

EUFOR forum

MAGAZINE



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Editor in chief



Welcome to edition number 116 of the EUFOR Forum. This is the second edition I have edited and EUFOR has had such a busy couple of months it has been challenging to choose which of the huge variety of stories to publish.

As usual I would like to thank all those who have contributed to this edition, many of you have, and I always appreciate being able to publicise the great work you do.

If you have a newsworthy event coming up that you wish to show to a wider audience, please either provide a short story and some photographs or contact the Public Affairs Office (PAO) in advance allowing us to attend and gather our own material.

As always the PAO are very happy to produce the bulk of any article only requiring a few quick and easy details from you. If you want to discuss your event with us please drop in to the PAO for a chat and a coffee.

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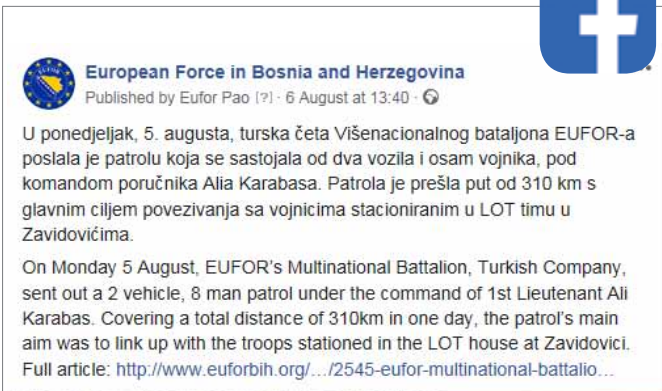




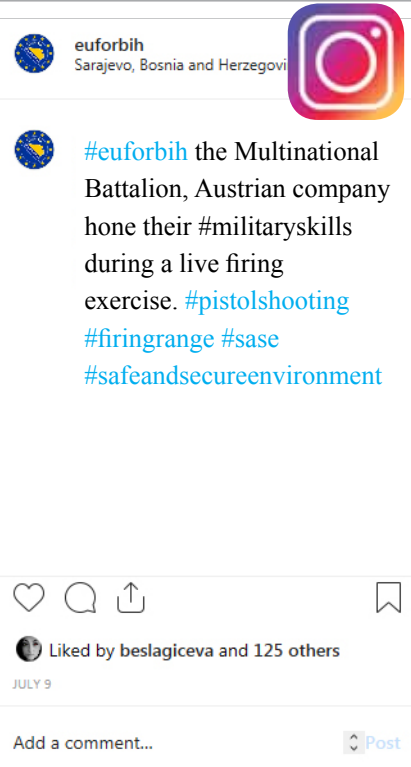
Lt Col Horst Unterrieder in the studio live at #TVSarajevo with @ElmaKostreba to talk about helicopter training with @GSCP_GR Civil Protection Agency.



As part of the efforts to ensure a safe environment, EUFOR works in close cooperation with the AFBiH and the International Community to rid BiH of dangerous and unstable, surplus ammunition.



On Monday 5 August, EUFOR's Multinational Battalion, Turkish Company, sent out a 2 vehicle, 8 man patrol under the command of 1st Lieutenant Ali Karabas. Covering a total distance of 310km in one day, the patrol's main aim was to link up with the troops stationed in the LOT house at Zavidovici.



COMEUFOR at migrant camps

Major General Trischak spent Wednesday 10 July visiting the migrant camps at Bihac and Vucjak and speaking to key officials from the region as well as representatives of International Organisations who are providing support to the migrants.

Major General Trischak said, “The purpose of my visit is to witness first-hand the migrant situation in Una Sana Canton as it currently prevails and seek a greater understanding of the support that migrants are receiving along with understanding the difficulties that USC faces in dealing with the very large numbers of migrants currently in USC.”

The Mayor of Bihac, Mr Suhret Fazlic, the Deputy Prime Minister, Adnan Alagić and the Minister of the Interior of Una Sana Canton, Nermin Kljajić, briefed Major General Trischak on their concerns namely: increasing security challenges, in particular within USC where public frustration is high, lack of support from state level institutions and the potential negative economic effect on the Canton. Major General Trischak stated, “State level support to the migrant situation is critical in order to



provide adequate support and mitigate against a potential crisis.”

