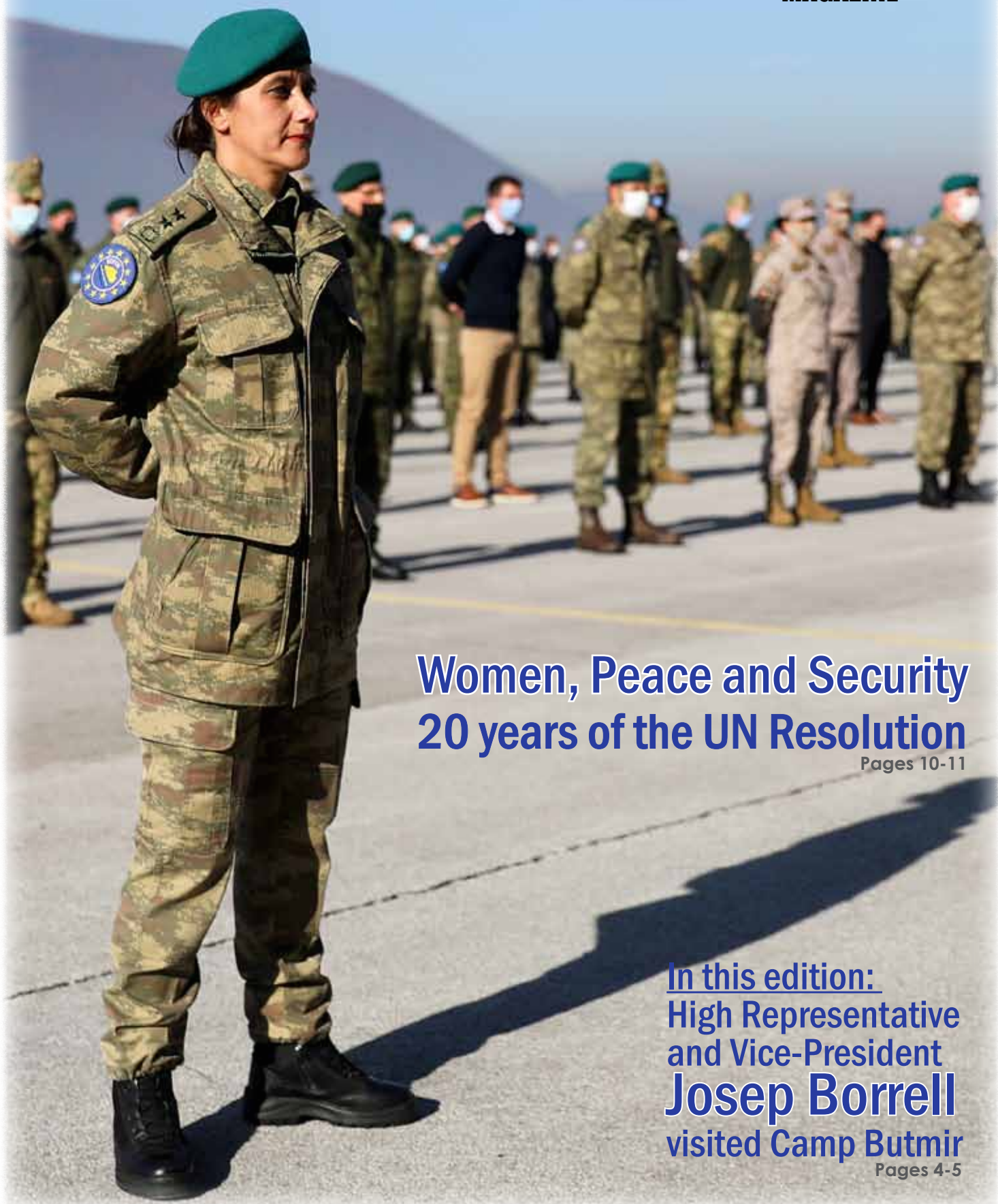


September-November 2020

#123

EUFOR forum

MAGAZINE



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Irish Defence Forces fitness test 16-17

Series about Military Fitness Tests continues and this time it is the Irish Defence Forces Fitness Test.



Editor

Dear loyal readers of the EUFOR Forum, after the last troops that were here for exercise QR2020 have left for home, normal life came back to our camp but changes occurred outside. The number of COVID-19 cases is on the rise all over Europe as well as here in BiH, some states implemented again new lockdowns and on the 15th of November we had elections here in BiH.

Despite all of this certain activities were maintained by EUFOR: Besides the visit of Josep Borrell, the International Medal Parade and other events, this edition presents the Irish Military Fitness Tests, an interview with our Italian Covid-Specialist as well as the EUFOR Military Skills Competition that occurred in September at Camp Butmir.

Many thanks to all those that have contributed to our stories, but we must not rest on our laurels. We still need you to send us your stories for the next and future editions, so please get in contact with the PAO team if you have anything of interest to tell us.

Captain Gregor Jesenko

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EUFOR LOT Houses

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euforbih



20. put obilježavamo Evropski dan jezika. Pripadnici EUFOR... država i govore različitim jezicima. Jedna od najraznolikijih br... planiranje: 5 oficira, 5 nacija, 11 jezika, 5 magistarskih diploma. Učenje je ključ napretka.

Today is the 20th edition of the European Day of languages. We are 20 nations with different languages at EUFOR. One of the most diverse branches is Plans and Policy: 5 officers, 5 nations, 11 languages, 5 Masters degrees. Learning is the key to progress.



