



EUFOR welcomes new COMEUFOR



MNBN mountain march

It seems like this edition is full of goodbyes: during the period of this magazine, we said goodbye to the Finnish contingent (and one of them gave us a musical goodbye) and goodbye to Major General Anton Waldner, as well as to the many individuals who have rotated out of EUFOR after service ranging from several weeks to seven years. Of course, we have also said goodbye in the saddest possible way to Major Peter Pavlovský who passed away unexpectedly in February. His family are still in our thoughts.

I too will be saying goodbye shortly, as I am leaving EUFOR after over a year spent as Chief of Staff. I have enjoyed my time here, and enhancing the working relationships between EUFOR, the Armed Forces of BiH and the Law Enforcement Agencies is one of the things I shall look back on with great satisfaction. That those efforts helped to involve the Law Enforcement Agencies in Quick Response for the first time shows the benefits of cooperation to our mission, and to have that recognised through a Commendation from the Directorate from the Coordination of Police Bodies reminded me that our efforts are appreciated.

I appreciate your efforts - the military and civilian men and women of EUFOR work hard and have achieved significant output recently. The first Strategic Review of Op ALTHEA and the Six Month Review took a lot of effort, not least from J5 and the HQ team, but they have been well-received by our higher commands and our recommendations are very much helping to drive EUFOR into a better and stronger position. That he visited us three times in as many months shows the commitment that the



Operation Commander, General Sir James Everard, and higher command places upon the work of Op ALTHEA.

While EUFOR Althea is a team effort, individual contribution is critical. It is imperative that everyone has a strong will to make a difference. One may spend his duty without exerting much effort. That is not the way to go. Believe me, when I say that your stay here can be much more meaningful and rewarding if you consciously seek out opportunities to help and support the local communities.

Of course, all this positive output does not come without dedication and hard work from a military Commander. As I said during his final COM Weekly Update, we have not yet established a staff commendation, however I would like to thank Major General Anton Waldner on behalf of EUFOR. I would like to thank him for his support and guidance, and the space he gave us to conduct our work without interfering unnecessarily. Outsiders looking in, including from AFBiH, see what EUFOR has achieved and how Major General Waldner has conducted tremendous work to make this mission great. We wish him well in all his future endeavours.

Finally, I extend the same wish for future peace and prosperity to all those with whom I have served while in the position of Chief of Staff. It has been a pleasure to know you, and keep up the good work of ensuring a safe and secure environment for the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Brigadier General József Szpisják
EUFOR Chief of Staff



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While our Spokesperson is on her well-earned R&R it is my pleasure to do the final editing of the Forum Magazine.

The persistent wintertime smog is finally gone, the air quality index is back to green and spring is knocking on the door, inviting us to explore the outside of Camp Butmir.

I am also glad that this magazine is developing more and more into a magazine from readers for readers, where you, thanks to your contributions, take the centre stage over official stories and releases. And this is what the Forum should be: a magazine from the women and men of EUFOR for the women and men of EUFOR. So keep us posted and we will be glad to share your stories.

Major Nicolai Tschol



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EUFOR welcomes new COMEUFOR



On 28 March, Major General Anton Waldner, relinquished his position as Commander EUFOR (COMEUFOR) in a Change of Command Ceremony held at Camp Butmir near Sarajevo.

General Sir James Everard, as the Operation Commander, passed the authority of Commander European Union Force to Major General Martin Dorfer.



On assuming his new position as Commander EUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer said: “I want the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina to know that I will do my best for them during my time as COMEUFOR, as will all the personnel of EUFOR. I hope that everyone involved in BiH’s future security will cooperate and work together with EUFOR and our partner organisations so that together we all keep this country progressing on its path to a secure, stable and European future.”

Before he left Op Althea having relinquished his Command, Forum Magazine got the chance to interview Major General Anton Waldner about his year as COMEUFOR

What was it like being COMEUFOR?

I look back on the year I had command of Operation Althea as one of the highlights of my career. Having command over such a diverse force as EUFOR, with men and women from 19 nations and from different military backgrounds (soldiers, sailors and airmen) who speak between them 17 languages was something new to me, despite having worked internationally on previous missions. I am glad to say that the professionalism of each and every member of EUFOR does them and their country credit, and I am proud of what they have achieved together under my command.

