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FAREWELL ADDRESS OF MAJOR GENERAL
DIETER HEIDECKER

HISTORY OF THE ALTHEA OPERATION



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IMPRESSUM

**Headquarters EUFOR,
Public Affairs Office**
Camp Butmir, Sarajevo,
71000 Bosna i Hercegovina
E-mail: teme@eufor.europa.eu
Web: www.euforbih.org

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Find us on:



Editorial Staff: Almina Bašić

Public Affairs Office:

Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Pehr,
Lieutenant Commander Pippa Routledge,
Captain Nicolai Tschol

Layout & design: Hadžović Dženan

Photos: Warrant Officer Herbert Pendl, Historical Office

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Dear readers

On 17 December I will handover the Command of EUFOR ALTHEA after two years. When I look back at my service as Commander of EUFOR, it is with a sense of pride. I have summarised EUFOR's activity and progress over the last 2 years later on page 6 of the magazine and look back with satisfaction at what we have achieved together. December 2014 also marks the 10th birthday of EUFOR. Our mission began on 2 December 2004, when EU-led EUFOR took over from NATO-led SFOR. Our focus has also changed in that time, with a notable change occurring in 2012 when we began our Capacity Building and Training programme for the Armed Forces of BiH. You can read more about the history and developments of the mission throughout the magazine.



Major General Dieter Heidecker

I have been very fortunate in my role to have been able to travel across all regions of this beautiful country and meet a large number of local people: the warmth, friendship and generosity of everyone I have met here will leave a lasting impression. Sarajevo has been my home for two years now and I will be sorry to say farewell. I will follow Bosnia and Herzegovina's developments with interest, it is clear to me that the future prosperity of BiH lies within the European Union and I hope that following the formation of a new government, efforts will be renewed to reinvigorate the country's progress towards this goal.

Yours Sincerely,

*Major General
Dieter Heidecker
Commander EUFOR*

PSC and EUFOR Operation Commander visited Krupa ammunition storage site and EUFOR Headquarters

EUFOR's Operation Commander, General Sir Adrian Bradshaw, and the Ambassadors of the EU Political and Security Committee (PSC) visited 'Krupa'-Hadžići ammunition storage site on 21 November 2014.

The PSC delegation and General Bradshaw were accompanied by Commander EUFOR, Major General Dieter Heidecker. The group was given a brief by a member of the Armed Forces BiH Task Force who described the roles and responsibilities of his team in maintaining a safe and secure site.

The PSC meets at the ambassadorial level as a preparatory body for the Council of the EU. Its main functions are keeping track of the international situation and helping to define policies within the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP). It prepares a coherent EU response to a crisis and exercises its political control and strategic direction.

EUFOR conducts training with AFBiH at Dubrave

Soldiers from EUFOR's British sub-unit have recently conducted recce training with Armed Forces BiH at Dubrave barracks at Tuzla. Both AFBiH and EUFOR soldiers enjoyed the opportunity to interact and share their experiences.



PSC Ambassadors and General Bradshaw were also welcomed to EUFOR Headquarters with an introductory address from Major General Dieter Heidecker, Commander EUFOR. The guests were told about EUFOR's role in BiH, including details of the assistance given to local authorities to maintain a safe and secure environment and the training activities for Armed Forces BiH.

PSC Ambassadors and General Bradshaw also witnessed a static display by soldiers from EUFOR's Multinational Battalion and from EUFOR's British sub-unit, who arrived in July of this year to enhance existing EUFOR capabilities.





EUFOR Commander lectures at Sarajevo University

Commander EUFOR gave a lecture on “The Common Security and Defence Policy of the European Union and EUFOR’s role in Bosnia and Herzegovina” on 17 November 2014.

At the beginning of his lecture, the Commander thanked the President of Sarajevo University, Professor Muharem Avdispahić and the Academic Senate for giving him the opportunity to talk with the students of the university.

The Commander explained the importance of EUFOR’s role in Bosnia and Herzegovina, saying: “EUFOR still has an executive military role, which is to support Bosnia and Herzegovina’s authorities to maintain the safe and secure environment. The main focus of EUFOR ALTHEA since 2012 has

moved to its non-executive role. In line with the UN Security Council Mandate and the Conclusions of the EU Foreign Affairs Council, EUFOR assists the AF BiH in Capacity Building and Training in order to increase their professionalism, self-sustainability and interoperability at an international level. The participation of the AF BiH in international peacekeeping missions is an indicator of success: BiH is moving from a ‘security consumer’ to a ‘security provider’”.

