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**EUFOR**  
folum

# Change of Command in MNBN

# Foreword by Lt Col Friedrich Ölböck

## Commander Multinational Battalion

I'm truly honoured and thankful for having the opportunity to address you as the newly appointed Commander of EUFOR's Multinational Battalion (MNBN). The assignment as a Battalion Commander is not new to me, as, before my arrival here in Bosnia and Herzegovina, I was the Commander of the Staff Battalion 6, which is the command and support unit of the Austrian 6th Mountain Infantry Brigade. My previous missions abroad started in 1999, when I was



a Company Commander with the United Nations Disengagement and Observation Force (UNDOF) on the Golan Heights for two years. In the meantime, I have successfully completed tours of duty with ISAF in Afghanistan, with the Operational Reserve Force in Germany and Kosovo, and later on in Kosovo again, when I served there as the Deputy Commanding Officer of the Austrian Battalion with KFOR.

I'm very glad that I was given the chance to put my experience into practise again and it is certainly an advantage to be familiar in principal with the operational concept and the manifold tasks of this truly international and well established unit right from the beginning. Since Austria has taken over the framework responsibility for the MNBN some 8 months ago, there were quite a few challenges that had to be overcome. I would, therefore, like to take this opportunity to thank my distinguished predecessor Lt Col Bernd Rott and his staff for their competent and friendly support during the takeover process. In addition, I want to express my congratulations for all the battalion's profound accomplishments throughout their tour of duty.

After assuming my new leadership role, time has become my most constrained resource, with much of my focus being fixed on assessing and gaining a

deeper understanding of the organization, the environment within which we operate, the internal and external factors affecting my units and conducting a self-assessment in order to gain the initiative in order to further improve our overall skills. Understanding yourself is a powerful skill for every leader. If you understand your strengths, weaknesses, and tendencies under various conditions you will have a better understanding of yourself. If you know yourself, you can know

better how to interact with others and how they are likely to interact with you. As time permits, my thoughts are also on the upcoming training and education requirements, operational events, goals and priorities already established for the unit, my higher leader's intent, guidance and long range plan, the current and projected key personnel situation, experience level of subordinates, their strengths and weaknesses, events that might have an impact on the battalion, the overall organizational climate and reputation, disciplinary situations and investigations currently in progress, and what should be changed if we had it all to do over again.

Last but not least I'd like to express my respect to all the soldiers serving under my command, for all the hard work and dedication that I have already observed on a daily basis. This has not only earned yourselves the respect and appreciation of your superiors but also of the local populace. By contributing to the maintenance of a safe and secure environment and by contributing to the common EUFOR effort, you are paving the way for our host nation Bosnia and Herzegovina to become an integrated part of the European Union and the International Community as a whole.

Multinational Battalion as always: "BE PREPARED!"

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Change of Command of MNBN

Dear all,

The last month has been extremely busy with events such as the EUFOR School Competition, the MNBN Change of Command to name but a few! Despite this, so many of you have found the time to submit articles for EUFORUM and the website which is fantastic. I am especially delighted to have received a number of articles from the LOT Houses. ....keep it up! If you have any interesting articles about your nation or maybe about yourself, please don't hesitate to contact the press office. We will support you to bring your ideas to the EUFORUM. Even if your English is not perfect we can support you and your friends.

Being British, I have to talk about the weather.....I came to Bosnia and Herzegovina for the sun.....where is it? Maybe next month?

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

Lt Cdr Mark Frost, EUFOR Spokesperson



Lt Cdr Mark Frost

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Commander EUFOR  
**Major General Bernhard Bair**

EUFOR Press Office Chief  
**Lt Col Gerhard Schweiger**

**EUFOR Forum Staff:**

Chief Editor:

**Mr Haris Daul**

Editor:

**Lt Cdr Mark Frost**

Layout:

**Mr. Jasmin Zeherović**

Photographs contributed by:

**Sgt Markus Rumpold**

Submissions can be made via e-mail to  
[cpic\\_forum@eufor.eu.int](mailto:cpic_forum@eufor.eu.int)

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## Efforts of Young Artists Recognised at the EUFOR School Competition Award Ceremony



The Award Ceremony for the EUFOR School Competition 2011 took place at Camp Butmir on 11th May 2011. The event was hosted by Major General Bernhard Bair, COM EUFOR. Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministers of Education, the Mayors of Sarajevo, representatives from a num-

ber of the Embassies within BiH and those organisations that had sponsored the competition were also present at the ceremony.

