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Dear readers,

In this final edition of FORUM for 2016 I would like to reflect on how very productive this year has been for EUFOR. Key achievements were the joint signing of an agreement to enable the capability building and evaluation of Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) in February and the opening of a Mine Action and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Training Centre in April.

In figures:

- 11 units were declared operationally ready by AFBiH;
- Ammunition and Weapons Sites Inspections and Disposals observed and advised on the inspection of over 6,000 tons of ammunition in stores across the country;
- 10 new staff of the AFBiH have been trained successfully on how to dismantle and surplus and outdated ammunition with an additional 10 instructors finishing their training;
- Over 19,000 school children and workers were provided Mine Risk Education by LOT houses.

The highlight of the year was Exercise QUICK RESPONSE which demonstrated a remarkable level of tactical capability developed within the AFBiH and underlined the ability of EUFOR's committed

reserve forces to deploy into BiH if required.

The public response to this was unprecedented, with a massive 1.9

million impressions of media releases on Facebook.

However, we have recently seen a significant increase in inflammatory rhetoric in the political environment of BiH. Despite all difficulties and challenges we should always emphasize finding common ground for all people in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to build a peaceful and prosperous future for the entire country.

EUFOR is fully committed to support BiH "on its path to a European future" and I rely on every one of you to continue to uphold the high standards demonstrated by you in my time here so far. EUFOR remains a vital enabling actor in the development and maintenance of a safe and secure environment and the continuing development of Defence and Constitutional Reform in a country that is increasingly at risk of re-fracturing along ethnic boundaries.

Thank you all for your contributions over the past year and may we look forward to a safe and successful 2017.

Major General Friedrich Schrötter

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EUFOR Teaches the Skills to Deploy Abroad

COMEUFOR

Major General Friedrich Schrötter

EUFOR Public Affairs Chief

Lieutenant Colonel Peter Barthou

EUFOR Forum Staff:

Spokesperson:

Lieutenant Commander

Michael Fitzpatrick

Layout:

Mr. Jasmin Zeherović

Photographs contributed by:

Staff Sergeant Stephan Weiss

Major Michael Zoglmann

Staff Sergeant Martin Schmidt

We also thank for contribution from the LOT Houses

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(HQ EUFOR)

In my first statement as editor I would like to say hello to the readers of this magazine and introduce myself as the new EUFOR spokesperson. I also wish to say thank you to my predecessor Lt Cdr 'Harry' Harwood who is now safely back home and has left me with some large shoes to fill!

Changes in public use and viewing of media have led to a change in tact from us in the Public Affairs Office. We printed the final edition of Teme Magazine in October and are now focusing our efforts on social media and the younger generation, where we believe the greatest benefits can be achieved.

December saw more social media posts from us than in any previous month and the public's response has been generally positive. With that, I would like



**Lt Cdr Michael Fitzpatrick
EUFOR Spokesperson**

to invite any one of you to send us stories of the good work you are doing. Please send photos and a short brief of the event and you may see yourself on our Facebook page or in the next edition of FORUM!

As the snow builds higher and higher here in Butmir I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the new year and wish you a happy and safe 2017.

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+387 (0)33 495216
IPN 941-5216

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Visit to EUFOR by Central European Defence Co-operation (CEDC)



On Tuesday 8 November 2016 the Central European Defence Co-operation (CEDC), consisting of nations from; Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria, Slovenia and Croatia were welcomed by COMEUFOR Major General Friedrich Schrötter. Upon arrival they were met by their respective EUFOR Senior National Representatives before an honour guard from the Multi-National Battalion (MNBN) consisting of Austrian and Turkish Soldiers.

After the EU anthem was played there was a photo call before the Ministers and their security policy directors attended a brief on the EUFOR Althea mission by COMEUFOR. The other delegates were given an insight to the roles their contributing armed forces deliver to the EUFOR Althea Mission by displays from their respective troops. The visit provided an opportunity for the delegates to witness first-hand the activities their soldiers conduct on a regular basis.

EUFOR Spokesperson Lieutenant Commander Harwood said, “The important work of these soldiers is essential to the maintenance of a safe and secure environment in BiH. EUFOR will also continue to provide capability building and training to AFBiH as part of their wider EU integration and admission.”

COMEUFOR said, “I welcome this important visit of the Central European Defence Co-operation to Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is a good chance for the ministers to witness first hand contributing nation’s armed forces in the security of this region as EUFOR co-operates towards the future European Union integration of Bosnia and Herzegovina.”

