



**Visit to EUFOR Operation ALTHEA by Operational  
Commander General Sir James Everard, KCB, CBE**



I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on our recent efforts over the summer months and highlight EUFOR's required focus for the coming exercise period "Quick Response 17". Much work has been conducted by HQ EUFOR Staff to ensure Contingency Plans reflect the ever-changing dynamic of our operational environment.

All of the work associated with the successful Operational Commander visit is a credit to each and every one of you in the mission. Recent HQ work has also ensured we are able to properly measure our mandated objectives.

EUFOR continues to be focused on capacity building and training, these combined exercises

with AFBiH are an ongoing process which will be planned and exercised thoroughly in the coming months with fellow EU and Partner Nations bringing forward their Immediate Readiness troop reserves (IR). EUFOR is fully committed to support BiH "on its path to a European future" and remains a vital enabling actor in the development and maintenance of a safe and secure environment, where the peace process can continue to move forward.

I hope that you enjoy reading this magazine and it gives you a quick glimpse at the wide range of activity that EUFOR achieves on a daily basis.

**Major General Anton Waldner**



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July and August are traditionally quieter months for EUFOR, but within the pages of this FORUM you can read about a wealth of different activities undertaken by EUFOR personnel. Inside this issue you will find details of the visit by the EUFOR Operational Commander General Sir James Everard, the Change of Command of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion and the re-commissioning of the airstrip at Camp Butmir to name but a few.

Your photos, articles and information are really important to our effort to show what EUFOR is achieving in BiH. So if you have something you can contribute please get in touch.

Don't forget to follow us on our social media channels too!

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## Admiral Michelle J. Howard visited HQ EUFOR



On 8th August, Admiral Michelle J. Howard, Commander Allied Joint Force Command Naples, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Europe and Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Africa visited HQ EUFOR, Camp Butmir in Sarajevo. She was welcomed by an Honour Guard made up of Austrian and Turkish soldiers from the EUFOR Multinational Battalion.

After a brief introduction to the EUFOR branch Chiefs, Commander EUFOR Major General Anton Waldner and Commander NATO HQ Sarajevo Brigadier General Huston accompanied the Admiral in one of EUFOR's helicopters as it transited to Mostar to visit the EUFOR LOT Houses based in the city. Admiral Howard received briefings on the EUFOR LOT House and the LOT teams that operate from them. The local authorities also assisted in a short tour of the sights of the city before the delegation returned to Camp Butmir for further briefing with both the Commanders.

EUFOR Operation ALTHEA, currently made up of soldiers from 14 EU member states and 5 partner nations, works closely with NATO and the MoD BiH, conducting capacity building and training throughout the country to promote a climate where the peace process can continue to move forward. The objective being that AFBiH will



operate autonomously without the requirement for international assistance. EUFOR is fully committed to support BiH "on its path to a European future" and remains a vital enabling actor in the development and maintenance of a safe and secure environment.

## Major General Anton Waldner first 100 days in Command

**Commander of the European Force explains the Role of EUFOR in BiH.**

As the Commander of the European Force (EUFOR), Major General Anton Waldner, reaches his 100th day in command. We look at some of the work that EUFOR conducts in the country, helping to maintain Bosnia and Herzegovina's safe and secure environment.



### 1. Can you explain the role of Operation ALTHEA?

*Since 2004, EUFOR has been responsible for the implementation of the military annexes of the Dayton Peace Agreement. This is carried out on the basis of of executive mandate of the UN Charter. The mission is contributing to the maintenance and stability of a Safe and Secure Environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina and helping to promote a climate in which the peace process can continue. Since 2010 EUFOR has focused on 'Capacity Building & Training' for the Armed Forces Bosnia and Herzegovina.*

*The responsibility for the execution of many tasks has been handed over to the local authorities according to the principle of "local ownership" and in line with Bosnia and Herzegovina's path towards European Union membership. Nevertheless, EUFOR retains full responsibility and authority to re-take control, if the situation so requires.*

### 2. What does Capacity Building & Training for the Armed Forces Bosnia and Herzegovina involve and what role does EUFOR play?

*Capacity building and training is one of EUFOR's main efforts. This programme provides the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities with military expertise and technical support, with the aim of being self-sustaining in due course.*

*The programme is delivered in close coordination with NATO by training, mentoring, monitoring and advising*



the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina throughout their command structure. Capacity building and training is accomplished through Embedded Advisory Teams (EATs), Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) and Mobile Monitoring and Mentoring Teams (MMTs).

