

EUFOR **Forum** EDITION 39



COM Pays His Respects in Srebrenica

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Change of Command in EUFOR

Foreword Major General Stefano Castagnotto COM EUFOR



Members of EUFOR,

Having just recently taken over command of EUFOR, I am delighted to have the opportunity to communicate to you through the medium of EUFOR Forum. I would like, at the offset, to thank the editor and staff for the quality of the magazine that they produce and for the excellent way in which they keep the members of the mission informed on developments within EUFOR.

Although I have only been in theatre for a short period, I am already impressed with the commitment, professionalism and dedication shown by all members of EUFOR, both military and civilian. The result of your work and that of your predecessors is evident for all to see. Bosnia and Herzegovina is hardly recognizable from what it was when IFOR troops first came here in 1995. EUFOR as an international force is respected by all sides in BIH because it works with and for the citizens of the country.

The effects of civil war are the most difficult to put right and it takes time and patience to achieve results. EUFOR's job is not completed. We must continue to work positively for the people of BIH and in

cooperation with all organizations that are involved. EUFOR, coming from many countries and with many languages, religions and ethnicities, sets a good example for the population of BIH on how a multi-cultural organization can work in harmony to achieve a single goal.

As part of the process of taking command of EUFOR I am now engaged in a round of meetings with the key personalities involved in this country - Political leaders, Heads of International Organizations, Ambassadors etc. I have visited Srebrenica and paid my respects to the victims of the terrible events which took place there in 1995. I am also involved in visits and briefings within the headquarters and in the near future I will commence a series of visits to RCC and LOT Houses. During these visits I hope to meet as many EUFOR personnel as possible and thank you personally for your commitment and effort in the implementation of your mission.

Military life is not always easy for soldiers and their families. It is particularly tough, at this time of year, to be separated from your loved ones. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of EUFOR and their families and friends a peaceful, happy and rewarding 2009.

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 Please give full names, rank and nationality of all persons referred to in articles and photos.

Digitised photographs should be submitted in JPG format with a minimum resolution of 200 dpi.

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EUFOR Change Of Command

Major General Ignacio Martín Villalain completed his one year tenure as Commander of EUFOR and handed over to Major General Stefano Castagnotto of the Italian Army during a ceremony at Butmir Camp on 4th December 2008.

During the ceremony, Major General Ignacio Martín Villalain stated,

“During the last year, EUFOR has been very active in carrying out its assigned tasks. The safe and secure environment has been maintained on all occasions and local authorities have been able to manage any circumstances that presented any possible security threat.

EUFOR maintains a permanent monitoring of the situation and remains ready to carry out operations if necessary. The EUFOR support to the international organizations has worked very well and the transfer of Joint Military Affairs responsibilities to Bosnian Armed Forces and other institutions have been assessed as a complete success.”

In addition, he thanked all 29 Troop Contributing Nations who provided forces during his time as COM EUFOR and the International Community, noting his extreme gratitude with the myriad of organisations, carrying out sterling work.

He further paid tribute to the fifteen colleagues who gave up their lives in promoting peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina during the last year. He also paid tribute to all of the soldiers from different nations who under the umbrella of the UN, NATO and EUFOR who helped its people to find a better future and who died accomplishing their



military tasks; and their lives were not lost in vain and that the Bosnian people would forever be in their debt.

The General concluded in stating, “It is my deepest wish that this wonderful country and its friendly people consolidate their future within the Euro-Atlantic institutions. I also wish the best to all the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina and I really believe that they deserve a progressive, successful and peaceful future.”



Spokesperson Media Summary January 2009

December started with the much anticipated arrival of COM EUFOR Major General Stefano Castagnotto. After much behind the scenes preparation, the Change of Command Ceremony went without a hitch. With that, a very warm EUFOR HQ welcome to all new joiners since our last edition.

During mid to the latter part of December, the INFO OPS arm of ECD branch continued the final thrust of the EUFOR School Competition which concludes in March. Six participating schools were visited throughout BiH and in excess of 3,000 products have been received to date.

The Press Office has received several phone calls recently regarding articles and photographs sent in to the Press Office and not being featured in the magazine. Let me start by saying that the Press Office receives on average 75 articles per month. There is only enough print space for 20 – 30 articles, it is therefore unfortunate that stories are dropped, or moved to the following month.

That said the magazine is EUFOR ‘wide’ and not entirely the HQ. All stories are



considered on their content and the interest value to the wider EUFOR audience. Finally, the only address for articles is: cpic_forum@eufor.eu.int

Remembrance of Helicopter Crash of the FYR of Macedonia

EUFOR came together on 13th January 2009 to commemorate the first anniversary of the fallen aircrew of the Macedonian Contingent. The ceremony was led by COM EUFOR Major General Stefano Castagnotto and was attended by the FYR Macedonia Ambassador to BiH Mr Mihajlo Trpkoski, Senior National Representative of the Macedonian Contingent Lt Col Gjorgi Spasovski and senior representatives of the troop contributing nations.



