



# Exercise QUICK RESPONSE 2017



Let me take this opportunity as Chief of Staff of EUFOR as well as Exercise Director of the Quick Response 2017 to show my appreciation to all of you for the hard work you have done during the exercise at Sarajevo International Airport, Kalinovik, Krupa and Camp Butmir 2.

Much time in preparation has gone into this exercise as this year it laid the foundation by taking a different approach. The concept was that instead of concentrating to the Combined Training with Armed Forces of BiH in a fictional peace support operation scenario during the operational rehearsal we focused on the EUFOR primary task to support the local Law Enforcement Agencies to support the safe and security environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Therefore, I would like to underline that for the first time BiH Law Enforcement Agencies, Armed Forces of BiH and EUFOR have successfully worked together in a realistic scenario.

Based on what I witnessed I can say that we have achieved our targeted training objectives, which were set by COMEUFOR.

Achieving the primary objectives is certainly admirable, but it is also crucial that they are performed safely. This time we have not had even one accident during the exercise, which is mainly due to the disciplined behaviour of everyone involved.

I would like to say, thank you for your participation, cooperation, professionalism and enthusiasm in this exercise.

Furthermore, I would also like to take the opportunity to thank all of you who made sure the exercise would run smoothly from the background. You were the unsung heroes of the exercise and I want you to know that we appreciate your efforts.

**Chief of Staff EUFOR, Brigadier General József Szpisják**



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Unfortunately, this is my final edition of the Forum as I prepare to depart the mission. The last few months have been a very busy time for EUFOR with the headline event being Quick Response 17. The exercise coverage

broke all of EUFOR's social media records and achieved not only strong BiH national press coverage but also very good international coverage.

Please support my successor, Lieutenant Commander Sarah Wetherfield, by continuing to send in photographs and information about the excellent work being conducted by EUFOR across BiH.

I wish you all the best in the future.

**Lt Cdr Jamie Weller**  
EUFOR Spokesperson



Commander EUFOR  
**Major General Anton Waldner**  
EUFOR Public Affairs Chief  
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## Delegation of the Bulgarian Government visited HQ EUFOR



On 26 October a delegation of the Bulgarian government headed by Prime Minister Mr. Boyko Borissov visited Headquarters of the European Union Force (HQ EUFOR) in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. He was accompanied by the Deputy Prime Minister for Public Order and Security and the Minister of Defence Mr. Krasimir Karakachanov, Deputy Prime Minister Mr. Tomislav Donchev, Head of the Prime Minister's Political Cabinet Mrs. Rumiana Bachvarova and the Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to Bosnia Herzegovina H.E. Avgustina Tzvetkova-Karabasheva. The delegation was welcomed by Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner, with an Honour Guard made up of two platoons of Turkish soldiers from the EUFOR Multinational Battalion under the command of Command Sergeant Major Lajos Soós.

After the ceremony COM EUFOR and Prime Minister Borissov with his delegation had a meeting about the current situation in BiH.

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



## Closing Ceremony of a Combined Training Package

On 20 October 2017 Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner, along with Brigadier General Ilić, Commander 6th Brigade, AFBiH, presided over the closing ceremony of a combined training package that was designed to increase interoperability between EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH).

The combined training has taken place in the area of Pazarić and it has not only tested the soldier's tactics and skills on the ground but also exercised their ability to operate with helicopters. The training involved a large aviation aspect, with EUFOR providing a Black Hawk and Agusta Bell 212 for the training package. Lieutenant Colonel Dario Pajić from the AFBiH was the exercise director for the combined training and had worked very closely with EUFOR to ensure that the training met the requirements of all parties.

At the closing ceremony Commander EUFOR awarded certificates and his Commander's Coin to members of the AFBiH who had excelled during the training and stood out from the other soldiers. He said: "For any Armed Forces, training and exercises are of highest importance to prepare themselves for possible operations, both globally and at home. During this training the members of the AFBiH have demonstrated their capacity to engage and integrate with EUFOR troops and their ability to carry out activities in the multinational environment of peace support operations, often requiring the rapid deployment of troops. The ability to incorporate EUFOR aviation assets has been exceptionally beneficial in this training package."

EUFOR Operation Althea 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. The international peacekeeping force, EUFOR, maintains the capacity to react in any area of Bosnia and Herzegovina to any localised security challenge, and this is why this combined training is so important to EUFOR and the AFBiH.

