EUFOR support to Bosnia and Herzegovina during state of emergency
EUFOR’s Press
Releases about support during state of emergency

On Saturday 04 February
EUFOR’s Multinational Battalion (MNBN) supported the Clinical University Center in Sarajevo, with personnel clearing snow in the hospital area.

On Sunday 06 February
EUFOR Search and Rescue Helicopter (type Alouette III) evacuated a family. Three adults and one child, who had been completely cut off by snow were successfully rescued. None of the rescued persons had been injured.

The rescued family was safely brought to EUFOR Camp Butmir, where they were examined by EUFOR medical personnel and taken to the hospital by local ambulance.

While this Search and Rescue operation took place, soldiers of the MNBN (Multinational Battalion) were deployed to assist in clearing snow, with main effort on the tramway tracks, in the city of Sarajevo.

One Helicopter (AB 212) conducted an urgent flight for vital medicine for a hospital in Sarajevo from Mostar to Camp Butmir.

Another Alouette III successfully flew a dialysis patient for urgent treatment from Jablanica to Mostar hospital.

On Monday 07 February
Soldiers of the MNBN (Multinational Battalion) were again deployed to assist with snow cleaning, with main effort on the tramway tracks, in the city of Sarajevo.
Dear Readers

Seven months has past very quickly for me on this important Mission and I now find myself getting ready to return home. When I leave I will be taking with me some amazing memories of my time in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I have been very lucky and have managed to see much of this wonderful country and meet many of its friendly people. It has also been very interesting working with so many different nations all working towards one goal.

I would like to thank all the readers and supports of the EUFORUM magazine for their articles and support over the last view months. Please continue to support the Public Affairs Office with this magazine and their work. Thanks again for your help and have a safe Mission.

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The EUFOR Office of the Legal Advisor is informing readers of EUFORUM:

In this edition of the magazine and by regular distribution within the coming weeks you will receive a flyer containing useful contact details in case of any difficulties in the course of border crossing, the use of highways or in the course of traffic incidents and subsequent contact with local authorities in BiH and in Croatia. Please carry this paper with you and in every vehicle in use while in the mission area (including stays in Croatia). In case of any questions related to this matter don’t hesitate to contact the Legal Advisor or attached Claims Office, Camp Butmir ext. 5459 or 3066 / 3082!
COM EUFOR visits Memorial Centre Potocari

COM EUFOR, Major General Brieger, visited the memorial centre at Potocari on 4th January 2012, where he laid a wreath in tribute to those victims commemorated at this location and to the victims of armed conflict throughout the world.

Major General Brieger conveyed his personal thoughts through a message entered in the book of condolence at Potocari in which he expressed his empathy with all innocent victims of armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Major General Brieger earlier visited the Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) House in Bratunac where he was briefed on LOT activities and he also got a briefing in Kravica.

COM EUFOR made the following statement:

“I am here today to pay my personal respects to all victims of armed conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina irrespective of their ethnicity, religion or gender.

I would also like to empathise the UN Security Council’s and the international community’s strong commitment to the protection of all civilians in situations of armed conflict with particular emphasis on refugees, internally displaced persons, women, children and other vulnerable groups.”
COM EUFOR
Inspection of the MNBN

On the 11th of January COM EUFOR inspected the MNBN during an exercise of the Turkish company at the Capljina barracks. It was the first inspection of a field training exercise by COM EUFOR in this year. The Turkish company of MNBN conducted CRC training so that COMEUFOR was able to see the capability of the MNBN in this area. COM EUFOR also spoke with personnel of the AFBiH about their experience being trained by EUFOR soldiers and the progress of such cooperation including knowledge transfer from EUFOR to AFBiH in various military skills like running checkpoints, personal and vehicle searching and of course patrolling.

By OF-2 Markus Witschning PIO/MNBN
Major General Robert Brieger, the Commander of EUFOR welcomed Lieutenant General Mehmet Çetin the Chief of Logistics of the Turkish Army to Camp Butmir.

In an Office Call, COM EUFOR briefed General Çetin on recent EUFOR activity in delivering the overarching European Security and Defence Policy mission in BiH. The Generals also discussed the increasing role of reserve forces in the Operation Althea mission.

