

# KFOR

## Chronicle



10<sup>th</sup> Edition

October 31<sup>th</sup> 2010



# Together for Progress



# THE GENERAL OFFICER'S PERSPECTIVE

**Dear comrades of KFOR,**

Since 01 September, 2010, and for a period of one year I will be your Deputy Commander.

I want to take the opportunity of this occasion to express my gratitude to all our allies who shared this mission with us. At KFOR there are 24 NATO countries and 8 Non-NATO countries with the very same aim: contribute to the Safe and Secure Environment (SASE), in close coordination with the International Civil Presences (ICP) and the Institutions in Kosovo (IiK).

KFOR is moving to Gate 2 and deep challenges will come. With fewer troops, flexible and agile forces, KFOR is still able to deter violence and deal with crisis situations. But increase of situational awareness is needed to cope with future challenges.

The Liaison Monitoring Teams (LMT's), which are distributed one for each Kosovo Municipality, play a huge role in order to "feel the pulse" in their area.

During the last eleven years your predecessors carried out the KFOR mission in this theatre of operations in a very distinctive and professional way. Now, with less personnel, you have the responsibility to improve the standards of your predecessors in order to ensure success.

In accordance with the KFOR motto "Together for Progress", KFOR will ensure a stable and secure place where all Kosovars can live together in peace.



**Brigadier General Marco Serronha**  
**Portuguese Army**  
**Deputy Commander of KFOR**

Editor's Note: Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler, has very recently made an announcement about KFOR restructuring. This restructuring, known as "GATE 2", is planned for Spring 2011 and will see a KFOR force with a strength of 5,000 plus, consisting of two Multinational Battle Groups. The next edition of the Chronicle will feature an article on this subject.

# KFOR Photography Contest

Take part and show your photographs, how beautiful, interesting and unique living in Kosovo is for KFOR soldiers!

- Have you ever wanted to participate in a photo contest?
- Are you quite sure that your photos are the most beautiful and the best?
- Do you have photos with special charisma?
- Do you have an eye for things that others don't see?
- Do you find the surrounding people in Kosovo interesting?
- Can you provide brilliant landscape photographs?

Then proceed! Images from troops involved in KFOR mission activities, humanitarian efforts, leisure pursuits and sightseeing expeditions are welcome. All photographs must be in good taste and represent a positive KFOR image.

The KFOR Chronicle staff will pick three winning photographs. The winners will be chosen and will be published in the December 2010 magazine edition. Submit photographs to [kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int](mailto:kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int) not later than December 11, 2010. Submissions should include the digital photograph, photographer's name and a short caption. The award ceremony will be on December 16, 2010.

*This contest is sponsored by MWA.*



**We Want You  
to Send us Your  
Best Shots!**



**1st Prize**  
Digital Camera  
Sony Cyber-shot  
DSC-W310



**3rd Prize**  
8 GB USB Data Stick



**Get clicking!**

**2nd Prize**  
Gogear Player  
SA-2VBE04 (4GB)



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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



# TOGETHER FOR

*Photos by Master Sergeant Steffen Maluche, German Army*



On 30 September 2010, Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler, hosted a Press Conference in Camp Ville, following the merger between MNBGs E and C and the Transfer of Authority. Also in attendance was Colonel Francisco Neuman, US Army, Commander of now MNBG E/C.

On 02 October 2010, Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler, hosted a Press Conference with Mr Jyri Hakamies, the Finnish Minister of Defence. Mr Ilkka Kanerya, the former Foreign Minister, now MP of the Finnish Parliament, also attended. Mr Hakamies congratulated the people of Kosovo on the peaceful state of their country.



Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler, talked with Italian soldiers from MNBG W in Pec on 03 October. This was the day of the Enthronement in Peja/Pec.

On 05 October 2010, Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler, hosted a Press Conference in Camp Belvedere to announce details of increased security in Northern Kosovo. Also in attendance with COM KFOR were the Commander of Kosovo Police station in North Mitrovica, Mr Behar Selimi, and the Commander of EULEX police, Mr Udo Moeller.





On 11 October 2010, Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler, welcomed Admiral James Stavridis, Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), to Pristina Military airport. This is the SACEUR's first visit to Kosovo since COM KFOR assumed command on 01 September, 2010. During his visit, the SACEUR also met with Mr. Yves De Kermabon, the head of Mission of the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX), and Brigadier General Stephan Thomas, Commander, Multinational Battle Group (South) for operational updates and discussions of current issues.

Accompanied by Mr Fehmi Mujota, Minister for KSF, Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler, attended the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) Graduation at the Bill Clinton Sports Hall in Pristina on 15 October, 2010



On 18 October 2010, Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler, welcomed Mr. Xavier Bout De Marnhac, the new Head of Mission of EULEX in Kosovo, who took over this Head of Mission on 15 October 2010, to Camp Film City in Pristina. Formerly Lieutenant General Xavier Bout De Marnhac was Kosovo Force Commander from August 2007 to August 2008.

DCOM KFOR, Brigadier General Marco Serronha, Portuguese Army, gave a Press Point briefing in the vicinity of the village of Zallq/Zac on 21 October 2010. KFOR handed over heaters to Serbian families, living in temporary tented accommodation. The families are awaiting the completion of their houses which are under construction.



