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23rd January 2016 DCOM KFOR visiting members of the HSG Guard Platoons at Camp “Film City” in Pristina.
As we enter into the New Year, I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one for their service to KFOR. I feel confident, as we go into this New Year, that we will continue the great work for the people of Kosovo.

I reflect with great pride the contribution that KFOR has made since 1999, and on the progress that I continue to witness as I travel around Kosovo and meet with various leaders and representatives. KFOR continues to play a key role in maintaining a safe and secure environment, free from the threats of violence, and the freedom of movement, so the people of Kosovo can continue to progress forward.

Thank you for your care and vigilance shown every day for the KFOR mission and for the people of Kosovo. Each of you perform an important role, and I am proud to lead you into the future. As you may be aware, Kosovo is facing some challenges and I am confident that we are ready to handle any situation we may face. KFOR's presence continues to contribute to the important role of regional security in the Balkans.

Soldiers of KFOR, you represent your countries with great pride and honour. I want to wish each and every one the best as you continue your KFOR tour and we continue the great KFOR achievements into 2016 and continue to “Shape the Change” for the people of Kosovo.

Guglielmo Luigi Miglietta
Major General
COM KFOR
On the 10th of January 2016, the Danish Platoon which is responsible for providing security at Camp “Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny” (CMLT) in Novo Selo, organized the famous 25 Km “Dancon March”. This is a tradition that started almost 45 years ago. The march was first organized in 1972 in Cyprus and since then, Danish contingents serving overseas have continued the tradition wherever they are deployed.

The Danes have organised marches in Kosovo, Afghanistan, Iraq, Eritrea, Estonia, Lebanon and also in other areas of the Balkans. The “Dancon March” is more than just a physical challenge; its main purpose is to raise funds for the Danish Veteran’s Organization. The Danish Veteran's Organization supports Danish soldiers that were injured while on international operations and now are battling with either physical and/or psychological injuries inflicted during their service.

The participation by EULEX and KSF personnel was particularly welcome. Nine hundred and eighty three (983) participants from eighteen (18) nations proved the event remains hugely popular with KFOR’s troops. The numbers of participants was higher than this time last year, even though the weather and the terrain were more challenging.

Preparation for the event started at 0700hrs when participants had to register and have their equipment weighed, to ensure that they had the mandatory 10kg of equipment.

Five water and snack posts along the route ensure that the participants remained hydrated.
and fuelled to complete the event. The participants had to face a 25km march in total, divided into two rounds of 12.5km. The main part of the route was on asphalt but there was also a portion on rough muddy terrain.

The first person to complete the march was OF-2 Christopher Robold from Germany, in a time of 02:27:14. Second was OR-9 Peter Krückl also from Germany, in a time of 02:28:15 and third was from Ukraine OF-1 Oleksandr Nedashkovskyi, in a time of 02:31:53.

Speaking after the event, the winner OF-2 Christopher Robold said that “the event was tough and I was really pushed all the way by the second and third place finishers”.

The prize for each of the participants that completed the march was a medal, a diploma and of course the joy of the participation!

Capt. Theofilos Sarampasinas
OF-2 GRC Army
Kosovo is a beautiful country and one of its most beautiful places is the municipality of Zubin Potoc with high forest-covered mountains, huge dams and Lake Gazevoda. Simultaneously, one gets both a sense of rugged beauty and a feeling of pastoral peace. Through this area lies one of the lifelines for Kosovo and KFOR alike, which is Main Supply Route (MSR) Hen. This is relied upon 24/7 to link families, communities, transport goods and commerce into and out of the region.

On one side of MSR Hen is rock, cliffs and forest; on the other side of the road is Lake Gazevoda. During its construction, it was necessary to build several tunnels, ten in total, through solid rock in order to complete the highway. Until a few weeks ago, tunnel four was just one more example of man’s ability to carve a route through this rugged terrain. However given the nature of the landscape, landslides can and do occur frequently. When landslides do occur the masses of jagged rock, crumbled earth and a mangled mixture of underbrush can create dangerous situations, with the potential to threaten the KFOR mission of ensuring a Safe and Secure environment and Freedom of Movement. This is exactly what occurred over the entrance to tunnel four, as heavy rain and ground erosion caused a massive boulder to slide down the hillside and hang menacingly over the entrance. The concern from the local population was real, as they travelled nervously underneath the six-ton boulder that appeared as if it could fall at any moment, without warning, potentially threatening lives and bringing traffic in both directions to a sudden, screeching halt.

