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## International Medal Parade

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*We want to introduce you to the Turkish fitness test.*

## Editor in Chief

Hello and welcome this edition of the EUFOR Forum. April and May was an exceptionally busy period for the military and civilian personnel in EUFOR. In this issue we bid a farewell to the departing COS EUFOR Brigadier General Ernő Baráth as well as welcoming the incumbent COS EUFOR, Brigadier General Szilárd Gerőfi.



Captain

Tadhg McCarthy

Furthermore, we present a roundup of the vital activities of the LCC and LOT, Joint Military Affairs and the Department of Public Works all whom have maintained their busy schedules so far in 2021 despite the best efforts of COVID-19.

This edition also highlights the excellent combined efforts from many offices toward this year's Virtual Mine Risk Education Campaign and we continue our educational series on Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Your photos and articles really are important to us, so if you want the opportunity to highlight a story then please get in touch by sending us an email at: [euforpio@eufor.europa.eu](mailto:euforpio@eufor.europa.eu). On behalf of the PAO Team, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to this months and to you, our readers for your continued support as we look forward to a busy 2021.

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EUFOR Public Affairs Chief  
Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Kovács

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We also thank  
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EUFOR LOT Houses

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**European Force In Bosnia and Herzegovina**  
Published by Jasmin Zeherovic · 26 May at 11:57 ·

Pripadnici EUFOR-a i Oružanih snaga BiH nedavno su održali vježbu u Orašju koja je bila vrhunac višemjesečne kombinirane obuke EUFOR-a i OSBiH. Fokusirala se na taktiku operacija podrške miru na nivou voda. Turski vojnici iz EUFOR-ovog Multinacionalnog bataljona istakli su da im je vježba bila vrlo pozitivno iskustvo uprkos lošim vremenskim uvjetima.

EUFOR and AFBiH personnel recently conducted a training exercise in Orašje. The exercise was the culmination of several months of combined training between the two organisations and focused mainly on Platoon level Peace Support Operations tactics. The Turkish soldiers from EUFOR's Multinational Battalion found the exercise to be a very positive experience despite bad weather conditions, which was conducted with both forces communicating through English.

T.C. Millî Savunma Bakanlığı #OpAlthea #tactics



**Major Marko Damjanović**  
Executive officer, AFBiH 3.bTV6.bde

Today at the barracks of Armed Forces BiH - "Oružane snage Bosne i Hercegovine" in Orašje, was held a joint training exercise.

25,760 People reached      2,640 Engagements      [Boost post](#)

**Operation EUFOR Althea** @euforbih · May 25

On 22 May #EUFOR responded to request from Ministry of Security in response to mountain accident. EUFOR Search & Rescue #helicopter deployed to recover patient on Zvekuša and moved him to Konjic Hospital. #GSSKonjic tinyurl.com/55tzbba5



Operation EUFOR Althea @euforbih · May 29

Yesterday #EUFOR personnel @MON\_GOV\_PL in LOT House #Doboj completed donation of Mine Risk Education CD's to 109 schools to help improve access to mine risk education. #euforPAZMINE #minersk euforbih.org/pazmine #bih



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**Follow us on Social Media**



**EUROPE DAY**  
9 MAY 2021

**EUFOR - OPERATION ALTHEA**  
United for Peace

EUFOR Europe Day

LOT House #Cazin was inspected by COMEUFOR Major General Platzer. COMEUFOR was briefed by #EUFOR LOT team and their commander. Team leaders briefed on their respective areas of responsibility, highlighting important features of the area and issues that impact on the population within them. There are seventeen LOT teams within Bosnia and Herzegovina, the LOT teams communicate with all members of society within their areas and relay this information to EUFOR HQ where it will aid in planning of key mandate activities, including support to national mine action. #Romania #ArmataRomâniei #EUFOR.



5,356 People reached      344 Engagements      [Boost post](#)



euforbih

euforbih LOT House #Cazin was inspected by COMEUFOR Major General Alexander Platzer. COMEUFOR was briefed by #EUFOR LOT team and their commander. They briefed on the areas of responsibility and local issues. #Romania #ArmataRomâniei #EUFOR

Liked by euforbih and 212 others

400

Add a comment...



# Chief of Staff Transfer of Authority Ceremony



Brigadier General Ernő Baráth relinquished his position of EUFOR Chief of Staff to his successor, Brigadier General Szilárd Gerőfi

On May 7 in a Transfer of Authority ceremony held at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, Brigadier General Ernő Baráth relinquished his position of EUFOR Chief of Staff (COS) to his successor, Brigadier General Szilárd Gerőfi, following the completion of a 12-month tour of duty.

Addressing the parade, Brigadier General Ernő Baráth said:

***“As COS of EUFOR, it has been a privilege to work closely with you all. I am really impressed with the joint and efficient effort as well as the comprehensive approach carried out in this country.”***

COMEUFOR, Major General Alexander Platzer, commended Brigadier General Baráth, saying:

***“The wide experience he brought into this mission proved important, especially in difficult situations, which he also managed in an excellent and successful way.”***

Starting his second tour of duty with EUFOR, the new Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Szilárd Gerőfi, said:

***“It is a great honour for me that I can take over the position of Chief of Staff and I eagerly look forward to working together with the international staff to further stabilize the West Balkan region and within that, BiH. There are still challenges and complexities EUFOR is facing,***

***however I promise I will do my best supporting our commander's intent in maintaining a close relationship with Bosnia and Hercegovina's security providers, ensuring a safe and secure environment for the people of this country, and finally proceed Bosnia and Hercegovina to an acceptable end-state within the UN Security Council Mandate and facilitate the European integration”***



From left: Brigadier General Ernő Baráth, COMEUFOR, Lieutenant General Zoltán Mihócza, Brigadier General Szilárd Gerőfi





**Brigadier General Szilárd Gerőfi**

Brigadier General Szilárd Gerőfi was born 13 June 1967 in Veszprém, Hungary.

