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**EUFOR**  
**forum**



# **General Sir McColl**

## **Farewell Visit to EUFOR**

## COM EUFOR Major General Bernhard Bair



Gender awareness and gender mainstreaming are issues of particular significance for me and therefore I have put a clear emphasis on gender perspectives in Operation ALTHEA.

EUFOR has aimed and continues to aim to achieve a greater sensitivity towards gender issues, in order to foster more balanced gender awareness, and

thus to improve the overall situational awareness and successfully accomplish our tasks.

I am of the opinion that fostering of balanced gender awareness has also become more critical in light of the increasing complexity of civil-military interaction. In our Liaison and Observation Teams situated throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina,

I recognize the important and very positive contribution of both our female and male soldiers.

I am convinced, due to our current gender-sensitive approach our work has become more comprehensive and this puts me in the situation to lead a more inclusive and gender-fair peace operation.

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General McColl and COM EUFOR  
inspecting the parading troops.

I was going to say hello to the Spring weather but the snow has returned again; just in time for the World Military Ski Championships being held as I write.

My six month tour of duty in Bosnia and Herzegovina is coming to an end and by the next issue my replacement Lt Cdr Mark Frost will be in the post as EUFOR's Spokesperson. That job title is one small indication of the Gender Awareness work that has gone on in the organization which is reported on in the article inside.

This month I have had the pleasure of watching the dawn break on a very cold morning whilst on exercise with the Multinational Battalion (MNBN). A report on Exercise Graffiti Soul shows that we are still a capable Military Force and the importance of PIFWC operations.

It has been a pleasure to work amongst the EUFOR team and I have met plenty of interesting people. Whether you are a member of the Integrated Police Unit (IPU) manning a vehicle checkpoint, a soldier in the MNBN or one of the many people (military and civilian) working to keep us safe and functioning you are all contributing to the presence EUFOR has in BiH. Keep up the good work.

Lt Cdr Andy Mullins



Lt Cdr Andy Mullins,  
EUFOR Spokesperson

## EUFOR FORUM

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# The EUFOR Althea Operation Commander, General Sir John McColl, Visits Sarajevo



Multinational Battalion troops marched on display for General McColl.

On 3rd February 2011, General Sir John McColl the Operation Commander of EUFOR

Althea and NATO's Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR), paid his last

official visit to Sarajevo before leaving his post in March.

General McColl has had a long connection with Bosnia and Herzegovina having served with UNPROFOR and IFOR.

He took the salute at a farewell ceremony where elements of the Multi National Battalion (MNB) paraded for him. They were followed by a fly past from the EUFOR helicopters based in Camp Butmir.

COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, said in his speech:

"You have been a constant source of inspiration, advice and support to the EUFOR mission. Your local knowledge and Bal-



Lt Col Bernd Rott, COM MNB, reports the parade ready to General McColl.



General McColl with Major General Bair during the office call.



Major General Bair and General McColl passing the Honour Guard.

kan experience has positively impacted on how EUFOR has interacted at all levels with the agencies and peoples of BiH.”

General Sir John McColl KCB, CBE, DSO is being relieved by General Sir Richard Shirreff KCB, CBE as the Operation Commander for the EUFOR forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina and as DSACEUR.

By Lt Cdr Andy Mullins



General McColl and Major General Bair saluting the passing troops.

# Visits to HQ EUFOR



Norwegian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina His Excellency Jan Braathu with COM EUFOR.



Brigadier General Steven L. Kwast, Deputy Director for Politico-Military Affairs for Europe, NATO, and Russia, Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate.



Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III, Commander of Allied Joint Force Command, Naples, with COM EUFOR.



COM EUFOR Major General Bernhard Bair and his Excellency Mr. Tom Brady, Ambassador of Ireland to Bosnia and Herzegovina.



COM EUFOR and the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Albania, Mr. Edmond Haxhinasto, in front of Honour Guard.

## “Everyone likes Chocolate”

A traditional Viennese candy company has supplied, through the Austrian Army, sweets to children in need. This donation was organized by the Austrian contingent of EUFOR / ALTHEA, along with Mrs. Annemarie Kury. A special relationship between the Austrian Federal Army and this non profit organisation has existed after the Austrian CIMIC (Civil Military Cooperation) team supported the reconstruction of a therapy center in Tuzla.



