

EUFOR forum



The EUFOR ALTHEA Operation Commander, General Sir Adrian Bradshaw, was welcomed at EUFOR HQ by Commander EUFOR, Major General Dieter Heidecker, before embarking on a two-day visit



Military engineers work together on bridge building task



Dear Readers,

Welcome to this edition of EU Forum, which covers the summer period from July until September.

I hope that most of you managed to take the opportunity to have some time away on holiday, and to recharge your batteries with friends and family before we embark on what will be another busy period.

Despite the summer months being traditionally quiet, many of you have still been hard at work here in BiH. Over the last couple of months, we have continued a busy capacity building and training programme, including courses such as the ammunition transportation safety course, and signed the first version of the new training calendar for 2015.

We welcomed the Operation Commander, General Sir Adrian Bradshaw, during a two day visit in September, where he travelled to Banja Luka and met some of our LOT house colleagues there.

One of EUFOR's mobile training teams also partici-

pated in a joint bridge building project with a number of civil and military organisations over the months of July and August, before the opening ceremony in September.

There have also been a number of personnel changes, including the Commander of the Multinational Battalion. For those EUFOR members who have recently joined the mission, I wish you all a very warm welcome, and every success during your time here.

This forthcoming period will also see national elections. The campaigning will begin in earnest this month, and I look forward with interest to this election period, which will be an important opportunity for the citizens of BiH to actively play a role in the future of their country.

As always, thank you for your continued efforts.

Major General Dieter Heidecker
Commander EUFOR

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Lieutenant Commander Alice Williams-Alden

Dear Readers,
 First of all, thanks to those of you who have been in touch with the Public Affairs Office to keep us informed of your departmental activities and provided us with information and photographs for articles – it is very much appreciated so please keep up the good work.

Despite this issue covering the traditionally quiet summer period, EUFOR has continued to be busy. In the following pages, you can find details of the combined bridge reconstruction activity between EUFOR’s Austrian Mobile Training Team and Armed Forces BiH, as well as other activities from the CB&T team. We have also seen a Change of Command of the MNBN, a number of social events and commemorations, and September also began with a visit from the Operation Commander, General Sir Adrian Bradshaw.

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Bridge building

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Military engineers work together on bridge building task



EUFOR soldiers worked together with Armed Forces BiH (AF BiH) in the Municipality of Tuzla to rebuild bridges throughout July and August that were destroyed during the floods.

The reconstruction of the two bridges ensured that 350 households had easy access between their properties and the rest of the

municipality restored, and that farmers once again had access to their agricultural land.

The Municipality of Tuzla built embankments for the bridges, while the Austrian Forces Disaster Relief Unit engineering team began to train AF BiH personnel and produced the key technical drawings. The UN Development

Programme (UNDP), which was coordinating the project, procured the associated materials thanks to funding from Norway.

The joint project showed excellent cooperation between a number of civil and military organisations over a period of about 6 weeks.

UNDP is running a multi-mil-



lion USD Floods Recovery Programme called “Danas za nas” which addresses immediate community needs after the floods, including the reconstruction of basic community infrastructure.

The project also formed part of EUFOR’s capacity building and training programme, ensuring that Armed Forces BiH have the capacity and skill to contribute to both humanitarian tasks at home, and missions abroad.

The bridges were opened during a ceremony held on 2nd September. Commander EUFOR also took the opportunity to personally thank EUFOR’s Austrian Mobile Training Team who trained and assisted Armed Forces BiH, presenting them with certificates of appreciation and their Op ALTHEA medals.

It is hoped that further opportunities and funding for these bridge reconstruction activities will be available over the coming months.

by Lt Cdr Alice Williams-Alden



Top: Locals crossing Solina river.
Right: Cutting steelangle



Bottom: Bridge opening ceremony



Change of Command of the Multi-National Battalion



Lt Col Manfred Scheucher, new Commander of MNBN



Lt Col Harald Scharf, outgoing Commander

On 11 August 2014, a Change of Command Ceremony of the Multi-National Battalion was held at Camp Butmir, where Lt Col Harald Scharf handed over Command to Lt Col Manfred Scheucher.

