

Edition #77, June/July 2012

EUFOR forum

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EUFOR Operational Commander visits BiH

EUFOR supports Kids Festival 2012

The annual Sarajevo Kids' Festival is the largest independent youth event in South East Europe. Over 40,000 children from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) have attended the annual event since 2004. The Festival contains a range of entertainment and educational activities including workshops, booths, quizzes, games, movies, performances, clowns and much more. Altogether these activities have provided the young people of BiH with an unforgettable experience.

EUFOR has made an important and valuable contribution to this year's Festival. Its Mine Information Coordination Cell (MICC), together with soldiers from Turkey and the Armed



Forces of BiH (AFBiH), raised awareness of the mine situation in BiH. After a talk by AFBiH, the children had the chance to see how mine searching works in practice. Turkish soldiers demonstrated how long it takes and the care needed when using the metal detector "Vallon VMM-3" to search for mines.

Hungarian, Turkish and Austrian soldiers from the Multinational Battalion ran a very popular and enjoyable

basketball stand. By scoring three times in succession the children had the chance to win a "EUFOR – basketball". This was definitely a Hot Spot at this year's Kids' Festival!

The Kids' Festival and the "EUFOR School Competition", held earlier this year, are part EUFOR's youth strategy which aims to create reconciliation and confidence building amongst BiH's younger generation.

Maj Herman Steinkogler



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EUFOR Operational Commander visits BiH

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Printed in:
Reprographics & Courier Service (HQ EUFOR)

*Hello All,
 I am Lieutenant Commander David Collins and I am your new media spokesperson working in the Public Affairs Office in EUFOR HQ.*



Like my predecessor I am a British Officer from the Royal Navy. As a training manager by trade, I have had a varied career, including assignments at the Royal Naval School of Electro Mechanical Engineering, the Royal Naval Leadership Academy and more recently the Defence Media Operations Centre. Prior to this I served in the aircraft carrier HMS Illustrious as the Public Relations Officer. So in theory at least, I have arrived at Camp Butmir with some experience of how the media works, albeit mainly the British media.

Now that I have settled in and got my bearings so to speak, I intend to get around the camp and meet as many of you as possible. From my experience the best stories in the media and for that matter everywhere are all about people and I am sure that you all have some fantastic stories to tell. I would therefore very much welcome your ideas and encourage you to send in articles and pictures for our Eurfor Forum magazine.

I look forward to seeing you around the camp.

Lt Cdr David Collins RN
 EUFOR Spokeperson

EUFOR Operational Commander visits BiH



The Operational Commander (Op Cdr) responsible for EUFOR, General Sir Richard Shirreff, visited Bosnia and

Herzegovina (BiH) between 23rd and 25th of May 2012.

General Shirreff, who is based in NATO's Europe-

an Headquarters in MONS (Belgium), started his visit at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, where Commander EUFOR (COM EUFOR), Major General Robert Brieger, updated him on the current situation in BiH and the wider Balkans and on EUFOR's activities in the region.

A busy programme saw the Op Cdr visit Armed Forces BiH and EUFOR personnel in Banja Luka, Orasje and Mostar. He met with numerous Liaison and Observation Team members, EUFOR Multi-National Battalion soldiers, Embedded Training Teams working with AF BiH



and witnessed the work being conducted at a Weapons and Ammunition Storage Site. Back at Camp Butmir, General Shirreff was briefed by the Peace Support Operations Training Centre staff on their work with AF BiH.

The Op Cdr and COM EUFOR were joined in EUFOR's headquarters by Lieutenant General Miladin Miložić, the Chief of Joint Staff of AF BiH and General Edmund Entacher, the Austrian Chief of Defence, for a meeting where future co-operation with, and support to, AF BiH was discussed. A particular focus was on the new EUFOR Embedded Training Teams.

General Shirreff considered his visit to be successful and very productive and he thanked General Brieger for EUFOR's continued valuable support to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Lt Cdr Adrian Kirk RN



(L-R) Lieutenant General Miladin Miložić, General Edmund Entacher, General Sir Richard Shirreff and Major General Robert Brieger meet for discussions at EUFOR Headquarters, Sarajevo.



