

# KFOR



# Chronicle

8<sup>th</sup> Edition

August 31<sup>st</sup> 2010



# CRC Exercise with Kosovo Police



# The Battle Group Commander's Perspective

I am Colonel Davide Di Bartolo, Commander of the Multinational Battle Group West (MNBG W). I was born in Rome in 1966 and my military career started in 1984. My first experience in Kosovo goes back to 1999. During this period, the situation was really dramatic, the war had caused so much damage and provoked too many victims. Kosovo today compared this initial experience has transformed. I have seen, buildings, roads and, above all, so many smiles on the faces of the children. The contribution furnished by KFOR is amazing. I've been the Commander of MNBG W since 7 May 2010. The transformation has happened in the month of January 2010 reducing the personnel's strength from 2,200 to approximately 1,400 personnel. MNBG W, under Italian leadership, is composed of personnel from five nations: Italy, Slovenia, Hungary, Romania and Turkey. In the BG's Area of Responsibility (AOR) exist six municipalities. The majority of the population is of Albanian ethnicity. A Serb Village nearby with approximately 800 Serbians represents the greatest enclave of all AOR. For the first time after World War II, my regiment is engaged in operations outside the national territory. As Commander of this unit, I represent my country with great pride in Kosovo. The 24<sup>th</sup> regiment artillery "Peloritani" is part of the "Aosta" Brigade, headquartered in Sicily. The Brigade "Aosta" has been one of the last units, assuming the Command over Multinational

Task Force West. In 2006 and 2007 the Commander of the Brigade "Aosta" has occupied my actual position. This subsequently makes me proud together with the men and women of the Brigade. We have the responsibility over West area since May. Since then, we have faced several issues with the management of the returnees to some villages of our AOR. Recently joint exercises have been conducted with different Battle Groups and with the Kosovo Police. During these exercises we had the opportunity to learn and teach different techniques. My soldiers know that we are completing an important mission for the future of Kosovo.



*Colonel  
Davide Di Bartolo  
Italian Army  
Commander MNBG W*



# Presenting the first copy of the KFOR Photo Book 2010 to COM KFOR



Dear readers,

On Sunday 22 August after several months of collecting pictures from various professional- and hobby-photographers, preparing the layout for several hundred pages, writing and proofreading the content, the first KFOR Photo Book 2010 was presented to Commander of Kosovo Force Lieutenant General Markus Bentler.

This KFOR Photo Book 2010 had a new approach to show the mission. The operation is being conducted through the achievement of tasks along four Lines of Operation:

- Contribute to maintain a Safe and Secure Environment and Freedom of Movement
- Enhance cooperation with the Institutions in Kosovo and International Civilian Presences
- Conduct proactive and comprehensive communications
- Assist to strengthen the Kosovo Security Force / ministry of the Kosovo Security Force capabilities.

The KFOR Booklet 2010 is as unique as the KFOR mission. General Bentler was pleased to receive the first book showing his troops' capabilities. Moving along these four Lines of Operation with its motto "Moving Forward", KFOR has continued to ensure a Safe and Secure Environment for all the people in Kososvo.

Best wishes,  
Major Michael Keuschnig  
Chief Editor

<p><b>Commander KFOR</b> Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, German Army</p> <p><b>Chief Public Affairs Office</b> Colonel Michael Kötting, German Air Force</p> <p><b>Chief Internal Information &amp; Editor</b> Major Michael Keuschnig, Austrian Army keuschnigm@hq.kfor.nato.int</p> <p><b>Journalist</b> Lieutenant Colonel Serhiy Panchenko, Ukrainian Army</p> <p><b>Webmaster</b> Technical Sergeant Sandy L. Wilcox, United States Air Force</p> <p><b>Photographer and Design</b> Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu</p>	<p><b>E-mail &amp; web:</b> 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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<b>Nations within KFOR:</b>	
<b>NATO Nations</b>	
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
<b>Non-NATO Nations</b>	
Armenia	Morocco
Austria	Sweden
Finland	Switzerland
Ireland	Ukraine



# MOVING I

*Photos by Combat Camera Team Master Sergeant Lars Pöttsch, German Army and Major Michael Keuschnig, Austrian Army*



August 4, 2010

The Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, welcomed the Minister of Defense of Denmark Mrs. Gitte Lillelund Bech. During this meeting the security and political situation in Kosovo were discussed.

August 9, 2010

COM KFOR Lieutenant General Markus Bentler greeted the Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division of the German Army, General Major Markus Kneip and the President of the Military District Administrative Office East of the Federal Armed Forces of Germany, Mr. Heinrich Schrömbgens. During the meeting, the event driven transition process now and through the future force-alteration was discussed.



August 10, 2010

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 a humanitarian de-mining demonstration of the Kosovo Security Force in the Multinational Battle Group Centre Area of Responsibility.



August 11, 2010

COM KFOR Lieutenant General Markus Bentler received the Deputy Commander of the Joint Operational Command of the Armed Forces of Ukraine. During the meeting both sides discussed the current situation in Kosovo and issues relating to Ukraine's contribution to KFOR.

August 27, 2010

The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Germany Dr. Guido Westerwelle paid a visit to HQ KFOR. During the meeting the COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, briefed Dr. Westerwelle about the actual security and political situation in Kosovo.



