



Austrian MEDEVAC

Saves Lives



Foreword Commander Multinational Battalion

Lt Col Angel Ramón Herrezuelo Pérez



Having just recently taken over command of the Multi National Battalion, (MNBN). I am very pleased to have the opportunity to communicate to all EUFOR members through this EUFOR Forum edition.

I have been a Spanish Marine for 26 years and have had the privilege to command the Reconnaissance Unit of our Amphibious Brigade. A fine and busy Unit with excellent amphibious soldiers.

I'm a lucky officer having just started my third tour of duty in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Taking advantage of this experience in Balkans, please allow me to share with you some reflections.

First of all, our goal, as written in our mission, is to contribute to the safe and secure environment of BiH. But we should not neglect that we must also support this country on its way to each membership of the EU and other international organizations.

The second consideration, the MNBN is a unique unit. It's not easy to find a small unit comprised of 5

different nations, working in a multinational basis and obtaining very good operative results. It can't only be explained by the full commitment, dedication and professionalism of the personnel of my staff and manoeuvre Units. They are doing their best far away from their homes.

Third, 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.

It's 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.

Finally, I would like to express my happiness and pride for commanding this Multinational Battalion, composed by soldiers from Hungary, Poland, Turkey, Austria and Spain, with different languages, religions and ethnicities.

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On the front page:
Austrian MEDEVAC is ready to hook the winch to the helicopter.

Dear all,

Summertime is almost over and I hope that you have enjoyed the warm temperatures so far, not only in your base, but also outside the camp, or in the LOT house.

Many colleagues are new in the mission, all the best to you. For those of you who have to leave, all the best to you and your family.

I will inform you about an upcoming event which is always an opportunity to get in contact with colleagues of other nations.

The name of the event is the OMN (Officers Mess Night). It will take part in Camp Butmir in the DFAC on regular basis. The 14th September is the next possibility to make friends, sit together and get background information about another country. Please join us and let's celebrate this event together.

On the last page of this EUFOR Forum edition you see Edin Dzeko, one of the most popular football players of BiH. He is supporting the upcoming EUFOR football competition.

Finally, for all of the newcomers to Bosnia and Herzegovina: "Welcome aboard the EUFOR family."

Lt Col Knut Scheutz, Chief Press Office



Lt Col Knut Scheutz,
Chief Press Office

EUFOR FORUM

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Visit of the Austrian Minister of Defence to Bosnia and Herzegovina



Honor guard paraded for the Minister.

On 20th July 2010, Mag. Norbert Darabos, Austrian Minister of Defence and Sports, visited EUFOR HQ in Sarajevo. The Minister was welcomed to Camp Butmir by a guard of honour and called on the office of COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair. COM EUFOR informed the Austrian Minister about the future of EUFOR, particularly on the formation of EUFOR's Capacity Building and Training Division (CBTD) and opportunities to develop further the co-operation between EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. COS EUFOR, Brigadier General Gerd Bischof, together with the Austrian National Contingent Commander and Chief of Joint Military Affairs (JMA), Colonel Lattacher, completed the briefing with an overview of EUFOR tasks and capabilities.

The COS was able to thank Minister Darabos for the recent reinforcement of the Austrian contingent and for the absolute professionalism of the Austrian soldiers and airmen.

By Major Bruce Foster

Second day

On 21st July 2010 the Delegation of the Austrian Minister of Defence and COM EUFOR today visited the BiH Ministry of Defence, where the Deputy Minister of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mrs. Marina Pendes and Mr Zivko Marjanac welcomed them with a guard of honor. A wide ranging discussion was held and the visit was concluded with a press statement.

An invitation to the Austrian ambassador, H. E. Dr. Donatus Köck and a visit to Mr. Zeljko Komsic, member of the tri-partite Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, completed the program in Sarajevo. The delegation flew with Black-Hawk helicopters to Tuzla, where they met Austrian soldiers based in Camp Edelweiss.

A visit to the childcare house KORACI NADE (Steps of Hope) completed the visit in Tuzla. The delegation then flew to Potocari where they were introduced to the Memorial Centre. Mag. Norbert Darabos added his note in the book of condolences. A visit to the Austrian Liaison and Observation House (LOT) in Bratunac and a dinner with Austrian soldiers in Camp Butmir completed the second day of the visit.



Mag. Norbert Darabos with member of the Presidency of BiH, Mr. Zeljko Komsic.

Third day

On 22nd July, COM EUFOR, together with the Austrian delegation, visited Mostar. Recently arrived Austrian soldiers of the Recce Platoon of the Multinational Battalion showcased their equipment and the Austrian Minister was informed about the way of getting information while in the field.