Meeting with representatives from a variety of organisations such as IOM, UNHCR, UNICEF, DRC, UNFPA the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Major General Trischak gained a good overview of the actual situation and will be informing key players accordingly in order to ensure that the migrant situation remains high on their respective agendas.

It was notable that all the officials and organisations COMEUFOR visited had good productive relationships with one another and were able to cooperate effectively using the limited resources they had available.

“State level support to the migrant situation is critical in order to provide adequate support and mitigate against a potential crisis.”

COMEUFOR



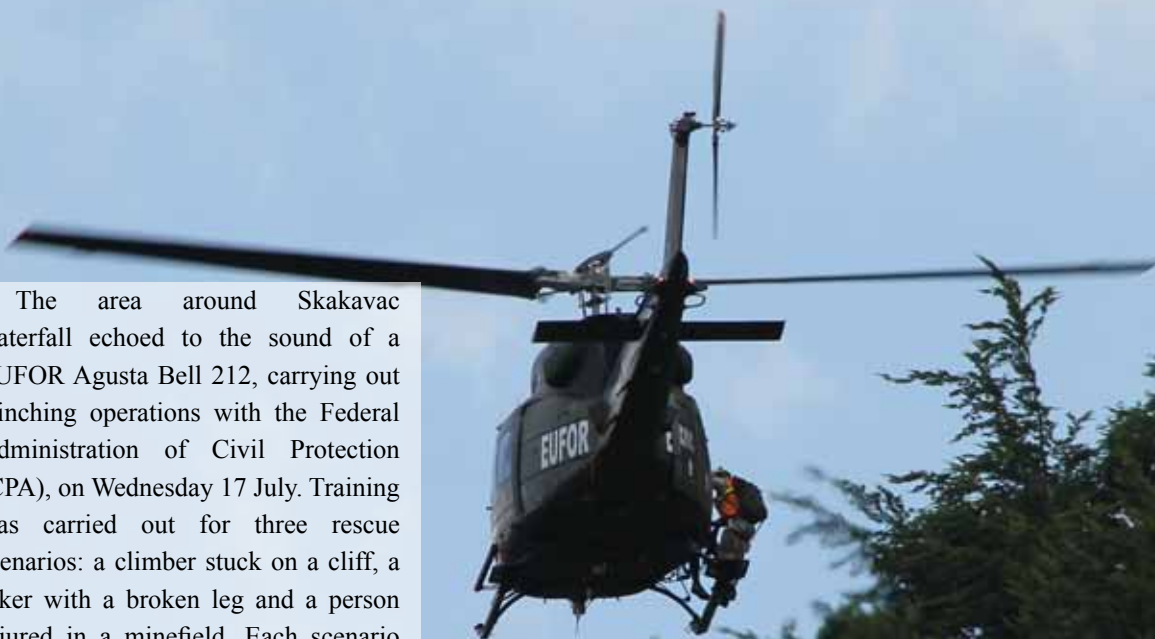
Heli ops training near Skakavac waterfall

The area around Skakavac waterfall echoed to the sound of a EUFOR Agusta Bell 212, carrying out winching operations with the Federal Administration of Civil Protection (CPA), on Wednesday 17 July. Training was carried out for three rescue scenarios: a climber stuck on a cliff, a hiker with a broken leg and a person injured in a minefield. Each scenario was flown twice by the helicopter to ensure maximum training benefit was gained by both the aircrew and the CPA.

EUFOR's Lieutenant Colonel Horst Unterrieder who organised the training said, "These joint training exercises demonstrate the close cooperation EUFOR has with the CPA. Our work today helps create a safer environment for everyone, as the skills practiced can be used in real cases to help save lives."

The primary aim of the training was to increase the abilities of the Federal Administration of Civil Protection when helping to carry out medical evacuation by helicopter, however, the training also helped to highlight each organisation's professionalism to the other and ensure that the excellent cooperation enjoyed in the past will continue.

Majda Kovač, from the Federal administration of Civil Protection said, "It is very important to do this type of training as the Administration of Civil Protection is the only organisation authorised to be able to quickly respond to incidents such as accidents in mine fields and we have to be able to use air medivac which can be provided either by the AFBiH or EUFOR."



