



A medal parade was held on 25 November at EUFOR Headquarters in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.



## Ambassadors from the EU Political and Security Committee visit EUFOR



*Dear Readers,*

*When I look back at my two years of service as Commander of EUFOR, it is with a sense of pride at what we have achieved together.*

*I would like to highlight our most important achievements during my tenure here. In the past two years, EUFOR has further developed the concept of 'over the horizon' reserve forces, implementing joint training between EUFOR's intermediate reserve companies with the Armed Forces of BiH, enhancing its situational awareness and the capacity to liaise with local authorities and to process information.*

*In the field of Capacity Building & Training, EUFOR launched initiatives to support the AF BiH in advancing the safety of Weapon and Ammunition Storage Sites and in disposing of surplus ammunition and explosives, providing expertise and training to commissioned and non-commissioned officers.*

*The successful transformation of the 2014 operational rehearsal into a flood relief operation, involving three of EUFOR's IR companies and the AF BiH, clearly demonstrated our readiness to assist the population of BiH. It also showed the progress made by the AF BiH in terms of military interoperability and disaster relief capacity at the service of BiH citizens.*

*When I took over this Command in December 2012, I did so with the firm intent to commit myself entirely to this EU-led mission, to the women and men under my command and to the people of BiH. Now, the time has come to say farewell and to express my profound gratitude to all the institutions and people that helped me to pursue these goals.*

*I wish all of you the very best for the future, and offer my heartfelt thanks for the support you have given me during my time here.*

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

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Ambassadors from the EU Political and Security Committee visit EUFOR

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“Dear Readers,  
Welcome to this last edition, of EUFOR Forum, in 2014, however my first as the new Spokesperson. The CB & T campaign continues to grow in strength and there are a number of articles in this edition about recent training between EUFOR and the Armed Forces BiH.

We want to ensure that the magazine contains stories that are of interest to you, so please continue to send us stories and photographs of the valuable work you are doing. We have had some positive press coverage in the local media recently and the latest medal parade was widely covered. Our Facebook followers continue to increase and if you haven't looked at our page yet you can find us at [www.facebook.com/euforbih](http://www.facebook.com/euforbih).

I will be in post until May and look forward to meeting you and hearing your news stories.”



**Lieutenant Commander Pippa Routledge**

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## Political and Security Committee and EUFOR Operation Commander visit EUFOR Headquarters

The Operation Althea Commander, General Sir Adrian Bradshaw, visited EUFOR Headquarters in the middle of November with Ambassadors from the EU Political and Security Committee.



Heidecker, Commander EUFOR, before an address by General Bradshaw. They then heard about EUFOR's mandate and current tasks by key EUFOR personnel. The delegation also had the opportunity to meet EUFOR soldiers from all departments and view their

The delegation was welcomed to Camp Butmir by Major General equipment during a static display.

### PSC and EUFOR Operation Commander visit Krupa ammunition storage site

EUFOR's Operation Commander, General Sir Adrian Bradshaw, and the Ambassadors of the EU Political and Security Committee (PSC) visited 'Krupa', Hadžići ammunition storage site.

The PSC delegation and General Bradshaw were accompanied by Commander EUFOR, Major General Dieter Heidecker. The delegation was welcomed at the site by the Minister of Defence of BiH, Mr Zekerijah Osmić.

The group was given a brief by a member of the Armed Forces BiH Task Force who described the roles and responsibilities of his team in maintaining a safe and secure site. The delegation was then given a tour of the facility.

The MoD and Armed Forces BiH are responsible for ensuring the safety and security of ammunition sites, and for

disposing of ammunition, weapons and explosives surpluses. Their efforts are supported by members of the International Community, including EUFOR.

The PSC Ambassadors were in BiH 20-21 November 2014 to visit EU institutions in Sarajevo. General Bradshaw also carried out a 3 day visit to attend a number of the PSC meetings and to undertake additional working visits in his

The PSC meets at the ambassadorial level as a preparatory body for the Council of the EU. Its main functions are keeping track of the international situation, and helping to define policies within the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) including the CSDP. It prepares a coherent EU response to a crisis and exercises its political control and strategic direction.

role as EUFOR's Operation Commander.