### **3. Can you explain the role that EUFOR plays in Physical Security and Stockpile Management within the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina?**

*EUFOR has the leading role in physical Security and Stockpile Management of weapons and ammunition within Bosnia and Herzegovina, with the primary focus being on ammunition. The "Ammunition, Weapons and Explosives Masterplan" developed by EUFOR and the International Community and signed by the Bosnia and Herzegovina Ministry of Defence delivers the structure to enable this. EUFOR provides essential expertise, support and monitoring not only for the storage sites infrastructure but also for the establishment of an efficient ammunition life cycle management scheme.*

### **4. In terms of Demining in Bosnia and Herzegovina what support does EUFOR provide to both the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities and the population?**

*EUFOR fully supports the demining battalion of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina by monitoring, advising and assisting*

*their humanitarian demining operations in order to increase their operational and logistical effectiveness. However, the responsibility for physical mine clearance remains with the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities.*

*Conservative estimates that the number of communities affected by mines in Bosnia and Herzegovina stands at around 1,417 and there are still 1,141.1km<sup>2</sup> of suspected hazardous areas for mines throughout the country. EUFOR provides Mine Risk Education all over the country to vulnerable and at risk groups such as farmers, forestry companies and in particular children of all ages in order to raise awareness and promote safe behavior. Currently there are 123 Mine Risk Education instructors (54 EUFOR and 74 Armed Forces of Bosnia And Herzegovina) who are essential partners to the local communities that they operate within.*



### **5. Can you explain how the 'Berlin Plus agreement' and EUFOR works?**

*The Berlin Plus Agreement is a comprehensive package of agreements between NATO and the European Union made in 2002. It allows the European Union to draw on some of NATO's military assets in its Peace Support Operations. At present EUFOR ALTHEA is the only operation carried out under Berlin Plus agreement. In case of a threat to the safe and secure environment, EUFOR can call on NATO forces for support. This is exercised on a yearly basis during the Quick Response series of Exercises.*

## Sarajevo Symposium on Post-Conflict Transitions



On the 19 July, the EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General József Szpisják participated in the 2017 Sarajevo Symposium on Post-Conflict Transitions. The symposium audience consisted of over 15 nationalities all with a keen interest in post-conflict reform from across the globe.

The Brigadier General was part of a panel discussing ‘Security Sector Reform’ he was joined by Dr. Selmo Cikotić, formerly the Minister of Defence for Bosnia and Herzegovina and accompanying them was Carrie Giardino who is the Political-Military Affairs Officer in the US Embassy Sarajevo and finally Brigadier General Robert Huston, the Commander of NATO HQ Sarajevo.

The Chief of Staff along with his colleagues explored some of the ways to address the complex challenges that are faced when working in post-conflict environments. The panel focused on contemporary theory and the practice of post-conflict political transitions using current case studies and their personal experiences to reflect on the outcomes from the perspectives of the actual decision-makers.

The Brigadier General, who is on his second tour in EUFOR, discussed how EUFOR operates in the post-conflict environment, collaborating with state and local level authorities to help maintain a safe and secure environment in the country. He also highlighted the fact that defence and security reform in BiH was led by NATO and supported by EUFOR which is a highly constructive partnership.



## Brigadier General Szpisják presided over a medal parade at EUFOR HQ

On 25 July, the Chief Of Staff (COS) EUFOR, Brigadier General Szpisják, presided over a medal parade at EUFOR HQ in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. He presented the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Medal ALTHEA to 62 service personnel from 7 different nations and thanked them for their dedicated service in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Brigadier General explained the importance of receiving the medal as it formally and publically acknowledges the contributions that everyone receiving the medal has made to the success of EUFOR. He stated: “EUFOR remains firmly focused on supporting the BiH authorities in maintaining the safe and secure environment and on building the capabilities of the Armed Forces of BiH through our capacity building and training activities.”

Captain Robert Andrzejak from the Polish Army was one of the parade participants receiving the medal as his tour in the operational theatre draws to a close. He said: “I feel very proud to receive this medal, knowing that I have contributed to the good work that EUFOR does in Bosnia and Herzegovina.”

EUFOR Operation ALTHEA is currently made up of service personnel from 14 EU member states and 5 partner nations. The countries represented at this medal parade were Albania, Austria, Chile, Hungary, Poland, Switzerland and Turkey. Brigadier



General Szpisják went on to comment that: “EUFOR is indeed fortunate as it enjoys the full support of all your countries.”