# KFOR combines MNBG East and

*Story courtesy of 130th Public Affairs Detachment, MNBG E*

*Photo by Staff Sergeant Jordan E. Werme, 130th Public Affairs Detachment, Connecticut National Guard*

CAMP VILLE, Kosovo – In line with its continuing mission to provide a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all the people in Kosovo, and to provide increased capability to accomplish this mission, Kosovo Forces have combined two of the Multinational Battle Groups within Kosovo.

In a ceremony held on 30 September at Camp Ville, U.S. Army Colonel Francisco J. Neuman, commander of Multi-National Battle Group East (MNBG E), officially assumed command of the combined Battle Group. The combining of MNBG East with MNBG Center is part of the Commander of Kosovo Forces, Major General Erhard Bühler's plan to restructure

KFOR into a more flexible ground and air mobile force, capable of reaching any trouble spots in Kosovo as required.

The realignment of the KFOR mission reflects NATO's confidence in the steadily improving security situation in Kosovo, and the Institutions in Kosovo's ability to take over responsibility for their own security tasks.

"The reorganization, the adaptation of the structure, gives me the necessary flexibility to react to any security challenge, whenever and wherever. This adaptation of KFOR military presence is a natural process to the improved security situation," said Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler. "If required, KFOR can also rely on reserve forces from outside the region. They are very well trained, poised to deploy quickly and decisively and can be employed in all scenarios if



# and Center, improves capabilities

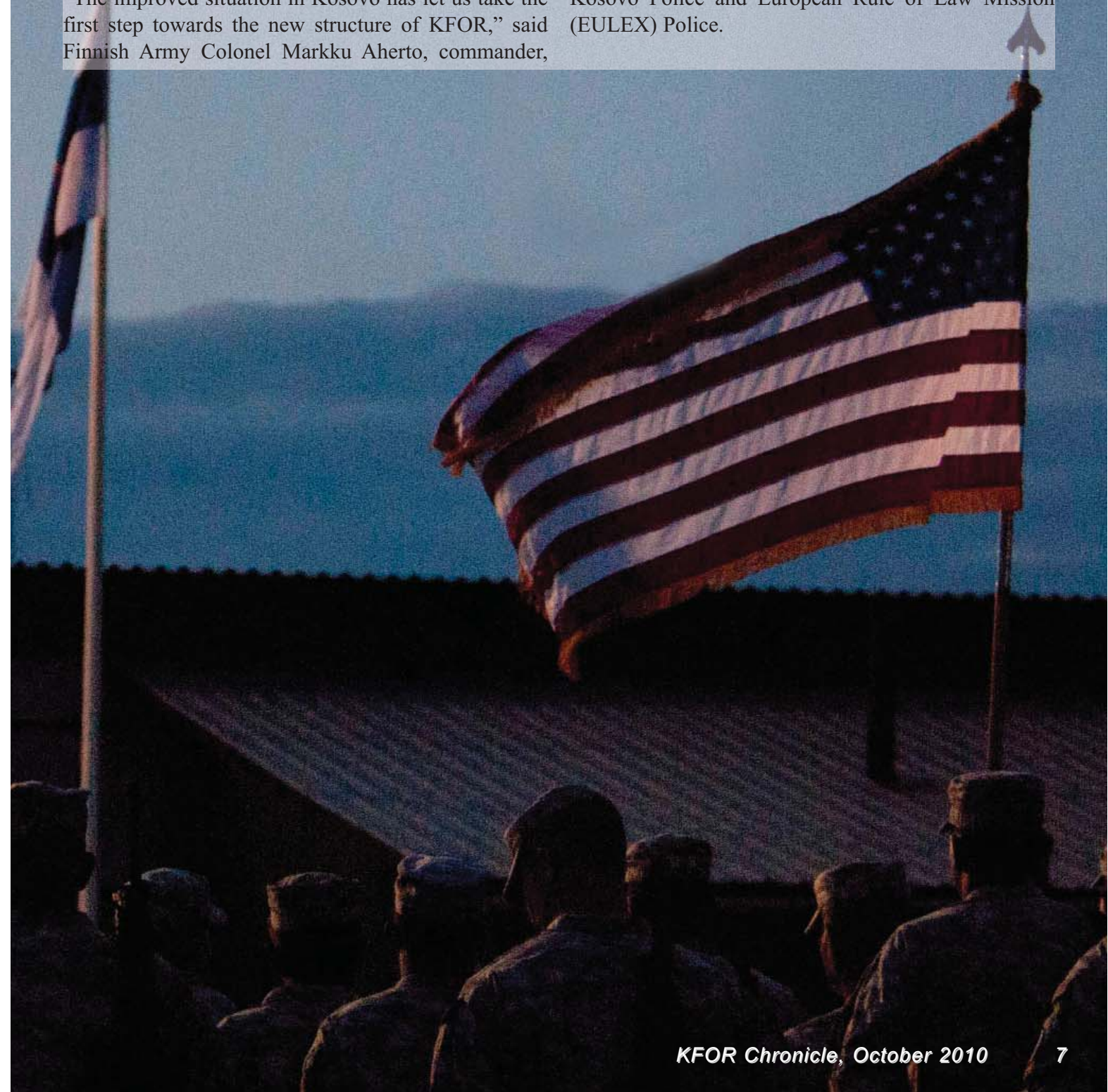
required.”

“We are becoming a more flexible force, able to deploy quickly and decisively whenever and wherever necessary,” said Colonel Neuman. “The people in Kosovo may rest assured that MNBG E will retain the same capabilities needed to deal with any situation which might threaten safe and secure environment and freedom of movement.”