Austrian CIMIC team with children of therapy center in Tuzla.

### Force protection through confidence-building measures

The civil-military cooperation is becoming more and more important for the increasing

normalization of public life. Nestled within a multinational environment CIMIC AUT is committed to strengthen the acceptance of the force EUFOR ALTHEA through confidence-building measures. Under the

motto “protection and assistance” the Austrian contingent provides a valuable, although small, contribution to the overall stabilization of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

By Captain Marco Spörk

## German Withdrawal

In late 2010, Germany announced to reduce its contribution to the Operation ALTHEA with up to 15 soldiers remaining in the mission after March 2011. Currently there are 110 German soldiers inside the theatre. The planned restructuring of the German contingent will begin on the 15th of February, when the four German LOT-Houses in Konjic, Ilidza, Gorazde and Foca, as well as the German elements of the RCC will be relieved of their duties. From this point on,



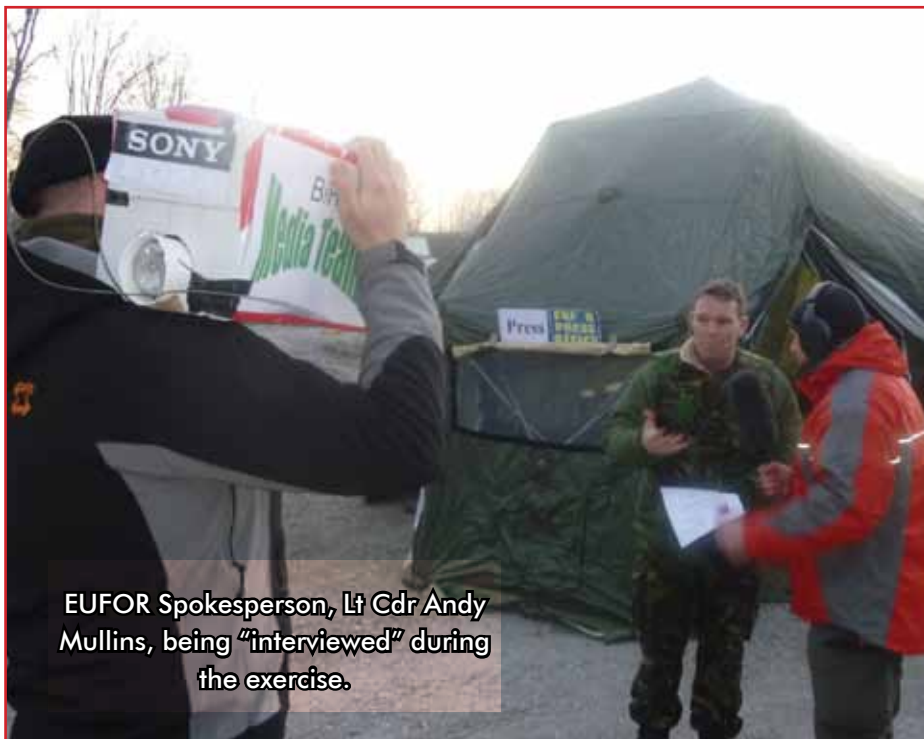
Symbolic key of German “Deutsches Eck” being handed over to MWA.

the National Support Element will begin the redeployment of personnel and material back to Germany. After 1st April 2011, the remaining German troops, will mainly be members of the different divisions and branches HQ EUFOR.

The first visible marks of the reduction were the closure of the German PX, “Zum Krämer” and the handover of the popular “Deutsches Eck” to MWA.

By Captain Klaus Breiden

# Combined EUFOR “PIFWC” Exercise



EUFOR Spokesperson, Lt Cdr Andy Mullins, being “interviewed” during the exercise.

Could EUFOR deploy several hundred troops across Bosnia and Herzegovina and raid a particular address at dawn?

One of EUFOR’s executive tasks is to support the Interna-

tional Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) and Local Law Enforcement Agencies in the search and capture of Persons Indicted For War Crimes (PIFWCs).



Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) team getting into place.

To prove, and improve, this capability in February 2011 members of the HQ EUFOR in close cooperation with the Multi-national Battalion (MNBN), conducted a combined exercise.

