

Articles Review of 2015

EUFOR
forum



**EUFOR train Armed Forces
of BiH in bridge building**

COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif



Dear Readers,

As the year draws to a close and thoughts turn to our friends and family at home, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on the year we have shared together in EUFOR. I do so with a sense of pride in what we all have achieved.

Great effort has been put into our core role of Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) for the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH). In November the bridge opening in Donje Detlak represented the culmination of a long training project, as the AFBiH engineers used the skills they have learned to make a real difference to the local community. This was an example of the dedication that has been demonstrated by the CB&T branch throughout their work this year. Looking forward, the introduction of the European Union methodology for Capability Based Assessment of Armed Forces is a key development which will facilitate the identification and prioritisation of capability gaps in future.

Another area where EUFOR has contributed to the AFBiH and Bosnia and Herzegovina is the advice and training we have given to the AFBiH as they continue the drive to destroy unsafe ammunition and improve ammunition storage sites. With our support this year the AFBiH have increased the rate at which they destroy dangerous ammunition, and gained more personnel who can identify it.

The centrepiece of the EUFOR calendar was Exercise Quick Response 15. The exercise was a very public display of what we are capable of as a mission. The personnel of EUFOR alongside the Intermediate Reserve companies showed the professionalism it demanded. This, alongside our other

exercises such as Operation Rehearsal Level One and the recent Pegasus Autumn, have been essential to ensuring we remain ready at all times to fulfil our mission.

The unanimous renewal of the EUFOR UN Security Council Mandate on November the 10th signals that 2016 will be an opportunity to build upon this year's progress. I expect it to be busy and challenging.

On a final note, I would like to recognise those who work running and maintaining the Camp Butmir site. The European Defence Agency report of November this year confirmed my view that the camp facilities are run efficiently and effectively. The civilians we have involved in every facet of our work contribute hugely to the success of our mission.

I wish you and your families a Happy New Year,

Major General Johann Luif

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EUFOR train AFBiH in bridge building

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Dear Readers,

I am delighted to have been appointed to EUFOR as the Spokesperson. With Lt Cdr Ben Timpson having returned safely to the UK, it is also right that we note his efforts in this role; we wish him the very best in the future. I am certainly looking forward to supporting the important work that EUFOR conducts across BiH. I am also greatly looking forward to using 'EUFORum' as a means to highlight, discuss, and share the important work 'you' all do in support of our Mandate and the Mission.

Inside this issue you will find a multitude of interesting articles, with a focus for this addition being a review of the work conducted throughout 2015. Considering the work of the Mobile Training Team in mentoring AFBiH Ammunition Inspectors, we also unpack and explain the important training EUFOR has completed with AFBiH in support of Radio Maintenance. Bridge Building is a heavy focus in this addition and as always we have ensured COM's visits to LOT Houses are recognised.

All articles in this edition act as a fitting close to what has clearly been a very busy year! Your photos

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**Lt Cdr Liam Byrd MA RN
EUFOR Spokesperson**

and articles really are important to us, so let's start to think about how we can ensure more people are made aware of what we do in support of the Mission. If you want the opportunity to highlight a story then please get in touch by sending us an email at: euforpio@eufor.europa.eu. Quite often only a few words are needed to help get the 'Ball rolling'; your PAO Team will do the rest! Finally, I would welcome you all taking a look at EUFOR in the Social Media space. As ever, we are active on *Facebook*, *Twitter*, and *You Tube*, and your supporting comments in these spaces are important. On behalf of the PAO Team, I would like to thank you for your support this year as we look forward to a busy 2016!

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Building 200, Camp Butmir,
Sarajevo

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COM EUFOR visits LOT house Cazin



COM EUFOR and LOT Cazin personnel

On 7 November, COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif visited the Romanian Liason and Observation Team (LOT) based in Cazin. During the visit the personnel of the LOT discussed their experiences of the local area, including the attitudes and concerns of the people they regularly meet with as part of their work.

Mine Risk Education

The Mine Action Centre of Bosnia and Herzegovina states that the Cazin area is widely mined. Because of this, LOT Cazin has an established programme of Mine Risk Education. Mine Risk Education informs people of the dangers of mines, and of what to do if they come into contact with them. Within its area of responsibility are 96 schools, and LOT Cazin conduct approximately 90 training sessions with them a year.