First Visit to EUFOR Headquarters for Joint Force Commander



Admiral Bruce W. Clingan of the United States Navy, recently appointed as Commander of NATO's Joint Force Command in Naples, Italy, visited EUFOR headquarters in Sarajevo for the first time on 22 May 2012.

The Admiral undertook an Office Call with Major General Robert Brieger, Commander of EUFOR, where, by way of an introduction, the general situation in BiH and the wider Balkan region was discussed. General Brieger also briefed Admiral Clingan on the current operational activities of EUFOR in BiH, including the ongoing Capacity Building and Training initiatives which EUFOR are conducting with the Armed Forces of BiH.

Admiral Clingan assumed duties as Commander Joint Force Command Naples on 24 Feb 2012.

Spanish Ambassador visits EUFOR Headquarters



The Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH); Her Excellency, Mrs Maria Aurora Mejia-Errasquin, was welcomed by Major General Robert Brieger, the Commander of EUFOR (COM EUFOR), to Camp Butmir on the 17th May 2012.

The Ambassador undertook an Office Call with COM EUFOR, where the general situation in BiH and the wider Balkan region was discussed. COM EUFOR also briefed Ambassador Mejia-Errasquin on the current operational activities of EUFOR in BiH, including the ongoing Capacity Building and Training initiatives which EUFOR are conducting with the Armed Forces of BiH.

Major General Brieger praised the dedication and professionalism of the Spanish troops serving with EUFOR, and the significant contribution which they are making to the mission in BiH. The Spanish contingent provides personnel in key posts within EUFOR Headquarters and elsewhere in BiH as part of EUFOR's Mobile Training Teams.

The Office Call concluded with COM EUFOR thanking Ambassador Mejia-Errasquin for Spain's contribution to Operation Althea and for her continued support.

Visit of Head of the European Union Command Element Lieutenant General De Vincenti to EUFOR

Lieutenant General Leandro De Vincenti, Head of the European Union Command Element in Naples, arrived in BiH on 18 June 2012 for a two day visit.

In addition to receiving updates on the Operation Althea Mission, Lieutenant General De Vincenti visited Tuzla with Major General Robert Brieger, the Commander of EUFOR. General De Vincenti was informed of the progress being made by the International Commission on Missing Persons by Mr Edin Jasaragic, Head of the Identification Coordination Division (ICD).

General De Vincenti went on to visit the Liaison Observation Team (LOT) house in Tuzla where he met Lieutenant Colonel Stefan



Kirchebner, the Chief of the Regional Co-ordination Centre (RCC) North commander. The General was updated on the activities that the LOT have recently been carrying out in the Tuzla area and the continuing development of good relationships with the local population.

In a busy programme General De Vincenti also had office calls with Mr Muhamed Ibrahimović, the Minister of Defence BiH and Major General Rizvo Pleh, the Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces BiH for Operations. During these meetings a range of issues were discussed including the security situation in BiH and the future role of EUFOR, particularly in capacity building and training for the Armed Forces BiH.

Lt Cdr David Collins RN



Field Training Exercise “Widespread”



From 16 to 19 April 2012 the Multinational Battalion (MNBNA) under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Holzbauer conducted an exercise in guarding weapon and ammunition storage sites and protecting ammunition during transportation in the area of Manjaca and Glamoc.

The exercise initially involved the Turkish Police Unit having to regain control of the ammunition storage site. This involved dealing with several small demonstrations and terrorist outrages.

This was followed by the Austrian and Hungarian Companies taking responsibility for the movement of the ammunition from Manjaca to Glamoc. The Turkish Company then took on responsibility for the

security of the ammunition once it has reached Glamoc by setting up both an outer and inner cordon. The Air to Ground Surveillance and Reconnaissance (AGSR) was used to help provide good situational awareness around the vicinity of Glamoc.