His military career started in 1986 when he entered the Military Technical College. In 1997 he graduated (Master Degree) on Technical University of Budapest. His Senior Leadership Training he finished on Faculty of Military and Defence Education from 2014-2015 with outstanding qualification.

From 1989-1993 he was Commander of Signal Platoon (Lieutenant) later on Signal Company (1st Lieutenant)

in 1997 he became Senior Signal officer (1st Lieutenant, Captain) in General Staff of Hungarian Airforce. From 2001-2004 (Lt Colonel) he was Requirements section Chief in Naples, Italy and as part of that was secretary of the Southern Region CAOC CIS WG.

Back to Hungary in 2004 as IT Branch Chief and from 2006 as a CIS OPS Branch Chief. Until 2009 he was a part of SC5 NATO Tactical Data Link WG as a Head of Hungarian Delegation and Hungarian representative in Air Command and Control Systems (ACCS) Communications Working Group (ACWG).

He was in his first mission in EUFOR in 2010 as a Communications and Information Systems (CIS) Chief in HQ Sarajevo. In 2013 he was promoted to Colonel and served in Budapest (Hungary) in CIS and Information Assurance (IA) Directorate as IT Branch Chief and from 2017 as a Head of Directorate. From 2012 he was in NC3 Board as Hungarian representative and from 2017 Hungarian principal participated in NATO work.

In 2019 he was promoted in Brigadier General and served in Hungarian Defence Forces Command, Infocommunications and Information Security Directorate in Budapest and Székesfehérvár, as a Head of Directorate. Same year he finished NATO related Generals, Flag Officers and Ambassadors' Course in Rome (Italy). Between the others decorations he is rewarded with Service Symbol for KFOR, NATO Service Medal and Service Sign Gold Grade with Laurel wreath.

Brigadier General Gerőfi speaks English and French. He is married and has two children.

# International Medal Parade for 70 Service Personnel

On 15 April 2021 EUFOR Camp Butmir was proud to hold an International Medal Parade. 70 service personnel from 11 different nations received their “Common Security and Defence Policy Medal Operation Althea”, bearing the name of the EU Operation Althea.

First awarded in 2004 to every International member who serves with EUFOR and inscribed with the Latin phrase “Pro pace unum”, meaning “United for peace”.

The medals are assigned by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles.

At the formal ceremony Commander of EUFOR, Major General Alexander Platzer, thanked all attending for their effort and dedication and the service they have provided in supporting local authorities to deliver a safe and secure environment throughout BiH.



COMEUFOR presents medals to EUFOR troops

COM EUFOR awarded the medals along with EUFOR Chief of Staff Brigadier General Ernő Baráth, Deputy Chief of Staff Operations Colonel Baris Konak.

Also in attendance to witness the parade were NATO Brigadier General Eric Folkestad, Commander of the Operations Command of the AFBiH Major General Radovan Ilić and a number of Ambassadors and Defense Attachés from troop contributing nations on parade.

The European Union is currently running 17 CSDP Missions and Operations, the Military Operation Althea longest running. The European Union Force Operation Althea is executing the United Nations Security Council mandate for Bosnia and Herzegovina since 2004. Currently it is UNSCR 2549 which was adopted by the Security Council on 5 November 2020. There are 19 different nations serving for EUFOR Operation Althea.

by 1st Lt Dietmar Trinkl

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COMEUFOR addresses the troops and distinguished visitors.



# COMEUFOR Welcomes Distinguished Visitors



APRIL  
8

Mr. Krassimir Nikolov, Head of Section "EU Integration, Political, Press and Information" of EU in BiH informed COMEUFOR and EUFOR staff on the EU accession path of the country, providing an overview of the 14 key priorities of the integration process.



APRIL  
12

Ambassador of Egypt to BiH, H.E. Yasser Sorour, visited HQ EUFOR. COMEUFOR Major General Alexander Platzer welcomed H.E. Ambassador Sorour and briefed him on the current activities of EUFOR and the security situation in BiH.



APRIL  
15

The Ambassador to BiH of the Slovak Republic, Martin Kačo visited EUFOR to attend the International Medal Parade for 70 EUFOR members from 11 different nations. Following the ceremony Ambassador Kačo met with COMEUFOR Major General Alexander Platzer for an office call.



MAY  
7

COMEUFOR, Major General Alexander Platzer, welcomed Chief of Staff of HQ of Hungarian Defence Forces, Lieutenant General Zoltán Mihóczy, to Bosnia and Herzegovina for EUFOR Chief of Staff Transfer of authority ceremony.



MAY  
11

COMEUFOR Major General Alexander met with Air Brigade General Bruno Foussard, Chief of the Euro Atlantic Division.



MAY  
21

COMEUFOR, Major General Alexander Platzer welcomed General Christopher Cavoli of the US Army Europe & Africa when they met in EUFOR HQ. General Cavoli is in BiH for US and AF BiH training exercise.

