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Magazine

**Memorandum of Understanding Over Civilian
Movement Control of Weapons and Military
Equipment Signed**

EUFOR ALTHEA BiH 2009



**Interview of General Stefano Castagnotto,
COM EUFOR to Oslobodjenje**

Joint Military Affairs - A Win-Win Situation



Memorandum of Understanding Over Civilian Movement Control of Weapons and Military Equipment Signed



19th November 2009 - Representatives of the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH MoS), the Ministry of Interior of the Republika Srpska, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the BiH Federation, the Cantonal Ministries of Internal Affairs, the Police of Brcko District, the State Regulatory Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety and COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which regulates the future approvals for import, export, transit and internal shipment of weapons and military equipment, ammunition, dual use items, and nuclear material for BiH and grants responsibility for these matters to BiH institutions.

This event was made possible because the key appropriate legislation has been adopted, and the basic conditions for the transfer of authority have been met.

The signing of this MoU is undoubtedly a milestone which concludes a five month hand over – take over process. As a matter of fact it took BiH MoS, EUFOR Joint Military Affairs (JMA) and

LEGAD offices more than 70 internal and external meetings to achieve the final versions of the MoU, to revise the Instruction to the Parties (ITP), and to work on the bylaws to the previously adopted law on regulating these matters.

Developing capabilities and procedures to control all matters related to movement of weapons and military equipment represents a step forward towards self – sustainability of BiH.

This process also demonstrates the capability to make progress when the political will is acting responsibly. It also demonstrates the continued commitment between the BiH authorities and institutions and EUFOR in this case, to further advance the legislation in an area which is very much inter-linked to National Defence and international obligations and security for the citizens of this country.

At the ceremony, COM EUFOR, General Stefano Castagnotto stated:

“It is my pleasure to acknowledge the readiness of BIH to receive the responsibility of controlling the movement of weapons and military equipment. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding further emphasises that the cooperation between EUFOR and many different BiH institutions has been once again very productive. The joint commitment to maintain the safe and secure environment is better shared after today’s signing of this Memorandum of Understanding.”

COM EUFOR added “I would also like to take this opportunity to comment on the importance of this event as being the last step in the handover of our functions and responsibilities to the local Authorities. The global feeling is that we have now completed all our Joint Military Affairs tasks in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The only transfer to Bosnian authority that remained to be achieved was the civilian control of movement, and this has been performed today. But EUFOR remains committed to ensuring a safe and secure environment to BiH”.



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Dear reader: This is the last edition of EUFOR Forum for the current year. Over the last five years the magazine has published a great many papers on operations, covering a wide range of perspectives. We have published overviews, informative pieces and innovative research and have explored specialist areas. We have covered many subjects, including management issues, policy matters, motivations, evaluations of programs and impact studies.

In this edition of EUFOR Forum, we proudly announce that EUFOR has completed the handover of functions and responsibilities to the BiH government and institutions, following extensive correspondence with the local authorities and the valiant effort of the people of the JMA and LEGAD.

It also demonstrates the continued commitment between the BiH authorities and institutions and EUFOR in this case, to further advance the legislation in an area which is very much inter-linked to National Defence and international obligations and security for the citizens of this country. To comment on the importance of this event as being the last step in the handover of our functions and responsibilities to the local Authorities, the global feeling is that we have now completed all our Joint Military Affairs tasks in Bosnia-Herzegovina. But EUFOR remains committed to ensuring a safe and secure environment to BiH.

In this issue, we publish articles on a range of topics relevant to our evolving mission. An interesting piece is the coverage of the visit of the Spanish Minister of Defence and the meeting of the representatives of the National Team with children from BiH.

In the last month we also hosted two relevant meetings between EU-US delegations and local politicians.

A thoughtful commentary by Col Vorhofer and Lt Cdr Willis explored two specialist areas such as JMA activities and a MEDEVAC exercise.

This is my last editorial as I will be leaving by the time you will be able to read this script and I take this opportunity to say thank you to two constants throughout the year of the magazine, to Antonio, the Director, for his editing skills and to our readers for making each issue look fantastic. Owing to the strong support we have had and continue to enjoy from you, the quality of the content of this journal has been increasingly high. This, together with our outstanding editorial board, assures that we will be able to picture the mission in the best way. We believe that continuity of the editor is important at this phase, and I am convinced that my talented successor will continue taking care of all of you in the position. I wish all the best for the future.