## Recommissioning of EUFOR’s Archer Base Airstrip in Camp Butmir



Wednesday 23 August saw the official recommissioning of the former airstrip Archer Base at the EUFOR Headquarters, Sarajevo in Camp Butmir.

Originally a sports airstrip used for recreational flying, gliding and parachuting its facilities fell into disrepair once the airstrip was closed in 1992. At just under a mile in length and 20m wide the runway will now accommodate EUFORs air assets along with all the necessary facilities required to operate these assets from Archer Base.

The Commander of EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner, Commander of NATO HQ Sarajevo, Brigadier General Robert Huston and the Austrian Contingent Commander Colonel Manfred Taschler officially opened the newly recommissioned airstrip by landing on it in an Austrian Armed Forces Pilatus PC-6 Porter Short Take-Off and Landing (STOL) utility aircraft.

After overflying the airstrip they disembarked the airplane and formerly cut the ribbon opening the airstrip which will be used by the PC-6 aircraft. The PC-6 has been utilized in the mission since April and until now operated out of Sarajevo International airport. Through the recommissioning the airstrip EUFOR will have the ability to launch aircraft at short notice and not have to de-conflict with the international airport, greatly increasing EUFOR’s operational capability.

The Pilatus PC-6 Porter aircraft can carry up to 6 people or 800kg of equipment or a mix of both. It has a range of 400 Nautical Miles (NM), or 900NM if using its external fuel tanks and can land on an air strip as short as 300m.

The EUFOR chief of Air Operations, Lt Col Rudolf Peschl said: “Finally the PC-6 is based in Camp Butmir and can rely on the military infrastructure of Archer Base. This enables the aircraft to be deployed much faster than from Sarajevo International Airport. Additionally soldiers with their equipment can board the aircraft directly from assembly areas in Camp Butmir, which increases EUFOR’s capability to react quickly if required”

## Visit to EUFOR Mission Operation ALTHEA by the Co-Chairman of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR)



The Co-Chairman of the European Council on Foreign Relations (ECFR), Carl Bildt visited the European Union Force (EUFOR) Mission Operation (Op) ALTHEA on 5 July 2017.

On arrival at the Headquarters of EUFOR in Camp Butmir, the co-chair was greeted by the Commander (COM) of EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner. During an office call with COM EUFOR, the co-chair was updated on the progress of Operation ALTHEA. This included details of the ongoing co-operation between EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) through the Capacity Building and Training Programme. This programme focuses on EUFOR’s continued support and ongoing cooperation in building a sustainable AFBiH.

During his visit, Carl Bildt was accompanied by other representatives including: Fredrik Wesslau, ECFR Director of Wider Europe Programme, Robert Cooper, Diplomat and Francois Heisbourg, Chairman of the international Institute of Strategic Studies to name a few.

The ECFR is a pan-European think tank which aims to promote informed debate across Europe on the development of coherent and effective European values based foreign policy.





162 EUFOR personnel from 8 nations received the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Medal "ALTHEA" for their dedicated service in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

## Visit to EUFOR Operation ALTHEA by Operational Commander General Sir James Everard, KCB, CBE

**On 29 – 31 August 2017 General Sir James Everard, KCB, CBE the Operational Commander of EUFOR Operation ALTHEA and NATO's Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, visited EUFOR HQ, Camp Butmir. He was welcomed by COMEUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner and an Honour Guard consisting of soldiers from the Multinational Battalion (MNBN).**

During his visit he met with the BiH Minister of Defence, Ms. Marina Pendeš, and the Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to BiH, Mr. Khaldoun Sinno, where they discussed the

close cooperation of EUFOR with the BiH authorities, and EUFOR's continuing support to the overall EU comprehensive approach for BiH, respectively. The General also had meetings with COM EUFOR, COM NATO HQ Sarajevo, Brigadier General Robert A. Huston, and other key personnel to discuss the future development of the ALTHEA mission.

General Everard also presided over his first medal parade at the EUFOR HQ. He presented the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Medal "ALTHEA" to service personnel from the mission. In total 162 personnel from 8 different nations were on parade and General Everard thanked them all for their dedicated service in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

General Everard was appointed Operational Commander in March 2017, when he took the post of Deputy Supreme Allied Commander

Europe (DSACEUR). According to the Berlin Plus Agreement, the person performing this key command function also commands EUFOR Operation ALTHEA. The Berlin Plus Agreement is a comprehensive package of agreements between NATO and the European Union made in 2002. It allows the European Union to draw on some of NATO's military assets in its Peace Support Operations. At present EUFOR ALTHEA is the only operation carried out under Berlin Plus agreement.

