

EUFOR FORUM

October - December 2022
European Union Force in BiH



#133



In this edition:



Op Commander Visit

Pages 4-5



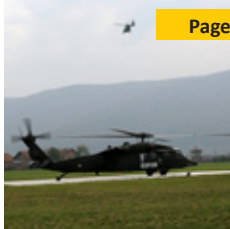
Pages 7-15



Page 6

New EUFOR LOT Houses

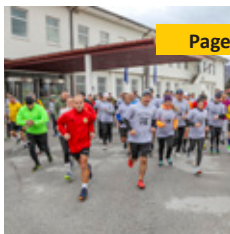
German Armed forces mark the opening of the new LOT Houses.



Page 15

Air Operations during Exercise EUFOR QR 22

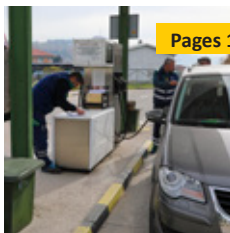
The Air Forces of Austria, Hungary and Slovenia came together to work, train and contribute to exercise EUFOR Quick Response 22.



Page 17

Say good bye to 2022 with running

The "Fun Run" was enjoyable and a nice way to say good bye to 2022. In that sense, we wish you all the best for 2023.



Pages 18-19

Butmir gas station

In this edition we want to introduce you Butmir gas station crew.

Commander EUFOR
[Major General Anton Wessely](#)

EUFOR Public Affairs Chief
[Lieutenant Colonel Christian Fiedler](#)

Forum Magazine Staff

Editor in chief
[Captain Catherine Smyth](#)

Layout
[Mr. Jasmin Zeherović](#)

Photographs contributed by
[WO2 Rafael Schicher](#)

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

Printed by
[Reprographics & Courier Service](#)
(HQ EUFOR)

Editor in Chief



Captain Catherine Smyth

Happy New year to all our colleagues working in EUFOR Operation Althea, here in Camp Butmir and beyond, and welcome to the latest issue of the EUFOR Forum.

The main focus of this issue is naturally Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2022 which was ongoing from October to November of last year and saw

our numbers temporarily augmented by additional troops from across the contributing nations. The Italian battalion was the largest additional military contingent to join us in Camp Butmir.

Going forward into the coming months, we will be preparing for the change of command of the Commander of EUFOR as Major General Anton Wessely hands over command to Major General Helmut Habermayer. So it is timely to reflect on the busy and productive few months we have spent throughout the exercise and beyond following a slightly reduced tempo over the festive period.

A reminder to all our colleagues across EUFOR, please remember that you are very welcome to submit material to be featured in the forum.

Please feel free to send us stories, pictures, relevant articles about projects or activities that might be interesting. It's a great opportunity to highlight the work of your nation or branch.

Email us at euforpio@eufor.europa.eu

The Forum Magazine is produced by HQ EUFOR. It is fully funded by EUFOR, and authorised and published for EUFOR in the area of responsibility.

All stories are written by the Public Affairs Office unless stated otherwise.

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

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

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

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

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



COM EUFOR

New Year Greeting - 2023



As the Commander of the European Union Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina, I am glad to have the opportunity to address you at the end of a very busy and fruitful year for EUFOR and the beginning of 2023.

Operation Althea's main objectives are to support the overall EU comprehensive strategy for Bosnia and Herzegovina and support the local authorities in maintaining a Safe and Secure Environment. This is essential for Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress towards EU integration, following the achievement of EU Candidate status at the end of 2022.

The basis for Operation Althea is the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the renewed UN mandate of 02 Nov 2022. However, the international events at the beginning of 2022 created a renewed emphasis on the security situation here and EUFOR's military role in supporting the local institutions. The deployment of the Intermediate Reserve Forces, the increase of EUFOR's tactical footprint and the welcoming of new countries into the mission have all been tangible evidence of the international community's continued commitment to the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2022 saw the participation of reserve forces from Austria, Italy, Hungary, Greece, Romania and Slovenia. EUFOR trained together with the Armed Forces and it was supported by Law Enforcement Agencies across Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2022 thus sends an important message to the population and other actors of the international community's readiness to support the local authorities in maintaining a Safe and Secure Environment.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the staff of EUFOR HQ, the members of the Multinational Battalion, the Combined Task Force - ISR, the Aviation Detachment and the members of the Liaison and Observation Teams for their steadfast commitment to our shared Mission over the past year. I would like to publicly state my thanks to the EUFOR civilian staff, soldiers, sailors, airmen and airwomen from 15 EU and 5 non-EU troop contributing countries for their excellent performance and commitment and wish you all a great, prosperous and rewarding 2023!