# Mine Risk Education (MRE) Campaign

After reporting on the production in EUFOR FORUM #124 and on the launch in EUFOR FORUM #125, in this issue we want to give you some figures on how the Mine Risk Education Campaign 2021 went and how many people we reached.

The first campaign in 2021 was dedicated to Mine Risk Education for BiH citizens especially children. Over the past year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, activities of EUFOR MICC and LOT Teams giving mine risk education in schools across BiH grounded to a halt.

In pre-covid times EUFOR reached up to 18,000 children per year with our LOT teams under supervision of EUFOR's Mines Information

Coordination Cell (MICC), in cooperation with the Armed Forces (AFBiH) and BHMACH the number of victims per year from 1996 to 2020 decreased from 510 to "Zero" victims in 2020.

In order to overcome this problem, EUFOR PAO produced a 14 minute long video with a virtual class of MRE to be delivered to BiH schools and general population.

The entire campaign that followed had a goal of bringing this product closer to the public, and increasing general mine awareness.

In addition to video products, that were disseminated, a full scale multimedia information campaign

in TV and online channels and full spectrum of graphic visuals were designed to multiply campaign messages through newspapers, billboards, public transport, and online channels.

Additional to this EUFOR also ran a quiz on our Homepage. 300 visitors filled in the interactive quiz and 18 winners from all over BiH were chosen. The prizes were compiled by our campaign team.


The official conclusion of our campaign was the delivery of the quiz prizes directly to the winners by our LOT Houses. Many thanks to the members of the LOT Houses for their support.

by 1st Lieutenant Dietmar Trinkl

Here is an overview of how our campaign has been made visible to the general public.

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**TV**



The kick-off for our campaign was three appearances on TV shows at the end of March and beginning of April. We were guests at morning shows of BHT 1, TV N1 and TV BN promoting the campaign. A shorter, 54 second long, teaser for the full MRE video was aired on 7 main TV stations in BiH (BHT 1, FTV, RTRS, TV BN, TV Hayat, TV N1, and Al Jazeera Balkans). During April we had a total of 269 airings in prime-time slots.


**RADIO**

A 60 seconds long radio spot for the campaign was aired on a network of 59 radio stations throughout BiH twice a day for 10 days in April, totalling 20 airings.



**NEWSPAPERS**

**BILLBOARDS**



Campaign billboards were displayed in 50 locations, along the most frequent roads all over BiH, with a special emphasise on the RS,

6 Newspapers (Oslobodjenje, Avaz, Dnevni List, Glas Srpske, Nezavisne novine, Euroblic) published the campaign ad on 6 dates, in total 36 newspaper ads, published on Fridays, when dailies have the highest circulation.



**PUBLIC TRANSPORT**



A total of 313 (278 smaller horizontal / 35 large vertical) campaign posters were displayed for a month in vehicles of public transport in the 11 biggest cities in BiH. Daily number of passengers in these vehicles ranges from 20-100,000 depending on the size of a city. Estimated number of potential impressions exceeds 400,000 per day.

**BANNERS ON WEB PORTALS**



Throughout April, campaign banners were constantly visible on the leading news portals in BiH: two weeks (alternating) of fixed positions on the six leading portals in the Federation and the RS (klix.ba, glsrrpske.com, bljesak.info, buka.com, vecernji.ba, tuzlanski.ba), reaching combined over 500,000 impressions. Furthermore, campaign online banners (targeted advertising) were rotating on 19 different BiH portals on Google Ads Sense positions.

**ONLINE**

A landing page, devoted to the MRE campaign on EUFOR's web site was visited 10,900 times during April 21. The main vehicle of the campaign on Open Social Networks was the EUFOR Facebook profile. During April, 7 posts relating to the campaign on Facebook were seen more than 1,350,000 times. The short version of the campaign video posted on Twitter was seen more than 14,900 times. The same video posted on Instagram was viewed 607 times. All 7 videos related to campaign (long and short as well as different language versions) posted on You Tube were viewed 2,450 times all together.



**Quiz prizes delivered directly to the winners by the members of LOT Houses**





# Necessary Works in Camp Butmir



It comes as no surprise that DPW are continuing their excellent work rate in the maintenance and improvement of facilities and infrastructure within Camp Butmir.

April saw members of the DPW taking to the skies, in a cherry picker, this time to begin their work of re-roofing one of the accommodation blocks housing EUFOR soldiers and personnel. The dangerous but necessary work was completed by the skilled team members who displayed both their experience and construction skills as they began the process with ease, quickly removing old roof panels and replacing them with new ones.

This work is not all that is being completed on the accommodation block, additionally shower and toilet facilities are receiving necessary maintenance, such as tiling and plumbing. Painting is also underway of all rooms and corridors and where required damaged flooring replaced.

All these works are part of the diligently strategic manner in which DPW are moving through accommodation and buildings most in need of improvement, a process which is never ending and always completed to the highest standards.

## Camp Butmir Fire Station



New firefighters house, working in progress

Construction working is progressing well on the new Camp Butmir Fire Station. The construction has now advanced well and has completed the second storey with the roof now on.

The fire station is being purpose built to rehouse the Fire Brigade to a more suitable location to improve their capabilities. We hope to soon be able to complete a detailed article in the EUFOR Forum on the construction project.