# EUFOR holds medal parade at Camp Butmir



A medal parade was held on 25 Nov at EUFOR Headquarters in Camp Butmir.

Commander EUFOR, Major General Dieter Heidecker, presented the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Medal Althea to over 150 soldiers from 7 different nations and thanked them for their dedicated service in and for Bosnia and Herzegovina.



“Today’s parade formally and publicly acknowledges the contribution made by everyone here to the success of EUFOR.

Each one of you represents a practical and positive affirmation of support from your Governments and your Armed Forces to EUFOR and to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina”, he said.



## Hungarian Minister of Defence presents award to Commander EUFOR



On 16 November 2014, the Hungarian Minister of Defence, Dr. Csaba Hende, visited Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, to meet EUFOR's Hungarian contingent serving in Operation Althea.

During his visit, Dr. Hende took the opportunity to award the Commander of EUFOR, Major General Dieter Heidecker, with the 'Honours for the Alliance' service medal.

This recognises his dedicated and sustained activities at EUFOR which have enhanced the Hungarian Defence Forces and the development of the Austrian-Hungarian bilateral military relations. It also acknowledges General Heidecker's engagement in support of BiH.

Major General Heidecker thanked the Minister of Defence for this honour and for the strong Hungarian contribution to the EUFOR mission, and expressed his wishes for further good cooperation and support from Hungary in the future.

Hungary is one of the largest troop contributing nations to the EUFOR mission, with personnel in a number of key positions.

## COM EUFOR gives lecture at the University of Sarajevo



Commander EUFOR gave a lecture on 17 Nov on "The Common Security and Defense Policy of the European Union and EUFOR's Role in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

The Commander explained the importance of EUFOR's role in Bosnia and Herzegovina, explaining how EUFOR Althea in Bosnia and Herzegovina was the oldest military operation. He said that "From 1995, a 60000 strong multinational "Implementation Force" (IFOR) under NATO commands' role was to implement the military Annexes of The General Framework Agreement for Peace (GFAP), or Dayton Agreement, this was followed by the Stabilization Force (SFOR) in 1996, and after a decision of the Council of the European Union, a European Union Force (EUFOR) replaced NATO-led SFOR, on 2 December 2004.

Initially, Operation ALTHEA consisted of 7,000 troops. In 2012, another restructuring process reduced EUFOR troop levels to a number of approximately 600. Today's presence of EUFOR ALTHEA is successfully focusing on CB&T while also retaining the capability to contribute to the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities' deterrence capacity if the situation so requires. The EU will continue an executive



military role to support Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities to maintain the safe and secure environment, under a renewed UN mandate".

## New National Contingent Commander for the Austrian Contingent

On 10 December 2014, the Austrian Contingent saw a change of its national leadership. Colonel (General Staff) Thomas Ruthner, after six months duty, handed over his command to Colonel (General Staff) Jürgen Wimmer.



Colonel Wimmer attended the 17th Command and General Staff Officer Course from 2003 to 2006 and holds Master's degree in Philosophy from the University of Vienna. In 2008 he joined operation EUFOR TCD/RCA as a planner within the OHQ, responsible for plans and policy. In 2013 Colonel Wimmer became Chief of Staff of 3 Mechanized Infantry Brigade, where he served for one year. In 2014 he was appointed teacher of operational art at the National Defence Academy in Vienna, where he is also responsible for further education and training of general staff officers.

The National Contingent Commander (NCC) is responsible for all national affairs of the Austrian contingent which has currently around 300 personnel. Col Wimmer will also hold the post of the Chief of Joint Military Affairs in EUFOR's Headquarters.

## EUFOR Commander pays farewell visit to President of the Republika Srpska



On 2 December 2014, EUFOR's Commander, Major General Dieter Heidecker, visited the President of the Republika Srpska, Milorad Dodik in Banja Luka.

General Heidecker thanked the President for his cooperation during the last two years. COM EUFOR highlighted his appreciation of their good working relationship and reaffirmed the commitment of EUFOR as part of the overall European Union strategy in support to BiH.