Also EUFOR celebrated the 20th European Day of languages



Operation EUFOR Althea @euforbih - Oct 30
Celebrating 20 years of #UNSCR1325
An event in the @OS_BiH Army Hall in Sarajevo celebrated the anniversary of a landmark UN Resolution. @euforbih has partnered the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of BiH to implement #UNSCR1325 for mutual benefit.



An event in the Armed Forces of BiH Army Hall in Sarajevo today celebrated the anniversary of a landmark UN Resolution.



Operation EUFOR Althea @euforbih - Sep 30
Even #COVID19 restrictions allow @euforbih troops to exercise and challenge each other as part of #EuropeanWeekofSport. You have been restricted but gym regulars like these guys can always plan a session in during their busy work schedule. @EuSport #Motivation



0:05 152 views

EUFOR joins EU Sports Week 2020

Staying fit and healthy within the military should be a fun and social occasion. Even COVID restrictions allow EUFOR troops to exercise every day and challenge each other as part of EU Sports Week.



The long-range strategic transport aircraft used by Royal Air Force for worldwide combat, peacekeeping or humanitarian missions picks up equipment used during #EUFORQR2020 at Sarajevo International Airport. During the quick turnaround and whilst the kit was being loaded, the crew from 99 Squadron, RAF Brize Norton shows us unique abilities of the aircraft.



Applying skills learned during EUFOR Exercise Quick Response 2020. A Company 3 Para assault and secure a complex compound in Bosnia.



European Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina
19 November at 15:39

Together for a #MineFree Bosnia and Herzegovina! Two projects worth EUR 1.1 million funded by European Union improve mine suspected areas data collection and management. New Mobile phone App will ensure all people are safe and land release accelerated (<https://t.co/JwZMQf6XEH?amp=1>)



High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy visits Camp Butmir



On Saturday, 21 November, the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the European

Commission, Josep Borrell, visited EUFOR Headquarters at Camp Butmir, Sarajevo, as part of his visit to Bosnia and Herzegovina on the 25th anniversary of the

Agreement of the Dayton Accords.

He was welcomed by a Guard of Honour formed from EU and partner forces currently stationed at Camp Butmir. He then received a brief on EUFOR's mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina from COMEUFOR, Major General Trischak.

COMEUFOR briefed the High Representative on the main aspects of EUFOR's mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, detailing the challenges and successes as EUFOR continues to support a Safe and Secure Environment and the collective and combined training of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina in line with the Operation ALTHEA mandate.



The Spanish politician met the two Spanish soldiers serving in EUFOR.



Major General Trischak stated:

“The Dayton Accords were a pivotal point in the history of Bosnia and Herzegovina enabling peace as a condition for progress towards European integration.”

EUFOR’s continued presence in the country is a message of the commitment of the EU contributing to the overall security framework in the country for the benefit of all the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina.”

The Security Council renewed authorization of EUFOR ALTHEA for 12 more months

On Thursday, 5 November, UN Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 2549 (2020) under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, welcoming the continued presence of EUFOR ALTHEA and the EU’s readiness at this stage to continue an executive military role to support Bosnia and Herzegovina authorities to maintain the safe and secure environment.


The resolution renews EUFOR’s mandate for 12 more months and recognises that EUFOR ALTHEA will have the main peace stabilisation role under the military aspects of the Dayton Peace Agreement.





QR2020 – From exercise success, to well earned rest



Having been serving in EUFOR for seven months and accomplishing successfully EUFOR's Exercise Quick Response 2020, the day arrived for the Hungarian Infantry Company and parts of the Austrian Contingent to go back home to their families and friends.

The Hungarian  Infantry Company left Camp Butmir already on Friday, 18 September. The Soldiers left in two shifts on the newly purchased cargo plane of the Hungarian Army, an Airbus A-319, while their equipment was sent home by trucks.

The leaving part of the Austrian  Contingent had its last day in Camp Butmir on Thursday, 24 October, leaving by bus.

The main body of the UK  troops, on the other hand left on Saturday, 26 September, not surprisingly, by plane. A few

days later, Sarajevo International Airport was once again visited by a giant transport aircraft. On this occasion, they arrived to return a part of the remaining UK troops and vehicles that were deployed on QR2020.

COMEUFOR was at the airport to see the well drilled teams

load the aircraft with the UK's Foxhound armoured vehicles and military recovery trucks.

On Thursday, 1 October, Sarajevo International Airport saw the arrival of a Royal Airforce C-17 Globemaster to pick up the last equipment used during QR2020.

by Captain Gregor Jesenko



Austrian Company high up in the air



On Thursday, 24 September, the Austrian Company from the EUFOR Multinational Battalion (MNBN) conducted helicopter boarding training, exercising their ability to quickly move personnel around Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The platoons of the company conducted a number of flights throughout the day, practicing their ability to rapidly load equipment and transport themselves with the helicopter.

The ability to move swiftly around Bosnia and Herzegovina is essential to EUFOR's capacity to assist local authorities if required. Training like this enables the MNBN not only to sharpen their skills but also to gain knowledge of their surroundings and the time required to reach a location.

by Captain Gregor Jesenko



Change of Command of EUFOR's Multinational Battalion



On Tuesday, 22 September, Camp Butmir saw the Change of Command of EUFOR's Multinational Battalion (CoC MNBN).