The commemoration took place in front of the memorial stone, erected in honour of the aircrew at the Memorial Park in EUFOR HQ Butmir Camp Sarajevo. The ceremony started with the National Anthems of FYR Macedonia and BiH. Candles were then lit by members of the Macedonian contingent, followed by a brief

introduction into the tragic events. COM EUFOR and the Macedonian contingent then laid floral wreaths at the memorial stone, concluding with a remembrance speech by COM EUFOR.

Major General Castagnotto, COM EUFOR stated:

“Our Macedonian colleagues paid the ultimate sacrifice with the loss of their lives on completion of their mission here in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They will be remembered for the exceptional spirit and goodwill with which they performed their tasks for the betterment of EUFOR and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It is now our solemn honour to commemorate our colleagues and to assure their families and friends that their memory will always remain with us.”

New Commander for EUFOR Multi-National Battalion



On 17th December 2008 at Butmir Camp, COM EUFOR presided over a change of command ceremony to mark the handover of command within the Multi-National Battalion (MNBN). Lt Colonel Jose Manuel Estévez Payeras handed over command to Lt Colonel José Luis Carballo Alvarez after nearly four months in command. During this time he has overseen a number of key events. The MNBN took part simultaneously in several places throughout the country

working together with the AFBiH, showing perfect integration.

The MNBN was established in February 2007, together with an Integrated Police Unit (IPU). The MNBN consists of four companies from Hungary, Poland, Spain and Turkey who provide the bulk of the Force plus a reconnaissance platoon. These forces operate in support of maintaining the current safe and secure environment in BiH.

The outgoing MNBN CDR stated:

“It has given me great personal pride to command the Multinational Battalion, I have had the opportunity to be in charge of soldiers from several countries and check that they are well prepared to contribute to the EUFOR mission. I will always remember the kind people and the beautiful landscape of this beautiful country.”

HQ EUFOR Staff Visit BIH ‘School Competition’ Schools

EUFOR HQ Deputy COM EUFOR Brigadier General Carlos Díaz del Río and Chief of Staff Brigadier General Joachim Wundrak have during the past two weeks, visited six schools throughout the country participating in the EUFOR School Competition. The visits took EUFOR staff as far North as Nemila, and as far East as Mokro. This is the second year of the competition, which was officially launched when Ministers of Education in BiH were asked for their cooperation in inviting all primary and secondary schools to participate in the competition. The theme for the project is ‘The European Union and Bosnia and Herzegovina growing Together’ (Primary Schools) and ‘The European Union – Beauty of Diversity’



(Secondary Schools). These key messages are intended to generate awareness amongst the young population of BiH about the benefits of advancing towards EU integration.

All visiting EUFOR HQ Staff were impressed with the high standard of paintings, drawings and poetry throughout both primary and secondary schools.

Deputy COM EUFOR commented: “I have been delighted to have the opportunity to not only witness at first hand the works of the children, but also to have had the opportunity to talk with them, their teachers and head teachers who are all equally fervent in their dedication to the competition.”

Prizes will be awarded in March 2009.

Visit to COM EUFOR December 2008



Amma Berbic, Small Arms Control Programme



Major General Andre' Blattmann, Chief of the Armed Forces, Switzerland



Major General Eduardo Garate, Commander in Chief of the 6th division of Chilean Army



Lieutenant General Freek Meulman, Vice Chief of Defence, The Netherlands



H.E. Mr Mihajlo Trpjoski, Ambassador of FYROM



Senior State Secretary of MoD

COM EUFOR Pays His Respects at Srebrenica Memorial



COM EUFOR, Major General Castagnotto paid a visit to Srebrenica on 13th December 2008 in order to pay his respects to the victims of the 1995 massacre.

In a personal gesture, he chose Srebrenica to be his first field visit since taking command of EUFOR on 4th December 2008.



Major General Castagnotto visited the Memorial Centre in Potocari, where he laid flowers and conveyed his personal thoughts in a message in the visitors' book of impressions.

Whilst recognising the loss of the families of the victims, COM EUFOR expressed his hopes that the memorial would serve as a spur to all in preventing such atrocities ever occurring in the future.

DCOM EUFOR Visit to LOT Brcko

Deputy Commander EUFOR Brigadier General Carlos Diaz Del Rio visited the Finnish LOT house in Brcko on 13th November. He was welcomed and hosted by Lt Col Tapio Kotala (Contingent Commander FIN and Deputy Commander RCC4) and liaison officer Ville Kaartinen from LOT Brcko.

After the helicopter had landed, a round tour was started in Brcko. The first visit was to meet Mr. Gerhard Sontheim, who serves Deputy Head of OHR Brcko. Brcko was placed under international supervision after war. The task of OHR in Brcko is overseeing the implementation of Dayton in the Brcko area and has "the authority to promulgate binding regulations and orders" which would "prevail as against any conflicting law".

Later in the afternoon BG Carlos Diaz del



Rio and his group visited LOT Brcko. Liaison Officer Ville Kaartinen gave a thorough presentation about the area of responsibility and areas of interest. One topic was how the Finnish choose officers to the LOT houses. Finland's contribution is three LOT Houses. Each team consists of nine officers. Most of them are reservist and they bring their "civilian" skills to the LOT work. They are professional policemen, custom officers,

teachers, specialists of the economic area etc. The main benefit is that they use the "same language" when meeting local authorities etc. and bring their expertise in the use of EUFOR.