The Berlin Plus arrangement also allows, EUFOR to call on NATO reserve forces for support. This is exercised on a yearly basis during the Quick Response exercise series. This year's exercise Quick Response will take place in October and will involve EUFOR's Multinational Battalion, the United Kingdom Intermediate Reserve Company, Armed Forces of BiH and the KFOR Tactical Reserve Battalion. During the exercise EUFOR is training its capability to call in its reserve forces in order to maintain a safe and secure environment in close co-operation with local authorities.

EUFOR Operation ALTHEA, currently made up of soldiers from 14 EU member states and 5 partner nations, works closely with NATO and the MoD BiH, conducting capacity building and training for the Armed Forces of BiH to contribute to the resilience of BiH and enable the Armed Forces BiH to successfully participate in international Peace Support Operations. EUFOR is fully committed to support BiH "on its path to a European future" and remains a vital enabling actor in the development and maintenance of a safe and secure environment, where the peace process can continue to move forward.



**The Operational Commander of EUFOR Operation ALTHEA addressing the international medal parade at EUFOR HQ in Camp Butmir.**



**BiH Minister of Defence, Ms. Marina Pendeš greeting the Operational Commander.**



**The Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to BiH, Mr. Khaldoun Sinno greeting the Operational Commander before their meeting.**



## Infantry and Battlefield techniques for Peace Support Operations

Between the 24-28 July 2017 soldiers of EUFOR's Multinational Battalion trained the Armed Forces of BiH in special infantry and battlefield techniques, tactics and procedures. The training was coordinated by EUFOR's Embedded Advisory Team upon request of the 5th infantry brigade after a previous self-evaluation.

The training was designed to increase the level of essential skills and capabilities needed in operations. These skills included camouflage techniques, weapons drill and approaches to a covert position, all of the training is crucial in enhancing the AFBiH capabilities for future participations in Peace Support Operations. To reach the level of practitioner another 9 weeks of grueling specialized training is required. The training delivered also focused on

operating with international partners and interoperability.

Lieutenant Colonel Bernd Paulewicz, Commander of EUFOR's Embedded Advisory Team: "This kind of training is the most important, a combined training

between different nations. First, it is a win-win situation, each party of the contributing nations may learn from each other from the experience, and also from the knowledge, and secondly, the ability to work together and to use international standards, this leads us to interoperability."

A live fire exercise in Lazarevic marked the final phase of the awareness training. The participants of the 1st Battalion 5th Infantry Brigade AFBiH were presented with certificates by Lieutenant Colonel Bernd Paulewicz.

"I am a very satisfied with the work of the EUFOR instructors and grateful they transferred their knowledge to us", said First sergeant Elvir Pajt, Course Participant.

**by Major Nicolai Tschol**





## Change of Command of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion

On Friday 11 August 2017 a ceremony, presided over by Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner, marked the Change of Command of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN). The Multinational Battalion is comprised of 3 different nations Austria, Hungary and Turkey who's soldiers combine to serve together within EUFOR.

The command of the Multinational Battalion was handed over from Lieutenant Colonel Harald Zagler to Lieutenant Colonel Michael Lippert, both members of the Austrian contingent in EUFOR. Lieutenant Colonel Michael Lippert stated in his speech, that the MNBN is the only reaction force within EUFOR's area of operations and that it is ready 24 hours a day 7 days a week to face special challenges. Additionally the new commander will utilise the special training opportunities within the region. The new Commander of the MNBN served in KFOR as a deputy Battalion Commander

in 2006 and as a commander of the Combat Service Support Battalion of a European Battlegroup in 2012 and 2016.

The MNBN exercises regularly with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) and in autumn of this year another exercise alongside reserve troops from across Europe will take place. The exercise, commonly known as Quick Response 17, will train EUFOR's capability to bring in reserve forces to assist BiH authorities in maintaining a safe and secure environment. The exercise happens every year, in co-operation with AFBiH and troops from contributing nations.

EUFOR Operation ALTHEA, currently made up of soldiers from 14 EU member states and 5 partner nations, works closely with the MoD, conducting capacity building and training throughout the country to promote a climate where the peace process can continue to move forward. The objective being that AFBiH will operate autonomously without the requirement for international assistance. EUFOR is fully committed to support BiH "on its path to a European future" and remains a vital enabling actor in the development and maintenance of a safe and secure environment.



