

Edition #63, February 2011

EUFOR
forum

Multinational Battalion **Always Prepared**



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Foreword by Operation Commander EUFOR General Sir John McColl



It is a great honour for me to address all EUFOR Peacekeepers in your monthly EUFORUM. I wish to encourage all 27 nations to continue the good work they have done in maintaining the reputation of EUFOR in Bosnia & Herzegovina. This allows the mission to provide continuing support for the local authorities in maintaining the safety and security of this country.

2011 sees an extension of the professional military work in theatre, with a continuing emphasis on enhancing and supporting the Capacity Building and Training of the Armed Forces of Bosnia & Herzegovina. The effort and commitment of all personnel supported by your nations in 2010 saw

this new, additional task for EUFOR go from zero to full capacity in a very short period. This close co-operation will reap rewards for all involved and the EU Political and Security Committee visit in December last year witnessed this at first hand.

In addition, the mission has maintained its ability to monitor and react to any situation in a professional manner, something I have witnessed on many occasions over the last 3 ½ years. This is my last opportunity as Operation Commander to address you, therefore I would like to thank all the soldiers and aircrew of EUFOR, Operation 'Althea' for your ongoing commitment to the mission and your continued support for this country.

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Troops of Multinational Battalion during exercise.

Dear all,

In the February edition you are holding in your hand we have tried to find a good mixture of information about the Multinational Battalion, some historical background of Bosnia and Herzegovina, LOT House visits, the way to learn Salsa, and soldiers in spotlight. On the second page in his foreword our Operation Commander, General Sir John McColl, mentions that this is his last opportunity for him to address us. We wish him all the best for the future and say thank you for his leadership.



Lt Col Knut Scheutz
Chief Press Office

For the next EUFORUM we are covering the planned World Military Skiing Championship (21 – 26 February) in Jahorina, Bjelašnica and Igman. The slogan from the International Military Sports Council is “Friendship through Sport”

Lt Col Knut Scheutz
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Viszontlátásra Hungary

Bidding Farewell to the Hungarian Manoeuvre Company

A military parade on 9th January 2011 marked the end of the fifth Hungarian European Forces (EUFOR) Company's deployment as part of the EU-led force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). This occasion offered a last chance for the Commander of the Multinational Battalion (MNBN), Lt Col Bernd Rott, to express his gratitude for the individual efforts and sacrifices made by all the Hungarian

soldiers and to emphasize the importance of their six months mission in BiH. During their deployment, after having reached Full Operational Capability (FOC), the members of this company have participated in a number of key events, notably in joint exercises with the Integrated Police Unit (IPU), battalion size exercises throughout the entire Area of Responsibility (AOR), displays of Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) techniques in front of commanders from higher headquarters, a



Battalion Commander Lt Col Bernd Rott (right) with Hungarian Company commander (left).

range of VIP visitors and representatives of the international media as well as combined trainings with other multinational components of the MNBN. They also witnessed the change of the framework nation and battalion command from Spain to Austria and the departure of the Spanish and Polish elements of the MNBN.

The MNBN is the only remaining military Manoeuvre unit operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and may also

be requested to reinforce international forces in Kosovo. In the framework of the European Union's Security and Defence policy, Hungary's 106 strong contribution to the last remaining Manoeuvre unit of the force is a clear indication that Hungary is willing to play an active role in the Western Balkans, and in respect of assisting with substantive diplomatic and expert initiatives. Luckily, the company never had to get involved in any serious incidents, thanks to the calm

situation. Presently EUFOR's role is often to provide support to the country through its presence. Nonetheless, EUFOR also is an extremely important litmus test for the EU in developing its own peacekeeping identity. The key objectives of the EUFOR Althea mission remain the same, to provide continued compliance with the General Framework Agreement for Peace in BiH; and to contribute to a safe and secure environment in BiH. Other tasks include supporting OHR's Mis-

sion Implementation Plan, the Stabilization and Association Process (SAP) and Training and Capacity Building of the Armed Forces of BiH (AF-BiH).

Another important role of the elements of the MNBN is to provide support to the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and relevant authorities, including support for PIFWC (Persons Indicted For War Crimes) operations and providing the necessary secure environment for the police forces' to operate. In order to be able to respond with rapid and decisive action, applying a fully coherent approach to the whole spectrum of crisis management operations covered by the Treaty on the European Union, the Manoeuvre company personnel has to be always prepared for many tasks. Many thanks to all the soldiers of the outgoing Hungarian Contingent for their priceless contribution in implementing peace in BiH. Comrades, have a safe journey home and



Hungarian troops parade through Camp Butmir.

thank you for a job well done! Be prepared! Your Battalion Commander.