## Exercise Quick Response 2017

### Working together for a safe and secure BiH



**Quick Response 2017 was a EUFOR-led peace support operations exercise which took place on the 11 - 15 October 2017 at Sarajevo International Airport, Pazarić and Kalinovik. This was the first time BiH Law Enforcement Agencies, Armed Forces of BiH and EUFOR have exercised together in realistic scenarios, in order to test their respective contingency plans.**

Quick Response 2017 practiced EUFOR's capability to call in reserve forces to maintain a safe and secure environment in close co-operation with local authorities, Law Enforcement Agencies and the Armed Forces of BiH.

The international exercise involved EUFOR's Multinational Battalion, the Intermediate Reserve Forces flying in from the United Kingdom and the KFOR Tactical Reserve Battalion coming in from Kosovo.

On 5 October 2017 Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner, Deputy Minister of Defence of BiH Sead Jusić and Minister of Security of BiH Dragan Mektić addressed a press conference in the Ministry of Security, Sarajevo, about the upcoming "Quick Response 2017" exercise.

This exercise was an excellent opportunity to test the level of training of the competent institutions and police agencies in BiH to respond quickly and efficiently to any security threat.

"In addition to testing the coordination of local institutions, the cooperation with international forces is also

important, in this case with EUFOR, on whose support and assistance we rely in many realistic situations. Along with the testing of procedures, the exercise will help identify any impediments, and their elimination will enable actions of even greater efficiency," Minister Mektić said.

"I would like to state that the European Union remains committed to Bosnia and Herzegovina and that, through the presence of EUFOR, it will continue supporting BiH in its endeavours to maintain a safe and secure environment, on its path towards the membership in the EU," EUFOR Commander Waldner said.

Quick Response 2017 will increase interoperability both between EUFOR forces and the Armed Forces of BiH and Law Enforcement Agencies. EUFOR maintains the capacity to react in any area of Bosnia and Herzegovina to any localised security challenge, if needed, and that EUFOR will maintain a mechanism whereby reserve forces may be deployed in a timely manner in order to support the BiH authorities maintain a safe and secure environment.

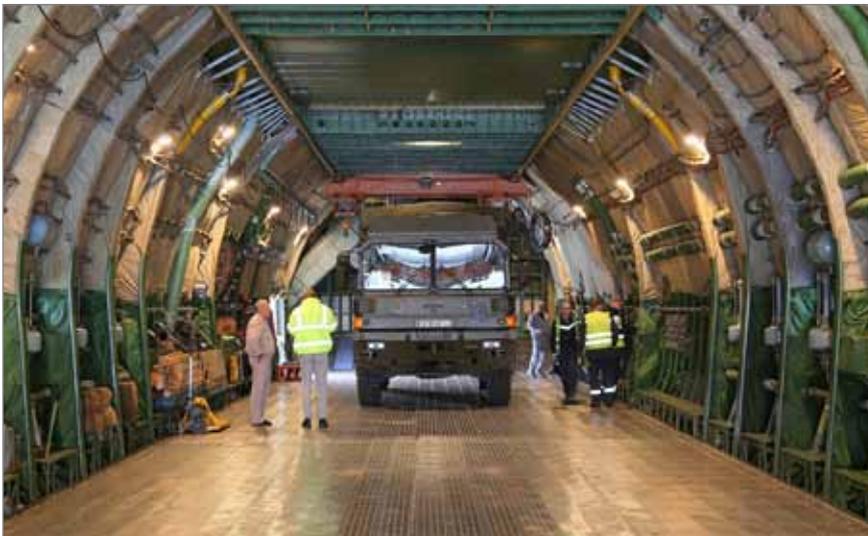
## Intermediate Reserve Forces from the UK arrive

On 6 October 2017 Sarajevo International Airport witnessed the arrival of an Antonov 124 cargo aircraft, the world's second heaviest aircraft, delivering tons of British military equipment and vehicles, required by the British troops supporting exercise Quick Response 2017. Shortly after the



arrival of the Antonov 124 a Royal Air Force Voyager aircraft landed carrying British soldiers from the 1Rifles, who participated in the exercise.

This international exercise involved EUFOR's Multinational Battalion comprising of Austrian, Hungarian and Turkish soldiers, the Intermediate Reserve Forces from the United Kingdom and the NATO Kosovo Force Tactical Reserve Battalion. EUFOR is able to draw on mobile and versatile Over the Horizon Reserve Forces, if required, to augment in-theatre forces and deal with any military contingency that arises as well as supporting the Ministry of Security and Ministry of Defence.



