

May 2009

EDITION 42

EUFOR forum

EUFOR Forum online at www.euforbih.org



EUFOR Helicopter Assets



In this edition

PIFWC Operation

**Destruction of
Weapons**

MNBN Exercise

COS EUFOR

BG Robert Loewenstein



I am honored and privileged to have once again taken over the responsibilities of Chief of Staff Headquarters EUFOR, for the next six months.

The time ahead will be particularly challenging. It requires us to walk the thin line between flexibility and discipline, both in our thinking and acting. I completely trust and rely on your dedication to your individual jobs and the team effort that is required to meet the challenges for the accomplishment of this EUFOR mission.

The way ahead will in many aspects be different from the past. From a political and military consideration the future of EUFOR will involve some vital decisions in the next months which we have to prepare for and contribute to as best we can. My working philosophy has not changed and is centered on what I term the three A's; active, activity and action. I want you to be pro-active and anticipate tasks that require activity and then take that to action to effectively deal with the issue.

I appreciate the versatility of our multinational EUFOR mission ALTHEA. Headquarters, EUFOR, bases its daily routine on the richness of cultural diversity

and on your different professional backgrounds. This cultural mix requires sensitivity to others and a high sense of personal and professional discipline. It is very important that we are at all times conscious that each one of us is an individual ambassador for EUFOR, our respective nations and the International Community. We must be careful not to say or do anything that can be interpreted negatively and must be especially careful not to make political statements. I encourage you to take maximum advantage of this richness in order to produce the highest performance for our mission, this country and the international community.

Our operation is part of a coherent EU approach. It will add to the EU's political engagement, its aid programs and ongoing police and monitoring missions. We are supporting BIH's progress towards full membership of the EU.

Finally I would like to say that I insist on a team effort that will integrate the international character of this Headquarters and this mission. Together we can achieve a well balanced, concise and functional end product of which we can be proud.

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Dear readers,

Thanks to a valiant effort by representatives of all units and EUFOR HQ personnel who have submitted their articles, we have been able to picture the mission in this spring edition of Forum.

We have some blockbuster content in the events section. You'll learn about the recent main events in EUFOR, some illuminating facts about the Boar Hunting Livex and some news from the people in the LOT houses whose daily activities characterize the valuable and non intrusive approach of the mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina: it is through this distinctive perspective that our contributors explore the importance of EUFOR in the country.

It was our original intention to use this issue as an opportunity to explore the AFBIH yet we were more than happy to find ourselves with a wealth of writing on activities in the field and at Rajlovac Garrison. Further, Forum brings into focus the Mine Information Campaign whose aim is to speed up the demining activities in the country.

In this issue we have also introduced what we hope to make a recurring feature, "Interviews" which is meant to give the opportunity to express feelings and sharing ideas to all of you in a more direct way. This section will look at the people and events that represent the current state of EUFOR. Take a look at the interview with Dragan Zovko that provided us with a precious experience from our local staff.

Many, many thanks to each contributor in this issue. The new design you see before you is all thanks to the talent and time of the director Captain Fabio Cavallari and his valiant editorial team. And, of course, there wouldn't be a FORUM without the continuing support of all of you.

Sincerely,

Chief Press Office, Lt Col Giovani Ramunno

EUFOR Forum

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All copies must be submitted to:
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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. The EUFOR Forum does not normally return materials and will assume no liability for material submitted.

French Delegation Visits COM EUFOR

Three French Senators accompanied by the French Ambassador, her Excellency Maryse Berniau, visited EUFOR HQ where they paid an official call upon COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto.

During the office call and the following lunch hosted by COM EUFOR they could share information on EUFOR activities and the current security situation within BiH.

The members of the French delegation have expressed the appreciation for the successful job of the



◆ H.E Maryse Berniau with COM EUFOR and French Senators

military components whose bigger achievement is the stability provided by a safe and secure environment, despite the fact that tension is still undermining political relationship between ethnic groups.

The visiting party has toured the country as well as Srebrenica before coming to Sarajevo where

they also laid flowers to the monument dedicated to the French soldiers killed in action.

Senator Jack Ralite and Francois Pillet are also members of the "Groupe parlementaire d'amitié France-Balkans".