KFOR engineers were apprised of the situation in early January 2016, and immediately the Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG), in cooperation with the Joint Engineer Branch from KFOR HQ, conducted a reconnaissance of the site. It was quickly learned that there were only a few options considered viable for the removal of the boulder. The first option involved destroying the boulder through a series of controlled detonations, was quickly determined to be too risky as it could threaten the structural stability of the tunnel. Another potential course of action was that of “gem hammering” which involves the use of electrical perforators to shatter and split the boulder into tiny pieces, which would then be hauled away in dump
trucks. This option was chosen for the removal of the boulder and the task was assigned to the newly arrived Ukrainian Engineering Platoon (from Okhtyrka, Ukraine), stationed at Camp “Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny” (CMLT).

Starting on 12th January 2016, a multinational group of engineers from the JLSG (UKR, CHE and AUT) led by Captain Yevhen Huska (UKR) took on the challenge of removing this hazard. The boulder however did not give up easily. The size, density and composition of the boulder was such that the jackhammers employed had limited success.

It was subsequently decided to employ a Swiss crane from the JLSG’s Multinational Transport Company, together with other engineering assets. The team created a channel on each end of the boulder to allow the positioning of slings to cradle the boulder which in turn allowed the crane to lift it off of the lintel of the tunnel and down to the side of the road, while Kosovo Police were controlling traffic to ensure the safety of vehicles using the route. Once the boulder was down, the team took advantage of the opportunity to remove the smaller remnants of the landslide to ensure no additional debris would fall off the edge of the tunnel onto the roadway below.

This project serves as an excellent example of a multinational effort to resolve a real life issue for the Institutions of Kosovo by modifying the landscape around the tunnel and literally living up to the KFOR motto “Shaping the Change”.

OF-3 Vlad Burnov
UKR-A
THE MERGER OF NAT AND NLAT

In December 2014 the North Atlantic Council (NAC) at NATO Headquarters in Brussels decided to merge both NATO teams responsible for the development of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF), the NATO Advisory Team (NAT) and the NATO Liaison and Advisory Team (NLAT), into one single entity. After many hours of talks within the Operation Policy Committee (OPC) the NAC in January 2016 agreed on the Terms of Reference for the new organisation, to be known as the NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT).

The NAT has given advice at the KSF ministerial level since January 2008 when the KSF was first formed from the Kosovo Protection Corps. The current director is Dominic-Haydn Braithwaite (UK). He took over responsibility on 2nd February 2015. There are 15 military/civilian advisors in the team and they represent seven different nations (Albania, Croatia, Latvia, Slovenia, Sweden, United Kingdom, and United States). Prior to taking up this position in Kosovo he was the UK Government’s Regional Conflict Adviser for the Western Balkans based in Belgrade and covered Bosnia and Herzegovina, FYROM*, Kosovo, and Serbia. Mr Braithwaite said: “The NAT has had a long and close relationship with the Ministry for Kosovo Security Force since its inception in 2008 when the Ministry consisted of no more than a very small handful of people. Since then the NAT has been alongside the KSF in its development, providing key strategic and policy advice and assistance. Where the KSF is today is down to the commitment of all those Kosovo men and women – irrespective of ethnicity – in developing a Security Force of

* The NATO/UN official name is “the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (FYROM). Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.
which the Kosovo Government and public can be proud. NATO is also proud to have been an instrumental player and partner in this process.”

