

EUFOR FORUM

European Union Force in BiH

June - July 2024



#140



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Iron challenge for BiH

This Iron Challenge took the form of a military test designed to improve squad team building, resistance capacity and mental strength.

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Editor in Chief



Major Sarah Donnelly

Dear readers of EUFOR Forum Magazine!

I am delighted to publish my third and final edition of EUFOR FORUM as editor in Chief.

The last few months were very busy ones for the EUFOR and for the Public Affairs Office. A lot of important events have been held including the visit of the Political and Security Committee (PSC) from the European Union and we also

launched our latest Media Campaign 'EUFORYOU'.

In edition #140 you will find information about the PSC visit, our latest media campaign, recent fitness activities and information on the recent Italian, French, Portuguese and Belgian national weeks.

I want to thank all branches who supported our efforts on media activities for EUFOR Althea.

EUFOR Forum is about the soldiers and personnel of EUFOR. It is a chronicle and memories of your time spent in BiH as part of Operation Althea. So as always, we invite you to share your experiences and have those experiences recorded in print and shared digitally. Euforpio@eufor.europa.eu if you have anything that you would like covered or have an article or photograph you would like to share.

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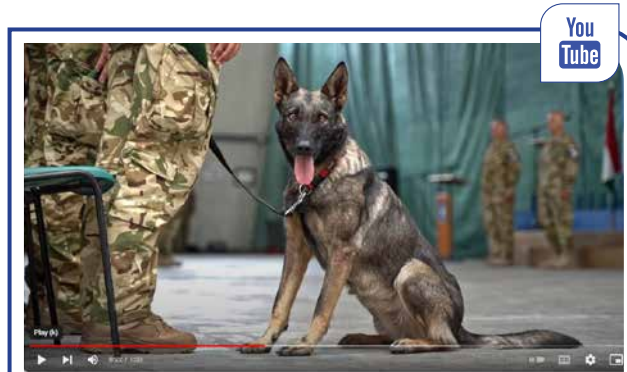
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The Commander and Deputy Commander of EUFOR Major General László Sticz and Brigadier General Lorenzo Dal Maso recently visited TRB Defense Solutions in Bratunac. Here the commanders had the opportunity to receive briefs and view the equipment that this company manufactures. This was a great opportunity for EUFOR to gain an insight into the defence industry of BiH.



Cooperation, progress and impartiality was the focus of recent engagements of COM EUFOR MG Sticz with: Lt G Athanasios Garinis, COM C' Army Corps/NRDC-GR, Lt G Francesco Paolo Figliuolo, COM of Command for Joint Operations, members of delegation to the Peace Implementation Council.



Key members of EUFOR received their EUFOR Althea CSDP medal last week. Titan and Kali are sniffer dogs serving in the Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) Team and aid them in completing their tasks safely. COM EUFOR awarded these medals in recognition of their service.



The Turkish Ministry of Defence Mehter Band will come to BiH and will perform in Camp Butmir as part of this tour. The Mehter Band has been considered the oldest military bands in the world. It symbolizes the Turkish historical heroism, sovereignty and magnificence.



The Aviation Detachment is a key asset of the EUFOR mission. Helicopters are used in the mission to transport soldiers, equipment and also to perform medical rescue and evacuation (MEDEVAC).

Visit from the European Union's Political and Security Committee



H.E. Delphine Pronk inspects the parade

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The Political and Security Committee is responsible for the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). It:

- monitors the international situation
- recommends strategic approaches and policy options to the Council
- provides guidance to the Military Committee, the Politico-Military Group and the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management
- ensures political control and strategic direction of crisis management operations.

The PSC is composed of member states' ambassadors based in Brussels and is chaired by the representatives from the European External Action Service. It meets twice a week, and more often if necessary.

EUFOR Operation Althea hosted a visit from the European Union's Political and Security Committee (PSC) on the 08 July 2024.