COM EUFOR welcomed everyone to the ceremony especially the children who were winners in this year's competition. He told those present that the children

of BiH are its future and that we must all invest in that future by providing the children with the opportunity to learn, undertaken new experiences and the chance to live in a stable, viable, peaceful and multi ethnic Nation. General Bair then thanked everyone who had donated a prize, including the external sponsors, the various Embassies and EUFOR national contingents.

Major General Bair then invited those that had sponsored the prizes onto the podium to help present the awards to the winners in each of the categories. There were 3 main categories, Primary School 6 – 9 years, Primary School 10 – 14 years and High School 15 – 18 years. The winners in the first two categories were Iman Pašić from the 5th Primary school, Ilidža and Alem







Ibrahimović from the Primary school “Miričina”, Gračanica municipality. In the High School category where the children were required to produce a project or photo essay, seventeen schools were recognized for their efforts. The prizes for this year’s winners of the competition included trips abroad, laptops, video cameras, MP3 players and cameras.

The theme of this year’s EUFOR school competition was “Europe without Borders” or “Children of the European Union” and those participating in the competition had to produce a drawing or painting, a poster, a comic strip or with a group of friends, produce a photo essay. This is the fourth year in a row that EUFOR has organised the competition and the popularity of the event remained high again this year. Nearly 250 Schools from across the whole of the country participated and close to 3000 entries were submitted.

By Lt Cdr Mark Frost





# Visits to HQ EUFOR



COM EUFOR with attendees of the Medical Evacuation and Search & Rescue (MedEvac/SAR) Seminar



COM EUFOR and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Poland Sikorski passing through Guard of Honour.



COM EUFOR with Major General Robert Löwenstein, Commander of 1st Air Force Division of German Armed Forces.



Major General Bernhard Bair, COM EUFOR welcomes the Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Wang Fuguo to EUFOR HQ.

# Multinational Battalion Change of Command Ceremony



On 10th May 2011, COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, marked the handover of command within the battalion with a medal presentation to the outgoing commander, Lt Col Bernd Rott. In the presence of other high ranking guests, including the Austrian Ambassador to BiH Mag. Dr. Donatus Köck, COM EUFOR presided over a change of command ceremony on Camp Butmir.

Lieutenant Colonel Bernd Rott, Austrian Army, handed over command to Lieutenant Colonel Friedrich Ölböck, Austrian Army, after having been in command for seven months. The parade consisted of troops from all of the nations that form the MNBN, namely from Austria, Hungary and Turkey. Major General Bair praised the outgoing Commander for his professionalism and dedication in en-

suring that his troops were well trained and ready to undertake their mission.

Lieutenant Colonel Friedrich Ölböck from Zams in Tyrol, Austria brings with him a lot of experience not only from his previous international missions that have taken him to the Golan Heights,

Afghanistan, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Kosovo but also as the Commander of the Austrian "Stabsbataillon 6". He is a certified mountain guide and in his spare-time an engaged air rescuer with the Austrian Christophorus Helicopter Rescue Service.

**By Captain Otmar Lindner**





# An eventful month for the Multinational Battalion (MNBN)



The last month has been really busy for the Multinational Battalion (MNBN), as it was full of events that are quite different from our normal military routine here. While we usually have our focus on being prepared to conduct or train for military operations in order to support the maintenance of a safe and secure environment (SASE) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), this period was marked by change.

First of all, there was a change in the overall leadership of the EUFOR mission, Operation Althea. This was soon followed by the first official visit to BiH of General Sir Richard Shirreff KCB, CBE after taking up the role as the Operation Commander for the EUFOR forces in BiH and as NATO's Deputy Supreme

Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR) from General Sir John McColl KCB, CBE, DSO.