The Central European Defence Co-operation is collaboration between the Central European countries Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Austria, Slovenia and Croatia and was founded in 2010. Poland has observer status.

Supreme Allied Commander Europe visits AFBiH Command Team Conference



During his visit to Jahorina near Sarajevo for a Command Team Conference, Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) General Curtis Scaparrotti, had an office call with COMEUFOR Major General Friedrich Schrötter.

COMEUFOR briefed SACEUR on the challenges of the Operation Althea Mission and the continued co-operation between EUFOR and NATO Sa, providing a common approach to the development of AFBiH.

The Generals also discussed the participation of the NATO KFOR in the recent Exercise Quick Response 2016, where the Tactical Manoeuvre Battalion deployed across the Western Balkans in to BiH to the exercise.

General Schrötter reiterated the importance of EUFOR’s capability and training and the progression of AFBiH, enabling their involvement in Peace Support Operations.

The Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) is one of NATO’s two strategic commanders and is the head of Allied Command Operations (ACO).

He is responsible to NATO’s highest military authority, the Military Committee (MC), for the conduct of all NATO military operations.

Visit of Hungarian Chief of Defence

On Thursday 10 November 2016 Hungarian Chief of Defence, General Benkő was welcomed by COMEUFOR Major General Friedrich Schrötter. Upon arrival he was invited to inspect an Honour Guard from the Multi-National Battalion (MNBN) consisting of Austrian Soldiers, before meeting Hungarian members of the EUFOR Operation Althea Mission.

After the EU anthem was played there was a photo call before General Benkő attended an office call with General Schrötter. The visit provided an opportunity for the General to witness first-hand the contribution his soldiers provide to the mission. Hungary provide a company of soldiers to the Multi-National battalion on a rotational basis with Austria.

Since 2007, the Hungarian Defence Force has been under a unified command structure. The Ministry of Defence maintains the political and civil control over the army. The military leadership is exercised by the Defence Staff of the Ministry of Defence. A subordinate Joint Force Command coordinates and commands the HDF corps.



Austrian Chief of Defence Staff Visits EUFOR

The Austrian Chief of Defence, General Othmar Commenda, visited HQ EUFOR Camp Butmir from the 6 to 7 December. On arrival he was greeted with an Honour Guard consisting of one platoon of Austrian and one platoon of Turkish soldiers from the Multi-National Battalion. He was introduced to several key EUFOR staff members, then proceeded to General Staff AFBiH for a meeting with the Chief of Joint Staff BiH, Lieutenant General Anton Jeleč.

On day two General Commenda received an update brief on Op Althea from COMEUFOR, Major General Schrötter, before meeting more of the Austrian contingent in Camp Butmir.



Austria is a large contributor to the EUFOR Althea mission, with personnel working in almost every facet of the operation including Capacity Building & Training, disposal of surplus ammunition and the Multi-National Battalion. A total of 306 Austrian soldiers are currently serving in BiH under COMEUFOR.

Right: General Othmar Commenda meeting Lieutenant General Anton Jeleč, Chief of Joint Staff AFBiH



President of the Slovak Republic Visits HQ EUFOR

On 20 December 2016 the President of the Slovak Republic, Mr Andrej Kiska, visited the Headquarters of the European Union Force (HQ EUFOR) in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. He was joined by the Slovakian Minister for Defence, Peter Gajdoš; the Chief of Defence Staff, General Milan Maxim; and the Ambassador to BiH, Jan Pšenica.

Initially welcomed by an Honour Guard of two platoons assembled from soldiers of the EUFOR Multi-National Battalion, the Slovak

delegation then proceeded to an office call with COMEUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter. During this call, Major General Schrötter thanked President Kiska for the support of the Slovakian Armed Forces and commended the good work they

are doing throughout the country.

President Kiska also used the visit to address the EUFOR Slovakian contingent in a less formal setting after which he received a brief from his Senior National Representative on the Slovak Republic's contribution to Op Althea.

The Slovak Armed Forces have 40 personnel deployed throughout BiH as part of Op Althea under COMEUFOR. Their

largest contribution is the support to three Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) houses, based in Novo Sarajevo, Foca and Visegrad where they are responsible for supporting the development of the safe and secure environment in BiH.