Why did you command fewer troops than the earliest COMEUFORs?

Since taking on this role from SFOR in 2004, EUFOR has been training, supporting and mentoring the BiH authorities whose progress has enabled EUFOR to gradually reduce the number of its personnel to the approximately 600 troops I command in theatre now. Should the situation require it, I can call upon what is known as the Intermediate Reserve Forces – military units that will arrive in BiH at very short notice from their bases in their own countries. At the moment, these units are from the United Kingdom and every year Exercise Quick Response ensures that they can efficiently and effectively integrate into EUFOR's



Peace Support Operations should they ever need to do so for real.

What threatens the security of people in BiH at the moment, and how does EUFOR help?

A very real threat to the physical security of the population of BiH is the amount of mines that remain throughout the country. As part of maintaining the safe and secure environment, EUFOR educates vulnerable adults and children about the risk of mines – last year we educated over 17000 people. We also use our technical expertise to support the Demining Battalion of the AFBiH and EU/BiH authorities. For example, just this month we (together with NATO) signed a Memorandum of Understanding releasing over 8000 aerial photographs to BiH Mine Action Centre to enhance their survey capability for at-risk areas.

Is EUFOR the only international organisation invested in the future of BiH?

Most of EUFOR's work is done in cooperation with partner organisations, such as the EU, NATO, the EU Special Representative and the relevant BiH authorities. EUFOR forms part of the European Union's comprehensive approach towards

ensuring BiH's future on its path towards membership of the European Union.

How did you find working with an international staff?

A headquarters staff serves two purposes: to support the Commander and to serve the troops. EUFOR HQ did both of those, and working together, we formed an effective team. I found the work spirit and morale of the staff to be exemplary, and the cooperation between branches and nations enabled EUFOR staff to provide me with good advice and sound products. I hope the same professionalism continues.

Do you think EUFOR is in a good position at the moment?

I am confident that EUFOR is in a good position for the current security situation in BiH. During my period in command, we conducted the first Strategic Review of EUFOR: this was a thorough assessment of the situation, the mission and tasks, the resources and capabilities of EUFOR units and how EUFOR will continue to support BiH as it moves towards closer European integration. This will ensure that EUFOR is in the best position to fulfil its evolving task in the future.

Farewell from a Finn

Before he left, Jarmo Holopainen, J3 Ops Plans, wrote a witty song for the friends he left behind in Camp Butmir. The lyrics speak for themselves, set to the tune of 'Hotel California':

Welcome to Building 200

*On a dark smoky Sarajevo, warm wind in hair,
Funky smell of colitis, rising up to the air.
Up ahead in the distance, blue flashing lights
My head grew heavy, 'cause I had too many gins,
I had to stop for the night.
There he stood in the revolving doorway,
I heard the mission bell
And I was thinking to myself
'This could be heaven or this could be hell'.
He lit up my job description
and showed me the way.
There were voices down the corridor,
"You are the new OPR".*

Chorus: Welcome to Building 200

*Such a lovely place (such a lovely place)
Such a lovely face.*

Plenty of work in Building two hundred

*Any time of year (any time of year)
you can find it here.
His mind is SOP-twisted, he wants Mercedes-Benz.
He's got a lot of pretty, pretty boys, he calls slaves
How they dance in the flag yard,
sweet summer sweat
Some dance to remember, some dance to forget.
So I called up the Commander
'Please bring me my pride'.
He said, 'we haven't had that spirit here
since nineteen sixty-nine'
And still those voices are calling from far away,
Wake you up in the middle of the night
Just to hear DCOS say:*

Chorus: Welcome to Building 200

*Any time of day (any time of day)
you can't run away
Mirrors on the ceiling,
Jägermeister without ice.
And he said, 'we are all prisoners here,
of the PowerPoint slides.'
In the COS's chambers,
They gathered for the feast
They stab it with their rusty knives,
They just can't find the new beast.
Last thing I remember, I was
Running for the maingate
I had to find passage back to the place I
was before.
'Relax said the guard men,
The manning conference is next week.
You can check out any time you like,
But you can never leave!'"*

Finnish personnel leave Butmir for the final time



Early in the morning of 29 March, the Finnish flag was lowered for the final time at EUFOR HQ. After 13 years of unbroken representation in the peace-keeping missions of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the small ceremony marked the formal withdrawal of the Republic of Finland.

