



EUFOR Chief of Staff  
Handover-Takeover Ceremony

## INSIDE:

Change of Command in  
the Multinational Battalion  
in BiH

Training Branch Visit to  
Combined Training

Gender in the Defence  
Sector of BiH

Main Planning Conferences  
for Forthcoming Exercises



Operation Commander Farewell Parade



*Soldiers of EUFOR ALTHEA,  
Comrades,*

*As we all know, in early February legitimate demonstrations, that began peacefully, suddenly became, in some instances, violent. BiH took centre stage in the eyes of the world again as we saw pictures and video footage of large protests and burning buildings. Nothing like this had been seen in this country for over 15 years.*

*While these protests, based on social and economic dissatisfaction, were not a substantial threat to the safe and secure environment (SASE) of BiH, they are definitely a sign that security and stability does not simply occur naturally and without effort. As in any other country and society in the world, this has to be created by the citizens, their elected representatives and their institutions.*

*The European Union has undertaken big efforts to support the development of BiH towards Euro-Atlantic integration through many initiatives and continues to do so. EUFOR, as part of the European Union's comprehensive approach to BiH, also supports these efforts. Our main work, the capacity building and training program, not only creates the chance for the Armed Forces of BiH to contribute to international crisis management but also provides other benefits for the people. One example of this is the de-mining capability of the Armed Forces of BiH and with the number of mines that are still present in this country, this is obviously essential. Another area in which we have seen progress is the Armed Forces dealing with the surplus of ammunition and weapons, which again, is obviously essential for the security of BiH. Smaller countries need to be economical in whatever they do*

*and the double use of armed forces for the benefit of civil affairs, as well as military affairs, is the most economical way of doing this. The double use of forces includes the use of armed forces and their assets for other crisis tasks, such as air*

*medical evacuation, emergency engineering capabilities, disaster relief efforts, etc.*

*This period has also seen us reach the end of General Sir Richard Shirreff's tenure as Operation ALTHEA's Operation Commander. During this tenure, General Shirreff has pushed forward with the project to dispose of surplus arms, weapons and explosives but his main effort was also in the development of our capacity building and training for the Armed Forces of BiH. I would like to take this opportunity to thank General Shirreff for his support and guidance to me personally and to Op ALTHEA and wish him all the very best for his and his family's future.*

*Soldiers!*

*Last, but by no means least, I want to gratefully thank all of you for your professional and engaged contribution to the successful steps that we have made. We have seen that the situation can change at any time, so let us be attentive and develop our capabilities and competencies which will allow us to stay focused on our main effort to support the development of the Armed Forces of BiH.*

*Yours,*

*Major General Dieter Heidecker, COM EUFOR*

# CONTENTS

**EUFOR Chief of Staff  
Handover Takeover Ceremony 6-7**

---

**Gender in the defence sector of  
BiH 11**

---

**In Mission Every Day – The Invisi-  
bles 13**

---

**Who is Dobra? 17**



**Operation Commander Farewell Parade**

Dear Readers!

Welcome to the first edition of the FORUM Magazine in 2014 - a new FORUM and some new faces. Therefore I want to take the opportunity to introduce the two latest members to our team!

I am the new Chief of the Public Affairs Office, Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Pehr, and we have also been joined by Captain Nicolai Tschol as the new Public Affairs Officer and Analyst and we are both from Austria.

Those of you that have already been in theatre for a few months might find this edition slightly different to previous ones. We tried to include stories and information that may be interesting for you. And we want to draw your attention to our new social media links as we had to make some changes, as some of our links were outdated.

We hope you enjoy the magazine and we are happy with any comment on it.



**Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Pehr,  
Chief PAO**



**Captain Nicolai Tschol**

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# Operation Commander Farewell Parade



General Sir Richard Shirreff, General Sir Adrian Bradshaw and Major General Dieter Heidecker.

On the 18 February 2014, at EUFOR Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, a Farewell Parade was held for the '4 star' EUFOR Althea Operation Commander, General Sir Richard Shirreff. Attendees included the incoming Operation Commander, General Sir Adrian Bradshaw and the Commander of EUFOR, Major General Dieter Heidecker.

## Major General Heidecker thanked General Shirreff

General Shirreff has held the role of NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe since March 2011 and is therefore the EUFOR Althea Operation Commander. He has regularly visited BiH to meet politicians

from all sides in the country.