COM EUFOR praised the high standards and professionalism of all the Turkish troops serving in EUFOR. Turkish personnel are currently employed in an extensive variety of roles within EUFOR including the Command of the Regional Coordination Centre in Zenica and the manning of six Liaison Observation Team Houses in BiH. In addition they fill Headquarters posts, provide a Turkish Company within the Multi-National Battalion and support the Integrated Police Unit.

Turkey is the second largest troop contributing nation to Operation Althea. General Brieger then concluded the visit by thanking General Çetin for Turkey’s ongoing support to Operation Althea.
Major General Robert Brieger, the Commander of EUFOR welcomed His Excellency Mr Rami Rexhepi, Ambassador of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to Bosnia and Herzegovina to Camp Butmir.

In an Office Call, COM EUFOR briefed the Ambassador about recent EUFOR activity and how Operation Althea functions as the military component of the overarching European Security and Defence Policy mission in BiH. Major General Brieger also highlighted the important contribution that the personnel from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continue to make the mission and praised the quality of those serving within EUFOR.

The General and H.E. Mr Rexhepi also attended a memorial service in Camp Butmir’s Memorial Garden in honour of the eleven Macedonian personnel who lost their lives in 2008 in a helicopter accident, whilst serving on Operation Althea.

General Brieger said:
“The soldiers from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia served with great distinction here in Bosnia and Herzegovina and they gave their lives so people here could have a better future. As we continue this important mission we will not forget their sacrifice and our thoughts are with their families and loved ones.”

Major General Robert Brieger, the Commander of EUFOR welcomed Mr Boris Balant the State Secretary from the Slovenian Ministry of Defence to Camp Butmir on 9th January 2012.

In an Office Call, COM EUFOR briefed Mr Balant on recent EUFOR activity in supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina efforts to maintain the Safe and Secure Environment. They also discussed the increasing role of reserve forces in the Operation Althea mission. COM EUFOR praised the professionalism of the Slovenian troops serving in EUFOR. Slovenian personnel are currently employed in a variety of roles within EUFOR Headquarters.

General Brieger then concluded the visit by thanking Mr Balant for Slovenias’ ongoing support to Operation Althea.
A friendly football match between AF BIH Op Command and HQ EUFOR teams took place on 18 JAN 2012 in the Rub Hall at Camp BUTMIR. The game was a great opportunity for both organizations to get to know more about each other in an informal way.

The kick-off was carried out by MG Robert BRIEGER, COM EUFOR. The two teams played in a pleasant and friendly atmosphere for a 2x30 minutes five-a-side game. The captain of AF BIH Op Command team was Commander BG Ivica JERKIĆ, while HQ EUFOR team was lead by BG Zoltán GULYÁS, COS EUFOR. The match was followed by great interaction watched enthusiastically by many supporters of both sides.

After the match BG GULYÁS invited all participants for a gathering and a buffet meal at the Hungarian House. The invitation was greatly appreciated by the Bosnian soldiers – according to Commander BG JERKIĆ.

The two Generals had decided on a friendly match back in 2011 during the Final Games and Award Ceremony of the EUFOR Cup in order to widen the relationship and friendship between AF BIH and EUFOR military personnel. This demonstrates the importance of sporting activity in military life.

The Generals agreed to continue this pleasant activity in the future on a regular basis. Soldiers on both sides are looking forward to playing again soon...
The Certificate Awards Ceremony of RF Basics Course

Capacity Building and Training Division (CB&T Div.) has been providing capacity building and training tasks in different areas for AF BiH trainers. One of the most important training areas outlined in current Combined Joint Statement of Requirement (CJSOR) is Communication Information Systems (CIS) Both EUFOR and AF BiH have been seeking for a robust and self sustainable training mechanism for AF BiH. In this content;

Turkish Mobile Training Team (MTT) successfully delivered a 5-day RF Basics course to the members of AF BiH this course was the first CIS training of 2012 Training Calendar. Certificate Award Ceremony took place on 27th of January at Signal Battalion in Pale. Turkish MTT (OF-2 Aziz Ozdemir and OR-7 Celal Erdogan) congratulated the participants for their active approach to the course and willingness to learn. The certificates were delivered by Colonel KAYMAZ HQ EUFOR (DCOS CB&T Div.), Lieutenant Colonel BRADIĆ (Signal Battalion Commander), Lieutenant Colonel ZARKUSIĆ from Operational Command and Major Huseyin POLATCI from HQ EUFOR.

