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Austrian MOD visits EUFOR

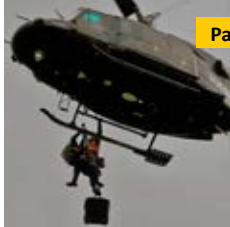
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Medal parade in the mountains

Austrian Contingent of the EUFOR ALTHEA mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted a medal parade of special kind.



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EUFOR aviation assets conducted winch training.



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EUFOR liaison with AF BiH

EUFOR relies on military support provided by the Multinational Battalion to lead Company and Battalion level training of AFBiH.



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The HQ EUFOR Weather Office

In our 'Behind the Mask' series we would like to introduce you to the weather support to HQ EUFOR.

Editor in Chief



Captain Eoin Murphy

Hi and welcome to the latest edition of the EUFOR forum, our 127th edition. It's my first edition as editor in chief after my recent arrival into the PAOs office and I'm proud to have my name associated with this publication.

A few of the articles in this edition include the visit of the Operational Commander (Op Cdr), the donation of COVID-19 vaccines to EUFOR from Hungary and numerous visits from CHODs, general staff from across Europe and of course civilian visitors such as ambassadors and ministers from across Europe and the world.

We also hear from the Liaison Officers and teams with the AFBiH and the work that they do. We continue with our 'behind the mask' series by taking a look at the weather as seen through Italian eyes, we see what it takes for our Austrian aviation colleagues to remain current in aerial winching and if you ever find yourself needing to pass the military fitness test in the Slovakian armed forces we have you covered as we detail what it is!

As always, we love to hear from our colleagues across EUFOR and to see pictures about what you do and how you do it. Without your input, this publication cannot survive. Feel free to send us stories and remember that they don't have to be something new or unique, tell us the stories of how you do your framework operations, not every office knows every other offices business.

The next edition will of course cover the Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2021 so if you're involved be prepared to see us and don't be shy. I look forward to meeting more of you throughout my tour and don't forget to follow us on Social Media!

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

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EUFOR i Federalna Uprava Civilne Zaštite, 7 jula su završili zajedničku operaciju uklanjanja mina i uništavanje eksplozivnih sredstava koja su pored markirane planinarske staze na planini Treskavici pronašli i prijavili planinari.

On 07 July, #EUFOR and Federalna Uprava Civilne Zaštite completed a joint operation to remove mines and explosive remnants of war from a hiking trail. #OpAlthea #euforbihPAZIMINE <https://tinyurl.com/7peprcp6>






10,134 People reached 588 Engagements [Boost post](#)

Operation EUFOR Althea @euforbih - Jul 2

@euforbih Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Szilárd Gerófi visited Tactical Support Brigade of AFBiH in Rajlovac. He was greeted by Brigadier Mirsad Stabančić, Commander of the Tactical Support Brigade. #BiH #OpAlthea



Operation EUFOR Althea @euforbih - Aug 2

On Friday 28 July #EUFOR a Hungarian Explosive Ordnance Disposal team safely removed a single piece of unexploded Mortar ammunition near CAMP BUTMIR protecting locals and facilitating a Safe and Secure Environment in #BiH. #OpAlthea




3

Follow us on Social Media

ODRŽAVANJE SIGURNOG I BEZBJEDNOG OKRUŽENJA

OPERACIJA ALTHEA

the Armed Forces of BiH and law enforcement agencies

EUFOR - 100% Committed to BiH, video part one

euforbih
Eufor Camp

euforbih @euforbih Camp Butmir was proud to hold an International Medal Parade for 107 Service personnel from 7 different Nations. They received their 'Common Security and Defence Policy Medal Operation Althea', bearing the name of the EU Operation Althea. #Unitedforpeace

View Insights

465,688 People reached

Liked by santus50 and 258 others

July 28



European Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Published by Eufor Page · 24 August at 10:26

Pripadnici EUFOR-a uspješno su proveli medicinsku evaluaciju (MEDEVAC), spasivši ženu koja je zadobila povrede noge tokom pješačenja u blizini Jablanice. Njeno stanje je prvo stabilizirano, a nakon toga je prebačena u vozilo hitne pomoći. Njen suprug je kasnije poslao poruku zahvale. EUFOR ostaje 100% posvećen BiH.

