

# EUFOR forum



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## EUFOR and AFBiH Working Together

## Foreword by COM EUFOR Major General Bernhard Bair



Happy New Year to all EUFOR Peacekeepers. I hope that the holiday season was a joyous and happy occasion for everyone. It is a time for family in particular. It is those that we leave behind that deal with the reality of daily life in our home countries; and it is us soldiers and aircrew that depart to face the challenge and adventure of peacekeeping in Bosnia Herzegovina. Your family's sacrifice is worthy of high praise and I thank them also.

Of course New Year is a time for reflection on the year passed and looking forward to the coming year. 2010 saw the re-organisation of our military footprint throughout the country and expansion of our role, with the incorporation of a now extensive Training and Capacity Building programme for the AFBiH. This new function has been set up with great professionalism and the supporting nations are providing top class expertise. In 2011 this role will further expand and I am sure the excellent co-

operation of the AFBiH will reap rewards for all participants.

Our involvement with the youth of Bosnia Herzegovina is both worthy and rewarding. The Schools Competition and EUFOR Cup have gone from strength to strength and I look forward to seeing even greater participation in 2011. 2010 saw a record number of local people given Mine Risk Education. I hope, through the tireless work of those involved, that EUFOR will continue this much needed education with the same intensity and skill.

EUFOR's re-organisation is a sign of progress, with a safe and secure environment well established. The freshly structured Multi-national battalion and LOT houses give me information and ability to fulfil our mandate correctly. It is a mandate that I as Commander remain on in 2011 to fulfil with great pride and enthusiasm.

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Austrians celebrate their National Day **10&11**



Members of MNEN and AFBiH during the demonstration held for the visiting members of PSC.

Dear all,  
Wintertime has arrived and I hope you are a little bit familiar with the cold temperatures so far, not only in your base, but also outside the camp, or the LOT house. As an Austrian I am very happy with snow because we are used to it and I like it if the countryside is covered with beautiful white. At home I am the man with the snow shovel helping the neighbours to get a snow-free sidewalk.



Lt Col Knut Scheutz  
Chief Press Office

Snow and ice means dangerous road conditions. Take care when you are out of the camp. Wintertime is also a period, where mist and fog is around Sarajevo and many of us are flying home from the airport.

Sometimes it is not possible to fly, because the minimum visibility for the pilots is not enough and the passengers have to wait.

I wish to all of you an almost clear sky and maybe some clouds, but of course a safe trip home.

What will 2011 bring to us? Nobody knows. Here we are, soldiers of different nations, working together. 2010 we have done it in a good way and for 2011 I expect the same.

Finally, for all of the newcomers to Bosnia and Herzegovina: "Welcome aboard the EUFOR family."

Lt Col Knut Scheutz, Chief Press Office

## EUFOR FORUM

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# EU Political and Security Committee Visit EUFOR



Members of the PSC along with representatives from the AFBiH, Dr. Inzko and COMEUFOR

Ambassadors from the European Union's Political and Security Committee (PSC), accompanied by Dr. Inzko (The High Representative) and Lt Gen van Osch (Director General of the EU Military Staff) visited EUFOR and Camp Butmir on 3rd December 2010 as part of their programme of events in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

COMEUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, welcomed the Ambassadors that make up the committee and briefed them fully on the capabilities of EUFOR

and the current military security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

EUFOR has a clear mandate from the United Nations Security Council to take all necessary measures to effect the implementation of and to ensure compliance with annexes 1-A and 2 of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

The PSC witnessed demonstrations of Crowd Riot Control by the Multinational Battalion working alongside the Armed Forces of BiH. The Chief of their Joint Staff, Lt Gen Miložčić, was

present and highlighted the work that EUFOR conducts with the AFBiH in capacity building and training issues.

The PSC exercises the political control and strategic direction of the operation, under the responsibility of the European Council. Powers of decision with respect to the objectives and termination of the military operation remain vested in the Council, assisted by the EU Special Representative (EUSR) / High Representative (HR).

By Lt Cdr Andy Mullins



AFBiH Soldiers deployed in front of PSC

# Austrian Contingent Change of Command



Dr. Köck, Colonel Lattacher, Major General Heidecker, Lieutenant General de Vincenti, COM EUFOR, Colonel Jenschik.