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Replacing old roof panels with new ones



# New Head of the EUMC

On 19 May 2021 Austrian Chief of Staff General Robert Brieger was appointed the new head of the EU Military Committee (EUMC), a body of the chiefs of general staff of the EU states, responsible for the implementation of the EU's common security and defence policy (CSDP). With effect from 1 June 2022 he will replace General Claudio Graziano as head of the EUMC.



General Brieger as COMEUFOR

General Brieger will lead the works of the EU Military Committee (EUMC) and liaise with the Presidency in the development and implementation of its work programme.

He will be the military adviser to the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy on all military matters and will represent the primary Point of Contact with the Operation Commanders of the EU's military operations.

General Brieger previously served as COMEUFOR from December 2011 until 2012. During his tenure as commander Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) began in 2012. For the first time in its mission, ALTHEA personnel were working within the AFBiH structures side by side with BiH soldiers making joint efforts and helping AFBiH reaching their goals.

Within a relatively short period of time, EUFOR had designed a new training concept with an emphasis on Mobile Training teams and Embedded Advisory Teams working closely with the AFBiH.

In this year ALTHEA provided massive support to BiH and its people during record breaking snowfall. ALTHEA personnel, helicopters and other equipment were involved in providing food, medical supplies and evacuation of people from the endangered areas.



General Brieger will be the spokesman and representative of the EU Military Committee at the meetings of the Political Security Committee (PSC). He will also attend the meetings of the Council when decisions with defence implications are to be taken.

## Education and training

HQ EUFOR routinely conducts a special newcomers Key Leader Training (KLT) programme facilitating the smooth integration of the high ranking officers to their new positions.

The KLT is designed to support and prepare designated officers and enable them to better understand the mission and their role within it.

The aim is to define the principles, requirements and responsibilities for EUFOR related topics.

Following a strictly timed schedule over the four days, the key leaders received presentations, briefings and content from a wide range of branches.



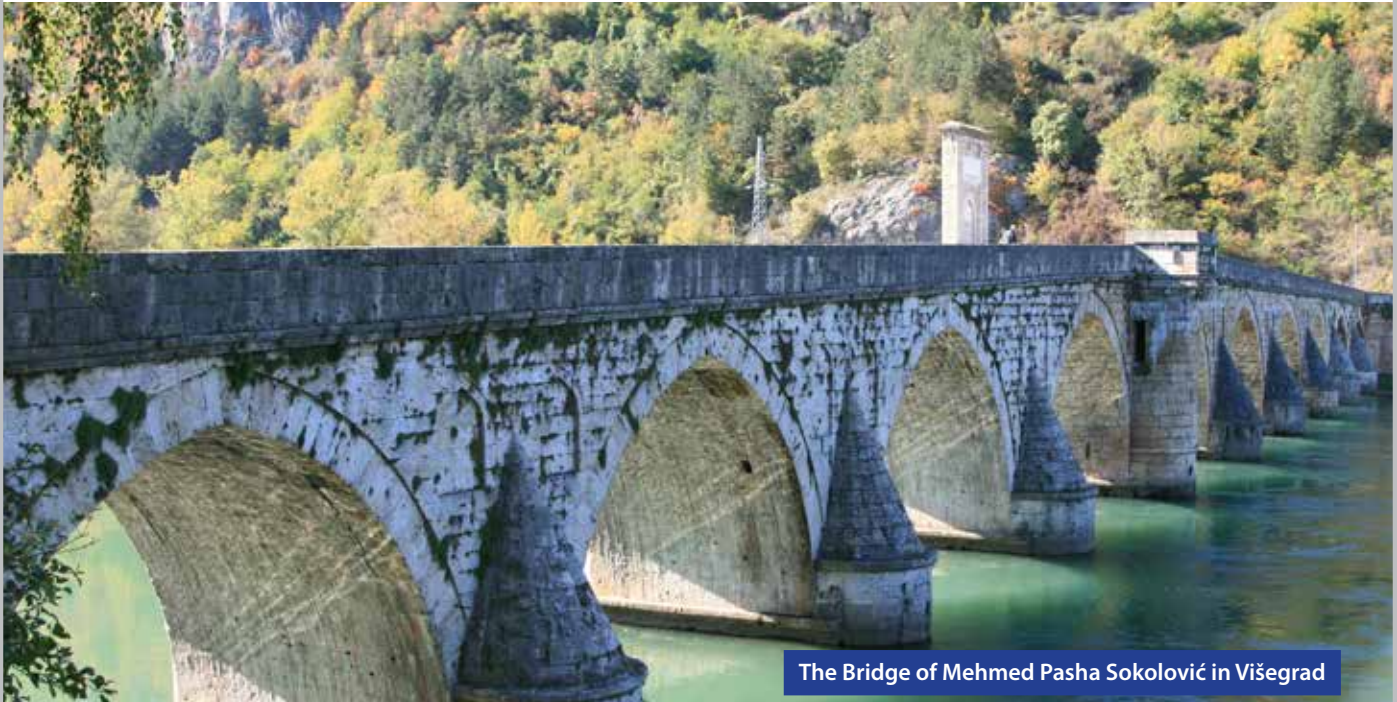
Key Leader Training programme attendees

The KLT was concluded with a "Closing Remarks & Awarding Ceremony" on the last day.

