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United!

Commander of the Integrated Police Unit (IPU) Biography Colonel António José Mendes De Oliveira

Spokesperson Media Summary - February 2009

It does not seem a month ago that I wrote my 'Media Summary' for our last edition. That said this will be my penultimate edition before I depart the Operation in early April.

Despite the month being relatively light on the Media front, this changed dramatically on 10th February when EUFOR supported by NATO carried out simultaneous PIFWC raids close to Butmir Camp. This was the first EUFOR led operation since last summer. Media coverage went world wide with countries such as New Zealand and South Africa picking up the story. An IPU slant on the operation can be read later on in this month's edition (Page 8). We even managed to be included on BBC, CNN, Reuters and Al Jazeera news channels.

Exercise Winter Fall concluded in the latter half of January and once again members of the AFBiH took an active part. The full story can be read on Page 4.

On 6th February there was a flurry of Helicopter activity in Brcko District, the most northern part of RCC4 AOR as COM EUFOR paid a visit and was warmly hosted by LOT Brcko. The full story can be read on Page 6.



Born on 9th July 1958, Antonio Jose Mendes de Oliveira is Infantry Colonel of the Portuguese Guarda Nacional Republicana.

He achieved Post Graduation on "Peace and War Studies" in the Autonoma University of Lisbon. Until October 1985 he attends the course of degree of Officials on the permanent list of the Guarda Nacional Republicana.

From 1985 to 1988 he was Crow Control platoon Commander. From 1988 to 1990 he was Deputy Commander of the Crowd Control Company and then from 1990 to 1991 Company Commander. From 1991 to 1995 Colonel Oliveira was Company Commander with attribution of Security Sensitive Installations (Ministry of the Foreign Affairs and Parliament).

From 1995 to 2000 he was Head Security Officer of the Portuguese Parliament and of the Prime Minister's Official Residence, being responsible for the coordination of the Forces (Guarda Nacional Republicana and Public Security Police) almost 200 people between military and civilians to whom was assigned the security mission in and out of the Portuguese Parliament and Prime

Minister's Official Residence.

From October 2000 to April 2001 he was Commander of the Rapid reaction Unit of the Guarda Nacional Republicana in the UNTAET CIVILPO in Timor East.

Since May 2001 until February 2002 he was Staff officer in the GNR Infantry Regiment, and he then covered the position of Crowd Control Battalion Commander and from November 2003 to april 2004 Colonel Oliveira was the Portuguese Contingent Commander in Iraq (An Nassiryah) integrated in the AOR of the Multinational Division MND (SE) Iraq.

Colonel Antonio Jose Mendes de Oliveira is decorated with the Military Merit Medal, the Distinguished Services Gold Medal, 3 Distinguished Services Silver Medals, Assiduity of public security Medal, Military exemplary behavior medal, five Unit Commander's praises, four General praises Guarda Nacional Republicana, one praise from the Portuguese Parliament president and one praise from the Internal affairs Minister.

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United!

In the middle of January EUFOR conducted an exercise in order to test its readiness to deliver the required operational capability in a crisis situation. The exercise was part of an ongoing training programme for EUFOR and on this occasion officers from AFBIH were fully involved. For one week, soldiers from 26 countries trained together with their comrades from AFBIH.

COM EUFOR General Stefano Castagnotto paid visits to two units of the Armed Forces of BiH which were involved in the exercise. The Operational Command co-located with EUFOR HQ at Camp Butmir in Sarajevo and the battalion stationed at Rajlovac. He was briefed by Generals Ante Jelec and Sakib Foric. On both occasions, General Castagnotto was given a very positive impression of the professional approach and great enthusiasm showed by all the soldiers: "I can sincerely say that this common exercise is a full success and I am impressed by the high standard of training already achieved by the common AFBIH."

NATO and EUFOR are Partners of AFBIH

For the future, General Castagnotto expressed his wish to further strengthen the cooperation between EUFOR and AFBIH:



"NATO is putting enormous effort into the modernization of the Armed Forces of BiH, in order to make them fit for full membership in the alliance," he stated, adding that "it is the intention of EUFOR to support this process by providing the opportunity to put the newly acquired knowledge into

practice. NATO and EUFOR are the dedicated partners of BiH."

Political and Military Integration go Hand in Hand

New EU-member countries from the former Eastern Bloc provide a positive example of how political and military integration go hand in hand. It is therefore important for BiH not only to be a beneficiary but also an active contributor to international peace and security. And there is a great deal that even small armies are able to offer when they are professional, well-trained and highly motivated.

A sought-after Ability

During his visit to Rajlovac, General Castagnotto showed particular interest in the experts from the de-mining and ordnance disposal unit. Their first-hand experience makes them sought-after specialists that are in great demand in many war torn regions around the world. This is a niche-capacity where the AFBIH clearly excels and which can be of great assistance to UN, EU or NATO missions.



Visit of the IVth Defence Commission at the Italian contingent in Bosnia

On 5th February 2009, On. Edmondo Cirelli, President of the IVth Defence Commission of the House of Commons, together with members of the Commission visited the Italian contingent in Sarajevo.

