

October 2009

EDITION 47

# EUFORUM

*Magazine*



**MEDEVAC Exercise**  
**We are ready every time**



**Launch of the Mine Awareness Campaign**



**Change of  
Command  
in MNBN**  
**Air Safety  
Meeting**

**A Participation of Women  
in Security Sector of BiH**

**Commander of the Multi National Battalion (MNBN)**  
**Lieutenant Colonel Juan Bosco Montero Prado**



In my recent return to BiH, I am grateful to have the opportunity to introduce myself through the EUFOR FORUM magazine. It is an honour to have been appointed as the Commander of the EUFOR MNBN for the next four months and it is my intention to continue in the same way of my predecessors in contributing to the safe and secure environment and maintenance of the democracy in this multiethnic country. I look forward to working closely not only with the MNBN components, but also with all EUFOR personnel based at

camp Butmir. I don't have any doubt that I will have the support and the enthusiasm of everyone in the Spanish team and that of the whole personnel of all the allied countries. I want to express my desire to collaborate in everything that helps the mission. My door will be open for everybody, for professional as well as personal issues. Finally I wish luck for the next months to everybody and salute warmly to the military personnel's families that are fundamental support for the work that we carry out.



## Contents

### EUFOR Events

" Dreams Come True" Movie **4**

MEDEVAC Exercise **5**

COM EUFOR visits LOT Sarajevo **6**

COM EUFOR visits LOT Sokolac **7**

### EUFOR Activities

AGESCI Visit to the Italian Contingent **8**

Participation of women in BiH Security Sector **9**

Launch of the Mine Awareness Campaign **10**

Joint Military Affairs (JMA) Inspections  
in the Bihac area **11**

### Inside EUFOR

Change of Command in MNBN **12**

Air Safety Meeting **13**

DACHL Party **14**

EUFOR Forum Presents:  
LOT Zvornik **15**

#### Interviews:

Ricardo Mesa Illes **16**

Massimiliano Pierucci **17**

Dear readers,

I was thumbing through back issues of our magazine. The range of subjects explored by Forum is wide but I did notice something that has been remarkably consistent and recurrent, however: Forum's ongoing interest in EUFOR Joint Military Affairs' activities. This is not surprising, of course; in the world of Security Sector reform, this topic is a must. Indeed, as recently as our August 2009 issue, we dedicated our centerfold to an in-depth look at the Inspection teams' activities and in May we had a report on destruction of weapons, ammunitions and explosives.

By my reckoning, Forum has revisited Security Sector Reform many times over the past months. A number of our case studies, for example, have looked at AFBiH' s improvements' inspecting ammunition and weapons storage sites and visiting demining sites.

We've also explored the topic of gender mainstreaming with a contribution of Nikolina Marceta, EUFOR Gender Advisor. All this is an indicator of the positive trend and the high standards achieved by AFBiH and more generally by local authorities in the path towards a more efficient Security Sector.

Sincerely,  
Lt Col Giovanni Ramunno  
Chief Press Office

## EUFOR Forum

[www.euforbih.org](http://www.euforbih.org)

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liability for material submitted.

## EUFOR participation in the "Dreams Come True" Movie

**14th August 2009** – EUFOR gathered 15 soldiers, sailors and airmen of different nationalities and all from Camp Butmir to play football against the cast of the Dreams Come True Film at Grbavica in Sarajevo. The kick off was at 1800 and although it was not a full football match, as it was for filming purposes, both teams participated with much enthusiasm. There was a great atmosphere and the whole event was enjoyed by the teams, the few spectators and the crew of the film.

Earlier in the year the EUFOR Press Office worked with a Mr Mladen Mitrović, of the Balkans Art Centre, by providing him with the facilities to

be able to take aerial shots of Sarajevo for the film. The film is a factual story about a group of children who used to live together near the Grbavica stadium in Sarajevo. The war started and the children moved away to various countries all over the world. The film director decided to try and track down all of the children and has been successful. He has now travelled all over the world to film their stories and their current situations. His "dream" has been to reunite them, for the first time since childhood, here in Sarajevo. He has succeeded in this and they are all in town to film the reuniting scenes for the film.

Because of the multi national aspect to the story and the themes of working and coming together, the Director was unsure how to end the film. As young children, several of players had dreams of becoming football stars and playing at Grbavica.

As young children, several of players had dreams of becoming football stars and playing at Grbavica. This gave him the idea to play a football team made up from mixed nationalities. After viewing the EUFOR web site and seeing a report on the EUFOR Veterans Football Match, Mladen was inspired to seek the assistance of EUFOR.

This gave him the idea to play a football team made up from mixed nationalities. After viewing the EUFOR web site and seeing a report on the EUFOR Veterans Football Match, Mladen was inspired to seek the assistance of EUFOR. The scene of a soccer match gives the participants of the film their "Dream" of coming home.

Other organisations that are involved with the film are UNESCO (Science and Cultural); UNESCO Commissions of BiH, Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia; Pro Helvetia (Swiss cultural program of Western Balkans); The Youth Initiative for Human Rights; Swedish Institute; The Swedish Embassy; FOX NEWS and RTS (Serbian TV).

