

EUFOR forum



**HR/VP Federica Mogherini
visits EUFOR HQ**

Welcome address by Major General Johann Luif, 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 assumed command of EUFOR from my Austrian compatriot Major General Dieter Heidecker on 17 December 2014, I have already had ample opportunity to get a broad inside view of what it is that EUFOR does.

What I've seen so far is very convincing and I'm therefore quite confident that this force will continue to serve as a valuable contributor to the strengthening of the stability and development of the state and will also continue to perform its obligations in a positive and pro-active way within the overall EU strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina and through the executive mandate derived from UN Security Council Resolution 2183, signed on 11 November 2014. EUFOR will support the "dual use of forces" concept with regard to the use of the AF BiH in disaster relief operations, in addition to its conventional role, where the authorities of BiH have provided the funds and equipment necessary to carry out the function.

Let me start by expressing my sincere thanks to every member of EUFOR, past and present, for the significant results this organization has already achieved. Coming from Austria's Federal State of Burgenland where we have a diverse ethnic population, I would like to think that I have some little understanding and sensitivity of the issues which could arise in a country like Bosnia and Herzegovina, and I have an understanding of the limitations these posed on you all in the pursuit of those results.



My main focus, after the recent period of transition, is on the pursuit of capacity building and training for the AF BiH, and the preservation and safeguarding of a safe and secure environment within Bosnia and Herzegovina, through our continuing and persistent support of the local authorities. With this in mind, I must rely on every person in the EUFOR team for their enduring support in the pursuit of these goals.

As a clear sign of its dedication to Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EU continues to employ a robust reserve concept, known as the Intermediate Reserve, which can be called upon to reinforce our permanent troops in theatre at short notice. EUFOR has also been able to utilize the ISR Task Force and its follow-on, the Mobile LOTs, which have provided us with improved capability to maintain our situational awareness in the country. We are also investigating other means of support for the troops in Theatre, should the need arise.

By maintaining our Capacity Building and Training programme, EUFOR is also making a significant contribution to the creation of a more

professional and capable BiH Armed Forces. Over the last period of time, EUFOR has moved its activities from individual training to collective training, while also placing greater emphasis on mentoring and monitoring through embedded training teams and advisors. This is about giving the members of the AF BiH the capacity and capability, and above all the confidence to implement the training provided by EUFOR.

The EU and the International Community remain committed to the security and stability of Bosnia and Herzegovina and its institutions, and I personally tender the peoples of this country my best wishes for its future as they make progress along the path to Euro-Atlantic integration. The pursuit of this goal should bring with it, prosperity, economic improvement, a safe and comfortable life, and most of all, reconciliation, lifting all boats as the tide comes in.

I'm fully aware that this will require everybody involved to continue to build the trust and respect necessary to ensure this country makes progress. It is my opinion that Bosnia and Herzegovina must take its place in the European Union and become eligible for the substantial benefits which it provides, including among other things, an improved quality of life, the ability to work or trade in any member state, and to enjoy a high level of personal and national security and stability. Bosnia and Herzegovina must strive to develop in a consistent manner to ensure that it keeps pace and exceeds the progress being made by its neighbours, bringing it closer to the EU.

Major General Johann Luif
Commander EUFOR

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HR/VP Federica Mogherini
visits EUFOR HQ

Dear Readers,

What do you think of **your** FORUM magazine? I emphasise the word **your** as we are continually trying to improve the content and layout. If you have a view on the magazine please e-mail me on EuforPIO@eufor.europa.eu.

Without your help we wouldn't have many stories to put into the magazine, so if you are organising a friendly football match between nations or

celebrating your National Day, let us know. Don't worry about writing the full article, just forward the Who, What, Where, Why and When and we can do the rest.

Also a picture paints a thousand words, so attach a photograph or if you contact us in advance we can come along and take the photo for you.

I hope you enjoy reading this edition and remember it's your magazine - so please let us know what you are doing.