The aim of this course was to provide the trainers with the necessary skills to be instructors. This is necessary not only for maintaining and improving their CIS level but also for being a member of NATO. Now it is time to share their knowledge with their colleagues and soldiers.
Father and Daughter working together in EUFOR

Father and daughter work together on a mission abroad with the EUFOR mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Dad, Rudolf (54) is a staff officer and helicopter pilot in the Austrian Army, while daughter Bernadette (20) finished the EF-year in 2010, at the Army hospital in Vienna with her qualification completed.

Father Rudolf works in the Ministry of Defence and Sports in Vienna in the department as a specialist service “Militaerluftfahrt” Head of Flight Safety, and gained experience abroad in 1990 (2 weeks in England and 1 week in France, as a pilot). The planning of this international mission in BiH was fixed a couple of months ago.

Bernadette would like to study medicine and has completed training as an army paramedic as well as the drivers license in 2011.

All the more surprising is the moment in which the call came: Sir, Hello Dad, I start preparation for deployment to EUFOR. What a joy when Dad heard about the plans of his daughter because it was not planned. Father and daughter together for three months working abroad - a first for the Austrian armed forces.

We see each other almost every day at breakfast, says Bernadette, then go our separate ways. I am in the Medical Center for ambulance support together with other “medics” in charge. If the soldiers are doing field training, one of the doctors and I accompany them.

The main task for the five Austrian helicopters in Bosnia and Herzegovina is to ensure emergency supplies from the air. I am proud of the achievements of our crews during the day and at night, declared the “Air Chief”. Eight lifesaving heli missions and six emergency heli flights were successfully flown last year. For this we exercise during day and night flights on a continuous basis. Particularly memorable is the rescue and first aid of a paraglider from Slovenia at the beginning of winter near Sarajevo. He had landed in a minefield and was seriously injured. Using another helicopter (also an Alouette 3) the four other paragliders were winched from the mine field out of the life-threatening situation. An invitation to thank the crews by the Slovenian Embassy in Sarajevo followed the rescue.

“Just another mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina we can almost imagine both of them saying simultaneously”.
Relics of the cold war
“TITO” bunker

Konjic is a beautiful town in the Southern part of BiH known for its lovely nature, water springs and flora and fauna endemic spices. The Konjic area is one of the richest water resort areas in BiH. Deep canyons carved by river waters over many years provided a great place for river rafting. At the same time these deep canyons were an excellent location where the Yugoslav military saw an opportunity to build various military installation and shelters. When the Warsaw pact and NATO were established (after WWII) Yugoslavia experienced need for peculiar military strategy for its own defense.

One of the most visible examples of Yugoslav military doctrine and requirement is so called “Tito” bunker in Konjic. Construction of this nuclear bunker facility started early 1950es and was completed in 1979. It was constructed to secure and provide safety for the highest political, military and government establishment of Yugoslavia in case of war, where they could continue to run the country and resist to attackers! This facility had communication with all regional military centers.

The Bunker could provide sufficient space, food, medical care; communication means etc for over 350 people for a period of over 6 months. It had all required at that time “state of the art” supply, protection and life support systems. Actually according innovations and technology used for its construction it was way ahead of its time.

This facility could resist a nuclear impact of 20 KT. The deepest part of this bunker lies over 280 meters under the land surface. The Bunker represents one of the most expensive Yugoslav military investments (total 4, 6 billions of USD) and one of the most important military facilities ever built in Yugoslavia after WWII. The total length of this facility is over 202 meters and it has the shape of a “horse shoe”.

We are grateful for the excellent maintenance and hard work of the group of BiH military NCO and soldiers. We can still enjoy and view this facility and get a real impression about the cold war. The Future of this facility is not clear, but ideas suggest toward tourism and art center!

If you have an opportunity to visit this bunker- DO NOT miss it!