Swiss Chief of Defence Staff Visits EUFOR Personnel in Mostar

On 23 December 2016 the Chief of the Swiss Armed Forces, Lieutenant General André Blattmann, travelled to BiH to visit EUFOR staff in Mostar. The Commander of Swiss International Forces, Colonel Fredy Keller, as well as three members of the Swiss Parliament also made the journey with him. The delegation were met by COMEUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter, who accompanied them to the Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) House in the city, one of two LOT houses in BiH operated by Swiss soldiers. Here they were joined by the team from the other

Swiss-run LOT house in Trebinje who had travelled up for the occasion.

After leaving the LOT house Lieutenant General Blattmann took the opportunity to visit Mostar City Centre where he walked through the Old Town and viewed the famous re-built Mostar Bridge. He used the visit to thank

the troops for their service and declare Switzerland's commitment to supporting EUFOR's mission for the foreseeable future.

Major General Schrötter said: "As one of our non-EU partners they are especially appreciated and play a vital role in ensuring the continued stability in southern BiH."



Switzerland is one of the five 'partner nations' in EUFOR who contribute troops but are not part of the EU. They currently have 21 military personnel working in BiH as part of Op Althea; a few working in the Headquarters in Camp Butmir and the majority manning 2 LOT houses Mostar and Trebinje.

New Head of EUCE Visits BiH for Update on EUFOR's Continued Co-operation

Tuesday 15 to Thursday 17 November 2016 Lieutenant General Luciano Portolano, head of the EU Command Element, Allied Joint Force Command Naples, visited EUFOR in Camp Butmir. Upon arrival the General was welcomed by COMEUFOR Major General Friedrich Schrötter. COMEUFOR introduced the General to the EUFOR Senior Staff Officers after inspecting an Honour Guard from the Multi-National Battalion (MNBN) consisting of Austrian Soldiers.

During the three day visit Lieutenant General Portolano received briefings by the EUFOR Branch Chiefs regarding the continued co-operation between NATO and EUFOR and how both parties continue developing Armed Forces BiH towards Euro-Atlantic Integration. General Portolano was able to witness first-hand the future plans for EUFOR's continued Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) of the Armed Forces BiH. On a visit to Tuzla he was able to observe the Armed Forces BiH 5th Brigade during a table top exercise and receive a brief from 5th Brigade Chief of Staff at Camp EAGLE BASE.

The General also visited EUFOR Liaison Observation Team (LOT) house Tuzla, and received briefings from the Austrian LOT Commander and their integration in to the local community.

General Portolano said, "It was a great opportunity to visit EUFOR and see the co-operation



L-R EUCE Naples Director of Staff Col Campbell, Head of EUCE Lt General Portolano, EUFOR COS Brigadier General Sáfár at EUFOR briefing. Photos: EUFOR/Weiss

with AFBiH. These forward steps will help towards increasing peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The training I witnessed with the AFBiH 5th Brigade proved a great working relationship with EUFOR. This continued Capacity Building and Training is two-way with AFBiH and EUFOR and I was impressed with the 5th Brigade Chief of Staff and his soldiers. "

COMEUFOR said, "This was an important visit by the Head of the EUCE to gain a first-hand appreciation of the forces in

BiH. EUFOR is committed to supporting AFBiH and integration into Euro Atlantic constitutions. By working in partnership with NATO we can ensure a safe and secure environment exists within BiH under the Berlin Plus agreement."

European Union Command Element (EUCE), which is located at NATO Joint Force Command (JFC) in Naples, provides the necessary coordination for ensuring a Balkans regional approach and use of any reserves, which are covered under the "Berlin Plus" agreements.



EUFOR and OSCE Host “WEAPON WORKSHOP” – Fate of 60,000 Small Arms Weapons to be Decided

Wednesday 30 November to Thursday 1 December saw a “WEAPON WORKSHOP” which took place in Hotel Sarajevo. Jointly hosted by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and EUFOR, the aim was to extend the current master plan regarding weapons disposal. The event was attended by representatives from OSCE, EUFOR, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), NATO HQ Sa European Union and delegates from the USA, UK, Austria, Germany and Switzerland.

Opening the two day workshop COMEUFOR Major General Schrötter said: “The main goal of this two day conference is to ensure that International co-operation is continuing and therefore we need to discuss and review our commitments.”

The workshop was a platform for discussion, resulting in an agreement in the International Community of the extension of their commitment to the Master Plan. This positive result will be presented as an agreed International Partner proposal at the Strategic Board meeting 5 December 2016. The aspiration of the Master Plan is the stockpile management, the stock check including marking and registration, as well as safe storage or safe disposal of all surplus weapons and ammunition in BiH.