COM EUFOR visits Romanian LOT House in Banja Luka

On 6 November, COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif visited the Romanian Liason and Observation Team (LOT) based in Banja Luka. COM EUFOR received an honor salute from the LOT personnel, before being greeted by LOT Commander Lieutenant Colonel Marian Anghel. General Luif then listened to briefings from the LOT personnel, discussing their day to day activities and their experiences in their area of responsibility.

LOT House Commander Lieutenant Colonel Marian Anghel said during the visit: “We in the Romanian Banja Luka LOT house feel very much part of the larger EUFOR team. Our work is important as it allows EUFOR to ‘feel the pulse’ of the country, and we are in the best position to do this.”



COM EUFOR welcomed by Romanian LOT House Staff

COM EUFOR visits Polish LOT Doboje

On 2 November, COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif visited the Polish Liason and Observation Team (LOT) based in Doboje. During this visit he was welcomed by Major Piotr Śmigielski, Commander the LOT house, who went on to give a report on their recent activities. COM EUFOR then addressed the personnel saying, “Your duty in BiH is very important for the mission. LOTs are one of the most essential tools, reporting events which allows me to know the situation in this country in detail.”



COM EUFOR briefed by the Polish LOT House Commander

EUFOR Mobile Training Team mentors AFBiH ammunition inspectors

From 12 October - 6 November, a EUFOR team conducted Ammunition Inspection Training for members of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) at the Gabela ammunition storage site. The course was conducted by a EUFOR Mobile Training Team consisting of experts from Austria and Sweden. The course was part of a long term programme for the students, who are at the stage of being mentored as they conduct their work.

Safety and Security

Over the course of the training, AFBiH personnel are given the knowledge to safely handle ammunition, visually checking it for signs of damage and aging. They are given the ability to identify ammunition



AF BiH soldiers being trained on ammunition handling

which is unsafe and requires disposal. Carrying out this work significantly reduces the risk of an uncontrolled explosion, making storage safer from the AFBiH and the civilian population.

Long Term Commitment

The AFBiH received certificates of course completion in a ceremony attended by Brigadier Marko Stojčić of the AFBiH and Brigadier General

Dieter JOCHAM of the Austrian Army. After this course, the AFBiH will assume full responsibility for the ammunition inspection training in future. Since 2011 twelve courses have been carried out by the Austrian MTT under the supervision of project commander Maj Werner KERNMAIER (Austrian Armed Forces Logistics School).

These courses ensure the sustainability of knowledge transfer to the “Ammunition Logistics Training Cell”. This training cell has developed together with the EUFOR Mobile Training Team (MTT) the first course for the disassembly of ammunition, which will be carried out in April 2016.

EUFOR trains the AFBiH in Radio maintenance

From 12 - 30 October, a EUFOR Turkish Mobile Training Team conducted a training course instructing personnel from the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) on the maintenance of radio communication devices. The training took place at the Tactical Support Brigade Barracks in Rajlovac, and in total 16 personnel completed the course successfully.

Equipment and Knowledge

Turkey donated 300 radio communication devices in 2011, which are used in both military and humanitarian emergency situations. This training course was designed to allow the AFBiH students to keep the radio communication devices functioning



AF BiH soldiers being trained in Radio maintenance

effectively over time, maximizing the impact of the donation. The course included lectures about the equipment, before practical instruction on fixing circuit boards and testing. The students returned 18 radios to working order during the course.

EUFOR's medevac team trained together with MNBN



MEDEVAC Helicopter training

At the end of January, the helicopter medevac team (Austria) of EUFOR together with the MNBN conducted an exercise at Mount Trebević. The scenario was that 3 soldiers of the MNBN were injured during a car accident while conducting a patrol. One soldier was fatally injured and two suffered minor injuries.

In 45 minutes to the hospital

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

On 12 January 2015 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 at the Monument Park in Camp Butmir to commemorate the death of 11 soldiers from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia who died in a helicopter crash 7 years ago.

On 14 January 2015 the Turkish infantry company of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN) conducted a field training exercise.

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

HR/VP Federica Mogherini visits EUFOR HQ



HR/VP Federica Mogherini inspects EUFOR Honour Guard

From 16 - 19 February 2015 The 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.

On 20 February 2015 in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, the command of the Multinational Battalion of EUFOR was handed over.