By Colonel Jean Mobelli, Chief ECD

BG Trischak on Recce Tour in BiH

To get a personal impression about the EUFOR ALTHEA mission, Brigadier General Reinhard Trischak, the new Director of the Military Policy Division in the Austrian Ministry of Defence, visited EUFOR on 16th April.

Austrian NCC Col Hermann Lattacher briefed him about the general situation in BiH.

After that he had a meeting with most of the Austrian soldiers which are located in Camp Butmir to get a short overview about their daily



◆ COS EUFOR BG Loewenstein with BG Trischak

duties. Afterwards he had an office call with COS EUFOR BG Loewenstein, in which he was introduced to the future planning

of the mission concluding his EUFOR part of the visit.

After leaving Camp Butmir he headed to downtown Sarajevo to meet the newly appointed EUSR/HR Valentin Inzko. The Austrian diplomat informed BG Trischak about the political situation and the resulting effects on EUFOR. He mentioned the good cooperation and relationship between him and the Austrian military.

By Captain David Oliver Ertler, EUFOR Media Analyst Officer

COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto, paid a visit to the Italian LOT houses in Visegrad and Sokolac on 28th March. The Commander reached the towns by helicopter. In Visegrad, he was welcomed by Lt Giovanni Punzo, Cdr of LOT Visegrad, and his host in Sokolac was Captain Manrico Pichierri, Cdr LOT Sokolac. Both visits began with the introduction of all LOT personnel, followed by a briefing.

COM EUFOR Visit to Italian LOTs

Visegrad

Lieutenant Punzo presented a briefing about the activities in progress and the actual situation in the LOT area of activity. The briefing highlighted, above all, the social and economical system, the local police and political situation.

Afterwards the visitors took a short tour of most interesting places in the city. The famous bridge on the Drina river: a structure dated back to the XVI century, artistic heritage symbolizing Visegrad history and the connection between East and West, between Christian and Muslim world: in a sense between past and future.

The power plant not far from the bridge, source of



energy and work for Visegrad and finally the city centre, made charming by the beautiful sunny day. COM EUFOR was pleased to find such an integrated personnel team.

Sokolac

The main purpose of COM's visit has been to get familiar with the main issues, concerns and last important events in LOT Sokolac AOR, included also the Municipality of Rogatica and Han Pijesak.

During the meeting, they talked about political and economic situation with problems linked with it, current security, point of situation about the criminality and correlated crimes. The presentation also included religious and social aspects of the area, in particular concerning the refugees' issue, ethnical distribution of the population and the situation before the war and the current one.

The visit of the General Castagnotto ended with a guided tour of Sokolac centre. General Castagnotto appreciated LOT military members' work and the fact that the team is very familiar with their AOR. He was



also pleased to note the total integration of the LOT personnel in the Sokolac reality and the good living conditions in the Field House and 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 EUFOR Mission, exhorting all LOT members to continue in this direction.

JMA Action in Destruction of Unaccounted Weapons, Ammunition and Explosives

In March 2009 Joint Military Affairs (JMA) conducted two actions in destruction of harvested material, one in Canton Tuzla and one in Banja Luka, in order to unblock the destruction process and to improve the storage situation for weapons at the local police stations.

JMA Verification Unit visited 29 police stations and some local civil protection facilities in Canton Tuzla and Banja Luka in order to verify the numbers of harvested material and to check the existing procedures and problems concerning destruction of harvested material. After completion of these visits, a final meeting chaired by Chief JMA, took place at HQ RCC 1 and RCC 4. At the meeting the representatives of the Ministries of Interior and Justices, Civil Protection Administration, Armed Forces of BIH (AFBIH) and the International Community were informed about the results of the visits and an important exchange of information between the AFBIH and the local civilian authorities on future procedure in destruction of harvested material could be facilitated.

Meanwhile all explosives stored



◆ Destruction was done by smashing the weapons with a tank M-60

at police stations in Canton Tuzla and Banja Luka were handed over to the local civil protection agencies.