Bosnia and Herzegovina still has a substantial amount of surplus



Special Ammunitions and Weapons Advisor Col Trachsler discussing the management of small arms weapons in BiH

military small arms. There are currently over 60,000 small arms weapons which require registering officially or safe disposal. The company Small Arms Survey (SAS) will register and officially tag any light weapons that are of operational use.

EUFOR Althea continues to provide expert advice in the framework of our Capacity Building and Training Programme. EUFOR Althea works in support of BiH alongside other members of the International Community in order to build their capacity to manage the excessive stockpiles of ammunition and weapons.

As well as ensuring a safe and secure environment in BiH, the eventual disposal of all unusable weapons will free up the many AFBiH soldiers charged with guarding and maintaining the 30 weapon storage sites throughout BiH.



EUFOR: 14th Strategic Committee for Weapons, Ammunition and Explosive Ordnance

AWE Master Plan moves forward with the inclusion of surplus weapons for a Safe and Secure BiH

The 14th session of the Strategic Committee for Ammunition, Weapons and Explosives (AWE) was hosted by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in Sarajevo on Monday, December 5, 2016 in order to discuss the Master Plan aimed at solving the issue of surplus weapons, ammunition and explosives in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The session was chaired by Deputy Minister Jerinić and co-chaired by Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Ambassador Jonathan Moore and

the permanent members of the committee and representatives of the Joint Commission for Defence and Security of the BiH Parliament. Other attending members included COMEUFOR Major General Schrötter, COM NATO HQ Sa Brigadier General Wilz, and permanent members of the committee from the International Organizations: United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), as well as representatives of embassies in BiH (The United States, United Kingdom, Germany, Switzerland, Austria, Sweden).

The committee approved EUFOR Col Trachsler's proposal to include the plan for 60,000 surplus weapons in the AWE Master Plan. The plan was agreed in the OSCE and EUFOR hosted "Weapon Workshop" which sat last week.

Project EXPLODE and Project SECUP were reported to have completed in 2016.

Mr Tarik Učanbarlić from UNDP briefed on Project EXPLODE whose activities include destroying high

hazard ammunition and complex weapon systems and supporting the Armed Forces of BiH in the reduction of military ammunition stockpiles to manageable quantities.

It also delivered training for senior military officers to build their capacities and implement infrastructure upgrades to improve the safety and storage conditions of military weapons and ammunition storage depots. This project will now move on to the next phase, Project



EUFOR delegates discuss the AWE Master Plan

EXPLODE+, which will commence early 2017. Mr Paul Martin from OSCE briefed on Project SECUP (Security Upgrade) which also completed in 2016 and concerned the upgrading of security around the 30 storage sites in BiH.

BiH still has a substantial amount of unstable military ammunition. A large part of this was poorly stored and

maintained. The presence of unstable ammunition in BiH could cause public safety concerns, and is potential risk to a Safe and Secure Environment. It also constitutes a financial and administrative burden to the AFBiH. The governance and overall control of arms depots, and weapons inspections remains firmly with the competent authorities of BiH. However, it is in the interest of everybody concerned that management and disposal occurs following a safe and secure process.

COMEUFOR concluded by saying, "EUFOR will continue supporting the MoD and AFBiH in further development of procedures for storage and infrastructure. 2016 has been a successful year for both UNDP and OCSE with the completion of two major projects which have contributed greatly towards improving the SASE in BiH. The International Community has agreed on the Ammunition Weapons and Explosives Master Plan co-ordinated by OSCE which MOD BiH has accepted today and will be implemented early in 2017."

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On 13 January 2016 at Camp Butmir, there was a badge ceremony for the new Hungarian soldiers of the European Union Force (EUFOR) Multi-National Battalion (MNBC).

On 19 January 2016, Deputy Commander Allied Joint Force Command (DCOM JFC) Naples, Lieutenant General Alain J. Parent visited HQ EUFOR, Camp Butmir and was met by the Chief of Staff (COS) EUFOR, Brigadier General Zoltán Mihóczy.



From 25-29 January 2016 practical training for Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina Military Movement Control (AFBiH MMC) personnel was held in Poland.

On 17 February 2016, the Chilean Ambassador, Ms María Verónica Chahin Sarah visited Headquarters EUFOR in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

On 23 February 2016, the Swedish Minister of Home Affairs, Mr. Anders Ygeman, accompanied by the EU Special Representative, Mr. Lars-Gunnar Wiggemark, visited Headquarters EUFOR in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

On 25 February 2016, the Irish Ambassador, Mr. Seán O Regan visited Headquarters EUFOR in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.



