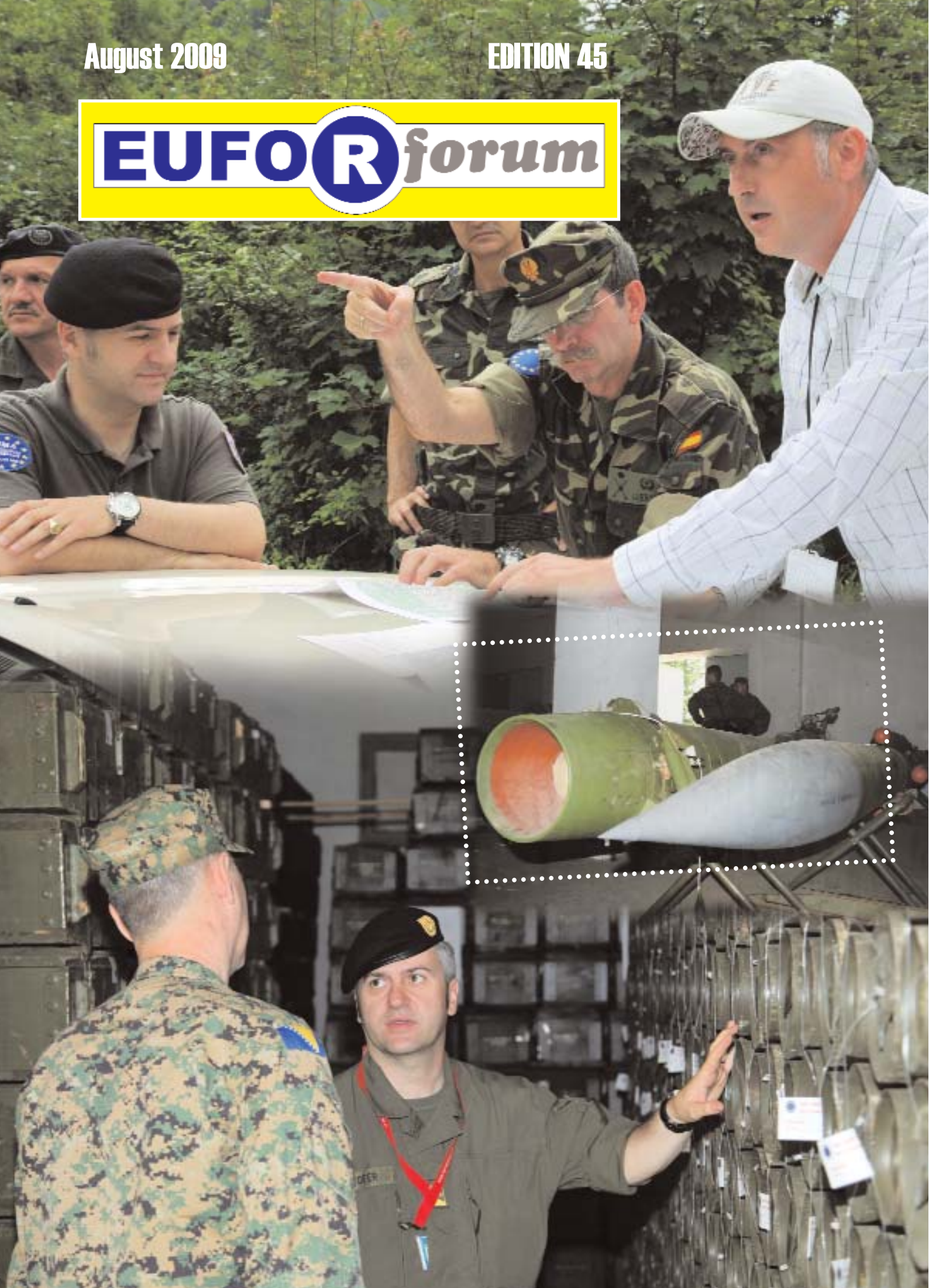


August 2009

EDITION 45

# EUFORforum



## Deputy Commander of EUFOR BG José Carrasco Gavaldón

It is a great honour for me to have been appointed by my country as Deputy Commander of EUFOR for the next six months.

It's good to be back in BiH. I left this country after working here as a member of UNPROFOR in 1994 and 1995. Now I return and start my post in EUFOR.

I am proud to be here again, now as Deputy Commander, several years after the EU has taken on new responsibilities, which has brought peace, stability and security. Of course, it is a different BiH from 14 years ago. Today, the Balkans start to be part of the European Union.

I would like to pay tribute to BG Diaz del Rio for having handed over to me the position of DCOM EUFOR in such good shape. He has accomplished his mission perfectly. I hope to continue his work with the same diligence and wish him good luck in his new post in Spain.

As the Deputy Commander I will fully support every decision taken by the Commander and I will endeavor to loyally fulfill every task entrusted to me. The Commander can count on my dedication, commitment and effort in carrying out his commands.

On the other hand I will respect the job of the staff, who continue to 'carry the torch'. The HQ staff is very dedicated to Operation ALTHEA, being at all times flexible, hard-working and absolutely professional. Their work is crucial. These are quality people who work every day with total dedication. I would like to take this ideal opportunity to thank



the Chief of Staff of EUFOR for his personal and unfailing collaboration. We will work together in pursuit of the common goal of supporting the future way ahead of BiH.

Our goal, as written in our mission, is to contribute to the safe and secure environment in BiH. But we should not neglect that we must also support this country on its way to reach membership of the EU and other international organizations. The presence of EUFOR reflects the engagement of the International Community with the transition of BiH in becoming a modern and integrated European country.

