



“Joint Effort” – Serving the people



PAZI!



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POPLAVE I EROZIJE TLA POMIJERAJU MINE VAN OZNAČENIH PODRUČJA!





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IMPRESSUM

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Dear readers

First, I wish to express my sadness at the loss of life, and the damage to homes and infrastructure, suffered by the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the recent flooding that affected also the neighboring countries of Croatia and Serbia.

The effects of the flooding have left thousands of people homeless, destroyed schools and public services and wreaked havoc on agriculture, industry and all kind of businesses, thus harming an already weak economy. The problems of housing, education and economic recovery have been assessed as critical by both local authorities and the International Community and will be addressed by an international donor conference that will take place on July 16th in Brussels.

Being a visible part of the European Union's comprehensive approach in Bosnia and Herzegovina, EUFOR lent its support to the rescue and disaster relief efforts of the local authorities. Initial activity consisted in transporting approximately 140 tons of relief supplies to the population and the Armed Forces BiH, moving rescue teams into position and evacuating approximately 900 people to safety in a very short time, including medical evacuation. During the exercise "Joint Effort" – conducted with the Armed Forces BiH and three EUFOR reserve companies from UK, Slovenia and Austria – our main effort was on removing debris and waste from homes and businesses, disinfection as well as on transporting aid and reconstructing roads.



Major General Dieter Heidecker

EUFOR also assisted the recovery needs assessment process and will continue its capacity building and training programme with the Armed Forces of BiH to shape an efficient military instrument, which is also able to perform humanitarian roles according to the principle of the "double use of forces".

A thorough lessons identified and lessons learned process will ensure that the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be even better prepared and trained to cope with natural disasters in the future.

Yours Sincerely,

*Major General
Dieter Heidecker
Commander EUFOR*



It is estimated that over 1.2 million people, or around 40% of the BiH population, were affected by the severest floods ever recorded in the country. Apart from the direct consequences of flood water submerging dozens of towns and villages, there were also the effects of landslides, the risk of moving landmines and unexploded ordnance, as well as infectious diseases.

Dozens killed, thousands left homeless, a billion euros of destruction and the threat of years of economic hardship. The catastrophic floods that have hit Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also Croatia and Serbia, are the worst in their history.

After receiving an official request from the Ministry of Security to assist BiH authorities, EUFOR was ready to operate in supporting the population in the emergency. On the first day, four EUFOR helicopters operated in the areas of Zenica, Maglaj, Tuzla and Šamac to rescue dialysis patients, pregnant women and others who were in severe emergency situations.

EUFOR representatives were continuously monitored the situation after receiving initial



Observed from the air, almost a third of Bosnia chiefly in the northeast resembles a huge muddy lake, with houses, roads, and rail lines submerged.

information and requests to provide support to local authorities. All helicopters of EUFOR were immediately activated following the crisis situation in the country. Some 130 soldiers with vehicles were also continuously on standby. Ground troops with vehicles, within their means and capabilities, also provided assistance and supported BiH authorities and the population.

EUFOR engagement

Thousands of people rescued by EUFOR

EUFOR Chief of Staff Brigadier General András Szűcs personally underlined the readiness of European Union Force to provide assistance: "The most important thing was to save lives and to support the population who were in emergency situations. We were providing support shoulder to shoulder with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the civilian authorities as long as it was required", Brigadier General Szűcs said.



EUFOR Chief of Staff Brigadier General András Szűcs

To help where no one else can

In the last few weeks, EUFOR has been providing humanitarian assistance to the BiH authorities, conducting over 800 sorties and transferring over 1,300 people.



The Armed Forces of BiH – more than just military

The Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) showed their remarkably courageous and selfless engagement of all available human and material-technical assets in rescue and relief operations.

Since the first days of the bad weather in the country, the Armed Forces have given their best to rescue the people who have been affected by floods. Many soldiers were constantly engaged in the most critical areas around the country, saving tens of thousands of people. Eight helicopters, 50 boats and dozens of ambulances were deployed daily to rescue children, women, the elderly and infirm people.