The new Operation Commander of EUFOR "Althea" was welcomed to Camp BUTMIR by

an Honour Guard comprising of the 26 contributing nations on 27th April and on 28th April General Shirreff witnessed a practical demonstration of the joint capabilities by the EUFOR Multi-National Battalion and





troops of the Armed Forces of BiH (AF BiH). The relationship that has developed between EUFOR and AF BiH was re-enforced in a combined display that began with a simulated protest by demonstrators.

After a brief discussion with the AF BiH soldiers who had set up a road block, the demonstrators marched past the first line, where they were met the EUFOR unit from the Turkish manoeuvre company in riot control gear.

At the same time the spectators witnessed a medical evacuation of a wounded AF BiH soldier by a EUFOR helicopter.

Meanwhile, the demonstration began to further escalate, but before things were allowed to get out of hand, the Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) equipped Hungarian soldiers stepped in and successfully cordoned off



the demonstrators. This action was followed by an evacuation exercise, involving the OP Cdr General Shirreff, COM EUFOR Major General Bair, DCOM and Chief of Staff EUFOR Brigadier General Nagy, as well as the

Chief of the Joint Staff of AFBiH, Lieutenant General Miložčić. These VIPs were provided with a close protection team consisting of Hungarian soldiers AND were then quickly evacuated by Austrian company personnel, first by vehicles and subsequently by helicopter.

Upon his return from a short round-trip with the helicopter, General Shirreff addressed the troops and expressed his appreciation for the professional display he had just witnessed. He also said that for him it was vitally important that he had come to the country to see with his own eyes the current situation in order to gain a better understanding of the situation that exists here in BiH and issued a positive assessment in terms of EUFOR's fulfilment of the military responsibilities.



Continued on pages 10-11





This month also saw almost the entire Austrian company being replaced due to their normal rotation every six months. On this occasion, the outgoing staff paraded for their EUFOR Operation ALTHEA medals in the presence of the contingents

from Hungary and Turkey. In his speech, MNBN Commander Lieutenant Colonel Bernd Rott emphasized that BiH is an example of the successful efforts to establish peace and that the EUFOR mission with its executive mandate will remain as a key

strand in the peace implementation process. To enable EUFOR to maintain its freedom of action in terms of its security policy, the members of the MNBN are to continuously develop capabilities that can meet all future requirements. Today's crises and conflicts arise quickly and so, you must not allow yourself to be caught off guard.



### Full Operational Capability

In the meantime, the newly arrived company commenced their training programme to integrate them into the battalion and bring them up to an effective level. They successfully conducted their Full Operational Capability (FOC) exercise and thus demonstrated that the MNBN again was up to its full potential when it comes to cordon operations, CRC techniques, helicopter procedures, occupation and



maintenance of Forward Operation Bases (FOB), medical evacuations and extraction of personnel of LOT Houses as well as staff from the International Community.

**Visit of Hungarian Officers**

The MNBN hosted a group of officers from the Hungarian General Staff Officers Course on 11 May 2011. Following some detailed briefings about the manifold tasks, the MNBN gave an impressive practical display of skills in CRC techniques and air-evacuation of personnel. The highlight of this display was the air-lifting of the Commander of the course by helicopter, assisted by the Commander of the MNBN, Lt Col Rott.



**In the end, a farewell**

Finally and sadly, we also had to say good-bye to our Command Sergeant Major Peter Ganarin. He had also served within HQ MNBN for seven months and who

will be missed by many. Peter Ganarin is a man who always lives by principle, searching his conscience daily and making decisions based on tolerance, humility, understanding, and a real affection for all the men and officers concerned.

He performed exceptionally well in his role and clearly was driven by his desire to see change and adjustment benefit the individual soldier.

The day before their departure, both Lt Col Rott and CSM Ganarin were given a farewell by all of HQ MNBN staff, when a lot of hand-shaking and exchanges of presents took place.