I fully believe in the personnel of EU and non-EU countries involved in this mission. I should also remember EUFOR personnel, men and women, who have made the sacrifice to secure peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina far away from home; I would like to recognize their courage and sacrifice.

My country is fully engaged in BiH.

The proof of that is no more apparent than the fact that 23 Spanish soldiers have given their lives in BiH since 1992. From these pages I would like to honour those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in the cause of peace.

The Spanish contribution to EUFOR is an example of its commitment with the EU policy in the Balkans and with the development of a European Security and Defence Policy in accordance with its capacities and possibilities.

In the short time I have been here, I have been impressed by the quality and level of knowledge and expertise of all the military and civilian personnel. In my opinion, you are all excellent ambassadors for your countries. Your outstanding dedication and professionalism are examples of how to serve your country and the international community.

It will be a privilege for me to work side by side with local and International Authorities for the complete stabilization of BiH. The Authorities and people of BiH are making important progress in achieving a permanent peace in the region. Let me especially express my appreciation for the close cooperation established with the AFBiH, who are another important element in the complete stabilization of the country.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to you all for your support and effort, and may I wish you all a very successful mission during your stay in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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This new edition as usual brings into focus the continuous relationship between EUFOR and the diplomatic community and the several visits to EUFOR HQ where they pay official calls on COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto. Diplomatic representatives all underlined that EUFOR positively contributes to the safe and secure environment in BiH, it continues to provide reassurance on the ground and is maintaining its long-term commitment to Bosnia. EUFOR's operational focus remains the transfer of Joint Military Affairs tasks to the relevant national authorities and this is why much of the focus has been this month dedicated to the positive trend of the hand over of functions and responsibilities process to the Armed Forces and Governmental bodies related to security of BiH. As a matter of fact we provided you the unique opportunity to accompany for three days EUFOR Joint Military Affairs team inspecting facilities in the country.

Further, take a look at our colleagues' activities in the LOT houses.

Furthermore, the astronomical start of summer is just days away, with the summer solstice occurring at 5:04 a.m., Sunday, June 21 but still the weather was not so clement; this did not prevent our people to organize or participate to sports' events reinforcing our close thighs with the local population throughout the country.

Finally allow us to recommend to all those drivers returning to Camp Butmir, especially at week ends, queue at Ilidza under the hot July sun to enter Sarajevo arriving from the many country sites where they were seeking relief from the hot temperature to drive safely and avoid situations potentially dangerous for driving.

I wish to thank once more Forum's loyal readers for their contributions and support. The magazine is dedicated to them, with love.

Sincerely,

Lt Col Giovanni Ramunno

## EUFOR Forum

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# Act of Bravery Performed by Members of LOT Teslic



**2nd July** - COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto and his Excellency the Ambassador of Poland, Mr Andrej Tyszkiewicz, paid a visit to the Liaison Observation Team (LOT) house at Teslic to personally congratulate the team members who saved the life of Ljubisa Janjic. They also presented them all with a letter of appreciation for their act of bravery.

On the 9th June, Major Dojas, Warrant Officer Garbowski, Warrant Officer Madej and Warrant Officer Grzeszczak who are all assigned to LOT house Teslic, were out in the countryside in the local area when they found themselves rescuing a young man. He was drowning in the cold waters of the same lake that had been so tranquil moments before. For the Soldiers there was no time to call for help so they all dived into the water to pull the young man out. In doing this they were able to use skills gained from the basic life support course they had undertaken in their basic training in Poland.

The young Ljubisa had lost his vital signs so the rescuers had to revive him. It took twenty never-ending minutes before he started breathing and his heart was beating again.

After a short spell in Banja Luka hospital, Ljubisa is now being taken care of by medical staff in Doboij hospital. He is now recovering well with the support of his friends and family. Over the last few weeks he has appreciated the opportunity to meet his rescuers.

**By Lt Col Giovanni Ramunno**

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## COM EUFOR Visits Chilean LOT House in Sanski Most



**16th June** - COM EUFOR Major General Castagnotto with a small staff which included the LOT Desk Chief, visited the Chilean Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) in the municipality of Sanski Most located in northwest of BiH. This LOT also covers the municipalities Bosanski Petrovac, Bosanska Krupa and Kljuc and the whole team consists of 9 members of the Chilean Army. After a fly-over through the AoA, COM EUFOR was welcomed by RCC1 Commander Lt Col Henk Stuuut and LOT Commander Captain Nicolás Silva. After a conversation with LOT Sanski Most members, COM EUFOR toured the house facilities and continued with the introductory briefing of the main important issues, concerns, ongoing activities and future tasks in the AoA by the LOT commander. These included an overview of the confidence of local people towards the police, low criminal level, organization of the hunting clubs, the Krajina Identification Project mortuary (KIP) and general information of politic, religious and economic issues. Before ending the visit COM EUFOR and his staff thanked the LOT members for their hospitality.

By Captain Nicolás Silva

## Visit of Delegation of European University Summer School

**26th June** - A delegation of participants of the European Union University Summer School led by Professor Massimo Caneva, the Director of the Summer School, paid a visit to COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto.

The European University Summer School is organised by the Università la Sapienza of Rome, in collaboration with the European Association of International Studies and the University of Sarajevo and the contribution of the Ministry of Defense and the Embassy of Italy in Sarajevo and it lasts from 23rd to 29th June 2009.



By Captain Antonio Petralia

## Chilean Ambassador Visit

**2nd July** - The Chilean Ambassador in Hungary, His Excellency Mr Fernando Schmidt Ariztia, visited Camp Butmir. He had an office call with COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto and DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Jose Carasco when they during which they updated him about the mission in BiH and EUFOR activities.