The harvested weapons from Canton Tuzla and other police stations were destroyed together with harvested weapons, collected from AFBIH facilities in accordance with the AFBIH Dynamic Plan, in Zenica Barracks on 30th March 2009. Zenica Barracks is designated as the main destruction site for harvested weapons where the destruc-

tion of 537 different types of weapons (58 from police stations and 479 from AFBIH sites) was done by smashing the weapons with a tank M-60.

A third JMA local level activity is planned in the south of FBiH in due course in order to ensure that the procedure on destruction of unaccounted weapons is familiar all over BIH.

By Lt Col Walter Absmann, Military Advisor of AUT NCC



◆ Representatives of the Ministries of Interior and Justices, Civil Protection Administration, Armed Forces of BIH (AFBIH) and the International Community exchanged information on future procedure in destruction of harvested materials

The aim is to convince people involved in laying mine fields, during the war, to come forward and point out where the fields are to speed up demining activities and be more precise with searches.

On Friday 3rd April 2009 BHMACH (Mine Action Centre) launched a new Mine Information Campaign which was announced at a press conference held at the Parliament building in Sarajevo. This time BHMACH is taking a different approach.

The aim is to convince people involved in laying mine fields, during the war, to come forward and point out where the fields are to speed up demining activities and be more precise with searches. The campaign will be launched on bill-

VI MOŽETE POMOĆI! VI MOŽETE POMOĆI! VI MOŽETE POMOĆI!

**Za siguran korak
Bosnom i Hercegovinom**

Stotine hiljada ljudi u Bosni i Hercegovini
još uvijek je izloženo svakodnevnom
riziku stradanja od mina

NE UKLANJAJTE OZNAKE ZA MINSKA POLJA!

Centar za uklanjanje mina u BiH vas poziva:
Ako posjedujete saznanja o lokacijama minskih polja pozovite nas!

033/253-861 051/313-113 049/232-591

BH MAC Launches new Mine Information Campaign

boards, posters and television spots during April. The campaign coincides with Mine Action Month which takes place all over the world. EUFOR and NATO have sponsored this campaign with the production of the advertising posters and TV clip.

By Captain Steven ten Raa



MNBN Exercise

“BOAR HUNTING”



◆ Coordination of ground and air assets was crucial during the exercise

The EUFOR MNBN, currently under command of Lieutenant Colonel Jose Luis Carballo Alvarez of the Spanish Marines, is made up of four motorized Companies and one Recce Platoon which belong to four different European countries, Spain, Hungary, Poland and Turkey. A Battalion HQ, with personnel of the different nationalities, provides the MNBN Commander the necessary means to plan and conduct exercises and operations. The MNBN is composed of more than 500 soldiers.

In the period from 7th to 9th April 2009, EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN) conducted an exercise in the RCC3 area to train in Persons Indicted For War Crimes (PIFWCS) search and detention operations in support of

International Crime Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

The MNBN units were deployed on different points of the BIH east. They have carried out necessary reces and check points in the proximity of the cities and towns,

never inside them.

It is important to remark that this was only a EUFOR training exercise, not a real operation.

By Captain Pablo Bellido Laprada, MNBN Press Officer

Turkey takes over French LOTs

Smooth transition exhibited between French and Turkish personnel during the ToA of LOTs

On 16th April the LOT houses in Jablanica and Siroki Brijeg held by France, passed over to the Turkish contingent.

After the announcement made by France on 30th January about withdrawal of its troops from EUFOR, Turkey agreed to take over several of their assets. The handover of the LOT houses involved not only the personnel



◆ Lowering of the French flag

joining the observation teams but also the Turkish National Support Element (NSE) that took care about the general support of the teams.

COM EUFOR highlighted that the take over of the LOTs is a sign of a smooth transition but although the shift of missions on the LOT EUFOR will continue providing a safe and secure environment in BIH.

By Captain Fabio Cavallari, Media Plans Officer

EUFOR Visit to Armed Forces of BiH

After three days and over 800 km the mission was accomplished as a result of excellent co-operation and support from the Austrian led RCC4 in Tuzla and Turkish LOT houses in Kladanj and Zenica.