**By Captain Otmar Lindner**



## EUFOR Helicopter supports Search and Rescue operation near Medjugorje

A EUFOR helicopter based at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, participated in a successful Search and Rescue operation south of Medjugorje on 6th May. A female German tourist had been reported missing overnight to the local police.

Due to the nature of the terrain and the large potential search area, the local police requested support from EUPM. The assistance of EUFOR helicopter support was then asked for by the EUPM.

After permission given by Commander EUFOR and following the planning of the operation, the helicopter was airborne within the hour and proceeded to the search area south of Medjugorje. The helicopter of the Aus-



trian Armed Forces, an AB 212, was able to locate the missing female within 20 minutes. Due to the nature of the terrain the helicopter was unable to land but passed her water and guided the ground search to her exact location.

The female tourist was then taken to hospital by road and is

now receiving appropriate care. The helicopter returned to Camp Butmir following completion of a successful mission.

The Search and Rescue operation demonstrated the high-level of co-operation between EUFOR with the local Bosnian and Herzegovinian authorities.

**By Lt Cdr Mark Frost**

## Euro bus in Travnik

Members of the Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) from Travnik were present in the town centre on Sunday, 15th May, to support the “European Union on Wheels” Initiative. The aim of “EU on Wheels” was to bring the values of a United Europe closer to citizens, as well as emphasise the significance of the Bosnia and Herzegovina accession process to Europe Union.

The “EU on Wheels” vehicle parked in front of the local shopping mall in order to provide



information about EU to the local residence. Personnel from the LOT House in Travnik supported the initiative by providing information on EUFOR to those visiting the van. The EU Van and “EU on Wheels” display have visited more than 20 locations across BiH over the last two weeks as part of the “Europe Week” celebrations.

**By Lt Cdr Mark Frost**



## LOT Livno build partnership with Woman Association

The Liaison Observation Team (LOT) House in Livno have started a partnership with the Woman's Association of Livno. This partnership between the LOT House and the Woman's Association includes working together in the field of gender law, the fight against domestic violence and violence amongst children.

EUFOR has been able to support the project by advising on the lay-out and the printing of books dealing with these subjects. Two types of books have



been produced, one aimed at children and another at adults. The books are used by the Association during workshops in Canton 10 and the surround-

ing Cantons to explain about the importance of these issues. Those attending the workshops have the opportunity to keep the books printed by EUFOR for further reading.

This initiative highlights how those manning the LOT houses across Bosnia and Herzegovina are working to develop relations with their neighbours and the local authorities with the aim of helping the local population live together in a stable and multi-ethnic environment.

By Lt Col Mark Frost

## Donation to the University Hospital in Tuzla

On 4th May 2011, a delegation from Austria consisting of the "Austrian Peacekeepers" and the "Rotary Club – Korneuburg" visited BiH. A highlight during this visit was the meeting with COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair.

The head of this delegation was the retired four-star General Günther Greindl who donated 87.000€ in cooperation with the other Austrian Rotary-Clubs for the university hospital in Tuzla. At the ceremony took part the Austrian Contingent Commander, Colonel Klaus Jenschik, and also soldiers from CIMIC AUT and RCC "East". Representatives from the hospital and from the Rotary



Club Tuzla participated also. It was a very dignified ceremony and the EUFOR troops showed their presence in the public and in front of the local media which is always a very good advertisement for the EUFOR troops.

The sum of 87.000€ is for the children section in the hospital. Because of this donation it is now possible to construct an surgical

room with all necessary equipment.

Another ongoing project from the "Rotary Club – Korneuburg" is the support of the ambulance in Srebrenica, which was also visited.

During the visit to Srebrenica, the delegation decided also to visit the "Potocari Memorial"

to contribute their respect to the victims from 1995. This happening was also attended by the local media and some interesting articles were made of this happening.

A visit to the "Tunnel of Life" and a short Office Call at COM EUFOR concluded the visit of this high ranked delegation.

By 1st Lt Martin Zarfl

## Ethno villages in BiH

Amongst many interesting places to visit in BiH there are several ethno villages which show history, culture, way of living in the old days, provide place for good recreation, holiday time and excellent cuisine.

