



Out and About with EUFOR



Firstly, I should like to wish all EUFOR personnel and your loved ones a happy and prosperous New Year.

As you will find on the pages of this Forum magazine, I have been visiting EUFOR personnel in their places of work to see first-hand the contribution that they make to the success of the mission. EUFOR personnel, through a variety of roles, continue to work hard and support BiH in the maintenance of its safe and secure environment, its progress towards ‘sustainable stability’ and its European future.

Many of the stories here contain recognition and appreciation from the people you meet and work with through your routine business: a reminder of the value EUFOR brings to BiH.

I know that your hard work here takes most of you away from your families at a special time of year. For those

of you who put in extra effort to ensure that Christmas and New Year here were as enjoyable as they could be, your colleagues and I are grateful for the excellent celebrations you created.

Of course, the New Year’s Reception jointly hosted by EUFOR and the EU Special Representative was a recent highlight and gave us a good opportunity to look to the future with our partner organisations and BiH colleagues. The success of the evening came down to team work, and the spirit of team work is essential for EUFOR and the future of BiH to succeed.

So, please reflect on your successes as you read this magazine, and keep working hard into 2018 with the international teamwork which characterises EUFOR.

Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner



EUFOR and EUSR New Year's Reception 5



COMEUFOR Undertakes Local Awareness Tour 7



LOTs did a lot in 2017! 8-9



International Diplomatic Community meets at EUFOR Headquarters 10



Capacity Building and Training Assessment Conference 14



EUFOR observes 10th Anniversary of Helicopter Crash 15



It has been a privilege to edit this Forum magazine for the first time. Good stories and articles are all about people, and it is fantastic that so many of you

have good stories to tell about the people of EUFOR.

While the PAO team puts stories together – and in particular I would like to thank SSgt Gernot Payer for his photographic contributions and Jasmin Zeherović for his layout skills – the contents of stories come from you.

So please, come and see us or get in touch if you think you have even the smallest news, so that we can share your success stories. I look forward to hearing from you!

Lt Cdr Sarah Wetherfield



Commander EUFOR
Major General Anton Waldner

EUFOR Public Affairs Chief
Lieutenant Colonel Stefan Koutnik

Forum Magazine Staff:
Spokesperson
Lieutenant Commander Sarah Wetherfield

Layout
Mr. Jasmin Zeherović

Photographs contributed by
Staff Sergeant Gernot Payer

We also thank the contribution from the EUFOR LOT Houses

Printed by
Reprographics & Courier Service (HQ EUFOR)

The Forum Magazine is produced by HQ EUFOR. It is fully funded by EUFOR, and authorised and published for EUFOR in the area of responsibility. All stories are written by the EUFOR Spokesperson unless stated otherwise.

The Forum Magazine welcomes submissions via e-mail to euforpio@eufor.europa.eu.

For deadline information phone
+387 (0)33 495216; IPN 941-5216.

All hardcopies must be submitted to: Forum Magazine
EUFOR Public Affairs Office, Camp BUTMIR, Sarajevo.

Digital photographs should be submitted in JPG format with a minimum resolution of 200 dpi.

The Forum Magazine does not normally return materials and will assume no liability for material submitted.

The contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the coalition governments' defence departments.

General Tibor Benkő visited HQ EUFOR



On 07 December 2017 the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of Hungary, General Tibor Benkő, visited EUFOR HQ, Camp Butmir for a meeting with the Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner. General Benkő inspected an Honour Guard under the command of the of Command Sergeant Major Bruno Planer comprising one Hungarian platoon along with Austrian and Turkish soldiers from the Multinational Battalion (MNBN).



The Armed Forces of Hungary have deployed approximately 160 soldiers to BiH as part of the EUFOR Operation Althea. Hungary holds many important positions, e.g. EUFOR Chief of Staff Brigadier General József Szpisják and Deputy Commander of the MNBN within the EUFOR Althea Operation. The MNBN is a group of soldiers comprising 3 different nations Austria, Hungary and Turkey who combine to serve together within EUFOR. The EU-led operation consists of 600 soldiers from 19 troop contributing nations; 14 EU Nations and 5 Non EU Nations.

by Lt Cdr Stefan Koutnik



Commander EUFOR and the expert panel of speakers

Military Diplomatic Corps briefed at EUFOR Headquarters

On 5 December 2017, members of the Military Diplomatic Corps from over 18 countries gathered at EUFOR Headquarters at the invitation of Commander EUFOR Major General Anton Waldner to receive a EUFOR Operation Althea update.