The main objective of the exercise was to raid a location with suspected PIFWC supporters and to prove all the EUFOR elements could work together in a Search and Seize / Search and Arrest Operation.

Apart from MNBN personnel there were members of the Integrated Police Unit (IPU) and staff specialists from HQ EUFOR. The EUFOR Helicopter Detachment (HELDET) provided air assets in order to perform reconnaissance and transportation of personnel.

The preplanned Search and Seize Operations and the snatch Search and Arrest Operations also involved members of the Office of the Political Advisor (POLAD), the Legal Advisor (LEGAD), the EUFOR Press Office and the Information Operations Branch.

Prior to the exercise, HQ MNBN staff had to undergo a “Military Decision Making Process” (MDMP) and to train the MNBN Communications and Command & Control capacities.

The Execution Phase saw the implementation of cordon operations, convoy operations, road-block operations, traffic control



measures, Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) and Countermine operations. Furthermore, all participants had to put into practice the selective use of EUFOR rules of engagement and to verify connectivity of the command and control net in voice and data.

The exercise also provided a real life opportunity to test and validate the procedures for medical evacuations (MEDEVAC), particularly use of radio & communications assets, and establishing temporary helicopter landing sites (HLS).

Last but not least, valuable additional logistical support was provided by the National Support Elements (NSEs).

The Austrian NSE detached a medical emergency team to the MNBN, handed over additional vehicles to ensure extended MNBN transport capacities and ensured a qualified recovery capacity, whereas the Hungarian NSE and the Turkish NSE provided the respective EOD, medical, supply and recovery necessities.

After the exercise had been completed, all activities are now being evaluated and will be subject to a Lessons Identified / Lessons Learned (Li/LL) process. These will be used to improve the EUFOR procedures and fed back into the continuous programme of training exercises.

To sum it up – the exercise again was a success and further underlined the MNBN slogan – BE PREPARED!

**By Captain Otmar Lindner**



Ambulance on stand-by.

## Presentation of gym equipment to MWA by the Dutch Contingent EUFOR

On 10th February 2011, the Dutch Contingent of EUFOR presented new equipment to the Gym in Camp Butmir which is ran by Moral & Welfare Office (MWA). The equipment includes two steppers, one exercise bicycle and one rowing machine.

**By Lt Col Anthony Bracken**



Lt Col Anthony Bracken (HQ CMDT), Ms. Dragana Gavrić (Gym Trainer) and Lt Col Johannes Cornelis Willemse (Dutch SNR).

# EUFOR Men and Women Celebrating 8th March International Women's Day

HQ EUFOR is using the 8th March, International Women's Day to present some of its female personnel and thank them for their contribution to the success of the EUFOR Althea mission. Although 08th March is celebrated by women and it is generally considered a Women's Day, HQ EUFOR has decided to use this day to mark the diversity and difference that make HQ EUFOR a place of equal opportunities. Namely, this mission would not be as successful as it is without a mix of men and women. Mixed teams are EUFOR's secret to success.

Therefore, we present our members and their impressions of serving within this mission. We take this opportunity to thank the personnel presented here but also all the other men and women carrying the EUFOR flag on their uniforms and also the civilians working in EUFOR.

By Colonel Michael Pesendorfer

## Amela, Bosnia and Herzegovina

I am working as a Human Resources Administrator at NHQSa/HQ EUFOR Civilian Personnel Office. This makes me a focal point for all matters dealing with recruitment, administration, employment, management and remuneration of ICC's (International Civilian Consultants) and LCH's (Local Civilian Hires). I have been employed by this organization since March 2002.

Being a member of a multinational organization brings great value to me, both personally and professionally. On a daily basis I have the opportunity to meet and to cooperate with people of various national and cultural backgrounds which further improves and builds my knowledge about other people and their tradition and culture.

It is a challenge, but also a priceless life experience.



## Azra, Sweden

Serving as the Information Archiving and Historian Supervisor. I deal with all relevant documentation on the OP ALTHEA Mission, both classified and unclassified; archiving important documents for the purpose of future lessons learned and research. OP AL-

THEA is the first EU-led peacekeeping mission, and a successful one, so it is valuable to capture these experiences.