The Political and Security Committee is responsible for the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and the Common Security and Defence

Policy (CSDP). It monitors the international situation, recommends strategic approaches and policy options to the Council of the EU, provides guidance to the Military Committee, the Politico-Military Group and the Committee for Civilian Aspects of Crisis Management and also ensures political control and strategic



COM EUFOR briefs



CRC team arrives

direction of crisis management operations. Within these responsibilities, the PSC exercises the political control and strategic direction of EUFOR Operation Althea. The PSC is composed of member states' ambassadors based in Brussels and is chaired by H.E. Delphine Pronk.

As part of this visit, the PSC received a brief on EUFOR Operation Althea from the Commander of EUFOR, Major General László Sticz and an overview of the activities of NATO Headquarters Sarajevo from Colonel Bahri Yildiz, Deputy Commander of NATO HQ Sarajevo. Members of the PSC also observed a dynamic and static display by EUFOR forces, among them by the Multinational Battalion, the Aviation Detachment, the Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team and others, to demonstrate the capabilities and equipment of the 23 nations of EUFOR.

During this visit, H.E. Delphine Pronk, Chair of the Political and Security Committee delivered an address to the members of the 23 national contingents serving as part of EUFOR. The Committee also paid respect to those who have lost their lives in the service for peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina by conducting a wreath laying ceremony in Memorial Park in Camp Butmir.

This visit shows the European Union's strong commitment to EUFOR Operation Althea and to Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Team secures the building



PSC Chair delivers her address

Medal parades in Camp Butmir



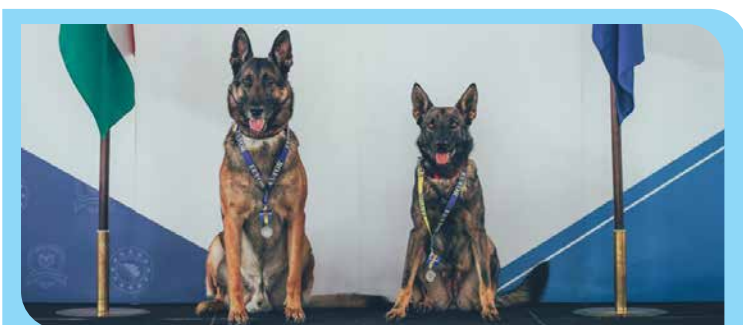
DCOS Intel awards medal



DCOS Ops awards medal



MNBN photographer receives medal from COS EUFOR



EOD dogs receive EUFOR medals

Titan and Kali are sniffer dogs serving in the Explosive Ordinance Disposal (EOD) Team and aid them in completing their tasks safely.

They are key members of EUFOR and for this reason COM EUFOR awarded these dogs EUFOR CSDP medals in recognition of their service to EUFOR Operational Althea.

Soldiers who serve as part of EUFOR Operation Althea are awarded the European Union's Common Security and Defence Policy Medal for Operation Althea.

The medal is inscribed with the Latin phrase "Pro Pace Unum", which translates to "United for peace", standing for the united efforts of the troop contributing nations of EUFOR to support the authorities and all the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina in maintaining a safe and secure environment.

A number of medal parades to recognize service to EUFOR have been held recently.

International medal parade

The international medal parade involved over 100 soldiers from twelve nations. This included soldiers from Austria, Belgium, Chile, the Czech Republic, France, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Slovakia, Spain and Türkiye. Well done to all who received their medals!

Turkish contingent receive medals

On another occasion over fifty members of the Turkish Contingent serving in EUFOR were awarded their service medal for their service to EUFOR Operation Althea.

EUFOR media campaign



Scan the QR code to see our video advertisement

EUFOR YOU

You may have spotted EUFOR billboards during your patrols or when travelling in Bosnia and Herzegovina recently. These billboard are part of the most recent EUFOR media campaign 'EUFORYOU'.

This media campaign featured the Aviation detachment and EUFOR's MEDEVAC assets. With this campaign we wanted to communicate that whether we're patrolling, training, providing mine risk education or conducting medical rescue operations: multinational soldiers of EUFOR work together to help to maintain what is important to you, your friends, family and all other human beings: the ability to live safely.