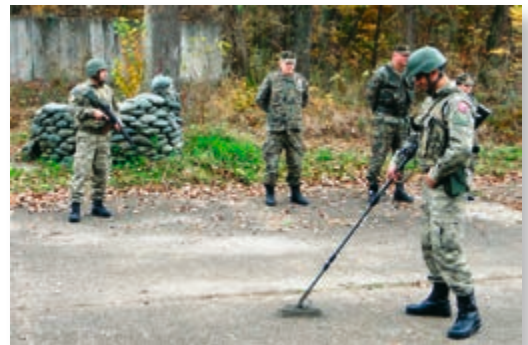
Major General Dieter Heidecker has been Force Commander of the EU Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Operation “ALTHEA”, since 3 December 2012. One month before he concludes his tour of duty, he shared his experience and knowledge on the above mentioned topics, including the diplomatic roles played by organisations within BiH, with Sarajevo University students and professors.

AFBiH and Multinational Battalion Combined Training

The Turkish Platoon from the Multinational Battalion conducted peacekeeping training with the Armed Forces of BiH from 10 to 14 November 2014. The week long training took place in Tuzla Canton, with a goal to teach the Bosnian troops how to execute peace supporting tasks in line with international standards.

Night Operations

Overnight on the third day, the soldiers applied their skills during a night operation. “Since the profession of a soldier entails the requirement for each and everyone to be able to operate under severe weather conditions and at any time, it is paramount to train in the dark as



well. Following the idea of “Arming with knowledge” it is our obligation to provide the BiH soldiers the best training possible”, said the training officer in charge, First Lieutenant Tok from the Turkish Army.

Farewell Address



On 17 December 2014 Major General Dieter Heidecker completes his two year engagement in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the following statement he highlights the progress made in supporting the BiH authorities to maintain a safe and secure environment in BiH, as well as the Capacity Building and Training support given to the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF BiH). Commander Heidecker also shared for TEME his views on the future of Bosnia and Herzegovina and gave a retrospective view of the time he spent here as Commander EUFOR.

*Major General Dieter Heidecker,
COM EUFOR 2012-2014*

Looking back at my two years of service as COM EUFOR, I would like to highlight the most important achievements of my tenure, taking into consideration both aspects of EUFOR's mandate, i.e. the executive mandate of supporting the efforts of the BiH's authorities to maintain a safe and secure environment and also the non-executive mandate of providing capacity building and training support to the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AF BiH).

With regard to the first aspect, EUFOR further developed the concept of "over the horizon" reserve forces, implementing joint training of EUFOR's Intermediate Reserve (IR) companies with the AF BiH and enhanced its situational awareness, fostering its capacities to liaise with local authorities and to process information.

In the field of Capacity Building and Training, EUFOR launched initiatives to support the AF BiH in advancing the safety of Weapon and Ammunition Storage Sites and in disposing of surplus ammunition and explosives, providing expertise and training to commissioned and non-commissioned officers.

Over the past couple of months, EUFOR has held a number of training conferences to establish the programme for next year's capacity building and training schedule to ensure that the increased military skills training requirements of AF BiH are met. EUFOR will continue to arm AF BiH with knowledge, so that they can deploy and positively contribute to international missions abroad. Where opportunity has allowed, EUFOR has also maximized the opportunities for civil and military cooperation, by assisting in the training of local organisations

such as the Mostar and Zenica mountain rescue teams. The exchange of information and shared experiences provided by such training serials are beneficial for all participants.

The successful transformation of the 2014 operational rehearsal into a flood relief operation following the disastrous floods of May and June this year, involving three of EUFOR's IR companies and the AF BiH, clearly demonstrated EUFOR's readiness to assist the population of BiH. It also showed the progress achieved by the AF BiH in terms of military interoperability and disaster relief capacity in the service of the BiH citizens. Their excellent work, in such a time of need, showed that AF BiH can be considered much more than just an army and where the situation is sufficiently serious, assist in humanitarian assistance at home to support the local authorities when requested.

All this has been done with the assistance and in coordination with EUFOR's partners in the local institutions and the international community. Of particular importance is the strengthening of the EU comprehensive approach through a tight cooperation between EUFOR and the European Union Special Representative, demonstrating the unity of policies that inspire the EU's military and civilian presence in BiH.

