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Hello and welcome to the latest edition of the EUFOR Forum. Over the course of April and May there has been a high volume of activity in EUFOR.

The forces activated under the IRF settled into their roles well and became an integral part of the MNBN, EUFOR received a new COS Brigadier General Zoltán Somogyi and a platoon of soldiers arrived from the Republic of North Macedonia. This was all in addition to the normal spectrum of activities that EUFOR undertakes through the MNBN and the various branches. In this edition of the forum we will cover all of the above as well as some articles about the ISR change of command, the EUFOR medical center and the duties of the fire service.

Going forward into June and July the PAO will be launching a major media information campaign which will lead into the exercise period.

A reminder to all of our colleagues across EUFOR, please remember the PAO when you are conducting any activity or doing any sort of project. If the work of EUFOR is worth doing then it is worthy of a story!

Please feel free to send us stories, pictures, relevant articles or whatever you think is interesting and worth publishing. Please send any material to euforpio@eufor.europa.eu

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The contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the coalition governments’ defence departments.
On Saturday COM EUFOR had the pleasure to welcome a North Macedonian platoon consisting of 32 soldiers to the EUFOR Multinational Battalion. These soldiers will now commence their operational integration training. Welcome to EUFOR!

Supporting mine action in Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of EUFOR's most important tasks. The AFBiH Demining Battalion, with its 34 demining teams and 9 explosive detection dog teams, is responsible for 35% of yearly demining activities. In order to maintain and develop demining activities, the European Union will donate new demining equipment to the Armed Forces of BiH, worth 10 million Euros and including 150 metal detectors and 68 new vehicles. This equipment is expected to be delivered by mid 2023. The Council of the EU took the decision to support the Demining Battalion in November 2021, in cooperation with the EU’s External Action Service (EEAS) and EUFOR. The aim of this initiative is to contribute to BiH’s National Mine Action Strategy and support EUFOR’s local partners in maintaining a Safe and Secure Environment for all citizens of BiH. EUFOR-100% COMMITTED TO A MINE FREE BIH

As a continuation of the seven videos, answering the frequently asked questions concerning EUFOR’s IRF (Intermediate Reserve Forces) patrolling, today we would like to answer question number two: "What is the reason for the deployment of reserves to BiH?"

On 21 May #EUFOR Liaison Observation Team in #Trebinje conducted two Mine Risk Educations at the primary school Vuk Karadžić. The aim was to inform pupils about the danger of mines and #UXO threat in BiH. https://tinyurl.com/mr27wjpx
On the 11th of May 2022 a transfer of authority ceremony took place in Camp Butmir which marked the end of outgoing COS Brigadier General Szilárd Gerőfi’s one year tour of duty and also marked the beginning of the incoming COS Brigadier General Zoltán Somogyi’s tour.

During his speech Brigadier General Gerőfi reflected on some of his key achievements during his deployment including providing air reconnaissance to BiH authorities, Exercise Quick Response in September 2021, the development of a training and cooperation plan with AF BiH, the management of a number of waves of COVID-19 and the activation of the Intermediate Reserve Forces and their deployment to BiH.

Brigadier General Somogyi praised his predecessor when he said “In the
past year, Brigadier General Gerőfi has skillfully led the EUFOR Headquarters in its continuing task. It is time to return back to Hungary, back to the loved family, and back to the Hungarian Defence Forces Command. During your presence here in Sarajevo, your guys at the directorate provided a great support to my team while establishing the new Headquarters in Hungary. I wish you an effective and efficient period of time for recreation, and all the best in the old/new assignment”.

Brigadier General Somogyi also highlighted his goals here in EUFOR and the contribution made by Hungary:

“My primary task is to prepare and support the Commanders decision. As a one star Hungarian general, I will represent my country and the Hungarian Defence Forces too. The Hungarian contribution to the Operation ALTHEA, to NATO mission here in Sarajevo and to the KFOR mission in Kosovo clearly shows our national interest and commitment for the stability and improvement of the Balkans”

All the best to the new Chief of Staff of EUFOR!

Brigadier General Zoltán Somogyi was born on 27th February 1974 in Fehérgyarmat. He began his military service in August 1992 at the Military Command College in Szentendre. He graduated as an artillery officer with a BSc in Land Surveying Engineering in 1996.