“The improved situation in Kosovo has let us take the first step towards the new structure of KFOR,” said Finnish Army Colonel Markku Aherto, commander,

MNBG Center. “We have been the pilot in the unfixing of Gazemistan monument and Gračanica monastery. We have proved, the next step can be taken.”

MNBG E will continue to provide the same level of support throughout its newly expanded Area of Responsibility and will retain the flexibility needed to provide Quick Reaction Force and Crowd and Riot Control support throughout Kosovo. KFOR soldiers will provide security, and will closely cooperate with Kosovo Police and European Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) Police.



# Armenians sharpen Qui

*Story and photos by Private First Class, Brian J. Holloran, 130th Public Affairs Detachment*

Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo - A vehicle carrying troops from Multinational Battle Group East loses control and strikes a telephone pole. A radio transmission requesting aid is sent. With a motorized whine and a spray of dust and dirt, two UH-60 Blackhawks touch down in an empty field, the doors are thrown open and Armenian soldiers pour out. The Quick Reaction Force (QRF) has arrived.

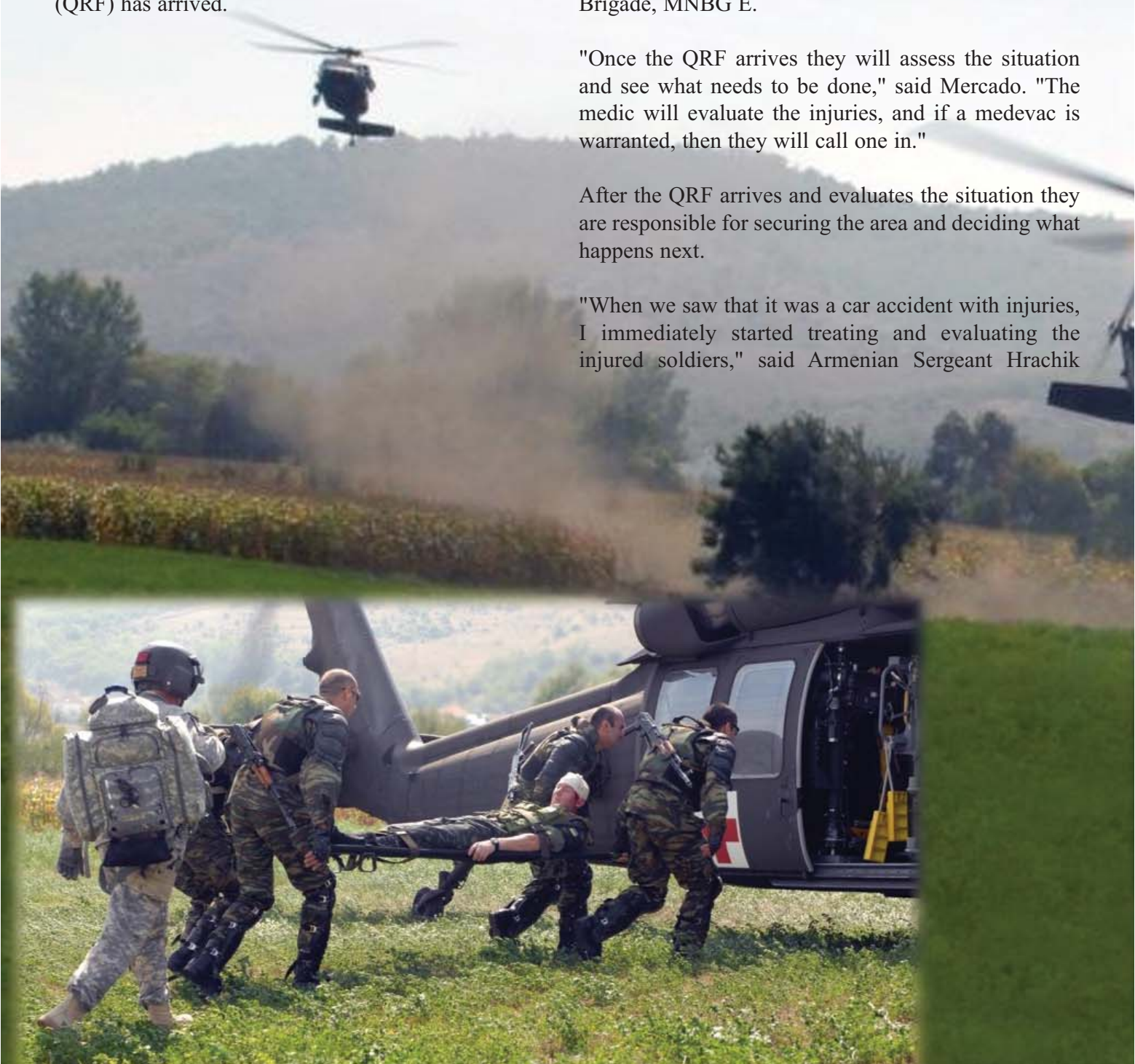
This was the scene outside of Crep/Crepana, Kosovo, on 18 September, 2010, as Armenian and Ukrainian soldiers sharpened their QRF skills during a training exercise.

Each company in Multinational Battle Group East (MNBG E) practices QRF drills regularly in order to remain sharp and effective, said Captain Alex Mercado, battle captain, 92nd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, MNBG E.

"Once the QRF arrives they will assess the situation and see what needs to be done," said Mercado. "The medic will evaluate the injuries, and if a medevac is warranted, then they will call one in."

