

January 2010

EDITION 50

# EUFORUM

*Magazine*



**Europa Conference**

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## Change of Command in EUFOR



**Chief of Staff  
visit to Banja Luka**  
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# New COM EUFOR

## Major General Bernhard Bair



### Personal Particulars:

Place and Date of Birth: Zams (Austria), 28/08/1955

Nationality: Austrian

Military Education: Military Academy

Rank Seniority: 01/12/2002

Marital Status: Married

Years of Military Service: 35

Present Appointment:

Commander EUFOR, EU Military Mission in BiH – Operation ALTHEA

### Other Principal Appointments

1. Command Appointments:  
Company Commander Supply & Transport Company;  
Commander, Joint Service Support Command of Austrian Armed Forces

### 2. Staff Appointments:

ADC, Ordnance Officer, Instructing Officer, S4 and

Deputy Commanding Officer of 1st Supply Regiment

Service in the Supply Staff in the then HQ AAF

Deputy Commanding Officer & Chief of Staff, 4 MECHINBDE in Linz

Deputy Commanding Officer & Chief of Staff, Tyrol Provincial Military Command

Head of Section & Deputy Head, Logistics Planning and Coordination

Division/Federal Ministry of Defence

### 3. Appointments Abroad:

AUSBATT/UNFICYP

Defence Attaché in Zagreb, Republic of Croatia and non-resident Defence Attaché to Bosnia and Herzegovina

### Advanced Courses of Military Education and/or Joint – Other Courses

UN Staff Officers Course at the Austrian Training Centre for Peace Keeping

Operations in Vienna, Austria

NATO Logistics Course

ECMM Preparation Course

General Staff Course at the National Defence Academy in Vienna

European Training Course in Security Policy at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy in Genève, Swiss Confederation  
General, Flag Officers and Ambassadors Course in Rome, Italy

Major General Bernhard Bair graduated in National Defence at the Higher-Level Command at the University of Vienna and he speaks English fluently.



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Dear readers,

Welcome to the first edition of EUFOR Forum in 2010.

In a ceremony and parade held at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, Major General Bernhard Bair of the Austrian Army took over responsibility as Commander of EUFOR in BiH.

It is the first time that an Austrian General has been appointed as the Commander of HQ EUFOR in Sarajevo and we Austrians are proud about this.

I have the honor to stay with my Commander for the coming months in this beautiful countryside.

For me it is the second time to work in the HQ and I am really happy to be here with my colleagues from the Press Office.

The New Year is coming and the first snow has covered Bosnia and Herzegovina. What will happen in 2010? We do not know, but I wish you all the best.

EUFOR will continue to work with the International community and BiH agencies in the support of continued stability in BiH.

It is up to me to say thank you to Forum's readers for their contributions and support. The EUFOR Forum is made for all of you.

Sincerely,  
Lt Col Knut Scheutz

## EUFOR Forum

[www.euforbih.org](http://www.euforbih.org)

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## New Commander for EUFOR Althea



**4th December 2009** – In a ceremony and parade held at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, Major General Bernhard Bair of the Austrian Army took over responsibility as commander of EUFOR in BiH. He takes over from Major General Stefano Castagnotto who has completed his one year tour of duty and now returns to Italy to take command of the Italian Army Logistics Headquarters.

Also taking part in the ceremony were General Sir John McColl, the EUFOR Operational Commander and General Haken Syren, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee. Numerous VIPs from the EU and BiH were also in attendance to witness the handing over of the EU flag from General Castagnotto to General Bair, including Dr Valentin Inzko, the High Representative, and His Excellency Mr Bosse Hedberg, the Swedish ambassador to BiH, representing the EU presidency.

In his final speech, General Castagnotto praised the efforts of all involved in ensuring the

continued safe and secure environment in BiH, including the personnel of EUFOR, AFBiH and local institutions and went on to describe his pride in having made a contribution to the commitment of EUFOR to the stability of the country.

General Bair stated that he

was looking forward to assuming his duties with pride, saying "I am ready to face the challenges ahead and to seize all opportunities the coming year may offer for the progress of security in Bosnia and Herzegovina."

**By Lt Cdr Andy Willis**

## Visit of Albanian President

**20th November 2009** – Mr Bamir Topi, President of the Republic of Albania, visited EUFOR HQ where he paid an official call to COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto. To honour the President, a Parade was held in front of EUFOR HQ Building 200.

