



## Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2023

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## The Netherlands Marine Corps Full Operational Capability

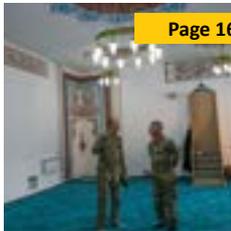
*The Netherlands Marine Corps Company completed the certification exercise to confirm Full Operational Capability (FOC).*



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*Refurbishment of the prayer room was completed using a mix of professional DPW trades-people supported by local contractors.*



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*EUFOR's helicopter wing capability was dramatically increased with two new additions to the Helicopter fleet.*

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We also thank  
EUFOR Multinational Battalion  
EUFOR LOT Houses

Printed by  
Reprographics & Courier Service  
(HQ EUFOR)

## Editor in Chief



Captain Anthony Duffy

Dear readers of EUFOR Forum Magazine,

Since the last edition, it has been a particularly busy period for EUFOR with a lot of organizational change and even more activities. Here in the Public Affairs Office (PAO) we have also seen some major changes, with the welcome arrival of a new STRATCOM Col Ioannis Koutounidis and Chief Public Affairs Officer Major Marcel Taschwer.

In addition to these changes and activities, we have seen some very high profile and important events with EUFOR Exercise Quick Response 2023, MNBN TOA and arrival of the NLD Korps Mariniers being but a few of them.

I would like to thank everyone who supported PAO activities throughout this period. From the hardworking PAO staff who capture, produce and publicize these events. To the troops on the ground whose activities we're here to support, by providing content based on your hard work. In this edition we have had a record number of contributions from branches outside of PAO, so a huge thank you to everyone that has contributed a picture or an article.

EUFOR Forum is about the soldiers and personnel of EUFOR. It is a chronicle and memoir of your time spent in BiH as part of Operation Althea. So as always, we invite you to share your experiences and have those experiences recorded in print and shared digitally. Please contact any member of the PAO or email us at [EuforPIO@eufor.europa.eu](mailto:EuforPIO@eufor.europa.eu) if you have anything that you would like covered or have an article or photograph you would like to share.

The Forum Magazine is produced by HQ EUFOR. It is fully funded by EUFOR, and authorised and published for EUFOR in the area of responsibility.

All stories are written by the Public Affairs Office unless stated otherwise.

The Forum Magazine welcomes submissions via e-mail to: [euforforum@eufor.europa.eu](mailto:euforforum@eufor.europa.eu)

For deadline information phone +387 (0)33 495216; IPN 5216.

Digital photographs should be submitted in JPG format with a minimum resolution of 200 dpi.

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The final week of Exercise #EUFOR Quick Response 2023 concluded with a closing ceremony and medal parade where COM EUFOR congratulated the exercise participants and awarded the CSDP medal to eligible personnel. #EUFOR and BiH stronger together.



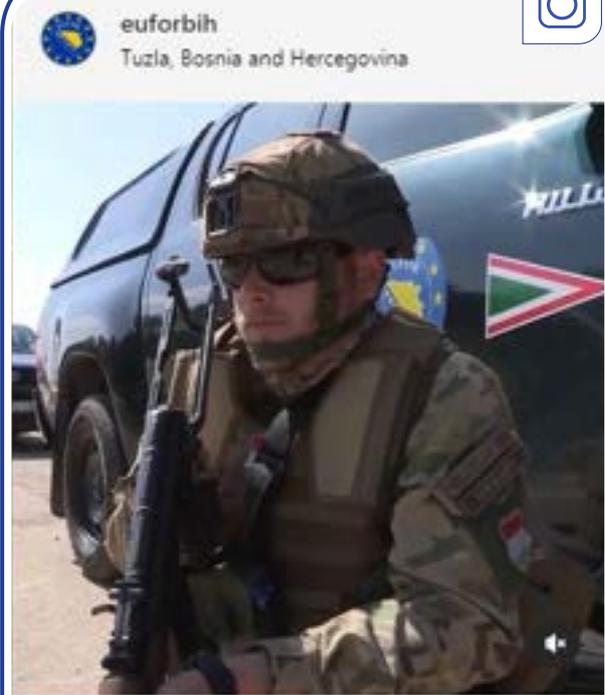
Multi-National Battalion (MNBN) troops conducting embarkation and disembarkation drills with the recently arrived Mi-17 medium lift helicopter. Air mobility is a key factor in the MNBN ability to quickly respond and deploy troops as directed by EUFOR HQ. The Mi-17 has an excellent range and lift capacity which gives EUFOR the ability to rapidly transport and deploy up to 24 personnel in one lift. EUFOR and BiH, stronger together.