Working in predominantly a male environment, as a female, is no different to working in a predominantly female environment. What is important is that you work with professional and skilled colleagues. The fact that we come from different countries makes our work sometimes more demanding (language barriers, different working models etc) but for the most it is enriching and positive.



**OR6 Irina, Bulgaria**

I work for the Bulgarian NSE as the administrator. I am personally responsible for preparing the daily, weekly and monthly reports. I put a lot of effort into being very precise because every document created in the Registry office has to be correct and confirmed with the Commander's signature.

Apart from that my duties also require communication with other NCOs. Since I am the Bulgarian representative I attend regular NCO monthly meetings. The cooperation with my colleagues of different nationalities is extremely good. My personality and the fact I am a woman helps me a lot when it comes to fulfilling any joint tasks.

Since I am here, in Camp Butmir I had the opportunity to practice and improve my English speaking skills.

**OF2 Natasha, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

Being a lawyer I was deployed to the HQ EUFOR LEGAD office. In the structural sense my office is part of the COMEUFOR Command executive group, providing legal advice and assistance to COMEUFOR and the rest of the HQ. I truly enjoy the daily challenges we need to handle.

Furthermore, I was appointed as a military Gender Focal Point in January 2011. This appointment has brought a lot of challenges but also priceless experience to be used in the future.

To be part of the multinational organization is a great value for me. We cooperate with people from different countries daily. They bring with them different cultural and national backgrounds which then helps me improving my knowledge of different nations and cultures.

**OR4 Maeve, Ireland**

I am employed with the International Military Police here in Camp Butmir. My daily tasks include speed checks, vehicle inspections, ID checks, dress checks and insuring that all bars and restaurants are closed at the appropriate times (and all other tasks assigned to me by the IMP Commander). I arrived in the mission area on the 23rd of January and since my arrival I have been dealing with many of the other nationalities in the camp and I have always found everyone to be very cooperative, helpful and polite. I am gaining the experience of working alongside military police from a lot of different countries and it is great to hear how they do all the different tasks in their home countries. Thanks to that I am learning new things every day.

**OR7 Bernardka, Slovenia**

I work as an S1 Administrator. I am 46 years old and I have been in the Army for the past 17 years.

This is my second mission in Bosnia. I have two adult children.

Serving with colleagues from different countries is very interesting. Everyone is friendly and we strive together to carry out the work. My impressions are extremely positive as it is interesting to work and live with people from all over the world.

The best things from a working environment of this kind are getting to know different approaches to work, improving language skills and learning about other countries through the national day's presentations.



**Maid, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

I am a member of the HQ EUFOR LEGAD/ Claims Office and I am currently serving as the Special Assistant – Legal. I have worked for EUFOR and NATO for the past fifteen years and the experience gathered throughout these years is enormous. Besides the work related knowledge and skills gained the additional value of this job is the knowledge of the different national and cultural backgrounds that I have obtained. Working with my male and female

colleagues in occasionally demanding circumstances was indeed a great experience for me. I was grateful for my female colleagues in certain situations as it showed that together we did a better job than either one of us would do singlehanded.

The experience and knowledge resulting from my fifteen years long career has brought me values that no common education could ever provide.

**OR3 Tina, Austria**

I started my military career as a technical fire controller within an artillery unit. Now I am already for more than 2 months on my first mission abroad and serve as a signaller and driver within the Reconnaissance Platoon as part of the Multinational Battalion (MNBC). I pretty much enjoy working together with soldiers from different nations and I am also happy to see that many women from other armies are deployed in Camp BUTMIR. My daily activities very much centre on the usage of communications equipment, such as the TACSAT, which sort of became my passion here. Together with my unit I frequently participate in outside training exercises, where I have the chance to put my theoretical knowledge into practice. Apart from having an adequate amount of opportunity to make sports and to socialize with my colleagues from the various nations, I hugely enjoy travelling around in Bosnia and Herzegovina and visiting all the famous tourist spots and cultural highlights whenever time permits.

