



New MNBN Commander

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Captain Alan Patrick Rigney

Dear readers of EUFOR Forum Magazine!

I am delighted to publish my final edition of EUFOR FORUM as editor in Chief. I would like to take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome from all in the PAO to our new Spokesperson Captain Claire Foley and wish her all the best in the future.

Over the last few months, we have experienced numerous important events in EUFOR Op Althea including TOA of MnBN Command, welcoming of Denmark to the mission, rotation of MnBN units, Integration training and numerous high level visits with COM EUFOR in Camp Butmir.

In edition #146 you will find information about our new MnBN Commander, Joint Military Police Training with the AF BiH and EUFOR's Communication Team's ongoing community engagement.

I want to thank all branches who supported our efforts on media activities during this period for EUFOR Op Althea. EUFOR Forum is about the soldiers and personnel of EUFOR. It is a chronicle of 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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Though not always in the spotlight, these specialists with golden hands are the backbone of every flight. Their expertise and passion ensure that EUFOR helicopters can respond swiftly, most extreme and challenging conditions.

Their work speaks volumes. 🇪🇺

#StrongerTogether #EUFORBiH #TogetherForBiH #EUFOR #BiH



Dedication and professionalism. Steadfast. Ready. 24/7.

At Camp Butmir, the mission never sleeps and neither does EUFOR's Aviation Detachment.

To keep our helicopters mission-ready, our technical and engineering crews work tirelessly behind the scenes. With precision and care, they maintain, prepare, and hand over aircraft for safe operations in support of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Though not always in the spotlight, these specialists with golden hands are the backbone of every flight. Their expertise and passion ensure that EUFOR helicopters can respond swiftly, even in the most extreme and challenging conditions.

Their work speaks volumes.



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Today at Camp Butmir, COM EUFOR MG Florin Barbu and COM @natobih BG Matthew Valas had the honor of welcoming Her Royal Highness, the Duchess of Edinburgh, from the Royal Family of the United Kingdom. EUFOR's key role in BiH security was reaffirmed.



New Firing Exercise at Pazaric Range

EUFOR soldiers from the Multinational Battalion continue their intensive training to stay mission-ready at all times. Most recently, the Hungarian company conducted a live-fire exercise at the Pazaric training area near Sarajevo. Once again, EUFOR troops demonstrated their advanced skills and high level of preparedness.



General Gábor Böröndi, Chief of Defence Staff of the Hungarian Armed Forces.

High-Level Visit: Hungarian Chief of Defence Staff at EUFOR HQ

COM EUFOR Major General Florin Marian Barbu and COM NATO HQ Sarajevo Brigadier General Matthew A. Valas, along with DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Uberto Incisa di Camerana and COS EUFOR Brigadier General Tibor Szabó, had the pleasure of welcoming General Gábor Böröndi, Chief of Defence Staff of the Hungarian Armed Forces.

General Böröndi also met with the Hungarian contingent deployed at Camp Butmir, strengthening ties and acknowledging their service.

Change of Command New MNBN Commander



Lt Col Ioan Vasile Rus, Romanian Armed Forces, addresses the parade

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On 24th July at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, a new chapter of leadership began for EUFOR's Multinational Battalion (MNBN).

Lieutenant Colonel Ioan Vasile Rus, Romanian Armed Forces, assumed command from Lieutenant Colonel Vasile Ardeleanu during a Transfer of Authority ceremony led by COM EUFOR Major General Florin Marian Barbu. The event welcomed distinguished attendees, including DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Uberto Incisa de Camerana, DCOM NATO Colonel Muharrem Aydin, and HE Anton Păcurețu, Ambassador of Romania to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In recognition of his outstanding service, Major General Barbu awarded Lieutenant Colonel Ardeleanu the Common Security and Defence Policy Service Medal for Operation ALTHEA and the Commander's Commendation, the highest honor from the Commander of EUFOR in BiH. Major General Barbu expressed



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gratitude to Lieutenant Colonel Ardeleanu for his exceptional leadership and dedication, and assured Lieutenant Colonel Rus of the EUFOR command team's full support.

The MNBN, EUFOR's military manoeuvre unit is based in Camp Butmir and includes troops from Albania, Austria, Hungary, Italy, Moldova, North Macedonia, Romania, and Türkiye. It trains regularly with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina to strengthen readiness, cohesion and interoperability.

Congratulations to both commanders and best wishes to LTC Rus as he takes the lead of this dynamic multinational force.