When I took over this Command, in December 2012, I did so with the firm intent to commit myself entirely to this EU-led mission, to the women and men under my command and to the people of BiH. Now the time has come to say farewell and to express my profound gratitude to all the institutions and people that helped me to pursue these goals.

Thank you!



New EUFOR Althea Commander

Major General Johann Luif from the Austrian Army assumes command over the European Union Forces in Bosnia And Herzegovina on 17 December 2014. After graduating from the Military Academy and the General Staff Course at the Austrian National Defence Academy he held a number of duties and military service positions. These included being the Chief Armament within the Armament Planning Division, the Deputy Chief Defence Planning Division in the Austrian Ministry of Defence and the appointment as Commanding General of the Burgenland Military Command. In 2000 Major General Luif was appointed as Commander of the Austrian Contingent in Kosovo, ten years later he assumed the position of the Deputy Commander KFOR (Kosovo Forces) from 2011 to 2012. Major General Luif will take over the new function from Major General Dieter Heidecker who has been COM EUFOR since 2012.



The Dayton Peace Agreement

There are several reasons that contributed to the ending of the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina the major ones being the military situation in 1995 and the more determined influence of NATO and its international partners, primarily the USA. The result of these developments was the General Framework Agreement for Peace (GFAP) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, also known as the Dayton Peace Agreement.

The agreement was negotiated at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base near Dayton, Ohio and formally signed in Paris by the Presidents of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Republic of Croatia and the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 14 December 1995. It put an end to the three and half year long war in BiH.

The agreement mandated a wide range of international organisations to monitor, oversee and implement components of the agreement. A NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) was deployed on 20 December 1995, to implement the military aspects of the GFAP.

The Office of the High Representative was created as an international body responsible for implementing the civilian aspects of the Dayton Peace Agreement.

From 1995 to 2014

In December 1995, the UN Security Council had sanctioned the establishment of IFOR, a 60,000 strong multinational "Implementation Force" under NATO command with a one-year mandate. IFOR's specific role was to implement the military Annexes of The General Framework Agreement for Peace (GFAP), or Dayton Agreement, in Bosnia and Herzegovina. When IFOR was succeeded by the NATO Stabilization Force (SFOR), on 21 December 1996, the number of troops had decreased to approximately 30,000.

Following a decision of the Council of the European Union, a European Union Force (EUFOR) replaced NATO-led SFOR, on 2 December 2004. Initially, Operation ALTHEA consisted of 7,000 troops. Ten years later continuous reconfigurations led to a number of 600 remaining troops. Nevertheless, this number is flexible and can be adjusted whenever the situation requires. The decision whether the international military presence in BiH is still needed is taken by the UN Security Council. Its mandate is renewed on a yearly basis, the latest on 11 November 2014.



An important feature of the EUFOR Althea mission is that it operates under the Berlin Plus framework. Under this arrangement EUFOR can utilize NATO assets and rely on NATO reserves. Currently it is the only EU military mission within "Berlin Plus".

Troop strength reduced from IFOR to EUFOR





Althea – the largest military operation that the EU has launched to date

On 2 December 2014 EUFOR celebrates its tenth birthday. The decision by the European Union to launch Operation Althea followed the decision by NATO to conclude its successful SFOR operation and on 2 December 2004 EUFOR replaced SFOR in BiH.





On the path to European Integration

Ten years ago, the European Union deployed 7,000 soldiers to the EUFOR Althea operation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, to ensure continued compliance with the Dayton Peace Agreement and to contribute to a safe and secure environment in BiH. It is the largest military operation that the EU has embarked upon to date. Today this multinational EU Force is formed from soldiers from 22 contributing nations. 17 are members of the European Union with the additional contributing troops from Albania, Chile, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Switzerland and Turkey.

The European Military Force is a manifestation of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). CSDP is intended to serve the wider purposes of the EU's Common Foreign Security Policy (CFSP). The CFSP, in addition to the objective of strengthening

the security of the Union in all ways, also has a prime objective of preserving peace and strengthening international security in accordance with the principles of the United Nations Charter.

EUFOR's main priority was to achieve a seamless transition and in particular to reassure those who feared the departure of NATO as the UN-mandated peace-keeping mission might lead to a reduction of security and deterrence. Both objectives were fully achieved, not least because both, EU and NATO, planned meticulously for the transfer. Subsequently EUFOR has built on this early success, winning a generally supportive press and public and establishing close working relations with other members of the EU family, the international community and with the local authorities.