The arrival of the UK military, demonstrates the UK's ability to rapidly move personnel and vehicles across the continent in times of unrest. The arrival of the aircraft highlighted the strategic air lift capability of the UK Intermediate Reserve Forces to deploy at extremely short notice in response to the request

of Commander EUFOR in supporting of the BiH authorities.

EUFOR supported local authorities, Law Enforcement Agencies and the Armed Forces of BiH to maintain a safe and secure environment in BiH and help promote a climate in which the peace process can continue. One of the locations for the exercise was Sarajevo International Airport where EUFOR supported Special Forces and the Border Police as well as the airport authorities practice some of their mandated operational training. Another training area saw EUFOR and the UK support the AFBiH to secure an ammunition storage site from potential hostile threats.

## NATO's Kosovo Force Tactical Reserve Battalion deployment to BiH

A few days before Quick Response 2017 started, troops from the Kosovo Force (KFOR) arrived at the border of Bosnia and Herzegovina. They have travelled from Kosovo through Montenegro in order to participate in Exercise "Quick Response 2017." KFOR participated in training with the EUFOR Multinational Battalion and Armed Forces BiH, local Law Enforcement Agencies and the European Intermediate Reserve Forces.

The NATO Kosovo Force Tactical Reserve Battalion acts as an "Over the Horizon Force" to reinforce the European Union Force (EUFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, if required. The convoys have transited through BiH demonstrating EUFOR's ability to move troops quickly throughout the country.

KFOR's Tactical Reserve Battalion is usually stationed at Novo Selo, Camp Marechal De Lattre De Tassigny, in Kosovo. The battalion can be deployed anywhere in the theatre of operations and perform any task or mission for an unlimited period of time, being completely independent. The unit is commanded by a Hungarian officer and the unit comprises of Hungarian troops.

Major Levente Nagy from the KFOR Battalion said: "NATO KFOR Tactical Reserve Maneuver

**Continued on next page**

Battalion came to BiH to take part in the Quick Response 2017 Peace Support Operation Exercise. Our presence on the exercise conducted by EUFOR is a good example of the excellent cooperation between NATO and EU based on the Berlin Plus agreement. We are looking forward to training together with BiH Law Enforcement Agencies who are taking part in the Quick Response Exercise series.”

During the first stage of the exercise the different units conducted internal training at platoon, company and battalion level. During the second phase all troops were united to a Multi-national Battalion, which is trained and reacted to tasking and incidents injected by the Exercise Control Team. With a Battalion sized force, EUFOR is able to complete the larger enhanced scenarios. Reconnaissance and surveillance of wide areas has been carried out by all elements. Under the guidelines given, the soldiers exercised the use of minimum force to support the Law Enforcement Agencies and Armed Forces BiH in order to maintain a safe and secure environment.

Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner said: “These scenarios were selected in order to allow the



Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Law Enforcement Agencies to test their tactics, techniques and procedures in dealing with a terrorist attack. This exercise saw, for the first time, Bosnia and Herzegovina’s Law Enforcement Agencies, Armed Forces and EUFOR operating together to test their respective contingency plans.”

One of the key outcomes of “Quick Response 2017” was to allow EUFOR and all contributing nations to be able to conduct larger Brigade Level Peace Support Operations both home and overseas should they be called upon.

## Opening Ceremony of Quick Response 2017

On the 11 October 2017 Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner welcomed the Minister of Defence of BiH Marina Pendeš and Minister of Security of BiH Dragan Mektić to EUFOR HQ, Camp Butmir, Sarajevo for the official opening ceremony of “Quick Response 2017.”

On parade at the ceremony were the Intermediate Reserves Forces from the United Kingdom and the NATO Force Tactical Reserves from Kosovo as well as troops from EUFOR’s Multinational Battalion, comprising of Hungarian and Turkish soldiers. Joining the soldiers were platoons from SIPA and the Border Police including a K9 unit.

Major General Anton Waldner addressed the parade and VIP’s saying: “I want to pay a special welcome to the Units on parade which are not normally part of EUFOR, namely the 1 Rifles from the United Kingdom and NATO’s Force Tactical Reserves from Kosovo, and the participants from the Armed Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are collectively unified in this exercise with the primary aim of ensuring security.”