**OR4 Natalia, Hungary**

In Hungary I serve as a water purification system operator within an Engineer Regiment. Presently I'm deployed as a grenadier with the Hungarian Company of the Multinational Battalion as part of mission EUFOR / ALTHEA and this is my first tour of duty abroad. My daily routine here in Sarajevo starts with a roll call at 0745 hrs in the morning and throughout the day I usually take part in a large variety of practical trainings, including checkpoint operations, Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) combat techniques, radio communications, land navigation, urban operations and weapons handling, just to name a few. In the afternoon I either participate in theoretical classes or keep myself physically fit with exercises according to my personal sports plan. Usually there's also one battalion exercise every month, when my unit is specifically trained in the execution of one of the different contingency plans. My personal experience with my colleagues from within my company as well as from other nations is extremely positive and I very much enjoy having the chance to work and live in such an environment and at the same time being able to serve my homeland. So far, my most exciting experience was when I had the opportunity to fly on board of a Black Hawk helicopter during one of our exercises.



**OF2 Ozlem, Turkey**

Being the Chief S-1 Personnel of the Turkish NSE my responsibilities are preparing daily personnel situation reports for EUFOR HQ, coordinating vacancies and positions all over BiH according to OPLAN ALTHEA and handling the personnel records of Turkish Armed Forces in EUFOR. Generally all the TCN's S-1 Personnel Chiefs are working in accordance with their national regulations and mainly with their national representatives. Due to this my cooperation with other nationalities is somewhat limited usually. However, we do communicate occasionally with different nationalities reference the various procedures to be applied. Thus, information flow and sharing with other national S-1's is a great opportunity for me to improve my knowledge about the other armies and their procedures.

**OR6 Triin, Estonia**

I work in the HQ CMDT building as part of the ID Office. My office is a very good place to meet people from different countries. So far I have had only good experiences and had good cooperation with all the nations who serve here.

After completing my tour here I will take back to Estonia a lot of experiences and good memories from this period. I want to use this collected new knowledge and experience in my home unit where my responsibility is teaching different mission groups. Finally, I would like to share an advice with everybody: enjoy your tour, collect as many new experiences you can and smile.

**Nikolina, Croatia**

I am originally from Croatia but I have been living here in BiH for the last twelve years. I am married and mother of a wonderful nine year old boy.

I have been part of the HQ EUFOR LEGAD Office since 2007. Before that I worked for seven years in the legal department of the British Armed Forces serving in SFOR and later EUFOR missions.

Approximately two years ago I was appointed civilian Gender Advisor for the HQ EUFOR Althea. This appointment, together with my LEGAD Office post, has offered me numerous opportunities to talk to different nationality representatives, from soldier level to the most senior officers, civilians and civil servants.

Furthermore, it has allowed me to represent HQ EUFOR Althea at various international conferences and seminars. This has inevitably enriched my knowledge and understanding of cultural, national, professional... backgrounds of many different people I have met. More than ten years of working for the military forces has influenced me great deal, positively I would say, although my son would probably add: "Yes Ma'am" to that.



International Women's Day (IWD), originally called International Working Women's Day is marked on the 8th of March every year. In different regions the focus of the celebrations ranges from general celebration of respect, appreciation and love towards women to a celebration for women's economic, political and social achievements.

In accordance with a declaration by the Socialist Party of America, the first National Woman's Day was observed across the United States on 28 February 1909. International Women's Day was marked for the first time on 19 March 1913 in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland.

**OF3 Dr. Christoph, Austria**

I am currently serving as the HQ EUFOR Claims Officer for the Althea mission. I have been in this country for two months already and have collected a great deal of experience working with the international members of the HQ EUFOR Althea.

It has been enriching for me to interact with many different nations and to get to know their standard procedures, in particular in relation to the claims procedures. It is further enjoyable to spend time out of work with my international colleagues.

I would further mention that besides being an international environment, HQ EUFOR Althea has female and male military and civilian members that expand the views we might have on certain issues. The mixed team does, in my opinion, provide a more complete outcome in any field.

**OR3 Verena, Austria**

I come from Styria, a province also called “the green heart of Austria”. For three months now I have been assigned to the HQ MNBN as an operator and driver. Having already served in Kosovo before, this is my second mission abroad. I am happy to be able to make some new experiences, almost on a daily basis, while working so closely together with soldiers from other nations. Luckily everybody within the staff here speaks fairly good English; therefore there is no problem with communicating to each other and it also serves to improve my own knowledge of this language. I am looking forward to another three exciting months before I will return to my home country.

