

EUFOR FORUM

European Union Force in BiH

March - April 2025



#144

In this edition:



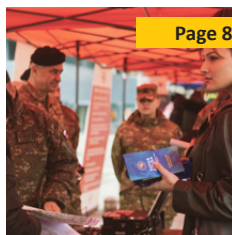
New Deputy Commander

Pages 4-6

**“We deeply care
about this country
and its European future.”**

Ms. Kaja Kallas





Page 8

Together for a Safer Bosnia and Herzegovina!

EUFOR joined a special event in front of the BiH Parliament to mark International Mine Awareness Day.



Pages 10-11

EUFOR Reinforced with Reserve Forces

The Reserve Forces demonstrates EUFOR's capability to quickly reinforce Op Althea with military personnel, vehicles, equipment and enhanced capability.



Page 14

EU SEDE Delegation visits EUFOR

On arrival the delegation were given a static display showcasing the military assets and capabilities of EUFOR.



Page 15

Visit of EUFOR Operational Commander General Cottureau

The Operational Commander of EUFOR ALTHEA, Lieutenant General Hubert Cottureau, visited the soldiers stationed at Camp Butmir.

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Editor in Chief

Captain Alan Patrick Rigney

Dear readers of EUFOR Forum Magazine!

I am delighted to publish my first full edition of EUFOR FORUM as editor in Chief. Firstly, please allow me to introduce myself. I am OF-2 Capt Alan Rigney from the Irish Contingent and I have taken over as the EUFOR Spokesperson since Feb 2025.

The last few months were very busy for EUFOR and especially the Public Affairs Office.

A lot of important events including TOA of DCOM EUFOR, the arrival of reserve forces and numerous high level visits with COM EUFOR in Camp Butmir including the visit of the High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission, Ms. Kaja Kallas.

In edition #144 you will find information about our new DCOM, LOT house projects, MnBN training and the arrival and integration of the Reserve Forces to EUFOR Op Althea plus much more.

I want to thank all branches who supported our efforts on media activities for EUFOR Op Althea.

EUFOR Forum is about the soldiers and personnel of EUFOR. It is a chronicle and memories of your time spent in BiH as part of Operation Althea. So as always, we invite you to share your experiences and have those experiences recorded in print and shared digitally. Please contact EuforPIO@eufor.europa.eu if you have anything that you would like covered or have an article or photograph you would like to share.

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These days at Camp Butmir, COM #EUFOR Major General Florin Marian Barbu and COM #NATOinBiH Brigadier General Matthew A. Valas warmly welcomed Lieutenant General Sganga, #JFCNP Allied Joint Force Command Naples, Chief of Staff and Head of the EU Union Coordination Element.

During their official discussions, they addressed the current security situation in BiH. COM EUFOR emphasized the critical role of EUFOR and its ongoing support to local partners in ensuring a safe and secure environment (#SASE) for all citizens of BiH.

#StrongerTogether #EUFORBiH #BiH #EUFOR20YEARS #EUFORYOU #JFCNAPLES #NATO



Today at Camp Butmir, COM #EUFOR Major General Florin Marian Barbu and COM #NATOinBiH Brigadier General Matthew A. Valas warmly welcomed Lieutenant General Rodolfo Sganga, #JFCNP Allied Joint Force Command Naples, Chief of Staff and Head of the European Union Coordination Element.

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2

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COM #EUFOR Major General Florin Marian Barbu welcomed Ms. @BMeinl, the Austrian Minister for European and International Affairs, yesterday at Camp Butmir. During the visit, EUFOR COS BG Sailer presented a Demining static display organized by the Austrian contingent.



Italian and Romanian helicopters, operating under EUFOR command, continue their rigorous night training to ensure they are always mission-ready for a wide range of operational scenarios.



EUFOR in Action: Strengthening Security Throughout BiH

EUFOR personnel and vehicles from the Multinational Battalion are conducting patrols across Bosnia and Herzegovina as part of essential training to maintain troop readiness and preparedness.

These patrols aim to monitor the security situation and help ensure a safe and secure environment. EUFOR's presence in BiH is a clear and visible demonstration of our commitment to the country's stability and security. As a multinational force, we continue to support BiH institutions in maintaining the safety of all citizens. We remain dedicated to transparent communication and will always keep the people of BiH fully informed.