After the QRF arrives and evaluates the situation they are responsible for securing the area and deciding what happens next.

"When we saw that it was a car accident with injuries, I immediately started treating and evaluating the injured soldiers," said Armenian Sergeant Hrachik





# Quick Reaction Force skills

Mirzoyan, medic, Hellas Company. "Once I realized some of the people were seriously hurt, I called in for a medevac and treated the injuries to the best of my ability."

The training is designed to test the soldiers and their leadership, and to ensure, the soldiers have an understanding of what their tasks are if and when they are ever called in for a QRF mission.

"The purpose of the training is to make sure I, as an officer, know how to lead my soldiers in a crisis and that my soldiers are able to perform under the added stress," said Armenian Captain Vahan Avocyyocn, Hellas Company. "This training also gives my soldiers, and I, the chance to work with different nations. These exercises are very unique experiences."

That sentiment was seconded by other soldiers participating in the training.

"I believe not many people have the same chances that we have here," said Ukrainian Captain Aleksandr Maliarchuk, Ukrainian Company. "Not many people can say, they work together with soldiers from as many different nations as I do on this deployment. We learn a lot from each other, it makes all of us become better soldiers."



# Austrian Transf

*Story by Major Michael Keuschnig, Austrian Army  
Photos by Master Sergeant Steffen Maluche, German Army*

On 18 September 2010, the Transfer of Authority ceremony for the Austrian contingent commander took place at Camp "Casablanca" in Suhareke/Suva Reka. This was the second time since the transformation from Multinational Task Force South into Multinational Battle Group South (MNBG S), that the Austrian Flag was transferred from an outgoing to an incoming Commander of the Austrian Contingent in KFOR.

The ceremony was presided over by the Chief J5 of the Austrian Joint Forces Command, Brigadier General Gerhard Christiner, in the presence of Kosovo Force Commander, (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard

Bühler, KFOR Deputy Commander, Brigadier General Marco Serronha, MNBG S Commander Brigadier General Stephan Thomas, as well as local and international representatives.

This formal event was held in the evening hours at "Tegethoff" Square, which was set up with tactical vehicles and burning torch baskets surrounding the flagpole. A shining "22" in front of the formation symbolized the mustered contingent.

The ceremony commenced at 1900hrs with the report by Commander Austrian National Element, Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Steingresz, to the highest-ranking Austrian military attendant, Brigadier General Gerhard Christiner. Then the Austrian flag was hoisted, accompanied by the Austrian national anthem. The key military leaders then inspected the troops, rendering allegiance to the soldiers.



# fer of Authority

The outgoing Commander of the Austrian contingent, Colonel of General Staff Klaus Anderle, afterwards presented his farewell speech. Having thanked his soldiers, Colonel Anderle referred to the challenge and commitment to keep up readiness for duty in these difficult times.

In recognition of the outgoing Austrian Contingent 22's achievements, Brigadier General Gerhard Christiner awarded the Commanders of the subordinated units with the NATO "Non Article 5" Medal. Afterwards he awarded all the troops with the medals.

The most decisive point of the event occurred when the incoming National Contingent Commander, Colonel of General Staff Christian Riener, took over the Austrian Contingent's flag from the hands of Brigadier General Christiner. This final event symbolized the

Change of Command and the assumption of command by the new Commander of the Austrian Contingent in KFOR.

The new Commander Colonel Riener started his speech with thanks to his predecessors for their excellent work and said in his speech that the accomplishment of the mission had first priority. Colonel Riener asked all soldiers to support the mission with the best knowledge to ensure the successful contribution of the Austrian Armed Forces in a multinational environment.

After the troops had left the parade ground, the end of the ceremony was followed by a reception in the "Österreicher Hof", the Austrian welfare facility, where national gastronomic specialities were offered in honour of the local and international guests.



# MNBG-N performs a CIMIC action for the

Story by Lieutenant Anouar EL HAYANI, Moroccan Army.

Photos by Corporal Chef John AUXIRE, French Army.

Friday 24 September, 2010, was an unusual day for the "Saint Sava" primary school students, whose small village "Grace/Gracë" is located South East of Novo Selo's Camp "Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny". On that morning, their school was receiving guests from Multinational Battle Group North (MNBG N).

In the framework of its civil-military cooperation, cell 9 of the MNBG N, led by Captain Sebastien Vignal and Adjutant Delperdange, handed over donations to the Headmaster of the school. After handing over

computers during the last mandate, this time the donations, provided by Cell 9 MNBG N, were in fact blackboards and other items used for teaching (chalk, rulers) and both students and teachers were very happy, knowing, the donations would enhance their studying conditions. Their future is of utmost importance, thus the improvement of education in Kosovo must be one of the main topics.

The Headmaster, Mr Desimir Milkovic, thanked KFOR and particularly the Commander MNBG N for the support which will have a positive impact on the education of some 70 students. Mr Milkovic was delighted by the good relationship that he has



# Saint Sava of Gracel Gracë primary school

with MNBG N, and he said that he was looking forward to strengthening this relationship for the benefit of the students. He stated that thanks to this assistance, KFOR is ensuring a better life for an element of Kosovo's population.

Mr Dragan Dimic, member of the Kosovo parliament, seized this opportunity to thank KFOR for contributing to the well being of the local population. He said that the involvement of KFOR in the reconstruction of Kosovo is vital.