The Minister of Defence, Marina Pendeš added: “One of the most important tasks of any army is to prepare for various situations and security threats. The Ministry of Defence and myself personally, will advocate ensuring even more favourable conditions for organising and conducting of training activities as a very important precondition for the development of our Armed Forces.”

Dragan Mektić, the Minister of Security, said “We want to send a clear message to our partners as well as to the citizens of BiH that we have ready and trained police forces that can quickly and efficiently respond to all the security threats.”



## Day 1

The exercise was designed to test EUFOR's, the Law Enforcement Agencies and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina's contingency plans in dealing with a scenario involving a series of fictitious terrorist attacks.

NATO's Force Tactical Reserves from Kosovo merged with the Hungarian company from EUFOR's Multinational Battalion to support the Border Police in securing Sarajevo International Airport after a series of fictional terrorist attacks. The Turkish element of EUFOR's Multinational Battalion were testing their urban training, dealing with civil unrest and securing buildings.

Whilst the Intermediate Response Force for the UK were securing the area around an ammunition storage site in support of the Armed Forces of BiH, EUFOR maintained the capacity to react in any area of BiH to any localised security challenge. EUFOR sustains a mechanism whereby reserve forces may be deployed in a timely manner in order to support BiH authorities maintain a safe and secure environment.



## Day 2

Sarajevo International Airport came under attack from fictitious terrorist outbreaks with hostages taken. The training covered the cooperation of SIPA, the Border Police and EUFOR's Intermediate Reserve Force from the UK to defuse the situation and regain order. The Minister of Security of BiH was also present to witness the teamwork.

NATO's Kosovo Force Tactical Reserves and the Hungarian element of EUFOR's Multinational Battalion were put through their paces having to deal with riots and the securing of a building which contained civilians and enemy forces. While the Turkish troops from the EUFOR's Multinational Battalion had to ensure the area around an ammunition site was clear of all threats and booby traps.

This training allows EUFOR to support local authorities, Law Enforcement Agencies and the Armed Forces of BiH to maintain a safe and secure environment in BiH and help promote a climate in which the peace process can continue.



## Day 3

The final day of Exercise Quick Response took place on the 14 October with the complexities of the scenarios increasing at all locations. The Turkish troops from EUFOR's Multinational Battalion had to support SIPA in securing some important infrastructure for Sarajevo International Airport.

NATO's Kosovo Force Tactical Reserves and the Hungarian element of EUFOR's Multinational Battalion were tested in securing the area around an ammunition storage site against a range of fictitious injects to really test their skills. The Intermediate Reserve Force from the UK had to deal with some challenging civil unrest and hostage situations as they completed their urban training scenarios.

Quick Response 17 has tested the complex mechanisms to activate and integrate the reserves with EUFOR's in-theatre troops, the Law Enforcement Agencies and the Armed Forces of BiH.



## Closing Ceremony of Exercise Quick Response 2017



The ceremony on 15 October 2017 concluded months of planning and cooperation between EUFOR, the Ministry of Security and the Ministry of Defence for BiH.

The Exercise Director, Brigadier General József Szpisják, congratulated all of the participating soldiers for their hard work and commitment in making the exercise a huge success and thanked them for their professionalism and enthusiasm throughout.

This international exercise involved EUFOR's Multinational Battalion, the Intermediate Reserve Forces from the United Kingdom and the Kosovo Force Tactical Reserve Battalion as well as Law Enforcement Agencies and the Armed Forces of BiH; all working together, for the first time exercising realistic scenarios in order to test their respective contingency plans.

Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner said: "Quick Response 2017 exercise has provided the opportunity to increase our interoperability with both the Armed Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina as well as testing our tactics, techniques and procedures in dealing with a number of different types of threats." When addressing the soldiers at the closing ceremony he added: "At the strategic level, the European Union remains committed to Bosnia and Herzegovina and through EUFOR's presence

will continue to support Bosnia and Herzegovina's efforts to maintain a safe and secure environment on the country's path to EU accession. Therefore your presence in this high profile exercise helps reinforce this strategic objective."

Quick Response 2017 successfully demonstrated EUFOR's capability to call in reserve forces in order to maintain a safe and secure environment in support of local authorities, Law Enforcement Agencies and the Armed Forces of BiH.

EUFOR is able to draw on mobile and versatile Over the Horizon Reserve forces, if required, to augment in-theatre forces and deal with any military contingency that arises as well as supporting the Ministry of Security and Ministry of Defence.