The Multi-National Battalion is the manoeuvre force of EUFOR, formed of soldiers from Austria, Hungary and Turkey. Its mission is to be prepared to conduct operations autonomously or in support of the BiH authorities or European Union/International Community Agencies in theatre when requested. It also guarantees the force protection of EU-



FOR in Camp Butmir. It is the only military manoeuvre unit operating in BiH.

Lt Col Scheucher gave a speech on the occasion, introducing himself and thanking his predecessor, Lt Col Scharf.

He said, “It is a great honour for me to have been designated as Commander of the MNBN.

I am very thankful to my predecessor Lt Col Harald Scharf and to his battalion staff, to the Company Commanders and all soldiers of the Manoeuvre Units; they have given their best efforts to fulfil your tasks in a very high professional manner as EU Forces”.

COM EUFOR, MG Dieter Heidecker thanked the outgoing Commander of the Multi-Nation-

al Battalion for his outstanding duty. During his command Lt Col Harald Scharf and his Battalion provided an excellent performance during Joint Effort 14, the name given to the flood-related disaster relief work in June 14 conducted with Armed Forces BiH. Slovenia, Austria and the United

Kingdom each contributed approximately 120 troops, who were originally deployed to BiH to take part in Exercise Quick Response 14. However due to the devastating flooding, the main effort of both EUFOR and Armed Forces BiH changed to conducting flood-related disaster relief.





Medal Parade 29 08 2014



Bridge opening ceremony Tuzla region



LOT Conference



Appointment of the new MNBN Commander



Visit MG Boesterli, Switzerland



EUFOR Staff



Exercise MNBN



Turkish contingent invites for IFTAR



Introduction ISR TF equipment to AF BiH



Strategic Committee for Arms, Ammunition and Explosive Ordnance



Visit to the flood affected areas



EUFOR COS visits weapons storage site



September 14



Bridge building in Tuzla region



Line up of ISR TF "Light Dragons"



Visit of the Chilean Minister of Defence Jorge Burgos Varela

EUFOR Operation Commander visits BiH



The EUFOR ALTHEA Operation Commander, General Sir Adrian Bradshaw, was welcomed at EUFOR Headquarters on Sunday 7th September by Commander EUFOR, Major General Dieter Heidecker, before embarking on a two-day visit.

The visit programme on 8th September began with a briefing from key EUFOR personnel who delivered an update on the progress of the mission. General Bradshaw then travelled to Banja Luka, where he was met by Major General Husein Tursunović at HQ Support Command of Armed Forces BiH, and briefed on topics such as personnel, administration and logistics.

General Bradshaw then visited a LOT house in Banja Luka, be-

fore returning to HQ EUFOR for an update on EUFOR's capacity building and training programme. The aim of this programme is to give Armed Forces BiH the skills and capacity to deploy and contribute to both international missions abroad, and humanitarian assistance at home.



Early on 9th September, General Bradshaw, as a British Army officer, visited the new British Ambassador to BiH, Edward Ferguson. He then met with the Offices of both EU Special Representative and the UN Resident Coordinator.

General Bradshaw has held the role of Operation Commander since March 2014, when he assumed the role of NATO's Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR). Under an arrangement known as the 'Berlin Plus Agreement', this key command position also commands the EUFOR Operation ALTHEA.

Visit to flood-hit areas of Maglaj and Doboј



Commander EUFOR, Commander NATO HQ Sarajevo and the Chief of the Joint Staff of Armed Forces BiH accompanied the Chairman of the Presidency of BiH to visit the flood-hit areas of Maglaj and Doboј in August.