The Commission met both EUFOR and NATO Commanders. During the meeting with the Italian contingent On. Cirelli said "I have come to pass on the appreciation of the Italian Parliament for the dedication of all Italian Army Forces deployed in international theatres supporting the peace and stability in foreign countries".



COM EUFOR and Chief IAD Visit LOT Cazin

On 31st 2008 December, COM EUFOR, General Stefano Casstagnotto and Chief IAD, Colonel Francisco Ippoliti paid an official visit to Romanian LOT House Cazin. General Castagnotto was welcomed and hosted by Captain George Macreanu (OC LOT House Cazin), Lt Col Henk Stuu (Chief RCC1) and Captain Gabriel Pruneanu (Ass. Coordinator, RCC1).

COM EUFOR visit started with the introduction of all the LOT personnel. The main purpose of COM's visit was to get familiar with the main issues and concerns in CAZIN Area of Responsibility (AOR). During the meeting they talked about the current security, political and economic situation and also social, religious aspects in LOT Cazin AOR. Other topics approached were: the logistics aspects and the way LOT members carry out their tasks.

Discussions took place in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. Chief



IAD appreciated LOT military members' work and offered his support in regard of all aspects connected with their daily activity. He appreciated the fact that the team knows their AOR very well. All LOT members present (OC, 2IC, Team Leaders) participated directly, providing supplementary information and explanations on the issues discussed.

The visit of the General Castagnotto ended with a tour of Cazin Municipality.

COM EUFOR was pleased with the way in which the activity of LOT House Cazin is organized and he congratulated everybody for the professional work LOT has done so far. In the end, he thanked for the hospitality and the contribution to the success of the mission.

COM EUFOR Visits LOT Brcko

COM EUFOR General Major Stefano Castagnotto and his delegation of 21 people paid a visit to Brcko District (BD) on Friday 6th February 2009. The visit to the north-eastern part of Bosnia and Hercegovina was hosted by LOT Brcko, operating in the most northern part of the RCC4 Area of Responsibility (AOR). Prior to the landing in Brcko the convoy of three EUFOR helicopters made a short aerial tour over the area.

After the arrival to the LOT house some 3 kilometres outside Brcko town and the opening remarks of COM EUFOR, LOT Brcko Deputy Commander Captain Jyrki Syväniemi gave a thorough briefing about the house and its operations in the AOR. Major General Castagnotto was satisfied with the presentation and thanked Captain Syväniemi for preparedness and readiness of LOT Brcko. RCC4 COM Lt Col Klaus Seidl included some separate notes about the supporting role of the RCC4.

A 50-minute familiarisation tour around Brcko town began with a drive-through of Ilica Local community. The tour continued to the town centre, passing by the main factories of the area. First along the route was Bosnaplod, a privatized company manufacturing semi-finished frozen fruit products, with an annual turnover of 4 million Euros. 95 % of its products are exported to EU, Croatia, and Turkey. Closer to the town centre, a two-company complex was viewed: Bimal Food food-oil factory and Studen-Agrana sugar refinery. The latter one is one of the largest sugar refineries in BIH, and also of interest to the Coca-Cola Company.

The new library building with over 120,000 books, and the main Orthodox



Church from 1868 were passed by on the way to Luka Port. Situated along Sava River, it is the biggest river port in BIH. On the premises, there is also the Customs and the Border Police. Today, Sava Commission established by Serbia, BIH, Croatia and Slovenia, EU and the World Bank are planning to improve the port itself as well as the navigation path of the Sava River.

The convoy passed under Gunja Bridge linking Brcko with Croatia. The location of the bridge is very poor due to proximity of the town centre. There are plans to build a new bridge some five kilometres eastwards, in order to fulfil EU standards. Across the road, the guests saw Sava Mosque built in 1736, hence its other name 'Old Mosque'.

BD Government house was pointed out, as well as the City hall together with the old library from 1892. It is currently under reconstruction and after the completion the



Mayor's Office will be situated in the building. Adjoining Posavina Hotel is also the beginning of the pedestrian area in the heart of the town centre. On the same spot is the main Police Station housing also the EUPM office. The new police station is planned to be ready in 2010 a few kilometres from the centre towards Banja Luka. Beside the main street was shown ItalProjec building, financed by Italian companies, with shops, restaurants, a post office and a gym.

Turning south, the convoy passed the Courthouse with both the Basic Court and the Appellate Court. On the other side of the road was the main Catholic Church from 1869. Driving around the City Central Park, the Secondary School and the Economics Faculty were pointed out. Vidovdan City Road Race, the biggest annual international sport happening in BD, starts and ends at the park. LOT Brcko took part in the race last year, as did OHR Principal Deputy High Representative Raffi Gregorian.

The newest shopping centre in Brcko, Slovenian Mercator Centar, was passed. It was opened in December 2008, and fulfils all European standards - both in terms of prices and quality. One of the four medical centres in Brcko was along the way, as was the White Mosque from 1893. The tour ended in Hotel Jelena, where mixed fresh salad with bread was served, followed by Corbanac cream broth which is a local soup for hunters. Huge blocks of tiramisu were served as dessert, and apparently quantity did not affect the quality!