EUFOR successfully conducted a #medicalevacuation (MEDEVAC) on Sunday, rescuing a woman who had sustained leg injuries while hiking near Jablanica. The woman was stabilised, removed from the mountain and subsequently transferred to a BiH ambulance. EUFOR later received a message of thanks from the woman's husband. EUFOR remains 100% committed to BiH.






465,688 People reached 7,308 Engagements [Boost post](#)

370 24 comments 50 shares

Looking Forward: EUFOR Quick Response 2021



4

- ★ This will be the largest exercise that EUFOR has conducted to date.
- ★ Troops will be participating from 6 other countries, including from KFOR.
- ★ Exercise areas include; Mostar & Čapljina, Trebinje & Bileća, Livno and Sarajevo.
- ★ The exercise will run from 25th September to 02nd October 2021.
- ★ The aim of the exercise is to allow AFBiH and EUFOR soldiers to train together in Peace Support Operations and to exercise the ability of EUFOR to bring its reserve forces into the country to support the BiH authorities in maintaining a Safe and Secure Environment.

Hungarian vaccine donation to EUFOR civilian employees



COM EUFOR, Major General Alexander Platzer, welcomed His Excellency Tibor Benkő PhD, the Hungarian Minister of Defence for a vaccine donation at EUFOR Headquarters in Camp Butmir.

A Hungarian Air Force plane delivered the vaccine donation to Sarajevo as well as the Minister of Defence who was welcomed by His Excellency Sifet Podžić the Minister of Defence BiH at the airport. The vaccines were donated specifically for the local civilian employees of EUFOR Operation Althea, however the remaining vaccines will be available for all personnel in Camp Butmir.

The vaccine donation of 1,100 COVID-19 vaccines, was received by COM EUFOR Major General Platzer. Present also for the ceremony was Deputy Head of Ministry of Defence of BiH, Mijo Krešić, His Excellency Krisztián Pósa, the Hungarian Ambassador to BiH and EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Szilárd Gerőfi.

Immediately after the donation ceremony the vaccines were administered to the first recipients



Hungarian MoD Tibor Benkő, COM EUFOR, Deputy Head of MoD of BiH, Mijo Krešić

COM EUFOR remarked

“For me as COM EUFOR the Hungarian support and donation is essential for the safety of all our personal in the mission area, especially the civilians.

It also shows the high degree of sense of responsibility not only for your soldiers but for the mission and its people as a whole.”

in the EUFOR Role 1 medical centre by the Turkish medical staff.

Hungary is one of the leading troop contributing nations to Operation Althea and have a very long and proud history in the mission. Hungarian military personnel are employed in a range of appointments within EUFOR HQ and the Multinational Battalion, with EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Szilárd Gerőfi the senior ranking Hungarian officer in the mission. This donation of vaccinations from Hungary to EUFOR is independent to Hungary's recent donation of 200,000 COVID-19 vaccines to BiH.

5



COM EUFOR, Tibor Benkő PhD and Mr. Mijo Krešić approach the Austrian Role 1 medical centre

Operational Commander arrives in the mission area



Op Commander accepts salute from the CSM and honour guard

Lieutenant General Houdet is a veteran of the mission here in BiH and is therefore very familiar with Sarajevo and the wider BiH.

Upon his arrival to the EUFOR HQ, Lieutenant General Houdet received an honour guard before conducting his meeting with COM EUFOR.

On 9 June COM EUFOR Major General Alexander Platzer welcomed the Operational Commander of EUFOR in BiH Lieutenant General Brice Houdet to Camp Butmir.

Lieutenant General Houdet is 'double hatted' as NATO Vice Chief of Staff (VCOS) and as Operational Commander of EUFOR. His Operational HQ is based in Supreme Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) in Mons, Belgium.

As Operational Commander of the EUFOR Operation Althea, Lieutenant General Houdet represents Operation Althea at the political level and to the military strategic decision makers in Europe, the EUMC. Lieutenant General Houdet provides a strategic overview of the Operation while COM EUFOR commands the force in BiH as decreed in the Dayton Agreement.