FIN NSE Commander Major Jaakko Karjomaa presented Finnish logistics system in this mission. Finns have outsourced their logistics. It means that ME Group, a private company, is producing most of the logistics: cars, food, accommodation and the maintenance of the LOT houses and all the services for them. This system saves resources more to the military side.

In the end of this visit BG Carlos Diaz del Rio thanked LOT Brcko for the expertise and hospitality. He congratulated FIN CON Commander Lt Col Tapio Kotala for the efficient manner that LOT work is done by the Finnish LOT houses.

COM EUFOR Visits Brcko District

COM EUFOR Major General Castagnotto together with EUFOR HQ Chief of Staff Brigadier General Wundrak paid a visit to Brcko District on 16th December 2008 where they met the Brcko Supervisor and Deputy High Representative Dr Gregorian at the Supervisor's Office.

This is the first visit for COM EUFOR to the Brcko District since taking up his new post at EUFOR HQ Sarajevo earlier this month. The primary aim of the visit was a familiarization of



Brcko District and to discuss with Dr Gregorian its key issues.

The visit also signifies EUFOR recognizing Brcko's strategic significance and support to completion of the Brcko objective set by the Peace Implementation Council.

COM EUFOR stated that "Political leaders and members of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly should take all necessary steps to establish the required mechanism needed to create the conditions for ending Supervision".

EVAC Exercise

During week 49 the Turkish D-Coy of MNBN EUFOR was relocated to former Camp Eagle Base near Tuzla for training purposes. RCC4 was tasked by HQ EUFOR to carry out an EVAC exercise for 2 of its LOT houses with the support of D-Coy as extraction force during this week.

The AUT LOTs Tuzla and Vlasenica were chosen to participate in this exercise.

The assumed exercise scenario was as follows: The security situation in the country but especially in the AORs of LOTs Tuzla and Vlasenica is deteriorating. Attacks of violent groups are mainly focusing on IC targets. The local Police informed that these 2 LOT houses most likely will be targets for violent attacks.

Therefore and due to the further situation development the evacuation of the 2 LOT houses was ordered and 2 TUR platoons were sent to the LOTs as extraction forces.

Shortly after their arrival the platoon leaders were briefed the latest situation update by the LOT Commanders and immediately took over security matters and compound

defence responsibility from the LOT. This gave the LOT personnel the opportunity to carry on and finalize their preparations for the evacuation like there are: destruction of restricted material like unnecessary maps, files, CDs etc. packing of all necessary duty equipment like computers, radios, files and so on and as well collecting of the personal military equipment of every team member. Due to well prepared EVAC plans including detailed packing lists all these activities turned out to be less time consuming than expected and the loading of all the material itself to the cars was done in almost no time.

After last information on the situation on the spot had been



passed up the chain of command to JOC and RCC4 the final decision and order to evacuate was released to the LOTs. Well escorted by the extraction platoons they left for their destination in Camp EAGLE BASE where the exercise terminated.

The conclusion is that the exercise was very successful as it proved that not only the EVAC plans but as well all participants were well prepared.

The international cooperation with the extraction platoons was excellent.

The exercise itself helped to show everybody involved that an evacuation is no miracle and thereby improved the self-confidence of the participants.

Once again it was proven that common sense, team work and professional military skills will always be on the winning side.



DCOM in Cazin



On 21st November 2008, DCOM EUFOR, General Carlos Diaz Del Rio paid an official visit to Romanian LOT House Cazin. General Diaz Del Rio was welcomed and hosted by Captain George Macreanu (OC LOT House Cazin), Major Georg Kaufmann (Coordinator, RCC1) and Capt. Gabriel Pruneanu (Ass. Coordinator, RCC1).

This is the first LOT House that General Diaz Del Rio visited since he took over the position as a DCOM. The visit started in front of the LOT House where he was introduced to the LOT personnel. After this, the General delegation was invited to have coffee and was presented the house. The main purpose of DCOM's visit was to get familiar with the main issues and concerns in Cazin AOR and to have discussions on the past elections.

During the meeting they talked about the current security, political and economic situation and also social, religious and education aspects in LOT Cazin AOR, as well as cantonal, entity and national level issues. Other topics approached were: local elections process, projects regarding UNA National Park and mine fields issues. During the standard briefing, DCOM asked for detailed information on almost every topic approached. All LOT members present (OC, 2IC, Team Leaders) participated directly,

providing supplementary information and explanations on the issues discussed.

After the standard briefing, the official delegation and members of LOT House had light lunch where all of them enjoyed the delicious domestic food.

The visit of the General Diaz Del Rio ended with a tour of Cazin Municipality where he was presented some historical objectives and relevant buildings in the area.

DCOM was pleased with the way in which

the activity of LOT House Cazin is organized and he congratulated everybody for the professional work LOT has done so far. In the end, he thanked for the hospitality and the contribution to the success of the mission.

Currently, there are over 55 Romanian personnel serving within EUFOR in BIH in the Integrated Police Unit, Liaison Observation Team houses, Regional Coordination Center and HQ Sarajevo.