General Anto Jeleč, Chief of the Joint Staff, said - „The obligation of the Armed Forces is to help people in critical situations - this was a serious test for the Armed Forces of BiH”



“When the floods paralyzed large parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, more than 20,000 people were evacuated, of which the Armed Forces rescued 6,000,” Anto Jeleč noted, adding that around 1,500 soldiers were engaged in the rescue mission.



Full solidarity

This disaster situation triggered a wave of solidarity that was invaluable when it came to saving lives and caring for people. The EU countries helped BiH a lot, however, it was amazing to see a revival of the spirit of all former countries of Yugoslavia who helped each other during this catastrophic disaster.

All institutions were involved to support efforts to mitigate the flood and landslide effects. The situation in the flood affected areas was very difficult and a resolute response from all levels of authority was required.

The representatives of different communities were working together, and that's the way how it should remain in the future. It is not important what a person's name is or where they come from, or what nationality they are. All were united with the same goal: how to help the most vulnerable.

Neighbours help

The Croatian Government provided two helicopters of the Croatian Air Force, with 2 crew members and 2 teams for search and rescue. In total, 15 members of the Croatian Armed Forces have been deployed in BiH, made around 200 flights, transported about 500 people, and 90 tons of various materials.



Slovenian military rescue mission

Dramatic moment - three month old baby is winched to safety in Samac

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia offered a team with 30 members and 6 boats as well as humanitarian aid. Montenegro sent humanitarian aid as well.

Slovenia provided a rescue unit with four boats and two helicopters including crews and equipment necessary for evacuation.



Troops from Croatia



20 tons of food for BiH and Serbia from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Slovenia's valuable contribution to EUFOR

President Pahor recently visited EUFOR Headquarters and the Slovenian troops who are serving in BiH. The President met with the Commander of EUFOR, Major General Dieter Heidecker, who thanked Mr. Pahor for the Slovenian contribution and also expressed his wishes for further good cooperation and support in the future. Slovenia has a number of soldiers currently assigned to EUFOR but they recently provided an additional 120 soldiers to act as one of EUFOR's intermediate reserve companies and they were in BiH to assist the Armed Forces BiH with the current flood crisis.

The incoming Slovenian troops in EUFOR consisted of an Infantry Platoon, a specialist Veterinary Unit and a Decontamination Unit, which were used to disinfect areas to prevent the spread of disease after the flooding events.



The President of Slovenia, Mr Borut Pahor, visited EUFOR Althea



The Slovenian company to EUFOR was equipped with 24 vehicles, including personnel carriers, trucks, water trucks, one fuel truck and a bus. Their special equipment that included a chemical lab and a biological lab, were used to test soil and water for chemical and biological contaminants as part of wider disaster relief operations.

EUFOR response to disaster relief - excellent level of commitment to the mission

"A part of EUFOR's mandate is providing support to BiH authorities to maintain the safe and secure environment in BiH, while the other part is to assist AFBiH capacity building and training. In line with these mandates we are not in the group of organizations that are top listed for response to relief disasters, and we cannot operate on our own, but only upon request from BiH authorities", declared the EUFOR Commander, adding that there is always space for improvement. "Things can be better in terms of equipment and training for missions. We should always draw lessons from situations of this type, and always be prepared for them." The next step is to conduct a thorough analysis of lessons learned, so that we can all learn



The Austrian Reserve troops deployed for roads reconstruction

what worked well, and where improvements can be made so that we are even better placed in the future to deal with such an event.



The Austrian Forces Disaster Relief Unit provides drinking water to the population. Generals Heidecker and Jeleč, and Minister Osmić tried it.



EUFOR's Turkish Company transported humanitarian aid from Tuzla airport to Maglaj, Žepče, and Doboj. The aid goods mostly consisted of generators, medical equipment, blankets, food and sleeping bags.



Hungarian contingent assists in flooded areas



EUFOR Operation Commander Visit

The EUFOR Operation Commander, General Sir Adrian Bradshaw, visited BiH on 9-10 June to witness EUFOR troops assisting Armed Forces BiH in their flood-related disaster relief work.