# The Transfer of Autho

*Story by 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant Mikko Hirvonen, Finnish Army*

*Photos by Major Michael Keuschnig, Austrian Army*

On 27 July 2010 Colonel Markku Aherto assumed command over the Multinational Battle Group Centre (MNBG C) from outgoing commander, Brigadier General Seppo Toivonen. The day was special for the Finnish Contingent in Kosovo, where Lieutenant Colonel Pasi Rekilä handed over the responsibility to Lieutenant Colonel Pertti Posti. Both ceremonies were carried out traditionally on Camp Ville's parade ground.

In his farewell speech, Brigadier General Seppo Toivonen emphasized the meaning of a truly multinational team work. "This has been an exquisite year, demanding but rewarding. With rather limited resources we have made the difference. We have been successful in our operations and exercises, we have managed to deepen our cooperation with the local population and we have advanced in the unfixing process.", said Brigadier General Toivonen.

During Colonel Markku Aherto's speech he thanked his predecessor for the successful work and stressed the fact that KFOR's image is at a high level.

"We are moving forward faster than ever with a



# Security for MNBG Centre

slimmer but stronger structure. We here in MNBG C have to concentrate to the new KFOR structure in close cooperation with other Battle Groups, especially with our eastern neighbors. We also have to preserve the religious and cultural heritages in our Area of Responsibility.”, said Colonel Aherto.

The Transfer of Authority (TOA) ceremony brought together more than one hundred distinguished authorities and guests. Addressing the audience Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler emphasized that the TOA came at a very important time for Kosovo. “Over the past several months, the posture of KFOR has changed dramati-

cally. KFOR has adapted from large, bulky task force organizations to this sleek, efficient Battle Group force structure which is leaner, more mobile and agile and allows us to provide a quick decisive response if the safe and secure environment in Kosovo is ever in jeopardy.”, said COM KFOR Lieutenant General Markus Bentler.

The change of command for MNBG C was not the only reason for celebration in Camp Vile. The members of the Finnish Contingent lined up on the parade square to say good bye to their Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Pasi Rekilä and to welcome his successor Lieutenant Colonel Pertti Posti.



# A Pilgrimage

*Story by Private Markus Mueller, German Army*

*Photos by Warrant Officer Klaus Wenzel, German Army and Combat Camera Team Master Sergeant Lars Pötzsch, German Army*

On 15 August 2010, a multinational pilgrimage (“A journey made to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion”) to the Kosovar village of Letnica took place on occasion of “St. Mary’s Assumption”, a catholic holiday. Apart from about 10,000 national and international believers, the pilgrimage was attended by soldiers of the Kosovo Force. Letnica is famous for its

black statue of the Virgin Mary of the “St. Mary’s Assumption” church.

Approximately two dozen German KFOR soldiers from Camp Prizren took a bus ride to the place of pilgrimage at the Kosovar-FYROM\* border. At the assembly point, five kilometres away from Letnica, Kosovo Force Commander, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, welcomed the soldiers from America, Austria, Italy, Germany, Switzerland and many other countries. The General’s





# e to Letnica

welcome was followed by an opening prayer by the Military Dean, Siegfried Weber. The subsequent walk went through a partly wooden and mountainous area, which was intersected by small creeks. Arriving at the place of pilgrimage, Kosovar Bishop Gjergji celebrated mass at eleven o'clock a.m.

The believers proceeded with Lourdes songs carrying the statue of the Virgin Mary around the Gothic church. This tradition is done to celebrate the admission of the mother of Jesus into heaven. After a brief stay at the market of Letnica, which was crowded with people, the

KFOR soldiers returned to the assembly point to return to Prizren. At the end of the day, the Catholic Military Chaplaincy invited all participants to dinner at the German welfare facility, called OASE.



# Kosovo Police and KFOR Soldiers tr

Story and photos by Private 1<sup>st</sup> Class Sarah A. Cummings, United States Army

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo – Multinational Battle Group East's (MNBG E) US Army A Company (Coy), 1st Battalion, 296th Infantry worked with the Kosovo Police (KP) from Ferizaj/Urosevac in a joint exercise, on 28 July 2010, at the Bill Clinton Sports Complex in Ferizaj/Urosevac that highlighted proper Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) techniques.

Some Soldiers from A Coy served as “demonstrators” while other A Coy Soldiers stood by with their riot gear

ready to support the KP if necessary.

The exercise began with a simulated protest by the A Coy “demonstrators.” After a brief discussion with the KP to air complaints about power outages, the “demonstrators” marched past the first line of KP officers, where they were met by more police in riot control gear.

The demonstration began to escalate beyond the KP's control as the “demonstrators” began throwing water bottles and simulated stones at the KP officers.

One rioter threw a garbage can at the line of CRC officers.



# Train riot control techniques together

Things seemed to be getting out of hand when the “demonstrators” began kicking and grabbing riot shields, but soon enough, the CRC-equipped KP successfully detained a few of the more aggressive “demonstrators.”

After the crowd became more rambunctious and simulated shots were fired and the KP called for the assistance of KFOR Soldiers.

With the KP and KFOR working together, more of the “demonstrators” were detained and the “riot” subsided. Major Erick Vega, MNBG E exercise planner, said “I think the exercise overall went well.”