COMEUFOR, Major General Reinhard Trischak, handed the colours of the MNBN from Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Steingress to Lieutenant Colonel

Daniel Wilfing to signify the Change of Command.

The incoming Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Wilfing is serving in Austria as the deputy commander of the 26th Mountain Infantry Battalion and brings experience from four deployments to international peace support operations.

He said at the ceremony:

"I am very proud to stand in front of you as the new Commander of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion.

Leading a battalion is not only an honour, but also comes with challenges and great responsibility. My aim is to keep up the high standards operating under the motto 'One Mission, One Team'."

The CoC MNBN was also the occasion to decorate 130 soldiers with the EU Common Security and Defence Policy Medal for Operation EUFOR Althea to formally acknowledge the contribution the soldiers on parade made to the success of EUFOR. The medal is engraved with the Latin phrase 'Pro Pace Unum', meaning 'United for Peace'.

by Lieutenant Colonel Nicolai Tschol



Interview with MNBN Commander



What are your feelings today, regarding the Change of Command event and your future mission?

I am very proud to be the Commander of the Multinational Battalion. It's certainly a great honor and also a great responsibility. Having soldiers from three and possibly even six different nations under command is a challenge.

Working in a multinational team makes understanding, respect and mutual support mandatory. So I believe working as a team and not in singular manner is the best way reaching a high quality in the performance. That's why the main effort for me in the near future will be forming a good team as soon as possible, to be able to fulfil all the challenges that follow in highly-grade manner.

What are the main tasks of the Multinational Battalion?

The main tasks of the Multinational Battalion are to ensure the security of Camp Butmir in Sarajevo. As well as to maintain the visibility of EUFOR around Bosnia and Herzegovina, so that the local communities can be assured of the presence and support of EUFOR. We also provide a Quick Reaction Force to support the local authorities, if the situation requires it. Very important to us are also the combined trainings with the Armed Forces of BiH.

What are your expectations for the next six months?

In the first phase it certainly will be an exciting time until each of us, especially in the MNBN staff but also in the companies, will have settled and found his place

Education:

Graduation 1994 from the Austrian Maria Theresia Military Academy in Wiener Neustadt.

From 2013 to 2015 attending master program "Master of Arts in Military Leadership, MA" at the Austrian National Defence Academy.

Career:

First after graduation I was serving as Platoon Commander and afterwards as a Company Cdr in the 2th Reconnaissance Battalion from 1994 to 2002.

From 2002 until now spending the time in 26th Mountain Infantry Battalion at last as second in command of the battalion.

Deployments:

Participation in 3 tours. All of them in KOSOVO, at last serving as Deputy National Contingent Commander and Chief of Staff of the Austrian contingent.

within the unit. After this process of "Forming" my further expectation is that the work will be intensive and challenging, but I'm convinced that we will be able to succeed.

Success in our work depends on how we are able to act as team, because that's a very important characteristic of military. So my message to my soldiers is that everybody should try to act as a teamplayer, which means to sometimes give up individual needs to guarantee common success.

by Captain Gregor Jesenko

Woman in Command



Soldiers, airmen and sailors based at the EUFOR Headquarters and throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina received their deployment medal on Friday, 23 October, a sunny autumn morning at Camp Butmir.

The medal parade for over 250 servicemen and women from 12 different nations was commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Asli Gulesen from Turkey.

She said:

“It was a great honour for me to be the commander of an international parade and to receive the Althea medal with all the experiences and memories I have gained”.

Continued on the next page



Just a few days before the 20th anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security, EUFOR is proud that the medal parade was commanded by a female officer.

The formal ceremony was presided over by Commander EUFOR Major General Reinhard Trischak, who thanked the troops on parade for their effort and dedication to maintain a safe and secure environment.

The medal, bearing the name of the EU Operation Althea was first awarded in 2004 to every international member who serves with EUFOR. It is inscribed with the Latin phrase “Pro pace unum”, meaning “United for peace”.

by Lieutenant Colonel Nicolai Tschol



UN Women Peace and Security 20th Anniversary



One week after Lieutenant Colonel Asli Gulesen from Turkey commanded EUFOR’s International Medal Parade, an event in the Armed Forces of BiH Army Hall in Sarajevo took place on Friday, 30 October.

It celebrated the anniversary of a landmark UN Resolution. The adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on 31 October 2000 reaffirmed the importance of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict on a global stage.

The resolution also specifically addressed how women and girls are disproportionately impacted by violent conflict and recognises the critical role that women can and already do play in peacebuilding efforts.

Hosted by the Minister of Defence, Dr. Sifet Podžić and attended by Armed Service and civilian agencies, the event aimed to shine a light on the auspicious milestone.

During his speech at the event COMEUFOR said:

“I am glad that EUFOR could provide support on this path. EUFOR has partnered the MOD and the Armed Forces to implement UNSCR 1325 for mutual benefit. Whilst still ensuring that EUFOR followed this important resolution in line with the EU’s core values.”

Speaking after the event, Major General Trischak acknowledged that the global work to fully implement the Resolution needs to continue, he said; ***“EUFOR comprehends the challenges and also recognises that we still have a way to go. We have collectively come a long way from its implementation 20 years ago, but let us all understand that the job is not done.”***

EUFOR Military Skills Competition at Camp Butmir



After operating in different areas of BiH during EUFOR's annual Exercise Quick Response 2020, a Company of Austrian and a Company of UK soldiers decided to join forces on Friday 11 September, to test their combined military ability.