By Lt Cdr Mandy McBain



## Visit of Lt Gen Rainer Glatz

**26th August 2009** - Lieutenant General Rainer Glatz, Commander of Bundeswehr Operations Command, paid an office call on COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto.

Lieutenant General Glatz is visiting Bosnia and Herzegovina to meet the German elements within

EUFOR. During the visit, COM EUFOR was able to brief Lieutenant General Glatz on EUFOR activities and the contribution made by the 130 strong German contingent based throughout BiH.

By Captain Antonio Petralia



## MEDEVAC Exercise



**9th August 2009** - The German Search and Rescue (SAR) flight held a training exercise for the German and Austrian Medics based in Camp Butmir in August. The Medics were trained how to attach and wear a harness before being winched up to the SAR helicopter. These are all routines that the medical teams

need to be familiar and confident with in order to be ready to assist in any SAR or medical evacuations that may involve EUFOR. Later the team attached a stretcher and learnt about the challenges of getting this into the helicopter safely using anti rotation lines.

Prior to arriving at the airfield

the medical teams had spent time in the classroom learning what hand signals to use to communicate with the helicopter crew. This training highlighted the amount of coordination, communication and teamwork required for what, can often be an incident conducted under pressure.

By Lt Cdr Mandy McBain

## Work and Fun Can Go Together

**11th August 2009** - Working overtime can be fun if you are with the EUFOR Info Ops Branch! After meeting the legendary Vicente Del Bosque in December last year, thanks to the Spanish Contingency, the Info Ops team met with the Bosnia and Herzegovina national football team on 11th August 2009.

Although the purpose for this encounter was filming the commercial for the EUFOR Soccer Tournament, EUFOR's team had an



opportunity for a friendly chat with some of the world's best football players, such as Bundesliga top scor-

er Edin Dzeko, Montpellier's Emir Spahic and the world renowned coach Ciro Blazevic, the manager of the team.

BiH's National Team players got to know more about the EUFOR Soccer Tournament due to take place in October and gave full support to the event. They sent out a unanimous message to the youth of BiH – "In football, it does not matter what nationality, race or religion you are. All players in the team strive for the same goal – victory".

By Lt Col Kevin Bingham



## LOT Jablanica Visited by DCOM EUFOR



DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Jose Carrasco paid an official visit to the Liaison Observation Team (LOT) Jablanica. Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) 2 Commander Major Fernando Alvarez and LOT Jablanica Commander Major Murat Tosun welcomed DCOM EUFOR at the helicopter landing site before transferring the visiting delegation to LOT Jablanica. The LOT house personnel were introduced to DCOM EUFOR before the LOT Commander, Major Tosun and the LOT Deputy Commander gave DCOM EUFOR a brief presentation about LOT Jablanica's area of activity, the current situation and concerns and other important issues.

By Captain Antonio Petralia

## COM EUFOR visits LOT Sarajevo



25th August 2009 - COM EUFOR Major General Stefano Castagnotto paid a visit to the Liaison Observation Team (LOT) in Sarajevo. LOT Sarajevo operates in the Central part of Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) 3 Area of Responsibility. The LOT Sarajevo team leader, OF2 Giorgio Novelli welcomed COM EUFOR and his staff and briefed him on the LOT house activities. At the end of the meeting Major General Castagnotto thanked the LOT for their hospitality and commented

that he was pleased to have met such a well motivated team working who work in a busy location but clearly know their area well.

By Captain Antonio Petralia



## Office Call by UK Ambassador

4th August 2009 - His Excellency Mr Michael Tatham, the British Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina paid an official call on DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Jose Carrasco. During the short call

they discussed the contribution made to EUFOR by the 13 strong British Contingents who are from the UK Army, Navy and Royal Air Force.

By Lt Cdr Mandy McBain



## COM EUFOR visits LOT Sokolac

18th August 2009 - COM EUFOR Major General Stefano Castagnotto flew by Italian Army Aviation helicopter to Sokolac to pay a visit to the Liaison Observation Team (LOT). LOT Sokolac operates in the North Eastern part of Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) 3 Area of Responsibility. The LOT Sokolac team leader, Lt Mario Puddu welcomed COMEUFOR and his staff and briefed him on the LOT house activities. At the end of the meeting Major General Castagnotto thanked the LOT for their hospitality and commented that he was pleased to have such a well motivated team who clearly knew their area and understood that local situation.

By Captain Antonio Petralia



## Visit of Mr Klompenhouwer and Brigadier General Stefan Feller to HQ EUFOR

COM EUFOR Major General Stefano Castagnotto today received Mr Kees Klompenhouwer, EU Civilian Operations Commander and Director of the Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC) accompanied by the Police Head of Mission of the European Union Police Mission (EUPM) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), Brigadier General Stefan Feller. During the office call, they exchanged opinions on the current situation and the importance of strategic planning and conduct of all civilian crisis management operations was highlighted.

