

KFOR



Chronicle

12th Edition

December 31st 2010



A Winter scene in Kosovo



DCOS MCAD's Perspective

As the Chief of the Military Civilian Advisory Division (MCAD), in charge of the build up of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), I would like to take this opportunity to inform you about the KSF and MCAD.

Ever since the stand up of the KSF in early 2009 the main focus for MCAD has been the training of the KSF on individual and unit levels. The change to the current organisation of the KFOR Headquarters resulted in a focus shift from training to mentoring and advising the KSF on every aspect of their activities, for example operations, training, recruitment, vetting, budget processes, doctrines and regulations, logistics, etc. Basically, what we are talking about is the build up of an organisation that will be able to continue their development, within the Euro-Atlantic security structures and in the region, without the direct support of KFOR.

In accordance with the Ahtissari plan, as well as the laws of Kosovo, the KSF is a professional, all-volunteer, bi-gender, multi-ethnic, lightly armed crisis response organisation under democratic control. Its main task is to provide assistance to the authorities of Kosovo in response to civil emergencies, for example in case of natural disasters such as earthquakes or floods.

Specifically, this means that KSF is focusing on four core capabilities: Explosive Ordnance Disposal (including Demining), response to Hazardous Materials incidents, Fire Fighting, and Search and Rescue. The Core Capability units have, since they got their specialized training and equipment, been involved in real activities inside of Kosovo and abroad. As this is written, the Search and Rescue Company, parts of the Force Police and the Logistics Battalion have been deployed to Albania to support the flood disaster in the Shkodër region. Besides giving the KSF a good reputation the real activities also give the force and its members invaluable experiences in their fields of expertise.

The continued efforts by KFOR are directed by COM KFOR's road map for the development of the KSF. When COM KFOR evaluates the force to have sufficient capacity and self-sustaining capabilities he will report this up the NATO chain of command. Ultimately, the Northern Atlantic Committee will declare KSF possessing Full Operational Capabilities. That means that they will have the capability to take responsibility for their own future development.

The MCAD is characterised by the diversity of the 14 nationalities working there. All that knowledge and experience collected in one's organisations make me, as Chief MCAD, proud. The common effort of MCAD, KFOR's different units as well as the NATO Advisory Team, KSF, and the Ministry of KSF is the key for success to solve this challenging task. Following COM KFOR's motto "Together for Progress", I strongly believe we will succeed.



**Brigadier General Enrico Spagnoli,
Italian Army**

COM KFOR's first quarter review

My dear comrades!

First of all I would like to wish all of you a "Happy New Year 2011".

Now that we have celebrated New Year's Eve, I would like to look back on our common achievements during my first three months as COM KFOR and to address the milestones as we are looking ahead.

Surely, you all had to undergo an exciting and challenging time since 01 September 2010. We have been successful in maintaining a safe and secure environment Kosovo-wide, by performing a number of operations such as "Joint Commitment North" within Northern Kosovo, the area of our main effort during the last months, or "Balkan Hawk". Moreover, KFOR has been running and supporting a couple of high-value exercises, together with our fellow players in the security sector such as Kosovo Police, Kosovo Security Force and EULEX. Let me once again mention the Enthronement Ceremony in Pec on 03 October 2010 and the Parliamentary Elections on 12 December 2010 that went without major incident.

In fact, we have been able to improve the security situation Kosovo-wide and especially around Mitrovica, in a remarkable way, and we have given a clear sign of determination to those who are still trying to undermine stability and peace in Kosovo.

Looking at these positive developments, we have once again started to downsize our troops on our way ahead. Since the approval of the North Atlantic Council to move to Gate 2, we have made remarkable steps towards that goal. Currently, KFOR is reducing its forces from around 10.000 down to 5.000 troops. Downsizing also implies adapting force structures to the requirements on the ground. Beginning in March 2011 KFOR is going to set up five "Joint Regional Detachments" throughout Kosovo as an addition to our two remaining Multinational Battle Groups West and East. We will compensate the reduction by making our units more flexible and mobile. Readiness will be increased and I expect that every soldier is personally determined to contribute to our mission and therefore, to security and mobility in Kosovo.

Your service here will remain demanding and relevant. Although we will be less visible in the front line, KFOR will stand ready to respond to every threat and any rumours with full determination!

My fellow comrades! Together we will shoulder and shape this ongoing, exciting process; stay vigilant and anticipate the challenges to our KFOR-family in the forthcoming year while following our KFOR motto: Together for Progress!



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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 FO

Photos by Master Sergeant Steffen Maluche, German Army



Acting President of Kosovo, Mr. Jakup Krasniqi, joined by Commander Joint Force Command Naples (COM JFCN), Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III and Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler, at a Press Point in Government Buildings, Pristina, on 25 November 2010.

COM KFOR meets school children in Zociste on 26 November 2010.



While visiting Zociste on 26 November 2010, COM KFOR has a small talk with the Kosovo Police.

COM KFOR receives the “Honoris Causa” award from the President of the University of Prizren, Mr Ronald Moench, at the official opening ceremony of the University on 30 November 2010.