Major General Dieter Heidecker, Commander EUFOR, Brigadier General Christopher Petty, Commander NATO HQ Sarajevo and Lieutenant General Anto Jeleč, Chief of the Joint Staff AF BiH, initially met the Commander and staff of the AF BiH logistics base at Doboј together with Mr Bakir Izetbegović where they learnt more about the assistance given by AF BiH during the floods and where they learnt more about the assistance given by AF BiH

during the floods. But the main reason for the visit was not to have a look at the natural disaster but to get an understanding of the required measures that must be tak-

en by politicians to better respond to future disasters. The Armed Forces are the only force to help the population when other civil institutions are overwhelmed. It is crucial that the existing law is

revised in order to facilitate a quick deployment of the AF BiH in affected areas. Adequate equipment, from shuffler to excavator as well as the necessary budget reserves needs to be granted and civil as well as military authorities need training on how to cooperate.

Mr Bakir Izetbegović said, “This visit has given us a much better understanding of the difficulties local residents still face, and the steps that need to be taken to help the people on the ground”.

by Lt Cdr Alice Williams-Allden



First Version of CB&T Calendar Signed



At the end of July, the first version of the 2015 Capacity Building and Training Calendar was signed by Major General Mirko Tepšić, the Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff for Operations, and Brigadier General András Szűcs, Chief of Staff EUFOR.

The signing of the calendar is an important milestone in the development of Armed Forces BiH. The 2015 Capacity Building and Training Calendar is, like previous years, developed together with Armed Forces BiH. The process had already started in November 2013 with the Assessment Conference which reviewed previous Capacity Building and Training to Armed Forces BiH.

This was followed by the Road Map Agreement in March 2014 which contained an agreement on what support EUFOR is to deliver in 2015. The detailed planning for each area (CIS, MOVCON etc.) has now been further developed and incorporated in the 2015 Capacity Building and Training Calendar. The final version will be signed in December 2015.

In addition to the Capacity Building and Training Calendar, later this year EUFOR will together with Armed Forces BiH develop the 2015 Project List which includes projects for the EUFOR Embedded

Advisory Teams, spread on different levels within Armed Forces BiH, from the Joint Staff down to Brigade level.

By Lt Col Eric Baad-Heimer

AF BiH complete Ammunition Transportation Safety Course

Members of Armed Forces BiH (AF BiH) recently completed an ammunition transportation safety course delivered by AF BiH and EUFOR personnel in Rajlovac.

The instructors trained personnel in the safe packaging, labelling and handling of ammunition during transportation. The course was conducted by a combined team of AF BiH and a EUFOR mobile training team, led by the Swiss Armed Forces.

The course formed part of EUFOR's ongoing capacity building and training programme. One of EUFOR's major objectives is to help BiH authorities to solve the issue of surplus ammunition and weapons, and training Armed Forces BiH to develop their own professionals is a key part of this.

by Lt Cdr Alice Williams-Alden

Commemoration ceremony for Italian Air Force aircraft

The Italian Contingents from EUFOR and NATO in Sarajevo have commemorated the fallen crew members of the Air Force G222 “Lyra 34”, which was shot down by two missiles in 1992.

On 3rd September 1992, the Italian aircraft was shot down over Bosnia and Herzegovina, claiming the lives of the entire crew: Lieutenant Colonel Marco Betti, Lieutenant Marco Rigliaco and NCOs Joseph Buttiglieri and Giuliano Velardi.

On 31st August 2014, a simple but heartfelt ceremony was held to commemorate the crew members of the G-222 of the 46th Air Brigade of Pisa.

The Italian Army and Air Force personnel who are currently participating in EUFOR and NATO missions in BiH attended the ceremony, which was held near the memorial stone on Mount Zec about 40 kilometres from Sarajevo. The Italian Air Force, using transport aircraft from the 46th Air Brigade



of Pisa, was participating in UN operations to assist BiH. The mission was part of a humanitarian airlift to transport food and medical supplies.