The Operational Commander is supported by the European Union Staff Group (EUSG) and, as necessary, the staff drawn across SHAPE. Lieutenant General Houdet last visited Operation Althea in January for the change of command ceremony for COM EUFOR, Major General Alexander Platzer.



Austrian Minister of Defence visits EUFOR

On 22 June COM EUFOR, Major General Alexander Platzer, welcomed the Austrian Minister of Defence Klaudia Tanner to EUFOR BiH HQ. Upon her arrival Minister Tanner received an honour guard from the soldiers of EUFOR's Multinational Battalion. Following this, Minister Tanner met with COM EUFOR and then paid her respects in the memorial park to Austrian personnel who lost their lives in Bosnia and Herzegovina, before visiting the Austrian contingent personnel currently deployed in EUFOR.

Austria is the lead troop contributing nation in Operation Althea and has a proud history in the mission from its beginning.

Since December 2009 COM EUFOR has been an Austrian officer, with Major General Platzer serving as the ninth consecutive Austrian



Minister Klaudia Tanner is escorted by Major General Alexander Platzer in reviewing the honour guard upon her arrival at EUFOR HQ

to be COM EUFOR. In addition to the commander, Austrian personnel are employed in a wide range of appointments in EUFOR

including the provision of all air capabilities, HQ cells and Liaison and Observation Teams in Brčko, Tuzla and Bratunac.

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Inaugural visit to Brčko District

On 16 June COM EUFOR, Major General Alexander Platzer completed his inaugural visit to Brčko District. COM EUFOR met with representatives of executive and legislative powers of Brčko District in the City Hall including Mayor Esed Kadríc, Deputy Mayor Anto Domić, Speaker of the Assembly Siniša Milić and Deputy Speaker of the Assembly Ivo Filipović.

Present also for the meeting was the First Deputy of the High Representative and the Supervisor for Brčko, Michael Scanlan. Mayor Kadríc stressed that the Brčko district remain committed to maintaining stability within the community.

COM EUFOR thanked the Brčko



COM EUFOR meeting with representatives of executive and legislative powers of Brčko District in the City Hall

district for their update on the security issues and development of the district. Major General Platzer, is proud of the continued cooperation with the Brčko

district and wishes to highlight EUFOR's commitment to continue contributing to a safe and secure environment in the Brčko district and all of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

French Chief of Defence visits EUFOR

On 9 June COM EUFOR Major General Alexander Platzer welcomed the French Chief of Defence, General François Lecointre to Camp Butmir. Upon his arrival General Lecointre accompanied by the French Ambassador to BiH Christine Toudic, where he received an honour guard before having a meeting with COM EUFOR.

The French military has a long and proud history associated with Operation Althea, where its personnel are employed in a number of appointments within the mission.

France recently increased the number of personnel deployed to the mission earlier this year, further assisting the EUFOR contribution to a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).



General Lecointre receives an honour guard accompanied by Major General Platzer

Medal parade in the mountains



On 23 August the Austrian Contingent of the EUFOR ALTHEA mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina conducted a medal parade of special kind: as part of a mountain march, 23 soldiers received their mission medal at the summit of Sokolov Put in the mountainous region of Romanija.

Approach, Ascent, Awarding

In the early afternoon, the soldiers started with the transfer from Camp Butmir in Sarajevo to the starting point at the foot of the mountainous region of Romanija.

From the parking lot, the high plateau was reached through the Via



ferata "Sokolov Put" and two rope bridges.

The special surroundings of the karst landscape gave the Medal Parade

a very special character, which was also praised by the contingent commander Colonel of the General Staff Service Helmut Fiedler in his speech. Colonel Fiedler in his speech, particularly emphasized the commitment, companionship, discipline and bravery of his soldiers.