Sincerely,

Lt Col Giovanni Ramunno, Press Office Chief

EUFOR Forum

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COM EUFOR Visits Northwestern Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 28th and 29th October 2009 COM EUFOR Major General Castagnotto was on a two-days visit to the north of BiH, in the area of activities of the Regional Command Center (RCC) 1, under Command of Lt Col Jan Van Den Doll.

On the first day Major General Castagnotto and DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Jose Carrasco, accompanied by their staff paid a visit to the Liaison Observation Team (LOT) house in Drvar where they were welcomed by LOT Commander, Captain Gerard Verresen, who briefed them on the current activities and the ongoing cooperation with local institutions. COM

EUFOR thanked all the personnel of LOT House for their hospitality and their thorough briefing which demonstrated their clear understanding of their area of activity.



In the afternoon of the same day a representative of the Historical Office of EUFOR HQ, Muhidin Tutic, was in charge of the WWII battlefield tour of Drvar. Valuable lessons on the

airdrop operation from May 1944 were learned by the attendees, thanks to the thorough historical research done by Mr. Tutic.

The following day, 29th October 2009, COM EUFOR and DCOM EUFOR visit-

ed the LOT House in Cazin, where they were received by the Romanian military personnel. The Commander of the LOT, Major Teodorescu welcomed COM EUFOR and his staff, then introduced the LOT personnel before giving a briefing to the visitors. The presentation provided an update of the present situation together with an insight of the LOT activities.

Second step was the visit of LOT House in Prijedor. LOT Commander, Captain Alejandro Martin gave a warm welcome to the distinguished guests. The LOT Commander briefed them on the LOT house activities. At the end of the meeting Major General Castagnotto thanked the LOT personnel for their hos-

pitality and praised the members of the Team for their motivation.

The final step was the visit of the concentration camps from the 1992-1995 war in Prijedor, Omarska and Keraterm. Discovery of the camps by the media had a big impact on the public opinion in the Western countries and was among the factors that prompted the International Community to establish the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY).

By Captain Antonio Petralia





Distribution of Humanitarian Aid

29th September 2009 – Continue the humanitarian commitment of ITALFOR 32 pro Bosnia Herzegovina through the distribution of 250 q. of aids in cooperation with the ONLUS Association “Serves of the poor”. The aids, that are materials necessary for surviving as food and clothes, were donated by Italy and distributed in some kindergardens and horfanages located in the municipalities of Sarajevo, Rogatica and Visegrad. In particular the donation carried out in Visegrad regarded a special structure called “Protected Women



Institute”, that has the task to integrate the patients affected by mental problems in the society, through a specific programme that includes the teaching of craftmade activities. The Italian Army National Contingent, led by Lt. Giovanni Petrocelli, realized the activity by searching, through the operational teams deployed in Bosnia Herzegovina, the associations and institutes that have more needs and carrying out the distribution.

By Lt Claudio Cibelli

Italian Armed Forces Day

4th November 2009 – The Italian Armed Forces Day was celebrated in Camp Butmir on 4th November 2009. In this day Italians celebrate the historical events and all the values that brought Italy to unification.

Together with Italian Army, Air Force, Navy and Carabinieri the ceremony also involved most of the countries that belong to EUFOR family. In the greeting speech COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto welcomed H.E. the Ambassador of Italy in BiH, Raimondo DE CARDONA and the highest diplomatic, military, civilian and international representatives in BiH, the Bosnian MoD, Selmo Cicotic and the Bosnian CoD Lieutenant General Miladin Milojcic.

During the ceremony the Italian and foreign soldiers that better performed their duty were awarded with the “EUFOR – Althea” medal. A significant moment of the celebration was the gathering of Military Chaplains of different countries and the military representatives of different religions, all together praying in front of the fallen soldiers monument, in recognition of those who died carrying out their duty.

At the end of the military cer-



emony three AB 205 belonging to the Air Task Force AVES flew over the Honour Yard of Camp Butmir 2 bringing the Italian, Bosnian and EU flags. At the same time the sky was coloured by green, white and red smoke.

A buffet-lunch was served to all personnel and VIP guests.

By Lt Claudio Cibelli



Visit of Spanish Minister of Defence

13th October 2009 - COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto, welcomed the Spanish Minister of Defence Mrs. Carme Chacon and a delegation from the Ministry in Camp Butmir. Spanish Minister and COM EUFOR presided over the ceremony "Kid's meeting" where the Spanish delegation of the national soccer team delivered many T-Shirts to some children from Bosnia and Herzegovina and played with them.



Major General Castagnotto stated: "Welcome to Camp Butmir Headquarters of the European Force deployed in BiH, where more than two thousand soldiers and civilians from 25 nations live with the responsibility to ensure the security and the coexistence of the people of this corner of Europe that has suffered worse devastation and suffering than any other conflict."