On 29 February 2016 the EUFOR Mission Operation ALTHEA Operational Commander, General Sir Adrian Bradshaw KCB OBE was welcomed to Headquarters EUFOR, Camp Butmir by COMEUFOR, Major General Johann Luif at the start of a 2 day visit.

On 3 March 2016, the Armed Forces of BiH Barracks in Rajlovac, outside Sarajevo, was once more the venue for an important EUFOR Exercise. This time it was the turn of the EUFOR Multi-National Battalion's (MNBC) new Hungarian Company.



On 4 March 2016, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Mikhail Kostarakos visited the European Union Force (EUFOR) Mission Operation (Op) ALTHEA

During 14-18 March 2016, the latest "Combined Training" was held in Livno. This exercised focused on Armed Forces (AF) BiH soldiers training together with part of EUFOR's Multi-National Battalion (MNBC).

On 24 March 2016 Major General Johann

Luif completed his 15-month tenure as COMEUFOR. The EU Special Representative, Ambassador Wiggemark assisted in handing over Command of EUFOR to Major General Friedrich Schrötter at the ceremony in Camp Butmir.



On 20 April 2016, the EU Strategic Communications (EUSC) Meeting was hosted by EUFOR in Camp Butmir. Held for the first time in the EUFOR HQ in Camp Butmir, this meeting was a great opportunity to inform and update the representatives of the EU Family in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the EUFOR Mission and the current mandated objectives.

On 11 April 2016, the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) opened a new Mine Action and Explosives Ordinance Disposal (EOD) Training Centre in Rajlovac



On Friday 29 April 2016, COSEUFOR, Brigadier Zoltán Mihóczy formally handed over COSEUFOR to Brigadier General Albert Sáfár. The ceremony took place in Camp

Butmir This event was attended by COMEUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter, VIPs and delegates from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Union, and representatives of many other nations.

On 9 May the European Union Special Representative (EUSR), His Excellency Mr Lars-Gunnar Wiggemark and the Commander European Union Force (COMEUFOR), Major General Friedrich Schrötter invited honoured guests to a EUFOR led ceremony to mark European Day in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). This took place outside Army Hall in Sarajevo.



On 19 May 2016, COMEUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter visited the military unit "Tehnička radionica za održavanje municije" (TROM) in Doboju to witness the important work they conduct in support of destroying obsolete ammunition as part of Project EXPLODE.

From 16-20 May 2016 Turkish troops of the MNBN/ EUFOR worked together with 1st Coy of 2nd BN from 6th Inf Bde of the Armed Forces BiH in a combined training. This training took place in Bihac (Barracks "Adil Bešić")

Articles Review of 2016



On 28 of May 2016 the EU Open Day took place at European External Action Service (EEAS) Capital Building at the Schuman roundabout in Brussels. This annual event is designed to give the wider public an insight of the work by the various European Union missions and delegations.

From 30 May to 3 Jun 2016 an intense training on missions on urban terrain was conducted by the Turkish company of the MNBN. This training on company level has to be seen as a preparation for the combined trainings and the combined exercises together with the AFBiH in Summer and Autumn.



On 13 Jun 2016 the 12th session of the Strategic Committee for Weapons, ammunition and explosives, hosted by COMEUFOR Major General Friedrich Schrötter, was held at the Hall of the AFBiH, Sarajevo in order to analyse and promote activities aimed to solving the issue of surplus weapons, ammunition and explosives in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On 14 June 2016 a change of command ceremony took place. Colonel Georg Peterlini, Chief Joint Military Affairs and the Austrian National Contingent Commander since December 2015 was succeeded by Colonel Manfred Taschler.



On 11 July 2016 at the Srebrenica commemoration COMEUFOR Major General Friedrich Schrötter along with Commander of NATO Headquarters Sarajevo (COMNHQSa) Brigadier General Giselle Wilz attended the commemoration ceremony at the Potočari Memorial Centre.

On 27 July 2016, the Capacity Building & Training Division (CBTD) Bi-Monthly Meeting took place in Camp Butmir.

On 27 July 2016 an oath-taking ceremony and Contract signing for Military Service in the AFBiH took place at the Basic Training Centre of the TRADOC of the AFBiH. This officially marked the completion of training of the 17th generation of candidates for the accession to Military Service in AFBiH.

