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# EUFOR forum



**MINSKO  
EKSPLOZIVNA  
SREDSTVA (MES)**

Protivpješadijske mine (PP)



tenkovske mine (PT)



edirana ubojita  
(MUS)

**NE PRILAZI!**



**NE DIRAJ!**



## EUFOR Supports Kids Festival



Inside Story: EUFOR Members Save a Local Young Man



By José M. Méndez

## Commander of the Multinational Battalion (MNBN) Lt Col Ángel Ramos- Izquierdo de la Cuadra



I wish to thank EUFOR FORUM magazine for the opportunity to write this foreword and introduce myself to all readers.

I am a Spanish Marine and I am the Commander of the Landing Artillery Group, in our main base Tercio de Armada, since September 2008. For current Operation Althea, I have been appointed as the Commander of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN) and I took over command responsibilities since April 21st. This is my first operation in BiH, and I am glad to join EUFOR and participate with you all in contributing to the safe and secure environment in this country.

During these two months as MNBN COMMANDER, I have been able to check in several exercises that the MNBN running well, mainly due to the enthusiasm and professionalism of its component parts. In this sense, I do not want to lose the opportunity to recognize the work that is carrying out by my staff and Units leaders.

The MNBN manpower is near 500 personnel, drawn from four nations, Hungary, Poland, Spain and Turkey. Such a multinational force reflects the strength of the International Community and also demonstrates the support of every one of these nations to the EU

effort in BiH. The MNBN is organized into four companies (Coy.), one Coy for each nation, and also includes a Spanish Marines Recce. Platoon and a multinational headquarters led by Spain.

Our MNBN is equipped and trained with the weapons, vehicles and equipment that give us capability to maneuver in all BiH Operations Area in support of the local Authorities and other EU actors to ensure the safe and secure environment.

Finally, I wish all of you good luck in your mission here in BiH and a safe return to your home upon completion of your tours.

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The spring is when the earth comes back to life after a long cold winter, and it is in the spring when the green world begins to return after its winter slumber as this edition would like to. The power of spring and its regenerative effects were directly experienced by a celebration of renewal and new life. As a matter of fact people at LOT house Teslic were overjoyed by the power of spring and the beauty of bringing back to life the young man from Bosnia and Herzegovina they had rescued. The initial pieces picture COM's very busy month, respectively, receiving distinguished guests and visiting the people in the field; they invite discreetly to meditate on the possible future options of our mission. Further, Captain Karolina Krzewina's account of the Polish EOD Platoon is framed and narrated to provide us with a close look at methods and techniques of EOD teams from five different countries. You'll also find insights into the hand over of LOT Bijeljina, Brcko and Gradacac of our Finnish colleagues.

On the other side of the country Captain Machin investigates how the Spanish contingent has honoured the fallen soldiers. And to put it all in perspective Staff Sergeant Francisco Macias weighs in with his own commentary on the MNBN LiveEx "Solid Citizen". The so called PIFWIC Operations command the attention of many of the contributors to this volume. Wing Commander Mark Atrill offers a study of EUFOR's contribution to these operations.

If you've been feeling slightly off, acutely apprehensive or flat-out frightened for your physical shape there is nothing like the coming of the spring season for the avid hiker to go back to his favorite trails that are no longer impassable due to snow, but still be aware of mines and do not challenge any off track walking. And more, for the outdoor sports enthusiast check the article on the football match that saw the EUFOR team challenging EU Council team and the "Run to the Hills" on Mount Igman. Meanwhile, our website, <http://www.euforbih.org>, offers a live read and a rich photogallery on everything from operational matters to live exercises. You'll find breaking news, thoughtful analysis - and humor too provided by our Finnish colleagues, because business doesn't have to be boring. Enjoy, and let us know what you're thinking - you can email me at [giovanni.ramunno@eufor.eu.int](mailto:giovanni.ramunno@eufor.eu.int). This volume concludes as usual with our Soldiers in the Spotlight and the Photo Corner with breathtaking pictures of innocent beauties provided by our contributing and faithful readers.

Regards,

Lt Col Giovanni Ramunno

## EUFOR Forum

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# Kids Festival

## “All Different – All Equal”



◆ EUFOR had a lot of support at the Festival



◆ There were quite a few EUFOR displays at Kid's Festival

**14th June** - The 6th Kid's Festival BiH started on the 12th June in the Olympic Centre Zetra, in Sarajevo. Brigadier General Löwenstein, the Chief of Staff to EUFOR visited the Festival on Sunday 14th June and witnessed the EUFOR Mine Awareness Display. This exhibition is provided by the Mine Information Centre in conjunction with the BiH Mine Action Centre and AFBiH. EUFOR Volunteers were also out in force, handing out EUFOR gifts to the children and helping to run a Basketball challenge.