EUFOR is the ongoing European Union's commitment to ensuring a safe and secure environment in BiH, and in particular supporting BiH efforts in this regard. The last few months have seen significant progress in the capability and interoperability of the Armed Forces of BiH working alongside international forces and other security agencies. Recently, Exercise 'Quick Response 17' gave EUFOR the opportunity to train its Multinational Battalion, its Intermediate Reserve Forces and partner agencies from BiH all together as part of EUFOR's comprehensive approach towards maintenance of a safe and secure environment in the country.

Commander EUFOR Major General Waldner highlighted the progress of this training in his speech. He said: "Quick Response 2017' in late October was the first EUFOR-led exercise which saw the participation of the Law Enforcement Agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina from the strategic level to the tactical."

by Maj Nicolai Tschol



Group photo of attendees at briefing day for Military Diplomatic Corps at EUFOR Headquarters

EUFOR and EUSR New Year's Reception

On 15 January 2017, Commander EUFOR and the Head of the EU Delegation and EU Special Representative held a New Year's Reception for national and international politicians and distinguished guests. They both took the opportunity to express their intentions for the year ahead and their hope of progress towards European accession for BiH.

The guest list of over 200 influential figures from the political and military landscape included Mr Sead Jusić, the Deputy Minister of Defence, Major General Mirko Tepšić, Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff and Major General Senad Mašović, Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff. International guests included His Excellency Dr Valentin Inzko, the High Representative in BiH, Ms Sezin Sinanoglu, and Ambassadors and dignitaries from over 20 countries.

During his speech, COMEUFOR highlighted the cooperation between EUFOR and the Armed Forces of BiH, praising their professionalism in the face of sometimes challenging circumstances. He expressed his intention that the high level of co-operation between EUFOR and the Law Enforcement Agencies and Armed Forces of BiH consolidated for the first time with joint exercises during EUFOR's Exercise Quick Response 2017 should continue in order to build upon the progress made so far.

Major General Waldner concluded: "EUFOR Althea will continue working together with our partners for a sustainable, stable and European future for this beautiful country."



COMEUFOR greets UN Resident Coordinator Ms Sinanoglu



COMEUFOR giving his New Year Address



Many guests attended the EUFOR and EUSR New Year Reception

Minister of Defence heads Slovenian delegation to EUFOR HQ



The Minister and COMEUFOR met Slovenian troops

On 16 January 2017 Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner, welcomed the Minister of Defence of the Republic of Slovenia, Andreja Katič, to EUFOR Headquarters in Sarajevo.

Ms Katič was accompanied by the Slovenian Ambassador, the Chief of Staff of the General Staff of Slovenia, and members of the Slovenian Parliamentary Defence Committee.

They met with COMEUFOR and experts to discuss the current security situation in BiH, as well as the role that EUFOR plays in supporting the BiH authorities maintain a safe and secure environment. Slovenian military personnel are among EUFOR's in-theatre troops and they have a large impact on EUFOR's military output despite being one of the smaller contributing nations.

Slovenia is one of 14 EU and 5 partner nations serving together in EUFOR, who work closely with the Law Enforcement Agencies and Armed Forces of BiH to maintain the safe and secure environment for the country as it moves towards a European future.



EUFOR Chief of Staff receives official appreciation from the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies

On 20 December 2017, Brigadier General József Szpisják, Chief of Staff EUFOR (COS EUFOR), received a certificate of appreciation from the Directorate for Coordination of Police Bodies of BiH (DCPB) for his 'excellent cooperation and support'.

On presenting the commendation, the Director of DCPB, Mr Mirsad Vilić, said that such a certificate of appreciation is not handed out lightly, but reserved to recognise the DCPB's true friends and partners who really deserve it. He stressed that the close working relationship and coordinating role that COS EUFOR has with DCPB makes EUFOR's continued support and training of the Law Enforcement Agencies even more valuable.

EUFOR and BiH Law Enforcement Agencies undertake comprehensive exercises to ensure their readiness to maintain the safe and secure environment in BiH.

EUFOR and BiH Law Enforcement Agencies undertake comprehensive exercises to ensure their readiness to maintain the safe and secure environment in BiH. October's exercise "Quick Response 17" was the first year in which Law Enforcement Agencies worked with the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) and EUFOR in simulated security situations around Sarajevo Airport. COS EUFOR hoped that next year's Quick Response Exercise would continue to see this enhanced cooperation between AFBiH and EUFOR, and the local and state police.

