

# MNBN Staying Prepared



# EUFOR supports Srebrenica Commemorations

## Foreword by Brigadier General Zoltán Gulyás DCOM/COS EUFOR

Dear readers of EUFOR FORUM, dear Comrades,

On 28th June this year I took over the responsibilities of the Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff of EUFOR HQ and in the past few weeks I have already been having a challenging and interesting time here in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I am proud and feel honored to be the Deputy Commander and the Chief of Staff of this organization, which is both multinational and multicultural, and has always been able to take advantage of the diver-

sity to be successful in reaching its goals here in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I arrived to support the mission with great respect, but also with confidence. Confidence, because I know from my own personal experience last year as Chief of Staff at NATO HQ Sarajevo that I will have with me so many dedicated and well prepared soldiers in the Headquarters. This experience has also contributed to my smooth integration into the work of HQ EUFOR. I promise to exploit all my talents, skills and knowledge to match the high expectations shown towards us.

As Deputy Commander and Chief of Staff, I am willing to provide all personnel and elements of EUFOR with all possible help and support for their duties. In return you are expected to do your



best, because Operation ALTHEA is only as good as the people who serve in it. I also expect punctual and faultless carrying out of tasks, disciplined military conduct, and obedience of orders. That is what a leader expects from his/her soldiers anywhere in the world. I am looking forward to working with all of you to enable a better future of this country and its people.

During my tour I will also be the Senior National Representative of the Hungarian contingent of EUFOR.

I will keep a close eye on their activities, and do my best to motivate them as well as all personnel of EUFOR. We all are part of an international community, which greatly contributes to and is nearly indispensable for the safety and security of the country and thus the whole region. This goal and the mission of EUFOR, is of utmost importance for the neighboring countries and I believe, for every country in Europe.

Finally I wish every soldier and civilian employee of EUFOR and NATO HQ Sarajevo lots of success whilst serving here in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I hope you enjoy the challenge of this mission and just as importantly get pleasure from your time here at Camp Butmir.

# CONTENTS

CBTD celebrates one year of Full Operational Capability	4
EUFOR has a new Deputy Commander	8
Staying Prepared – Challenging Priority!	10-11
EUFOR School Competition Winners Return from Istanbul	15
Irish Contingent Charity Donation	17



Dear Reader

Welcome to this August edition of EUFOR Forum and hello from me - Lt Cdr Stu Cantellow the new EUFOR Spokesperson.

As with my predecessor I am a Naval Officer from the United Kingdom and I will be here for six months.

My background is in Aircraft Engineering and I have worked on many types of aircraft including Harrier fighter jets and Merlin helicopters.

However I now find myself as the Spokesperson for EUFOR- a challenge I am very much looking forward to.

So far I have managed to read a few older editions of the Forum magazine and it is clear that this is a magazine for you – therefore please let me know if you have any stories for it or if you have any ideas for new features.

Finally I hope you enjoy this edition and look forward to working with you over the coming months.

Lt Cdr Stuart Cantellow, EUFOR Spokesperson



Lt Cdr Stuart Cantellow

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The EUFOR Forum is produced by HQ EUFOR. It is fully funded by EUFOR, and authorised and published for the EUFOR forces in the area of responsibility.

The EUFOR Forum welcomes submissions. For deadline information phone the editor on  
+387 (0)33 495148,  
Fax: 495221;  
IPN 941-5148, Fax 941-5221

All copies must be submitted to:  
EUFOR Forum Press Office  
Building 200, Butmir Camp Sarajevo  
Digitised photographs should be submitted in JPG format with a minimum resolution of 200 dpi.

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The contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the coalition governments' defence departments.

# Capacity Building & Training Division celebrates 1 year of Full Operational Capability

In January 2010 the EU Foreign Affairs Council decided to start providing non-executive and training support, within the framework of the Operation ALTHEA. The UN Security Council welcomed this increase to the existing Operation Althea resolution.

Thanks to support from 15 contributing nations, the EUFOR Capacity Building and Training Division (CBTD) was established with appropriate staff and support for the task. The aim was that Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) should be able to provide capability-orientated and trained personnel in line with international standards and in addition be able to participate in Peace Support Operations (PSO).