Spanish National Football Coach Visits Spanish Troops in Camp Butmir

On the 2nd and 3rd of December, Spanish national football coach, Mr. del Bosque, paid a visit to Camp Butmir. During his visit in the base Mr. del Bosque was delivering sport material of the most important football clubs of Spanish league to the children of one orphanage of Sarajevo.

The next day he was delivering sport material and toys to the hospitalized children in the pediatric service of the



University hospital of Sarajevo. Mr. del Bosque pointed out that he was very emotional for the work of the soldiers in this country.

Budapest, the Beauty on the River Danube

Elada Hasanagic Lopez Recacho

Budapest, the capital of the Hungaria, lies in the centre of the Carpathian Basin in Europe, on both sides of the river Danube. Its population of about 2 millions and is 20 per cent of the country's total.

In the time of my seven days holidays in Budapest Robbie Williams held the concert and it was subject of everybody and everywhere you go in Budapest. Especially young Hungarian girls were exiting about this concert.

The majestic and impressive city of Budapest is recognised as one of the world's most beautiful capitals. Budapest has beautiful buildings, clean streets and cheerful street music... You really have to go to feel and see Budapest; it is difficult to explain by the words.

One of the most beautiful things you can see over the night is incredible **Chain Bridge** that connects twin cities of Buda and Pest separated by the river Danube.

Also it is unforgettable to visit **Szentendre (Sent Andre)** a peaceful little town situated at the Danube bend, north of Budapest. It takes 20 minutes to get there by car or 40 minutes by public transportation. **Szentendre** is a town of arts and museums, and very popular among tourists.

The Main Synagogue / Nagy Zsinagóga

The Jewish quarter on the Pest side is one of the largest in Europe, although the Jewish population declined greatly during World War II. This is where the Main Synagogue is located, the largest in the world outside of New York. There is a Jewish museum beside the synagogue.

Hungarian State Opera

Budapest, together with Vienna, is an international capital of opera. The beautiful State Opera, completed in 1884, is worth a visit even if you are not interested in listening to opera. If you do like opera, you must book in good time and be prepared for a festive occasion.

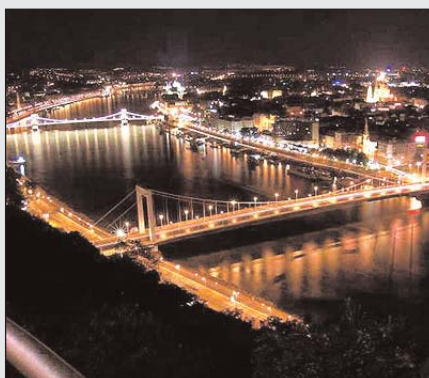


Buda Hills

On a clear day you should take the tram or bus to Buda Hills, via the cog railway. Here you will find peace and calm high above the city, with a magnificent view from János-hegy. At the same time make sure to visit some of the caves which are open to the public. In the Pálvölgy cave, among other things, you can see the unique drip-stone figures "The Elephant" and "Crocodile". The air in the caves is said to be good for respiratory infections.

Szoborpark (the Statue Park)

Here you will find one of Budapest's most remarkable attractions. When the proletarian dictatorship's enormous monuments and statues were no longer politically correct – after 1989-90 – they were moved from their conspicuous locations in the centre to a suburb of Buda. Here – in this "Communist theme park" – among other things, there is the gigantic statue of Lenin and Cubist statues of Marx and Engels.



Lake Balaton

The beauty and the thousand appearances of Lake Balaton captivate the curious tourists. It is the largest lake of Central Europe, its length is 77 kilometres. The region holds countless unique recreational facilities, secrets and experiences for the guests. Its eastern peak is 100 kilometres far away from Budapest.

Eating

If you got hungry the best is to go to the Raday Street where you can find famous restaurants with international food. Traditional Hungarian speciality you can try "Voros Postakocsi". Restaurant "Iguana" offers you Mexican speciality.

Shopping

Shopaholics will very soon be enticed by the Pesta side of the river where the shops are for everyone's attention. Also Vaci Street in the centre is famous place for shopping.

Budapest is also famous for its health and thermal spas and has twenty public baths from Turkish and wave baths, over open-air swimming-pools and hydrotherapeutic establishments to spa hotels offer a wide range of services. One of the most famous is **Rudas Thermal Bath** that also offers you "Cinetrips" projections of all movie hits.

However metropolis of Hungary is must visit destination. It is place for romantics, couples, singles and trendsetters.

Chief IAD Visits Vitez

On Tuesday 2nd December 2008, Chief IAD Colonel Ippoliti paid an official visit to Bulgarian LOT House Vitez following the circle of visits to all LOT houses in RCC1 Area of Responsibility (AOR). He was accompanied by Major Stratulat (SA Specialist 1 LOT DESK) and Capt Den Boer (RCC1 Ass Coordinator). Col Ippoliti was welcomed at the entrance of the House by the LOT Commander Maj Arhangelov and the Bulgarian staff where he was introduced

to the LOT personnel. According to the schedule, the members of the delegation were briefed on the observation teams' activities. The main purpose of Chief IAD's visit was to get familiar with the main issues and concerns in Vitez AOR. During the meeting they discussed about the current economical, political and security situation in Vitez area. Colonel Ippoliti also told the Bulgarian officers his opinion regarding to RCC1 LOTs database. The visit of

Chief IAD ended with a chat with the members of LOT Vitez. He expressed his warm feelings during the visit, which was the first one for the Chief IAD in the Bulgarian LOT House and he wished to whole staff success and to keep their spirit as high as it was at that moment. In the end, he thanked for the hospitality and the contribution to the success of the mission.