EUFOR ALTHEA wishes all participants a successful and instructive mission.

by 1st Lieutenant Dietmar Trinkl

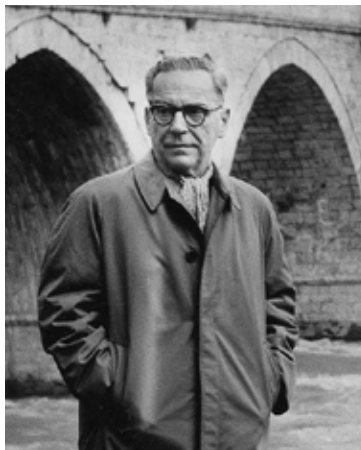
# The Bridge over Drina



The Bridge of Mehmed Pasha Sokolović in Višegrad

12

The Bridge of Mehmed Pasha Sokolović (The Old Bridge of Višegrad) represents one of the greatest architecture masterpieces of the period between 15th and 19th century in Bosnia and entire region. Certainly, it is one of the most important national monuments of Bosnia. It has been built in 1577 after six years of construction upon the order of Mehmed Pasha Sokolović, The Ottoman Grand Vizier that had Bosnian Serb origins. The architect of the bridge was Khoja Mimar Sinan Ağa himself, the prime architect of the empire and the builder of the famous Süleymaniye Mosque in Istanbul.



Ivo Andrić in front of the bridge

of the bridge as well as many different events related to the bridge. The novel "The Bridge over Drina" was rewarded with Nobel Prize in 1961, but the prize also represented the award for entire lifework of the writer.

Andrić was portraying the bridge as something with the power not merely to bridge a river but to heal divisions between people, referring to the fate of Mehmed Pasha himself who was taken away as a child but to return years after as Grand Vizier and allegedly build the bridge at the place where he crossed the river years ago.

Although the bridge was magnificent and beautiful as it is today, with 11 arcs and 9 pillars, it was actually designed to be everlasting and use the purpose of connection in most important road to Istanbul. The middle of the bridge, called "the gate", is wider, and it quickly becomes a popular meeting place for people from Višegrad and the surrounding area in a relaxed mood which is still typical of present-day Turkey and most of the Balkans. Because of all mentioned, one must not lose the opportunity to travel to east Bosnia and see it.

Over the time, the bridge has been damaged several times and repaired. Known reconstructions were at 1664, 1875, 1911, 1939, 1940, and once after WWII. The Bridge over Drina became worldwide famous with the novel, written by the one of the greatest Bosnian writers Ivo Andrić. The novel itself romantically describes the history

The bridge was one of the most endangered monuments in BiH. Absence of maintenance in last several decades and neglected behavior of authorities and nearby power plant, made this bridge to come on the list of 100 most endangered monuments of World Monuments Fund and UNESCO.

The Turkish International Co-operation and Development Agency (TIKA) provided 3.5 million Euros for the reconstruction of the Mehmed Pasha Sokolovic Bridge. Representatives of TIKA, the BiH Commission for Co-operation with UNESCO, the RS Cultural Ministry and the Višegrad municipality signed an agreement to rebuild the bridge on April 19, 2010. Today the bridge is closed to vehicle traffic and remains a popular tourist attraction.

by Mr. Dženan Hadžović



# European Union Force in BiH



## Chain of Command

The mandate for EUFOR's Operation Althea is in two parts, Executive and Non-Executive. The Executive mandate is given by the UN Security Council, and the EUFOR mission is then based on the EU Foreign Affairs Council (FAC) Joint Action which includes an Executive part derived from the UN Security Council (Supporting the BiH authorities maintain a safe and secure environment). It also includes a Non-Executive part (Supporting AFBiH collective and combined training). This supports BiH in its progress to being a 'security provider' rather than a 'security consumer'.

United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1551, adopted unanimously on 9 July 2004, welcomed the EU's intention to launch a military mission in BiH. The decision by the EU to launch ALTHEA followed the decision by NATO to conclude its successful SFOR-operation.

This was followed by UNSCR 1575, adopted unanimously on 22 November 2004 which authorized the Member States, acting through or in cooperation with the EU, to establish a multinational stabilization force (EUFOR) as a legal successor to SFOR, under unified command and control, which will fulfil its missions in relation to the implementation of Annex 1-A and Annex 2 of the Dayton/Paris Agreement. EUFOR has the main peace stabilization role under the military aspects of the Peace Agreement.

The Resolution also welcomed the EU's increasing engagement in BiH. EUFOR's mandate was extended by UNSCR 1639 (2005) on 21 November 2005.

ALTHEA is carried out with recourse to NATO assets and capabilities, on the basis agreed with NATO ("Berlin Plus").

The basic decisions on the operation are taken by the Council of the European Union. The Council decided to launch the operation following its approval of the Operation Plan (OPLAN) and the Rules of Engagement (RoE).

The EU's Political and Security Committee (PSC) exercises the political control and strategic direction of the operation, under the responsibility of the Council. Powers of decision with respect to the objectives and termination of the military operation remains vested in the Council, assisted by the EU Special Representative (EUSR) Ambassador Johann Sattler and High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security (HR/VP) Mr. Josep Borrell.