The Ambassador was visiting Sarajevo as Bosnia and Herzegovina is part of his responsibility. Later on he also visited the Chilean contingent deployed in Camp Butmir.

The Ambassador was accompa-



nied by The Chilean Senior National Commander Lt Col Mario Quinteros and the Joint Military Affairs Chief Countermines Captain Jose ARAVENA during his

visit. As part of his visit Mr Fernando Schmidt Ariztia visited the Chilean Liaison Observation Team (LOT) Houses in Sanski Most and Prijedor.

Chilean troops have been participating in BiH since 1997. Chile is the only South American country

that participates in an EU mission due to an agreement signed by the Chilean government and EU in November of 2002.

**By Captain Jose Aravena**

## Visit of The Swedish Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina to HQ EUFOR

**6th July** - Following Sweden assuming the Presidency of the European Union, The Swedish Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, His Excellency Mr Bosse Hedberg, visited EUFOR HQ where he paid an official call on COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto.

COM EUFOR briefed the Ambassador on EUFOR activities and the current security situation within BiH. EUFOR's operational focus remains the transfer of Joint Military Affairs tasks to the relevant national authorities.

EUFOR continues to maintain a close working relationship with other international actors on operational matters and the cooperation with NATO continues to work efficiently.

Ambassador Hedberg, said that the EU remains actively committed to Bosnia and Herzegovina with its responsibility to promote peace and stability through



Operation Althea. He further underlined that EUFOR positively contributes to the safe and secure environment in BiH, it continues to provide reassurance on the ground and is maintaining its long-term commitment to BiH.

**By Lt Cdr Mandy McBain**

## DCOM EUFOR Visits RCC2 and LOT Mostar2



**25th June** - EUFOR Deputy Commander, Brigadier General José Carasco paid a visit to RCC2 and LOT Mostar 2 house. It was the first time that DCOM EUFOR had officially visited the city of Mostar. DCOM EUFOR arrived by helicopter and was welcomed and hosted by Major Fernando Álvarez (RCC2 Chief Commander) and Captain Miguel Carpintero (RCC2 Operations Chief). RCC2 house was the first stop on his tour, where he was welcomed by Turkish Major Mert Kefli (RCC2 2 Deputy Chief). Afterwards he was briefed about the main topics concerning RCC2 area of activity and LOT Mostar2.



He was heartened by the seamless integration of the Turkish members within RCC2. After the respective lectures given by hosts, the entourage visited Los Rosales special education centre, where they paid a visit to the children and heard about their experiences.

The party then visited the spring of the Buna river and the Dervish house located in Blagaj, which is a tourist destination. Later the tour passed around the Stari Grad (the Old Town), where they saw the Stari Most (Old Bridge), which is probably the most famous Mostar city symbol. Before leaving the group briefly visited LOT Mostar 2 house before departing from the region. At the end of the visit, DCOM EUFOR thanked RCC2 for all their hospitality and congratulated everybody for the professional and important work they are conducting.

By OF-3 Fernando Alvarez

## DCOM joins JMA on Inspection Tour



**3rd July** - DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General José Carasco joined the Joint Military Affairs (JMA) inspection tour to an explosives factory located next to Prijedor.

BG José Carrasco and Chief JMA Colonel Peter Vorhofer joined the JMA inspection team, lead by Major Richard Sperling and followed the whole inspection tour with great interest.

According to Major Sperling the company's facilities are in good condition and all the EUFOR requirements for the production of explosives are met.

DCOM was very impressed by the professional organisation and the conduct of the inspection tour. He thanked Col Vorhofer and his team for their co-operation and their good work.

After the official visit, the area surrounding the helipad was crowded with locals, who wanted to see the Swiss Cougar helicopter. DCOM used this opportunity to spend some time chatting with them.

By Captain David Oliver Ertler

# Exercise “Cooperative Safeguard”

From the 15th to the 18th June 2009, the Multinational Battalion (MNBN) conducted an exercise in Pazaric area. The first two days were the planning phase and the exercise was conducted on the 18th June.

This exercise is part of the training scheduled by MNBN in which all companies of the battalion, monitored by the Command Post (CP), cooperate with the International Police Unit (IPU), AGSR plane and Helicopter Units.

The exercise included simulations of a mass march, a Persons Indicted for War Crimes (PIFWC) detention, a MEDEVAC operation and support to the Local Enforcement Authorities (LEA). During the exercise the MNBN Training Branch added several additional incidents to check the reaction of the Units.

The activity was performed in four phases. The first phase was to control the Units, the Recce Team was infiltrated in order to get information about PIFWC. The QRF Platoon, IPU Special Element, with Company's A and D were prepared to be deployed by road to Assembly Areas (AA).

In the second phase all Units were deployed, while Recce Teams secured the AA and the Spanish provided close protection to OHR. During the third phase the Company's conducted control area operations and Civil disturbance operations in support of LEA. QRF



Platoon provided support to IPU Special Element while the Special Element itself conducted an arrest operation taking the detainee back to Camp Butmir by Helicopter. All these actions happened with the support of live information from AGSR plane.

This complex exercise was well executed thanks to a strong communications network in conjunction with the essential information systems that facilitated MNBN Commander, to easily command and control all deployed units.

By **Captain Santiago Romero Machín**, MNBN Press





# Joint Military Affairs

## A win-win situation for Armed Forces BiH and EUFOR

For a couple of years now many functions and responsibilities, in which IFOR/SFOR/EUFOR had the lead, have been handed over to the Armed Forces BiH or other Bosnian authorities.

