



# KFOR CHRONICLE



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*Officers, NCOs, Soldiers and Civilians of KFOR,*

**H**ere we are at the start of a new year. A new year brings promise. A chance for a new start, re-birth, new beginning. Most people in the world celebrate this time and recognize the opportunity to leave the past behind and move on to the future. For some of us serving here in KFOR, New Year's Day might simply mean another day in-country. For those who just joined KFOR, you are starting on a new adventure.

There are many traditions associated with bringing in the New Year. They range from kissing at midnight to fireworks to good luck rituals. New Year's resolutions are usually made (and quickly broken). A resolution is a sort of promise you make to yourself. For most, their resolution is to conduct a change within themselves that might ultimately lead to a change in their surroundings.

The world KFOR works in is one that is ever-evolving. Since I arrived in September 2012, we have seen major political and military developments in Kosovo for example, the End of Supervised Independence, the end of the ORF mission, and the establishment of the IBM agreement. The opportunity to bring about change is abundant. Whether through CIMIC projects, Soldier-to-local populace interactions, or nation-to-nation collaborations, we are helping to shape the Kosovo environment. We interact positively with the lo-



PICTURE: A. KUYUMDJIAN

cal society.

As we embark on another twelve months, let's look back to our experiences, remembering and learning from them, so we can prepare to transform not only ourselves, but our environment and those around us. We enhance our efforts

“Forward Together”.

**MAJOR GENERAL VOLKER R. HALBAUER  
COMMANDER KOSOVO FORCE**

## EXERCISE “SLEIGH RIDE” IN CAMP SPARTA

On the 9th of January 2013, in and around Camp Sparta, near the Decani Monastery, a joint Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) exercise was conducted by the Kosovo Tactical Manoeuvre (KTM) Company (Coy), Multi National Battle Group West, Multi National Battle Group East, Task Force Aviation and several KFOR Helicopter Detachments.

The concept of the exercise was twofold. Firstly, to exercise the KTM Coy in the deployment, by Air to a problematic location. Secondly, to exercise the platoons of the Manoeuvre Battalion of MNBG W in the protection of important religious sites, such as the Decani

Monastery. In the exercise scenario, MNBG W HQ decided to deploy CRC elements to maintain a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) and Freedom of Movement (FOM) in the area of Decani and to protect the Monastery. Due to the size of the demonstration, COM MNBG W, requested from KFOR HQ, that KTM reinforcements be committed by helicopter, in order to restore SASE and FOM.

In two waves, a Coy of KTM troops, fully equipped for a 24 hour exercise, was transported by six helicopters from Camp Slim lines to Camp Sparta, in order to reinforce a coy of the Manoeuvre Battalion of the MNBG W.

After the arrival and deployment of the KTM, the ground exercise started and was split in two phases. The first phase was executed on the Supply Route (SR) RHINO, which is the road that leads from Decani to the Monastery, and involved the control of an angry mob intent on destruction. The second phase was conducted inside Camp Sparta, simulating a threat to SASE and FOM by a riotous crowd in front of the simulated Town Hall.

The scenario tasked BLUEFOR, which was composed of a coy from KTM, under tactical control (TACON) to MNBG W and two platoons from MNBGW, to contain and disperse the protesters by



STORY: R. COSTA

PICTURES: A. KUYUMDJAN



CRC techniques such as “testudo”, “charge”, “forward” and “backward” movement, in accordance with NATO guidance.

The exercise was planned and directed by J3 AIR CONOPS, Maj Plesa, and COS MNBG W, Lt Col Fronck.

This exercise, and the cross training involved, has improved and increased the capacity of coordinating and conducting joint operations between KFOR units. It also contributed to increasing cohesion and to standardize Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) between personnel of different nations operating in Kosovo.

It is important to mention that in

order to have a realistic situation for this exercise, the traffic on the public road SR RHINO was closed for 90 minutes. This was only made possible due to the joint cooperation of the Kosovo Police and KFOR MP Units.

