

EUFOR FORUM

February - March 2022
European Union Force in BiH



#130

In this edition:



EU HR Visit

Pages 4-5

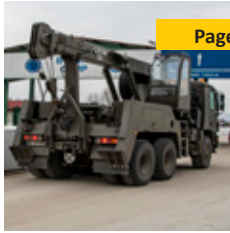


MNBN Change of Command

Page 12

Initial Operational Capability Ceremony

Pages 10 -11



Page 6

EUFOR Reserve Activation 2022

500 additional EUFOR reserves has brought many changes to the mission since the activation was announced in late February 2022.



Page 14

LOT Houses visit

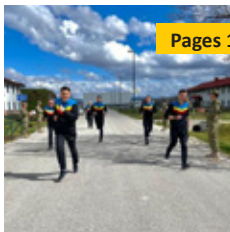
COMEUFOR started his tour of the EUFOR Liaison Observation Teams which liaise with the local community and help to 'feel the pulse' of the situation.



Page 17

SAFE-UP BiH

This project was jointly implemented by the OSCE and MoD BiH, with EUFOR's support with technical advice.



Pages 18-19

Romanian fitness test

In this edition we want to introduce you to the Romanian fitness test.

Commander EUFOR
[Major General Anton Wessely](#)

EUFOR Public Affairs Chief
[Major Robert Pezzi](#)

Forum Magazine Staff

Editor in chief
[Captain Seamus Shannon](#)

Layout
[Mr. Jasmin Zeherović](#)

Photographs contributed by
[WO2 Rafael Schicher](#)
[Mr. Mustafa Čomor](#)
[Major Robert Pezzi](#)

We also thank
[EUFOR Multinational Battalion](#)
[EUFOR LOT Houses](#)

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Editor in Chief



Captain Seamus Shannon

Hello and welcome to the latest edition of the EUFOR Forum. This is my first edition as editor in chief and I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and give you some information on my background. I am an infantry officer...which of course, is perfectly suited to public relations! I have served in a number of operational, training and staff officer roles at home and my most recent role was in the Irish Defence

Forces Headquarters in J1. I have deployed overseas on two previous occasions, in 2017 I deployed to EUTM Mali and in 2019 I served with UNIFIL in Lebanon. I hold a Bachelors and a Masters Degrees in Law. To date I've thoroughly enjoyed my time as Mission Spokesperson and I look forward to what challenges the role will bring in the coming months.

This edition of the EU Forum focuses on the activation of the 500 reserves from Austria, Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia. The EUFOR operational tempo has of course changed as a result of this deployment and this issue also looks at the training of these personnel to achieve full operational capability as well as their ultimate operational output of patrolling etc.

Also included in this edition is coverage of some high profile visits to Camp Butmir including the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Mr. Josep Borrell and the European Union Special Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina who attended the initial operational capability ceremony. We have also included articles on the Polish Wolf Trail run and the Romanian fitness test.

A reminder to our colleagues across EUFOR, please remember the PAO when you are conducting any activity or doing any sort of project. If the work of EUFOR is worth doing then it is worthy of a story! Feel free to send us stories, pictures, relevant articles, whatever you think is interesting and worth publishing.

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 **European Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina**
 · 14 March at 08:50 ·

On Friday 11th March COM EUFOR had the pleasure to welcome dignitaries and guests to the Initial Operational Capability Ceremony of EUFOR's Intermediate Reserve which marks the culmination of two weeks of integration training for 500 recently deployed EUFOR personnel.



619,015 People reached **12,932** Engagements **Boost post**

411 46 comments 68 shares





1,031 views 2:01 / 2:18

4 15


Since the end of January the new Romanian armoured infantry platoon, as part of the EUFOR MNBN, has been undergoing standardisation training. They successfully completed their final assessment this week and became a fully operational component of EUFOR.


 euforbih



Each Company that arrives new into the Area of Operations must undergo standardisation training ensure that they are capable of operating in commonality with the other units of the MNBN. After this, the Company must undergo certification to prove their capability and interoperability to the members of the Battalion HQ staff. So this time it was up to the newly arrived #Turkish Company to prove their knowledge and skills that they had acquired in their home country.