Lieutenant Commander
Pippa Routledge

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HR/VP Federica Mogherini visits EUFOR HQ



The High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/Vice-President of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini, visited EUFOR headquarters at Camp Butmir, on 23 February 2015, as part of her visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

High Representative/Vice President Federica Mogherini was welcomed by a guard of honour at the EUFOR headquarters before attending a brief on EUFOR's mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina given by Major General Johann Luif, Commander EUFOR. The Senior National Representatives of all 22 Troop Contributing Nations were also in attendance.

Commander EUFOR informed the HR/VP on the main aspects of

EUFOR's presence in Bosnia and Herzegovina, underlining the challenges and achievements in the field of capacity building and training support to the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. "EUFOR is a strong and visible sign of the EU presence in country and as such it gives a message of reinforced commitment from the side of the EU", Major General Luif said.

HR/VP Mogherini thanked Major General Luif and all the Senior National Representatives for the contribution EUFOR and the Troop Contributing Nations continue to make in supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina, as the country prepares to take a step forward on its EU integration path.



Commanding Officer of EUFOR, Major General Luif meets national and international partners

Since taking over as Commanding Officer of the European Forces on the 17 December 2014, Major General Johann Luif, has paid courtesy visits to a number of EUFOR's national and international partners.

General Johann Luif said "EUFOR remains a strong partner in supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina on its path to the Euro-Atlantic integration. It is important for me to maintain the good relations already formed with the local authorities and our international partners."



High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ambassador Valentin Inzko



UN Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina and UNDP Resident Representative Mr Yuri Afanasiev



Dr. Renzo Daviddi, Head of the EU Delegation to BiH



Chairman of the BiH Presidency
Mladen Ivanić



Member of the Presidency, Bakir
Izetbegović



Member of the Presidency, Dragan
Čović

Armed Forces of BiH conduct Combined Training with EUFOR Multinational Battalion

A Turkish Platoon of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN) conducted peacekeeping training with the Bosnian Armed Forces at Prijedor in the northwest of Bosnia and Herzegovina from 16 - 19 February 2015.

The exercise focused on Force Protection tactics and the aim of the training was to strengthen the abilities and skills of the soldiers in conducting peace support operations.

AFBiH - EUFOR Capacity Building and Training Plan 2015

This was the first of 9 platoon-level combined training exercises due to be held in 2015, the exercises are conducted throughout BiH. The exercise included construction and manning of check points and convoy training. Lieutenant



A EUFOR Turkish contingency soldier working alongside a member of the AF BiH

Akcelik from the EUFOR Multinational Battalion Staff said “I am grateful and honoured to be the leader of this training and I am confident that all participating soldiers have benefited greatly from the training.”

Combined training serials are

an important aspect of EUFOR’s Capacity Building and Training programme, EUFOR is arming the AFBiH not only for peace support operations abroad, but also to support local authorities and the people of BiH through disaster relief and crisis management.



EUFOR's medivac team trained together with MNBN



End of January 2015 the helicopter medevac team (Austria) of EUFOR together with the MNBN conducted an exercise at Mount Trebević. The scenario: Three soldiers of the MNBN became hurt during a car accident while conducting a patrol. One soldier was fatally and two minor injured.

In 45 minutes to the hospital

While giving first aid the comrades of the hurt soldiers sent an emergency call to the MNBN headquarters at Camp Butmir. The Medevac Helicopter, Alouette III, immediately started and arrived 15 minutes later at the snowy and stormy spot. The doctor took over

and prepared the injured for transport. Exactly 45 minutes after the initial emergency call the helicopter took off for the next hospital in Sarajevo.

Bad weather conditions were very challenging

“We faced heavy squalls and snowfalls and had a bad visibility. This rescue was really challenging

for the medicals as well as for me!” said the Austrian pilot, and the Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Manfred Scheucher, added: “A quick and reliable medical evacuation for my soldiers is crucial. We have to train that under realistic conditions whenever possible. I am very satisfied with the outcome of this exercise!”



EUFOR Multinational Battalion

Change of Command



Major General Luif hands the flag of the Battalion to Lt Col Michael Köck.