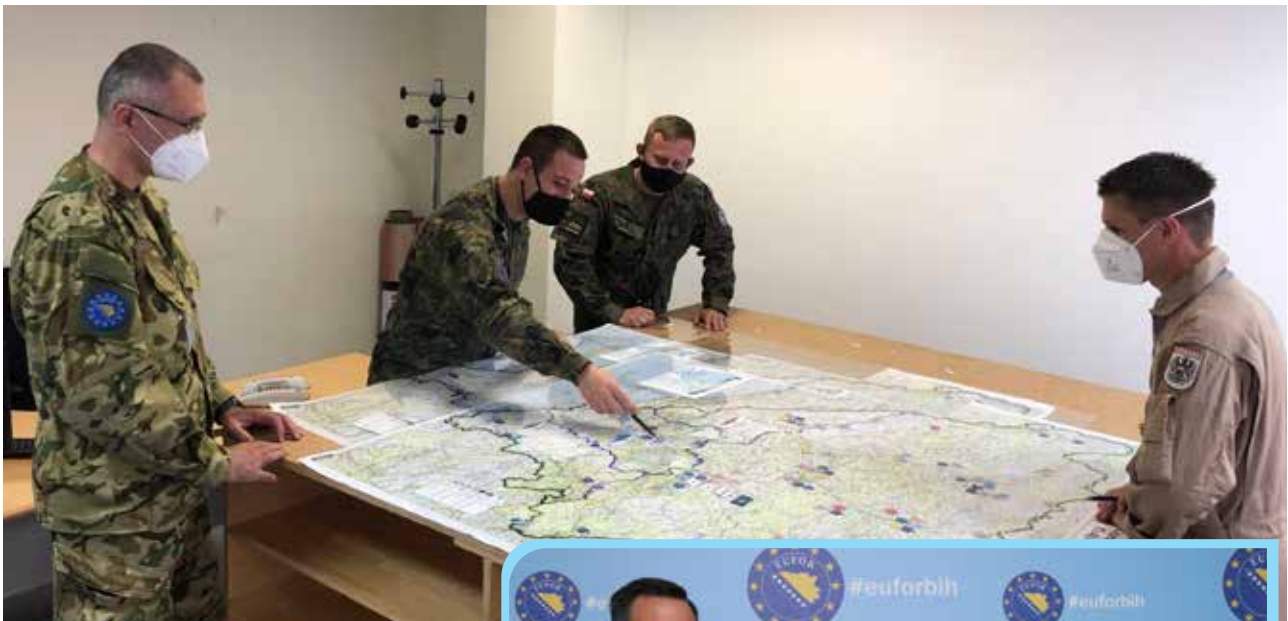
The EU Military Committee (EUMC) monitors the proper execution of the EU military operation.

The EU Operation Commander (OpCdr) for ALTHEA Lieutenant General Brice Houdet is located at SHAPE with the EU Operation Headquarters (OHQ).

Major General Alexander Platzer is EU Force Commander.

In 2012 the Operation reconfigured and changed its focus to Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) of the Armed Forces of BiH (AF BiH). It retained its obligations to support the BiH authorities in maintaining a Safe and Secure Environment. In 2018 the CB&T programme was successfully concluded as the AF BiH had achieved the aim of being self sustainable in their military training.

# Command Post Exercise



The CPX 2/2021 for the Staff Planning Group took place from 18 to 20 May 2021 in EUFOR HQ. In order to conduct a Military Decision Making Process capability during a complex emergency scenario in the southern part of BiH where the Safe and Secure Environment breaks down progressively. The Staff Planning Group was set up with representatives of all EUFOR HQ branches & cells as well as representatives of the subordinate units.

The Staff Planning Group carried out a cross-section & comprehensive assessment of the complex scenario and worked out two different Courses of Action to fulfill the assigned Mission. These Courses of Action were delivered to the EUFOR Commander in order to select one of the options. The decision was made on behalf of the EUFOR Commander by Chief of Staff, for exercise purposes.

After one option was selected, the aim of this exercise was reached - to release a Fragmentary Order that will form the basis for the LIVEX Phase/OPREH (Operational Rehearsal) L2 "Quick Response 2021" in the autumn.

The J3/J7 Chief Plans Training and Exercise Department was primarily responsible for the conduct of the exercise.

by 1st Lieutenant Dietmar Trinkl



Public Affairs Office asked two of the key players from J3/J7 for their personal impressions and experiences of the exercise.

**OF-3 Daniel Alonso Ruperez  
Chief Training & Exercises (ESP)**

It was a unique opportunity for EUFOR HQ to interact and train as a Staff and to practice the standard planning procedures, creating the necessary internal cohesion to become a functional and well trained team able to advise the commander properly in such challenging situations.

The CPX, though defiant mainly because of the lack of time to perform a detailed Planning Process, yielded excellent results and served well to make a united team out of the HQ personnel.

**OF-4 Constantin Alexandru-Gruia  
Operations & Plans (RO)**

I was amazed by hardworking of my colleagues, the cohesion created within SPG team, by their expertise, things that were obviously cornerstones into our planning process and it has been pointed out in our final result. Many discussions have been raised up during our staff working to optimize logically, analytic steps of decision-making during conditions of uncertainty and ambiguity that appeared as staff assumptions.

During our CPX, we have defined a strong team with a high level of readiness. Thanks to everybody for an excellent support. With an excellent plan the mission is almost accomplished.



***As JOC Director I am responsible for command of the EUFOR JOC and overseeing the full spectrum of joint combined operations in the Area of Operations(AOO,) working under the command of J3/J7 Branch.***



**Maj Ian Snee**

I'm from Ireland. I have worked at Battalion and Brigade level most recently. Before deploying on this mission I was an Infantry Company Commander, a job I enjoyed and was proud to do. On overseas mission I have extensive experience working in a Brigade level TOC. This is my seventh overseas mission and first EUFOR ALTHEA mission. I previously served in the Middle East with UN missions in UNIFIL, Lebanon, and UNDOF, Syria.