One of the important matters for the continuation of a Safe and Secure Environment are mine-clearance activities, which are completely under the responsibility of the BiH Mine Action Centre (BHMAC), a department of the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

The BHMAC uses a two-pillar system which includes commercial demining companies and AFBiH authorities on the other.

Since 1995, the AFBiH have the lead in this area and continue to rid BiH of mines.

With EUFOR monitoring and advising in this area, there is substantial co-operation with AFBiH, who continue to clear BiH territory of Mines and Unexploded Ordnance throughout the year.

In the area of ammunition and weapons storage-sites and their management, the AFBiH work closely together with EUFOR/JMA to solve the problem of more than 30,000 tons of mostly surplus ammunition. In a lot of cases this ammunition is unsafe and/or unstable.



The capacity of ammunition technical specialists, internal inspection teams of AFBiH and destruction facilities increase every year.

A lot of work must still be accomplished in the following years, and the disposal capacity should continue to grow, but from 1995 to 2008, the AF BiH capability to take over more and more responsibilities had never been questioned.

Much progress has also been achieved in the area of Military Movement Control. This has included the establishment of the Military Movement Control Center in DOBOJ and the continued education of the experts in this field and the ongoing cooperation with EUFOR JMA, has significantly increased this AFBiH capability.

Other tasks of Joint Military

Affairs EUFOR, such as the destruction of harvested items and the inspection of defence industry factories, are now the responsibility of the BiH institutions. The Civilian Movement Control will also transfer in a few months. EUFOR JMA provides assistance, advice and monitoring in all these fields.

Every day, the AFBiH and EUFOR JMA work

closely together, in order to reach all final goals for a self-sustainable country. The progress that was achieved in these areas is significant and contributes to a safe and secure environment.

By Colonel Peter Vorhofer

### Fitness Testing



On the 24th of June the Austrian Contingent conducted its yearly fitness test on the track around the Archer base. Running 2400m in 09 minutes and 30 seconds, Corporal Rudolf Obex from the medical team set the record that day.

By Captain David Oliver Ertler

# Three days with a **Joint Military Affairs** Inspection Team

One of the main tasks of Joint Military Affairs (JMA) is civilian movement control of weapons and military equipment under which the inspection of Defense Industry Factories (DIFs) and private traders are carried out on a regular basis. The EUFOR Press Office accompanied one inspection team on a three day trip to gain an insight into this task.

It is Wednesday, 1 July 2009, 0700hrs, cloudy sky. Location Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. Major Richard Sperling, JMA Movement Control officer and Dejan Vickovic, JMA Technical Specialist/Liaison Officer to BiH finished their last minute preparations before departing by car. 234km on Bosnian roads are waiting for them to reach their destination of Banja Luka, where they will conduct the first inspection on their planned three day visit. After leaving Sarajevo, the team is joined by Russian paratrooper Colonel Yuri Padun, who works as Arms Control Implementation Officer within the OSCE. The aim of the tour is to inspect three civilian companies, two of which are dealing with weapons and explosives, and the other is a defence industry factory.

There are approximately 30 defence industry factories as well as about 50 arms traders all over Bosnia and Herzegovina which have to be inspected or visited by EUFOR on a regular basis. Every factory and every dealer should be



inspected or visited a minimum of four times a year. The main goal is to improve the security of the facilities, which is part of the EUFOR mission to establish a safe and secure environment.

At 1130hrs the team reaches the vicinity of Banja Luka, where they meet the first arms dealer in a sport shop. Funny location some might think, but it is very common in Bosnia that arms dealers also have a second profession. This dealer runs several sport shops in the Banja Luka area. After a short discussion about the situation on the market and the facility generally, the firearms shop, the warehouse, the shooting range as well as the outer perimeter were inspected. This dealer specialises in selling pistols and hunting rifles. Civilian companies as well as the local police are among his customers. The storehouse is full of ammunition, but the stock of weapons is very low. Major Sperling explains this "most of the

companies have no stock, because they are ordering on request". One of the biggest problems for the market is, that there are different laws on weapons in the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the Republika Srpska.



Tuesday, 2 July 2009, 0815hrs. The owner of an explosives dealing company is meeting the JMA team lead them to his facilities which is 90km away from Banja Luka in a very remote area, where he stores the explosives. The team follow on curvy and narrow roads for an hour then after they leave the paved road and drive for another ten minutes to finally reach their destination. Surrounded by hills, the storage bunker is far away from all civilisation. Which seems an ideal underground location for the storage of ten tons of explosives. In the bunker, which is designed like a labyrinth for security reasons, it is cold and humid. The inspection team are content with the security measures at this site.



On Friday, the last day of the inspection tour has come, the JMA Taem would be joined by EUFOR DCOM, Brigadier General Jose Carasco. They will all visit an explosives producing factory next to Prijedor. Local police secure the helipad which is crowded by excited local youths. After

landing DCOM is welcomed by Major Sperling. Together with the Chief JMA, Colonel Peter Vorhofer the convoy heads factory to be inspected. The Manager of the company along with the Technical Director explain how explosives are produced in their factory. The remote warehouse is also inspected and everything seems to be in accordance with the law and DCOM and the JMA Chief are satisfied with the status of the facility.

After three days and a lot of driving, Major Sperling and Mr. Vickovic finish their inspection tour. They managed to visit all places according to their plan and found no major problems on the sites. Major Sperling said "Mission accomplished as we soldiers would say".

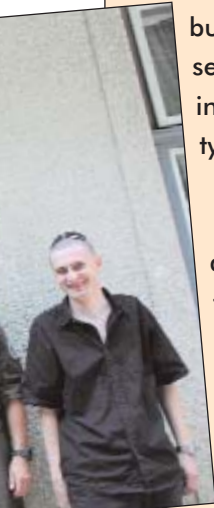
By Captain David Oliver Ertler

Due to the fact that EUFOR is in charge of a lot of administrative work in dealing with the movement of the explosives or arms, all dealers stated, that they "are very happy about the fast processing that EUFOR conducts, when it comes to administration".

