

KFOR



Chronicle

11th Edition

November 30th 2010



MCAD mentors and advises KSF



COS KFOR's Perspective

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve alongside each of you. Thank you for volunteering to be part of this mission, and thank you for the hard work and professionalism I see every day.

This is my first truly multi-national assignment, Kosovo Force is currently comprised of 31 nations. Regardless of how large or small, your nation's contributions are significant. The coalition of countries that make up KFOR sends a strong signal regarding the determination and the importance of our mission.

As "ambassadors" of your countries, your behavior and performance is observed by your peers, by the international community, and by the people of Kosovo. They will draw lasting impressions – continue to ensure that whether it's at the office, within the base camp, or conducting operations throughout Kosovo, you maintain that high level of professionalism.

As with any assignment, service in KFOR is not without its challenges. We are in the most difficult part of this mission, where every incident, however minor, can have a strategic impact. We must each work to ensure we stay constantly vigilant in our efforts.

With the overall improved security situation in Kosovo, the North Atlantic Council has decided to transition KFOR to Gate 2 of Deterrent Presence and reduce the Battle Group structure. While this may seem an easy task to some, in truth this is a difficult transition. We must maintain readiness to respond to any event Kosovo-wide while keeping a close eye on the security situation in the north – our point of main effort. To effectively operationalize this transition, we must maintain effective communications and constant coordination throughout this process. I know we are up to the task.

As directed by our higher headquarters, we have already undergone the difficult transition of reducing the size of the headquarters staff. While still not complete, we have adjusted to the most difficult cuts and maintained a high level of performance.

As individual rotations occur, the consequent hand-over/take-over process places increased importance on standard operating procedures. We must continuously look for ways to ensure effective staff performance with reduced resources.

This mission has been long, but together we are making progress. Our mandate is clear. We must maintain a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all citizens in Kosovo, irrespective of their ethnicity. We can only do this together – Together for Progress!



Brigadier General Wilton S. Gorske, U. S. Army

COM KFOR's Christmas Message

My dear comrades!

We find ourselves now at Advent, a traditional time where all Christians around the world reflect on the meaning of Christmas.

To my mind, Christmas is, and always has been, a celebration of peace and of family, a celebration full of symbolism and meaningful traditions. The Christmas tree, as in the typical German Christmas tradition, stands for new hope and life after a long lasting winter.

I hope we all can enjoy a happy Christmas celebration here in our mission, although this cannot replace a celebration at home.

For those of us who will remain in Kosovo, it is surely not easy to spend Christmas on a mission abroad, separated from our loved ones.

But I believe that we are – through our service here in Kosovo – fulfilling the Christmas message in its purest and most meaningful way, by promoting peace and security.

I know that this does not really ease the sadness that will surely overcome everybody on Christmas Eve who has a family at home.

But nevertheless, we should not forget that peace does not come by itself. It must be fostered and guaranteed by our service here and elsewhere in troubled places.

Let me also mention our comrades serving in other missions all around the world like Afghanistan, Iraq or the Horn of Africa. Their Christmas surely is a lot more tense and critical and their loved ones are in a much more difficult situation, due to the unstable security situation in these countries.

I want you all to move closer together once again in these days, just to give each other the true feeling of being in good hands and among friends in our KFOR family. Think about all the good things we did for Kosovo during the last year, and to our families at home and the free world as a whole.

That way, we surely will experience a fulfilling and leisurely Christmas together and will have the time to gather new strengths for the challenges which are lying before us.

Merry Christmas to all of you! God bless you all.



Commander KFOR

Major General Erhard Bühler, German Army

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Nations within KFOR:

NATO Nations

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

Non-NATO Nations

Armenia	Morocco
Austria	Sweden
Finland	Switzerland
Ireland	Ukraine



TOGETHER FOR

Photos by Master Sergeant Steffen Maluche, German Army



Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler, hosted a Press Point on the occasion of the first visit to HQ KFOR of the new General Director of the Kosovo Police, Mr Reshat Maliqi, on 05 November 2010.

On 08 November 2010, COM KFOR presided over the Change of Command ceremony at Multinational Battle Group West (MNBG W) in Peje/Pec. Colonel Davide Di Bartolo (on right), the outgoing Commander MNBG W, shook hands with Colonel Carlo Emiliani (on left), the incoming Commander MNBG W.



COM KFOR gave a lecture to the students of German language and literature at Prizren University on 10 November 2010.

A packed Lecture Hall gave a standing ovation to COM KFOR at Prizren University on 10 November 2010.





COM KFOR, accompanied by Military Civil Advisory Division Chief, Brigadier General Enrico Spagnoli, received a briefing from members of Kosovo Security Force during Exercise “Agile Lion 3” on 11 November 2010.

COM KFOR officially opened the Swedish Liaison Monitoring Team house in Gračanica on 13 November 2010. From left to right are: Father Petar, Serbian Orthodox Church, Doctor Rada Trajkovic and the Representative of the Swedish Embassy, Mrs Ingrid Johansson.



On the occasion of Kurban Bajram, the Head of the Kosovo Islamic Community, Mufti Naim Ternava (third from left) organised a traditional reception in Pristina on 16 November 2010 which was attended by COM KFOR. Also present was Prime Minister Hashim Thaci (fourth from left).

A casualty is evacuated during the Crowd Riot Control Exercise at Camp Rigas Fereos on 17 November 2010.



Restructuring of KFOR

Story by Commandant Eugene Doyle, Irish Defence Forces

Photos by Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu

On 29 October, 2010, Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler, held a Press Conference at Film City in Pristina to announce the restructuring of KFOR.