At the ceremony, presided over by the new Commander EUFOR, Major General Martin Dorfer, and Brigadier General Kallio, members of EUFOR Troop Contributing Nations and the Finnish Defence Forces stood in silence as the Finnish flag was ceremonially lowered and presented to Brigadier General Kallio who is Chief of Operations in Army Command in Finland.

In his speech, the Brigadier General said that it has 'been a great honour to have served in EUFOR, which has been responsible for safe and good conditions in BiH'. Over the 13 years that Finland has served as part of Operation Althea, 600 Finnish military personnel have deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Major General Martin Dorfer, noted with sadness that on his first full day as COMEUFOR, that he had to say farewell a Troop Contributing Nation, and in particular one with whose personnel he had served so successfully and fruitfully with during his previous international missions. He wished the final 2 members of the Finnish Contingent safe travels home saying: "I extend our thanks to the government and people of Finland for the contribution your Defence Forces have made contributing to the success in BiH in maintaining the safe and secure environment. Their presence will be missed."



The wonderful women (and men) of EUFOR



EUFOR joined forces with the Armed Forces of BiH to mark International Women’s Day on 9 March by hosting a conference entitled ‘Recruiting and Retaining the Best Women (and Men) in the Defence and Security Sector.

EUFOR nations proved that they can recruit excellent personnel: as evidenced by the hugely successful social media campaign profiling the ‘Faces of EUFOR’ in their professional roles. Women and men made short videos in their own

language, highlighting the range of nations and jobs that are working for the future of BiH – and by profiling more women than men, EUFOR proved that gender is no barrier to making a valuable contribution to the safe and secure environment. So thanks go to Alina, Bettina, Csilla, Dida, Krystian, Martin, Monika and Vanya for showing the friendly face of EUFOR!

The conference itself was attended by key personnel from AFBiH including Minister Pendes as



well as Law Enforcement Agencies, Embassies, NHQSa and EUFOR representatives. Special thanks must go to Ireland and the United Kingdom for providing the EUFOR presentations – and of course to Mrs Nikolina Marceta, EUFOR Gender Advisor, for organising such a well-received conference.



Dida



Csilla



Krystian



Bettina



Alina



Amber



Kristina



Olivera



Monika



Vanya

EU and NATO cooperation highlighted in joint visit



General Sir James Everard KCB CBE, in his role as EUFOR Operation Commander, made a visit alongside Admiral James Foggo, Commander of Joint Forces Command (NATO) Naples, to Sarajevo on 21 February in order to discuss EU, NATO and Armed Forces BiH (AFBiH) cooperation at the highest levels.

They spent the day meeting key military figures to discuss the continuing close working relationship between their respective organisations. General Everard and Admiral Foggo met the Minister of Defence for BiH, Ms Marina Pendeš and the Chief of the Joint Staff of AFBiH, Lieutenant General Anto Jeleč, at the Ministry of Defence in Sarajevo, where they spoke about the support that EUFOR gives the BiH authorities in maintaining the safe and secure environment for the population of BiH.



General Everard said: "Co-operation between NATO and the EU leads to better outputs for the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and I recognize the significant support that BiH contributes to NATO, EU and UN-led Peace Support Operation and missions around the world."

EUFOR HQ hosts Austrian Minister of Defence



On 22 February the Austrian Minister of Defence, Mario Kunasek, visited EUFOR Headquarters in Camp Butmir. He was accompanied by the Chief of Defence of the Armed Forces of Austria, General Othmar Commenda. On arrival they were greeted with an Honour Guard from the Multinational Battalion, the EUFOR manoeuvre element in theatre. They met with Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner, to receive an update on Operation Althea.