In April 2010, four months after being established CBTD's



first staff members arrived in EUFOR HQ Sarajevo. Two months later, the first of many Mobile Training Teams arrived and started its activities in the Area of Operations. CBTD reached Full Operational Capability (FOC) on the 1st July 2010 and has from that date been sup-

porting AFBiH.

On 1st July 2011, proud members of CBTD celebrated its first successful year in Operation Althea. So far the Division has provided training, mentoring and assistance to more than 20 different Force Elements of the AF BiH.

**By Major Johan Ryden**

## COM EUFOR Visits Banja Luka LOT House

COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair visited the Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) House in Banja Luka on Thursday 23rd June. The LOT house is manned by members of the Romanian Armed Forces and commanded by Major Silviu-Daniel Seceleanu. During the visit COM EUFOR received a brief from the LOT



Chief on the work of the LOT personnel and their interactions with the local community. A discussion took place on the chal-

lenges faced by the team in this area of responsibility. The LOT House comes under Regional Co-ordination Centre West.

Major General Bair expressed his thanks to the Romanian Soldiers for their hard work and the professional attitude they displayed when undertaking their role.

**By Lt Cdr Mark Frost RN**

# EUFOR supports Srebrenica Commemorations



During the Srebrenica commemoration on 11th July, EUFOR specialists supported the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina together with the organisers of the commemoration ceremony at the Potočari Memorial Centre. Specifically EUFOR provided landing zone co-ordination support for the helicopters from the Armed Forces of BiH (AF-BiH), Croatia and EUFOR operating out of a temporary landing site in Bratunac.

EUFOR was able to support the International Community by utilising its helicopters to transport a number of guests. In addition, to COM EUFOR and COM NATO Sa the helicopters transported a number of VIP guests including the High Representative, Valentin Inzko, Baroness

Warsi, HE Michael Tatham, the Ambassador of the United Kingdom, HE Mr Andrej Grasselli, the Ambassador for the Republic of Slovenia and MEP and Mr Jelko Kacin.

The EUFOR Alouette III was

on standby for medical evacuation duties throughout the commemoration in Bratunac. COM EUFOR laid a wreath together with the Acting Head of the EU Delegation, Mr Renzo Daviddi.

By **Lt Col Mark Frost**



# Visits to HQ EUFOR



COM EUFOR with General Håkan Syrén, permanent Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (C EUMC) and Lt Gen Miladin Miložević, Chief of Joint Staff of AFBiH.



COM EUFOR with Captain Miroslaw Tu-liszka, Chief of the European Union Staff Group (EUSG).



COM EUFOR with H.E. Michael Tatham, Ambassador of Great Britain to Bosnia and Herzegovina.



COM EUFOR with H.E. Mr Tom Brady, Ambassador of Ireland to Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia and Slovenia.

# CIS Training Communication Certificate Ceremony



A Turkish Mobile Training Team (MTT) successfully delivered a 10 day Ericsson MD110 Switchboard course to members of Armed Forces Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH). Turkish MTT was composed of two instructors, an Officer and NCO. The MTT comes under the organisation of the Capacity Building and Training Division (CBTD) which is located within EUFOR Headquarters, Camp Butmir.

There were 17 participants (8

Officers and 9 NCOs) that successfully completed the course at Pale Signal Battalion barracks between 7 – 17 June 2011. The Certificate Award Ceremony then took place on 24th June. The members of the MTT congratulated the participants for their active approach to the course and eager willingness to learn. The Certificate hand-over Ceremony was opened by Lieutenant Colonel Van Essen from HQ EUFOR, Major Bradić

Signal Battalion Commander, Lt Col Bilinac from operational Command (G-6), Major Klisura from Operational Command and Major Urhan from HQ EUFOR. The ceremony concluded with Lt Col Van Essen, Major Bradić and Lt Col Bilinac making speeches and thanking the Turkish MTT and the students for their efforts during this training course.

The Switchboard training consists of a brief acquaintance phase with the participants, followed by an overview of voice-data communications and communication network. The course then looks at the general characteristics of Ericsson MD110 Switchboard, system components, and the cards used in switchboard.

The course highlighted the continuing level of co-operation that exists between EUFOR and AFBiH.

**By Lt Cdr Mark Frost**

## Medal Parade in Camp Butmir

On 26th July, a medal parade was held in Camp Butmir for members of EUFOR who are soon to finish their tour of duty. They were awarded the OP ALTHEA medal by DCOM/COS EUFOR Brigadier General Zoltán Gulyás who congratulated everyone for their hard work during the mission and the job well done.