“The main purpose of the exercise is to have our CRC-

capable forces interact with KP and EULEX and have them work together in order to maintain a safe and secure environment in Kosovo,” said Vega, Cabo Rojo, Puerto Rico.

“The purpose of the training is to show how prepared the KP is.” said Colonel Francisco J. Neumann, Ponce, Puerto Rico, commander of MNBG E. “There has to be good communication between the KP, EULEX and KFOR when they are on the ground.

They have to know when they are going to communicate and how it’s going to happen.”

Vega said that MNBG E plans to conduct this type of training at least once a month.



# Celebrating an old indep

*Story and photos by Specialist Officer Christoph Zehnder, Swiss Army*

On 1 August 2010, the Swiss KFOR contingent celebrated Swiss National Day at Camp Casablanca, Suhareka/Suva Reka. The Commander of Kosovo Force (COM KFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, was among the special guests and inspected the formation together with Major General Peter Stutz (Chief of Swiss Armed Forces Joint Staff), National Contingent Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Marco Bezzola and Mrs. Doris Fiala, Member of the Swiss National Council.



It is said, that in August 1291 Anno Domini the corner stone was laid for Switzerland to become a free nation. In their speeches, Mrs. Fiala and the Swiss ambassador to Kosovo, Mr. Lukas Beglinger, highlighted the Swiss contribution to the success of the KFOR mission. Looking back to Switzerland's own history, the small country is still familiar with the struggle for inde-



# pendence in a young state

pendence and recognition. Even in modern day Europe such values have to be developed and protected continuously.

Traditions also play a vital role in the consciousness of a nation. Therefore, the celebration of the Swiss national holiday in Kosovo is unthinkable without some "swissness". Guests from many KFOR nations watched the traditional Swiss wrestling competition, carried out in a sawdust arena, followed by the coronation of the winner with an oak wreath. Later on, the visitors enjoyed

Swiss delicacies, such as original raclette cheese and barbeque specialties, accompanied by traditional alpine style folk music.

Meanwhile a special link back home was established. A local Swiss radio station broadcasted live from Camp Casablanca the whole day. SWISS-COY troops spoke about "their" mission and in return received best wishes from their families back home. A morale boost for the remaining two months on the mission, for sure.



# Mortars, Ammunition

Story by First Lieutenant Thomas Schwarze,  
German Army

Photos by Explosive Ordnance Disposal  
Forces of Multinational Battle Group South

In the middle of July 2010, the two Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams, supported by a Mobile Medical Team, were deployed for two days in an old trench system near the village of Shkoze/Skoza. In these two days, much ammunition and various weapon parts were found. „Even after such a long time, there still is a huge amount of buried ammunition in the soil. This makes our work indispensable for ensuring the safety of our forces and of the civilian population“, the EOD coordination

cell explained.

The task assigned to the EOD team began with the probing of the old trench system early in the morning. This work requires a high level of concentration. For this reason, the EOD operators frequently have to take turns. Working with the soil penetrometer requires good ears and a steady hand, because also small fluctuations of the earth magnetic field are detected, which can be caused by concentrations of metal in the ground. This is why a visual inspection of the targeted area is part of the preparatory work. By this, hidden trip wires and similar suspicious objects can be identified and removed. You must also never forget to check the surrounding trees, in which



# ition and the Like

explosive ordnances might be hidden as well. By the evening of the first day of the search, the EOD team could already present an astonishing amount of detected Explosive Ordnances - a total of more than 100 different Explosive Ordnances, starting from machine gun rounds over mortar shells to antitank mines. But also weapon parts were found and recovered. On the second day, the teams probed the remaining area and were diligently digging in the soil. And the ground revealed more than just a few dangerous objects.

Due to the temperatures, the terrain and the mental strain, the task was extremely demanding, but in the end it was also rewarded with a great result.

The team recorded the recovered ammunition and the other dangerous objects and stored them at Camp Casablanca until the final disposal at the demolition area in Rahovec/Orahovac.

After the completion of the demolition operation in the afternoon of the following Monday and soon after it was reported that safety had been restored, the deserved pride for the accomplished mission broke through. Conclusion of this measure: Another bit of safety gained for all those who are travelling and living in Kosovo, and the good feeling that all comrades involved returned safe and sound and can take up their "routine duty" again.



# TV Talk Show

*Story by Technical Sergeant Sandy L. Wilcox, United States Air Force and Major Michael Keuschnig, Austrian Army*