Service Medal

The medal awarded, the Common Security and Defence Policy Medal of the European Union, bears the Latin inscription "Pro pace unum" ("Together for Peace"). This medal has been awarded since 2004 to all soldiers who serve for peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

4 Clips - 4 Topics - 1 Message

"100% Committed to Bosnia and Herzegovina"



EUFOR-100% COMMITTED TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

For the first time, a campaign with more than one theme has been launched. To improve effectiveness, the campaign was divided into four sub-campaigns. The aim was to achieve a longer presence of EUFOR with the same budget. For the "100% COMMITTED TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA" campaign, this meant increasing the campaign duration from a standard four weeks to a ten-week duration.

The most important message we wanted to convey with the campaign was EUFOR's commitment to support maintenance of a Safe and Secure Environment, and the security of all people in BiH. Objectives of the "100% COMMITTED TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA" campaign were Visibility -EUFOR presence across BiH, Credibility - EUFOR is a competent and respected partner and Cooperation – EUFOR is a reliable partner.



We wanted to reach out mainly to the general population, but also to the international community and NGOs, as well as local and regional leaders. Main component of the campaign was four clips, each of which was shown for a fortnight, accompanied by a full scale multimedia information campaign.

Each of the four clips had a different theme which we wanted to convey. And if you want to know which topics they were, just take your mobile phone and scan the QR code of each clip. Or you can visit one of EUFOR social media channels where the campaign has been launched.

Enjoy the clips of the "100% COMMITTED TO BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA" campaign.

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Winch training with EUFOR



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Salvage operations using winches have recently taken place in the course of assistance at the request of the Bosnian authorities. On 21 February EUFOR responded to a request from Mountain Rescue Novi Grad to a mountain accident. A EUFOR Search & Rescue Helicopter was deployed to recover a patient who had fallen off a cliff on Vito and safely moved him to Koševo Hospital for treatment. The last mission took place on 22 May this

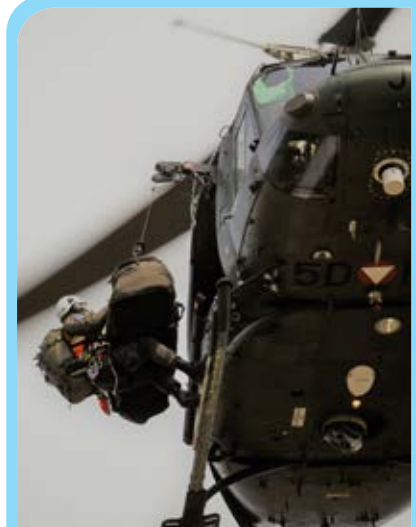
year in the Konjic area, where a person who had fallen more than 200 m was rescued from impassable terrain.

In order to be able to carry out these rescues, constant training with the winch is necessary. Thus, pilots, helicopter technicians, flight rescuers, doctors and paramedics train four to five times a month in different scenarios in various terrains with different heights, depths and irregularities.

For a very short journey, a special recovery loop can be used, which is put on within a few seconds. This can be used, for example, to rescue endangered persons from the roofs of houses to safe areas during floods or possibly to rescue persons in and out of vehicles that have strayed into areas suspected of being mined. The transport is carried out just above the ground for the shortest possible distances. Persons are not lifted into the helicopter, which increases the speed of a rescue.



For slightly injured persons, or in the course of evacuation operations, the so-called recovery triangle can be used. This is also how the evacuation of lot houses is regularly practised. To increase speed, two people can be lifted into the helicopter at the same time. In this way, not only people are evacuated, but often also additional mission-critical equipment.



The rescue bag is used to transport seriously injured people or people who have to be transported lying down. A very big advantage of the AB 212 helicopter is that injured persons can be brought into the helicopter during the flight (without an intermediate landing) and taken directly to a required hospital. In the course of such a mission, appropriate emergency medical care can also be provided. Almost the entire medical equipment, including emergency doctor and paramedics, can also be brought to the accident site by means of the winch.

Basically, the helicopter element has two possibilities to rescue people. The essential point, which type of operation is chosen, depends on whether a suitable landing site is available in the requested area or not. In order to land safely, an obstacle-free area of about 50 m in radius is required. In addition, an approach and departure area should be clear at an angle of approximately 10°. However, due to the danger of mines in Bosnia, only fixed and inspected landing sites, roads or parking areas can be used for landings. So no meadow areas unless previously inspected. Compared to our home countries, this is a very significant restriction. Often, power lines, the extensive Bosnian forests or the mountainous terrain prevent a safe landing on roads.