COM EUFOR briefed the President on EUFOR activities and the current security situation within BiH. COM EUFOR



also took the opportunity to compliment the efforts of Albanian contingent in EUFOR.

Albania is one of the five non-EU countries who currently

contribute troops to EUFOR ALTHEA. Mr Topi will also visit the Albanian contingent during his visit.

**By Captain Antonio Petralia**

## COS EUFOR Visits Zunovnica

16th October 2009 – COS EUFOR Brigadier General Gerhard Kemmler and his staff joined the Joint Military Affairs (JMA) Countermines in a visit to the Zunovnica area near Sarajevo.

BG Kemmler was briefed by the Chief JMA Col Peter Vorhofer about the main issues that affect this specific area, which are the existence of Unexploded Ordnance (UXOs), mines and Depleted Uranium (DU) contamination.

Later during his visit, BG Kemmler was briefed by the JMA/Countermines Field Operations Manager, Mr. Zeljko Kalinic about the details and activities conducted by EUFOR



in relation with the risks and threats to the people that live in the surroundings and those who enter it.

Afterwards Ms. Dzejna Skopljak, MICC Mine Risk Education Manager, explained to BG Kemmler the activities conducted during the last period in relation to the Mine Risk

Education Program, which is aimed to educate kids at schools and civilian population about the risks presented by mines and UXOs.

COS EUFOR was very satisfied with the visit and interested about the measures that can be taken by EUFOR in

the future. COS was also interested in the relevance and importance of the MRE Program conducted by the MICC since its target audience are children of school age and keeping in mind that during the last period many of them have become victims of mines and/or UXOs.

By Captain Ricardo Mesa

## JMA Inspection Tour

25th November 2009 – As part of the handover / takeover (HOTO) of responsibility from Joint Military Affairs (JMA) Chief Colonel (GS) Peter Vorhofer to Colonel (GS) Josef Holzer and their deputies Major Richard Sperling and Major Alexander Bauer conducted a three day inspection tour, which also included a visit by the Chief Of Staff (COS) Brigadier General Gerhard Kemmler to Banja Luka, from 25-27 November.

The aim of the trip was the practical inspection of Defense Industry Factories (DIF) and arms and ammunition dealers as part of the Civilian Movement Control (CivMovCon) task in JMA, as well as the inspection of Weapon and Ammunition Storage Sites (WSS, ASS) as part of Military Movement Control (MilMovCon) task.



Included in the program was an inspection of Juventa Sports, a sports shop and arms dealer in Banja Luka; the inspection of the maintenance and overhaul of the SA 341 Gazelle helicopter at the Defense Industry Factory KOSMOA; and an examination of the Mi-8 Transport helicopter at Banja Luka Airfield. The purpose of COS Brigadier General Gerhard Kemmler's visit was to inspect the maintenance and check-up of the remaining 85 SA-6 of the Armed Forces Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBIH) as part of the program, as well as the launching vehicles and radar of the Kub missile system. After the final inspection the JMA team returned to Sarajevo.

By Major Alexander Bauer



## IPU Change of Command



**11th November 2009** - The Change of Command Ceremony for the Integrated Police Unit (IPU) commander was organized in Camp Butmir 2. The ceremony involved IPU staff of all nationalities. Entire IPU regiment participated in the parade, as well as the military band of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and

Herzegovina (AFBiH). The IPU forces were composed by a block of multinational staff experts, representing the different offices of the IPU HQ; Alpha and Bravo Coy, Specialized Elements and a logistic platoon from the Italian Carabinieri support unit.

Colonel António Oliveira of the Portuguese Guarda Nacional Republicana, completed his one year tenure as Commander of IPU and handed over the Command to Colonel José Manuel Santiago Marin of the Spanish Guardia Civil.

DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General José Carrasco presided over the Ceremony and he reviewed the troops. High diplomatic, military, civilian and international representatives in BiH attended the ceremony. Following the ceremony, all personnel and VIP were invited to have a buffet-lunch.

**By Captain Nuno Miguel Casado Alberto**

## New Deputy Commander of EUFOR



**20th November 2009** - COM EUFOR Major General Stefano Castagnotto presided over the Handover-Takeover (HOTO) Ceremony of Deputy Commander EUFOR. After serving six months as Deputy Commander Brigadier General Jose Carrasco handed over responsibility to the new Deputy Commander Brigadier General Juan Antonio Diaz Cruz.