The 1st December 2010 witnessed the Change of Command of the Austrian contingent within EUFOR where Colonel (GS) Johann Lattacher handed over the leadership of the national contingent to Colonel (GS) Klaus Jenschik.

Major General Dieter Heidecker, Deputy Commander of Austrian Joint Forces, presided over the event attended by a number of honoured guests, including Lieutenant General Leandro de Vincenti (Head of EU Command Element, Chief of Staff of Joint Force Command in Naples), COM EUFOR Major General Bernhard Bair and Amba-

sador Dr. Donatus Köck (Austrian Ambassador to BiH).

COM EUFOR said he was “delighted to recognise formally the contribution made by Colonel Lattacher and his contingent to EUFOR. You have all been great ambassadors for Austria and our Armed Forces”.

Colonel Jenschik also takes

over the role as the Chief of the Joint Military Affairs Branch who act as the focal point for all matters dealing with ammunition and weapon storage, its movement and disposal, and the Demining activities with Bosnia and Herzegovina.

During an Office Call before the ceremony COM EUFOR

briefed Major General Heidecker on the latest EUFOR activities in particular the support Austria is providing to the Multinational Battalion. Major General Heidecker was in Bosnia and Herzegovina to review the Austrian troops and witness the Change of the National Contingent Commander.

By Lt Cdr Andy Mullins



Major General Heidecker hands over Austrian flag to Colonel Jenschik.

# Visits to HQ EUFOR



COMEUFOR and Bulgarian Deputy Defence Minister, Ms. Avgustina Tzvetkova, pass through Honour Guard.



Turkish Defence Minister Vecdi Gönül exchanges gifts with COMEUFOR.



Brigadier General Rotter, Major General Pleh, Lieutenant General Miložić, General Entacher, Ambassador Köck, COM EUFOR, Major General Puljić.



Slovakian Defence Minister Lubomír Galko and COMEUFOR greeted by Honour Guard.



COMEUFOR and Hungarian Defence State Secretary, Mr Fodor, pass through Honour Guard.

## COM EUFOR Visit to Kakanj School

On the 7th December COMEUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, accompanied the Austrian Ambassador, Dr. Donatus Köck, to the Kakanj “Muhsin Rizvić” Gymnasium. The school was one of the winners of the 2010 EUFOR Schools Competition and a group from the school visited Vienna as part of their prize. The grateful students and staff took this opportunity to thank EUFOR and the Austrian Govern-



COMEUFOR (on right) with students from Kakanj “Muhsin Rizvić” Gymnasium and the Austrian Ambassador (2nd from left)

ment for their generosity.

While at the school the General and Ambassador took part in a lively question and answer

session of which COMEUFOR commented “It was a pleasure to see the pupils enthusiastic about their studies and keen to discuss their future”

The 2011 EUFOR Schools competition will start in January. Details will be published on the EUFOR

website, through Facebook, and from the EUFOR LOT Houses.

By Lt Cdr Andy Mullins

## Change of Command of Regional Coordination Centre East



Portuguese, Greek and Austrian troops with EU Flag.

the LOT houses can be found on the EUFOR website here.

The ceremony was attended by Colonel Johannes Lattacher, the commander of the Austrian contingent in BiH, who handed over the Austrian flag, and Lt Col Johannes Willemse (the Dutch Chief of LOT activities) who handed over the European flag. The Austrian Ambassador to BiH also attended and awarded Op Althea Medals to a number of departing troops.

By Major Dieter Grassl

The 24th November 2010 saw the change of Command of the Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) East at Camp Edelweiß in Tuzla. Lt Col Richard Gruber handed over the command of the seven Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT) houses in the area, and their support, to Lt Col Christoph Blasch. Both officers are from Austria.

The LOT houses are the eyes and ears of EUFOR around Bosnia and Herzegovina and an important aspect of maintain an awareness of the security situation in the country. The location of



Lt Col Willemse hands over EU Flag to Lt Col Blasch.