**OF2 Luiza, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

I am part of the medical contingent from The Former Yugoslavian Republic of Macedonia Armed Forces. This is a first time for me to be part of this kind of mission and I do it with the great honor. As part of the Macedonian medical contingent my tasks are mainly logistics or logistical support to the medical team starting with procurement, supplies and maintenance of the medical equipment and services necessary for the smooth implementation of the entire medical contingent's tasks.

It rarely happens that one gets the chance to work in this kind of international environment. Therefore, I believe that we are privileged to have the honor of participating in a noble mission, such as this one, and to have contact with members of several different armies. In our daily activities we exchange experience, work related but also experience referring to our personal life and cultures. Cooperation with colleagues from other TCN's is at the highest level. We are all aware that if there is no cooperation, there will be no successful outcome and no desirable results.

After completing the mission in BiH, I will take home with me all the experience gained during the mission and will further use it for the future work in my country. Experiences, cooperation and teamwork with colleagues from different TCN are something memorable and I do not believe that anyone would want to forget it. I wish to say that BiH is a beautiful scenic country and that I would like to come back and enjoy its beauties.



# COM EUFOR LOT House Visits

On 5th February 2011 COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, continued his series of Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) house visits by touring Foča and Goražde. He was joined by Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) South Chief, Major Rönnau.

His first stop was the LOT House in Foča where, after a brief from the commander and his staff, he lunched in the town with the Mayor, Mr. Zdravko Krsmanović. They discussed local issues and the upcoming change in the LOT house team where a Slovakian team will take over from the German's currently manning it.

Over the years the EUFOR contingents have developed warm and professional relations with their neighbours and the local authorities and the LOT Houses form a vital part of maintaining situational awareness across the country. Regular meetings with local officials are part of this process.

After lunch COM EUFOR visited Goražde again meeting the German troops manning the house and receiving an update of the local issues.

On 10th February 2011, COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, visited Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) house in Ugljevik. Together with the Regional Coordination Center (RCC) East Commander, Lt Col Blasch, the LOT house Commander informed the General on LOT house activities and the situation in their Area of Responsibility (AOR).

**By Lt Cdr Andy Mullins**



COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair (Right) with RCC South Chief, Major Rönnau, waiting for the helicopter to land.



COM EUFOR (6th from left) with RCC East commander, Lt Col Blasch (3rd from left) and LOT house Ugljevik personnel.

## EUFOR Teaches Communications



Front row: Major General Mirko Tepšić, Lt Col Ales Pravdič, Colonel Nenad Garić, Colonel Dragan Perić, Colonel Faruk Brodlić, Major Željko Bradić and Major Enes Heto.  
Back Row: Major (TUR) Eser Erdurmazli, Anadin Hedin (CIV), Major (TUR) Recai Atasuvon, Captain (GRC) Trypas Konstantinos, Major Samir Šahović and Major Zijad Klisura.

On 31st January 2011, a Greek Mobile Training Team (MTT), in the person of Captain Konstantinos Trypas, started the first of a series of EUFOR Communication Information Systems (CIS) Training visits at the Armed Forces of BiH (AF-BiH) Signal Battalion in Pale. The first module consists of the basics of radio communication and will be followed by training on various radio devices given by

Greece and Turkey. Instruction on wired communication will be then given by an MTT from The Netherlands in April this year to 15 AFBiH officers and NCO's. CIS Organization and Interoperability Training from Strategic to Operational and Tactical level will be conducted later this year and next year as a step to reach a more advanced training level.

The start of this training began with an opening ceremony at

the M. Obilić Military Barracks in Pale, which is the home of the AFBiH Signal Battalion. After the arrival of the guests, the high representatives of the AF BiH, representatives from NATO HQ Sa and EUFOR HQ, Battalion Commander Major Željko Bradić opened the ceremony, followed by speeches given by Deputy Commander OPCOM for Resources AFBiH Major-General Mirko Tepšić and EUFOR representative Lt Col Ales Pravdič. All representatives expressed their confidence in the level of cooperation between AFBiH and EUFOR.

Major General Tepšić underlined the importance of this training as a need to support present and future exercises and operations.

The Signal battalion, who are very motivated, provided us with all the needs necessary to commence this CIS Training.