**By Haris Daul**



## Zoran Konjanovski visits HQ EUFOR

17th November 2009 - Mr Zoran Konjanovski, Minister of Defence of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, visited EUFOR HQ and met with COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto, during their office call. COM EUFOR and Mr Konjanovski talked about EUFOR mission and how the mission



is being supported by the European Union.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is one of the five non-EU countries that contribute troops to EUFOR, including providing the Medical Cell for Camp Butmir. Mr Konjanovski will visit the Medical Cell during his visit.

By Haris Daul

### Visit of Adrian Starova



19th November 2009 - Adrian Starova, the Albanian Deputy Minister of Defence, visited EUFOR HQ where he paid an official call to DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Jose Carrasco. DCOM EUFOR introduced his replacement, Brigadier General Juan Antonio Diaz Cruz, and briefed the Deputy Minister on EUFOR activities and the current security situation within BiH. DCOM EUFOR also took the opportunity to compliment the efforts of the Albanian contingent in EUFOR.

Albania is one of the five non-EU countries who currently contribute troops to EUFOR ALTHEA. Mr Starova will also visit the Albanian contingent during his visit.

By Haris Daul

### Visit of Major General Atilla Gurdere

9th November 2009 - Major General Atilla Gurdere of Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe NMR Turkey, visited EUFOR HQ where he paid an official call to DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Jose Carrasco. DCOM EUFOR briefed the distinguished colleague on EUFOR activities, the current security situation within BiH and on the joint activities conducted with the Armed Forces of BiH. DCOM EUFOR took the opportunity to compliment the efforts of the Turkish Contingent in EUFOR.

Turkey has the third largest contingent in EUFOR BiH with approximately 250 troops, following Italy and Spain.



By Haris Daul



## COM EUFOR Visits High Representative



**8th December 2009** – COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, today paid his first call on the High Representative and EU Special Representative Dr Valentin Inzko.

Dr Inzko was pleased to welcome General Bair to the country and to his important role in the ongoing task of ensuring a safe and secure environment for the further development of BiH. General Bair responded that he was very much looking forward to working with the OHR, as well as all other organizations and personnel involved, towards the progression of BiH's success and prosperity.

**By Lt Cdr Andy Willis**

## COM EUFOR Visits Nebojsa Radmanovic

**9th December 2009** – COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, paid a first call on Nebojsa Radmanovic, Serbian Member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina



Mr Radmanovic gave the General an introduction to the political state of affairs in BiH, and to his view on the situation. He went on to outline the importance of EUFOR for stability and security in the country, and discussed the significance of progress towards the Membership Action Plan and EU integration.

General Bair agreed that EUFOR has a substantial role to play in the future confidence and prosperity of the people of BiH and stated that he hopes his tour in command of the European Forces stationed in the country will be successful and productive.

**By Lt Cdr Andy Willis**

## EUFOR Donates Furniture and Appliances to Bjelave Orphanage

**12th November 2009** - The Spanish contingent of EUFOR, based at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, donated furniture and appliances to Bjelave Orphanage in Sarajevo.

The Center has different departments depending on the ages of the children, and each of these modules needed its own furnishings. The furniture and appliances are needed to provide recreation and relief in the daily lives of the children, so they can enjoy an environment as familiar as possible.

This institution welcomes chil-

dren with various social problems, such as abuse, parental rejection, economic hardship, abandonment, etc. Children mostly belong to the three main ethnic groups living in the country. Nowadays there are 106 children residing in

Bjelave Orphanage of which 45% is between 0 and 5 years.

Given its institutional character, it is driven by donations of any kind. The aid which the Spanish contingent of EUFOR provided to this institution has



great impact on society of BiH, because everything that happens in this center is reported in the local media and is followed with great interest by the general public.

**By Capt Pablo Rumeu Cesares**



## Italian Administration Branch

The Italian Administration Branch (CAI) provides logistic and administrative support to all personnel employed within Italian Army National Contingent, Task Force AVES, National Support Element, and the ones that work within EUFOR and NATO HQs. Besides military personnel CAI manages local civilian employers too.

CAI is led by a Director, Lt Col Graziano Notaro and his team is Captain Enrico Tozzi, OR9 Giuseppe Mascolo, OR9 Vincenzo Casamassima, OR9 Mario Milazzo, OR9 Marco Rosati and OR9 Fabrizio Ferrara.

The components of each sec-



tion deeply contribute to the branch making possible the quick solution of the different matters aimed to improve the logistic conditions of Eufor operational assets.