Both EUFOR and EUPM assist the authorities in Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH) by working together in a comprehensive approach towards European integration. CPCC has a mandate to plan and conduct civil-



ian European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) operations under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee. CPCC works in close cooperation with the European Commission.

By Captain Antonio Petralia



## Visit from the Association of Guides & Scouts Catholic Italian (AGESCI) to the Italian Contingent in BiH

13th August 2009 - The Italian EUFOR Contingent in Bosnia and Herzegovina was visited by 106 Italian Scout belonging to the AGESCI, the Italian Catholic Guide and Scout Association. The boys and girls, who were from five different Italian regions arrived in Sarajevo to take part in a ten day summer camp. They had expressed a wish to meet and know something more about the Italian contribution to Operation " Althea" .

COM EUFOR Major General Stefano Castagnotto received the Italian association' s leader, Anna Scavuzzo who briefed him about " Progetto Sarajevo" that has been ongoing since 1996 in BiH. During the day the scout learned more about the European peacekeeping operations and what the Italians do



in EUFOR' s operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was a good opportunity for them to learn about security matters and the operations that the Italian Armed Forces perform abroad.

Afterwards the young guests witnessed the initial phases of a Public Order Exercise and the flight of two helicopters. They had the opportunity to meet some Italian soldiers and enjoy a special meal - the combat ration!

The aim of " Project Sarajevo" is

to meet religious, political authorities, Representatives from Government Organisations and Non Government Organisations. The Scouts also provided entertainment for Bosnian children and carried out small works in the three places where they established their camp, the Muslim, the Orthodox and the Catholic areas.

The cooperation between Italian Contingent and AGESCI started on 7th August when the Italian soldiers transferred the bikes of the scouts from Split to Sarajevo by truck. On 8th August the bikes were delivered to the scouts so they could move freely in Sarajevo. At the end of their activity the bikes will be delivered to Bosnian children and disabled associations in Sarajevo.

By Claudio Cibelli

## Major General Alexander Oostendorp Paid an Official Call on DCOM EUFOR

Major General Alexander Oostendorp, the Director of Operations Netherlands Defence Staff visited EUFOR HQ where he paid an official call on DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Jose Carrasco. DCOM EUFOR briefed Major General Oostendorp on EUFOR activities and the contribution made by the Netherlands military. As part of his visit to Camp

Butmir Major General Oostendorp received a brief from the Integrated Police Units and met with some of the Netherlands military contingent before departing for a call on the Netherlands Ambassador. Major General Oostendorp continues his three day trip to Bosnia and Herzegovina with a visit Banja Luka where he will meet members of the Regional Coordination Centre and



soldiers from the Liaison Observation Team House.

By Lt Cdr Mandy McBain



## Workshop for “Participation of Public in Peace Processes” – Participation of Women in Security Sector of BiH

4th August 2009 - In October 2008 COMEUFOR signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the European Union Police Mission (EUPM) to support the Project “Participation of Public in Peace Processes” – Participation of women in Security Sector of BiH – UNSCR 1325.

The third workshop was hosted by EUFOR in Camp Edelweiss in Tuzla on 4th August 2009. The previous workshops were held in local communities in Tuzla, Solina and Slatina in July. This was another opportunity for EUFOR to show its dedication to Gender Mainstreaming within its own organisation

and to support the initiative towards the society of BiH. Furthermore, this was an excellent opportunity to promote the Liaison Observation Team (LOT) concept and to establish better and closer communication between

the LOTs and the local communities. The workshops focused on the participation of women in political and public life, presentation of



UNSC Resolution 1325 and presentation of the LOT team role in this Project but also their role in BiH.

Lt Col Stefan Kirchebner, the Commander of Regional Coordination Centre 4 (RCC4) and his staff hosted the workshop. RCC4 dedicated a lot of time and

effort in a very short period in order to ensure the success of this workshop. All of the participants were very grateful to RCC4 for their generous hospitality. Additionally, the RCC4 language assistants worked long hours and offered excellent support to all of the attendees of the workshops helping to the success of the whole event.

The workshop confirmed that individuals are aware of the problem of a lack of women in influen-

tial positions in the Government and Security Sectors of BiH. During the discussions it became obvious that all attendees were aware that this problem will not be resolved over night and that it requires both governmental and nongovernmental sectors to work together. A lack of funds is the biggest setback in implementation of the respective legislation and action plans. Nevertheless, every step that the people of BiH do towards understanding the need for a greater presence of educated and capable women in key and influential positions is a small but important achievement.

The participants evaluated the workshops as extremely successful. They felt they had learnt more about the work of LOT teams in BiH and suggested this practice, of bringing together LOT members, local authorities and so called “ordinary people” should continue in the future. The hosting of this workshop by EUFOR confirmed to the wider audience, EUFOR’s dedication to this important topic.

By **Nikolina Marceta**

## Launch of the Mine Awareness Campaign



**11th August 2009** – In the Mine Action Centre of Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH) the Press were welcomed to the launch of the latest Mine Awareness Campaign. The Director of the Mine Action Centre, Mr Dusan Gavran along with the EUFOR Spokesperson, Lieutenant Commander Mandy McBAIN and a representative from the Armed Forces BiH faced the press and told them about the campaign which will run throughout BiH from the 12th Aug for five weeks. The campaign will be covered by Radio, TV, on billboards

and in Newspapers.

