



Chief of Staff EUFOR Change of Command

On Friday 29 April 2016, Chief of Staff (COS) European Union Force (EUFOR), Brigadier Zoltán MIHÓCZA (Hungarian Army) formally handed over COS EUFOR to Brigadier General Albert SÁFÁR.

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Commander EUFOR Change of Command

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Dear Readers,

I have commenced my tour by establishing good contacts with the officials and ministers of both Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) and the wider EU delegates and Partnership Nations. This is to ensure EUFOR OP ALTHEA continues at the heart of the wider EU comprehensive approach.

I have exercised and trained my staff to ensure that they are prepared for any emergent eventuality. This has been with co-operation from Joint Military Affairs (JMA), Special Assistant for Weapons, Ammunition Disposal (SAWAD) and Armed Forces BiH (AF BiH). I recently visited the military unit “Tehnička Radionica za Održavanje Municije” (TROM) in Doboj to witness the important work they conduct in support of destroying obsolete ammunition as part of Project EXPLODE. This visit was also attended by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), and the Deputy Commander of the Support Command of AF BiH. BiH still has a substantial amount of unstable military ammunition. A large part of this was poorly stored and maintained. The presence of unstable ammunition in BiH could cause public safety concerns, and is potential risk to a Safe and Secure Environment.



I am striving towards the continued disposal of ammunition and providing transparency to the wider public on our progress.

EUFOR continues to be focused on capacity building and training, these combined exercises with AF BiH are an ongoing process which will be planned and exercised

thoroughly in the coming months with fellow EU and Partner Nations bringing forward their Immediate Readiness troop reserves (IR).

Another of my priorities is to brief the chain of command when I visit Joint Forces Command (JFC) Naples Admiral Michelle HOWARD. I feel strongly that proper clarity is briefed as I update the EUFOR OP ALTHEA mission giving proper metrics of progress, these will be future topics during my visit.

The EUFOR team and all of its facets are well on the way to addressing the upcoming challenges as we move in to a busy and challenging summer of 2016.

Finally, I would like to recognize those who work administering, running and maintaining Camp Butmir. The civilians we have involved in every facet of our work contribute hugely to the success of our mission.

Major General Friedrich Schrötter

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Commander EUFOR Change of Command

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Dear Readers,

It gives me great pleasure to bring you the next Edition of EUFOR Forum. However, I do so with some sadness given this will be my final edition before I depart the Mission! This copy covers the months of March and April 2016, which proved to be very busy months indeed. It highlights the good work conducted by our Troop Contributing Nations, and the continued close link we enjoy with the BiH population. The Commander EUFOR Change of Command ceremony and the arrival of Major General Friedrich Schrötter in March was an extremely important event for this period. As was the arrival of a new Chief of Staff in April. The EU Strategic Communications Meeting was – for the first time – hosted in HQ EUFOR. This important monthly meeting offered an opportunity for the EUSR Team, and EU Embassy Spokespersons, to gain an updated insight into the important work of their EU Mission.



Lt Cdr Liam Byrd

We focused on the priority work of EUFOR's Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) Division. The very successful Livno Exercise in March focused on the AF BiH delivered a coordinated role alongside other BiH authorities in support of disaster relief and rescue operations. Alongside CB&T's signing of the 2016 Road Map Agreement with AF BiH on the continued delivery of training, the

opening of the BiH Mine Action and EOD Training Centre in Rajlovac Barracks in April was also a key event. This edition also includes the very important Multi-Ethnic Youth Indoor Soccer Cup of 2016 and EUFOR's support of International Children's Day in Zenica in late April. Looking to the future,

the back page of this edition illustrates the continued good work of our Mine Information Coordination Cell.

As the EUFOR Spokesperson I have been privileged to travel extensively in search of a better understanding of the country and the important work of our Mission. Bosnia and Herzegovina is an exceptionally beautiful country and its people are extremely warm and welcoming. I have enjoyed my time immensely in the EUFOR Mission, and my role has been made easier by the professional support of our PAO Team and of the Mission as a whole. I wish you all the very best for the future, and hope you can offer the new Spokesperson – Lt Cdr Carl 'Harry' Harwood – the same level of support I have enjoyed. If you want the opportunity to highlight a story then please get in touch by sending us an email at: euforpio@eufor.europa.eu. Finally, please do take a look at EUFOR in the Social Media space. We are active on Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube.

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Commander EUFOR Change of Command



The outgoing Commander EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif (left), the EU Special Representative for BiH, Ambassador Wigemark (centre), and the incoming Commander, Major General Friedrich Schrötter (right). Photos: WO Herbert Pendl



The EU Special Representative for BiH, Ambassador Wigemark speaking at today's EUFOR Change of Command Ceremony at Camp Butmir

Major General Johann Luif completed his 15-month tenure as Commander EUFOR. The EU Special Representative, Ambassador Wigemark assisted in handing over Command of EUFOR to Major General Friedrich Schrötter at the ceremony in Camp Butmir today.