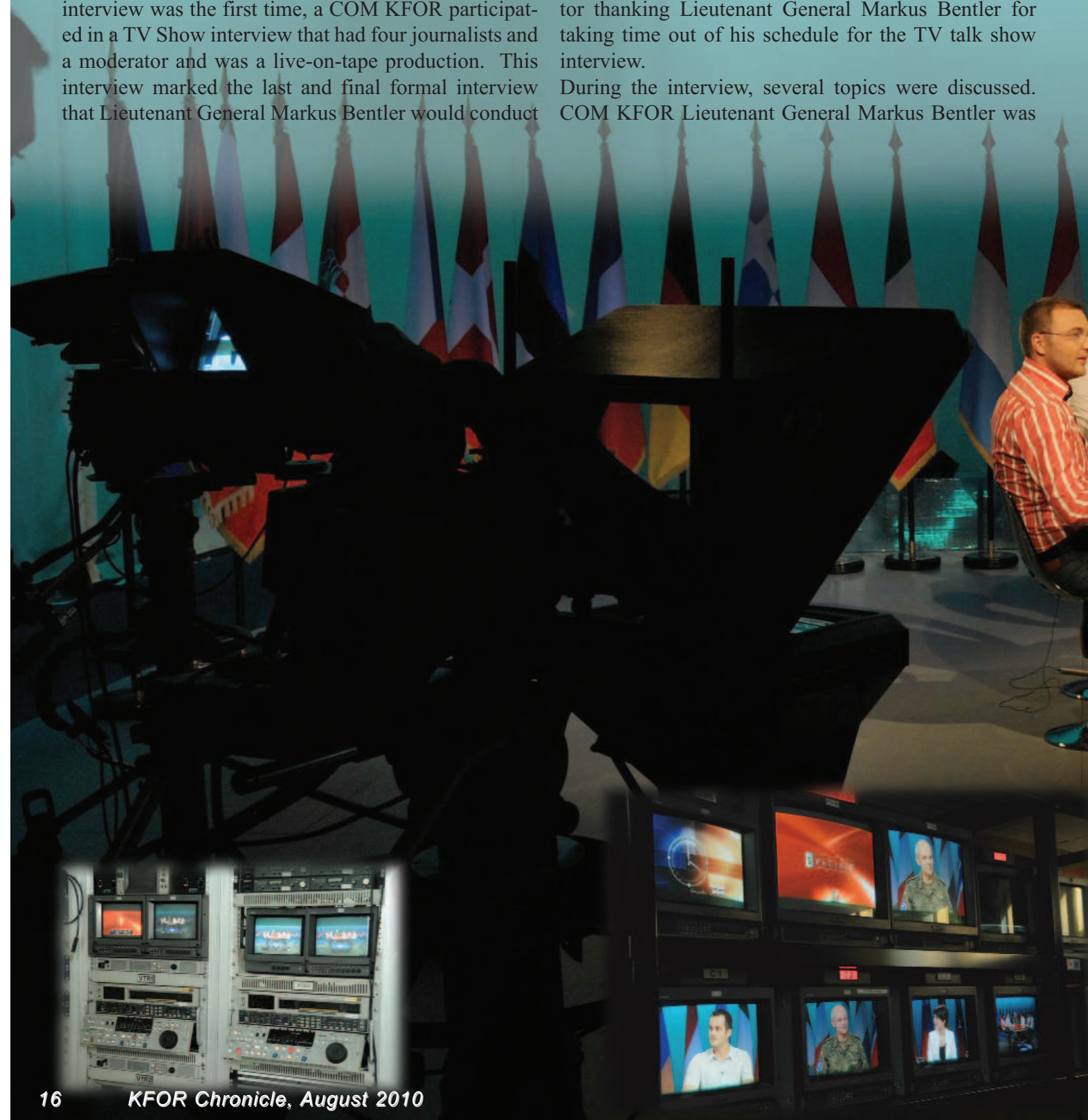
*Photos by Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu*

On 18 August 2010, KFOR 's Public Affairs personnel organized a premiere TV talk Show "Challenge" interview for Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Lieutenant General Markus Bentler. This particular interview was the first time, a COM KFOR participated in a TV Show interview that had four journalists and a moderator and was a live-on-tape production. This interview marked the last and final formal interview that Lieutenant General Markus Bentler would conduct

as COM KFOR. The event took place at the Television Kosovo (RTK) studio in Prishtine/Pristina.

The afternoon began with the production crew preparing the studio for taping and the formal introductions between Lieutenant General Markus Bentler and the four journalists. The atmosphere was quite pleasant as the moderator walked into the room and introduced herself to COM KFOR and the four local journalists. The TV talk "Challenge" began with the RTK moderator thanking Lieutenant General Markus Bentler for taking time out of his schedule for the TV talk show interview.

During the interview, several topics were discussed. COM KFOR Lieutenant General Markus Bentler was





# v “Challenge”

asked several tough questions regarding the reduction in force, the violence in the North as well as the meaning of frequent visit from Admiral Mark Fitzgerald. General Bentler stated, the reduction in force was decided. Based on the progress that has been made in the security of Kosovo over the years NATO decided to reduce the force size in Kosovo. COM KFOR also discussed that the violence in the north was an unfortunate incident that occurred, EULEX and KP are still investigating the matter. General Bentler went on, stating that giving Admiral Fitzgerald first hand knowledge of the issues and concerns in Kosovo, also shows the level of commitment to the people of Kosovo. COM KFOR attended the TV talk show “Challenge” for several reasons. First, let the people know that

KFOR cares about the situation on borders and Administrative Boundary Line. Transfer of each Orthodox site will be done after assessing the security situation. Another important fact was that KFOR and EULEX have established a good working relationship, but there is no technical link between the NATO communication system in Kosovo and any EULEX system. Last but not least, it is finally important that KFOR is firmly committed to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244. KFOR will continue to execute its mandate: if any threat to Safe and Secure Environment occurs, KFOR will take appropriate measures to counter the threat. KFOR remains impartial and will provide an equal level of security for all people of Kosovo.