Major General Heidecker said thankfully: "During his time as Operation Commander, General Shirreff has pushed forward with the project to dispose of surplus

arms, weapons and explosives, but his main effort was in the development of capacity building and training for the Armed Forces of BiH."

## Progress is needed

On BiH, General Shirreff said: "I remain deeply disappointed that we are not seeing political progress in BiH – Croatia is a full EU member and, despite their differences, even Serbia and Kosovo are determined to join the EU. In many ways, BiH is going backwards as the recent demonstra-



Major General Heidecker presents General Shirreff with a leaving gift.

Photos by OR-9 Herbert Pendl

tions have shown. These riots should be a ‘wake-up call’ for BiH politicians and foreign missions in BiH will only end when a political solution is reached which is acceptable to all parties and does not threaten the stability of the country and the region. EUFOR, the EUSR, NATO and others in the International Community will continue to assist towards Euro-Atlantic integration.”

### Some Positives

He added:

“We are however beginning to see some progress with the disposal of surplus ammunition, weapons and explosives under the energetic leadership of Defence Minister Osmić and Major General Jelić and it has been positive to see Bosnian and Herzegovinian ‘Brothers and Sisters in Arms’, putting aside their ethnic differences and operating in that most difficult and dangerous of theatres, Afghanistan.

On EUFOR and Major General Heidecker, General Shirreff stated: “Major General Heidecker is a soldiers’ soldier and under his leadership, EUFOR has consistently demonstrated professional excellence, such as with the LOT Houses, which recently provided much needed situational awareness, and with the Capacity Building and Training for the Armed Forces of BiH.”

### New Operation Commander

General Sir Adrian Bradshaw, who has previously served in BiH, will take over from General Sir Richard Shirreff as the NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe in March 2014 and will therefore be the new EUFOR Althea Operation Commander.



General Sir Adrian Bradshaw joined the 14th/20th King’s Hussars in 1980 after gaining a BSc in Agriculture at Reading University. He has since gained Master’s degrees in Defence Studies and International Relations from King’s College London. He served as a tank troop leader, Intelligence Officer and later, helicopter pilot, in Germany, as well as conducting flying tours in Northern Ireland and the Falklands. He then carried out further tours at troop and squadron command level serving in Africa, the Middle East, South East Asia, the Americas and the Balkans. From 1994-1996, he commanded the King’s Royal Hussars (KRH), first providing the enemy force at the UK Armoured Training Area in Alberta, Canada, and then on operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

After command, he went on to the UK Higher Command and Staff Course, and served in Military Operations in the MOD. On promotion to Brigadier, he served with the 3rd (US) Army in Kuwait, planning for Land operations in Iraq. He then became Deputy Commander of US Task Force West before Commanding 7th Armoured Brigade in Iraq. After attending the Royal College of Defence Studies in London, he became a Component Director in the MoD and was promoted in post to Major General in Nov 07. In Mar 09, he took command of 1st (UK) Armoured Division based in Germany, training brigades for operations in Afghanistan. Since relinquishing command, he has attended the US Army Strategic Leadership Programme (Advanced), the US Joint Pinnacle Course and has been a Visiting Defence Fellow at Balliol College, Oxford. He became DCOM ISAF in late 2011, was appointed Commander Land Forces in Jan 2013 and is to be appointed DSACEUR from Mar 2014.

He is married to Sally and they have 3 children, Katy, Ben and Freddy.

## EUFOR Chief of Staff Handover Takeover Ceremony



Brigadier General József Szpisják, Major General Dieter Heidecker, Brigadier General András Szűcs.

On 25 Feb 14, the EUFOR Chief of Staff Handover-Takeover Ceremony took place at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, where Brigadier General József Szpisják handed over the EUFOR Chief of Staff Role to Brigadier General András Szűcs, both of whom serve with the Hungarian Army.

Brigadier General Szpisják said that he would be sorry to leave BiH and that when he arrived a year ago, he found a mission tailored EUFOR HQ with motivated well trained officers, NCOs and civilians, serving under an excellent commander, Major General Dieter Heidecker.

Regarding NATO HQ Sarajevo, BG Szpisják said: “Supporting BiH and her Armed Forces were the mutual tasks of EUFOR and NATO and I thank NATO’s Brigadier General Hart and his team for their friendship too.”