Speaking at the ceremony, General Luif stated that EUFOR will continue its Mission in the Capacity Building and Training of the Armed Forces of BiH. General Luif went on to thank many individuals and organisations for their ongoing support of the EUFOR Mission. This included the EU Special Representative, Ambassador



Major General Johann Luif passes command to Major General Friedrich Schrötter

Wigemark; BiH Minister of Defence, Madam Pendeš; BiH Chief of the Joint Staff, General Jeleč; and the NATO Headquarters Commander; Brigadier General Giselle Wilz. He stated that he felt the Comprehensive Approach for the EU was being used very efficiently and effectively here in BiH, with continued notable assistance from non-EU Nations in their contribution to the EUFOR Mission.

The new Commander EUFOR, General Schrötter joins from Austria where he was

Director of the Operational Requirements Directorate in the Ministry of Defence and Sports. Previously to that he had served

as Director of the Operations C2 Division in the Ministry.

The ceremony was hosted by EU Special Representative,



The incoming Commander, Major General Friedrich Schrötter speaks to the Mission and the VIPs and Guests

A m b a s s a d o r Wigemark and supported by the Austrian Minister for Defence and Sport, Mr Hans Peter Doskozil. It was also attended by the BiH Deputy Minister of Defence, Mr Boris Jerinic, and many VIPs from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the European Union.

Chief of Staff European Union Force Change of Command



Commander EUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter (left) welcomes the incoming Chief of Staff EUFOR, Brigadier General Albert Sáfár (right). Photo: WOII Martin Austerhuber

On Friday 29 April 2016, Chief of Staff (COS) European Union Force (EUFOR), Brigadier Zoltán MIHÓCZA (Hungarian Army) formally handed over COS EUFOR to Brigadier General Albert SÁFÁR. The ceremony took place in Camp Butmir. This event was attended by Commander EUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter and VIPs and delegates from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the European Union, and representatives of many other nations.

On completion of the ceremony, Press Statements were provided. As the outgoing COS EUFOR, General MIHÓCZA said: “The EUFOR Mission has progressively shifted its focus to the Capacity Building and Training of the

Armed Forces, supporting their move from a ‘Security consumer’ to a ‘Security provider’. The EUFOR Mission also ensures our mandated objectives are met in support of the continued stability and development of BiH.” He also stated: “I would like to congratulate the new Chief of Staff of EUFOR, Brigadier General Albert SAFAR. I hope your time here in this beautiful country is as enjoyable as mine in working to meet the continued important objectives of the EUFOR Mission.”

As the incoming COS EUFOR, General Albert SÁFÁR (Hungarian Air Force) stated: “In working to meet the important objectives of the EUFOR Mission, we will ensure the continued development of the

Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina remains our key objective. However, the need to maintain a Safe and Secure Environment for all in BiH will continue to be a key function of our role.” He also stated: “The need for a continued supportive and coherent relationship between EUFOR and the Armed Forces of BiH is essential. This coordinated and joint approach develops their capabilities, through established training and exercises.”

General SÁFÁR joins EUFOR from a previous appointment in Hungary. With extensive aviation and senior staff Headquarters experience, since 2011 he held the appointment of Hungarian Air Chief of Joint Forces Command (JFC) / Deputy JFC Commander.

Visit to EUFOR Mission Operation ALTHEA by the Chairman of the EU Military Committee

On 4 March 2016, the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee (CEUMC), General Mikhail Kostarakos visited the European Union Force (EUFOR) Mission Operation (Op) ALTHEA.

On arrival at the Headquarters of EUFOR in Camp Butmir, he was welcomed by an Honour Guard from the EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN) and greeted by the Commander (COM) of EUFOR, Major General Johann Luif. During an office call with COM EUFOR, the General was updated on the progress of Operation ALTHEA. This included details of the ongoing co-operation between EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF BiH) through the Capacity Building and Training Programme.

This programme focuses on EUFOR's continued support and ongoing cooperation in building a sustainable AF BiH. The General also kindly agreed to attend the Op ALTHEA Medal Parade. At this event, 126 personnel from 10 of the Mission's troop contributing nations were awarded their European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Service Medal, in support of Op ALTHEA.

During his visit, General Kostarakos was accompanied by Military Representatives: Lieutenant General Günter HÖFLER (Austria), Major General László DOMJÁN (Hungary), and Brigadier General David HUMAR (Slovenia). General Kostarakos Chairs the EU Military Committee



EUFOR Multinational Battalion Honour Guard being inspected by the Chairman of the European Union Military Committee, General Mikhail Kostarakos.

Photos: WO Herbert Pendl

(EUMC), which is the highest Security Committee (PSC) with military committee within the advice and recommendations on European Council. It is responsible for providing the Political and EU.



Chairman of the European Union Military Committee takes the salute with COM EUFOR and some of his HQ EUFOR Staff

EU Strategic Communications Meeting hosted by EUFOR in Camp Butmir



Commander EUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter (centre) with the attendees of the EUSC meeting in Camp Butmir
Photo: WOII Martin Austerhuber

On Wednesday 20 April 2016, the EU Strategic Communications (EUSC) Meeting was hosted by EUFOR in Camp Butmir.