A tour of Mostar concluded the visit. Flying back to Sarajevo, with Austrian EUFOR-helicopters the delegation was pleased to see the beautiful countryside of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Introduction to Mag. Norbert Darabos in front of Mostar Airport.

Sweden Rejoins EUFOR



On 12th August 2010 the Swedish Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, His Excellency Mr Bosse Hedberg, attended a flag raising ceremony in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

A Swedish Staff Officer

is participating in the newly formed Capacity Building and Training Division which aims to further develop the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Sweden's return to EUFOR

brings the total number of troop contributing nations to 27, (22 EU nations and 5 non EU nations) and re-emphasizes the commitment of the European Union to BiH.

By Major Bruce Foster

Change of Command in MNBN



COM EUFOR handing over the MNBN flag to new COM MNBN, Lt Col Angel Herrezuelo Pérez.



COM EUFOR awarding the ALTHEA medal to the outgoing COM MNBN, José M. Estévez Payeras.

On 9th August 2010 Lt Col José M. Estévez Payeras handed over command of the Multi National Battalion, (MNBN) to Lt Col Spanish Marines Angel Herrezuelo Pérez. COM EUFOR Major General Bair, awarded Lt Col José M. Estévez Payeras with the ALTHEA Peace Mission Medal and noted his consummate professionalism.

The MNBN mission is to be prepared to con-

duct operations autonomously or in support of the BiH authorities or European Union/International Community agencies in Theatre when requested, in order to maintain a safe and security environment (SASE). It is the only military Maneuver unit operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). As a secondary mission, the MNBN may be required to reinforce the troops in Kosovo if required.

By Captain Giuseppe Saponaro

Visits to HQ EUFOR



Dr. Damir Črnčec, Director General of The Intelligence Security Service (ISS) for the Slovenian Ministry of Defence with COM EUFOR.



Mrs. Jasna Jelisić, Political Advisor of European Union Special Representative (EUSR) with COM EUFOR.



From left to right: COS EUFOR, Brigadier General Gerd Bischof, Mr. Matthias Leckel, Director of DEU Federal Office of Defence Administration and DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Tibor Nagy.



H.E. Mr. Thomas Brady, Ambassador of Ireland with DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Tibor Nagy.



COM EUFOR with the Acting Head of the Delegation of the EU to BiH Mr. Boris Iarocheyitch.



COS EUFOR, Brigadier General Gerd Bischof, Colonel Andrzej Ostrowski, Chief of European Union Staff Group (EUSG) and DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Tibor Nagy.

DCOM EUFOR Visited Hungarian Company's Entry Training Exercise



Hungarian Soldier in riot gear.



DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Tibor Nagy with then COM MNBN, Lt Col José M. Estévez Payeras during exercise.

On 6th August 2010 DCOM EUFOR, Brigadier General Tibor Nagy visited the Hungarian Company's Entry Training Exercise. This unit is part of the Multinational Battalion is demonstrated its full operational capability in front of the DCOM EUFOR and the Battalion leadership. The outgoing battalion commander, Lt Col José

M. Estévez Payeras explained the scenario of the exercise and the incoming battalion commander, Lt Col Spanish Marines Angel Herrezuelo Perez acknowledged the professional performance of the Company. The Unit will serve under the EUFOR flag for 6 month.

By Lt Col Attila Murinko

Italian Medal Parade

On 20th July 2010, Italian soldiers from the Italian Contingent in BiH paraded for their EUFOR Operation ALTHEA medals in Camp Butmir 2. Commander of the Carabinieri Contingent in BiH and Logistic Support Unit, Cdr Colonel Paolo Coletta together with the Commander of Italian Military Contingent, Lt Col Ernesto Acciarino, presented the medals. Colonel Coletta praised the professionalism of the soldiers and thanked them for a job well done whilst serving in Bosnia and Herzegovina. When asked what makes Italian soldiers so successful he remarked: "Empathy with the population and team work".

By Captain Giuseppe Saponaro



Colonel Coletta awarding the medals to Italian troops.

Delta Coy Combined Training



MNBN Delta (Turkish) Company conducted combined training with a weapons platoon of the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) in Capljina on 28th July 2010.

Initially, Delta (TUR) Company demonstrated tactics, techniques and procedures (TTPs) used in Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT). Platoon level tactics, individual movement techniques, approaching a building, clearing a room and house, patrolling and movement

in large danger areas were all demonstrated followed by the AFBiH and Turkish soldiers rehearsing together. The buddy system was employed and consisted of one Bosnian and one Turkish soldier training together. At the end of the training, a mounted counter-ambush demonstration was conducted by Delta (TUR) Coy. The AFBiH soldiers were suitably impressed and they wanted to conduct counter-ambush training.