Spanish Minister said that it's important to remember our comrades fallen in all Theatres.

Afterwards, Minister Mrs Chacon paid an office call to Major General Castagnotto that briefed her on the current security situation within BIH, and on EUFOR activities in assisting the local community to maintain a safe and secure environment. COM EUFOR took the opportunity to compliment the efforts of the Spanish contingent in EUFOR. Spain has the largest contingent in EUFOR with more than 300 troops.



By **Captain Antonio Petralia**



The first international "RCC4 Highland Games" in Camp Edelweiss

10th October 2009 - Under the command of Colonel Dr. Friedrich Teichmann the first Highlandgames-RCC4 were carried out in Camp Edelweiss. The aim of these games was to boost the team spirit and comradeship among the different Nations serving in RCC4 and last but not least to have a lot of fun. There were six challenging disciplines like hand grenade throwing, truck pulling, trunk throwing, wheelbarrow race, sack jumping and Dart's were the five international mixed teams had to show their skills. Surprisingly after all the difficult disciplines still two teams had reached the equal score and had to pass another challenging test. Representatives from Finland, Greece, Portugal and Austria were involved in this event.



As the second part of the event an "International Food Exhibition" was arranged in the dining hall of Camp Edelweiss. All four Nations invested incredible efforts also in this part of the event and prepared some very special meals from their home countries. During an eye-catching food display a speaker of each Nation presented and explained their specialties to the hungry audience. After the exhausting games these more

than delicious meals were the best awards for the hungry players and their empty stomachs.

The last highlight of the event was the presentation ceremony in the famous "Edelweiss Hut" an Austrian style Pub in

the Camp where all teams received funny prizes and personal certificates. Among various prizes donated by Chief RCC4 and AUNE the main prize was the comradeship and fun. Like at Olympic Games also at the "RCC4 Highland Games" there were no losers but only winner's left after the event. All in all this special international day was a very successful event.

By Colonel Dr. Friedrich Teichmann

Austria and Hungary Celebrate Together

23rd October 2009 - All guests of Colonel Tibor Bozo and Colonel Peter Vorhofer were welcomed in Camp Butmir to celebrate the national days of Austria and Hungary in a joint festival. Due to their common history and the current excellent cooperation between the two countries, both contingent commanders and members of HQ EUFOR decided to celebrate their national days together.



ties from Hungary, Hungarian goulash, and Austria, Wienerschnitzel and Kaiserschmarrn, were offered, and men and women in traditional dress and historical uniform, a folk dance group from Hungary and a live rock band from Austria provided an enjoyable

atmosphere for the many guests until the order came for "music stop" at 2 a. m.

By Captain Wolfgang Stampfer



Visit to LOT Visoko

22nd September 2009

- COM EUFOR Major General Stefano Castagnotto visited Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) Visoko together with his staff. The COM EUFOR and his delegation arrived at Visoko by air and were greeted by the LOT house team and had a



short city tour. The LOT Commander Major Mert Ata briefed COM EUFOR about the current situation in the Area of Activity (AOA) of Turkish LOT Visoko.

COM EUFOR`s contributions

to the briefing subjects gave valuable insights to the LOT personnel. Following the briefing, the LOT Commander explained the patrol routes and daily patrol planning in front of the operation map.

After the briefing, COM EUFOR presented a gift to the LOT Commander Major Mert Ata and thanked him for the successful activities and good relations with locals of Visoko. Major Ata thanked COM EUFOR and presented a plate in memory of the visit, he also told the LOT members that he leaves with favourable impressions of the region and that he was especially impressed with the obvious rapport that the LOT had with the locals.

By Captain Antonio Petralia

Visit to LOT Gorazde

1st October 2009 - COM EUFOR, Major General Castagnotto, paid a visit to the Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) House in Gorazde in the Regional Coordination Centre 3's (RCC) area of activity. Lt Col Glatzel Ansgar, Commander of the LOT, welcomed COM EUFOR at the helicopter landing site in the North of the city.



After arriving at the LOT House, Lt Col Glatzel introduced LOT personnel to COM EUFOR. 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.

By Captain Antonio Petralia

Visit of Major General Isik

14th October 2009 - COM EUFOR Major General Stefano Castagnotto had an office call with Deputy Chief of Turkish Land Forces Command Inspection and Evaluation Department Major General Nurettin Isik in the EUFOR HQ in Camp Butmir.