Meeting the Greek Guards, COM KFOR presented the medals at the Greek medal parade on 01 December 2010 prior to their rotation out of the Mission.

The “rioters” test KFOR during the Crowd Riot Central Exercise “Silver Sabre” at Camp Vrelo on 10 December 2010.



COM KFOR is surrounded at the Christmas Party at the Mother and Children’s Home in Pristina on 11 December 2010.

COM KFOR meets a local man in Mitrovica on Election Day, 12 December 2010, and is surprised to identify a fan of the soccer club “Bayern München” - the General’s own favourite.



Radio K4 interviews Commander JFC

1st November 2010

As Commander Allied Joint Force Command, Naples, Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III has operational responsibility for NATO missions in the Balkans, Iraq and the Mediterranean. He assumed his duties on 06 October 2010. This is our first interview.

- I am sure that the people of Kosovo would like to know you better, to know more about you. If you don't mind, could you please give us some information about yourself?

- First let me say thank you to the people of Kosovo for making me feel so welcome in the first month that I've had my responsibilities. I have not visited Kosovo before and it's breathtakingly beautiful. It's a wonderful place and I look forward to meeting as many people here as we can.

A little bit about me; I am an Admiral in the United States navy. I have been in the navy since I was 17 years old and I was 56 this week, so a lot of years, going to many places in the world. I am a native of the United States, I was born in a little town in Macon,

State of Georgia and I grew up predominantly in the south of the United States.

I am married to my wife for 32 years, I have two daughters who have graciously given me three grandsons so we are very fortunate. I am a regular golfer and I like country music, and I like skiing when there is good snow.

- This is your first visit as COM JFCN to KFOR. What are your first impressions?

- Well if you look back over the time when I was first associated with Kosovo, which was during the mid to late 90's, when this region of the world was in tremendous turmoil, and then I come here ten to twelve years later, I see dramatic change. It was quite impressive and significant to see the economic vitality, all the new homes, the new roads and a Kosovo people both Albanian and Serbs and the other ethnic groups that are here working together for a common cause on the verge of having another set of democratic elections...I think it's a good story and the rest of the world should be proud of it as should the Kosovo people.



Naples Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III

- Last week KFOR and EULEX conducted a joint exercise "Balkan Hawk 4 -2010" at Camp Vrelo. According to a press release from KFOR Public Affairs Office, this exercise was a part of a long planned training cycle aimed at enhancing KFOR's interoperability and abilities. Will there be these type of exercises in the future?

- Without a doubt. We will continue to work very closely with the Kosovo Police and with EULEX, as Kosovo Police get more experienced and more proficient and they are able to do day-to-day security operations within the country, the growing role of EULEX as they attempt to help Kosovo get the institutions in place for good rule of law and as KFOR evolves, we will of course work very closely with those three groups together to ensure that there is a safe and secure environment in Kosovo.

- How will KFOR be composed after the upcoming changes when the next adaptation process will be taken?

- What you refer to is the Gate process. Currently we are at the gate of roughly around ten thousand people. It's a little less on a given day depending on how the rotations are occurring, but we have decided, NATO has made a decision to move to Gate 2 as you have heard on an open press and that's a good decision. It's a good decision because it reflects the good security environment inside Kosovo, it reflects the growing proficiency and professionalism of the Kosovo Police and the good impact that EULEX is having inside of Kosovo. How we will actually deploy the force and where they will be are operational level things we don't need to talk about on the radio. The bottom line for the Kosovo people is to recognize that KFOR is still here, is still a very capable force and between the Kosovo Police, EULEX and KFOR we are committed to maintaining a secure environment .

- Sir, thank you, it was a pleasure. Thank you for your time and effort.

- Thank you so much.



Swiss Super Pumas quit To

Story by Captain Enrico Campioni, Swiss Army

Photos by Daniel Meyer, Swiss

On Saturday 13 October 2010, after more than eight years, Swiss helicopters terminated sorties out of the German-operated aerodrome at Toplicane, between Suharekë and Prizren. From the outset of operations, on 8 October 2002, the Super Pumas deployed by the Swiss military as part of the Merkur operating group have always lifted off from Toplicane airfield.

As of mid November these high-performance helicopters and all the logistics supporting them have

been relocated to Camp Bondsteel, where the aircraft of the American and other KFOR national contingents are stationed.

“Fly Out Candy 01”, a ceremony held to mark the departure of Switzerland’s helicopter unit from Toplicane, was attended by the Commander of Multinational Battle Group South (MNBG S), Brigadier General Stephan Thomas, and by Divisional Commander Bernhard Müller, Chief of Swiss Air Force operational activities. In his address, Divisional Commander Müller recalled the excellent results achieved over the eight years by the Swiss helicopters at Toplicane and stressed the exceptional



Toplicane for Camp Bondsteel

cooperation and mutual regard established with those running the airfield. General Thomas, in his remarks, drew attention to the considerable operational effort made by the Swiss Air Force detachment, which had proven invaluable over their eight years at Toplicane. In total the number of Swiss Army-related personnel at Toplicane was 223, including 96 pilots (who served 7560 man-days) and 115 specialist staff that clocked up as much as 9351 man-days.