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 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, 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.

Bridge in Lukavica Rijeka officially opened



Official opening of the Lukavica Rijeka bridge

On 10 March 2015, the mayor of Lukavica Rijeka invited representatives of the Armed Forces of BiH, EUFOR and UNDP for the official opening ceremony of a bridge in this village near Doboj.

The bridge – a result of common engagement

The material for the bridge construction was funded by the EU Floods Recovery Program and managed by the United Nations Development Program. EUFOR training teams, consisting of engineering specialists from Hungary, mentored the Armed Forces BiH engineers who built it.

Dual use of forces is of special value

Engineering, in particular bridge building, is one of the skills that is of importance in assisting the population in disaster relief, international crisis management or in peace support operations. EUFOR, through its Capacity Building and Training Programme for the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH), supports this development.

The dual use of forces is not only the most economical way to run a military force, but it also assists AFBiH in becoming a modern, functioning and meaningful state institution.

On 12 March 2015 EUFOR held a conference entitled 'Efficient Security Sectors include women at all levels', in the Army Hall, Sarajevo. The conference was opened by COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif and Mr Alexander Chuplygin, Acting Head of Mission of the OSCE. The Vice-President of the European Parliament, Ms Ulrike Lunacek, honoured the initiative for this event by sending a video message with her support for this subject.

On 25 March 2015 Lieutenant General Leonardo di Marco, Italian Army, Head of the European Union Command Element (EUCE) at the Allied Joint Force Command Naples (JFC Naples) visited the two Headquarters in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

EUFOR Chief of Staff Handover Takeover Ceremony



From left: Incoming COS Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza, COM EUFOR, outgoing COS Brigadier General András Szűcs

On 30 April 2015, Brigadier General András Szűcs completed his 14 month tenure as the Chief of Staff of EUFOR. He formally handed over to Brigadier General Zoltán Mihócza during a Handover Takeover Ceremony at Camp Butmir.

Brigadier General Mihócza joins EUFOR from Hungary where he held the post of Deputy Chief of Staff, Joint Forces Command, Hungarian Defence Forces. From 2011 until 2013 he served as the Hungarian Military Representative to NATO and the EU Military Committees in Brussels.

Speaking at the ceremony Brigadier General Mihócza said, “It is a real pleasure to work in an international organisation that shares a common cause and works together for the future progress and development of Bosnia and Herzegovina”.

The ceremony was hosted by Major General Johann Luif, the Commander of EUFOR. Also in attendance were His Excellency Mr Lars-Gunnar Wigemark, Head of the EU Delegation and EU Special Representative in BiH, Deputy MOD Emir Suljagić, Major General Sándor Fucsku, Commander of the Joint Force Command of the Hungarian Armed Forces, and other officials from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Union and many other countries.

On 3 April 2015 the Mayor of Derventa, Mayor, Milorad Simić opened the newly completed bridge in the village of Lužani, also present were EUFOR’s Deputy Chief of Staff Capacity Building and Training, Colonel Hakar Soner Aplaç, representatives of the Armed Forces of BiH and a number of local residents.

On 7 April 2015 Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif, paid a visit to the BiH Ministry of Defence (MOD) and was welcomed by the Minister of Defence BiH, Marina Pendeš. Also present were Deputy Ministers, Boris Jerinić and Emir Suljagić.

On 14 April 2015 the annual Assembly of Red Cross Novo Sarajevo Municipality took place. In attendance were representatives and members of the local branch of Red Cross Novo Sarajevo, invited guests and Red Cross supporters.



20
a challenge





15
giving year



EUFOR Disaster Relief Training Exercise almost turned real



Disaster relief training discussions

On 14 May 2015 the Turkish contingent via its Liaison Observation Team (LOT) in Travnik donated new equipment to the maternity department of Travnik hospital.

From 18 - 29 May 2015 a MAHE (Military Assistance in Humanitarian Emergencies) Exercise was conducted in Derventa. The exercise came close to being a real situation as heavy rain raised the risk of flooding during the two weeks.

On 26 May 2015 40 personnel from the Austrian and Turkish contingents were presented with their European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Service Medal Operation Althea by COS EUFOR, Brigadier General Zoltán Mihóczy.

From 18 - 29 May, a MAHE (Military Assistance in Humanitarian Emergencies) Exercise was conducted in Derventa. The exercise came close to being a real situation as heavy rain raised the risk of flooding during the two weeks.