Thanking Mr Vilić for his kind words, COS EUFOR said that he was very honoured to receive such appreciation, and that seeing the improvements which are brought to the people of BiH through close cooperation gives him immense pride. He added: "While I am delighted to receive this individual recognition, I would like to recognise the work of all EUFOR personnel - in the HQ, the Multinational Battalion, and EUFOR LOT Houses - who are the visible and tangible support of the EU to BiH as it moves towards a European Union future."

COMEUFOR Undertakes Local Awareness Tour

Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner visited the towns of Doboj, Derventa, Banja Luka and Travnik in order to see for himself the valuable co-operation between EUFOR personnel and the local community.

EUFOR personnel are based in the EUFOR LOT Houses in Travnik, Banja Luka and Doboj where they support local communities and agencies to maintain a safe and secure environment. COMEUFOR welcomed the opportunity to meet Mr Milorad Simić, mayor of Derventa, who gave him a fresh perspective on the liaison between EUFOR and the local community. COMEUFOR said: “It’s very important to have an idea what’s really going on on the ground and mayors are a very good source of information. The Liaison Observation Teams are a very valuable asset for EUFOR.” Mr Simić highlighted this local co-operation, saying that the communities of Derventa and Prnjavor had been brought together by the bridge that had been constructed by a combined team of EUFOR and the Armed Forces of BiH personnel.

The visit to Derventa was part of a comprehensive visit by COMEUFOR



COMEUFOR welcomed the opportunity to meet Mr Milorad Simić, mayor of Derventa



to the area, during which he received enhanced situational awareness from 4 of the 17 EUFOR LOT Houses, as well as discussing local engagement activities with local officials and partner organisations.

This co-operation forms part of EUFOR’s comprehensive approach to supporting BiH on its path towards EU accession.

The visit to Derventa was part of a

comprehensive visit by COMEUFOR to the area, during which he received enhanced situational awareness from 4 of the 17 EUFOR LOT Houses, as well as discussing local engagement activities with local officials and partner organisations.

This co-operation forms part of EUFOR’s comprehensive approach to supporting BiH on its path towards EU accession.



Mayor in Novi Travnik



Minister and Mayor of Prnjavor in Banja Luka

COMEUFOR visits westernmost EUFOR LOT Houses

As part of his recent programme of EUFOR LOT tours, COMEUFOR visited Cazin and Livno in early January. In addition to meeting the mayors of those towns, he spent time with EUFOR personnel who briefed him on their recent activities. EUFOR Liaison and Observation Teams are the ‘eyes and ears’ of EUFOR throughout BiH, and their proximity to key local leaders and contact with the public make them an important part of EUFOR’s situational awareness. During his programme, COMEUFOR made time to learn a bit about local history by visiting the castle town of Velika Kladusa.



EUFOR LOT Doboj ‘Finish the Job’

Personnel from EUFOR LOT House Doboj attended the European Union-funded ‘Finish the Job 2025’ sitting volleyball tournament; an event supporting mine clearance projects in BiH and hosted by World Vision and Organization of Amputees. They provided the players and supporters with an educational stand, complete with updated minefield maps and the latest demining information, as well as giving the LOT an good opportunity to liaise with local charities.

by Capt Tomasz Gabrych



LOTs did a lot in 2017!

- 17786 people given Mine Risk Education
- 3298 planned meetings
- 1907 ad-hoc meetings
- 695 events attended
- 11859 patrols
- 1.4 million km covered – that's 35 times around the world!



Santa's EUFOR Helpers



Personnel from the EUFOR LOT House Novo Sarajevo and HQ colleagues from Slovakia provided a seasonal treat for youngsters from the area around Sarajevo. They held a charitable collection, and spent the proceeds on small gifts and treats for children from the poorest families in Raštelica, Korča, and Lokve. The gifts were delivered by Santa Claus and his elves to the primary schools, providing a memorable experience for the children over the festive period.

by LOT Novo Sarajevo



Sport unites youngsters



The EUFOR LOT Houses in Bratunac and Brčko, and EUFOR HQ staff from Austria organized a national football tournament which saw youngsters from Tuzla, Brčko, Sarajevo and Bratunac compete in the finals in Sarajevo. This friendly competition was appreciated by the youngsters. Kenan Cacinać said: 'A lot of boys here come from other towns and we would certainly never meet them anywhere but here.' The Austrian Senior National Representative, Col Muhr, was pleased with the competition: 'Young boys and girls are the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina, what I see here makes me very optimistic for the future of this country'.