In this edition we will give you idea of 3 the most known ethno villages in BiH that you should find time to visit:

### Ethno “STANIŠIĆ SELO”



3 Km from Bijeljina towards East (Pavlovica most) is beautiful Stanišić Selo. Opened 2003, preserve culture, way of living and architecture of the Serb mountain village on the end of 19 century. It is mountain village in the middle of flat part of BiH. It has 2 sections one is spiritual (historical and religious importance) and other is daily life (wooden houses). In the middle are 2 lakes. Stream water mill is still in use and originates from 1937 and mill house is from 1917. Beautiful area to walk with plenty of water all across the village. Houses are made with high roof, outside appearance is authentic and inside is adjusted to the needs of the visitors. The whole village has also: black smith house, pottery place etc. It gives impression of the all activities which were in some village in the past as authentic way of the life at that time.

### Ethno “BEGOVO SELO”



Owner of this place is a passionate antic and Bosnian cultural heritage collector, decided to present his collection in authentic ambient of Bosnian village. Fantastic natural surrounding gives you calm and relaxing feeling. Location was selected and found on Highland Nišići, because that mountain region with its natural beauties and cultural and natural diversities presents Bosnia.

The village was built by ancient techniques and original, authentic materials where used, some of them where few centuries old. The entire place is very authentic and serves organic food, drinks, honey, meat, milk etc

ETNO Begovo Selo is located in a beautiful natural reserve zone of Bijamabare between Nišička highlands and Bijambare cave. Altitude is 1040 meters; and ethno village is 500 m away from the main road Sarajevo – Tuzla.

### Ethno “HERCEG SELO”

From Čitluk turn towards Ljubuški, continue 1.5 km after the crossroad Tromeda. In industrial zone turn left at the sign for “Herceg’ Etno Selo, 300 m further and you reach this place.

Herceg Selo was opened 2008 and represent authentic Herzegovina village. It has several sections with more than 50 stone buildings. It is excellent place for people who like to experience good food, for those who are searching for a break



from everyday routine and have a bit flavor of Herzegovina culture, history and cuisine. There is also conference hall which provides the facilities as a business venue and an amphitheatre for holding cultural events. In the middle of village is a lovely chapel and nearby is vineyard with authentic sort of vines, Žilavka and Blatina.

Go to some of these places and experience BiH via its history, culture and good time you will spent there.

**By Historical Office**



## Donation by the Bulgarian contingent of EUFOR

On the occasion of the 6th of May, "Valor day" and the day of the Bulgarian Armed Forces, the soldiers from the Bulgarian contingent in EUFOR Operation "ALTEA" made a donation to the Society of Parents,



Citizens and Friends of Help for Youth and Kids with Special Needs kinder center "Leptir" in Bugojno.

The Bulgarian Senior Representative Captain (N) Kosta Andreev, the Bulgarian NCC Lieutenant Colonel Milko Donchev and the Chief of Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) house Bugoino, Major Zhelyazko Zhelev handed over the donation in the presence of the representatives of the parents of the kids and the local authorities. The

generous donation consisted of a 29" TV, Refrigerator and a DVD player and sweets.

The initiative was suggested by the Bulgarian LOT in Bugoino as a good opportunity to show the EUFOR support in helping people of the local community that they live in. In addition, it provided them with a chance to demonstrate the European values for the equality between the people and keeping the Bulgarian "Day of Valor" tradition of presenting high honours to

those with courage and bravery. These children certainly show enormous courage fighting the everyday challenges they are facing during their hard lives.

Additionally, Major Zhelyazko Zhelev and his team organized a

charity initiative on a smaller scale for some of the more deserving schools in their area of operations. Both teams of LOT Bugojno took the sports equipment, such as soccer balls and badminton rackets, to the children in the elementary schools of Zivcici, Rizvici, Dusina, Hum and others.

These donations truly comes from the hearts of the Bulgarian soldiers and they are to be congratulated for their efforts.