COM EUFOR Major General Barbu inspects the Multinational Battalion

Change of Command – Turkish Contingent



H.E. Emin Akseki delivers address



On June 27th at Camp Butmir, Colonel Mahmut Sert assumed command of the Turkish contingent from Colonel Ahmet Kösem. The ceremony was attended by COM EUFOR Major General Florin Marian Barbu, DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Uberto Incisa di Camerana, COS EUFOR Brigadier General Tibor Szabó, H.E. Emin Akseki, Ambassador of Türkiye to Bosnia and Herzegovina, NATO HQ Sa Commander Brigadier General Matthew A. Valas, and senior representatives from the Armed Forces of BiH.

Colonel Kösem shared: ***“It has been an honor to serve with you. I leave with a deep sense of gratitude, and I wish EUFOR continued success in its noble endeavor to maintain peace, stability, and cooperation in our region.”***

Colonel Sert added: ***“Together, we will continue our mission with respect, clear vision, and strong will, staying true to the values we share.”***

COM EUFOR Major General Barbu thanked Colonel Kösem for his unwavering dedication and wished him continued success in his future assignments. He also extended his full support and best wishes to Colonel Sert as he takes on his new role.

The event concluded with an outstanding performance by the Mehteran Unit, one of the world’s oldest military bands and a proud symbol of Turkish cultural and military heritage.

On Sunday, June 28th the Mehteran Unit also delivered a special artistic program dedicated to all EUFOR personnel stationed at Camp Butmir. On behalf of all EUFOR personnel we would like to extend our thanks to the Mehteran unit for sharing such a beautiful and intriguing performance with us.



Mehteran Unit make special performance at ceremony



Change of Command – Austrian Contingent

In the presence of COS EUFOR Brigadier General Tibor Szabó, H.E. Georg Diwald, Ambassador of Austria to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Major General Gerhard Christner, Chief of Staff of Directorate 1 of the Austrian Armed Forces, Colonel Harald Kink assumed command of the Austrian contingent from Colonel Gernot Schröttner.

During the ceremony, in recognition of his outstanding performance, COS EUFOR Brigadier General Szabó thanked Colonel Schröttner for his outstanding service and awarded him the Common Security and Defence Policy Service Medal for Operation ALTHEA. Brigadier General Szabó welcomed Colonel Harald Kink to Op Althea and wished him success in his new role.



Change of Command takes place in Camp Butmir

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German Contingent Change of Command in Camp Butmir

On August 14th the German Army Command held its Change of Command ceremony in the presence of the EUFOR Commander in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Major General Florin Marian Barbu and the EUFOR leadership team.

This ceremony marked the official handover of command of the German Contingent from Lieutenant Colonel Sebastian Bauer to Lieutenant Colonel Marcus Kannengießer, in Camp Butmir.

During this ceremony, COM EUFOR Major General Barbu thanked Lieutenant Colonel Sebastian Bauer for his outstanding and unwavering service.



Official handover of Command of the German Contingent

MNBN Rotation Ceremony at Camp Butmir: Farewell & Welcome



On 17th July at Camp Butmir, EUFOR leadership gathered to bid farewell to the Hungarian Company completing its rotational tour and to warmly welcome the Italian Company joining the EUFOR Multinational Battalion.

COM EUFOR Major General Florin Marian Barbu, DCOM EUFOR

Brigadier General Uberto Incisa di Camerana and COS EUFOR Brigadier General Tibor Szabó attended the official ceremony honoring both contingents. Throughout July and August, the newly arrived Italian troops participated in a range of training activities, culminating in

an intensive integration exercise designed to showcase their professionalism and readiness.

On behalf of all in EUFOR we express a heartfelt thank you to our Hungarian colleagues, and a warm welcome to the Italian contingent.

Together, we are stronger.

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Denmark Joins EUFOR: A Warm Welcome at Camp Butmir

On July 17th at Camp Butmir, EUFOR proudly welcomed Denmark as its 25th troop-contributing nation during an official flag-raising ceremony.

In the presence of COM EUFOR Major General Florin Marian Barbu, His Excellency Åge Sandal Møller, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Denmark to Bosnia and Herzegovina, DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Uberto Incisa di Camerana, COS EUFOR Brigadier General Tibor Szabó and EUFOR HQ personnel, the Danish flag was raised alongside those of fellow contributing nations.

Denmark now stands with 24 other nations in support of a safe and secure environment for all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina, reinforcing the unity and strength behind EUFOR Operation Althea.

EUFOR are proud to now have the following Troop-



COM EUFOR and H.E Åge Sandal Møller inspect Honor Guard

Contributing Nations representing Op ALTHEA: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Moldova, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Republic of North Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye.