EUFOR's visibility, credibility and perceived robustness and hence its contribution to deterrence and reassurance, was ensured in the beginning by the operations and activities carried out by the Task Forces, the Integrated Police IPU and the LOT houses on the ground. The whole series of operations carried out, whether Harvests, Spring Cleans, Sunburn or Stable Door, were not only intended to achieve their intended objectives but also serve a wider purpose as well. They also supported, encouraged and emboldened the local law enforcement, put pressure on the criminal networks and helped change local attitudes towards criminality and poor governance. EUFOR has played a role in all these positive developments and throughout the years transferred these responsibilities to the local authorities.

Althea is regarded by many as the Greek goddess of healing. Operation ALTHEA will now assist the healing of the country and all its people.



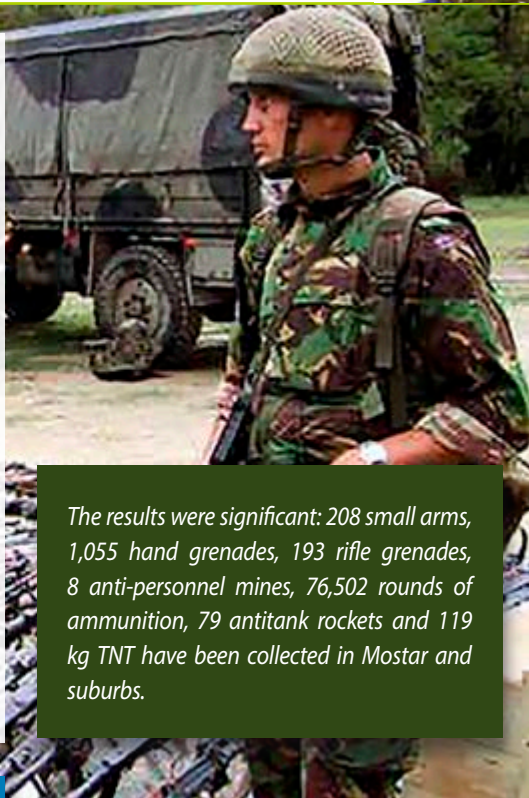
Give Peace A Chance

Establishment of EUFOR ALTHEA

- New troop strength 7,000

Operation Free Entrance – the Harvest Operation

To create a safe and secure environment of sustained peace, preventing a resumption of violence, was one of EUFOR's key objectives that were carried out by the Multinational Task Forces (MNTF), all over BiH. An impressive amount of ammunition and weapons were collected by the Task Forces, supporting civilian authorities who organised and developed this operation to make people aware of the necessity of handing in their weapons and to give a clear statement that we must all work together to "give peace a chance".



The results were significant: 208 small arms, 1,055 hand grenades, 193 rifle grenades, 8 anti-personnel mines, 76,502 rounds of ammunition, 79 antitank rockets and 119 kg TNT have been collected in Mostar and suburbs.



Success story LOT Houses

From the beginning, in 2004, Liaison and Observation Teams (LOTs) were a characteristic feature of EUFOR. LOTs live in a community with the local population, keeping contact with the BiH authorities and citizens and providing situational awareness to EUFOR Headquarters. The number of LOTs has varied over the years, reaching the peak with 46 houses and decreasing to 17 houses today, their members still take the pulse on the ground and assist in maintaining a peaceful and safe environment.



Major General David Leakey

First Operational Rehearsal

Quick Reinforcement by Over the Horizon Forces

EUFOR and NATO troops demonstrated the integration and close cooperation between both organisations, showing that these forces are capable of deploying at relatively short notice to reinforce EUFOR in its area of operations.

Spring Clean – EUFOR’s contributing to the fight against organised crime in BiH

Spring Clean was designed to detect and disrupt illegal activities by those involved in organised crime and corruption. Although EUFOR was not deployed in BiH as a police force and the primary responsibility for fighting organised crime lies with the country’s

law enforcement agencies (LEA’s) , including the local police, the State Border Service (SBS) and the Indirect Taxation Authority (ITA), EUFOR was here to help to set conditions, so that these agencies could do their jobs more successfully.

Since June 2005 EUFOR and AFBiH teams have conducted inspections of military sites jointly

NATO and EUFOR start to give the instructions on demining, movement control of weapons, ammunition and military equipment and management of military sites, sensitive government sites and defense industries. This process is still ongoing.