Despite some bad weather conditions the MNBNA achieved a great deal in the exercise, working hard to develop their collective skills to re-establish their freedom of movement” whilst securing and protecting ammunition.

Maj/Alexander Kogard



Joint Training with the AF BiH in Banja Luka

Between 21st to 25th May 2012 the mixed platoon from the Multinational Battalion (MNBN) conducted training with the troops from the 6th Infantry Brigade at the Kozara barracks.

The training covered crowd riot control, mine awareness and combat life saving. It allowed the troops from the MNBN and the AF BiH to work together and exchange ideas and experiences.

On Tuesday 22 May Brigadier General Ernó Péter Siposs (COS EUFOR), accompanied by a delegation of military attaches, visited the troops in order to observe the Joint training system in action. This included an introduction from Major Halasz, the Deputy Commander of the MNBN and was followed by summaries of the different types of training in which the 6th Infantry Brigade had participated in. After informal discussions with the BiH soliders, General Siposs



and the military attaches were treated to a series of practical demonstrations involving the use of AF BiH equipment.

On Wednesday 23 May Brigadier General Novakovic, the Commander of the 6th Infantry Brigade of AF BiH, escorted Brigadier General Beyr, the German head of an inspection team for the “Vienne Contract” during a visit to observe standard of the joint training.

The Operational Commander (Op Cdr) responsible for EUFOR, General Sir Rich-

ard Shirreff, accompanied by Major General Robert Brieger, the EUFOR Commander, also visited on Wednesday 23 May for a briefing on the joint training by Lieutenant Colonel Holzbauer, the Commander of the MNBN.

After a full week’s extensive training the soldiers from the MNBN returned to Camp Butmir on Friday 25th May in the knowledge that they had successfully worked in partnership with AF BiH.

Maj Alexander Kogard



Austrian and Bosnian Soldiers participated in a joint training at Camp Eagle-Base – Tuzla

The Austrian Company of the Multinational Battalion (MNBNA) conducted a joint training exercise with Bosnian soldiers from the 5th Infantry Brigade from 23rd to 27th April 2012.

The training covered both theoretical and practical parts at platoon level.

The first stage of the exercise involved setting up and guarding the Camp and how to manage the control of vehicles and persons under different situations, including body searching.



Armoured vehicles were used for patrolling in urban territory. Additionally commanders needed to conduct

house searching.

On the final day the soldiers conducted a live fire exercise.

Maj Alexander Kogard

The Austrian Company in the Multinational Battalion EUFOR

The Austrian Company, commanded by Capt Hiebler Harald has been part of the Multinational Battalion (MNBNA) since

February 2012.

The company consists of one command squad, one supply squad, one sniper squad, three infantry platoons, one EOD team and one attached Recce platoon. Overall it contains 160 soldiers, of which 36 are from the Austrian Armed forces militia.

The main body of the Company is formed out of the 2nd Company of the mechanized Infantry Battalion 35 mounted on the IFV ULAN. They are based at the JANSABarracks at GROSSMITTEL, about 40 km south of VIENNA.

The Recce platoon comes from Infantry Battalion 25, stationed at Klagenfurt.

Maj Alexander Kogard



COM EUFOR Visits LOT House Bratunac

On the 15 June 2012 the Liaison Observation Team (LOT) in Bratunac organized a reception for guests from regional and international organizations as well good friends from the local area.

The aim of the reception was to meet socially and informally away from daily business and to allow the LOT to thank the local representatives from the municipalities of Bratunac, Srebrenica, Milici, Vlasenica, Zvornik, Sekovici, Osmaci, Sapna and Kalesija for their good cooperation and support.

A mixture of traditional Austrian and local food and beverages were served during the reception which was particularly well attended. The evening provided a perfect opportunity for the Austrian team to reinforce good relationships with their guests and explain a little about the daily working practices in LOT Bratunac.