EUFOR are proud to sponsor the 6th Kid's Festival BiH. The Kid's Festival is the largest independent youth event in SE Europe and since 2004 over 40,000 children from all over Bosnia participate each year. The success of Kid's festival is a huge achievement that marks an



◆ DCOM EUFOR BG Jose Carasco

important step in the process of confidence building among the young generation of BiH.

The overall motto of this year's Kids festival is: all different, all equal matching the Council of Europe's initiative.

By Lt Cdr Mandy

McBain

**DCOM EUFOR BG Jose Carasco paid a visit to the Kid's Festival on 16th June.**

**DCOM EUFOR took the opportunity to participate in Basketball challenge. Volunteers from EUFOR were present once again giving gifts to children and helping to run the Basketball challenge itself.**

**DCOM EUFOR later said: "We are fully committed to the future of BIH and the future of every country is based on its children. This is a wonderful opportunity for them to take a look at their neighbours through the windows opened by the Festival whose motto could be "Children from BIH towards Europe".**



◆ EUFOR Mine Awareness Display with Dzejna Skopljak

# COM EUFOR visits LOT Bratunac

The purpose of COM EUFOR's visit was to receive latest information on the final phase of RCC4's reorganization process which had become necessary due to the withdrawal of the Finnish LOT personnel by the end of May 2009

**26th May** - COM EUFOR General Castagnotto visited the Austrian Liaison and Observation (LOT) Bratunac in the Area of Responsibility (AOR) of Regional Coordination Center (RCC) 4. He was received and welcomed by Chief RCC4, Lt Col Kirchebner, and Major Trausnitz, the LOT Commander.



The purpose of COM EUFOR's visit was to receive latest information on the final phase of RCC4's reorganization process which had become necessary due to the withdrawal of the Finnish LOT personnel by the end of May 2009. This challenging task of restructuring involved all but one LOT house within the respective Areas of Activity (AOA).



The second main topic was the ongoing planning, preparation and

organization of the upcoming Srebrenica march from 8th to 10th July. Not only because of the dimension but as well due to their importance these are the main

events in the annual schedule to be observed by LOT Bratunac.

Furthermore, Major General Castagnotto was informed about the hot spots in the AOA of Vlasenica. This information which was jointly provided by Chief RCC4 Lt Col Kirchebner, Chief Ops RCC4 Major Kert, LOT Cdr Major Trausnitz and the two LOT Officers Captain Bögner and Lt Bichler. The visit then continued with a guided helicopter flight over Vlasenica to see the hot spots of this area from a bird's eye perspective. According to his own words during the goodbye COM EUFOR left Bratunac not only well briefed and informed but also convinced of the professional work of RCC4's international staff and the members of LOT Bratunac.

By Lt Matthias Bichler

## Visit of Dr Peter Wichert

**20th May** - German Secretary of State for Defence, Dr Peter Wichert, visited EUFOR and on arrival was welcomed by Brigadier General Robert Löwenstein, the Chief of Staff to EUFOR. During his visit in Camp Butmir, Dr Wichert had an office call with COM EUFOR, Major General Castagnotto, during which COM EUFOR briefed The Secretary on the security situation and current EUFOR activities. As part of his busy visit to Sarajevo the Secretary of State had meetings with the High Representative to Bosnia & Herzegovina, Valentin Inzko; Head of Mission EUPM, Commissioner Stefan Fellner; the German



Ambassador H.E. Mr Tillmann Enders as well as the German Military Attaché Lieutenant Colonel Joachim Sproll.

By Captain Fabio Cavallari

## LOT Teslic members save a life

**9th June** – Four soldiers from LOT Teslic were spending their after-duty hours relaxing at lake Goransko which is near Doboј.

However, at around 16:00h they noticed



◆ The Rescue Team

strange movement among the group of young boys that were swimming on the other side of the lake. It turned out that one of them was missing in the water.

The LOT members immediately jumped into the waters of the lake and began their search. They managed to find the young man underwater and to get him out but he was in a life threat, as he spent more than 5 minutes under water. He had no pulse and his skin had

turned violet. They called the ambulance and began the resuscitation process while they were waiting for the help

to arrive. It was solely through their efforts that the young man managed to survive as they kept reviving him for 20 minutes and managed in getting his heart to work again.

The young man was moved from the hospital in Doboј to the clinic in Banja Luka, but eventually the young man got better and there are currently no signs of permanent damage – all thanks to the brave soldiers from LOT Teslic!

## Visit of Italian Ambassador

**18th June** - COM EUFOR received an office call from His Excellency Mr Raimondo De Cardona, Italian Ambassador to BiH. The Ambassador took over the Italian Embassy in



◆ Ambassador with COM EUFOR

Sarajevo on 6th June 2009. His visit to EUFOR was part of his program and availed of the opportunity to meet for the first time with MG Castagnotto and to visit the Italian Contingent, based in Camp Butmir 2. Born in Saint Louis (U.S.A.) 1957, His Excellency Mr Raimondo De Cardona graduated in Political

Science in 1984 at the University of Rome, he entered the diplomatic career 1988.