The team depart the area and head back to Banja Luka to visit the next station which is the defence industry factory KOSMOS. In former Yugoslavia radar overhauls were done by the company that had more than 1200 employees. Today the company has 290 employees, is owned by the Republika Srpska and produces mainly civilian gear. The reason for EUFOR to visit the site is that the company secured a contract with the Bosnian Ministry of Defence for maintaining 85 SA-6 "Gainful" rockets.

(These Russian rockets were originally named 2K12 "Kub", which means cube).

Since June 2nd 1995 they are well known among pilots as the "three fingers of death", because an American F16 was shot down by Bosnian Serbs in the no fly zone over Bosnia. The JMA team visited the maintenance facility as well inspecting the guarding infrastructure and the outer perimeter of the establishment. The factory still housed some very impressive reminders of the cold war military era.



# Handover of the Italian Helicopter Unit



**26nd June** - The Component of 21st Group Squadron "Orsa Maggiore" of Italian Army Aviation Helicopters Unit, greeted EUFOR Commander Major General Stefano Castagnotto and a large representation of members of EUFOR and NATO Commands prior to the Squadrons return to homeland.

During a simple ceremony of transfer of authority, Lt Col Domenella said a few words of thanks to the COM EUFOR for attending and his continued support in the staff of the Group. He also thanked all his employees and their families for their understanding during the seven-month

mission. This support, he felt had made the entire Task Force work well in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Major General Castagnotto in thanking all the staff of the 21st Group Helicopters said: "It is I who should thank you for your continued support, moving through the skies of Bosnia, sometimes also with weather conditions at the limit, you have demonstrated your professionalism". The ceremony ended with an exchange of gifts. COM EUFOR presented personally to every military Task Force member a crest in memory of their period in the EUFOR ALTHEA mission in Sarajevo. The new commander of

the 21 ° Helicopters Group Task Force will be Lt Col Giovan Battista Emiliani.

The Unit was formed in 1962 at the Military Airport "M. Mameli" in Elmas Cagliari on the south part of Sardinia island. On 1st October 1969, at the airport of Elmas, general purpose helicopters were introduced, with AB-205 helicopters employed by the Military Command of Sardinia (CMS). Today under the command of the Army Aviation Center of Viterbo, the 21° gr. sqd. AVES "Orsa Maggiore" 21° is the reference helicopter Unit of the Italian Army in Sardinia.

**By Captain Antonio Petralia**

## Change of Italian Contingents

**4th July** – Transfer of Authority Ceremony, between Italfor 31 and Italfor 32 took place at Camp Butmir. In the presence of Major General Stefano Castagnotto, Commander of EUFOR, Lt Col Angelo Gaggino passed the command to Lt Col John Petrocelli. During the ceremony, the flag of Italfor 31 was lowered and the flag of Italfor 32 was raised.

**By Captain Antonio Petralia**



## Key Leader Training

From the 9-12th June in Camp Butmir, 25 officers representing 10 countries (ALB, AUT, DEU, ESP, FRA, IRL, ITA, NDL, PRT and UK) participated in the second Key Leader Training (KLT) Course held in 2009. These Key Leaders were in EUFOR ALTHEA mission area to receive their first general overview of EUFOR's mandate, its area of responsibility, learn about the tasks



and the possible areas of concern.

In the first and second day of this training they received many briefings during which the external briefers offered an overview on the relationship between their organizations and EUFOR. On the 11th June, the Key Leaders visit LOT House Bratunac, the Potocari monument and the Car factory Museum. Early in the morning dur-

ing the ride by bus, a member of historical office provided a guided tour through the memorial of the Srebrenica massacre in 1995, giving detailed explanations of the historical background.

At the Potocari monument, the Mayor of Srebrenica welcomed them and gave a speech explaining the past and the present situation of the area, indicating that the

presence of EUFOR in BiH is imperative, especially for the Bosnians people who live in this part of BiH. The course then visited the LOT House at Bratunac. The last day of KLT included visits to the EUFOR divisions and branches before a short but useful tour of IPU (Camp Butmir 2).

Key Leaders Training is aimed at officers who are going to be appointed to some of the Key posts in the EUFOR ALTHEA operation. It is to provide them with a detailed overview of the functions of the EUFOR HQ, other international organisations and on the cooperation with AFBiH and the local authorities.

By Captain Florin Candit

## Slovenian National Day

**30th June** - The Slovenian Embassy in Sarajevo organized the traditional reception for the diplomatic corps in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the occasion of celebration of the National day and the Day of the Slovenian Army.

The 25th of June 1991 will stay in memory of all Slovenian citizens who are proud to celebrate 18 years of the independence of their country. This small, but very successful country, has been a member

of NATO and the European Union since 2006.

On this occasion the Slovenian Ambassador, His Excellency Andrej Grasselli, gave a welcome address to the guests. Ambassador stated: "On this occasion I wish you all much happiness and peace and I invite all of you to have a nice time with us tonight."

By OR-6 Tanja Eržen



## Visit to Camp Butmir by Journalists from Netwerk für Osteuropa-Berichterstattung (n-ost)

11 German speaking journalists from Netwerk für Osteuropa-Berichterstattung (n-ost) visited EUFOR. They were given presentations from the EUFOR Political Advisor, Mr Per Normark before meeting COM EUFOR, Major General Castagnotto for a question and answer session. They then met Brigadier General Löwenstein DEU Luftwaffe, the EUFOR Chief of Staff and other EUFOR personnel for a buffet lunch which gave them further opportunities to learn about the mission. As part of the visit they visited the Liaison Observation Team (LOT) house at Ilidza and received a brief on current LOT house activities.

