

Edition #80, Dec. 2012/Jan. 2013

# EUFOR forum



Joint EUFOR and AF BiH  
Training Exercise in Glamoc



Training Together



## EUFOR Change of Command

## Welcome address by Major General Dieter Heidecker, COM EUFOR

Dear Readers, it is with great pleasure that I am given this forum to share a few initial words with you. Since having taken over command of EUFOR from my Austrian compatriot Major General Robert Brieger on 03 December 2012, I already had ample opportunity to get a broad inside view of EUFOR operations and staff work.

What I've seen so far is rather convincing and I'm therefore quite confident that this force will continue to serve as a valuable contributor to increased state stability and development and will also continue to perform its obligations in a comprehensive way within the overall EU strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Let me therefore start with thanking every member of EUFOR, past or present, for the great work already accomplished. My main focus, after the recent period of transition, will be on the preservation and safeguarding of a safe and secure environment within Bosnia and Herzegovina and the persistent support of the local authorities and I'm counting on all EUFOR personnel for their lasting support in this endeavour. As a clear sign of its dedication to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EU has introduced a new and robust reserve concept, known as the Intermediate Reserve, which can be called upon to reinforce our permanent troops in theatre at short notice. By maintaining our Capacity Building and Training programme, we will substantially contribute to the creation of a more professional and capable BiH Armed Forces.



We are presently shifting our activities from individual training to collective training whilst also placing greater emphasis on mentoring and monitoring through embedded training teams and advisors.

The EU and the International Community remain committed to the security and stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its institutions and I personally wish this country all the very best for its future and on its path to Euro-Atlantic integration, prosperity, a safe and comfortable life, economic improvement and most of all reconciliation.

I'm fully aware that this will require all stakeholder

relationships to be built on trust and respect. For the citizens of this country my message is clear: Bosnia and Herzegovina's natural place is in Europe and the European Union. You certainly deserve the many benefits that all present EU Member States already enjoy. Respect for Human Rights, freedom to travel, work or trade in any Member State, a high level of security and stability both financially and in a more general term and an overall improved quality of life – just to name a few – are all benefits that should encourage you to continue your path towards becoming a welcome member of the European family.

Bosnia and Herzegovina must not get left behind as the rest of the region's countries move ahead and closer to the EU. Let me conclude by wishing you all a prosperous and happy New Year.

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**EUFOR Change of Command**

**EUFOR FORUM**  
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Commander EUFOR  
**Major General Dieter Heidecker**

EUFOR Public Affairs Chief  
**Lt Col Otmar Lindner**

**EUFOR Forum Staff:**

Editor:

**Lt Cdr Gareth Jones**

Layout:

**Mr. Jasmin Zeherovic**

Photographs contributed by:

**WO Herbert Pendl**

Printed in:

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**(HQ EUFOR)**

Welcome to this year's last edition of the Forum. The undisputed highlight of this month was the Change of Command on 03 December, when the Operational Commander General Sir Richard Shirreff handed over command of EUFOR to Major General Dieter Heidecker.



Another highlight were the finals of this year's EUFOR Soccer Cup on 24th November in the Zetra Centre in Sarajevo. Many thanks to

the British Embassy, the Austrian Ministry of Defence and Sports, NATO, the EUSR, the Brazilian and Norwegian Embassies, the Royal Spanish Football Federation, Messer, Merkur Insurance and the Armed Forces BiH who all kindly donated attractive prizes.

Operationally the highlight was an exercise with the EUFOR Multi-National Battalion working alongside a company of Slovenian troops from EUFOR's new Intermediate Reserve and an AF BiH platoon from the 4th Infantry Brigade in Glamoc from 12th to 16th November 2012. This exercise also provided a great opportunity for the Armed Forces BiH to gain further experience in working together with Multi-National forces as it marked the first instance where a full platoon from the AF BiH was conducting a deployed field training exercise with EUFOR troops.

A series of larger and more ambitious joint training exercises are planned for next year and they clearly demonstrate the international community's commitment to BiH, whilst supporting the AF BiH along their path towards full integration within Euro-Atlantic force structures.