COM KFOR stated that the decision to restructure KFOR was based on the prevailing calm situation in Kosovo, and also on the performance of the Kosovo

Police and the European Rule of Law Mission (EULEX). KFOR will reduce from its present force of just under 10,000 to a force of over 5,000 in Spring 2011. The plan to move to this reduced force is known as "GATE 2". The implementation of GATE 2 in order to reorganize the overall structure of KFOR has been decided by the NATO Council and the states participating in the mission. However, NATO will remain strongly committed to Kosovo with a reduced force that will adapt to the situation on the ground.

In 2001 KFOR had approximately 42,000 soldiers in Kosovo. Since then this figure has gradually reduced



KFOR is announced

as the security situation in the country improved. KFOR will significantly increase mobility, air mobility, flexibility and readiness of KFOR contingents. When the restructuring is implemented, KFOR will operate with two Multinational Battle Groups (MNBG's). HQ MNBG East will be located at Camp Bondsteel, HQ MNBG West will be located at Camp Villaggio Italia. HQ KFOR will continue to be located at Camp Film City. In addition there will be nine other Camps to accommodate the Companies of KFOR.

In addition to the KFOR troops in Kosovo, NATO will continue to have available a capable reserve of quickly deployable over the horizon forces to support KFOR if necessary and required.

The Press Conference concluded with questions from the assembled media to COM KFOR. These questions, mostly focussed on the security situation in the North of Kosovo, were answered by COM KFOR: "KFOR is prepared and standing next to EULEX and the Kosovo Police to react to every challenge for the security and stability in Kosovo", he said.



The official opening

Story by: Lieutenant Anouar Abdelhalim El Hayani, Moroccan Army

Photos by: Corporal John Auxire, French Army

On Monday 25 September 2010, the Commander of Multinational Battle Group North (MNBG N), Colonel Frank Barrera, and Mr Bajram Mulaku, Mayor of Vushtrri/ Vucitrn, officially opened a bridge built over the Sitnica River approximately 0.8 km from the city of Vushtrri/ Vucitrn. This bridge which was rebuilt by the engineer detachment belonging to the 31st Engineer Regiment, replaced the old bridge which had been damaged due to excessive heavy traffic.

The new bridge is 35 meters long and 4 meters wide and is supported by 4 pillars. This type of work is a part of the engineer branch's job and it displays the expertise of 31st RG whose motto is "open the road".

Several local representatives and members of the KFOR mission attended the official opening ceremony. The reopening of the bridge is an important event not only for

the citizens, who were obliged to travel many kilometres to reach their destinations, but also for KFOR personnel, especially those belonging to MNBG N.

In his speech, Colonel Frank Barrera, congratulated the personnel of the 31st Engineer Regiment for the good job that they have done. He stated that the reconstruction of this bridge was one of his priorities, since it will allow freedom of movement.

Actually, the improvement of the population's living conditions by humanitarian actions, is performed in the framework of the overall Mission assigned by NATO to MNBG N, which is to ensure a safe and secure



of Pestovo Bridge

environment for the whole population.

“Before its reopening, this bridge was in a bad condition which represented a risk to the population that used it each day; this was a big concern for me in the framework of my mission,” stated Colonel Barrera. The reopening of this bridge will have a positive impact on the reinforcement of safety measures for the citizens living along the banks of the Sitnica River; and on the free flow of the road traffic. In his speech, the Mayor of Vushtrri/Vucitrn thanked Colonel Frank Barrera for the sustained efforts that have been achieved in order

to improve the daily life of the citizens; he stated that, finally, the people of this area will be able to move freely and safely. Mayor Mulaku added that this bridge will allow people to prepare and transport all their needs for the coming winter. “I appreciate the support that KFOR brings to the citizens of Vushtrri/Vucitrn. I hope that together, we will be able to build other bridges in order to open up other villages in this part of Kosovo”, stated Mr Mulaku.

The rebuilding of the Pestovo Bridge took two weeks to complete.



CRC Exercise at Holy A

Story by Lieutenant Colonel Markus Lesch, German Army

Photos courtesy of Maz & More

Prizren. Holy Archangel Monastery, 10:35 a.m. Like a black bird, the helicopter was gliding down the canyon of the Bistrica River. The roaring of the turbine and the characteristic flap-flap sound of the rotor blades echoed from the steep rocks. As soon as the helicopter touched the ground, the doors opened and three fully equipped soldiers jumped out, rallied, and not even 30 seconds later, the helicopter was back in the air and disappeared from the valley with an elegant swing. At the same time, the next helicopter was already gliding down the canyon and dropping the

soldiers off safely at the monastery. The four helicopters arrived one after the other – just like an assembly line. Within 13 minutes, they had dropped off 60 soldiers on the grounds of the monastery.

An air landing like this is called “Heliboarding” and it was an essential part of the large-scale CRC exercise conducted by the German Manoeuvre Company MNBG S. The situation: After various peaceful demonstrations in Recane, it was reported that a rally would take place on 26 October in front of the Holy Archangel Monastery. This was a new quality of demonstrations. According to the latest insights, the willingness to resort to violence was not very high. However, a few demonstrators (played by role-players from the Swiss Detachment) were carrying weapons and signs that said “KFOR Go Home!”



Archangel Monastery

Two reinforcement platoons arrived from Prizren by road.