◆ Turkish LOT House Zenica supported members of EUFOR team No.2

On the 7th April, nine EUFOR teams, comprising of all ranks, left Camp Butmir to visit the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH). The aim of the visit was to further improve the friendly relationship between EUFOR personnel and AFBiH soldiers and to discuss training related topics. Major Stoppani of the Italian Army and his team visited the 4th Brigade, which is located mainly in the south of BiH. They traveled more than 900 km in three days, to reach all garrisons and the Brigades HQ and the three Infantry Battalions and

the Brigades Artillery Battalion. After returning to Butmir he stated: "It was a fantastic experience to meet so many people and to have an inside view of how the AFBiH performs."

Major Demirxhiu of the Albanian Army was tasked to visit the 5th Infantry Brigade AFBiH with his team. After three days and over 800 km the mission was accomplished as a result of excellent co-operation and support from the Austrian led RCC4 in Tuzla and Turkish LOT houses in Kladanj and

"It was a great pleasure to have EUFOR guests and I am looking forward to many similar meetings in the future."

Zenica. He was not the only one who paid tribute for the good cooperation with local EUFOR installations. All over Bosnia and Herzegovina personnel who had been involved from the RCC's and LOT houses welcomed the teams and helped wherever it was needed.

Bosnian Major Celic, S3 and Deputy Commander of the 5th Artillery Battalion stationed in Zepce stated after the visit: "It was a great pleasure to have EUFOR guests and I am looking forward to many similar meetings in the future."



◆ Captain Ertler with the staff of the 5th Artillery Battalion on parade grounds

By Captain David Oliver Ertler, EUFOR
Media Analyst Officer



Exercise "BOAR HUNTING"



AFBIH Ceremony at Rajlovac Garrison

On 15th April 1992 the Army of Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (ARBIH) was established. 17 years later, on 15th April 2009 a ceremony, marking the 4th anniversary of the 2nd Infantry Regiment within Armed Forces of BIH (AFBIH) and the 17th anniversary since the creation of ARBIH, was held at Rajlovac Garrison. Politicians, representatives of the executive and legislative power in BIH; representatives of the international diplomatic and military corps; along with veteran associations and BIH religious communities paid their respect to the AFBIH by being part of the ceremony.

The Commander of AFBIH 2nd

“I am very encouraged about the progress the AFBIH has made and EUFOR is looking forward to continuing the close working relationship.”

Infantry Regiment, BG Mirsad Begic stated in his speech that on this day "we remember our recent, but very difficult and turbulent past, which we mustn't forget".

EUFOR Deputy Commander, BG Carlos Diaz del Rio said after the ceremony: "I am very encouraged about the progress the AFBIH has made and EUFOR is looking for-



◆ BG Diaz del Rio

ward to continuing the close working relationship."

By Captain David Oliver Ertler, EUFOR Media Analyst Officer

PIFWC Operation

Early in the morning on 7th April, EUFOR ALTHEA commenced a search operation in Sokolac Municipality at Han Kram.

The mission was conducted at the request of the ICTY to look for information which could assist the ongoing search for the former General Ratko Mladic. It was conducted as part of a wider regional strategy which has seen several similar actions taken against potential support network members in Serbia.



As with previous operations against Persons Indicted For War Crimes (PIFWCs) EUFOR forces

worked in co-operation with NATO and the RS MuP.

These operations are legally based upon the mandate of the ICTY, EUFOR and NATO under the relevant UN Security Council Resolutions and the General Framework Agreement of Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

By Lt Cdr Patrick O'Callaghan, EUFOR Spokesperson

Exhibition of Works from School Competition

The Turkish Cultural Centre in Sarajevo was the host on the 2nd April to the opening exhibition of the art works from the School Competition event organized by EUFOR.

In a warm and joyful atmosphere the Turkish Ambassador in Sarajevo, His Excellency Mr. Bulent Tulun, has welcomed COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto, NATO Commander, Brigadier General Sabato Errico

and their staff. General Castagnotto, speaking about the local schools, thanked them for their contribution and the outstanding talent they have shown.

COM EUFOR also stated: "This event has not just put together students from 500 Bosnian schools but, as you can see, also men in uniform and civilians from different countries that had worked united in this project".

The director of the Cultural



Centre Ms. Nermin Ljista has then opened cultural event and afterwards she has shown to the authorities the organization and the potentials of the Turkish Cultural Centre.