At the end of the visit General Castagnotto met Deputy Supervisor, Mr. Gerhard Sontheim at Brcko District OHR office. After the meeting Mr. Sontheim walked the delegation to the adjoining helicopter landing site.

Visit to COM EUFOR



Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey



Brigadier General Felix Hernando Martin



Lieutenant General Fabrizio Castagnetti, Italian Army Chief Of General Staff



Mr. Bulend Tulun Ambassador of Turkey



Major General Blattmann, the Acting Chief of the Swiss Armed Forces

EUFOR Operation Against Mladic Family

In its mission to identify and arrest Persons Indicted for War Crime (PIFWICs), the International Criminal Tribunal for Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) conducted searches and interviews in the residences of two members of the former General and Bosnian-Serb military leader Ratko Mladic's family.

ICTY requested that EUFOR lead the operation supported by NATO and the RS MuP. Integrated Police Unit (IPU) was then tasked to perform the simultaneous operation which started in the early hours of 10 February 2009. The operation was conducted in the following phases:

1 - Settlement of a cordon and check points around the premises by the Spanish and Portuguese platoons of IPU in cooperation with the RS Police;

2 - Entering the properties with the local police for immediate security searches;



3 - Start of the procedure: EUFOR Legal Advisor with the help of interpreters, the searches were conducted by the Specialized Element of IPU: Dutch Marechaussee, Portuguese Guarda Nacional Republicana, Italian Carabinieri, Spanish Guardia Civil, Hungarian Police and French Gendarmerie;

4 - Upon completion of initial search, the ICTY investigators and NATO advisers were allowed to enter and proceed to interview

Mladic family members, while the searches were continuing.

5 - The operations finished in the early part the afternoon, and all seized items were taken to Butmir Camp for further analysis.

IPU utilised almost 100 gendarmes in these successful operations, with a further 21 on stand by and with a further 21 colleagues from the RS police. The professionalism of each of them and the specific skillfulness of each country allowed reaching the goals and totally satisfying ICTY. These successful operations also show that different elements, people, organizations and units, can work together perfectly for the accomplishment of a difficult assignment.

COM EUFOR Visits LOT Visoko



On 24th January 2009, COM EUFOR Major General Stefano Castagnotto paid a visit to Turkish LOT in Visoko. General Castagnotto was welcomed by Major Ersin Arda (OF-3, TUR Army), COM LOT and Captain Harun Sesen (OF-2 TUR Army),

DCOM LOT in a local restaurant where the LOT members and their honorable guests lunched the Bosnian cuisine.

Later on, the group departed to LOT house. Soon after the other LOT members were introduced to General Castagnotto at LOT

House, the guests tasted the traditional Turkish coffee.

Major Arda gave COM EUFOR a presentation about the activities of LOT Visoko and the current situation in AOR. This was followed by a friendly chat on the balcony of LOT House where the lower slopes of "The Bosnian Pyramid, Visocica Hill" was embracing the viewers. General Castagnotto had also taken a tour in the LOT house to see the living conditions and the working atmosphere.

At the end of the visit, LOT members presented a book about BIH to COM EUFOR in memory of his visit and gave their word to taste the Italian champagne he gifted shortly. COM EUFOR thanked LOT Visoko for all their hospitality and all the good work in mission.

COS Visits Vlasenica

On 24th January 2009 EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Joachim Wundrak (DEU), visited LOT Vlasenica (AUT) in RCC 4 Area of Responsibility (AOR). Due to the unpredictable weather conditions, COS made the journey by car. He was welcomed by Chief RCC4, Lt Col Klaus Seidl (AUT) at the meeting point just out-



side Vlasenica at around 11:00. Upon arrival at the LOT house the fallen in members were introduced to COS by LOT Cdr Captainain Rene Benedikter (AUT). After a short tour around the LOT premises coffee was served and Captain Benedikter briefed COS on current topics, ongoing issues and recent developments in the AOR of LOT Vlasenica. Since COS was most interested in the personal opinion of LOT personnel an open minded discussion followed covering various top-



ics as there were public administration in general, police, jurisdiction, economy (investors, unemployment), politics & politicians, resettlement, schools & education, tourism etc. A wider discussed issue was the prospect of BIH entering European Community, the opinion of the local people in this regard and the possibilities of EUFOR to foster the respective develop-

ment. COS told about and suggested to initiate partnerships between schools of EU-countries and BIH with students exchange programmes and mutual visits of pupils and classes as one of the main approaches to the mind of the population should be carried out in the schools. After these interesting talks and the heartily farewell of LOT members the visit ended with a short guided tour around town to give COS another brief impression of the AOR before departing for LOT Sokolac.

Transfer of Responsibility in French NSE

On 29th January 2009, Colonel Monbelli-Valloire, French Senior National Representative, presided over the Transfer of Authority (ToA) between NSE 4 and NSE 5 at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

After drawing the particular attention of those present to the high quality of the services rendered by NSE 4 staff and personnel over the past 6 months, and expressing his trust in the NSE 5 staff and personnel in continuing to support the French elements serving in BiH under Operation Althea (in light of the forthcoming disengagement phase from EUFOR which will start on 15 April 2009), Colonel Monbelli-Valloire transferred the French NSE command from Lt



Col Fourre, commanding officer, NSE 4, to Lt Col Nihouarn, now commanding NSE 5.