BG Szpisják also thanked Major General Jeleć

and his team, from the Armed Forces, and the Law Enforcement Agencies of BiH:

“I am very honoured and proud to have met and worked with you and AF BiH during my time here – sometimes I felt like one of the 13 Generals here in BiH. Also, the Law Enforcement Agencies have



Outgoing Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Szpisják



Major General Dieter Heidecker, Brigadier General József Szpisják. Photos by OR-9 Herbert Pendl

provided vital support throughout our activities, especially for our Op Rehearsal exercises.”

Finally, BG Szpisják thanked the International Community. He said:

“The OHR, UNDP, EUSR, OSCE, ICITAP and the Defence Attaché corps are all contributing to the success of EUFOR.”

The Commander of EUFOR (COM EUFOR), Major General Dieter Heidecker thanked BG Szpisják for his year of service with EUFOR and said:

“I wish to thank you and your family for your sacrifice. You needed to overcome difficult issues, such as the inevitable differences in languages, culture and operating methods, which can be a source of unnecessary friction. You demonstrated excellent leadership by your own personal example and you have also been direct and uncompromising when necessary to get the job done.”

BG Szpisják is to be replaced by BG Szűcs who’s last appointment was as the Intelligence Director at the Hungarian Defence Staff. BG Szűcs is a graduate of the Frunze Military Academy in Moscow, the Hungarian Military Academy and the National War College in Washington DC and he has previously served in Baghdad, Iraq.

**Brigadier General András Szűcs** joined the Hungarian Armed Forces in 1982 as a Second Lieutenant. He graduated from the Kossuth Lajos Military School as an Intelligence Officer was appointed as a Long Range Reconnaissance Patrol leader (LRRP) from 1982 to 1986. In 1986 he assumed the LRRP company commander post for two years.

Later on, from 1992 to 1996 he served as Executive Officer within the LRRP battalion and took command over the battalion from 1997 to 2000. In November 2000 he was appointed as G2 Chief within the Hungarian Army Headquarters. Brigadier General Szűcs was given command over the 5th Infantry Brigade from April 2005 to January 2007, whereafter he continued his career as commander of the Hungarian Operations Center.



In 2008 Brigadier General Szűcs was appointed as Deputy Chief of Staff Combat Support at the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps in Italy where he served until July 2012. Since then he has been the Director of J2 at the Hungarian Defence. Brigadier General Szűcs attended the Military Academy in Moscow after completion of the Russian language course. He graduated from the Hungarian Military Academy in 1992. After passing the English language test in 1996 he participated in several PfP then NATO courses and exercises.

He graduated from the National War College in Washington D.C. in 2003 and had the honour to serve at the Multinational Corps Iraq Joint Operations Centre Baghdad from August 2004 to April 2005. Brigadier General Szűcs was decorated with the Order of Knight (Military) and various service medals.

He speaks Russian at advanced level and English according to STANAG 3.3.3.3. Married to Maria, he has two daughters, Szabina and Bettina. In his spare time he enjoys football and running.

## Change of Command in the Multinational Battalion in BiH



On February 24th, 2014, the command of the Multinational Battalion of EUFOR was handed over in Camp Butmir in Sarajevo. At the ceremony the commanding officer of EUFOR, Major General Dieter Heidecker, transferred the

flag of the Battalion, symbolizing the power of command, from the outgoing commander Lieutenant Colonel Christopher Blasch to the new commander, Lieutenant Colonel Harald Scharf.

The Multinational Battal-

ion consists of a mixed staff of Turkish, Hungarian and Austrian soldiers and each, a Turkish and Hungarian infantry company. If required the battalion can be reinforced by troops above the horizon.

### “My highlight was the Exercise Quick Response”

In his farewell speech Lieutenant Colonel Blasch made a review of the exercise “Quick Response”, which was held in September last year and which was the main effort during his command. He praised the high level of training of the troops and the good cooperation between international forces and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.







Lieutenant Colonel Scharf, new MNBN commander

**“Only together we are strong and successful in a long term view”**

Lieutenant Colonel Scharf explained in his inaugural address the framework of the Multinational Battalion. There is a mutual understanding within the troop-contributing nations Turkey, Hungary and Austria; willingness to learn from each other, since no individual soldier and no military unit is perfect and, finally, courtesy and respect for the residents and authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



## Full Operational Capability of the Hungarian company

The Multinational Battalion of the EUFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BIH) consists of a Turkish and a Hungarian infantry coy and a staff of Turkish, Hungarian and Austrian soldiers. On the 5th of March the battalion commander, Lieutenant Colonel Harald Scharf inspected the mission-readiness of the Hungarian infantry coy, which has been in the theatre since January this year.