Last but not least, our Public Affairs Office has seen some changes too, with both the Chief and the Spokesperson having rotated out. Please let me take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for the excellent and highly respected work performed in the past by Lt Col Knut Scheutz as the Chief Public Affairs Office and Lt Cdr David Collins as the EUFOR Spokesperson - they will be dearly missed, both as good friends and professionals. At the same time I want to heartily welcome Lt Cdr (RN) Gareth Jones as our new Spokesperson and to wish him a most successful mission and a wonderful stay here in beautiful Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Have all a stunning 2013 and may all your hopes and wishes come true!

**Lt Col Otmar LINDNER**  
**Chief Public Affairs Office**  
**EUFOR HQ**

# EUFOR Change of Command



Major General Robert Brieger today completed his one year tenure as the Commander of EUFOR. The Operational Commander, General Sir Richard Shirreff handed over the command of EUFOR to Major General Dieter Heidecker at the ceremony in Butmir Camp today.

In the past 12 months EUFOR has undergone one of the biggest transformations in its history. It has raised significantly the quality of support to the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina by shifting focus from individual training to collective training whilst also placing greater emphasis on mentoring and monitoring through its embedded training teams and advisors.

In operational terms EUFOR has recently introduced a new and robust reserve concept that has enabled the number of EUFOR troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina to be reduced. Known as the In-

termediate Reserve, it is dedicated to Bosnia and Herzegovina, and can be called upon to reinforce the permanent EUFOR troops at short notice.

During the ceremony General Brieger said: “The unambiguous message from the EU and the international Community is that we remain committed to the security and stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its institutions.”

He added: “For Bosnia and Herzegovina and its people, I wish you all the best for the future and on your path to Euro-Atlantic integration, prosperity, a safe and comfortable life, economic improvement and lastly my earnest wish, reconciliation.”

General Heidecker joins EUFOR from the Austrian Joint Forces Command where he was the Deputy Commander.

Speaking at the ceremony General Heidecker stressed the importance of positive civil-military

co-operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and his sincere wish for all stakeholder relationships to be built on trust and respect.

Referring to the next 12 months, General Heidecker said: “EUFOR will build on the success of the existing embedded training teams and advisors and we will seek ways to further support the professional development of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.”

The ceremony was hosted by the Operational Commander of EUFOR, General Sir Richard Shirreff. It was attended by many VIPs from Bosnia and Herzegovina and across Europe, including the European Union Special Representative/Head of the European Union Delegation in Bosnia and Herzegovina Ambassador Peter Sorensen, the High Representative Valentin Inzko and the Minister of Defence of BiH Mr Zekerijah Osmić.

# EUFOR Cup Reaches its Climax in Sarajevo



The winners of the boy's cup - Mustafa Ejubović Šejh Jujo Elementary School

This year's EUFOR Soccer Cup concluded on 24th November with Mustafa Ejubović Šejh Jujo Elementary School from Mostar winning the boys' competition and the 21st March Elementary School from Matuzici winning the girls' competition.

The finals in Sarajevo's Zetra Centre were the climax of the EUFOR tournament which had been taking place throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina over the last two months. This year a total of 285 teams entered the competition of which 205 were boys' teams and 85 were girls' teams. During the regional qualification tournaments these were whittled down to 37 teams which then went on to participate in the grand finale on 23rd - 24th November in the Zetra Centre.

The British Embassy kindly donated the prizes for both the girls' and boys' winning teams with trips to London next year. The Austrian Ministry of Defence and Sports also donated a trip to Austria for the boys' runners up.

Other major sponsors of this year's event included NATO, the EUSR, the Brazilian and Norwe-

gian Embassies, the Royal Spanish Football Federation, Messer, Merkur Insurance and the Armed Forces BiH.

During the award ceremony the Commander of EUFOR Major General Brieger thanked the competition's sponsors and the Armed Forces BiH for helping to make the tournament such a huge success.



Major General Robert Brieger congratulates the winners of the girls' cup - the 21st March Elementary School.

# Joint EUFOR and AF BiH Training Exercise in Glamoc



EUFOR's Multi-National Battalion working alongside a company of Slovenian troops from EUFOR's new Intermediate Reserve and an AF BiH platoon from the 4th Infantry Brigade conducted a

training exercise in Glamoc from 12th to 16th November 2012.