Operation EUFOR Althea @euforbih - Sep 7  
 #EUFOR Operational Commander Lt Gen Hubert Cottereau arrived in BiH. He met COS EUFOR Brig Gen Ovidiu Lungu and EUSR in BiH Ambassador Johann Sattler @josattler. He also inspected EUFOR Troops.



EUFOR Operational Commander Lt Gen Hubert Cottereau arrived in BiH. He met COS EUFOR Brig Gen Ovidiu Lungu and EUSR in BiH Ambassador Johann Sattler.



Troops from the #Romanian and #Hungarian contingent deployed by Mi-17 helicopter as part of a scenario in the area of Tuzla.

EUFOR HQ deploys elements of the Multinational Battalion augmented by troops from the intermediate reserve forces to secure an objective as part of Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2023. #euforqr23



# Distinguished Visitors Day & Opening Ceremony



COM EUFOR addressed the parade

**Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2023 got off to a successful start with the formal opening ceremony and Distinguished Visitors Day (DVD) on 15 September 2023.**

## Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony took place on the airfield in Camp Butmir. The parade was under the command of the parade commander Sgt Major Andreas Briar. All EUFOR nations were represented on parade

with an excellent turn out from the marching bodies of troops. There was a large number of distinguished guests in attendance such as: EU Special Representative Ambassador Johan Sattler, BiH Minister of Defence Zukan Helez, COM NATO Brig. Gen. McGaha and many other diplomats, dignitaries and senior military officials.



COM EUFOR with Ambassador Sattler and Minister Helez

COM EUFOR then addressed the parade with a speech where he reaffirmed EUFOR commitment to “all citizens of BiH” noting that “our credibility is built upon the fact that we treat all entities and all ethnicities in an impartial and equal manner”. COM EUFOR also stated “I can assure you, that together with our Reserve Forces we are strong enough to fulfil our tasks for the security of the people everywhere in BiH in the shortest time possible”. The speech ended with COM EUFOR’s rousing call of “One Mission” to which the parade replied in unison “One Team”.

## Dynamic Display

With the parade officially dismissed the distinguished guests took their places on a specially constructed stage and display area on the airfield of Camp Butmir. COM Multinational Battalion (MNB) Lt Col Steingress requested permission to begin the display from COM EUFOR and the scenario began immediately.

The Master of Ceremonies (MC) informed the crowd that EUFOR assistance has been requested by the authorities of BiH and COM EUFOR has put the MNB on standby to deploy EUFOR troops. EUFOR HQ has received information from local Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) that an incident involving civilians being harassed by protestors is developing in the objective area of "Butmir Convention Centre". As the situation deteriorates EUFOR is notified that civilians will require urgent evacuation due to the arrival of a hostile crowd.

An overflight from a PC-6 simulated a Recon flight and marking of a Helicopter Landing Zone (HLZ). A

**"I can assure you, that together with our Reserve Forces we are strong enough to fulfil our tasks for the security of the people everywhere in BiH in the shortest time possible".**

COM EUFOR elements.

After some attempted negotiations with the crowd by the On Scene Commander (OSC), the CRC Coy was ordered to move in and clear the protestors from the objective

number of chinks arrived in AB 212 and Mi-17 helicopters to secure the HLZ and form up the Crowd Riot Control (CRC) Coy. The airborne insertion was supplemented by a coordinated land convoy that delivered the remainder of the CRC Coy and HQ

area. As the hostility of the rioters increased a member of the CRC Coy received a simulated injury and was MEDEVACed by a helicopter after EUFOR HQ received a 9-Liner. COM MNB then authorized the use of less than lethal ammunition, simulated rubber bullets and tear gas was deployed and the crowd was pushed back from the objective area.

The CRC Coy maintained a robust cordon in the area keeping the protestors from returning to this site. This allowed for the armoured extraction force to arrive on scene and enter the objective area, the extraction team then searched the compound and extracted the civilians to a secure area.

## Static display

The dynamic display officially ended with COM MNB informing COM EUFOR that the exercise had been successfully completed. COM EUFOR then congratulated the assembled exercise troops for their efforts and invited the distinguished guests to a static display and reception. The display was comprised of the equipment and vehicles used by EUFOR during the dynamic display, as well as other capabilities such as EOD and support weapons.

The DVD was very well received and viewed as a huge success by both guests and military personnel.



CRC Coy on Landing Zone



Riot control

# Highlights from the exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2023



Romanian Patrol

## Highlights from week 1 of the exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2023

Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2023 transitioned to the deployment phase of the exercise.