By Captain Oimar Lindner

Commemoration Held in Camp Butmir

A short service was held on 12th January 2011 to commemorate the anniversary of the fatal crash of a helicopter operating for EUFOR in 2008. The helicopter from The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia crashed as it neared it's final destination of Skopje. The ceremony was led by COM EUFOR Major General Bernhard Bair and was attended by the Ambassador of The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to BiH Mr. Rami Rexhepi, his Military Attaché, Colonel Donce Kuzmanov and a delegation from The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

The Senior National Representative of their Contingent, Captain Dr. Kostadinka Bozhinovski and senior representatives of other Troop Contribut-



COM EUFOR and the Ambassador of the memorial.

ing Nations also attended, along with countrymen and women living in BiH.

The commemoration took place in front of the memorial stone, erected in honour of the aircrew at the Memorial Park in EUFOR HQ Butmir Camp Sarajevo. COM EUFOR and

the Ambassador then laid floral wreaths at the memorial stone.

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Military Helicopter MI-17 crashed 12 January 2008. 8 passengers and 3 crew members were killed in the crash.

By Lt Cdr Andy Mullins

Visits to HQ EUFOR



DCOM Brigadier General Tibor Nagy and Brigadier General Bojan Pograjc



Dr. Schwarz-Schilling shaking hands with COS EUFOR, Brigadier General Günter Giesa.



COM EUFOR and Major General Cartoni



Dr. Rainer Stinner and COM EUFOR



COM EUFOR with the EU Crisis Management and Planning Directorate Delegation.

COM EUFOR Appoints New Gender Focal Points

On 5th January COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, appointed a number of new Gender Focal Points for the OP Althea mission. Colonel Michael Pesendorfer and Captain Natasha Jakimovska join the existing advisor Mrs Nikolina Marceta in helping promote Gender Awareness within EUFOR.

COM EUFOR said: *“We continue to aim to achieve a greater sensitivity towards gender issues, in order to foster more balanced gender awareness, in all that the mission does both within Camp Butmir and in dealings the Liaison and Observation Teams (LOTs) have with the local population”.*



COM EUFOR with Mrs Nikolina Marceta.

The Gender Focal Point’s important responsibilities include providing information to the Chain of Command, ensuring appropriate training of EUFOR

personnel and maintaining contacts with organizations that improve gender mainstreaming and awareness in BiH.

By Lt Cdr Andy Mullins

AFBiH Take Over Force Protection of former IPU Camp

After the official handover of the former IPU Camp from NATO to the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the 17th December 2010, the responsibilities of guarding the Camp were officially handed over on Tuesday, the 21st December. The HQ Commandant, Lt Col Tony Bracken, officially relieved the Bulgarian Force Protection Company of their duties and handed the task over to the AF BiH Detail in a small ceremony. The Bulgarian Soldiers just took over from the Slovakian Platoon on 11th December after their departure and are thanked for their dedication and additional effort.

By Lt Col Dennis Krüger



Official handover of responsibilities to AFBiH.

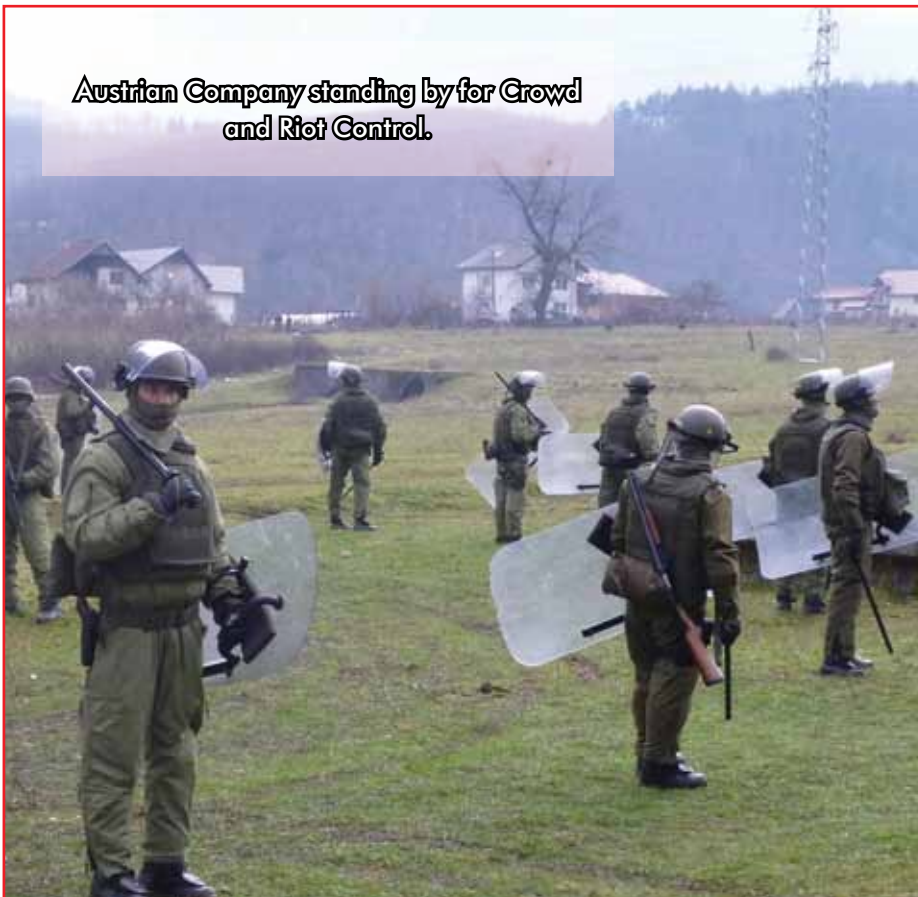
You should know – we are prepared

MNBN “The Guardians”!