As noted above, as of 15 November the Swiss Air Force Super Pumas now have their operations base at Camp Bondsteel, where they have been allocated space

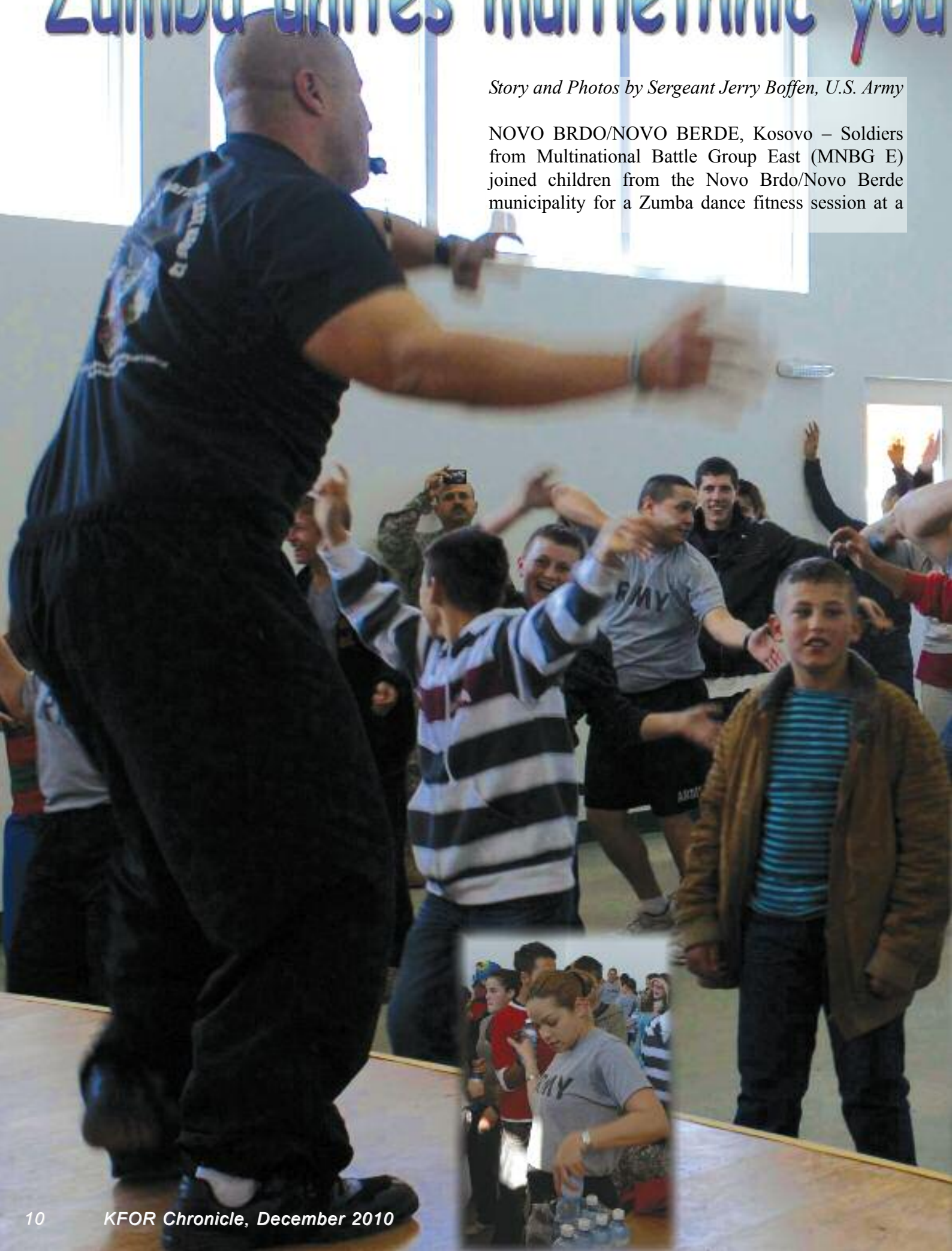
and infrastructure specifically for their duties of peace keeping and supporting the population in Kosovo. Indeed – the point was made by Divisional Commander Müller – the relocation of the Swiss helicopters to Camp Bondsteel shall have no effect on the numbers or the service delivery of the Super Pumas in KFOR operations. They shall continue as efficiently and effectively as ever. Lift-off, however, will now be from the American base of Camp Bondsteel.



Zumba unites multiethnic youth

Story and Photos by Sergeant Jerry Boffen, U.S. Army

NOVO BRDO/NOVO BERDE, Kosovo – Soldiers from Multinational Battle Group East (MNBG E) joined children from the Novo Brdo/Novo Berde municipality for a Zumba dance fitness session at a



ths in Novo Brdo/Novo Berde

community center on 23 October 2010.

Zumba is a fitness program that was created by dancer and choreographer “Beto” Perez in Colombia during the 1990s. The program combines Latin and international music with dance in an effort to make exercise fun.

The program has recently gained large popularity among soldiers in Camp Bondsteel, and members of MNBG E’s 192nd Liaison Monitoring Team decided to bring the sensation to some of the local children.