He served 8 years in various artillery officer assignments including 4 years as Battery Commander within the HDF 5th Mechanized Infantry Brigade 5th Self Propelled Artillery Battalion in Debrecen. During his artillery officer career, he successfully completed the Battery Commander Course of the German Bundeswehr and also gathered experience in the field of rocket artillery. In 2003 he was deployed to the position of the 2nd Company Commander of the Hungarian Guard and Security Battalion, KFOR Kosovo.

From 2004 to 2007, he served as a Mortar Battery Commander of the 2nd Infantry Battalion of the HDF 5th Light Infantry Brigade. During these years he assumed command of the Hungarian Guard and Security Contingent, KFOR Skopje. In 2007, he was appointed to the position of Hungarian Joint Force Command J3 Branch Staff Officer in Székesfehérvár and he was promoted to Major.

In 2009, he was assigned as a Liaison Officer to the German Operations Command in Potsdam and to the German MOD Planning Staff in Berlin.

In 2010, he attended the National Defense University to undertake a MSc degree in Military Leadership and in 2012 he graduated the 7th German National Joint Admiral and General Staff Course at the Bundeswehr Command & Staff Collage in Hamburg. Following that, he was appointed to the position of the Military Assistant to the Chief of Land Forces of the Hungarian Joint Force Command and he was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel.

In 2013 to 2016, he served as the Head of Combat Support Branch G3 HDF JFC. In 2016, he was assigned to the position of Chief G37 HDF Joint Force Command. In 2017, his next appointment was at HDF JFC where he held the post of Chief J3/ACOS Operations and was promoted to the rank of Colonel. In August 2018 he became the Head of the Planning Team for the project Headquarters Multinational Division Centre. On 01 January 2019 he assumed command of the Headquarters Multinational Division Centre Core Staff Element. He was appointed to Chief of Staff of the Headquarters Multinational Division Centre on 01 June 2020. He was promoted to his current rank on the 20th of August 2020.

He is married to his wife Beatrix and lives in Várpalota.
“Today was a good day, only a minor laceration and a slight sports injury” explains the Austrian Medical Center’s Head Nurse, the 62 year old CWO Klampfl, with a broad smile. “But during my ten deployments to BiH, first with SFOR and now EUFOR, I experienced some extremely busy times. Especially challenging were last year’s several COVID waves. At one time, more than 40 patients, some of them with severe symptoms, were cared for by the Austrian Medical Center’s care. But fortunately, over the last 15 years, under my watch, I did not experience a single case which turned out to be fatal” he continues.

The Austrian Medical Center is a Role 1 hospital, run with a full complement of 4 doctors, 7 medical NCOs and 5 drivers/Combat Medics. All of them trained and certified emergency medical services personnel. The Team is reinforced by two civilian employees and experienced nurses who play a crucial role for the Medical Center ensuring it’s smooth cooperation with the BiH medical services. “They make all the difference during a severe incident” says CWO Klampfl, who explains that local hospitals and a laboratory, which are vetted and contracted by EUFOR, take care of more serious cases which require Role 2 or higher expertise.

The Medical Center employs up to date equipment, emergency life-saving and stabilization treatments can be carried out at any time. Two civilian and two military ambulances ensure the medical Team’s road and off-road mobility. “We render services to all EUFOR members on a 24/7 basis” explains CWO Klampfl. “Outside of office
hours the duty medical team can be reached by our emergency phone number 63 296 544” he advises.

Should a serious case require a Helicopter Medical Evacuation one of the doctors is always on standby to support the Heli rescue team. Likewise a mobile medical team accompanies the EUFOR fire services during emergencies which thankfully do not occur very often according to the Chief Medical NCO.

“Everyone is welcome in our Role 1, which occupies a cluster of buildings and garages adjacent to the Dining Facility” clarifies Med Sgt Shehata, a 27 years old combat Medic from the Austrian Armed Forces Medical School who already has five EUFOR deployments under his belt. “We have a patient’s reception area, a nice waiting room, 4 consultation offices, a casualty treatment area and a pharmacy. All these facilities provide us with sufficient infrastructure for routine consultations but also permits treating most serious injuries or all kinds of acute serious ailments” he explains. Sgt Shehata remembers his most remarkable medical intervention during his EUFOR deployments when he assisted the doctor successfully resuscitating a patient who suffered a cardiac arrest. For him and his team mates, international cooperation with other EUFOR nation’s combat medics and Helicopter MEDEVAC and regular realistic and physically highly demanding emergency training are also memorable highlights during their 6 months tour of duty.