EUFOR Announces Appointment of New Deputy Commander



4

EUFOR officially appointed Brigadier General Uberto Incisa di Camerana of the Italian Armed Forces as the new Deputy Commander (DCOM) of EUFOR. With a distinguished record of service in numerous international operations, Brigadier General Incisa di Camerana now joins the EUFOR Command Group alongside COM EUFOR Major General Florin Marian Barbu and COS EUFOR Brigadier General Herbert Sailer. He assumes the responsibilities previously held by Brigadier General Lorenzo Dal Maso of the Italian Armed Forces.

In his address, COM EUFOR Major General Barbu expressed gratitude to Brigadier General Dal Maso for his dedicated service, strategic vision, and extensive operational expertise:

"Brigadier General Dal Maso, I cannot thank you enough—

not just for your service, but especially for your friendship. Your remarkable work has left a lasting impact, and your legacy will endure as a testament to your dedication and tireless efforts."

Major General Barbu also warmly welcomed Brigadier General Incisa di Camerana to his new role, emphasizing his vast experience and the importance of his position within EUFOR's leadership team:

"Brigadier General Incisa di Camerana, your extensive military expertise, particularly your experience in the Kosovo Force, makes you uniquely qualified for this important position."

In his farewell speech, Brigadier General Dal Maso thanked the EUFOR leadership team and Operational Headquarters for their support. He highlighted key

achievements from his 13-month tour of duty, including:

- Visiting all higher commands of the Armed Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina, where he engaged with professional and cooperative counterparts to discuss real priorities and challenges.
- Actively participating in the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action.
- Visiting defense industry factories and weapons and ammunition storage sites.
- Representing EUFOR at numerous conferences, celebrations, and ceremonies with key stakeholders in the country.
- Organizing events to mark the 20th anniversary of EUFOR.



Music was delivered by the AF BiH Army Band

Brigadier General Dal Maso expressed his appreciation to his counterparts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, stating:

"I would like to extend my warmest thanks to all my key interlocutors, especially the Armed Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies, along with their respective political representatives. Our collaboration was built on mutual respect and a shared commitment to common goals."

The incoming Deputy Commander, Brigadier General Incisa di Camerana, expressed his honor and gratitude for his new appointment. He also thanked Brigadier General Dal Maso and his team for their support over the past two months. Addressing his new responsibilities, he stated:

"With the support of EUFOR staff and soldiers—together with NATO, international partners, and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina — we will succeed in contributing to the further stabilization and prosperity of BiH and advancing towards a successful European perspective for the entire Western Balkans region."

The establishment of the Deputy Commander position reinforces EUFOR's commitment to enhancing its operational capabilities in support of Bosnia and Herzegovina. EUFOR remains a steadfast, capable, and reliable partner in maintaining a safe and secure environment for all the people of BiH.



COM EUFOR MG Barbu welcomes new DCOM EUFOR BG Incisa di Camerana



Deputy Commander of the European Union Force in BiH

Brigadier General Uberto Incisa di Camerana was born in Vittorio Veneto, Italy, on May 1969. He was commissioned second lieutenant upon graduation, in September 1990, from the Italian Military Academy.

His military education includes completion of the Military School "Nunziatella" in Naples, the Italian Army Staff College and the French Joint Staff College. Furthermore, on a more functional approach, he attended the NATO Electronic Warfare Course, the NATO CIMIC Course, the NATO Comprehensive Operations Planning Course, the NATO Peace Support Operations Course, the NATO CIMIC Staff Course and the UN CivMil Coord Course. BG Incisa graduated from Turin Polytechnic with a Bachelor of Electronic Engineering degree and from Trieste University with a Bachelor of Political Sciences degree. He also holds a Master of Arts Degree in Strategic Sciences from the University of Turin and a Postgraduate diploma in International Politics from the Université Libre de Bruxelles (ULB).