MNBN Commander Lt Col Bernd Rott at Command Base.

Austrian Company standing by for Crowd and Riot Control.



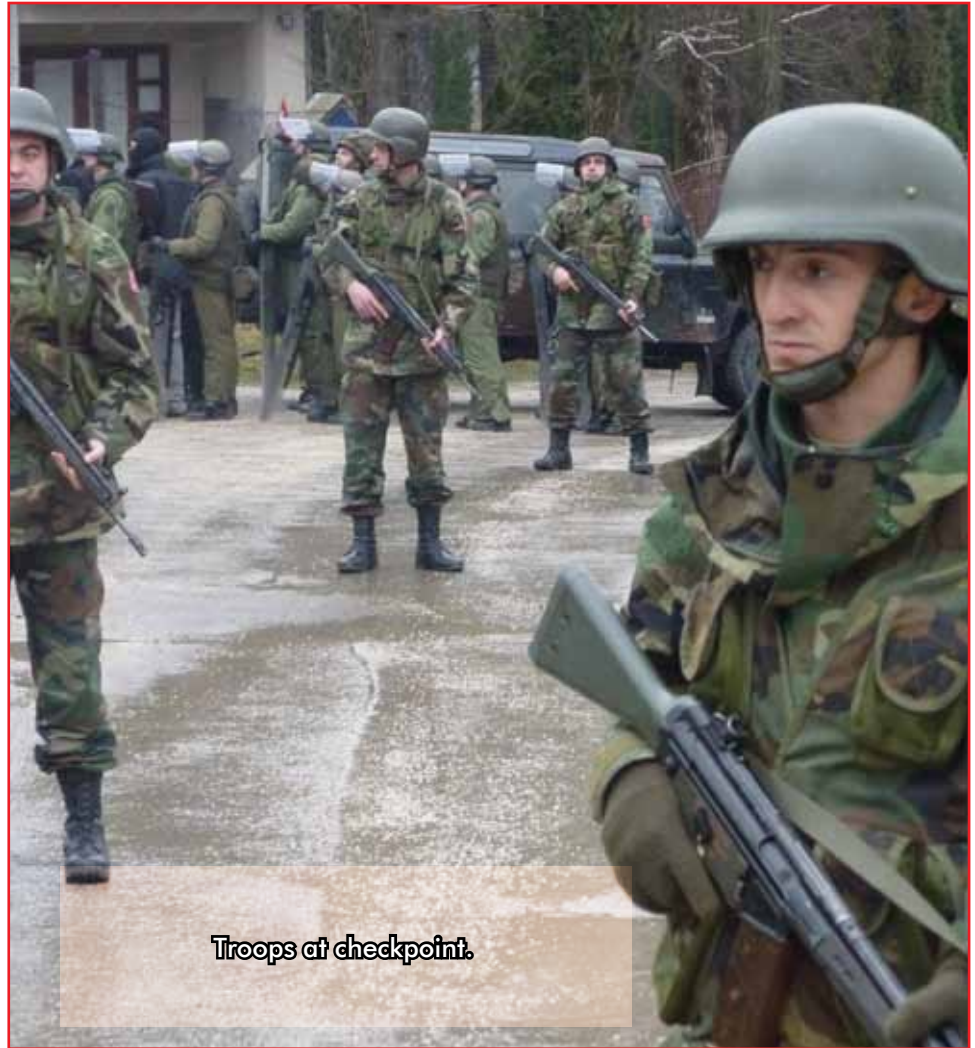
It could happen anytime that the soldiers of the Multinational Battalion (MNBN) receive orders to execute Search and Seizure Operations. The most recent such scenario was given to the MNBN on 11th January 2011 in the context of an exercise. The aim of the exercise was to seize relevant evidence in order to support the efforts of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY). Search and Seizure Ops are necessary to support the ongoing pursuit of Prisoners Indicted for War Crimes (PIFWCs) as they are used to produce evidence for the prosecution of alleged war criminals. Such MNBN exercises make use of constantly re-

heard standardized training objectives that all military personnel of the battalion should be highly proficient with in order to perform their duties.

Training and Preparation

Many tasks are commonly taught during basic training and advanced individual training phases of a soldiers' initial training, such as combat techniques, radio communications, land navigation, urban operations, vehicle operations, and weapons handling. There are, however, some very special skills needed, when it comes to Search and Seizure Operations. First of all area security is vital and soldiers need to be trained in how to properly protect and transport personnel from one place to another.