The Intermediate Reserve is a new rapidly deployable and capable force provided by six EU nations that has allowed EUFOR to





reduce the number of troops that it permanently deploys in BiH. Dedicated to BiH, the Intermediate Reserve demonstrates clearly the ongoing commitment of EUFOR to maintaining the safe and secure environment in BiH.

In addition to integrating the Slovenian Intermediate Reserve Company into EUFOR's Multi-National Battalion, the exercise provided an ideal opportunity for the AF BiH to gain further experience in working within Multi-National forces. The exercise at Glamoc marks the first instance where a full platoon from the AF BiH has conducted a deployed field training exercise with EUFOR troops.

During a media visit on the 13 November 2012, the Turkish company from the Multi-National Battalion and the Slovenia Company carried out training in public order, whilst the Multi-National Battalion's Austrian Company and the AF BiH platoon focused on search and rescue.

A series of larger and more ambitious joint training exercises are planned for next year involving companies from Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Hungary, Turkey and the United Kingdom. These exercises will continue to demonstrate the international community's commitment to BiH, whilst supporting the AF BiH along their path towards full integration within Euro-Atlantic force structures.

## The new structure for LCC



On the first of September 2012 the new LCC (LOT Coordination Center), stationed in Camp BUTMIR in SARAJEVO, became operational. Because of the downsizing of EUFOR the former three RCC (Regional Coordination Center) were closed and the LCC was created and took over the tasks of the 3 RCC.

The LCC is responsible for supporting and coordinating the 17 remaining multinational LOT houses all over BOSNIA. The LCC/LOT system consists of 7 different nations and 145 members including the local interpreters.

The LCC is deployed as part of the EUFOR SA Matrix in order to provide coordination, support, and guidance to LOTs in the execution of their mission.

Throughout BIH there are LOTs stationed in cities and towns that openly and actively gather information on the general security situation in their areas. They report to the LCC which will forward this information to EUFOR HQ in order to allow the mission maintain an accurate picture of the day to day life throughout BIH

## First Official Meeting Between new EUFOR Commander and Minister of Defence

The newly appointed Commander of EUFOR, Major General (MG) Dieter HEIDECKER, attended his first official meeting with the Minister of Defence, Mr. Zekerijah OSMIĆ, this morning (Friday 7 December 12). Lieutenant General (LTG) MILOJČIĆ, the Chief of Joint Staff, Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF BiH) was also in attendance. MG HEIDECKER emphasized that the professional assistance provided by EUFOR in training AF of BiH would continue and that this on-going programme of Capacity Building and Training for AF of BiH remains an essential element for BiH's path to successful Euro-



Major General Dieter Heidecker, COM EUFOR, during his first meeting with Minister of Defence, Mr. Zekerijah Osmić.

Atlantic integration.

MG HEIDECKER also took time to highlight the professional and positive contribution currently being made by AF of BiH to the ISAF international mission in Afghanistan.

A key priority for EUFOR ALTHEA, agreed during the meeting, will be the maintaining of co-operation with the Ministry of Defence of BiH and, in particular, working

closely together in the common goal of achieving disposal of surplus ammunition in BiH.

Minister OSMIĆ and LTG MILOJČIĆ expressed their appreciation for MG HEIDECKER's statement of support and stressed their willingness to continue to build upon the positive relationship and levels of mutual co-operation currently enjoyed between EUFOR and AF of BiH.

## Slovakian Ambassador Affirms Support for EUFOR

The Commander of EUFOR, Major General (MG) Dieter HEIDECKER, attended a meeting with His Excellency (HE) Mr Miroslav MOJŽITA, the Slovakian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in Sarajevo on Monday 10 December 12.

His Excellency the Ambassador confirmed that Slovakia remains committed to its participation in EUFOR by providing a long-standing contribution of 45 troops deployed in key roles both within Camp Butmir and in a variety of Liaison Observation Team (LOT) Houses located across BiH. The work currently undertaken by locally deployed Slovakian troops, he further explained, is no longer standard mili-

tary tasking, as the focus is now placed on capacity building activities for the Armed Forces of BiH and engaging positively with local communities through embedded EUFOR liaison teams.