EUSG meets with AFBiH demining representatives

EUFOR's Joint Military Affairs (JMA) department organised a demonstration of the AFBiH demining battalion for a delegation from the European Union Staff Group (EUSG) at Olovo on Wednesday 24 Jul. Colonel Marek Golan who headed the visitors from the EUSG was welcomed to the demining site at Olovo by Major General Radovan Ilić, the Operation Command Commander for AFBiH.

Major Miodrag Janjic, the Executive Officer of the AFBiH demining battalion, said, "This is a very important event because we do an essential humanitarian job. We have the personnel and we are motivated, but we could achieve so much more with extra logistical support."

The main aim of the visit to the site was to familiarise the EUSG with the techniques and procedures used by the AFBiH when conducting their new humanitarian demining process, which is called "land release", it is faster, cheaper and uses less resources than the previous methods, but still achieves the same safe result.



Commander Mariusz Kuchta said, "It was a very useful day for the EUSG, they were impressed with the amount of information they were able to gather and how much understanding they gained about how they are able to support the AFBiH in the future."



The productive working relationship EUFOR has nurtured with the AFBiH was of clear benefit as the organisation of this event allowed the EUSG delegation observe the AFBiH's current demining capabilities and techniques before informed discussions about the best methods to support the ongoing demining work in BiH were able to be held directly afterwards with the key players.

Live firing exercise at Manjaca

Major General Reinhard Trischak was invited by Major General Radovan Ilić, the Operation Command Commander for AFBiH, to attend a live artillery firing exercise at Manjaca on Saturday 6 July. Watching the artillery from an observation post Major General Ilić described the finer details of the event to Major General Trischak.



Lieutenant Colonel Zsolt Szerencsi who attended the event as Chief of EUFOR's Liaison section, said "It was very interesting watching the live firing from armoured vehicles and howitzers." He added: "I was very impressed with the capabilities of the AFBiH."

Major General Trischak observed with great interest the performance of the 2nd Battalion, 5th Brigade Infantry who were taking part in the exercise and was very impressed with the range of skills that they demonstrated.

President Erdoğan visits Butmir



With the sun gleaming off the highly polished paintwork of his impressive motorcade, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, the President of Turkey arrived in Camp Butmir on Monday 8 July. The Commander of EUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak, as well as Colonel Ali Tanis, the Senior Turkish Representative, welcomed the President to the camp, where a superbly turned out honour guard of Turkish troops paraded in front of their national building to show the President their respect.

First Lieutenant Gokha Kaldirim, who worked hard to help

ensure the visit was a success said: “It was a great honour for all of us for the President to come to Camp Butmir. It really motivates all the Turkish personnel on base when we realise just how high the interest in what we do in BiH is.”

“It really motivates all the Turkish personnel on base when we realise just how high the interest in what we do in BiH is”

The President, who was visiting Sarajevo in order to attend the ‘Southeast European Cooperation Process Summit’, discussed the contribution Turkish troops make to EUFOR’s mission before departing to the next event on his diplomatic visit.



COMEUFOR meets Swiss Chief of Armed Forces



On Friday 2 August, Lieutenant General Philippe Rebord, the Chief of the Swiss Armed Forces visited Camp Butmir. The Commander of EUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak, as well as representatives from the Swiss contingent, welcomed him to the camp. During an office call the two Generals discussed the security situation and the valuable contribution the Swiss troops make to helping create a safer more secure BiH.

Switzerland is an important troop contributing nation, providing specialist manpower not only to act as Special Ammunition and Weapons Advisors but also to man two ‘Liaison and Observation Team’ houses in Mostar and Trebinje. The ‘LOT’ houses offer mine awareness training to local schools and gain an awareness of local issues that could impact on the security of the area through meetings with community leaders.



Operation Commander visits BiH



Meeting with BiH presidency members

From 26-28 August, the Operation Commander for EUFOR Operation Althea Lieutenant General Olivier Rittimann, visited Bosnia and Herzegovina to visit the EUFOR mission and to meet with international and BiH officials. He was welcomed by the Force Commander of EUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak. The two Generals met with the High Representative, the Head of EU Delegation and EU Special Representative, the BiH presidency, the BiH Ministers for Defence and for Security, the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) and BiH Armed Forces Chief of Joint Staff.