Communication Information Systems company deployed to Mount Trebevic and established a

VHF antenna to ensure coverage of exercise sectors.

EUFOR practiced the immediate deployment of reserve forces and their integration into the Multinational Battalion operations by deploying three maneuver elements to their respective areas of responsibility, the Hungarian company to Tuzla, the Bulgarian

company to Bihać, and the Turkish company to Čapljina.

The Romanian Coy was deployed as a QRF to support maneuver elements deployed all throughout BiH. Their primary task was to quickly respond to any serious incident and support the other companies in the fulfillment of their mission.

The companies conducted reconnaissance patrols, ground familiarization and routine framework patrols to prepare for follow on missions. The week culminated with a visit from COM EUFOR where he observed the companies responding to scenarios that involved securing of ammunition & weapons storage sites and the evacuation of LOT house personnel from hostile situations.

## Highlights from week 2 of the exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2023

The final week of Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2023 commenced with an increased tempo and focus. The objective of the exercise scenarios was to test command and control structures over forces from the operational reserve



Turkish company in Čapljina

when challenged with complex situations.

The Hungarian, Bulgarian and Turkish companies deployed to Bihać, Tuzla and Čapljina. The MNBN built on the experiences of last week and were faced by a series of intense and dynamic scenarios. Companies were practiced in securing ammunition & weapons storage sites, evacuation of friendly personnel and civilians, public order incidents and medevacs. Under the control of the MNBN Commander, a complex multi-phase exercise to secure an air-port was conducted by the Romanian Company. Logistical elements were also exercised taking place between the Austrian and Romanian companies.

The exercise concluded with a combined medal parade and closing ceremony.



North Macedonian HLZ

Troops from the Romanian and Hungarian contingent deployed by Mi-17 helicopter as part of a scenario in the area of Tuzla. EUFOR HQ deploys elements of the Multi National Battalion augmented by troops from the intermediate reserve forces to secure an objective as part of Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2023.



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The Bulgarian Company (Coy) deployed to Bihać and secured a Weapons Storage Site (containing armored vehicles & artillery) in the vicinity of Armed Forces BiH barracks 'Adil Bešić'. The Bulgarian Coy Commander deployed his troops in a perimeter and with assistance of officers from AF BiH inspected the weapons and equipment in the storage.

# Exercise Combined Response 2023 between AF BiH and EUFOR

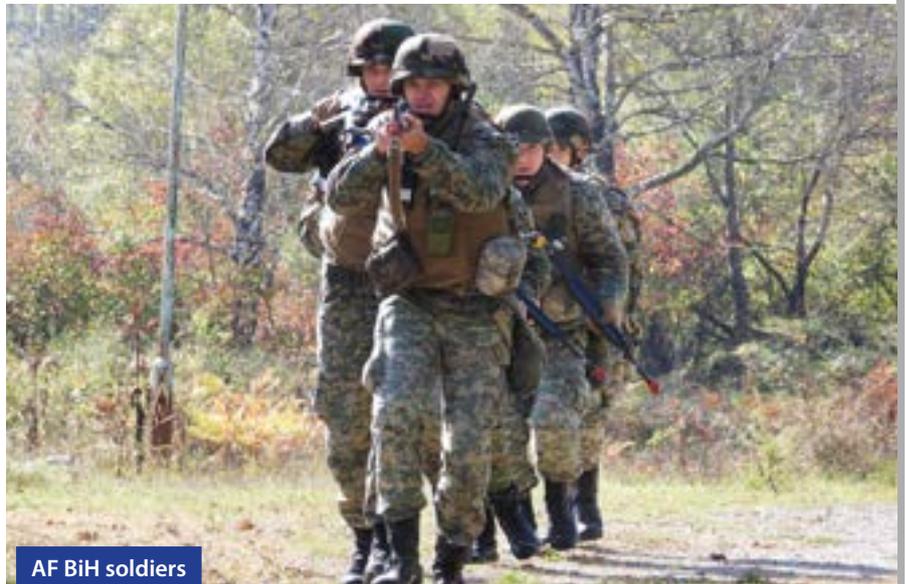
## Intent

Exercise Combined Response 2023 took place in Manjaca from 16 - 19 October. Exercise Combined Response is a routine co-operative exercise between the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) and EUFOR.

The intent of the exercise is to enhance international military relations by conducting combined AFBiH/EUFOR training activities, hosted by in training locations owned by AFBiH.

Over 220 Troops and 20 Armoured vehicles were involved throughout the exercise. AFBiH troops were drawn from 4th Brigade, with companies from Ustikolino, Livno and Čapljina and a HQ element from 3rd Battalion.