Following on from the visit the journalists write for their respective



media outlets. These cover many main stream newspapers, radio and TV stations in Germany, Switzerland, Hungary and Spain. The journalists are in Bosnia and Herzegovina for an 8 day fact find-

ing visit of which EUFOR forms an important part. They are hoping to increase public awareness of the situation in BiH including the contribution made by EUFOR.

By Lt Cdr Mandy McBain

## Fundraising Night Organized by the Italian Soldiers

**13th June** - A fundraising evening was organized by the Italian Army Contingent and the Rotary Club of Sarajevo. The initiative, that saw the participation of representatives of soldiers belonging to the Italian Army Contingent and Carabinieri, took place in Millennium Bar.

During the event, which was attended by about 150 people, including some members of the Association of People suffering from infantile cerebral paralysis from the Canton of Sarajevo, a buffet and a raffle with prizes

were organized. Five girls from the primary school of music of Lukavica performed in a brief and touching concert.



The evening raised around 3100 euros, this money will be donated to the above mentioned Association, that for over 25 years has offered support in the areas of health, financial, social and has distributed orthopaedic equipment to the approximately 315 affected by cerebral infantile paralysis currently assisted.

By Captain Daniele Guadagno

## Introduction Coctail of LOT Siroki Brijeg to Key Personnel in AOA

**12th June** - LOT Siroki Brijeg organized an introduction cocktail party for key personnel in their area of authority (AOA). The invitees included Mayors, Religious Leaders, Local Community Leaders, Heads of Police-Health Clinics-Schools-Red Cross, representatives of firms, and LOT neighbors. There were also representatives from Turkish Contingent in EUFOR and from RCC2 Mostar.



The cocktail party was very popular and the LOT was very happy to host around 50 people. It had only been two months since the LOT was transferred from the French Contingent. The Turkish Senior Representative and the LOT Chief expressed their gratitude to key personnel for attending and their warm welcome to the LOT team on their recent arrival in the area.

By OF-3 Fernando Alvarez

## LOT Zenica Attended Football Tournament

**28th June** - LOT Zenica attended to a football tournament, which was organized by the Deaf and Dumb Association. 8 teams took part in the tournament including the Deaf and Dumb Associations from Sarajevo and Vitez. The tournament was a friendship tournament between Deaf and Dumb Associations and the organizations supporting them. Other than LOT Zenica, the Bosnia Folk Association, the Zenica Sewage



Water Department and the Ze-Do Canton Council were teams invited to the tournament as supporting organizations. The supporting organizations were rewarded with a Certificate of Appreciation for their support to the Deaf and Dumb



Association and all teams in the tournament were rewarded with a Certificate of Attendance. Ze-Do Canton Council Deputies and many representative from the Deaf and Dumb Associations were present to watch and support the tournament. All the matches were played in a very friendly, fair and fun manner. The aim of the tournament was not only the winning of the matches but also providing much entertainment for the watching crowds. LOT ZENICA further contributed to the tournament by wearing Mine Awareness T-shirts which continues to give a message to both the contributors and the supporters.

By

Chief Contracts/Custom Administration  
Finance Branch

## OR-8 Patrick Tobin



### Your family?

Married in ROME to CATHERINE in 1981.

We have five children. Ages from 18 years to 24 years. two boys and three girls.

### Your job?

Joined the IRISH Defence Forces in January 1971

This is my sixth mission overseas :

Cyprus (1971-1972); SINAI Desert (UNEF 1973-1974) LEBANON as Observer (1979-80, 1987-88, 1995)

### So the Bosnia and Herzegovina?

I came here in January 2009. I was really impressed by the facilities in Camp Butmir. I have travelled throughout Bosnia Herzegovina and I also discovered that the people are kind and good natured. I would like to do another mission here in the future

And I hope that problems in the Country will be solved sooner rather than later.

I travel a lot during the day but when it is possible I am going by bike outdoor and throughout Camp Butmir .

## Shooting Competition



**8th June** - On Monday the 8 Jun 09 LOT BRATUNAC invited all local police stations in its area of authority (AOA), which includes BRATUNAC, SREBRENICA, MILICI, VLASENICA and SEKOVICI, for a shooting competition at the former military shooting range in KUSLAT. The purpose of the competition was to introduce LOT BRATUNAC and to get in closer contact with the local police after the expansion of the AOA due to the reorganisation of RCC4.

After the arrival of all participants and an explanation of the planned shooting sequences by OF-2 BOEGNER, the competition started with pistol shooting. The GLOCK 17, the pistol of Austrian origin used worldwide by military forces and police, was already well known by the police officers which meant that the shooting level was high with impressive scores being achieved.

Afterwards, the rifle competition took place. First, the police officers had doubts regarding the Austrian "plastic" rifle STEYR AUG 77. However, after having fired the first rounds, nearly all participants changed their minds due to the easy handling and the perfect accuracy of the assault rifle. As a consequence, it was hard to find a winner since the grand total of the police officers reached more than 190 points out of 200. While the scores were counted, OF-1 BICHLER and OR-7 BONACCORSO introduced the police officers to the Austrian machine gun MG 74 and some of them got the opportunity to fire some rounds. Finally LOT House Commander OF-3 TRAUSNITZ congratulated all winners. The competition ended with a barbecue where the Chiefs of Police of the Municipalities thanked the LOT for the invitation and the perfect organisation.