Chief RCC1 visits the Swiss

On 2nd December 2008, Chief RCC1, Lt Col Henk Stuut, and Coordinator RCC1, Major Georg Kaufmann, visited the Swiss LOT Bugojno. RCC1 delegation came to gather more information about the area of responsibility (AOR) of the LOT House responsible for the Municipalities of Dobretici, Jajce, Donji Vakuf, Bugojno and Gornji Vakuf-Uskoplje.



On their arrival, at 11:00hrs, LOT Bugojno first organised a tour of the house. After a quick warm-up (up and down the staircase) and a strong coffee, the official briefing of the house and its personnel started. The introduction, presented by Maj Luca Govi consisted in a general description of the political and economical situation of the area.

Continued on next page.

Slovakian President Meets COM EUFOR and Slovakian Contingent

On Monday 8th December 2008, His Excellency the President of Slovakia Dr Ivan Gasparovic, together with a delegation consisting of the Minister of Defence and the Chief of General Staff visited the soldiers of the Slovakian contingent their families and Commander of EUFOR Major General Castagnotto at EUFOR HQ Sarajevo.

The aim of the visit was to meet the Slovakian EUFOR Contingent (40 soldiers) as part of a programme which will see President Gasparovic visit all Slovakian soldiers currently deployed in the wider Balkan area.

President Gasparovic was given a warm welcome from the Slovakian contingent and inspected a Guard of Honour in front of EUFOR HQ before paying a courtesy call on the newly appointed COM EUFOR.

Major General Castagnotto said, "This has been a useful opportunity to discuss with Dr Gasparovic the importance of EUFOR's continued tasks and key objectives and to give



him an insight into the role that the Slovakian contingent play in contributing to the Safe and Secure Environment here in BIH."

President Gasparovic said, "I am extremely pleased to have had the opportunity to speak to both General Castagnotto and the Slovakian EUFOR contingent, who are carrying out an excellent and professional job in BIH."



Swiss LOT House Bugojno

Later the Team Leaders gave details about the work achieved in the past month by LOT 9, in both their AOR.

In the afternoon the delegation visited points of interest in the area of the city Bugojno, the Islamic Cultural Centre, including the largest mosque in BIH, UNIS BINAS weapons and ammunition factory, the ruins of the hospital building that never got finished, as well as the ruins of Tito's Villa Gorica, destroyed during the last war. The ruins of Tito's Lodge are still standing, just like many others in this region.

Chief RCC and 2iC were able to witness the degree of destruction that the war left in

the area of Bugojno. Many bullet holes in public and private buildings are witnesses of the raging fights in the area. Until now, a great number of buildings still haven't been repaired and the lack of central heating is shown by the piles of wood outside the houses waiting to be burnt. All these external signs show how hard the economical situation is around Bugojno, which used to be an important industrial centre before the war. 9000 employees used to work for UNIS BINAS weapons ammunition factory, now barely 300 survive in those obsolete company buildings. The hospital that should have been a great achievement for

the city never got finished; it is slowly dismantled by people collecting iron. The only major structure that shows vitality in Bugojno's skyline is the Islamic Cultural Centre's minaret.

In the conclusion of the visit, Chief and Coordinator RCC1 met most of the further team members, who just came back from their daily meetings and patrols for a few more words and a short photo shooting session. That meeting allowed RCC members and LOT members to get to know each other better and it was a chance to create a better understanding of the general current situation in Canton 6.

Mine Risk Education in LOT Ugljevik AOR



On 1st December 2008, after the initiative of the Greek LOT in Ugljevik, Mine Risk Education (MRE) took place in the Primary School of Teocak Municipality. A total number of sixty three (63) pupils attended the program from the age of six to nine (6-9). Present were LOT Commander Captain Leonidas Rallakis and the RCC4 Greek coordinator Captain Antonios Stamatakis.

Presentation was held by Mrs. Munira Mukic Mine Risk Education Instructor in accordance with International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).

Methodology used was in accordance with children's age group. There was an interactive presentation through questions and answers and an open discussion concerning the risks of UXOs

and mines. In many cases children also shared their own individual experiences and cases that they detected or come close to mines. The interest that the children showed was really impressive giving us the opportunity to evaluate their concern and knowledge in this serious issue.

The goal of such education is to familiarize children with the dangers that mine and UXO's pose, minefield signs and what to avoid, and actions to be taken in case of mine detection or entrance in a possible minefield. Most of all is to keep them alert and remind that mines and minefields are still a problem and will remain a problem for years to come.

Mine Risk Education (MRE)

Mine Risk Education is an educational process that ensures people/communities are aware of the risk from mines and UXO's and are encouraged to behave in a way which reduces risk to people, property and the environment.