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

# MOROCCAN CONTINGENT CE



King Mohammed VI Allegiance Ceremony



# CELEBRATED THE THRONE DAY

*Story by Captain Toufik Babllah, Moroccan Army  
Photos by Moroccan Coningent*

On 30 July 2010, the Moroccan contingent in Kosovo celebrated in a very special ceremony a very important national day: The Throne Day – the 11th anniversary of the enthronement of His Majesty Mohammed VI. This day, one of the most valuable national days of Morocco, was an appointment for members of KFOR from different nations, to celebrate together with the Moroccan contingent.

Notable guests, among them was Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR) Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, who attended the celebration, gave special weight to the ceremony.

“This is an important day for Morocco and an important day for the entire KFOR family. We are a family of 32 nations serving the good cause of peace, stability and freedom in Kosovo”, said COM KFOR, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, during the ceremony at camp “Marechal de Lattre”, near Vushtrri / Vucitrn, where the Moroccan contingent is stationed. He appreciated the contribution of the Moroccan contingent, pointing out the great job it is doing in Kosovo. “I am particularly grateful for the performance and contribution the Moroccan Army brings to the KFOR capabilities” said COM KFOR.

Commander of the Moroccan contingent Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Lkhiel thanked all the participants for

“sharing this happy occasion with Royal Armed Forces”.

“Since the accession of His Majesty Mohammed VI, God bless him, to the throne in 1999, the Kingdom of Morocco has undertaken various modernization projects especially in terms of economic development, promoting democracy ...” said Lieutenant Colonel Khalid Lkhiel.

The National Initiative for Human Development is one of the most important projects, launched in 2005 by His Majesty.

The King Mohammed VI chairs the allegiance ceremony closing the festivities of the Throne Day. The allegiance, a centuries old pact between the Throne and the people, is a mutual commitment whereby the people pledges loyalty to the King and the King pledges to defend the independence, sovereignty and integrity of the country, to preserve the citizens' rights and to see to the prosperity and progress of the nation.

As a supreme commander and Chief of Staff of the Royal Armed Forces, His Majesty promotes on the occasion of his enthronement several members of the Moroccan Army.

The outstanding relationship between the Moroccan contingent and the contributing nations in KFOR was brightly expressed during the ceremony at camp “Marechal de Lattre” and the participation of 300 guests is a testimony of closeness and trust enforced during 11 years of working together.



# KTM REHEARSALS KOSOVO WIDE

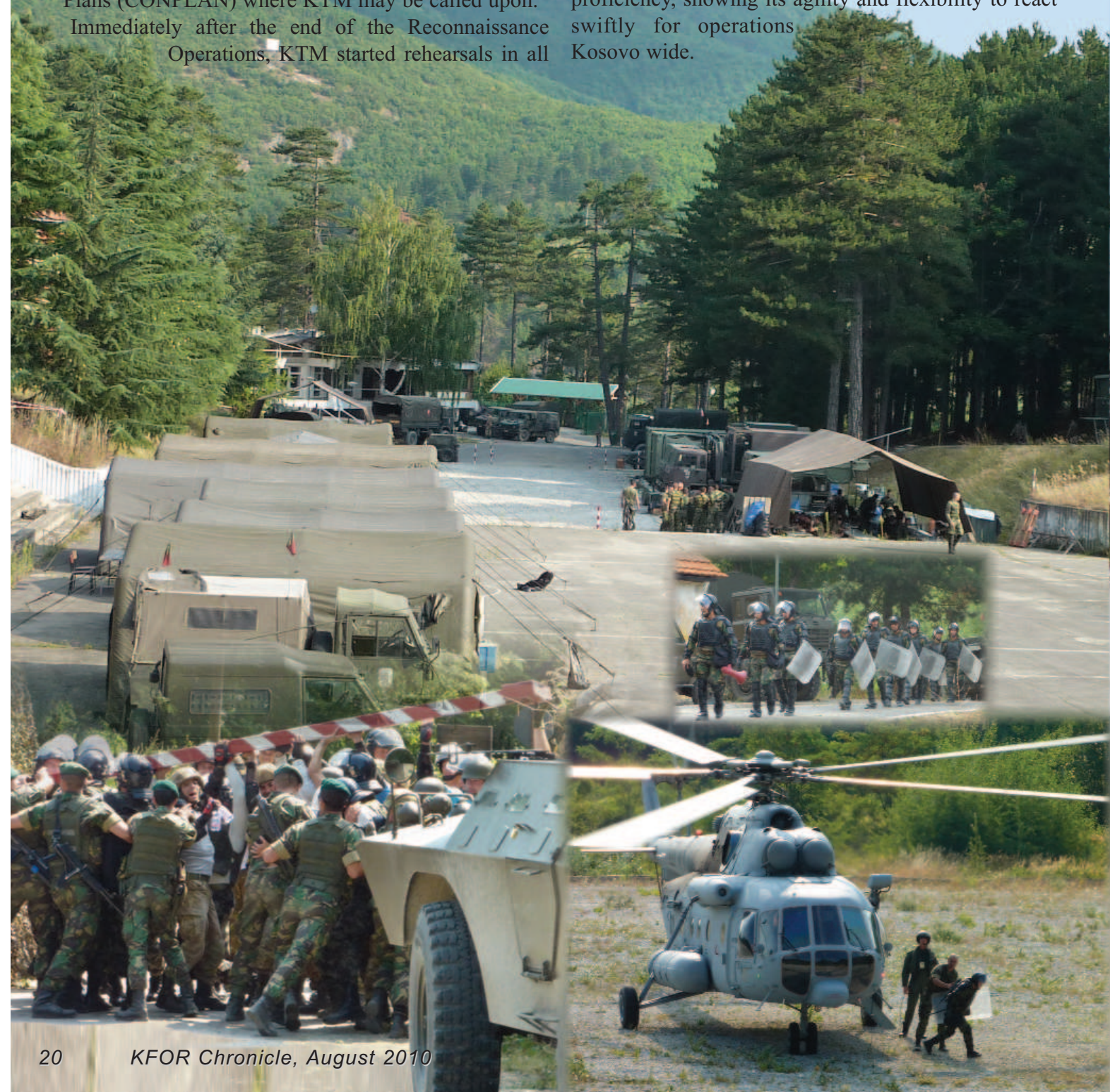
*Story by Captain Nuno Neto, Portuguese Army  
Photos by KTM*

KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM), as COM KFOR's 1<sup>st</sup> Layer Tactical Reserve (TACRES), must always be prepared to be deployed KOSOVO wide. The best knowledge of the Multinational Battle Group's (MNBG) Areas of Responsibility (AOR) will always be one of the main tasks to perform, particularly the Properties with Designated Special Status and respective Contingency Plans (CONPLAN) where KTM may be called upon.

Immediately after the end of the Reconnaissance Operations, KTM started rehearsals in all

MNBG's AOR in order to familiarize itself with the existent CONPLAN and to train the deployment on those sites, also enhancing land and air movement capabilities. Conducted in close coordination with each MNBG, the main purpose of these CONPLAN rehearsals was to enhance interoperability with all MNBG, to develop KTM's own plans, validating them by training as if it was a real situation, and to give the possibility to collect lessons learned.

At the end of this intense activity, KTM demonstrated its commitment in maintaining always a high level of proficiency, showing its agility and flexibility to react swiftly for operations Kosovo wide.



# DOG 31 FTX

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

KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM) was once again involved in another joint Field Training Exercise (FTX) with police units of the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX). This joint exercise designated at DOG 31, was planned and organized by KFOR/HQ J3 CONOPS and conducted on 28 July 2010, with the aim to enhance the cooperation between KFOR and EULEX, and to send a clear message that KFOR is ready to ensure peace and stability Kosovo wide. In this particular FTX, the contingency plan of the Cross Boundary Point known as DOG 31 was trained, and for that purpose a crisis' scenario was created in order to force KFOR to react in support of EULEX.

After KTM received the order to intervene and re-establish the Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) and

Freedom of Movement (FOM), immediately a Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) Company (Coy) deployed fully equipped, using the Mi-17 helicopters from the Croatian Detachment (CRODET) and the UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from MNBG E. Meanwhile, the other CRC Coy and the Tactical Command Post were deployed by road, using armored vehicles. On the site, EULEX had to deal with the situation until the arrival of the first KTM Coy that immediately provided support. After the arrival of the second Coy, EULEX was relieved in place and KTM assumed full control of the situation, pushing back the opposition forces (two platoons from MNBG C and MNBG N), re-establishing SASE and FOM.

As conclusion of this exercise, KFOR showed its capability to deploy forces effectively where and when needed in close cooperation with EULEX.



# Camp Sajkovac - Kosovo standb

Story and photos by Captain Magdalena Dvořáková,  
Czech Army

Camp Šajkovac can be found in the Northern part of Multinational Battle Group Centre's area of responsibility, in the municipality Podujevë/Podujevo. The camp, located near the Kosovo-Serbian Administrative Border Line, is small but a lively place. Two national contingents – Czech and Slovak are stationed there. Probably the similarity of their native language and common history allows to coexist in a perfect mutual relationship which provides newcomers or just visitors a feeling of a sort of home.

But before the newcomer realizes the friendly atmosphere, first he has to deal with the communication barrier. There are signs first in Czech and then in the English language. Same, as with the spoken language, the unified Czech and Slovak language.

Strange enough, there is a local water house in the middle of the camp which provides drinkable water for the Podujevë/Podujevo municipality and of course for the base. All of the local employees either of the Water house or of the contingent support are picking up the Czech Language very well.

The camp is very functional and might look tediously but the one thing you can certainly do in the camp is sports. The favorite ones are of course weightlifting, bodybuilding, running, all kinds of ball games, even power yoga and aerobic classes are being practiced by soldiers who are skilled professional trainers. There is also a kick box class done by a professional and the last year Czech champion in the semiprofessional category. For all these sports the base offers a variety of gyms and a sport hall.

The other place to visit in the camp is the dining hall which could be proudly marked as the socializing cen-



# by home for Czechs and Slovaks

tre number one. The dining facility is always open, there is a TV to watch the news and you are always sure there is someone to talk to. But surely the main reason to come is of course the food. Visiting soldiers always come because of the Czech national cuisine

which is exquisite and served in large diversity. But don't worry if you are not a dumpling lover there is always the possibility of other side dishes, vegetable and fruits to try.



# Transfer of Authority

Story by MAZ&More

Pictures by Combat Camera Team Master Sergeant  
Lars Pötzsch, German Army

After their mission in camp Nothing Hill on the 19 July 2010, the responsibility for security in North Kosovo was taken over by a Slovenian Company from the Multinational Battle Group West (MNBG W). This company is led by the Chief of the group called D-Coy Captain Andrej K who took over the responsibility from Captain Alexander R. As the German company

have done until now, the Slovenians are going to fulfill the duty and take responsibility until the end of their mission.