Mr Gavran explained the continuing problems caused by mines and how the campaign would work. The EUFOR Spokesperson said: "EUFOR & NATO are pleased to have worked with the BiH Mine Action Centre & the Armed Forces BiH to produce this latest Mine Awareness Campaign. We hope that the introduction of the single free toll telephone number will encourage people to report any possible mine information" .

By Lt Cdr Mandy McBain

### EUFOR Assists UN High Commissioner for Refugees

**26th August 2009** – Mr António Guterres, UN High Commissioner for Refugees briefly visited Camp Butmir today to fly to Glamoc, Banja Luka and Srebrenica in a EUFOR helicopter. Mr Guterres is on a tour of Western Balkan Countries and is spending two days in Bosnia and Herzegovina. COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto, greeted Mr Guterres prior to his flight.

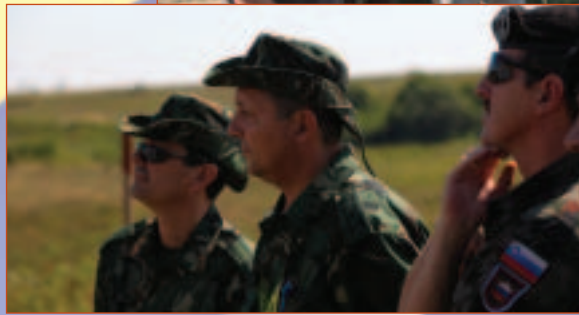
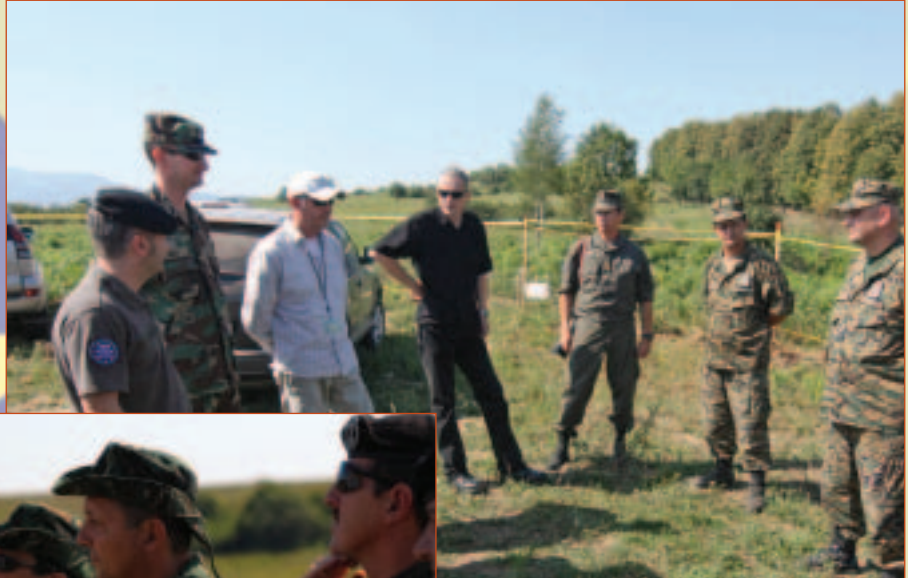
By Haris Daul





# Joint Military Affairs (JMA) Inspections in the Bihac area

On the 17th and 18th of August Joint Military Affairs (JMA) conducted an inspection of an ammunition and weapons storage site and visited a demining site of the BiH Armed Forces in the area of Bihac. Bihac is one of the furthest northern cities in Bosnia, next to the border to Croatia. Among the military community Bihac is famous for the former cold war underground airport facility of Zeljava ([www.zeljava.com](http://www.zeljava.com)). For civilians the closeness to the Plitvice natural park in Croatia might be of a certain interest.



## Ammunition Storage Site

The ammunition storage site belongs to the Bihac garrison Adil Besic. It is situated in a very remote location and appeared to be in a good condition. Thousands of rounds of all kinds and calibres of ammunition are stored there as well as various grenades and explosives. Colonel Peter Vorhofer, Chief JMA and his deputy, Major Richard Sperling, conducted the inspection tour themselves. Storage site security, status of employed personnel, fire protection, first aid and the fragile mine situation around the compound were the central issues during the inspection. After an initial briefing, the EUFOR inspection team visited the storages to get a better overview of the situation. It was obvious for the

team, that the storage site is in a quite good condition and that this is one of the safest sites within Bosnia. Colonel Vorhofer said: "This site is very well maintained and expertly taken care of by the responsible personnel".