On 20 February 2015, in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, the command of the Multinational Battalion of EUFOR was handed over. At the ceremony the Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif, transferred the flag of the Battalion, symbolising the power of command, from Lieutenant Colonel Manfred Scheucher to Lieutenant Colonel Michael Köck.

In his farewell speech Lieutenant Colonel Scheucher thanked EUFOR personnel for their leadership, friendship and excellent cooperation during his time as Multinational Battalion Commander. He also praised the high level of training of the troops and the good cooperation between international forces and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

A well-trained and highly motivated battalion

Lieutenant Colonel Köck, during his address, stated that COM EUFOR

could rely on the MNBN, as a part of EUFOR's mission to be an important contribution in helping all the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to live together in a stable, viable, peaceful and multi-ethnic country referring to words used by Major General Luif in his Change of Command speech on 17 December 2014.

He also thanked Lt Col Manfred Scheucher, for handing over a well-trained and highly motivated battalion.



The EUFOR manoeuvre unit, the Multinational Battalion, based in Camp Butmir Sarajevo, is currently made up of troops from Austria, Hungary and Turkey. The Multinational Battalion troops contribute to the EUFOR Capacity Building and Training programme and conduct combined training exercises with the Armed Forces of BiH.



Small gifts will best maintain friendship

On 15 January 2015, LOT JABLANICA visited the Jablanica Kindergarden where they donated gifts to the children. Captain Jasin Kose, Deputy LOT Commander said, “the smile on childrens faces is the most precious gift”.



We share special events with the local community

On the 22 February 2015 “Establishment Day” was celebrated in Jablanica Municipality. and members of the EUFOR LOT House Jablanica attended the ceremony. The ceremony started by visiting the WW2 and Bosnia War Monuments.



We keep in touch

In order to feel the pulse of the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina, we hold meetings with people from different sectors of the community such as the representatives of the political parties, NGOs, school teachers, municipality employees, town councilors and local community leaders.



Mine Risk Education

Since there is a great risk of mines throughout the Bosnia and Herzegovina, we are conducting Mine Risk Education (MRE)

Trainings at schools and other organizations.



Support Division



Change of Command MNB



HQ Medal



LOT Travnik



CB&T Division



LOT Foca



Opening Bridge



Parade



A-Coy MNBN



Visit Mrs. Mogherini

COM EUFOR visits LOT Houses



Mostar



Zenica

COM EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif, as part of his inaugural tour, has paid visits to the EUFOR Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT).

During his visits COM received briefing from the teams about the present situation in their areas and ongoing LOT activities.



Trebinje



Živinice



Novo Sarajevo



Bratunac



Banja Luka



Banja Luka

Nations contributing to the manning of the LOT houses are Austria, Chile, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Switzerland and Turkey. EUFOR continues to maintain good situational awareness in BiH through the network of LOT houses that are spread across the country and actively interact with the local communities.



Livno



Jablanica



Travnik



Foča



Brčko



Doboj



Tuzla



Višegrad

Turkish Infantry Company of MnBn takes part in Field Training Exercise



The Turkish infantry company of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBn) conducted a field training exercise on the 14 Jan 15. The exercise was witnessed by the battalion commander, Lt Col SCHEUCHER and the Senior National Representative of the Turkish contingent Col CELEPOGLU.

A wide range of skills required

During the exercise the Turkish soldiers conducted a number of different military tasks which included transport planning, explosive

ordnance disposal and first aid.

All the tasks were completed to an excellent standard and the Turkish soldiers demonstrated high levels of professionalism and teamwork and were highly motivated.



Multinational Battalion

The MnBn based in Camp Butmir Sarajevo is the only military manoeuvre unit operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is currently made up of 2 infantry companies from Turkey and Austria and a staff of Turkish, Austrian and Hungarian soldiers. EUFOR retains with it the capacity to react to security challenges throughout the country, and has a credible reserve force to draw upon. Additionally the troops contribute to the EUFOR Capacity Building and Training programme.

Eleven Nations Represented at EUFOR Medal Parade



On the 6 February 2015 personnel from 11 of the 22 troop contributing nations to EUFOR were presented with their European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Service Medal Operation Althea by COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif.