Major General Robert Brieger the Commander of the EUFOR troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina (COM EUFOR) made an unexpected visit to the LOT house, together with his Excellency Ambassador Fletcher Burton, the Head of Mission of the OSCE in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

After being welcomed by the Chief of the Regional Coordination Centre North (RCCN), Lieutenant Colonel Stefan Kirchebener and the Commander of the LOT house, Ma-

jor Andreas Arlitzer, General Brieger and Ambassador Burton were briefed on the current activities of the LOT. His Excellency stressed the importance and need for good cooperation between the stakeholders within the international community, such as OSCE and EUFOR, who are involved in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Ambassador Burton then went on to praise the important work that EUFOR and in particular the LOT house were doing in the local area.

Following the briefing, General Brieger and Ambassador Burton mingled and chatted to the guests in what was a glorious summer evening in bright sunlight. Everyone agreed that evening had been a great success and that it was important to continue with the excellent cooperation between the international community and the local people of Bratanac and surrounding areas.

Capt Alexander Schiller





SARAJEVO
2012





In the article below Major László UJHÁZY from the Policy and Plans team at EUFOR explains how NATO has evolved since the end of the Cold War, including its Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme – which Bosnia and Herzegovina joined in 2006 – and how this is connected to EUFOR.

Major UJHÁZY joined the Hungarian Army in 1983 as a conscript before his university studies. After gaining an MA in History and English he was drafted again as a reserve officer cadet. He was commissioned in 1992. He has held a variety of appointments including teaching Military English at the PfP Military Language Training Centre in Budapest to 2009. In 2011 he defended his PhD in Security Studies. He arrived at Camp Butmir in May this year.

EUFOR and NATO`s Partnership for Peace (PfP) Programme

The world has changed immensely in the past two decades. The Cold War has ended, the Soviet Union no longer exists; in fact, many former Soviet Republics are either already NATO Member States, or would like to be members in the near future. The same refers to the Warsaw Treaty Organisation. Not only has it been disbanded, but most of its former members are a part of the North Atlantic Alliance. Equally important is the way an Organisation once set up for collective defence operations (CDO) is now focusing more on crisis response operations (CRO), mainly peace support operations (PSO).

In its first Strategic Concept after the Cold War, in 1991, NATO had already committed

itself towards cooperation and dialogue.

The Partnership for Peace (PfP) programme was launched in January 1994, along with the Mediterranean Dialogue (MD) initiative in this spirit. The PfP programme was enhanced at the Spring Meeting of NATO Foreign Ministers in Sintra, Portugal in May

1997. It serves as the basis for cooperation between NATO and Partner countries, most of whom belonged to the former Warsaw Treaty Organisation, or neutral countries like Austria, Finland, Ireland, Sweden and Switzerland.

The most important goals of the PfP are to increase transparency

in national defence planning and military budgeting, to ensure democratic control of national armed forces, and to help develop

Bosnia and Herzegovina joined the PfP programme in December 2006. Cooperation focuses on democratic, institutional and defence reforms. Since April 2008 BiH has been involved in an Intensified Dialogue with NATO on its membership ambitions and related reforms.

Partner country forces that are interoperable with those of NATO member states, mainly in the field crisis response operations. NATO also consults with the 22 PfP countries on security issues and enables Partner countries to participate in NATO-led operations. The Programme can also be used as a vehicle to full membership in the Alliance. Today twelve former PfP countries, including countries from the Western Balkan region have become members of NATO.

Bosnia and Herzegovina joined the PfP programme in December 2006. Cooperation focuses on democratic, institutional and defence reforms. Since April 2008 BiH has been involved in an Intensified Dialogue with NATO on its membership ambitions and related reforms. Welcoming progress made in its reform efforts, in April 2010, the Allies formally invited the country to join the Membership Action Plan (MAP) – the Alliance’s programme of advice, assistance and practical support tailored to the specific requirements of countries wishing to join the NATO – with one important condition: the first Annual National Programme under the MAP will only be accepted by NATO once a key remaining issue concerning immovable defence property has been resolved.

EUFOR ALTHEA, alongside NATO HQ Sarajevo are the legal successors of the Stabilisation Force (SFOR). Since 2010



EUFOR is tasked to support the Armed Forces of BiH in the areas of capacity-building and training and EUFOR ALTHEA is also a part of EU’s comprehensive approach to support the country’s Euro-Atlantic integration.