**By Haris Daul**



# EUFOR has a new Deputy Commander



A ceremony to mark the handover of the position of EUFOR Deputy Commander/Chief of Staff (DCOM/COS) took place at Camp Butmir on 28th June. The ceremony took place in the presence of COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, the Hungarian Joint Force Commander, Major General József Kovács, Ambassadors from the representative countries, Senior Officers of Armed Forces Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Senior National Representatives from the 26 troop contributing nations.

An Honour Guard comprising of personnel from the Multi-National Battalion and the AF BiH band provided the backdrop to the Ceremony. The event marked the

formal transfer of authority from Brigadier General Tibor Nagy the current DCOM/COS to Brigadier General Zoltán Gulyás.

Brigadier General Nagy has served as DCOM/COS for 18 months and on his departure said: "I am honoured to have served as DCOM EUFOR. It has been an excellent experience both professionally and personally. I would like to thank the staff of EUFOR HQ for their support and co-operation. I have

been deeply impressed with the professionalism of all those people that I have come into contact with and wish everyone a successful mission."

Brigadier General Gulyás joins EUFOR HQ from the Hungarian Defence Forces Operations and Doctrine Centre. He has previously served in BiH as the Chief of Staff for NATO HQ Sarajevo in 2010 and so, he has an in-depth understanding of the region. He is very much looking forward to serving in BiH again and is keen to take forward the EUFOR mission of contributing to the military security of BiH and working together with the population and Armed Forces of BiH, whilst supporting countries efforts to move closer to the European Union.



ing forward to serving in BiH again and is keen to take forward the EUFOR mission of contributing to the military security of BiH and working together with the population and Armed Forces of BiH, whilst supporting countries efforts to move closer to the European Union.

By Lt Cdr Mark Frost



## COM EUFOR visits LOT House in Drvar

COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair visited the Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) House in Drvar on 15th July. The LOT house is staffed by members of the Netherlands Armed Forces and commanded by Captain Michel Kalf. During the visit COM EUFOR received a brief from the LOT Chief on the work of the LOT personnel and their interactions with the local community. A discussion took place on the challenges faced by the team in this area of responsibility. The LOT House comes under Regional Co-ordination Centre West.



Major General Bair expressed his thanks to the Dutch Soldiers for their hard work and the professional attitude they displayed when undertaking their role.

**By Lt Cdr Stuart Cantellow**

## Students from an Austrian Peace Academy visit EUFOR

A group of students from the Austrian Academy for Peace and Security in Europe paid a visit to EUFOR Headquarters at Camp Butmir on 8th August 2011. They received a briefing on current political and military issues in BiH from Staff Officers. COM EUFOR, Major General Bernhard BAIR addressed the group, praising their efforts in gaining an understanding of the problems which the population of this part of Europe has to face on a daily basis.

The group of students are visiting Croatia, Serbia, Kosovo, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Bosnia and Herzegovina during the trip. They aim to get familiar with the roots and circumstances



of regional and local conflicts in the Balkan area. They can then raise the issues they find to the public, especially in Austria, in order to promote better integration of migrants from the countries of the former Yugoslavia. In addition, they aim to enhance

public understanding of why military and other assets are deployed to the Balkan region.

This journey was supported and accompanied by a group of individuals from the Veterans Association of Upper Austria.

**By Lt Cdr Stuart Cantellow**

# Staying Prepared – Challenging Priority!

To our frequent readers it already is a well known fact that the Multi-National Battalion (MNB) is at the core of the operational purpose of EUFOR Althea, namely, to provide a military presence in order to contribute to a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). In addition, EUFOR is mandated to deny conditions for a resumption of violence; to manage any residual military aspect of the General Framework Agreement for Peace (GFAP); and thereby to allow EU and international actors to carry out their responsibilities in the country. This may sound rather general and we all know that this mission is quite a success story. Over the years, however, it has become an increasingly difficult challenge to prepare for all eventualities.

## Downsizing

On 2nd December 2004, following the decision by NATO to hand over its peacekeeping mission (SFOR) that had maintained security in the region since the war ended, the EU launched its military operation Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Operation deployed a robust military force at the same manpower levels as NATO's (almost 7,000 troops) to ensure continued compliance with the Dayton/Paris agreement and to contribute to a safe and secure environment in BiH.