The delicate job of Administration Branch is to manage financial resources operating expense reduction without affecting the effectiveness of the units.

"The financial and account management in mission abroad focus on expedited procedures that allow quick answers to the daily problems related to the deployment of forces in foreign countries", said the Director.

By Lt Claudio Cibelli

Lt Col Notaro was appointed as Italian Administration Branch Director on 6th July 2009 and this is his first experience in operation abroad. His Branch provides logistic and administrative support to all Italian personnel employed within Italian Army National Contingent, Task Force AVES, NSE, and the ones that work within EUFOR and NATO HQs, and local civilian employers too.

## Visit to LOT Sarajevo

5th December 2009 - IAD Chief and Italian Senior National Representative (SNAR) Colonel Paolo Sfarra paid a visit to the Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) Sarajevo that is included into RCC3 Area of Responsibility (AoR). LOT Sarajevo team leader, Captain Giorgio Novelli welcomed Colonel Sfarra and the commanders of the Italian and German TACRES (Tactical Reserve) Units that are tasked of intervention in case of necessity both in Kosovo and BiH. Colonel Fontana from the Italian 6th regiment "bersaglieri" paid a tour in order to be updated about the current situation in

RCC 3 area of operation.

The meeting focused on the general situation in the AoR that included the municipalities of Novi Grad, Stari Grad, Centar Sarajevo, Novo Sarajevo, Ilijas and Vogosca. The political, religious and social situation was then analyzed, as well as the related problems. Captain Novelli reported that they hold a lot of meetings and he underlined the very high level of cooperation with the local authorities they are connected with. He also emphasized the professional behaviour of local police in the management of public order situations and



emergencies.

At the end of the meeting Colonel Sfarra thanked the LOT for their hospitality. He found out that the personnel is strongly motivated and very familiar with local situation. He thanked them for the good job they do that ensures the success of EUFOR mission.

By Lt Claudio Cibelli

## Chief of Staff visit to Banja Luka

26th November 2009 - Chief of Staff (COS) Brigadier General Gerhard Kemmler and his staff, accompanied by the External Cooperation Division (ECD) Chief, Colonel Lyubomir Simeonov, and the incoming and outgoing Joint Military Affairs (JMA) Chiefs, Colonel (GS) Peter Vorhofer and Colonel (GS) Josef Holzer, and their staff, visited Banja Luka.

At 11:00 the COS and his staff landed in an Italian AB 212 helicopter at Kozara Barracks in Banja Luka. After being welcomed by the JMA Chiefs, who were already at the barracks, the party preceded with their visit to the Defense Industry Factory (DIF) 'KOSMOS'.

Owned by the Republika Srpska, KOSMOS is specialized in overhaul and repair, design and production, laboratories, work protection and other services. More than 65% of the factory's turnover is achieved with civilian goods and services. As a former producer of all kinds of radar systems for the former Yugoslavian Armed Forces, KOSMOS managed still to secure the contract for maintaining the 85 SA-6 GAINFUL (2K12 "Kub") missiles of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and



Herzegovina (AFBIH).

In the overhaul, KOSMOS thoroughly checks the complete

The fairly large SA-6 missiles were designed in the 1960s and have an effective range from 3 to 24 km (2 - 15 miles) and an effective altitude of 50 - 12000 m (164 - 39370 feet). The missile itself weighs 599 kg (1321 lb) and is equipped with a 56 kg (123 lb) warhead. The top speed of the missile, approximately Mach 2.8, is reached by utilizing a solid fuel rocket motor. Through the revolutionary design of its propulsion the SA-6 was far ahead of the technology of its time and, decades later in 1995, managed to pick an F-16 out of the Balkan skies.

propulsion, navigation and tracking systems of the missiles. Brigadier General Kemmler and his staff, including very experienced anti-aircraft personnel, took part in the briefing on the current status, maintenance and control of the SA-6 missiles by KOSMOS.

On the following day, JMA Staff inspected the GM-578 launching vehicles for the SA-6 missile as part

of the Kub missile system at another location in the area of Banja Luka.

Following the successful inspection the Chief of Staff, pointed out the important role of JMA in Assist, Advise and Monitoring

to the Ministry of Defense (MoD), Ministry of Security (MoS) and Ministry of Trade and Foreign Affairs (MoFTA) as part to a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

COS Brigadier General Gerhard Kemmler together with the ECD Chief Colonel Lyubomir Simeonov, flew back to Sarajevo departing at 1500.