EUFOR was represented by HQ elements from the MNBN and the Türkiye Company. In addition to the exercise troops from MNBN, EUFOR HQ elements from DCOS Ops and J7 were present assisting in the planning and supervision of the exercise.



AF BiH soldiers

## Training Objective

The exercise was divided into two parts, the CPX (18-29 SEP) and "LIVEX" (16-20 OCT). The CPX was primarily focused on the testing of battle staff in Peace Support Operation (PSO) strategies and procedures. The inclusion of EUFOR / MNBN enhances interoperability between multinational elements on Battalion and Company level in a non-permissive environment.

The LIVEX was based around a fictional scenario known as "Operation Chronos" which involved PSO in a buffer zone / area of separation between two parties in a conflict.

## LIVEX

The LIVEX began on 16th OCT with all the exercise troops deployed to Manjaca. The exercise began with a surge of forces deployed to the AO and receipt of FRAGO.



AF BiH TTPs



The LIVEX was based around a fictional scenario known as "Operation Chronos" which involved PSO in a buffer zone / area of separation between two parties in a conflict.

The exercise serials were injected to immediately ensure a steady escalation in tempo. With exercise troops being practiced in patrolling, checkpoints and CIMIC activities. Escalating to ambush drills, CIED procedures and culminating in a large scale urban cordon and search exercise supported by Heli-Ops with a MEDEVAC.

Emphasis was placed on command and control and Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs). With interoperability being tested through ensuring effective communication in a non-permissive environment.

### **Distinguished Visitors Day (DVD)**

COS EUFOR BG Lungo attended the DVD and observed the final exercise involving an urban Cordon & Search. COS EUFOR addressed the crowd with his speech "I would like to thank the AF BiH, specifically General MG Radovan ILIĆ and 4th Brigade for their professionalism, expertise and courtesy. I would also like to acknowledge the work of Lt Col Sack and the J7 planning team as well as the MNBN for their hard work and dedication".

Congratulations to all involved in this successful and beneficial exercise.



AF BiH room clearance



COS EUFOR greets AF BiH troops

# The Netherlands Marine Korps (Korps Mariniers)



Amphibious & special operations

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## What is the Marine Corps?

Amphibious and special operations. That's the most important work of the Marines. It means that the maritime light infantry units can operate at sea, land and its border. From warfare and humanitarian aid, to secret reconnaissance and counterterrorism. The corps also distinguishes itself by its expertise in the field of warfare in

river deltas (riverine) and under arctic, mountainous and desert conditions.

## The base of the operational marine units

The two operational marine units, the Marine Combat Groups (MCGs) form the essential basis for marine units that can be deployed directly at anytime, anywhere in the world.

These units consist of light infantry with fully integrated fire support and logistical support. The MCGs are the basis for assembling units that can independently perform all kinds of different tasks. Examples include the provision of emergency humanitarian aid to actions very high in the spectrum of violence. All tasks can be carried out on and from the sea in close cooperation with the naval fleet units.

## Raiding Squadron / COY

A Raiding Squadron consists of 108 people and is divided into three Raiding Troops. The Raiding Troops are again divided into two so-called Raiding Sections. These consist of fourteen people and form the smallest maneuver elements within a Marine Combat Group that can operate independently and for a longer period of time. To be able to do that, the section is well armed and has various specialisms, such as knowledge and resources for direct fire support, precision fire, communication systems, drone-operators, marksmen's, infantry engineers and medical specialists.



Marine Combat Group



As wide as the world stretches

## Amphibious operations and inland

Marines set up a mission under the harshest conditions, in a short time and with few resources. In total, the Marine Corps has about 2,300 men who are always ready to protect Dutch interests anywhere in the world. This is reflected in the age-old motto *Qua Patet Orbis*, "As wide as the world stretches".

## Origin

The Marine Corps had its origins in the Golden Age of exploration, in the 17th century. The Republic of the Seven United Netherlands flourished in areas such as science, art and trade. Global trade brought the Republic into constant conflict with the great powers of England and Spain.

## Soldiers with sea legs

The importance of global sea trade created the need for wide reaching capability to defend national interests. Grand Pensionary Johan de Witt and Admiral Michiel Adriaenszoon de Ruyter saw the

usefulness of a permanent group of 'soldiers with sea legs'. Instead of the traditional land based soldiers who were attached to the fleet in certain situations.

This insight led to the formation of a regiment of naval soldiers on 10 December 1665, led by Lieutenant Colonel Willem Joseph baron van Ghent. The Marine Corps traces its lineage back to this van Ghent-led regiment. The corps' field of activity was initially mainly in the fleet, but later also in the colonies.