During the briefing Major General Isik was informed on the current EUFOR activities and the on-going cooperation with Turkish Contingent. COM EUFOR took the opportunity to compliment the efforts of Turkish contingent in EUFOR. Turkey has the third largest contingent in EUFOR with 262 troops.

By Captain Antonio Petralia



WEU Delegation visits HQ EUFOR

7th October 2009 – Mr. Doug Henderson, Mrs Aasted MADSEN IME and Mr. Rene’e ROUQUET MP, Chairmen of the Defense Committee of the European Security and Defense Assembly of the Western European Union (WEU) visited EUFOR HQ and met with COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto. They were briefed on EUFOR Mission and activities. The WEU delegation assisted to a Civil Disturbance Operations demonstration carried out by Forces of Integrated Police Unit (IPU) and Multinational



Battalion (MNBN), in IPU training area. The visit continued with other visit scheduled in Banja Luka (RCC and LOT House) and meetings with different actors of the IC in BiH. “WEU has the available force levels and resources needed to prepare and implement military operation, humanitarian and rescue tasks, peacekeeping tasks, and tasks of combat forces in crisis management including peacemaking”.

By Haris Daul

Meetings in Camp Butmir



20th October 2009 - The European Union (EU) and the United States (US) held a meeting of the political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. This meeting was the continuation of an important process that began when these parties met at the same location on 9th October. Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt, representing the Presidency of the EU, and U.S. Deputy Secretary of State James Steinberg co-chaired the meeting. The European Commissioner for

Enlargement, Olli Rehn, also participated. In preparation for the meeting on 20th October, joint EU and US teams of experts conferred with party leaders, civil society, and parliamentary committees throughout the week prior to event. This is a crucial moment for the political leaders of Bosnia and Herzegovina to reach an agreement that will place the country on the path to NATO and EU membership.

By Captain Antonio Petralia

Joint Military Affairs – A win-win situation

For a couple of years now many functions and responsibilities in which IFOR/SFOR/EUFOR was in the lead, have been handed over to the Armed Forces BiH or other Bosnian authorities.

One of the important matters for a Safe and Secure Environment are mine-clearance activities, which are completely under the responsibility of the BiH Mine Action Centre (BHMIC), an instrument of the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

The BHMIC uses a two-pillar system which includes commercial demining companies on one hand, and the AFBiH capacities on the other.

Since 1995, the AFBiH work in lead to relieve BiH of this plague.

With EUFOR monitoring and advising in this domain, there is substantial co-operation with AFBiH.

In the area of ammunition and weapons storage-sites and their management, the AFBiH work closely together with EUFOR/JMA to solve the prob-



lem of more than 30,000 tons of mostly surplus ammunition. In a lot of cases this ammunition is unsafe and/or unstable.

The capacity of ammunition technical specialists, internal inspection teams of AFBiH and destruction facilities increase every year.

A lot of work must still be accomplished in the following years, and the disposal capacity should continue to grow, but from 1995 to 2008, the AF BiH capability to take over more and more responsibilities had never been questioned.

A great progress was also achieved in the area of Military Movement Control. The establishment of the Military Movement Control Center in Doboj, the education of experts in this field and the good co-operation with EUFOR/JMA, has

significantly increased this specific AF capability. The only problem they still have there is lack of IT equipment and with that resolved, they will be able to produce faster and more precise results.

Also other tasks of Joint Military Affairs EUFOR, such as the destruction of harvested items and inspections of defence industry factories, are now responsibility of the BiH institutions. The Civilian Movement Control are responsibility of BiH authorities as of 19th November 2009. EUFOR/JMA provides assistance, advice and monitoring in all these fields.

Every day, the AF BiH and EUFOR/JMA work closely together, in order to reach all final goals for a self-sustainable country.

The progress that was achieved in these areas is wide-ranging and contributes to a safe and secure environment.



By Colonel Peter Vorhofer

MEDEVAC Exercise

The exercise was performed by Armed Forces of BiH (AFBIH) and was developed in two phases:

1st phase:

Civilian Scenario

A car accident involved 4 civilian vehicles, on the spot arrived Police, Military Police and Civil Police in order to secure the area and estimate the extent of the accident. The accident occurred close to a minefield so it was necessary the involvement of 2 helicopters (a Gazelle and a UH1H) to carry out a CASEVAC. A soldier picked up the injured going down by fast rope and bringing them out of the danger zone. The exercise ended with the transportation to the hospital.

2nd phase:

Military Scenario

A convoy was moving along a route when a IED blow up and demolished one of the vehicles. The soldiers answered fire but it was nec-



essary the intervention of a MI 8 helicopter with an infantry platoon onboard in order to support the soldiers on the spot. The attackers escaped and the injured people were brought away.