A traditional, convivial buffet luncheon concluded the ceremony.

COM EUFOR Visits MNBN

On the 17th January, COM EUFOR, Major General Castagnotto paid a visit to the Multinational Battalion (MNBN).

The MNBN staff and commander Lt Col Carballo Álvarez welcomed COM EUFOR and informed him about the capabilities and activities of the manoeuvre unit.

After being reported and visit the MNBN HQ facilities, Major General and the MNBN staff assisted an exhibition of equipment in Archer Based and an exercise of CRC procedures, carried out by B Coy, in IPU training area.



Sarajevo celebrated 25th anniversary of its Winter Games

In 1978, Sarajevo won the competition to host the 1984 Winter Games. At the time, the city was the capital of BIH within the former Yugoslavia. For Sarajevo and Yugoslavia, hosting the Olympic Games was a priceless advertising opportunity and a star turn on the world stage. For many, the Sarajevo Olympic Games were one of the best winter games so far. For 12 days, the world witnessed as the then largest Winter Games ever (in terms of number of participants and media) went off without a hitch.

People in Sarajevo were - and still are - proud of those Games.

More than 1,270 athletes from 49 countries took part under the eye of 4,500 local and foreign reporters and 2,5 billion viewers around the world watched on TV.

But, the real star was Sarajevo itself.

During the Winter Olympics 1984, mountain Bjelasnica hosted Alpine skiing competitions, while mountain Igman (10 minutes drive from Bjelasnica) was a hot spot for Nordic skiers, biathlon and cross-country skiing. Bjelasnica is the ninth highest mountain in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and you can ski from its top. The slopes end at 1270m above the sea level. According to the statistics, snow stays up to 200 days a year.

Almost all the facilities built for the Winter Olympics 1984 were devastated during the recent war, so all the present facilities are newly built. Igman is just 10 min. drive west from Bjelasnica and represents perfect spot for fans of cross-country or downhill fun with children. There is a 20 km cross-country track at Igman Veliko Polje, while at Igman Malo Polje one can find a dream spot for beginners and children. Igman is European second richest spot by the Ozone percentage in air. Lowest ever temperature recorded in BIH was at Mraziste, Igman on January 24 th 1963 : -43,5C

Welcome Back to Sarajevo

Former ski stars visited and skied at Sarajevo, Bjelasnica

The weekend December 19-21 was a genuine ski holiday! Mountain Bjelasnica in 1984 host men's alpine events. Some

former athletes visited place where they, 25 years ago won or did not win Olympic medals in Alpine skiing. Present medal winners from Sarajevo '84 were:

The United States' Bill Johnson, the 1984 gold medalist in men's downhill skiing, Petter Mueller (SUI)-silver, Anton Steiner (AUT) – bronze

Men's giant slalom: Jure Franko (YUG/SLO)- silver / Yugoslavia's first Winter Games medalist ever.

Man SL: Didier Bouvet.

Except the above mentioned, Sarajevo was honoured by presence of some other great former skiing stars: Kjetil Andre Aamodt, Lasse Kjus, Bojan Križaj, Franz Klammer (the greatest downhill racer of all times), Drago Grubelnik, Hans Enn, Boris Strel, Perinne Pelen, Urska Hrovat, Hans Petter Burras, Mateja Svet..., and and two great rivals, Jure Kosir and Alberto Tomba.

The spectacle was based on a combination of sports and entertainment activities, while being a first-class international VIP event at the same time. The event started on Friday, December 19, with welcoming ceremony at Zetra hall. After welcoming speech, each of the former athletes planted a tree for a memory. Later they had so-called VIP "White dinner". On Saturday, December 20, from 12 to 22 hours 'Bjelasnica Arena' should host-



ed the parallel giant slalom race, but due to lack of snow whole event was extended for one day. But, the Saturday was not lost day. Former ski stars were received in Presidency of BIH, they made walking tour in Old town Sarajevo – Basčarska and played football match in Zetra Olympic hall. On Sunday, December 21, parallel giant slalom race was held on Bjelasnica. The event staged in 'Bjelasnica Arena', the site of 1984 Olympic downhill finish line. If it means something, the winner was great Norwegian Kjetil Andre Aamodt who was also claimed as a player of the match at football game played a day before the skiing competition. Former ski stars were agreed that Sarajevo remained in the memory of the all of them as a very hospitable city.

At the it is important to mention that a few years ago, an initiative sprang up for Sarajevo to host the 2014 Winter Games as a commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the 1984 Olympiad. The initiative, though, remained just that - since Sochi, Russia, prevailed in the bidding. The threat of uncleared land mines on Sarajevo's mountain Trebević bobsled run and mountain Igman ski slopes - a legacy of the 1992-95 war in BIH -was a major reason for the International Olympic Committee to look elsewhere.