Within 25 minutes, the situation had escalated. Alpha Platoon, which at first faced the demonstrators alone, was released by a Slovenian platoon from MNBG W. Wearing dark protection gear over their BDU made them almost look like aliens. They knew how to do their job, the release of the Germans went smoothly. However, the demonstrators were increasing the pressure and at 10:35, the first helicopter landed with more reinforcements. The road leading towards the Archangel Monastery was full of spectators thus eliminating any chance to travel by car. Then the Medical Service was involved. A soldier with severe burns was flown to Camp Prizren and

underwent surgery. Everyone was holding their breath when a soldier with a broken leg (simulated) was rescued by the Army Mountain Guide and was pulled into the helicopter by rope. The Bell presided over the valley like it was glued to the sky.

Around noon, the four platoons of the Manoeuvre Company had cleared the area. German and Slovenian soldiers were advancing like a wall with two reliable armoured transport vehicles, in the middle.

The exercise at the monastery has shown that hard work will pay off. The cooperation with our Slovenian comrades was trouble-free. One German Officer said: "They are disciplined, maneuverable and their English is excellent. It was fun working with them."



Have a safe, smart commute this winter

Story by Sergeant Fabian Ortega, U.S. Army in Europe Public Affairs Office

Kosovo's roadways are covered with fog, sleet, snow and ice in winter. "My advice to a first time driver in Kosovo – Don't get in the car and plan a long trip somewhere without first getting out there and getting some experience," said Dave Scott, U.S. Army in Europe chief of safety. To lessen the risk of becoming another statistic, Scott offers a few winter driving tips. "Clear all of your windows and mirrors to see and avoid others. Steer gently to maintain control of a vehicle on icy patches of road," he said. Anticipate icy roads in the morning, "Especially if there has been some fog over night," he added. "In higher regions you will encounter areas where tire chains are required, it's a good idea to have chains and practice putting them on," Scott said. Black ice is a very thin sheet of ice that covers the road surface. The source can be almost anything: snow-melt from the previous day, moisture in the air during the early morning hours or even exhaust from idling vehicles at an intersection. "The biggest challenge with black ice is you don't notice it until it's too late," he said. If you encounter black ice

and begin to skid, Scott recommends easing off the accelerator and steering into the direction of the skid. Here are more tips provided by the USAREUR Safety Office to help you stay safe this winter:

- All lights are in good working order.
- Brakes properly adjusted.
- Battery charging properly and battery terminals are clean and tight.
- Be sure all fluids are at proper levels, including anti-freeze at the right level and concentration.
- Make sure windshield wiper blades are cleaning properly.



Chaplain's Thoughts

Even if some might not be religious, Religions are an integral part of daily life. Religions structure our everyday lives, the weeks, the course of the year.

Religions answer the questions about where humankind came from and where it is heading. Moreover, they influence the behavior towards ourselves and towards other people. They transmit a certain view of the world. Religions have a founder, holy places, holy books, doctrines, as well as rituals and festivals. This is what all major religions have in common.

Christmas

On 24 and 25 December, a large proportion of the Christian Churches (Roman Catholic Church, Protestant Church, Orthodox Church of Constantinople, Alexandria, Antioch, Romania, Bulgaria, Greece, Syrian Orthodox Church, etc.) celebrates Christmas. Why only a large proportion and not all of them? It is because of a calendar reform of Pope Gregory in 1582. Since that time, the Gregorian calendar exists, in addition to the Julian calendar. For this reason, particular churches, which still hold to the Julian calendar (Russian, White Russian, Ukrainian, Serbian, Macedonian and other Churches), celebrate the festival 13 days later, respectively. It is important to take a look at the different traditions.

We say that Christmas is the most important festival of Christianity, since this festival celebrates the birth of the Savior Jesus Christ. In Jesus Christ, God was born (Incarnation). Jesus was born in poor living conditions, in a shed in Bethlehem, announced by angels. A star had shown the Wise Men from the East the way to the crib. This is how the story from the New Testament of the Christian Bible tells it.

The evening of 24 December, we celebrate "Christmas Eve", on 25 December, we celebrate the actual "Christmas". This day dates back as a religious holiday to the year 336 in Rome. However, the question if Jesus was actually born on the 24 or 25 December is not verified historically. The season of Advent, covering a maximum of four weeks before Christmas, is a period of fasting and prayer and a preparation for Christmas.

Customs

All around Christmas, there are various kinds of customs. It is common practice to give each other presents. This custom was propagated by Martin Luther (German reformer, 1483 to 1546) as an alternative to the previous custom to give presents on St. Nicholas Day. Nativity plays exist since the 11th century, decorated Christmas trees only since the 15th century, Christmas wreaths since 1839 and Santa Claus since the 20th century. All of these customs make the festival more beautiful to us; they are decorations in the best sense. They address our feelings. They remind us of the Christmas celebrations of our childhood. Christmas includes Christmas songs, as well as Christmas cookies.

Message

Finally, however, an important Christian festival is behind all that, as well as one message:

"Have no fear! For truly, I give you good news of great joy which will be for all the people: For on this day, in the town of David, a Savior has come to birth." (from the Gospel according to St. Luke)

Christmas is a Gospel. Christmas is a festival of love, and a festival of peace.



Ingo Schurig is the Protestant Chaplain for the German soldiers in Kosovo with an agency in Camp Prizren and the Theatre and Coordinating Chaplain at HQ KFOR in Camp Film City. He has been a Military Chaplain in the German Armed Forces for three years and is in charge of three barracks in the southern part of Germany. Before that he worked in various civil parishes. This is his first deployment on a Mission.

Switzerland's Minister of Defence

Story and Photos by Specialist Officer Christoph Zehnder, Swiss Army

Between 28 and 30 October 2010, the Swiss Minister of Defence, Mr. Ueli Maurer, visited his troops in Kosovo for the first time. Coming from FYROM, the MoD's first stop was Camp Casablanca near Suva Reka / Suhareka in southern Kosovo, where Swiss and Austrians are deployed. Without much ado, the Minister and his delegation joined the men and women from SWISSCOY for an informal barbeque dinner.