In these cases, the use of a rescue winch is into considered. The winch on the AB 212 helicopter can be extended by more than 70 m and allows the transport of two persons with equipment. This makes it possible to rescue people in almost any terrain. The winch is operated by the helicopter technician. A flight rescuer, who is usually also a mountain guide, is responsible for

safety at the winch and for safety measures on the ground.

In general, there are three possible techniques for rescuing people. All three of these techniques are also possible at night. The appropriate night vision equipment of the crew and of course regular training are the prerequisites for this.

Major Janka TÉGLAŠIOVÁ from the Joint Operations Centre (JOC) is confronted with such requests in her work environment time and again. That is why she had the opportunity to be present for winch training. Asked about her personal experiences and impressions, Jana said "I was able to get a first-hand impression of the cooperation and the conditions of a winch recovery.

"Now I can apply this practical experience in the JOC when helicopters are required. Winch training should be practiced often and other EUFOR personnel should be involved".



Ahd-Namah Of Sultan Mehmed II

National treasure in Franciscan monasteries



700 years old Franciscan monastery "Holy Spirit" in Fojnica

12

A Large portion of Bosnian history in documents, old texts etc. has been saved by Franciscan priests in their monasteries. They have always been not only the guardians of their property and religion, but guardians of tradition and historical values of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In Franciscan monasteries in BiH nowadays one can find many old texts, documents, books which are hundreds years old.

The monastery in Fojnica, which has over 50,000 titles and over 3,000 documents from Ottoman times, possesses documents of priceless value in their archives. The monastery's museum collections hold the Ahd-Namah (the Order) of Sultan Mehmed II the Conqueror (1463) guaranteeing security and freedom to the Franciscans. This document allowed the Franciscans of the day to preach freely among the Catholics in BiH, which in turn enabled the preservation of Bosnian Catholicism through the centuries.

The legends says that upon the Ottoman conquest of Bosnia and Herzegovina they have found an empty country with very few people remained in their properties. Therefore the Sultan Mehmed II Fatih himself had summoned on of the Franciscan priests, who explained that people were afraid and the logical solution was for them to leave.

These words moved the Sultan to issue the document which is considered to be one of the first decrees of human rights in this area. It is known that about ten copies of this document are saved in various Franciscan monasteries but the original is possible to be seen only in Fojnica.

Here is the translated version of the Ahd-Namah's text:

He (ie God) is the only to serve. (Tughra) Mehmed, son of Murad, always triumphant!

The commandment of the honorable, exalted sultan's sight (sign) and bright imperial Tughra, conqueror of the world is the following:

I, Sultan Mehmed Han, lets the whole world know(to his people and notables) to the holders of the imperial decree Bosnian monks comes my big favour, and the following command:

Let no one to mentioned (monks) and their church make rubbish and let them have no trouble. Let them live worry-free in my realm. And those who fled let them be free and safe. Let them come and let them live without fear in the countries of my empire. Let them settle in their monasteries, and let no one, not even my high majesty, nor any of my vizier, nor of my servant, neither of my subjects, nor any of the inhabitants of my kingdom - insult or disturb the afore mentioned. No one shall break in, and shall not threaten or offend any of them, even their souls (lives), neither their possessions nor their churches. Also they are allowed to bring people from both sides (from abroad) into the country of my empire. I generously give these imperial commands and I swear the following heavy oath :I swear on the Creator of heaven and earth, which nourishes all creatures, and seven books, and of our great Prophet (Muhammad), and swords I wear - No one will oppose what is written as long as I am being served, while they are obeying and loyal to my commandments.

Written 28th May 1463 in Milodraž"

by Mr. Dženan Hadžović

Newcomers Training at EUFOR

Every two months, HQ EUFOR conducts Newcomers Training (NCT) at various levels to facilitate the smooth integration of personnel into their new positions.