Continued on pages 10-11



Troops at checkpoint.



Turkish Company form a shield wall.



Company engages rioters.

Soldiers need to know how to prevent unauthorized personnel from entering restricted areas, they must control entry to and exit from those areas as well

as ensuring that no personnel, equipment, vehicles and prohibited items are smuggled into and out of the area. This includes the operation of collection points,

holding areas, and procedures for the correct processing of any persons who have been detained during the operation. The training incorporates a wide range of manoeuvres and also instructs soldiers in how to successfully escort civilians to rear areas in order to hand them over to local law enforcement agencies. Proper force protection measures and additional tasks cover command post security, access clearance for vehicles and personnel, and ensuring operational security requirements are met. Civil disturbance is yet another area where our soldiers have to excel. Tasks in this area include Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) techniques, day and night defensive tactics, mission planning, close quarters combat (CQC), and insertion and extraction techniques, tactical movement and shooting, defen-



Intelligence gathering.



sive tactics, rappelling, searching, and other team skills.

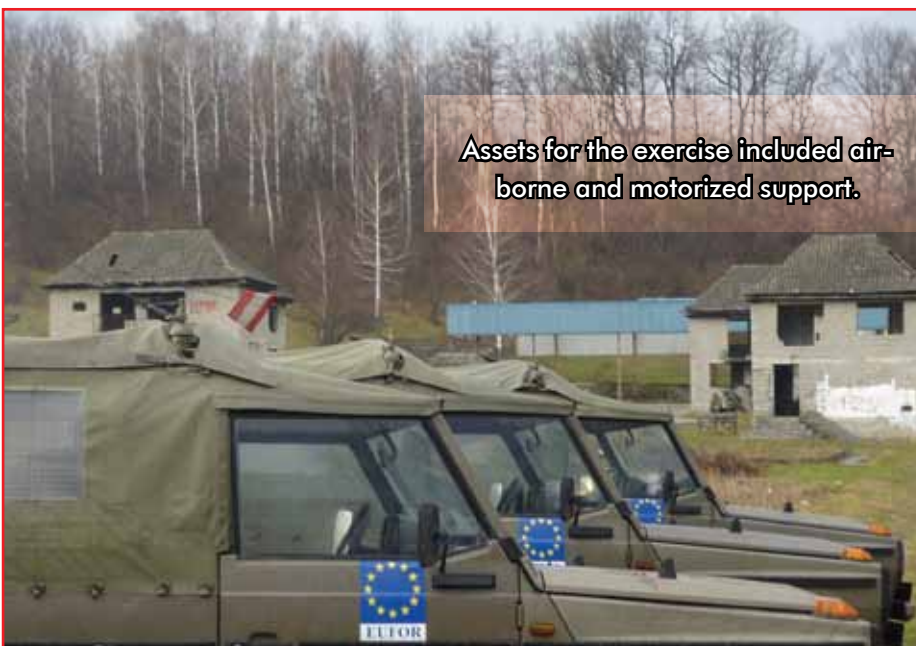
Airborne recon and support

Unit commanders must check whether or not a Search and Seizure is authorized, and determine the level of force that can be employed on the task. This is a Specialist Element Team (SET) task alongside the MNBN. Each soldier must then be familiar

with the procedures used by attached units such as the SET, to search buildings, vehicles, transport detainees, identify and collect evidence and protect crime scene's. One can easily imagine that all of this is mentally and physically demanding and substantial physical preparation is necessary to achieve mission success. The exercise included a reconnaissance phase after which the troops were deployed with

one company as outer cordon and one company as inner cordon, one CRC capable company on stand-by as reserve and one element for immediate seizure of the targeted house in order to ensure the confiscation and transport of evidence from Pazarić to Camp Butmir. Searches and the expert handling of the evidence was conducted by the SET team closely supported by the Integrated Police Unit (IPU) and the designated MNBN company. In case of a casualty or the need to move key personnel quickly, a helicopter was placed on stand-by, and thus a helicopter landing site also had to be reconnoitered and secured. As you might have guessed already, with so much military expertise in place and with such highly motivated personnel, the exercise was a success – but there is always room for improvement and that is why our training never stops. **JUST TO BE PREPARED!**

By Captain Otmar Lindner



All for one

There was a young man walking down a deserted beach just before dawn. In the distance he saw a frail old man. As he approached the old man, he saw him picking up stranded starfish and throwing them back into the sea.

The young man gazed in wonder as the old man again and again threw the small starfish from the sand to the water. He asked, "Old man, why do you spend so much energy doing what seems to be a waste of time?"

The old man explained that the stranded starfish would die if left in the morning sun. "But there must be thousands of beached and millions of starfish!" exclaimed the young man. "How can you make any difference?"

The old man looked down at the small starfish in his hand and as he threw it into the safety of the sea, he said, "I made a difference to this one."