I enjoy working in a multinational environment and look forward to working with my new colleagues. I am excited to be in BiH, to explore the country and experience the culture.

***As Force Provost Marshal (FPM) my role is to provide COMEUFOR and EUFOR staff with specialist advice on all Military Police related issues and to plan, supervise and coordinate all MP activities.***



**Lt Col Daniel Suski**

In practice, together with International Military Police officers, will ensure that EUFOR personnel feel safe, secured and comply with the Commander's orders, directives and requirements, keeping the discipline at a high level.

This is the third time I have the opportunity to serve under the EUFOR flag and my fifth tour to abroad mission. I was deployed to EUFOR ALTHEA in 2006/07 and to EUFOR RCA in Central African Republic in 2014/15 and in a meantime, I took two tours in UN mission UNIFIL in Lebanon in 2008/09.



**Lt Col Damir Jadric**

***As J3/J7 Chief I'm responsible for synchronizing the staff actions of JOC, AIR OPS, Plans, training and exercise sections in accordance with DCOS OPS guidance.***

I'm from Slovenia. I have worked at the operational and strategic level for the last fifteen years at different positions. Currently I'm working on divisional level as a chief of Force planning section in J5 on Land Force Command. This is my 4th time here in BiH and the first time on this position.

The work, either operational or in the planning branch, it is always interesting and challenging with a wide range of task. I love to work in an international environment and I'm really happy to be part of OPS division personnel.



**Lt Col Guido Piwonka**

***As EUFOR's Financial Controller (Chief J8) I am heading a branch of exceptional financial specialists. It is our task to find a way of funding all items and services EUFOR needs.***

Funding of all requirements needs a proper budget planning from the branches which cumulates in a yearly budget. All financial activities are reported on regular basis to upper commands and are audited at least once a year.

I'm from Austria. This is my fourth overseas mission and second EUFOR ALTHEA mission. I previously served in missions with UN mission AMIS, Sudan, and KFOR, Kosovo.

I am happy to be back in BiH, to experience the country again. I look forward to reuniting with colleagues from my previous mission here and to make new friendships.



# Scanning, printing, binding...



In our Behind the Mask series we would like to introduce to you DIRSO Reprographics & Courier Service (DRCS)

DRCS is a joint EUFOR & NATO office providing services to all Divisions, Branches and Departments. It is headed by two Local Civilian Hire - Mirsad and Nikola.

Copying, scanning, printing, binding, designing, laminating are all terms from the everyday work of Mirsad and Nikola. You will encounter DRCS products everywhere. Starting with business cards for new members of the mission, followed by brochures, certificates of appreciation, banners for campaigns, informative posters, to large prints, DRCS is trained and equipped to meet all the missions' needs when it comes to daily design and printing. In addition, DRCS is the main mail hub for all mail in and out of Camp Butmir and also serves as a direct link between NATO HQ in Camp Butmir and the offices in Sarajevo.

Since we consciously want to present the people behind the mask in our series, we asked the two of them to reveal something about themselves.

by 1st Lieutenant Dietmar Trinkl



Nikola

Reaching the age of 45, I consider myself as a family man, first of all. Nevertheless, I'm happy and proud of the fact that I'm living my personal legend all these years. This defines me as "renaissance man", since my occupational orientations vary from visual and performing arts (like graphic design, painting, sculpting, dancing, etc.) to quite traditional type of sports (like fencing and archery). I tried all my life to learn but also to teach and share my own experience in these areas of interest. Therefore, if one sentence can describes me it should be something like: Be yourself and live the life.



Mirsad

I have been working for EUFOR (and its preceding SFOR mission) since 1997. Over my 24 years with the mission I've changed several branches and done numerous jobs. Since 2008, I'm with the Graphics Section in DIRSO Group, working as a Graphics and Courier Specialist. If you work in Bldg 200 or practically anywhere on camp Butmir you have probably met me and my colleague Nikola.

We are servicing all the postal and printing needs for both HQ EUFOR and HQ NATO. Daily contact with many people make this job fresh and interesting after all these years.



# Srebrenica



It has been 26 years since the worst massacre of the Bosnian war, a war crime categorized both by ICTY and International Court of Justice as an act of genocide. It is estimated that 8,372 people were killed by RS military in a period of seven days, following the capture of the enclave on 11th July 1995.

Prior the final attack, Srebrenica was already in an extremely difficult position, given the fact that the enclave was packed with refugees from the surrounding towns and villages and completely under RS military siege for a long period of time. The area was cut off from any supplies and was facing constant humanitarian catastrophe.

The final stage of Srebrenica's misery started on 8th of July 1995 with a ground offensive of the RS military, which simply overran the Bosniak opposition and the UN's Observation Points and within 4 days captured the enclave.

Mass killings started the following day after men were separated from women in the vicinity of the UN compound, or were captured trying to escape through the mountains. Mass killings took place in prearranged execution sites and often in proximity of already dug mass graves.

In attempt to conceal the size of the atrocities, body remains were removed and relocated in a careless manner resulting in cases where remains of a single person were found in 4 different

locations in 200 square kilometers. The creation of secondary mass-grave sites made the process of finding and identifying persons extremely difficult and it's unlikely that all victims will ever be found, as time passes by and it's hard to find new evidence and willing witnesses.