Expressing their gratitude for EUFOR assistance, members of the BiH presidency stressed the good cooperation between EUFOR and the civilian and military structures of BiH, in particular with the Ministry of Defence.

EUFOR Commander Major General Trischak underlined the

significant progress within the Armed Forces of BiH, emphasizing that they are an example in the execution of their tasks, being one of the most trusted institutions in BiH according to public opinion surveys. Major General Trischak said, "In particular



Meeting with the BiH Minister of Defence

the Demining Battalion does an excellent job. EUFOR monitors, advises and assists the demining operations of the demining battalion of the Armed Forces of BiH. EUFOR also supports the BiH Ministry of Defence Masterplan in disposing of unsafe ammunition, weapons and explosives which contributes to a safer and more secure environment."

In two weeks the Training and Cooperation Plan for 2020 between EUFOR and the Armed Forces of BiH will be signed and October will see EUFOR's annual exercise Quick Response, cooperating with security partners from BiH and testing the capability to bring in considerable reserve forces if required. Lieutenant General Rittimann stated that as long as developments in BiH are unpredictable, EUFOR has to continue its work as a physical and psychological presence, a visible assurance of the European Union's commitment to the peace and stability of the Western Balkans. The Operation Commander added, "It is not a sprint that we are running, but a marathon."

The Generals pointed out that EUFOR continues to closely monitor the security situation and focuses on its core task, to assist the BiH authorities within the mandate to maintain peace and stability in the country.

by Lieutenant Colonel Nicolai Tschol

Operation Commander decorates troops



During his visit to EUFOR, Lieutenant General Olivier Rittimann presided over the International Medal Parade held at Camp Butmir on Wednesday 28 August. 116 soldiers from eleven troop contributing countries were eligible to receive the Operation Althea Service Medal.

In his address to the troops, Lieutenant General Rittimann said that during his visit he has witnessed determination at EUFOR to change things for the better, he added:

“Your presence and the prospect of a larger reserve force at high readiness contributes to a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina. We must continue to ensure that EUFOR remains ahead of any challenge which might occur.”

The troops on parade were honoured to receive the medal from a three star General supported by the Force Commander, Major General Reinhard Trischak, EUFOR Chief of Staff Brigadier General László Szabó and Deputy Chief of Staff Operations Colonel Ali Tanis.

by Lieutenant Colonel Nicolai Tschol



Wigemark says farewell



The Head of the EU delegation and EU Special Representative, Ambassador Lars-Gunnar Wigemark, paid his farewell visit to the EUFOR Headquarters in Camp Butmir on Friday 23 Aug 19.

Major General Trischak thanked the Ambassador for his support and wished him well in his future endeavours. Ambassador Wigemark will be replaced by Ambassador Johann Sattler who is currently serving as the Austrian Ambassador to Albania and is well-acquainted with the entire region of the Western Balkans.

Bastille Day at Butmir

His Excellency Guillaume Rousson, the French Ambassador to BiH, attended a belated Bastille Day celebration at Camp Butmir on Monday 15 July. On his arrival he spoke with COMEUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak, discussing the contribution France makes to the mission, both politically and militarily, before he presided over a flag raising ceremony and an evening event.

Lieutenant Colonel Adrien Lepad, the French SNR said, “It was a very special day, and a great honour for me, that here in BiH I was able to share this moment, symbolising all that is best of France, with the Ambassador and the rest of the EUFOR family.” He added: “The theme of yesterday’s Bastille Day parade in Paris was “acting together”, it is notable, that here, the friendship and co-operation that the different nations have with each other matches that aspiration.”



New Commander for EUFOR's Multinational Battalion

On 20 August 2019, Commander EUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak, handed over the colours of the Multinational Battalion (MNBN) from Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Sanz to Lieutenant Colonel Manfred Leitner. The new Commanding Officer of EUFOR's primary operational arm, the MNBN, has previously served in Kosovo and Chad. He takes over a united, cohesive and very capable military unit from Lieutenant Colonel Sanz, operating under the motto "One Mission, One Team", committed to the multinational culture, values and spirit of EUFOR Operation Althea.