Visit of EUFOR's Operational Commander to Exercise QR 2022



Office of the High Representative

4

Lieutenant General Hubert Cottereau the Operation Commander of EUFOR Op Althea Visited Bosnia and Herzegovina from 07 to 09 November 2022. During his visit he had the opportunity to observe ongoing training and exercise activities being conducted as part of Exercise

EUFOR Quick Response 22 as well as attend key meetings.

Lieutenant General Cottereau met with the Chief of Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina Lieutenant General Mašović, with the High Representative Christian Schmidt

as well as with the EU Special Representative, Ambassador Johann Sattler.

Along with COM EUFOR Major General Anton Wessely, OPCOM met with the Deputy Minister of Defence of BiH for Resource Management Mirko Okolić and



21st Session of the Strategic Committee for Weapons, Ammunition, and Explosive Ordnance



Joint Staff of the Armed Forces
of Bosnia and Herzegovina

attended the 21st Session of the Strategic Committee for Weapons, Ammunition, and Explosive Ordnance.

The session brought together representatives of the Ministry of Defence, EUFOR, the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina, donors and supporting NGOs, international organisations and embassies.

The session is an opportunity to review progress of the safe disposal of surplus weapons, ammunition and explosive ordnance, and jointly plan future activities.

Finally, the OPCOM, COM EUFOR and COS EUFOR travelled to Bileća to participate in a joint peace support operations table top exercise, which was conducted with the 2nd Battalion of the 4th Brigade of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



OPCOM with EU Special Representative, Ambassador Johann Sattler



OPCOM with Commander
of the Operational Command
of the AFBiH, Major General Radovan Ilić

New EUFOR LOT Houses

On 21 December 2022 EUFOR's German Senior National Representative Lieutenant Colonel Stefan Hofmeister delivered a speech on the occasion of the opening of the new German LOT (Liaison and Observation Team) House in Čapljina. He stated that after an absence of 10 years the German Bundestag (German Parliament) decided to rejoin the EUFOR Operation Althea mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

COM EUFOR Major General Anton Wessely attended the opening ceremony in Čapljina. LOT House Čapljina has opened one month after the opening of the first German LOT House in Vlasenica.

This new LOT house brings the total number of EUFOR LOT Houses in Bosnia and Herzegovina to 19. They will continue to provide extensive mine awareness and educational programmes in schools. The acting commander of the LOT house will be Sergeant Major Stephan Mehrens.

LOT houses are EUFOR's link to local communities and local authorities, enabling direct dialogue between EUFOR and BiH citizens. Soldiers of a Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) live not in military camp but in civilian accommodation among the local population. With the purpose to be more accessible to citizens and authorities, who want to contribute to the local organizations to build up a Safe and Secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Čapljina has 28.000 citizens and is located in the Herzegovina-Neretva Canton, near the border with Croatia. Minefields around the city of Čapljina still pose a threat to the local population.



On 08 December, COS EUFOR Brigadier General Zoltan Somogyi attended the opening of the German Liaison and Observation (LOT) House in Vlasenica.

Italian military personnel arrived by sea to participate in exercise

EUFOR representatives, including the Chief of Staff Brigadier General Somogyi were in Croatia at the harbor in Ploče to greet our colleagues from the Battalion of Italian military personnel who have arrived by sea to participate in Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2022.

Italian military personnel arrived by sea to participate in Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2022.

Over 250 troops arrived from Italy, with military vehicles and equipment. A ship carrying a further cohort of Italian soldiers and equipment arrived shortly after. The Battalion of Italian troops then moved in convoy by road to Sarajevo.

In the following days, all twenty EUFOR nations came together for the exercise which took place in different urban and rural locations across Bosnia and Herzegovina, in coordination with AF BiH, local communities and LEAs who contributed logistical and administrative support.