## Way ahead

Presently approximately 1,500 troops from 26 different nations



are remaining in the EUFOR, backed by Over the Horizon Forces in case of a deterioration of the situation. The article is written under the assumption that the declared aim is to keep a limited intervention capacity as well as the possibility to stage Over the Horizon Forces in the country by means of the Reception, Staging, Onward Movement and Integration (RSOMI) process in order to remain ready to respond to possible security challenges. While the elaboration of options is the responsibility of our higher command, our soldiers who presently have their boots on the ground feel confident about the fact that EUFOR's size has been reduced, but kept an appropriate robust military presence, has reconfigured successfully and continues to provide reassurance.

As former Director General of the EU Military Staff, LtGen David Leakey, once stated: "We should argue against those who say use them or lose them. We must not deploy on an operation uniquely or even primarily to justify a particular capability. The troops are like an insurance policy. How often have you claimed on your own house insurance policy? Seldom if ever, I suspect; but you still pay the premium, just in case!"

In that sense, the members of the MNB will continue, within their means and capabilities, to train and exercise for proper response to possible security challenges.

## Readiness is crucial

As far as the overall security situation in the country is concerned, in spite of several diffi-

cult challenges including the persisting climate of distrust among the political leaders, there were absolutely no instances that required EUFOR intervention. To stay prepared for all eventualities sometimes is quite demanding though. The most recent example was the period of commemorations in Srebrenica and other closely related events. Under a long-standing security plan, up to some thousand Bosnian Serb policemen usually deploy at the ceremony, with European Union peacekeepers standing by. In real terms this means that, albeit a low threat level, all soldiers of the MNBN were put on an extremely short notice to move and had to be prepared for possible intervention. With all gear packed and with all orders received, our soldiers and staff were ordered to man their offices or at least confined to the barracks, unable to even go out for sports, everybody had to be in his vehicle and ready to move within 30 minutes. Given the extremely hot weather during that week, the waiting became almost unbearable. Luckily, soldiers are quite used to waiting and therefore the week eventually passed without incidents. At least we can now proudly say again “we were prepared!”

### Security threats

Regarding Srebrenica, you might remember that each year the anniversary of the massacre from July 1995 is commemorated. Inter ethnic tensions sometimes tend to run high during the period of the month of July. Reason enough for EUFOR to take any potential threats during this

period very seriously. During that time, EUPM also becomes strongly involved, as well as various law enforcement agencies.

A total of over 40,000 people were attending the commemoration. Naturally, there were other commemorations of the rather sad events during the war as well, as crimes against humanity were conducted on all sides. Therefore, each ethnicity was remembering their victims in various places all over the country during this period of time.

### Good co-operation

Prior to the event, in order to support the BiH authorities in their preparations, Commander EUFOR, Major General Bernhard Bair, and EUFOR staff members were conducting co-ordination meetings with the representatives of the police agencies in BiH and the EUPM. There was excellent relationship and good co-operation among EUFOR and EUPM with the BiH authorities. The extensive exchange of information for this important commemoration was further proof of the shared interests and the collective efforts to provide a

safe and secure environment for all participants during the commemoration period in Srebrenica. EUFOR helicopters were also put on standby in Bratunac for medical evacuation duties throughout the celebrations. The smooth and orderly execution of this event again showed that different law enforcement agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina were well capable of working together nicely.

### Talking from experience

Which military concepts EUFOR will require in the future is driven by the merits and priorities of our work. Our experiences within the MNBN from on-going and recent operations and exercises will certainly be very helpful in the decision making process. As long as EUFOR has an executive mandate, our ambition will always be to maintain the ability to undertake early, rapid, and when necessary, robust interventions and, what really is challenging the most, to sustain several operations simultaneously.

By Captain Otmar Lindner



# Always prepared – for visitors and ceremonies too

There is another side to life within the Multinational Battalion, which differs from the normal duties quite considerably – and this is “showing the flag“ whenever high ranking visitors are coming to Camp Butmir or when special celebrations are taking place.