By Captain Fabio Cavallari, Media Plans

EUFOR Brought Smiles and Laughter to Peter Kocic's School

LOT Bijeljina got a mission from RCC4 to pick up the most suitable school for a Norwegian Embassy's donation. It contained a video projector and a laptop. Selection process was difficult and long, because there are more than a few excellent schools in Bijeljina area.

Peter Kocic's school was chosen because it was exceedingly active during the competition. The school is located in LC Brodac which has not received a lot of help previously. Brodac area received a lot of internally displaced people during and after the war. These people have had tough life but they always kept their hope for the better future. Now they are trying to build better future for their children and the school has recruited an excel-



lent teaching staff in order to carry this through. Peter Kocic's school has won a lot of diplomas and trophies, which show their success in competitions against better predisposed schools.

In the donation ceremony the Headmaster, Mr. Radovan Bikic told to the LOT and RCC4 personnel that he is looking to the future and trying to learn from the past. Commander of RCC4, LtCol Stefan

Kirchbner responded to Mr. Bikic that he agrees and he thinks that the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina is the young people as they are for every country.

When the donation was presented to a class it received a lot of attention. After breaking the ice, pupils were swarming around the computer. Laughter and smiles filled the class room. Finnish, English, German and Serbian languages spoken in loud voices produced a cacophonous and friendly atmosphere. Once again the Headmaster expressed his gratitude to EUFOR and said that we brought smiles and laughter to school which really needed it.

By Lt Konsta Paasivirta, LOT Bijeljina

DCOM EUFOR Visit to RCC2



Deputy Commander EUFOR Brigadier General Carlos Diaz del Río visited the RCC2 in Mostar on 8th April.

DCOM EUFOR was welcomed and hosted by Major Guillermo García del Barrio (SP RCC2 Chief Commander) and Captain Audrey Ghiselli (FR Acting Deputy RCC2 Chief Commander).

Upon arrival at the RCC2 house, BG Carlos Diaz del Río was greeted by Captain Emilio Tamayo (RCC2 OPS

Officer). Then, he was introduced to the RCC2 personnel and RCC2 Chief Commander gave a general presentation about the Area of Activity (AoA) and main issues of interest. One topic was how the RCC2 would face up to the new situation after the imminent withdrawal of the French contingent from EUFOR.

Later on, the group departed to

LOT Mostar 1. After visiting the house facilities, LOT Cdr Captain Enrique Albert briefed DCOM EUFOR on current topics and ongoing issues, including a detailed point of view about the ongoing process to elect the Mayor of Mostar more than 6 months after the last elections.

After a light lunch in the LOT

house, the group visited LOT Mostar 2, where LOT Cdr Captain Juan Jesús Neiro gave DCOM EUFOR a presentation about the activities and the current situation in his area of activity.

At the end of the visit, DCOM EUFOR thanked RCC2 for all their hospitality and congratulated everybody for the professional work they have done so far.

Major Guillermo Garcia del Barrio, RCC2 Chief

Spanish Armed Forces have been deployed in BIH since 1992 and currently there are 37 soldiers of the Spanish Army deployed in RCC2 AoA.

Submission Guidelines

EUFOR Forum welcomes contributions to the magazine. It is our wish to cover as many areas and activities as possible, and for that we need your help. If you wish to submit an article, please read through the following guidelines for article and photo submissions.

Review:

All submissions will be reviewed by editorial board before being accepted for publication.

Deadlines:

Our deadline is two weeks prior to publication date, which is usually the end of second week every month. Because most issues are planned well in advance, queries should be submitted as early as possible.

Manuscript Requirements:

Articles must be typed, 150 to 500 words, and provided in a digital format (Word). Author's rank (if military), name, address, phone number should be attached to the article. If possible, a choice of titles should be included.

Artwork:

Photos and/or illustrations to accompany articles has to be sent in JPG or TIFF format, high quality to the mail address reported. With every photograph, a proposal of a caption should be included.

Contact:

Please send all queries to:
Captain Fabio Cavallari, Media Plans Officer

Swiss Air Assets in EUFOR

Probably you had the chance, whilst living in Butmir, to hear a Helicopter taking off or landing or just passing over your head. Actually in the Camp we have, German, Italian Slovakian and Swiss helicopters. Curiosity about these brought me to contact Captain Werner Walther of the Swiss Luftwaffe, who was so kind to tell me about his experience here in Sarajevo and about his professional life.