The NLAT was established on 4th July 2013 after KFOR’s Military Civil Advisory Division (MCAD) completed its mission in mentoring the KSF to reach full operational capability (FOC). NLAT continued to advise KSF on Brigade level and above to support capacity building, education and training. Brigadier General Stefan Linus Fix is the director of the 35 military and civil NLAT staff seconded by 14 different nations. According to General Fix “the establishment of NLAT was a major step forward in the relationship between NATO and KSF. After declaration of FOC the focus was shifted from a mentoring to an advisory role. Military advice continuously supports the professional development of KSF being an instrument of security in support of the institutions in Kosovo.” In Germany General Fix is the Head of the Capability Management Division, Defense Plans and Policy Directorate in the Federal Ministry of Defence in Bonn. He is going to hand over his responsibility in February 2016 to his successor Brigadier General Ernst-Peter Horn.

Like both organisations before, the NALT will be under direct command of higher NATO HQs. However the organisation will continue to work in close cooperation with KFOR who will also be responsible for providing logistical and infrastructure support to the new organisation.

Brigadier General Fix and Mr Braithwaite both agree that the coming months will be challenging. “The transition has to be planned carefully. Structure and resources should fit NATO’s approach towards the Western Balkans but most importantly should be tailored to meet KSF needs. As such the NALT will continue to play an important role in delivering direct expert military and civilian, advice, assistance, and guidance to all levels of the Kosovo Security Force – including the Ministry – in order to ensure that the KSF continues to develop their capacities in line with Euro Atlantic Standards. Crucial to this will be the ongoing development of core KSF capabilities such as search and rescue as well as developing and embedding further core NATO values such as transparency, accountability, and integrity.” The new organisation is expected to be fully operational at the end of 2016.

Mr. Dominic-Haydn Braithwaite (UK)
Director NAT

&

Brigadier General Fix
Director NLAT
Today, the Aerial Port of Disembarkation (APOD) in Pristina remains a strategically important facility. Its primary purpose is for providing a safe and efficient APOD to allow troop contributing nations, to conduct their air transport and medical evacuation operations in support of KFOR’s mission.

The APOD is separate from the civilian terminal due to the volume and type of traffic it processes. The APOD has its own separate aircraft parking apron and passenger terminal. This allows KFOR to operate independently of the civilian airport, thus reducing our impact on the growing civilian side, which in 2015 processed over 1.5 million passengers. There is excellent co-operation between the civilian airport management and the staff of the APOD which ensures the airfield as a whole functions well.

Three KFOR personnel (GBR, CHE and CZE) run the APOD and are supported by a team of thirteen local staff. 2015 was one of the busiest and most eventful years at Pristina APOD. It saw a great deal of change in both infrastructure and in the tempo of operations. Overall, the APOD handled over 900 flights, 24,000 passengers and just under two million kilograms of cargo and mail in 2015.
It also received some exotic visitors, including the Antonov 124, which is the 4th biggest aircraft in the world. It also performed new operations such as the preparation for Multi-National Battle Group East’s (MNBG-E) parachute drop exercise.

The APOD also commissioned a new operations room which gives unparalleled views of the airport. The construction of the new Rotary Wing Deployed Operating Base (RWDOB) also started, which will make 2016 another busy year. The RWDOB will become the future base for KFOR helicopters and will allow KFOR to focus its airlift effort in one location. The RWDOB will be integrated into the APOD which will operate as a unified facility.

ICC-6 Lewis Smith
Airport Manager – Pristina
APOD
Pristina, 19 Jan 2016. KFOR Commander, Major General Guglielmo Luigi Miglietta, received, at KFOR Headquarters, the former UK Defense Secretary and former Secretary General of NATO, Lord George Robertson.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Mr. Miroslav Lajčak was welcomed to KFOR Headquarters by Kosovo Force Commander, Major General Guglielmo Luigi Miglietta.

Gjakova, 22 Jan 2016. Kosovo Force Commander, Major General Guglielmo Luigi Miglietta, visited and met the Mayor, Mrs. Mimoza Kusari-Lila, in the City Hall of the town.
Pristina, 22 Jan 2016. KFOR Commander, Major General Guglielmo Luigi Miglietta, received the British Ambassador to Kosovo, H.E. Mr Ruairí O’Connell, at KFOR Headquarters.