General Bradshaw received an update in EUFOR HQ on Operation Althea progress, with particular focus on the recent flooding. He also visited the Presidency, the UN Development Programme office and the Ministry of Defence.



Minister Osmić and General Sir Adrian Bradshaw

EUFOR to keep helping BiH authorities to solve issue of surplus weapons

General Bradshaw underlined the importance of the EUFOR Althea mission and its main tasks - the capacity-building and training support for the Armed Forces of BiH and the support to the national institutions in building a stable security



Together with Major General Heidecker, EUFOR Commander, General Bradshaw was given a tour of flood-affected areas in the north of BiH, where he was able to see the extent of the flood damage at first-hand. These are areas, in which combined EUFOR and AF BiH troops were engaged in flood-related disaster relief work.

"EUFOR's Intermediate Reserve companies were coming to BiH for a joint exercise with Armed Forces BiH but due to the recent flooding, they were re-tasked to assist the Armed Forces with the flood-related disaster relief work. I have seen today, how this not only benefits the worst affected areas of BiH, but also the ability of the Armed Forces of BiH in working together with other nations' soldiers in disaster relief work of this kind", General Sir Adrian Bradshaw said.



environment. During his visit to BiH, General Bradshaw visited BiH Weapon and Ammunition Storage Sites, emphasizing that presence of surplus ammunition and weapons in BiH continues to be a risk to security. This is why EUFOR, together with the International Community, will continue to support the BiH authorities in solving this problem.

Engagement of the Swiss Air Force



A Swiss Cougar helicopter transported water, food and medicaments... A special team with water testing equipment was operating on the ground

European Forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina received support from the Swiss Armed Forces - a Cougar helicopter from the KFOR mission that was involved in disaster relief.

The Swiss 'Cougar' helicopter, which is currently based at Kosovo Forces (KFOR), arrived in BiH on 20 May 2014, when it was sent here to help EUFOR with flood-related disaster relief work. Once the task was finished, the Swiss crew returned to Kosovo.

While serving in EUFOR, during the relief disaster activities, the Swiss 'Cougar' team conducted over 90 evacuation flights, rescuing over 220 people, and airlifted over 100 tons of emergency supplies. "You can all return to Kosovo with your heads held high for a job very well done. You are a credit to KFOR and to the Swiss military and EUFOR and BiH is indebted to you for all your hard work here over the last two weeks", Commander EUFOR, Major General Dieter Heidecker said, expressing his gratitude to the team for all hard work over the last few weeks.



The Swiss KFOR helicopter crew working in EUFOR returned to Kosovo



Switzerland donates 79 forklifts to BiH MoD and AFBiH

The Government of Switzerland has donated 79 forklifts to the BiH Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces of BiH. The donation was handed over to the BiH Defense Minister and Chief of AFBiH Joint Staff by Swiss Ambassador in BiH who hopes that forklifts would be of use to the teams on the ground and would help people in flood affected

areas. "This donation significantly improves the operational and technical capabilities of the AFBiH. These 79 forklifts came as a result of the continuous work of the Strategic Committee for Weapons, Ammunition, Mines and Explosives", Minister Osmić stated. The donation is a concrete contribution of Switzerland to AFBiH capacity building in the process of disposal of the enormous quantities of dangerous ammunition in BiH.



The ceremony was also attended by representatives of EUFOR HQ led by the Commander, Major General Dieter Heidecker



The EUFOR medical evacuation team

Immediate Medical Aid saved lives

During the flooding, EUFOR helped to conduct medical evacuation over many days, using the helicopter asset which is constantly available as an element of EUFOR capability. The EUFOR medical evacuation team, consisting of three doctors and two flight rescuers, provided immediate medical aid on the evacuation flights of the EUFOR helicopters. Hundreds of civilians, including children and the older people, received emergency treatment and were transported to hospitals.



Timely movement and care was provided by medical personnel to injured and sick people.