EUFOR are here for all and here for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

As part of this media campaign we used billboards, online advertisements, radio advertisements as well as advertisements on the television to deliver our message.



Members of the MEDEVAC team during filming



Behind the scenes

French task unit Combined Task Force ISR



French Foreign Legion on parade

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1st French Foreign Legion Cavalry Regiment – *Légion étrangère*

Camerone, 1863

April 30th, 1863: The foundation of the French Foreign Legion began with 62 legionnaires resisting more than 1000 Mexican soldiers under a scorching sun and with no hope of reinforcements.

Their mission was to fix the enemy in order to protect another troop going through the Mexican countryside not far from the hacienda of Camerone.

They resisted! Not only did they resist but they fought so well that the Mexican troops, at the end of the day, decided to spare their lives, let them keep their rifles and took care of the injured legionnaires. The mission was a success and the French Foreign Legion developed a great devotion to the mission from this heroic action.

The French Foreign legion

The *Légion Etrangère* is an exception to the normal military with more than 90% of foreigners serving France under the *Képi blanc*. All the non-commissioned officers emerged from the ranks and can become officers on a foreigner status. The French Foreign Legion accepts all kinds of men, if their past life is in accordance with the necessary legal status. Joining the Legion is often the start of a new life for these men from all around the globe.

The 1st Foreign Cavalry Regiment

The regiment was created in 1921 at Sousse (Tunisia) from the idea that the French Foreign Legion needed a horse-mounted unit for all its interventions in Africa. In its beginning, mostly Russian-native legionnaires joined the newly created unit because of their horse-riding capabilities.

History remembers the great adaptation capability of the legionnaires: horse-mounted legionnaires in Syria and Morocco progressively adapted to their iron mount, the armoured car, with which they distinguished themselves in France during the liberation campaign in 1940 and in Tunisia in 1943.

For the Indochina War, the legionnaires transformed their regiment into an amphibious unit equipped with "Crabes" and "Alligators". The Algerian war utilised them as a reconnaissance armoured unit.

The regiment has been used in the Balkans region with many deployments in Former-Yugoslavia and Kosovo during the last thirty years, especially during winter of 1995. The blood and sweat of its legionnaires has soaked the soil of this region. After deployments in Afghanistan and the Sahel-Saharan region, the regiment is

often deployed all around the globe in multinational exercises or French operations.

As a reconnaissance unit, the regiment is always ready for short-notice deployments and constantly adapts itself to new technologies such as drones or new weapons systems such as the Jaguar, the spearhead of the SCORPION program.

Specific training of the detachment and deployment in the Combined Task Force ISR

Before being deployed on Operation EUFOR ALTHEA, the detachment has followed a rigorous training program in order to be fully operational as soon as arriving in Bosnia and Herzegovina. For weeks, the legionnaires familiarised themselves with the area and the local habits, its languages and its history.

They have not forgotten their basic military skills like shooting, urban tactics, or even medical training and are always ready. Minds and bodies have been tested during rigorous commando courses and numerous physical trainings.

Their first weeks in Camp Butmir have been marked by the French national week and the national parade day, a proud way for legionnaires to highlight their love for France in such a multinational environment. They all brought a bit of France in their heart and are ready to achieve their mission whatever the cost maybe.

Learn more on
www.legion-etrangere.com



French national week opening ceremony

The Manoeuvre Company of the Hellenic Armed Forces



COM EUFOR accompanied by MNBN and Greek Coy Commanders

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The Manoeuvre Company of the Hellenic Armed Forces joined the Operation ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) on 24th June 2024 when the main forces arrived in Camp Butmir. Before joining the EUFOR, the Greek Manoeuvre Company conducted a pre-deployment training lasting about four weeks (usual procedure for a Greek unit before being deployed in an international operation) and took place in Thessaloniki.