The additional troops temporarily augmented EUFOR numbers and participated in tactical exercises and patrolling.



7



Opening Ceremony for Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2022



8

EUFOR held the Distinguished Visitors Day and official Opening Ceremony for Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2022. Attended by dignitaries from across BiH and the international community as well as the Armed Forces and Law Enforcement Agencies of BiH, the event brought all 20 EUFOR nations together to officially launch the exercise.

The event consisted of a military ceremony, a static meet the troops display and a dynamic display.

The ceremony was presided over by COM EUFOR Major General Anton Wessely accompanied by the Minister of Security of BiH, Dr. Selmo Cikotić, Deputy Minister of Defence of BiH, Mr. Mijo Krešić and Ms. Aurelie Valtat, the representative of the EU Delegation.

The static display was an opportunity for dignitaries and international representatives to meet their countrymen and



women who are deployed as part of Operation Althea and based in Camp Butmir. The dynamic display was a capability demonstration with members of the Multi National Battalion working together with the Aviation Detachment.

In his speech, Major General Anton Wessely said;

“Exercises are not only necessary,

they are mandatory to reach and finally maintain the highest level of interoperability and cooperation.

Soldiers have to show flexibility, competence, braveness and above all dedication to the demanding job they have chosen. We will train all the tactical principles of the different levels and we will go on with the real operation”.

Week One



Members of the Hungarian Company of EUFOR Multi National Battalion were deployed in the Banja Luka area. From their base in the Bosnian Armed Forces Barracks, the Hungarian Company conducted patrols and secured key military installations including the weapons storage site Mahovljani in Laktaši and the ammunition storage site Krčmarice in Banja Luka.



All activities were carried out in close coordination with members of the Romanian LOT Team.

Hungarian Soldiers also rehearsed skills and drills for casualty evacuation.



9



The Romanian Company conducted patrols from Ustikolina to the ammunition storage site in Rudo



Members of the Turkish troop from the EUFOR Multinational Battalion were involved in intensive military operations on Mount Igman near Sarajevo.

They practiced skills and procedures to evacuate the injured together with the air force and medical team from Hungary.

Italian Contingent Activities



10

The Italian contingent left Camp Butmir on 30 Oct 2022 in the early hours to deploy to Bihać.

From the barracks "Adil Bešić", the Italian contingent patrolled the road to Banja Luka, passing Prijedor, before arriving at the EUFOR Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) house in Banja Luka, where they met with members of the Slovenian Contingent.

The next day patrols were sent to Mahovljani airport near Banja Luka and patrols were also conducted around local ammunition and weapons storage sites.



Week Three



11

Austrian Company of EUFOR's MNBN were deployed throughout Livno Canton. They were accommodated in the 'Ante Bruno Bušić' barracks of the AF BiH 4th infantry brigade.

The Austrian troops patrolled the entire area of operations, focusing specifically on military installations.

They rehearsed tactics and procedures for securing Ammunition Storage Sites and Weapons Storage Sites.

Soldiers from the MNBN exercised procedures for communication between different EUFOR elements in emergency situations.



Week Four



This week the EUFOR Op Commander Lieutenant General Hubert Cottreau visited the exercise and participated in a table top exercise in Bileća with the 2nd Battalion of the 4th Brigade of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Hungarian Company of the Multinational Battalion was deployed in Northern Bosnia and Herzegovina. Throughout the week they conducted patrols throughout the entire northern region from Orasje on the Sava River, through Tuzla and Derventa all the way to Zavidovici further south.

The Hungarian Company were involved in securing weapons and ammunition storage sites located in Rabic near Derventa and Kozlovac in Tuzla.

Throughout the exercise they maintained close cooperation and planning with the Turkish members of EUFOR LOT House.

The Turkish Company were based in Barracks of the Armed Forces BiH in Ustikolina. They patrolled the region to Visegrad. In Visegrad they established contact with the Slovakian soldiers in the EUFOR LOT House.

The HQ element of the Multinational Battalion deployed to Doboj, accompanied by Force Protection Elements, where they ran a forward command post exercise.



Week Five



Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2022 wrapped up last week, with the Bulgarian Company completing the final serial of the exercise. During their deployment the Bulgarian Company of the Multinational Battalion were based in the AF BiH barrack 'Miralem Jugo' in Mostar.