The competition was conceived by the men of A Company 3 Para who had enjoyed working within EUFOR's Multinational Battalion during the exercise.

Their Company Commander, Major Shaun Clarke said:

“For a lot of these men, it is the first time they have worked closely with another nation and it has been a rewarding period where we have all learned a great deal. The teams today have an equal mix of UK and Austrian soldiers, the winners will be the team who cooperate the best.”





Moving through a series of stances such as treating casualties, weapon assembly and a grenade throw, the teams had six hours to show the multinational instructors what they have learned. Carrying 20kg of kit and a weapon on a very hot day was the first challenge and overcoming any language barrier takes patience and consideration.

Talking to the instructors and watching the groups progress and collaborate around the circuit, it was extremely clear that the overall winner was ‘teamwork’.



Through intense preparation the soldiers were ready for all situations

DCOS SPT & SNR BGR



My job is to coordinate and to provide all aspects of EUFOR manpower management, medical, logistic, CIS support for HQ EUFOR and EUFOR troops, as well as force protection and real life support at Camp Butmir.

I'm from Bulgaria and I serve in the Bulgarian army as a Head of Sector in Logistic Branch (J4) in Joint Forces Command. This is my second mission in BiH. Before this mission I have been in BiH as a part of SFOR.

First of all, I came here to contribute, although with little, to the peace and development of the Balkans in general, to which I also belong. No less reason is the opportunity to meet many interesting people and cultures from around the world.

Watching how the country recover over the years and when I am meeting with so many smiling and polite people, I am really happy to contribute to the development of this wonderful country.

Colonel Anastas Bakalov

Chief J3/J4 & SNR SVN



I oversee and direct all military operations in a joint multinational environment, synchronize the staff action of Joint Operation Center, Air Operations, Planing & Operations and Training branches in accordance with DCOS OPS guidance.

I'm an Army officer from Slovenia. Most of my military carrier I was involved in logistic duties but currently Logistics Planings & Operations Chief in the Joint Forces Command HQ SVN Army. My last mission was in Afghanistan as TAAC-W J4 Chief. I know BiH and the Balkan region from many aspects so I'm very much looking forward to meeting new people, be a part of EUFOR team and support our mission here.

Lieutenant Colonel Darko Peče

The last show of old ammunition



On Tuesday, 8 October, soldiers from Austria, Hungary and Turkey are joined by the Armed Forces of BiH to witness the destruction of some old ammunition at a remote site near Glamoč, 130km west of Sarajevo.

A routine operation for the EUFOR Joint Military Affairs team based at Camp Butmir who specialise in this kind of work. EUFOR explosives disposal expert, Lieutenant Colonel Markus Haider said: *“This was one of our more routine jobs but you can never take risks with old ordnance.”*

The safe disposal of expired or newly discovered ammunition and explosives is a core role for EUFOR and the EOD teams of the AF BiH.



EUFOR delivering Mine Risk Education

EUFOR’s mine risk education teams were busy in the first week of November in and around Sarajevo. The education programme delivered by Liaison Observation Team (LOT) Novo Sarajevo has been restricted by the COVID pandemic, but EUFOR understands the importance of these classes.

EUFOR LOT Novo Sarajevo Commander said:

“We always take COVID measures like social distancing very seriously with these classes and it is important that we keep the education ticking over.”



Six Police Officers attended the first class presented by Izet Eljsani and 23 members of the Civil Protection team had the luxury of an empty theatre in Stari Grad for the presentation by Adnan Arnautlija.

COMEUFOR reviews Quick Reaction Force



COMEUFOR was given the opportunity to witness the skills and drills of the Multi-national Battalion (MNBN).

An element of the MNBN is always on permanent call at the EUFOR base and acts as the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) to respond to any situation 24 hours a day. On the day of COMEUFOR's inspection the QRF was formed from the Turkish Company who were keen to show their Commander how slick their manoeuvres are once activated.

Starting the tour with a look inside the Headquarters, the staff responsible for the Command and Control of the MNBN showed Major General Trischak how they plan and coordinate activity and then gave the order to scramble the Quick Reaction Force.

Assembling quickly with their vehicles, the Turkish Platoon Commander, Lieutenant Oğuzhan Güngör, presented the contingent to COMEUFOR who was clearly impressed with the speed in which they responded and the professional way they handled their equipment.

Speaking directly with the soldiers, COMEUFOR was keen to understand how often they practiced their reaction times as it was very clear the intensive training has paid off.



Military Fitness Tests of EUFOR nations



Special thanks go to Captain Steve Byrne, S1 of the HQ CAMP CMDT, for providing us with explanations and pictures.

Dear EUFOR comrades, in the last two editions we presented first the Austrian and then the Polish Military Fitness Test. The series continues and this time it is the Irish Defence Forces Fitness Test.

As the Irish Defence Forces define on their homepage:

Physical Fitness: “a set of attributes that an individual has or

achieves that relates to their ability to perform physical activity”.

Whereas Military Fitness is “the ability to respond instantly and effectively to the physical and psychological demands of combat with a minimum of distress and to return to a normal healthy state once the demand ceases”.

Physical fitness is a basic requirement of Military life. As every other Physical Fitness test as

well, this one is also designed to assess the candidate’s current level of physical fitness. It is composed of three aspects.

Part 1

A Body Mass Index (BMI) of 17 - 29 is the acceptable range.

The BMI is a measurement used in large population studies as an index of obesity due to ease of calculation.