Another part of the activity was a Static Display:

A German SAR Helicopter UH 1-D was deployed on the ground, pilots explained the

technical details of the vehicle, while medics and paramedics showed the medical equipment onboard. Among the equipment was shown the medical rucksack so called "Hinkelstein" by German doctor because of its heavy weight.

The aim of the exercise was to demonstrate the necessity of a good training to perform such a delicate activity as CASEVAC and MEDEVAC in two different scenarios. "The readiness and preparation of the soldiers allowed the success of the exercise."

By Lt Cdr Andy Willis





Rewards from Dutch football club "FC Utrecht" to Elementary School "Travnik"



21st October 2009 – Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) Travnik paid a special visit to the elementary school "Travnik" in the municipality of Travnik. For this special occasion they were accompanied by the Dutch Major Van Welij from INFO OPS from HQ EUFOR.

The children of the elementary school "Travnik" and the school were rewarded for their achievements in the EUFOR cup

football tournament with some nice presents from the Dutch football club "FC Utrecht", who was one of the sponsors of the tournament.

On behalf of "FC Utrecht", LOT and INFO OPS gave away football

equipment like T-shirts, socks, balls and bags to the children and they also donated two computers to the school.

A journalist and cameraman from Radio Television (RTV) Travnik were there also and LOT gave a small interview to thank the school for their efforts in the tournament.

The children seemed very proud with their new material.

By Captain Guido van der Rijst

Deputy HR Visits COM EUFOR



22nd September 2009 - Principal Deputy High Representative, Dr. Raffi Gregorian visited HQ EUFOR and was welcomed by Major General Stefano Castagnotto. During the office call views on the current situation were exchanged.

By Captain Wolfgang Stampfer

Visit of University Students

24th September 2009 – A group of political and social science and European studies students from the Leibniz University of Hannover – Germany visited HQ EUFOR in Camp Butmir as part of their study trip to BiH. The eleven students attended briefings about the "History of the recent conflict in BiH", "Political Aspects of EUFOR" and "Mines in BiH". One of the students, Alexa Brase stated: "Actually this is our second visit to BiH and EUFOR and we are very grateful for the warm welcome and the very interesting and educational presentations. We will certainly come again next year."

By Captain Wolfgang Stampfer





Walk of life



26th September 2009 - Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) Mostar 1 and several Spanish women soldiers from LOT Mostar 2 and Regional Coordination Center (RCC) 2 joined in the last "Walk of Life" which was held in Mostar.

They could enjoy and experience the true spirit of solidarity with many local participants in this initiative of fighting against breast cancer. While walking around Mostar city, some majorettes and the military band of music amused the walk. At the beginning some t-shirts were distributed to the participants with the slogan of AVON.

The walk started and finished at Spanish Square in a peaceful way.

By Captain Pablo Rumeu Casares

Turkish National Day

Turkish National Day (29 Ekim Cumhuriyet Bayrami) was celebrated enthusiastically on 28th and 29th October in



Camp Butmir. Turkish NSR Colonel Ibrahim Sahinol welcomed Turkish Ambassador Vefahan Ocak in Bosnia and Herzegovina, COS EUFOR Brigadier General Gerhard Kemler and the other guests. Different kind of national food and beverages were offered to the guests. Also short films about Turkey, National Armed Forces and folkdance show that presented by young Bosnians watched admirably.

Turkish NSR Colonel Ibrahim Sahinol said that according to the principle of the pioneer of the Turkish Republic Mustafa Kemal Ataturk "Peace at home, Peace in the world", Turkish Armed Forces always will be ready where it is needed in the world.

By Captain Antonio Petralia

German Serenade

3rd October 2009 - The Wehrbereichs Musikkorps III from Erfurt, a German Military Band, presented a concert in Camp Butmir to celebrate the 19th anniversary of the German reunification at the presence of the German Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dr. Schmidt Joachim and his wife.

The concert was led by Lt Col Roland Kahle who chose several well known

compositions to perform. These included "Wir präsentieren," "Fredericus Rex Grenadiermarsch," "Florentiner Marsch," "Marsch Jagdgeschwader Richt-

hofen," "Des Grossen Kurfürsten Reitermarsch," "Trumpets wild," and "Hoch Heidecksburg."

In the audience were EUFOR Commander, EUFOR Deputy Commander, NATO Deputy Commander, EUFOR Chief of Staff, EUFOR Key Leaders and many members of Operation ALTHEA who thoroughly enjoyed the fascinating performance.

The audience was engaged and enthusiastic.