They asked many questions to learn more and more. They have showed great effort.

Last but not least, Capljina Barracks staff and the AF BiH personnel showed great empathy and new friendships amongst the Bosnian and Turkish personnel were been built. All personnel have experienced unforgettable times and this training proved the growing contribution of EUFOR in the training of AFBiH.

By Lt Ferhat Ćumišbuĝa

EUFOR Cup 2010

The EUFOR 5-a-side football competition will take place during October and November. We are looking for qualified football officials to volunteer their services in order to referee at venues around BiH.

Volunteers should give their details to:

ales.lesnjak@eufor.eu.int

tel ext 5577



Celebration at Med Cell

On 2nd August 2010, the Med Cell of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia celebrated its National Holiday with a party.

The Country's Ambassador to BiH, H.E. Mr. Rami Rexhepi together with his family and many international EUFOR members attended and had great fun.

Great effort was made to show off the country's cuisine. Famous traditional dishes were tasted by the guests and fine wines from the famous wine region were served.

The party featured traditional folklore music and a traditional folklore dance was performed by the members of the Med Cell.

Many of international EUFOR members during the party learned and performed very well the traditional folklore dance called "ORO".

The event lasted until midnight and had a cheerful atmosphere.

MKD Med Cell has been operational in EUFOR since November 2006 under name ALTHEA.

Currently, it is the 8th rotation of ALTHEA and it consists of nine medical personnel and one officer for logistic and operation.

Also, a part of the whole contingent are the LEGAD officer and Med Prev NCO, both working at HQ EUFOR.

MKD Med Cell is providing medical support of all EUFOR and NATO (military and civilian) at Camp Butmir.

By Captain Giuseppe Saponaro



MKD SNR Captain Elisaveta Dr. Zdraveska performing the traditional folklore dance "ORO" with other EUFOR members who enjoyed the party.



H.E. Rami Rexhepi and his wife (holding his left hand on the picture) joined in the dance.

COS EUFOR Visits ASS “Car Dusan”, Rudo



COS EUFOR Brigadier General Gerd Bischof together with Support Command Chief J2 Colonel Nikola Strbac, Chief CBTD Colonel Osman Aytac, JMA Chief VU Captain Can Niksarli, Interpreter Yugoslava Siljak, Deputy Chief JMA & MOVCON Major Alexander Bauer and LNO Dejan Vickovic.

On 9th August 2010, a Joint Military Affairs (JMA) Site inspection was conducted in Car Dusan in Rudo Ammunition Storage Site (ASS) under the Leadership of COS EUFOR Brigadier General Gerd Bischof. He was accompanied by Chief Capacity Building and Training Division Colonel Osman Aytac,

Deputy Chief JMA & MovCon Major Alexander Bauer, Chief JMA Verification Unit Capt. Can Niksarli, JMA Liaison Officer Mr. Dejan Vickovic and Ms. Jugoslava Siljak, Interpreter. Brigadier General Bischof was welcomed by the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) Support Command Chief J2 Colonel Nicola Strbac,

Lt Col Taso Dacic AFBiH Joint Staff Deputy J5 & Chief Operation Department, Lt Col Ljubisa Celik, Chief Inspections Section, Lt Col Mirsad Halilovic Material Management Chief Ammunition and the Staff of the “Car Dusan” Ammunition Storage Site.

At the site briefing for General Bischof and his staff it was

COS EUFOR Brigadier General Gerd Bischof together with Support Command Chief J2 Colonel Nikola Strbac and Interpreter Yugoslava Siljak are welcomed by

Lt Col Taso Dacic Joint Staff J3 / J7 Department - Chief Ops Sect.

Lt Col Ljubisa Celik Joint Staff J3 / J7 Department - Chief Inspection of Sites Sect.

Lt Col Musad Halilovic Logistic Command Material Management Center - Chief Ammunition Sect. and Staff of the Rudo Ammunition Storage Site.



pointed out that “Car Dusan” Site in Rudo is in the AOR of 4th Logistic Support Battalion, located 280km away, in Capljina. This Unit provides a lifeline for this and four other Storage Sites, all of which are non-prospective sites and will eventually be closed down. Since the EUFOR Technical Inspection on the site and previous COS visit in February 2010, AFBiH has successfully relocated a significant amount of unsafe ammunition. This is only a few tons short of the overall quantity planned to be transported to disposal sites in 2010. Infrastructure improvements are being made using the AFBiH’s own resources because funds are very limited for non-prospective sites. The closing down of this site would be beneficial for all, as General Bischof pointed out, and his AFBiH hosts agreed. However, even though “Car Dusan” Site is a burden on the Armed Forces, it can only be closed down when the remaining stocks of ammunition have been relocated and this in turn depends upon the



COS EUFOR Brigadier General Gerd Bischof paid his respect to three former VRS soldiers killed in an ammunition handling accident in 1998.