From this base they patrolled the entire AOR, with an emphasis on exercising procedures for securing Ammunition Storage Sites in



Bačevići near Mostar, and in Gabela near Čapljina.

During their daily activities, the Bulgarian Company patrol, led by

Captain Ivanov, engaged with Swiss team from the Mostar LOT House, improving the communication between different EUFOR elements in emergency situations.



For the purposes of exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2022, the Hellenic Armed Forces of Greece and the Albanian Armed Forces formed the Hellenic and Albanian Battalion with an Area of Responsibility in Southern Bosnia and Herzegovina, working under the Command of Lt Col Nikolaos Michopoulos of the Hellenic Armed Forces.

Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2022 has concluded after five weeks



14

After five weeks of intensive activity across Bosnia and Herzegovina, Exercise EUFOR Quick Response concluded. The closing ceremony to officially mark the end of the exercise was held this week in Camp Butmir Two.

During the ceremony the Regiment and Battalion Commanders were specifically acknowledged by COM EUFOR and given presentations in recognition of their commitment and devotion to duty throughout the exercise. The Company and Aviation Detachment commanders were also recognized and presented with Commander's Coins.

As the soldiers contributing to Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2022 have served more than a month in the mission area, they were presented with the

EUFOR Mission Althea Common Security and Defence Policy Medal. Over the five weeks, EUFOR numbers was temporarily augmented as contributing nations provided extra troops for the exercise, the largest body of soldiers coming from Italy.

Additional air assets were also provided by Hungary, Austria and Slovenia and Response Cells were staffed by numerous nations. In all, the 20 contributing EUFOR nations supported by our colleagues from the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina have worked consistently over the five weeks, all over the country and in varied roles to successfully bring Exercise EUFOR Quick Response together, sending out a message that the international community is ready and capable of standing ready to support our partners in Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Air Operations during Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2022

Throughout Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2022, the EUFOR Aviation Detachment was fortified by pilots, flight engineers, air traffic controllers and ground crew from 3 nations. The Air Forces of Austria, Hungary and Slovenia came together to work, train and contribute to exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2022.

Four different aircraft were deployed throughout the exercise, the Hungarian Air Force Airbus H145M, the Austrian Airforce Blackhawk and Augusta Bell 212 and the Slovenian Augusta Bell 412.

Throughout the exercise, the 3 nations worked together, primarily exercising their casualty evacuation capabilities and providing tactical troop support.

The aviation detachment remained at all times capable of carrying out real life emergency response capacity. Ordinarily it is the Austrian contingent that holds this responsibility. An Austrian crew are on duty 24 hours a day, 365 days a year ready and capable to respond to a range of emergency situations.

EUFOR aircraft can operate in day or night. They can land on challenging terrain and when there is no possibility to land, they have winch capacity.

Air crews and medical teams work together to be able to provide fast and effective emergency response. Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2022 also allowed medical teams to train and refine their skills.

By working and training together throughout the exercise, these teams of highly skilled and experienced aviators and medics were able to improve interoperability and learn key lessons from each other.



The members of LOT Višegrad support local organizations

Members of the Slovak armed forces, participating on the mission EUFOR ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina got involved with some festive activities with the the local community over the Christmas holidays. Members of LOT Višegrad supported local organizations and events to get the community, especially children, into the festive spirit.

LOT Višegrad donated balls and sports equipment for sports activities including footballs, basketballs and volleyballs, with a total value of approximately 200€ to support sports and exercise for children at Višegrad Elementary School

Members of LOT Višegrad also participated in a local charity event by donating St. Nicolas packages, which were distributed by St. Nicolas himself to local children.

In the nearby town of Sokolac, members of LOT Višegrad donated 200€ in cash to a local hospital. These funds were used to



purchase the necessary material for the creative workshop in which patients are regularly involved.

Last but not least, the members of LOT Višegrad collected clothes of various kinds from their friends and relatives in Slovakia, which will be donated to the Red Cross in Goražde.

All these projects were financed through the personal resources of LOT Višegrad members, and stand as testament to the positive and warm relations between the community in Višegrad, and the LOT community stationed there.