A wounded person is prepared for the air transport

### A wide range of skills required

During the inspection the Hungarians had to show diverse military capabilities according to NATO standard procedures. Among others, this included transport planning and execution, explosive ordnance disposal and first aid in cooperation with helicopters.

### Professionalism stated

Outcome of the inspection: The soldiers have a good physical and mental condition, the teams are highly motivated and cooperate extraordinarily. All tasks were fulfilled as expected. The Hungarian soldiers proved that they hold a high level of professionalism.



Remembrance of the Helicopter Crash of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia



Visit General De Rousiers to LOT Sarajevo



Civilians employed in HQ EUFOR



Change of Command MNBN



HOTO COS EUFOR



Reception of HU Chief of Land Forces



COS Visit to MNBN



General Shirreff. H.E. Sørensen, General Bradshaw,  
Major General Heidecker



Change of Command MNBN



HOTO COS EUFOR



HQ Medal Parade



HQ staff



Farewell Parade General Shirreff



Medal Parade BG Hart



Road Map Agreement

# Main Planning Conferences for Forthcoming Exercises

With a series of conferences, held from 4th to 7th of February in Camp Butmir and at the Armed Forces of BiH (AF BiH) Military Base in Dubrave near Tuzla, EUFOR and the AF BiH launched the detailed planning of forthcoming exercises that will be held in early June of this year.

## 5th Infantry Brigade will take the lead

Whilst EUFOR conducts its annual exercise “Quick Response” to exercise its ‘over-the-horizon’ reinforcement troops, the challenge and responsibilities for AF BiH are increasing this year, as the 5th Infantry Brigade of AF BiH, under the command of Brigadier Dr. Kenan Dautović, will lead the combined EUFOR and AF BiH training exercise.

## Continuous development of skills

Capacity building and training of AF BiH is one of EUFOR’s



main efforts and thanks to the constant improvement of AF BiH, this exercise will show the capability of the 5th Brigade to cooperate with foreign forces at battalion level.

With an audience of approximately one hundred national and international staff officers includ-

ing the Operational Commander of AF BiH, Brigadier General Dragan Vuković, the EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General József Szpisják, said:

“We at EUFOR are very pleased with the results of all the hard work of AF BiH and EUFOR over the last few years. This exercise will show the improvements that have been made towards the future contributions of BiH to potential international crisis management operations.”

## Participants from three different countries

EUFOR will provide infantry companies from Slovenia, Austria and Great Britain to exercise with the 5th Infantry Brigade in this exercise.



## CB&T - Needs Assessment and Roadmap Agreement Meeting



Participants of EUFOR and NATO

Photographer: OR-9 Herbert Pendl

On 6th March 2014 the Capacity Building and Training Needs Assessment and Roadmap Agreement meeting took place at Camp Butmir, with representatives of the Armed Forces BiH and Capacity Building and Training as participants. The goal of this meeting was to assess the needs and gaps of the Armed Forces BiH in the field of training, in order to elaborate a roadmap for 2015 and 2016. This roadmap is an important milestone which will allow a better interaction between Armed Forces BiH and EUFOR, as well as to improve the coordination and optimization of trainings to be conducted during the aforementioned years.



Signature of the Roadmap agreement by DCOS CB&T and a senior AF BiH representative

### The roadmap will optimize the interaction between AF BiH and EUFOR in the field of training

The roadmap agreement meeting comes after the EUFOR Capacity Building and Training Assessment Conference, which was held at EUFOR HQ on 26-27 November 2013. The main goal of the conference was to improve Capacity Building and Training activities and to coordinate the planning for 2015 with Armed Forces BiH Joint Staff, EU Staff Group and NATO HQ Sa. Deputy Chief of Staff Capacity Building and Training requested Armed Forces BiH to start as early

as possible to plan capacity building needs/tasks as well as training needs/tasks for 2015-2016 with support from EUFOR and NATO Sa. Armed Forces BiH was also encouraged to take over more responsibility in training by themselves. This should mainly be done by using already trained Armed Forces BiH personnel and allowing EUFOR to mentor, monitor and assist its activities.