# Croatian and Bosnian Demining Delegation visit COM EUFOR

On 17th December 2010, COMEUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair welcomed Ms. Đurđa Adlešić (“Croatia Without Mines”), Mr. Zdravko Modrušan (Croatian Mine Action Centre (CROMAC)), Mr. Dorijan Maršić (International Trust Fund (ITF)), and Mr. Dušan Gavran (Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BHMACH)) to Camp Butmir. COMEUFOR briefed the Countermines Experts on EUFOR’s role in Bosnia Herzegovina, paying particular attention to countermines efforts.

General Bair encouraged continued cross-border co-operation and sharing of professional experience in this vital area that affects the population of both Bosnia Herzegovina and Croatia. He also stressed the importance EU-



Mr. Dušan Gavran, Ms. Đurđa Adlešić, COMEUFOR, Mr. Zdravko Modrušan and Mr. Dorijan Maršić.

FOR places on Mine Risk Education (MRE) as a way of reducing mine casualties in the country. He added that it is important to reduce the threat of mines; and while the number of casualties is reducing, in 2010, 4 people have been killed in mine accidents in Bosnia Herzegovina.

The Director of BHMACH, Mr Dušan Gavran, thanked EUFOR for “the pivotal role” in the demining effort and MRE and hopes it will continue in the future. He also praised the excellent ongoing co-operation between BHMACH and CROMAC, in particular the clear, open channels of communi-

cations.

Mr. Dorijan Maršić Director of ITF stated that through international donors they have spent over US\$150 million in the past 12 years. Through programmes common to Bosnia Herzegovina and Croatia the ITF hopes to continue demining efforts in both countries. He also praised the assistance given to their effort by the EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia Herzegovina.

BiH is one of the most Mine Impacted countries in the world and Mine Risk Education is an important pillar in the demining strategy. EUFOR staff work at the request and direction of BHMACH providing MRE to schools all across BiH, with over 20,000 students educated this year.

By Lt Col Andy Mullins



Mr. Dušan Gavran exchanging gifts with COMEUFOR.



## Banovići Secondary School Team, Winners of EUFOR Cup 2010

# They Never Gave Up!

For this month's EUFOR FORUM edition, from Regional Cooperation Center (RCC) Center, we would like to present you a story of success of Banovići Secondary School's championship at EUFOR Soccer Cup 2010.

They practiced about three months for the competition with a squad totalling 30 players, but only eight of them made the team. The most recognizable advantage of the team is that they had been playing together for the last three years. Thus, each of the players could easily guess his teammates' positions and moves during a game, and this enabled them to raise the team spirit and harmony among them to the highest level.

The leader of the team is Belmir Idrizović. Another outstanding player is Mustafa Bajić, scoring thirteen goals during the tournament. The trainer having served for the last twelve years emphasizes that they have won several cups at the Canton level and the school has remarkable achievements at this point.



Winning Team of EUFOR Cup 2010 from Banovići Secondary School with members of RCC Center.

He adds the final game was tough, but they succeeded in winning the cup by a last-minute goal. They finished last year's tournament at ninth place, but this year they paid all their attention and concentration on the competition, and, in the end, they were successful.

Next year, the whole team is going to London to visit the facilities of Tottenham Hotspur Soccer Team. This will be a reward for all challenges and the storm of excitement for sure. Every

member in the team has his idol such as Oliver Kahn, Cristiano Ronaldo or Lionel Messi. The principal of the school, Mr. Esmir Kukić, announces that the kids are successful not only at soccer but also at their academic records. Likewise, all the players share the same idea that education has more priority than soccer and they need to achieve in their lessons at first.

We, as BIH Turkish Senior Representative and RCC Center, congratulate these determined and diligent friends living and studying in the Area of Activity of one of our Liaison and Observation Team Houses, Zavidovići and wish their success to last lifetime in every field within their interests.