Lieutenant Colonel Pale Svendsen completed the Change of Guard, followed by the commander of the MNBG W Colonel Davide Di Bartolo.

"Back in camp Prizren, we planned a week off" says Captain Alexander R. There were no duties for Alpha, Bravo and Charlie Tactical Deployment-vehicle. Delta had to separate from Manoeuvre Company and is now part of





# ty Camp Nothing Hill

Headquarter and supply Company. This has facilitated a higher level of security. The new duty for the delta group is: Guarding the camps Cviljen and Toplicane. From 21 July, the rest of the group from the Case Harning Company is fully deployed. Until the 24 of July they are to serve as Quick Reaction Force for the KFOR Commander, Lieutenant General Markus Bentler. In case of possible destabilization of the situation after the International Court

has given its opinion about the Declaration of Independence, for an estimated period of two to three weeks, they will be the reserve for securing the monastery in Zocishte/Zociste.

It is rather ironic says Captain Alexander R”whenever something happens we are in the first line”. If there is destabilization in North Kosovo, of course then we are ready for reaction. However we hope that there won’t be a necessity for any intervention.



# KSF Humanitarian De-

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

*Pictures by Major Michael Keuschnig, Austrian Army*

On 10 August 2010, Kosovo Security Forces (KSF) displayed their Explosive Ordnance and Disposal Company (EOD COY) training in the presences of Commander Joint Force Command Naples, Admiral Mark Fitzgerald, accompanied by the Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR) Lieutenant General Markus Bentler and KSF Commander Lieutenant General Syljeman Selimi. Prior to the demonstration, the official party was given a briefing on the historical background of the mines. The KSF briefer talked about the importance of the five de-mining

locations in Kosovo, the number and type of explosive that have been located, how many KSF members are certified to do the job and go to see suspected sites where land mines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) are believed to be located. A press conference followed the UXO demolition demonstration by EOD COY.

Harilaq/Ariljaca, Ferizaj/Urosevac, Milaj/Milijaj, Vermice/Vrmnica and Belince are the KSF EOD de-mining locations. KSF chose these specific locations, because of the danger, local children were exposed to, while playing in fields near their homes. These land mines also prohibited local farmers from conducting



# -mining Demonstration

agriculture and livestock activities. Since 1999, over 116 people lost their lives due to UXOs and more than 460 people have been injured from EODs. From January 2001 to January 2009 approximately 50,000 UXOs were recovered and demolished. The majority of the UXOs and mines were stored in warehouses and in bunkers that were used during the last war in Kosovo. KSF EOD demining team began training under KFOR 12 in July 2009 and has continued training with KFOR 13.

Each EOD specialist goes through four months of extensive EOD training. There are over 127 EOD COY specialists divided into four units. 25 EOD specialists have level four qualifications, 52 are level 2 and 3 qualified. The remaining is currently in the level 1 beginner stage of the qualification course. Since start of the de-mining campaign, KSF has found and destroyed two anti-personnel mines, three cluster bombs (BL-755) and 22 unexploded ordinances of various types. Following the KSF briefing, Admiral Mark Fitzgerald, COM KFOR Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, KSF General Selimi were fitted with bomb protecting equipment and were given a brief tour on the de-mining site. Following the tour Admiral Fitzgerald and General Bentler took questions from the local reporters. General Bentler thanked the KSF for the job they are doing in Kosovo. "We want the people of Kosovo to know first hand what KSF is doing for them. We will continue to implement 1244 UN resolution, to provide a safe and secure environment and protect the Kosovo borders", said Admiral Fitzgerald.



# BALKAN HAWK

*Story by Captain Domenico Barone and  
Warrant Officer Emilio Della Sala, Italian  
Carabinieri*

*Photos by Major Michael Keuschnig, Austrian  
Army*

This year's 3rd Field Training Exercise (FTX) BALKAN HAWK was conducted on the 20th of August 2010 in Camp Vrelo. The focal scope of this FTX, yet again, was to enhance the interoperability and cooperation between KFOR, through its Tactical Reserve (TACRES) Force and EULEX.

In the early morning hours, a troublesome Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) scenario was created in order to oblige EULEX to demand a Relief in Place (RIP) by KFOR. The Multinational Specialized Unit (MSU),

posed in alert status, was prompt to depart, within minutes from green light, MSU swiftly reached the Hot Spot by air. The first consistent wave of intervention, flown in, by using the two helicopters MI-17 from the Croatian Detachment, was vital to reassure EULEX of the presence and support of KFOR in critical situations. HQ KFOR Combat Camera Team embedded with MSU personnel fully CRC equipped, were on the ground, on the spot, where instantly ready for action, supporting EULEX in protecting the area and to implement the RIP.

Meanwhile, from MSU base, a larger robust intervention was carried out, incorporating the Tactical Command Post supported by a Freedom of Movement (FOM) Detachment from



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Multinational Battle Group (MNBG) West, and HQ KFOR Tactical Psychological Operations (TactPsyOps) Team, all deployed by road in order to establish the RIP and take full tactical primacy.