At present there are approximately 32.000 tones of ammunition stored in 21 Ammunition Storage Sites (ASS). Only 7.500 tones are subject for further use of the AFBiH. The remaining 25.000 tones are subject for disposal. Of the 21 ASS only 5 sites shall remain in the future. The ASS “Car Dusan” in Rudo is one of the 16 non-prospective ASS with 2,341.5 tones of ammunition in 12 buildings, of which 1,172.05 tones are non-prospective.

BiH officials have designated for disposal an estimated 95,000 pieces of surplus small arms and military weapons and 25,000 tons of surplus ammunition. These armaments are located at various ASS and Weapon Storage Sites (WSS) throughout the country, sometimes near population centers. The ASS “Car Dusan” in Rudo is one of them, storing mainly surplus ammunition set for destruction by the AFBiH. It is anticipated that “Car Dusan” will be closed in 2011 after the remaining ammunition has been moved or disposed.

pace of ammunition disposal.

After the briefing, General Bischof with his staff and his AFBiH counterparts took a tour of

the storage area. Despite limited financial resources and outdated infrastructure, it was clear that the local personnel – Site Commander and Custodian - made sure that the stocks, fencing and fire protection were in order.

General Bischof thanked the AFBiH for the excellent cooperation and the efforts they had made but he also pointed out the need to speed up the destruction process of surplus ammunition in order to close non-prospective Ammunition Storage Sites such as “Car Dusan” as soon as possible.

By Major Alexander Bauer



COS EUFOR Brigadier Gerd Bischof together with Support Command Chief J2 Colonel Nikola Strbac.

Opening of the therapy centre for disabled children in Tuzla



Representatives of the Austrian Armed Forces Guards Brass Band, the commandant of the AUCON CIMIC team, the AUT National Contingent Commander, the Head of the Hilfswerk Austria, the Austrian Ambassador (Dr. Donatus Köck), the Commandant of RCC4, Ms Annemary Kury, the Head of the Austrian Development Agency.



The Austrian Contingent Commander and Chief JMA, Colonel Johann Lattacher, handing over some small gifts to the beneficiaries of the new day care facility.

On 26th July 2010 after a construction period of only one year, a top modern day care facility for children with special needs was opened in Tuzla.

EUFOR/Austrian Civic-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) supported the project itself as well as the opening ceremony. Additionally the Austrian Armed Forces Guards Brass Band accompanied the opening ceremony with traditional Austrian and Bosnian music. The Guards Brass Band also handed over a donation of € 15,029 that was raised by a charity concert earlier this year.

In the course of the opening ceremony the AUT/EUFOR CIMIC teams received a certificate of appreciation for their continuing support.

On that day, the excitement of the children and their happiness, made one forget all the efforts it took to accomplish this project.

Major coordinator of the project is the humanitarian organization "Hilfswerk Austria" International.

More than 1.6 million KM were invested, out of which about 950,000 KM were donation by the Raiffeisen Group. Total surface of the structure is 700 sq m, and it stretches over two floors, with a hydro-therapeutic pool. Center beneficiaries, apart from hydro-therapeutic treatments, may use

other facilities that contain classical methods of rehabilitation, diverse supportive models of education, rehabilitation and socialization, as well as possibilities of promotion of the rights of children with multi-fold disabilities.

The project was initiated by Ms Annemarie Kury, who has been well known to BiH citizens since the 90-ties. Up to now, she has visited BiH more than 160 times and has launched numerous projects of aid and assistance during and after the war. At all here trips to BiH Ms Annemarie Kury can rely on the support of the AUT/EUFOR CIMIC teams.

It also has to be mentioned, that projects like this have to be supported by local authorities. The city of Tuzla was involved from the very beginning of the project and especially provided a suitable estate for this type of facility.

By Colonel Johann Lattacher

Donors/Initiators/Supporters

- Annemarie KURY
- Municipality of TUZLa
- Hilfswerk Österreich
- Koraci nade
- CIMIC AUSTRIA/EUFOR
- Austrian Armed Forces Guards Brass Band
- Raiffeisen bank (main donor)
- Lotteries Austria
- UNIQA insurance group
- Casinos Austria
- OMV

MWA 6K Fun – Run

MWA's 6000m running race took place in Camp Butmir on July 17th. The race was held in four categories. With the following winners: OR-1 Fahri Sönmez (20-29), OR-3 Marcel-Florin Laza (30-39), OR-4 Antonio Cabras (40-49) and OF-4 Hans Misenta (50-59).