There the Company went through a large variety of different modules, specific for this mission such as CRC, Medic training, mobility training and cultural awareness.

The Greek Manoeuvre Company, consist of:

- 3 Platoons and a Combat Service Support Platoon (which also contains a LEGAD officer and a Financial officer). The two of the three Platoons are Hellenic Manoeuvre Platoons with all above capabilities and the other one is a Light Infantry Platoon of the Armed Forces of the Republic of North Macedonia. The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of North Macedonia has delegated the Tactical Commander and Tactical Control of this platoon to the Commander of the Hellenic Manoeuvre Coy according to the related Transfer of Authority.

- An EOD (explosive ordnance disposal) team with special EOD kits and tools for EOD/C-IED capabilities. During their stay in BiH the Company has already conduct training with the Hungarian EOD team and took part in the static display during the visit of the European Union's Political and Security Committee (PSC) on the 8th of July 2024. The EOD team is one of the EOD teams of the Hellenic Land minefield Clearance and EOD Battalion which is based in Athens and established in 1954. The unit's EOD personnel counter on a daily base a lot of EOD and unexploded ordnance (UXO) incidents throughout all the Hellenic territory. EOD teams of the Hellenic Armed Forces have been deployed in the past in a great number of international operations (ex. Afghanistan,

Albania, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina in the past).

- A Logistic Support team.
- A Transportation Support team.
- A Communication Systems Operator Support team.
- A MEDICAL team. Their mission is to provide medical support to the Hellenic Company. Their daily routine is the soldier's examination and the support of exercises and missions and shooting drills.

On 10 July 2024 the Hellenic Manoeuvre Coy alongside with the Light Infantry Platoon of the Armed Forces of the Republic of North Macedonia successfully completed the certification exercise to confirm the Full Operational Capability (FOC). FOC means that a contingent has passed all the necessary orientation and pre-deployment training and is now fully capable of deploying with MNBN to fulfill any operation in accordance with the mandate from the UN for supporting the local authorities in maintaining a safe and secure environment (SASE).

This exercise took place in the around area of Camp Butmir, outside Sarajevo and the forces went through a large variety of different serials testing such as CRC, first aid, mobility and communications capability with vehicles, radios and interoperability with helicopter assets, this latter means that they are capable of, among others, medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) by air.

Greece is fully committed to support BiH authorities in maintaining secure and stable environment (SASE).

The Greek Company is very grateful to be part in this EU mission and looking forward to increase its interoperability with all the other Armed Forces of the Operation ALTHEA in BiH.

NO ONE STAYS BEHIND!



Members of the medical team



Drone operator



Members of EOD

Time to celebrate!



Portuguese national week opening ceremony



All members of EUFOR could try the Portuguese cuisine.

The new tradition of celebrating national weeks has continued in Camp Butmir over the past two months. During this time Belgium, France, Italy and Portugal all hosted their national weeks which gave the soldiers of EUFOR the opportunity to learn about and experience the cultures and traditions of these countries.

The Portuguese National days is celebrated on the 10th of June and the Portuguese national week was centered around this date. This week presented an opportunity for the soldiers of EUFOR to experience and learn about Portuguese culture. Over this week a flag raising event was hosted for the opening and closing ceremonies, a Portuguese reception was hosted as well as Portuguese food being served in DFAC so that all members of EUFOR could try the Portuguese cuisine!

The French contingent's national week was conducted in conjunction with their Bastille Day celebrations. During this week a wreath laying ceremony was held as well as a flag raising ceremony during opening and closing events. A sports challenge called 'Challenge Gaulois' was also hosted which allowed all nationalities go head to head against each other. During this week a screening of the movie 'Quai d'Orsay' was also held and the week concluded with the Bastille Day Ball.

The Belgian national week was centred around the 21 July which is the Belgian National Day. During this week a flag raising ceremony was hosted as part of the opening and closing event, Belgian social evening was hosted and soldiers in Camp Butmir also had the opportunity to learn more about Belgium through the photos displayed in the DFAC.