Photos by SSgt Heinz Jilch





COMEUFOR Major General Waldner opens the Head of Mission meeting.

EU Heads of Mission meet at EUFOR Headquarters

On 11 December 2017 members of the international diplomatic community in BiH met at the EUFOR Headquarters in Camp Butmir by the invitation of Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner. The meeting gathered the Heads of Mission from EU countries in Bosnia and Herzegovina headed by the European Union Special Representative in BiH, His Excellency Lars-Gunnar Wigemark.

Ambassadors and diplomatic staff from 19 different nations received briefings on the security situation, the mine action system in BiH and particularly on the Ammunition, Weapons and Explosives Masterplan developed by EUFOR and the international community (IC). This plan, owned by the BiH Ministry of Defence, assigns EUFOR a leading role in the coordination of BiH's and the IC's efforts to reduce the amount of dangerous

surplus ammunition, weapons and explosives in BiH.

COMEUFOR Major General Waldner said: "EUFOR - as a part of the European Union's comprehensive approach - is focused on supporting and working together with BiH authorities in maintaining a safe and secure environment. As a member of the EU Heads of Mission Meeting in BiH, it is EUFOR's role to provide information for the overall assessment and particularly on relevant security aspects for the international community."



EU Special Representative Ambassador Wigemark during the questions and answers session.

EUFOR - as a part of the European Union's comprehensive approach - is focused on supporting and working together with BiH authorities in maintaining a safe and secure environment.

EUFOR ALTHEA, currently comprising soldiers from 14 EU member states and 5 partner nations, works closely with the BiH Ministry of Defence, conducting capacity building and training for the Armed Forces of BiH with the objective of enhancing their self-sustained ability to assist the local population and

contribution to international Peace Support Operations. EUFOR is fully committed to support BiH "on its path to a European future" and remains a vital enabling actor in the development and maintenance of a safe and secure environment.

By Maj Nicolai Tschol



COMEUFOR presents medal to Private Cathia Fercher

EUFOR Headquarters Hosts International Medal Parade

On 19 December 2017 Commander Eufor, Major General Anton Waldner, presided over an international medal parade at Eufor Headquarters in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. Forty-eight service personnel received the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Medal ‘Althea’ in recognition of their service in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Commander Eufor told recipients that they should wear their medals with pride, as each person represents the practical and positive affirmation of support from their government to the people of BiH. He also expressed gratitude to the families of troops left at home while their loved one supports BiH in maintaining a safe and secure environment.

Among those supportive families is the mother of Private Cathia Fercher from Switzerland. Pte Fercher explained: “My mother is very happy I am coming home. I have been away for the last two Christmases including serving with KFOR in Kosovo last year. I am very proud to have served on ‘Operation Althea’, but I am looking forward to being at home.”

Lt Col Engin Haspolat, who commanded the parade, misses his wife and son who are at home in Turkey but he enjoys working in Eufor. He said: “Being in Bosnia and Herzegovina is really pleasant. It is good to work in a multi-national environment and to support the people of BiH.”



COMEUFOR presents medal to Lt Col Engin Haspolat

Currently troops from 14 EU member states and 5 partner nations work in Eufor, supporting BiH on the path towards its EU accession. Turkey, Switzerland and Hungary were represented at this parade.

COMEUFOR welcomes the Slovenian Ambassador



Commander Eufor, Major General Anton Waldner, welcomed Her Excellency Ms Zorica Bukinac the Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to Eufor Headquarters in Sarajevo.

This was the first time that the recently-appointed Ambassador had visited Eufor at Camp Butmir, which is headquarters to a number of personnel from the Republic of Slovenia.

New Egyptian Ambassador to BiH visits COMEUFOR



Her Excellency Mrs Hala El Bishlawy visited Commander Eufor, Major General Anton Waldner, at Eufor Headquarters near Sarajevo on 10 Jan 18.

H.E. Mrs El Bishlawy is the newly appointed Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Bosnia and Herzegovina. Major General Waldner highlighted the work of Eufor in supporting the Armed Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of BiH in the maintenance of a safe and secure environment for the population of BiH. Eufor capacity building and training of those agencies form a part of the European Union’s Comprehensive Approach to BiH’s European future.