“In Camp Bondsteel, everybody has been talking about Zumba,” said Captain Luis Garcia, Puerto Rico, officer in charge of LMT 2, “and we thought it would be great to bring it out here to the kids.”

Garcia said that, in addition to giving the children something fun to do, the event was also a chance to set an example for the multiethnic children of the area.

“In MNBG East we have people from all different countries and ethnic backgrounds working together,” said Garcia, a member of the Puerto Rico National Guard, “and this shows the people here that they can all come together, despite their ethnicity. We even have a language barrier, but today we came together through the international language: music.”

More than 75 children, Albanian, Serbian and Roma showed up for the event. The strong turnout was a collaborative effort between members of MNBG E and the municipality.



Please do

Story by Lieutenant Colonel Markus Lesch, German Army

Photos by Corporal Dominik Adams, German Army

Prizren. The growling does not sound peaceful at all. The Belgian shepherd has its ears slightly pinned back and bares its teeth. "Can I pet him?" a visitor to the "Zwingerclub"- the accommodation building of the Guard Dog Team at Camp Prizren - asks with a hint of doubt in his voice. "Generally yes, but only twice", Sergeant Wilhelm S. replies laconically. "Once with your right hand and once with your left hand."

The Zwingerclub had a well-known visitor: Multinational battle Group South (MNBG S) Commander, Brigadier General Stephan Thomas, came to see the Guard Dog Team. There are five patrol dogs at Camp Prizren plus another two explosives detection dogs belonging to the Military Police. The dogs live quite comfortably with eight square meters of "living space" each. "The dog handlers only have 1.5 to three square meters",

states the Lieutenant in charge, "Three men share one room in the living containers."

The dogs even have their own bathroom. It looks really noble with grey tiles and sparkling chrome fittings. However, the dog handler still has to turn on the shower. There is even a treatment room for sick dogs. The doctor of the Veterinary Corps will take care of the four-legged patients.

Dogs have a deterrent effect on shady elements. "We were outside with the dogs and the statement is clear," says the Lieutenant in charge, "When employing a



do not pet!

guard dog, you can cut down on guards." The commander nods. "That's right, the watchdog doesn't know the pocket card".

Currently, the dog patrols are only employed at Toplicane. Cameras secure Camp Prizren, but the dog handlers believe that dogs are the better guards. "The dog will follow a suspicious person, a camera will not." In a larger camp, in particular, a dog will track down a potential thief a lot faster than a regular patrol." "Potential thieves know very well that we have dogs here that will get nasty", says the Master Sergeant.

"Word usually gets around quickly about things like that."

Brigadier General Stephan

Thomas wants to see for himself what such a guard dog is capable of and puts on the thick black protection gear worn to train the animals. The General slips into the role of the thief. The Sergeant says "Attack" and guard dog Hektor jumps up as if struck by lightning. The 45 kilogram dog grabs the arm of the protection gear and does not let go of the General. However, as soon as the dog handler says "Drop it", the dog lies down and does not make another move. Brigadier General Thomas is truly impressed.



Greek Guards

Story by Commandant Eugene Doyle, Irish Defence Forces

Photos by Mr Afrim Hajrullahu

On 01 December 2010, Kosovo Force Commander (COM KFOR), Major General Erhard Bühler, presided over a medal parade which was held exclusively for members of the Greek Guard contingent who are deployed in Film City. They were due to rotate and return to Greece on or about 10 December 2010. The ceremony was held in the multi-function tent as the winter weather is very unpredictable, also, because the ceremony was held at 1900 hrs, evening darkness was not a concerning factor.

After each soldier on parade was presented with the NATO Non Article five medal, COM KFOR stated that: “this was a special ceremony, especially for first time recipients. It was a very proud day for them that they will remember for the rest of their lives”. The “Greek Guards”, as they are colloquially known around Film City, are a Company belonging to Battalion 506 in Camp Rigas Fereos. They arrived in the Mission area on 21 June 2010. Their predecessors, the previous Greek company, had a greater number of people to carry out their allotted tasks. Although the number of personnel in the Company decreased, the number of tasks did not reduce, therefore the Company arriving in June found themselves on a twenty four



Medal Parade

hour, seven day a week, state of readiness. Captain George Bitsis, Greek Army, is very proud of his Company in Film City, “the best Company of Battalion 506”. All the personnel of this Unit are drawn from different Units in Greece. Most of them are from Special Forces, Infantry and Armoured Cavalry. Prior to their arrival in KFOR, they completed one month’s pre-deployment training in Greece, concentrating on the proper use of equipment, weapon firing and Crowd Riot Control.

The main role of the Company is the prevention of malicious actions which could put Camp Film City and its personnel in danger. They constantly man and monitor the security installations of the Camp, a

commitment that is increased to a higher level depending on who is in the Camp. They also have responsibility for Honour Guards for VIP visits, working in tandem with the Joint Visitors Bureau, carrying out their duty in a professional but polite manner. This is appropriate and essential as they create the first impression for anyone visiting Camp Film City. Discretion and diplomacy are also necessary characteristics when performing duty at the main entrance. Sometimes traffic can build up and people might become impatient. That is when the Greek Guards are at their best, skilfully controlling the situation.