By Cmsgt Berkant Kayisdikici



# EUFOR Cup 2010 Fin





als



# Mobile Training Team training started at MCC – Doboј



In the back: Movement Control Personnel and Polish MTT; First row from left to right: Captain Tasev, Movement Control Specialist; Colonel Mujović, AFBiH Support Command; Ms. Bartula, Interpreter; Colonel Lattacher, Chief JMA; Lt Col Borkowski, MTT Commander; Colonel Ahmetović, Chief MCC; Lt Col Karaica and Lt Col Hakalović, AFBiH Joint Staff

On 23rd November 2010, the Polish Mobile Training Team (MTT), under the command of Lt Col Wlodimirez Borkowski, started the Training Task Plan (TTP) implementation at the Movement Control Center (MCC) – Doboј. Following an invitation of the Armed Forces of BiH (AF-BiH), Chief Joint Military Affairs (JMA), Colonel Lattacher and his team, were present at a

small ceremony in Doboј.

The MCC Commander underlined the importance of this particular MTT regarding further improvement of AFBiH capabilities in PSO. He also appreciated the excellent cooperation with the Polish MTT and the involved JMA personnel of EUFOR HQ, namely JMA MovCon Specialist, Captain Nikolay Tasev (BGR) and JMA Liaison officer,

Mr Dejan Vickovic (BiH). Chief JMA thanked all personnel involved for the smooth set up of this MTT. He also stated that, although the Training Task Plan was mutually agreed, continuing flexibility in adjusting to the AF-BiH MCC requirements was required. During the course of his presentation, Lt Col Borkowski explained: “Adaptation of the AFBiH regulations to the NATO standards is a long and hard process, but MCC personnel are professionals and I don’t have any doubts they will complete all objectives successfully”.

The first phase of the training is scheduled to be finished by the end of March 2011 with an evaluation exam. Passing this exam is the precondition for the selected MCC personnel to advance to the second phase of the training later on in 2011.

By Captain Nikolay Tasev



Mr Dejan Vickovic, JMA Liaison Officer; Captain Nikolay Tasev, JMA Movement Control Specialist.

# Polish Withdrawal from Multinational Battalion

On 30th November 2010, a ceremony was held to mark the formal end of the Polish contribution to the Multinational Battalion (MNBN). The Company of Polish troops had previously extended their tour in Bosnia and Herzegovina to allow time for the new Austrian leadership of the Battalion to be established.

COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, welcomed Lt Gen Gruszka (the Operational Commander of the Polish Armed Forces) to Camp Butmir to witness the ceremony and thanked Poland for their strong, continuing support to the EUFOR mission in BiH.

Lt Gen Gruszka visited to review his troop's contribution to EUFOR which includes staff in the HQ, two Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT)



Lt Gen Gruszka and COM EUFOR.

houses and Mobile Training Teams. Despite slightly reducing the overall numbers of Polish troops in EUFOR the Polish General confirmed that Poland will maintain its LOT houses in 2011.

By Lt Cdr Andy Mullins

## Hungary Assists “Friends Without Border”

Since the outbreak of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Italian Red Cross has been organizing a holiday in Italy for Bosnian children twice a year. Until this year the EUPM transported the children, but the Carabinieri have withdrawn. So on Saturday the Hungarian Contingent provided the means of transportation from Sarajevo to Split. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, Kids!

By Major András Mezo



# Innovative Cooperation between EUFOR and the UNDP

Austrian soldiers of the Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) conducted renovation works at a school in eastern Bosnia. Especially in rural regions, which still suffer massively from the residues of the war, investments in schools and training institutions are an investment for the future of the country. The region of Skelani is located near the border between BiH and Serbia. Destroyed houses, lack of infrastructure and catastrophic health conditions, especially in the tertiary sector, dominate the landscape of this region.

## Project management in the international environment

The Austrian Army has conducted an innovative project in Bosnia and Herzegovina for years. With the help of these activities, which are financed primarily by donations, the aim is to gain trust and acceptance among the population. Force Protection



is also improved through contacts within governmental, non-governmental and international organizations, being made in the form of an ongoing exchange of information. Incidentally a new collaboration with UNDP (United Nation Development Programme), a part of the UN (United Nations organization), was received.