Slovakian Chief of Defence meets Commander EUFOR



On 13 December 2017 the Chief of Defence of the Slovak Republic, General Milan Maxim, visited the EUFOR Headquarters in Camp Butmir. He was accompanied by the commander of the Slovakian Strategic Crisis Management Centre, Colonel Jan Bujnak. They discussed the current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), the EUFOR mandate and the cooperation with the Armed Forces of BiH with Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner.

The Slovak Republic contributes significantly to EUFOR Operation Althea providing both Headquarters staff and personnel for the EUFOR Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT) on the ground. Three EUFOR LOT Houses in Novo Sarajevo, Foca and Visegrad are operated by the Slovak soldiers. They are a vital part of EUFOR's presence in local communities across the country to contribute to the safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

By Maj Nicolai Tschol



General Maxim was greeted by an Honour Guard of EUFOR's Multinational Battalion

Closing Ceremony of the Flight Operations Course



Flight Operations Course, group photo

On 8 December at Rajlovac Barracks, ten members of the Air Force and Air Defence Brigade of the Armed Forces of BiH received certificates from Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner, for successful completion of the Flight Operations Course.

The Flight Operations Course was led by a EUFOR Mobile Training Team from Turkey and aimed to enhance the participants' understanding of air law, meteorology and air space management among many other areas of flight operations. Training courses such as this are part of EUFOR's ongoing Capacity Building and Training of the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH). COMEUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner explained the importance of this role: "The European Union remains committed to Bosnia and Herzegovina and will support the BiH authorities in maintaining a safe and secure environment on the country's path to the EU accession."

COMEUFOR was joined by Operations Command Deputy for Resources Brigadier General Ivica Jerkić from the AFBiH to hand out certificates and congratulate the participants.



Receiving Certificate from COMEUFOR

Joint Integrated Capacity Building and Training Plan signed

On 14 December 2017 EUFOR Chief of Staff Brigadier General József Szpisják and the Deputy Chief of Joint Operations of the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH), Major General Mirko Tepšić, signed the Joint Integrated Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) Plan 2018. This was to confirm the planned CB&T activities EUFOR will provide to the AFBiH throughout the next year. EUFOR has in the past enabled a significant range of capability-enhancing training events.

For the first time EUFOR will



provide more mentoring and monitoring events than actual training activities in 2018, which is a clear indication that the AFBiH are progressing well in establishing a self-sustaining training system.

The EUFOR teams for these events will be provided by Albania,

Austria, Turkey, Poland, Slovenia and Switzerland. However, combined training together with EUFOR's Multinational Battalion will remain a priority in order to enable the AFBiH declared units to meet criteria for NATO evaluation.

By Maj Nicolai Tschol

EUFOR Join Armed Forces of BiH for Their Anniversary

Lieutenant General Luciano Portolano, the head of the European Union Command Element, accompanied Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner and EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General József Szpisják as honoured guests at the 12th anniversary celebration of Armed Forces in BiH. They joined representatives from NATO, Embassies and the Government of BiH at a parade and military display to acknowledge the progress that Armed Forces of BiH have made.

During the parade, several members of the Armed Forces of BiH were awarded commendations by the Minister of Defence Marina Pendeš. The parade and dignitaries were addressed by the Chief of the Joint Staff Lieutenant General Anto Jeleč, and the Chairman of the Presidency of BiH Dragan Čović. They highlighted the issues that Armed Forces of BiH



Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner (L) and Lieutenant General Portolano, the head of the European Union Command Element (R) salute during BiH national anthem

face, and the substantial progress that they have made.

EUFOR has been instrumental in assisting this progress: over the last year, 40 training serials, 6 combined training events and more than 800 soldiers from the Armed Forces of BiH have worked with EUFOR personnel.

After the parade, EUFOR staff joined Lieutenant General Portolano and Commander EUFOR in looking more closely at some of the equipment used by Armed Forces BiH and speaking with some of the troops. When asked about co-operation between EUFOR and Armed Forces BiH, Commander EUFOR said: "This year with

exercises together, such as Quick Response 17, has seen very good progress in the conduct of training. Next year, we will be able to undertake more challenging training activities."

EUFOR will continue to provide training for the Armed Forces of BiH in 2018, and EUFOR will continue to work with Armed Forces of BiH and other agencies for a safe and secure BiH.