These actions bring KFOR soldiers closer to the population. In fact, soldiers believe that in addition to their mission here in Kosovo,

(to ensure a safe and secure environment, and freedom of movement) CIMIC actions are important. Captain Vignal said "I am a reserve officer; my civilian work is related to education. Thus, I am using my skills, either military or civilian ones, to perform my duties. I'm proud of the valuable work that we are doing here in Kosovo; together we are participating in the rebuilding of Kosovo."



# „Running



*Story and photos by Captain Primož Hodak, First Lieutenant Dr. Mónika Láda, Hungarian Defense Forces*

The “international day for peace” puts the destiny of peace into all people’s hands. In accordance with the UN resolution 2001, we are celebrating the “international day for peace” since 21 September 2002. The UN organization asked all countries to consider this day as a day of cease-fire and free from violence. On this occasion, in the ISTOG/ISTOK district, Hungarian and Slovenian soldiers belonging to KFOR Multinational Battle Group West, along with local people, have organized a long distance running competition. The competition is called “The Mini Marathon – ISTOG 2010 run for ONE wish”. Everybody took part for the same reason, to show that despite the ethnic mix of the region, they can all live together in peace. “Not only are there Serbian and Albanian nationalities but Roma, Askali, Egyptian and

Bosnians too”, said FARUK SHALA, the director of the OLIMPI Non Governmental Organization, which arranged the event.

Approximately 150 people took part in the competition in different categories. The Hungarian and Slovenian soldiers entered the 13 kilometers category. The finish – in the heart of the city – was reached firstly by ILLIR RRUDHANI (44min 49sec), second was MERITON HASANAJ (46min 35sec), and the third was ABDURRAHMAN SHKODRA (47min 14 sec). The fourth place was taken by a 15 year old young lady GRESA BAKRAQI (58min 09sec).

The fifth place was taken by a member of the Hungarian contingent, Corporal ZOLTÁN TAMÁSI (58min 47sec) and the sixth by a member of the Slovenian contingent Corporal JURE MOCIVNIK (59min 03sec).

After the ceremonial announcement of the results, FARUK SHALA acknowledged the participation of the Hungarian and Slovenian contingent in the

# for peace”



traditional running competition, which contributes to the effective cooperation between KFOR and the local population.

The Hungarian and Slovenian contingent – taking part in a peacekeeping mission in Kosovo – took the opportunity to show the local population the importance of peace and cooperation, and they hope to encourage the local population in making peace for the rest of the year.

# A bridge for families

*Story and photos by First Lieutenant Dr. Mónika Láda, Hungarian Defense Forces*

The river-crossing of more than 300 families has been made safer by a bridge, which has been built with the assistance of the Hungarian Contingent's Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) group in Gjakove/Dakovica. With the help of the new bridge it has become significantly easier and safer for 300 children and the same amount of local workers to reach schools and working places within a shorter distance. On 27 September 2010, the bridge, named after Hunyadi János, was ceremonially handed over. The building of the bridge was jointly financed by the Hungarian contingent and the municipality/local government. Lieutenant Colonel László Kanyó, commander of the Hungarian contingent, said in his ceremonial speech that the new bridge was a symbol of cooperation between local citizens and the Hungarian soldiers. The

latter have been committed to working on the bridge for over a year to make sure that the population of Gjakove/Dakovica can live a better and safer life. According to the commander, the willingness to act, and the ambition of the municipality was exemplary. The bridge means safety, a bright future and coming together for progress.

Dr. Pal Lekaj, mayor of Gjakove/Dakovica municipality expressed his gratitude for the new bridge, which greatly contributes to the development of infrastructure.

The idea to connect the two parts of Gjakove/Dakovica with a bridge came up in June 2010 and was initiated during





# at Gjakove/Dakovica

a visit of the mayor of Gjakove/Dakovica to the Hungarian CIMIC group. The Hungarian contingent realized its importance and welcomed the idea of a common effort to build the bridge. This June the parties signed the agreement in order to make the bridge between Saldik Stavileci and Rezina Veriore built, as soon as possible. Due to the fruitful cooperation there is another bridge to be built connecting the local hospital between Deshmoret e Lirise and Konferencia e Bunjaj that is going to be ready in November according to the plan.

Due to the close cooperation of the local contractors, the construction of the bridge itself could be completed within two and a half months.

It is hugely satisfying for the Hungarian contingent that the municipality decided to name the bridge after Hunyadi János, a famous Hungarian strategist, who was an ally of the Albanian national hero Skënderbeu. Although their conquests were not always followed by success, this bridge reminds us of their alliance and the friendship between Hungarians and Albanians.



# NATO Military Comm

*Story written by Commandant Eugene Doyle, Irish Defence Forces*

*Photos by Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu*

On Tuesday 28 September 2010, the NATO Military Committee, led by its Chairman Admiral Giampaolo Di Paola, and NATO Joint Force Command Naples, Admiral Mark Fitzgerald, visited Kosovo on a one day visit. The Nato Military Committee commenced the day with a series of briefings at Camp Film City in Pristina. Following these briefings, the NATO Military

Committee delegation moved by road to the KEK Power Plant Bravo at the town of Obilic. The Kosovo Security Force (KSF) gave a number of pre-planned demonstrations for the benefit of the visiting delegation. The first demonstration was a fire fighting and casualty evacuation exercise. The delegation were then brought to a simulated mine area, where they were advised on mine awareness and mine clearance. This was followed by an abseiling display by two members of the KSF, from the roof of the Power Plant. The activity at this location concluded with a Press



# Committee visited Kosovo

Conference for the invited journalists and media personnel. The Chairman of the NATO Committee, Admiral Giampaolo Di Paola, NATO Joint Force Command Naples, Admiral Mark Fitzgerald, and COM KFOR, Major General Erhard Bühler, accompanied by the Minister for KSF, Mr Fehmi Mujota, and Lieutenant General Sylejman Selimi, KSF Commander, attended the Press Conference. Admiral Fitzgerald expressed his unconditional support for the

Kosovo Institutions to establish peace and order all over Kosovo. "We are here to support the Kosovo Police, EULEX and the rule of law", stressed Admiral Fitzgerald. The delegation then moved to Camp Nothing Hill where a Crowd Riot Control (CRC) exercise took place for the benefit of the delegation. This concluded the delegation's one day visit to Kosovo.