Maj László UJHÁZY, PhD



2012 **16** **09**

SARAJEVO HALF MARATHON & **FUN RUN**

START /FINISH
BBI Center
at 9AM



Grad Sarajevo

OlimpijaTM

Sarajevo Half Marathon 21.1 K & Fun Run 4k

START/FINISH:

Sunday 16 September 2012 at 9:00 AM, in front of BBI Shopping Center.

TIME LIMIT:

3 hours for Half Marathon, 30 minutes for Fun Run 4K.

COURSE:

Fast and flat, leads you through the most beautiful parts of Sarajevo.

PRIZE MONEY, AWARDS AND RESULTS:

Prize money for Half Marathon race will be awarded to the top five male and female: 1st place € 300; 2nd place € 200; 3rd place € 100; 4th place € 50; 5th place € 50. There are no money awards for Fun Run 4K race. All Half Marathon finishers will be awarded with a medal, T-shirt and sponsors' presents. All Fun Run 4K finishers will be awarded with T-shirt and sponsors' presents. Half Marathon results for all participants and for the first three participants of Fun Run 4K race will be published on: www.sarajevomarathon.ba

ENTRY FEE:

10€ (20 BAM) for Half Marathon, 1€ (2 BAM) for Fun Run 4K. All money from the entry fees will be donated to the Associated Centre for Creative Childhood, a charity organization which finances the schooling of children living in extremely difficult condition.

CATEGORIES:

Male and female, there are no age categories.

REFRESHMENT STATIONS AND MEDICAL SERVICE:

Refreshment stations at every 4 km. Medical service will be provided along the course.

REGISTRATION AND NUMBER PICK UP:

At GYM and SPORT BOX (bike shop) in Butmir Camp for EUFOR/NATO members or in SPORT LIFE shop at BBI Shopping Centre 4th floor, from 03.09. to 15.09. until 20:00, for both races. At the registration point, you will pick up your race number and pay entry fee. There is no race-day registration for Half Marathon! Late entries for Fun Run 4K will be possible on the race-day from 8:15 until 8:45 in start area, if the race limit of 500 runners is not reached.

See you at the start line!

Pre-registration for Half Marathon is possible at the website www.sarajevomarathon.ba. With pre-registration you can book a race number.

Practical Basic Ammunition Course – Example Storage House Prepared



The practical part of the first basic ammunition course for AF BiH took place in the ammunition storage site at Krupa. As the lead nation for handling ammunition, the training was delivered by the Austrian MT.

Between 18 April to 4 May 2012 15 students, who had previously completed introductory theoretical training, undertook a range of activities including: hazard classification and division codes, aboveground ammunition

storage regulations, ammunition stacks, ammunition packaging and labelling, ammo storage stack cards, separation distances, ammo fire fighting principles and procedures, safety principles and regulations, construction of





aboveground ammunition storage.

The following highly experienced Austrian MTT instructors delivered the training: OF-4 LANDZETTEL Othmar – commander, OF-3 KERNMAIER Werner – technical project officer, OF-5 PECNIK Johann, OF-3 MITTEREGGER Georg, OR-9 SCHERZ Josef, OR-9 BLODERER Andreas, OR-9 GRILL Johannes, OR-9 RETSCHITZEGGER Rainer.

All 15 student successfully completed the training and received certificates from the chief of JMA OF-5 Juergen Baranyai. The final ceremony on 4 May 2012 was attended a number of senior officers including OF-6 Andreas Rotter and high-level representative of AF BiH OF-5 Miodrag Davidović from the BiH AF

Maj Eduard Gregor

Mine Action Strategy



On the 7 June 2012, Joint Military Affairs along with the AF BiH conducted a workshop entitled “Preparation for AF Mine Action Strategy 2009-2019 Revision”. The aim was to analyze the implementation of the strategy and executive plans related to demining operations.