The certification task for the new #soldiers chosen was a #crowdriotcontrol one: they had to evacuate the residents of a #EUFOR Liaison and Observation Team house. As part of the scenario, medical care had to be provided to a wounded person. Also involved in the exercise was an explosive ordnance disposal team and a EUFOR helicopter which was used to fly out the casualty.





EUFOR Patrol
 5,130 views · Mar 4, 2022

Newly arrived EUFOR personnel are currently preparing for increased operational patrols to support our partners in BiH.

Produced by EUFOR Public Affairs Office, 04 March 2022.

Visit of The EU High Representative Mr Josep Borrell



4

On the 16th of March 2022 COM EUFOR Maj Gen Anton Wessely had the great pleasure to welcome the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy/ Vice-President of the European Commission, Mr Josep Borrell to Camp Butmir. Mr Borrell took this opportunity to inspect and speak with the troops of the Multinational

Battalion where he was given informative briefs on the various weapons systems and vehicles the Multinational Battalion now has.

Maj Gen Wessely addressed the dignitaries and stated that “the soldiers standing before you today, represent the international community’s and not just the EU’s military support to Bosnia

and Herzegovina. My decision to activate the reserve forces was driven by my requirement as a soldier to be prepared for all contingencies that may effect the current security environment.

I believe that my decision was a prudent, proportionate and purely precautionary measure”.





Mr. Borrell emphasised the importance of EUFOR to support the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina in maintaining a safe and secure environment and stated: "We have almost doubled our presence on the ground, with four additional companies and there are further assets offered by EU Member States to strengthen our capabilities even more. In these tense moments, I want to reassure the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina of our unwavering commitment to maintain safety and stability, and at the same time reinforce our ability to react swiftly in case of crisis. This reflects the EU's commitment to the unity, territorial integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia and Herzegovina".

The visit of Mr Borrell as the High Representative is significant and his attendance attracted widespread media attention and

positive commentary from citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina. His comments above are an

acknowledgement of the efforts taken to effectively double the amount of personnel in EUFOR BiH.



EUFOR Reserve Activation 2022

It will come as no surprise to the soldiers of EUFOR that the activation of 500 additional EUFOR reserves has brought many changes to the mission since the activation was announced in late February 2022, not least of which is a far busier Camp Butmir.

The activation was first announced on 24 February 2022 and so commenced the logistical and administrative planning required to get these soldiers to the mission area. These reserve soldiers were activated quickly and deployed via air and land with various vehicles and equipment necessary to conduct their mission. Camp Butmir saw a number of changes to the accommodation layout and of course longer queues in the DFAC! As important as the logistical issues were the administrative requirements for deployment which saw a number of land and air border crossings, the issuing of ID cards and the commencement of training.

It was also essential to keep the public up to date with this matter and EUFOR undertook a comprehensive public information campaign in close cooperation with local and national media,



creating social media content and answering journalist's queries during the entire process. This was essential to ensure the public were re-assured by the EUFOR reserve activation.

After the reserves settled in to their new surroundings in Camp Butmir it was necessary to undertake integration training to familiarise them with the procedures and tasks of the Multinational Battalion. This culminated with the Initial Operational Capability ceremony in Camp Butmir which was attended

by the EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina Mr. Johann Sattler.

Crucially, all reserves are now in place and are consistently contributing to the efforts of the multinational Battalion in conducting its operational activities. The speed with which the reserves were activated, deployed, and integrated into the active operations of EUFOR is a testament to the professionalism of the companies from Austria, Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia.



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EUFOR Reserve Arrival



Austrian Reserve troops disembark from an Air Force plane at Sarajevo International Airport.

 Watch on YouTube



Romanian Reserve troops deployed by land and air to BiH when the IRT was activated.



Romanian Reserve personnel arrive at Camp Butmir equipped with a MOWAG Piranha armoured personnel carrier.



Bulgarian reserve personnel preparing to undergo patrolling training.



Logistical and transport vehicle assist in the arrival of reserves.

8



Slovakian reserve personnel assemble for a LOT House evacuation exercise.



Slovakian patrol vehicles.



Slovakian reserve personnel arriving to Camp Butmir.

EUFOR Reserve Training



Romanian Reserve personnel patrol in a MOWAG Piranha armoured personnel carrier.

The deployment of 500 reserves and their equipment including lightly armoured vehicles was only the first step the integration of the reserves into the wider operational activities of EUFOR which necessitated a comprehensive programme of training to allow them to work with their multinational battalion colleagues.