**By Major Ivaylo Ivanov**



## EUFOR Supports the “Run to Europe”



As part of the “Europe Week” celebrations, the European Union Delegation to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Directorate for European Integration of Council of Ministers of BiH organized numerous sports and cultural events across the country. The aim of these events was to bring the values of a United Europe closer to citizens, as well as emphasise the significance of the BiH accession process to Europe.

On Sunday 8th May, the “Run to Europe” 4 kilometre road race was held. This was the third time the event had taken place and provided an opportunity for pro-

fessional and amateur athletes from BiH to join the Europe Day celebration. In addition to the local runners, over one hundred personnel from the many different nations that contribute troops to EUFOR participated in the run as well. This gave the race a truly ‘whole of Europe’ feel as the soldiers from Austria, Hungary, Bulgaria, Turkey, Ireland and the Netherlands mixed with the other race participants.

Major General Bernhard Bair, COM EUFOR was invited as one of the guests of honour and presented the medals to the winners in the men’s race. General

Bair said, “Today’s event typifies the EU approach within BiH – a comprehensive approach utilizing both political/military organizations to help inform the people of BiH about the benefits of EU membership.” He went on to say “sport is excellent at bringing different people together in competition and fun and we have certainly seen that today.”

Members of EUFOR HQ and the Regional Co-ordination Centre South went to Mokro to support the Delegation of the European Union launch their Europe Day celebrations on 4th May. The EU Van was visiting the Primary School in Mokro as part of the process of informing people about the benefits of joining the EU. The van will visit 6 locations throughout BiH over the next two weeks. The celebrations started in the school gymnasium with a handicapped volleyball tournament. There were 4 teams representing Brcko, Foca, Beograd (Serbia) and Zadovici taking part in the tournament.

By Lt Cdr Mark Frost





# Spanish Contingent of EUFOR Remember Fallen Comrades

The Spanish Contingent of EUFOR held a remembrance ceremony for the 23 Spanish soldiers who had given their lives to the mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 18th May. The ceremony was held in the Memorial Park, Camp Butmir and attended by the Spanish Ambassador, His Excellency Alejandro Alvargonzález San Martin and Major General Bernhard Bair, COM EUFOR.

Lt Col Enrique Segura, the Senior Spanish Representative on EUFOR led the ceremony. After the initial words of remembrance, he read the names of the 23 Spanish soldiers who had given their lives.



Then the Spanish Ambassador and COM EUFOR both laid wreaths at the Spanish memori-

al. The last post was played and a minutes silence kept. The Spanish Contingent then sang "La Muerte no es el Final".

His Excellency Alvargonzález San Martin addressed those present, saying, "that they had made the ultimate sacrifice for peace." He concluded by re-assuring everyone, "that they would never be forgotten."

After the ceremony, COM EUFOR praised the contribution that the Spanish troops bring to the operation. He then thanked Spain for their continuing support.

**By Lt Cdr Mark Frost**

## Sporting Competition in Camp Butmir



On 14th May 2011, a sporting competition was organized by HQ CMDT/MWA and POL NSE. Sport competition consisted of five different sport events (100m sprint, distance throwing, static distance jump, obstacle course and 2,3K run). On this event

took part twelve best athletes from four different countries (AUT, BiH, POL, CHL). All disciplines were held on the beach volleyball and soccer field area. Weather was great and helps competitors to achieve best results for each discipline. Imme-

diately after competition was winners ceremony held by POL NSE Commander. Overall winner was Fahringer Michael/AUT who received medal and trophy for the best result. Other first six competitors beside him received medals and trophies too.

**By Željko Puljić**

My name's Jozsef Orsós, OR-7 Hungarian Defense Forces, and I serve as an NCO in the Hungarian National Support Element (NSE) with EUFOR in Sarajevo. I was born in 1977 in a small town called BARCS, which is located in the southern part of Hungary and lies directly on the



OR7 Jozsef Orsós

border with Croatia. Before the wars in the Balkans, the town was an important destination for shopping tourism for people from Yugoslavia. The wars have largely destroyed the town's image, when in 1991, as the result of a mistake; a bomb was dropped on the territory of Barcs by the Yugoslav National Army. The region is now concentrating on health tourism, which is not only one of most visibly and rap-

idly developing sub-branches of domestic tourism, but one of the world's most innovative business sectors. I presently live with my wife and three children in a rather small village located in the Transdanubian Region. The region, situated in the south-western part of Hungary is bordered by the Lake Balaton from the North, the river Danube from the East and Hungary's southern border river, the Drava from the South. It has a population of approximately 1 million inhabitants and has a strong rural character with a lack of medium sized towns and a fragmented settlement structure.