OR-1 Fahri Sönmez who took the gold medal at "Male Category under 30" stressed the importance of these activities in regards of friendship, health and having fun. Underlining the importance of sport which is an essential duty for every soldier to keep body fit and achieve mission, he stated that joining and meeting new friends are more important than winning race. Finally he thanked all staff who organized this occasion that had contributed much to cohesion among EUFOR personnel.

By Lt Ferhat Gümüşbuğa



Mr. Zeljko Kalinic, Gym Manager, with OR-1 Fahri Sönmez.

Queen ALTHEA



German SNR Lt Col Christian Prestele and COS EUFOR, Brigadier General Gerd Bischof with Queen ALTHEA.

On 3rd August 2010 the EUFOR mission was visited by one of its most famous and beautiful representatives. On the occasion of the German Contingent Party, Queen ALTHEA herself, accompanied by Chief of Staff EUFOR, the German SNR and her Close Protection Team (including the Incredible Hulk) visited Camp Butmir.

During the ceremony, the German contingent introduced itself by performing short plays to show



The Incredible Hulk and his friends.

their different tasks within the Althea mission. After the show, the party was open to public and several German specialties were served, including free beer.

COS EUFOR, General Bischof stated: "It is always very pleasant to celebrate a soldier's comradeship and the success of our multinational mission here in Bosnia and Herzegovina."

By Lt Alexander Strelau

Austrian MEDEVAC Team



One of the main tasks of the Austrian contingent is the support of the EUFOR/NATO personnel of the troop contributing nations and other military personnel with Air Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC).

The whole team which comprises 4 pilots, 3 winch operators/emergency paramedics, 2 mountaineers/rescue specialists and 2 doctors (one doctor from Germany is also capable of MEDEVAC) – is experienced in emergency rescue and work in missions abroad.

To fulfill this task there are 3 Alouette III rescue helicopters available in Camp Butmir; one for medevac during daytime, one during night time and one reserve. They are equipped with all medical facilities necessary for first aid, emergency life support and lifesaving interventions according to our national rescue system and based on the international rules of tactical emergency medicine (guidelines of BLS – basic life support, ALS – advanced life support, ACLS-

advanced cardiac life support, ITLS – initial trauma life support, ATLS- advanced trauma life support, TCCC – tactical casual combat care, and ERC- European rescue council 3).

For special rescue situations there is a winch which is essential in mountainous landscapes and areas with no landing possibility.

The standby crew consists of one pilot, one winch operator/emergency paramedic, one mountaineer/rescue specialist and – of course – one doctor.

To be ready for special operations“, daily training - either medical or rescue – is necessary. Continuing education and skills maintenance is standard to keep

our profession on a high level and to be able to cope with various difficult situations.

We are working 24 hours 7 days /week in shifts with 30 minutes notice to move during daytime and 90 minutes during the night.

If a helicopter rescue is necessary, call the Joint Operation Centre (JOC) - +38733495368

Since our helicopters started to work in Bosnia and Herzegovina we have had eight major incidents: intensive care transport Bihac on 2nd February, MEDEVAC National Park Mt Zelengora on 30th March, Intensive care transport Sarajevo on 11th May, Intensive care transport Sarajevo on 18th May, search and rescue National Park Sutjeska on 1st July, Medevac Srebrenica on 11th July, intensive care transport from Bihac on 19th July and search and rescue Kalinovik on 20th July.

Never the less, every time the best is to avoid the need for emergency rescue – take care!

By Captain Dr. Walter Gudrun



EUFOR's Secrets Laid Bare

Arguably EUFOR's best kept secret is that English is our common language and that it enables all the different contingents to communicate effectively across EUFOR. So with that in mind how can you develop your English skills and have some fun at the same time? Here is one idea.. Hidden just within the walls of Vratnik (Sarajevo's old, old town) is The Phoenix, or what local ex-pats simply call 'the pub'. Risen from the ashes no less than three times this traditional Ottoman style building houses the Sarajevan owner's interpretation of an Oxfordshire Country Pub. Inspired by landlord, Armin Alagic's visit to his in-laws in Oxford, The Phoenix opened in 2007. English customers were quickly drawn by the familiar 'warm timbered atmosphere', English speaking owners, English music, English books filling the shelves and fish and chips on the menu. The rest of the international community soon followed making it a regular haunt for diplomats, service members, aid workers and backpackers and the place to meet other ex-pats staying the city.

Another unique selling point is the sporting events shown on the three flat screen TVs. Armin boasts he can show any televised international event and usually with English commentary. During major competitions there is



often an added bonus of a free drink for the supporters of the winning team.