Memorandum of Understanding between EUFOR and BiH State Prosecution on the cooperation in investigations of serious International Humanitarian Law violations

Camp Closure

September Filipovići, Camp Owner: **Germany**

October Dobojo, North Pole Barracks, Camp Owner: **Poland**





14th December BiH has signed PfP – Partnership For Peace. This represented positive development for the country and one of achieved goals of BiH on the road to NATO.

New troop strength 6,300

The European Union decided in Brussels to reduce EUFOR's size but to keep an appropriate robust military presence as part of its overall engagement in BiH, contributing to the maintenance of the safe and secure environment. Under the transition plan EUFOR retained approximately 2,500 troops in BiH, able to respond should the security situation require it. With the Multinational Battalion and Integrated Police Unit, the LOT's, as well as the reserve over horizon forces, EUFOR was still able to respond throughout the country and to provide reassurance.

Bosnia and Herzegovina controls its sky

BiH took over from EUFOR the responsibility for its airspace at and above 3,000 meters. As BiH did not have the necessary equipment, the middle sky, from 3,000 to 8,000 meters, was controlled by Zagreb and Belgrade. EUFOR retained the control of the lower sky, up to 3,000 meters.

With the support of EUFOR Joint Armed Forces at state level have been created. Their Operational Command is located with EUFOR at Camp Butmir.

Camp Closure

June Italian Troops left Marshall Tito barracks. COM EUFOR handed over the barracks to the rector of the Sarajevo University.



Rear Admiral Hans-Jochen Witthauer



Customised Force Structure

Downsizing to 2,500 troops

EUFOR troops were principally located in three main areas of the country

Thanks to the improving security situation in BiH over the years, EUFOR troops have been slowly reorganised leading to a lower number of soldiers. 3 multinational combat groups – Multinational Task Forces, which were based in Banja Luka, Mostar and Tuzla and represented the strong manoeuvre components of EUFOR consisting of almost 4,000 soldiers, have started reducing their troops in order to close and hand over the camps to the BiH authorities.

Task Forces disbanded

Multi-National Task Force (North) – some 1,300 personnel based in Tuzla

Multi-National Task Force (North West) – some 1,000 personnel based in Banja Luka

Multi-National Task Force (South East) – some 1,400 personnel based in Mostar

Camp Closure 2007

- November** *Rajlovac, Camp Owner: Germany*
- November** *Camp Tuzla (handover/takeover): Austria*
- October** *Mostar/Ortije, Camp Owner: France*
- July** *Tuzla Eagle Base – Camp Owner: Greece*
- June** *Zenica AF BA Barracks, (Turkish Contingent handed over the Zenica metal factory earlier), Camp Owner: Turkey*
- March** *Camp Dobojski – Camp Owner: Portugal*

Harvest and Storage of weapons and ammunition

After the closure of the Multinational Task Forces (MNTF), EUFOR's Joint Military Affairs (JMA) tasks were also defined as being almost all transferred, with AFBiH accepting full responsibility for the inspection and monitoring of altogether 39 Ammunition Storage Sites. While EUFOR still retained the right to conduct inspections and to authorise the movement of weapons and ammunition with BiH, the harvest of weapons fully transferred to local ownership.

- Harvest of weapons fully transferred to local ownership
- EUFOR countermines handed over to local ownership





Major General Martin Villalain



New era for EUFOR and AFBiH

EUFOR hands over Military Movement Control

After a Memorandum of Understanding had been signed by COM EUFOR Major General Ignacio Martin Villalain and Chief of the AFBiH Joint Staff, Lieutenant General Sifet Podžić, EUFOR formally handed over the responsibility of military movement control to AFBiH.

This memorandum allowed the AFBiH to take direct control of their own military movements of personnel, weapons and equipment. It meant that AFBiH had made a significant step in the ongoing Defence Reform Process that began in 1995 after the Dayton Peace Accord was signed.

Ammunition Storage Sites

The signing of this MoU represented another step forward in the recognition and capability for the AFBiH to become directly involved and responsible for the inspection and management of their ammunition storage sites.

Spectrum Authority

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on the use of Military Radio Frequencies was signed between Major General Slavko Puljic, the Deputy Chief of Joint Staff AFBiH and COM EUFOR, Major General Ignacio Martín Villalain. The signing of this MoU represented another step forward in the recognition and capability of the AFBiH to become directly responsible for another important aspect of military operations. Military Radio Frequencies play an important role in military communications and navigation.

January

EUFOR in Grief

The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia Mi-17 Helicopter that was returning home at the end of a mission crashed approximately six miles from Skopje near the village of Blace. On board the aircraft were eleven people who were all killed. They were all members of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia contingent who had completed their tour in EUFOR. EUFOR extended its condolences to the friends and family of those who were on board and we regret any loss of life.