Held for the first time in the EUFOR HQ in Camp Butmir, this meeting was a great opportunity to inform and update the representatives of the EU Family in Bosnia and Herzegovina on the EUFOR Mission and the current mandated objectives.

“Knowing how important good cooperation on the working level is to achieve success, I would like to welcome the attendees of today’s EU Strategic Communications Meeting at Camp Butmir” said Commander EUFOR, Major General Friedrich Schrötter.

This visit not only included an update brief on the Mission and its important mandated role here in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but

also acted as an opportunity for all EU Embassy Representatives to ask questions about the important contribution of so many EU Nations, and exchange ideas on our continued support of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The EUSC is a monthly

meeting which is led by the EU Special Representative’s (EUSR) Communications Team, based in Sarajevo. Attendances are from a working level and include all EUSR Communication Team members, and Spokespersons from EU Embassies and EU Entities.



Representatives of EU Embassies during the information brief on Operation AL-THEA. Photo: Staff Sergeant Michael Hoffellner

Combined Training Conducted in Livno

During 14-18 March 2016, the latest “Combined Training” was held in Livno. This exercise focused on Armed Forces (AF) BiH soldiers training together with part of EUFOR’s Multinational Battalion (MNBN).

The wider emphasis of the training was the cooperation between EUFOR’s MNBN, the AF BiH, and Bosnian Police and civilian mountain rescue. The main effort was the search and recovery of wounded persons in mountainous terrain, as well as supplying and evacuating the injured by helicopter and police, using waterborne capabilities. Engineer Captain WUNDER brought to the exercise his knowledge and experience from the military engineering. Given the BiH floods of May 2014, such expertise is in great demand all by authorities across BiH.

One major contribution to the exercise was to support the scheduled company commander in the management and coordination of its subordinate parts. Using the experience of EUFOR Engineers present throughout the exercise, they assisted in establishing A Command Post, and the preparation and performance of Command output. Furthermore, pioneer technical skills were advantageous in order to facilitate decision-making during the exercise. The Commander of the EUFOR MNBN, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Vitovec (Austrian Army), was instantly convinced of the importance and relevance of this training exercise. He stated: “The selected contents have been well passed and adopted.” He went on to say: “Above all, the coordination with the police and civilian mountain rescue team was very well done indeed.”



Signing of Road Map Agreement (RMA) 2016

The Road Map Agreement (RMA) 2016, JOINT was signed on 9 March 2016 by Colonel Mario Andrić, Chief J3/J7 of the Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Colonel Tayfun ÇAĞAN, Deputy Chief of Staff EUFOR Capacity Building and Training (DCOS CB&T).



EUFOR DCOS CB&T signing the agreement with AF BiH Joint Staff Chief J3/J7

The Road Map Agreement (RMA) 2016 is the result of sustained and cooperative work between Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina specialists, Subject Matters Experts and Training, Planning, Co-ordination Branch (TPCB) Planning Coordinator from CB&T and contains all scheduled CB&T – Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina activities from 2016 to 2019.

Before signing the agreement, DCOS CB&T, Colonel Tayfun ÇAĞAN emphasized the importance of this document, as a starting point for all the JOINT (INTEGRATED) CB&T PLANS from 2017 to 2019. He also expressed that as we get the results of Capability Development Based Reviews we will have a chance to improve this Road Map and at

the same time the capabilities of Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Finally, DCOS CB&T said that it is a great pleasure for him to sign this document. And he stated that this plan will help for sure in providing more assistance to Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina to be self-sustainable in the future.

Colonel Mario Andrić, Chief J3/J7 of the Joint Staff of Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina stated that he is also subscribing to the pleasure of signing of this agreement, he is grateful to EUFOR for investing time and energy in supporting the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and that they are committed in the EUFOR efforts to help them achieve self-sustainability.

by Maj. Florentin Ovidiu BRATOSIN

Embedded Advisory Teams

All Embedded Advisory Teams (EATs), but especially those who are very close to the BiH Infantry Brigades, are the eyes and ears of Capacity Building & Training Division (CBTD). They really know what is going on inside the troops.

EATs are the link between European Union Force Head Quarters (HQ EUFOR) and Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF BiH) being their main effort to advise and support them to achieve self-sustainability in the fields of training, staff organisation and work.

Several years of mutual cooperation between AF BiH and EATs have confirmed effectiveness

in the implementation of NATO standards into operational procedures and the training process in AF BiH.

Dynamic Response 16-5 (DR 16-5) exercise is one of the most important exercises for AF BiH during this year and of course the main objective of the 5th Infantry Brigade. Inside this exercise declared unit from 5th Infantry Brigade will be evaluated by NATO evaluation team with the aim to successfully pass NATO Evaluation Level 1 (NEL 1). To prepare this exercise a lot of different activities, meetings and training have taken place.