The Joint Effort 2014

Working together with the Armed Forces of BiH

The Armed Forces of BiH and EUFOR's exercise known as 'Joint Effort 14', whose aim was to assist civilians in disaster relief, was being conducted in the areas affected by natural disasters, floods and landslides all around BiH. The Exercise comprised more than 750 members of AFBiH, around 450 EUFOR members, helicopters, a large number of engineering equipment, trucks and other resources. They were deployed to assist in carrying out a number of key projects identified by AFBiH CIMIC teams and EUFOR LOT teams in coordination with representatives of local communities.

Captain Ivo Deanović of the 5th AFBiH Infantry Brigade said that the Exercise was implemented in accordance with standing operating procedures and provided assistance to civilians. "The majority of the Exercise participants are deployed to four sites, Maglaj, Doboj, Posavina Canton, and Brčko District, to clean the city, in the first place kindergartens and health centers, to remove bulky



EUFOR Commander together with Multinational troops working in Šamac

waste and deliver humanitarian aid", Deanović stated. BiH Defense Minister Zekerijah Osmić stated that AFBiH are ready to resolutely, bravely and selflessly continue to assist the affected people. 'The Exercise confirms our aspiration to actively take part in mitigating the disaster which hit BiH with all our available resources', Osmić said



EUFOR's Reserve Troops came to BiH with specialized EOD equipment

This EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) equipment was used for mines or other Unexploded Ordnance (UXO), when the soldiers discovered some while

conducting their duties in BiH. This was very important, because many mines and UXOs have moved because of landslides and flooding.



EUFOR's Intermediate Reserve Companies - 'Operation Joint Effort 14'

The Intermediate Reserve Companies are part of EUFOR's 'over-the-horizon' troops, represented by companies from Austria, Slovenia and the UK. They were originally deployed to BiH for 'Exercise Quick Response 14' but, due to the flooding, instead conducted disaster relief operations jointly with the Armed Forces of BiH.

EUFOR and AF BiH - together to provide assistance

EUFOR's reserve companies were working with Armed Forces BiH in Doboј, Maglaj, Lopare, Žepče, Topčić Polje, Domaljevac and Šamac to conduct a number of tasks, including repairing water supplies, disinfection of streets, removal of garbage and transportation of aid.

EUFOR liaison observation teams (LOTs) spent the previous days assessing the local situation with the Armed Forces BiH Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) teams to draw up task lists which were then prioritized.

The UK, Slovenian, and Austrian Companies worked alongside the Armed Forces of BiH to clean-up Doboј. They assisted in the removal of debris from the streets as part of the clean-up process.





In the last few weeks, EUFOR has been providing humanitarian assistance to the BiH authorities, and has conducted over 800 evacuations and evacuated over 1,300 people.

Working for the common good



Commander Dieter Heidecker meets EUFOR and AF BiH troops



EUFOR's Lieutenant Colonel Eric Baad-Heimer from the Swedish Armed Forces assisting with the digging



Multinational troops working together in Šamac



UK and EUFOR soldiers laying pipes in Lopare

EUFOR in close contact with national and international authorities



EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General András Szücs, in close contact with the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Security from the very first beginning of the natural disaster



The exchange of information is very important



Boats from rafting companies in the Konjic area have been transported by EUFOR trucks to support evacuation of personnel



Where roads have been passable, trucks from the EUFOR Multinational Battalion have been used to transport a number of supplies including boats and engineering equipment.





Double use of the armed forces

A closing ceremony of the exercise of the AF BiH and EUFOR - "Joint Effort -14" was held on 20th of June in military base "Dubrava Airport" in Živinice. The Reserve Companies from Austria, Slovenia and the UK were deployed to BiH to take part in EUFOR and Armed Forces BiH "Joint Effort 14" exercise to conduct flood-related disaster relief. Transporting aid, removing debris and waste from homes, disinfecting buildings, and reconstructing roads in the north of the country were some of the main tasks of these companies during last three weeks. Major General Dieter Heidecker thanked the Reserve Companies for their hard work but stressed that the work is not yet over. "While we say goodbye to the Intermediate Reserve Companies today, this is by no means the end of EUFOR's involvement. Our remaining EUFOR troops will continue to assist in the flood-related disaster relief work, and EUFOR will continue our capacity building and training programme with the Armed Forces of BiH."