They discussed the current situation in Bosnia and

Herzegovina (BiH), and the cooperation with the Armed Forces of BiH. The Defence Minister, Mario Kunasek, underlined the importance of the Federal Republic of Austria as one of the largest troop contributors to EUFOR Operation Althea.

The Minister understands from his own experience the practical contribution that Austrian military personnel continue to make to the continued peace in BiH, having served as a soldier in the AUTCON 7 under SFOR in 1999.

by Lieutenant Patrick Moser

Minister of Foreign Affairs of Austria visits EUFOR HQ



The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Austria, Karin Kneissl, visited the EUFOR Headquarters in Camp Butmir on the 22 February.

On arrival she was greeted with an Honour Guard of the Multinational Battalion and introduced to several key EUFOR staff members from Austria.

Austrian personnel work in almost every part of Operation Althea. Around 200 Austrian soldiers are currently serving in BiH.

She met with Commander EUFOR, Major General Anton Waldner, to be briefed on Operation Althea and the current situation in BiH.

New EU Military Council Chairperson visits EUFOR

General Claudio Graziano, Chief of the Italian Defence General Staff, was welcomed to EUFOR Headquarters in Sarajevo on 20 March by Major General Anton Waldner, Commander EUFOR.

The Generals met to discuss Italy's ongoing contribution to EUFOR and the



current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This visit will be particularly relevant to General Graziano, as he will become the Chair of the European Union's Military Committee in November 2018.

The EU Military Committee provides advice and guidance on all EU-related military matters.

This includes all the EU Operations and Missions, of which EUFOR Operation ALTHEA in BiH is one.



Here are the winning photos from last Forum's photo competition! Judges chose this stunning photo from Boracko Jezero as the overall winner, which was submitted by the International Military Police team from Poland (Rafal Alenowick, Krystian Szelski, Glen Grzegorz, and Andrzej Kutawski as pictured in the lake). As photo competition winners, they won a selection of EUFOR goodies – including T-shirts which might be useful after coming out of that cold water!





Participate!!

The next photo competition theme is 'spring' – so get snapping and send your photos to euforpao@gmail.com. Each amateur photographer can submit up to three photos, with a minimum size of 2 MB before 25 May 18. Submissions should include a short description (what, where, when, who) and the name of the photographer.”



EUFOR's Multinational Battalion stays fighting fit with a mountain march



EUFOR personnel conducted a mountain march training exercise on Mount Trebevic on 6 February. Troops from the Multinational Battalion (MNBN) marched a total of 19 km on the mountain while wearing protective equipment and carrying their weapons as part of their routine training to maintain their high level of readiness.

The MNBN's Company from Hungary (H-Coy) organised and led the mountain march, and invited other members of EUFOR who were available to join them in a 'Man vs. Trebevic' challenge. In all, approximately 150 EUFOR personnel from various departments took part. While the weather was clear and sunny, it was very cold and the path was covered in ice and up to 60cm of snow in places, which made for good training conditions. As Lieutenant Patrick Moser from the battalion said, 'The MNBN must be ready to respond in

all weathers.' Major Csaba Szabo, Deputy Commander of the MNBN thought that the 9.5 km march up the mountain was worth the effort: 'the view from the top was great' he said with a smile.

The participants who were not from the MNBN used the march as physical challenge, and opportunity to exercise in the mountains. Warrant Officer Rafal Alenowicz said that the march had been an excellent opportunity to prove that his sessions in the gym before work had kept him very fit.



The MNBN must be ready to respond in all weathers.

However, for the MNBN the mountain march was not simply about keeping fit; it was a training serial for a 'dismounted patrol'.

This is an essential skill for the MNBN. As EUFOR's in-theatre troops, they would respond when necessary if the safe and secure environment in BiH deteriorated and so must be ready at all times and in all weathers to ensure that EUFOR can meet its mandate in BiH.