Some of those trainings developed to prepare DR 16-5

and mainly focused on passing the certification were:

1. Situation Training Exercise (STX) where declared unit of 5th INF Bde (1/1/5th INF Bde) trained running a Forward Operating Base (FOB), establishing Check Points and operating with helicopters.

2. Command Post Exercise (CPX) with declared units in ZENICA and a Computer Assisted Exercise (CAX) in MANJACA.

5th Infantry Brigade EAT personnel assisted in respectively monitored all these activities. Just to improve the level of declared units, they gave inputs concerning the results of Self Evaluation Level 1 (SEL 1) and developed back briefs during CPX and CAX.

Combined Training - Bihac

In accordance with 2016 AF BiH Training Calendar, between 16-19 March 2016 in Bihac garrison, situated in the Vest part of Bosnia, the military personnel from 6th Infantry Brigade (AF BiH), together with Turkish soldiers belonging to the EUFOR multinational battalion (MNBN), performed an amply combined training exercise. In total, around 100 military personnel and over 20 vehicles have been involved in the exercise.

The exercise was conducted by EUFOR team, headed by Colonel Hans Klaasenn (Netherlands), the Chief of Training Branch and it was composed by next officers: Major Valea Florin (Romania)- Logistic Subject Matter Expert (SME), Captain Mityo Panchev (Bulgaria)- Infantry Subject Matter Expert, Captain Jan Wiederlechner (Czech Republic) - CBRN Subject Matter Expert, and Marko Spoerk (Austria) - Training specialist. A big contribution on the exercise had also, the Polish Embedded Advisory Team (EAT), composed by Major Sylwester Kowalski, Captain Rafal Dygula and Captain Lukasz Trela. They analyzed very carefully, the all activities of the trainee, and collected results for lessons learned.

During the exercise, the trainee, have practiced operations such: cordon and search, VIP protection, crowd riot control (CRC), convoy techniques. They had to act in situations created by EUFOR team, like: having an improvised explosive device (IED), medical evacuation, combat refueling of the vehicles, recovery of damaged vehicles, and nuclear, biological and chemical (CBRN) incidents. For each subunit, it was established specified training areas in the base, where, for the first two days of the exercise, they trained separately, and on the 17 of February, they merged and perform the training together, unitary, logistics with infantry.

It was raining during almost the whole period of the exercise, and it was quite cold, but, this aspect didn't discourage the soldiers. Sometimes, it happen this, besides the main enemy, to have an additional one, the weather and fighting with the nature can be even more difficult.

17 February 2016

08:30, the engines of the vehicles were running noisy. AF BiH and EUFOR troops were moving alert between the vehicles. Searching out on the Lieutenant D. Gradinac, the platoon leader, I saw him preparing his

troops for the mission: routes, placing the vehicles, maps, weapons, radios. Everything has to be checked prior the mission, planning is an important part to achieve the success. After the preparation, soldiers jumped swiftly in the vehicles and ran. For the company commander, Captain L. Memic, the exercise was a challenge, being the first time when he led foreign soldiers. As Captain L. Memic said, "sometimes is even harder to lead the troops than being an executant. You are responsible for everybody. On the real battlefield, in these types of actions, you mustn't do any mistakes. If you do it, it's possible to end with wounded personnel, or even lost lives. The battalion commander, Major Imsirovic had his eyes sharply on his soldiers, supervised the whole exercise, taking notes, in order to correct the potential mistakes. There were some mistakes, but this is one of the training's AIM: to learn from the mistakes, and not to repeat them on the future. Leaders had to take decisions during the exercise, and not always had time to make the analysis. In most cases, the experience has the last word, and the experience, mostly comes from steady training. Anyway, the decisions have to be made, and, as an U.S Army general said "A good decision taken at the proper time, is better than the best decision but taken too late".

16:00 End of exercise. Both, the AF BiH and Turkish soldiers were wet from raining and sweat, but you could see their satisfaction on their faces. It was the satisfaction of work well done. Everybody accomplished the mission. We, as EUFOR advisers, were happy because we were witnessing a gradual increase in the amount of knowledge, gained by AAF BiH, from an exercise to another. They were wet, but, as soldiers, we know the fact that as we have more sweat drops during the training, we have less blood on the battlefield.

18:00 After a tasty finger food provided by the excellent guests from Bihac base, for all participants, we are preparing to leave Bihac and to return to the home bases.

There are still clouds in the sky, but doesn't matter. Beyond the clouds is the sun, and all of us AF BiH and EUFOR, make efforts to have again a shining sun for this beautiful and hospitable country, Bosnia.

Thank you AF BiH for cooperation, and let's roll, to hit the next peak, preparation of the next exercise.

Maj (OF-3), VALEA Florin - Paul

AF Bosnia and Herzegovina open's new Mine Action and Explosives Ordinance Disposal Training Centre

On Monday 11 April 2016, the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF BiH) opened a new Mine Action and Explosives Ordinance Disposal (EOD) Training Centre in RAJLOVAC Barracks, Sarajevo. The Centre will conduct trainings in humanitarian demining and the destruction of unexploded ordnance, and will significantly assist institutions in BiH to continue to deal with the demining challenge.