General Heidecker has held the role of Commander EUFOR in BiH since December 2012. He will complete his tour of duty at an official Handover-Takeover Ceremony on 17 December 2014 which will be held in Camp Butmir.

The EUFOR Operation Althea is currently made up of soldiers from 17 EU member states and 5 partner nations. Its primary roles are to provide capacity building and training support to the Armed Forces of BiH and to support BiH efforts to maintain a safe and secure environment.

## Dutch Ministry of Defence Officer visits EUFOR

The Dutch Senior National Representative, Lieutenant Colonel Rob Wetters, organized a briefing programme for the visit by Lieutenant Colonel Rob Keijzer from the Netherlands Ministry of Defence, which highlighted the Dutch contribution to the mission. Though the number of Dutch personnel here is small, they hold key positions within EUFOR's capacity building and training department, which assists Armed Forces BiH in developing their skills and capabilities.



Lieutenant Colonel  
Rob Keijzer



**EUFOR's British sub-unit 2014**





# Combined training between Multinational Battalion and AF BiH

One Turkish Platoon from the Multinational Battalion conducted peacekeeping training with the Armed Forces of BiH between 10 – 14 November 2014. The goal was to teach the Bosnian troops how to execute peace supporting tasks in line with international standards.

## Night Operations

The soldiers also applied their skills during night operations. “Since the profession of a soldier entails the requirement for everyone to be able to operate under severe weather and at any time, it is paramount to train in the dark as well. Our motto is “train as you fight” and it is our obligation to provide the BiH soldiers the best training possible”, said the training officer in charge, First Lieutenant Tok.

## Visit by the Turkish Company Commander

The Turkish Company Commander, Captain Karakurumer, visited the troops. “I am glad that my platoon is responsible for this combined training on behalf of EUFOR. It was a great opportunity to take part in such combined training with our friends from BiH. Both sides have mutually benefited from this activity.”

## Inspection by Senior Officers

The Commander of the MNBN, Lieutenant Colonel Scheucher, inspected the combined training and was accompanied by the Austrian Embedded Advisor of the 5th Infantry Brigade. Lieutenant Colonel Scheucher said during his visit: “It is paramount to strengthen the interoperability and the relationship between the soldiers. We can only achieve this through regularly conducted combined training of EUFOR and AF BiH troops.”



## EUFOR provides training to Armed Forces BiH and civil organisations

EUFOR provided two major training courses at Camp Butmir in the week beginning 13 October 2014, instructing Armed Forces BiH (AF BiH) personnel and members of the Mostar and Zenica Mountain Rescue Teams.

The AF BiH personnel underwent a 7 day training course to rescue injured personnel from minefields. The course began with theoretical training in the classroom, before the students conducted practical exercises, firstly using a crane to simulate airborne access to the minefield, and then using an AF BiH Mi-8 helicopter.

Successful completion of the course will enable AF BiH attendees to quickly and efficiently rescue an injured person, whilst minimizing the



risk to the rescuer.

Members of Mostar and Zenica Mountain Rescue Teams were being trained on a separate course, designed to enhance their ability to winch injured personnel into helicopters. While most of EUFOR's training programme is designed for AF BiH, cooperation with life-saving civil authorities is also extremely beneficial.

## Maintenance Course held at Rajlovac

A course to teach maintenance and upkeep principles was delivered to AFBiH maintenance personnel at the 8th Logistics Support Battalion in Rajlovac between 29 September and 3 October 2014.

The course aimed to bring together staff from different service units throughout BiH in order to present a number of techniques on organizing units and developing



work plans and schedules for maintenance activities, based on available resources.

The next step is to assess the course content and analyse which skills unit commanders find most useful in order to execute maintenance activities, including maintenance planning and scheduling.

Once that assessment is complete, the course will be included in the 2015 training schedule.

## AFBiH students complete EUFOR training

Soldiers from the Armed Forces BiH have completed an ammunition training course which was held at Travnik barracks.