On 1 August 2016 COMEUFOR Major General Friedrich Schrötter visited Ammunition Storage Site (ASS) Krupa. The visit was vital in order to get a clear picture of ongoing activities at the prospective Ammunition Storage Sites located around BiH.

On 7 August 2016, LOT Jablanica monitored the "12TH International Dancing Folklore Festival" in Jablanica. This Folklore Festival is held every year in summer time in Jablanica.



On 9 August 2016 Austrian Mountain Infantry Specialist Lieutenant Colonel Christoph Blasch took command of the EUFOR Multi-National Battalion (MNBN) in a ceremony at Camp Butmir.

On 26 August 2016, in Kindergarten "Kestenko", Kostajnica municipality, the Chilean (CL) LOT House organized a very special Mine Risk Education (MRE) with children between 3 and 5 years old. This was a pilot project from CL LOT House, because it was first time that CL LOT has delivered MRE in Kindergarten.

On 12 September 2016 COMEUFOR Major General Friedrich Schrötter conducted the official Swedish Flag Down Ceremony in Camp Butmir.



On 25 Sep 2016 COMEUFOR Major General Friedrich Schrötter is pleased to announce the combined Exercise "QUICK RESPONSE 2016". This exercise is the culmination of nearly two years of planning and will take place in the AFBiH military exercise area Manjača, near Banja Luka later this month.



From 3 to 6 October 2016, Austria and the European Security and Defence College (ESDC) held the third module of the 10th CSDP training programme for the Western Balkan region.

On 21 October 2016 the solemn celebration of the Austrian National Day saw remarkable attendance of high ranking visitors at Camp Butmir.

EUFOR Teaches the Skills to Deploy Abroad



Issue of order for the Armed Forces BiH Recce platoon by the platoon commander

From 5 to 9 of December eight Turkish instructors from the EUFOR Multi-National Battalion (MNBN) conducted peacekeeping training with the Armed Forces BiH. The training took place in Manjača southeast of Banja Luka and was the last Combined Training event of 2016.

The latest two training events were with the 5th Brigade in Tuzla and the 6th Brigade in Banja Luka and focussed on surveillance and reconnaissance at platoon level and intelligence training at brigade and battalion level. During the training, the MNBN showed the Armed Forces BiH the tactics, techniques and procedures for peace support tasks in accordance with NATO standards.

In 2016 the Multi-National Battalion conducted nine Combined Training events at

platoon level throughout the country. The EUFOR troops trained with all three Infantry Brigades of the Armed Forces BiH in rotation, ensuring that all of the BiH units benefited. Combined Training events are part of

EUFOR's Capacity Building and Training mission, one of EUFOR's main tasks, which aims to develop the knowledge and skills of the BiH troops. It provides the Armed Forces BiH with the knowledge for peace support operations abroad.



After Action Review conducted by Austrian Captain, with the Armed Forces BiH and the Turkish Company commanders

EUFOR Commends the Professionalism of the BiH Armed Forces

COMEUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter, formally handed over the report from Exercise QUICK RESPONSE to the Minister of Defence BiH, Marina Pendeš, and Chief of the Joint Staff, Lieutenant General Anto Jeleč at the Ministry of Defence Building in Sarajevo on 12 December 2016. The report contains a summary of the exercise as well as lessons learned from the EUFOR perspective with the aim of ensuring continued improvement in successive Multi-National operations.

The report concluded that the contribution of the Armed Forces BiH (AFBiH) to such a EUFOR Peace Support Operation (PSO) was of great value to both sides. This cooperation clearly revealed that AFBiH are able to perform PSO tasks in a professional manner.

Minister of Defence Marina Pendeš said “I would like to thank EUFOR for their support and I hope all of our partners recognise the progress made over the last few years towards a more stable country and that they continue to support our goals”.

COMEUFOR Major General Schrötter said “the Exercise proved the good work that can be done between our cooperating forces. It provides us both with a great deal of confidence for our future partnership”.

Over 750 troops and 70 supporting vehicles took part in Exercise QUICK RESPONSE 2016 from 25 September to 6 October, successfully conducting training and tasking injected by the Exercise Control Team. With a Brigade sized force, both AFBiH, EUFOR and the contributing nations were able to complete the larger enhanced scenarios delegated to them.