Change of EUFOR Multinational Battalion Commander



On 13 February, at a ceremony held at EUFOR HQ in Camp Butmir, Lieutenant Colonel Michael Lippert, officially handed over his command of EUFOR’s MNBN to Lieutenant Colonel Markus Schwaiger and was awarded the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Medal ‘Althea’ in recognition of his service in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Lieutenant Colonel Lippert as MNBN Commander saw Exercise Quick Response 17 in October last year as the highlight of his mission, when his troops and those from AFBiH trained with the Law Enforcement Agencies in complex and realistic peace support operations for the first time. As EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General József Szpisják, highlighted in his speech the MNBN Commander and his staff did a great job. He said: “Due to the fact that this was the first time that Law Enforcement Agencies and AFBiH practised contingency plans

with EUFOR, this exercise was more challenging: the participants had to think about three different scenarios, and had three times more radio calls coming in to the command post than in previous years. The MNBN improved their performance day by day and fulfilled all the given tasks.”

Three is a significant number for the MNBN: there are three nations represented in the Battalion. They are Austria, Hungary and Turkey. Lieutenant Colonel Lippert said ‘The Companies from the three nations responded well to the challenges of integrating three ways of working and three languages and everyone supported the Mission regardless of rank or nationality.’ He finished by wishing his successor all the best, and saying ‘goodbye’ in the three languages of the MNBN.

The incoming MNBN Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Markus Schwaiger, described how this appointment is a milestone in his career and how he is looking forward to leading the Battalion. He said “Working together, we will deal with any challenge facing us.”



The Family HOTO

A Handover/Takeover is usually only a week or two, but two EUFOR officers undertook a HOTO with a difference: it lasted six weeks and was between family members! Colonel Werner Reismann (55) had already served for 11 months as MA1 to COMEUFOR, when his son, Captain Clemens Reismann (26) joined EUFOR as Lessons Learned Officer on 20 February. The Reismann family often works together in the family business back in Lower Austria, but this was the first time that they served together in the military: Werner is a Reserve Officer and Clemens is a Logistics Officer. The whole family



was very supportive of them serving together, even if it was only for a few weeks due to Werner ending his tour with the COMEUFOR Change of Command Ceremony. When asked

what it was like serving in the HQ as a subordinate to his dad, Clemens answered: “He’s been my superior officer at home for 26 years so I am used to it!”

Supermoon over HQ EUFOR



On the night of a ‘supermoon’ the moon appears larger and brighter than usual. It’s a rare astronomical phenomenon. The next ‘supermoon’ will occur in 2019.

Senator underlines Republic of Ireland's commitment



On 16 March, Commander EUFOR Major General Anton Waldner welcomed Senator Denis O'Donovan, Chairman of the Upper House of the Parliament of the Republic of Ireland, to EUFOR Headquarters in Sarajevo.

Mr O'Donovan and the Irish Ambassador to BiH, HE Myles Geiran, visited EUFOR to discuss the security situation in the country and to underline the ongoing commitment of the Republic of Ireland to EUFOR Operation Althea and BiH as it moves towards its European future. Ireland contributes key personnel to EUFOR Headquarters in Sarajevo as one of the 14 EU and 5 partner nations working together to support BiH authorities in maintaining a safe and secure environment in the country.

The timing of the visit was significant to the personnel from the Irish Defence Forces, as 17 March is St Patrick's Day, when Irish culture is celebrated all over the world. They had arranged a special cultural evening for all EUFOR personnel, where Mr O'Donovan was guest of honour. In his speech, Mr O'Donovan praised the efforts of all personnel deployed on peace support operations, and highlighted the valuable contributions made by those who serve a long way from their families.

The spirit of European cooperation and friendship at EUFOR was highlighted during the final part of the reception, with a team of Irish dancers from Slovenia giving a display of traditional Irish step dancing to the EUFOR troops and visitors.

St Patrick's Day Celebration



The 26th Irish Contingent held a St Patrick's Day Function in Camp BUTMIR on 16 March. The function was attended by the Cathaoirleach of the Irish Seanad (Upper House of Parliament) Senator Denis O'Donovan and HE Ambassador Myles Geiran as part of the Irish Government's St Patrick's Day Outreach Programme. The night's highlight was a 25-minute Irish Dancing Performance from the Slovenian Irish Dancing School from Ljubljana. Senator O'Donovan in his speech expressed his sincere appreciation to the Irish Contingent for hosting a wonderful St Patrick's Day and praised the efforts of all personnel deployed on peace support operations, and highlighted the valuable contributions made by those who serve a long way from their families.