The diversity of nations under the EUFOR flag, with their own experiences, cultures, capacities, training, standards, strategies and military capabilities, calls for mandatory induction training, which complements individual pre-deployment training and is the main tool to achieve a better understanding of EUFOR's mission, organisation and procedures and subsequently reduce the time needed for newcomers to become fully operational within EUFOR.

The training is designed to support and prepare designated personnel in order to provide all newcomers with situational awareness by teaching them comprehensively about EUFOR and their role within it.

In principle, the newcomer training takes place over three days. The days on which the NCT is attended depends on the particular position and department the newcomer holds.

The aim is to define the principles, requirements and responsibilities for EUFOR-related issues.

Newcomers receive presentations, briefings and content from a variety of areas.

EUFOR ALTHEA wishes all newcomers a successful and fulfilling mission.



EOD Training



Fire Fighting Training



A large part of the Newcomers Training consists of lectures, such as health protection, which is given by the medical advisor.

Please remember:

EUFOR Liaison with the Armed forces BiH



LNO personnel oversee medical drills



AFBiH Command Post Exercise

14

European Union ALTHEA mission statement clearly defines EUFOR role in maintaining Safe and Secure Environment in the Area of Operation (AOO). Executing this endeavour EUFOR assists in developing resident Armed Forces as well to be able to meet all responsibilities prescribed in Law on Defence.

This mission could not be successfully implemented without close cooperation and coordination with the local forces. EUFOR, operates a two way information channel called liaison network. It practically means that EUFOR established and operates 5 liaison officers and 4 liaison teams at Armed Forces BiH (AFBiH) tactical level units (Brigades) and its commands elements. All in all 14 liaison officers serve in EUFOR to maintain and support this daily connectivity.

Liaison activity is outlined in SOP 5331 liaising activity focusing on maintaining a permanent link and day to day connection between EUFOR HQ and AFBiH BDE HQs as well as tactical level commands including Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC).

Chief LNO provides a direct link to Joint Staff AFBiH to discuss and negotiate all issues at EUFOR and AFBiH mutual interest. Liaison officers are fully facilitating AFBiH in building an interoperable and capable Light Infantry Battalion Group by 2023, which is a BiH commitment to NATO.

Discussing responsibilities, liaison officers provide COM EUFOR with Situational Awareness on AFBiH tactical level military sphere by monitoring, assessing then reporting the actual status of units and commands.

This is based on mutual respect, trust and confidence to discuss topics openly in an honest way.

In fulfilling its mission, EUFOR relies on military support provided by the Multinational Battalion (MNBN) to lead Company and Battalion level training of AFBiH. These training events are called Combined Training (CT) and are planned and implemented jointly by EUFOR and AFBiH. Currently 6 CT events are planned in 2021, which means that all three Infantry Brigades of AFBiH have two CT events this year. The main topic of the joint training today is to practice Peace Support Operation (PSO) activities. Liaison officers' role in CT is to contact and link up MNBN and AFBiH as well as to follow and observe all joint activities for future benefits.

Apart from weekly and monthly paperwork LNOs organise meetings on a bi-monthly basis to discuss issues of mutual interest and report back on the last 2 months activities as well as forecast for the next 2 months.

The LNO network should be considered as the primary option to communicate or exchange information with local Armed Forces.

In summary, the LNO network could be considered by all as EUFOR forward deployed contacts at AFBiH unit and command level, ready to engage in and represent all issues in supporting the successful execution of ALTHEA mission in BiH.

As a chief of Joint Visitors Bureau, I and members of JVB team, we provide procedures for planning and executing visits to HQ EUFOR and to the theatre.



Maj Zdenko Baranec

In Slovakia, I have been providing tasks connected with preparing and organising wide range of military events for more than 26 years

My wife, sons, friends and colleagues support me a lot, at the moment. For me personally, the next months will link to my previous military positions, one of them was as chief of supporting services, education and quality of life at HQ SAF. I am really looking forward to working with the JVB team.

As MEDICAL ADVISOR (MEDAD) I am responsible for advising COM EUFOR on all health related issues.