The G-222 aircraft of the 46th Air Brigade of Pisa, which was carrying humanitarian aid to the people under siege in Sarajevo, was hit by two ground-to-air missiles. All crew members were awarded the Military Gold Medal for Valor, granted by the President of the Republic.

British troops arrive in BiH

Approximately 100 British soldiers arrived in BiH at the beginning of June with the aim of enhancing existing EUFOR capabilities and activities. The troops, whose home base is in Norfolk, England, have been assisting the capacity building and training programme of the Armed Forces BiH and improving situational awareness, and improving the interoperability of the Armed Forces BiH in peace support operations.

One example of training activity took place at the end of August, with the Reconnaissance Company of Armed Forces BiH's 5th Brigade at

Camp Eagle, Tuzla. The training programme began with a presentation from the EUFOR soldiers, who spoke about their recent operational experiences in Afghanistan. Afterwards, members of Armed Forces BiH were shown the equipment of the EUFOR soldiers, which included medical sup-



port kits, weapons and vehicles.

They then witnessed four vehicles being used on a simulated patrol, and were able to compare and discuss their own procedures and tactics with EUFOR soldiers.

Lieutenant Harry Geaves, the platoon leader of the EUFOR British sub-unit, said “This has been a fantastic opportunity for us to share experiences with the

Armed Forces BiH, and exchange knowledge and information in both directions. I've been really impressed with the knowledge and professionalism of the Armed Forces BiH and hope we can work together again in the future.”

Sarajevo Marathon



On Sunday 21 September 2014 around 100 EUFOR soldiers participated in the Sarajevo Half-Marathon. The majority of the EUFOR athletes running the 21.3km long course were members of the ISR Task Force, amongst other EUFORians like from Austria, Chile, Hungary, Spain, and Turkey. Some EUFOR civilians were seen as well competing with athletes from all over the world. Over 560 persons participated in the Half-Marathon.



In Travnik, Bosnia and Herzegovina

Transfer of authorities of Spanish contingent in BiH

The EAT – 9, Advisory team for BiH Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC), will be the last Spanish team deployed in the area of operations.



The Training and Doctrine Command (MADOC) of Spanish land forces will keep on advising and supporting the TRADOC of Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in accordance with the bilateral agreement of cooperation.

The transfer of authorities (TOA) of the Spanish contingent took place in Travnik (BiH), where it is located. This ceremony was presided by the Chief of Training division, Brigadier Škrijelj.

The TOA included the transfer of authorities between the eighth and ninth Embedded Advisory Team for TRADOC Improvement (EAT TI). The LtCol Antonio Luzón Muniesa transferred his authorities to the LtCol José Luis Sales Blanco, who will be commanding the EAT-TI 9 during the following six months.



Turkish NSE hosts Iftar Dinner

On 7 July 2014, the Turkish NSE hosted Iftar dinner to celebrate Ramadan.

Attendees included High Representative Valentin Inzko, members of the diplomatic corps, Muslim, Christian and Orthodox Leaders, Governors, Turkish Agency Leaders and personnel from both the Armed Forces of BiH and EUFOR.

The EUFOR Senior National Representative of the Turkish troops, Colonel Alptekin Tartıçi, said in his speech:

“We are very happy to be here with you, our friends, at the Iftar dinner on the 10th day of the holy month of Ramadan. In the name of all of our personnel I thank you for giving us this happiness”.

“This evening, here at this hall having a community of many different beliefs, from different countries of the World and from almost all of BiH, whose role is to ensure peace, stability and protection joining us for the Iftar dinner to share the joy of Ramadan, for us carries a great significance”.



“BiH is one of the unique regions of the world in which all these religions, Islam, Christianity and Judaism have lived together peacefully through the centuries. There is no doubt that both BiH and the rest of the world, at this time more than any other, are in the need of its people of all ethnicities, cultures and civilizations to work together towards these common goals”.