The ceremony was attended by officials of the Ministry of Defence (MOD), the AF BiH, and guests from the International Community based in BiH. This included the new Commander of the European Union Force (COMEUFOR), Major General Friedrich SCHRÖTTER and key members of the HQ EUFOR Staff – especially those from the EUFOR Capability Building & Training (CB&T) Division.

The AF BiH Minister of Defence, Marina Pendes also attended. She said: “The Centre will contribute to the process of clearing the areas still covered with landmines, and will provide the higher level of safety for the citizens and the economic development of BiH”. She went on to say, it will “Enable joint training of personnel from Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations and provide for unified oversight of the certification process for Deminers”. The ambition of the MOD and the AF BiH



AF BiH Minister of Defence, Marina PENDES officially opens the new Mine Action and Explosives Ordinance Disposal (EOD) Training Centre in Rajlovac Barracks, Sarajevo. Photos by WOII Martin Austerhuber

to establish a regional center for South East Europe and ensure it is recognized as an International Competence Centre for NATO and its Partners, is being achieved.

The Minister of Defence thanked the governments of Norway, Italy, France and USA, as well as the UNDP, for

their great contribution to establishing the Centre. The event also included a presentation of UK donated equipment for the AF BiH. This included IT Equipment and printers for the Joint Staff AF BiH, Gym Equipment and Musical Instruments for the AF BiH Military Band.

EUFOR has been assisting and advising the AF BiH in the field of demining since 2008. EUFOR continues to deliver Mine Risk Education (MRE) to the BiH population via its Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) Houses, and supports the BiH Mine Action Centres (BHMAL). However, its main effort is the provision of CB&T to the AF BiH.

BiH's Article 4 of the Law on Defence tasks the AF BiH with countermine action responsibility, with the functional role of demining across BiH being managed and conducted by AF BiH. The AF BiH is responsible for approximately 20% of all humanitarian demining efforts in BiH; a fact that illustrates the importance of this new Mine Action and EOD Training Centre in RAJLOVAC.



AF BiH Minister of Defence, Marina PENDES is shown mine equipment.

EUFOR's Multinational Battalion Hungarian Company Full Operational Capability Exercise



EUFOR's MNBN Hungarian Company establish a CRC position as they deal with the exercise scenario

On Thursday 3 March 2016, the Armed Forces of BiH Barracks in Rajlovac, outside Sarajevo, was once more the venue for an important EUFOR Exercise. This time it was the turn of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion's (MNBN) new Hungarian Company. The focus was a Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) House evacuation. The exercise scenario also included extensive use of Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) techniques. Following a threat from an angry and dangerous crowd, the Hungarian Company needed to take control of the situation to ensure a safe rescue of LOT House residents. After a successful evacuation, the exercise then required the Company to provide medical treatment to a wounded person who was subsequently air-lifted from the scene by a EUFOR helicopter.

This training exercise provided the opportunity to practice these important and relevant skills, and display the Hungarian Company's capabilities and readiness in support of any such requirement. The Commanding Officer of the MNBN, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Vitovec said: "The given tasks were fulfilled positively by the Hungarian Company, especially the CRC techniques. The very fast acting evacuation is also very important in case of an emergency". This exercise was the Hungarian Company's final assessment in support of their full operational capability as part of EUFOR's MNBN.



EUFOR's MNBN Hungarian Company maneuvering to take control of the LOT House on the exercise



EUFOR's MNBN Hungarian Company dealing with an worsening exercise situation

International Children's Day Ceremony in Zenica

23 April 1920 is the day on which Turkish Grand National Assembly was founded. On this day, Turkish nation overthrew the authority of the caliphate and sultan by establishing its own assembly. Hence, as from 1921, it is celebrated as a national holiday, 'National Sovereignty Day'.

During Independence War, so many people sacrificed their lives for independence by leaving their children behind. During the war-time, an association was established to raise the children of the martyrs. On 23 April 1927, it was decided to celebrate this day as 'Children Day' and aimed to make a profit for those children by collecting donations all across the country. In 1935, a decree was released by the presidency and these two national holidays were united in the name of 'National Sovereignty and Children Day'.

The year of 1978 was declared as 'Childrens Year' by UNESCO. Hence, TRT (Turkish National Broadcasting Corporation) set a project and hosted many children from all over the world



indiscriminately. As from that day, children from all over the world are hosted by voluntary Turkish families and participate in celebration.

Turkish holiday, 23rd April - International Children's Day, was celebrated in Zenica with special program. Bosnian children who came from different cities from all over Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to celebrate this special day dedicated to them.

On 20th of April, the celebration was organized to the extent of 'National Sovereignty and Children Day' by the cooperation of Turkish Embassy, The Institute of Yunus Emre and Turkish Military Representative include Turkish SNR Colonel Abdullah OZKANTAR in BiH.