Italian Troops Sharpen Skills in Integration Exercise



IT COY of the MNBN in action

During July, the newly deployed Italian company of the Multinational Battalion conducted and successfully completed an intensive integration exercise at Camp Butmir. The integration exercise is a vital milestone in strengthening unit cohesion and operational readiness within the mission.

Over the course of several days, Italian troops conducted training in VIP escort, crowd and riot control, patrolling, and medical evacuation. These exercises highlighted their high level of professionalism and preparedness, essential qualities for effective field operations.

Through dedication and teamwork, they continue to reinforce the strength and unity of our mission.

Together, we stand stronger than ever!



EUFOR Display at Ilijaš Days Festival



EUFOR Deputy Commander attends Ilijaš Days festival



On Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th of July, EUFOR continued its community engagement by welcoming distinguished visitors to a static display at the annual Ilijaš Days festival in Ilijaš. EUFOR personnel provided an interactive display on both days encompassing a display of military equipment and EUFOR capability from MnBN including military vehicles. In support, we had the EUFOR EOD team with their robot and Medical teams teaching children essential first aid skills.

In addition, there was some very fun games and interactive experiences provided to the children by the EUFOR PAO team who were supported by MnBN, EOD and Medical personnel. To make the experience memorable for all in attendance, EUFOR provided the service of a photo booth that facilitated parents and children to snap some fun photos and make long lasting memories.

The weekend began with DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Uberto Incisa di Camerana greeting and engaging with our first special guests and continued for two very active days with hundreds of visitors. EUFOR extends special thanks to our esteemed guests, especially the families and children who interacted and engaged with the EUFOR activities over the two memorable days.

Special thanks to our Romanian, North Macedonian and Italian colleagues from the Multinational Battalion for their support, and the EOD and the medical team for making our participation as spectacular as it was. We deeply value these kinds of engagements and promise to continue with similar events in the future.

Thank you to everyone who joined us—together, we make Ilijaš stronger.



Connecting Minds: EUFOR at Mojoj BiH 2025



EUFOR personnel engage with local population

On Wednesday 30th July, in Sarajevo, the EUFOR Communication Team proudly engaged with international participants at the Fifth International Summer School Mojoj BiH 2025 – Open Your Mind.

From EUFOR's mission under Operation Althea to daily life in the military, the session offered young minds a deeper understanding of our work in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The engagement was filled with questions, curiosity, and insightful conversations. The



EUFOR communication team felt completely at home with such inspiring and thoughtful teenagers.

A heartfelt thank you to all the participants and organizers for the warm welcome and meaningful dialogue. Your feedback is invaluable, and your energy gives us motivation to keep connecting and sharing.

We look forward to continuing these interactions because strengthening community ties starts with listening and learning.

Third Youth Academy “State of Peace” 2025

On 07 August, the EUFOR Communication team delivered a presentation outlining the EUFOR ALTHEA mission to nearly 50 participants in Brčko, as part of the Third Youth Academy “State of Peace” 2025 organized by The Post Conflict Research Center (PCRC).

The academy brings together young people from across the region, with participants from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Montenegro, and Croatia.

The PCRC remains dedicated to maintaining a culture of peace and preventing violent conflict in the Western Balkans.

In addition to EUFOR, a representative from the Office of



EUFOR presentation to Third Youth Academy

the High Representative (OHR) in Brčko also took part in the event.

The participants demonstrated strong engagement with the EUFOR STRATCOM team, they took the opportunity to ask many questions and discuss the

presentation in person at the end of the event.

EUFOR remains firmly committed to strengthening ties with local communities — because together we are stronger.

EUFOR Communication Team Visit the Police Academy of FMIA BiH



Police Academy Cadets attend EUFOR briefing



On July 9th in Sarajevo, the EUFOR Communication Team held a presentation and briefed nearly 500 Cadets from the Police Academy of the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina. During the briefing, the Cadets gained a more detailed insight into the mission and operations of the EUFOR Althea mission.

After the briefing the Cadets posed some very thoughtful questions and received detailed answers from the EUFOR team, they acquired new knowledge and cleared up some doubts they had regarding the mission itself, which highlighted a powerful exchange of knowledge and trust. We express our sincere gratitude to all the Cadets in attendance for their

positive engagement, as well as the leadership of the Police Academy and the Federal Ministry of Internal Affairs for facilitating this briefing by EUFOR.

EUFOR Communication team remains committed to continuing these types of briefings and engagements.

We always stand with the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina!



EUFOR soldiers assist elderly man

During a recent foot patrol, EUFOR soldiers from Türkiye and North Macedonia witnessed an elderly man in his 70s fall off his bicycle. Without hesitation, they rushed to help. The man, a war veteran, was struggling to walk and stand. Thanks to the language skills of a North Macedonian team member, they learned he had a hip injury and had been feeling dizzy for several days. He was trying to reach the post office.