Contribution to the Mission

In his speech, Major General Johann Luif stressed the importance of the Medal Parade in that it formally and publically acknowledged the contribution made by everyone on the parade to the success of EUFOR.

Capacity, Building and Training

COM EUFOR also noted the large number on parade with 190 personnel receiving medals. Eleven of the Troop Contributing Nations were present: Albania, Austria, Chile, Finland, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey and the United Kingdom

He highlighted that EUFOR remains focused on building the capabilities of the Armed Forces of BiH through the Capacity Building and Training programme and that EUFOR was fortunate to enjoy the support of all the countries represented.

Civilian Monument

A monument funded by donations from civilian staff members was unveiled by Commander NATO Headquarters Sarajevo, Brigadier General Christopher Petty and EUFOR Deputy Chief of Staff Support; Colonel Todor Hitrov on 18 December 2014.

During a conversation with Mr. Andrew O'hara, DPW Supervisor of Generator/Plant Mechanic /Metal Work Section, mentioned that a number of civilian personnel who worked at Camp Butmir had died since it opened in 2000. I knew that we lost 8 personnel

in DPW during that time. When I returned to my office, I asked Ms. Dragana Čerimagić, DPW Senior Supervisor to contact Human Resources Office and all other branches and find out the exact number, we were dismayed to find out that 24 civilians have died

over this period. I wrote to the HQ Commandant, Lieutenant Colonel Patrick O'Leary, asking for permission to erect a monument within the Memorial Park. The memorial ceremony was attended by all available civilian staff members.

J. A. Makin



EUFOR Mobile Mentoring Team and AFBiH engineers work on bridge construction in Lukavica Rijeka



A EUFOR team of engineering specialists from Hungary are mentoring members of the BiH Armed Forces working on a bridge construction project in Lukavica Rijeka.

The BiH Armed Forces personnel from Derventa were trained by EUFOR under the Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) programme and are utilising skills and techniques

taught on the bridge construction course.

EU Floods Recovery Programme

Following the success of last year's bridge reconstruction projects the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) continues to manage funds, from the EU Floods Recovery Programme, necessary for purchasing material for four

bridges in Zvornik, Lukavica Rijeka, Gradiška and Šekovići.

The chief of the Mobile Mentoring Team (MMT), Captain István Baranyai from the Hungarian Army, said "We have been involved in this project in Lukavica Rijeka for five weeks, but the preparation for the bridges building project started a few months ago".

More than just an Army

The 'dual use of forces' is the most economical way to run a military force. This involves AF BiH being utilized not only for international crisis management and Peace Support Operations (PSO), but also in other important areas such as disaster relief and domestic support to civil authorities: the bridge construction being an excellent example of support to local communities by the AF BiH.

Captain Baranyai spoke of the MMT's role in mentoring the AF BiH engineering team and highlighted the fact, that the AF BiH were very motivated and well trained, he also stated that the bridge should be completed in two weeks.

Thanks to the CB&T programme, EUFOR ensures that the Armed Forces gain the training and skills to contribute to humanitarian tasks.



Oak Tree

Members of the Irish contingent have planted an Oak Tree in the EUFOR Memorial Garden.

I attended a number of ceremonies here in the Memorial Garden over the years and I noticed that there was no point of focus for Irish people.

I thought that it would be a good thing to leave something behind which had the potential to last for a long time and we decided an oak tree.

This oak tree will do a number of things: It will remind us of the service Irish people have made to BiH over the years and of the sacrifice made by Irish people, Military and Civilian, for BiH.



And we cannot forget the sacrifices their families made by their coming here. It brings to mind our fallen comrades, Comdt Shane McMahon and Gda Sgt Paul Reid, both of whom lost their lives while serving in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

It will act as a symbol of friendship between Irish people and the people of BiH. Oak trees grow from tiny acorns into stately trees. They provide shelter and

sustenance for many different life forms. They symbolize both strength and durability, even in adversity, while at the same time being able to be shaped by craftsmen.