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H.E. François Delmas, ambassador of France to BiH



French flag raising ceremony



The Belgian national week opening ceremony



Belgian flag raising

These weeks allow all people serving and working in Camp Butmir to learn more about each others cultures and we are all looking forward to learning more as the year progresses and more national weeks are held.

The Italian National week involved a number of different events which allowed the soldiers in Camp Butmir to experience the Italian culture. During this week a commemoration for fallen Italian Soldiers was held along with a flag raising ceremony during opening and closing event. Sports events during the week including beach volleyball and table soccer competition were held and the Italian contingent also hosted a pasta making class and pizza & pasta party. The week concluded with an Italian disco evening. These events really gave the soldiers serving in Camp Butmir an opportunity to embrace the Italian culture.



Pasta making class

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Volleyball competition



H.E. Marco Di Ruzza, ambassador of Italy to BiH

Visit to the Srebrenica Memorial Centre



COM EUFOR paid his respects to the victims

Srebrenica Massacre

Almost 30 years ago, in July 1995, the Bosnian Serb army overran the town of Srebrenica, which was previously declared a safe area by the United Nations Security Council, and brutally murdered over 8,000 Bosniak men and boys there, and expelled 20,000 people from the town.

History of the Memorial Center

In October 2000, Wolfgang Petritsch, the High Representative for Bosnia and Herzegovina,

declared that the land in Potočari was to be turned into a memorial and cemetery for the victims of the genocide. As a result, The Srebrenica Genocide Memorial, officially known as Srebrenica–Potočari Memorial and Cemetery for the Victims of the 1995 Genocide, was created in October 2000. The memorial center consists of two parts, a cemetery west of road R453 linking Bratunac and Srebrenica, and a museum in the pre-war battery factory, which served as the headquarters of the Dutch UNPROFOR battalion during the siege of Srebrenica, east of

the road. The cemetery holds over 6000 graves. Private groups and governments funded memorial-cemetery complex with donations.

COM EUFOR at Memorial

An annual memorial is held on July 11 known as the “International Day of Reflection and Commemoration of the 1995 Genocide in Srebrenica,” On 11 July 2024, COM EUFOR Major General László Sticz attended the commemoration at Srebrenica Memorial Center.

He paid his respects to the victims and signed the book of mourning.

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COM EUFOR signs the book of mourning



COM EUFOR attends annual commemoration

Visit calendar



July 4

COM EUFOR Major General László Sticz visited the 4th Brigade of AFBiH in Čapljina that recently concluded EX Dynamic Response where their operational capabilities were successfully demonstrated. COM EUFOR and the Brigade leadership discussed tasks & challenges of the unit and fields of cooperation.



July 12

COM EUFOR Major General László Sticz continued his engagement with officials from the international community by hosting office calls with RADM Jeanette Morang, Director of Joint Operations of the Dutch Armed Forces.



July 17

A large group of Italian school kids visited Camp Butmir to learn more about how EUFOR supports the local authorities and population of Bosnia and Herzegovina and also, about the various capabilities the Italian Armed Forces contributes to EUFOR. They also had the chance to meet DCOM EUFOR Brigadier General Lorenzo Dal Maso, highest ranking Italian officer of EUFOR and several members of the Italian contingent. It has been an educational and fun day for all participants!



July 25

Commander of EUFOR Major General László Sticz had an office call with Chief of Defence of the Austrian Armed Forces General Rudolf Striedinger.

During this meeting they discussed the current situation in BiH and Major General Sticz thanked Austria for the contribution that they are making to EUFOR



July 31

The Commander and Deputy Commander of EUFOR Major General László Sticz and Brigadier General Lorenzo Dal Maso recently visited TRB Defense Solutions in Bratunac.

Here the commanders had the opportunity to receive briefs and view the equipment that this company manufactures. This was a great opportunity for EUFOR to gain an insight into the defence industry of BiH.