Asked what they would wish for the rest of their tours with EUFOR, both Medics answered: “we would like to be called into action as little as possible, because that would only mean the EUFOR members are in good health and we do not have to tackle the dire results of serious accidents”.

Thanks to the medical center team for your services and good luck.
The EUFOR Joint Operations Center refers to the jointly manned facility within the HQ that is tasked with planning, monitoring and guiding the execution of EUFOR’s decisions.

Although a small cell of twelve personnel, the EUFOR JOC boasts a wide range of ranks from eight nations. There is a professionalism and a set of values which it holds everyone to, and which has, at its core, a strong team spirit! From their first JOC introduction they learn that communication and attention to detail is essential and staff are tested in that regard. With the addition of extra maneuver companies, the EUFOR battle-rhythm is constant and considering AirOps and combat service support movements, managing and controlling the operational information is paramount to ensure Com EUFOR is appraised at all times.

**Interview with JOC director Maj Patrick Moroney**

For me, on conclusion of my education, I joined the military and completed my cadetship (officer training) in 2002. I was lucky enough to receive a posting to the Cavalry Corps and that was the start of an interesting road working with our mechanised and light armoured fleet at home and abroad. The Irish Defence Forces ensures its officers receive a varied range of experience in different appointments to ensure a well-rounded officer. It guarantees that the officer can then easily cope with the intermittent surprises that military life invariably presents!

In addition to almost all Cavalry unit appointments, I have served in Logistic Support Bn, Bde and BG HQs, a Bde training centre and prior to this overseas posting, I was appointed as the officer in charge of Recruitment and Competitions for the Irish Defence Forces. On island the Irish Defence Forces ensures its operations in aid to the civil power and often in aid to the civil authorities, however our main effort is the conduct of Peace Enforcement and Peace Keeping missions abroad.

I have been fortunate to serve as a young officer at a time when the Irish Defence Forces invested heavily in modernisation and was deploying troops to the most overseas we have had at one time through our history. Thus I was introduced to overseas service with an extremely interesting deployment to Liberia with the Irish and Swedish 95 Inf Bn as part of UNMIL. Following this I
deployed to Chad as a Troop Commander with the 98 Inf Bn EUFOR TChad. In the interim I served with the Nordic EU BG led by Sweden and a very interesting month testing our training within the Arctic Circle. I also deployed to Lebanon with the 106 Inf Bn UNIFIL and spent 16 months with the UK Armed Forces at 4 Inf Bde who led the UK EUBG 16-2.

I believe that overseas service ensures a great perspective and provides a life experience like no other. I am honoured to be leading such a diverse and professional team. As we say in the JOC family, you cannot pick your members but you must always stand by each other!

LOT Trebinje conducted two Mine Risk Education classes

They asked several questions about the mines, mine fields and locations. Some also reported that they have already seen mines. Members of LOT TREBINJE also distributed notebooks to remember the mine hazard. EUFOR provides Mine Risk Education all over the country to risk groups such as farmers, forestry companies and in particular children of all ages in order to raise awareness and promote safe behavior.
Thursday 09 June at 1800 hrs, red vehicles, flashing blue lights, line up on SARAJEVO road beside an accommodation building. Burly men in heavy yellow protection suits are removing their helmets. They look partly worried and somewhat relieved. An inquisitive staff officer demands a heads up on the situation. While a second MP vehicle arrives at the scene and the fire men load their paraphernalia back in the engine, the team leader explains with half a smile: “Well this is another false alert, nothing serious, one of the fire alarms went off and we responded accordingly. But you will agree Sir, better 10 false alerts than a blaze with casualties...”
and extensive damage”. “Because we must be aware”, says the team leader, a tall gentleman in his late forties, “that a quickly blazing prefab building will disseminate a very unhealthy mixture of toxic fumes, hence all alerts require us to respond in full protection gear.”

EUFOR firemen, working 24/7 in three shifts, are highly trained and well equipped. They support flight operations, respond to fire alarms (false or real), hone their skills during daily training and regularly exercise together with the emergency medical teams for what may come.

Talking to the morning shift in their new building close to the air detachment, they explain that fire prevention duties are actually the most important aspect of their working routines. This comes naturally says the shift leader, as most of the buildings are well maintained but old and are as dry as tinder in the summer so they might have the tendency to be highly flammable.