In the celebration, children had fun with the songs of famous Bosnian singer, Dino Merlin. Children were presented their gifts and quite a few of Turkish students also participated in celebration and had fun with their Bosnian counterparts.

Galipoli Martyr's Ceremony in Sanski Most

The Battle of Gallipoli or the Battle of Çanakkale, was a campaign of World War I that took place on the Gallipoli peninsula in the Ottoman Empire between 25 April 1915 and 9 January 1916. The peninsula forms the northern bank of the Dardanelles, a strait that provided a sea route to the Russian Empire, one of the Allied powers during the war. Intending to secure it, Russia's allies Britain and France launched a naval attack followed by an amphibious landing on the peninsula, with the aim of capturing the Ottoman capital, Istanbul. The naval attack was repelled and after eight months' fighting, the land campaign was abandoned and the invasion force was withdrawn to Egypt.

The campaign was one of the greatest Ottoman victories with his allies The German Empire and Austria-Hungary, during the war. In Turkey, it is regarded as a defining moment in the nation's history: a final surge in the defence of the motherland as the Ottoman Empire crumbled. The struggle formed the basis for the Turkish War of Independence and the declaration of the Republic of Turkey eight years later under Mustafa Kemal (Kemal Atatürk) who first rose to prominence as a commander at Gallipoli.

During the campaign many casualties were given from both sides. When you look at the geographical distribution of Turkish casualties, Bosnians will easily be seen. To honor that devotion, on 18 March, The Galipoli Martyrs of BiH were



commemorated in Sanski Most with the participation of Turkish Ambassador Cihad Erginay, Prime Minister of Una Sana Izudin Saracevic, the mayor of Sanski Most Mustafa Avdagic, Turkish SNR Col. Abdullah Ozkantar,



Turkish Military Attache Col. Aytug SEKER, Turkish and Austrian military representatives as well as citizens of Sanski

Most. The ceremony started in the martyrdom which was founded by Mehmet the Conqueror and later restored by Embassy of Turkish Republic, by laying wreath to honour the martyrs. After that it was prayed for the martyrs in the mosque's courtyard and then commemoration took place indoor.

A great amount of local people were participated to the ceremony. Especially the concert of Mehteran (an authentic Turkish military band performing in war-time) found great interest among the audience.

At the last part of the ceremony, Turkish Ambassador Cihad Erginay addressed to the hosts by emphasizing on historical relations and co-operation between two brother nations for a long time. After the ambassador, The Mayor Mustafa Avdagic stressed the importance of promising recent Turkish aid and enterprise in the region in his speech.

Multi-Ethnic CIMIC Youth Indoor Soccer Cup 2016



Although BiH will not take part at this year's European Football Championship, the potential for 2024 already exists through BiH's young people! Exactly 20 youth teams started in the CIMIC Youth Indoor Soccer Cup 2016. Qualifying rounds were played in the 4 cities of Bratunac, Tuzla, Breko and Sarajevo, and the all winners attended the final round in Sarajevo on 14 February 2016. But ambition alone was not a criterion to compete, the crucial trait was a team had that consisted of at least two ethnic groups.

Austrian Soldiers and local NGOs cooperated. The organization was sound and the CIMIC team was not alone. Within the Austrian EUFOR contingent many soldiers came forward and helped enthusiastically – including the former CIMIC Officer (who had launched this Cup 2015). In Bratunac, the association Prijatelji Srebrenica took care of the preparation, everywhere else this was completed by members of the BiH Pupils Union ASuBiH. Schools or school authorities again gave for free their gyms for the

qualification matches.

Generous Donators – and a Top Prize Worth Competing For! Without the support of our sponsors nothing could have been possible. Raiffeisen Bank BiH and the Lions Club Graz Forum supported the project with €2,000 each. The company KLAS, a local bakery, provided free sandwiches for all participants. But that was not all on sponsorship, because the top prize of the competition was a weekend trip to Vienna for two nights in the four star hotel “Der Wilhelmshof”, and tickets for an Austria Wien-Match, for the winning team, a companion and for the local main coordinators!

Tuzla prevails in the Finals. But the main prize alone was not the key feature as every match played was worth seeing. The ambition of the participating teams to win every single match, and therefore the Cup, predominated. Emotions were high, especially in the qualifying rounds. It was therefore a good decision that all matches were directed by licensed referees. The Final even came to boiling point with two players being

debarred. Eventually there was a cup winner, and that was the team of the Behram-Begova Medresa-from Tuzla. Proudly taking the trophy and a trip to Vienna.