## EUMS Visit

Brigadier General Geens, Director of Operations, European Union Military Staff (EUMS) visited EUFOR Headquarters on 5th July. The EUMS provides in-house military expertise for the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (HR)

and performs early warning and strategic planning. Major General Bernhard Bair, the Commander of EUFOR, welcomed him to Camp Butmir. This was followed by a Tactical Techniques Presentation (TTP) by MNBN personnel from all 3 different nations. After a briefing by the Commander of the MNBN, Lt Col Friedrich Ólböck, Brig Gen Geens was given a demonstration in Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) techniques, followed by a display of all weapons and equipment in use by the MNBN.

## Medal Parade

While the members of Hungarian Coy received their EU-

FOR medal during a medal parade presided over by DCOM/ COS EUFOR, Brigadier General Zoltán Gulyás on 6th July, the members of the incoming 9th rotation of the Hungarian contingent got ready for taking over shortly afterwards. They are now serving with the maneuver company of the Multinational Battalion and in individual positions within the staff of the MNBN HQ. The commander of the Hungarian contingent is Lt Col Szabolcs Kiss. Almost all of the personnel were drawn from the 5th Bocskai István Infantry Brigade of Hungarian Defence Forces (HDF). They began their Mission Readiness Training on





28th February with individual training, classroom sessions, live fire exercises and special target practices. The nearly 150-strong contingent has been deployed to BiH in mid July 2011 in three groups and their tour of duty will end on 31st January 2012.

### Hungarian Prime Minister

Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán paid a visit to the Hungarian peacekeepers serving in Sarajevo. Before visiting the HDF EUFOR contingent, the Prime Minister had a meeting with COM EUFOR, who highly praised the performance of the Hungarian contingent. Addressing the Hungarian troops in Camp Butmir, Viktor Orbán pointed out that the Hungarian troops are serving at a very important location with the potential to affect the whole region of the Western Balkans. Viktor Orbán thanked the Hungarian troops for their service. More than 170 Hungarian peacekeepers serve in Camp Butmir, including nearly 150 members of

the Hungarian company, which is part of the MNBN.

### Kids' Festival

The seventh Kid's Festival in BiH took place in the Olympic Center Zetra in Sarajevo from the 11th - 16th of June 2011. This year's motto of the Festival was "For Every Child".

Approximately 45,000 children and young people from all parts of BiH took part and enjoyed the many activities. Hungarian Defence Forces organized

a spectacular parachute drop from a helicopter circling above Zetra. Especially for the Kid's Festival, the HDF flew in 10 professional parachutists who normally partake world-wide in competition jumps.

This year, Kid's Festival was honoured to host this famous team which made many hearts beat faster during their aerial show. Symbolically, the European flag and the flag of BiH were brought down through the sky to the amazed crowd.

Most of the adults and none of the children had ever seen a parachute display like this one and at the Kid's Festival this happened right in front of their eyes, a magic, unforgettable moment for all. Members of the Multinational Battalion organized a couple of stands where the kids were able to dress up as soldiers, to communicate with our radio equipment, to sit inside our vehicles or to take away some souvenirs. One thing is for sure, they hugely enjoyed it and rewarded our soldiers, who did a great job, with broad smiles.

**By Captain Otmar Lindner**



## AFBiH Students successfully complete Theoretical Basic Ammunition Course



A combined Austrian and Swiss Mobile Training Team (MTT) successfully delivered the first EUFOR-sponsored Theoretical Basic Ammunition Course (TBAC) to members of Armed Forces Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH). The MTTs come under the Capacity Building and Training Division (CBTD) which is located within EUFOR Headquarters, Camp Butmir. The lead person from HQ EUFOR was the weapons and ammunition storage management subject matter expert, Lieutenant Colonel Jiri Kubik.

There were 18 students who participated and successfully completed the course. All of them are logistic personnel who currently work on ammunition / weapons storage sites. Two of

them had an extremely extensive amount of experience, including foreign EOD schools. In fact, they will co-teach the next course of TBAC before eventually fully taking over the teaching of the subsequent course under the MTT supervision.

The TBAC concluded with the certificate award ceremony on 24th June at Rajlovac Barracks. The ceremony was presided over by Lt Col Ronald Van Essen CBTD/ET Branch Chief, Colonel Franz Sitzwohl, Joint Military Affairs Branch Chief, and Colonel Predrag Mijic, AFBiH Main Logistic Base Commander. The ceremony commenced with speeches thanking the students for their effort and active approach to course and to the MTT members for their

dedication and teaching effort. Then the course certificates were presented to the students by MTT Commander Cpt Ing. Georg Mitteregger.