Between the positions covered he was Consul in Brisbane from 1995, Governor of the General Consulate in Bombay. Back in Rome in 1998 he was Chief of the General Directorate for the Emigration. From the year 2000 he is in Beograd where in 2003 he is nominated Embassy counselor.

**Captain Fabio Cavallari**

## Swedish Delegation Visits EUFOR



**25th May** - A delegation of Swedish Ministry of Foreign Affairs paid a visit to Commander of EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto. Swedish Head of Section for Peace Support Operations Security Policy Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Carl Magnus Eriksson discussed with MG Castagnotto the overall security situation in BiH and future mandate of EUFOR. The delegation was composed also by Mr. Tobias Axerup from the Swedish embassy in Sarajevo, Ms. Anna Sundstrom of the Althea PSO security policy department and Mr. Eric Widman from EUPM PSO security policy department.

On 26th May Swedish delegation visited RCC 4, LOT Tuzla and EUPM Tuzla. The visit was conducted for fact finding in regard with the upcoming Swedish presidency of the European Union. The delegation was briefed about the situation in BiH, RCC and LOT tasks and activities as well as EUPM tasks and activities on regional level.

**By WO2 Gerald Weihs**

## RCC4 International Shooting Competition and LOT Conference



**22nd May** - The Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) 4 arranged International Shooting Competition followed by a Liaison Observation Team (LOT) Conference.

The day started with a lesson of precautionary measures given by RCC4 HQ WO2 Gerald Weihs who had prepared an interesting Combat Shooting Competition which lasted almost five hours. This event allowed people the opportunity to use different weapons from each contributing country.

During the LOT Conference the RCC4 Operations Officer, Major Emil Kert covered operational issues, and an update on Hand-Over/Take-Over routines. The Portuguese LOT Coordinator, Major Alberto Correia gave feedback from his area and an overview about the new reporting system which is in place to pass information back to EUFOR HQ. Senior Staff Officer, Lt Col Jussi Haikarinen expressed his gratitude to all LOT members and said that the high standard of their reports are also used by the European Union Staff Group (EUSG) based in

Brussels.

Conference was closed by the Deputy Chief of RCC4, Lt Col Antti Castren who thanked everyone for their cooperation for participating fully in the days events.

The day concluded with an international teambuilding picnic and was the last one that the Finnish LOT members will attend. Other attendees at the event were Captain Goran Sekulic and Captain Sinisa Jankovic from the Third Infantry Battalion in Bijeljina.

RCC 4 would like to pass their thanks on the Austrian National Support Element (NSE) from Tuzla who contributed to the day.

**By SrLt Kai Enne**



## Departure of Slovak helicopters



**3rd June** - The helicopters of the Slovakian contingent of EUFOR flew out of Camp Butmir to return to Slovakia. After years spent contributing to Operation ALTHEA goals and objectives, Slovakian heli detachment is withdrawing from the mission.

The final briefing of Slovakian helicopter crews was given by their Commander the day before, on the 2nd June. However, the helicopters were forced to remain on ground due to the poor weather conditions. When the weather finally cleared on 3rd June, Slovakian helicopters took off from Camp Butmir heli pad for the last time.

In the words of one of the departing Slovaks, "it was a pleasure and a privilege for us to serve in EUFOR and we will take with us many fond memories of our colleagues that are staying in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

Slovaks still retain a number of troops as part of EUFOR and continue to contribute to the mission.

**By Haris Daul**

## Exercise “Solid Citizen”



**3rd June** - The Multinational Battalion (MNBN) conducted a combined exercise in the training area of Rajlovac on 3rd and 4th June. The scenario was based on a hypothetical mission to support local authorities and police after an incident and protests led by radicals following the arrest of a Person Indicted For War Crimes (PIFWC).

The exercise was in two distinct phases. In the first phase, reconnaissance and planning, the Command Unit of the Battalion had a recce aircraft, with system

AGSR (Airborne Geophysical and Sensing Remote), which provided real time images of the area of operations.

In the second phase, the units of manoeuvre battalion acted on the ground trying to avoid disruptions caused by the rioters. The manoeuvre battalion configured them as units of CRC (Crowd and Riot Control) and used the necessary procedures ensuring that ROE's (Rules of Engagement) were adhered to strictly. These units were led by an element of Command and Control (C2)

on board a helicopter that operates at all times on the hot zone.

During the exercise there were several incidents including various IED's (Improvised Explosives Devices) which needed the expertise of the EOD (Explosive Ordnance Disposal) teams, as well as actions of MEDEVAC (Medical Evacuations) by helicopter. The exercise was a complete success and fully challenged all of the teams in their area of expertise.

By Staff Sergeant Francisco Macias,  
Assistant Press Office MNBN

## COM EUFOR visits AFBiH demining sites

**28th May** - COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto, visited two demining sites on the border between BiH and Croatia.