The Training Assessment Conference is carried out annually to evaluate the progress of training activities.

## Training Branch Visit to Combined Training

### A Series of combined trainings started mid of February

During the period from 17 to 21 of February one platoon from the Multinational Battalion/EUFOR and one platoon from the 6th Infantry Brigade/AFBiH took part in the combined training in Kozara/Manjača. This training was the first training in a series of 9 planned for 2014. The main topic was Force Protection, in detail security on the main gate, action in attacking on main gate with sniper fire, procedures and rules of communication, procedures for requesting assistance and reinforcement to the main gate and procedures and rules of communication.

### Contribution to peace support operations

Combined Training with the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina provides a significant collective training benefit and improves the capability of the AF BiH to contribute to peace support operations in overseas missions as

part of Euro-Atlantic alliances. It also offers the soldiers from different ethnic backgrounds to effectively work together in close teams and to integrate with other modern Armed Forces. Soldiers from the AF BiH are approaching the level of professionalism required for successful Euro-Atlantic integration and this is already being shown by their active contribution to international peace and security in overseas missions.

### Combined Training

The ultimate aim of EUFOR's training assistance to the AF BiH is to assist in achieving a robust and self-sustainable training structure, with appropriate staffing mechanism, to allow the AF BiH to provide capability-orientated and trained personnel in line with international standards, able to participate in Peace Support Operations (PSO).

by Major Vladimir Dimitrov



## In Mission Every Day – The Invisibles

### 18 Feb 20114, Camp DUBRAVE

They are nearly invisible, silent and continuous. Day by day the EOD companies and the Armed Forces beneath several NGOs work under extremely difficult circumstances in order to remove and clear the deadly threat in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

On the 18 February 2014 one of the specialised companies (the 2nd Coy of the Demining Battalion) presented that capacities and capabilities during an inspection in DUBRAVE Base close by TUZLA.

At first the Company Commander Captain Mesić reported his company to the Commander of the Demining Battalion Colonel Zenunović who was convinced of the “Full Operational

Capability the company. Captain Mesić introduced his company to the guests and explained that the Coy is FOC with personnel and equipment.

### Still huge areas of the country are covered with mines



During 2013 the coy achieved to clear approximately 1,622,000 m<sup>2</sup> of mines. For 2014 it is foreseen to work in different regions with three platoons. One placed in ORASJE, one in BIJELJINA and one in DUBRAVE. The mission for 2014 is to clear about 1,400,000m<sup>2</sup> of the landscape.

“The rugged and mountainous terrain makes the daily work to a huge challenge”, Captain Mesić explained. “Very often we work hidden beside main roads in the forests and covered terrain, he

said, “and than it is utmost important to be prepared in case of emergency in order to save own lives”.

### Exercise: How the teams get trained during emergency cases

Therefore the EOD teams established a standardised training including procedures how to deal in case of mine accidents during the work. The right behaviour during a CASEVAC or MEDEVAC has to be trained and drilled.

The situation simulated a routine demining operation during which an explosion occurred - one soldier got wounded. Immediately the platoon presented a highly professional procedure in order to stabilize and evacuate the injured soldier from the danger zone.

The EOD teams stopped with their engagement, communicated to each other - the information flow was perfect and allowed the platoon leader to coordinate the CASEVAC in a calm and confident way.



## Gender in the defence sector of BiH

On 10th March 2014, EUFOR conducted a conference titled ‘Gender in the Defence Sector’ in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. The aim of the conference, opened by EUFOR Chief of Staff,

Brigadier General András Szűcs, was to discuss experiences in gender issues. In 2012, the Armed Forces of BiH (AF BiH) started to appoint “Gender Focal Points”, and in 2013 they developed and introduced the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) throughout the AF BiH structure. Gender Focal Points are persons in the AF BiH who advise commanders and others to assure that all sol-



EUFOR Gender Advisor Ms Nikolina Marčeta



The audience of the conference.

Photos by OR-9 Herbert Pendl



diers are treated in the same way, regardless of their sex.

### Informative program and discussion

The conference program provided information about the SOPs, the experiences of Gender Focal Points in the AF BiH, the integration of Gender in peace support training and the importance of diversity in the defence sector.