The exercise “Sleigh Ride” was a success and an important step forward in joint training and the realistic execution of possible KFOR missions. The exercise also showed the determination and the capabilities of KFOR to the local authorities and municipalities to complete its mission. ■

# SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT AND FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT



PICTURES: R. COSTA, A. KUYUMDJAN and MNBG E PAO



## BASIC GUIDELINES ON DEALING WITH THE MEDIA

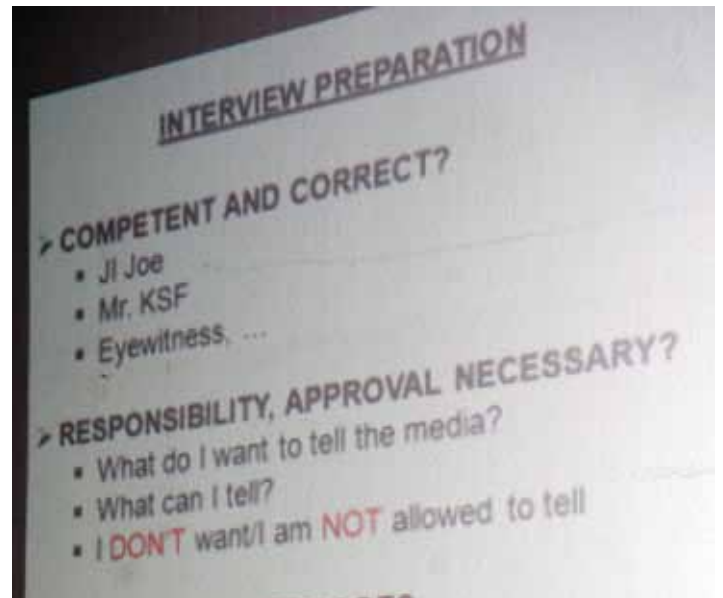
Media Training, as an Enhanced Cooperation Project between KFOR Public Affairs Office (PAO) and Kosovo Security Force (KSF) Crisis Response Liaison Team (CRLT), was conducted at Adem Jashari Barracks Pristina on the 18th and 19th of December. This media training was coordinated by the Military Civilian Advisory Division (MCAD), Land Force Command Branch.

The purpose of the media training was to introduce the students to the

basic guidelines used to deal with the media. Furthermore, students were given the experience of how to react in different situations (e.g. making a statement or give a live interview in front of a journalist and camera). The students were given the opportunity to receive feedback on their performance from the PAO staff.

The training was oversubscribed as word of the training spread within the KSF. In total, eleven students underwent this media training. Six

of the students were from the KSF CRLT, three students from KSF Force Police and two students from PAO of KSF Land Force Command. The training was conducted in a very professional and friendly manner. The students gained an invaluable insight into the preparation required prior to the conduct of an interview and the conduct of a live interview. They experienced the difference between a friendly and a hostile interviewer. The PAO staff explained how they dealt with



different styles of interviewers and passed on some “tricks of the trade” in order to function in different situations.

The KSF students developed quickly and one of the students who earlier had received media training in Macedonia, helped out as co-instructor. All students were very complementary in their comments on the training they had received



## SHARE EXPERIENCES AND EXCHANGE KNOWLEDGE

On Monday, January 14, and Tuesday, January 15, the first Regional Senior Non Commissioned Officers (NCO) Conference, hosted by the Command Sergeant Major of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), OR-9 Fetah ZEJNULLAHU, was held at the Hotel Adria in Pristina. The conference was attended by senior NCOs serving with KFOR. The purpose of this conference was to provide a forum where senior NCOs could share experiences and exchange knowledge. The opening remarks were given by the Commander of the KSF, Lt Gen Kadri KASTRATI. He emphasised the importance of this event as it was a great opportunity

to exchange knowledge and experiences amongst all of the participants. A total of seventeen Senior Enlisted Leaders from eight different countries accepted the invitation to attend the conference. Each attendee presented a briefing on his national NCO training system. On day one, the forum discussed successes achieved, challenges ahead, recommended best practises and techniques for the further development of the NCO Corps within the KSF. Day one culminated with the taking of a group photograph. On day two, the conference continued with further presentations on subjects such as training and courses at the

NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany and the 7th US Army NCO Academy in Grafenwöhr, Germany. This was followed by a visit to the KSF Training and Doctrine



Command (TRADOC) in Ferizaj. On the return to the conference venue, the Minister of the KSF, Mr Agim CEKU, presented certificates to all the participants. Finally, an After Action Review (AAR) was held. All participants evaluated this event as a success and recommended that this method of cooperation should be undertaken again in the near future. ■

### FOR MORE THAN A DECADE, AN IMPORTANT PART OF NATO IN

It has been slightly over two months since, on the main square of Camp Villaggio Italia, I took over the command of the Multinational Battle Group West (MNBG W).