By Elada Hasanagic Lopez Recacho

EUFOR Supports Gender Rights

Nikolina Marceta, Senior Bilingual Claims Assistant/EUFOR Gender Advisor

A three-day “Training of Trainers” Seminar on Gender Equality and Women’s Human Security Issues was held in Sarajevo 16th-19th February 2009. The seminar is a part of the project entitled “Participation of Public in Peace Processes - United Nation Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325,” implemented by Udruzenje Zene Zenama (Association Women for Women), and is financially supported by UNIFEM and implemented in close partnership with EUFOR and EUPM.

COM EUFOR has signed a Memorandum of understanding with the EUPM and UNIFEM to support this Project in October last year. The main goal of deploying EUFOR personnel as support to this Project has been recognized in positive influence to



domestic security institutions and their members. It was necessary to show our flag and to emphasize EUFOR’s commitment to Gender mainstreaming and our support to implementation of the UNSCR 1325 in BiH.

It has been noted that EUFOR personnel have successfully interacted with the local participants of the training. All participants seemed to be very pleased with the interest shown by international military organization and the fact they contributed to the training with their views and ideas.

The Training has been very educational to

all participants, including the LOT members that represent EUFOR’s flag in this Project. The important link between LOT members, local police representatives and representatives from the BiH NGO sector has been established. The following Project activity, second training is scheduled for April 2009. After this Training is finished all participants of the two trainings will actively participate in the Workshops that will be organized in the areas of Banja Luka, Tuzla, Modrica, Mostar and Travnik.

EUFOR LOT members have shown great interest to the Project and once again emphasized the commitment that EUFOR is dedicated to in terms of Gender mainstreaming.

It is also necessary to mention that EUFOR has supported this training with providing the simultaneous interpreting equipment and interpreters throughout the training.

Spanish Contingent Aid Handicapped People in BiH

In the first week of February, the Spanish contingent CIMIC cell carried out two new cooperation projects with the civil population of BiH.

The first cooperation project took place in the Center of Handicapped People in Mjedenica, situated near the centre of Sarajevo. This center provides special education for more than one hundred mental handicapped people. The Spanish aid consisted in providing with three knitting machine and several seam material in order to create a handcrafted tailoring workshop. The director of the center was very grateful for the invaluable aid that Spain provided in order to improve student intellectual and psychomotor development as well as their future integration in society.

The second one was in the Center of

Handicapped People in Pazaric, a small town near Sarajevo. This center, founded in 1949, was reconstructed and opened again after the war. It houses more the three hundred mentally and physically handicapped people. The Spanish aid consisted in the complete improvement of the sport facilities (sport

hall) where students carried out their important sport activities to improve their psychomotor development and self-control.

The continuous cooperation with this kind of center contribute enormously to the normalization and improvement of the quality of life for one of the most vulnerable groups.



Spanish Contingent Delivers Important Material to the Sarajevo Hospitals

Spanish contingent carried out two new cooperation projects with the civil population of BiH delivering medical equipments for two of the most important hospitals in Sarajevo.

The first one was Kasindo hospital, situated near to Butmir Base. This center was created after the war and is going through economic problems. The Spanish aid consisted in providing of one hi-Tec



microscope for the pathology service of the hospital.

The second project was in the university hospital of Sarajevo. It is situated in the heart of the city and it has the most important maternity service of the city. There was delivered important equipments like an infant flow system and one blood gases tester to increase the capacities of the hospital and for the therapy of pre-term infants.

COM EUFOR Visit in Jablanica

Lt Dague, LOT Jablanica leader

COM EUFOR Major General Castagnotto paid a visit to Liaison and Observation Team of Jablanica on 27th January 2009.

Major General Castagnotto was welcomed and hosted by Major Garcia Del Barrio (RCC2 Chief) and Major Lasvigne (DeputyRCC2 Chief). The visit started in front of the LOT House where he was introduced the LOT personnel. After this, the COM EUFOR, and his delegation, was invited to have a coffee and was presented the House facilities.

The main purpose of COM EUFOR visit was a familiarization of RCC2 area of activities, and then, main issues and concerns in Jablanica were presented.

During the meeting, subjects were about the current political (including a detailed point of view with the latest development of Mostar elections) and economic situation (especially in Jablanica and Prozor). The



social, religious and education with different syllabus, were also presented.

During the briefing, many topics were approached and all the RCC2 or LOT members could provide supplementary information and explanations, following questions of COM EUFOR or from his staff.

The meeting pursued with a light lunch, only made up with local food. COM EUFOR took the opportunity to discuss the

mission, the daily life or specific cases of the Area of Activity of LOT Jablanica with one's members.

The visit of the Major General Castagnotto ended with a visit of the Internal Displaced People Camp in Jablanica, where LOT members and Mrs. Zahirovic (interpreter of LOT

FRA 1) presented local residents, origins and the group of dwellings.

Currently, there are 35 French soldiers whom serve in LOT (Jablanica, Siroki Brijeg, Bileca and Gacko) or in RCC2 (MOSTAR), and over 60 others French soldiers whom serve within EUFOR in Butmir Camp in Sarajevo at Head Quarter or at the NSE.