Mixing and mingling with the public is not uncommon for a Minister in Switzerland. So it didn't come as a surprise that Mr. Maurer had a chat with various soldiers, asking about their experiences in the mission so far.

The second day's schedule included a short camp tour, where the MoD was informed about the current tasks of KFOR and those of SWISSCOY in particular. Later, the delegation moved on to Malishevo to one of four Swiss Liaison and Monitoring Teams (LMT). Again,



ence close-up with his troops

Mr. Maurer was very eager to learn about the situation and had a lot of questions ready for the team members.

Later, the minister was invited to an office call followed by lunch with COM KFOR, Major General Erhard Bühler. General Bühler underlined the importance of Switzerland's contribution to the mission and encouraged the minister to keep supporting KFOR in the future. Now that more and more troops are leaving KFOR, Switzerland can prove itself as an important partner.

Switzerland's participation in KFOR is approved by its

government only until 2011. A decision about a further extension has to be made soon and the MoD's visit was part of the preparation for this political process. Mr. Maurer also met with the acting president of Kosovo, Mr. Jakup Krasniqi as well as the Swiss ambassador to Kosovo, Mr. Lukas Beglinger, for further discussion on that subject.

Ueli Maurer is well-known for being sceptical towards Swiss troops on international missions. Nevertheless he was very impressed after his visit to Kosovo – by the achievements of KFOR in general, but also by the Swiss contribution to this success.



Kosovo Security Force (KSF)

Story by: Commandant Eugene Doyle, Irish Defence Forces

Photos by Master Sergeant Steffen Maluche, German Army

The Military Civil Advisory Division (MCAD) was created in 2008 in order to undertake KFOR tasks regarding Security Sector Reform in Kosovo. Restructured internally in February 2010, MCAD has a mentoring and advising role intended to guide the

KSF to full operational capability. Brigadier General Enrico Spagnoli is the current MCAD Chief. The Mission of MCAD is as outlined hereunder.

MISSION: MCAD by order of Kosovo Force Commander, (COM KFOR), supervises, monitors, and supports daily KSF operations, with the assistance of other stakeholders (e.g. Institutions in Kosovo – IiK, International Civilian Presence – ICP, and Non Governmental Organisations – NGO's) until such time as the KSF is judged by a North Atlantic Council



F) Exercise – “Agile Lion 3”

decision, based on a benchmarked and monitored process, to be capable of operating in accordance with standards designated by NATO, without NATO-led support.

The KSF is a new, multiethnic and uniformed security force. Its mission is to carry out crisis response operations in Kosovo and abroad; civil protection operations within Kosovo and to assist the civil authorities in responding to natural disasters and other emergencies.

This Exercise, Agile Lion 3, was preceded by a Command Post Exercise known as Agile Lion 2. Apart from testing the capability of the KSF, the purpose of Agile Lion 3 was to evaluate and test all government institutions from local to central level and to operate in a Joint Command in the management of disasters. This was the largest Exercise the KSF had ever undertaken

and the first of its kind at an inter-institutional level.

Agile Lion 3 was conducted over two days, 10 and 11 November 2010. The scenario involved three separate but simultaneous incidents in different parts of Kosovo, precipitated by an earthquake. In the vicinity of Batlava lake, a bus went off the road resulting in several people being injured. A plane crashed near Magure village and in Istok a fire started in a factory which produced a toxic heavy smoke.

The KSF hosted a Press Point at Batlava lake on 11 November 2010. Kosovo Force Commander, (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler addressed the assembled media and congratulated the KSF for their comprehensive planning and execution of such a large scale Exercise. Mr Fehmi Mujota, Minister for KSF and Lieutenant General Sylejman Selimi, also spoke to the media.



Exercise Ba



Story by Commandant Eugene Doyle, Irish Defence Forces

Photos by Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu

On 26 October 2010 the quarterly KFOR-European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX) joint exercise, Balkan Hawk, was conducted at Camp Vrelo under the direction and control of J 3 CONOPS. The aim of this particular exercise on 26 October was to further strengthen the cooperation between KFOR and EULEX, to prove KFOR - EULEX determination and capability to deploy forces effectively when needed

and in close cooperation, in order to respond properly. The scenario tested KFOR and EULEX capabilities to conduct joint operations to secure and protect a site in case any threat occurred. During the exercise such a situation was activated and the safe and secure environment and freedom of movement were re-established.

The exercise commenced with EULEX responding to an increasingly tense situation. Initially EULEX tried to handle the demonstration alone. At this phase, EULEX exercised their own medical unit in casualty evacuation. As tension increased, KFOR was on the spot. KFOR responded and deployed forces in