Civil and Military Organizations combine in Crisis Centre

Austrian and Slovenian personnel part of a EUFOR Mobile Monitoring Team trained engineers from Armed Forces Bosnia and Herzegovina, during an exercise simulating heavy rain and earthquakes in the area around the river Ukrina. As the exercise started, the military forces cooperated with the local Civil Protection Department, Fire Department, Police and the Red Cross to establish a Crisis Centre.

As the exercise continued, heavy rain started to threaten the area.

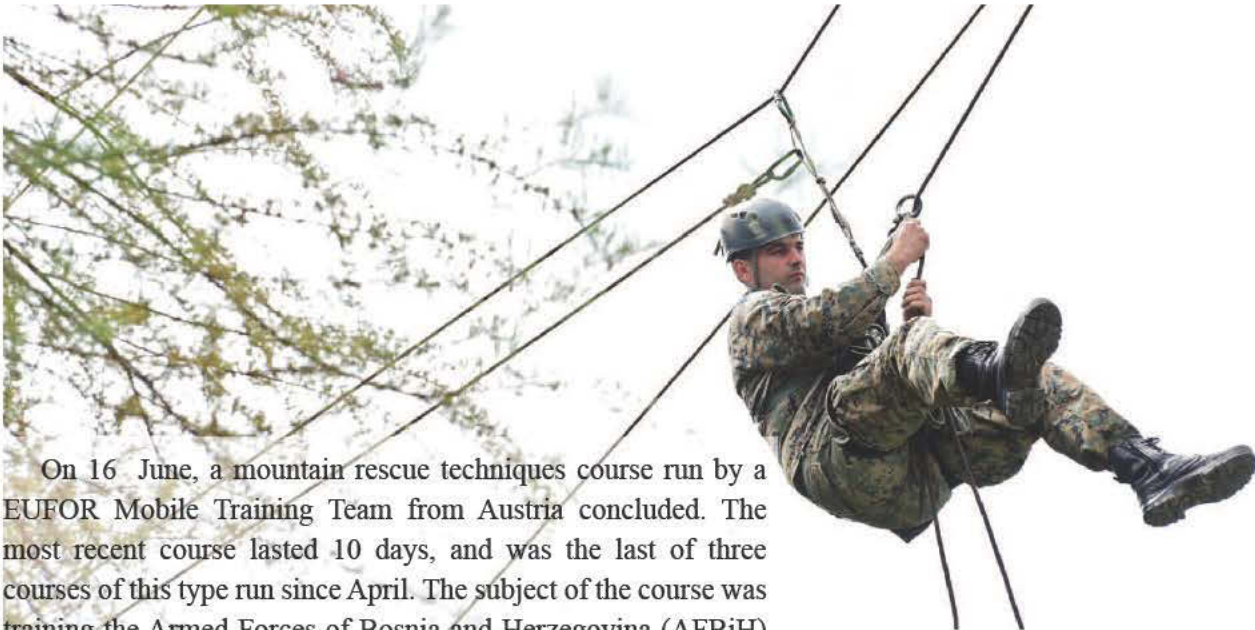
Heavy rain threatens real flooding

The civilian and military forces involved in the exercise prepared themselves to respond to a real flooding risk, bringing themselves to full readiness to support the local area. Fortunately, conditions improved and the river calmed, and the participants were able to finish the exercise without further incidents.

Arming with knowledge

EUFOR uses Mobile Training Teams such as the one used in this exercise to assist in developing the skills of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, training them to respond to humanitarian emergencies such as flooding. EUFOR's contribution in this area is an essential element of its efforts within Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Austrians train AFBiH in rescue techniques



On 16 June, a mountain rescue techniques course run by a EUFOR Mobile Training Team from Austria concluded. The most recent course lasted 10 days, and was the last of three courses of this type run since April. The subject of the course was training the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) troops how to use mountain rescue techniques to rescue people in Disaster Relief scenarios.

Preparing for the worst

After the disastrous flooding of June 2014, AFBiH decided to ensure they continued to build upon their experiences supporting the civilian population. One area they highlighted was the capacity to rescue people from inaccessible areas such as flooded areas which this course addressed. During the course AFBiH personnel were trained to secure casualties in steep, hazardous environments and to maneuver them an area of safety. The course concluded with a practical examination of the skills to confirm the progress made.