Muhidin Tutic-Muki
EUFOR Joint Visitors Bureau
Actions from LOT Višegrad

Eleven-year old Filip Josilović from Gornje Seganje near Višegrad has lost around 35 percent of his already damaged eyesight during the last year. This fourth grade pupil of the “Vuk Karadzic” Elementary School suffers from a rare disease called eye dystrophy, or in other words, his optic nerve is damaged. This is something that his parents noticed a long time ago, as soon as he started exploring the world around him, and especially when he started learning first letters and looking at picture-books. His parents, Vladiša and Milanka, have done all they could to have their son’s illness correctly diagnosed. Ever since he was a toddler they have been taking him from one doctor to the other or, as they say, from the Foča Clinical Center to the Military Medical Academy in Belgrade. As of the last year they ran out of money. None of the seven members of the Josilović family are employed and they haven’t been able to continue with diagnostic procedures for Filip at specialist clinics in Belgrade. “I cannot accept the fact that my eldest son, my firstborn, is losing his eyesight so quickly and so drastically, and that we, his parents, are unable to do anything about it. We stay up at night worrying and during the day we secretly watch our child as he struggles to walk in the house, or play with his brothers and friends,” Vladiša says. Filip uses one pair of eyeglasses for reading, another for watching TV or when walking outside. He can read only textbooks if the background under the letters is white, but if it is colored it is a big problem for him. Still, this does not prevent him from being a very good pupil. The biggest problem is that his parents cannot afford to buy new eyeglasses for him anymore, or to pay for a trip to Belgrade and expensive specialist examinations. “Doctors told me that unless a correct diagnosis is established very soon and a treatment, possibly even a complicated surgical procedure, is started, Filip could lose his eyesight completely. If that happens, he will not be able to recognize the difference between day and night anymore. In that case he would be able only to register movement around him, but it would be very difficult for him to get the feel of the place. For our family that would be catastrophic, Josilović says.

Bank Account Number
Vladiša has not asked for anyone’s help for treatment of his child thus far. If he had a job, he says, he wouldn’t be complaining now either. He also says that during the construction season he goes to Montenegro and carries out construction works in order to support his family. “It seems that my Filip can only be helped by God and good people,” Vladiša says.
Visit to Pazarić Mental Institution

In Camp Butmir, a group of EUFOR and NATO members of all ranks have committed themselves to supporting an institution for mentally handicapped persons on a voluntary personal or national basis. The “Pazarić Institute for the Care of Mentally Disabled Children and Youth” has 3 different locations and provides care to around 400 or more residents with ages ranging from 4 – 70 years of age.

Members of the support group try to visit Pazarić at least twice a month. The residents of Pazarić don’t have it easy and they are very happy just to receive visits which bring some variety into their otherwise very monotonous daily routine. The institute is short of funds, equipment and staff. Although the staff is doing the best they can, most of the facilities and equipment are not up to western standards.

This is why we in the support group will arrange a fund-raising party for Pazarić Mental Institution on 23 March 2012 in the Millennium Bar.

We would like to invite everyone to help support this worthy cause. Our aim is to help them to purchase Industrial Washers and Dryers. There will be food, games, music and a charity auction. Among the items up for auction is the exciting opportunity to see Bosnia from a helicopter!

Make sure to note the 23 March 2012 in your calendar and come and help support the Pazarić Institute!

There is also a Facebook group you can visit to see some pictures and videos from our past visits. Type in Pazarić Institute for the Care of Mentally Disabled Children and Youth in the search box on Facebook and you will find the page.
National Day of Romania

On the first of December 2011 the Romanian contingent in Camp Butmir celebrated Romanians National Day which represents for the Romanian people, the triumph of centuries of struggle and sacrifices which were transformed 93 years ago in the accomplishment of the national unitary state.

The Romanian ambassador, participated in the event as did the Romanian military attaché, commander of NATO HQ, senior national representatives from different countries and many other people from different contingents.

The guests had the opportunity to taste traditional food and drink, watch a movie and presentation about Romania and finally, to listen to traditional music. Some of the guests even learned to dance some Romanian traditional dances!