The course, which was led by a EUFOR mobile training team from Austria, lasted for 4 weeks. The purpose was to educate the soldiers about a wide range of ammunition related topics, including labelling, storage, packaging and safe transportation of ammunition.



where certificates were presented to the students by Brigadier General Gojko Knežević. The ceremony was also attended by Brigadier General Reinhart Trischak of the Austrian Armed Forces.

A closing ceremony was held to mark the end of the course,

Austrian mobile training team, Mr Werner Kernmaier, has vast experience in ammunition safety training. He was recently awarded the ‘Civilian of the Year’ award by the Austrian MoD for his work and dedication in this subject area.



## EUFOR trains Armed Forces BiH Forklift Handlers

A EUFOR Mobile Training Team has been training personnel from Armed Forces BiH during a Forklift Handler Course, which took place in Rajlovac from 15 to 26 September 2014.

The training, delivered by a Swiss Mobile Training Team, covered how to drive and handle the forklifts safely. The course itself lasted one week but took place in 2 phases: the first part was to ‘train the trainers’, and the second part confirmed the abilities of these new instructors to teach students in future.

The forklifts, which had previously been donated by the Swiss Armed Forces, will be used to assist the work of the Armed Forces BiH in completing a 100% inventory of ammunition in BiH, a project which EUFOR continues to support.



## AFBiH and EUFOR meet to discuss engineering training

EUFOR HQ has held a 2 day meeting for engineering experts from AFBiH and EUFOR, with the primary aim of devising next year's training activities.

Attendees at the meeting, the ninth of its kind, also discussed lessons identified from activities already carried out this year, including the flood-related disaster relief.

They then developed and approved the engineering training calendar for 2015.

External engineers from

EUFOR's troop contributing nations of Austria and Slovenia also attended, as did a representative from the US.

AFBiH representatives from the Engineer Battalion, Operations Command and the Joint Staff were also present.



## EUFOR holds training conference for Generals



EUFOR held a conference on 11 November 2014 with senior members of AFBiH to present future steps for their capacity building and training programme. The conference was attended by Lieutenant General Anto Jeleč, Chief of the Joint Staff of AFBiH, and was chaired by Major General Dieter Heidecker, Commander EUFOR.

The purpose of the conference was to present the results of the training assessment conference in order to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the current training programme. Additionally, further areas of cooperation between EUFOR and AFBiH were discussed.

## EUFOR soldiers celebrate Spanish National Day at Travnik



EUFOR personnel deployed in Travnik celebrated the Spanish National Day

The celebration was attended by representatives from EUFOR, the OSCE, the local municipality and by the guest of honour, Ambassador María

Aurora Mejía Errasquín.

Lt Col Jose L Sales began the celebrations by addressing the guests and giving an account of the history and importance of the day, before celebrating with traditional Spanish food and drink.

## EUFOR members remember the fallen

A multinational ceremony of remembrance was held on 11 November 2014 at EUFOR to commemorate the fallen men and women of all nations.

The ceremony was attended by Ambassador Ferguson from the British Embassy, EUFOR's Commander, Major General Dieter Heidecker, and NHQSa Commander, Brigadier General Christopher Petty. Numerous EUFOR and NHQSa personnel, both civilian and military, also attended to show their respect.

A short service was held in EUFOR's memorial gardens before each nation was invited to



lay a wreath at their respective national memorials.

Remembrance Day is observed on 11 November 2014 in a number of countries to remember those

who have died in the line of duty. The date is significant as it marked the end of hostilities of the First World War in 1918.

## British sub-unit conduct training with Armed Forces BiH at Dubrave barracks near Tuzla



Soldiers from EUFOR's British sub-unit have recently conducted rece training with Armed Forces BiH at Dubrave barracks near Tuzla.

Both AFBiH and EUFOR soldiers enjoyed the opportunity to interact and share their experiences.



The training formed a part of EUFOR's capacity building and training programme, which is designed to improve the skills of AFBiH across a wide range of military tasks.

## EUFOR soldiers join Banja Luka rugby team



EUFOR soldiers have recently been providing players to support Banja Luka-based rugby team the White Rabbits.

EUFOR's British sub-unit has been providing players to the team for their weekend training sessions and games.





Arming with knowledge

EUFOR Capacity Building and Training  
for BiH