TBAC is a 13 day course aimed at logistics personnel at ammunition/weapons storage sites. The course is divided into 3 modules and concludes with a test. The modules are ammunition technology and ammunition packing; arms ammunition and fuses; and finally the hand grenades, mines, bombs, self-propelled ammunition, and systems for delivering ammunition to target.

This first TBAC proved to be a great success and highlighted the level of co-operation that exists between EUFOR and AFBiH.

**By Major Gheorghe Vlaicu**

# EUFOR School Competition Winners Return from Istanbul

Eight students from the Srednja Ugostiteljsko-turistička škola Mostar and the Gimnazija Hadžići arrived at Sarajevo airport on 27th June, after an exciting trip to Istanbul. The students and their professors enjoyed an 8 day excursion, donated by the Turkish embassy and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism from Turkey for their winning entry in EUFOR's School Competition 2011. The trip included a visit to Istanbul's most famous monuments and places, such as Topkapi Palace and Hagia Sophia and many other beautiful places. They were also fortunate enough to have an exciting Bosphorus tour. The students and their professors were amazed by the beauty of the Turkish city. One of them described it as "paradise on earth". The Ministry of Culture and Tourism did an outstanding job in organizing the trip, according to the students and professors.

The 2 schools started as separate groups but soon became one tight group with a great atmosphere. Upon arrival at Sarajevo airport, the students and their professors were welcomed back by their



parents, Colonel Tunali from EUFOR's Turkish contingent and representatives from EUFOR's Information Operations branch, which is responsible for organizing the School Competition. After the welcome by Colonel Tunali and a final goodbye to the rest of their fellow-travelers, the students went home, tired, but very happy.

The School Competition is EUFOR's drawing and project contest which is open to school children of Bosnia and Herzegovina between the ages of 6 and 18. All the children participating in this year's competition had to produce a drawing or painting, a poster, a comic strip or with a group of friends, produce a photo essay with the theme of

"Europe without Borders" or "Children of the European Union". EUFOR would like to thank Turkey for sponsoring the School Competition and donating such a fantastic prize for the children. It is quite clear that the children had a wonderful time in Istanbul.

By Captain Martin Kuipers



# Capacity Building and Training Division visits units of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina

In accordance with the implementation of the EUFOR Element "Personnel Management" the EUFOR Capacity Building and Training Division (CBTD), Expert Training Branch (ETB) Personnel Management Specialist (PMS) Major Georgi Sirakov visited units of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH).

The main purpose of the visits is to provide a formal communication between the parties that are working on Personnel Management in order to co-ordinate their efforts and ensure that there is mutual understanding of their responsibilities concerning ongoing projects in AFBiH.

During the meetings with Major Enis Redžepagić, Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel of the 5th Infantry Brigade in Tuzla on 2nd June and with Major Martin Propadalo, Assistant Chief of



Staff for Personnel of the AFBiH Brigade in Banja Luka on 29nd June 2011 EUFOR PMS was familiarised with the structure, topics and activities of the Personnel staff of the Brigades.

The discussions covered the current status and problems of Personnel Management Processes such as Recruiting, Assignments, Separations and Retirement, Development and Career

Management, Process of English Language Education, Performance Evaluation Regulation for Military Personnel, Quality of Life and Personnel Management Database.

All sides agreed that these meetings are useful to compare the different practices in Personnel Management and explore the possibilities for future co-operation.

**By Major Georgi Sirakov**





## Irish Contingent Charity Donation



From left to right: Lt Col Conrad Johnston, Sgt. Seamus Gannon, Mehmed Mešić, Captain John Fitzgerald, RSM Jerry Dineen, Kata Besker, Meldijana Smajlović, Muhira Čato, Fata Bešlić, Cpl. Darren McDade, C/S Andrew and C/S Thomas Hand.

As with all overseas missions the Irish recognize a charity or organization with which they believe they can assist with, this mission is no different.

In the past the Irish contingent have assisted the Clinical Centre University Hospital in Sarajevo and on viewing the conditions in which the children

have within the hospital and on the advice of Mesic Mehmed who works tirelessly for the children in the hospital, we decided to try and improve there living conditions.

Working on his information and viewing the conditions of the Children's Ward we decided to raise funds to provide some

sort of entertainment system to make there stay a little bit more enjoyable within the hospital environment.