## EUFOR soldiers run the Sarajevo Half Marathon

On 17 September more than 20 EUFOR members participated together with runners from NATO HQ Sarajevo in the Sarajevo Half Marathon. Gym instructor Željko Puljić represented Camp Butmir's local staff. All runners reached the finish line of the demanding course going through the most beautiful parts of the city.

The running competition started and ended in front of the BBI centre downtown Sarajevo. Fastest EUFOR finishers were Jorge Juan Picallo from Spain (1:34 hrs) and Victor Eduardo Oyarzo Avila (1:35 hrs) from Chile.

Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner, encouraged EUFOR staff to participate in the sports competition and sponsored a special EUFOR marathon shirt for the participants. The entire EUFOR participation was organized by Command Sergeant Major Soós and supported by MWA under the motto "Together on the same path - Zajedno na istom putu."

by Maj Nicolai Tschol



## Sport events in Camp Butmir

Sport is integral to military life and an essential activity that has multiple benefits to both the individual and the EUFOR community. In addition to improving psycho physical abilities and health, sport has a scientifically proven influence on the improvement of teamwork as well as the breakdown of the stress resulting from working on Military missions abroad.

In Camp Butmir, the responsibility for organized sport and the sports infrastructure rests with the EUFOR Gym Staff under the command of Headquarters Commandant. The gym team, using modern infrastructure and gym management methods allow for the development and implementation comprehensive sports program, which includes the organization of various competitions and events.

### Circuit Session

The most popular organized sport session in the EUFOR Headquarters is the circuit session scheduled each Monday, Wednesday and Friday in the Gym's sports hall from 1730hrs – 1900hrs.

1,500 attendees in 2017 so far demonstrate that regardless of gender, age and fitness levels that this class is for those who are motivated to improve their fitness level. This is always achieved in a fun and healthy way with the assistance of professional and experienced trainers.

### EUFOR Half Marathon Team preparation

A section of the annual sports plan for 2017 was to prepare a team from the EUFOR HQ to participate in the Sarajevo Half Marathon, an event took place on 17 September downtown Sarajevo. A six-month

programme of training and reparation began in March. Fitness programs were prepared and later adapted as personal goals were achieved. In the past number of months, the gym staff organized, supervised and participated in a number of fun runs with a gradual increase for the committed with distances beginning at 4km and finally finishing with a 10km run on 29 August. On that evening 20 runners from 7 countries participated. S1 officer Captain Lorraine Whelan on behalf of Headquarters Commandant presented the fastest ones with medals and certificates.

#### Male category:

Markus Grabmaur (AUT)  
Jorge Picallo (ESP)  
Markus Schlosser (AUT)

#### Female category

Constanza Walter (CHL)  
Eva Pilsakova (SVK)

by Željko Puljić, Gym supervisor

## AFBiH Mine Action and EOD Training Centre in Rajlovac



On 18 October 2017 Chief of Staff EUFOR, Brigadier General József Szpisják, visited the AFBiH Mine Action and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Training Centre in Rajlovac. The Chief of Staff was given a short presentation by Lieutenant Colonel Miljan Janković, the Commander of the Training Center, which outlined the main tasks and capabilities of the center, which was established in 2016.

Currently, BiH is the 8th most mine polluted country in the world and number one in Europe. There are still 79,000 mines in BiH covering an area of 1,080 km<sup>2</sup> size territory. During 2017 there have been five mine incidents in BiH, three involving people. These incidents have resulted in two deaths and three injuries. Since the end of the war there have been 600 fatal mine accidents all together, of which one in seven deaths has been of a child.

Brigadier General József Szpisják stressed that due to the fact that there are still a large number of mines and explosive remnants of war existing in BiH, Mine Action is one of the most important issues for a safe and secure environment to allow a normal and prosperous life of all BiH citizens. He underlined that the AFBiH contribution to reach this goal of clearing mines from the country is extremely important. At the same time EUFOR will continue to support the AFBiH Mine Action and EOD Training Centre and contribute to the AFBiH Mine Action capabilities.

Chief of Staff EUFOR stated: "BiH citizens can be proud of those 300 AFBiH demining soldiers who risk their lives every day to provide a safe environment for them."