Part 2

Local Muscular Endurance

To measure Muscular Strength and endurance and identify the components of fitness.

1-Minute Press-Up Assessment								
Grades	17-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	>60
1	>54	>49	>47	>42	>37	>34	>30	>28
2	47-53	42-48	40-46	36-41	31-36	27-33	24-29	21-27
3	36-46	32-41	29-39	27-35	23-30	17-26	14-23	12-20
4	28-35	26-31	23-28	21-26	15-22	9-16	7-13	7-11
5	19-27	19-25	17-22	11-20	6-14	6-8	5-6	5-6
6	<19	<19	<17	<11	<6	<6	<5	<5

1-Minute Sit-Up Assessment								
Grades	17-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	>60
1	>41	>35	>30	>26	>22	>18	>15	>12
2	35-40	30-34	26-29	22-25	18-21	14-17	14-17	10-11
3	30-34	26-29	22-25	18-21	14-17	10-13	10-13	8-9
4	26-29	22-25	18-21	14-17	10-13	7-9	7-9	6-8
5	21-25	17-21	14-17	10-13	7-9	4-6	4-6	4-5
6	<21	<17	<14	<9	<7	<4	<4	<4

Cardio Vascular Endurance

To measure the aerobic capacity for both males and females.

3.2 km Assessment								
Grades	17-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	>60
1	<12:35	<13:42	<13:48	<15	<16:01	<17:00	<18:00	<19:00
2	12:36-13:35	13:43-14:41	13:49-14:47	15:01-15:58	16:02-17:00	17:01-18:30	18:01-19:30	19:01-20:30
3	13:36-14:36	14:42-15:41	14:48-15:47	15:59-16:58	17:01-18:00	18:31-19:30	19:31-20:30	20:31-21:30
4	14:37-15:30	15:42-16:42	15:48-17:10	16:59-18:00	18:01-19:00	19:31-20:30	20:31-21:30	21:31-22:30
5	15:31-16:30	16:43-17:42	17:11-17:48	18:01-19:01	19:01-20:00	20:31-21:30	21:31-22:30	22:31-23:30
6	>16:31	>17:43	>17:49	>19:01	>20:01	>21:31	22:31	>23:31

Part 3

10 km Loaded March

The 10 km Loaded is a valid measure of Combat Battlefield fitness in both males and females. The test will be graded as a standalone individual test. This grading will not contribute to the cumulative grading in Part 2.

Grades	17-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	>60
1	≤ 63 m	≤ 67 m	≤ 73 m	≤ 77 m	≤ 80 m	≤ 85 m	≤ 88 m	≤ 90 m
2	≤ 70 m	≤ 74 m	≤ 80 m	≤ 84 m	≤ 87 m	≤ 92 m	≤ 95 m	≤ 100 m
3	≤ 77 m	≤ 81 m	≤ 87 m	≤ 91 m	≤ 94 m	≤ 99 m	≤ 103 m	≤ 110 m
4	≤ 93 m	≤ 99 m	≤ 105 m	≤ 111 m	≤ 117 m	≤ 120 m	≤ 120 m	≤ 125 m
5	≤ 103 m	≤ 109 m	≤ 115 m	≤ 121 m	≤ 127 m	≤ 130 m	≤ 130 m	≤ 135 m
6	≤ 113 m	≤ 119 m	≤ 125 m	≤ 131 m	≤ 137 m	≤ 140 m	≤ 140 m	≤ 145 m

Note: For female personnel add two minutes to all of the above times. (m=minutes)

Equipment to be Carried and Worn

Patrol Pack, Battle Vest and a minimum weight of 14 kg (=30lbs) of military equipment will be worn during this Terrain Walk. To make sure of the minimum weight, testing Officers will be required to weigh a person's kit at the beginning and end of the Loaded March.

by Captain Gregor Jesenko

EUFOR Multinational Battalion trained with Armed Forces of BiH



A platoon of soldiers from EUFOR's Multinational Battalion have been living with and training with their partners from the Armed Forces of BiH. The 5 day period of cooperation, from the 12 to 16 October, built on relationships fostered during the annual EUFOR

exercise involving soldiers from 20 nations.

Joining up this time in the south of the country near Bileća, the two teams shared ideas to coordinate a complex serial in challenging conditions.

The Platoon Commander of

2nd Battalion, 4th AFBiH Brigade, First Lieutenant Srđan Remetić said:

“The exercise scenarios were urban type operations, so entering and securing an isolated compound. There is always something new to learn from the



Training together is essential and we demonstrated that by working on an objective in an urban area with a mixed EUFOR and AFBiH team.

First Lieutenant
Tim Möller



On the left the Bosnian and on the right side the Austrian comrades who trained together for one week.

Austrian unit and the way they deal with a particular situation.”

The learning process is always a two-way process with combined operations with the EUFOR troops appreciating the opportunity to share experiences. First Lieutenant Tim Möller, the Platoon Commander of A-Coy, EUFOR MNBN, shared the observations of his AFBiH comrades and said:

“Training together is essential and we demonstrated that by working on an objective in an urban area with a mixed EUFOR and AFBiH team. The cooperation was great, the soldiers were really motivated, even though the weather conditions were not perfect but they did very, very well.”

Through the course of October the Multinational Battalion conducted various trainings with AF BiH. Originally they started on the platoon level in October to proceed with the company level in November but the company level was recently cancelled until further notice due to the ongoing COVID Situation.