By Captain Fabio Cavallari, Media Plans Officer

The Swiss Air Force contingent here comprises of 7 persons: 2 pilots, 3 technicians, 1 logistic and 1 in the NSE. Their mandate in Sarajevo lasts 3 weeks and they fly with Cougar and Puma Helicopters. The Swiss helicopters are tasked only for non combat missions. In Bosnia they have accomplished tasks such as medical evacuation, transportation of personnel and materials and humanitarian duties. Swiss helicopters have participated also in missions in Sumatra, Greece, Kosovo, Albania and many other countries.



◆ Control Tower



◆ Inside of a cockpit

◆ Captain Walther is an engineer. In Switzerland he is stationed in the Dubendorf military base near Zurig and has now been deployed abroad 16 times. He speaks 6 languages and enjoys this mission because it has given him the chance to meet with colleagues from other countries.

Opportunity for Growth

Massimo Decandia



◆ Captain Massimo Decandia is the Chief Procurement and Contracting Officer in HQ EUFOR Finance

How do you feel about EUFOR mission in BiH?

This is my first mission in Bosnia but I am very surprised for the change that BiH made in these years. When I arrived in November 2008 in Sarajevo I discovered a city that has completely erased the signs of the war. My opinion is that EUFOR and EU made a good job in spite of everything.

What is the most common issue you encounter in your line of work?

Every mission has different issues, but in this case, EUFOR is an international organization full of professional soldiers.

What do you enjoy the most about your job?

What I enjoy the most about my job is the chance to let my professionalism grow, learning and working with NATO and EU normatives and techniques of COUNTING. These allow me to add quality to my experience acquired in Italy as administration officer.

What experience from your mission here will you remember for a long time?

As in Afghanistan where I dispatched my first mission, also in Bosnia I appreciate the human aspect. I noticed the strong will of the local people, their desire to grow and to build a new way of living forgetting the past. Those are pictures that will live in my mind and will enrich and strengthen my character.

Memorial Service



On 16th April, LOT Mostar 2 and a group of soldiers representing the AFBiH, had the chance to perform a short parade and an emotive ceremony. The reason was to remember and commemorate the unfortunate death of a Spanish soldier, the Captain Fernando Álvarez Rodríguez. Captain Rodríguez died in 1994 when he was a member of Explosive Ordnance Division (EOD).

Upon arrival to the memorial, the Spanish team proceeded to clear the area of undergrowth and garbage. After a short briefing to coordinate the parade, everybody adopted the suitable position in order to start the movement.

Commander of LOT Mostar 2, Captain Jesus Neiro, commanded the ceremony. First two soldiers, one Spanish and other Bosnian, laid flowers in the front part of the memorial. After that, there was a minute of silence in memory of Captain Álvarez's rest.

This occasion has been the second time for the AFBiH to support this parade with soldiers, performing a joint act in friendship, respect and cooperation between both armies.

The AFBiH senior officer stated that he felt satisfied with the professional and continued good work exhibited not only for the Spanish LOT but also by EUFOR components in continuous support of AFBiH.

By Captain Jesus Neiro, Cdr LOT Mostar 2

Austrian-German Party

On Saturday, the 18th April 2009 the Austrian and German contingents organized a combined party as proposed by the NCOs of respective contingents.



◆ After short introducing speeches from the National Senior Representatives, COS EUFOR, BG Loewenstein and Chief JMA Col Hermann Lattacher the party started

By Captain David Oliver Ertler, EUFOR Media Analyst Officer



◆ Bratwuerstel, steaks and salads were served and civilian as well as military guests out of the international community enjoyed the party. The band "Le Monde" from Croatia played excellent music and the guests enjoyed food, drinks and dance. Members of the RCC4 showed their traditional Austrian roots by wearing "Lederhosen"

From Carpenter to COM's Interpreter

Dragan Zovko



◆ Dragan Zovko is the Interpreter to COM EUFOR

What did you do before coming to work for EUFOR?

After the war I worked at a saw mill, then as a carpenter and eventually I ended up as a glassier.