Capacity Building and Training Assessment Conference

On 23 November 2017 the annual assessment conference to evaluate EUFOR's Capacity Building and Training Programme and identify the training needs of the Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) took place in the Army Hall in Sarajevo. The conference was not only designed to evaluate conducted training but also to provide a future outlook on the cooperation between EUFOR and the AFBiH including potential ways of improvement. Welcome addresses were given by Colonel Tuncer Avsar, EUFOR's Head of Capacity Building and Training, and Colonel Branko Raseta, Chief Training Division of the AFBiH Joint Staff. One aim of the conference is to start the analysis process which finally leads to a road map agreement between EUFOR and the AFBiH in 2018.



Colonels Avsar (EUFOR) and Raseta (AFBiH) chaired the conference.

Although there is some way to go before achieving a self-sustainable training system for the Armed Forces, significant steps forward have been made over the past year. Lieutenant Colonel Erwin Gartler, EUFOR's Training Branch Chief, said: "The progress is evident.

There are still some challenges, for example in relation to procurement and personnel. Therefore the training

has to be flexible and objectives have to be adapted to given constraints. Solutions are in sight but will take time." In particular the combined training serials together with EUFOR's Multinational Battalion turned out to be exceptionally beneficial to prepare declared units with increased operational readiness and capability to work alongside Euro-Atlantic Forces.

by Maj Nicolai Tschol

Combined Training Renews Old Relationship

EUFOR Chief of Staff (COS EUFOR) visited the 1st Infantry Battalion HQ, located in Zenica, on 17 Jan 18. The battalion is a subordinate unit of the 5th Infantry Brigade HQ of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) in Tuzla.

The Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Terzič, said it was the first visit of a EUFOR General to the Battalion for many years, since 2014, when during the bad flooding in BiH he met COMEUFOR.

During the office call with COS EUFOR and the Capacity Building Branch Chief from EUFOR HQ, the Battalion Commander gave a short introduction about the battalion as well as about his military career since joining 1st Infantry Battalion.



Lt Col Terzič said he appreciated Combined Training with EUFOR and he added that it is valuable for his soldiers and staff. He gave an assessment about the training year 2017 and the problems which the battalion faced last year. Finally the Battalion Commander shared his vision on the AFBiH Battalion Battle Group (AFBiH BBG) and he said his Battalion, as a part of AFBiH, has a lot of work to do in order to be ready for NATO-style evaluation. COS EUFOR answered that the approved Joint (Integrated) Capacity Building & Training Plan for 2018 is good proof of EUFOR's continued support towards AFBiH units.

by Lt Col Attila Toth



EUFOR personnel pay their respects to the victims of the crash

EUFOR observes 10th Anniversary of Helicopter Crash

On 12 Jan 2008, a military helicopter carrying troops home from the EUFOR peace-keeping mission in BiH crashed near its final destination of Skopje, killing all 11 personnel on board. Those personnel were from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Ten years later EUFOR Chief of Staff (COS EUFOR) and EUFOR personnel joined the Deputy Minister of Defence as well as dignitaries and military personnel from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, to remember the lives lost in the tragedy.

Current EUFOR personnel formed a Guard of Honour next to the Memorial Stone, and the Deputy Minister of Defence of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mr Bekim Maksuti, gave a speech in which he said: “We have never experienced such a tragic loss of our security forces, who stood shoulder to shoulder with other peacekeepers. They represented Macedonia’s contribution to lasting peace and security in our region”.

Mr Maksuti and COS EUFOR were joined by other dignitaries in paying their respects and laying floral tributes: Brigadier General Pavle Arsovski, the Deputy

Chief of Joint Operations Command; Mr Aleksandar Krstevski, Chargé d’Affaires a.i. at the Embassy of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in Sarajevo; and Colonel Donce Kuzmanov, Military Attaché for BiH and Montenegro also took part in lighting 11 candles for the 11 lives lost.

The country’s contribution to security in the region continues: the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia is one of five ‘partner nations’ who join their EU colleagues in Operation ALTHEA, the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina supporting its safe and secure environment.



COS EUFOR and representatives from the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia lit memorial candles

We want your photos!

We would like to include some of the best photos taken by EUFOR personnel for our next edition. So, get your cameras out and **take photos on the theme of 'water'**.

Each amateur photographer can submit up to 3 photos, with a minimum size of 2MB to euforpao@gmail.com before 28 Feb 18. Submissions should include a short description (what, when, who) and the name of the photographer. We will publish a selection of the best in the next Forum.

Happy snapping!