Colonel Refik Fazlic, Commander of the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) Demining Battalion, welcomed Major General Castagnotto at the first demining site at Carinski Terminal and illustrated a presentation about the demining project that involves sites where the highway to Croatia will be built. The audience was also composed by Deputy Minister of Defence of BiH

Mrs. Marina Pendes, Major General Miladin Milojcic from Joint Staff AFBiH, Operational Commander of AFBiH Brigadier General Ante Jelec and DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Jose Carrasco Gabaldon.

The visit continued on the second site in Petlja-Odzak. Here COM EUFOR was interviewed by a local TV and he stated that “he would like to congratulate to the Armed Forces of BiH for their professionalism and dedication to this project



that is internationally recognized”. He added that “ the fact that we are here together is a clear sign of the cooperation that has been going on for a long time and it is really important to continue on this job because there is so much still left to do”.

By Captain Fabio Cavallari

## Engineers on first line

In Archer Base in Camp Butmir international engineering training course took place. All EUFOR Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Teams demonstrated their operation rules in minefield terrain.

First phase of this training was meeting with EOD platoon leaders from Poland, Turkey, Spain, Albania and Ireland and crystallizing the training aims. After that there was a short briefing about the mine threat in BiH. Instructors tried to describe all types of mines that were used during the war 1992-1995.

Next very important item was demonstration of minefield lane marker and engineering equip-



ment from each country.

One of the practice issue realized by Poles and Albanians was performing a minefield lane and medical evacuation of injured.

Evacuation of vehicle from minefield has given rise to discussion. It was a good opportunity to an exchange of views and experiences.

A culminating point of the EOD training was demonstration of sol-

diers evacuation from minefield. The instructor of this group was WO Adam Banasiak from Polish EOD Team. Both he and another sapper emphasized that it is the most important element of sapper training. Its main aim was to make everybody aware of mine threat.

At the end JMA Chief Lt Col Hermann Lattacher stated that this international EOD Teams training was successful and gave many experiences for sappers of each country.

The special thanks went to WO Banasiak from Chief MICS Peter Devereux for his well done work and professionalism. This international training of sappers from 5 country was doubtless the confirmation of saying: One mission one team.

By Captain Karolina Krzewina

## Happy Birthday Germany!

**23rd May** - On the 23rd May 1949 the German constitution came to power. To honour this date the EUFOR German contingent celebrated it with a ceremony held at Camp Butmir. High ranking military as well as civilian guests attended the German ceremony. During the ceremony COS EUFOR Brigadier General Löwenstein stated



◆ COS EUFOR BG Löwenstein presented the medals

that "...the German constitution is the basis for all German actions on

missions abroad." He then presented the 13th German Contingent with the EUFOR ALTHEA Service Medal. After that, he himself stood in the spotlight, when Colonel Monbelli-Valloire awarded him, on behalf of the French Minister of Defense, the "Medaille d'Or de la Defense Nationale".

By Captain David Oliver Ertler

# PIFWC Operations - An Explanation

To date 161 individuals have been indicted for War Crimes in the former Yugoslavia and today, only two remain at large including General Ratko Mladic. In accordance with our current mandate, EUFOR is one of the organizations here in Bosnia i Herzegovina that has a responsibility to help the ICTY search for the two remaining PIFWCs.



Much of the work involved in EUFOR PIFWC Operations is classified and cannot be openly discussed although short reports in previous editions of EUFOR Forum have probably left some readers wondering what these operations achieve and what our overall role is.

I decided it was time to expose EUFOR readers to some of the background to these operations and the important supporting role

that many personnel play “behind the scenes”. I think you may be surprised at just how many organizations and individuals within Camp Butmir contribute to the success of this key EUFOR Mission.

The United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) is ultimately responsible for the investigation and trial of a Person Indicted for War Crimes (PIFWCs). The ICTY is a small organization that relies upon

the support of several international agencies to assist in the search for and detention of PIFWCs.

One of the reasons that these PIFWCs remain free is the presence of a large regional support network. The disruption of the support network that exists in BiH is one of the main goals for EUFOR during our PIFWC operations. A considerable amount of information is required before we can consider an operation. Once the ICTY are content that a positive lead has been established, EUFOR may be asked to assist with the mounting of an operation. We are fortunate enough to retain the capability, within both our Integrated Police Unit (IPU) and the Multi-National Battalion (MNBC), to execute “Search and Seizure” Operations within a safe and secure environment.

The majority of operations con-





Photos by Captain Felisberto Contente

**One of the reasons that these PIFWCs remain free is the presence of a large regional support network. The disruption of the support network that exists in BiH is one of the main goals for EUFOR during our PIFWC operations.**

ducted by EUFOR involve the seizure of material and the interview of individuals that may help with investigations into the PIFWC support network. We also aim to help local authorities in developing their own capabilities and work closely with our colleagues from the Specialized Element of the RS MuP (Republika Srpska Ministry of Interior Police).