By Major Alexander Bauer





## Europa Conference

30th October 2009 – A conference at the Hotel Europa marked the final event of the pilot project entitled “Participation of Women in the Security Sector of BiH”. The project - EUFOR’s participation in which began with COMEUFOR’s signing of a Memorandum of



Understanding with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the European Union Police Mission (EUPM) in October 2008 and involved a number of workshops with the local population across BiH - was overseen by the BiH organization “Zene Zenama” and was evaluated as

successful by all involved parties, including UNIFEM; EUPM and various NGOs. The project has resulted in greater Gender Mainstreaming understanding and capability within EUFOR and also featured LOT house involvement which further promoted the LOT concept to the population of BiH. Additionally

the venture revealed that BiH Institutions are taking the matter seriously and harmonizing their policies to facilitate equal opportunities for men and women in BiH.

EUFOR’s participation was considered to be a major support in the planning and execution of the project. Hjalmar G. Sigmarsson, head of UNIFEM, said: “EUFOR has been a very important partner in this project from its very first stages, including having an active role in the consultation and formulation stage with NGO Zene Zenama and UNIFEM.”

By Lt Cdr Andy Willis

## RCC2 Chief meets with Canton 7 Prime Minister

9th November 2009 - A delegation of Regional Coordination Center (RCC) 2 had a meeting with Canton 7 Prime Minister Srecko Boras in his office in Mostar. Chief of RCC2, Lt Col Jaime Mora-Figueroa, was the head of the delegation which also included Captain Ismael Salazar and interpreter Goran Govedarica.

Purpose of the meeting was to conduct liaison with the high ranking official of Canton 7 and discuss the current political, economic and social situation of the city of Mostar, the Canton and the future of BiH.

The RCC2 delegation was well

received by the Prime Minister who stressed his satisfaction with the visit and the possibility to exchange viewpoints with the high representative of EUFOR in Canton 7.

It was a pleasant meeting during which Prime Minister Srecko Boras expressed his opinions about the presence of International community in BiH and their support in the interests of future development of Mostar, FBiH and BiH. In conclusion, Prime Minister stated



that politicians should work together to guarantee the equality to all BiH citizens.

At the end of the meeting, Lieutenant Colonel Mora-Figueroa thanked the Prime Minister for his hospitality and expressed his gratitude for the opportunity granted.

By Captain Ismael Salazar

## Remembrance Parade in Camp Butmir



**8th November 2009** – The British and Canadian EUFOR contingents held a joint Remembrance Parade and prayers in the memorial garden in Camp Butmir to pay tribute to their fallen comrades from conflicts past and present. Wreaths were laid at the British Memorial by the British Ambassador, His Excellency Mr

Michael Tatham, the British Defence Attache, Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Croft and by the Senior Representatives of Great Britain, Canada and the British contingent of the EUPM.

The last post was then sounded by a British Army bugler, and a two minute silence followed. The ceremony was also attended by DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier

General Carrasco, COS EUFOR, Brigadier General Kemmler, members of the Irish and Dutch EUFOR contingents and staff of the British Embassy in Sarajevo and their families. A reception and buffet lunch was held in the Bulldog Bar on completion, followed by a gathering at the Canada House.

By Lt Cdr Andy Willis

## Visit of Brigadier General Metin Temel

**11th November 2009** - PSO Brigade Commander, Brigadier General Metin Temel, visited EUFOR HQ where he paid an official call to DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Jose Carrasco. DCOM EUFOR briefed the Brigadier General on EUFOR activities, the current security situation within BiH, and ongoing joint activities conducted with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBIH). DCOM EUFOR took the opportunity to compliment the efforts of the Turkish contingent in EUFOR BiH.

By Captain Antonio Petralia





## Football Tournament in Trebinje

**8th November 2009** - Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) Trebinje organized the First Edition of Spain Football Tournament during the 7th and 8th November. The event took place in the sports hall of Jovan Jovanovic Primary School in Trebinje. Primary Schools that partici-



ated in the sports event were represented by eight teams composed of 10 children in each team. Primary Schools such as: Jovan Jovanovic, Karadzic or Ostroski from Trebinje; Sveti Sava from Ljubinje and a combined team from Sveti Sava and Petar Petrovic Njegos Primary Schools in Bileca participated in the competition. Altogether, 80 children participated in the tournament. The aim of this sports event was not only to promote the sports and sportsmanship among the children but also to establish a common and meeting point for several Primary Schools in Eastern Herzegovina.