Why I begin my article with that common short story is that Kenan Kremic, an employee of REZ (Regional Development Agency), a Zenican who is 33 and has been suffering from leukemia for more than a year. He urgently needs to be operated on at a clinic in Germany, but the overall expenses for the operation and the following treatment may reach to 350 000 KM. Kenan's brother, whose tissue is a match for his, will be the donor for the bone marrow transplant.

Initially his relatives and some people close to his family started



to publicize his illness; suddenly a spark was ignited and people started to aid him. After that the family met the authorities at REZ and they decided to launch an aid campaign and boxes were placed at the entrances of some cafes, malls and cinemas. Nevertheless, these weren't considered sufficient and the family thought of some more serious actions. The Zenica Citizenship Forum became the crucial part of the effort. This so-called forum has the official authority to launch every activity and the idea of an aid concert was brought up.

The forum contacted some musical performers about the concert and in the end, Seka Aleksic, a famous singer from Serbia, agreed to volunteer for an aid concert. On 8th of December, at the Arena Sports Hall in Zenica, the concert was held with 6000 participants. As a contribution to that concert the BIH Turkish Senior Representative,

RCC-Central and the Turkish LOTs obtained 100 tickets and delivered them to an Orphanage and a University Student Center to enable some children and students to take part in the activity. The brochures of the campaign were also distributed within EUFOR branches as well. Even if the concert and the other steps have gained much success, there is still a long path to be travelled (Until the concert, 150,000 KM had been gathered and after the concert approx. 70,000 KM is still required).

Kenan was undergoing chemotherapy sessions in Sarejevo and has recently been transferred to a clinic in Germany. In addition to all these promising efforts, a telephone number (090 291 054) has been arranged and each call is being charged at 2 KM. As mentioned in the story at the beginning, anybody can make a difference.

By CmSgt Berkant Kayisdikici

Learn to Salsa

Every Thursday in Millenium Bar, Camp Butmir, everyone is welcome to join Nikola Ilić as he teaches basics of Salsa dancing.

Salsa is a dance form with origins in Cuba as the original American meeting point of European and African cultures. Salsa is normally a partner dance, although there are recognized solo forms such as line dancing (suelta) and Rueda de Casino where multiple couples exchange partners in a circle. Salsa can be improvised or performed with a set routine. To date, the three most well renowned salsa dancers are Stephanie Kurtz, Marie Luciano, and Kristina Hayes.

Salsa is popular throughout Latin America as well as in the United States, Spain, Japan, Portugal, France, Italy, Germany, Israel and Eastern Europe.

There are several places in Sarajevo where you can dance to a Salsa beat. The most popular is Cinemas Club (ex-Sloga) on Monday nights, but you can also dance at The Club on Thursdays and the Colosseum on Sundays.

By **Haris Daul**



Nikola Ilić and aspiring salseros in Millenium Bar.

Nikola Ilić works in EUFOR HQ, Graphics Office. He has been dancing since 1988 and is a former Sport Dance Competitor on international level. He has also been a National Champion in Ballroom dances for 2005 in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Nowadays he coaches sport dance couples, among his other activities. We asked Nikola for a tip how to dance better and Nikola said:

“A thousand miles journey starts with a single step” is a famous proverb by Lao Tseu. Applied to dancing, my advice is to “make your step as one with music”.



The Bridge over the Drina

The Bridge of Mehmed Pasha Sokolovic (The Old Bridge of Višegrad) represents one of the greatest architecture masterpieces of the period between the 15th and 19th century in Bosnia and the entire region. Certainly, it is one of the most important national monuments of Bosnia. It was built in 1577 after six years of constructions upon the order of Mehmed Pasha Sokolovic, the Ottoman Grand Vizier who had Bosnian Serb origins. The architect of the bridge was Khoja Mimar Sinan Ağa himself, the prime architect of the empire and the builder of the famous Süleymaniye Mosque in Istanbul. Although the bridge was magnificent and beautiful, with 11 arches and 9 pillars, it was actually designed to be everlasting as the most important road to Istanbul. The middle of the bridge, called “the gate”, is wider, and is still a popular meeting place for people from Višegrad and the surrounding area in a relaxed mood today which is typical of present-day Turkey and most of the Balkans. One must not lose the opportunity to travel to east Bosnia and see it. Over time, the bridge has been damaged several times and repaired. Known reconstructions were in 1664, 1875, 1911, 1939, 1940, and once after WWII.

The Bridge over the Drina became world famous with the novel written by the one of the greatest Bosnian writers Ivo Andric. The novel itself romantically describes the history of the bridge as well as many different events



related to the bridge. The novel “The Bridge over the Drina” was awarded the Nobel Prize in 1961, but the prize also represented an award for entire lifework of the writer. Andric was portraying the bridge as something with the power not merely to bridge a river but to heal divisions between people, referring to the fate of Mehmed Pasha himself who was taken away as a child but to return years after as Grand Vizier and allegedly build the bridge at the place where he crossed the river years before.