Medevac Training

Story by Lieutenant Colonel Zoya Lee-Zerkel, US Air Force

Photos by Lieutenant Colonel Lee-Zerkel and Master Sergeant Jesse Feliciani, US Air Force

On Thursday 18 November 2010, the KFOR JMED conducted MEDEVAC training for the medical staffs of Multinational Battle Group South (MNBG S), MNBG West, HQ KFOR Role 1 and the Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM). Over 40 international medics were present for the training that was held at Camp Bondsteel, graciously arranged by Major Glenn Rubalcava (Task Force Falcon Medical) and superbly conducted by Task Force Griffin, F Company, 2-238th MEDEVAC.

The purpose of this training event was to familiarize international medical staff members with the US aircraft that are, within the new structure, the primary

source of any medical air evacuation events in the KFOR AOR. The flight crew conducted a comprehensive course which included an orientation of the air frame and its capabilities and a detailed review of all medical supplies and equipment used for casualty evacuations.

The 3-Phased training exercise included “Cold Loading” - the process of loading casualties while the aircraft is not running, “Hot Loading” - the process of loading casualties under hostile or time-sensitive constraints while the aircraft is running, and “Hoisting” - the process of loading and unloading casualties while the aircraft is in mid-air and hovering over a specific point. The air crew ran through more than 20 casualty lifting scenarios and all participants received a real hands-on experience and the participants were very pleased with the training received as is illustrated in their reviews:



at Camp Bondsteel

"The MEDEVAC training at Bondsteel was a very valuable experience. The German Role 1 received an insight on how the patients are transported to Roles 2 and 3 in case of an incident. The US instructors did a great job explaining their routines and giving us an idea of how they work. Being hoisted up the Blackhawk was a lifetime experience I will never forget," said Medical Officer Dr. Lutz Graumann, German Army.

"MEDEVAC exercise was a wonderful opportunity to get in touch with different equipments and different techniques of critical victim extraction. Our team is now significantly more prepared to face any medical emergency that may appear in the near future," stated Captain Dr. Ricardo Dias, Portuguese Army.

"We think it was a good course, well prepared and

maintained by a friendly and extremely knowledgeable staff. Even for a doctor and a nurse that had specific training on the subject in Italy, with our helicopters, it was very interesting to try and understand the processes by other means and other personnel from various countries. The joint work is undoubtedly the most important aspect of these events," remarked Captain Dr. Salvatore Manfredi, Italian Army.

With such high praise and substantial benefits reaped, the KFOR JMED office will undoubtedly focus on repeated training events as new medical personnel rotate in and out of theater. KFOR members can rest assured that their medics are trained and ready to respond to any medical event and that they will be treated with swift and superb medical care.



A month in

*Written by László Szűcs, Military Journalist, Hungary
Photos by László Tóth, Military Photographer,
Hungary*

*By arrangement of First Lieutenant Dr Mónika Láda,
Hungarian Defense forces*

Hungarian soldiers served until 06 December 2010, some 30 kilometers from Mitrovicë/Mitrovica, in Camp Nothing Hill in Northern Kosovo. The Transfer of Authority ceremony was held in the presence of the deputy commanders of Multinational BattleGroups (MNBGs) West and North.

The name Nothing Hill is more than appropriate. The most Northern camp of the KFOR Mission is lying between bare hills in the middle of nowhere. There is no permanent staff working in the base and the companies of KFOR's MNBGs serve in the camp on a

4 weeks rotation. Their tasks are presence patrol, camp protection, and securing the Kosovo-Serbian border crossing point called GATE-1. Besides, one platoon of the company permanently remains on stand-by as a Quick Reaction Force at the base.

Last month, the Polish manoeuvre company of MNBG E served in Nothing Hill, followed by the Hungarians. The Company started its deployment from Pejë/Peč – in the West of Kosovo – on 08 November 2010. The official Transfer of Authority ceremony, where Lieutenant Colonel Boris Rutar, Deputy Commander of MNBG W, Lieutenant Colonel Zoltán Katona, Chief of Staff of MNBG W, Lieutenant Colonel J.P. Nyrupe, Deputy Commander of MNBG N, and Lieutenant Colonel László Kanyó, Commander of the Hungarian KFOR Contingent took part, was held on 10 November 2010.



the North

After lowering the Polish flag and raising the Hungarian flag Lieutenant Colonel Nyrup highlighted in his speech that NATO managed to create a safe and secure environment in Northern Kosovo, which is a vital criterion of the final political solution in the region. The following weeks and months were important in arranging Kosovo's future – added the deputy commander of MNBG N.

Lieutenant Colonel Nyrup said to the Polish soldiers that they had done a professional job, they had managed to maintain the security in the area of Mitrovica which was of real importance for KFOR. Now they could return to their home base to continue their mission in Kosovo, in MNBG E.

“This is not the first time that you are serving here in Nothing Hill”, Nyrup said to the Hungarian soldiers. He added that he was sure they would perform a successful tour.