Prior to his current assignment, BG Incisa di Camerana spent more than 30 years in a variety of command and staff assignments, serving as:

Battalion Commander with the 4th Air Defense (AD) Regiment in Cremona (2008-2009);

Commander of the Multinational CIMIC Group in Motta di Livenza (2013-2015);

Cadet Regiment Commander in the Military Academy in Modena (2015-2016);

Commander of the ITA Army Foreign Languages School in Perugia (2018-2020);



Commander of the NRDC-ITA Support Brigade in Solbiate Olona (2020-2022);

And eventually as Coordinating Officer at the Land Forces HQ in Rome (2023-2025).

Earlier in his career he was a Platoon Leader with 11th Infantry Battalion and Battery Commander with 5th AD Regiment. With his battery he participated in NATO operations DENY FLIGHT and ALLIED FORCE. As a staff officer he served as Strategic Planner at the EUMS Civ/Mil Cell in Brussels, where he contributed to the planning and set up of several EU operations and missions. Staff experience was further developed as Press Officer at the Italian General Staff in Rome

and as G3 at the Land Forces Command in Verona. From 2009 to 2012 he worked as Military Assistant to the Chief of Staff at HQ NRDC-ITA while, most recently, he joined the ITA Joint Operations HQ in Rome as Executive Officer to the Chief of Staff (2017-2018).

BG Incisa has served several tours in the Balkans as Aide de Camp to KFOR Deputy Commander (2001) and to KFOR Deputy Commander for Operations (2001 - 2002), as well as to the NATO HQ Skopje Commanding General (2002). He joined the EU led Aceh Monitoring Mission in Indonesia (AMM) as Director of Operations during the Initial Monitoring Presence (2005). In 2013, he deployed to Kabul, Afghanistan, where he served as the Transition and Elections Lead Planner at HQ ISAF Joint Command (IJC). From August 2016 to November 2017, he served as Chef de Cabinet to COMKFOR at HQ KFOR in Pristina. Since March 2025 he has been appointed Deputy Commander EUFOR in Sarajevo (BiH).

He is married with Paola.

The EU HR for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy visited EUFOR



HRVP Ms. Kaja Kallas reviews EUFOR personnel with COM EUFOR MG Barbu

COM EUFOR Major General Florin Marian Barbu and H.E. Luigi Soreca, Head of the EU Delegation and EU Special Representative in BiH, warmly welcomed Ms. Kaja Kallas, High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European Commission.

In the presence of Lieutenant General Rodolfo Sganga, JFC Naples Chief of Staff and Head of the European Union Coordination Element, and Brigadier General Matthew A. Valas, Commander of NATO Headquarters Sarajevo, HRVP Kaja Kallas addressed the troops and expressed her pleasure in meeting EUFOR soldiers.

The HRVP underscored the EU's steadfast commitment to regional stability and the security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, emphasizing that the **European Union will always remain this country's most stable, reliable, and predictable partner.**



Together for a Safer Bosnia and Herzegovina!



EUFOR personnel showcasing EUFOR capabilities and equipment to the local population



EUFOR joined a special event in front of the BiH Parliament to mark International Mine Awareness Day. This day highlights the vital work of saving lives, protecting communities, and rebuilding futures in mine-affected areas.

EUFOR continues to support the BiH mine action sector through education, mentoring, and outreach. Since 2022, over 42,000 citizens—mostly schoolchildren—have received Mine Risk Education (MRE) through EUFOR and Armed Forces BiH.

Landmines still pose a serious threat. That's why we're committed to reaching every corner of the country with the tools and knowledge to stay safe.

Together, we're building a mine-free future.

International Medal Parade



DCOM EUFOR decorating members of the Romanian Av Det

An international medal parade was held in Camp Butmir on 14 March 2025 where members of 13 nations: Austria, Belgium, Chile, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, North-Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, Spain and Türkiye received their well-deserved European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Medal for Operation Althea.

This medal is awarded in recognition of their service with the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina under the mandate of UNSCR 2757, which was adopted on 01 November 2024.

The medal is draped from an EU blue ribbon with either a wide gold or silver centre stripe; the twelve pointed stars around the outside edge of the medal represent the EU. The reverse of the medal contains the Latin phrase “Pro Pace Unum” meaning ‘United for Peace’.

Congratulations to all medal recipients.