## Today

The deployment of the Marines nowadays varies from contemporary warfare and training, to (natural) disaster relief and humanitarian aid. One minute the Marine is fighting and shortly afterwards he is providing assistance, maintaining order or training foreign soldiers. This requires the ability to quickly switch between the role of combatant, trainer, security guard and aid worker.

By Maj Coen Puister



Soldiers with sea legs

# The Netherlands Marine Korps Full Operational Capability



Evacuation Serial

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On 20th October the Netherlands Marine Corps (Korps Mariniers) Company alongside the Romanian Platoon of the MNBN successfully completed the certification exercise to confirm Full Operational Capability (FOC). FOC means that a contingent has passed all the necessary orientation and pre-deployment training and is now fully capable of deploying with MNBN. In order to achieve this status a Troop Contributing Nation (TCN) must conduct a variety of in-theater and home nation training.

Prior to the joining Op Althea in BiH, the 11 Raiding Squadron conducted pre-deployment training lasting

around six months. This involved intense training in a number of different areas.

## Crowd & Riot Control

One of the first objectives in the pre-deployment training was the Crowd & Riot Control (CRC) course. This course was given by the Royal Netherlands Military Police. The training started with how to use the baton and the shield and putting the different formations and commands into practice. Specialized training was given to some of the Marines in how to use tear gas and how to deal with fires and molotov cocktails. There was also a training day on the firing range on how to use the sidearm whilst carrying all the CRC equipment and moving in different formations. This course was completed by 47 Marines who are ready to conduct CRC operations.

## Stakeholder Engagement Training

A completely different element of the training was the Stakeholder Engagement training. This training focused on the 'soft skills' of the Marines. The training was given to all officers and NCO's and a few other Marines of the Raiding Squadron and lasted four days. The focus during these days was on how to interact with different stakeholders, how to build a connection and how to achieve your objectives that you set for the conversations.



First aid

## Mobility Training

As a light infantry unit, operating with vehicles is not our core business. Our first challenge for working with vehicles was to make sure we had enough Marines with the right driver licenses for the unarmored vehicles (Volkswagen Amaroks and Land Rovers) and for the armored vehicles (Bushmasters).

Every Raiding Troop did one week of mobility training with the unarmored vehicles. This week included driving skills, driving in formations, contact drills, medical lessons and maintenance of the vehicles. All three Raiding Troops also conducted mobility training with the Bushmasters, focusing on formations, contact drills and practicing various actions on.

## Mission Focused Education

The last objective was the Mission Focused Education. This was a full week of theoretical education, mandatory for everyone going on deployment. This education included various subjects such as a general awareness brief, the historical background of Bosnia and Herzegovina and cyber awareness.

## FOC Exercise

The FOC exercise took place in Hotel Igman outside Sarajevo. During this exercise the contingent accompanied by a Platoon from the Romanian Armed Forces demonstrated their operational capabilities, with a number of dynamic serials testing everything from first aid and CASEVAC to company level tactical deployments. The exercises were conducted by COM MNBN who then certified the contingents as having achieved FOC to COM EUFOR and clearing them for deployment.



## MNBN Transfer of Authority

COM EUFOR attended a Transfer of Authority ceremony to officially transfer command of the Multinational Battalion from Lt Col Steingress to Lt Col Lampl of BiH Armed Forces. COM EUFOR congratulated LTC Steingress for the professionalism of the MNBN & formally welcomed LTC Lampl.



CRC Barricade removal



NLD Coy FOC

# Joint training and cooperation plan

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) concerning the joint training and cooperation plan between EUFOR and the Armed Forces Bosnia and Herzegovina was signed on 20th October 2023 at the AF BiH command in Sarajevo.

The training plan was signed by EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Ovidiu Lungu, and Major General Ivica Jerkić, Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff AF BiH for Operations.

After signing the joint training and cooperation plan, and Major General Ivica Jerkić stated that:

**“This ceremony is of great importance and confirms the relationship of cooperation and trust that we have with EUFOR”.**

The agreement between AFBiH and EUFOR covers liaison and co-



Major General Ivica Jerkić and Brigadier General Ovidiu Lungu signing MOU

ordination, specialist mentoring, combined training, and joint exercises.

Brigadier General Ovidiu Lungu praised the training efforts of EUFOR and AFBiH, and highlighted the importance of combined training

activities for the future development of AF BiH and he mention that when EUFOR and AF BiH work together we can easily achieve our mission of supporting the authorities of BiH in securing a safe and secure environment.