Recognising that the pace of domestic reform may have slowed in recent years, both parties agreed the responsibility for making a positive difference to the future effectiveness of BiH decision-making institutions must rest primarily with locally elected officials and policy makers.



Major General Dieter HEIDECKER, COM EUFOR, during his meeting with His Excellency Mr Miroslav MOJŽITA, the Slovakian Ambassador to BiH.

The meeting concluded that international forces deployed in BiH remain a necessary, effective and a positive force for good in helping BiH achieve its long term goals and the conditions required for eventual Euro-Atlantic Integration.

## Visit of Head of the European Union Command Element Lieutenant General De Vincenti to EUFOR



Lieutenant General Leandro De Vincenti, Head of the European Union Command Element in Naples, visited EUFOR on 13-14th November 2012.

He was welcomed to Camp Butmir by Major General Robert Brieger, the Commander of EUFOR.

During a busy programme General De Vincenti had office calls with Ambassador Peter Sørensen, the EU Special Representative; Lieutenant General Miladin Milojević, the Chief of the Joint Staff of the AF BiH and Ms Marina Pendes, the Deputy Minister of Defence for BiH.

General De Vincenti's meetings covered a range of important issues including capacity building

and training with the AF BiH. In particular he was apprised of the joint training exercise involving EUFOR's Multi-National; Battalion, the Intermediate Reserve and the AF BiH that was held at Gla-

noc this week. General De Vincenti also received briefs on the issue of surplus weapons and ammunition within BiH, and the new LOT House Co-ordination Centre within Camp Butmir.







## CIMIC School Restoration Project Builds Positive Bridges with Youth of Visoko Community

The newly renovated school of “Kulin Ban” in Visoko was opened by the Commander of EUFOR Major General Brieger on the 23rd of November. The renovation was a project conducted by the Austrian CIMIC-Team, financed by the generous help of an Austrian donor.

With sufficient financial backing and a keen and willing volunteer workforce the project team achieved its objective of fixing the roof structure which was badly damaged during last winter’s heavy snow falls. The extension of the roof and the new rainwater gutters will now protect the building’s front from on-going damage. In addition, the team removed damaged parts of the façade and completed reconstruction work, which restored freedom of access and movement for all its staff and pupils throughout the site of this time-honoured and much beloved school.

For the opening celebrations the focus was very much on the children. The audience was very taken by their touching performance of songs and dances.

In their speeches both, General Brieger and the School Principal emphasised the importance of such civil-military initiatives and the positive bridges and relationships they create.

**Staff Sgt GRASSBERGER Chrysanth**



General Brieger hands over a symbolic cheque



School with improved roof and façade



Dance performance of the children

## “Training Together” – for a safer environment

### EUFOR mine risk education instructor course

With the accreditation of new mine risk education (MRE) instructors, EUFOR has taken yet another step towards professionalizing its mine risk education projects. A total of 18 personnel from the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (15), the Red Cross (1) and EUFOR LOT Houses (2) have attended a special course, developed in accordance with international standards for MRE, from 10th and 14th December 2012 in Camp BUTMIR. The Instructors came from EUFOR, BHMACE and the NGO “Stop mines” and the course was divided into 4 modules:

- Introduction to countermine actions
- Topography and security measures
- Data collection and processing
- Communication in mine risk areas

The students also learned how to coordinate MRE and how to implement risk education and training projects. Additionally, practical advice on tools for use by anyone engaged in mine risk education was also given. The three main interlinked and interdependent goals of MRE are to minimize deaths and injuries and to reduce the social and economic impact from landmines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW) and to support development.

Accreditation is the procedure by which a MRE instructor is formally recognized as competent



and able to carry out specific MRE activities. After the completion of the course, all participants had qualified to effectively provide relevant information, to train at-risk populations and exchanging information with affected communities – a process called community mine action liaison – and received their certificates from BHMACE according to International Mine Action Standards (IMAS).

As Bosnia and Herzegovina has moved through the transition from a complex emergency to stability, reconstruction and traditional development, educational activities and community mine action liaison are now taking on an ever-growing importance. Therefore, the ability to refine and adjust the tools and methods in response to changing needs, and the timely reporting of progress and lessons learned is the remaining challenge.