By Captain Antonio Petralia





Flag lowering ceremony of the **Latvian Contingent**



6th October 2009 – OF-5 Normunds Aleksis, Commander of the 3rd Region of Latvian National Guard, visited Major General Stefano Castagnotto in EUFOR HQ and had an office

call. COM EUFOR talked to the Commander about the current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and thanked him for the contribution made by the Latvian contingent in

EUFOR. After that they presided over the Flag Lowering Ceremony of the Latvian Contingent in front of the HQ building.

By Haris Daul

RCC 4 LOT Conference

8th October 2009 - The 23rd Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) Conference of Regional Coordination Center (RCC) 4 was organized in the OHR premises in Brcko. After the official opening of the conference, conducted by the Chief RCC 4, Colonel Friedrich Teichmann, the participants paid attention to the very enlightening briefing of the PDHR, Raffi Gregorian. Apart from other important information, he explained to the participants the history, the prospects and the strategic importance of the Brcko District. After the briefing of a half an hour, the audience addressed him with a number of questions, and first part of the conference was complet-



ed with a very open and lively discussion on various matters of interest.

After a light lunch, the conference continued with the operational briefings and discussions. A special value for the discus-

sions was the attendance of the Chief Collection, Lt Col Michael Mc Dermott from HQ EUFOR. He addressed very important views and guidelines to the LOT officers about our operational work in the SA Matrix.

The operational part of the conference was followed by a truly enjoyable Ice Cream Party at the adjacent LOT House Brcko. Our Austrian comrades had arranged a comprehensive collection of different ice creams, sauces, candies, fruits and drinks for the guests to taste. After enjoying the food and the company the guests started their drive back to their home camps with warm and sweet bellies and minds.

By Lt Col Antti Castrén





Visit of Lieutenant General Nelson Dos Santos

30th September 2009 - Lieutenant General Nelson Dos Santos, the Commander of Portuguese National Guard, visited EUFOR HQ where he paid an official call on COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto. COM EUFOR briefed the Lieutenant General on EUFOR activities and the current security situation within BiH. He also praised the contribution made by the 51 strong

Portuguese contingent based throughout BiH.

After that Major General Castagnotto and Lieutenant General Dos Santos attended the Medal Parade that was held at Camp Butmir 2 for the personnel of Integrated Police Unit (IPU) contingents. The event

was also attended by the Ambassador of Spain and the Ambassador of Portugal to BiH, respectively, H.E. Mr. Alejandro Alvargonzalez San Martin and H.E Mr. Antonio Botelho de Sousa who decorated the Operational ALTHEA Medal.



All IPU received their awards with pride. During his second day of the visit, the Commander of Portuguese National Guard also met IPU Commander, Colonel Oliveira, and Portuguese contingent personnel of Republican National Guard.

By Captain Antonio Petralia

GEOSPATIAL meetings

3rd November 2009 - Every semester an operational geo-coordination meeting takes place both in the missions' locations in the Balkans and in NATO HQs in Europe. The aim of the gatherings is to share information on issues related to the geospatial support to the missions in the Balkan area, more in detail to EUFOR in BiH and KFOR in Kosovo. EUFOR Geo section organized the coordination meeting of the present semester on 3rd November. The event allowed the staff to share information on technical matters



such as: the use of open source data, the latest acquisition of BiH borderlines and names of municipalities from the local Institute "Geodetski Zavot" and the acquisition of High Resolution Satellite Imagery of three hotspots in BiH, procured by NC3A (NATO Consultation, Command and Control Agency), all these will allow to improve EUFOR Geo databases.

The status of creation of BiH Geo capabilities lies also with a NATO advisor team and a representative of the AFBiH.

By Lt Col Giovanni Ramunno



Oslobodjenje, Sunday, 1st November 2009, issue 22570 (p.4,5)

General Stefano Castagnotto, Commander EUFOR in BiH

We Should Avoid Negative Rhetoric



-There has been the deterioration of political relations and use of negative rhetoric recently in BiH. What is your assessment of the current security situation in BiH?

- I am the Commandant EUFOR, a soldier, and I my assessment of the security situation is based on the situation on the ground and at a technical level. According to the technical activities under way, as I do not want to give a generic assessment, the security situation is at a satisfying level, which is substantiated by many facts. Although it is the truth is that there are certain misunderstandings and disagreements among people, there is a political process which is under way constantly. The International Community is committed to assist that the process continues to develop and that better solutions are found, which is substantiated by the organisation of the recent meeting organised in Camp Butmir. So, there is dynamic in the development of the political situation in the

country.