COS EUFOR proudly shakes the hand of a medal recipient in recognition of her service



Group photo with DCOM and COS

EUFOR Reinforced with Reserve Forces



DCOM welcomes Czech personnel

During March 2025, EUFOR welcomed the arrival of Reserve Forces to Op Althea by land and by air. The Reserve Forces were comprised of multiple nations demonstrating EUFOR's capability to quickly reinforce Op Althea with military personnel, vehicles, equipment and enhanced capability.

The temporary reinforcement with Reserve Forces included Italian helicopters with aviation detachments arriving to Camp Butmir, Czech and Romanian military personnel landing in Sarajevo Airport and arriving by land through border crossing points in military vehicle convoys.

Reserve Forces welcomed by COM EUFOR

COM EUFOR Major General Florin Marian Barbu, alongside the EU Special Representative in

Bosnia and Herzegovina, HE Mr. Luigi Soreca, the Commander of NATO HQ Sarajevo, Brigadier General Matthew A. Valas, and the Ambassadors of Czech Rep, Italy and Romania to BiH, warmly welcomed the reinforcement troops in Camp Butmir. This temporary increased presence

of EUFOR personnel is a strong and visible sign of EUFOR's unity and unwavering commitment to stability and security in BiH. EUFOR's capacity as a multinational force is essential in supporting BiH institutions in maintaining a safe and secure environment for all citizens of BiH.



Reserve Forces at the BiH border crossing

Integration of the Reserve Forces



Heli Ops by night and day



Aviation Detachment – Heli Ops

EUFOR Aviation Detachment comprising of Romanian and Italian helicopters intensified integration exercises with the incoming reserve troops by day and night, in all weather conditions. These exercises included landings, medical evacuations, and rapid transportation drills.

Rapid air deployment of military personnel from an operational area to a temporary staging area is essential for EUFOR troops to remain fully prepared for any mission or situation that may arise.

MnBN – New Romanian & Austrian Coy Training

As part of the integration and ongoing mission readiness training, the new Romanian and Austrian companies of the Multinational Battalion successfully completed intensive integration exercises at Camp Butmir during April.

During this training the Romanian and Austrian soldiers were exercised in VIP escort, crowd control, patrolling, medical evacuation, and the identification and neutralization of unexploded ammunition. This type of training

show cases EUFOR personnel's capabilities, readiness and professionalism.

Live Fire Training

MnBN personnel conducted live fire training as part of LFX during

the month of April. While having to operate in very challenging conditions this training was intensive, demanding and enjoyable for those taking part. It is important that all EUFOR personnel maintain their skills and ensure peak readiness at all times.



Live fire pistol shooting

LOT Projects: Life Support Courses for Teachers



EUFOR LOT Drvar Carabinieri promotes school safety: Basic Life Support Courses for teachers

As part of the ongoing efforts to maintain a Safe and Secure Environment and in line with EUFOR's mandate to support local communities, the Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) of the Italian Carabinieri based in Drvar has recently organized a series of Basic Life Support (BLS) courses for teachers from several schools in its area of responsibility.

This initiative, which complements ongoing Mine Risk Education (MRE) activities, was made possible thanks to the presence of a nurse and a Red Cross first responder deployed within the LOT. The project has so far involved dozens of teachers who received both theoretical and practical training in essential life-saving techniques, including chest compressions and airway obstruction management.

The courses were received with great enthusiasm by school staff, who expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to acquire fundamental skills to effectively respond to emergencies within the school environment. This activity is part of EUFOR's broader commitment to promoting stability and security in

Bosnia and Herzegovina, by strengthening civil society capacities and helping to build a safer and more resilient environment.

By investing in education and emergency preparedness, EUFOR reaffirms its commitment to building stronger, safer communities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina.



LOT Projects: Assisting the Red Cross



Members of EUFOR LOT Višegrad assist Red Cross of Novo Goražde in delivering humanitarian aid to remote families

In a remarkable display of solidarity and service, members of EUFOR LOT Višegrad joined forces with the Red Cross on Novo Goražde Municipality to deliver essential humanitarian aid to socially disadvantaged families living

in difficult terrain. Their mission involved transporting basic foods in Novo Goražde and Sastavci to 11 families who face daily struggles due to their remote locations and limited resources.