COVID-19 Specialist Major Pasquale Giannelli: “It is an honour to work for EUFOR”



Major Pasquale Giannelli from the ‘Pozzuolo del Friuli’ Brigade, in Gorizia, and Major T. Marino, from the ‘Julia’ Brigade, in Udine, are both military doctors from the north eastern region of Italy. Due to their first-hand knowledge and experience of dealing with the COVID-19 crisis in Italy they have been deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) to assist local hospitals to implement best practice to help the local response. Before Major G. Pasquale left EUFOR he was happy to answer some questions.

When will you finally go back home? You were supposed to leave after three months yet you are still here!

Yes. It is right. It was supposed to leave in August, but I leave in the end of November, my successor will arrive on 25 November. I am looking forward to hug my family soon, but it is also an honor to be and work here.

Do you have a family who is waiting for you?

Yes. I do. I have a family with two children: 1 daughter (3 years old) and 1 son (1 year old). They are waiting for my return home.

How is it for them that you are still here?

It is not easy. For my wife it is very demanding and tiring. Not only she has to look after our children, but she also has to support my mother who is also ill.

On how many missions have you been so far? Have they all been medical missions or did you deploy in different military functions?

This is my 7th mission abroad. I was in Asia and Balkans. In any case my deployment was with medical aims, in a Role 1 or in a Command Staff.

Can you give us a brief overview on your work here in BiH since you arrived, what did you do?

Since May 2020 I have been here in BiH to share with doctors and nurses from all over the country the experience gained during the first wave of pandemic that took place in Italy last spring. I will soon have visited almost all the hospitals in BiH.



Major Pasquale Giannelli getting ready at the Banja Luka Hospital

and love for their work. They reach European standards. For example, there are doctors who have studied and are updating in Europa and America. As in many country, could be necessary more personnel and more material (equipment, beds, PCR-test...) in order to better cope with the emergency.

How did you like to work for EUFOR? How do you like BiH?

It is an honor to work for EUFOR. Great professionals who give the maximum of their commitment. Yes, I like to work for EUFOR. I have the opportunity to work in an international field to improve my knowledge and experience

Where exactly have you been around in BiH?

I've travelled all of BiH from north to south, east to west.

Now after six months of serving here at EUFOR, what is your résumé about your work here? What are your experiences?

It is an opportunity for professional and personal growth and it is also a both personal and a professional experience. I have learned different cultures and ways of thinking.

But also it was a professional experience because there was a share of experience about the therapy, treatment and medical aspects to be used to defeat the coronavirus. The issue of COVID-19 affects the whole world. I have learnt that to fight this pandemic if we're all united together that we can defeat the virus.

Could you experience many improvements in the BiH hospitals? What does still need to be done? What are the biggest deficits that you experienced in the health system in BiH?

The medical staff and nurses of hospitals throughout Bosnia have shown great professionalism

I am looking forward to hug my family soon, but it is also an honor to be and work here.

What are your personal experiences here and how did you spend your free time?

This mission is an opportunity for professional and personal growth. I hope to make a small contribution by sharing my experience with medical staff and nurses throughout BiH. In my free time I practice sports, walks and whenever possible and in compliance with the anti-covid-19 regulations I try to get to know the beauty of this country.

What are your future plans? Any other mission coming up soon?

My first thought goes to the family that has supported me in these long months. Then I will restart to work in Italy both as a military doctor and as a family doctor. In about a year, I'm scheduled for a new mission abroad. It is my work.

by Captain Gregor Jesenko

EUFOR's JOC Exercise tests the Command Team



Fictional TV news spot produced by EUFOR Public Affairs

In order to train the coordinated collaboration work of the Staff of the HQ, the MNBN, LCC and Air Operations, a scenario based exercise was held this week in Camp Butmir.

The task of the command-post exercise was to test

communications, exchanges of information and interaction of the staff officers of all levels.

The exercise was based around the scenario of an earthquake in the Mostar region impacting the local population, infrastructure and transport links. All teams within

EUFOR HQ were tested over the 3 day exercise. From the planning of the movement of personnel and equipment to engaging with the Local and state authorities and media engagement it was a critical analysis on the preparedness of EUFOR to respond to a Humanitarian Aid and Disaster Relief (HADR) incident.

The tasking also involved a request for support from the BiH authorities to aid in the control of personnel arriving at the local airport seeking shelter on the runways hindering and endangering the air traffic. MNBN were tasked with the planning and execution of crowd management evacuation.

The exercise validated a number of processes as well as identifying areas to improve on.



COS EUFOR joins UK Service Personnel to remember

On Wednesday, 11 November, COS EUFOR Brigadier General Ernő Baráth joined members of the United Kingdom element of EUFOR to pay their respects to those killed during all global conflict.

The Senior UK National Representative, Wing Commander Vincent Jackson said:

“The UK has been committed to peace keeping operations within this region for many years and marking this day of Armistice here in BiH is special.”



Memorial to the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic



On Monday, 21 of September, COMEUFOR welcomed the Ambassador of the Slovak Republic to BiH, Martin Kačo, to EUFOR Head Quarters at Camp Butmir. The somber occasion marked the unveiling of a memorial to the Armed Forces of The Slovak Republic – for all who have served in the service of peace and stability.

The memorial also bears the name of Major Peter Pavlovský who was sadly taken ill and died whilst serving as a EUFOR Staff Officer at Camp Butmir in 2018.