MRE has three components, education, community mine action liaison and dissemination of materials/information which must be approved by BH MAC.

LOT Ugljevik (GRC) would like to thank Mrs. Mukic and RCC5 for their co-operation and for giving us the great opportunity to share knowledge and to offer our services to those children that are going to be the future of this country.

RCC1 had the Mine Awareness Training in the Kozara Barracks

On 15th and 16th December 2008, RCC1 and the Mine Information Coordination Cell (MICC) organised the Mine Awareness Training (MAT) level B and C at the Kozara Barracks in Banja Luka. The MAT was organised in four shifts and divided in two shifts per day. In total 92 persons participated at the Mine Awareness Training,

these groups consisted of 84 military people and 8 civilian employees. Especially for the civilian employees it was a new experience and some of them were very active.

The MAT started with a presentation about the purpose of the training, accidents and



casualties in 2008 and a summary of the types of mines used in BiH. When the presentation was finished the practical part of the training started. The practical training was also divided in two parts, one part was to train the immediate action drill for the case you end up in a minefield and exercising how to clear a

safe area by prodding into the ground with a stick. In the second part of the training the MICC marked an area in the field and put there some mines and UXO's. Our task was to find these objects. The participants were very interested in this operational training and there was a good exchange of information about the experience in the battle field. After two valuable and good organised training days every one had refreshed the knowledge about the mine danger and the handling.

RCC1 wants to thank CS Peter Devereux and Milad Cerimagic from MICC for their instructions during these days and the AFBiH for the use of the Kozara Barracks.

Austrian CIMIC Presents Christmas Gifts to Children in BiH



In the last couple of years it became an old tradition to bring Christmas gift from Austria to Children in BiH.

This year the Austrian children collected about 5500 Christmas gifts in their schools. The whole action was initiated by the NGO "ROUND TABLE AUSTRIA". The transport

of the parcels to BiH was carried out by the Austrian Armed Forces with 3 heavy trucks which is in total 7 20" (feet) containers.

According to the 3 Austrian LOT – Houses in BRATUNAC, TUZLA and VLASENICA the Christmas – gifts were distributed to schools and Kindergartens in

these areas.

Therefore the Austrian LOT – Houses where a big help because of the good area knowledge in case of schools and Kindergartens. It was a big pleasure for the Austrian soldiers to see the happiness and the joy in the children's eyes.

Austrian and Hungarian Contingents Donate Mine Detection Dog

Bosnia and Herzegovina is still one of the most heavily mined countries in the world. The armed forces run a mine detection dog centre (MDCC) for South-East Europe in a small village called Borci in Konjic municipality. For the celebration of the first combined Hungarian Austrian National Day, the former Austrian contingent commander, Colonel Günther Rozenits, initiated the idea of a charity tombola. He unremittingly pushed this event which led to a significant success, making 3.550 Euros available intended for the purchase and training of a mine detection dog for the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Aska will resume duty in six months

On 27th November 2008 Colonel Hermann Lattacher, who succeeded Günther Rozenits in the position of Chief Joint



Military Affairs, together with the Hungarian contingent commander, Colonel Sandor Faludi, handed over the dog to the MDCC. Highlight of the ceremony was the presentation of the young dog named Aska, who will now undergo training until the end of May 2009. The newly trained mine detection dog will then resume duty at the BiH Armed Forces demining battalion. Nermin Hadzimujagic, Director of the MDCC,

thanked the Austrian and Hungarian Contingents for the donation and underlined the importance of mine detection dogs in demining operations worldwide. Colonel Lattacher emphasized in his speech the significance of mine clearing for this country to avoid further losses of life and

severe injuries. The Austrian Contingent together the international community is willing to assist the demining further on to support the aim of Bosnia and Herzegovina in becoming a mine cleared country by 2019. This ambitious objective requires international support, Colonel Lattacher said. Austria is funding the mine clearing in BiH continuously by paying into the "International Trust Fund".

COS in Zvornik and Bratunac

On 29th November 2008 EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Joachim Wundrak (DEU) visited LOTs Zvornik (GRE) and Bratunac (AUT) in RCC 4 AOR. COS started his tour in the morning in Zvornik where he was welcomed by Chief RCC4 Lt Col Klaus Seidl and the Greek LOT coordinator Captain Antonios Stamatakis at the Heli Landing Site (HLS).



Upon arrival to the LOT house the members were introduced to COS by the Chief of Greek LOT Houses Captain Konstantinos Achilleiou. During the welcome coffee, COS introduced himself and he briefly informed everyone about his understanding of EUFOR's work in BiH. Then LOT Commander Lt Efstathios Katsarakis gave a short presentation informing COS on the current topics, the ongoing issues and the recent developments of the political situation after the elections. Since COS was most interested in the personal opinion of LOT personnel an

open minded discussion followed concerning police, local court, unemployment, politicians and the opinion of the local people about them and the prospect of BiH entering European Community. After the presentation COS briefly visited the construction sites of the new Mosque in Zvornik and the new Temple in Josanica and then left with his party for Bratunac by helicopter.