“We did not have any significant fire incident in the course of the last few years”, says one crewmember, who revealed that he previously served on Bagram Airbase, Afghanistan. “This is mainly due to our fire prevention program and the cooperation with the EUFOR men and women, who show themselves to be very fair and compliant concerning fire protection and prevention.

But when push comes to shove the firemen are indeed life savers. Two years ago, during the cleaning of a fuel cistern, a worker fell unconscious inside and the fire team rescued the man just in time.

EUFOR fire brigade, always on stand-by, quick in response with the utmost professionalism during exercises and in an emergency.

by Chief PAO Lt Col Marcus Sack
On the 11th of May 2022 a Light Infantry platoon of the Army of the Republic of North Macedonia joined EUFOR forces in operation Althea in BiH as an integral part of the Multinational Battalion.

The light infantry platoon is the first rotation of the Army of the Republic of North Macedonia, which is now engaged as an integral part of the maneuver company of the Turkish contingent.

At the moment, the platoon is conducting tactical training that is necessary to achieve full operational capability. Soon the platoon will be assessed by the command group of the MNBN and will hopefully be certified to perform the full spectrum of duties and tasks.

Our platoon will then perform vehicle and foot patrols, CRC (if required) and contributing to base security. A distinct advantage of soldiers from the Republic of North Macedonia is that they have a solid knowledge of the local language in BiH which greatly enhances the execution of their duties and communication with citizens.

With our participation in operation Althea in BiH we will deliver a professional performance of our duties and look forward to working with the other nations of EUFOR.

By Major Aleksandar Mitanoski
After the platoon from North Macedonia joined the MNBN it undertook the normal spectrum of training that is required of any contingent that is integrating itself into the unit. This included patrolling training, hostage rescue training, media preparation training, CRC and all of the other duties they will be required to undertake.
On the 25th of May 2022 the Change of Command Ceremony of the Combined Task Force Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (CTF-ISR) took place in Camp Butmir which was attended by the Italian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina Marco Di Ruzza and the Italian Joint Operation HQ DCOS OPS Major General Luigi Del Bene.

This is the first event the unit took part in since becoming part of the EUFOR team, and during the event EUFOR Chief of Staff Brigadier General Zoltán Somogyi emphasized the important role that the Combined Task Force ISR has been playing in improving EUFOR situational awareness.

In his speech the EUFOR Chief of Staff publicly recognized the success of the Combined Task Force and praised the outgoing Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Giovanni Montelli for "his flexibility, his willingness to experiment and his strove to make the Task Force more integrated, more responsive and focused on building trust between EUFOR Units and EUFOR HQ".

EUFOR Chief of Staff then took the opportunity to wish the incoming CTF-ISR Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Roberto Sacchi to bring his command to the next level, building on the trusted relationships and strengthening ties with the citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Major General Luigi Del Bene represented the Italian Chain of Command and in his speech recognized publicly the high level of integration reached by French and Italian soldiers. This allowed them, rather than be an individual force, to become a single integrated force displaying a brilliant example of synergy, interoperability and teamwork of militaries and nations.

At the end of the ceremony, General Del Bene and General Somogyi awarded the Combined Task Force troops with the EUFOR Op “Althea” medals.

The Combined Task Force Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance is a multinational specialized unit composed of Italian and French soldiers.

By Lt Col Roberto Sacchi
On the 30th of May 2022, soldiers and employees of the Polish Military Contingent in Bosnia and Herzegovina took part in a ceremony to mark the official transfer of authority between the XXII and XXIII Polish contingents of EUFOR ALTHEA. During the ceremony commemorative medals and distinctions were awarded. Lieutenant Colonel Marcin Samburski handed over responsibility for the contingent to the soldiers of the XXIII contingent commanded by Lt. Col. Wojciech Adamowicz.

The whole ceremony was attended by the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Sarajevo, Mr. Jarosław Lindenberg and the Consul of the Republic of Poland, Mr. Miłosz Pieńkowski.

The aim of the mission, in addition to ensuring a “secure and safe environment” in BiH, is to establish closer cooperation with other European Union agencies present in the region.

In addition to regular duties the Polish contingent implements a number of projects related to supporting local authorities in maintaining safe conditions for the implementation of the arrangements contained in the peace agreements.