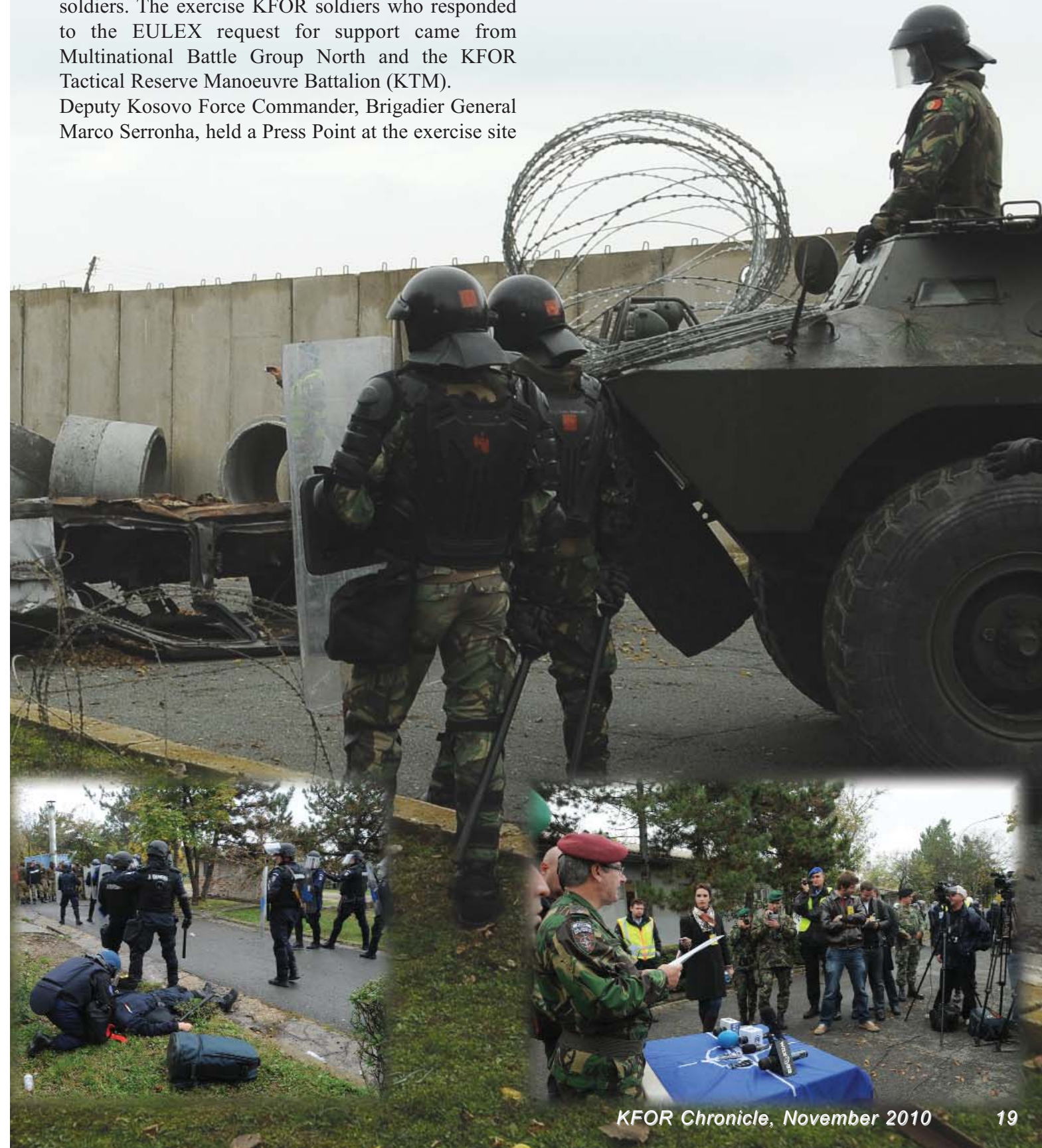
alkan Hawk

accordance with the situation, working jointly with EULEX, in order to regain control.

The Opposing Forces (rioters) were made up of 2 Ukrainian Platoons and 1 Italian Platoon of KFOR soldiers. The exercise KFOR soldiers who responded to the EULEX request for support came from Multinational Battle Group North and the KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM).

Deputy Kosovo Force Commander, Brigadier General Marco Serronha, held a Press Point at the exercise site

for media. He referred to the current situation in the North of Kosovo and stated: "This joint exercise shows our capabilities to deal with any security challenges".



Change of Command

Story by Lieutenant Rafael Perna, Italian Army

Photos by Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu

On 08 November 2010, the Transfer of Authority ceremony was held on the parade ground at the Italian field camp "Villaggio Italia" in Pec / Peja, between Colonel Davide Di Bartolo, the outgoing commander, and Colonel Carlo Emiliani, the incoming commander.

The ceremony took place in the presence of Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler and Commander of the Italian Joint

Operational Command, Lieutenant General Giorgio Cornacchione. Also in attendance were the highest civil and religious leaders from throughout the Area of Responsibility of Multinational Battle Group West (MNBG W). The Italian military contingent, consisting of the 24th Artillery Regiment "Peloritani", faced numerous emergencies during the 185 days they spent in Kosovo. In particular, they provided support and necessary protection to the families returning to Kosovo and have managed special events, for example, the enthronement of Patriarch Irenej in Pec / Peja. In his speech, General Bühler made particular reference to the Enthronement Ceremony on 03 October 2010.



d in “Villaggio Italia”

He complimented Colonel Di Bartolo on conducting this important and challenging event in a very remarkable way. There were a significant number of troops deployed and it was a success story. He thanked Colonel Di Bartolo for his contribution to a safe and secure environment on that particular day. Thereafter, General Bühler welcomed Colonel Emiliani, saying he should “be proud of being the Commander of a well-trained, highly professional and experienced Battle Group”.

Colonel Di Bartolo, in his farewell speech, outlined the

work of the Italian contingent, highlighting the many CIMIC activities, on behalf of school divisions, health and agriculture, and the silent but diligent and successful work of mine clearance which continues unabated to ensure a more secure environment. Colonel Carlo Emiliani, incoming commander of MNBG W, has the mission to lead the contingent consisting of the 1st Regiment “Granatieri di Sardegna”. However, the 1st Regiment has already gained valuable experience in the theater of Kosovo from July 2006 to February 2007.