## Closing ceremony of the AFBiH Sports Championships

The 2017 AFBiH Sports Championships held at Kozara Barracks, in Banja Luka were officially closed on 15 September. This was the first time that the AFBiH had run the championships in its new format. The championships were organized by the Joint Staff of AFBiH and hosted by 6th Infantry Brigade over the period 11-15 September 2017.

The closing ceremony was attended by Mr. Sead Jusić, Deputy Minister of Defence, Major General Dragan Vuković, Commander Operational Command, Brigadier General József Szpisják, Chief of Staff EUFOR, Brigadier General Kenan Dautović, Commander 5th Infantry Brigade, Brigadier General Radovan Ilić, Commander, 6th Infantry Brigade and Brigadier General Ivica Jerkić, Deputy Commander Operational Command.



EUFOR has been invited to participate in the event but due to operational constraints they were unable to participate this year. Brigadier General Szpisják delivered a speech to the competitors at the closing ceremony: "I hope we'll have a chance to take part in the competitions next year and not only at the annual AFBiH Sport Championship but more often at various sporting disciplines organized together by AFBiH and EUFOR. Sport can be a bridge between servicemen of AFBiH and EUFOR in order to open new areas for cooperation."

Brigadier General Szpisják took the opportunity to congratulate all of the sportsmen for the outstanding results they have achieved and handed over special EUFOR awards to the winners of Shooting (6th Infantry Brigade, AFBiH), Orienteering (6th Infantry Brigade AFBiH) and Futsal (Support Command, AFBiH).

## COS EUFOR visit to the Ammunition Storage Site Car Dušan

On 17 October 2017 the Chief of Staff EUFOR, Brigadier General József Szpisják, visited the Ammunition Storage Site (ASS) Car Dušan near Rudo. EUFOR's Joint Military Affairs Chief and the Ammunition Technical Advisor escorted him. The aim of the visit was to familiarise COS EUFOR with the problems associated with the storage of the quantities of surplus ammunition held by the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) and to see for himself the condition of the ammunition storage and the environment in which the ammunition is stored. Colonel Djukanović, Head of the Logistics Command Logistics Planning and Operations Branch of the AFBiH met him at the site. Also present was the Commanding Officer of the 4th Logistics Battalion



of the AFBiH, Major Raguž, whose Battalion is responsible for the running of the site.

COS EUFOR was given a brief on the ASS and it was explained that the ASS was a non-perspective site and would be closed as soon as the surpluses of ammunition held by the AFBiH were disposed of. It was also explained that as the site was non-perspective, the BiH Ministry of Defence was reluctant to spend any money on or allocate resources to the site. The briefing identified the quantities and

types of ammunition held at the ASS and updated COS EUFOR on the status of the ongoing 100 percent visual inspection by AFBiH inspection teams of all ammunition held by the AFBiH. Brigadier General Szpisják then viewed the two inspection lines being run; one line was the inspection of 100g TNT demolition charges and the other 44mm anti-tank rifle grenades. The inspectors in charge of these lines explained the safety critical features of the ammunition they were handling and what constituted the basis for recommending disposal action on an item.

During the tour COS EUFOR noted the dilapidated condition of the storage buildings and other infrastructure elements including uncontrolled vegetation growth and lightning conductors, which were not operational. He also witnessed the Guard Force accommodation which is in need of serious maintenance.

At the end of the visit Brigadier General Szpisják thanked everyone for their openness in discussing the problems associated with this site. He also stated that he was impressed by the professionalism of all involved in the work at ASS Car Dušan and stated that the safety of personnel working at the ASS was of paramount importance and that they should ensure this was their number one priority.

## Camp Butmir Fire Department



Camp Butmir Fire Department recently took delivery of a specialist Airfield Fire and Rescue Vehicle which you may have seen driving around the base. This Mercedes vehicle will replace the old Gloster Saro Meteor vehicle which has sadly become obsolete and will now be retired.

The much newer Mercedes Saurus fire vehicle features a 3,000 liter water tank and a 200 liter foam tank, it has a discharge rate of over 2,000 liters of finished foam per minute. Further adding, to the fire departments capability and meeting ICAO standards for airfield fire safety.

## Minister of National Defence for the Republic of Poland visited HQ EUFOR



On 3 October 2017, the Minister of National Defence for the Republic of Poland, Mr. Antoni Macierewicz, visited the Headquarters of the European Union Force (HQ EUFOR) in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. He was joined by the Operational Commander of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland, Major General Sławomir Wojchiechowski and Mr. Domenik Smyrgala, the Chief of the Political Cabinet of the Minister.