Together in Disaster Relief Exercise



Major General Heidecker also praised the Armed Forces of BiH for their efforts, saying that he was delighted to see how Armed Forces BiH responded quickly and rose to the challenge.

'Joint Effort 14' took place from 06 June 2014 to 20 June 2014. Around 1500 soldiers of the Armed Forces and EUFOR have been deployed all over the country which was affected by natural disasters.

Forum for Prosperity and Jobs

... "This is a dramatic time and citizens' interests must take priority"...



Flood relief was one of the topics at the Forum for Prosperity and Jobs which took place in Sarajevo. Peter Sorensen, EU Special Representative, who served as the Forum Chair, said that the EU would continue working on these issues and that were ready to help but BiH must urgently implement a set of measures. "BiH must stimulate employment, reduce labor costs to make it competitive, ease the taxes and adopt a set of labor laws. There is an interest that BiH becomes an EU member, but in order for this to happen its economy must be brought back into the focus," he said. Christian Danielsson, Director General for EU Enlargement, said that the opportunity should be used to

continue economic reforms and that they would support BiH's progress towards the EU. "Priority for BiH is to mitigate the consequences of this biblical tragedy," he added.

Economic reforms are the main condition for BiH to move forward on the European path, therefore much decisiveness and work of those responsible, even after elections, is required.

The catastrophe that afflicted BiH has slowed progress, and this conference was organized with the aim to show the priority of the economy, to which everyone in BiH must be committed.

"This is a dramatic time and citizens' interests must take priority. In BiH earlier this year, protests were organized to express the discontent of society because of the excessive unemployment rate, and this is something about which much must be addressed. This country should organize itself and work in unity, otherwise, should it go on like this, it will go deeper into poverty," warned the High Representative, Valentin Inzko.

"This is the start of something we will continue to work on. The reform program is clear, and I hope everyone will do their part of the job well. We are prepared to help BiH," said Peter Sorensen, the EU's Special Representative, in his closing remarks.



The silent threat in BiH – landmines

Europe's most mine-infested country

Flooding in Bosnia and Herzegovina caused a danger coming from dislocated landmines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). The worst floods in over a century have swept away people, homes and roads. The deluge is giving way to another deadly menace: the threat of landmines and UXO.

Floods washed away river banks and caused landslides that have unearthed minefield warning signs and the unexploded traps.

Two decades have been spent trying to detect about one million landmines in BiH. And now, the landmines moved by devastating floods in the region are posing a huge problem, as they can traverse through neighbouring countries of southeast Europe as well.

Threat for more than half a million residents

According to the data, there are still 1,218.5 km² of suspected mines area in BiH. Since the end of the war, 1,723 people have been affected by mines, of which 600 were killed. Although a great deal of work has been invested in the process of identification and clearance of mine contaminated areas, they can still be found almost all over BiH. It is impossible to be certain that all mines will ever be removed, especially now when they have surfaced in areas where have never been.

The BH Mine Action Centre's mission (BHMACH), and the mission of all stakeholders is to have a BiH free of mines by 2019. However, to achieve the goals set by the Mine Action Strategy 2009-2019 will be very difficult. Due to the floods, as well as the lack of funds, implementation of the strategy will not be carried out according to the plans.



Mines moving location through flooding is a great concern for local communities

"Villagers have found a lot of mines after the flooding. We have informed them to be careful and to report anything strange to local authorities," Mr. Saša Obradović from BHMACH said, adding that he expects more reports of mines and UXO once the water recedes. The washed-up mines and UXO, he said, are still in good condition and pose a danger, particularly if they sink back into the ground.



To avoid a bigger catastrophe

The biggest problem exists in the areas of Brčko and Šamac, where about 10 km² of minefields area was under the water. After the withdrawal of water, it is necessary to act urgently before the people return to surrounding areas. Thanks to the professional teams from abroad, as well as engaging of the local teams who worked on repairing the damages, the big disaster has been avoided.

The need for and importance of mine risk education is unfortunately still apparent in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Children are indeed one of the most critical target groups.