The final phase was played during the Sunday season on 8th November. Finally, Karadzic Primary School turned into a winning team and Jovan Jovanovic and Ostroski Primary Schools came out as second and third respectively. Dobroslav Cuk, Mayor of

Trebinje, and Lt Col Jaime Mora Figueroa, Chief of Regional Coordination Center (RCC) 2, were awarded with medals and trophies.

**By Captain Javier Veiga**

attended this day and they were in charge of presenting the awards to winners.

Every child received a T-shirt and a named certificate. Premier League team West Ham also delivered 10 shirts to the players, and a lot of football balls were given to the 4th team and podium teams

### Visit of Lt Gen Tibor Benko



**17th November 2009** - Lieutenant General Tibor Benko, Commander of Joint Forces Command of the Hungarian Army visited EUFOR HQ in Camp Butmir. During the office call with COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto, Lt Gen Benkő was briefed on current EUFOR activities and the ongoing cooperation with the Hungarian contingent. During the office-call, Major General Castagnotto took the opportunity to praise the consistently high standard of the contribution of the Hungarian troops to EUFOR ALTHEA.

Hungary provides one of the largest contingents with approximately 160 troops.

**By Haris Daul**

## Independence Day and Medal Parade of Polish Contingent



**11th November 2009** - The 11th November is the anniversary of the day when Józef Piłsudski took power in Poland and the Polish state was reborn and regained its independence. This is one of the most important national holidays in Poland.

This special day in Camp Butmir began with a Holy Mass in the Italian church, celebrated

by the Deputy Head of Mission Apostolic Nunciature of the Holy See Waldemar Sommertag. This was followed by a Medal Parade Ceremony for the Soldiers of the Polish Contingent, who were all awarded with the EUFOR Althea Medal.

Lt Col Krzysztof Krawczak, Commander of the Polish Military Contingent, and his personnel

were honoured by the presence of DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Jose Carrasco, COS EUFOR Brigadier General Gerhard Kemmler and Multinational Battalion Commander Lt Col Juan Montero Prado. The Ambassador of the Republic of Poland, Andrzej Tyszkiewicz also attended the ceremony.

**By Captain Jerzy Bozek**

## Visit of Rear Admiral Roberto Macchiavello

**9th November 2009** - Rear Admiral Roberto Macchiavello, Deputy Chief of General Staff, Chilean Defense visited EUFOR HQ where he paid an official call on DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Carrasco. DCOM EUFOR briefed the Rear Admiral on EUFOR activities and the current security situation within BiH. He also praised the contribution made by the Chilean contingent based throughout EUFOR BiH.

During his two day visit, Deputy Chief of Chilean General



Staff also met members of the EUFOR HQ in the Regional Coordination Centre as well as the Chilean personnel of the

Liaison Observation Teams (LOT) in Prijedor and Sanski Most.

**By Captain Antonio Petralia**



## Donation of Furniture for School “Vitovlje”

26th November 2009 – The “Veterans Foundation Brabant” from Eindhoven in the Netherlands donated new furniture to the primary school “Vitovlje” in the AOA of the Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) Travnik. This school was selected by the “Regional Development Agency for Central BiH Region” with help from Mrs. Mirela Spahic who works for this agency. The furniture was transported to Bosnia and Herzegovina with the support of Dutch military transport. The furniture included new classroom material like school tables, school chairs, blackboards and teacher desks. Afterwards LOT Travnik had a meeting with the director of the school, Mr. Semir Cucic, who stated that he was very pleased with the furniture donated to the school. The children seemed very proud with their new material.

By Captain Guido van der Rijst



## Visit of Brigadier General Peter Candidus Stocker

26th November 2009 – Brigadier General Peter Candidus Stocker, DCOM of Armed Forces Joint Staff (AFJS) / J3 of the Swiss Armed Forces, visited EUFOR HQ and in Camp Butmir and met with COS EUFOR, Brigadier General Gerhard Kemmler. During the office call, Brigadier General Gerhard Kemmler was briefed on current EUFOR activities and the ongoing cooperation with the Swiss contingent. Brigadier General Gerhard Kemmler took the opportunity to praise the consistent high standard of the contribution of the Swiss troops to EUFOR ALTHEA.