Pristina, 26 Jan 2016. Major General Guglielmo Luigi Miglietta, KFOR Commander, welcomes Admiral Ferguson to KFOR Headquarters at Camp Film City.

Camp Sparta, 28 Jan 2016. KFOR Commander, Major General Guglielmo Luigi Miglietta and NATO Assistant Secretary General for Operations, Mr. Patrick Turner.
Training and exercises are routine military activities for KFOR'S manoeuvre units and the KTM regularly conducts CRC training with other KFOR units. The main purpose of CRC exercises is to train and improve the capabilities of KFOR's units and to enhance KFOR's ability to maintain the readiness of troops. The harmonization of techniques, tactics and procedures between KFOR units is also an important learning outcome.

The scenario created as the fictional “backdrop” for this exercise was based on a rise of civil disturbances in different parts of Kosovo sparked by a natural disaster. The scale of the problem forced Kosovo Police (KP) to request support from the European Rule of Law in Kosovo (EULEX) as second responder, and KFOR as third responder.

Due to the large scale of the exercise, it was necessary to divide it into three different phases. The first phase was the “academic” phase, which consisted of different presentations on all forces involved, the organization, capabilities, procedures and also a static demonstration of vehicles,
equipment and weapons. This phase took place in the KTM camp, Camp Slim Lines (CSL) on 25 January. The second phase was held in Campo Vrelo, and was reserved for “cross training” to familiarize the different units with the procedures specific to each unit. Concurrently, a “table top” exercise challenged commanders to plan complex CRC operations in a dynamic operational environment.

The third phase was the Field Training Exercise (FTX) which took place on 27th January at Camp Bond Steel. It was an intense day of training and was full of opportunities for commanders and troops at all levels to practice CRC drills and decision making.

Working with different nations can be a challenge and it is only through practice and exercises that full interoperability can be achieved. The Tactics, Techniques and Procedures (TTPs) of the participating units were significantly enhanced by the end of this exercise. KFOR’s manoeuvre units remain well prepared to respond to any operational situation if called upon.

Capt. António Pedro Lopes Monteiro
OF - 2 PRT A
KFOR’S SINGING STAR

Warrant Officer Danilo Grimieri is Chief Administrator in KFOR Commander’s front office by day, while at night he engages in his true passion, singing and entertaining KFOR’s grateful audiences.

A native of Rome, Danilo joined the Italian Army when he was 16 years old and has over 34 years’ service. Married with three children, music has played a central role throughout his life. The Chronicle team caught up with Danilo ten years after his first deployment to KFOR when he first featured in a Chronicle article from September 2006.

Danilo’s passion is so strong that when he speaks about his music, he has to pause to control his emotions. Tears well in his eyes as he recalls how his early childhood imbued him with a love of music and singing. He credits his father, who was also a Warrant Officer in the Army, for passing on his love for music. In fact, music is a central feature of the wider Grimieri family. Danilo’s brother is guitarist; his sister-in-law and his wife are singers, while Danilo’s thirteen year old daughter Elisabetta is also showing musical promise.

At home in Italy, Danilo is a well know a member of several different bands. Blessed with a ‘baritone’ voice he covers the songs of renowned artists such as Joe Cocker, Barry White, Eric Clapton, Ray Charles, Jimmy Hendrix and Louis Armstrong.

There is one thing having a talent, but it takes someone special to exploit that talent to its full. Danilo recognised that he had a talent from an early age and while serving in the military he concurrently studied as a singer, for four years. To improve his performances he sang with a Gospel Choir and also studied diction, so that he could sing without an accent. Hard work, dedication and passion have driven him to perfect his performances. He calls this dedication and drive for continuous improvement as a “beautiful disease”.

Danilo considers the lyrics of the song to be important “lyrics must be understood by the singer to hit the heart” he said. The feedback from the audience when he performs is what he calls “energy exchange” and that is the reward that satisfies him most.

He has released two CDs and is most proud of his second CD as he wrote this in collaboration with his friend and the music was arranged by his brother Luca.