During the ceremony the Slovenian flag was raised as

well, next to the Hungarian flag, because the service of the Hungarian soldiers will be supported by Slovenian interpreters during that month.



Opening ceremony o

Story by Laurent Chester (NAMSA), England
Photos courtesy of JLSG

The ExFis/Supreme Fuel Depot was opened by Commander Joint Logistics Support Group (COM JLSG) Brigadier General Hans-Joachim Fischer on 08 November 2010 at Slatina, Kosovo, marking another great milestone in the provision of fuel for KFOR.

After the SHAPE lead bidding process of a controlled outsourcing, JLSG KFOR in close coordination with the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) will perform the bulk fuel supply, while

JLSG KFOR coordinates the requirements and plans for the fuel supply at theatre level and NAMSA is responsible for monitoring the fuel contract.

In the new fuel depot there are several tanks (4 large tanks have 120 million litre capacities and 1 small tank has 35000 litre capacity) for the total variety of fuel: Diesel fuel, Jet fuel and Gasoline.

Opening the fuel depot sets a new milestone in KFOR support. In his speech COM JLSG KFOR, Brigadier General Hans-Joachim Fischer thanked all those who have provided this service over the past eleven years.

Looking to the future, he said, it is clear for all to see



f fuel depot SLATINA

that a massive amount of investment has taken place both in infrastructure and in the new fleet of vehicles to ensure that a product of the highest quality is delivered to the military in a timely and safe manner. He welcomed the new customer nations and thanked them for their confidence in the partnership that has delivered this service.

In a note of advertising he added “Please remember, the more use that’s made of it – the cheaper it gets”.

The depot will furnish the needs of KFOR for the duration of the mission and has been built with road

and rail links to maximize efficiency and reduce the time taken to replenish stocks.

Nations have the option to collect the fuel at Fuel Depot Slatina or fuel could be delivered to the camps.

In addition to its primary function, there are also collateral benefits that the depot will bring to the local economy, through the employment of 20+ local civilians in the day to day operations; and also, as the depot flourishes, contractors will be engaged to expand and maintain the infrastructure.



Transfer of authority at

Story by Lieutenant Anouar Abdelhalim El Hayani,
Moroccan Army

Photos by Corporal Chef John Auxire, French Army

On Thursday, 25 November 2010, Colonel Frank Barrera, Commanding Officer of Multinational Battle Group North (MNBG N), in the presence of Colonel Georgios Xatzitheofanous, Commanding Officer of the Hellenic contingent within KFOR, presided over the Transfer of Authority (TOA) between Lieutenant Colonel Dimitrios Pantziokas, the Commanding Officer of 644th Mechanized Infantry Battalion and his successor, Lieutenant Colonel Grigorios Bountliakis, the Commanding Officer of 645th Mechanized Infantry Battalion

The TOA ceremony conducted at Camp Belvedere in

Mitrovica was attended by several distinguished civilian and military authorities.

After an inspection of the parade, Colonel Frank Barrera, thanked the Hellenic soldiers for their professionalism and their attitude. In his speech, he said: "I would like to express all my gratitude for your constant and active contribution to the mission of the Battle Group North. Under the leadership of your companies' commanders, you have taken part in several operations and performed countless daily patrols and missions for the benefit of all communities."

During the last six and a half months, 2nd and 3rd Hellenic companies implemented their knowledge and their inter-personal skills to fulfil delicate tasks in sensitive areas in order to ensure peace and stability. Colonel Frank Barrera, in his speech, also highlighted



the Hellenic companies

the outstanding capabilities and the discipline of the two companies. COM MNBG-N also shed light on the Liaison Monitoring Teams (LMTs); two Hellenic teams which were performing their tasks within the MNBG-N Area of Responsibility:

“By your hard work, you have contributed also to the positive perception that the population has about KFOR’s action.”

He expressed his gratitude and his satisfaction to Lieutenant Colonel Dimitrios Pantziokas, and seized the opportunity to wish a safe return to the 644th mechanized infantry battalion: “I wish your battalion a

good and safe return home to your families. God bless you and thank you for all that you have done”.

At the end of his speech, Colonel Barrera welcomed the two companies which will be under his command. He stressed the many tasks that the MNBG-N has to perform, saying: “This ceremony gives me the opportunity to welcome my two Hellenic units under the command of Captain Margetos and Captain Koukoufikis. A lot remains to be done here in Kosovo. But I know that I can rely on your skills, your professionalism and your honest behaviour”.



Celebration of Carabinieri Patron “

Story by Warrant officer Francesco Nanni, Italian Carabinieri

Photos by warrant Officer Vecchio Filippo, Italian Carabinieri

On the morning of 21 November 2010, in the big tent on the main square of Multinational Specialized Unit (MSU) base in Pristina, Carabinieri celebrated the anniversary of their patron "Virgo Fidelis" and the 69th anniversary of the Battle of Culqualber (Ethiopia), where they fought against the British Army during World War II. At the end of World War II, Pope Pio XII appointed Maria Virgo Fidelis as patron of the Carabinieri Army for their devotion to duty and

fidelity and their willingness to make the extreme sacrifice. That is what typifies the Carabinieri since their foundation in 1814 and this is well represented by the sentence on the image of Virgo Fidelis: "Be faithful actually to the death."