June

German and Spanish soldiers die in helicopter crash

A EUFOR Helicopter crashed north of Travnik. The accident resulted in the tragic deaths of two German and two Spanish Soldiers. All who gave their lives for peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina will be forever in our memory.



School competition and EUFOR Cup – an overwhelming success

EUFOR Cup organised together with the Armed Forces of BiH, was the only youth soccer competition at the national level.

“The European Union and Bosnia and Herzegovina growing together”

To promote a stable, safe and secure BiH on the path to EU membership, EUFOR organised the School Competition and EUFOR Cup projects for the youth of BiH. These projects were organised with the aim to generate awareness amongst the young population

of BiH about the benefits of advancing towards EU integration. Thanks to the donations of the Embassies and other international organisations, the children and students were rewarded with excellent prizes, including trips abroad to various European cities.





More responsibilities handed over to local ownership

Downsizing to 2,200 troops

For a couple of years now, many functions and responsibilities in which IFOR/SFOR/EUFOR were in the lead, have been handed over to the Armed Forces BiH or other Bosnian authorities. One of the important matters for a Safe and Secure Environment are mine-clearance activities, which are now completely under the responsibility of the BiH Mine Action Centre (BHMAC), an instrument of the Ministry of Civil Affairs. The BHMAC uses a two-pillar system which includes commercial demining companies on one hand and the AFBiH capacities on the other. Since 1995, the AFBiH have been taking the lead to relieve BiH of this plague. With EUFOR monitoring and advising in this area, there was substantial co-operation with AFBiH.

Civilian Movement Control of Weapons and Military Equipment

Representatives of the Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH MoS), the Ministry of Interior of the Republika Srpska, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the BiH Federation, the Cantonal Ministries of Internal Affairs, the Police of Brcko District, the State Regulatory Agency for Radiation and Nuclear Safety and Commander EUFOR, Major General Stefano Castagnotto, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which regulates the future approvals for import, export, transit and internal shipment of weapons and military equipment, ammunition, dual use items and nuclear material for BiH and grants responsibility for these matters to BiH institutions.

This event was made possible because the key appropriate legislation has been adopted and the basic conditions for the transfer of authority have been met.

The signing of this MoU is undoubtedly a milestone which concludes a five month hand over – take over process. As a matter of fact it took BiH MoS, EUFOR Joint Military Affairs (JMA) and LEGAD offices more than 70 internal and external meetings to achieve the final versions of the MoU, to revise the Instruction to the Parties (ITP) and to work on the bylaws to the previously adopted law on regulating these matters.

Developing capabilities and procedures to control all matters related to movement of weapons and military equipment represents a step forward towards self-sustainability of BiH. This process also demonstrates the capability to make progress when the political will is acting responsibly. It also demonstrates the continued commitment of the BiH authorities and institutions and EUFOR in this case, to further advance the legislation in an area which is very much inter-linked to National Defence and international obligations and security for the citizens of this country.

NATO and EUFOR

The dedicated partners of AFBiH

Since the beginning of the military mission in BiH, the cooperation between EUFOR, NATO and AFBiH was excellent. NATO was putting enormous effort into the modernisation of the Armed Forces of BiH, in order to make them fit for full membership in the alliance and EUFOR's intention is to support this process by providing the opportunity to put the newly acquired knowledge into practice.





Men And Women
Together Win
Hearts And Minds



Nikolina Marčeta, EUFOR Gender Advisor

EUFOR Commitment to Gender Equality



Gender Awareness in Peace Support Operations (PSO) starts

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UN Development Fund for Women, the EU Police Mission and EUFOR aims at enhanced mutual understanding and cooperation between military and civilian police personnel and citizens, particularly women, in BiH. In marking the 10th Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, it is important to recognise it as one of the most important international mandates for enabling the full and equal participation of women in peace and security initiatives. It has facilitated the mainstreaming of gender issues in the context of armed conflict, peace-building and reconstruction processes.

Camp Closure 2010

December Sarajevo/Integrated Police Unit (IPU), Camp Owner : Italy

10th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security

Capacity Building and Training

In January 2010, the EU Foreign Affairs Council decided to add a non-executive mandate for Capacity Building and Training support to the executive mandate. A Memorandum of Understanding defined general conditions for Capacity Building and Training tasks including Mobile Training Teams (MTT) activities and participation of the AFBiH troops in EUFOR exercises and trainings coordinated by EUFOR.