16





On Friday 09 December 2022, the HQ Camp CMDT 5k "Fun Run" took place. Meeting point was in front of Building 200. Around 65 participants participated. Prior to the start, souvenir shirts were handed out to each runner. There after a few words by Camp Cdt Col Balogh, the run was started. Along the track, Gym staff provided the runners with information about their time. The "Fun Run" was enjoyable and a nice way to say good bye to 2022. In that sense, we wish you all the best for 2023.

17



EUFOR Photographer Rafael Schicher captured this moment during the dynamic display component of the Exercise EUFOR Quick Response 2022 Opening Ceremony. Troops in CRC equipment are pictured dismounting from a Blackhawk helicopter.

Camp Butmir's Fuel Station



18

Interview with Anita Remeta and Haris Bajramović

How do you check whether oil and fuel are of good quality?

A&H: We have an external and private laboratory which checks the quality. They arrive in the morning, take samples and check it outside of the camp.

How is the procedure for hot refueling whilst helicopters have turned on engines?

A&H: This is a very interesting, but also critical procedure. We have a protocol which we have to observe. Did you know that we have a 24 hours/7 days a week shift work in order to be always ready for helicopter refueling? A big challenge is the hot air blowing out of the helicopter, it's scaring.

How many liters of oil per month do we need for heating in winter time?

A&H: The record was in January 1999: 999.000 liters! Next December we will need approximately 200.000 liters. The turnover of unleaded fuel is very low. We need it mostly for private vehicles.

Do the prices of fuel and oil have an influence on our mission?

A&H: Not really. We are in the lucky position that the fund manager organizes all payments. Compared with last year, the prices increased for about 100%. Please mind that we have to calculate the costs of maintenance, distribution, inspection, management and calibration onto the purchase price.

What do you want our soldiers to know about the gas station?

A&H: Please be kind to our employees, we have to follow strict regulations and procedures. We can't fill in any canisters, also please mind that it could be that you have to go outside of the car, even when it's raining! For private cars we can only fill in maximum 300 liters per month, we can't make any exceptions. If your trip ticket is not filled out correctly we have to get in touch with our TransCoy office. Please always fill out in the appropriate form.

How many liters can be stored in our camp?

A&H: We can store up to 260.000 liters.

What different types of fuel do we have?

A&H: Winter diesel: up to -38 °C, which we buy from an Hungarian company. It's a class 3 polar diesel. Currently the price is 1,2 €/liter

Summer diesel: We start on 1. April every year with summer diesel, which we buy in Ploče, Croatia.

Jet Fuel: We buy jet fuel in Serbia or Slovenia and pay approximately 1,5 €/liter



What fuel helicopters need and how much?

A&H: For our Austrian, Hungarian, Slovenian, Swiss and KFOR helicopters we use jet fuel, whereby we need approximately 400.000 liters per year.

How many people work for our gas station?

A&H: We are 14 people in order to maintain a 24 hour shift.

Do you fill fuel and oil outside of Camp Butmir?

A&H: Yes, near the airfield Sarajevo, at the AJSR. In addition we have to provide jet fuel for our helicopters outside of the camp. For example during the big flood in the year 2014. Our helicopters had to evacuate lots of people, so we drove there with fuel, for example to Zenica.

What do you do/don't like in your job? Your biggest challenge?

A&H: Team work and variety. Every day is different. During the exercises we have an increase of tasks. Also during winter time we need 70% more fuel.





Runolist

The first ever Ski Mountaineering Competition in Bosnia Herzegovina

The Armed Forces of BiH, the Mountain Rescue Team GSSUBIH, EUFOR and ZOI'84 will organize Bosnia Herzegovina's first ever ski-mountaineering competition in the ski resort of Bjelašnica.

The event will take place on 3 February 2023, the opening ceremony starts at 10:30 AM and the starting shot will be at 11:00 AM.

The organizing committee welcomes national and international athletes. All citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina are invited to take part in this event. The discipline is called "Vertical", the athletes start in BABIN DO and try to reach the MEĐUSTANICA as fast as possible on a defined track.

Ski mountaineering is a modern sport which combines sustainable skiing and cross country adventures. Athletes use climbing skins to reach mountain peaks with special skis and bindings.