-You said that the situation is satisfying from the technical point of view. However, even the possibility that there might be some conflicts might occur in BiH has been mentioned recently if the deadlock to which the reform process has come to is not deblocked. The citizens are concerned that there might be new conflicts or war. Are their fears justifiable?

- I wanted to meet you face to face not only because we have met earlier and to enjoy in your company over a cup of coffee, but to use this opportunity and make a statement. Your newspaper has a long tradition and it is respected, so we both should be careful when talking about some issues. You have mentioned the citizens' concern that something might happen in this country. That is why we must be careful when making statements as, on the one hand, there is the reality and on the other hand, there is the perception of the situation, which is not necessarily the same.

As I said, there is political dynamic and technical issues which point to the situation which is much better when compared with the situation we had earlier. In addition, there is the stabilisation process which is going on at different levels. And there is also the commitment of the EU to this process.

Negative rhetoric might lead to a wrong direction. Because of that we should refrain from the statements which can go towards a negative direction or cause a situation which can go into that that way.

Progress towards NATO

- At the last ministerial meeting in Gothenburg there were some ideas of possible redefinition of the role of EUFOR in BiH. Do you think that EUFOR in the current capacity is still necessary in BiH?

- I am the Force Commander and I think and act in technical terms. My task is to drag you away from presenting the situation in generic terms and giving such assessment of the situation. As a soldier, I have the mission to accomplish, which is based on UN SC Resolution 1485. According to it, the mandate expires on 20 November 2009, some 20 days from now. The mission is executive and there has been no change in this regard from 1995. The mechanisms we have shall be used to carry out our



mission in the most professional way possible.

“I do not have a major role in the decision-making process as to whether I shall stay here and whether the mission will be extended or evolved.”

If it is decided that our mandate continues to be executive, we shall comply with the decision and carry out with the execution of our tasks based on it. However, we have our contingency plans if the decision is made to change the mandate. We have prepared such plans as is usual in such situations. The main issue discussed at the meeting in Gothenburgh was whether there will be any changes to the mandate of the OHR. But the same as they do, we also have contingency plans and we are ready to act if the decision is made to change the mandate. This is a normal way of carrying out our mission.

- The BiH authorities submitted the MAP application as part of the process of joining NATO as a full member. In your opinion, when BiH might become a full NATO member?

- The process of joining such a complex and multi-level organisation is a step-by-step process. When I came here last year, BiH was in the IPAP phase, and now we have the MAP application submitted. As you see, there is progress in technical terms. I am pleased to state that we have successful co-operation

with local institutions, primarily the AF BiH, where there is the right mindset, professional conduct, and willing to carry out necessary activities in a proper way as fast as possible. NATO is not only military alliance, but the political one. There are certain criteria for joining the Alliance, which overlap to a certain extent with the criteria for the accession to the EU. Within the process that has begun, there are certain things which must be done before it is completed. This does not apply to the AF BiH only, but the whole country. I would make the assessment that the AF BiH do their share very well.

procedure. In this case, the rules are well-known and they apply to everybody.

Mines

- In BiH there are still large amounts of UXO remained from the last war. They are assessed to 25,000 to 30,000 tons, and the destruction process in very slow. What threat do these UXO pose to citizens?

- It is the excess of weapons and ammunition stored in storage facilities throughout BiH. When talking about UXOs, which include mines, I believe that this issue causes concern and it should be dealt with. I believe that 3 % of the territory of BiH is contaminat-

◆ The first thing that should be done is to speed up the process and put all possible efforts to find the funds which will be allocated to enhance the fairly modest capacities of the AF BiH for this activity.

- In the context of the obligations that BiH, i.e. its authorities, should meet in order to become a full member of NATO, what do you think that BiH should do in the forthcoming period?

- I cannot respond on behalf of NATO. Still, there are some technical adjustments that need to be made in order to meet the criteria of interoperability, which needs to be done in order to work together. I shall give you some examples, such as establishing proper procedures, ratification, standardisation, contracting, etc. In addition, when you want to join a club, there are certain things you must do, you must pay a fee and comply with the club's the rules of

ed with mines. There is a projection that in technical terms good results might be reached by 2019, although it can never be considered that all mines are completely removed, for a number of reasons. Besides, there is a problem of excess of weapons and ammunition. There is the plan which is the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence, approved by the Presidency of BiH. We also have been dealing with this issue. A meeting at which this issue was discussed was held in Bijeljina in the last days. You should keep asking the local authorities what they have done in this regard. This is the issue your country should focus on.