Sharing Knowledge

COM EUFOR visited the course on Monday the 15th, and watched the AFBiH conducting some of the rescue techniques they been trained in. Speaking at the event, he said:

‘Sharing knowledge such as the mountain rescue techniques demonstrated here today is a key part of EUFOR’s mission. Through the progress the personnel have made on this course, they will be better prepared to meet the challenges of providing assistance to the population in crisis situations’.

Captain Markus Wallner, director of the course commented:

‘It was pleasing to see the skills gained over the duration of the training. Many of the AFBiH soldiers were using these techniques for the first time, but they were motivated and keen to learn. After this training they will be in a position to teach others, so this capability can be spread’

From 8 - 12 June 2015 in Tuzla, a platoon of Austrian soldiers from the EUFOR Multinational Battalion undertook combined convoy and crowd control training with the 4th Brigade Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH).

On 12 June 2015 COM EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif, alongside COM NATO, attended a briefing and demonstration during Exercise Dynamic Response. EUFOR provided 18 personnel to assist and advise during the exercise, which simulated Disaster Relief.

On 18 June 2015 COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif welcomed the new Commander NATO HQ Sarajevo, Brigadier General Giselle M. Wilz. During the meeting Brigadier General Wilz spoke with her EUFOR counterpart and signed the official guest book.

HRH The Princess Royal visits EUFOR



Her Royal Highness Princess Royal signs EUFOR guest book at the entrance of Building 200

On 10 July, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal visited EUFOR personnel based in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

Commander EUFOR Major General Johann Luif greeted The Princess Royal with an Honour Guard, alongside NATO and UK representatives. The Princess then spoke with Major General Luif and Commander NATO HQ Sarajevo, Brigadier General Giselle Wilz about the role of EUFOR and NATO within Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Princess Royal proceeded to pay her respects at a memorial commemorating British personnel who lost their lives during active service in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The visit concluded with The Princess Royal meeting UK nationals, both armed forces and civilian, at a small reception in Camp Butmir.

A number of the guests present had met with her previously in their military careers, and shared their memories with the Princess.

Wing Commander Heather Millar of the Royal Air Force, at the time Senior National Representative for UK armed forces in Bosnia and Herzegovina said,

“It was a real honour and privilege for the UK personnel to meet HRH The Princess Royal at Camp Butmir today. She had a genuine interest in our important work, showing her continued support for the British Armed Forces around the world.

The visit of Her Royal Highness was a great boost for morale and has left the contingent in Sarajevo feeling highly valued and appreciated”.

On 22 July 2015 His Excellency Mr Kazuya Ogawa, the new Ambassador of Japan to Bosnia and Herzegovina, visited COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif.

On 31 July 2015 a closing ceremony for Romanian led APRA (a multiple launch rocket system) training course was held, celebrating the successful completion of the courses by AFBiH personnel. This closing ceremony encompassed the third iteration of the System Handling and Maintenance Course’ and the second and third level Maintenance Course.

Multinational Battalion Hungarian Company Full Operational Capability



Crowd Riot Control training

On 12 August 2015 a ceremony was held marking the change of command of the Multinational Battalion. Lieutenant Colonel Michael Köck handed over to Lieutenant Colonel Reinhard Bacher during the event which took place in the Blackhawk hangar.

On 19 August 2015 the Austrian Chief of the Defence Staff General Othmar Commenda visited EUFOR Camp Butmir. Greeted with an Honor Guard, General Commenda proceeded to an office call with COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif.

On 31 August 2015 a flag lowering ceremony took place in EUFOR Camp Butmir, recognising the ending of the French military presence within EUFOR. Deputy of the French Ambassador, Madame Catherine Veber and Warrant Officer Gueneau of the French Defence Attache attended the ceremony.

On 18 August, the Hungarian company of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion took part in an evaluation exercise held in Rajlovac barracks. In a specially prepared area the Hungarian company encountered a realistic scenario, and were given tasks by the Multinational Battalion staff.

As part of the one year rotational system the Hungarian Company have taken over responsibility from their Austrian counterparts. The evaluation exercise was designed to prove that the company could meet Full Operational capability and are able to fulfil all tasks given to them.