Today the bridge is one of the most endangered monuments in BiH. Lack of maintenance over the last several decades and neglect by authorities and a nearby power plant, placed this bridge on the list of 100 most endangered monuments of the World Monuments Fund and UNESCO. The Turkish International Co-operation and De-

velopment Agency (TIKA) provided 3.5 million Euros for the reconstruction of the Mehmed Pasha Sokolovic Bridge. Representatives of TIKA, the BiH Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO, the RS Cultural Ministry and the Višegrad municipality signed an agreement to rebuild the bridge on April 19, 2010.

By Historical Office

Coughs and sneezes spread diseases



always carry tissues

cover your coughs and sneezes

throw used tissues in a bin

always dean your hands

Stop germs spreading

New Round of LOT House Visits

On 7th January 2011, COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, visited the Turkish Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) house in Zavidovići. The LOT commander welcomed COM EUFOR and introduced the LOT personnel to him. The subsequent briefing provided an informative update on the current activities of the Liaison and Observation Team.

It was readily apparent that the Turkish soldiers are well integrated within the local community.

LOT Dobož

Later the same day COM EUFOR also paid a visit to LOT Dobož which is manned by Polish troops. Throughout the day he was accompanied by Lt Col Sahmurat Akgun, the Regional Coordination Centre Chief for the area.

Over the years the EUFOR contingents have developed warm and professional relations with their neighbours and the local authorities and the LOT Houses form a vital part of maintaining situational awareness across the country.

LOT Ilidža

On 19th January 2011, COM EUFOR, Major General Bair, visited the Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) House in Ilidža. The LOT commander welcomed COM EUFOR and proceeded to introduce the LOT personnel to Major General Bair.

By Haris Daul



COM EUFOR at LOT house Zavidovići.



COM EUFOR at LOT House Dobož



COM EUFOR at LOT House Ilidža.

EUNAVFOR-Atalanta enters its 3rd year as an extension to 2012 is confirmed

8th December 2010 marked the 2nd anniversary of the start of EUNAVFOR-Atalanta, the European Union's Naval Force counter-piracy operation in the Gulf of Aden and Somali Basin. The anniversary coincided with the confirmation by the EU that the operation would be extended until December 2012.

Over the past two years, EUNAVFOR's primary mission has been to protect United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) vessels against pirate attack by providing close escort to the ships carrying much needed humanitarian aid to Somalia. Since the start of the operation, 98 WFP vessels have been escorted of which 90 have been protected by EUNAVFOR units. The African Union Mission in Somalia's (AMISOM) logistic vessels also come under the protective arm of EUNAVFOR with 77 successful escorts being achieved to date.

The Operational Commander, Major General Buster Howes said: "Having been tasked to protect WFP vessels, I am proud to say that, since we arrived, not a single WFP ship has been successfully pirated and that we are now providing escorts to an organisation that is providing humanitarian aid to 1.8 million people per day and that has so far delivered near-

ly 470,000 tons of much needed food to the Somali people."

The Naval Force is also tasked to protect other vulnerable shipping and to help deter, prevent and repress pirate attacks. This last task is considerable and is the one which, with an area of over three million square kilome-



tres equating to the size of Western Europe to patrol, is proving to be the most challenging. Despite the best efforts of EUNAVFOR, there are still currently 22 pirated vessels and 532 hostages in the hands of pirates off the coast of Somalia.

"There is no getting away from the fact that strategically, a naval presence is not deterring



the pirates. The business model that they have adopted is too productive and the rewards simply too huge for them to be deterred from their activities. The solution has always and will always lie ashore. We will continue to 'hold the line' at sea whilst the international community, led by the EU, adopts a more comprehensive approach ashore' he added.

In the Gulf of Aden, the establishment and regular policing of the internationally recommended transit corridor (IRTC) by EUNAVFOR ships and aircraft has had a significant effect on the number of successful attacks with a 54% reduction in the number of piratings between 2009 and 2010.