## Visit of Demining Site

The Chief External Co-operation Division (ECD), Colonel Lyubomir Simeonov took the Info Ops Chief, Roman Urbanc with him to his first visit of a demining site. Col Vorhofer, Chief JMA, welcomed them within the perimeter of the ADIL BESIC barracks. After a 30-minute drive, the inspection team including EUFOR Chief Countermines (CM) Capt Ricardo Mesa and CM Field Operations Manager (FOM) Zeljko Kalinic, reached the demining site where

members of the BiH Engineers Battalion were already prepared for the initial briefing. After the briefing there was plenty of time for discussion with the officers in charge at the demining site in order to get a better impression of the overall situation. When some deminers returned from the mine field, Col Simeonov took the chance to have a chat with them and thank them for their danger-ridden contribution to establishing a safe and secure environment in BiH. Col Simeonov was very impressed by the broad variety of JMA activities and the perfectly organised inspection. Col Urbanc was also happy that he had gained an impression of the JMA field work. After leaving the site he stated, "Even for me, as Chief InfoOps, this was a very interesting opportunity to see another part of EUFOR work within this country".

By Captain David Oliver Ertler

## Change of Command in Multinational Battalion

**18th August 2009** - COM EUFOR presided over a change of command ceremony in Camp Butmir to mark the handover of command within the Multinational Battalion (MNBN). Lt Col Angel Ramos-Izquierdo de la Cuadra handed over command to Lt Col Juan Bosco Montero Prado, after nearly four months in command. The parade consisted of troops from the Multinational Battalion. General Castagnotto, COM EUFOR, awarded Lt Col Ramos-Izquierdo with the ALTHEA peace mission medal and commented on his professionalism and dedication. He welcomed Lt Col Montero and wished him similar success.

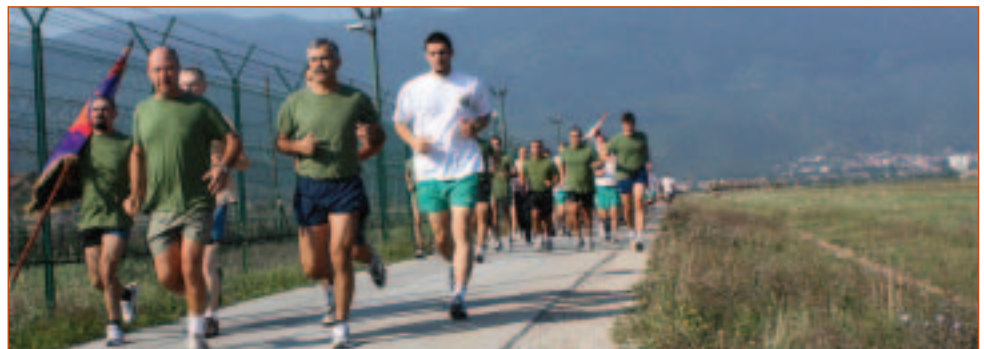
The new Spanish replacements in the MNBN consist of 209 troops, mainly Spanish Marines, but also from the Spanish Navy and Army. The MNBN consists of four Companies from Hungary, Poland, Turkey and Spain who provide also a reconnaissance platoon. These forces operate in support of maintaining the current safe and secure environment in BiH.

By Captain Pablo Rumeu Casares



## Multinational Battalion Cohesion March

**22nd August 2009** - Multinational Battalion (MNBN) carried out their first "Cohesion March" with the new contingent. The four Companies, the reconnaissance platoon and the MNBN Commander were led by Lt Col Montero Prado and his staff



officers. The different Units of the MNBN sang their own songs of identity beating time while they ran in perfect formation. This run is a

good opportunity to integrate the members and to reinforce the importance of teamwork which is the main objective. This activity

signals the end of the week, and the intention is to carry this run out every Saturday morning.

By Captain Pablo Rumeu Casares



## Air Safety Meeting

**14th August 2009** - EUFOR conducts air activities on a daily basis and air safety is a top priority for air ops management and aircrews. Taking into account that prevention can be achieved through education and training, EUFOR focused on air traffic conflicts and air proximities and hosted a meeting on this specific matter. On 14th August three air traffic controllers assigned to Sarajevo Air Traffic Control (ATC), Mr Hodzalic, Mr Berilo and Mr Malnar had the opportunity to meet in Camp Butmir the German, Italian and Swiss air crews. During their visit they were also able to meet the air ops personnel, the weather forecaster and the Archer Base Tower personnel and to share procedures and experiences. At the end of the meeting, the guests performed a familiarization flight on an Italian UH-1.



The briefing is one of the first steps for improving reciprocal knowledge and eventually air safety. Meeting will now be held on a monthly base. Full authority for the airspace of BiH airspace was transferred to BiH authorities in 2007.

The meeting is organized by Major Massimiliano Pierucci.

By Max Pierucci

## Medal Parade in Banja Luka

**22nd August 2009** – The EUFOR Regional Coordination Centre 1 (RCC1) Headquarters hosted a Medal Parade in Banja Luka and the Guest of Honour was COS EUFOR, Brigadier General Löwenstein. Brigadier General Löwenstein addressed the guests with a speech outlining how the trust



of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been established and conserved by the peacekeepers that were to receive the "European Security Defence Policy Service" Medal. He awarded the medal to five members of the RCC1 HQ.