The EUFOR MICC (Mine Information Coordination Center) based in Butmir has played a major role in and contribution to different aspects of educational



Insidious killers

More than 9,400 micro locations have been registered as mine affected.

1,417 communities at risk from landmines or ERW (Explosive Remnants of War) with 540,000 inhabitants, or 15% of the total population. The most vulnerable areas – Doboju, Maglaj, Olovo, Una-Sana Canton, Posavina regions, at the basin of Bosna, Krivaja and Usora rivers. 70% of the flood-affected area is suspected to contain mines and UXOs. Around 60% of landmines have changed location, and have been washed away several kilometres to unknown locations.

250,000 persons have taken part in its educational program which, undoubtedly, is a remarkable number.

However, mine risk still poses a threat in marked areas in the countryside or in the vicinity of residential areas. Everybody needs to make an effort to use children and adult targeted information and education to avoid having further casualties. The safety of children must be one of the most important goals for the BiH society as a whole.

Experts estimate that the next 75 years will be needed to work to clear BiH of mines. Therefore, prevention and educational work especially with children in schools are very important.

Beyond the immediate danger to Bosnians, any loose mines could also create an international problem if floodwaters carry the explosives downstream.



Do not get close to an unknown object and don't touch it.

Do also not allow your friends to touch it, warn them that it is dangerous. Never remove the marks which indicate the presence of mine fields.

Donating blood saves lives

EUFOR military and civilian members gathered to give their blood for people of Bosnia and Herzegovina

The initiative came from the Head of the Division for Promoting of Donation, professor Maida Šalaga-Baždar. As she emphasized, it is necessary to provide on a daily basis, sufficient quantities of blood for the sick and injured in the general Hospital and the Clinical Centre of the Sarajevo University, as well as to other transfusion centres in BiH.



Dr. Irena Dinova, EUFOR Medical Cell Chief and her team

“The blood cannot be artificially manufactured, and the only source of this medication is a human being - donor”, she says. “According to the Institute request for assistance, we restarted this past tradition and organised a voluntary blood donation in Camp Butmir”, said Major Radoslav Ivanov, EUFOR Medical Advisor who together with the Medical Cell Staff, helped the Blood Transfusion Institute of the Federation with blood donations.

“The donation procedure is the same everywhere. They all have to pass a preliminary medical check, to ensure their blood is suitable for transfusion and, after that, the donation process starts. Everything went very smoothly, the action was very well organized by our Medical Cell, as well as the Blood Transfusion Institute. Although I expected more blood donors, I believe that the main issue was the short period between informing people and the realization itself. However, every blood donation is human and welcome”, said Dr. Irena Dinova, EUFOR Medical Cell Chief.





One injured adult person may need 40 units of blood in case of emergency



When you donate blood regularly, you truly contribute to a continuous flow of life

Blood for BiH population

The Bosnian medical personnel was very professional and really thankful. As they said their medical institutions often lack blood and patients have to queue for surgery. "The blood is important not only for urgent cases, but for everyday routine surgery as well. It is likely that every blood donor has a similar motivation to donate part of himself to help other people. They know they are helping to changes lives. Today, EUFOR soldiers save the lives of the BiH inhabitants", said Dr. Kenan from the Blood Transfusion Institute of the FBiH.

After the donation the soldiers had the feeling that they had done something really helpful for the people of this country. Although EUFOR soldiers are contributing to the safety and stability of BiH, the donating blood meant a direct link to the BiH population.

Global warming

Is it not time that world woke up to the seriousness of the problem?



The mainstream scientific consensus on the global warming is becoming clearer every day - changes in our climate are real and they are underway. Climate could be seriously different from one decade to the next. Surely nature was not altogether capricious. Every change must have its specific explanation especially when we know today that it has its cycles and patterns.

From the 19th century onwards, people have gathered and systematized weather statistics. Weather reports were created documenting the existence of climatic cycles. Today there are regular entries of the rise and the fall of temperature, the quantity of rainfall over the months or decades that often and greatly vary from one region to another.

