. The rioters were performed by forces of the MNBG East.

The end state of this course was to share knowledge and experiences, bringing closer nations and units.



KFOR Chronicle Cartoon



KFOR Chronicle Sudoku

Amateur

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

Profi

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

Solution
May Edition

Amateur

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

Profi

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

Peacekeeper's Profiles

Name: Katharina Nekham

Rank: Sergeant

Home Unit: Engineer Battalion 3 in Melk

Unit in KFOR: Admin for Austrian NSE in HQ Camp Field Prizren

Education: Preparation courses: gunner on the tank "Leopard" 2A4; Administration NCO; Infantry NCO course

About the mission: It's my first mission abroad and also the first time being here in Kosovo. I have spent one and a half month and have already made many friends from many nations. My position in HQ provides me a lot of possibilities to get in contact with a lot multinational soldiers, NCOs and officers. I get much input from other nation's workflow and it is very interesting how other nations work in the Defense Forces. One of the most impressive event for me here in the mission was the heli flight over the Kosovo with the Austrian Air Force. Thanks to the Austrian crew!

Family reaction: My family is supporting me in every case. Also they supported me in making this decision and they also gave the backing to enable me this mission.

Plans after the mission: I'm going to back to my work for my unit in Austria and then join the next military education to continue with my military career.

Hobbies: I like to spend all my free time with my 6 years old child. We prefer skiing, reading books and meeting our friends together.



Name: Cristina – Anemona Toma

Rank: Captain

Home Unit: Military Journalist and Public Relations Officer (Information and Public Relations Directorate of the Ministry of National Defense)

Current position in KFOR: Escort Officer in JVB HQ KFOR

Education: Two graduates in journalism, communication and public relations; a master, a postgraduate and a number of language courses, Euro-Atlantic Integration, Introduction to NATO and others. Communication Olympics gold medal.

About the mission: About Mission ... Hmmm ... Since I am a journalist, I can deal with these ten numbers of KFOR Chronicles only telling about it. I'm impressed. It's my first mission abroad and expects me to be a very interesting experience. That work and live together so many nations here help me to know and understand the different lifestyles of each country participating in the mission. People are very serious, professionals, responsible, honest and friendly, what will make me remember with pleasure for those six months spent here. As long as my work is appreciated, I think it's the most important goal of my mission in Kosovo.

Family reaction: It was an enthusiastic response; my family is still in the military field, so there was no questions not to understand how much does means this mission for me and my career. I always enjoyed understanding and support of my family in all I wanted to do.

My son Yanis - Luca, only three years old, hardly understood at first why will not see his Mami six months, but quickly got it that his Mami flew to Kosovo and will bring lots of toys, sweets and gifts from there. So now everybody is happy.

Plans after the mission: I will definitely recover the time spent away from family and friends. Will revive myself to build the train and track racing, playing football and I fight with sword, to cope with the requirements of Yanis. Obviously how much Yanis will grow, the more challenges will be greater for me. I will take a vacation away from the reckless world, to make the transition from life in Kosovo and the life that I have at home. They are two totally different worlds. Then I will return to my colleagues that I miss it so, and from reliable sources, know that they lack a lot.

Hobbies: I think that I'm not different from other women. I love shopping, dancing, music, traveling and partying with friends. Generally I love to enjoy every moment because you never know what will happen. I will continue to study, improve my performance and I will do my best to fulfill my dream of having a successful military career. I will definitely return to this country or anywhere it will need me.



Ceranja



Photo by Afrim Hajrullahu