With support from local civilians, emergency medical services were called. In the meantime, the soldiers offered him water and stayed by his side until paramedics arrived and took him to the hospital.

After ensuring he was safely on his way, the patrol continued. Through their quick response and care, EUFOR soldiers once again showed that compassion and solidarity are at the heart of every mission.

Joint Military Police Training – EUFOR & AF BiH



EUFOR and Armed Forces of BiH conduct demonstration

On the 04th of July, EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina held a demonstration of joint military police training in Rajlovac barracks. The goal of the training was to strengthen cooperation, develop procedures and tactics, and enhance interoperability between the military police specialists from EUFOR and OS Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Teams of military police from the Polish and Romanian EUFOR contingents participated in the training with a team from AF BiH. During the demonstration, EUFOR teams exhibited their equipment and performed a practical exercise where they successfully displayed their abilities. All participants really enjoyed the joint training and the feedback from all involved was very positive.



This joint training reflects the unique commitment of EUFOR and OS Bosnia and Herzegovina to maintaining a safe and stable environment through continuous professional military cooperation.

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Strengthening Community Ties



On 22 July, COM EUFOR Major General Florin Marian Barbu met with personnel at the LOT Houses in Foča and Višegrad. The Slovakian LOT members delivered a presentation on their daily core activities and current operational challenges that they are encountering.



During the meeting, Major General Barbu emphasized the important and essential role of LOT Houses in maintaining EUFOR's strong presence and connection with communities across Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In recognition of their service and the important role of LOT teams, COM EUFOR commended the personnel for their unwavering dedication and professionalism in carrying out their duties day after day.

International Medal Parade at Camp Butmir



CSDP Medal Parade held at Camp Butmir

An international medal parade was held at Camp Butmir, where 130 personnel from the following 11 nations—Belgium, Chile, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, and Switzerland—were awarded the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Medal for Operation Althea.

The medals were presented by COM EUFOR Major General Florin Marian Barbu, DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Uberto Incisa di Camerana, and COS EUFOR Brigadier General Tibor Szabo, together with H.E. Hildegard Naughton, Irish Minister of State, and H.E. Anton Păcurețu, Ambassador of Romania to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The CSDP medals were presented to recipients in recognition of their dedicated service with the European Union Force in BiH. The EU CSDP medal features a blue EU ribbon with either a wide gold or silver centre stripe with twelve pointed stars encircling the edge, symbolizing the European Union.

On the reverse of the medal is the Latin inscription “Pro Pace Unum”, meaning “United for Peace”

Well done and congratulations to all recipients who received their medals on the day. Thank you for your service and all your support throughout your deployment.



A Shared Commitment to Security in BiH

On July 3rd at Camp Butmir, COM EUFOR Major General Florin Marian Barbu, DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Uberto Incisa di Camerana, and COS EUFOR Brigadier General Tibor Szabó, together with NATO HQ Sarajevo Commander Brigadier General Matthew A. Valas, had the honor of welcoming Lieutenant General Giovanni Maria Iannucci, Commander of the Italian Joint Operations Command.

During their official discussions, they addressed the current security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. COM EUFOR emphasized the vital role of EUFOR in maintaining a safe and secure environment for all citizens and reaffirmed the importance of ongoing cooperation with local partners. He also underlined the significant contribution of the



Commander of Italian Joint Operations visits Camp Butmir

Italian presence within the Force.

Lieutenant General Iannucci also visited the Italian contingent deployed at Camp Butmir and

took the opportunity to explore a static display organized by the Multinational Battalion.

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Inspiring Dialogue at Camp Butmir



On 29th July at Camp Butmir, DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Uberto Incisa di Camerana welcomed students from Milan who are studying in various faculties such as history, languages, and engineering, participating under the Caritas Ambrosiana charity initiative.

The goal of their visit was to learn more about EUFOR Operation Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with a special focus on the operation's efforts to support



DCOM engages with students from Caritas Ambrosiana Charity

national authorities in demining and fostering a safe and secure environment for all citizens.

Following the presentation, the students engaged in a lively Q&A session, receiving insightful answers directly from DCOM EUFOR. The students also received a tour of the Peace Support Operations Training Centre, gaining hands-on knowledge about the region's security and stability efforts.

Multinational Sports Showdown Boosts Team Spirit at Camp Butmir



Team spirit shown at Beach Volleyball at Camp Butmir



On 23rd July 2025, the San Marco Marine Brigade brought the heat with a high-energy sports competition at Camp Butmir, rallying every contingent from EUFOR's Multinational Battalion in BiH. From beach volleyball to basketball, agility challenges to a thrilling 4x500m relay, the games were all about one thing: unity.