With personal donation from member of the 13th Irish Contingent, donations from the Norwegian, French and American PX's, in the way of spot prizes towards our table quiz and a number of fundraising events, we managed to raise a considerable amount.

We would like to thank all contingents, PX's managers and any personnel within Camp Butmir who contributed to our events and to let you know that you have made some very sick children smile with your generosity.

Thank you.

By Cpl Darren McDade



My name is Kazım Mehmet Erol, OF-1 Turkish Army. I was born in Adana which is in the Mediterranean region of Turkey. It is one of the most interesting and bizarre city's you will find in Turkey, because you can observe all the Mediterranean human characteristics; friendly, short-tempered, soft-hearted and always extreme feelings. It is famous for its customs, traditions and great dishes.



Lt Kazım Mehmet Erol

In my opinion, to understand the country of a man is the best way to understand the man of a country.

I am 28 years of age and I have been proudly wearing the Turkish Army uniform for 14 years now. I attended the Military High School from 1997 and graduated from the Turkish Military Academy in 2005 as an infantry officer. I then

attended the Turkish Army Infantry School where I learned all about military tactics and weapon techniques. I became a Commando officer after three months of Special Commando training and exercises. Finally, becoming a professional soldier and joining the Turkish Land Forces on completion of this training. Since then, I have been involved in a variety of op-

erations and exercises. Through these I have gained lots of experience and really understand what it means to be a "commander" and a leader of men.

For a month now I have been entrusted with the position of a platoon leader of the Turkish Company in the Multi-National Battalion.

Like so many of you I am very glad to be working in an international environment and extremely proud to be part of EUFOR. I would just like to finish by saying a few words on why I think it is important we are here. Bosnia and Herzegovina is a great country, we might see all its natural beauties, go to restaurants and cafes but we must not overlook the holes in the walls and what that people have suffered.

I wish all of you a very joyful time and may you return to your families healthy and safely!

**MY TURKIYE**

Her mountains and hills  
Her rivers and plains  
She is a cradle of history  
With her great ages,

You'll regret if you don't see  
The castle of Anotolia  
From North to South all  
around is sea

Kuşadası, Köyceğiz and Antalya

You are the reason of happy faces

Of the people from seventy two different races



Poems submitted by OR-9 Zekeriya Erbil

Since the day you were founded

You have been the symbol of peace, My Turkiye.

**BUTMIR**

The place where peaceful flags wave

Hills and plains salute on her way

Never think when you will go home

Always be happy in this beautiful city

The river of Bosnia twists, Under her feet

Its winds never leave the Camp of Butmir.

## Albanian Evening in Camp Butmir

On 19th July 2011 the Albanian military contingent from EUFOR hosted an Albanian evening for officers serving at Camp Butmir.

Officer dinners nights give host nations the opportunity to promote of the traditions, culture and folklore of their own country. In this event the very best cultural values, folklore, tourist, and gastronomic delights of Albania were showcased.

Great assistance was received by the Albanian Embassy in Bosnia and the Albanian community that lives and works in Sarajevo area in helping prepare for the event.

The musical ensemble “Eagle” from Tirana which is touring Bosnia provided the entertainment for the evening. They were highly entertaining and the officers present enjoyed the show.

The event was attended by more than 100 officers from General to Captains representing the 22 EU countries and 4 non EU countries present on base. The Albanian Ambassador Mr Flamur Gashi was also in attendance and he was accompanied by embassy staff and representatives from Albanian communities that live and work in Sarajevo.

The opening speech was delivered by Brigadier General Zoltán Gulyás, EUFOR Deputy Commander / Chief of Staff followed by greetings in English and Albanian from Lt Col Liman Alku, National Senior Representative of Albania in HQ EUFOR.

Traditional Albanian food and

drink was served throughout the meal. Some of the food was generously donated by the Albanian community from Sarajevo and the rest was prepared by EUFOR Dignifying Facility staff.