The scenario included elements of Crowd Riot Control and the clearance of explosives. The company was also tested in its ability to evacuate people, including casualties. After the exercise concluded the Multinational Battalion staff analysed the performance of the Hungarian company.

The Commanding Officer of the Multinational Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Reinhard Bacher said,

‘It was very interesting to compare the Crowd Riot Control techniques used by the Hungarian company and the Austrian methods. I am very satisfied with the motivation and commitment displayed by each soldier under my command during the Full Operational Capability evaluation. As such I certify that the Hungarian company have reached Full Operational Capability!’

EUFOR Operation Commander visits Camp Butmir



Left to Right: EUFOR COS Brigadier General Zoltán Mihóczy, COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif, EUFOR ALTHEA Operational Commander General Sir Adrian Bradshaw and Head of EUCE Lt General Leonardo Di Marco

On 2 September, EUFOR Althea Operation Commander Sir Adrian Bradshaw visited Camp Butmir.

The visit included meetings and discussions with COM EUFOR, Lieutenant General Leonardo di Marco, Head of the European Union Command Element (EUCE) and COM NATO HQ Sarajevo Brigadier General Giselle Wilz.

General Bradshaw discussed key current issues within EUFOR, including the EUFOR support given to the disposal of surplus weapons and ammunition within Bosnia and Herzegovina.

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

the EUFOR Operation ALTHEA.

After his visit to Camp Butmir General Bradshaw then spoke at a press conference in the Hotel Europe in Sarajevo.

The subject of the press conference was Exercise Quick Response 2015. General Bradshaw made an opening statement where he detailed the purpose of the exercise, which is to conduct Peace Support Operations training alongside the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) as part of EUFOR's mandate in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The press conference was attended by both television and print journalists from around Bosnia and Herzegovina, and General Bradshaw accepted questions on a range of subjects including the exercise and migration within the Balkans.

The 2014 Exercise Quick Response coincided with heavy flooding in the country, and EUFOR quickly changed their

plan in order to assist the Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities in their disaster relief.

Soldiers from around Europe joined the AFBiH to rescue civilians and provide essential support.

This year's Exercise is part of a long term commitment to working closely with the AFBiH.

On 3 September 2015 the Italian EUFOR and NATO contingent remembered 4 Italian Airforce soldiers of the G-222 airplane 'Lyra 34'. A wreath was laid by the Italian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Ruggero Corrias.

On 16 September 2015 COM EUFOR Major General Johann Luif visited an ammunition disposal site in Glamoc. During this visit he witnessed the destruction of different types of weapon, ranging from explosives to small arms ammunition.

Exercise Quick Response 15

From 13 - 22nd October, EUFOR conducted Exercise Quick Response 15, an annual joint training event.

The purpose of this exercise was to train the ability of EUFOR to bring its intermediate reserve troops from around Europe into Bosnia and Herzegovina, and also to provide an opportunity for the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) to train alongside EUFOR.

The training was built around a fictional scenario which required the international force to conduct peace support operations in the host nation.

Taking part in the event alongside permanent EUFOR personnel from Turkey, Hungary and Austria were additional troops from Slovakia, the United Kingdom, Bulgaria and Romania.

On the 20th of October, during the exercise, EUFOR and the AFBiH held a Distinguished Visitors Day during Exercise Quick Response 15. The event was attended by Dr. Emir Suljagić, Deputy Minister of Defence for Policy and Planning and Lieutenant General Anto Jeleč, Chief of the Joint Staff of the AFBiH, alongside Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif, and several others.

The event featured a Live Demonstration, during which the visitors witnessed a display of Peace Support Operations. The scenario for the display included EUFOR



Members of the Slovakian IR Company

and AFBiH troops conducting crowd and riot control, dealing with minefields and casualty evacuation.

In a statement during the press conference, COM EUFOR said, 'EUFOR has an Executive Mandate to be ready to support the BiH authorities in the maintenance of a Safe and Secure environment if requested to do so. EUFOR has never been required to do this. However, we must ensure we are prepared to. This exercise is part of EUFOR's routine training for this Peace Support Operations role.

Commanding Officer of the Multinational Battalion, Lt Col Reinhard Bacher said, 'The training area in Manjača was excellent, providing plenty of space for the exercise. This allowed the soldiers to train at a company level with few restrictions.