EUFOR personnel take part in Multinational Sports Showdown

“This kind of initiative is essential for building strong relationships and strengthening the cooperative spirit behind every successful multinational mission,” said the San Marco company commander. ***“Sport breaks barriers—language, uniforms—it connects us all.”***

And connect they did. Whether scoring points or cheering from the sidelines, every participant showed incredible athleticism, determination, and most importantly team spirit.

In a mission environment where collaboration is everything, this competition was a powerful reminder that when nations come together, amazing things happen. Huge congratulations to the organizers and everyone who took part. Everyone was a winner.



People behind the Lens



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In this issue, we bring you a glimpse into the lives of those who, while often working behind the scenes, play an essential role in EUFOR's mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. These are the military and civilian professionals whose dedication ensures that the public in BiH—and beyond—stays informed about what EUFOR does.

Their weapons aren't rifles, but cameras and lenses. Unfazed by harsh weather, difficult terrain, or challenging circumstances, they focus solely on their mission: capturing the moments that matter.

We begin this feature with an interview with **Mr. Almir Berkovac**, EUFOR's Video Production Manager, who shared some compelling insights into his day-to-day work behind the camera.

Can you briefly introduce yourself and tell us when you joined the EUFOR team?

I have been with EUFOR since the very beginning of the mission, when EUFOR took over from SFOR in December 2004. Since then, I have been working as a video production manager.

What does a typical workday look like for you?

My day usually starts with checking the production schedule with supervisors and colleagues from the STRATCOM office. Depending on the schedule, if there is a planned EUFOR activity to film, I begin preparations for organizing the shoot. In addition to this, most of my time is spent editing video and creating graphic designs for media products, which are later published on local media or EUFOR's channels (Facebook, YouTube, Instagram). Besides my main duties of video production manager, I handle additional roles

such as alternate fund manager and liaison for TV, radio stations, newspapers, and other media outlets.

What attracted you to work in the field of photography/videography?

As a child, I loved reading books and later developed an interest in writing essays. Photography and video became a way for me to continue expressing myself in a creative and meaningful way. These mediums offer a unique form of self-expression. They allowed me to speak in ways words often could not—to express emotion, atmosphere, and meaning through pictures, light, sound, and movement.

What is the most important aspect of documenting military and international activities?

Documenting military activities is fundamentally similar to other types of filming. It's important to gather as much relevant



information as possible before the shoot (five essential questions – who, what, where, when and why), and to prepare and secure the necessary resources for the expected outcome or product. However, when it comes to military operations, there is a heightened need for safety and adherence to specific security protocols and rules – both during filming and afterwards when publishing products.

Is there a photograph or video of yours that is particularly dear to you? Why?

My favorite project so far was the production of an online video and animated film about the dangers of mines (“EUFOR – WATCH OUT FOR MINES!”) in 2020/2021., during the COVID pandemic. It was a major creative endeavor and challenge. Despite the world shutting down, I managed to bring together a small, dedicated team, and together—in collaboration with the Armed Forces of BiH and BH MAC (Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Center), we produced an educational video to ensure that



students could access important information online. This video was published as an alternative to the in-person classes normally conducted by EUFOR LOT teams in schools and kindergartens.

How do you balance creativity with the strictness of military protocols?

Photographers, videographers, and creatives always strive to find the best possible angle, location, or approach to capture the perfect story or image.

My creative side sometimes wants to go beyond the set limits and protocols, but years spent in military environments have taught me discipline, respect for the mission, and above all—how to balance passion with responsibility or - as we say here in Bosnia - “to pull the handbrake.”

Favorite shooting location in BiH?

Mountains—every mountain in Bosnia and Herzegovina, without exception. Just like Santiago in the book *Alchemist*, who traveled far and wide only to discover that the treasure he looked for was always waiting beneath a tree in his village, I’ve come to truly appreciate how beautiful my country is, and what a treasure we have here.



Joint Readiness & Ongoing Training

EUFOR soldiers from the Aviation Detachment and the Multinational Battalion continue to conduct specialized training — both day and night — at Camp Butmir, maintaining the highest level of mission readiness.

These joint exercises are designed to enhance interoperability among contributing nations, while ensuring a solid understanding of helicopter embarkation and disembarkation procedures. In addition, they provide essential familiarization with flight conditions and help sharpen the skills required for rapid deployment in dynamic operational environments.

Preparedness is not a moment — it's a mindset.