## Renovation of the school

The renovation of the elementary school Skelani occurred on the basis of a phase plan. Both institutions took over sections in order to allow for the renovation. Because of the result of fiscal imbalances, the UN took over the bulk of the constructional measures. The

Austrian army, as the EUFOR lead nation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, took on the renovation of the computer room. After several PC's have already been purchased by an NGO (Non Governmental Organization), it was now possible to renew the whole infrastructure of the room.

## Summary and Conclusion

An increasing internationalization of the military armed forces requires besides a high level of professionalism of all soldiers, diplomatic skills as well as innovative ideas to cope the challenges of today's crisis management. The soldiers of the Austrian Armed Forces, in particular the civil military cooperation, strive to strengthen these innovative collaborations. Thanks and credit to all people involved, especially the Rotary Club, which has provided these funds for charitable purposes.

By 1st Lt Marco Spörk



# Winter in Sarajevo

Sarajevo was host of the XIV winter Olympic Games from 07-19 February 1984.

There were 1272 athletes participating (998 men and 274 women) from 49 countries (record at that time).

From before too but especially from Olympic Games period, Sarajevo and mountains close to it become popular and visited places for tourists and sport persons. In Sarajevo itself there are several sport facilities which were used during the Games and today are in use as well:

- **Koševo Stadium** (opening ceremonies) - today football club "Sarajevo" field.

- **Zetra Ice Hall** (figure skating, ice hockey) – today music concert area, sport competition place.

- **Zetra Ice Ring** (speed skating). Ice ring will be placed for skating (Dec-Jan-Feb).

- **Skenderija** (ice hockey). Today sport center for the basketball, volleyball and it is popular underground shopping center.

Mountains that circle Sarajevo are Bjelašnica, Jahorina, Igman, and Trebević. They are beautiful spots where you can enjoy good skiing, nature and taste good BiH cuisine.



- **Bjelašnica** is highest Mt. in area and it has excellent alpine skiing slopes. All Olympic facilities on this mountain were destroyed during the war 1992-95.

Reconstruction is ongoing process and the most rebuilt part of the mountain is "Babin do" (Central place on the mountain) where there are several hotels and many apartments for rent.

Just across hotels are ski slopes with central ski lift on mountain. Skiing, snowboarding, night skiing...

are some of the disciplines you can enjoy on Bjelašnica.

- **Jahorina** is Mt. close to town Pale. It has excellent alpine skiing slopes. Facilities on the mountain also suffered some damage during the war. It is a beautiful mountain and offers a



variety of skiing, snowboarding, night skiing etc... It has many hotels which are excellent quality. Also on this mountain you can rent mountain houses too.

- **Igman** is Olympic mountain where cross-country skiing competition was held. Sadly, all of the facilities on this mountain were destroyed too. Some were rebuilt but not with enough capacity. Igman is a beautiful mountain which can be used for cross country skiing.

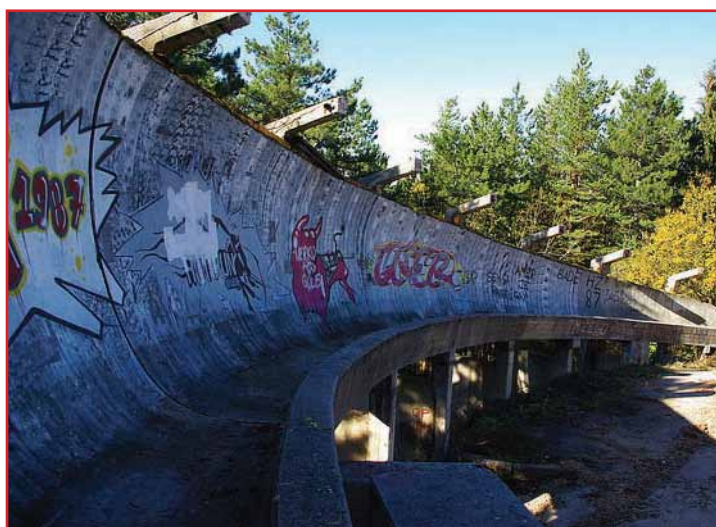
- **Trebević** is mountain that was one of the most favorite picnic spots of Sarajevo people. It has fantastic view of Sarajevo, had cable car connecting city and some tops of the mountain (destroyed in the war)

and during the Olympic Games was place of bobsleigh and luge competitions. Bobsleigh is more than 1300 meters long. The entire area was destroyed in the war. Besides seeing destroyed bobsleigh tube and nice view on Sarajevo today's tourist offer on Trebević does not exist.