The term “mine risk education” refers to activities which seek to reduce the risk of injury from mines and unexploded ordnance UXOs by raising awareness and promot-

ing behavioral change, including public information dissemination, education and training as well as community mine action liaison. The MRE instructors had to learn all about minimum standards for the planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation of MRE programs and projects.

In conclusion, MRE projects and programs need to be well-targeted, integrated, innovative, and flexible. Good MRE exploits opportunities in the media to get its messages across, while supporting communities in their efforts to manage the risks that mines and ERW inflict upon them. Good MRE adapts to changing circumstances, while continuing to reach the people that need information and support. It addresses the risk-taking behavior prevalent in the communities while effectively supporting broader mine action, and relief and development activities. In short, we need to make sure we’re not only doing a good job, we’re also doing the right job.

## CBT Assessment Conference is a Great Success



My name is Major Cuminy Oliviero (ROU ARMY) and I have worked from the middle of July as an Internal Coordination Officer inside the Capacity Building & Training (CB&T) Division.

I am the point of contact for all embedded personnel and mobile teams inside CB&T Div and at the same time, I am the interface between my division and other EUFOR actors. My job is to implement the training activities in accordance with the Combined Joint Statement of Requirements (CJSOR). Together with the Training Planning Coordination Team, I had to collect and integrate all EUFOR CB&T activities into the EUFOR Training Calendar. Before creating the Training Calendar could be finalized EUFOR and AF BiH had to agree on all activities.

This year's starting point for

the agreement regarding the 2014 Training Calendar was the ASSESSMENT CONFERENCE held on 27-28 NOV 12 inside Camp BUTMIR. This conference was a very important activity for the CB&T Division, as it is the highest level (operational) event when it comes to the coordination of activities with AF BiH.

The CB&T Division is the main structure within EUFOR which provides military expertise and technical support to the authorities of BiH in the areas of capacity-building and training.

### **The aim of the conference was:**

1. To review the execution of capacity building and training activities and to assess further needs in order to ensure and enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the EUFOR Indi-

vidual Training and Collective Training.

2. To present the Task Plans for Embedded Training / Advisory Teams within AF BiH and to assess the opportunities for capacity building and synergies between the three (3) Lines of Operation.
3. To discuss lessons learned (LL) and develop proposals for the way ahead and recommendations for decisions to be made in order to achieve of the ultimate CB&T mission objectives regarding Collective Training.

The conference was very well attended by representatives from the AF BIH, (JS J3 / J7 AF BIH, TRADOC), PSOTC AF BIH, EU SG, EU CE, ODC, NATO HQ Sa, EUFOR Staff Personnel (DCOS



CB&T, MA, Branch Chiefs of TPCT, ET, CT and JMA, DCOS OPS and the Multi National Battalion (MNBN).

In my opinion CB&T succeeded very well in conducting this Assessment Conference. The first day has focused on Individual Training (MTT, MMT) issues with an analysis of the AF BiH training needs (Training Need Assessment-TNA), a review of already executed trainings in 2012 including a LL process, a review of the plans for 2013 as well as the discussion of the 2014/2015 future prospective.

On the second day embedded personnel presented their Task Plans (TPs) and Lessons Learned (LL) in close coordination with AF BiH personnel in order to generate synergy by conducting individual and collective training needs as-

## **The CB&T Division is the main structure within EUFOR which provides military expertise and technical support to the authorities of BiH in the areas of capacity-building and training.**

sessments. Additionally, a review of collective training activities with LL (MNBN – AF BIH) was executed in order to generate future plans for collective training of the AF BiH in this specific area.

The participants concluded that the conference achieved all their goals partially or totally.

### **Some of the conclusions were that:**

1. Individual Training was a success but for some FEs it is neces-

sary to be continued in 2013 and 2014.

2. Collective training was well performed in 2012 by both MNBN and IR companies.

3. Embedded personnel (advisors) had a good start into 2012 and still continue their job in a very promising way.

4. AF BiH members demonstrated themselves to be good and highly motivated partners with a very good attitude. We received invitations to participate in all their planning conferences for 2013 and 2014.

The participation of NATO and ODC partners made our planning and coordination efforts much easier. I would like to thank everyone who participated for their good cooperation and I wish you all a “Merry Christmas!”