A typical operation starts with the creation of a safe and secure environment in which to conduct a



search operation, using both our own IPU Specialized Element and the RS MuP. The actual search operation can be very involved, taking many hours. At the same time ICTY may interview occupants at the scene. Once the operation is complete, seized material is transported, normally by helicopter, to the NATO DOCEX, which assists with the exploitation process. Everyone

needs to be protected, transported and fed, which involves elements of the IPU, MNBn, FP Coy, Transcoy, the Catering staff and Air Ops all under the co-ordination of IAD and the JOC – It is a true team effort that reflects well on the skill, co-operations and dedication of EUFOR personnel.

By Wing Commander Mark Attrill, Chief JIOC

# French Friendship Ceremony

**28th May** - The EUFOR French Contingent and other military and civilian EUFOR personnel were invited to a Friendship Ceremony in Skenderija, Sarajevo. The event was attended by Colonel Monbelli-Valloire, the EUFOR French Senior National Representative, Her Excellency Mrs. Maryse Berniau, the French Ambassador in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Mr Dzlindo the General Manager of the Skenderija Centre Sarajevo.

This ceremony included a presentation of medals to French Officers and Soldiers by Colonel Monbelli-Valloire. Children from the French School of Sarajevo and the Skender Kulenovic Elementary School in Dobrinja also attended and sang.



During the ceremony, two children from the French School of Sarajevo unveiled a plaque on Skenderija square that says "little spot of France" (Place de France). This symbolises the starting point of the academic cooperation between the French Embassy the Sarajevo Architecture University and Paris Architecture Academy (La Villette).

The attendees were then invited

to watch a 5-a-side football match between a local professional football team and members of the French Contingent. In the friendly match the two sides played well with the locals displaying their skill and modesty by drawing the game at 5-5.

There was a presentation of gifts to both Her Excellency Mrs Berniau, the French Ambassador in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Mr Dzlindo the General Manager of the Skenderija Centre Sarajevo from Colonel Monbelli-Valloire in a display of his appreciation of the support they have both given during the French Contingents mission in Sarajevo.

By Lt Cdr Mandy McBain

## French Medal Parade

**25th May** - The withdrawal ceremony of the French National Support Element took place and was presided over by Colonel Monbelli-Valloire, the French Senior National Representative to EUFOR. The VIP guests were Her Excellency Mrs. Maryse Berniau, the French Ambassador in Bosnia and Herzegovina;

Mr Sainovic, the Defense Minister of BiH; Brigadier General Errico, COM NATO; Brigadier General Carrasco, DCOM EUFOR.

The participation of the Bosnian Military Band was par-

ticularly appreciated by all the attending military personnel, who enjoyed the very high quality of the instrumental interpretation of the French national anthem.

This moving ceremony of the hand over of the

National Support Element pennant was followed by a buffet, to which more than 250 people were invited. During the reception the guests listened to the music played by the children of the Ilidza music school.



By Lt Cdr Mandy McBain

## Basketball Tournament in Camp Butmir



◆ Winners of the tournament - Warehouse Team

**13th June** - A basketball tournament was organized by the Morale & Welfare Office and the NATO Gym Manager Mr Zeljko Puljic. Six teams participated in the competition: Torcida, Spanish Connection, AFBIH, Warehouse Team, Imp

Lovers (Greek) and Pegasus (IPU).

After a day of duels, Warehouse Team emerged as victors of the tournament when they beat the AFBIH team in the finals with 27:23.

By Haris Daul

## EUFOR Members take part in the “Run to the Hills”

**6th June** - To mark world environmental day approximately 70 EUFOR personnel took part in the “Run to the Hills 10km’ through a hilly and challenging route up Mount Igman. The Run was organised by NGO Marathon Sarajevo who are dedicated to trail running, but also dedicate their time to promote environmental awareness. EUFOR were proud to sponsor the event and along with the sponsorship, EUFOR participants, both civilian and military took part.



The course of the race lead through a forest road up Mount Igman, which was hilly and proved challenging for all of the participants. Everyone completed the race and were presented with a medal and T shirt for their great efforts.

EUFOR personnel were from Ireland, Great Britain, Poland, Spain, Germany, Slovenia, Hungary, Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy and the Netherlands.

By Lt Cdr Mandy McBain

## EUFOR vs EU Council Veterans – Football Match



**23rd May** - Feeling confident after their recent Cup Final victory over NATO in Brussels, the EU Council Veterans Football Team challenged EUFOR to a friendly game of football. EUFOR stepped up to the challenge with a team from the UK, US, Spanish, French, Slovenian and Italians, all from Camp Butmir. The match was held in the stadium in Kresevo and the kick off was at 1100, ensuring a good work out for all under the blazing mid day sun. The friendly match ended in a 1-0 victory to the EU Vets. The EUFOR side look forward to their invitation to a reply perhaps in Brussels later in the year!