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## COM EUFOR met with the Brčko District Police Director

On 2nd November 23, COM EUFOR Maj. Gen. Helmut Habermayer met with the Brčko District Police Director Goran Pisić, Deputy Director Senad Jašarević and Norwegian People’s Aid (NPA) Director Valerie Warmington.

The Brcko District Police Small Arms Light Weapons (SALW) Control Project, was implemented by NPA and funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, under the auspices of EUFOR’s Ammunition, Weapons and Explosives (AWE) Master Plan. The SALW control project is based around the security, marking and registration of weapons. This has far reaching consequences with the ultimate goal of providing security and stability in the region through effective arms control and governance.

COM EUFOR in his address stated that **“Together, we shall create an environment where our citizens can thrive, where the rule of law prevails, and where safety and security are not privileges but inherent rights”** and congratulated all of organizations and individuals who co-operated to make the project such a success.



Brčko District Police Director and COM EUFOR

# COM EUFOR LOT Tour



On the 19th October COM EUFOR Major General Helmut Habermayer visited Camp Eagle in Tuzla where a meeting was held with Commander of 5th Bde AFBiH, Brigadier Emir Kliko. COM EUFOR and the 5th Bde Commander discussed current taskings and situations, as well as the potential for future co-operation with EUFOR.

The program continued with a visit to LOT House Tuzla (AT). The LOT house Commander gave COM EUFOR a situation update and orientation brief. Detailing the current socio-economic and political situation in the LOT house Tuzla area of operation.

The visit continued on the 20th October, with the delegation moving to LOT Bratunac (AT) where COM EUFOR received an orientation and update brief. The tour culminated at LOT Vlasenica (DE), which is the newest addition to the LOT House program.

The tour was very informative for COM EUFOR and highlighted the important part that LOT houses play in keeping EUFOR informed of local opinion and as a barometer for socio-economic issues. Allowing for a better informed decision making process and realistic interpretation of local issues.



COM EUFOR visited the Srebrenica Memorial Center, where he had a meeting with the deputy director of the center. The delegation then partook in an informative guided tour through the center.

# Refurbishment of Camp Butmir prayer room



Ribbon cutting ceremony



Prayer room interior

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On 17 September COM EUFOR Major General Helmut Habermayer, COS EUFOR Brigadier General Ovidiu Lungu and DCOS Ops Colonel Pehlivan Oguzhan attended the re-opening ceremony for the refurbished Camp Butmir multi-denominational prayer room.

This Republic of Türkiye funded refurbishment of the prayer room was completed over the past number of months using a mix of professional DPW trades-people supported by local contractors.

COM EUFOR addressed the gathering and acknowledged the excellent support of Republic of Türkiye for sponsoring the project. Major General Habermayer expressed his thanks to the Camp Commandant and Department of Public Works for their assistance in ensuring the project was completed to such a high standard.

COM EUFOR also observed that this project is an excellent example of cooperation between Non-EU Troop Contributing Countries, demonstrating the mutual respect and teamwork on display in Camp Butmir to complete a project that is for the betterment of everyone.

## PEACE WARRIORS OF EUFOR

A GUST OF WIND CAME UP FROM THE NORTH,  
A RIDER BROUGHT THE SUN FROM THE SOUTH.

WHIRLING CLOUDS COVER THE SKY FROM THE EAST,  
ACCOMPANYING RAIN SHOWERS FROM THE WEST.

THEY ARE ALL ARMY OF IMMORTALS,  
FEW IN NUMBER, BUT FULL OF HEROIC TALES.

WHEELS OF FIRE, CONTINUOUS PATROLLING,  
PHOENIX ON THE ETHER, MERCILESS MONITORING.

MIGHTY CLASH HEARD FROM LONG DISTANCE,  
SHAKING THE EARTH, THEN A GREAT SILENCE.

FOR THE SAKE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA,  
THEIR HEARTS ARE POUNDING OVER ALL THE ARENA.

FROM THE BATTLE THEY HAVE COME TO THE PEACEKEEPING,  
WHIRLWINDS OF FIRE BROUGHT THEM THE CROWN AND THE RING.

RHYME FOR EULOGY HAVE NOT DENOTED THEIR POWER,  
ALL FOR ONE, ONE FOR ALL, STRONGER TOGETHER.



DCOS Ops Colonel Pehlivan Oguzhan

# EUFOR Tennis Tournament



COS greets finalists



The top 3

A EUFOR Tennis Tournament was held between 2-8 October in Teniski Centar Stup, Sarajevo. 16 players from six nations took part in the tournament. The tournament was an excellent display of teamwork and sporting prowess and competitive spirit. Great athleticism and skill was shown by all participants and provided for very entertaining viewing for the crowds of observers.