Lt Col Vasil Kyosev

I am a Medical Doctor from Bulgaria. I specialise in general surgery. I have worked at Surgical

Departments in the Military Medical Academy, Sofia, for the last twenty years at different positions (ordinary surgeon, assistant, general assistant). This is my first time here in BiH and the first time as MEDAD. I previously served with the US ARMY in Iraq in 2006/7.

I enjoy working in a multinational environment and look forward to working with my new colleagues.

As the new chief of J5, I am responsible for future planning and for providing COM EUFOR with long term guidance.



Lt Col Gilles Vernet

I'm a French Army Officer, my backgrounds are logistics, CIS and currently Cyber

Defense. For me, robust planning is about bringing the future into the present, so that you can act decisively now to be prepared for the future.

My former multinational experiences are KFOR, NATO Maritime Component in Northwood and the Multinational Force and Observers (MFO) in Sinai Egypt. I look forward working in an EU operation.

As Chief JMA it is my responsibility to take care that two of EUFORs core tasks (arms control and demining) are conducted properly in order to ensure EUFORs success in operation ALTHEA.



Col Paul Schoenbacher

I am from Austria and my previous position at home was Chief of Staff of the 4th mechanised infantry brigade in Hoersching, Upper Austria. My last mission abroad took place 2019 in Kosovo where I also occupied the position of the Chief of Staff of the Multinational Battlegroup West. It is my first deployment to BiH and also my first experience of military work at operational level. It is a honour for me to be able to contribute with my professional team, consisting of 12 ladies and gentlemen, to this important, interesting and challenging mission.



The HQ EUFOR Weather Office

In our Behind the Mask series we would like to introduce to you today the Weather support to HQ EUFOR.

The Weather Office is necessary to determine and distribute forecasts to support HQ EUFOR with relevant information about the meteorological situation and in which way it could affect air and ground operations. Therefore it is established close to Helicopter Operations Archer Base at Camp BUTMIR.

The weather office produce BiH Forecasts, weather impact on Air Operations, Air Quality Index (AQI) of Sarajevo and its Operational Impact. Of course, special equipment is needed to carry out the task successfully. This is done with a fully automated observation system linked to a tactical meteorological station including all necessary measurement hardware. Also as part of the system there is forecasting software connected to a meteorological network.

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Office personnel - Mariarca, from the Aeronautica Militare

I have two children (6 and 8 years old) and my husband (an air traffic controller) is taking care of them currently.

To be honest, spending a long time away from home hasn't been easy for me and my family, but it probably brings the best out in us, except the tears!

I am 39 years old, have spent 18 years in the Italian Air Force and this is my first experience abroad as a weather forecaster since I got the qualification in 2010.

Although this 6-months mission was completely unexpected, added to a thousand family worries connected to the pandemic, I knew it would be a great experience from a professional point of view.

My work here in Camp Butmir is not so far from what I usually do in Italy at the Air and Space Operations Command in Poggio Renatico.

Working in Archer Base, close to the helipads and the runway, reminds me of when I have been the weather observer for few months in Rivolto, the air base home to the Frecce Tricolori, the Italian Air Force Aerobatic Team. I was young and that was an exciting experience.

I'm from Naples and as everybody knows cooking is an important part of the Italian culture. In a strange way cooking and weather forecasting have something in common. Both work with ingredients on the one hand and met data on the other hand, following the laws of chemistry and physics. And in the kitchen as well as the met office, sometimes the outcome is not exactly what you expected. When this happens you start to think back to the beginning, finding where you were wrong or what you missed in your recipe or analysis and to improve your skills and provide results.

In my experience in weather forecasting, every day is different and a little challenge to face with the due diligence.

COM EUFOR Welcomes Distinguished Visitors



JUNE
14

COM EUFOR Major General Alexander Platzer welcomed the Chief of Defence from North Macedonia Lieutenant General Vasko Gjurchinovski to Camp Butmir.