Major General Trischak expressing his acknowledgment of Lieutenant Colonel Sanz's fine leadership said: "EUFOR's presence enhances the feeling of security among the local population. We must remain an overt, visible and tangible representation on behalf of the European Union to assure and reassure the citizens of BiH that we care about their security. Your commitment and that of the MNBN to getting things done and getting things right exemplifies what we are about."

The outgoing Battalion Commander took the opportunity to address his soldiers: "I thank you for your loyalty, willingness and comradeship. It was an honour for me to be your Commander for the last six months. You have achieved the mission and executed all your tasks without incident."

Following the transfer of authority, Commander EUFOR, Major General Trischak, decorated Lieutenant Colonel Sanz with the Operation Althea Service Medal. Over 100 soldiers of the MNBN also received their medals along with their outgoing Commanding Officer.

The new MNBN Commander looked to the future with confidence: "Together, standing side by side, we will be able to meet the challenges that lie ahead and fulfil our mission for EUFOR."

The Multinational Battalion consists of troops from Austria, Hungary and Turkey and will again have a leading role during this year's Exercise Quick Response in autumn 2019. EUFOR's MNBN will then be augmented by elements of the reserve forces and cooperate closely with BiH local authorities to practice the skills required for large scale peace support operations.

by Lieutenant Colonel Nicolai Tschol



talion



“I felt very at home in Camp Butmir”

Interview with Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Sanz

Have you achieved everything you wanted to as the MNBN Commander?

At the beginning of my mission as COM MNBN I had several clear ideas of what I'd like to achieve during my time here. My main aims were to get through the mission without any of my troops being injured and also to make the MNBN more visible within EUFOR and BiH. Fortunately, none of my soldiers were involved in an accident during the mission. To increase visibility within EUFOR I twice reported “Full Operational Capability” to COMEUFOR. To increase visibility within BiH I conducted several exercises with the full Companies as well as some alert exercises with the Quick Reaction Force and the Very High Readiness Force. After each exercise, I conducted a lessons learned brief with the MNBN to improve our capabilities. I also organised a military parade involving troops from all 20 contributing nations for COMEUFOR's transfer of authority ceremony. Overall, I am pleased with what the MNBN achieved under my command.

What event or events during your time have been particularly memorable?

There are several activities, which the soldiers and I will remember from this mission:

The successful exercises we held where the different nation's soldiers displayed their impressive and diverse military skills, the “Three nation games” a military skills competition, where 13 teams from the MNBN competed against each other to be crowned as the winners, and most memorably for me, the military parade, held to commemorate COMEUFOR's transfer of authority, involving more than 50 vehicles and 400 soldiers.

What is the biggest challenge you have faced?

The biggest challenge for me was to learn how best to command soldiers with different cultural backgrounds, behaviors and military procedures. I hope I did not unknowingly compromise any of the soldier's capabilities due to not knowing their national procedures.

What have you enjoyed most about the job?

I have enjoyed the responsibility of this position and the good relationships I have had with each commander and team leader within the MNBN and HQ EUFOR. The people I worked with and their professionalism meant I felt very at home in Camp Butmir.

How does commanding a multinational battalion differ from commanding a national one?

The skills of leadership remain the same. The main differences are operating in a different language and remaining aware of various peculiarities of units from different nations. There can on occasion be some loss of meaning connected with different understandings of some English words but after my 6 month tour there is a good common awareness and an effective relationship between all troops within the MNBN.



New MNBN Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Manfred Leitner

He was born in Styria in 1974 and joined the Austrian Armed Forces in 1995. Graduating from the Theresian Military Academy in 2001, he has served as an infantry Platoon Leader, Company Commander and Deputy Battalion Commander. He holds a Masters in Military Leadership and has been on operations in Kosovo and Chad.



MNBN complete mine training



EUFOR's Multinational Battalion completed mine disposal training as part of a Quick Response Exercise at Mount Igman earlier this month. Using a range of specialist equipment and protective clothing the force demonstrated its capability to travel to the scene of an unexpected event quickly and deal with whatever challenge awaits.

The Quick Response Force Duty Officer Captain Erol Ergin said, "My soldiers are always training and practicing their skills, this is how we ensure they can deal with a full range of military challenges professionally. The tough

weather conditions today made the job a bit more difficult but we train no matter what the weather does."



German Ambassador



The Commander of EUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak held his first meeting with the German Ambassador Her Excellency Margret Uebber during an official office call at Camp Butmir on Monday 12 August.