The final match of the tournament was played between OF-3 Coen Puister (NLD) and OF-2 Hakan Kosyanli (TUR).

This match proved to be the longest and most challenging game of the tournament for the two competitors, lasting an exhausting 2 hours 06 minutes and with the score 1-6/6-3/3-6 in favour of Capt Hakan Kosyanli.

A closing ceremony was presided over by COS EUFOR Brig Gen Ovidiu Lungu addressing the participants and awarding the trophy to the new champion. Spectators also included DCOS OPS, DCOS INTEL, DCOS SPT and soldiers from a number of contingents who showed excellent teamwork in supporting their representatives.

By Capt Kosyanli

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Diplomatic Winter Bazaar (DWB) will be held in Skenderija on December 2, 2023.

It will include stands representing embassies who will sell food and other items from all around the world.

Local vendors and family entertainment will also be present. There will be several new countries participating this year as well.

DWB are a non-profit organization who raise funds to help children and young people across BiH. The children DWB support have physical or mental challenges. They are facing difficult financial situations, and some are orphans.

Ticket sales started on November 4.

For more information about ticket sales and the event, follow DWB Sarajevo on social media.

# EUFOR Heli Ops wing new additions



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**EUFOR’s helicopter wing capability was dramatically increased with two new additions to the Helicopter fleet. These new additions have added an increased troop deployment and lift capacity to EUFOR’s capabilities. Which provides COM EUFOR an increased capability to deploy air-mobile forces in a quick and efficient manner.**

**The Public Affairs Office met with the crews of the two new air-frames to discuss the arrival and integrations of these assets.**

## Mi-17

The Hungarian air force Mi-17 arrived into BiH from Hungary in September. The airframe requires a minimum crew of three personnel, a

Pilot, Co-Pilot and Flight technician. This crew includes Major Remzso, Capt Fidel, CWO Molnar and Major Juhasz as a maintenance engineer.

The crew have all previously served in BiH and recently took part in a number of emergency COVID-19 MEDEVACs.

## Service History

The helicopter is mostly used as a medium twin-turbine transport helicopter but can also be equipped and upgraded to an armed gunship variant. The Mi-17 first came into service in 1975 and has been continually developed and upgraded with significant overhaul in 2017 by the Hungarian Air-Force. As part of upgrade package EUR 12.8m was spent on updates to the helicopters’ airframe and engines. There was also significant upgrade and replacement of rotor blades, tail rotor blades, hydraulics and electrical systems.

## Tech Specs

**Crew:** 3 (Pilot, Co-Pilot, Maintenance Technician)

**Engines:** 2x TVZ-117MT or TVZ-117VM shaft-turbine engines

**Range:** 465 km (standard), 1,065 km (with auxiliary fuel tanks)

**Speed:** 250 km/h

**Ceiling:** 6000m

**Lift / Passenger capacity:** 24 Pax

**Maximum take-off weight:** 13,000 kg

## Capabilities

The Mi-17 is capable of conducting air-mobile troop deployments, resupply and parachute drops. The advanced instrumentation allows for effective night or foul weather flying by Instrument Flight Rules. The crew all speak positively of the robust nature of this airframe and the power + reliability it can deliver even during low level flights.



## Blackhawk S70A-42

The (AUT) Blackhawk S70A-42 (also known as UH60) arrived in to camp Butmir shortly after the Mi-17 just in time for exercise Quick Response 2023. This helicopter is crewed by 4 personnel from the Austrian Air force (Pilot, Co-Pilot, 2x Crew chiefs).

### Service history

The Blackhawk is a four-blade, twin-engine, medium-lift utility military helicopter manufactured by Sikorsky Aircraft. First entering service in 1979 with the US military and purchased by the Austrian Air-force in the early 2000s. The Blackhawk has been deployed by the Austrian Armed Forces in a number of missions and roles, primarily in a troop transport capacity.

### Capabilities

The Blackhawk S70A-42 platform is a highly versatile platform with a number of variants in operation. The primary role is as a highly maneuverable tactical troop transport capable of delivering air-mobile troops rapidly across terrain and on to an objective. In a MEDEVAC capacity the Blackhawk can be outfitted with Air Ambulance Technology GmbH (AAT) kit and provide an excellent specialized medical response capability. The state-of-the-art, flight & aircraft navigation control and electronic instrumentation allow for excellent low light or foul weather flying.

The crew regularly practice winching operations and low level flight training, which are areas in which this platform excels.