Since January this year, I am

stationed in Camp Butmir and my assignment here will end in July. My military career started when I was only fourteen years of age, when I attended the military high-school in GYÖR. After graduating with an excellent degree, I won admittance to the NCO school in BUDAPEST in 1996 and was promoted to the rank of Sergeant the same year. During my military career I've served in three different units within the Hungarian Defense Forces. This is my first time participating in a mission abroad and I must say that I'm really enjoying my stay in EUFOR. Here I have a chance to take part in multinational exercises, work together with soldiers from different countries, gain additional professional skills, and last but not least, practice the English language. I also find my working environment quite interesting, as there are quite a few things that have to be taken care of. The NSE has the respon-

## COM EUFOR visits Liaison and Observation Team House in Sanski Most

On 20th April, COM EUFOR, Major General Bair, paid a visit to the Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) House in Sanski Most. The LOT House is manned by personnel from Chile and comes under the co-ordination of the Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) West. Captain Felipe Videla, the Deputy Commander of the LOT, welcomed COM EUFOR and introduced the personnel serving in the LOT House.

The team in the LOT house briefed COM EUFOR on the present situation in the area and the ongoing LOT activities. They explain how they have devel-





sibility for relaying supplies, money, ammunition, mail and food to the Hungarian national EUFOR personnel deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as personnel transportation to and from BUDAPEST. Among its other duties, the NSE provides combat supplies and general and technical stores, movement and transportation support, vehicle and equipment maintenance and contracts management. Our unit is also responsible for the support of the Hungarian company, which is part of the Multi-National Battalion (MNBC). There are many tasks associated with providing the necessary logistics for this company in order to keep it operationally capable. After finishing this mission, I will continue my career as a professional soldier at home. If I get the chance, I would love to come back to EUFOR, or maybe try another mission abroad.

oped a warm and professional relationship with their neighbours and the local authorities. The LOT Houses allow EUFOR to feel the pulse of the country.

There are currently 26 nations providing personnel to the EUFOR Althea Operation, of which 5 are non-European Union members. As well as manning the LOT House in Sanski Most, Chile also commands the LOT House at Bosanska Gradiska and provide Staff Officers in the EUFOR HQ.

**By Lt Cdr Mark Frost**

## Ataturk Youth and Sports Day

Each year in Turkey on 19th May, Ataturk, Youth and Sports Day is celebrated. The 19th May 1919 signifies the day when Ataturk first started the Turkish Independence movement by landing on the main Samsun peninsula of Turkey. In early 1920, Ataturk convened the first Turkish Grand Assembly in Ankara and by 1922 all of Anatolia was freed from foreign and imperial rule. The independent Republic of Turkey was declared a year later. During the course of his term as president, Ataturk himself proclaimed 19th May as 'Youth and Sports Day'. He delegated the responsibility of protecting and developing of the Republic to the Turkish Youth.

Set against this backdrop, the Office of the Turkish Military Representatives in BiH has been organizing a celebration event on 19 May every year since 2009, to share this important commemoration event with



Bosnian People. This year's celebration took place on 21st May 2011 (Saturday) at 20:00 hrs. in Dom Mladih Center in Skenderija Square. Many local people and students from the schools were invited to this event. The Turkish Senior National Representative and OPSD Chief Colonel Ali Tahsin Tunali made an opening address to those present. The live music concert featured musician Mirza Soljanin and Band Scripta and attracted more than 2000 people from Sarajevo and surrounding area.

Like previous years' celebrations, this year's event was also commemorated with a high number of participants and celebrated with enthusiasm.

**By Major Gengiz Yilmaz**







*Oda radosti*

Beethoven



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