Although some time has passed since that day, it is still too short a period of time for an after action review on my mission, but let me express through these few words, my thoughts as the Commander of MNBG W, on the tasks and the quality of my forces.

The current operational configuration of MNBG W consists of the Manoeuvre Battalion (Italian headed) consisting of two Slovenian Companies (Coy), one Austrian Coy and one Italian Coy. Their tasks include patrolling, conducting observation posts, monitoring of the ABL in close cooperation with the Kosovo Police and the Serbian Armed Forces and the responsibility to operate as 2nd Layer TACRES Kosovo wide.

In accordance with the UN Resolution 1244, the main task of MNBG W is to ensure a SASE and FOM to the inhabitants of the region. I would like to remind readers, that in this part of Kosovo there are still two Orthodox religious sites of high cultural, historical and religious value, as well as UNESCO World Heritage Sites. These are the Pec Patriarchate and the Decani Visoki Monastery which are both guarded by MNBG W. These sites are actually the only two Properties with Designated Special Status (PrDSS) in the region whose security is still the responsibility of KFOR. Considering these



difficult times in the history of Kosovo and in light of the delicate ongoing diplomatic negotiations between Serbia and Kosovo, this is an important task carried out with professionalism and dedication by the soldiers and the staff of MNBG W.

Of no less importance are the daily tasks that are carried out, such

as patrolling during the day and the night in the Serbian enclaves, in order to ensure freedom of movement to the inhabitants while and at the same time being very much aware of the principles of impartiality defined in the mandate of our mission.

Due to the presence of several Serbian enclaves in the Area of

## KOSOVO

Interest West (AOIW), the MNBG W carries out several Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) projects aimed to improve the living standards in these enclaves, and thereby improving the economic conditions in the region. MNBG W CIMIC teams provide medium and long term-projects, not just for immediate distribution of goods, but as a real investment in terms of the future of the region.

As mentioned at the beginning, the time for an after action review has

not yet come, but it is enough to say that the perception of KFOR troops in the west by the population is very positive, regardless of ethnicity. The daily manifestations of appreciation by the local institutions, religious and law representatives, or just the children greeting our patrols along the roads of the region are the best example for the well-recognised work carried out by MNBG W.

The credit goes to the professionalism of the men and women of MNBG W as well as to the excellent work

of the contingents that have been our predecessors.

Forward together!

**COLONEL ASCENZO TOCCI  
COMMANDER MULTINATIONAL  
BATTLE GROUP WEST**



# KFOR CHRONICLE PHOTO COMPETITION WINNERS AND HONORABLE MENTIONS

After much deliberation and debate among the judges, the winners of the MWA sponsored KFOR Chronicle Photographic Competition for December 2012, have been selected. The three best entries selected by the judges were, in first place, Lt David

VOGEL, in second place, Lt Tomas KONCICKY and in third place, Staff Sgt Jamil FAYED. The winners were presented with their prizes and a certificate by Major General HALBAUER COM KFOR at the Public Affairs Office. COM KFOR congratulated the winners and

complemented favourably on the winning entries. The presentation of prizes was attended by OR-9 Roberto BATTISTA, representing the event sponsor, MWA. ■