“In Flanders fields”

Story by Lieutenant-Commander Mark Cunningham,
Canadian Navy

Photos by Mr Afrim Hajrullahu

“In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.”

And so begins the solemn poem written by Lieutenant Colonel John McCrae, a Canadian Doctor who served in World War I. He wrote this during the second battle of Ypres (Belgium) after witnessing the death of his

fellow soldier – and friend – Lieutenant Alexis Helmer. McCrae had borne witness to the Allied casualties who had been interred in cemeteries in nearby Flanders, and had been equally moved by the sight of these beautiful flowers scattered amongst the tombstones.

You may have noticed Canadian Forces members of KFOR wearing the poppy around Camp Film City in the lead up to the 11 November Remembrance Day services. It is done so as to commemorate the thousands of sailors, soldiers, and air force personnel who have lost their lives in World Wars, the Korean conflict, as well as several UN and NATO missions that Canada has been involved in.

Poppies come in various colours, however, the poppies



the poppies blow...”

we wear on our lapels are red, as they denote the ultimate sacrifice made in war.

“We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.”

Every November 11 at countless Remembrance Day services throughout Canada, Lieutenant Colonel McCrae’s poem is read aloud just before the two minutes of silence that occur at 11:00 am, to mark the exact moment that the Armistice was signed, which formally ended World War I on 11 November 1918.

To mark this solemn occasion, KFOR Canadian Contingent personnel, other Canadian representatives

from the KFOR civilian workforce, as well as Canadian EULEX police officers, were in attendance as a wreath of Remembrance was laid in front of Canada House. A fitting tribute indeed, as all KFOR soldiers do their part to promote peace and security in this part of the world.

“Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.”

Lest We Forget



Self Defense Basic Course o

Story and Photos by Sergeant Major Bruno Carmine, Italian Army

The Hebrew words "Krav Maga" (KM) translates to English as "contact combat". Originating in Israel, KM is widely recognized in military and law enforcement circles as the most efficient hand-to-hand combat system in existence. Therefore, Krav Maga is taught to aviation and general security personnel, close protection specialists, and elite military and law enforcement personnel.

The KM training program teaches techniques as originally taught by Imi Lichtenfeld. In addition to the KM techniques, the science of neurological strikes is

incorporated into the curriculum. The techniques taught to professionals have now been adapted to provide a rapid learning mechanism to students who are searching for a structured, professional, approach to quickly gain powerful self-protection skills.

KM security techniques focus on performing defensive and offensive exercises, developing the mental attitude necessary to follow through with learned techniques, and nurturing and developing the student's survival instincts. KM security also introduces the student to specific non-lethal percussive neurological techniques that are used to create a dysfunction of the nervous system in the attacker, the idea being to disable but not to cause permanent damage. This is in keeping with the



f KRAV MAGA in Film City

KM security philosophy, that the student must have techniques to cope with attacks of varying severity. Ultimately, this is accomplished by teaching the student a smaller variety of powerful and aggressive offensive and defensive techniques, allowing the student to better assimilate the essential principles of the techniques in less time. At all levels, the KM security curriculum includes unarmed and armed combat strategies and techniques like shooting, infiltration, anti-terrorist theory or response techniques.

In spite of the absence of limitations in KM, we obviously abide by all the necessary safety regulations

to ensure that students can improve their level of practice in a secure environment. We must also however, ensure that no movement, nor any attack, is foreign to us. Aesthetics are of no concern to us; our priority is effectiveness. Our concern is to avoid any false teaching, and to prioritize a culture of effectiveness instead which we will be able to use in moments of absolute necessity. First of all we will make every effort to remain alive. Secondly, we will try to be sufficiently effective to exercise the self-control necessary not to cause irreparable damage. This is the point at which KM becomes a form of martial art.



CRC exercise shows

Story and photos Private First Class Sarah A. Cummings, 130th Public Affairs Detachment

Camp Rigas Fereos, Kosovo –The Kosovo Force Tactical Maneuver Battalion (KTM), along with several multinational partners from across Kosovo, participated in a joint Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) training exercise on 17 November 2010, at Camp Rigas Fereos.

Kosovo Force soldiers from the U.S., Armenia, Greece, Portugal and Ukraine participated in the exercise which was designed to familiarize Multinational Battle Group East (MNBG E) with the tactical techniques and procedures of KTM. “It was also intended to familiarize the KTM with MNBG E and how it operates”, said Major Erick Vega, training and operations exercise planner, MNBG E, Puerto Rico National Guard.

The KTM is a unit comprised of Portuguese soldiers who are specialized in tactical response operations. “They are the ones who react to riots Kosovo wide,” said Vega.

MNBG E troops from Ukraine and the U.S. played the roles of rioters. The rioters wanted to get past the Kosovo Police (KP), played by Greek soldiers, to reach a simulated prisoner. “The rioters wanted to take the law into their own hands”, Vega stated.

As the scenario continued, the rioters got more and more outrageous and the KP had to call in the European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX), as reinforcement. The role of EULEX was played by Armenian troops.

As the demonstrations began to escalate and become more violent, and the crowd started to throw water bottles and tried to break through the line, KFOR was called in to assist.



s KTM role in KFOR

The KTM arrived on the scene in four UH-60 Blackhawk helicopters from MNBG E.

“Aviation training is conducted with the supported units to ensure they know how to safely board and exit the aircraft the day before each exercise. This allows us to ensure everyone is given the proper egress procedures for the aircraft they will be flying on,” said Chief Warrant Officer 5 James Bearden, liaison officer and Blackhawk pilot.