### Tech Specs

**Crew:** 4 (Pilot, Co- Pilot, Crew chief, Gunner)

**Engines:** 2 × General Electric T700-GE-701D turboshaft engines, 1,940 shp (1,450 kW)

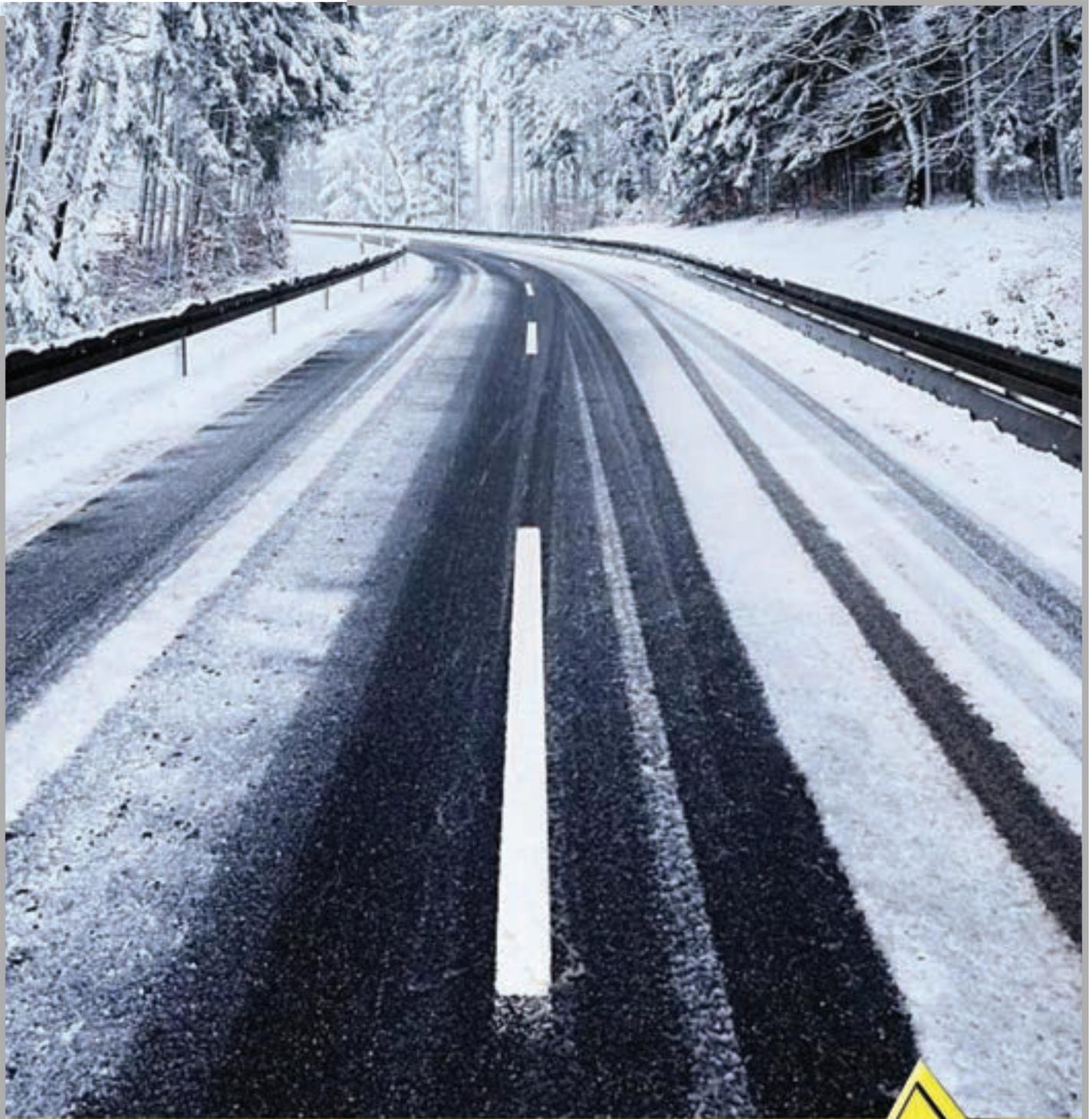
**Range:** 250 nmi (290 mi, 460 km) with 20 minutes reserve

**Speed** 195 kn (224 mph, 361 km/h)

**Ceiling:** 6100m

**Passenger capacity:** 11 foldable seats for troops (+12th seat quick install option)

**Lift capacity:** 3628kg (capability to under-sling loads)



**ICE AND SNOW !**  
**DRIVE SLOW !**

**DRIVE CAREFULLY IN WINTER CONDITIONS**