Also at the parade there were 10 Bulgarian soldiers and 19 Chilean soldiers who were wearing their

medals which had been awarded respectively by the Senior Representative of the Bulgarian Contingent, Colonel Lyubomir Simeonov and by the Director of Peacekeeping Operations of the Chilean Armed Forces, Colonel Luis Silva.

By Lt Col Giovanni Ramunno

## Visit of Chilean Ambassador



H.E. Mr. Fernando Schmidt Ariztia, Ambassador of Chile with his family visited Chilean Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) in Prijedor. He was accompanied by the SNR of Chile Lt Col Mario Quinteros Garcia. During the visit the ambassador spoke to all the team members saying "It is an honour to see Chileans Soldiers in Europe, which are contributing to the maintenance of peace". After that they went to a city tour and finally had lunch with the staff.

By Captain Antonio Petralia

## Volleyball Tournament in Camp Butmir



**25th July 2009** - A Beach Volleyball Tournament was held in Camp Butmir. The tournament was open to all and was attended by teams from five different nations. All thanks for organising the event must go to the staff of the Gym, which gave the maximum support to the event. The event was played on a beautiful sunny day and with many supporters and friends attending.

The teams set up some thrilling clashes with fun and fair being the basis for all matches. At the end of each match there were handshakes and smiles which was a sign of sportsmanship and maturity. At the end of the Tournament the winning team was from Turkey called Jana Jana. Second place went to the Polish Team called Dzikic and the third place to the Slovenian Team called Plana. These teams received team medals and the trophy.

By Zeljko Puljic

## DACHL Party

**29th August 2009** - The first "DACHL-party" (joint German, Austrian, Switzerland and Luxembourg party) took place at the Millennium Bar in Camp Butmir. The National Senior Commanders of Austria, Germany, Luxembourg and Switzerland welcomed COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto, and DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Jose Carrasco, and COM NHQSa, Brigadier General Errico and



DCOM NHQSa, Brigadier General Bullard, along with distinguished guests from embassies and many EUFOR soldiers. Different kinds of national food and beverages were offered to the crowd and despite

the rain, the participants enjoyed the event until the early hours. The outgoing German contingent, who had earlier been awarded their EUFOR medals, had a proper occasion to celebrate their end of mission in BiH.

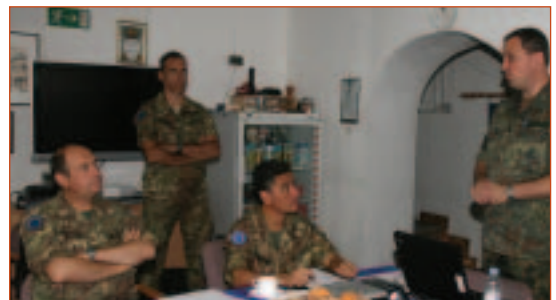
By Captain Wolfgang Stampfer



◆ COM EUFOR MG Castagnotto watches as COS EUFOR BG Robert Lowenstein cuts the cake

## COM EUFOR Visits LOT Foca

**5th September 2009** - COM EUFOR, Major General Castagnotto, paid an official visit to the LOT House in Foča in RCC 's 3 area of responsibility on Saturday, 05th September 2009.



The Commander of the LOT OF-3 Hollerith welcomed him and introduced the LOT personnel. The briefing, which was very much appreciated by the COM, provided a very good update of the present

situation together with an insight of the LOT activities. LOT house personnel had then the opportunity to share their ideas and general information with COMEUFOR.

By Captain Antonio Petralia



## EUFOR Forum Presents: LOT Zvornik

The LOT house of Zvornik is located in the city of Zvornik in Zvornik Municipality of RS. It is consisted of 8 Liaison Officers. The Chief of the Greek LOT House (OF-2), the LOT Commander (OF-1), the Deputy Commander (WO1), and 5 (OR-7, OR-6) Liaison Officers. LOT Zvornik is providing the primary means of timely information collection by meeting significant civilians and by conducting patrols on a daily basis within its Area of Operations (AOA). LOT Zvornik is one of the few LOT houses that its AOA covers territory that belongs to RS and FBiH too. 4 Municipalities are creating the LOT house' s AOA. Municipalities of Zvornik and Osmaci in RS, where



mainly B-Serbs are living, but with important percent ages of Bosniaks among them. Municipalities of Kalesija and Sapna in FBiH, where mainly Bosniaks are living. LOT Zvornik will continue to have eyes

and ears throughout its AOA in order to provide enough reaction time for EUFOR and the International Community in case of increases in tension.

By Captain Antonio Petralia

### School Competition 2009



LOT Prijedor took part in the School competition, where 3.200 children from 500 Primary and Secondary schools all over the country produced an impressive number of drawings, essays and group projects. Many Schools put a great deal of effort in the competition.

By Captain Antonio Petralia

### Anniversary of SBS in Novi Grad



LOT Prijedor was invited by the chief of State Border Service (SBS) in Novi Grad to the commemoration of a new anniversary; all members of this service were pleased with the EUFOR presence at this ceremony.