Major General Bernhard Bair

Priority: Monitoring and Mentoring of Ammunition Storage Sites

At the Ammunition Storage Site Kula in Mrkonjić Grad, Major General Bernhard Bair, the Commander of EUFOR formally handed over the Project Soteria Report to Lieutenant General Miladin Miložčić, Chief of the Joint Staff Armed Forces BiH. The EUFOR led Project Soteria has been an assessment of six prospective Ammunition Storage Sites across BiH. These were the six facilities that had been used by AF BiH to store ammunitions. The assessment work has been conducted by a EUFOR team in partnership with AF BiH NATO and OSCE. For the project to be successful the BiH AF needs a sufficient budget to raise the standards of these facilities. Investment like this could deliver long term improvements of overall security for the people of BiH.



COM EUFOR Hands Over Ammunition Survey Documents



EUFOR available to support and assist when needed

Helicopter supports Search and Rescue operation near Međugorje

A EUFOR helicopter participated in a successful Search and Rescue operation south of Međugorje on 6 May. The EUFOR helicopter, an Austrian Agusta Bell 212, was able to locate the missing

female within 20 minutes. The Search and Rescue operation demonstrated the high-level of co-operation between EUFOR with the local Bosnian and Herzegovinian authorities, but also announced the future greater involvement of the local rescue services in life-saving operations.



Capacity Building and Training

Downsizing troops to 600

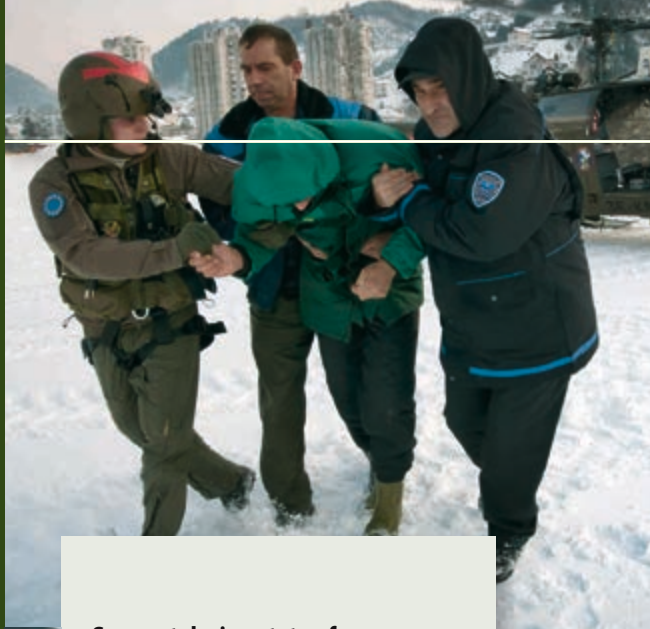
Working and learning together

The mission of Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) is to analyse, monitor, mentor and advise the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina to achieve a robust and self-sustaining capability to move the country towards EU integration.

For the first time in its mission, EUFOR personnel are working within the AFBiH structures, side by side with AFBiH counterparts, to make a joint effort in assisting the AFBiH to achieve their goals. This new approach demonstrates EUFOR's continuing commitment to support BiH and its Armed Forces.

Within a relatively short period, EUFOR has designed and delivered the new training concept with an emphasis on Mobile Training Teams and Embedded Advisory Teams working closely with the Armed Forces of BiH. Since the Executive Mandate remains, EUFOR has to rely on a more robust reserve structure including the rapid deployment of Intermediate Reserve Forces to BiH, in the event of an emergency.

In 2012, another restructuring process reduced EUFOR troop levels to a number of 600. EUFOR's main effort has now moved to capacity building by providing co-ordinated training support to the AF BiH. EUFOR reserves from several European nations came to BiH to conduct an ambitious collective training exercise with units of the Armed Forces BiH. Company commanders from several EU countries worked with their counterparts in the Armed Forces BiH, sharing their experience. The assignment of a new reserve force dedicated to BiH was designed to compensate for the recent reductions in EUFOR troop numbers and demonstrated the EU's on-going commitment to support BiH in maintaining a Safe and Secure Environment.



Support during state of emergency

EUFOR soldiers were often deployed to assist in different search and rescue operations, such as firefighting, helicopter evacuations and disaster relief activities. One of these operations took place in February 2012, when a family who had been completely cut off by snow was successfully rescued. The family was safely brought to EUFOR Camp Butmir and examined by EUFOR medical personnel before being taken to the hospital by local ambulance.