# EUFOR Technical Acumen Shows the Way on How to Make Safe Ammunition & Weapons Sites

With the decision of the EU Foreign Affairs Council the EU-led military operation, Operation EUFOR ALTHEA continues its success story under the command of Major General Robert Brieger in providing capacity-building and training to support to the Armed Forces of

BiH. The establishment of the Capacity Building and Training Division (CB&T) led to the foundation for the various Multi National Training Teams to begin capacity-building and training in different areas in accordance with AF BiH training requirements. One of these training requirements was established in the area of Ammunition and Weapons Storage Site Management.

In accordance with implementation of EUFOR ALTHEA MTT 2.1.6.1., Austrian Ammunition & Weapon Storage Site Management Technical Personnel (Department for Research and Development of the Armed Forces Logistics School in Felixdorf) performed from 05–17 AUG 12 in Camp Butmir (CB) a chemical testing of ammunition propellant held by the AF BiH prior to the commencement of further MTT activity with the AF BiH.

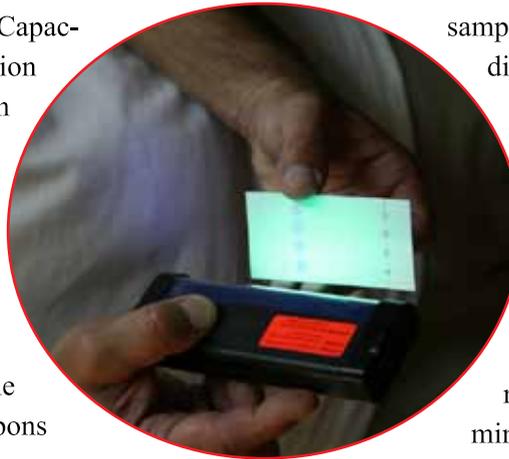
### Testing Objectives and Procedures

The main objective focused on testing ammunition propellant (powder charges) taken from ammunition natures at AF BiH facilities which were manufac-



**The Austrian MTT Technical Personnel performing the Ammunition Propellant Testing**

tured in the years 1992-1994 in order to determine its stability and lifespan. For the practical test, the total amount of propellant which was tested was approximately 0.8 kilogrammes, in 100 gramme batches. These batches were taken as random



**Austrian MTT Technical Personnel Dr. Schneider checks the results of the ammunition propellant testing**

samples of some 8 delivery lots from 2 different natures of artillery ammunition propellant and are determined as being a representative cross-section.

All samples from the propelling charges were tested for chemical stability by utilizing proven and standardized laboratory-methods e.g. Content determination of stabilizer agent, Artificial Ageing, Bergmann-Junk Test and the Holland Test.

### Assessment

In the context of the AUT MTT 2.1.6.1. – Ammunition and Weapons Storage Site Management the requested assistance to verify the stability of prospective artillery charges was performed at CB. All samples were taken from the AF BiH Ammunition Storage Site (ASS) in KRUPA and tested in accordance to specific, recognized test procedures by technical personnel at a suitable building, following all required safety procedures. The results showed that the lifespan of the propellants are reaching their end and the required replacement process should be started in a timely manner.

**Maj Helmut Leopold**

## MTT Conduct Hat Trick of Historical Celebrations

On December 6th, MTT Tradoc Improvement (ESP-AUT) celebrated in Travnik a simple event along with a typical Spanish meal with an Austrian flavor.

It was just an excuse to celebrate three single events; Artillery Branch patron saint Santa Barbara (04DEC), Spanish Constitution Day (06DEC) and Infantry Branch patron saint Immaculate Conception (08DEC).

Santa Barbara is associated with storms, thunders and, as an extension, to explosions and cannons. That is the reason several armies around the world take Barbara as their artillery patron saint.

On the other hand, on December 6th 1978, the Spanish Constitution was approved and it became a tradition in Spain to celebrate that event, as it represented the fulfillment of the so-called Spanish Transition.

But it is the history of the patronage of the Infantry Branch which is interesting the most. We need to go back to the 7th/8th December 1585 to a place called Empel, located in the Netherlands and was at that time under Spanish domination.