By Captain Antonio Petralia

# Ricardo Mesa Illes

## How long have you been in EUFOR?

I arrived to Sarajevo on July the 11th, so now I'm about to complete my first month in Bosnia. However, I first came here on September 2004 along with the British Army, and by that time I worked as the LOT Team Commander in Banja Luka and I left theatre in April 2005 and it was an excellent experience and I've always wanted to come back.

## Why did you choose to come for mission? (If it's your choice)

I applied for this new assignment here in Bosnia when I knew that the Chilean Army was looking for applicants for National Support Element (NSE) and Chief Countermines, then I passed my application through the chain of command and in the end I was selected to come.

## How many Chilean troops are present in EUFOR?

We are two Chilean Officers here in Butmir Camp, the Chilean SNR Lt Col Mario Quinteros who works in the LOT Desk, and me working at Joint Military Affairs (JMA) as Chief Countermines. Besides, I'm the Chilean NSE, so both of my jobs are a big responsibility and they are completely different from the assignment I had in Chile before I came here as a Signal Company Commander.

The Chilean Contingent is also in charge of two LOT Houses within the RCC 1 Area of Responsibility

(AOR), one in Sanski Most and another one in Prijedor, totalizing 21 Chilean Troops, Officers and NCOs here in Bosnia.

## How do you spend your free time?

On my free time I usually go to town for dinner or visit places of interest, and if I stay in camp I normally try to socialize with other people in order to learn about the culture and history of the different countries present in Bosnia and to talk and share our experiences as soldiers, however any time it's a good chance to make new friends.

## Name and describe any interesting thing about Chile that our readers most likely do not know.

First of all, Chile is one of the South American countries and it's easy to be recognized since it's a long and thin stripe of land, which limits in the north with Peru, in the north east with Bolivia and in the east with Argentina. Our western limit is the Pacific Ocean and we have more than 4.000 kilometers of coast line.

In Chile you can find many different types of climate, in the north area we have desert climate, in the central area mediterranean climate, in the south area sub antarctic climate and in the very south antarctic climate. As you can imagine depending on the area you are visiting are the activities and landscapes you can enjoy, whether you like the desert, the beach, the mountains or the rivers and lakes.



Chile is also well known by its wine industry, this is how nowadays we are producing and exporting many different kinds of wines and each one of them have an exquisite taste and have been awarded all over the world.

Our official language is Spanish and our national day is September the 18th, and next year we will celebrate 200th anniversary of our independence.

About our people I must say that we are very friendly and open to help you while you're visiting us as a tourist or if you decide to live in our country. We will always make you feel as in your own country.

Maybe some of you do not know why the Chileans are here as members of EUFOR, well the answer for this question is that in 2002 the Chilean Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the European Union and this is how the first Chilean Contingent came to Bosnia in September 2003 along with the British Army on a six months rotation period and since then we have been representing our country and our army, first in SFOR and nowadays in EUFOR.



## Turkish Armed Forces Day



**28th August 2009** - One of the most important Turkish National Days, 87th Anniversary of Victory Date and Turkish Armed Forces Day was celebrated in Camp Butmir. Deputy Commander to EUFOR, Brigadier General Carraso and NHQSa Commander Brigadier General Errico were present in the celebration at Millennium Bar.

Colonel Sarnel, The Senior National Representative to the Turkish Contingent thanked all the guests from FBiH and allied countries' representatives for their participation. Starting his speech with Mustafa Kemal ATATURK' s saying " Peace at Home, Peace in the World" , Colonel Sarnel expressed Turkey' s appreciation to serve for the peace keeping operation Althea in BiH as a TCN to EUFOR.

During the celebration, guests were served traditional Turkish foods and drinks in the ambiance of Turkish music. A folklore group called as Konjic Preporod, performed local folk dance show. On the same day, 11 Officers and 28 Warrant Officers from Turkish Contingent promoted to upper ranks in a special rank wearing ceremony followed by a reception.

By Captain Antonio Petralia

## EUFOR Air Operations Chief Major Massimiliano Pierucci

Please tell us something about yourself?

I was born in Civitavecchia (Roma) on 16th of June 1967 and I am an Italian Air Force Pilot, qualified as a Pilot/Captain on many air-planes and helicopters, especially UH-1 and MD500. I am a qualified Flight Safety Officer too. I got married to Elisabetta in 1998 and I have two daughters, Giulia and Lucrezia.



Where have you been employed during your career?

During my career I attended the Propeller Airplane Flying School of Latina on SIAI-Marchetti SF260, then the Jet Airplane Flying School of Lecce on Aermacchi MB339 and then Helicopter Flying School of Frosinone on AgustaBell 47G2. I have been SAR pilot in Decimomannu AFB. At the moment, I am Instructor and Examiner Pilot at 72nd Wing of Frosinone AFB.

What are your international experiences?

I took part in NATO AFOR " Allied Harbour" Mission in Albania in 1999 and in NATO KFOR Mission in Djakovica and Pristina several times between 2000 and 2002. I have been Air Training Chief at MIATM Malta from 2003 to 2006. I attended Night Vision Goggle Instructor Pilot Course in Fort Rucker, Alabama (USA) in 2001 and Helicopter Accident Investigation Course at University of South California in Los Angeles (USA) in 2007.