Theatre festival and a LOT house Open day



Vehicle on display



LOT member at the theatre festival

16

EUFOR’s Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT) are a key asset to EUFOR. LOT houses are located all over the country of Bosnia and Herzegovina and serve as EUFOR’s link to the local communities and authorities. They play a vital role in identifying threats to the safe and secure environment in BiH.

The LOTs carry out many meetings and activities. Recently LOT Vlasenica was involved in organising and conducting two events which included a theatre festival and a LOT House Open Day.

LOT Vlasenica in conjunction with Goethe-Institute conducted a theatre festival on the 8th June 2024. This event was held in High School Milorad Vlacic and brought together students from schools in the Federation of BiH and Republic of Sprska.

In advance of the festival twenty seven teachers from ten different schools were trained in area of theatre through two theatre workshops which were held on 27 January and 2nd March. These teachers then used their new skills to train their students to perform as part of this theatre festival. Equipment was also donated to ensure the schools had the necessary equipment to succeed in delivering these performances.

This event was also supported by OSCE and Lachen Helfen, which displays EUFOR’s ability to work with other organisations to bring together all citizens of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

LOT Vlasenica also hosted an open day for members of the public in June. This event was attended by many members of the local community. Activities on the day

included mine risk education display, an EUFOR quiz and catering by a local women’s association. . This was a great opportunity for the community in Vlasenica to learn more about the role of the LOT and also the role of EUFOR.



Food by local women’s association

'Friendship Run' in Gorazde



It was a beautiful sunny evening for the 'Friendship Run' which was held in Gorazde on Saturday 27th July 2024. This was a five kilometre race which all members of the community got involved in this event. There was a great turnout for the event with over three hundred adults and two hundred and fifty children registering to take part. EUFOR's Liaison and Observation Teams (LOT) are EUFOR's link to local communities and authorities it was great to see that members from LOT Visegrad, participate. These EUFOR soldiers were joined by a number of EUFOR comrades from EUFOR Headquarters.

This run was designed to enhance friendship and was the opening event for the traditional Gorazde Friendship Festival. A great day out was had by all involved!



Iron challenge for BiH



HQ team at the start line!

18

Blood, sweat and tears were seen during EUFOR's 1st Iron challenge for BiH which was held in Camp Butmir on 26th of July.

The event was organized by the Italian contingent serving as part of Operation Althea. This challenge took the form of a military test designed to improve squad team

building, resistance capacity and mental strength.