The scientists discovered not only that smog cut sunlight, heating the atmosphere, but also it creates acid rain, the serious threat to trees and oceans, and harms the agriculture as well. Since the lifetime of pollutants is short and they can be rained out, scientists hope that if more efficient and cleaner sources of energy are used, time has not run out for our planet and we would significantly reduce risks for our health.



To reduce the emission of the heat trapping gases, like carbon dioxide or methane are, we can curb our consumption of fossil fuels, use technologies that reduce the amount of emissions where ever possible, and work continuously to protect the forest.

If some countries do not reduce their greenhouse gas emissions, by the end of the 21st century sea level will be higher, threatening millions of people with floods. So, is it not high time for the world to wake up to the seriousness of the problem?

Human activities are said to be responsible for the speed at which this change has occurred and it is now the cause of worry for scientists. Over the last two hundred years the change has been taking place too rapidly and certain plant and animal species have found it hard to adapt.

Some important human activities that produce greenhouse gasses are the industrial processes, as well as the emissions from power plants, or vehicles. The increase in the quantity of greenhouse gases has raised the temperature of the earth, a phenomenon commonly known as global warming.

Climate change is a threat to mankind!

Since the end of the 19th century, the Earth's average surface temperature has increased enormously. Recent years have been the warmest since 1860, the year when regular instrumental records became available.

In 1995, a group of leading scientists got together under the IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), and predicted that over the next 100 years, the earth's average temperature could further rise.

A warmer climate will change rainfall and snowfall patterns, lead to increased droughts and floods, causes melting of glaciers and polar ice sheets, and result in accelerated sea level rise. Rising warmth will lead to an increase in the level of evaporation of surface water, the air will also expand and this will increase its capacity to hold moisture. This, in turn, will affect water resources, forests, and other natural ecological systems, but human health as well.

Other severe consequences of global warming include conflicts for water resources, as well as the wider spread of infectious diseases carried by insects and rodents into areas previously free from them.



Warming in the 20th century is greater than at any time during the past 400 to 600 years. The Arctic ice pack has lost about 40% of its thickness over the past four decades. The global sea level is rising about three times faster over the past 100 years compared to the previous 3,000 years.

The evidence that human induced global warming is real and increasingly clear, therefore it is our responsibility to take measures to protect the nature and environment.

Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict

From 4-6 June 2014, Peace Support Operations Training Center (PSOTC) hosted a Prevention of Sexual Violence Training Module - Train the Trainer Workshop. Through this Workshop, the United Kingdom Foreign Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina (MoD) showed that they are dedicated to the utilization of PSOTC expertise as a platform to develop and deliver a Prevention Sexual Violence (PSV) training module within selected PSOTC residential and Mobile Training Team (MTT) courses as well as within the Armed Forces BiH and the armed forces of other countries in the Western Balkans.



Jasminka Džumhur - Ombudsman for human rights of BiH

Women and children are often targeted for abuse and are the most vulnerable category to exploitation violence, simply because of their gender, age and status in society. Gender based violence is a violation of universal human rights protected by International human rights conventions, including the right to security of person, the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health, the right to freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and the right to life.



This workshop aimed at pilot delivery of a generic PSV Training module for future instructors and lecturers of PSOTC, Ministry of Security of BiH, NATO, EUFOR and the UK Embassy in Sarajevo. It further promotes increasing conceptual understanding of gender issues and the application of zero-tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse and possible roles of military, police and civil components in PSV in the context of Peace Support Operations (PSO).

The above referenced Workshop provided future PSV instructors with a possible methodological framework for running different exercises and syndicate discussions within the PSV module.

Bearing in mind that this Workshop was attended by experienced lecturers and trainers the content of the Workshop provided them with clear understanding of all segments of PSV that must be integrated in any training module dealing with PSV related topics and furthermore with methods on how to do it.



EUFOR Gender Advisor, Mrs. Nikolina Marčeta contributed to the Workshop, delivering a lecture on Gender Identity, Prejudices and Stereotypes associated to gender.