The greater part of the CRC intervention had to be tackled with the aid of the attached Forces. While TactPsyOps Team was releasing warning and persuasive communication to rioters and hardliners of the Opposition Forces brilliantly represented by MNBG East and MNBG South, the FOM-Detachment was preparing for the worse to come. Combined inspections, on improvised dangerous trap barricades were performed, reassuring safety to the CRC operators

who managed to bring the intervention to an end and restore law and order.

The entire operation was exercised under the watchful eye of Kosovo Force Commander Lieutenant General Markus Bentler, who also released an official statement to local press invited for that occasion.

KFOR demonstrated once again 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.



# Peacekeeper's Profiles

**Name:** Nuno Alves

**Rank:** Corporal

**Home Unit:** 2nd Parachute Battalion, PRT Army Rapid Reaction Brigade

**Unit in KFOR:** KTM's ALPHA Coy stationed at Camp Slim Lines, Pristina

**Military Education:** Paratrooper Course, Corporal Course.

**About the mission:** It's my first time in Kosovo but I have already been in the Balkans, in Bosnia in 2002. This is my fifth month of mission and I feel that the overall environment is safer, I guess we can tell KFOR is doing a great job improving the safe and security of both soldiers and civilians. My job, as driver, allows me to travel all around Kosovo and meet a lot of interesting places and people. What impresses me the most is the outstanding hospitality of the people who always greets us when we're on the road.

**Family reaction:** This is my third deployment: I have been in Bosnia and East Timor before, and I'm serving since 2000, so my family is used to my absence. They are proud of my mission and give me all their support.

**Plans after the mission:** This is my last year of contract with the army, so I will back to civilian life pretty soon. I have some ideas about my future occupation, but nothing certain yet.

**Hobbies:** I love to run, to play volleyball and table games.



**Name:** Corrado Oppizio

**Rank:** Carabinieri Chief Warrant Officer

**Home Unit:** Carabinieri's Investigations Group (Rome)

**Unit in KFOR:** Multinational Specialized Unit Regiment G3 Cell plans - JOC Liaison Officer

**Education:** Master degree in Nuclear Physics, degree in Political Science, Master degree in Law

**Nobile title:** Prince of Ampurias (Spanish Borbonic title)

**Military Career:** Joined Italian Army as Artillery Officer Chief of self propelled howitzer battery in 1989, joined Italian Republic Carabinieri in 1993

**About the mission:** This is my first military mission in a foreign operative theatre. I arrived at Pristina last 24 September 2009 like MSU G3 Plans with the prospective to remain here for only six months. After that, I was employed by my Commander as MSU Liaison Officer in the KFOR JOC and, actually, they are almost eleven months that I stay in Kosovo mission, and, for the moment I don't know my exact end of tour. In Italy I 'm essentially a detective who works in a special Carabinieri Investigations Unit to prosecute and fight against the so called white collar crimes, especially in the Public Administration and for this reason I hadn't no experience of foreign military missions. However, I was very excited for this my new heat in which I engaged all myself and I hope to have given a good contribution for the success of the mission. But, above all, I learned so much from everybody I met in this International joint operation. I'm really very proud to have this opportunity that is increasing my professional and human relational and valuable personal baggage.

**Family reaction:** I am married for above 16 years with the best woman I could find. She is a Math & Physics teacher for the high schools. We have a lovely six years old daughter and both of them are impatiently awaiting my definitive coming back. To them goes my highest and sincere appreciation and gratitude for the sacrifice they are sharing with me.

**Plans after the mission:** I planned to spend a long and relaxing vacation with my family. After that I will be ready to deal the new challenges wherever the Italian Carabinieri intervene and support should be requested in according with the Carabinieri motto: "Nei secoli fedele" (translation: faithful for the centuries).



# Civilian's Profile

**Name:** Teuta Marteti

**Job Title:** Interpreter/Translator, DOS (Director of Staff Office)

**Position:** Media Analysis section

**Experience:** Working for KFOR since 1999

**Language spoken:** Albanian (native), English, Serbian.

**Job in Progress:** Working for KFOR for almost 11 years has made a significant impact in me as a person. Multinational and military environment at the beginning was totally new experience for me. In a friendly and, at the same time professional environment, I learned a lot about cooperative and multi-tasking aspects of the work. In the Media Analysis section we monitor the local media (printed, electronic and TV) on daily basis. Translations and thorough analysis of media reports is the core of our work and in the long-run, it helped me to understand and learn the 'mind' and 'power' of the media in general.



For all these years, there were many officers who changed throughout the mission, and some of them got the chance to come back again. This fact has really contributed in creation of the "PAO family" spirit, which I appreciate very much. I think this is important for having healthy and productive relationships in a working environment. Me and my colleagues are really eager to push things forwards and maintain the same spirit in the future, particularly now when KFOR will undergo restructuring and reduction in its personnel. I hope our willingness and experience in this institution will be effective for a successful work in the future.

**Family reaction:** My family has always supported me in my work and shifts-incorporated schedule in our section. They are also proud of me for deciding to remain working in KFOR for all these years.

**Hobbies:** Listening to music and watching movies are a must-have during my leisure time. Socializing with my friends is of a vital importance for my wellbeing.

Amateur

## KFOR Chronicle Sudoku

Profi

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

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

Solution  
July Edition

Amateur

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

Profi

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

# Gazivoda Lake



Photo by Major Michael Keuschnig