Initially welcomed by an honour guard of soldiers from the EUFOR Multinational Battalion, the Polish delegation then proceeded to an office call with Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner. During this call, Major General Waldner thanked Minister Macierewicz for the support of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland and commended the good work they are doing throughout the country.

Minister Macierewicz also used the visit to address the EUFOR Polish contingent in a less formal setting after which he received a brief from his Senior National Representative on the Polish contribution to EUFOR Operation Althea. The Republic of Poland has 38 military personnel throughout BiH as part of EUFOR Operation Althea under Commander EUFOR. Their roles range from manning the EUFOR House in Doboje, being part of Embedded Advisory Teams and Military Police in Camp Butmir.

## International Medal Parade at the EUFOR Headquarters



On 1 November 2017 Chief of Staff EUFOR, Brigadier General József Szpisják presided over a medal parade at the EUFOR Headquarters in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. He presented the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Medal “Althea” to 31 service personnel from 6 different nations and thanked them for their dedicated service in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Chief of Staff EUFOR emphasized that the medal formally and publicly acknowledges the contribution made by every single member of EUFOR and that EUFOR is fortunate to enjoy the full support of so many troop contributing nations. He expressed his appreciation for the families of the soldiers on parade making a sacrifice because of the absence of their loved ones far away from home to keep peace and stability. Brigadier General Szpisják pointed out that 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.



After receiving the Althea medal Chief Warrant Officer Lajos Soós, EUFOR’s Command Sergeant Major, said: “I will carry the professional experiences that I have gained, working with the excellent soldiers and civilians of EUFOR, with me when I return to the Non-Commissioned Officers Academy in Hungary and I will wear this medal with pride.”

by Maj Nicolai Tschol

## Members of EUFOR House Banja Luka Shared a Fun Day with Schoolchildren at Krupa na Uni

On 14 September 2017, a team of EUFOR House soldiers from Banja Luka attended the primary school Branko Ćopić, Gornji Bušević, Krupa na Uni. During their outreach visit the Chilean EUFOR soldiers told the children about EUFOR as well as information about Chile including national dress and traditional dance. The EUFOR soldiers also then presented each of the children with gifts which had been donated by the EUFOR House and Chilean companies.

At the end of the outreach program the children participated in a football match against the EUFOR House soldiers which all of the children loved, and they won the match!

The school principal Dragana Todić said: “At least once a month EUFOR House personnel are in contact with the school, asking if we need any assistance and offering help, and for this assistance I want to express a deep hearted gratitude, professionally and privately to the EUFOR House team, and thank them in the name of our school, teachers and pupils.”

“This year, the EUFOR House wanted to do something special and not related with the normal meetings or Mine Risk Education work that we do, so we decided to gather funds in order to do this donation to the children. With the help of all the 15 Chileans in the Mission and the Ambassador of Chile in Hungary, we gathered the amount needed to buy the sport outfits and the equipment that we are donating today. This kind of manifestations has a



**As an EUFOR LOT House, we are the “eyes and ears of the Commander EUFOR”, so part of our mission is to be in contact with the local people. The mission of EUFOR is a mission for the future of the country, that is why we think that the best way to change and develop BiH, is through their children.**

beneficial multiplier factor, and we are planning to go for another one, especially in far away and less affluent schools like this one at Krupa na uni. As always money is a limiting factor, but hard work and imagination is not”, said Major Nicolas Schnyder Bertens, officer in command of the EUFOR LOT House in Banja Luka.

Mara Ćulibrk, a teacher at the primary school Branko Ćopić, said: “EUFOR House personnel organized similar activities in last 5 years but this time they prepared special program that we all liked very much, including teachers, children and parents who were present too.”

Captain Pablo Sayago Barros of the Chilean Army and second in command of the EUFOR LOT House in Banja Luka said: “As an EUFOR LOT House, we are the “eyes and ears of the Commander EUFOR”, so part of our mission is to be in contact with the local people, that’s how we came in contact with the School Branko Ćopić in Krupa na Uni, where we are going today to give our donation and a moment of happiness to the children who attend that school.” He went on to add; The mission of EUFOR is a mission for the future of the country, that is why we think that the best way to change and develop BiH, is through their children, so we are taking a little step towards the days to come, so they can bring a bright nation to this wonderful land where they live.”



# FOR A SAFE AND SECURE BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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