“The KTM formed a blockade to help keep the rioters from breaching the line. Ground reinforcements then arrived with vehicles that would help in providing a physical barrier”, said Portuguese Lieutenant Sergio Marques, Commander of Land Forces, KTM. The combination of CRC personnel and vehicles creates a

moving barrier between a violent crowd and their target.

“It’s better than a wall because it moves with you and helps contain the situation. It also means that we can operate with fewer men on the front line,” said Marques.

“These soldiers are very professional at what they do. They train very hard, and are committed to providing a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement to the people in Kosovo,” said Vega. “Our plan is to build a stronger relationship with the KTM and to perform more training exercises with them,” said Vega. This is the first time KTM and MNBG E have conducted an exercise together.



Charity Event for "Mother & Children"

Story by Master Sergeant Steffen Maluche, German Army
Photos by Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu

Prishtina. For years, KFOR soldiers, apart from their military mission, have been taking matters into their own hands when it comes to helping people directly. Many soldiers literally stumble over the extremely difficult living conditions of many people here in Kosovo. With the cold and dark season of the year approaching, an unpaid electricity bill or a lack of heating material can have consequences unimaginable to most Western Europeans.

The German and American support unit stationed at HQ KFOR have maintained a close partnership with

the "Mother & Children" children's home for years now. When they heard that the windows of the building were leaking and that there would be no money for heating material and electricity bills, two German soldiers started thinking about how they could raise a larger amount of money in a very short time. Chief Petty Officer Freddy Krüger and Petty Officer First Class Toni Willert came up with the spontaneous idea to have a charity party. "What was important for us was to involve as many nations stationed at the HQ as possible", said Chief Petty Officer Krüger. "Organizing the event came about easily," Petty Officer First Class Willert happily states. "As soon as we made the event public, the first comrades already offered their help and took the organization into their own hands", he says.



"Children" children's home

From suckling pigs to mulled wine, the guests could enjoy a well-rounded programme. Organizers and guests from all the different nations were able to spend an alternative evening during which a large amount of donations could be collected. Almost 6,000 Euro in the form of cash and goods was raised. A prime example for the generosity among the soldiers is Master Sergeant Axel Walther, who works in the military Post Office and donated goods worth 1,000 Euros. Andrea Z, a nurse in the Austrian contingent came from Prizren to run a mulled wine booth. Captain Mellak of the Hungarian Air Force set up his sales stand right across from the Austrian booth. Captain Juan A., who worked at one of the American sales stands, said: "I have

children of my own. Whenever I look at the kids living in the children's home, I see my own kids".

That night, the soldiers handed over a large bag of children's clothes to the head of the children's home, Halime Maliqi. These clothes were donated by a well-known clothes manufacturer from Germany. Sergeant Major Klaus Bruckner, who had organized the clothes donation through his private contacts, was visibly touched when Ms. Maliqi gave him a spontaneous hug. In her mind, she surely did not only hug the Sergeant Major, but everyone who devoted their time and energy to the successful outcome of the evening.



Peacekeeper's Profiles

Name: Kristijan Postrak
Rank: Staff Sergeant
Nationality: Slovenian
Home Unit: 17 Military Police Battalion
Unit in KFOR: International Military Police



About the mission: I have been in the Military for 10 years. This is my second Mission, my first was in Afghanistan in 2005. I came to this Mission on 24 August 2010 and expect to return to Slovenia at the end of February 2011. My job here is Team Leader which means I am in charge of a team of 5 personnel in total. We have a number of responsibilities including monitoring KFOR traffic and driving habits, route reconnaissance and escorts, and adherence to bar closing hours in Film City and general compliance with Standard Operating Procedures. The Military Police job is very interesting and varied, I get the opportunity to travel outside KFOR Headquarters and meet different nationalities.



Family reaction: My wife is very supportive. She understands the military way of life and knows that I must serve abroad from time to time. We have a son who is almost 5 years old. We miss each other a lot but Internet and Skype help greatly.

Plans after the mission: I look forward to meeting my family again and we hope to have a holiday together. Then after some time off I will return to my unit and continue my career at home. It's possible that in the future I will return to KFOR.

Name: Sébastien Vignal
Rank: Captain
Unit in KFOR: Company Commander of the 5th squadron,
1st infantry regiment of marine (Angoulême / France)
Military education: School of the Reserve Officer, in Saint-Cyr
Camp.
Civilian work: Education adviser in an elementary school.



About the mission: It's my second time in Kosovo, I was already here in 2008 with my regiment in Belvedere Camp. At that time, I was the UNMIK and KP LNO. Today, I have a double job. I am a watch keeper in the tactical operation centre, and I am also in charge of all the operations to help the population.

Favourite part of my job: All the operations that we do to help the population, having a lot of contacts with local people and doing some actions like giving computers in the schools, or building bridges, these are the things I like about my job.

Family reaction: My wife has accepted my double life. I had to stop serving in the army reserve before I get married, but I missed it too much, so I am doing it again with a lot of pleasure.

Plans after the mission: I will take back my other job in the civilian world, and taking back my squadron: we will have some operations in France next summer, and I have to prepare them. After that, I will undertake the examination to become the director of a high school.