In addition to training activities it supports and organizes humanitarian aid, as well as conducting mine awareness classes. Polish soldiers hold positions in HQ EUFOR, LOT House and IMP.
INTERVIEW

During the preparation for my deployment, my predecessor informed that the intermediate reserves had been activated for the first time since the EUFOR ALTHEA mission has started. This was a precautionary measure to strengthen the stability in BiH by positioning sufficient, capable forces to support the governmental efforts to maintain a safe and secure environment. Four additional companies were deployed in the mission. The strength of the battalion increased up to 700 PAX with six companies from six different nations.

The main task for the first phase was to increase the visibility of EUFOR and to get familiar with the area of operations. To accomplish this task the battalion conducted nearly 90 patrols all over BiH within the first 30 days. These patrols included foot patrols through the cities to get into contact with the population. Additional tasks for the battalion were continuous training to get to full operational capability, combined trainings with the AF BiH, supporting celebrations with honor guards and still providing the forces for the force protection.

In the second phase, the companies had to prove their self-sustainability with the support of their national support elements while staying out in the temporary staging areas for two weeks in a rotating system. This was a necessary maneuver to cover the whole area of BiH on an equal basis. This demanded a lot of coordination between the battalion, the HQ, the NSEs and the AFBiH. For that, I want to thank the NSEs for their uncomplicated support to my troops.

As a battalion commander, I want to thank all the soldiers of the battalion for their professionalism and high motivation in execution of their multiple tasks.
Protecting EUFOR’s Security

Personal Profile:  
Force Protection Officer  
Major Hristo Georgiev

I was born on the 14th Jun 1988 in city of Varna in Bulgaria and graduated from a high school of tourism in 2007. My military career began when I attended the Naval Academy N. Vapcarov in Varna where I graduated in 2012. From August 2012 until October 2015 I was a commander of a minesweeper vessel. From October 2015 up to before my deployment to EUFOR I was an inspector in the detection and investigation of crimes division in the Bulgarian Military police detachment. This deployment to EUFOR is my first overseas deployment.

The S3 Security office is responsible for Force protection (FP) in Camp Butmir, approving vehicles, bicycles and issuing visitor's temporary and permanent passes as well as issuing ID cards. Personnel serving in Camp Butmir should be aware that currently the rotation for the FP Coys is set on an approximate 2 week basis and we have 4 Coys on this rotation. As most people will appreciate it can be difficult for each Coy to settle into this routine. In order to benefit personnel departing or entering Camp Butmir I would like to take this opportunity to ask people to have a little more patience with the guard. Please also refrain from yelling or becoming frustrated. If any personnel have any concerns or questions regarding the guard please call the S3 office to discuss.

I would also like to also remind everybody that there are written orders governing the working hours for bars and all personnel should comply with this.

The S3 Force Protection Officer in charge of all aspects of Force Protection including the deployment of personnel as guards on the main gate.
Physical Training in the Bulgarian Military Forces

Every new soldier or cadet, or serviceman with a valid contract for military service in the Bulgarian military forces, regardless of age, must have necessary physical skills for service. Physical training and sport activities are conducted in accordance with the “Guidelines for physical training and organization of sports activities in the Armed Forces of Republic of Bulgaria”. The physical training of soldiers is a basic type of training. The purpose is to improve the physical capability of the serviceman to perform his/her professional activities / duties. The servicemen are responsible for their own physical condition and commanders are obliged to organize physical exercises on a regular basis.

There are periodical inspections and assessments of physical training, the goal of which is to verify the actual condition of physical training. The assessment is based on the standards of gender and age.

The purposes of physical training are:

- creating and developing physical qualities;
- improving the physical and mental health, and the body resistance of the effects of unfriendly environmental factors;
- improvement a self-confidence and military- skills;
The basic method in exercising is structured around:

- unit physical training, classes;
- individual physical training;

The test includes the following exercises:

- Shuttle run 10m x 10 meters
- Number of push-ups in 90 seconds
- Number of sit-ups in 90 seconds
- Run of 1000 meters
Bus departs in front the Millennium bar at 0900hrs.

Please be advised that the travel assigning/booking list is available as of 01 June 2022 at MWA Office (BLDG 103 Room 21)

The traveler is obliged to make a payment for travel ticket for organized tour when registering in the MWA Office.

The price for a single ticket for each organized tour is 3.00EUR