EUFOR would like to thank the Kresevo Football ground for supplying the Referee and to the NATO Gym Manager Mr Zeljko Puljic for arranging the use of the Stadium.

By Captain Fabio Cavallari

# FINCON Demobilization from EUFOR

**4th June** - The Flag Day of The Finnish Defense Force is 4th June and this year that Day was also the Day for EUFOR FINCON personnel to mark the redeployment of the troops.

Some of the EUFOR Finnish Contingent had departed on 1st June with the last leaving on 16 Jun. After that date Finland will have four staff officers in Bosnia



and Herzegovina, one in Belgium, Mons (EUFOR OHQ). Thirteen troopers were directly sent to Kosovo to continue their duties in KFOR FINCON in different positions.

On the 4th June rain fell on all members of FINCON personnel when honoring the Finnish Flag in Camp Late, Donja Skakava. The official respects of the Finnish

Defense Forces were paid by the Chief of Staff of Pori Brigade, Colonel Pekka Saariaho. He said: "Finnish soldiers, I thank you for your efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina. You have fulfilled all your duties as planned and with first-class precision. The Finnish Flag has been in good hands and has been flying high. Also the Hand Over/Take Over with your

Austrian, Greek and Portuguese colleagues were carried out without any operational gap. I wish you all the best in your future challenges". Chaplain Suvi Kouri, during the ceremony addressed the attendees and gave a devotion.

CO EUFOR FINCON, Lt Col Antti Castrén addressed the attendees in the Flag Day

parade and thanked the local Authorities and local people and said that they have been close and friendly. We have always been warmly welcomed and the cooperation has been productive. At the end of his speech he addressed the Finnish soldiers and thanked them for their full commitment, contributions and their good spirit.

By Major Jouni Lehtimäki

## Journalist visit to LOT Bratunac

**9th June** - A freelance journalist team from Switzerland visited the Liaison Observation Team (LOT) House in Bratunac, to interview the crew for an documentary about Bosnia and Herzegovina and especially the Srebrenica area. Because of the fact that EUFOR is monitoring the situation all over BIH, they wanted to be EUFOR part of the documentation.



Captain Andreas Arlitzer and Captain Gerald Bögner, two Austrian officers, who are very familiar with the Srebrenica area, were asked about their pre-deployment training, their daily tasks and their personal motivation for serving abroad in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

By Captain David Oliver Ertler

# Finnish LOT Houses Hand Over Their Responsibilities

## LOT Brcko

Finnish LOT in Brcko handed over the operational responsibility to their Austrian brothers in arms during a dignified Change of Command Ceremony on Thursday 28th May, in the Brcko Final Award Office. EUFOR RCC4 commanders, Principal Deputy High Supervisor, Dr. Raffi Gregorian, the Mayor of Brcko District, Mr. Dragan Pajic, and the religious leaders of the area, honoured the occasion with their presence. Commander of the Finnish Contingent, Lt Col Antti Castrén, thanked EUFOR comrades, envoys of

International Community and the representatives of the local society for their support over the four-and-a-half period of Finnish LOT work in BiH. Chief of RCC4, Lt Col Stephan Kirchebner, thanked the Finns for their contribution, and promised the Austrian team will strive to keep up the good work.



## LOT Bijeljina

Finnish LOT Bijeljina handed over its area of activities to Greek LOT Ugljevik during May. Although the area only consists of one municipality, which is Bijeljina, the HoTo phase had to be carefully planned as Bijeljina is a large municipality and one of the most important centers of north-eastern BiH. The whole HoTo period culminated on 29th May, when HoTo formalities were arranged in the yard of LOT house Bijeljina. Present were almost all members of LOTs Bijeljina and Ugljevik and representatives of RCC4. A ceremonious passing of European Union flag was conducted. Commander of



LOT Bijeljina Maj Harri Hulkkonen passed the flag first to CO FINCON, Lt Col Antti Castrén. Lt Col Castrén thanked LOT Bijeljina for the work done and passed the flag to Commander of Greek LOTs.

## LOT Gradacac

LOT Gradacac AOA, which included five municipalities, was divided and handed over to three LOT teams. Austrian LOT team from Tuzla took over the area of Srebrenik, while another newly established Austrian team, operating from Brcko, took over the municipalities of Gradacac and Donji Zabar. Portuguese team from Modrica took over the responsibility of municipalities Bosanski Samac and Pelagicevo. Actual HoTo ceremonies took place at LOT house Gradacac on 29th May. LOT Gradacac team commander Major Jari Pylvänäinen handed over the responsibilities and

colours of the European Union to the Commander of the Finnish Contingent, Lt Col Antti Castrén. Finally Maj Michael Spiwak from LOT Tuzla, Maj Herbert Gutmann from LOT Brcko and Maj Antonio Narra from LOT Modrica received the European Union colours and took over the responsibilities together from Lt Col Castrén.