Major General Trischak briefed the Ambassador on EUFOR's current activities and an open and beneficial conversation about how EUFOR and the German Embassy can best support the authorities in BiH was held.

KFOR's incoming Deputy Commander



The Commander of EUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak met for the first time with the incoming Deputy Commander of KFOR, Brigadier General Laurent Michaud during an official office call at Camp Butmir on Tuesday 13 August.

Major General Trischak briefed Brigadier General Michaud on EUFOR's mission and the situation in BiH and the two Generals then discussed similarities between the operations in BiH and Kosovo before reaffirming the close cooperation between EUFOR and KFOR.

Dr. István Balogh



On Wednesday 17 July Dr. István Balogh, Deputy State Secretary and Political Director of the Hungarian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, paid an office call to Commander Eufor Major General Reinhard Trischak.

During the visit to the Eufor Headquarters in Camp Butmir Sarajevo, Major General Trischak briefed the Deputy State Secretary on the Eufor mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina and underlined the professionalism of Hungarian soldiers.

Principle Deputy High Representative



The Commander of Eufor, Major General Reinhard Trischak met with the Principal Deputy High Representative (PDHR), Michael Scanlan during an office call at Camp Butmir on Monday 22 July. Major General Trischak briefed the PDHR on Eufor's current activities and a frank and productive conversation about how Eufor and the Office of the High Representative can work together to achieve the best results was held.

Quick Reaction Force train for Helicopter Operations



A Blackhawk helicopter from the Austrian Air Force completed some joint training with Eufor's Multinational Battalions Quick Reaction Force (QRF) on Wednesday 9 July. Elements of the Turkish company who are currently on QRF duties practised their mounting and dismounting drills from the aircraft to ensure they were fast and proficient.

The Platoon Commander expressed how useful training with

the Blackhawk was, as the majority of his troops had not practised with this type of helicopter before and it allowed them to familiarise with the layout and correct procedures.



Very good levels of cooperation between the Austrian Aircrew and the Turkish Infantry meant that the theoretical elements were covered quickly and the practical exercise was completed smoothly.



COMEUFOR observes weapon marking progress in Rajlovac

Major General Reinhard Trischak visited Rajlovac on Wednesday 14 August, to receive a briefing on the progress made by the BiH Ministry of Defence (MoD), and the AFBiH, in weapons marking, registration and management. He was accompanied by EUFOR Special Ammunition and Weapons Advisor (SAWAD), Colonel Martin Trachsler, who explained what EUFOR had helped the AFBiH to achieve so far and what remained to be done.

Major General Trischak spoke with Mr Alexander Maier, the Programme Manager for the HALO Trust, one of the organisations supporting BiH with weapons control as they both observed with interest the full process of marking and registering the weapons from the initial cleaning and inspection through to coating them with preservatives and sealing them into correctly registered boxes.

BiH MoD are reducing their stockpiles of weapons and ammunition through a transparent process of disposal



and are rapidly moving towards a sustainable ammunition and weapons life-cycle management system, this is being supported by a range of organisations, including the HALO trust and EUFOR.

When the excess weapons have been destroyed, donated, or sold, the reduced stockpile will mean lower maintenance costs and ensure maximum traceability of these weapons from a non-proliferation perspective; this project is a major confidence-building measure in terms of EUFOR's primary aim to support and maintain a safe and secure environment for the people of BiH.

by Captain Hannes Konrad

Visit to Peace Support Operations Training Centre

The Commander of EUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak was welcomed to the Peace Support Operations Training Centre (PSOTC) by its Commandant, AFBiH Colonel Edin Bajramović, on Thursday 29 August.

The PSOTC provides Training and Education in the field of Peace Support Operations for individuals from all units within the AFBiH, other organisations within BiH and many international partners, with the goal of supporting BiH's overall effort to contribute to international peace and security.

A briefing covering the history of the Centre, its mission, achievements and future vision was given to the General by the Chief of the Training



and Education department, Lieutenant Colonel Bajo Rogan. Major General Trischak noted how over the past 10 years, despite no increase in staff numbers, the output of the centre had risen from 18 courses a year to over 30. He also heard how over 8000 students, a third of whom were international, had benefited from the

training provided by the Centre.