# In competition f

*Story and photos by First Lieutenant Dr. Mónika Láda,  
Hungarian Defense Forces*

Kosovo children start going to a school at the age of six, similar to Hungarians, but in Kosovo primary school does not last eight, but nine years. Information technology lessons usually start in fifth grade, but this can be different from school to school. Although a number of families have their own computers, the educational institutes only have a limited supply.

Hungarian KFOR contingent's CIMIC group remedied this problem, donating computers for five elementary schools in October 2010 in Gjakove/Dakovica. The

children gave them a hearty welcome and waved enthusiastically with Hungarian flags in their hands. Moreover, poems were read and a dancing programme was performed.

The Hungarian CIMIC group donated 13 computers to the local government's Educational Directorate. Four machines stayed at the Directorate, the remaining ones went to those schools, with the best results in annual exams.

The Kosovo children struggled to attain higher grades in their report-books and the results of these efforts were rewarded. Based on the ranking of the schools' study results, the first and the second place was shared



# or the machines

and resulted in a draw. The handover of the equipment was in one of the victorious local primary schools, where Lieutenant Colonel László Kanyó, the Hungarian contingent's Commander, had the opportunity to hand over altogether nine computers. Giving momentum to the event, the ten best students were handed over certificates based on their aggregated competition results.

Lieutenant Colonel Kanyó remarked in his speech that today's children are already living in a totally different world. Information age has changed their lives forever. For them, digital devices surrounding them are totally natural. They are sitting in front of the screen, watching movies, playing games, corresponding, chatting or browsing the World Wide Web. He also

stated that in the information society, obtaining digital literacy is indispensable, that entails serious tasks for the public education as well.

Agim Koci, the local government's Deputy Mayor of Gjakove/Dakovica, offered his thanks for the Hungarian contingent's donation. The Educational Director Silvana Haxhikadrija expressed her hope for further successful cooperation with the Hungarian contingent.

It was a special honour for the Hungarian contingent that Sadik Gojani, the Headmaster of the silver medallist Fehmi Agani Elementary School, thanked the Hungarian soldiers with a memorial certificate.



# Keep your flu a

*Story and photos by Flight Sergeant Jesse Feliciani,  
United States Air Force*

It's the season for giving and sharing; however, influenza is definitely one thing you do not want people to share with you. With a few simple actions you can stop the transmission, getting sick yourself and from passing it on to others. Living in close quarters like we do here in Film City makes this information even more important. Below are some basic facts on what influenza is, some of the symptoms, how to avoid catching it and what you can do to stop spreading it.

Influenza is a respiratory illness that spreads quickly and easily from person to person through sneezing or coughing. The flu virus spreads mainly by droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze or talk. These droplets can land in the mouths or noses of

people who are up to 2 metres away. Less often, a person might also get flu by touching a surface or object that has the flu virus on it and then touching their own mouth, eyes or nose.

Normally, it takes approximately 2 days from the time you have been infected until you start feeling symptoms. The most common ones include fever (or feeling feverish/chills), cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headaches, and fatigue. It's important to note that not everyone with flu will have a fever. And in some cases, those suffering from influenza can develop complications such as pneumonia, bronchitis, as well as sinus and ear infections.

The best method to protect yourself from catching the flu is to get vaccinated. The specific strain that goes around changes from year to year, so it's important that



# away from me!

you get vaccinated each year. Ask your national Role 1 facility within theater about getting immunized. The following can also help decrease your chances of catching the flu and many other illnesses:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water; or if not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth, this is how germs spread.
- Try to avoid close contact with sick people.

It's important to remember that most adults are infectious 1 day before symptoms begin to show and

for up to 5-7 days after becoming sick (when the symptoms began). You should always cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it. If you do not have a tissue, sneeze or cough into the corner of your elbow and shoulder, not into your hands! And, most important of all, take time away from those you work with (if possible) to keep them from getting sick too.



KEY POINTS on the prevention of catching/spreading flu as highlighted by Major Caroline Traupe, German Medical Corps

(pictured above with staff).

- Get vaccinated
- Wash/disinfect your hands
- Do not sneeze/cough into your hands
- Avoid close contact with other people if sneezing/coughing



# LMT development is the great

*Story and photos by Captain Enrico Campioni, Swiss Army*

A major reconfiguration in SWISSCOY operations took shape when, on 07 October 2010 at Pristina Airport, Contingent 23 embarked on its tour of duty. The main push has been redirected, centring largely on the Liaison and Monitoring Teams (LMTs), and leaving the traditional infantry tasks to the background. Changed operational conditions on the ground and different day-to-day demands are two of the reasons

behind this move. They also explain why the Multinational Logistics Unit (MNLU) and the support company, stationed at Camp Casablanca, are now set to play a greater role.