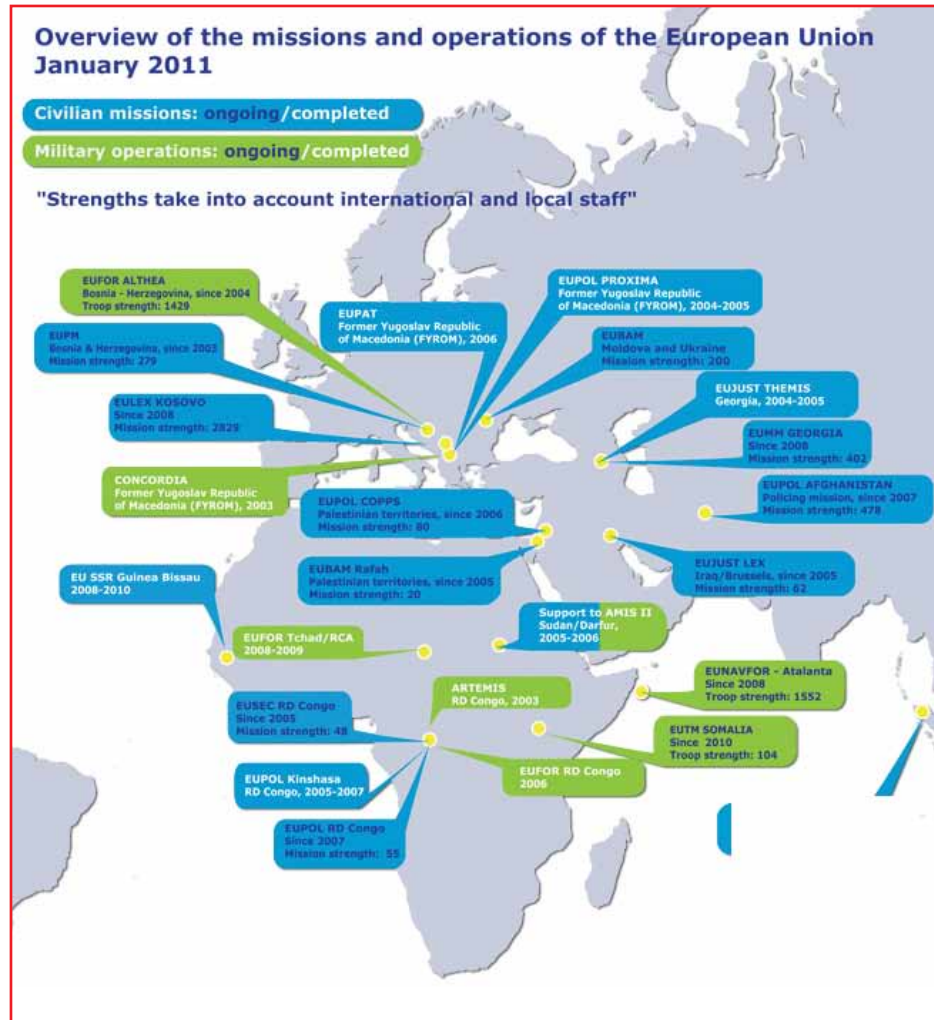
In the Somali Basin, the EUNAVFOR has also had considerable success in disrupting pirate attacks with some 75 pirate action groups apprehended since the start of the operation. As a result of its close cooperation with regional governments such as Kenya and The Republic of the Seychelles, 92 suspected pirates captured by EUNAVFOR have entered a legal system, with 43 being convicted to date.

The continuing close relationship with industry and the application of the much-publi-

cised best management practices (BMP) are particularly worthy of note with instances of merchant vessels defeating pirate attacks by using BMPs become increasingly common. Latest figures suggest that since 19 November 2010, 15 merchant ships have successfully defended themselves against attacks using the advice provided by the merchant industry and EUNAVFOR. The message from the EUNAVFOR is clear: the merchant community should consider themselves to be on the front line of defence and must implement BMP.

As EUNAVFOR - Atalanta goes on into 2012, the comprehensive approach of the EU also continues with the EU Training Mission for Somalia (EUTM Somalia) and the work carried out by the EU Delegation in Kenya for Somalia.

By CSDP



European External Action Service: transfer of staff on 1 January 2011

The European External Action Service entered a new phase on 1 January 2011 with the transfer of staff from Council and Commission. Altogether 1643 permanent officials have been transferred to the new service, bringing on board their expertise and experience. With this transfer the EEAS, launched on 1 December 2010, is taking another decisive step.

"The service will mark a new beginning for European foreign and security policy as we bring



together and streamline all of the Union's existing resources, staff and instruments. We will also receive a fresh injection of talent and skills as we incorporate Member States' diplomats

into our team. This combination of staff and resources will be more than the sum of its parts: we will be able to find synergies and develop new ideas, which will enhance our ability to act more creatively and decisively in an increasingly challenging world," said Catherine

Ashton, EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission.

By CSDP

Dear Readers, my name is Kinga Békési, OR-4 Hungarian Army. I was born on 10th February 1981 in the beautiful town Tatabánya, one of the most dynamically developing towns of Hungary. With EUFOR I'm already on my second tour of duty, the first tour was from July 2009 to January 2010 and my second tour here started in July 2010. My position within the Hungarian Company of the Multinational



OR4 Kinga Békési

Manoeuvre Battalion here in Bosnia and Herzegovina is that of a radio operator. The difference here, however, is the greater variety of means of communications and equipment. I love to become more professional by learning everything about installing, maintaining, overhauling or even repairing various kinds of equipment. The next step in my career will be the promotion to Sergeant, which I hope will materialize in the not so distant future. Apart from enjoying my work here with my

Manoeuvre company, I also try to make the most out of my stay in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I like to travel around and I have already seen some very nice places, including Sarajevo, Mostar, Neum and, one of my favourite places, the Kravica waterfalls. I use my spare time within the camp for reading books and keeping physically fit. My greatest passion, however, is going out for dancing. So you will definitely find me almost every Saturday evening in the Millennium Bar. Being a female soldier doesn't make a difference for me, as I'm treated very nicely by all

my colleagues and my work is fully appreciated by everybody. There are 9 females within my company and to my knowledge we don't have any problems because we are female soldiers. After this mission I will return home to my nice house and beautiful garden, where I spend a lot of time caring for my flowers, of which I'm very proud. I hope to see you around, maybe for one of the Saturday dance nights and wish you a pleasant stay in this beautiful country.