Earlier that day, the Cathaoirleach Senator Denis O'Donovan and HE Ambassador Myles Geiran had paid an office call to COMEUFOR Major General Anton Waldner. The Cathaoirleach of the Irish Seanad received a Guard of Honour from the EUFOR Multinational Battalion. During the office call Senator Denis O'Donovan presented a bowl of shamrock to Major General Waldner. COMEUFOR then briefed the visiting Irish VIP party on the current situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

by Lieutenant Colonel Cyril Whelan



Training Cooperation EUFOR with Armed Forces BiH in 2018

Developing capacity and capabilities of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) is one of the most important tasks for EUFOR. EUFOR continues 2018 to develop its capacity building and training program with AFBiH. The focus this year is self-sustainability and preparation for NATO Evaluation.

To support Armed Forces BiH is one of the key tasks of EUFOR. EUFOR provide mainly military expertise and if possible technical support. The activities encompass advising, mentoring and monitoring of military training. This will ensure that in future AFBiH are trained and capable to operate in a multinational environment. At least they should have a self-sustainable training system. AFBiH should have the capability to participate in joint and combined exercises and also peace support operations. In fact, AFBiH already participates in several missions abroad, e.g. Afghanistan, to gain experience in multinational cooperation. Additional, under impression of the natural disaster in 2014, they have to support BiH civil authorities in Disaster Relief Operations.

To conduct such training need a proper and comprehensive planning process with a multiannual perspective and a common picture of training needs and achievable support from EUFOR. The key document is the road map agreement with a three years perspective of training cooperation. This road map is the basis for the development of the Joint (Integrated) AFBiH - EUFOR CB&T



Signature of Joint (Integrated) CB&T Plan 2018

Plan. The Road Map Agreement 2018 with a preview up to 2021 was signed in March this year. At least, AFBiH will take over more responsibility engaging already trained personnel from there armed forces.

For this year training activities the Joint (Integrated) CB&T Plan 2018 is the detailed agreement of all training

The combined trainings between the infantry brigades of AFBiH and the multinational battalion (MNBN) from EUFOR is a cornerstone in this cooperation.

activities between EUFOR and AFBiH. Training objectives and Training Task Plans are to be developed from AFBiH training needs analysis with realistic and time-framed training objectives in priority order. All training activities based on this bilateral agreement, which is result of an intensive planning process. These activities encompass courses in logistics, CIS, engineering ammunition and weapons storage management, movement

control and other relevant topics. On the Assessment Conference last year in November EUFOR and AFBiH reviewed there cooperation to adopted and improve all those activities for the upcoming years focusing on 2018. Beside this wide spectrum of courses the combined trainings between the infantry brigades of AFBiH and the multinational battalion (MNBN) from EUFOR is a cornerstone in this cooperation. An article in the next forum will highlight this specific training activity.

EUFOR is responsible to support on tactical and operational level. The main training capacities from EUFOR are concentrated in CB&T Division. This division cooperates on various command levels within the AFBiH Command structure and has the overall lead for all training activities. Embedded advisory teams support those structures in accordance with EUFOR training plan. Training activities are conducted either by training teams from a Troop Contributing Nation or by MNBN. For specific trainings, like logistic and CBRN, subject matter experts from

training branch are in lead for this trainings with AFBiH.

The overall EUFOR training concept based of three phases.

Phase 1: Training of military and civilian personnel of AFBiH (Train-the-Trainers). This phase is normally performed by a Mobile Training Team (MTT) or under supervision of a subject matter expert. The objective is that AFBiH shall obtain the required level of skills and knowledge needed to train themselves in future.

Phase 2: Mentoring or co-staffing via a Mentoring/Monitoring Team (MMT). AFBiH should be able to perform training or give instructions to themselves with mior support from EUFOR.