During the summer months the most attractive feature of The Phoenix has to be its large beer garden which is bordered on one side by the rebuilt Vratnik fortress wall and offers great views of the city. There are areas for children to play, dogs to explore and cosy corners for those just wanting a quiet drink. By winter the garden will be empty and the most sought after seats will be those inside next to the three log fires. A good place to take refuge during the bitter Sarajevo winters and take advantage of the library of books or free Wi-Fi.

Every Tuesday or, in my experience, whenever it takes their fancy there is live music from the house band and anyone else who wants to join in. Armin's love of folk dictates the genre and is supported by a group of Irish regulars who are happy to provide vocals. It is not unusual for free drinks to encourage the more

reserved patron to participate and sessions can go on late into the night.

A menu of 'simple, reasonably priced but good quality food' is available including the cheeseburger which is popular enough to attract telephone takeaway orders. Although the food and drink is slightly more expensive than in town

the kitchen is usually busy and it is one of only a handful of places that sells Sarajevsko's award winning dark beer.

From Pigeon Square in Basarsija to The Phoenix at the top of Kovaci is less than a ten minute walk. Unfortunately it is all uphill so you might want to take advantage of Sarajevo's cheap taxi fares. If the driver looks at you blankly when you ask for The Phoenix try speaking Bosnian and request The Feniks instead. It seems to make all the difference.

Usual opening hours are 5 – 11pm Monday to Saturday but this changes to accommodate major sporting events providing there is sufficient demand. To join the mailing list and receive details of upcoming events or to contact Armin, email aara@bih.net.ba. More information is available at www.phoenix-pub.com.ba.

See you down the pub! As the Brits and Irish would say.

By Michael Pallin

The Month of the Ramadan

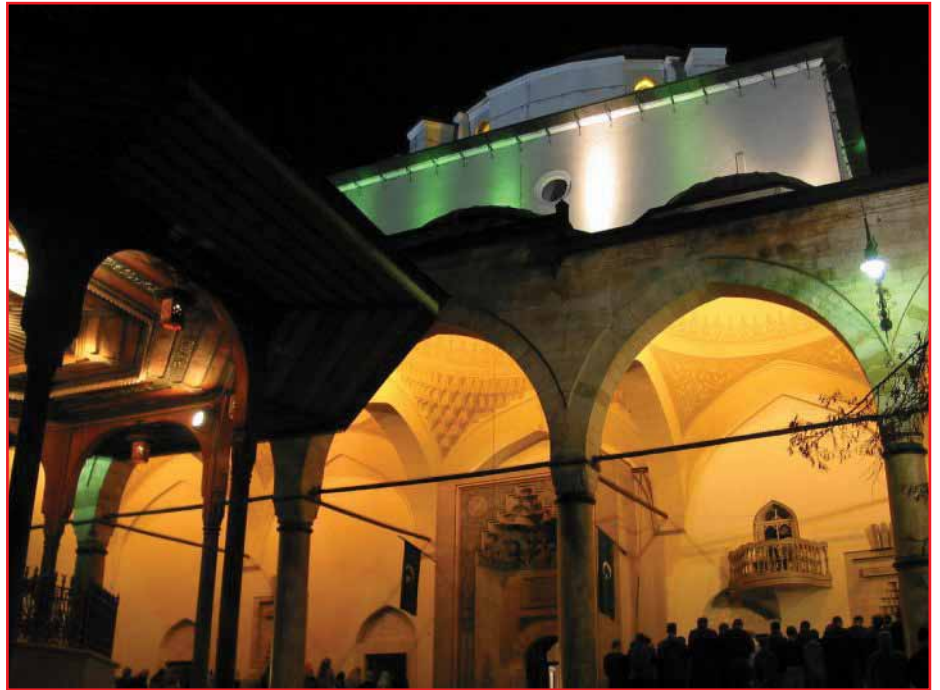
“better than a 1000 months”

Ramadan is a special month of the year for the Muslims throughout the world, one of the 5 “pillars” of the Islam and the month when Holy book Quran was revealed to the people. It is a time for inner reflection, devotion to God, and self-control also a time of intensive worship, reading of the Quran, giving charity, purifying one’s behavior, and doing good deeds. Ramadan is an opportunity to gain by giving up and to grow stronger by enduring weakness.

Fasting during the month of the Ramadan is obligatory for those who are able. Sick people and some travelers in certain conditions, people who perform hard labor are exempted from the fast but must make it up as they are able. Those who can fast, but with great difficulty, may substitute feeding one poor person for each day of breaking the fast.

The daily period of fasting starts at the breaking of dawn and ends at the setting of the sun. In between Muslims totally abstain from food, drink, smoking, and sex. The usual practice is to have a pre-fast meal (sehur) before dawn and a post-fast meal (iftar) after sunset.