Skiing, beautiful area, excellent food, clean air are some of the advantages and reasons what you should go on the mountains. Weekends are crowded and in particular end of the year and January are the busiest parts of the year.

Enjoy, go there and find your favorite place!

By Historical Office





## Overview of the missions and operations of the European Union December 2010



In order to enable the European Union fully to assume its responsibilities for crisis management, the European Council (Nice, December 2000) decided to establish permanent political and military structures.

These structures are:

**The Political and Security Committee (PSC)** meets at the ambassadorial level as a preparatory body for the Council of the EU. Its main functions are keeping track of the international situation, and helping to define policies within the Common For-

eign and Security Policy (CFSP) including the CSDP. It prepares a coherent EU response to a crisis and exercises its political control and strategic direction.

**The European Union Military Committee (EUMC)** is the highest military body set up within the Council. It is composed of the Chiefs of Defence of the Member States, who are regularly represented by their permanent military representatives. The EUMC provides the PSC with advice and recommendations on all military matters

within the EU.

In parallel with the EUMC, the PSC is advised by a Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management (CIVCOM). This committee provides information, drafts recommendations, and gives its opinion to the PSC on civilian aspects of crisis management.

**The European Union Military Staff (EUMS)** composed of military and civilian experts seconded to the Council Secretariat by the Member States and officials of the Council General Secretariat.

**The Civilian Planning and Conduct Capability (CPCC)**, which is part of the Council Secretariat, is the permanent structure responsible for an autonomous operational conduct of civilian CSDP operations. Under the political control and strategic direction of the Political and Security Committee and the overall authority of the High Representative, the CPCC ensures the effective planning and conduct of civilian CSDP crisis management operations, as well as the proper implementation of all mission-related tasks.

By **Haris Dadi**



# Council of the European Union

## Conclusions on Military Capability Development

On the meeting held on 9th December 2010, The Council adopted the following conclusions:

1. "The Council stressed the need to turn the financial crisis and its impact on national defence budgets into an opportunity, to give a new impetus to European military capability development in order to meet its level of ambition, to address remaining shortfalls and to safeguard the defence capabilities required to support the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) as well as to achieve national capability targets, while avoiding unnecessary duplication between Member States.

2. Building on existing processes, the Council highlighted in particular the following solutions:

### **Cooperation as a force multiplier**

3. The Council encouraged Member States to exchange information, as appropriate, and enhance transparency on current and forthcoming defence budget cuts, and to examine the impact of these budget cuts on capability development.

4. With a view to strengthening military capabilities in Europe for sustaining and enhancing CSDP, the Council called on Member States to seize all opportunities to cooperate in the area of capability development. It particularly stressed the need to develop pooling and sharing options, building on successful multilateral examples such as the European Air Transport

Command launched in September 2010, and to explore role specialisation.

The Council welcomed the input by the European Defence Agency (EDA) and the German-Swedish initiative as contributions to the follow-up to the informal meeting of Defence Ministers in Ghent (September 2010). It encouraged Member States to systematically analyse their national military capabilities and support structures, taking into account criteria such as operational effectiveness, economic efficiency and sustainability. This would form the basis for Member States to consider: measures to increase interoperability for capabilities to be maintained on a national level; exploring which capabilities offer potential for pooling; intensifying cooperation regarding capabilities, support structures and tasks which could be addressed on the basis of role- and task-sharing.

6. The Council encouraged the EDA to intensify its work to facilitate the identification of areas for pooling and sharing, including potentially through the establishment of a Wise Pen Team, taking into account the diversity of experiences across the Member States, and to support Member States in their voluntary efforts to implement pooling and sharing initiatives. The Council underlined that such a Wise Pen Team would rely on an active engagement of the participating Member States.

7. The Council tasked the Political and Security Committee to remain seized of this matter, and agreed to examine progress by mid 2011.