Phase 3: Monitoring by a Mentoring/Monitoring Team (MMT)



or external party. The objective is to assess if the provided training and assistance have resulted in a self-sustainable training system and to measure the CB&T Area effectiveness of the delivered training.

The focus supporting training activities for 2018 is beside combined trainings either mentoring

or monitoring of the courses. After finishing last phase the desired end state should be reached.

Self-sustainability is the ultimate goal of EUFOR cooperation with AFBiH. For 2019 we expect a major shift in this cooperation.

by Lieutenant Colonel Erwin Gartler



Mentoring on Military Movement Control

Building the capacity of the transport structure in the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) to meet the current capacity building requirements and interoperability with the Armed Forces of other countries is one of the tasks of EUFOR.

JMA Movement Control Specialist Captain Vanya Kurtashka together with EUFOR's Mobile Mentoring Team, (MMT) manned by Lieutenant Colonel Wieslaw



Rogulski and Warrant Officer Tomasz Szczur from Poland and their team interpreter Borislav Andric, organized a course for AFBiH transportation personnel at the AFBiH Movement Control Centre in Doboj in cooperation with their instructors. The course took place from 5 - 23 February. On completion of the course EUFOR's Head

of Capacity Building and Training, Colonel Cuneyt Cakir, presented the trainees with the Course Completion Certificates. The AFBiH Commander of Logistic Command, Colonel Ernes Heleg also attended the awards ceremony.

by Captain Vanya Kurtashka

Final farewell to EUFOR Major Peter Pavlovský



In this issue of the Forum magazine, we remember Major Peter Pavlovský who sadly passed away on Wednesday 14th February. He was suddenly taken ill at Camp Butmir, and despite the best efforts of EUFOR medical staff, he passed away in hospital later that day.

Personnel from every EUFOR nation as well as the EU Special Representative, and NATO and Armed Forces of BiH representatives, attended the solemn repatriation ceremony at Sarajevo Airport as his coffin was flown back to the Slovak Republic for the final time.

A veteran of two tours of duty in Afghanistan, Major Peter Pavlovský worked in the Slovak NSE as a personnel and finance officer. He will be remembered by all who served with him as a professional officer and good man, and as COS EUFOR said “Our thoughts are with the loved ones he leaves behind.”



EUFOR HQ awards military personnel medals in ceremony at Camp Butmir

On 20 February, 164 military personnel from EUFOR received their Op Althea medals from EUFOR’s Operation Commander General Sir James Everard.

This was a particularly high-ranking parade, with EUFOR Chief of Staff Brigadier General József Szpisják among those receiving the European Union Common Security and Defence Policy Medal ‘Althea’ in recognition of their service in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Brigadier General Szpisják said: “I am proud of the wide-ranging professional and social relationships I have created and fostered while I have been here: not just with the Armed Forces, but also with the Law Enforcement Agencies of BiH as well as many individuals and friends. I am glad to have added a valuable contribution to the peaceful environment for the population of Bosnia and Herzegovina.”

The EUFOR Chief of Staff was the most senior person on parade, as well as the highest-ranking Hungarian present. Hungary contributes a Company to the Multinational Battalion, and Hungarian soldiers comprised the majority of people on parade. Poland, Turkey and Austria were the other nations taking part in the parade. Colonel Werner Reismann, from Austria, also received his medal from General Everard and highlighted the significance of receiving his medal from the man who is responsible to the European Union for the overall execution of EUFOR Operation Althea.

He said: “It was an honour to have received my medal directly from the Operation Commander General Everard today. It was a privilege to stand alongside so many professional women and men from EUFOR, and to have the important work we do in EUFOR recognised by our higher Operational Command. I will take away many fond memories of my time in BiH, but the spirit of international cooperation will be among my best memories.”



In his speech, General Everard told recipients of the medal that they “represent the practical and positive affirmation of support from your Governments and Armed Forces to EUFOR and the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina”.



HQ EUFOR
Camp Butmir Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina
March 2018



**17 EUFOR LOT HOUSES ACROSS BIH.
FOR A SAFE AND SECURE
ENVIRONMENT.
FOR YOU.**