Medical Exercise



On 3 February, EUFOR carried out a Medical Cooperation Exercise (Med CoEx). The activity's aim was to provide a wide scale view in how to conduct an Incident Management and Response.

The first part was a to an audience of BIH physi-

cians and military personnel. The second being a practical demonstration was carried out by HQ CMDT Medical personnel and Fire brigade.

The activity concluded with a German SAR Helo presentation showing the full range of its capabilities.

MNBN Cohesion Race



Since December, every Saturday morning the Multinational Battalion, with the MNBN Commander Lt Col Carballo Alvarez to the head, carries out the "Cohesion Race".

This physical training marks the finish of the weekly ordinary activities. The Battalion Race includes several laps around Camp Butmir. During the race, the different units which shape the MNBN, sing its songs of identity while running perfectly formed.

The Coys, the Recce Platoon and the staff HQ make a joint work and a common effort that symbolize the unity and the current cohesion among all members of the manoeuvre unit, without take care where are they from.



Training – New Perspectives

OF2 Jorge Barradas, IPU Alpha Coy Commander

Nowadays, the police fights several constraints created by the globalization, especially as it increases and provide tools that the criminals are using to be always one step ahead. The share of information brought by new technologies (internet being the classic example), even between criminal communities, compels to a permanent updating of police corps and open-minded training of police officers. Moreover the police have to follow the legal procedures, while the criminals don't.

It requires constant improvement of police strategies, as the use of scientific developments and, from time to time, making use of a lot of imagination, we discover how criminals carry out illegal acts.

This brings us to the training approach, which starts in an early stage of our career, when we start the preparation of our human resources. To deal with the mentioned phenomenon, the training should not be just an academic program of studies, but the way how all subjects interact between themselves. Today Psychology, Sociology, Law and other subjects, are associated and have to be applied to the technical procedures. Summarizing, to face the present and upcoming police demands, the police training must interact the acknowledgment of theoretical contents with practice training.

The target of such planning should be the upper level positions, although every single officer could be involved.

We will present two examples of training evolution that IPU is implementing with very good results.

Team Building Exercises

On a monthly base, there is a team building exercise, when the Coy is complete (depending on Platoons' leaves

and external duties). On 23rd January 2009, there was a morning exercise, where the IPU Platoons had to accomplish 9 tasks, collecting 9 pieces of a puzzle, to be assembled in the final, and introduce one word in a decipher chart. The objectives were the following:

- Leadership (Platoon commander responsible for the decision making process and organization, deciding according to individual skills, weight, size, strength...);
- Work under stress and physical efforts (need to maintain rational standard levels, after physical workout or pressure);
- Test unknown situations (the routine introduces brain automatisms and reactions);
- Team work (knowledge of each other in the group, lend a hand, dividing tasks...);

In the afternoon we got together to share the lessons learnt and the different ways that each Platoon developed to achieve each task. There were no right or wrong solutions, because everyone succeeds, but just harder/easier, quicker/slower solutions, and using more or less human resources.

Currently, this is something that many private enterprises make use of, in the selection and maintenance of their human resources.



Live Shooting Exercises

When we start to learn how to use a weapon, there are procedures to be followed, in order to hit the target and we will know that we are doing the right thing. For this, we should stay in the same place (also the target).

After, we add the legal constraints and weapons policy. Last, but not the least, the unknown factor, which is very difficult to be trained. Statistics show that 90% of the deaths of police officers occur within a range of 3 meters. This means they had no time to use the weapon; the police officer was not prepared or the stress did not allow it (in some cases, they tried to shoot with the safety on). In a practical case, the time estimated by the shooter, for the decision process, was four times smaller, than in reality.

Therefore, the training should be as close as possible to reality. Using movement (target and shooter), tired mind and stress injectors (noise or "innocent" targets). And even then, we will not be totally prepared.

On 17th January 2009, the IPU/Portuguese Platoon performed a live shooting exercise (under national rules), with the aim to practice some of the points mentioned above.



Move of RCC4 into Camp EDELWEISZ

On 31st January 2009, the entire Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) 4 was transferred from its original location in Gornja Dubrava to Camp Edelweisz. This compound used to be the sole base for the AUNE (Austrian National Element) up to then. Reasons for the move were mainly the implementation of the principle to have one responsible OiC in the area and the benefit of the synergy effects resulting from the future co-location of RCC4 as the operational and AUNE as the support element. RCC4 had been situated at the former address since May 2007, the moment when EUFOR-ALTHEA was widely reorganized and reduced in strength. The Multinational Task Forces and their rifle companies were terminated in their structure and only one Multinational Battalion (MNBN) remained as Ready Reaction Force in Sarajevo, tactically well situated in central BIH. RCC4 had then taken over its main task, to coordinate the work of the ten LOT-houses (Liaison Observation Team), from its predecessor, the Composite Company (Comp Coy) in the Multi National Task Force North (MNTF N). Like the LOT-houses are manned by different nations, also the functions in RCC4 are distributed amongst the Troop Contributing Nations (TCN). Three Finnish, one Greek and one Portuguese officers are on duty here besides the Austrians.