During those days, the Maestre de Campo (Field Marshall) Francisco de Bobadilla commanded a Tercio (regiment) fighting the Eighty Years' War on the Bommel



island, between the rivers Mosa and Waal, and were completely surrounded by Admiral Holak Escuadra. Thus the situation was

becoming increasingly desperate for the Spaniards.

The Dutch commander therefore proposed an honorable surrender, but the Spanish response was clear; "Spanish infantrymen prefer death to dishonor.

We shall speak of surrender once we are dead". In front of such a declaration, Holak let the rivers free by breaking the levees so the enemy's camp was flooded. Soon afterwards, just the Empel tiny hill submerged from the waters.

In that situation, according to deliverance, a soldier from the Tercio was digging a trench when he came upon a Flemish carving of the Immaculate Conception. The soldiers put the sacred object on an improvised altar and Bobadilla encouraged his men to fight under the protection of the Virgin. That night an extraordinary cold breeze started to freeze the Mosa river, enabling the Spanish Tercio to assaulted the enemy positions at dawn on the 8th December by surprise. Victory was fully achieved prompting Admiral Holak to declare; "It seems God is Spanish, as He did such a miracle".

That same day, among cheering, Immaculate Conception was declared patron saint of the Spanish Tercios in Flanders and Italy.

## Romanians Celebrate State Birthday



From left to right: B.Gen. Walter T.LORD (COM NHQSa), Col. Eduard DODU (CO of the Romanian Expertise Air Advisers Team), Col. Bogdan IONESCU (CO of the ROU NIC), B.Gen. Erno Peter SIPOSS (COS EUFOR).

1st December 1918 (or the Great Unification) marks the birth of the modern Romanian State, when people from Transylvania and from Romania decided to have a common future.

The perfection of the nation's unification was not the deed of the politicians, of the government or of a party; it is the historic accomplishment of the whole Romanian people in building its constitutional and territorial foundation which is the national state.

It is a special day because of its spiritual significance; it is a day of reaffirmation of the Christian roots and traditions of Romanians. December 1st is an important part of the identity of our country which is today a member of the great EU family and a credible NATO partner. Standing as the 7th largest state inside the EU, Roma-

nia became an important security provider in the West Balkans.

The 37 servicemen deployed in Bosnia and Herzegovina makes from Romania the 4th largest contributor to the stability of the

country.

A cocktail was organised by the Romanian contingent in Millennium bar in Camp Butmir on the occasion of the Romanian National Day.



## Strengthening the Bond: MWA Badminton Tournament



### Sport activities in camp Butmir

On Tuesday, 20 November 2012 in the EUFOR HQ gymnasium in Camp Butmir a friendly badminton match between Brigadier General Peter Erno SIPOSS COS EUFOR and Major Gabor Nagy and Brigadier General Ivica JERKIĆ Commander Operations Command, AFBiH / Sergeant First Class Resad HASANBEGOVIĆ. Though classified as a friendly, this match demonstrated the competitive spirit of all four participants and throughout the game it could be concluded that all the participants are, if not true masters, then at least competitors with a thorough understanding of the game. The significance of this

match was that it was an introduction game to the Camp Butmir Badminton Tournament organized by HQ CMDT/ MWA which was played four days later.

HQ CMDT/ MWA Badminton Tournament –The main sporting event on 24 November 2012 in camp Butmir was a badminton tournament organized by HQ CMDT / MWA. This event brought together 14 participants from five different countries. The tournament was held in a competitive though sporting atmosphere with many close scoring games. In addition to sports competition, this event was an excellent opportunity for the international personnel to socialize and strengthen their bond through sport. The tournament was

concluded after four hours and a total of 24 matches were played. The eventual winner in the male category was Joseph Ačko (SVN), second place was taken by Gasper LOCNISKAR (SVN) while the third place went to Atila VARGA (SVK). In the female category the winner was Zuzana CIERNAVOVA (SVK), second place was Lenka PETROVA (SVK) while the third was Elizabeta NAUMOVSKA (MKD). Medals and certificates were awarded to the top three finishers in the male and female category. The awards ceremony was led by EUFOR COS Erno Peter SIPOSS in cooperation with the HQ CMDT S1 officer Capt John BUTLER.

**Zeljko Puljic**



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