There they were received by LOT Commander Majoror Franz Trausnitz (AUT). Due to the short distance the group walked from the HLS to the LOT house

through the centre of the village which gave the COS a first impression of the local situation. When arriving at the house the fallen in LOT was reported and introduced to the visitor. During the following light snack which had been prepared by the LOT members there was opportunity for some initial exchange of opinion with the COS. In the briefing afterwards Majoror Trausnitz informed on LOT Bratunac in general and current concerns and issues. In the course of the following questions a fruitful conversation mainly between COS and LOT Cdr resulted concerning BiH's way towards a possible future EU-membership and how this development could possibly be supported and promoted by EUFOR. The visit ended relaxed on the terrace with some small talk before COS' departure to Camp Butmir.

Visit COS EUFOR LOT Mrkonjic Grad

Brigadier General J. Wundrak (COS EUFOR) paid a visit on 22th November to the Dutch LOT house in Mrkonjic Grad. He was welcomed by Capt M. Hazelhoff, the OC of LOT Mrkonjic Grad.



The COS arrived with the Helicopter at 09.40 in the morning and was picked up at the Heli landing site and brought to the LOT house where the whole team was presented. In the morning there were some problems with the electricity in Mrkonjic Grad so the power point presentation wasn't possible. That's the way it goes in BiH also when the COS is going to visit a LOT house. However after the COS took his seat suddenly the electricity was back so we had a short time to prepare ourselves to give a presentation about the activities and interests which had been assigned by Commander EUFOR for our Area Of Responsibility

(AOR). After the presentation the COS started a discussion with the members of LOT Mrkonjic Grad about several topics reference EUFOR. We discussed the political situation, the corruption within the politics and police organization. He also pointed out that he was very interested in the schools and the raise of the children, because they are the future. He was not only interested in the school competi-

tion but also about their needs in the schools and in which way we, as EUFOR, could bring the world of Europe closer to the children. During the visit the COS was very open and we had a good discussion about the topics mentioned above. After the presentation and the discussion we showed COS the town of Mrkonjic Grad after which he left for Drvar as his next stop.

IPU Gym

All EUFOR staff are warmly invited to visit and train in the Gym of the IPU Butmir 2 Base.

Guide for visitors' to the IPU Butmir 2 Gym

For your first training session in the IPU Butmir 2 Gym, we have some information and suggestions:

For the most enjoyable training sessions, it is best to wear comfortable and light clothing. As you burn off calories, your body temperature will increase and wearing clothes that will allow some heat to escape is ideal.

In your backpack, you must have at least one or two bottles of water and one towel. In case your training involves the use of heavy weight (dumbbells, barbells or heavy pieces of equipments), training gloves would be recommended.



Always respect your body conditions during the training sessions always and be careful when you use the treadmill, especially when you perform fast or medium fast running session.

Stretching is necessary after workout. This will decrease the muscle soreness you may experience the following days. Stretching is also important to keep muscles elastic, assist flexibility, which then decreases the risk of eventual injury.

FARTLEK training is organized throughout the month, along with stretching, boxing training sessions, outdoors running. Skiing and snowboard school may be arranged on the mountains Bjelasnica and Igman.

For further information about different types of training, please contact the Gym staff.

Working hours: Monday to Friday 9.00 – 21.00, Saturday 14.00 – 20.00, Sunday 9.00 – 15.00.

IPU Butmir 2 Gym Staff

Gym instructor / ski instructor Amer Hodzic

First assistant in the gym Hajrudin Sutrovic

Second assistant in the gym Adnan Salic

RCC4 LOT Conference & Party

On 16th December 2008 the 16th LOT Conference of RCC4 took place in Camp "EDELWEISS" (AUNE-Austrian National Element) near Tuzla. The conference was also attended by Lt Col Jorge Loyola (IAD LOT Coordinator) from EUFOR HQ in BUTMIR.

The Conference was opened by Lt Col Klaus Seidl, Chief of RCC4, who welcomed all present and expressed his satisfaction and gratitude for the quality of the fulfilled tasks

by all LOT Houses. He also welcomed the new members of the Greek and Finnish Contingents who had just joined the family of RCC4.

The agenda of the conference continued with a very informative and interesting lecture by Chief LEGAD, Col Mag. Dr. G. Peternell (AUT) covering military issues or even everyday life for international troops. Following then the newly appointed Deputy Chief of RCC4 Lt Col Antti Castren (FIN)

briefed RCC4 and LOT members on the issues covered in the last RCC Chiefs' meeting, pointing out the importance of the ongoing EUFOR school competition in BIH.

RCC4 Operations Officer, Major Emil Kert (AUT) covered operational issues in his briefing, last month's activities and upcoming events/tasks. The participation of the LOT members during the discussion was warm



and showing that even if soldiers in RCC4 come from four different countries, the professional standards are really on high level.

The Conference was concluded by the Deputy Chief of RCC4, who thanked everyone for their cooperation and set the targets for the next month.

Shortly after the end of the Conference, an international party took place in the dining facility of Camp "EDELWEISS", as it was the last opportunity for RCC and LOT members to meet each other in a more relaxed way, just a few days before Christmas and New Year Day.