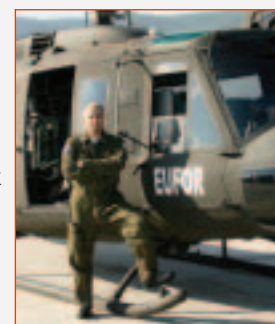
What is your role as EUFOR Air Ops Chief?

My role in EUFOR Mission is to be the responsible for all the operations regarding air assets of EUFOR, including Air Safety.

How do you feel about being in Operation Althea as EUFOR Air Ops Chief?

It was and it is an honour and a pleasure to be employed in Operation Althea in this beautiful country. I had the privilege to work with professional people coming from several countries of Europe.

By Captain Antonio Petralia



My name is OR-2 Ana María Márquez Cortés and I was born on 14th October 1988 in San Lucar de Barrameda, Cádiz, which is located in the south of Spain. I am the youngest of three brothers.



◆ OR2 Ana Maria Márquez Cortés

I joined the Spanish Marine Corps in 2007 as I was very fond of the Army ever since I was a child. I began my military training in the Spanish Marine School "General Albacete y Fuster" in Cartagena (Spain). Whilst there I received training in combat formation to be a fusilier. I would like to obtain the necessary wisdom to be non commissioned officer. This is my first foreign mission even but I have taken part in some international manoeuvres. I look forward to learn something from my professional work at the same time to live with the cultural diversity that I have found in Camp Butmir. I am very fond of languages, especially English and being here has provided a good chance to practice it. I like to dance, play football and to listen to music. When I finish this mission and go back to Spain I will enjoy time with her family and with my

men and anyone keen on soccer, plus general duties.

If you are available on the 13th, 14th and 15th October please submit your name to Info Ops branch in the HQ, details below. Before submitting your name you must get approval from your supervising officer or Commanding Officer. If there are too many volunteers we shall select and inform you as soon as possi-

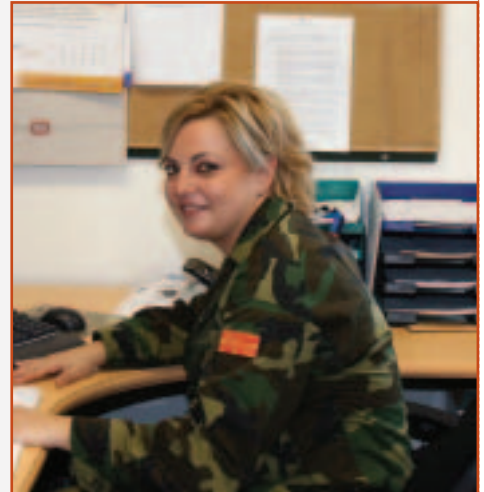
My name is Sergeant Mirjana Ristesky. I have been in EUFOR for one month and am enjoying the different experience. Last year I was in Afghanistan, so this time I wanted to try a use my specialisation in a different mission. I love my job so doing it here increases the challenge.

In BiH there are two Macedonian soldiers both members in Medical Center Division Unit. I spend most of my free

time reading but very often I'm going to gym. I have enjoyed taking some tours around in BiH that have been arranged through the MWA and I want to visit as many as possible. I have enjoyed seeing

the monuments and learning about the culture of this country that appears similar like mine.

My country, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, is very small and there are a lot of historical things. There are many examples of religious monuments like more than 300 Orthodox Churches and Monastery.



◆ Sergeant Mirjana Ristesky

## Volunteers required for EUFOR CUP, 14-15 October 2009 at Zetra

EUFOR is running a national schools 5 a side soccer competition in October.

The Info Ops branch is coordinating the event but is looking for volunteers to help in a number of areas. Roles include generally looking after children (13-15 year olds), administrators (for scoring and recording), 3 or 4 goalkeepers for a penalty shoot out competition, qualified referees and lines-

men and anyone keen on soccer, plus general duties.

If you are available on the 13th, 14th and 15th October please submit your name to Info Ops branch in the HQ, details below. Before submitting your name you must get approval from your supervising officer or Commanding Officer. If there are too many volunteers we shall select and inform you as soon as possi-

### Details to:

Jan.grens@eufor.eu.int  
IPN 3771

Mustafa.comor@eufor.eu.int  
IPN 5242

ble.

Volunteers from the LOTS will be welcome especially if they have schools, from their areas, participating.

With your help it will be an excellent few days for the children and EUFOR.



Augustas Patasonka



Rachele Viola



We are sorry to inform you that this is the last edition of EUFOR Forum featuring the Photo Corner as you now see it, with photographs of children submitted by EUFOR Personnel.

However, we will continue to publish photographs from our readers in the future as well. They will just be more mission oriented.

Giulia-Lulu-Pierucci



Tunahan Yildiz



Matuš Ihnatko and Timea Ihnatková





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If you have information about minefield locations

**call Center for Mine Removal  
on a toll-free number**