The enhanced role of the LMT network has developed over the course of the year with the opening of various Swiss-staffed operations centres (LMT Houses). The latest addition – at Prizren – was officially inaugurated on 01 October 2010. The premises, previously run by the German LMT, were handed over to their Swiss counterparts in the presence of Lukas Beglinger, the





# commitment of SWISSCOY 23

Swiss ambassador, German Brigadier General Stephan Thomas, commanding officer of Multinational Battle Group South, and Major General Bernhard Müller, Chief Operations Swiss Air Force.

The Prizren centre is ideally sited. It is right in the centre of this historical town, thereby bringing military personnel into direct contact with local Kosovars. The daily workload, shouldered by the four teams in Prizren, is a very tall order. The territory they serve is huge, a region with a minimum of seventy-four settlements. This is, before even considering Prizren itself, where the number of sensitive locations requiring surveillance is substantial: they include schools, public service outlets, the administrative offices of a plethora of national and international agencies, and the countless historical monuments that grace the old part of the city.

The task, the team headed by Captain Peter Takacs is

facing, is a tough one. If, however, their excellent track record over these first weeks is anything to go by, then the outlook is encouraging. Fittingly, plans and preparations for a further all-Swiss LMT House, in North Kosovo, are well advanced and it should become operational in the near future.

Lieutenant Colonel Robert Tischhauser, the National Contingent Commander of 23rd Swisscoy Contingent, puts the matter like this: "The Swiss LMT House in Prizren is a further advance by SWISSCOY along the path to ever closer co-operation with the population for the benefit of that population. The positive experience of our LMT teams at Novo Selo and Malishevo has proved invaluable in planning the development of that house. Situated as it is in the centre of Prizren, a key locality in all respects, its importance is clearly enormous."



# Polish KFOR soldiers take

*Story and Photos by Sergeant Jerry Boffen, US Army*

LEPOSAVIC/LEPOSAVIQ, Kosovo — Greek soldiers from Multinational Battle Group North (MNBG N) relinquished security duties at Camp Nothing Hill to Polish and U.S. Soldiers from Multinational Battle Group East (MNBG E) during a ceremony on 11 October 2010.

The Greek soldiers spent four weeks at Camp Nothing Hill, where they served as the area's Quick Reaction Force (QRF). In this QRF role, KFOR troops must be able to react on short notice, if asked to support Kosovo Police (KP) and the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX).

In addition to holding QRF responsibilities, the Greek soldiers also conducted patrols in neighboring cities and near the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) with Serbia, and maintained security at Gate 1 along the ABL.

“This has been a very good experience, working with

local municipalities, the KP and EULEX in this wonderful area,” said Greek army Captain Ioannis Goulgoutis, commander of the outgoing Greek soldiers.

The incoming company of Polish soldiers, commanded by Polish army Captain Piotr Skowlmowski, will now be responsible for the duties previously performed by the Greek soldiers.

“We are now responsible for this area north of MNBG N’s base,” said Skowlmowski. “We’ll be conducting patrols, handling QRF responsibilities and monitoring Gate 1.”

Skowlmowski added that he is very confident in his soldiers and their ability to accomplish any mission they are faced with while at Nothing Hill.

“We trained for several months in Poland to prepare for this deployment, before joining the U.S. troops in Germany for more training,” Skowlmowski said. “We are completely ready to handle this mission.”

A platoon of U.S. Soldiers from MNBG E will join the



# over at Camp Nothing Hill

Polish soldiers for the stay at Camp Nothing Hill.

“We’re here to give the Polish Company support as they take over responsibility of Nothing Hill,” said 1st Lt. Whesley Sepulveda, 1st Battalion, 296th Infantry Regiment. “Our role is to provide security for the base and the Polish soldiers will handle the surrounding areas.”

The ceremony, which signifies the transfer of authority from the Greek soldiers to the Polish and U.S. soldiers, involved the lowering of the Greek flag and the hoisting of the Polish and U.S. flags.

Following the raising and lowering of the flags, Danish Lieutenant Colonel Jens Nyrup, deputy commander, MNBG N, addressed the soldiers that were assembled for the ceremony.

“Your presence here testifies to KFOR’s interest and its capability to involve all units as a whole in the security of all of Kosovo’s inhabitants regardless of their communities,” Nyrup told the soldiers. “It shows

KFOR’s ability to operate everywhere with impartiality.”

He then thanked the outgoing Greek soldiers for their hard work and dedication to their mission at Nothing Hill.

“Through your initiatives and your relevant understanding of the situation,” Nyrup told the Greek soldiers, “you did a great job and helped the Battle Group by always keeping the situation in this area under control.”

Nyrup concluded the ceremony by addressing the incoming Polish and U.S. Soldiers and wishing them luck.

“No doubt you will face challenges,” he told them, “but I am sure that you will be present and capable of tackling the different tasks that come to you. Welcome and good luck to you. I hope you will enjoy your stay in this beautiful part of Kosovo.”



# KFOR provides heaters to Ser

*Story by Commandant Eugene Doyle, Irish Defence Forces*

*Photos by Mr Afrim Hajrullahu*

On Thursday 21 October 2010, KFOR handed over heaters to Serbian families in Zallq/Zac who are currently living in temporary tented accommodation. DCOM KFOR, Brigadier General Marco Serronha was present and spoke to family personnel. Members of eighteen Serbian families are currently occupying six tents adjacent to an old derelict house in the vicinity of

the village of Zallq/Zac. The families initially moved into the tents on 18 March 2010. They are awaiting the completion of their houses which are now under construction and are at various stages of being ready for occupancy. As a result of having been threatened by some individuals, KFOR troops and Kosovo Police are protecting the families. Since the commencement of this protection, the threats and intimidation have ceased.