The workshop was opened by COS EUFOR, Brigadier General Ernő Péter SIPOSS and hosted the representatives from strategic, operational and tactical command levels in the AF BiH.

At the beginning of the workshop, the participants familiarized themselves with EUFOR’s assessment of the three year countermine activities. They were then divided into several working groups comprising representatives from various military institutions. Each group was asked to evaluate the implementation of the respective goals of the strategy

and consider the possibility of how to enhance demining operations in BiH.

Everybody was then given the chance to express their opinions on the strengths and weaknesses in mine action activities. A number of good suggestions were made on how to improve the planning process and increase efficiency in the field.

The participants agreed that the idea of the workshop was a great opportunity to share opinions, exchange experiences and provide better understanding of the difficulties faced by military and government institutions conducting countermine activities. The AF representatives were pleased that assessments and analyses made during the workshop would provide an excellent basis for the forthcoming revision of AF Mine Action Strategy for the period 2009-2019.

Lt Col Maciej Grajper

Camp Butmir Orienteering Event was successful

Officers from the Finnish Contingent and Morale, Welfare and Activities (MWA) Office arranged a Camp Butmir Orienteering event on Tuesday evening 29 May 2012.

The event was open to everyone working in Camp Butmir. Although the weather was a little bit rainy, this did not dampen spirits and the event was a great success with a total of 62 people taking part. Two different orienteering courses of about 2 km were used. Both courses consisted of 9 control points to be visited. Captain Heikki Sarkanmaki acted as course planner and Map Depot manager Martin Boehnlein produced CB photomaps detailing the course and control points.

Many happy faces were seen and cheerful comments made during the event. Such was the enjoyment that we have had several requests for another orienteering event.

OF-4 Kimmo Hakanen

Instructions for Camp Butmir orienteering

1

Welcome to Camp Butmir Orienteering exercise.

Below you can read some instructions for this motion exercise:

This is not a competition, but a motion exercise for fit and fun.

FIN NSE has prepared orienteering course inside Camp BUTMIR area.

The main idea of this motion orienteering is to enter (run, jog or walk) from one control point to the next one by using the shortest route (roads / streets / paths) by using exact map reading.

Start / Finish point will be in front of GYM building.

Every person will be given in Start a photo map, where the orienteering course is printed.

Every person will also be given in Start a competition orienteering card (see attached photos below) for marking on correct control points. First marking into a square number 1 ... etc



2

Control points are to be visited in chronological order:

Start → 1 → 2 → 3 etc.

Control points are placed on easy and visible points near street corners, near road crossings, building corners etc.

Control points are marked with white/orange control signs, see attached photo below.

On control point you can find a control puncher, see attached photos below.

Every control point has also a separate verification number, which is also printed into a map.

When the right control point is found and verification accomplished, a person makes a marking on his competition card by using a control puncher.

3

Time will be not measured by organizers, but everybody can use their own watch to calculate time used on a course.

Length of orienteering course: about 2 km's

Number of control points: 9

Instructions will also be given to everybody verbally if needed before everyone's individual start.

Compasses and other orienteering devices can be used, but not necessarily needed.

NO GO AREAS: Grassy areas are forbidden to cross, also climbing over fences.

No entrance into Heli pads and hangars.

You should plan and choose during this motion exercise the fastest and shortest route from one control point to the next one.

Only roads, bicycling routes and paths should be used during this motion exercise.

Stay alert during your orienteering, be careful and watch out other pedestrians, cars etc

Correct markings to orienteering competition card can be seen in GYM hall. After motion exercise everybody can check his/hers own competition card.

4



Route options from control point 1 to

Red route: Simple but longest

Blue route: Longest route

Purple route: Shortest but needs more map reading

You should plan and choose during this motion exercise the fastest and shortest route from one control point to the next one.

See these 2 examples:

5



Two options from control point 6 to 7:

Red route: Simple and safe

Blue route: Shorter but more map reading

EUFOR HelDet in training with rescue club



On 31 May and 1 June 15 Austrian soldiers from the helicopter detachment trained 3 soldiers from the AF BiH plus members of the rescue club Spasavalaca.