The religious ceremony, officiated by Georgy Dode, Bishop of Prizren and Pristina, together with the chaplain of the base, Don Mauro Colarusso, was also the occasion to gather personnel of MSU and European Union Rule of Law Mission (EULEX), and some of those belonging to the international contingent around the figure of Maria "Virgo Fidelis". The soldiers of the international contingent work together for a project of peace and for this the Bishop



"VIRGO FIDELIS" in the MSU Base

thanked them, in the name of his own country, wishing them to continue for a long time in their work of help and collaboration with the population of Kosovo.

The ceremony was attended by civil and military authorities including the Ambassador of Italy in Kosovo, Michael Giffoni, the Deputy Commander of KFOR, Brigadier General Marco Serronha, the Italian Senior National Representative, Brigadier General Enrico Spagnoli and many other KFOR and EULEX officers, both Italian and non-Italian.

After the religious ceremony, the MSU Commander, Colonel Eduardo Russo recalled the exploits of the "heroes of Culqualber" and their example of dedication and sacrifice, in which survivors earned the military honors and the Carabinieri flag was awarded

with a "Gold Medal for Military Valour".

The reappearance of the Virgo Fidelis for the Carabinieri Army also marks the celebration of the day of the children of all the Carabinieri personnel that, in peace and in war, have offered their own lives for their country. It is therefore the occasion, even though at a distance from Italy, to connect themselves to their relatives and to allow them to feel our affection and our proximity.

The ceremony ended with the Virgo Fidelis hymn after which, the Carabinieri and their guests gathered in a fraternal banquet in the mess on the base.



Key Leaders

Story by Commandant Eugene Doyle, Irish Defence Forces

Photos by Mr Afrim Hajrullahu

From 07 to 14 December 2010, HQ KFOR organized Key Leader Training (KLT) for designated key leaders. Participants of ranks from Lieutenant to Colonel were representing 16 different countries.

It is important that HQ KFOR remains efficient during the rotation period of key staff positions, so the purpose of KLT was familiarization of all designated

leaders with the situation in Kosovo, KFOR organization and current key issues as well as to acquaint the future Key Leaders with their new tasks, and to prepare a smooth transition without loss of continuity. Training also allows future key leaders to meet current leaders and future colleagues in HQ KFOR, to see all Multinational Battle Groups (MNBGs) and other units and agencies.

Training consists of a theoretical part which included briefings from Military Civil Advisory Division (MCAD) and all other HQ KFOR branches, sections



er Training

and tenant units. During the practical part, participants visited the Silver Sabre Crowd Riot Control exercise and all MNBGs. KLT was concluded in the German NSE with a farewell dinner on 14 December, hosted by HQ KFOR Chief of Staff.

This will ensure that future Key Leaders have the necessary knowledge and information to begin their duties without degradation to mission accomplishment.

Four Key Leader sessions are organized every year in HQ KFOR, in order to provide future Key Leaders

with training on KFOR operations, in addition, one Command Group Key Leader Training (CG KLT, also called Flag KLT) is organized every year in HQ KFOR, allowing the future Command Group Key Leaders to meet current Key Leaders in HQ KFOR MNBGs, and other international organizations/agencies.

CG KLT is normally scheduled at the end of June as a separate session from regular KLT.



2 Weeks Notice to Play

Story by Commandant Eugene Doyle, Irish Defence Forces

Photos by Master Sergeant Steffen Maluche, German Army

Film City band, 2 WNTP (2 Weeks Notice To Play), rocked the German Ark on Saturday night, 11 December 2010, to a full house who responded to their fellow soldiers on stage.

2 WNTP came together on Sunday 28 November 2010. The idea for this band first came about on Sunday 21 November when a visiting German Police band played the German Ark. A couple of KFOR soldiers joined the band on stage for a short while and this prompted the question: Why can't we have our own band? Most important of all though, why not a pre-Christmas charity concert?

For a number of years the German and American soldiers stationed at Film City have given great support to the Mother and Children's Home. So, when

it came to choosing a charity for the band night, there was no hesitation!

The band is composed of Anica, German Army, and Myrna, US Army, who take care of vocals. Jürgen, German Army, and Beno, Czech Air Force, man the guitars. Pieter, Dutch Army, plays the keyboard. Bajram, from Kosovo, is master of the drums.

On the afternoon of Saturday 11 December 2010, Myrna, Anica, Jürgen and Beno performed at the Mother and Children's Home during a Christmas party for the children. Kosovo Force Commander, Major General Erhard Bühler, in his speech at the party, pledged his support to this establishment. Therefore it was gratifying on Saturday night that a sum of 720 Euro was collected for this charity. Great credit is due to all who contributed. This was the most important aspect of the whole venture.