My Name is Tina Plocek, OR-3 Austrian Army. I was born on 28th March 1989 in Waidhofen on the banks of the Thaya River in the heart of hills, forests and meadows preserved in the Lower Austrian Waldviertel region. I started my military career in the 3rd Artillery Battalion, where I was responsible for ballistic calculations. In my opinion technical fire control is a really interesting job, calculating all the basic geospatial data of range, angle of sight and azimuth between a fire unit and its target and correcting it according to variations. These include barrel wear, propellant temperature, different projectiles weights, muzzle velocity, air temperature, density, wind speed & direction and can all affect the shell in flight. Now I am on my first mission abroad with EUFOR ALTHEA since 7th December 2010 as



OR3 Tina Plocek

a signaller and driver within the reconnaissance Platoon as part of the Multinational Battalion (MNBN) – "The Guardians". I am very happy to have gotten the chance to work together with soldiers from different nations and it was quite a surprise to me to see how many women all the other armies have deployed, something I simply didn't know before. Here I also gained new experi-

ence in the use of equipment, like the TACSAT. As we are conducting frequent outside training, I already had the chance to put my theoretical knowledge into practice. One of the moments which had been particularly special for me during this mission so far was on the 24th December – my first Christmas Eve without my family – when the commander of our battalion here had organized a very nice celebration with all his multinational personnel at the dining facility in Camp Butmir – an event I really enjoyed a lot. I am looking forward to the next six months and I hope I will experience many more interesting times here in the Balkans. May I conclude with wishing all the soldiers in this mission a very good time, may you also collect a lot of positive memories and return back to your families healthy and safely!

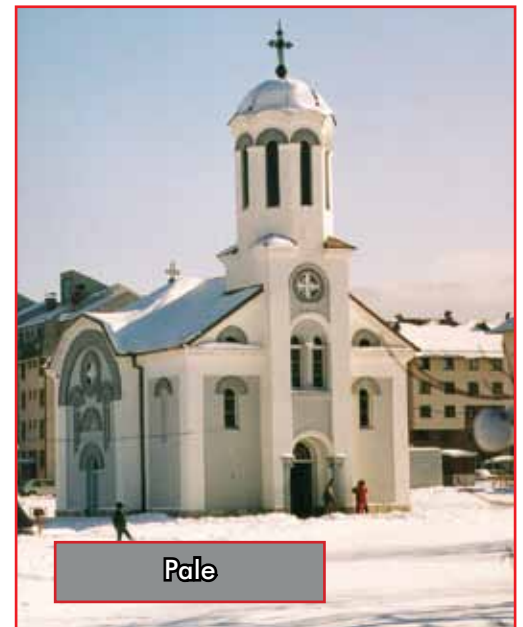
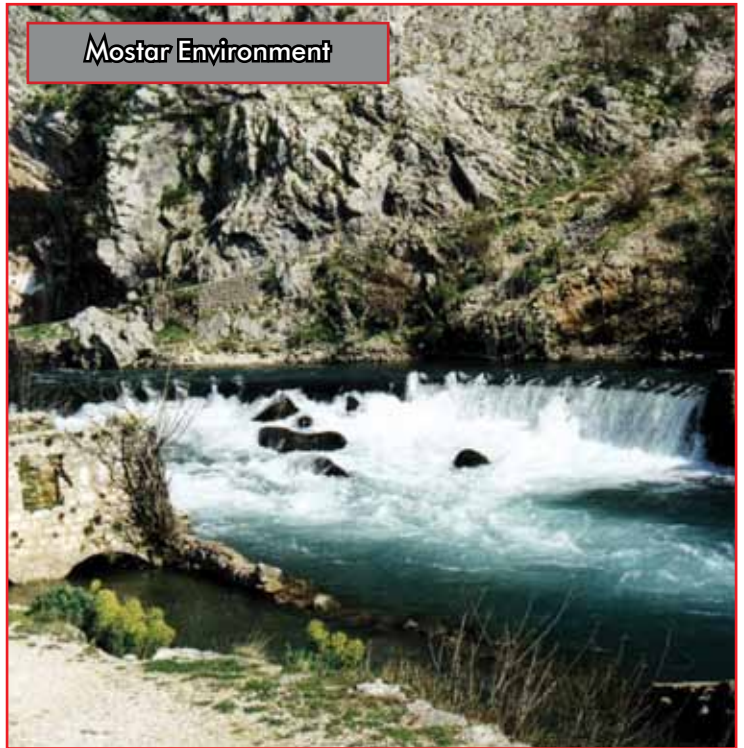
Breza



Neum



Mostar Environment



Pale

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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