PICTURE: DAVID VOGEL

1<sup>ST</sup>



PICTURE: TOMAS KONCICKY

2<sup>ND</sup>



PICTURE: JAMIL FAYED

3<sup>RD</sup>



PICTURE: OF-2 RODRIGUES



PICTURE: RICARDO COSTA

PICTURE: JASON DADY



PICTURE: ALES STYBOR

PICTURE: MIROSLAW BODNAR



PICTURE: ANDRÉ PRIESS

PICTURE: JÜRGEN BREDTMANN



## HELPING THE SAMI FRASHERI PRIMARY SCHOOL

ZITINJE/ZHITI is a small village situated in the north-western part of PODUJEVO/PODUJEVE Municipality, the Area of Responsibility (AOR) of the Hungarian Liaison Monitoring Team (LMT) (C4) in Joint Regional Detachment Centre. LMT (C4), having spoken with Mr. Nebih AVDIU, the village leader of ZITINJE/ZHITI and a teacher by profession in the local primary school, were informed about the poor conditions of the school. The 'Sami Frasheri' Primary School was built in 1971 and is in a very bad state in regards to both the condition of the building and its equipment. The roof of the school is leaking, there are no computers at all and the classrooms are poorly furnished. Due to the poor financial situation of the local families and the fact that the village is situated in a remote area, there are no plans for any reconstruction. The villagers cannot afford to help improve the situation either. Thus both the school and the village were in great need



of assistance. The school is attended by approximately 100 students from ZITINJE/ZHITI and BRECE/BRECE, in all nine grades, with 15 teachers who also work in the three 3 satellite schools that belong to 'Sami Frasheri' in MURGULA/MURGULLE, GORNJA TRNOVICA/TERNOVICE E EPERME and SILJEVICA/SYLEVICE.

Being aware of the needs of the stu-

dents and the school, a civil military cooperation (CIMIC) project request was made by C4 and submitted to JRD C. This was later accepted and the project was approved by COMKFOR as one of the six accepted CIMIC projects for 2012. The distributed articles under this project included basic educational items such as writing utensils, maps, whiteboards and electronic equipment such as DVD/CD players and a flat screen TV. The package was handed over to the school principal, Mr. Xhavit DEMA and the faculty on 3 December, 2012 in the presence of Lt Col Günter FÜRWEGER, (HQ CIMIC officer), Lt Gergő CSERMÁK (JRD C) and the entire Hungarian Liaison Monitoring Team.

With this CIMIC project, KFOR helped the neighbourhood of ZITINJE/ZHITI which was in a very poor situation, but also assisted the surrounding five villages as well. ■



## FROM OY-MITTELBERG TO ZUPCE



12 December 2012 was a special day at the eighty-year-old school in Zupce. During school hours, several German KFOR vehicles arrived. Soldiers hopped off and set up several tables in a hurry. Some minutes later, the schoolyard had been transformed into a gigantic gift station in the snow.

The gift-parcel program had been devised by OR-9 Bernhard S, Company Sergeant Major of 2nd Coy Operational Reserve Force (ORF) Battalion (Bn), together with the community of the Allgäu town of Oy-Mittelberg in coordination with the headmistress, of the school in Northern Kosovo. Following the appeal to “help the children in Kosovo”, teachers, parents and pupils of the elementary and middle school in Oy-Mittelberg collected toys, sweets, pencils, rulers, exercise books, sketch pads, clothes

and even satchels. In addition, they bought several snow suits.

Dragica Djurovic is the headmistress of the elementary school in Zupce. “We have 96 pupils aged from 6 to 15 years attending eight grades, split evenly among boys and girls”, she says. Lessons are held in the subjects of Serbian, Russian, English, Math, Chemistry, Physics, History, Art, and Religious Education.

The current situation in Kosovo is calm and everything is white and peaceful. The school in Zupce is located in the north of Kosovo. Here, in the Municipality of Zubin Potok, there have been violent demonstrations in the past. The recent peace process has been accompanied by demonstrations, however what matters most in any democracy is that all these demonstrations have remained peaceful.

The KFOR soldiers present enjoyed the sunny winter morning. Grade after grade, the headmistress signals her pupils to enter the schoolyard. Beginning with the youngest, all of them selected a gift. The Oy-Mittelberg community and a collection of the Catholic and Lutheran chaplains in Pristina, Novo Selo and Prizren together have amassed an enormous amount of gifts. The children were overwhelmed. They were very shy at first, but soon they open up to the soldiers. They were very happy with their gifts and afterwards posed in the schoolyard for some souvenir photos.

For the future, nothing is more important than the children’s education. For the moment however, nothing is more important than the warmth of the children’s shining eyes. ■



STORY: J. BREDTMANN

PICTURES: ANDRÉ P.