Most of these families do not own a car and live far from main roads, making access to necessities a significant challenge. The soldiers, equipped with off-road vehicles and determination, ensured that the aid reached those in need,

overcoming rugged landscapes and logistical obstacles.

This cooperation between the EUFOR Althea mission and humanitarian organizations highlights the importance of joint efforts in crises.

By combining their strengths, they were able to provide crucial support to vulnerable communities, reinforcing the commitment to humanitarian aid and social responsibility.



EUFOR LOT Visegrad happy to assist and support the Red Cross - Big Thumbs Up!

EU SEDE Delegation visits EUFOR



14

COM EUFOR Major General Florin Marian Barbu welcomed the EU SEDE delegation of Mr. Niclas Herbst MEP and chair of the delegation, Mr. Hélder Sousa Silva MEP, Mr. Marjan Šarec MEP and Mr. Mārtiņš Stakis MEP to Camp Butmir.

On arrival the delegation were given a static display showcasing the military assets and capabilities of EUFOR, highlighting EUFOR as a robust multinational force that can deploy the necessary capabilities to support our BiH partners in ensuring a safe and secure environment for all citizens of BiH.

Following the display, the delegation received in-depth briefings on the security situation in the region, an overview of the Humanitarian de-mining activities in BiH and the role of EUFOR in supporting the BiH authorities. These discussions are crucial in strengthening our cooperation and ensuring stability for all in BiH.

COM EUFOR expressed his thanks to the EU SEDE delegation for their visit and highlighted his appreciation for the EU's continued support. EUFOR looks forward to working together with all partners to uphold peace and stability in BiH.



EU SEDE Del reviewing the static display



COWEB visit – EUFOR Steadfast and ready!



In early March EUFOR command team welcomed the Working Party on the Western Balkans Region (COWEB).

The Working Party on the Western Balkans Region is responsible for EU relations with the Western Balkans region (notably Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo).

In a dynamic static display, the Multinational Battalion and Aviation Detachment showcased EUFOR's assets and offered the Working Party a chance to engage directly with our soldiers.

The Working Party on the Western Balkans Region plays a vital role in managing EU relations with the Western Balkans.



15

Visit of EUFOR Operational Commander General Cottereau



The Operational Commander of EUFOR ALTHEA, Lieutenant General Hubert Cottereau, visited the soldiers stationed at Camp Butmir.

Lieutenant Colonel Vasile Ardeleanu briefed him on the mission's progress, the operational activities, and



the training exercises conducted by the Multinational Battalion.

During his visit, Lieutenant General Cottereau reaffirmed his complete support for COM EUFOR Major General Barbu and the command team.

Camp Butmir goes green to celebrate St. Patrick's Day



Camp Butmir, Sarajevo — March 17, 2025

In a gesture rich with tradition and symbolism, the Irish Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina H.E Mr. Adrian Farrell marked St. Patrick's Day with a special visit to Camp Butmir, where he honored Irish personnel and presented the traditional bowl of shamrock to the Commander of EUFOR Major General Florin Barbu.

The Irish Senior National Representative Lt. Col Karl Connolly welcomed H.E Mr. Adrian Farrell before presenting the bowl of shamrock to COM EUFOR Major General Barbu, symbolizing the strong bond between Ireland and EUFOR. The shamrock, which is an enduring emblem of Ireland has been used for centuries as a symbol of unity and good fortune.

In a time-honored tradition, the Ambassador and COM EUFOR decorated the Irish contingent serving with EUFOR with sprigs of shamrock. This act pays tribute to their service and dedication, both to their country and to the multinational peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Shamrock: a symbol of Irish identity

The shamrock has long been associated with Ireland and St. Patrick, the patron saint of the country. According to legend, St. Patrick used the three-leaved plant to explain the Christian concept of the Holy Trinity — the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit — to the Irish people during his mission in the 5th century.

Over the centuries, the shamrock evolved into a national symbol of Ireland, representing Irish pride, resilience, and unity. It is now worn and displayed globally each March

17th as people of Irish heritage — and those who join in celebration — mark St. Patrick's Day with parades, music, and cultural traditions.

The ceremony at Camp Butmir highlighted not only the significance of the day, but also the important role that Irish personnel play in international peacekeeping efforts.