By Haris Daul



## Interview with Major Piotr Kowalski

**Please tell us something about yourself?**

Married with one child. I have a beautiful wife Camila and adorable one year old son Sambor. We live in the north – west part of Poland, very close to the German border. My home town name is Szczecin, it's the capital of the West Pomeranian region of my country. Szczecin is located about 60 km from the Baltic Sea. It is surrounded with forests, lakes and farm land.

I graduated from civilian University just before joining the army. After I received my degree I found out about the newly opened faculty in the Military Academy for people who desire to become an officer in the Polish army. So I took the opportunity and after one and a half years I was commissioned as a second lieutenant. I have been assigned to various appointments during my career. Before arriving in EUFOR I was holding the position of a Liaison Officer between my Unit and Multinational Corps North – East HQ.

**Why did you choose to join the mission?**

I applied to travel on a mission some time ago. It is an integral part of military life and in my opinion a huge benefit in building a military career. This is



my first abroad mission, and I am happy to begin with EUFOR.

**How long You been in EUFOR?**

I arrived in theatre four months ago. I will stay a little longer then six months, my departure is scheduled for February 2010. My assignment in EUFOR HQ is in OPSD.

**How do You spend your free time?**

Most of my free time during the week I spend in the gym, which is by the way very well prepared for almost every kind of sport activity. During weekends if I am not on duty I prefer to off Camp, downtown Sarajevo if I don't have much time, or anywhere else in BiH or Croatia. I just like to amble and explore places I never saw before. I am not afraid to say that I am waiting for the first snow to cover the mountains. I

love to ski and here we have two Olympic Mountains on which I would like to test my skills.

**Name and describe any interesting thing about your country that our readers most likely do not know?**

Polish customs: When Polish greet each other they say CZESC which is very hard to pronounce for foreigners. That's why you can use word HEJ or HALO instead. It is very Polish to shake hands when you

introduce yourself, say hello or good-bye. It is very obvious for Americans, but it is not for every European or Asian, that is why it needs to be mentioned. Polish men kiss women's hands when introduce themselves. So if You are a girl don't be surprised.

And now a small help for anyone who will visit my country:

Bring a bouquet of flowers if you are invited into someone's home.

Keep both of your hands above the table while you're eating.

Catholic conservatism dictates the way many Poles think, so be careful about offending people by expressing strong religious views that may run counter to tradition. In other words, keep your atheism to yourself.

If you visit a church, take off your hat.

Don't make fun of the Pope!



## Key Leader Training



### What is Key Leader Training (KLT)?

Well, simply explained, it is an appreciation of the EUFOR mission delivered via a series of briefings from the main Divisions and Branches.

### Bit of Background

In accordance with SOP 5206 Key Leader Training takes place a minimum of three occasions each year.

### Who participates?

It is targeted primarily at newly arrived senior appointment holders such as Divisional or Branch Chiefs. However, on occasions, individuals who have been selected to join EUFOR in the near future in suchlike positions will travel to Camp Butmir from their respective home countries and also participate. The latest KLT which took place from 8th to 11th December illustrated this perfectly as both current and next DCOM participated!

### How long is this training?

The SOP allows for a four day period. KLT participants arrive in a Conference Room prepared with a Student Pack containing everything required to see them through the week. The pack

includes an Evaluation Sheet which when completed and returned to Training Branch greatly helps the Lessons Learned responsible to recommend possible changes to fine tune future KLT to make it more interesting and of value.

The programme begins with a welcome address by COS after which the briefings begin.

JVB assist with providing refreshments for coffee breaks. A series of visits within Camp Butmir 1 and 2 happen on 2nd day where the purpose and workings of DOCEX and IPU are explained on – site.

Day three comprises of a visit up country to the Potocari memorial, the former UNPROFOR HQ nearby, Srebrenica and LOT House Bratunac. En route, participants receive ongoing commentary from a member of the Historical Office as they pass points of interest.

On arrival at Potocari, it is customary that a local representative, usually the Mayor greets the KLT party and makes a short speech of welcome. The day ends with a visit to LOT House Bratunac. As always we

are received with great hospitality, being treated to refreshments and a small dosage of PowerPoint necessary to help us understand the purpose, workings and role of Lot Houses and RCC's. Our final day sees the remaining Branch / Divisional briefings, the final coffee break and programme ends mid-day.

### Feedback?

During our tour, we have planned and conducted two periods of Key Leader Training. During breaks there's always lively chat, handshakes and a lot of "getting to know you" going on.

It is a period where the participants get an opportunity to meet their predecessors as well as their counterparts in the various Divisions, Branches and Senior Appointments. This provides an invaluable picture of what EUFOR is about and ensures that on arrival they are orientated not only with the layout of Camp Butmir but most importantly with what is expected of them as they become critical to the continued success of "Operation ALTHEA."

By Captain Florin Miron

## OR-7 Alfred Jauk

OR-7 Alfred Jauk is a professional soldier from the small town of Feldbach in Styria, which is some 200 km South-East of Graz, the Styrian capital.

For as long as he has been in the Austrian army he has served in the artillery. He started with the Howitzer M1A2 and finished as an artillery platoon leader of the M109 self-propelled Howitzer. Alfred Jauk has a lot of mission experience and his international deployment started in Athum/Alba, Albania in 1999. He served in SFOR in 2004 and also in the first EUFOR mission 2004/05. Currently he is the LEGAD

Admin specialist and due to his outstanding performance will be posted to the COM office as Admin 1. Jauk is still single and likes sports, shopping and to hang out with friends and comrades. He is especially looking forward to the opening of the ski season on Mount Igman and Jahorina so he can pursue his passion for alpine and touring skiing. Apart from that he likes to explore BiH and especially its historical links with Austria.

Although Jauk has been abroad for quite some time during his career he is well grounded to Austria and visits his home every 5-6 weeks. If you



happened to be in Austria and you looked for him you might well find him at the beautiful castle of Riegersburg where he enjoys the renowned Styrian white wine, the good food and the peaceful surroundings.

By Captain Wolfgang Stampfer

## OF2 Margherita Barone

OF2 Margherita Barone is Administration Branch Chief within the Italian National Carabinieri Contingent. She was born on 20th February 1979 in Palermo where she graduated in Business Administration. In 2006 she attended the Carabinieri Military School of Rome and, at the end of the training period she was appointed as Staff Officer first and then as Auditing of Accounts Branch Chief within the Administration Center of the Carabinieri General Staff in Rome.



"I arrived in Butmir on 24th August and this is my first mili-

tary experience abroad. After four months working as

Administration Branch Chief, I feel that this job, full of responsibility, allowed me to grow up professionally and culturally; moreover I had the opportunity to perform my duty in a very nice contest, surrounded by a qualified and competent staff. Missions abroad are also interesting because of the plenty of countries represented in EUFOR HQ and Multinational Units that is always a good occasion to practise english language and understand more about culture and lifestyle of other countries."

By Lt Claudio Cibelli



## Visit of Swedish Ambassador



**10th December 2009** – COMEUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, paid a first call on the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden in Bosnia and Herzegovina, His Excellency Mr Bosse Hedberg, representing the EU presidency.

The Ambassador and COMEUFOR discussed the General's new role in command of EU forces in BiH, and the importance of the continued provision of a safe and secure environment to ensure that the country has the smoothest possible route to future success and European integration.

By Lt Cdr Andy Willis

## Visit of Marcos Perestrello

**17th November 2009** -

Mr Marcos Perestrello, State Secretary for Defence and Maritime Affairs of Portugal, visited EUFOR HQ where he paid an official call to COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano



Castagnotto. COM EUFOR briefed the State Secretary on EUFOR activities and the current security situation within BiH. COM EUFOR took the opportunity to compliment the efforts of Portuguese contingent in EUFOR.

By Haris Daul

## Visit of Brigadier General Arif Cetin

**26rd October 2009** -

Gendarmerie Commander of the Aydin Region of Turkey, Brigadier General Arif Cetin, visited EUFOR HQ where he paid an official call to COM EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto.



COM EUFOR briefed the distinguished guest on EUFOR activities, the current security situation within BiH and on the joint activities conducted with the Armed Forces of BiH at the last MEDEVAC (medical evacuation) exercise. COM EUFOR took the opportunity to compliment the efforts of Turkish Contingent in EUFOR.

By Captain Antonio Petralia

## COM EUFOR Visits Head of EU Commission Delegation

**10th December 2009** – COMEUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, paid his first call on the Head of the EU Commission Delegation in Bosnia, Mr Dimitris Kourkoulas.

During their meeting, Mr Kourkoulas welcomed General Bair to Bosnia and Herzegovina and to his role as commander of EU troops engaged in ensuring a safe and secure environment in the country. General Bair thanked Mr Kourkoulas and responded that he is looking forward to a fruitful tour helping to clear the path to future success and prosperity in BiH.

By Lt Cdr Andy Willis







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