## FOR YOU MAGAZINE CELEBRATES ITS 10<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

On Saturday the 15<sup>th</sup> of December 2012, the “For You” magazine marked its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. To mark this event a ceremony was organised, with the participation of approximately 100 young girls and boys and their parents from all around Kosovo. Also in attendance were school directors, singers, sportsmen as well as many representatives of KFOR. All of the children were invited to contest the final of the quiz “10 Years with For You”.



Opening the evening’s proceedings, the editor of the “For You” magazine, Mrs Leonora Shabanaj-Niksic welcomed all the guests. Among others, she thanked all the young boys and girls for participating in the quiz and congratulated them on their results. She also thanked the readers of the magazine and all who had sent letters to the editorial office. In conclusion to her speech, she promised that in the years to come the “For You” staff will continue to put the interests of the Kosovo youth in the pages of the magazine.

Mrs. Zejenpe Hysenaj, principal of “Emin Duraku” primary school in Shtime, and Mr. Krstivoje Radosav-

ljevic, principal of “Leposavic” primary school in Leposavic in response, expressed their gratitude to “For You” magazine for their work and commitment in promoting positive values and the building of bridges of friendship between young Kosovars. Prior to the announcement of the prize winners, COM KFOR Major General Halbauer addressed the guests. COM KFOR recalled the successes “For You” magazine had achieved during its ten years of existence. Starting with the significant increase in its circulation, the fact that it is published in four languages (Albanian, Serbian, English and Turkish) and the fact that the magazine is now published in Braille. COM KFOR had a very special message for all the young people of Kosovo. He stated that “I would like to use this opportunity to thank all the boys and girls across Kosovo who participated in the quiz. I congratulate you for your success. I hope it will serve as a catalyst to drive you to work and engage even harder to build a better life for yourselves, because by doing so you will improve not only your life, but the lives of those



that are part of your communities.” COM KFOR then presented the prizes to the winners of the anniversary quiz. COM KFOR together with the main prize winners and the Editor of the “For You” magazine, cut the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary cake. This marked the end of the official part of the ceremony. Live music was provided by the band “ZANZIBAND” and all the guests were invited to participate in a party prepared for this very special occasion. The evening seemed to fly by and soon it was time to part with our guests. However, the surprises for the guests were not finished. Before leaving all the young readers of the magazine received farewell gifts as a sign of appreciation and gratitude for the support they have shown to the magazine throughout the years.







# DEACTIVATION CEREMONY

## ORF BATTALION DEPARTS MISSION AREA

On 31<sup>st</sup> of Dec 2012 the Operational Reserve Force (ORF), which had been deployed in Kosovo as part of KFOR since mid-August, was deactivated. A ceremony to mark the deactivation was held in Camp Novo Selo, supervised by Brigadier General Bojan Pograjc, Deputy Commander Kosovo Force. The ORF was composed of troops from Germany and Austria under the command of Lt Col Ralf Schipke.

The ORF were deployed from mid-August until the end of December 2012. DCOM KFOR in his address, praised the commitment of the ORF to the KFOR mission. DCOM KFOR stated “I want to express my sincere gratitude for the highly meritorious and professional way in which you have performed your mission in this theatre”. DCOM KFOR acknowledged that the ORF had accomplished all its tasks, be it

in ensuring a safe and secure environment, to provide freedom of movement throughout Kosovo, as well as providing security for EU-LEX convoys to or at DOG 31. In regards to other tasks assigned to the ORF, all were accomplished in a successful and very efficient manner. DCOM KFOR wished all the departing troops a safe return home to their families and a very happy new year. ■



STORY: J. MURPHY

PICTURES: A. PRIESS and A. KUYUMDJAN



# NEW YEARS CELEBRATIONS

## KFOR FAMILY UNITES TO CELEBRATE NEW YEAR



Being deployed to a mission is hard at any time. It is a cliché, but being deployed over Christmas and New Year is even harder. It is tough being away from home when friends, family and loved ones are at home participating in festivities. I live in a small rural village in south of Ireland called Castlelyons.

The entire population of the village comes together for events such as New Year's Eve, to celebrate as a community. While I would have preferred to be at home with my family and community, the next best thing was to celebrate the New Year with the KFOR family.