The Winners take It All. It was only five days later, on 19 February 2016, that the winners trip started. An enhanced CIMIC team arrived the day before with 2 Sprinter buses to punctually load in all participants at 7:00. The trip went from Tuzla to Croatia and then over an almost completely developed stretch of motorway to the north; Graz. The second biggest city in Austria was reached at 13.00. In Graz the group spent a short break in the Belgier Barracks of the Austrian Army – a delicious snack was also enjoyed by all. After another two hours of travelling to Vienna, the trip destination was reached. The service team of “Der Wilhelmshof” assisted with the hosting and provided the winners and their escorts with truly great accommodation. After a savory dinner everybody enjoyed a relaxed evening – unfortunately it was not an entirely rainless evening. →

Vienna at First Hand. Sunday morning focused on seeing the sights of Vienna. A professional guide led the group through the city center to highlight the city's history and architecture. The tour was booked in Serbo-Croatian, so that its magic could be fully described to all! And what was the adequate end point? A Wiener schnitzel with potato salad! A patron (which expressly does not want to be mentioned) had offered an invitation to the entire group at short notice. For those in the know this restaurant is located nearby the Vienna Townhall. If only we could have stopped time; however, unfortunately we had to depart on our journey South. After a refueling stop in Graz, and two other small breaks, Tuzla was reached by 21:30 that evening. A wonderful end to a truly great Cup!

Second Anniversary of the Inauguration of Vitez Primary School

On 4 April 2016, the inauguration of Vitez Primary School's 2nd Anniversary was celebrated with participation of the EUFOR Turkish Senior National Representative, Colonel Abdullah ÖZKANTAR, the mayor of Vitez Advar Akcelj, local officials and personnel from the EUFOR Turkish National Support Element, as well as LOT Travnik personnel.

On this day, 2 years ago,



the school was restored by the efforts of Turkish Representative Delegation. Before this, conditions of the school were very poor, so a the Turkish led, general renovation took place. Now, approximately 495 students are being educated at the school, which includes 22 classrooms and 11 lecture theaters. It is one of the greatest projects that the Turkish NSE has done to the extent of peace supporting.



Vertical Construction Engineering Course

During 14-25 March 2016, in cooperation with AF BiH Engineer Battalion, the Austrian-Slovenian Mobile Training Team (MTT) conducted a 2 week course to improve the Armed Forces (AF) BiH capabilities in Vertical Construction Engineering (VCE). The course was arranged by 7 MTT staff and consisted of 13 soldiers from the AF BiH.

During the first week the students were familiarized to the new US donated equipment. The equipment which was transported to ENGRBN barracks only couple of days earlier was counted and photographed to make complete list of items. During the second week of the course the storage facilities of the VCE equipment were improved by building new shelves and repairing old ones. This VCE was the first one to be completed in BiH. It



was also the first occasion that US donated construction Engineering equipment has been used. The Course director, Captain Johannes Ottacher - Kaiser (Austria) said: "Engineers of the AF BiH were highly motivated to work with new equipment." Course participants were also very satisfied for training. In their evaluation,

students scored the course with an average of 98.3%.

This course was a good start to the EUFOR led Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) of AF BiH engineers with a focus on VCE skills and facilities. Training will continue in August 2016 with another two week course. The focus of the next course will be to further improve on the objectives and content of the last course.

Looking back – 20 Years from Dayton

It has been over 20 years now since the Dayton Peace accord was signed on 14 December 1995 in Paris; a peace agreement that ended war and suffering here in Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, the peace has to be watched over by a military force strong enough to secure the task. Over 60 thousand troops strong muscle of international community determined to secure better future for the Bosnian citizens.

The old mission of UNPROFOR was replaced but three other missions such as IFOR, SFOR and eventually EUFOR, missions that changed the focus and approach over the course of years but the goal remained the same – to assure safe and stable environment in the country.

Early mission objectives were to fight almost anarchistic environment, arrest war criminals, maintain peace and stability and in coordination with other international institutions, help local community to impose order and rule of law but also create safer environment, collect and destroy the weapon from the general population in the operation Harvest, assist cleaning mine fields. It was important to send local population a message that the peace mission is not only “policeman” but also a friend who is willing to help to rebuild the country, reconstructing the infrastructure, buildings, roads and, bridges including the historical objects such as Old Bridge in Mostar. It was not easy task to create a general feeling among the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the feeling of security with the international presence in place. EUFOR managed to maintain that feeling and strengthen a trust and friendship that local community feels towards our members and in



The leaders prepare to sign the Bosnian Peace Talks Treaty at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base on November 10, 1995. From left: Slobodan Milosevic, Alija Izetbegovic, and Franjo Tudjman. (Dayton Daily News staff photo by Jan Underwood)

response to that BiH citizens made EUFOR members feel welcomed no matter which part of the country we discussed.

Since the very beginning, peace missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina were nothing lesser than pure success. The same fortune followed when EU took the reins of the mission in December 2004. Although with approach being altered as the time was passing and task force being reduced, numerous operations, projects and initiatives led by EUFOR were completed with major success. Many important duties and tasks were transmitted to Bosnian authorities which represents a successful example of cooperation and partnership, but EUFOR has shown readiness when this country was in need. Forest fires, extreme snow and heavy floods of catastrophic proportions hit this already troubled country, and every time EUFOR was there to prove that people of BiH have a friend to rely on.