EXERCISE

QUICK RESPONSE
15 - 28 April 2013



Although the number of troops had been reduced a year earlier, EUFOR, in 2013, retained the capability to support peace and security in the country. In that spirit, the new Exercises "Quick Response 1 and 2" were organised in April and September demonstrating the ability of EUFOR to activate, quickly deploy and integrate its troops in and outside of BiH.

We were also focusing our efforts to strengthen the BiH Armed Forces through a robust capacity building and training program, to ensure BiH AF to develop as a modern force at the level required for Euro- Atlantic integration and to change from a security receiver to a security provider. A total of approximately 800 soldiers were involved in the conduct of the exercise.





Information Exchange Agreement Between EUFOR and Key BiH Law Enforcement Agencies

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between EUFOR and the 17 Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) in Bosnia and Herzegovina was signed at EUFOR Headquarters. This agreement formalises the cooperation between EUFOR and all BiH LEAs. Since the closure of the European Police Mission in 2012, information sharing has not reached the previous level attained. A platform was needed to facilitate an efficient method of information sharing with all agencies.

Project “Explode”

The EU, OSCE, UNDP and EUFOR cooperated in creating a safe environment for all the citizens of BiH! In partnership with the Ministry of Defense of BiH and other international actors in BiH, this common program would help to destroy some of the enormous quantity of military ammunition surplus in BiH – 17 tons.



Forest fire

Just like the previous year, EUFOR made strong contribution assisting the local agencies and community in fighting the massive forest fires during the summer season all over the region of Herzegovina



Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between EUFOR and the BiH Ministry of Defence

This MoU is now the principal agreement that provides the framework for co-operation between EUFOR and the MoD / Armed Forces of BiH and it consolidates and streamlines 9 previous agreements between these two parties.

It has taken almost two years to reach this stage but should bring immediate advantages to the working relationship, especially with EUFOR's capacity building and training programme for the Armed Forces and the common training serial 'Quick Response'. These kind of exercises enable the Armed

Forces to be used, not only for conventional military operations, but also for other domestic tasks, such as de-mining, medical evacuation, disaster relief and other Civilian and Military Cooperation (CIMIC) duties. This 'dual use of forces' is the most economical way of running the military and further contributes to a safer and more secure BiH, which will in turn lead to greater economic development in the country.



Saving Lives

900 rescued and over 40 having emergency treatment

EUFOR has been helping to evacuate the population affected by floods in BiH. Timely movement and care has been provided by medical personnel to injured and sick people. The EUFOR medical evacuation team, consisting of three doctors and two flight rescuers, has provided immediate medical aid on the evacuation flights of the EUFOR helicopters. More than 40 civilians, including children and the older people, have received emergency treatment and have been transported to hospital.



Disaster Relief Exercise Joint Effort 14

Responding to the disastrous floods and resulting landslides in May 2014, EUFOR and the Armed Forces of BiH transformed their Military Exercise 'Quick Response 14' into the disaster relief exercise 'Joint Effort 14'. The aim was to assist civilians in areas affected by the natural disaster all around BiH. More than 750 members of AFBiH, around 450 EUFOR members with helicopters, trucks, engineering equipment and other resources participated.

To help where no one else can The dual use of forces concept

To protect people and to provide relief is an important task for armed forces. This can be done in various ways. "What the Armed Forces of BiH currently do and what EUFOR does is a good example for the dual use of forces. We use our soldiers, our knowledge and military equipment to relieve the people of this country now from the consequences of a natural disaster and so support our societies", said Major General Dieter Heidecker, Commander of EUFOR. Armed Forces have the necessary manpower, off-road trucks and other equipment to be able to operate in difficult terrain and so be used in these kinds of situations. It is essential for them to be trained and maintain resources to be more than just an army when working for the benefit of their people.



Building the European Path

EUFOR has come a long way since 2004 with its UN mandated foundation and a primary objective of providing a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) for the population of BiH. Capacity Building and Training support to the AFBiH has now become a main focus for Operation Althea. Being the military part of the EU comprehensive approach in BiH, EUFOR Althea closely cooperates with the EU Special Representative, who represents the political part and the EU Delegation, who represents the economic part. The level of integration achieved between the military and the civilian component is what makes each component stronger and demonstrates beyond doubt the EU's commitment to assist BiH on a path to European integration.



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