For me, the New Year's Eve celebrations started back in early November, when planning commenced in the Headquarters Support Group. Every detail, from the food to the music to the raffle, was planned meticulously by the Moral and Welfare Activities (MWA) and overseen by the



STORY: K. SHEEHAN

PICTURES: J. MISKOLZI

Commander of HSG, Colonel Dan MURPHY.

The New Year's Eve celebrations were staged in the NATO Gym. D COM KFOR, Brigadier General Bojan POGRAJC made a speech wishing ourselves and all our families every success for 2013. The band added greatly to the occasion,

and before too long there was a buzz of laughter and enjoyment around the gym. As I looked across the gym at one stage, I saw people from many different nations laughing and joking and sharing stories in a spirit of good will. It made me think of a quote from the Irish writer WB Yeats "think where

man's glory most begins and ends, and say my glory was I had such friends". The coming together of so many soldiers from so many nations certainly made the celebrations of New Year's Eve 2012 one that I will never forget. ■



## Commander KFOR

Major General Volker R. Halbauer,  
German Army

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German Army

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Printed by RASTER

Tel.: 038 601 606

## NATO Nations within KFOR

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

## Non-NATO Nations within KFOR

Armenia, Austria, Finland, Ireland,  
Marocco, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine

The KFOR Chronicle is produced and fully funded by HQ KFOR. It is published for KFOR soldiers in the area of responsibility. The contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the coalition governments' defence departments. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Internal Information Section of HQ KFOR's Public Affairs Office (PAO) in Pristina, Kosovo. PAO HQ KFOR reserves the right to edit content to conform to style and space requirements. Articles run on a space-available basis.

# THE NEW KFOR WEBSITE IS ONLINE

## WWW.ACO.NATO.INT/KFOR

The KFOR Website had lay dormant for some time. In order to activate the Website the former Deputy Commander of Public Affairs Office, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Willing, redesigned and updated the Online Portal of KFOR Public Media. He organized a course in SHAPE, Brussels so that two members of the PAO Staff could be up skilled in Website Management. This course was a NATO conducted course open to all PAO Staffs from all NATO Missions.



The duration of the training was three days with seven students involved in the course. The programme of instruction included uploading pictures, videos and articles. Also included was the preparation of slideshows and how to manage a Webpage. The instruction was excellently conducted by Jonas De Ryck, who showed great courtesy and professionalism. The PAO Staff are now back at their desks in Film City and are eager to begin work on the new Website. You're all invited to view the Website and be updated in relation to our KFOR Mission. All members of KFOR are invited to take ownership of the new Website by submitting articles and pictures, which are mission related, to KFOR Chronicle email address kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int.



STORY: A. KUYUMDJAN



**Name:** William Hamilton  
**Rank:** OR-7  
**Nationality:** American  
**Unit in KFOR:** J6 HQ KFOR

**MILITARY EDUCATION:** I have over 20 years' experience which includes installing, maintaining and operating military communication equipment, both digital and analog. My military education includes 25Q schools courses, both Advance and Network communications.

**ABOUT THE MISSION:** I am very happy to serve in Kosovo, helping to provide a better future for all in this country. My appointment is a challenging position, but at the same time it allows me to grow as a NCO. Another highlight of this mission is being able to work with other nations, learning and admiring each other's culture.

**FAMILY REACTION:** Prior to my deployment in Kosovo, my family were just getting reconnected as a family unit after I returned from a previous deployment. As you can imagine, the reaction to this deployment was a little disappointing. However, they are very excited when I phone home and they look forward even more to my return.