As the Irish flag fluttered alongside those of other EUFOR contributing nations, the presence of the shamrock served as a powerful reminder of heritage, service, and solidarity. Together stronger.



H.E Mr. Adrian Farrell decorates members of IRCON with shamrock

International Women's Day!



On the 8th of March 2025 EUFOR celebrated International Women's Day, an important event that has been observed and celebrated since the early 1900's.

As part of this celebration, COM EUFOR Maj. Gen. Florin Marian Barbu and COM NATO HQ Sarajevo Brig. Gen. Matthew A. Valas hosted a reception for all female military members and civilian employees based in Camp Butmir. During the reception, both Commanders delivered speeches welcoming all in attendance and thanking all the women employed and stationed in Camp Butmir for their valuable contribution to the mission.

During his speech, COM EUFOR highlighted the importance of the presence of women in the military and their valuable role in military operations.

COM EUFOR ended his speech by thanking all present for being a key part in ensuring the effectiveness and credibility of our mission 'I extend my sincere gratitude to you for your steadfast commitment, your sacrifices and your hard work.



Congratulations to all of you on this important day and once again, I sincerely thank you for everything you do with us, among us and for us.

Following this, light refreshments were served and the women who work in Camp Butmir had an opportunity to meet and talk to each other.



COM's SPEECH

*Distinguished ladies of EUFOR and NATO,
Thank you for accepting my invitation to celebrate you, our colleagues - both in uniform and in civilian roles - who serve with dedication and professionalism within EUFOR and NATO, here in Camp Butmir.*

Definitely, you play a vital role in ensuring that all operational and administrative tasks are carried out in the best possible manner. Your presence strengthens our mission, enhances our ability to engage with communities and facilitates a proper way of addressing the entire spectrum of security challenges. The contribution of you, our sisters in arms and civilian personnel, is invaluable for forging our credibility as an open-minded, flexible, inclusive and unified team and force.

Accordingly, I fully encourage each of you to continue striving for excellence and being a key part in ensuring the effectiveness and credibility of our mission. Therefore, I extend my sincere gratitude to you for your steadfast commitment, your sacrifices and your hard work. Congratulations to all of you on this important day and once again I sincerely thank you for everything you do with us, among us and for us.

Happy National Day, Greece!



Greece National Day ceremony outside EUFOR HQ



On 25th March in Camp Butmir, personnel from Greece proudly celebrated Greece's National Day in the presence of COM EUFOR Major General Florin Marian Barbu and the Ambassador of Greece to Bosnia and Herzegovina, HE. Ms. Ioanna Efthymiadou.

It was a special occasion shared alongside EUFOR colleagues serving under EUFOR Operation Althea, honoring their rich

heritage and our strong partnership.

The name Althea, inspired by the Greek goddess of healing, reflects our mission - promoting peace, stability, and security. Just as Althea symbolized care and protection, we stand united in our commitment to a safe and stable future.

We are honored to serve together!



Mostar Half Marathon 2025



On 22 March 2025, 16 EUFOR personnel from Chile, Germany, Greece, Poland, Spain and Türkiye proudly represented EUFOR at the Mostar Run Weekend completing the Mostar half marathon. The EUFOR team displayed excellent physical resilience and fitness to complete such a challenging course.

Once again EUFOR personnel are clearly showing physical readiness, teamwork and community engagement.

The participants expressed their gratitude to the organisers for such a professionally organised, enjoyable and fantastic event.

COS Commendation EUFOR Civilian Employees

COS EUFOR Brigadier General Herbert Sailer presented commendations to the following EUFOR civilian employees on 19 March 2025, Ms. Nikolina Marceta, Ms. Naizfa Pusina, Mr. Nedžad Panjeta and Mr. Ramiz Kahirman.

The commendation from the COS acknowledges the hard work, dedication, loyalty and professionalism demonstrated by each recipient daily in Camp Butmir.

The hard work and dedication of all local employed civilians within EUFOR is highly appreciated by all personnel of EUFOR. Together Stronger.





Stronger Together - Steadfast & Ready

EUFOR AvDet and EUFOR personnel conducted numerous combined exercises and specialist training throughout April 2025.

This intensive training ensures that EUFOR is highly capable and always mission ready!