After some classroom instruction, the soldiers undertake some practical training on how to use a winch. They were then introduced to AB 212 and Alouette3 helicopters.

In the morning of 1 June the training focused on boarding at Archer Base. COS EUFOR observed some of the training and delighted with the engagement of the AF

BiH soldiers the members of the rescue club Spasavalaca and the professionalism of the Austrian soldiers.

In the afternoon the training moved to mount Trebevic. Here the participants demonstrated their new capabilities during an accident exercise. The training officer and Austrian Alouette3 pilot captain Urf praised the trainees for their outstanding concentration. He stressed that this type of training will be very useful if EUFOR and BiH need to work together in the future.

Captain Urf

BiH Youth Receive EUFOR Awards



A well-deserving array of Bosnia and Herzegovina's school children and students received individual and group awards as prize-winners of the 2012 EUFOR Schools and Students Competitions.

The award ceremony was held in EUFOR's base at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, on Thursday 17th May, and was attended by many local and international dignitaries as well as families and friends of those receiving the awards. Major General Robert Brieger, Commander of EUFOR, praised the winners and highlighted the incredibly high standard of art work, projects and essays submitted in this year's competition which saw over 2800 entries from 260 schools and universities.

Schools' awards were in three categories; Primary (aged 6-9), Primary (aged 10-15) and High (aged 15-18). The top five (aged 6-9) and six (aged 10-15) Primary school entries received individual prizes ranging from MP3 players to laptop computers. The top ten High school entries won group trips to Austria, Slovenia and Hungary whilst a further three groups will be VIP guests at the Sarajevo Film Festival. For the university Students, the top 15 individuals will join together for a trip to Switzerland.

General Brieger acknowledged the generous contribution of the competition prizes from many donors including foreign nations, embassies, and local businesses.

The BiH pupils and professors returning from their five-day visit to Slovenia



Twenty seven secondary school students from Bosnia and Herzegovina, who were winners of the "EUFOR School Competition Project "Olympic Spirit - Spirit of Unity"", together with 7 of their professors have returned from the trip to Slovenia.

The students and professors came from the Gymnasium "Ismet Mujezinović" in Tuzla, the High School Center in Hadzici, the Electro-Technical School in Sarajevo, the Gymnasium "Jovan Dučić" in Trebinje, the Mixed Secondary School "Mehmedalija Mak Dizdar" in Breza, the Gymnasium "Marko Marulić" in Tomislavgrad, and High School of the Arts in Sarajevo.

On the first day of the visit, a reception at the Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs was held. This was attended by the Deputy Minister of Defense, Mr. Petar Stavanja, and the Ambassador Mr. Mitja Štrukelj, from the Ministry of FA. The students' from BiH expressed their gratitude for opportunity to visit Slovenia and learn about the EU and NATO. The Deputy Minister emphasized

the importance of involving young people in creating a better future for future generations in BiH. Past experience has shown the benefit of these trips in bringing together different communities and having tremendous fun at the same time

During the following days, the EUFORSC winners went on a guided tour to a number of famous Slovenian tourist destinations, including the glacial Bled Lake with its island, the charming Kranjska Gora in the Julian Alps and world heritage site at the Skocjan Caves. They also visited the Vogel ski resort, the Slovenian sea side and the medieval towns of Piran, Izola, and Portoroz. (photos at “EUFOR Skolsko takmicenje” Facebook profile)

As the students and professors left Slovenia to return home, they all agreed that the trip was something they will remember for a long time. They thanked EUFOR for organizing the competent and trip, as well as Slovenian authorities for their fantastic hospitality.

The involvement of young people in the process of accession to the European Union is a very good way in which European Union can help and encourage Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Almina Basic, PAO





Bosnia and Herzegovina has made significant **progress**. This has made this country a better place to live in. This is an easy job for one of the

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PARTNERSHIP FOR BIH IN EU

EUFOR, together with EUSR, remains determined to provide comprehensive assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina on the path of Euro-Atlantic integrations