I would like to think that, in the dim and distant future, when we are long forgotten, somebody enjoying the benefits of this tree will reflect and say we had a little bit of vision.

I would also like to think that this tree is an enduring symbol of our friendship which will grow stronger over time.

Lt Col Dermot Hickey

Commemoration Ceremony at Camp Butmir

COM EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif, the Charge d’Affairs of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Embassy, Mr Dimitar Mitrevsky and EUFOR Senior National Representatives gathered on 12 January 2015 at the Monument Park in Camp Butmir to commemorate the death of 11 soldiers from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in a helicopter crash 7 years ago.

EUFOR formed a Guard of Honour to pay their respects to the 11 members of the EUFOR contingent from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia who lost their lives in this

accident and during the ceremony candles were lit by COM EUFOR, the Charge d’Affairs and the SNR of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

In his speech, Major General Johann Luif said: “I hope this commemoration here in Camp Butmir today adequately reflects our appreciation and understanding of the loss and pain still felt by your country. It allows us the opportunity to recall their lives, their exceptional spirit, their professionalism and their contribution to the cause of peace and stability in Bosnia and Herzegovina.”

The helicopter, a Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Armed Forces MI-17, was en route from Camp Butmir to Skopje, when it crashed due to bad weather on 12 January 2008. The 8 passengers and 3 crew members on-board all lost their lives.



The Experience of the First NCO Female from the Chilean Army in Althea

Hello, my name is Maria QUINTEROS, and I am currently deployed as a member of a patrol team and a combat nurse of the Chilean forces in the Chilean LOT House in the city of BANJA LUKA.

I was born in the city of RANCAGUA and I have worked in the Army of Chile since 2010, specialising in the area of medical care; also during 2011 I completed the Chilean Army Intelligence Course focusing on reconnaissance; since then I have been working at the Intelligence Academy not only as a combat nurse but also as an instructor in the different reconnaissance programs for the Chilean Officers and NCOs.

Despite my age, those opportunities have given me a

lot of experience and allowed me to develop as a person, but more important than that, this knowledge has given me the chance to contribute to this beautiful country by being a member of the ALTHEA mission of which my country is a contributing nation.



In the Chilean Army, women are totally integrated and have the same opportunities to make a career in the military, so I am very proud to be the first female NCO

to join this mission and I hope that in the future more women will be interested in coming to Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to accept this hard but satisfying challenge.

I have to admit that before arriving to this country I was a little anxious, but the professionalism shown by the military personnel from the different nations of the mission and the kindness that the local people have shown me during our daily work, have made feel sure that what we are doing here is useful and meaningful to the local community.

I can finally conclude that the happiness and responsibility that I have experienced with these culture are so strong, that there is no doubt than in a future CHILFOR mission, I will come back to meet the lovely people of this country.

Public Relations of CHL Lot House Banja Luka

Blood Donation Session held at Camp Butmir

EUFOR military and civilian members showed their commitment to helping the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) by donating blood at an event run by the Blood Transfusion Institute of Federation of the BiH.

75 donations were made during the event which was held in Camp Butmir on Friday, 30 January 2015, and organised by the Turkish National Support Element. Colonel Savas CELEPOGLU, the Turkish Senior National Representative said "The blood



donations made by EUFOR personnel shows their support to the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina and I thank them all".



Interesting facts about Dobra

1. Unknown origin and real age; adopted in 2002 by the UK's possibly as a puppy.
2. CHILE adopted her in 2004 from the UK GURKA Platoon Commander 1LT SHON CHANDLER (SFOR)
3. Awarded the ALTHEA Medal by the WELSH GUARD in 2006.
4. Awarded with her 3rd Medal on 22 Apr 2010.
5. Celebrated her 16th Birthday on 1 Feb 2015 and her 13th deployment anniversary.

The Chilean pet in Banja Luka - Dobra

Do you remember Dobra? Well, we want to tell you that she is feeling really well nowadays. In 2012 she had to have surgery to have a tumour removed, the surgery was a success; she recovered well and today is very healthy.