The Romanian Armed Forces Day

Celebrated on 25th October, the Romanian Armed Forces Day reminds of the Second World War’s ending, when on 25 October 1944 Romanian troops have liberated Careii Mari city in the North-Western Romania.

It is dedicated to the sacrifices made by Romanian Soldiers in both the First and the Second World War, but also to those sacrifices made during the whole military history of the country.

The ceremony of the Romanian Armed Forces day took place at the Fallen Soldier Monument in memory of all Romanians who served and died in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The event lasted in the presence of COMEUFOR, Ambassador of Romania to BiH, Mrs. Dana-Manuela Constantinescu, COM NATO

HQ Sarajevo, Brigadier General William J. Edwards, Romanian Defense Attaché, Colonel Robertino Ciobanu, and also representatives of the Nations participating in the operation.

by Captain Anca Ciornei



COMEUFOR MG Trischak and EU Ambassador Sattler hand over EU medical aid in Banja Luka



COMEUFOR and the Head of EU Delegation to BiH and Special Representative in BiH, Ambassador Johann Sattler met up on Tuesday, 03 November, at the University Clinical Centre in Banja Luka.

The visit was to hand over a significant amount of protective equipment for the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, donated by the EU to the Republika Srpska Health Institute in Banja Luka.

EUFOR provided logistical support with its trucks delivering the more than 400,000 protective masks and 18,000 gowns to help replenish supplies of equipment depleted during the fight against the pandemic.

COMEUFOR said:

“Today is another visible example of the support the European Union and EUFOR are providing to the authorities and the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina. We are proud that we can support logistically the efforts of the European Union and distribute the aid in time to the right place.”

“Today’s equipment is part of an aid package for medical institutions throughout Republika Srpska, with a total value of over 1.4 million euro” said Ambassador Johann Sattler.

by Lieutenant Colonel Nicolai Tschol



EUFOR delivers medical supplies to support BiH



In partnership with the EU Delegation in BiH and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the MNBN has been facilitating the logistical arrangements to deliver much needed Medical Equipment in the last week of November.

Over 100,000 individual items were delivered to General Hospital Prim. Dr Abdulah Nakaš, the University Clinical Centre Sarajevo and the Cantonal Civil Protection Administration in Zenica. Each delivery consisted of surgical gowns, shoe covers and latex gloves.

Chief of Staff to EUFOR, Brigadier General Ernő Baráth was present at two of the donations and said:

“I am very proud of my team at EUFOR for facilitating the delivery of this critical equipment donated by the EU. It will go some way to ensuring that medical staff can continue to safely treat those impacted by COVID 19.”



As an analyst of J2 Branch my responsibility is to collect, contribute and produce assessments relative to ground intelligence related to operational matters.

I'm an Army General Staff Officer back in Spain and this is my first time in BiH. Before this mission I was in Afghanistan as an Intel analyst in Kabul several times. I'm looking forward to meeting new people and learning from all of them at Camp Butmir.

Major Hugo O'Donnell



My role includes coordination and management of all LCC and LOT activities, their reporting towards J-2 and representation of LCC.

I am the Command Support Battalion Commander in the Land Forces of the Armed forces of the Slovak Republic and this has been my second deployment abroad, after my deployment to the Multinational Task Force Centre Headquarters of KFOR in 2008. I enjoy working in a multinational environment, I like challenges and this mission will be a challenge due to the fact that besides the position of LCC Chief I have the role of the Slovak contingent commander and senior national representative simultaneously.

Lieutenant Colonel Michal Rázga



As the STRATCOM Manager I will create, support, coordinate and promote the EUFOR Communications Strategy for BiH.

As a Royal Artillery officer, I have worked in intelligence and surveillance, as a Fire Support Team Commander and various roles in Influence Operations and STRATCOM. I am excited to be working with many nationalities within work, and look forward to understanding the Bosnian people better as I travel the country.

Major Chris J Bell

DEPUTY CHIEF J5 & SNR FRA



My role is to provide planning support to COMEUFOR and also coordinate the Operational Assessment and the 6 monthly reports.

I am a French Army logistical maintenance officer. This is my first time in BiH. I hope I can explore the country.

Lieutenant Colonel Georges Xavier

Chief Collection / J2 & SNR ROM



My duty is to coordinate J2/EUFOR collection effort with the support of the following assets: AGSR, ISR-TU, FHTs and LNO/LEA.

As an officer with experience in intelligence, I like to work in EUFOR multinational structures. I have the chance to increase my experience during a challenge mission in a complex environment.

Lieutenant Colonel Mihai MOGA

SO for Lesson Learned & Evaluation and SNR Albania



My role as Lesson Learned & Evaluation Staff Officer is to support all Lesson Learned Process from the level of MNBN to the level of HQ EUFOR.

I'm an Albanian Air Force Officer and this is my first time in BiH. This is a new experience for me and I hope to enjoy working in this multinational environment and to see more of this beautiful country.

Lieutenant Colonel Adrian KULI

Children of Čajniče say “Thanks a LOT!”



Slovakian contingent to EUFOR based at LOT Foča donated parcels to the local kindergarten in Čajniče. The Slovakian Soldiers donated toys, books, blankets and drawing stationary to the children.

In these confusing times for children so young it was a welcome surprise.

The donation was made to the Kindergarten Director, Mr. Vukašin Katana, in the presence of the Mayor of Čajniče, Mr. Goran Karadžić.