“Physical” fasting will not be complete without “inner” spiritual dimension. Muslims read as much of the Quran as they can. Some spend part of their day listening to the recitation of the Quran in a mosque, meet for Quran studies or for congregation



People praying in the “Begova Džamija” in Sarajevo.

prayers. Fasting is a way of experiencing hunger and developing sympathy for the less fortunate, and learning to thankfulness and appreciation for all of God’s gifts. It is also beneficial to the health and provides a break in the cycle of every day non healthy habits (human body cleans itself). It intended to teach Muslims about patience, humility and spirituality and is a time for Muslims to fast for the sake of God and to offer more prayer than usual. During Ramadan, Muslims ask forgiveness for past sins, pray for guidance and help in refraining from everyday evils, and try to purify themselves through self-restraint and good deeds.

The last ten days of Ramadan are a time of special spiritual power as everyone tries to come closer to God through devotions and good deeds. The night on

which the Quran was revealed to the Prophet, known as the Night of Power (Lailat ul-Qadr), is generally taken to be the 27th night of the month. Many Muslims spend the entire night in prayer. Value of this night is so high that is referred to as the “night better than 1000 others nights”.

After month of the Ramadan is the holiday of Eid ul-Fitr (Bosnian: Ramazanski Bajram) marks the end of the fasting period of Ramadan and the first day of the following month. Eid ul-Fitr means the Festival of Breaking the Fast; a special celebration is made. Food is donated to the poor (Zakat al-fitr); everyone puts on their best, usually new, clothes and communal prayers are held in the early morning, followed by feasting and visiting relatives and friends. Ramadan Bayram last 3 days.

For Bosnian Muslims, like for the most Muslims in general, Eid is family holiday. Traditionally, the first day of festivities starts with men (and boys) going to mosque for morning prayer, called Bayram Namaz. After the visit to the mosque follows Eid lunch at home, with special food and sweets. Children, as well as women, receive gifts. Afternoon is spent with the closest family, relatives and friends. The feeling of community and belonging, as well as satisfaction by having done one of the most important things for a Muslim is obvious everywhere. Another important dimension that is obvious during Ramadan and Eid: charity, in times of social and eco-

Quran-2:185': "Ramadan is the month during which the Quran was revealed, providing guidance for the people, clear teachings, and the statute book. Those of you who witness this month shall fast therein. Those who are ill or traveling may substitute the same number of other days. GOD wishes for you convenience, not hardship, that you may fulfill your obligations, and to glorify GOD for guiding you, and to express your appreciation."

nomical crisis and high poverty, many help those that are living in hardship. This is time when people share with each other and remember the less lucky ones. In many cities all over Bosnia so called "narodne kuhinje", public restaurants will offer free meals to fasting ones, as well as hungry ones that can't offer food for day.

A lot of delicious food is prepared, cakes and sweets. Second day of Eid Bosniaks usually pay a visit to the cemeteries and honor beloved ones, and in BiH is named as "Day of the se-hids", martyrs (Bosnian: Dan Sehida"), ones that gave their lives for the homeland.

This year, month of the Ramadan starts 11th August and ends 8th September. Ramadan Bayram lasts three days, starting on 9th September. In FBiH the first day of Bayram is an official holiday when the institutions, public offices and private sector are closed.

By Historical Office

Italian Kitchen Staff

The Italian mess is located in Camp Butmir 2. It started in February 1999 and the Carabinieri who comprise one the four elements of the Italian Armed forces, have the responsibility for operating this mess. The EUFOR family appreciate this mess a lot, so much so that a lot of people who are not stationed in Camp Butmir 2 usually have lunch and dinner there. Under the coordination of military personnel, local staff work in the dining facility to ensure consistently high quality standards. Their support has been superb and it allows the chief of the mess to simply get on with his job. It is important to underline that all dishes that are prepared are made to Italian recipes with fresh ingredients. The mess is especially full on Friday mornings due to the custom of preparing and serving fish specialities. The mess will unfortunately be closing when Camp Butmir 2 is closed.

By Captain Giuseppe Saponaro



Colonel Paolo Coletta with OR9 Calogero Trovato, OR7 Carmelo Borzi, OR7 Walter Chessa, OR4 Marco Gentile and OR4 Lucio Consiglio. (Missing on the picture is OR4 Tiziano Battistella who completes the mess staff).

Major Andrea Komminoth is a militia logistics officer in the Swiss Air Force. The military training school he completed as a mountain infantryman. After being a sniper and an explosives trained member of the Swiss Army they allowed him to complete the logistics officer school. Andrea grew up in the canton Grisons close to Davos, where the World Economic Forum takes place. Before joining EUFOR as a JOC Shift Director, he was working in a bank



Major Andrea Komminoth

as mortgage specialist. It is his first mission abroad. He told the Press Office: "I'm certain that the Joint Operation Center is a perfect environment to improve military skills. As a son of a wine grower I like to savor a glass of red wine in common with a worthwhile conversation. The Bulldog bar is very sociable. As a big hockey player and fan I am looking forward to play inline hockey with some others."