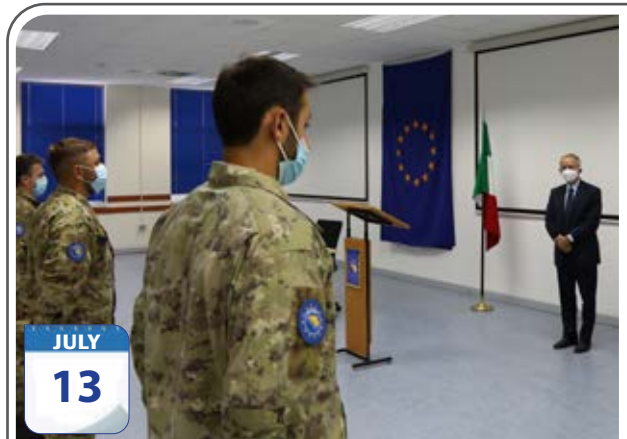
JUNE
21

EUFOR Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Szilárd Gerőfi visited the Peace Support Operations Training Centre (PSOTC). On arrival he was greeted by Lt Col Tipurić, Chief of Staff of the PSOTC.



JULY
5

COM EUFOR, Major General Alexander Platzer met with Irish Ambassador to BiH H.E. Myles Geiran.



JULY
13

The new Italian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina, H.E. Marco DI RUZZA, visited EUFOR personnel in Camp Butmir.



AUGUST
2

German State Secretary from the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Miguel Berger and Margret Uebber, German Ambassador to BiH visited Camp Butmir and met COM EUFOR Major General Alexander Platzer.



AUGUST
2

Swiss Corps Commander Laurent Michaud, Chief of Operational Command in Switzerland, visited COM EUFOR Major General Alexander Platzer and troops from Schweizer Armee in OpAlthea

Physical evaluation of Slovakian soldiers



18

Recently we presented you in our fitness test series the military fitness test of Austria, Poland, Switzerland, Ireland, Hungary and Turkey. In our EUFOR FORUM #127 we want to introduce you to the Slovakian one. PAO would like to take this opportunity to thank OF3 Radovan ŠTEFANČIN for his active support in compiling this article.

The job of a soldier is extremely demanding and requires physical fitness of the highest level. That's why keeping in good physical condition is one of the basic duties of every member of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic.

Every professional soldier is obliged to meet the fitness standards once a year, in all three areas: endurance, strength performance and speed. The standards are set depending on the age category of the soldier and also on the duty category performed by the soldier (Soldiers from special forces have, in addition to the classic examination, additional testing in the other three disciplines).

In each area of evaluation the soldier is able to choose one of two disciplines. All disciplines are performed in one day and in a row. In the area of strength performance,



the soldier can choose between sit-ups or pull-ups (women have a standing static jump option also). In the area of speed, there are: a 60-meter run or a 10x10-meters run, and in the area of endurance soldiers are tested in a 12-minute run or a 300-meter freestyle swim.

According to the achieved results in individual disciplines, a certain number of points are awarded. At the same time, there is a minimum number of points for each discipline that needs to be achieved.

The evaluation of the physical tasks is calculated by adding up the points from all three disciplines. The final evaluation is then determined on points classification according to the age category.

In the event of a task failure, a soldier may attempt the tasks two more times. In the case that he/she fails or does not participate in the physical evaluations, the soldier is disciplined, usually fined. Individuals who do not meet the physical evaluation standards in the following year, are dismissed from service.



Final Evaluation (SUMUP of POINTs)	AGE CATEGORY							
	up to 25 years	26 - 30 years	31 - 35 years	36 - 40 years	41 - 45 years	46 - 50 years	51 - 54 years	above 54 years
expectional	200	185	170	155	140	125	75	30
good	150	135	120	105	90	75	45	20
passed	120	105	90	78	66	54	30	10



At the 10K Night Run on 09.07.2021, a running course that led through the most beautiful parts of Sarajevo, servicemen and servicewomen from Slovakia were able to put their performance skills to the test. They competed with a mixed team consisting of the branches LCC, LOT Novo Sarajevo and NSE. They were also accompanied by a soldier from the International Military Police from Poland. Congratulations on the performance, but above all for the international team spirit shown.

EXERCISE


EUFOR QUICK RESPONSE

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01 OCTOBER

2021



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