**Admin Assistant in  
Logistics & Infrastructure**  
**OR-9 Paul Mathias**



**How long have you been in EUFOR?**

This is actually my second mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. First time I was here was from August 2006 to December 2006. I arrived on my second mission here in March this year. Also, since November 2004, I am the 14th representative of Luxembourg in EUFOR.

**Why did you choose to come for your second mission?**

For me it is very interesting to work in this kind of multinational environment as it is very different from what I am used to.

**What is it like to be the sole representative of Luxembourg in EUFOR?**

As I am the only one from my country, I find that it makes it easier for me to establish contacts with people because there is a lot of interest in Luxembourg. It is an honour for me and I am proud to represent my country.

**How do you spend your free time?**

I travel a lot, especially during Sundays (laughs). I also like to hike on the mountains and that is what I have been doing in my free time in BiH recently. With a guide of course!

**Where did you enjoy yourself the most?**

Mostar, of course. I was also very impressed by Jajce and its waterfalls. Also the remote villages in the mountains that I recently visited were very interesting.

**Name one interesting thing about Luxembourg that our readers most likely do not know?**

Everyone in Luxembourg speaks four languages: our mother tongue, English French and German.

**Turkish Janissary Military  
Band Concert**



**10th June** - The Turkish Janissary Military Band, called Mehter, performed a concert in Camp Butmir. In the audience were NATO Commander, EUFOR Deputy Commander, EUFOR Chief of Staff, EUFOR KEY Leaders, the Turkish Army Senior National Representative and many members of Operation ALTHEA.

The audience thoroughly enjoyed the fascinating concert of Mehter, who proclaim to be the oldest military band in the world. Many members of the audience took to the opportunity to photograph the bands colourful historical dress and traditional instruments during the hour long performance.

At the end of the concert, the DCOM EUFOR BG Jose Carrasco was presented with a gift from the Band. He gratefully accepted this on behalf of EUFOR and thanked the band for their wonderful performance. Colonel Kenan Sarnel, Head of the Ops Division and Turkish Army SNR, stated: "It has been a wonderful opportunity to show Turkish military traditions to a qualified audience".

**By OF-1 Ismail Saglam**



## Spanish Commemoration Ceremony of fallen soldier

**31st May** - The ceremony of remembrance to those Spanish soldiers who gave their lives to the mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina was held in "Spanish Square" in Mostar.

Ceremony that commenced at 12:30 hours, was led by Deputy Commander EUFOR, BG Jose Carrasco and was also attended by MNBN Commander, Lt Col Angel Ramos-Izquierdo, the representative of Spanish Embassy in BiH Manuel Nuche, as well as civil and military authorities of Mostar.

On arrival, DCOM EUFOR received military honours from one Spanish Platoon and one honor squad.

The event started with Spanish flag being hoisted under the hymn of Spain. Afterward while the names of the 23 Spanish soldiers fallen were remembered, the honor squad together with pennants and banners came closer toward the memorial monument. Next, everybody sang the song "The death is not the end" and the laurel crown was deposited in the commemorative plaque.

When concluding the ceremony, General Carrasco highlighted the important work that is being carried out in this country and Mr Manuel Nuche invited all the people to a toast for H.M. the king and for Spain.



By Captain Santiago Romero Machin, MNBN Press Office

## Austrian NSE Employee Adisa Custovic

**How long have you been working in EUFOR?**

I have been with EUFOR and the Austrian NSE who employ me for a year now. Before that I used to work in various shops in Sarajevo.

**How did you start working in EUFOR?**

I was unemployed for a month and looking for a job when I heard that the Austrian NSE was looking for someone to help them with housekeeping. I applied and got the job and haven't looked back since.

**How do you feel about your job?**

I am very happy with my job. My employers have been most wonderful to me, both on a personal and professional level. They are very correct and fair. I also appreciate the Austrians and their mentality a lot and I enjoy working for them.

**How do you relax in your free time?**

I just enjoy staying home with my husband and son. I also enjoy movies a lot - especially the classic ones.

**Can you tell us what your favourite classic movie is then?**

"Gone with the wind", no doubt about it. (laughs) I have seen it at least 6-7 times, probably more.

**Where will you spend your summer holidays?**

In Makarska, Croatia. I will do a little bathing, a little tanning, a little walking... I like to mix it all together.

**Can you recommend a nice place to walk through in Sarajevo for our readers?**

"Vilsonovo setaliste", definitely the nicest in Sarajevo.