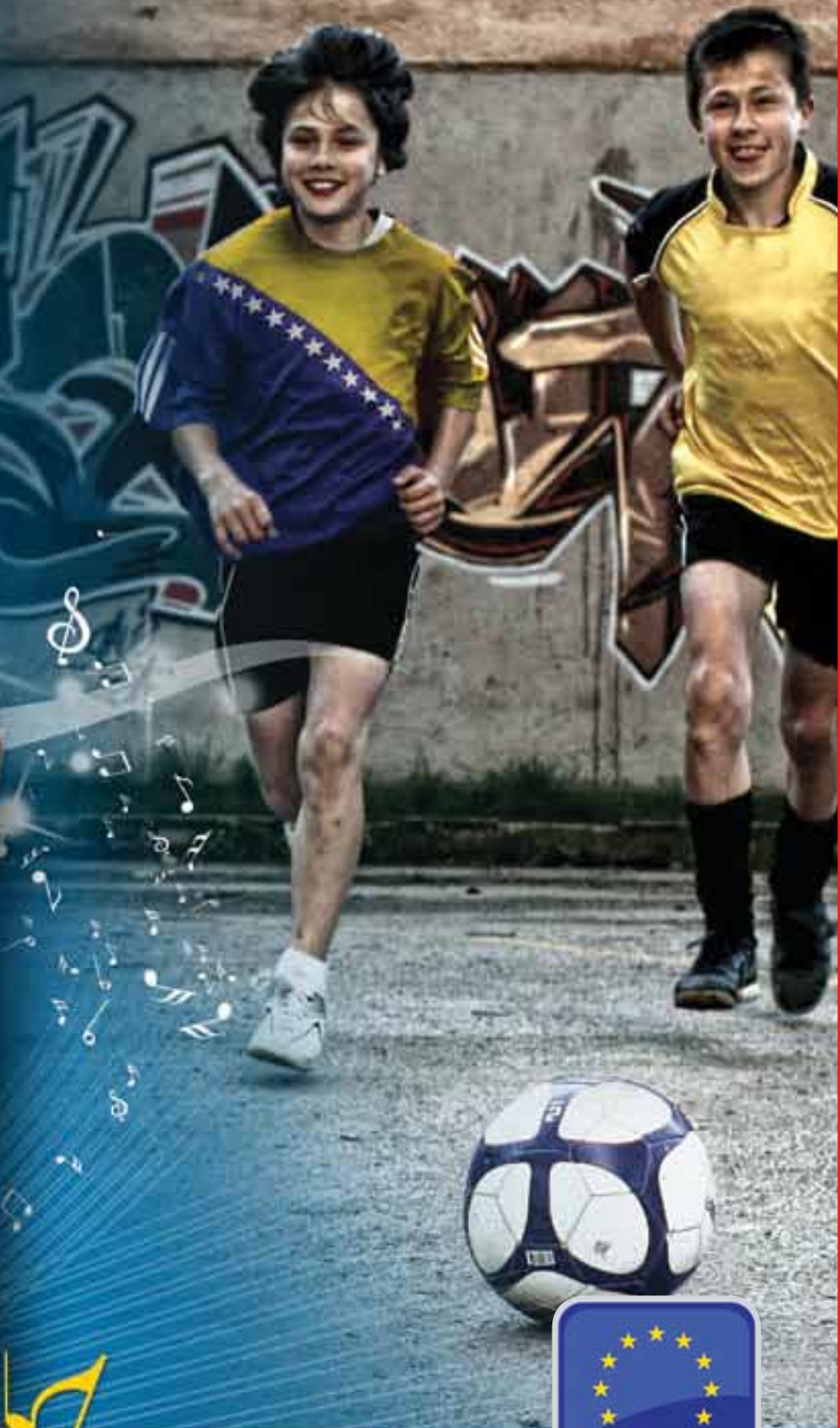
The ensemble “Eagle” performed a 30 minute concert with music and dance from different regions of Albania. They were dressed in colourful Albanian folk costumes throughout the evening. Also during the evening a video about Albania and its tourist attractions was shown, there were also displays of brochures, posters and national flags. Finally an arm wrestling competition entertained the guests the winner received a traditional Albanian symbolic gift; a bottle of Skenderbeu Cognac, the oldest and most famous brandy in Albania.



The closing speech was made from Brigadier General Zoltan Gulyás, who thanked all participants and in particular the work done by the Albanian military contingent for the organization and hospitality. Many EUFOR Officers also congratulated the Albania contingent and some were so impressed that they expressed interest in visiting Albanian to see firsthand some of the traditions and folklore they had seen that evening.

By Lt Col Liman Alku





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