As part of their programme of training reserves undertook route familiarisation and were briefed on the various standard operating procedures that are used to allow the various components of the multinational battalion to work together including the techniques and procedures employed during patrolling with vehicles and on foot around BiH. These types of patrolling operations are the mainstay of EUFOR's work and will allow EUFOR to reassure the citizens of BiH of the ongoing commitment of EUFOR to support the government of BiH in maintaining a safe and secure environment.

Additional more specific training was also undertaken to familiarise

the reserves with the procedures and practical realities of undertaking LOT house evacuations as well as crowd riot control training.

In a very positive indictment of the abilities of the Austrian, Bulgarian, Romanian and Slovakian Companies all reserves personnel successfully completed this training and became fully operational members of the Multinational battalion.



Bulgarian Reserve personnel and equipment arrive at Camp Butmir

Marking the successful achievement of Initial Operational Capability



10

On 11 March at EUFOR BiH HQ in Camp BUTMIR, a ceremony took place to mark the successful achievement of Initial Operational Capability (IOC) by approximately 500 troops of EUFOR's Intermediate Reserve consisting of four

companies from Austria, Bulgaria, Romania and Slovakia. This IOC ceremony marked the successful completion of two weeks of intensive preparation and training, so that these troops were now operationally ready to support

EUFOR BiH's security partners in maintaining a safe and secure environment for all citizens.

The Ceremony was attended by the Chair of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Željko Komšić, as well as a number of local





and international dignitaries. The parade was addressed by COM EUFOR, Major General Anton Wessely and the EU Special Representative in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Mr. Johann Sattler. In his address, Major General Wessely outlined the rationale behind the decision to activate this element of the EUFOR Reserve. He outlined that EUFOR's assessment is that there is currently no threat to the safe and secure environment that would require EUFOR's support. As a prudent and precautionary measure, in light of the deteriorating of the international security situation, it was decided to activate these reserve forces in order to be prepared for all contingencies.

Major General Wessely acknowledged the commitment of the International community to BiH and in particular, EUFOR's troop contributing nations. He reiterated his belief that the deployment of the reserve forces would serve as an additional means to enhance and strengthen EUFOR's partnership with BiH's institutions and citizens.

All six of EUFOR manoeuvre companies will now commence patrols to enhance EUFOR's visibility nationally and strengthen EUFOR's connection with local authorities and citizens. Their presence clearly demonstrates the EU's commitment to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

EUFOR's assessment is that there is currently no threat to the safe and secure environment that would require EUFOR's support. As a prudent and precautionary measure, in light of the deteriorating of the international security situation, it was decided to activate these reserve forces in order to be prepared for all contingencies.



Change of Command of the Multinational Battalion



12

On Monday 21st of March COM EUFOR Major General Anton Wessely presided over a ceremony to mark the change of command of the Multinational Battalion. The Command of the Multinational Battalion was handed over from Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Sanz to Lieutenant Colonel Lukas Lamatsch, both members of the Austrian contingent in EUFOR.

After the ceremonial handover of the unit colours was complete both the outgoing and incoming Battalion

Commanders addressed the troops of the Multinational Battalion. Lt Col Sanz thanked the troops for their hard work, cooperation and professionalism particularly during the challenging period of the activation of the IRT. Lt Col Lamatsch outlined his plan and intent for the forthcoming period for the Multinational Battalion.

All the best to Lt Col Lamtsch and the Multinational Battalion in the coming months after the change of command.



New MNBN Commander



Lieutenant Colonel Lukas Lamatsch took over from his predecessor as commander of the Multinational Battalion (MNBN) after the change of command ceremony on 21st of March. During the change of command ceremony Lt Col Lamatsch remarked:

“...For me it is a great honour to be in command of the 700 soldiers within the MNBN. As I have seen during the last week, they are all highly motivated and well prepared for the mission. Soldiers of the MNBN, I am looking forward to working together with all of you. I am sure you will support me in the same way as you did Lt Col SANZ. Only if we work together, we can accomplish all given tasks to the MNBN”.

Lt Col Lamatsch was born on the 25th of June 1975 in Vienna and is married with two children. He joined the Austrian Armed Forces in 1993 and graduated from the Military Academy in 1997 as an engineer officer. Lt Col Lamatsch has a breadth of military experience including Company Commander at the Engineer Battalion 2, serving in the Engineer School in various positions and serving in the NCO Academy. His most recent position before deploying to EUFOR was as Head of Institute at the NCO Academy for Basic NCO training.