By Almir Terzic



S2/S3 Branch Chief of the Italian Contingent ITALFOR 32
OF-1 Giulia Cornacchione



She was born on 20th may 1980 in Aosta and she is the daughter of a career officer of Italian Army. She grew up into barracks so she appreciated more and more life in uniform and decided to join the Army Military Academy in 2000. At the end of the academy training and studies she became an anti aircraft artillery officer and she was assigned to the 17th Anti Aircraft Artillery Regiment "Sforzesca" in Sabaudia as platoon commander and deputy battery commander of a short range air defence system SKYGUARD unit. During her career she took part in several multinational exercises as NATO Response Force (NRF) and Multinational Land Force (MLF). This was a good occasion to familiarize with NATO procedures.

"This is my first mission abroad and it's so interesting to do my job in international contest after months of training in Italy" she said "I have the opportunity to know more about local customs. I'm so glad that now Bosnian citizens can enjoy their beautiful country. I arrived at Butmir on 22nd June and I feel that I grew up professionally and culturally. So far I have learned about missions abroad from my husband, he is an Italian Army Aviation CH-47 CHINOOK pilot. Sometimes it is so difficult to manage our free time but both of us like our job and do it thinking about how grateful is to be a part of a project aimed to help unlucky people."

By Lt Claudio Cibelli

Italian NSE



The employment in the Italian support element has been a very challenging for the staff of the NSE lead- ed by TEN. Col. Paolo Bartoli. He supported by the first WO Caliò and the first WO Lomartire, together with three other non-commissioned officers and a host that have rotated themselves every 6 months, was estab- lished in the first 10 days of December 2008 in Bosnia. Than the components of the NSE has followed the var- ious activities concerning the various changes of per- sonnel which in processing, out processing, accommo- dation documentation feature, advances on mission expenses, shipment of staff on flights and farewell to staff in outflow, market research and direct contribu- tion to the secretariats of Major General Stefano Castagnotto COM of EUFOR. The knowledge of English and the sympathy typical of the Italians, has also allowed to all the staff of the NSE to have a relationship of work and convivial with NSE personnel of other nationalities, creating relationship of esteem and sym- pathy without distinction of a degree or nationality. In more than 12 months the trucks at the disposal of the NSE, in order to satisfy all the above requirements, have done about 8000 km. this beautiful experience rare, has also allowed to the Italian personnel in that territory National Service at central bodies and periph- eral, to be interface and compare the various methods of work, working in order to meet the needs of Italian personnel. Therefore, a greeting and a wish for good return and Good Luck also the first WO Bordi edges, first WO Naddeo, WO Viola and the corporal Schillaci that will also stay here; ends with the motto of the NSE: Your Needs are our targets!

By WO Sergio Lo Martire



Visit of Ambassador of Estonia



29th September 2009 - His Excellency Mr Rein Oidekivi, Ambassador of Estonia to Bosnia and Herzegovina, visited EUFOR HQ where he paid office call to COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto. COM EUFOR briefed the Ambassador on EUFOR activities and the current security situation within BiH. Estonia has been contributing to Operation "ALTHEA" since it started in December 2004.

By Captain Antonio Petralia

Visit of Ambassador of Czech Republic

19th October 2009 - His Excellency Mr Tomas Szunyog, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to Bosnia and Herzegovina, visited EUFOR HQ where he paid an official call to COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto. COM EUFOR briefed the Ambassador on EUFOR activities and the current security situation within BiH and the recent successful EUFOR CUP Soccer Competition. Czech Republic is not contributing to operation "Althea" with troops.

By Captain Antonio Petralia



Visit of Lieutenant General Johann Georg Dora



26th October 2009 - Vice Chief of Defense Bundeswehr, Lieutenant General Johann Georg Dora visited EUFOR HQ in camp Butmir where he was received by COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto. COM EUFOR briefed Lieutenant General Dora on EUFOR activities, the current security situation within BiH. Major General Castagnotto took the opportunity to express his appreciation of the contribution of the German Contingent in BiH.

By Captain Antonio Petralia

Visit of Major General Eyup Kaptan

23rd October 2009 - Turkey Army Logistic Commander Major General Eyup Kaptan visited EUFOR HQ where he paid an official call to DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Jose Carrasco. DCOM EUFOR briefed the Ambassador on EUFOR activities and the current security situation within BiH and on recent successful EUFOR soccer competition. DCOM EUFOR took the opportunity to compliment the efforts of Turkish Contingent in EUFOR.

By Captain Antonio Petralia



YOUR NEIGHBOURS



EUFOR LOT TEAMS  **ENTIRE BiH**