Livno LOT Team Visit Special Education and Rehabilitation Center

The 3rd of December 2016 was International Day of Persons with Disabilities and that week the Nova Nada (New Hope) Special Education and Rehabilitation Center in Kovači, near Tomislavgrad, organized an “open door” day. A team from the Turkish-manned LOT house in Livno visited the event to learn about the special work and activities conducted by the center.

Specially trained carers supported by volunteers provide mentally handicapped children and teenagers with tailored education programs, addressing the specific needs of each individual. They are not just painting and playing games but conducting activities which promote important changes in children’s lives and social development as well as helping some improve their motor movements. Socialization is important for all children because it provides them knowledge of the world around them, builds trust and self-esteem and creates friendships and networks.

The theme of the day was “you are not alone” and the Turkish troops ensured the children were not, taking part in various activities with them. They helped the children with their work and were able to taste some simple dishes



prepared by a student chef. Eight students from the Marka Marulića High School in Tomislavgrad also attended and joined in various common activities like drawing, painting and games. The interaction improved awareness

and perception of equality and promoted awareness that everyone should be respected regardless of their differences. The pupils of the center sang songs, danced and even performed a role-play based on the story of Little Red Riding Hood. The event was a great opportunity for all visitors to break down barriers and to build awareness and mutual understanding.

One of the center’s children prepared a New Year’s greeting card for the LOT, showing her gratitude and how much their visit meant to her. Using just her imagination, she meticulously painted the card with the help of the LOT members and wrote the New Year’s wishes on it. The card will be kept in the LOT house as a memory of the day and a symbol of hope.

OF-2 Serkan Özden



End of Year LOT Conference



From 15 to 16 December the last LOT Conference in 2016 was hosted inside Camp Butmir.

In general these gatherings are for the sake of coordinating the 17 LOT houses to provide COMEUFOR with near real time situational awareness as well as to exchange information and experiences.

This time the agenda for the first day included handing over the brand new LCC/LOT SOP to COMEUFOR and to outline what the teams achieved under the command of Major General Schrötter in 2016.

Over the course of the year an incredible 1.4 million kilometres of ground was covered with 12,000 patrols. The LOT conducted more than 3,500 planned meetings and around 2,100 ad-hoc ones. They gave over 600 Mine Risk Education lectures with a total number of participants of more than 18,000 including pupils, hunters, forest works and other people at increased risk of mine danger. The teams have really felt the pulse of the population by monitoring over 650 events and over 800 media posts.

Two guest speakers were invited to give presentations. Assoc

Prof Dr. Ali Gursel, Deputy Rector of the International University of Sarajevo, gave a detailed insight on the socio-economic situation of BiH and Emir Bašić, Legal Advisor of the Agency For the Prevention of Corruption and the Coordination of the Fight Against Corruption In Bosnia and Herzegovina, spoke about the levels and fight against corruption in the country.

A social event at a bowling alley was organised for the evening of the 15th so the LOT House Commanders, who usually hardly ever see each other, could exchange experiences.

The second day started with a two-hour working breakfast, in which the POLAD, Chief LOT Desk, JMA/MICC and PAO had the opportunity to link up with the LOT House Commanders face to face to discuss daily routine issues.

The final agenda item on prior to the closing remarks of the LCC Chief, OF-4 Luboš Murček, was a workshop on the subject of “LOT 2017 – Quo vadis” to gather ideas and discuss how to proceed with maintaining the high quality output of 2016 through into 2017.

by Maj Alexander Gstrein



How EUFOR keeps children interested

In December 2016 a team from Austrian-manned LOT Brcko visited a local elementary school to deliver mine risk education to the children. Senior Lt Walter Striednig and the interpreter Jovica Pejčić were able to immediately gain the attention of the class with their interesting lecture. The experienced LOT members had their work cut out, answering many questions from the highly inquisitive 12-year-olds.

EUFOR LOTs make a significant contribution to casualty prevention through their mine risk education lectures which they deliver several times a week at local schools. A total of 598 lectures have been delivered by the various LOT teams across the country this year. Specially trained interpreters, together with the officers and non-commissioned officers, give students an understanding of dangers of landmines and provide important information of how to avoid them.



Brcko LOT Delivering MRE Lecture



EUFOR Plays Santa Clause for Local Families

On the 20 December 2016, the Slovakian-manned LOT House in Foca received a shipment of goods being donated from Slovak Aid to the Red Cross in Foca. The shipment was presented along with a financial donation of €5,000 by General Clergyman Marian Bodollo of the Slovak Armed forces to Snežana Kovac, head of Red Cross Foca. The packages contained sleeping bags, blankets, baby diapers, hygiene packages, clothes and children's toys. The soldiers then assisted in distributing these to local inhabitants in need, with the hope of making their Christmas a little better.