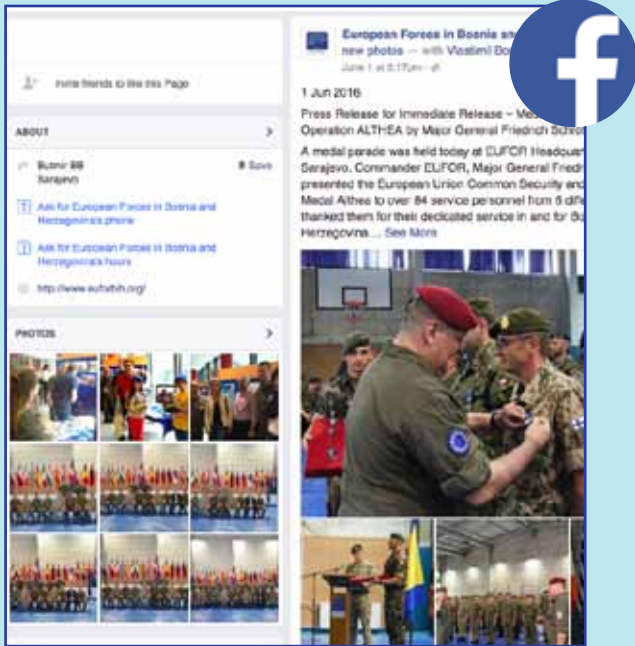
In various occasions, EUFOR was well involved in community projects, especially helping the future of this country, its children. Mine awareness lessons in school, supporting Kids

Festival or running the EUFOR Football cup that connected the children from both entities and entire country are just some of the examples of successfully completed projects. Nowadays the mission focus is on Capacity building and Training of the BIHAF. Several joint exercises and their flawless execution proved that hard work put on this matter eventually showed very positive results and fruitful cooperation that made us all look into the bright future ahead of us.

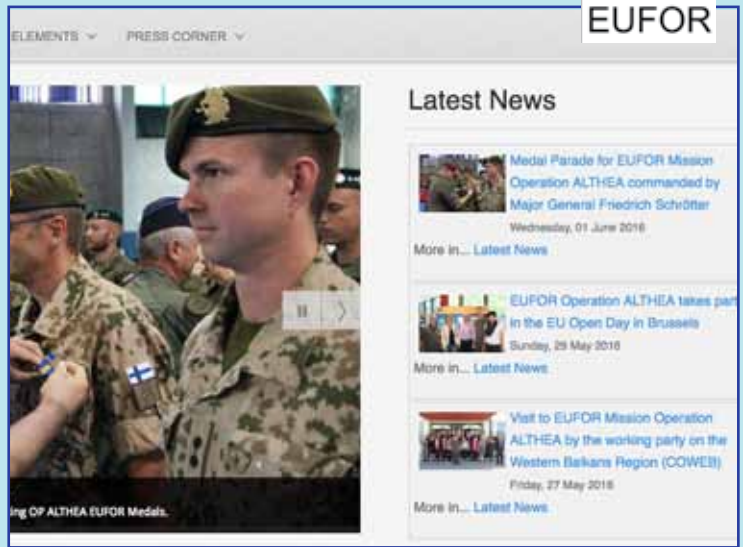
However, it felt important to mention yields of success we owe to thousands of men and women before us and all of the civilian personnel who have loyally supported mission's efforts to maintain sustainable peace, to make those efforts count. This is the story that should be written in a book with all complexity and values, showing the situations where people shown their worth for a common good, talking about people who even lost lives while working for above mentioned goals. Unfortunately, one page is enough just to make a summary, a notice, a remembrance...

by Dzenan Hadzovic

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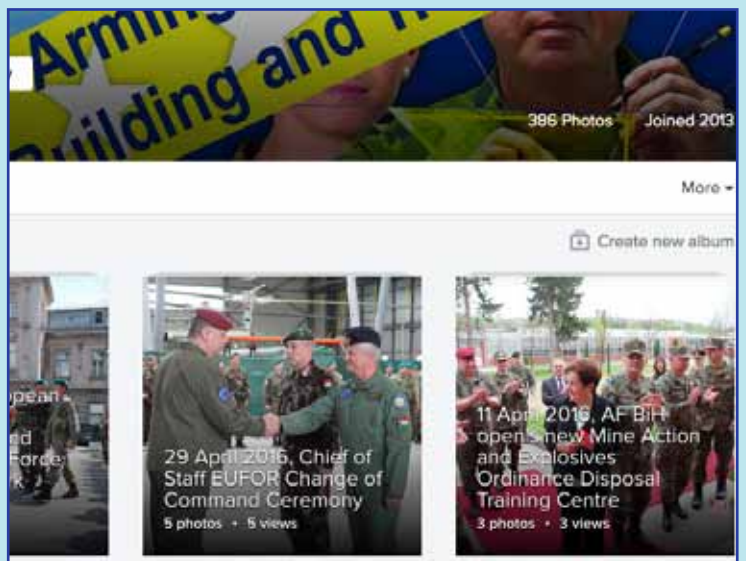
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