The children, aged 1-6 years old, wasted no time in getting into the contents of the parcels!

The Officer in Command of LOT Foča Captain Vladimir Satka stated: *“It gives us great pleasure in the Slovakian Army to be here today to present these gifts to the children of Čajniče. Firstly, in appreciation of the cooperation given by the people of Čajniče, but also because those stationed at LOT Foča are mothers and fathers too and enjoy seeing children smile”*



EUFOR's Turkish Coningent hands over donations from Turkey

The Senior National Representative from Turkey, working at EUFOR Head Quarters, Colonel Selim Gökçegöz, has been busy traveling around BiH schools.

Funding donated by Turkey has been used to renovate and improve the learning experience for four elementary schools particularly in the area of computer systems as well as the renovation of a heating system including a new boiler room for one elementary school.

Teaming up with three Turkish LOT Houses to see how the donation has been spent, Colonel Gökçegöz said,

“The money has been used to buy furniture, printers and computers totaling nearly 79,000 Euro and we can see it will make a significant difference to the children of the area.”

The schools in Tuzla, Travnik, Zenica and Živinice welcomed Turkey’s donation and are always pleased to see the EUFOR teams from the LOT Houses.



Donation presented to widow of a member of the AF BiH

COMEUFOR made the journey to Ante Bruno Bušić Barracks Livno on Wednesday 21 October to present a donation cheque raised from a gala dinner.

The donation of 5,090 KM was presented to Mrs. Marija Mihaljević, widow of the late Major Igor Mihaljević, who was a member of the Armed Forces of Bosnia Herzegovina who sadly died as a result of contracting the COVID-19 virus.

The dinner, hosted by COMEUFOR was held on the 25th of September at Camp Butmir where the invited guests were



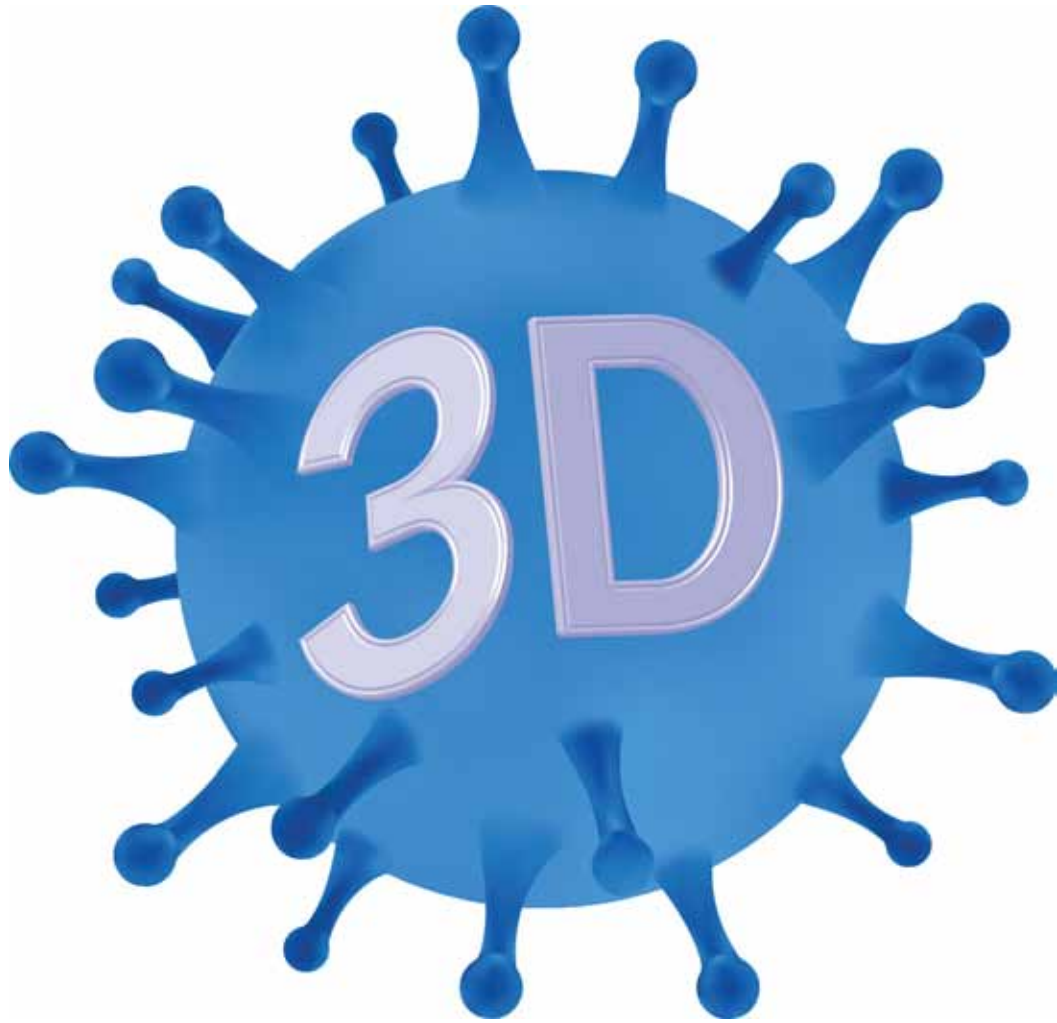
asked to donate in memory of Major Mihaljević.

Major General Trischak said today, *“It gives me great pleasure*

handing over this cheque today in memory of a fine soldier who committed to serve his country with the Armed Forces of BiH.”

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