8. In this context the Council also noted the existing bilateral and multilateral initiatives and the signature of agreements between Member States, such as the recent UK-France Defence Cooperation Treaty, which promise to contribute to improving European defence capabilities. These initiatives should help create a dynamic for stimulating further opportunities for cooperation between the Member States.

### **Civil-military synergies**

9. The Council underlined the potential benefits of developing civil-military synergies in capability development and the added-value of dual use capabilities. In this regard, it emphasized the need for further cooperation between the European Defence Agency and the European Commission, notably in research and technology.

10. With a view to avoiding unnecessary costs and duplication, the Council underlined the need for the Member States and other relevant EU actors, to channel as appropriate military requirements, standards and other ongoing developments to those civilian bodies whose activities may have implications for the defence community.

By CSDP Press Office

Hello everybody, my name is Captain Çınar Tekin and I was born on 17th June 1976 in Bursa. I am very happy to be with EUFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I am excited about working together with people from all over the world. There is no doubt in my mind that we are doing our work here for a good cause and I enjoy the great cooperation displayed in every



**Captain Çınar Tekin**

aspect of our mission. My military career started in 1990, when I attended the Military High School in Bursa as a cadet. My first active professional assignment was with the Turkish Land Forces as a Platoon Leader in the rank of a Lieutenant (OF-1). Three years later, in 2001, I was promoted to 1st Lieutenant and appointed to Commander of a HQ Coy. Until my promotion to Captain in 2007, I served as a Company Commander and in different

assignments in various bases in Turkey. I wear with pride the badges of a Parachutist, Mountain Guide, Basic Commando, Advanced Commando, Sharp Shooter and PT Instructor. After my tour of duty with EUFOR I will return to my present post as a Mountaineering and Mountain Warfare Instructor and Search & Rescue (Mountain) Operative within the Turkish Land Forces Comman-

do School. I have previously attended a couple of short-term missions in the framework of national and bilateral trainings in Germany, USA, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The only problem for me here in BiH is the fact that I sometimes find myself in a dilemma regarding the question, whom do I miss the most, is it my wife or my 6-year-old boy?

**By Captain Çınar Tekin**

Hello and "Guten Tag",

My name is OR-8 Dieter Gutsche, I'm 42 years old, married and father of two lovely daughters. Since joining the Austrian Armed Forces, I underwent a variety of courses and trainings. Apart from having become a Signals Specialist and Frequency Manager according to NATO standards, I've qualified as a Mountain Guide, Helicopter based Lifeguard, NBC NCO, Close Combat Specialist and "manual" Paratrooper. My first mission abroad was in 2000 with the United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights, where I served 6 months as a Signals NCO with the 1st Company in the demilitarized zone and another 6 months in a base camp on MOUNT HERMON, located



**OR-8 Dieter Gutsche**

some 2800 meters above sea level. As you can imagine, this was a quite challenging mission, particularly in wintertime, when you sometimes were snowed in for weeks and cut off from the rest of the world entirely. Two years later, in 2002, I've participated in ISAF / Afghanistan for 6 months as a Deputy Platoon Leader before I've joined EUFOR ALTHEA for the first time in 2005, where again I was the Sig-

nals NCO, only that time with the Composite Company (COMP-COY) and for the duration of 8 months. Finally, in 2008, I was posted to KFOR in Kosovo where I served for 13 months. Now I'm back in Bosnia and Herzegovina and with EUFOR again. I'm very interested in everything that has to do with Information Technology and Signals and therefore I'm looking forward to the training with TACSAT and all the challenges that come along with working together and communicating with 3 different nations. May I conclude by wishing you all the very best for your own stay with EUFOR and a safe return to your loved ones. Looking forward to seeing you round, or as we say in Austria: "Auf Wiedersehen"!

**By OR-8 Dieter Gutsche**

Konjic



Mogorjelo



Stolac



Visegrad



As the sign of its continued commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina's security and progress towards Euro-Atlantic integrations, the EUFOR mission has been extended and is now contributing to the development of the training capabilities of The Armed Forces of BiH.

# EUFOR SUPPORTING AFBiH IN REACHING THE HIGHEST MILITARY STANDARDS!



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