During the conference, the participants learned that Gender as a concept in the defence sector has been advancing progressively. There are still challenges ahead, however, to increase awareness

and gain a conceptual understanding of the issues involved.

Gender for me is: “The right person in the right place”

In an interview, the Commander of EUFOR, Major General Dieter Heidecker, said, “For me it is very important to have the right person in the right place to fulfill the required tasks. This focuses on the capability of a person and not on the sex of that person. I certainly can say, that EUFOR is an employer of equal treatment. I also learned that Gender Advisors are very helpful in ensuring that issues specific to females are not neglected.”

### A successful conference

In his closing remarks, Brigadier General Szűcs thanked the organizer of the conference, Ms Nikolina Marčeta, Gender Advisor of EUFOR, and expressed his appreciation to all the participants. “It would be unforgivable not to make full use of the resources of skills, experience and knowledge of both men and women”, he said.



## Dobra

Who is Dobra? This is the first thing that comes to mind with someone who has been in CHILFOR before or knows of the CHILFOR mission.

To answer that question we must go back to the year 2002 when British soldiers were deployed to the town of Bosanska Gradiska in Bosnia and Herzegovina and lived in what were the first Platoon Houses. Dobra was their pet and they cared for her and gave her affection, and in return they got even more affection back and this is good for the morale of the troops serving there.

Her first contact with Chilean troops was in February 2004, when the personnel of CHILFOR 1 met her for the first time when CHILFOR took over from British soldiers, as we can see in the following picture showing OR – 6 Manuel Linconir Gonzalez, now OR – 8.

Later that year, the British left the mission area, which became the responsibility of Chilean troops and Dobra was handed over to CHILFOR to begin her career with the Chilean Army in the city of Prnjavor with CHILFOR 2.

From that moment she was loved by all Chileans who met her or knew her and that is when she became known to the HQ in Sarajevo. This happened due to many visits by the HQ officials to the Chilean LOT House, which can be seen with all the patches given to her.

In fact, she was awarded the ALTHEA Medal for her service in



the Chilean mission since 02 Dec 2004 to 31 OCT 2013.

Dobra has been sent to all the cities that Chilean personnel have been deployed to - Bosanska Gradiska, Prnjavor, Prijedor and currently in the city of Banja Luka.

But what about her temperament? She is a mixed breed dog, or to be more specific, as stated in her medical passport, she is a “hybrid”.

She is very sociable, loveable and kind to all who live in the LOT House. She is meek and has unparalleled patience, considering that every six months there is a new rotation and she must bond with new members, even some people who do not like dogs. But she always knows how to win over people’s hearts and minds.

Today Dobra is not as agile and fast as she was in her younger years as she is already 12 or 13 years old and this is a very old age for

a dog. In August 2012 she had a benign tumour removed from her stomach but after this, she returned to good health.

So, we can finally answer the question we have all been asking, what does “Dobra” mean? In the local language “Dobra” means to be good and that simple word represents her and her affection and devotion for the troops that she lives with.



## Gavrilo Princip – A Hero or Villain?

I have a feeling that here in the Balkans, like nowhere else, you can't get a simple answer to a question - is it A or B? My experience tells me that in most cases, the answer is actually C. This can be applied to the question from our title, who was Gavrilo Princip, the man who started WWI? But then, we can ask another question - was it really him who started the war or he was just an excuse to start one? As with many other cases, there is no common agreement in evaluating this historical figure. While he is still celebrated as a hero, freedom fighter and patriot among the Serbian population, other nations see him as an extremist, assassin, terrorist or murderer. Maybe he was only a tool, brainwashed and used for some causes that his mind could not possibly comprehend.

Gavrilo was born on 25th of July 1894 in the village of Obljaj near Bosansko Grahovo. He was the son of a postman, raised in a large and poor family. Because of poverty, his parents sent him to his brother in Sarajevo where he went to the Merchant School. Although he joined the pro-Serb organization "Young Bosnia", he was becoming more open to the Yugoslav project as he found that his Croatian friends shared his aspirations. He even joined some violent public protests, held mostly by Croats, on the streets of Sarajevo in 1912. That year he moved to Belgrade and made contact with the Black Hand organization, and continued to work on the unification of BiH and Serbia. He applied for both

military and paramilitary service during the Balkan Wars, but he was rejected from both because of his small physical stature. It is very possible that this was an extra reason why he felt that he needed to do something huge in order to prove his worth.