Civilian's Profile

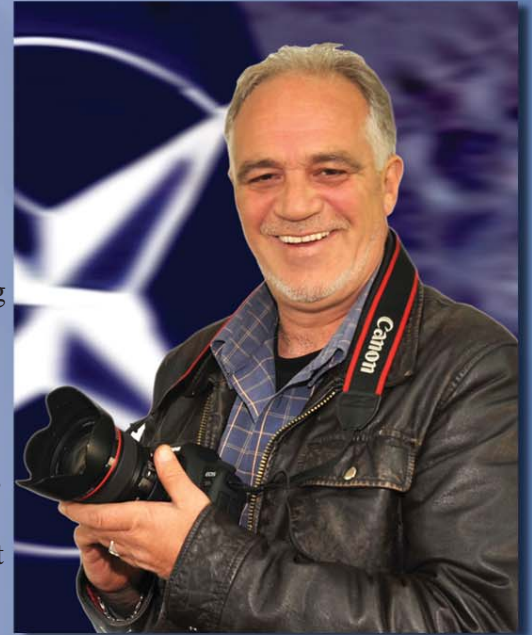
Name: Naim Shala
Job Title: Illustrator/Photographer
Position: PSYOPS

Experience: Working for PSYOPS since January 2005

Language: Albanian, English and Serbian

Job in progress: Since starting working for PSYOPS at the beginning of 2005, my job was to take pictures for the products we prepare as billboards, newspaper inserts, and other needs.

As I have been a professional photographer for the last 30 years, working this way with people, especially with soldiers of many countries, has given me great pleasure. One great thing about this was that I had the opportunity to visit almost every place in Kosovo, bringing greater meaning to the saying: "know your country, to love it more". Now, I work mainly as an illustrator, doing designs for the billboards and newspaper inserts, and also for the novelties we produce as gifts for kids and students all over Kosovo.



Hobbies: I like travelling and I travel a lot, and I like clear water fishing which is my great hobby.

Family reaction: I have three children, Drilon 32, Dren 29 and Drin 20. I am also a grandfather of Toska 7.5 and Gega, 2.5.

KFOR Chronicle Sudoku

Amateur

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Solution
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Amateur

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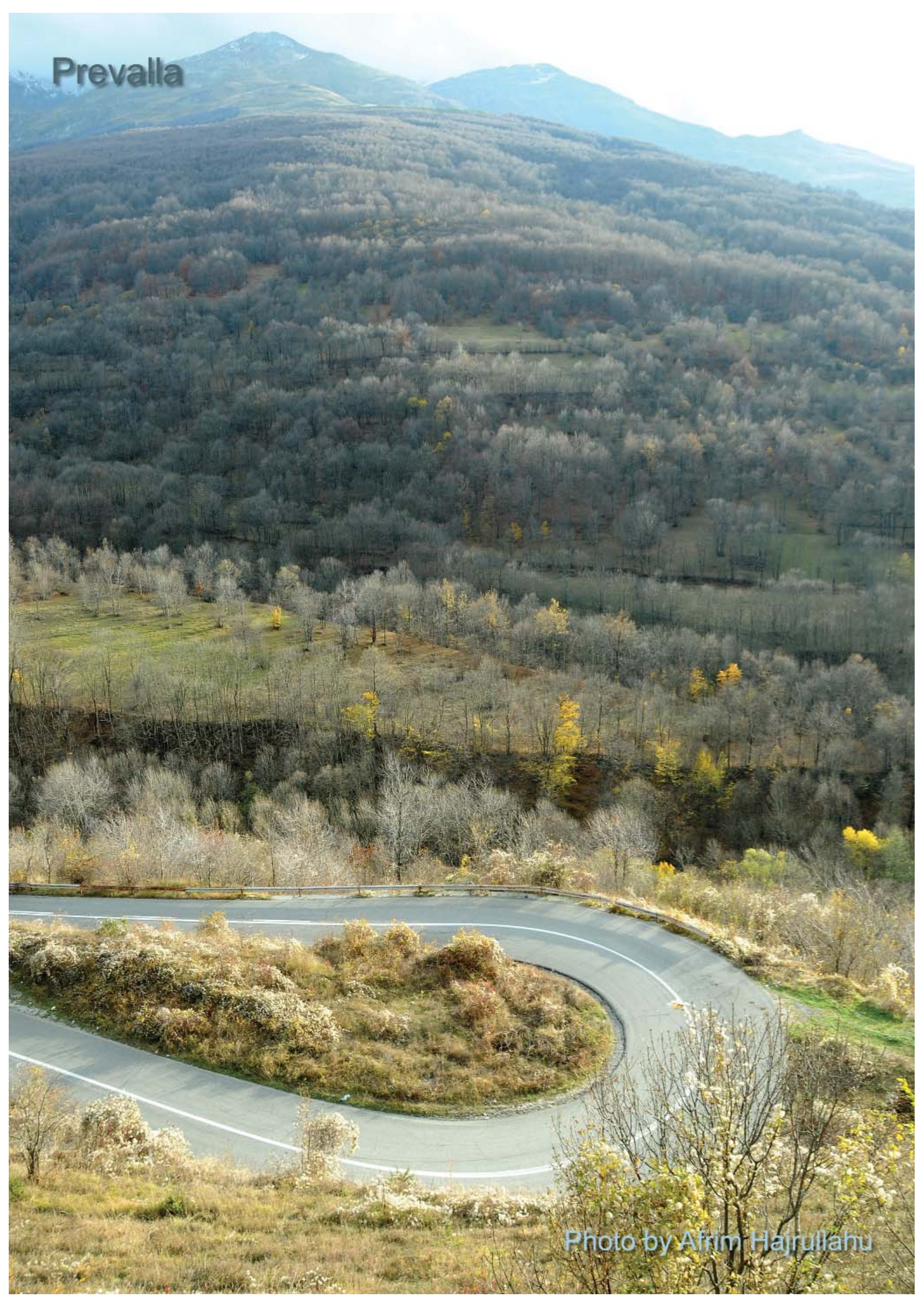


Photo by Afrim Hajrullahu