During a friendly and open dialogue between Major General Trischak and Colonel Bajramović the plans for the Centre's future were discussed along with funding and cooperation with international partners.

Major General Trischak was particularly interested in the recent production of a 'protection of civilians' course and offered support to this important area.

Afterwards whilst on a tour of the building the General commented on the modern facilities and the professionalism of the staff.

Foča Gastro Fest 2019

EUFOR's LOT House in Foča ran a stand at Foča's 12th annual Gastro Fest in July. Many exhibitors from the area attended to display food, drink and handmade craft products; the event was well attended with many local dignitaries present.

1st Lieutenant Jozef Bukovsky along with Sergeant Majors Juraj Majer and Peter Novysedlak, who all come from Slovakia, decided to share their traditional foods with those attending Gastro Fest. 1st Lieutenant Jozef Bukovsky said, "We have prepared a pot of Slovak goulash and brought a choice of cheeses from Orava, a mountainous region in Slovakia, as well as traditional Slovak chocolate, biscuits and drinks." He added: "Everything has been brought in from Slovakia to allow the people of Foča to enjoy the taste of authentic Slovak cuisine."

The Municipality Mayor of Foča, Radisav Mašić stated that, "Many



people are involved in tourism in Foča, and Gastro Fest is an opportunity for all of them to show off what can be offered to tourists." The event was also attended by the Minister of Trade and Tourism of the Republic of Srpska, Dragica Kovač, who enjoyed sampling the food provided by the EUFOR stand.

by 1st Lieutenant Jozef Bukovsky

"Everything has been brought in from Slovakia to allow the people of Foča to enjoy the taste of authentic Slovak cuisine."



EUFOR member helps injured member of public

Lieutenant Armend Haxhosaj of EUFOR's Mostar LOT House, was observing the protest of the Aluminij workers, who had gathered in front of the HDZ building in Mostar on Thursday 11 July, when he was able to use his first aid skills to help an injured female.

Lieutenant Haxhosaj said: "I noticed a female whose foot had been injured by broken glass, she was crying out in pain and was bleeding quite badly. I used my military training, stayed calm and was able to help stop the blood flow using the first aid kit I carry. An ambulance then arrived to take her to hospital." He added, "I'm pleased that I was able to do something to help."

The LOT house in Mostar, which is served by members of the Swiss military, is only one of 17 LOT houses EUFOR has across Bosnia and Herzegovina. These houses are manned by troops from 7 different nations involved in EUFOR's mission.



Three Nation Games held at Camp Butmir



EUFOR's Multinational Battalion held a military skills competition on Saturday 13 July at Camp Butmir and Pazaric firing range. The games were open to infantry soldiers from Turkey, Austria and Hungary, with teams of three soldiers taking part in 5 different disciplines.

The competition was opened by Major General Trischak who, whilst visiting the firing range at Pazaric, took a turn firing each of the three weapons the troops had to use for the first event. Each of the teams had to fire 10 shots from the standard infantry rifle of each nation: the Austrian STG 77 A2, the Turkish MPT 76 and the Hungarian AK63D. As it was a competition points were of course awarded for the most accurate shooting.

After all teams had fired each of the rifles and returned to Camp Butmir the next 3 events took place with teams moving between the stances of Truck pushing, Hand grenade throwing and the Combat Fitness Test.

The Truck pushing was particularly difficult, involving pushing a 2.5 ton Unimog 100m against the clock. Shortly after finishing this event Corporal Patrick Pesl said, "I feel broken at the minute, but overall the event is fun."

Throwing the Hand grenades,

although tricky, allowed the competitors to get their breath back before they attempted an exhausting Combat Fitness Test involving push-ups, sprinting, crawling and carrying each other.

Turkish Staff Sergeant Ahmet Yarasir, who was competing in the games said, "These games are a good chance to see the bigger picture of what goes on within EUFOR, with the Turkish, Hungarians and Austrians all working together here today." He added: "Taking part in this sort of event really supports our friendship



and cooperation."

The final event of the day which was to decide the winning team was a race, where each team member had to carry a 10kg backpack and rifle around the airfield twice. The team with the most points from the previous events was able to set off first with subsequent teams, depending on the number of points they gained, setting off with differing time penalties.