Lt Col Lamatsch also holds a number of military qualifications including Leadership Training at Company level, Staff Officers Course 1 and 2 at Battalion and Brigade level and a Masters Course in Military Leadership with a specialisation in International operations. He has previously deployed to EUFOR in 2005-2006 as a Staff Officer for Mine Information and Mine Awareness and Commander of the Mine Information Coordination Centre.



COM EUFOR LOT House Visits

On 10th March 2022, as part of his normal schedule of visits, COM EUFOR Major General Anton Wessely visited the Polish LOT House in Doboj and the Turkish LOT House in Zavidovići. LOT Houses provide EUFOR with valuable information on the current opinions and viewpoints of citizens in particular areas of BiH.

This allows EUFOR HQ to “feel the pulse” of the current mood and to gauge public opinion on various EUFOR activities.

This type of local knowledge was extremely important during the reserve activation where various questions were posed from citizens of concerns relating to the increase in the number and frequency of EUFOR patrols.

This information allowed EUFOR to address the concerns of citizens amending the manner in which some patrols were conducted and increasing the amount of information provided to the public to reassure citizens.

During COM EUFOR’s visit to Doboj, Zavidovići, Zenica and Travnik the LOT House personnel provided key briefings on their activities and the general security situation in the areas. Maj Gen Wessely took the opportunity to stress the importance of links with the local community.



Travnik



Doboj



Travnik



Zavidovići



Zenica

Fostering Peace in the Local Community



EUFOR LOT personnel were part of a very interesting local community project this month.

“Our mosaic of culture and tradition” is part of an ongoing project called “Together for a safe future”, between two Elementary schools. One of the schools is located in the Federation in Mehmedalija Mak Dizdar and the other in Pale is located in the Republika Srpska. In March 2022 the principals of both Elementary schools addressed the audience of invited guests and thanked them for taking part. They especially thanked the EUFOR members for their support.

As part of the joint project the children of the two schools prepared educational workshops where they talked about the historical features of BiH, the music of the former SFRY and various traditional foods of BiH. They also conducted performances of traditional folk songs of all nationalities of BiH. This was followed by a knowledge quiz and a traditional snack.

Director Samira Nukić and Director Aleksandar Rajić emphasized the importance of the project in order to bring their students closer, and thanked all those present, especially

EUFOR members and representatives of the US Embassy in BiH.

This is not the first co-operation between these schools. A project entitled “Dangers from pyrotechnic devices and unexploded munition and mines” was one of the first projects undertaken in December 2021 where the children performed a sketch on the topic of pyrotechnics and their dangerous effects. Students of both schools collaboratively made workshops, knowledge of mines and unexploded ordnance, where everyone present developed their knowledge in this area.

The aim of this activity was for the students to get to know each other, become friends and to see that while their diversity is an important factor they also have many similarities and things in common.

Director Samira Nukić and Director Aleksandar Rajić pointed out that they would continue with this project of uniting schools and students, and invited EUFOR to join them in future activities to spread peace and friendship. Well done to the EUFOR LOT and JMA personnel who were involved in supporting these projects.



National Day of Remembrance of the “Unbroken Soldiers”

In 2011, the 1ST of March was established as a public holiday in Poland and was called the National Day of Remembrance of the “Unbroken Soldiers” or “Cursed Soldiers”. It is a holiday honoring and commemorating the soldiers of the Polish anti-communist and anti-Soviet underground operating in the years 1944 to 1963 within the pre-war borders of the Republic of Poland.

The Unbroken Soldiers, operating within the post-war anti-communist and anti-Soviet underground, remained faithful to the soldier’s oath and never cooperated with the communist authorities. The propaganda of the Polish People’s Republic referred to them as fascists and common bandits.

They were deprived of all rights, tracked down in the forests and were imprisoned or even murdered in the torture chambers of the Security Office and Military Intelligence. The number of members of all underground organizations and groups is estimated at 120-180 thousand



people. They fought not only in the areas of present Poland, but also in the Eastern Borderlands, which were part of the Second Polish Republic seized by the Soviets after the Yalta Conference.