Badminton Tournament at Camp Butmir

On Saturday, 28. January 2012th was held Badminton Tournament at Camp Butmir fitness center organized by HQ CMDT / MWA. Participation in the tournament took 19 athletes (18 men and one woman) from 4 nations who serve at Camp Butmir. The tournament is played double elimination system, which includes forming a new group of losers. This means that any player who loses the first game has the possibility of further participation in the tournament and possibly win the tournament. The total number of games was 36 Immediately after the tournament was organized presentation of medals and appropriate certification. Winner of the tournament was the captain of Slovenia Mr. Beljan. Second place went to Mr. Mozgo OR-7 from Slovakia, and the third was Steinscherer OR-3 from Austria.
MWA and what it is about

Morale and Welfare Activities (MWA) under the supervision of HQ CMDT is devoted to ensuring the well-being of Camp Butmir’s community of Military and Civilians from over 20 countries. MWA provides an assortment of functions and activities to increase the morale and welfare for NATO and EUFOR military personnel assigned to Camp Butmir. MWA develops and maintains morale and welfare activities for NATO and EUFOR soldiers within Camp Butmir, with funds collected from concessionaires (PX, Restaurants, Gift shops etc.) the Millennium Bar including the Bar “German Corner”, MWA Office official business and other sources.

MWA currently employs 16 locally hired civilians working in Millennium Bar, German Corner, gymnasium and as office staff.

The Millennium Bar is not just a place for sipping a coffee while having a break but for many activities as there are: NSE parties, EUFOR HQ/NHQ Sa medal parades, Officers nights, dancing classes, disco nights, beer and wine promotion, and various competitions like pool, tabletop soccer, game nights and sports programs on big screen. In the German Corner people meet after duty, enjoying a drink while socializing and winning new friends from different countries.

Our gymnasium and its staff offers a variety of sports activities like circuit training, muscular balance training, personnel training programs, Volleyball tournament, Basketball tournaments, Badminton Doubles and many more. In the Rub Hall indoor soccer is a favourite way of staying fit and having a “friendly fight” with colleagues from other nations.

MWA organizes and carries out various tours and trips to places of historical as well as cultural interest i.e. Sarajevo, Medjugorje, Mostar, Srebrenica, Tito Bunker, Fojnica Monastery etc. All tours are escorted by professional guides and take place chiefly on weekends.

Additionally are we organizing tickets and transportation for cultural events like the Sarajevo National Theater and Philharmonic Orchestra Concerts.

MWA staff welcomes you to use our offers, enjoy our facilities and we want to make your stay in Camp Butmir to a memorable one.
Joint Military Affairs (JMA)

Joint Military Affairs (JMA) is a multinational Branch within the Capacity Building and Training Division in HQ EUFOR. It is staffed by locally hired civilians, international civilian consultants, Austrian military, Polish military, Spanish military and Turkish Military. JMA staff members come from a variety of backgrounds and Services and all contribute to the “feel” of EUFOR as a truly multi-national, multi-disciplinary member of the EUFOR family.

JMA contains COM EUFOR’s Subject Matter Experts on what were formerly General Framework Agreement for Peace (GFAP) functions such as Arms Control, the control of Ammunition and Weapons Storage Sites, the control on the movement of Weapons and Military Equipment (WME) and a host of other tasks. All of these activities have now been transferred to the BiH authorities and the main task of JMA now is to support the BiH civil authorities and the Armed Forces of BiH both in capacity building and training in order that they can successfully carry out these tasks.

JMA staff members carry out their activities by a combination of monitoring, mentoring and advising the BiH authorities on former GFAP
The JMA Mine Information Coordination Centre (MICC) is the organisation tasked with updating mine information and in 2011 produced 6,984 mine information maps. Whilst on the subject of Mine Risk Education (MRE) it should be noted that 11,549 children and adults were provided with MRE via EUFOR sources last year. This area is also the subject of capacity building and the aim is that over the next few years the BiH authorities will assume more responsibility for this task. This will be achieved by EUFOR training more Mine Risk Educators within the AF BiH. However, EUFOR is currently by far the largest provider of Mine Risk Education, with over 70% of all MRE provided to the population of BiH carried out by EUFOR.

The photographs here show JMA staff involved with the Mine Risk Education of local children.

The remainder of JMA staff are employed in activities such as the verification of the work carried out by the Internal Inspection Teams of the AF BiH at Ammunition and Weapons Storage Sites, inspection with the BiH Authorities of factories in the Defence Industry sector of the BiH economy, provision of ammunition, military movement control and other expertise to the AF BiH and BiH authorities.
ICE AND SNOW
DRIVE SLOW!
DRIVE CAREFULLY IN WINTER CONDITIONS