**HOBBIES:** My hobbies are building model planes, painting and photography.



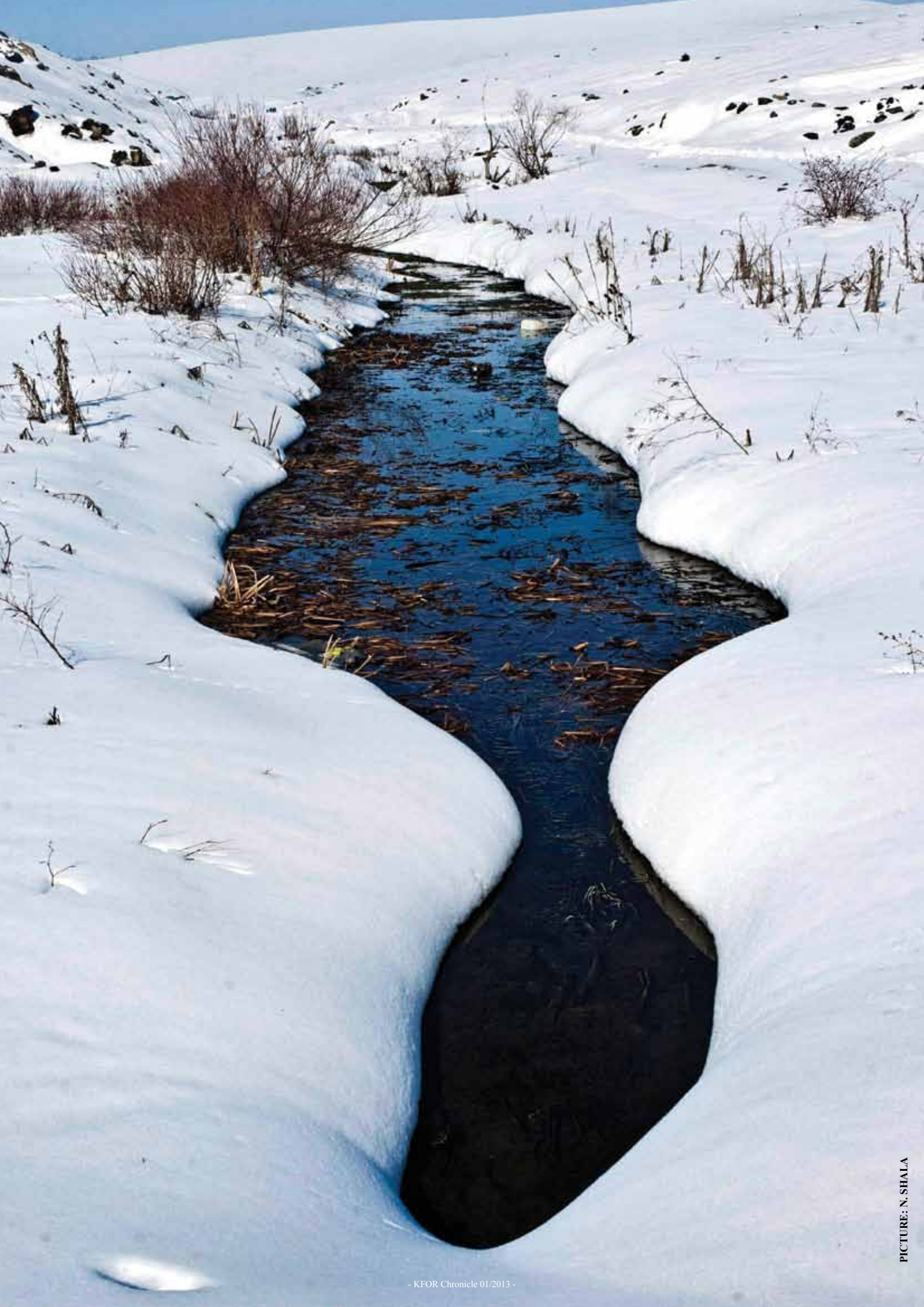
**NAME:** Sandra Kellermann  
**RANK:** OR-5  
**NATIONALITY:** German  
**UNIT KFOR:** HSG Transcoy

**MILITARY EDUCATION:** I'm a logistic corporal in the German navy. I started my military career in August 2008 and I will finish my support for German Bundeswehr in 2020.

**ABOUT THE MISSION:** My duties as HSG LAD Storeman and Deputy Fleet Manager Transcoy in the KFOR mission includes the completion of trip tickets, the correct storage, coding and recording of spare parts, the review of all order requests and the purchase of stock. I am also responsible for the maintenance of the truck fleet. I coordinate the induction training of new members of staff. I am responsible for the handover / takeover of stock by new members of staff. As Deputy Fleet Manager I assume the duties of the Fleet Manager when he is on leave.

**FAMILY REACTION:** My family is very supportive of my service with KFOR, they stand behind me and give me the love and assistance I need for a successful mission here in KFOR.

**HOBBIES:** My Hobbies are playing volleyball, swimming, traveling around the world and cooking.



PICTURE: N. SHALA