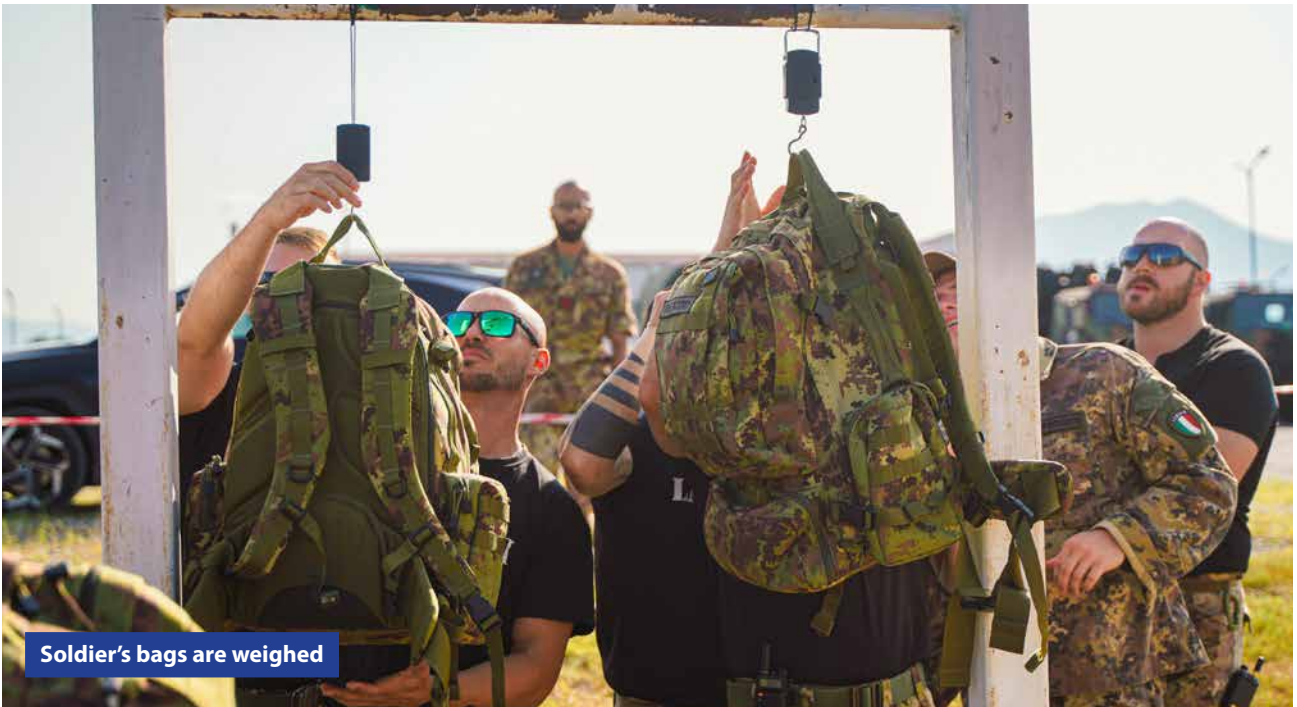
Each team, made up of six people, was required to overcome four demanding trials. The first trial consisted of the team undertaking a 2350 metre road march with each team member carrying a 10 kg backpack and wearing national

BDU and boots. Trial two consisted of flipping a 100kg truck tire a 100 metres in pairs. The third trial involved a 100 metre buddy body and finally the fourth trial consisted of another 2350 metre run but this time in running shoes.

All Troop Contributing Nations were invited to participate in



French team at the finish line



Soldier's bags are weighed

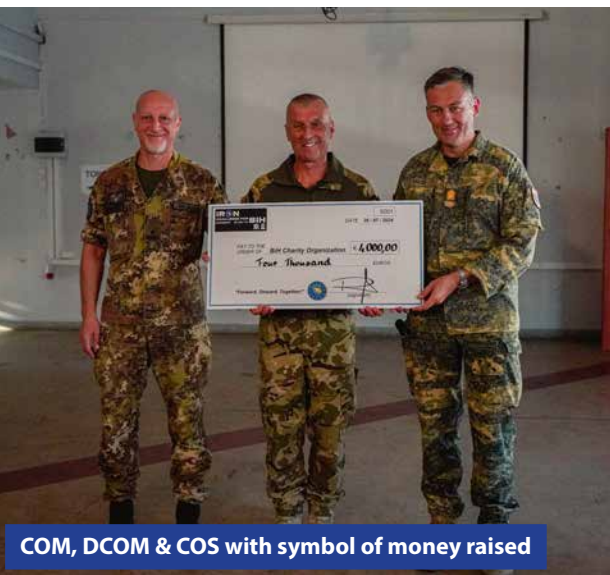
this event where national teams competed against each other for the winning title and at the same time raised money to support a charitable foundation. Supporters could also buy a T-shirt to contribute to the fund raising.

Teams from Austria, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Romania, a HQ team and a team from the Armed Forces of BiH participated in this event. There was stiff competition throughout the event however the Netherlands came out on top with Italy coming in second and the HQ Team coming in third. A great day was had by all who attended the event and in total €4000 was raised for charity.

Thank you to our Italian comrades for organizing such an amazing event!



AF BiH team



COM, DCOM & COS with symbol of money raised



Austrian team



EUFOR EXERCISE QUICK RESPONSE



24 AUGUST - 16 SEPTEMBER 2024

EUFORBiH.org



FORWARD
ONWARD
TOGETHER

20
years

EUFOR
BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA