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EUFOR forum



EUFOR's Super Soldier

Lt Col Michael Mc Dermott

Having just completed 12 months service in EUFOR HQ initially as Chief Collection Branch in the Information and Analysis Division (IAD) and since last December as Deputy Chief IAD in addition, I welcome this opportunity to say farewell through this EUFOR medium, to the many colleagues I have worked with and friends I have made during the last year.

Not only was it my last year in EUFOR but this is my last mission as I retire from the Irish Defence Forces on my return to Ireland after 39 years military service. I can say without reservation that this was my most pleasant overseas deployment for a myriad of reasons not least the professionalism and excellent comradeship I have experienced. I would like to thank MG Bair, BG Nagy and BG Bischof for their exceptional leadership and pleasant disposition which made my time in EUFOR so much more enjoyable. During the winter I availed of the opportunity of an evening course at the Sarajevo University to obtain a Diploma in Islamic Studies which I can highly recommend to those of you who will be here for the winter.

I am very proud of the Irish Defence Forces contribution to Operation ALTHEA and the many tours of duty they have



served throughout the Balkans since 1992 and feel particularly privileged to be the Irish SNR and have the opportunity to work in IAD with so many excellent professional colleagues, on this my last mission. The high level of support IAD contributes to the EUFOR mission is a reflection of the strong leadership provided by the Chief IAD, Col Panaoli combined with excellent teamwork representing a multiplicity of nations, all operating effectively in this multinational environment. I would like to acknowledge the excellent contribution made by the previous Chiefs of IAD who I had the pleasure to serve with namely Col Lallai and Col Sfarra, who I hold in the highest esteem.

It was really great to be involved in the Parade to welcome in the new Training Division (CBTD). I would like to congratulate Col Osman, Chief CBTD and his staff on reaching full operational capability within such a tight timeframe. Also for the

hard work of Col Sahinol, OPSD Chief and Lt Col Lenihan, Current Ops Plans Chief, who did Trojans work during the initial preparatory phase. This is a clear testimony to the commitment, professionalism and integrated teamwork of the EUFOR HQ staff.

Fortunately, I have a very tolerant wife who has provided outstanding support during my many years of service overseas. God willing, we will be married 31 years next September and were blessed with three children, a son who is 29 years and is a Captain in the Irish Defence Forces, who has already served in EUFOR CHAD and UNMIH in Liberia and two younger daughters.

Overall, it was a great honour for me to complete my service career within the EUFOR multinational environment, however I leave with a twinge of sadness not only because I am retiring from the Irish Defence Forces but also I am leaving behind so many excellent professional comrades I have bonded with and have become my 'adopted family' over the last year. I would finally like to wish you all a very safe and successful tour of duty and ultimately Mission Accomplishment which I shall follow in the future through "OPEN SOURCES".

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MP Slawek Maczanski
Photo by Major Bruce Foster

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How can you help us in the editorial team? The first thing is tell us what you are up to! If you are not sure about a possible story or would like some help in writing your article call us on 033 495 536. We can help with the

English and where possible organize a photographer. If you are taking your own photographs here are 4 top tips. Firstly take the same picture in landscape and portrait because if you are going to be on the front cover the picture has to be portrait, (composed vertically). Secondly if you can, take the picture from above or below the eye line of the subject. Thirdly think about the background: try and make the background uncluttered, for example a nice blue sky or put the subject in front of something which tells the story such as a EUFOR banner. Finally, if you can add some movement and focus on faces then that should be brilliant.

The EUFOR website has been re-launched and has good coverage of what has been going on each day across the force. To see if you are on the website go to WWW.EUFORBIH.ORG



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EUFOR Spokesperson

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High Ranking Delegations Visiting HQ EUFOR



COM EUFOR with Mr. Eimert van Middelkoop, Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Netherlands



Mr. Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey and COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair.

On 11th July 2010, VIP representatives from the Republic of Slovenia, the Kingdom of Belgium, the General of Council of Europe, the Republic of Turkey, Hungary, France, the Kingdom of Netherlands, and the United Kingdom visited Camp Butmir, EUFOR HQ.

COM EUFOR Major General Bernhard Bair welcomed the distinguished guests personally and formal parades were held in their honour. Additionally, COM EUFOR welcomed the opportunity to thank the dignitaries for the various contributions that their respective contingents are making to OPERATION ALTHEA.



COM EUFOR with Dr. Danilo Türk, President of the Republic of Slovenia.

EUFOR Aviation Specialists Help BiH Authorities With Srebrenica Commemorations



Allouette III

EUFOR aviators provided a key role in helping BiH authorities with specialist airspace management support during the Srebrenica Commemorations on 11th July. Flying from 2 temporary Forward Operating Bases, BiH agencies operated UH-1, Gazelles, MI-8 and MI-17 helicopters, whilst Montenegro flew an AB 212, Croatia an MI-

171, Slovenia an AS-532 Super Puma and Turkey an S-92. EUFOR flew several Alouette III and S70 Black Hawk missions and in particular a EUFOR Alouette III was used to airlift a civilian casualty to the Kosevo hospital in Sarajevo.

By Major Bruce Foster



S92

EUFOR Training and Capacity Building for AFBiH

The European Union has expanded EUFOR's mission in BiH to include training and capacity building for the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. On Thursday 1 July the new Capacity and Training Division paraded in Camp Butmir for the first time.

Speaking at the ceremony COM EUFOR Major General Bair stated: "At the very outset I would like to recognise the consultation, co operation and engagement received and authorised by the Joint Staff in particular, of the



Training and Capacity Building Division on Parade.

Armed Forces BiH which has contributed enormously to the successful advancement of our new training task to date". He further added that: "The standards achieved in the train-

ing will leave a lasting legacy of enhanced capacity, goodwill, friendship and cooperation between the Armed Forces and EUFOR".

By Major Bruce Foster

Visits to COM EUFOR



Ambassador of Republic of Turkey, H.E. Mr. Vefahan Ocak with COM EUFOR.



H.E. Dr. Andrzej Tyszkiewicz, the Ambassador of the Republic of Poland; COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair; and Major General Edward Gruszka, Operational Commander of Polish Armed Forces.



BG Tibor Nagy, Colonel Domenico Paterna, MG Bernhard Bair, Colonel de Olivera and Colonel José Manuel Santiago Marin.



H.E. Andrej Grasselli, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia with COM EUFOR.



COM EUFOR with Dr. Csaba Hende, Minister of Defence of Hungary.



H.E. Mr. Gjorge Ivanov, President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia with COM EUFOR.

Visit of Pupils to Camp Butmir

On 1st July 2010, a joint party of directors, teachers and pupils from Primary School Parsovici, 2nd Primary School Konjic and Secondary School Konjic from Konjic area visited EUFOR Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. They were in the company of Liaison and Observation team (LOT) Konjic commander, Captain Friedrich Schroeder.

The highlight of the visit was a tour of the Austrian Black Hawk and Alouette III helicopters that are used for air transportation and MEDEVAC operations. Visitors were able to see for themselves one such MEDEVAC demonstration during the exercise in which an Alouette III helicopter simulated evacuating a wounded person.

COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, joined the visitors during lunch. COM EUFOR was recently in Konjic during the "Connecting Bridges" event which featured a race and a concert whose goal was to raise money to help Miss Amra Hodzic recover from cancer. It was during the visit to Konjic that COM EUFOR met with many pupils from local schools taking part in the race for Amra and it was seeing their enthusiasm that prompted him to invite them to come and visit EUFOR.

By **Haris Daul**



British Forces TV amongst EUFOR soldiers



Photo by Major Bruce Foster

BFBS filming in LOT Pale.

Alpha Coy, EUFOR HQ personnel, Carabinieri and LOT Pale Soldiers Star in British Forces TV News Broadcasts

Hungarian soldiers from Alpha Company, Italian members of LOT Pale, Carabinieri from the Integrated Police Unit and personnel from the EUFOR HQ have starred in TV broadcasts to the UK Forces and their families around the world. Said BFBS reporter Mrs Claire Sadler: "It is important to tell the story of what is happening in Bosnia and Herzegovina and how EUFOR personnel are contributing towards a Safe and Secure Environment."

Alpha Coy soldiers were filmed conducting riot training in Rajlovac whilst the HQ EUFOR personnel were on camera as part of the ceremony to mark the establishment of the Training and Capacity Building Division. See the broadcast by following the internet link: http://www.bfbs.com/forcesnews/watch_bfbs_reports_ext.php?date=05-07-2010#

LOT Pale personnel demonstrated a routine patrol and their everyday contact with the local population. See link: http://www.bfbs.com/forcesnews/watch_bfbs_reports_ext.php?date=06-07-2010#

Carabinieri were incorporated into a news piece on the hunt for Persons Indicted for War Crimes. See the broadcast by following the internet link: http://www.bfbs.com/forcesnews/watch_bfbs_reports_ext.php?date=07-07-2010#

By **Major Bruce Foster**

EUFOR Countermines on a Monitoring Mission

On 17th June 2010 Captain Eduardo Jara and Mr. Zeljko Kalinic from the EUFOR Countermines Department visited Prozor-Rama to observe the activities of the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) deminers. Two sites and two teams were visited and at both locations the demining units confirmed that their work is on schedule and that they will be able meet this year's requirements. Mainly PROM1 mines and Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) are found and destroyed.

The AFBiH deminers are from the Demining Battalion based in Bugojno. They travel every day from Bugojno to Uzdol/Komin and work from 8 a.m. till 2 p.m. When asked how they keep alert day by day, OR-7 Mato R. stated: "The problem is that the soldiers are distracted due to their uncertain future. Many soldiers



OR-7 Mato briefing OF-2 Jara and Mr. Zelko Kalinic on the progress of the work.

will be released from duty after reaching the age of 35 and they receive no pension after their time of service."

EUFOR Countermines belongs to Joint Military Affairs (JMA) and the two-man branch consists of the Chief who is from Chile and the Field Ops Manager, Mr. Zeljko Kalinic. Zeljko has more than 10 years experience working as an explosive expert and he provides the continuity for the branch. EUFOR Countermines is part of the EUFOR Crisis Action Team and advises and supports whenever there are any findings or threats in connection with Improvised Explosive Devices or UXOs.

Although the BiH Mine Action Center (BHMIC, see also: www.bhmic.org) is the official body responsible for Mine Action in BiH it requires the AFBiH

to contribute to the efforts as defined in the BiH Mine Action Strategy. EUFOR (specifically EUFOR Countermines) advises, assists and monitors the MoD/AFBiH to meet their obligations. Typically, 1 to 2 demining sites are visited per week.

In Jurici the EUFOR team was reminded about the danger the mines impose even on trained persons when they stopped at the monument for a Spanish soldier from the 17th Parachute regiment for engineers.

This area is considered difficult terrain because of the vegetation and steepness of the ground. Additionally, because it was on the 1993 confrontation line between Croatian and Bosnian troops a lot of metal can be found which confuses mine detectors.

The site Uzdol-Komin is near the municipality capital Prozor. The municipality of Prozor-Rama is located in the northern part of the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton and therefore is often referred to as being the "and" in the name of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Prozor also means "window" and got its name due to the fact that it stands at the point where the River Rama gorge opens up. It is mainly populated by Croats and Bosniaks.

By Major Wolfgang Stampfer



Captain Jara visits the Monument for the Spanish soldier WO 2 Andreoli Xavier, who died in April 2001 during the reconnaissance of a mined area in Jurici.

MNBN Exercise



The Multinational Battalion (MNBN) consists of four companies and has the mission of being prepared to conduct operations autonomously or in support of the BiH authorities or EU/IC actors in Theatre, IOT maintain or restore the SASE.

For fulfilling the given mission and increasing the common knowledge and also mutual support among the companies of the Multinational Battalion the battalion conducted a crosstraining, commanded by Lt Col Jose M. ESTEVEZ, on 3rd of July in Base Rajlovac.

The purpose of the training is to improve the cohesion of Multinational Battalion and let Battalions' Staff to be aware of the

main considerations while attempting to execute CRC operations with more than one company at the same time and in the same place.

During the training in accordance with the given scenario a group of protestors, role played by C Coy (HUN), set up a barricade and blocked the main road.

In order to clear the road and to maintain SASE, a company, acted by B Coy (AUT), engaged the situation following the CRC procedures. Meanwhile due to the harsh condition of the protesting events, some members of the company were injured and the Company Commander requested support from the Multinational Battalion Headquarters.

Upon the request of B Coy (AUT) commander and the order of the batalion commander, D Coy (TUR) commander deployed a platoon to the area as a support unit.

The most important point was the difficulty of commanding units from several countries that are speaking different languages and using different military tactics. But owing to the professionalism and strict training of the multinational battalion, this hardness was easily overcome and the situation was brought under control again. The Austrian Company handed over the frontline to the Turkish Platoon and eventually the protestors were pushed back and dispersed.

At the end of the training, After Action Review (AAR) was executed and main points have been articulated. By the help of this side-by-side training; friendship, confidence and capability of executing combined operations among the companies of the Multinational Battalion have been strengthened.

By 1st Lt Murat Avar



EUFOR's Super Soldier

It's official, the Polish contingent are the physically fittest soldiers in EUFOR, well at least according to the standards of the MWA Superstar Competition. Organized by the Butmir Gym supervisor Mr Zeljko Puljic, the EUFOR Superstar Challenge comprised a series of challenges that included a 100m sprint, a distance throw, static jump, chin-ups, push-ups, an obstacle course and a 2.3km run. EUFOR soldiers from a host of nations competed but the Polish contingent had a clean sweep of the top 6 places. Master Private Slawek Maczanski, 22, who is a Military Policemen with Charlie Company smashed his way to first place with some exceptional scores. For example he ran 100m in 13.32 seconds and banged out 29 chin-ups. An all round sportsman he keeps super fit by training with his brother Poles during their MNBN Company level activities and additionally he is a keen tri-athlete, swimmer and kayaker.

Said his Senior National Representative Lt Col Ryszard Rozycki: "Master Private Maczanski is



Photo by Major Bruce Foster

MP Slawek Maczanski with Lt Col Ryszard Rozycki

very modest about his achievements but I know that he and his colleagues are very professional in developing their soldiering skills and levels of fitness. I congratulate the Butmir Gym team for organizing such a challenging event and all the EUFOR personnel who competed. Nevertheless, I will be encouraging my soldiers to keep training and winning."

By Major Bruce Foster

How is your Push-Up Challenge Going?

In the last EUFORUM edition we introduced the ton-up push-up challenge. Here is a tip from Zeljko on how to improve your core stability at the same time as building strength and stamina. Find yourself a medicine ball, (we have them in the gym and you can ask for them in your LOT House) and do your push-up routine whilst balancing on one. This will strengthen your stomach muscles at the same time as building stronger arms and shoulders. Give it a go and see what you think. Do not forget to warm-up and down thoroughly!



Photo by Major Bruce Foster



The competition involved many disciplines, including shot putt..



...push ups...



...and races.

Visit of Students

On 23rd June 2010 a group of Masters students from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service QATAR visited EUFOR HQ Sarajevo.

The students were in BiH on a week long Zones of Conflict and Zones of Peace study tour and were welcomed to Camp Butmir as part of a EUFOR programme to educate future decision makers on the lessons identified from the OP ALTHEA mission.

Their visit was divided between presentations



and question and answer sessions. The EUFOR Chief Political Advisor, Colonel Michael Pesendorfer, set the scene for the guests with a detailed overview of EU and NATO interventions and this was followed by a discussion on the utility of force and information warfare by the EUFOR Spokesperson, Major Bruce Foster Royal Marines.

The students departed Butmir for a tour of Mostar and consideration of the 2 schools 1 roof educational policy.

By **Haris Daul**

Football Championship in Camp Butmir

At the end of May my friend Tom Reck and I were sitting outside the Millennium bar and that night we decided to organize the EUFOR world cup. As usual an Italian has a brilliant idea and a German works on it.

In less than a week everything was ready. Ten teams agreed to take part as representatives of a Nation or as a joint organization such as the IPU team. The rules of the tournament were the same as FIFA, except for the off-side, the number of players and substitutions during the match.

We started on the 11th June, the inaugural match was between Portugal and Poland and the final score was 2-1. The last match was Bulgaria vs IPU team with a final score of 6-2. At the end of the first phase Poland was eliminated and Slovenia withdrew due to a lack of players.

We started the second phase on the 2nd July with Quarter finals 1 and 3. Bulgaria won versus Portugal and Austria went through because of an IPU default.

On the 5th July the teams played the quarter finals 4 and 2. Germany won against Turkey as did Italy versus Hungary.

At this point the situation changed and all the players became more competitive and as a referee I could feel that everybody wanted to win.

Wearing a referee uniform for the first time after more than



20 years brought old sensations flooding back. You are also part of the competition and you know that any mistake can be fatal for one of the competitors.

On the 8th July we played the semi-final, both matches were intense and the best two teams went to the final: Bulgaria and Austria.

On the 12th July Italy and Germany played the third place match. Germany beat Italy 2-1.

On the same day Bulgaria and Austria played the finals. Archer base was surrounded by cars, soldiers, uniforms, flags and horns and for a moment it seemed like a real stadium. Everything ran smoothly like an official FIFA match. During the National an-

them you could feel the emotion. We were here in Butmir but everybody was dreaming they were part of an official competition.

The first and the second half finished without goals, but the match was a real

match. At the end of supplementary time the result was the same.

Nobody won and nobody lost, but as often happens penalties decided the winner.

An Austrian player missed the third penalty and in that mo-

ment the Bulgarians realized they were going to win. Unluckily for the Austrians the Bulgarians did not fail and the last two penalties went in.

At 20.00 hrs on the 12th July 2010 the Bulgarian team was declared winner of the first EUFOR Cup.

A special comment to the four girls

(3 Germans and 1 Austrian) who regularly played during the tournament against dozens of rude boys. Thank you girls you really showed what you can do. Good job Sandra Felgner, Jennifer Foerstermann, Nalin Ehrhoff and Verena Wachter.

Last but not least, after this experience I would like to say a few words to everybody. Far away from our countries, far away from our football clubs, far away from business and money, the EUFOR cup was a real competition where everybody played "just for fun" and were driven by their loyalty to their National flag. And sometimes we miss that kind of soccer where each player dreams of being a champion for his Nation rather than playing for personal interest or just for money.

By Captain Tommaso Gioffreda



Mr. Garofalo, Mr. Reck, Mr. Gioffreda, Mr. Del Bene, the referees of the EUFOR Cup.

Special comment from a trainer

The Italian Team trainer Mister Lt Col Cimino says:

"I really enjoyed the tournament, It was nice to act as a "manager" for the Italian team. I'm very glad we won the special prize for Fair Play and I must say it was a hard job to keep my "boys" calm during the matches! "

Spain Ends the Presidency of the European Union



On 15th June 2010 in the Dom Armije hall, a concert of Spanish music was held in order to celebrate the end of the rotating presidency of the European Union. Concert was organized by the diplomatic representation of Spain in BiH, and with the attendance of an important part the Spanish contingent based in

Sarajevo,

During the opening words, the Spanish Ambassador, H.E. Alejandro Alvargonzález, congratulated to all the Spanish people, because of the completion of this turn in the European Union presidency.

The Ambassador expanded the cause of the celebration by announcing the withdrawal of the Spanish Maneuver Units, after more than 18 years of uninterrupted presence in the Balkans. This brought a prolonged applause.

By Captain Emilio López Ruiz

EUFOR Supports Local Communities



Spanish LOT Mostar 2 received on 30th June 2010 the amount of 30 office chairs from OSCE Office in Mostar in order to distribute them to local organizations or associations which could need some furniture to carry out their activities.

In view of characteristics of these chairs, this LOT thought they could be useful and suitable

for schoolteachers' halls, local meetings or other facilities where lectures or gathering activities could be done. For these reasons the chairs were distributed in Gubavica Primary School, on the 1st July 2010

for its schoolteachers' hall; Polog Primary School, on the 1st July 2010 for the reading hall; and Blagaj Cultural Center, on the 2nd of July 2010 to furnish a computer room and to fit out other rooms where children of the area carry out some dancing, music and gaming activities.

By 2nd Lt Martin Ontoria

EUFOR's Race Against Drugs



On Saturday 26th June 2010, EUFOR soldiers from Hungary, The Netherlands and Great Britain took part in the Sarajevo 8km "Race Against Drugs" to raise funds to support local agencies working with drug addicts.

The route took the runners through the city and up into the surrounding hills before finishing in the Oslobodenje park. Said Major Bruce Foster of the Royal Marines: "The run was brilliant in the rain and it was a real high to see the view over the city and race down to the finish line."

The fastest EUFOR soldier was Major Gabor Ott from the Hungarian contingent who finished in a time of 27 minutes.

Article and Photos by Major Bruce Foster



Activities in LOT Capljina

On 13th June 2010 COS EUFOR, Brigadier General Gerd Bischof, accompanied by OF-2 Asensio (SA Spec 2), and OF-1 Strelau (ADC to COS), visited Capljina. The Chief of Staff travelled to Capljina by helicopter. They landed on Capljina football field and were welcomed by Lt Col Manuel Flores, Regional Co-ordination Centre 2 Chief (RCC 2) together with Major Agustin Ahedo, Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) Capljina Chief, and two members of LOT Capljina; Lieutenant Miguel Calvache, and Sergeant Pedro Jose Sanchez.

Brigadier General Bischof and his staff were driven to LOT Capljina house where were introduced to the rest of LOT Capljina personnel. Once there, they visited the house and COS EUFOR was interested in LOT personnel accommodations.

Over a coffee break they were briefed Major Ahedo about main activities and current issues in our Area of Activity. COS thanked LOT Capljina personnel for their efforts to gain information and added that he always reads every daily report which LOT sends to Camp Butmir.

Afterwards, followed a formal briefing by the LOT House Chief, where COS was interested in hot spot in the Area of Activity.

COS EUFOR and his staff left the LOT Capljina house, accompanied by the same ones that they welcomed firstly. Finally COS came back to Ca-



COS EUFOR, Brigadier General Gerd Bischof with LOT Capljina personnel.

pljina football field, where his helicopter was waiting.

Then, on 29th June 2010 DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Tibor Nagy, RCC 2 Chief Lt Col Manuel Flores, DCOM MA Lt Col Attila Murinko, COM SPEC ADVISOR Lt Col Robert Hiedl and LOT Capljina Chief Major Agustin Ahedo visited 4th Infantry Brigade HQ, s lo-

cated in Capljina. The visit to the barracks "Bozan Simovic" was due to the celebration of the NCO day in the AFBiH. General Nagy was received in his office by Brigadier General Jerkic 4th brigade's Chief in his arrival at the base.

Subsequently held the opening sport competition act chaired by AFBiH General Puljic. Participants were working in the 1600 meters race, the track pitch of obstacles and the precision of launching grenades.

Then the visit followed to the barracks facilities such as areas of prayer, and accommodation areas for the soldiers.

Already in the conference room, the General Jerkic briefed to the attendants about Brigade's issues.

Finally lunch was served in the officers' room where after the official toast, General Nagy recalled his brigade command for seven years and he urges General Jerkic to be proud of his Brigade.

By Major Agustin Ahedo Pellitero



RCC 2 Chief, Lt Col Manuel Flores; 4th Brigade Commandant, Brigadier General Jerkic; and DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Tibor Nagy

Spanish Contingent Medal Parade



On 18th June 2010, medal parade was held at the central esplanade at Camp Butmir, chaired by COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, and Ambassador of Spain to BiH, H.E Alejandro Alvargonzález San Millán.

During the ceremony, after hoisting the Spanish national flag, all members of the Spanish forces were awarded with the medal for the service of foreign and security policy of the European Union, for their participation in Operation ALTHEA.

The military event ended with the interpretation of the Europe-

an anthem.

The units awarded belong to the Expeditionary Force of the Spanish Marines Marine FIMEX X, Regional Coordination Centre in Mostar, and Military Police Unit of the Guardia Civil.

The ambassador mentioned in a deeply felt speech, the pride that he, as a Spaniard, felt to check on the spot, the outstanding work of the Spanish Armed Forces, helping to restore



COM EUFOR decorating a Spanish soldier

stability in a country, so cruelly shaken by war.

By Captain Emilio López Ruiz

Medal Parade in EUFOR HQ

On 28th June 2010, contingents from the Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Romania and Slovakia paraded for their EUFOR Operation Althea medals.

COS EUFOR, Brigadier General Gerd Bischof presented the medals. COS EUFOR praised the professionalism, loyalty and commitment of all the soldiers and thanked them for a job well done.

By Haris Daul



COS EUFOR decorating Major Suci.

French and Turkish Navy in Neum

On 19th June 2010, COM EUFOR Maj General Bernhard Bair together with the Turkish Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina His Excellency Vefahan Ocak visited the Turkish Navy, Meko Class Frigate, TCG KEMALREIS currently anchored off NEUM. Received aboard by Rear Admiral Ismail Taylan, the visitors toured the ship and were briefed on Turkish Naval contributions to EU Missions such as OP ATALANTA which is contributing to the safe passage of maritime commerce in the waters off Somalia.

On completion of the Neum ship's visit, HE the Ambassador Ocak and COM EUFOR visited the Turkish Liaison and Observation Team House in Jablanica where they were briefed on the local EUFOR contribution to a safe and secure Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Then, on 5th July 2010, COM EUFOR also visited the French Navy warship ORION which was at anchor in the bay of Neum. Received aboard by the ORION's Captain, Lieutenant Commander Louis Tillier, COM EUFOR enjoyed a tour of the ship and a briefing on her impressive mine hunting capabilities. The ship employs the latest sonar technology to identify explosive devices on the sea-bed and uses a combination of divers and mini submersibles to neutralize them.

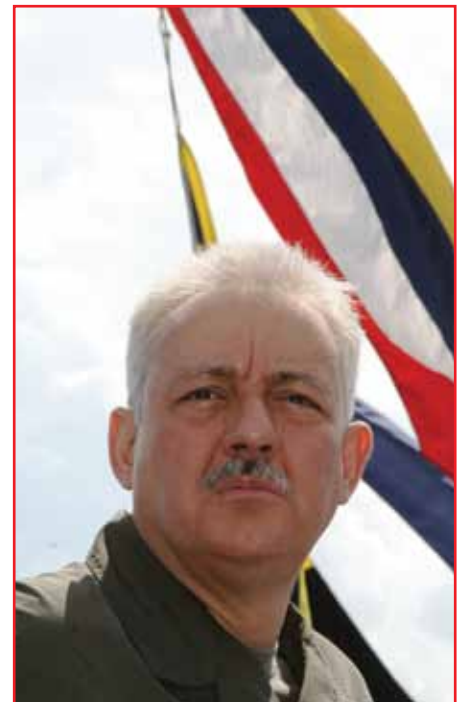
On completion of the ship's visit, COM EUFOR, together with a range of VIPs from the Armed Forces of BIH, joined HE the French Ambassador to Bos-



H.E. Mr. Vefahan Ocak, Ambassador of Turkey, being saluted by the crew of TCG KEMALREIS.

nia and Herzegovina, Madame Maryse Berniau at a reception in Neum. Amongst the topics discussed were the European Union's and France's ongoing commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Article and Photos by Major Bruce Foster



COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair aboard TCG KEMALREIS.

Ahd-Namah Of Sultan Mehmed II

National treasure in Franciscan monasteries

By Historical Office

Large portions of Bosnian history recorded in documents and old texts were saved by Franciscan priests in their monasteries. They have proved not only to be the guardians of their property and religion, but also acted to safeguard the traditions and historical values of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In Franciscan monasteries in BiH one can find many old texts, documents, books which are hundreds of years old. For example in the monastery of Fojnica, there are over 50 000 books and over 3000 documents from Ottoman times. Their value is priceless. The monastery's collections hold the Ahd-Namah *pictured (the Order) of Sultan Mehmed II the Conqueror (1463) guaranteeing security and free-

dom to the Franciscans. This document allowed the Franciscans of the day to preach freely among the Catholics in BiH, which in turn enabled the preservation of Bosnian Catholicism through the centuries.

The legend says that when the Ottoman's conquered Bosnia and Herzegovina they found an empty country with very few people remaining in their properties. Sultan Mehmed II Fatih summoned the Franciscan priests, who explained that the people were afraid and the



700 years old Franciscan monastery
"Holy Spirit" in Fojnica

logical solution was for them to leave. These words moved the Sultan to issue the document which is considered to be one of the first decrees of human rights in this area. It is known that about ten copies of this document are saved in various Franciscan monasteries but the original in **Fojnica**.

Here is the translated version of the Ahd-Namah's text:

"He (ie God) is the only to serve. (Tughra) Mehmed, son of Murad, always triumphant!

The commandment of the honorable, exalted sultan's sight (sign) and bright imperial Tughra, conqueror of the world is the following:

I, Sultan Mehmed Han, lets us know the whole world (to his people and notables) to the holders of the imperial decree Bosnian monks came my big favor, and the following command:

Let no one to mentioned (monks) and their church does not make the rubbish and let them no troublesome. Let them live worry-free in my realm. And those who fled let them be free and safe. Let them come and let them live without fear in the countries of my empire. Let them settled in their monasteries, and let no one, not even my high majesty, nor any of my vizier, nor

of my servant, neither of my subjects, nor any of the inhabitants of my kingdom - do not insult and do not disturb the mentioned. No one must not break in, and shall not threaten and do not offend any of them, even their souls (lives), neither their

possessions nor their churches. Also they are allowed to bring people from both sides (from abroad) in the country of my empire. Because these I generously give the imperial command, and I swear the following heavy oath :I swear on the Creator of heaven and earth, which nourishes all creatures, and seven books, and of our great Prophet (Muhammad), and swords I wear - No one will oppose what is written all as long as I am being served, while they are obeying and loyal to my commandments.

Written 28th May 1463 in Milodraž"



Ahd-Namah
Of Sultan Mehmed II

Lt Murtaza Durmazucar finished Naval Academy in Tuzla, Istanbul in 1997. As an ensign, his first post was as a Fire Control Officer at TCG MUAVENET. Lt Durmazucar says: “The Navy is always a challenging experience as you always have to learn new things and change jobs, which can be quite different from one another. For instance, after my posting as Fire Control Officer, I was the Executive Officer of a small patrol boat.”



His other international experiences include being engaged in NATO working groups formed by NATO Standardization Agency (NSA) which took care of Standardization Agreements (STAN-AGs).

Before coming to EUFOR, Lt Durmazucar worked as Surface Warfare Officer at the Naval Tactical Development Doctrine

and Analysis Center in Golcuk, near Istanbul.

Lt Durmazucar arrived at EUFOR at beginning of May 2010 and this is his first international mission. Lt Durmazucar says: “It has been wonderful and a very good learning experience for me”.

“In Sarajevo and especially in Butmir, I quite enjoy the sports environment, especially if the weather is nice. When I was in

Academy, I practiced rowing, and that was quite hard and challenging. I also enjoyed free diving with a spear-gun. In Butmir, I mostly run and complete he regular fitness exercises.”

Lt Durmacuar likes reading and he is especially interested in historical books. His favourite topic, is naval history, but he is also interested in European history.

“Bosnia and Herzegovina for me looks just like some small part of Istanbul, there are a lot of oriental elements. Of course, BiH has always had strong ties with Turkey, historically speaking.”

When asked does he then like the old Turkish part of the town the best, Lt Durmazucar replied: I actually like all the parts; for me, it’s the mix of the old and the new together that gives the Sarajevo its charm.

For eight years, as a non-commissioned officer, I had to manage the real estate of the French Gendarmerie Nationale in Nantes and in the French West Indies. In the latter place, I became a scuba diver and enjoyed trekking in the tropical forest. Then, after two years in the gendarmerie nationale officer’s college where I passed a financial degree, I was posted in Rouen, Normandy, 140 km west of Paris. I have been in charge of budget and public purchases since august 2008. During my free time, I swim, run, train in standard and latin dances and go to the cinema.



deed, to work within an international structure has been one of my wishes for a long time because I think that such experiences make us grow, both on professional and personal plans.

This proved to be true: from every person I have met here, local or foreigner, I learn. I

can already say that this mission will keep a special place in my mind.

Otherwise, this mission gives me the opportunity to improve my linguistic skills. Nevertheless, the main challenge I may face is to learn Italian!

By Lt Aurelie Hillion

I joined the IPU on June 7th 2010 as logistics head of office for a six months tour. I couldn’t expect a better environment for a first mission abroad. In-



Maiden's Tower in Istanbul, Turkey,
by Lt Murtaza Durmazucar



Spiaggia della Pelosa on Sardinia, Italy,
by OR9 Gianni Mirizzi

Palma de Mallorca, Spain
by OR9 Gianni Mirizzi



Medjugorje, Bosnia and Herzegovina
by OR9 Gianni Mirizzi

EU

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PRIPADNICI EUFOR-a IZ 27 ZEMALJA SU PRIMJER KAKO RAZLIČITE KULTURE
I NARODI MOGU USPJEŠNO SURADIVATI, POMAŽUĆI NAS NA PUTU MIRA I NAPRETKA