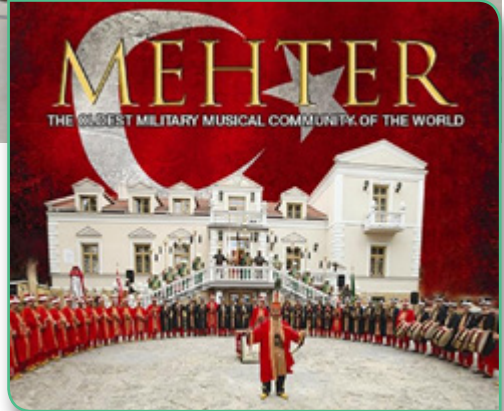


Mehter

The concert of the oldest Military Band in the World – Mehter was held on 20th of June in Camp Butmir. This famous band was in Sarajevo for few concerts related to the Ajvatovica Festival which was held between 20-25 June 14. For the military and civilian EUFOR personnel it was an unusual and above all interesting event to watch. Colorful costumes and traditional walking style and marches attracted many.

It is believed that the first “mehter” (Persian language – ‘a singer’) was sent to Osman I by the Seljuk Sultan Kekubad III as a present along with a letter that salutes the newly formed state. From then on every day after the afternoon prayer, “mehter” played for the Ottoman ruler. In 1826, the music of the mehters fell into disfavor following Sultan Mahmud II’s abolition of the janissary corps, who had formed the core of the bands.

In 1911, as the empire was beginning to collapse, the director of Istanbul’s military museum attempted a successful revival of the tradition, and by 1953, as to celebrate the 500-year anniversary



The oldest military marching band in the world

of the Fall of Constantinople to the forces of Sultan Mehmed II—the tradition had been fully restored as a band of the Turkish Armed Forces.

Stone City - Počitelj

This once charming medieval town is situated in the valley of the Neretva River some twenty five kilometers from Mostar, on the route to the Adriatic Sea. The history of Počitelj is not well known and has to be researched. As far as we know, it existed in 1444 as a fortress supported by Hungary.

Turks took it over in 1471 and it became an important part of the Ottoman Empire. The town's principal mosque was built by Hadži Alija in 1563. From the beginning of the 18th century, Počitelj was the seat of the captaincy and in 1782 it became the seat of the kadiluk. At the time, there was an elementary school in the town, a secondary theological school (medresa), and also public baths (hamam), and an inn for travelers (han).

The town was constructed right into a rocky mountainside overlooking a bend in the Neretva River. This gives it the aspect of a natural amphitheater, and is a delight for any architect with a feeling for environmental settings. Its characteristic buildings are in Ottoman style. The stone houses along stone pathways are unique, hidden behind high walls and surrounding peaceful, inner courtyards. It is testimony of a culture which favoured internal values over external appearance.

The Turkish world traveler Evliya Celebi passed through Počitelj in 1664 and wrote in his travel account about the town's principal mosque: "There is a tall cypress tree in its courtyard. This shining



mosque was erected by a forebear of our lord Ibrahim Aga. Alongside the town walls, beside the water, his honored brother built a public kitchen, which distributes free bread and soup to needy inhabitants day and night. On Thursday evenings, it distributes spiced meat and savory and sweet rice dishes. The houses of the town are built one above the other, facing west towards the river. There is an abundance of walnut trees here. Since the climate is mild, fruit grows better here than in other towns."

Evliya also mentions a clock tower whose bell was "heavier and clearer than any other in Bosnia and Herzegovina" was, according to legend, brought from Crete. For many years the bell tolled the hours for Počitelj and in calm weather could be heard in Čapljina and Gabela, resounded from the stone into the far distance. The clock tower's bell still tolled until 1917 when it was melted down for bullets, just a year before an armistice brought an end to World War I. Počitelj then lost its strategic importance and declined. Only in the 1960's did it begin to grow again, as a tourist center.

In the Captain's House family mansion an artist's colony was founded in 1964. More than 2000 artists, not just in the fine arts but also writers and poets, from all around the world, come to the colony every summer. Počitelj, with its jumble of medieval stone buildings, ancient tower overlooking the river and its proximity to the seaside, gave artists a quiet and scenic place to work. The life of this beautiful town slowly becomes renewed and its glory re-established.





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