Slovak Aid presents €5,000 to the Red Cross



EUFOR and Red Cross distribute the goods

EUFOR members remember the fallen



A multi-national ceremony of remembrance was held today at EUFOR Headquarters to commemorate the fallen men and women of all nations. This year marks the battle of the Somme Centenary; the Battle of the Somme was fought at such terrible cost that it has come to symbolise the tragic futility of the First World War. Its first day of conflict remains the bloodiest day in the history of the British Army.

The ceremony was attended by Ambassador Ferguson from the British Embassy, the Hungarian Chief of Defence General Tibor Benkő, COMEUFOR Major General Schrötter and Commander NATO HQ Sarajevo, Brigadier General Wilz. Numerous EUFOR and NHQSa personnel, both civilian and military, also attended to offer their respect to those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

A short service was held in EUFOR's memorial gardens before



the VIPs were invited to lay a wreath at the United Kingdom national memorial.

Remembrance Day is observed on 11th November in a number of countries to remember those who have died in the line of duty. The date is significant as it marked the end of hostilities of the First World War in 1918.



Key Leader Training

New EUFOR personnel receive Key Leader Training

From the 13-16 December 2016, new personnel joining EUFOR attended Key Leader Training; a course designed to give them the information about EUFOR that they will need during their time in the mission. 16 people attended the course, receiving a certificate of completion from EUFOR COS Brigadier General Albert Sáfár.

Core mission knowledge

The Key Leader Training included presentations on the



Attendees of Key Leaders Training Course 13-16 Dec

history and political situation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and presentations from all the different sections of the EUFOR mission. The attendees were also given a detailed briefing on the

mine threat within the country, and given a practical display on the risks. The course also included a city tour of Sarajevo and visit to the 'Tunnel of Hope' located near Sarajevo Airport.

EUFOR Agrees Closer Ties to BiH Security Organisations



COMEUFOR and the Minister for Security discuss ongoing cooperation

On 28th December 2016 COMEUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter, met with the Minister for Security of BiH, Dragan Mektić, in Sarajevo to discuss the ongoing relationship between the two organisations. It was agreed that in the next year they would develop a more efficient and wider cooperation.

Major General Schrötter expressed his appreciation to Minister Mektić for his work thus far and offered assistance, proposing that cooperation with the Ministry

and other security agencies is raised to a higher level.

The path of BiH to Europe was also discussed, and Minister Mektić said that a step forward was made in 2016 with the establishment of operational cooperation with EUROPOL and that the Ministry of Security of BiH is fully open to providing answers to the questions from the EU Questionnaire that pertain to the field of security.

CB&T for BiH Troops in Poland

A Transport and Movement Workshop was held at the 4th Regional Logistics Base Wroclaw from 29 November to 1 December attended by AFBiH trainees from 34 Armoured Brigade. The Workshop's topic was the Planning and Realisation Method for military railroad transport. Training was conducted by POL MTT 12th rotation and is an element in AFBiH capacity building for NATO and EU standards in military movement and transports.

The Polish Movement Coordination Centre (MCC), Military Movement and Transports Department were principal organisers of the Workshop in cooperation with the 4th Regional Log Base, Wroclaw Military Movement Control and MTT-1 who are involved in daily training and assistance to AFBiH in building capacities for self-sufficient management and coordination of own and foreign armed forces.

Six members of the AFBiH MCC took part in the training that provided knowledge of principles and procedures for planning and realisation of military transportation within national borders and abroad, as well as the coordination of transport of military personnel by railroad. Trainees were acquainted with the role and tasks of transport units, planning and realisation of railroad transport, principles of the use of railroad network in military transport, hazardous material



transport procedures and oversized cargo transport by rail.

Practical training included a demonstration by 34 Armoured Bde of preparations, loading and securing of military equipment onto train cars using the required equipment, and then unloading/reloading.

The trainees themselves

confirmed that the training provides a good basis for advancement of knowledge and skills in planning, organising and conducting railroad transportation of personnel and equipment as part of the AFBiH national operations, as well as any NATO and/or EU peace/crisis/wartime operations.

By Captain Vladimir NINOV



EUFOR FOR BiH

20 NATIONS - 1 MISSION



ON THE PATH TO A
EUROPEAN FUTURE