By Major Gerhard Seidl



## The Cadets of the French Officer Academy of the Gendarmerie Nationale visit EUFOR



**15th June** - French Officer Academy of the Gendarmerie Nationale visited EUFOR at Camp Butmir as a part in a study tour in BiH and Croatia. Brigadier General Petit,, Deputy Commander of the Academy, was welcomed by the EUFOR Deputy Commander, Brigadier General Carrasco who received a traditional kepi as a gift. At the IPU training area, the visitors were received by the IPU Force Commander and by the Multinational Battalion Commander. Here the cadets watched a "Civil Disturbance Operation" Exercise performed by the IPU in cooperation with the Multinational Battalion and with the EUFOR Helicopter assets. They were able to appreciate the inter-operability of the units involved on the ground and in the air, their capabilities and their ability to deal with major crisis. The 160 cadets of the promotion named "Captain MARCHIANI" are about to complete their two years of training after having been either a non-commissioned officer or having obtained a Master. They will all join the head of their operational unit on 1st August 2009. In the future, some of them will perform an international mission in which the Gendarmerie Nationale is involved.

MICCData Coordinator

## Milad Cerimagic



**When did you start working in EUFOR?**

I started working for EUFOR - actually SFOR - some nine years ago. I can clearly remember that it was the birthday of my good friend and colleague Dzejna Skopljak on that same day.

**What do you think EUFOR gave to you professionally?**

EUFOR and my job here shaped me completely as a professional and as a person. When I first started working, I was quite young, some thirty years old, and through my work here I had the chance to experience and do things I know I would never get the chance of doing anywhere else.

**Can you recall some funny moment from your work for us?**

Well... I remember when an Irish gentleman, John ....., first came into Bosnia and Herzegovina. Still unaccustomed to driving on the left side of the road and our cars, he went into a car from a right side. He sat, raised his hands to grab the steering wheel... and just dropped them. Then he slowly looked around to see if anyone noticed him, got out and sat on the right side. Unfortunately for him, I saw all that. (laughs)

I was born in Madrid on February 9, 1972. Married to Susan, have two children, Sofia (22 months) and Alvaro (4 years).

His vocation is the military since childhood, conducted in 1991, the year in which entry into the Marine Corps Spanish, as a soldier. And then climb out

in 1993 and 1st place in 1994. Their fates have been several, the first Royal Guard in Madrid, then in the School of Application of Marines in San Fernando (Cádiz), then in 1997 was assigned to in AGRUCAN (Palmas de Gran Canarias), and by Finally in the Marine Infantry Brigade (BRIMAR) in San Fernando (Cadiz) since 1998. In the past ten years



◆ OR-4 Antonio Ortiz Martinez

ion has been in different companies such as 6 and 7 companies of rifles, the 8 weapons company of the battalion and the company of senior services and in different positions as head of rifle platoon, Platoon Chief AMP and destinations flat. In the current destination is in the office and working with the Press and Information Office of the BRIMAR.

has destination in the Second Battalion in the headquarters unit in the Intelligence Company.

In the second battalion

He has participated in two missions as a UN, one MINHUSTAF (Haiti) 2006 and another one UNIFIL (Lebanon) 2006. Also he participated in 3 SFOR (NATO) and 3 of EUFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Over the years, 2000 in Trebinje, 2002-2003, 2007-2008 and 2004.2005 in Mostar and is currently in Sarajevo. In all of the missions he has held different positions, being in Sarajevo where he was able to combine my love of photography with the work here look like Combat Camera.

Comment that since my first mission in Bosnia, he noted the country's development towards a common goal (EUROPE) and I had the good fortune to meet many people and cultures. Different cities and customs. I also served as professional staff and making great friends within the mission.

OF-1 Thomas Neuhold a member of the Austrian Army, has now seen nearly most places in Bosnia and Herzegovina. He first served here in 2006 as a reconnaissance platoon leader for nine months in former Multi National Task Force North in Camp Eagle Base, Tuzla. In 2009 he began his tour as a civil-military Cooperation (CIMIC) officer in Camp Butmir. In early July he was transferred to the Regional Coordination Center 4 (RCC4) which is situated in Camp Edelweiss, Tuzla to reinforce the command group.



◆ OF-1 Thomas Neuhold

Not bad for a 28 year old career offi-

cer, who, when back in Austria, is a Commander of a recce company and deputy garrison commander in the lovely town of Fehring.

Born on the 30 April 1981 in Kirchberg, he started to thinking about joining the military very early and his father was in the service too.

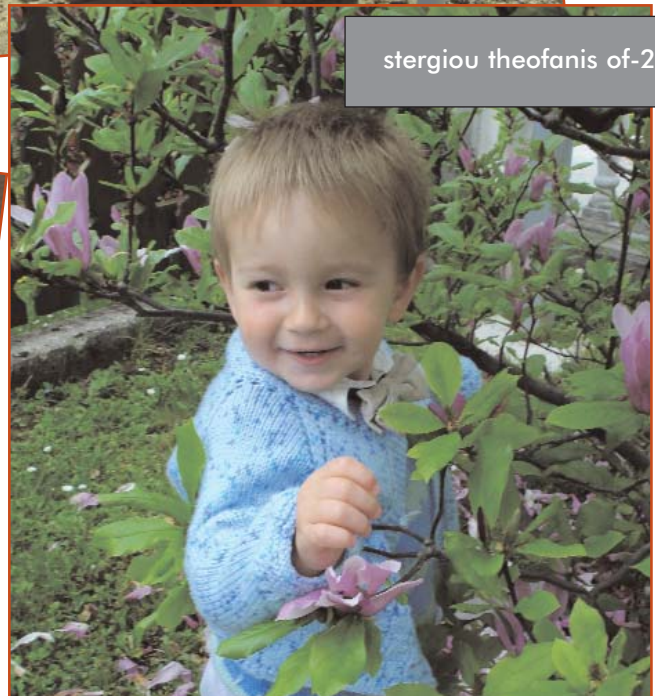
OF-1 Neuhold is a big fan of historical Vespas and Apple computers. In his spare time he enjoys geocaching and amateur photography. Geocaching is for him the best activity to combine physical training and improve his recce orientation skills.