## EUFOR Helping to train the Armed Forces of BiH in Network Applications

On 3 July 2017 EUFOR Chief Of Staff, Brigadier General Szpisják, visited the CISCO Network application course in Rajlovac. The month long CISCO Network application course was organized by EUFOR and hosted by the Tactical Support Brigade in Rajlovac. The purpose of the course was to demonstrate the necessity, and train the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH), in network applications, ensuring there are suitably qualified CIS personnel employed in the AFBiH establishment. These personnel will then manage, maintain, and provide security of the mission enterprise network operated by AFBiH.

17 members of AFBiH are enrolled on the course. The CISCO qualification is recognised worldwide and a rigorous exam in English is the final hurdle needed to complete the course. Brigadier General Szpisják had conversations with several of the participants on the course who said that they had been very pleased with the course.

by Major Nicolai Tschol



## EUFOR Chief of Staff visited AFBiH Logistics Command

On 2 August 2017 EUFOR Chief Of Staff, Brigadier General Szpisják, visited the Logistics Command of the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) in Doboj. Commanding Officer Colonel Rusmir Mrković informed the General on the mission, structure and deployment of the various

subordinate units and centres. Currently EUFOR facilitates the AFBiH's logistics efforts through embedded advisors and mobile training teams.

The mission of the Logistics Command is to plan, organize and provide support to all AFBiH units. It covers maintenance, supply, transport, service support and many other functions. All ammunition storage sites and weapons storage sites belong to Logistics Command.

Brigadier General Szpisják was particularly interested to hear how EUFOR can continue to support AFBiH through its capacity building and training activities.

Brigadier General Szpisják underlined the importance of the Logistics Command and pointed out that a solid logistic background is the basic foundation for the further development of Armed Forces.



## EUFOR's Draft Plan for Capacity Building and Training signed



On 25 August 2017 Colonel Mario Andrić from the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) Joint Staff and Colonel Tunser Avsar, in charge for EUFOR's Capacity Building and Training Programme (CB&T) for AFBiH, signed the draft 2018 CB&T Plan.

This plan is based on the Road Map Agreement 2017-2020 and reflects the training requirements of the Armed Forces of BiH. Along with military skills and leadership training, EUFOR has enabled a significant range of capability enhancing training events from the dismantling and delaboration of surplus and outdated ammunition to disaster relief operations.

Signing this draft at an early stage is essential to prepare for a solid basis for further planning and coordination. EUFOR's troop contributing nations need to be addressed as well to support with subject matter experts (SME), mobile training teams (MTT) and mobile monitoring and mentoring teams (MMT). Simultaneously AFBiH prepare their training guidance and budget planning.

Developing the capacity and capabilities of the Armed Forces of BiH is one of the most important tasks for EUFOR. Through everyday joint activities, experienced multinational teams pass on knowledge and skills of the highest international standards.

## Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister welcomed at EUFOR Headquarters



Camp Butmir, 3 August 2017 - Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner, welcomed the Bulgarian Deputy Prime Minister for Judicial Reform and Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ekaterina Zaharieva, at the EUFOR Headquarters in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

The Minister was accompanied by the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Bulgaria to BiH, Avgustina Tzvetkova-Karabascheva and the Military Attaché in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colonel Ivo Kutev. A Honor guard saluted the delegation before they discussed the Bulgarian contribution to EUFOR and the general security situation in BiH with the Commander of EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner.

Bulgaria holds many important positions within the EUFOR ALTHEA Operation. The EU-led operation is made up of 600 soldiers from 19 troop contributing nations.



### Foča's Gastro-Delight



On 13 July 2017, soldiers from the EUFOR LOT House Foča participated in the tenth Jubilee Festival of Gastronomic Offer "Gastro Foča 2017". This was the first time that the EUFOR LOT House had competed in the event which saw around thirty caterers, healthy food producers and other exhibitors from the local community and municipalities gather on the Foča island "Brioni".

The EUFOR soldiers prepared their national Slovak meal of Goulash with dumplings which proved to be a great success with many of the Foča population as well as tourists from France, Russia, Germany and Belgrade enjoying the food.

The EUFOR Houses participation in such social activities is a real benefit to both the organisers and EUFOR House Foča, as it creates many new connections with each other and the community.



### Brigadier General Szpisják visited EUFOR House in Dobož

On 2 August 2017 the EUFOR Liaison and Observation Team based in the EUFOR House in Dobož received EUFOR Chief of Staff Brigadier General Szpisják. He was briefed by the officer in charge, First Lieutenant Adam Mirus, on the team structure and specific activities in area of responsibility.