Colonel Alptekin Tartıçi concluded his speech with the quote from Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, the founder of Republic of Turkey: “Peace at home, peace in the world”.

by Ms Berina Karačić

Polish NSE leads celebrations of Polish Armed Forces Day

On 14 August 2014, the Polish NSE hosted an event to celebrate the national holiday of the Polish Armed Forces. Attendees included the Polish Ambassador and EUFOR’s Chief of Staff.

The event began with a speech from the Polish SNR where he explained the background of the Armed Forces Day.

15 August is the anniversary of the Battle of

Warsaw and the National Holiday of the Polish Armed Forces. On 15



August 1920 “The Miracle on the Vistula” battle took place between Russian invaders and the Polish Army. Polish troops achieved a great victory and stopped the Red Soviet Army marching on the West, assuring independence of the homeland.

Attendees of the event experienced the best of Polish food and drink, with a particular favourite being ‘bigos’, a traditional Polish stew made of meat and cabbage, with delicious seasoning.

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European Forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina
 September 11 · 16

Multi-National Battalion transport water to Sekovići (5 photos) · 9 September 2014

The Multinational Battalion of EUFOR have transported 15 tons of water on behalf of the Red Cross from Pale to Sekovići. The town of Sekovići was severely affected by the floods in May and June this year.

"Upon the arrival of the convoy, the local population immediately helped us to unload the trucks and numerous people were there within minutes to get some water", the convoy commander, Captain Tiller said.






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EUFOR Operation Commander visits BiH

The EUFOR ALTHEA Operation Commander, General Sir Adrian Bradshaw, was welcomed at EUFOR Headquarters on Sunday by Commander EUFOR, Major General Dieter Heidecker, before embarking on a two-day visit. Monday's visit programme began with a briefing from key EUFOR personnel who delivered an update. [Read more](#)

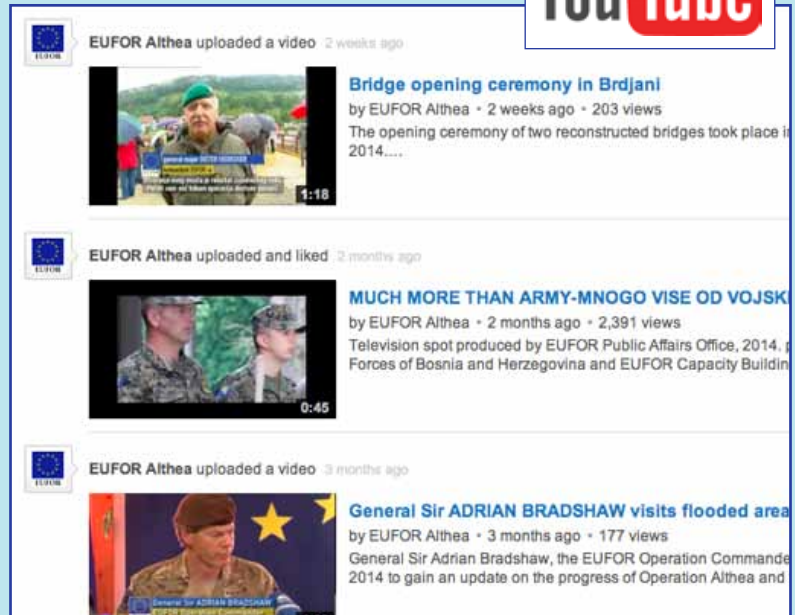
Opening ceremony for reconstructed bridges in Tuzla

The opening ceremony of two reconstructed bridges took place in Tuzla on 2nd September, 2014. Commander EUFOR also took the opportunity to personally thank EUFOR's Austrian Mobile Training Team who trained and assisted Armed Forces BiH, presenting them with certificates of appreciation and their OP ALTHEA medals. [Find out ... Read more](#)

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- VISIT THE FLOOD-HIT AREAS OF MAGLAJ AND DOBOJ
- AF BIH COMPLETE AMMUNITION TRANSPORTATION SAFETY COURSE
- SIGNING OF THE 2015 CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING CALENDAR

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