Little Miriam Pascucci Roffi and her mother  
Monica  
By WO Mar Pascucci

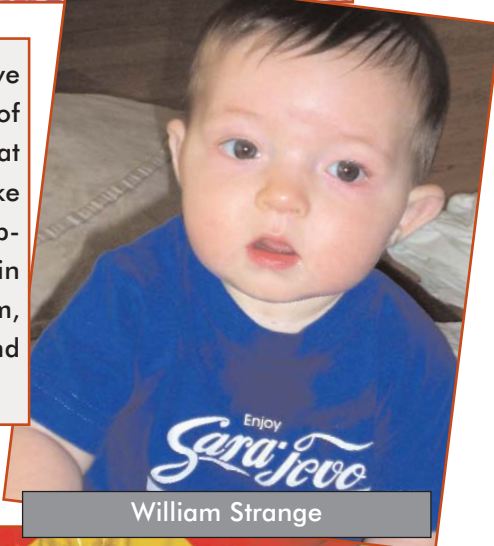


Yeray Nieto  
By WO Mar Pascucci



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



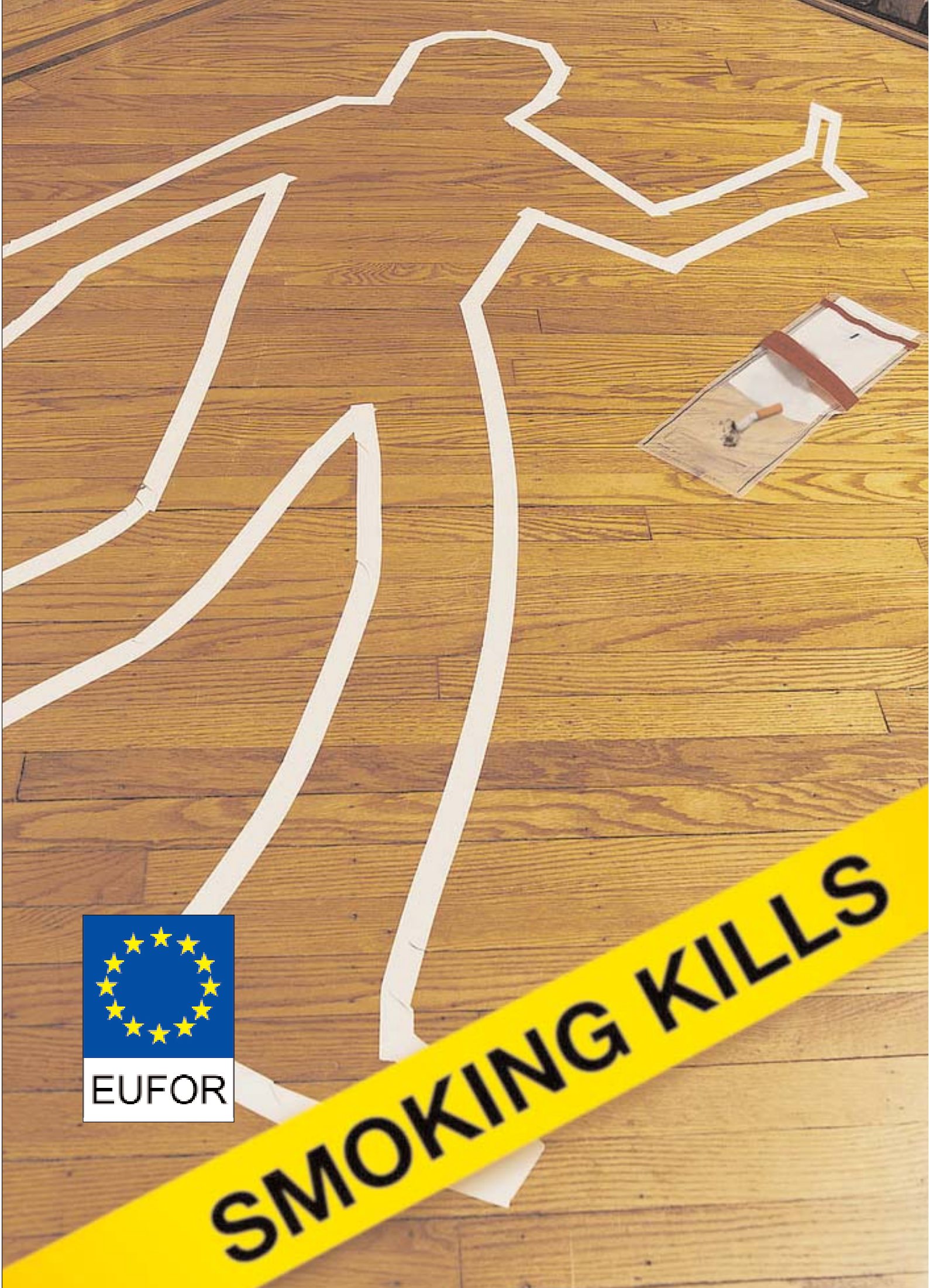
William Strange



OYKU RABIA DOGAN  
By WO Mar Pascucci



Tuna Akkaya  
By Oguz AKKAYA



**SMOKING KILLS**