The last officer known by name, the commander of the unit fighting in the Borderlands, Lieutenant Anatol Radziwonik “Olech” died in the fight against the NKVD on May 12, 1949 in the area of today’s Belarus.

The last Unbroken Soldier – Józef Franczak “Lalek” died in battle shot during a manhunt in Majdan Kozice Górne near Piaski in the former Lublin Voivodeship on October 21, 1963.

This is a brief history of the Polish “Unbroken Soldiers” and a glimpse in to why it is commemorated with 1.963 km run.

By Lieutenant Waldemar Cioch



Polish personnel lead EUFOR colleagues on the Wolf Trail commemoration in Camp Butmir

Security Upgrade of Ammunition and Weapons Storage Sites in BiH



17

A ceremony marking the completion of the SAFE-UP (Security Upgrade of Ammunition and Weapons Storage Sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina) project and signing of a contract between the OSCE Mission to BiH and the Ministry of Defense BiH on the donation of equipment from the SAFE-UP project was held in Sarajevo's AFBiH Army Hall on 18 March.

In attendance were officials from the MoD and AFBiH, OSCE Mission to BiH, representatives of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly, NATO HQ Sarajevo, EUFOR and international donors of the SAFE-UP project.

The project was jointly implemented by the OSCE and MoD BiH, with EUFOR's support with technical advice. It greatly improved the safety in AFBiH storage facilities, in line with internationally recognized standards.

The second conference to make BiH cluster ammunition free by September 2022 took place on 22nd March 2022 and had input from EUFOR, the Demining Commission, BHMACH, NPA and AFBiH.

COMEUFOR Major General Anton Wessely welcomed the participants and stated in his speech that he was looking forward to achieving this aim this year.

Details on the clearance of cluster munition were agreed and each participant confirmed their commitment to this project. Work on clearance has already started and is intended to be complete by September 2022.

A cluster Munitions free BiH is a common effort of the BiH-Demining Commission, the BiH Mine Action Center (BiH-MAC), the Armed Forces BiH, the Civil Protection Agencies of FBiH and RS (CPA), the Norwegian Peoples Aid (NPA), the International Trust Fund (ITF) and EUFOR to meet the requirements of the Convention on Cluster Munitions by the end of 2022.



Keeping fit, Romanian Army Style



18

In previous editions of the EUFOR FORUM we presented you with our fitness test series covering the military fitness tests of Austria, Poland, Switzerland, Ireland, Hungary, Turkey, Slovakia, France and Italy. In this edition we want to introduce you the Romanian one.

In the Romanian Armed Forces, physical training represents an important component of military personnel. Therefore, the Romanian army have developed a special programme in order to examine the crucial elements, skills and mental capacity that leads to successful operations.





All soldiers train every day in different disciplines: running, gym and gymnastic, bodyweight exercises, swimming and crossing rivers, obstacles track, skiing, self-defense amongst others.

Physical training is important for everyone but as a soldier, it's absolutely crucial. Whether you're deploying or out on routine military tasks, you'll be expected to maintain a high level of physical and mental readiness at all times.

The Romanian Army Physical Training is a standardised programme that addresses every aspect of general and military fitness in order to cover and develop all aspects that are needed for activities such as shootings, close combat training and field exercises amongst others.

In this context, starting in January 2022 the physical training programme for the Romanian armed forces has been changed and adapted to current needs.

Twice annually (spring and autumn), every soldier, NCO / WO and officer must demonstrate his / her skills facing some trials according to their respective ages and gender.

Those trials consist of push-ups, exercises for abs and 3 km running. Pull-ups were also a requirement until 2022.



Making Healthy Choices in Your Diet

In addition, a proper nutrition plays a role in maintaining a good shape. Eating a variety of foods are basic guidelines for a healthy diet.

For soldiers it is mandatory to get enough energy from the food they eat. In order to do that, they eat 3 meals every day, when it is possible even snacks contribute to their nutrition.

Another guideline for a proper nutrition plan is to consume enough calories from each meal, therefore the meal menu is standardized to achieved the balance of calories needed for energy and fitness needs.

100% COMMITTED TO A **MINEFREEBIH**

**FACILITATING A DONATION OF 10 MILLION EURO
FROM THE EUROPEAN UNION** to procure 68 new vehicles
and 150 metal detectors for the demining Battalion of AF BiH



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