By Sgt1 Robin Doomen



In the back: OR-6 Robin Doomen, EUFOR CBTD ET Subject Matter Expert (NLD) and OR-6 Theofanis Katsoukas, EUFOR CBTD ET Subject Matter Expert (GRC).  
Front: Major General Mirko Tepšić, Dep. Cmdr. Operational Command for Resources AFBiH and Major Enes Heto, (Former) Dep. Cmdr Signal Battalion AFBiH.



# Tenth anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325

## Women, Peace and Security and CSDP missions

The 10th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security was commemorated on 31 October 2010. A period of one decade provides a sufficient frame to reflect on the success of Resolution 1325, which addresses the

disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflicts on women. Resolution 1325 stresses the importance of women's equal and full participation as active agents in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction.

On 8 December 2008, the EU adopted the "Comprehensive EU approach to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820 on Women, Peace and Security". This document adopts a holistic approach, recognising the close links between peace, security, development and gender equality.

The "EU Comprehensive approach" relies on the EU's experience with gender and crisis management that dates back to 2005, when the Council adopted the first operational paper on the implementation of UNSCR 1325, focusing on practical measures for taking work forward in the CSDP context. This document was followed in 2006



by a checklist to ensure gender mainstreaming and the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the planning and conduct of CSDP operations.

In November 2010, the EU adopted the report on "Lessons and best practices of mainstreaming human rights and gender into CSDP military operations and civilian missions". This report, produced in the context of the 10-year anniversary of the UNSCR 1325, represents a compilation of lessons and best practices drawn from CSDP military operations and civilian missions on gender and human rights mainstreaming. This is the first thematic CSDP lessons report, and provides an in-depth analysis on an issue where there are recurring lessons identified, but which still need to be learned. It seeks to learn the lessons from the planners and practitioners concerned. This is also the first CSDP lessons report that spans across the field of military operations as well as civilian missions. It is part of the effort to identify and exploit synergies from the EU

comprehensive approach. Moreover, the current work on developing standard modules for training in this field for CSDP personnel draws on this lessons report and its recommendations related to training. The report gathers lessons and best practices from the daily work of CSDP operations and missions of

the operations' and missions' human rights and gender advisers and the focal points are presented at a meeting in Brussels on 5–6 July 2010 as well as at a separate meeting of gender advisers on 9–10 November 2009.

In the context of the creation of the External Action Service, lesson processes will need to be increasingly compared and streamlined across different EU instruments that contribute to conflict prevention, security and stabilisation, in order to achieve the Comprehensive Approach and to make the instruments' achievements comparable. This is necessary to ensure a rational and transparent use of the EU's instruments and resources in foreign policy. We will need to systematically build this know-how, based on evaluation, of how the EU can bring all its influence to bear in conflicts around the world and promote peace based on global standards for good governance, the rule of law and human rights.

**By CSDP**

My name is OR-5 Stefan Hafner, Austrian Armed Forces. I was born in 1978 in Villach, which is in the southernmost Province near Italy and Slovenia, thus strongly affected by these different cultures.

I started off my military career at the age of almost 22. In 2003 I completed the 14 months long NCO course, which was hard work but it was one of the most challenging and rewarding times I have ever had, because as an NCO I was now in the business of training and educating soldiers. After all, my job as an NCO is to ensure that the army's most valuable resource is taken care of, which is the soldiers.

My first assignment afterwards was with the only true airborne unit in Austria, the Airborne and Parachute Battalion called Jägerbataillon 25. The recruits learn to jump by automatic parachute and the career soldiers are capable to land by paragliders. My assignment with this unit was as a PAL Squadron Leader. PAL is short for Panzerabwehrlenkwaffe (Anti Tank Missile).

In the following five years I underwent specialized military training as a military mountain guide, military skiing instructor, and as a certified explosives expert in the safe application of explosives in avalanche control. I've also successfully completed my education and training for military and civilian air-rescue missions, which are carried out by air rescue personnel who can operate all sorts of load lifting attachment equipment.

Since October 2010 I have been serving with the Austrian A-Coy within the Multinational Battalion. This is my first international mission and I have to say that the work here doesn't really differ much from the daily routine of a soldier back home in Austria.