When he heard that the heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne, Archduke Franz Ferdinand was coming to visit troops with his wife, who was supposed to open a hospital in Sarajevo, that immediately made him a primary target in the plot that was already ongoing against general Potiorek, the military governor of Bosnia. Gavrilo was in the group of conspirators sent from Serbia by Dragutin Dimitrijević-Apis, the head of the Black Hand organization and Serbian military intelligence. After a series of circumstantial events and the failed first assassination attempt, Princip managed to make a fatal shot at the Archduke and his wife, who died within hours from their wounds. All of the plotters were arrested soon after the assassination with Gavrilo among them. As the investigation pointed towards Serbian military intelligence, Vienna used the opportunity to request from Belgrade that Austro-Hungarian investigators freely investi-



gate and make arrests on Serbian territory. After the rejection of this request, war was declared and in the chain reaction that ensued, the largest and most terrible war that the world had ever seen had begun.

As Princip was under-age he could not be sentenced to death, but was sentenced to 20 years in prison. He died on 28th of April 1918 suffering from tuberculosis and his bones were transferred from the prison graveyard Terezin to Sarajevo in 1921.



**The Chapel of the St Vitus Day Heroes (Kapela Vidovdanskih Heroja) was built in 1939 at the old Orthodox cemetery in Kosevo, and the remains of the 11 members of Young Bosnia were reburied here.**

Princip's status has varied with time but disputes will never cease because there is no common agreement when we talk about the history of this region. However, Gavrilo Princip will certainly remain to be one of the best known historical figures who moved the world.

## A state with only three official holidays

In Bosnia and Herzegovina there is still no common law on holidays

1st and 2nd January, 1st and 2nd of May (International Workers Days), and the 9th of May (Victory over Fascism Day) are the only three holidays that are celebrated across the country, in both entities. The BiH parliamentarians disagree on all other official holidays. Nevertheless, these three dates, on which politicians can agree, can be considered as a success.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, 1st May is an official holiday at the national level. Most people celebrate this holiday by visiting natural parks and resorts, and in some places public events are organized too.

### Celebration of the international labour movement - How did it all begin?

1st of May remembers the workers in the late 19th century who fought for their rights against a capitalist society, and some who even gave their lives for better working conditions for future generations. The workers, including women and children, were working in extremely poor conditions; with very long working hours of twelve or more hours a day; working on Sat-

urdays and Sundays; with very low wages, no insurance, no sick leave and no holidays. This is just some of the reasons that workers around the world were forced to fight for their rights and oppose capitalist oppression. In the second half of the 19th century, this situation only worsened, and the workers, recognizing that the individual can not achieve anything, began to organize in groups of workers unions.

### Time for change ?!

1st of May is a national holiday in more than 80 countries, including Bosnia and Herzegovina as well. It started initially as an attempt to celebrate the workers' achievements in their struggle for their rights and for better social and economic conditions. In most countries all around the world, celebrations are marked by demonstrations to which left-wing political parties, and workers' unions participate.

However, in BiH, 1st May and 2nd May, the International Workers Day, are days off work and off school. It is one of the major popular holidays, and the only official holiday from socialist times that is still officially celebrated. People celebrate it all over the country regardless of their political views. By tradition, 1st May is celebrated with friends and family at traditional picnics and outdoor barbecues across the country.

## Morale and Welfare

HQ EUFOR Morale and Welfare Activities (MWA) is devoted to ensuring the well being of Camp Butmir's community of Military and Civilians from over 20 countries. MWA provides an assortment of functions and activities to increase the morale and welfare for NATO and EUFOR military personnel assigned to Camp Butmir. MWA Office organises different programs inside and outside of Camp Butmir.

Outside activities are not limited only to various historical and cultural trips and tours, but also include occasional visits to the National Theatre, football matches or concerts.

The first MWA trips were organized as early as the year 2000, and were only in Bosnia and Herzegovina but more recently we have also visited Croatia. Apart from visiting tourist

attractions, we have also visited the mountains where the Winter Olympics took place.

All the trips and tours are published on the 'MWA Events' section of the EUFOR/NATO homepage and recent examples include a Saturday visit to Mostar and Počitelj and a visit to the Bosnian National Theatre in Sarajevo for a concert with the Sarajevo Philharmonic Orchestra.



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