With the weather turning colder, the families became



# Albanian returnees in ZALLQ/ZAC

concerned for their wellbeing, particularly for the women and children. They made their concerns known to Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler, when he visited this location in September. Resulting from liaison between the families and KFOR, the heaters have now been handed over. Six heaters were handed over, and there are six tents occupied so that each tent has its own heater. Multinational Battle Group South (MNBG S) provided the heaters, they are 20 Kw diesel heaters, sturdy, large and they will prove efficient and suitable for the families. As the truck began unloading, those family members who were present were relieved and joyful to see the heaters being brought to the tents. They then offered refreshments to all present to show their gratitude.

DCOM KFOR addressed the assembled media. He

expressed concern about the delay in completing the construction of the houses. He stated that KFOR has a responsibility for the security and protection of these families. Towards that end, KFOR was providing the heaters to the families in order to improve their living conditions during the cold weather period. He further stated: "We are confident that the municipality and the Institutions in Kosovo will provide the necessary fuel for the heaters and will continue their efforts to improve the living standards of the returnees".

As the KFOR personnel and vehicles departed the field of the six tents, one felt the families could face this cold Thursday night with greater confidence than they had the previous night. Furthermore, it made me appreciate things I take for granted: accommodation, food and toilet and shower facilities.



# Peacekeeper's Profiles

**NAME:** Pawel PIASKOWSKI  
**RANK:** Sergeant First Class  
**NATIONALITY:** Polish  
**HOME UNIT:** 4 Anti Aircraft Regiment  
**UNIT IN KFOR:** JOC



**ABOUT THE MISSION:** I have been in the Polish Army almost 18 years. It is the first foreign mission in my military career. I work as an admin in the KFOR HQ JOC. It is a very demanding job, but I like it very much. In the beginning it was difficult for me, so that I had to retrain. Fortunately I had a good teacher and I knew what I needed to know. I wanted to make progress, so I did, but it wasn't easy. I met a lot of kind and helpful people, which helped me too. Now I have a good knowledge of my duty, and I can help people who need it. I work in the JOC where there are many different nations. That means many different cultures, characters, habits but from my point of a view, we are doing the job very well. On the outside, we are JOC or as we say "JOC FAMILY". I believe that my new skills will be very useful in my home unit.

**FAMILY REACTION:** I am married for almost 17 years with the best woman in the world (of course for me). We have two children Tomasz 16, and Kinga 9 years old. My family knew that this wasn't always easy, being away from home for so long, but they knew too that the military is also one part of my life. I am sure that they are very proud of my mission and I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

**PLANS AFTER THE MISSION:** Well, after the mission I will just try to adapt back to "Polish" life again. However, first of all I will go on vacation with my family because I promised them we would do that. When I am back on duty, I will happily share my experiences with my comrades. All in all, I wait to see what the future will bring. I hope the future for me and my family will be only better.



**NAME:** Michael Piel  
**RANK:** Corporal  
**NATIONALITY:** German  
**HOME UNIT:** German Armed Forces Family Support Centre in Euskirchen  
**UNIT IN KFOR:** Public Affairs Office in HQ KFOR in Pristina



**ABOUT THE MISSION:**

This is my first mission abroad, but actually not my first job in a multinational environment, since I was stationed in Strasbourg (France), where I was working in HQ Eurocorps. Now that my mission is close to an end I can say I did not regret a single day of these 6 months being in KFOR. Thank you all for the great comradeship!

**FAMILY REACTION:**

At first my mother was afraid about me going to a mission, but I explained to her that the situation in Kosovo is quite "calm and stable".

**PLANS AFTER THE MISSION:**

After my mission I will take a few days off and then I will go back to my home unit, the German Armed Forces Family Support Centre (FSC) in Euskirchen. In this FSC we support the families of soldiers that are in missions abroad. For this duty it will surely help me a lot, that I now know "the other side", namely being a soldier in a mission.

By the end of next year I will leave the army and after that I'll either join the civilian police or start studying.

**HOBBIES:**

I really enjoy doing sports (especially swimming, running, taekwon do). Additionally I'm quite interested in politics and sometimes like to read a book or watch a movie.



# Civilian's Profile

**Name:** Besa Hoxha

**Job Title:** Laundry

**Position:** HSG KFOR - Laundry

**Experience:** I have been working in the laundry since 1999.

**Language:** Albanian, English, Serbian.

**Job in Progress:** I work in the laundry and I take care of the soldiers clothes. We do the receiving part of the unwashed laundry which is taken to Fushë Kosovë to be cleaned and later on we provide the soldiers with their clean uniforms. We have no problems whatsoever during the performance of our work. I have worked here since 1999 and I am satisfied with the job. The good thing is that you have the opportunity to meet people of different nationalities who are very polite and very good.

**Family:** I am a married woman and a mother of two children, Anri 4 years old and Leon 7 months old.

**Hobbies:** Football is my hobby.



## KFOR Chronicle Sudoku

Amateur

Profi

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

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

Solution  
August Edition

Amateur

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

Profi

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

Gërmija

Photo by Afrim Hajrullahu