The positive thing, however, is that I'm able to really learn about the country inside out. What I really love about this mission though is the fact that due to the mountainous terrain I can assist my company in mountain engineering training. The scenic Bosnian landscape invites operations in the mountain areas and we can conduct training that covers many mountain engineering sub-categories such as rigging, shelter construction, cross-country travel on rough terrain to include using



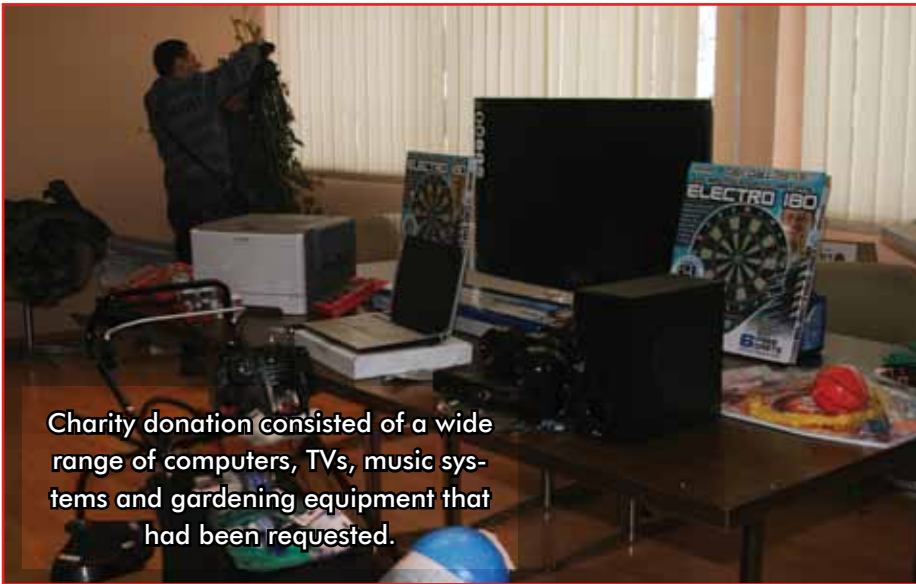
OR-5 Stefan Hafner

snowshoes, environmental and terrain limitations on personnel and equipment, land navigation, survival and even basic and advanced skiing techniques.

There are twelve mountain peaks in Bosnia and Herzegovina over 2000 meters above sea level and most of the cities have terrains suitable for alpinism and mountaineering nearby. Thanks to the biodiversity of the ecosystem this country represents a real natural miracle, with beautiful mountains, lakes and rivers to enjoy the untouched nature. Not only am I deeply impressed by the breathtaking scenery, I'm also enjoying the marches we are conducting.

So far I have participated in 10 mountain marches and also have been on top of the Maglić massif. The Maglić Mountain, at 2386 meters, is the highest mountain in Bosnia and Herzegovina, with one part located in Bosnia and Herzegovina, while its second part is in Montenegro. Mountains definitely are my passion and I hope that I will be able to conquer many more of them during my tour of duty here. So if you are planning a tour on your own and need some expert advice, don't hesitate to ask me. Otherwise, I wish you all a safe stay in this picturesque country and recommend that you go out and enjoy whenever duty permits.

## Irish Contingent Donate 3500 Euros to Charity



Charity donation consisted of a wide range of computers, TVs, music systems and gardening equipment that had been requested.



Member of the Irish Contingent with one of the protégés.

The outgoing Irish Defence Forces Contingent organized the delivery of a van load of gifts to the Pazaric Institution dedicated to the care of mentally handicapped protégés, as their guests are known.

The institute is situated in three locations, Resnik, Zovik and Ramići, which allows them to engage the highly educated personnel essential for professional treatment of the protégés. Having been founded in 1949 it is the oldest similar institution in BiH and today has 400 protégés. One hundred and seven employees in different areas of expertise enable a multidisciplinary approach to their care.

The donation was organized by Sgt Balfe of the International Military Police Unit and used the money raised by various events of the last 6 months to purchase a wide range of computers, TVs, music systems and gardening equipment that had been requested. The main events had been the 10km “fun” run in October 2010 and the quiz nights but the total was swollen by personal donations from the Irish themselves.

By Lt Cdr Andy Mullins



Irish Contingent member together with the staff of the Pazaric Institute.



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