The training itself was a good experience, and provided a good opportunity to work alongside the AFBiH. I was impressed with their efforts, they were well prepared for the Peace Support Operations scenario. At times the exercise

required patience from everyone involved, but the Multinational Battalion displayed a high grade of professionalism and motivation throughout. I was also pleased that we had the opportunity for some socialising among the different nations on the Sunday of the exercise, which provided a different environment to get to know each other'.

On 5 October 2015 Slovakian members of the EUFOR Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) in Foča donated toys to the Sveti Sava primary school in Foča. The toys were collected from the families of the Slovakian LOT members, who wanted to give a gift to the children in their area.

From 5 - 9 October 2015 the Multinational Battalion (MNB) of EUFOR and infantry from the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) conducted combined training in Dubrave. Led by the Capacity Building and Training branch of EUFOR, the joint training was set up to instruct soldiers tactically in peace support operation techniques.

EUFOR train AFBiH in bridge building



Official opening of the bridge

On 6 November, the municipality of Derventa officially took ownership of a bridge built by a EUFOR and Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) team. The transfer of ownership was marked with a ribbon cutting ceremony attended by EUFOR officers and local dignitaries. The bridge, built over the river Ukrina near Donje Detlak, was built as part of a programme run by the EUFOR Capacity Building & Training department, during which engineers from the AFBiH were mentored as they constructed the new bridge. The project to build the bridge was started in July 2015, when a reconnaissance was conducted on the site. Civilian contractors were employed to install the concrete supporting pillars, and on the 19th of October the construction of the bridge itself began.

Austrian and Slovenian engineers from EUFOR joined

2 officers, 2 non-commissioned officers and a total of 16 soldiers from the AFBiH Engineering Battalion on the project.

Mentoring and co-operation

EUFOR has been training the AFBiH in bridge construction for over two years, and during this project the EUFOR trainers stepped back, taking a mentoring role as the AFBiH led during the construction. A total of 105 working hours were spent on construction, creating a bridge spanning over 35 metres. It is estimated that the bridge will be used by 4,000 local people, cutting their travelling times in the local area.

Capacity Building & Training

Engineering and bridge building is just one area in which EUFOR is assisting the AFBiH to develop its capabilities. Since 2012 the Capacity Building & Training of the AFBiH has been the main

effort of EUFOR, training and mentoring the AFBiH in areas including peace support operations and de-mining. Colonel Tayfun Cagan, EUFOR Deputy Chief of Staff Capacity Building & Training said,

“This is the second bridge constructed this year under our training program, and it is good to see the AFBiH build upon their progress in this area. Initiatives such as this are of benefit not just to the Capacity Building & Training effort, but for the local community as well”.

From 23 - 27 November 2015 members of EUFOR trained 22 new instructors for Mine Risk Education (MRE) courses in Camp Butmir. EUFOR supported this training alongside Non-Governmental Organization ‘Stop Mines’ and the Bosnia and Herzegovina Mine Action Centre (BH MAC).

The High Representative for BiH, Dr Valentin Inzko, visits Camp Butmir



COM EUFOR welcomes the High Representative to EUFOR HQ, Camp Butmir

The Commander of the European Union Force (COM EUFOR), Major General Johann Luif, welcomed The High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dr Valentin Inzko, to the EUFOR Headquarters on 3 December. This important visit not only marked the 20th Anniversary of the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement, but also supported EUFOR Headquarter's Staff Officer training, by maintaining an essential understanding of the joint significance of the High Representative; the Dayton Peace Agreement; and the EUFOR Mandate. The visit started with a formal welcome meeting with

COM EUFOR followed by a meeting with EUFOR Division Chefs and personnel.

COM EUFOR considered it a great privilege to be able to host the High Representative at EUFOR Headquarters. He looked forward to hearing His Excellency's address on the Office of the High Representative and the important role it continues to play in support of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

The High Representative, together with the Office of the High Representative here in Bosnia and Herzegovina, were created in 1995 immediately after the signing of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

On 7 December 2015 the European Union Force (EUFOR) Headquarters in Camp Butmir welcomed the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) to a EUFOR Capability Building & Training Division brief. The focus was to consider how to support the AFBiH capability building, going forward.

On 2 December 2015 EUFOR conducted two parades presenting personnel who have been part of the EUFOR Althea mission with their medals.



Seasons Greetings & Happy New Year
Your EUFOR Public Affairs Office