The Opening and Closing of Camp Ville

Story by Commandant Eugene Doyle, Irish Defence Forces

Photos by Commander Pasi Rantakari, Finnish Navy

On 31 December 2010, Colonel Kari Sainio, Joint Effects Coordination Deputy and CIMIC Chief, ceremonially lowered the flag for the last time at Camp Ville and closed the Camp. It is an amazing coincidence that it was also Colonel Sainio who ceremonially raised the flag to officially open Camp Ville at exactly midnight on 30 September 1999. At that time in 1999, as Battalion Commander of the Finnish Battalion, Colonel Sainio took over the Camp from a British Royal Gurkha Rifles Battalion who had been there temporarily.

He commanded approximately 1,000 Finnish soldiers, spread throughout 14 camps in total, of which Camp Ville was the Main battalion HQ. At that time, the

Finnish Battalion was a part of Multinational Brigade Centre (MNB C). Together with Sweden, Norway, the UK and Canada, the total strength of MNB C was over 7,000 and it was led by Brigadier Peter Pearson, UK Army. Altogether, there were 5 MNBs and the total strength of KFOR was approximately 50,000, led by General Mike Jackson, UK Army.

Colonel Sainio, in line with Finnish military traditions, decided to name the Camp after his son, Ville, who was three years old at that time. He could never have known that he would close the Camp eleven years later. In the interim years while Camp Ville was fully operational, Colonel Sainio served with EUFOR in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, where the Finnish NSE compound is named after his daughter, Ella. Ella, having learned of her brother's fame in Kosovo, did not want to be left out. The Sainio family have certainly left their mark on the Balkans.



Peacekeeper's Profiles

Name : Martin Pedersen

Rank : First Lieutenant

Nationality : Danish

Home unit : Jutland dragon regiment

Unit in KFOR : 5th company of the MNBG N

Military education: At first, I was a Private soldier. Five years ago, I started the officer academy course. I am a platoon leader now, since last august.

About the mission: I am the platoon leader of the first platoon. I have 27 soldiers under my command. We are here for six months. My principal work is to arm the Quick Reaction Force, in the Area Of Responsibility (AOR) North, and to train my platoon in Crowd and Riot Control. I can also carry out some vehicle check points, or some long duration patrols in the AOR. It is my fourth mission, I have already been in Kosovo in 1999, as a soldier. After that, I came back to the Balkans in 2002, in NATO SFOR (Bosnia). More recently, I went to Iraq.

Family reaction: They always support me, but now after three and a half months, they want me to come back! I will stay here until mid-february.

Plans after the mission: Firstly, I will take some holidays, to spend some time with my family, and then, I will go back to my regiment. I will become a tank platoon leader on "Leopard 2". I will be a tank platoon leader for two or three years.

Hobbies : Running and hockey in the gymnasium.



Name: Siegfried Reindl

Rank: Staff Sergeant

Nationality: Austrian

Home unit: Reserve

Unit in KFOR: Austrian NSE

Military education: 8 Month Basic Training in 3rd Helicopter fleet in Hürsching, Upper Austria. After this Basic Training, I served as an Infantry troop leader in the reserve in 4 Mechanized Tank Battalion.

About the mission: This is my 16th mission. Twice I served at the Golan Heights in Syria and 14 times in Kosovo. The first 10 times in Kosovo, I served in Suva Reka Camp, Casablanca. I did almost every job there. In the beginning I served as a gunner on a Pandur tank to a 2nd Commander from a Recce Squad. After my time in Infantry, I served in the S1 section and then up to G4/1.

Also I worked as driver for the Austrian NCC in Prizren and since May 2010 I am serving in Pristina in the National Support Element for the soldiers who work in HQ KFOR.

Family reaction: I am single but I live with a very nice lady called Margit. We have two girls, Marina and Ramona, who are aged 17 and 23 respectively.

Thank God we can use skype. Therefore I have the possibility to call my family a few times a day. It is very important for me to stay in contact with my family.

Plans after the mission: After mission I will return to my civilian job as an official at the Austrian Post Agency.

Hobbies: In my spare time I like to do sport, especially going to the gym, and using the running field.



Civilian's Profile

Name: Tanush Vraniqi

Job Title: Catering Manager

Dept: DFAC Film City

Languages: Albanian, English, Turkish and Serbian.

Experience: I started working as a chef in January 2000 with the British army at Camp Slim Lines; I spent eight years there and was promoted to the position of catering manager.

I joined the catering team at the DFAC film city in 2008, and have been employed there since. My main tasks are to administer personnel, menu planning, budgeting control, quality assurance, and passes and security for staff and visitors to the DFAC. AND MY ITALIAN IS IMPROVING!

I have recently joined CIANO T & S and am enjoying the challenge of catering for the multinationals on camp.

Family: I am married to Igballe, who I have known since 2004.

We have two children, Elda our daughter who is four years old and Erion our son who is two years old.



Interests: my main interest is my wife and family followed by football (when she lets me watch it) and cooking which she lets me do all the time

Amateur

KFOR Chronicle Sudoku

Profi

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

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

Solution

November Edition

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

Amateur

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

Profi

Kulla Osdautaj (traditional stone "Tower House") in the Dukagjini village of Isniq



Photo by Afrim Hajrullahu