In the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia a little girl at the age of three, named Despina, can't wait to see her dad again. Her dad is Captain Predrag Kocovski, a 30 year old officer who was born in a small town, called Tetovo, which lies in the northwest of Macedonia. He finished university in Skopje in 2002 and graduated with a Diploma in Law. In 2004, he joined the military, where he now serves in the G1 branch of the Macedonian General staff in the section for personal management. Since June 2008 he has been the EUFOR Assistant

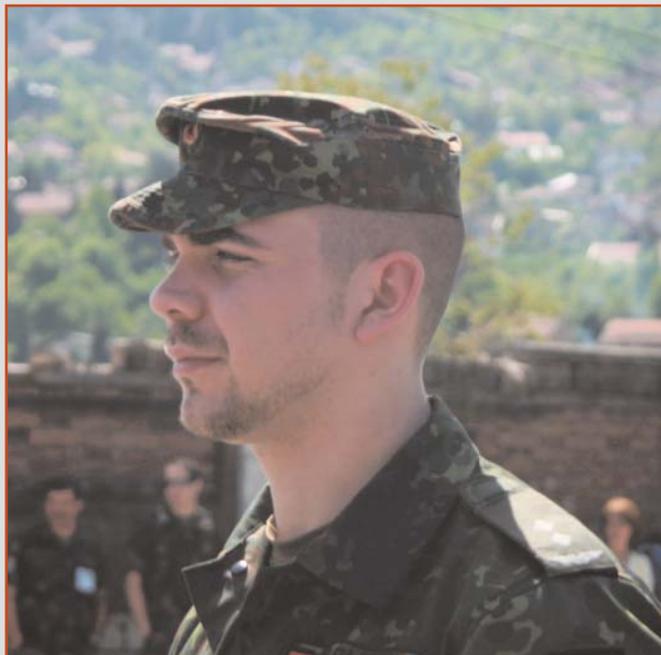


◆ Captain Predrag Kocovski

Legal Advisor as part of Operation ALTHEA. In this position he is surrounded by Austrians, among whom he found many friends. Beside work he is addicted to sport. 60 minutes of sport minimum are a must a day. When he returns home he plans to enjoy some family time with his wife and daughter.

OF-1 Sebastian Kirleis, Aide de camp (ADC) to COS EUFOR BG Löwenstein, is better known as Willi. But, known by only a few people within EUFOR, Willi is simply his middle name and not a nickname.

He was born on the 27th October 1982 in Mönchengladbach as son of a career officer and a teacher. Although he had to resettle for several times in his childhood, Sebastian liked the impressions of his fathers job and wanted to become an officer in the German Armed Forces too. So right after he finished high school he graduated the Air Force Academy in



◆ OF-1 Sebastian Kirleis

Fürstentfeldbruck and then finished a Master in Business and Economics from 2003 to 2007 at the University of the German Armed Forces in Munich.

After six months of preparation in Fort Bliss El Paso, Texas, where the German school for ground based air defense is located, he is now a tactical control and recce officer within the ground based air defense system PATRIOT from SAM WING 1 in the northern part of Germany.

In his private live he loves to travel, to see many countries and to get to know new people from all over the world as well as their different cultures.

By OR-6  
Francisco  
Macias



Leonor Macias



By Lt Col Marco Naletto

Luca Naletto with his 1st G class of School "Media Leonardo da Vinci", Italy



By OF-2 Dragos Petrache

Andrei Paul Petrache training to replace his dad

Little Miriam Pascucci Roffi and her mother Monica



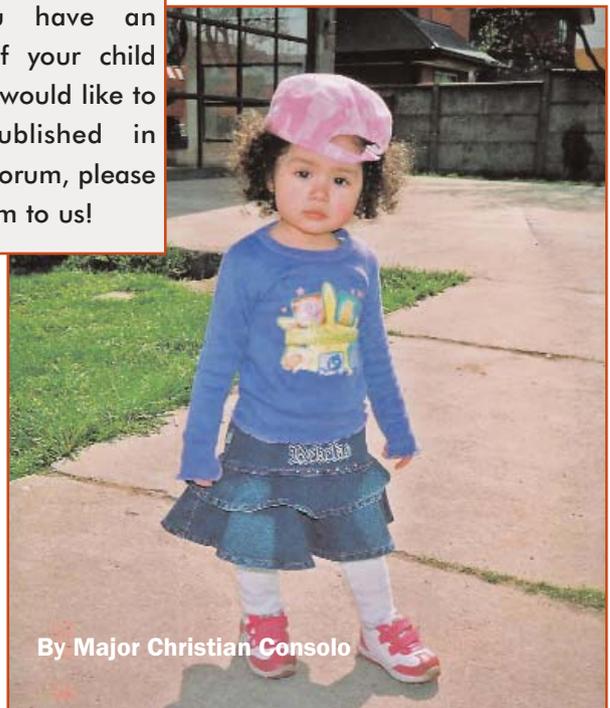
By WO Mar Pascucci

If you have an image of your child that you would like to have published in EUFOR Forum, please send them to us!

By OR-6 Eliseo Lopez Gañete



Ruben Lopez Gañete



By Major Christian Consolo

Valeria Consolo

**STAY ALERT !**

**SAFE DRIVING  
THROUGH ENTIRE BIH**

**DRIVE CAREFULLY! BE PREPARED FOR THE UNEXPECTED!**