After a closely fought battle it was Austrian Sergeants Mikschka, Kriegerl and Spreitzhofer who emerged victorious.



COMEUFOR meets with BiH officials

Presidency Member Milorad Dodik



COMEUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak and the Chairman of the BiH Presidency, Milorad Dodik met for the first time in Sarajevo on Tuesday 16 July. Discussing a wide range of political and military matters they agreed that EUFOR's cooperation with the AFBiH and other agencies in BiH is extremely good, due in part to their political neutrality.

Dodik also pointed out that EUFOR has for many years contributed to the maintenance of a stable security situation within BiH.



Major General Trischak stated that EUFOR would continue to engage with all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina and also continue to offer its services to the country's authorities.

EUFOR provides an objective and unbiased assessment of the security situation and helps contribute to a fact-based perception of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Presidency Member Šefik Džaferović

The Commander of EUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak met with Presidency Member, Šefik Džaferović during an office call at the Presidency building in Sarajevo on Tuesday 23 Jul.

Major General Trischak and Presidency Member Džaferović discussed current challenges BiH faces and how EUFOR can help support the BiH authorities.



Minister of Security Dragan Mektić

On Thursday 18 July, Major General Reinhard Trischak paid an office call to the BiH Minister of Security, Dragan Mektić.

During the meeting at Parliament Building in Sarajevo, Major General Trischak and the Minister of Security discussed a wide variety of mutually

interesting topics and Major General Trischak underlined EUFOR's ongoing commitment to the mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Chief of Joint Staff, Lieutenant General Senad Mašović

Major General Reinhard Trischak, the new COMEUFOR, held his first official meeting with the BiH Chief of Joint Staff Lieutenant General Senad Mašović in Sarajevo today.

Major General Trischak and Lieutenant General Senad Mašović discussed a range of military issues and reconfirmed their commitment to cooperating closely with each other on maintaining the safe and secure environment.



Fun Run at Camp Butmir



On Thursday 25 July, troops from 5 nations took part in a fun run organised by Camp Butmir's Gym, where competitors selected to race either 2.5km or 8km. Zeljko Puljic who planned it said, "I enjoy organising these events, I try to do at least 2 competitions a month. It's great to see the friendly rivalry between all the competitors."

Despite the heat the EUFOR runners produced some impressive times. The winner of the 2.5km race, Colonel Wolfgang Rafetjeder, who finished with a time of only 9:07 said, "It was a brilliant event, really well organised." He added: "I'm not 100% happy with my time as I was hoping to get below 9 minutes, but it just wasn't possible for me to run faster today."

The 8km race was won overall by Corporal Sarah Felber, who finishing at a sprint, managed to outpace her nearest (male) competition by over 2 minutes! She said, "I enjoyed the event and am happy with my time." Sarah took first place about 3km into the race and managed to build up her lead throughout the rest of the event, finishing only 34.42 after she started.

Results 2.5km

OF-5 Wolfgang Rafetjeder 9:07
OR-3 Daniel Spreitzhofer 9:56
OR-3 Justin Siegl 10:15



Results 8km

OR-3 Sarah Felber 34:42
OF-4 Nicolas Diaz 36:54
OR-3 Rene Adam 37:36

EUFOR compete in 10km night run



Six members of EUFOR's LOT house in Banja Luka competed in Gradiska's first 10km night run which was held along the banks of the Sava River and through the city center on Friday 5 July. Over 300 people had signed up to run in the event from a wide range of countries but EUFOR's team from Chile had travelled from furthest afield to complete!

Running in order to raise money for a local football player who suffers from leukemia, the 6 EUFOR members enjoyed the event's really positive atmosphere. The commander of the LOT house, Captain Jose Miguel Gallo, said, "The organisation was very good, race kits were excellent, and the points for water and fruit were really visible. The music was great and the atmosphere of the event was just as good as any of the larger runs."

At the end of the event while sharing some Cevapi and chatting to other competitors Captain Gallo added: "I feel very happy and proud to be able to participate not only as part of the EUFOR mission for BiH but also as a team from Chile. It was a great opportunity to interact with the community and talk about the work we do in BiH to increase cooperation and preserve the safe and secure environment."

by Captain Jose Miguel Gallo



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