How long have you been working for EUFOR?

It will be 12 years this year.

What would you say is your career highlight?

During SFOR times, it was when I finished the training for simultaneous interpreting and started putting it to practical use in my everyday duties. After the transition to EUFOR, me becoming COM EUFOR's interpreter is definitely a highlight.

How would you describe the biggest challenge you are facing in your line of work?

In such a specific multinational and, most importantly, multilingual surroundings it is quite a challenge to retain the necessary standard in my English.

What future challenge are you looking forward to?

After I graduate from the Faculty of Political Science, which I am currently attending, I hope to get a job in that line of work. Preferably, again, in international organizations or institutions.

Define your personal goals?

To get married, go to a vacation in the Caribbean and to have children. In that order.

Soldiers in the SPOTLIGHT

OR-9 Stefano Catalucci was born on 20th June 1968 in Witten (Germany). He came back to Italy with his parents when he just had 1 year and he grew up in Bassano in Teverina, a little town in the centre of Italy.

He joined the Army in 1986 by attending the NCO School in Viterbo. Then he commenced the signal course in the Telecommunication School. At the end of this intensive course OR-9 Catalucci participated in a course to become instructor in physical training.

During his career he worked as signal Platoon Commander at the 87th BTG "Senio" in Pistoia and after that he worked for six years as Drill-Sergeant and instructor in physical training for NCO students in the Military Telecommunication School in Chiavari (GE). For one year he was Platoon Commander in the NCO School in Viterbo.

The most important duty that he has performed was as Warrant Officer in charge of the security of the main access in the Aviation School of Army in Viterbo where he had worked also as a Warrant Officer in the personnel branch.

OR-9 Catalucci has an excellent knowledge of computer programming and good experience in first aid. He works as well as volunteer in the Italian Red Cross.

He is married and he has two beautiful children Alice and Matteo.

His personal hobby is music, he studied for 5 years in school music where he learned to play acoustic guitar.

This is his first mission overseas and he told us: "This is



◆ OR-9 Stefano Catalucci

a very interesting mission, I'm having the opportunity to increase my professional knowledge and develop different approach to my work and not least to meet other professionals from different countries.

I am sure that my English is improving day by day, and this gives me the

opportunity and confidence to communicate better. In this way my professional attributes as a soldier are enhanced and improved due to the international environment.

My personal opinion about this mission is easy - every soldier should try this interesting and important mission in order to allow himself to grow... Thanks everyone, it is the minimum thing that I can say."

WO1 Aldona Polkultinis is 34 years old. She is currently serving her time in EUFOR mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of the Polish Military Contingent Medical Support Group.

She is one of the soldiers in a medical company and she is a nurse. She joined the Polish Army two years ago, after being a civilian nurse for 10 years.

In Poland, she serves in 7 Coast Defense Brigade based in Slupsk.

She is married and she has two children - son, who is older and 12 years old and a daughter, who is 7 years old. She missed them both immensely while serving in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but recently she had a chance to go back to Poland and visit with them for a few days.

In her personal free time, she likes to grab and read a good book. She also enjoys travels and journeys.

WO 1 Polkultinis is for the first time on a mission out of her country. She decided to take part in ALTHEA mission because she is always looking for an

opportunity to gain new experiences.

She has traveled a lot through Bosnia and Herzegovina and she thinks Tuzla



◆ WO1 Aldona Polkultinis

and Doboj are the most beautiful cities in the country.

She thinks the country as a whole is also beautiful but very polluted.

When she finishes her mission and goes back to Poland, she is going to spend a lot of time with her family. She promised her children she would make it up to them for the time she has been away and

she will do it by spending all her free time with them and taking them to Legoland.

By Jasmin Zeherovic



Jan Zeherovic holding his newborn sister Tijana



By Esmir Dzankovic

Little Hajra Dzankovic is growing and waiting for her father to finish his mission in BIH

By Samir Kospo



Dzan Kospo holding his little brother Mak

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





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Za siguran korak Bosnom i Hercegovinom

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Akciju su podržali:



Informacije o lokacijama minskih polja omogućavaju efikasniji proces deminiranja s ciljem uspostavljanja mirne i sigurne Bosne i Hercegovine