The briefing was followed by a lively discussion and the team members were able to share their opinions on different subjects with the General.

There are 17 EUFOR Houses throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. The soldiers living in these houses are EUFOR's

link to local authorities and communities. Being aware of the concerns of BiH citizens and demonstrating support to them enables EUFOR to maintain a safe and secure Bosnia and Herzegovina.



by Major Nicolai Tschol



### EUFOR conducts reconnaissance flight with Dobož Police

On 24 August 2017 the EUFOR Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) in Dobož conducted a reconnaissance flight over their area of responsibility. The flight was carried out with one of EUFOR's Agusta Bell 212 helicopters and saw representatives of Dobož Police on board.

"Familiarising ourselves with our area of responsibility and surrounding

geographic areas from a birds eye perspective. It helps us to understand the area and facilitates our planning work as a Liaison and Observation Team", said Captain Tomasz Gabrych, commander of the EUFOR LOT House in Dobož.

Furthermore cooperation with local authorities and police forces is essential for the daily work of the Liaison and Observation Teams which are seen as an integral part of the local communities they operate within.

by Major Nicolai Tschol



## EUSTAR Project Official Signing Ceremony

On Friday 14 July, the official signing of the EUSTAR project took place at the European Union Force of Bosnia and Herzegovina HQ in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. The EUSTAR (European Union Assistance to Stockpile Management, Technical Support, and Ammunition Surplus Reduction) represents the second phase of the European Union’s support to the establishment of sustainable stockpile management in BiH. The project is the successor to the EXPLODE project which witnessed the disposal of more than 1,800 tons of ammunition.

The EUSTAR Project will see close cooperation between local authorities (MoD and Armed Forces of BiH) and international actors (EU, EUFOR and UNDP) – to coordinate and implement activities designed to contribute to the disposal of around 3,000 tons of unsafe and unstable ammunition, and complex weapon systems.

The excessive stockpiles of ammunition and associated problems continue to pose a significant danger to human security and infrastructure in BiH. The AFBiH are responsible for the management of ammunition located in 12 storage sites throughout the country.

All ammunition currently in stock is not only over several decades old, becoming increasingly hazardous as time passes.

EUSTAR shall continue supporting the MoD of BiH and the AFBiH in the disposal of unsafe ammunition, utilizing already developed technological capacities, procedures and manpower established under the EXPLODE Project. The aim is to further increase the pace of destruction, which currently stands at approx. 2,000 tons per year.

EUFORs role in the project will be to co-ordinate and provide Subject Matter

Expert advice and project co-ordination. EUFOR remains focused on the capacity building and training of the AFBiH and the support of local authorities in maintaining a safe and secure environment.

The project will ensure that the BiH MoD and AFBiH are enabled, to autonomously perform all activities undertaken by the Project, even after its closure, so that demilitarization activities and sustainable Life-Cycle Management can continue uninterrupted under local leadership.

Through close partnership with the MoD of BiH and the AFBiH, the Project applies an inclusive and partnership-based approach throughout its activities, encouraging advancement of technical know-how and awareness-raising about the dangers of improperly handled and stored ammunition. There is also an ongoing and systematic capacity building training programme on stockpile management supported by the EUFOR.

The Project is complementary with all interventions implemented thus far by the national and international actors under the Ammunition Master Plan led by the BiH MoD coordinated by EUFOR, NATO HQ - Sarajevo, EU, UNDP and OSCE.

**The EUSTAR Project will see close cooperation between local authorities and international actors to coordinate and implement activities designed to contribute to the disposal of around 3,000 tons of unsafe and unstable ammunition, and complex weapon systems.**

The Commander of EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner, gave a speech at the official signing and stated; “A significant reduction of the stockpile within 2017 and 2018 is crucial to finally establish the sustainable Life-Cycle-Management System of Ammunition within the Armed Forces of BiH.” He then went on to thank the VIPs and audiences for their “continued commitment to the JOINT EFFORT in helping the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities maintain a Safe and Secure Environment.”



# 17 EUFOR HOUSES ACROSS BiH



CAZIN BANJA LUKA ZAVIDOVIĆ VIŠEGRAD  
 LIVNO TRAVNIK DOBOJ SARAJEVO TUZLA  
 ZENICA MOSTAR JABLANICA BRČKO TREBINJE FOČA BRATUNAC

FOR A **SAFE AND SECURE** ENVIRONMENT