Body of Lies

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Three years after his Crusades epic "Kingdom of Heaven," director Ridley Scott returns to the shifting sands of the Middle East with "Body of Lies." You couldn't ask for a more alarming declaration of noble intent than the authentically scraggly black beard Leonardo DiCaprio sports as Roger Ferris, CIA point man in Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Dubai and other spots in the Levant. Ferris does shoot terrorists when pressed, but he'd sooner talk to them. You get the feeling this

guy wouldn't pass certain folks' patriot tests (he speaks fluent Arabic, too), though he suffers mightily over the course of two hours.

On the other hand Russell Crowe is relaxed and kicking up his heels as Ed Hoffman, Roger's Langley supervisor and often enough "the eye in the sky," keeping his thumb on Ferris through more of those scarily efficient satellite tracking systems we keep seeing in movies this year.



America, like Bonnie Tyler, needs a hero. "If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible, who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time, who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer." I - in other words - am your answer. Cometh the hour, cometh the man.

In a culture built on the cult of the individual there will always be those - cowboys, cops, gangsters, film stars, businessmen, even politi-

cians - who inspire in others awe, worship and praise. Eustace Conway is one such blessed individual. He constantly embarks upon grand quests and journeys (travelling the Mississippi, aged 18, in a handmade wooden canoe; crossing America on horseback). And he wears weird clothes (his trademark buckskin shirt, for example, which he made by shooting a deer, skinning it, softening the hide with the deer's brains, and then sewing the parts together using the poor animal's sinews).

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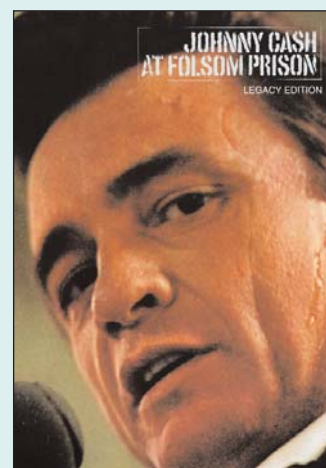
Johnny Cash - At Folsom Prison: Legacy Edition

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"Now, when John comes out, he will say - which will be recorded - 'Hi there, I'm Johnny Cash'," instructs MC Hugh Cherry. "When he says that, then you respond. Don't respond to him walking out... I'll have my hands up, and you all just follow me, OK?"

You'd have thought a 40th anniversary reissue including such preamble might shatter the legend of 'At Folsom Prison', revealing it to be less an exercise in genuine empathy with outlaws, more about Cash... if not building, then at least massaging his badass myth. You might say it reveals the inmate whoops that greet lines such as "I shot a man in Reno/Just to watch him die" ('Folsom Prison Blues') or "I took a shot of

cocaine and I shot my woman down" ('Cocaine Blues') to be little more than highly irresponsible record label PR. You'd be partially correct on both counts. Because let's face it, if Keane played some songs about serial killers in front of a load of serial killers, they'd go down pretty well too, right?



Soldier in the Spotlight

OF-2 Raffaele NACCARATO was born on 1st November 1970 in Bolzano (Alto Adige – South Tirol province) in the north of Italy at the border with Austria and Switzerland, in the Dolomite mountains. He began his career as a private in the Carabinieri Corps in 1991, attending the NCO School in Velletri (Rome) and Vicenza in 1992 and the Officer School in Rome in 2000. In years 2004-2005 he attended the M.P. OBC



course in Fort Leonard Wood (MO) USA. His first mission abroad was in 1997 in TIPH II (Temporary International Presence in Hebron) in Israel-Palestine, as an observer/monitor. In 1997-1998 he was in Bosnia in UNMBIH - IPTF as a police instructor in the Tuzla region. In 1998 OF-2 Naccarato was a diplomatic observer with the OSCE in Kosovo (KVM and then TFK). In 1998 he also served in KFOR with the MSU (Multinational Specialized Unit) as an LNO with MNBE. In 2003 with the rank of OF-1

he served as platoon commander in MSU in Nassiriyah (Dhi-Qar province) in Iraq. He served again in Iraq as the Bravo Coy commander in 2004. In 2005 he served in Afghanistan with Italfor in Kabul as legal advisor and again in 2005 in the ISAF HQ where he worked as IMP Chief for several months. In 2006-2007 he was Company Commander in Kosovo with MSU-KFOR. His mission in Bosnia began on 14th August 2007 and his job is in the HQ-JOC as a Police operations expert and IPU LNO. This

has been a different experience for him compared with previous assignments. He says that: “It is interesting, after so many missions in the field, to work at the HQ level”. There is more time for meeting people from other nations, discuss and learn different ways of work and solve problems”. He comes from a law enforcement family: Father, sister and brother all belong to the Carabinieri and Italian State Police. Among on his various decorations obtained is the Medal of Honour (Medaglia d’Argento al Valore dell’ Arma dei Carabinieri) earned in the field in Iraq in 2004. It was presented to OF-2 Naccarato in 2007 by the President of the Italian Republic.. He is recently married to Verena (September 2007) and at the end of his tour he is planning to take her to a long honeymoon somewhere. His motto is: “Always and Wherever...Sempre e Ovunque”.

Photo Corner

If you have an image of your child that you would like to have published in EUFOR Forum, please send them to us!