command post was finished already in the afternoon. The main criterion in the move was to guarantee communications to the LOTs and thereby enable leadership at all times and as well to make sure to minimize the necessary time for dismantling and re-installation of the IT-network. Communication via telephone and mobile phone was of course always available and after only 1hr 45' the IT-network was ready to work again. Thanks to the exemplary effort of everybody involved the successful transfer could be celebrated with a glass of beer or wine already in the evening in Edelweisz-Hut, the welfare facility of the camp. Sunday was used by everybody to make themselves at home or for relaxation. On Monday morning at the begin-



ning of duty hours a flag parade marked the suitable end of the transfer of RCC4 into Camp Edelweisz. Besides the members of RCC4 and as visible sign of the now international character of Camp Edelweisz of course all soldiers of AUNE were fallen in as well. In addition to the three already flying flags of EU, Bosnia & Herzegovina and Austria, the ones of Finland, Greece and Portugal were ceremoniously hoisted.

Successful Transfer

The day started at 0800 hrs with a flag parade in front of the house during which the six flags - of the EU, Bosnia & Herzegovina as the host country, Finland, Greece, Portugal and Austria - were lowered in a ceremony while the respective national anthems were played. Directly afterwards bustling but well planned activity started. The groups of carriers were lugging furniture, files, equipment and luggage. After several transports with the three provided light lorries the move of the

Chilean Visit

On the 24th December 2008 Major General Eduardo Garate, Commander in Chief of the 6th Division of the Chilean Army paid a visit to HQ EUFOR.

Major general Garate had the opportunity to meet EUFOR Commander Major General Stefano Castagnotto.



School Competition 2008/2009

On 18th February 2009, a jury consisting of DCOM EUFOR BG Carlos Diaz del Rio, COS EUFOR BG Joachim Wundrak and Suzanna Prahlandzo awarded prizes for the works sent by pupils during the School Competition 2008/2009. Prizes were awarded for two age groups. First group was made of colourful drawings and paintings sent by pupils from 1st to 4th grade (6-9 years). The second group was composed of posters, slogans and stories with illustrations sent by pupils from 4th to 9th grade (10-14 years).



In total, 500 schools sent well over 3,000 entries during the collection phase of the School Competition.

The purpose of the School Competition is to promote a stable, safe and secure and multi-ethnic Bosnia and Herzegovina on the path to membership in European Union and to give the youth of BIH more information about the EU, EUFOR and Europe.

The Award Ceremony will be held in March 2009 in Sarajevo. The prizes will be handed over by

There were five prizes awarded in the first group and four in the second. In addition, a special EUFOR prize was awarded to three more works.

COM EUFOR and other dignitaries from European Union member states and institutions in BIH.



COM EUFOR Visits LOT Pale

On 31st January 2009, COM EUFOR Major General Stefano Castagnotto paid a visit to the Italian Liaison Observation Team (LOT) in Pale. General Castagnotto was welcomed by Captain Mauro Paciotti, Team leader of the LOT, and after a short tour of the points of interest in the city of Pale, General Castagnotto arrived at the LOT House where he greeted the rest of the members.



The Team Leader presented a briefing on the ongoing activities and the current situation in the Area of Responsibility (AOR). COM EUFOR was particularly interested in the social and economical system, the local police and political situation.

General Castagnotto was pleased to see the integration of the LOT personnel in the area and their good living condition in the house.

Slumdog Millionaire

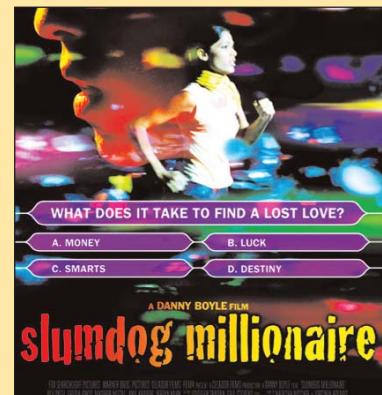
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Movie begins with Jamal Malik, an 18-year-old call-centre chai-wallah, or tea-vendor, fluking his way onto the Indian version of Who Wants To Be a Millionaire? Here, though uneducated, and patronised by the show's host Prem Kumar, he gets through round after round of questions to stand on the brink of winning the top prize.

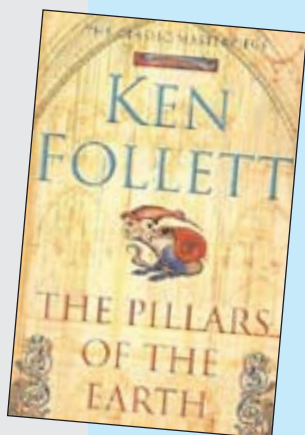
No one can believe Jamal's success, though; he represents an India obscured by

recent cheerleading about that country's growing affluence and middle-class swagger. He's seen as dirty, virtually untouchable.

Kumar, in a fit of pique, has local police officers headed by Irrfan Khan torture the young man. How, they want to know, pounding and electrocuting him as they interrogate him, can an upstart like him possibly know the answers to the TV show's questions?