Long-lasting ICTY trials have brought numerous high ranking RS officials to face overwhelming accusations, including the two highest ranking political and military officials, Radovan Karadžić and General Ratko Mladić. Both were convicted and given long-lasting prison sentences for war-crimes and genocide.

Having neither the capability nor the mandate, UNPROFOR failed to protect what was officially declared as a UN safe area, and this remains a lesson for all peace keeping missions in the future.

Having regard to its resolutions of 7th of July 2005, 15th of January 2009 and 9th of July 2015, EU formally declared 11th July as EU day of Srebrenica commemoration.

Srebrenica remains to be a frequently discussed subject among the Bosnian society considering the difficult reconciliation process and large numbers of people are still missing and have no known graves.

by Mr. Dženan Hadžović



**Srebrenica Flower named "Remembrance" has been created by women's association from**

**Gracanica, BiH. There are 11 flower petals representing 11th of July, white color represents the innocence and the green center represents hope.**

# Turkish Physical Proficiency and Assessment Test (PPAT)



*Recently, we presented Military Fitness Test of Austria, Poland, Switzerland Ireland and Hungary.*

**by 1st Lieutenant Dietmar Trinkl**

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What are the fitness requirements like for foreign soldiers and how do they compare to yours? Soldiers have to be fit for physically-demanding tasks and warfare. That is why every army has fitness requirements for their soldiers. Explore this in our fitness test series. Recently, we presented military fitness test of Austria, Poland, Switzerland, Ireland and Hungary. In our EUFOR FORUM #126 we want to introduce you to the Turkish one.

The Physical Proficiency and Assessment Test (PPAT) is conducted once every reporting year. All members of the Turkish Armed Forces also including Lieutenant General, Vice Admiral, Officers, Non-Commissioned Officers,

Professional Gendarmerie and Expert Lieutenants are required to participate.

The test application principles distinguish women and men in different age groups and are divided into four parts - Body Mass Index (BMI) / sit-ups / push-ups / 3000m run. From BMI you can reach 20 points and each of sit-ups, push-ups and 3000m can reach 100 points.

In order to successfully pass the test, the average in the test must be at least 60 points. If a score below 50 is achieved in sit-ups, push-ups, 3000m run, it will be considered unsuccessful even if his test average is 60 and above.



The purpose of Physical fitness assessments is to ensure that soldiers are capable of completing their daily operational tasks, and so that when required can be deployed able to achieve the mission.

To be fit to fight!

Earlier this year Turkish soldiers of the MNBN displayed their combat fitness when they successfully took part in a training exercise up Trebevic Mountain in cold, challenging conditions.



## The four competence evaluation tables:

### 1. BODY MASS INDEX (BMI)

$$BMI = \frac{\text{Weight (kg)}}{\text{height}^2 \text{ (m}^2\text{)}}$$



### 2. SIT-UPS

Point	17-25		26-30		31-35		36-36		40-44		45-49		50+	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
100	65	55	60	50	55	45	50	40	45	35	40	30	35	25
70	50	45	45	40	40	35	35	30	30	25	25	20	20	15
60	45	40	40	35	35	30	30	25	25	20	20	15	15	10
50	40	35	35	30	30	25	25	20	20	15	15	10	10	5



### 3. PUSH-UPS

Point	17-25		26-30		31-35		36-36		40-44		45-49		50+	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
100	60	27	55	25	50	23	45	21	40	19	35	17	30	15
70	45	21	40	19	35	17	30	15	28	13	25	11	20	9
60	40	19	35	17	30	15	25	13	23	11	20	9	15	7
50	35	17	30	15	25	13	20	11	18	9	15	7	10	5



### 4. 3,000m RUNNING

Point	17-25		26-30		31-35		36-36		40-44		45-49		50+	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
100	11:30	16:00	12:30	17:00	13:30	18:00	14:30	19:00	16:30	20:30	18:00	22:00	22:00	24:30
70	14:00	18:30	15:00	19:30	16:00	20:30	17:00	21:30	19:00	23:00	20:30	24:30	24:30	27:00
60	14:50	19:20	15:50	20:20	16:50	21:20	17:50	22:10	19:50	23:50	21:20	25:20	25:20	27:50
50	15:40	20:10	16:40	21:10	17:40	22:10	18:40	23:10	20:40	24:40	22:10	26:10	26:10	28:40

### Score calculation system

A Risk assessment is completed by taking 0, or 10 or 20 points from the BMI, waist circumference measurement and the average points from sit-ups, push-ups and 3000m running.

For example: If a person takes a test like this: 50 points from push-ups, 50 points from sit-ups, 50 points from running 3000 m and if the body mass index is normal, the person will receive 60 points:  $50 \times 0.80 + 20 = 60$ .

PPAT (100 points) = Three branches (sit-up, push-up and 3,000m) + BMI (0-10-20 points)				
BMI Category	Waist Circumference Measurements			
		Low	Middle	High
	Male	<94	94-102	>102
	Female	<80	80-88	>88
Normal	No risk (20)	No risk (20)	Increased risk (10)	
Overweight	No risk (20)	Increased risk (10)	High risk (0)	
Obese	Increased risk (10)	High risk (0)	Very high risk (0)	



# **EUFOR-100%** **COMMITTED TO** **BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