On 1 February 2015 she was 16 years old and if we convert that to dog years will be 112 and the oldest member of "ALTHEA". The personnel from the Chilean LOT House in Banja Luka helped her celebrate this importance event, as she is regarded as another member of the LOT House and birthdays are very important for every CHILFOR. She is always

receiving greetings from Chile and worldwide from her friends who served with her at the ALTHEA mission. They remember her with love and wish her the best! All of us want her to continue to have a great life and live with us for many years to come.

Despite her age, she is not grumpy but the very opposite in that she is very kind and friendly to all the personnel, who arrive every 6 months in Banja Luka.

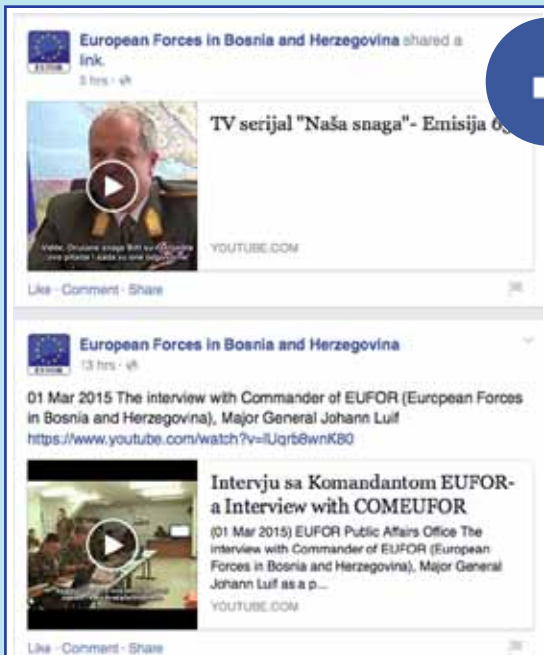
Dobra feels really lucky to work with the Chileans; it is quite normal for her to join them during their daily duties and completes her guard duties with extraordinary diligence, her loyalty to the mission is without doubt and appreciated by everyone.

Austrian Youth Indoor Cup 2015

In February this year the Civil and Military Cooperation Team of the Austrian Contingent organized the final tournament of the multi-ethnic "Austrian Youth Indoor Cup 2015". The very close winning team was the Islamic-Catholic team from Tuzla followed by Brčko, Bratunac and Sarajevo. The winning team was invited to Austria for three days to see Vienna and to watch the a soccer game as VIPs there. The competition was sponsored by the Raiffeisenbank BiH.



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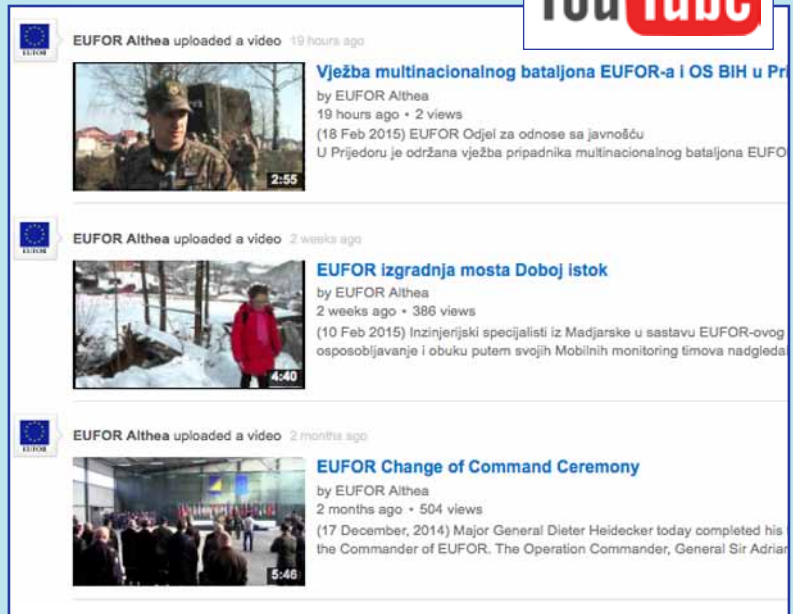
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