The Pillars of the Earth



Ken Follett, internationally-acclaimed master of split-second suspense, author of many #1 bestsellers, reaches beyond the expected to achieve his most brilliant and remarkable novel. He had long been a staple of the best-seller lists for his novels of intrigue and espionage. Then came "The Pillars of the Earth," an extraordinary epic buttressed by suspense, a mystifying puzzle involving the execution of an innocent man, the erection of a magnificent cathedral, romance, rivalry and spectacle. A monumental masterpiece that entertains,

instructs and satisfies on a grand scale.

It is a spellbinding epic set in twelfth-century England, The Pillars of the Earth tells the story of Philip, prior of Kingsbridge, a devout and resourceful monk driven to build the greatest Gothic cathedral the world has known... of Tom, the mason who becomes his architect—a man divided in his soul... of the beautiful, elusive Lady Aliena, haunted by a secret shame... and of a struggle between good and evil that will turn church against state, and brother against brother.

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Bruce Springsteen - Working on a Dream

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On this album's opener, Outlaw Pete, Bruce, it seems, is addressing nothing less than America's own past coming back to haunt it (in the guise of a bounty hunter finally catching up with the titular outlaw) and Working On A Dream uses the complete range of The Boss to hunt down and redefine the dream in the 21st century.

Yet the use of an harmonica sample from Sergio Leone's Once Upon A Time In The West on Outlaw Pete is misplaced, for unlike Leone's cartoon vision of the great American Western it's the late films of John Ford that seem more relevant.

These are songs filled with nostalgia, regret, shame and yet,

like Ford, underneath it all a love of the American Dream.

Much like Johnny Cash, Springsteen's status, at once heroic and preposterous, is now utterly assured. Whether you buy the image will probably dictate as to whether you regard Working On A Dream as being among his masterworks.



Soldier in the Spotlight

Corporal Agustin Ruiz de Paz was born on 7th May 1978, in Santander, a beautiful city situated in the north coast of Spain. He always wanted to work in the military. He joined Spanish Marine Corp in May 1998, once ended his drill period. He was posted to 7th Rifle Coy, 2nd Landing Battalion (Spanish Marine Brigade) in Cadiz. He was promoted to Corporal in 2001 and in September 2008 was posted to 3rd Mech. Landing Battalion, 9th Rifle Coy, where nowadays it remains.



Agustin Ruiz de Paz

During his time on duty in Spanish Marines he has been deployed seven times in international missions, five of them in Bosnia Herzegovina:

- Trebinje (SFOR), 1999 and 2002, during 4 and 6 months respectively
- Republic of Haiti (MINUSTAH), 5 months in 2004/2005

- Indian Ocean (ENDURANCE FREEDOM) on board of a Spanish Navy frigate of the as member of a boarding team during 4 months
- Mostar Airport (SFOR), 4 months in 2006
- Sarajevo (EUFOR ALTHEA), in the

MNBN during 4 months in 2008

- Nowadays, he is carrying his seventh international mission, enlisted in the second platoon of the B Coy in the MNBN.

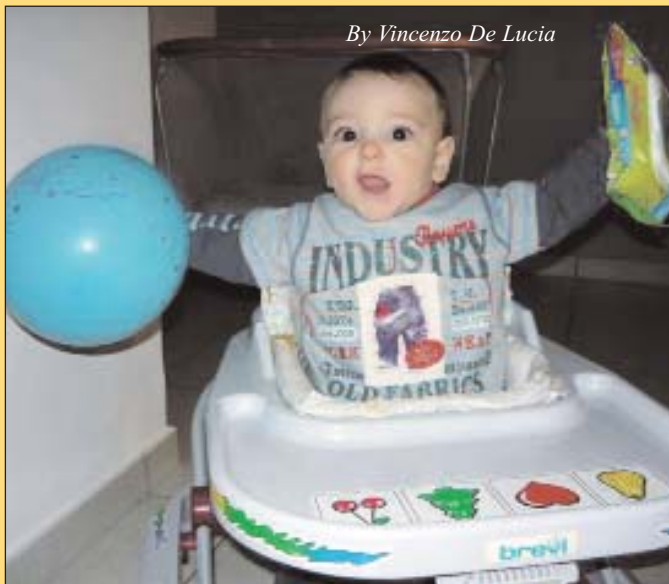
Talking about the situation in BiH, besides the general stability, he highlights the change since his first mission in Trebinje. Nowadays, the native people attitude has turned into confidence.

He likes the environment of the German Corner in Camp Butmir and certainly the food at Tapeo, the fondness of Mami (restaurant's owner) and its personnel.

For his friends he has a reserved, agreeable and faithful character. He is free and single and he does not think for the present time to change this situation, especially for the lack of time during his time of duty in the Spanish Marines. For the future he expects to be able to end his civil studies and to be prepared to continue the military career in the Marine Corp.

Photo Corner

If you have an image of your child that you would like to have published in EUFOR Forum, please send them to us!



By Vincenzo De Lucia

Pietro De Lucia



By Miguel J. Palomo Garcia

Laura is the older, 10 years, and Andrea only 5