My Name is Captain Dr. Walter Gudrun, born on the 8th of June 1963 in Vienna. After school and university, I started my first work at the hospital Zell/See with a study of skiing accidents. May 1990 practical training of anesthesia and from June 1990 until May 1993 Doctor-in-training, which ended with the degree of general practitioner and Certification of emergency medicine. June 1993 - January 2001 education for trauma/orthopedic surgery at the hospital of Zell/See, Rohrbach, university hospital Vienna, Stolzalpe, university hospital Innsbruck and general hospital Linz - February 2001 specialist of trauma/orthopedic surgery.

4 years of free working as specialist of trauma/orthopedic surgery, general practitioner/emergency medicine and physician of the Austrian skiing team. From December 2004 until June 2005 I was working abroad with doctors without frontiers in Africa/Burundi as a surgeon, responsible for surgery, trauma/orthopedic



Captain Dr. Walter Gudrun

surgery, urology and gynecology.

From now on I tried to return back to Africa. I tried to find a work abroad, because it is like a virus: once working outside – you have to get back. I searched for a new interesting job. After half a year basic training, I started working at the Austrian armed forces in July 2006 and since August 2008 I am working at the military hospital of Vienna as specialist of trauma/orthopedic surgery. My assignments abroad: 2006 und 2008 Kosovo, 2008/09 Tschad and now August/September 2010 Bosnia and Herzegovina as a member of the Austrian MEDEVAC team.

All those missions give you the possibility to get in contact with other nations, other cultures and – of cause – to improve your linguistic skills!

Special skill enhancement: diploma of emergency medicine, diploma of sports medicine, DE-GUM-certificate ultrasonography of joint, diploma of manual medicine, diploma of locale laser therapy, special diploma of osteopathic medicine, LNA (coordinator of mass casualties), diploma of alpine und mountain medicine, special certificate of the community of foot surgery, diploma of health resort medicine, certificate of hypnotherapy, ITLS-exercise, ATLS-exercise, ERC-exercise, damage control surgery, basic education in acupuncture, neural therapy and nuclear radiation.

Hobbies: culture, art, reading, sports (hopefully I will pass my first triathlon in September) and emergency medicine (mainly on helicopter).

Always look forward – never look back!



Oludeniz, Fethiye, Turkey,
by Lt Murtaza Durmazucar



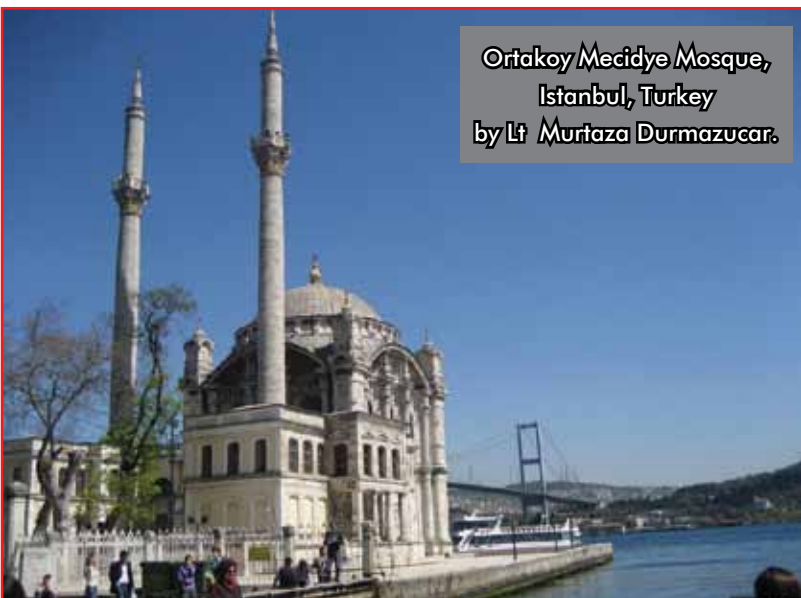
Winter landscape of Macedonian National
Park " Bistra"- Mavrovo Lake
by Lt Adrijana Atanasoska Arsoy.



Canyon Matka, near Skopje, Macedonia
by Lt Adrijana Atanasoska Arsoy.



Stradun, Dubrovnik, Croatia
EUFOR Forum Arçhiye.



Ortakoy Mecidiye Mosque,
Istanbul, Turkey
by Lt Murtaza Durmazucar.

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EUFOR Cup 2010