Warrant Officer Grimieri will finish his tour at the end of August and plans to continue his music career when he returns home to Italy. For his 50th birthday his wife gave him a present of a saxophone and he intends to learn this after this mission ends. He also intends to visit New York and Texas and learn about the music industry in the USA.

One thing is certain; Danilo Grimieri is larger than life personality, with a talent for singing and performing. When he sings he makes people happy and for him “that is the most important thing”.

From all Danilo’s fans, thank you for sharing your gift with us!

Maj. Colin Lawlor
IRL-A
Alpha Company is an Austrian infantry company based at Camp “Villaggio Italia” in Belopolje where KFOR Multinational Battle Group West (MNBG-W) Headquarters is located. The Company Commander is Capt. Arrer.

The company has a military component consisting of Austrian National Guard soldiers and also a military professional part of the Austrian Armed Forces. The company is made up of three platoons and a headquarters element which supports the company’s operations. As part of the MNBG-W Maneuver Battalion, Alpha Company operate fully integrated with the other multinational elements composed of Italian, Moldavian and Slovenian peacekeepers.

Alpha Company conducts daily basis patrols in their area of responsibility, performs synchronized patrols in coordination with the Kosovo Police (KP) and ensures security at Visoki Decan Monastery. Alpha Coy can be deployed when necessary as Quick Reaction Force (QRF) wherever it is needed.

Recently Alpha Coy was deployed to MNBG-E for five weeks. During this time the company conducted operations out of the “Camp Nothing Hill” in northern Mitrovica. The Austrian troops were deployed to ensure security around the camp.

Lieutenant Arrer said that “it is a great opportunity for me and my soldiers to operate overseas, our job here is to contribute to maintaining a safe and secure environment and to ensure freedom of movement to all the citizens. As company commander I am proud to be able to dedicate the Austrian Alpha Company to the KFOR cause and to cooperate with other nations under the motto “Shaping the Change”.

Alpha Coy motto is “E Pluribus Unum” (out of many, one) and that unit is a part of the 33rd Austrian Contingent operating in Kosovo.

OF-2 Anthon Arrer
AUT-A

&

OF-2 Alessandro Eterno
ITA-A
CULTURAL CORNER

KOSOVO NATIONAL ART GALLERY

The Kosovo National Gallery is one of the most active public cultural institutions of the post war period in Kosovo. This institution works for messages of peace, tolerance and inter-ethnic cooperation. It has attempted to build bridges of co-operation between cultural institutions and artists within the region and beyond.

The Kosovo National Art Gallery is situated in the grounds of the University of Prishtina Campus and is located close to the landmark building of the National Library of Kosovo. The gallery building is quite distinct architecturally. Its stone façade that was built using stone from the area of Pec, helps it to stand out from the other buildings in the locality. This building itself was once the home of a museum, but today it proudly displays important works of art.

The Kosovo National Art Gallery was formally established in 1979 as a cultural institution for the collection, preservation, study and presentation of outstanding works in all art fields. Today, it is the highest institution of visual arts in Kosovo. For the past 35 years, the National Gallery has organised hundreds of national and international exhibitions from various local and international artists.

Currently, the gallery houses an exhibition of several art mediums ranging from paintings, sculpture, graphics, drawing, caricature, design, photography and video.

The Chronicle team spoke with the Acting Director of National Art Gallery Mr. Zeni Ballazhi. He explained that the staff at the gallery organise a broad range of exhibits every year. Mr. Ballazhi explained that “we have a special respect for KFOR and KFOR’s soldiers are always very welcome to the gallery and to attend the opening of exhibits”.

2015 was a very busy year for the gallery and they hosted several high profile exhibits that attracted a lot interest both nationally and internationally. The gallery also helps to co-ordinate national and international competitions in art. In January 2015, they organised
a ‘public program’ lectures series on various topics such as trends of global modern art, opportunities in education programs and lectures on famous artists.

The Kosovo Art Gallery has published many books, catalogues and brochures including: “Kosovo Contemporary Art”, and “Kosova Feniks”.

Anyone interested in visiting the gallery will find a warm welcome from the staff and an impressive display of modern and contemporary art to fuel your imagination!

Check the gallery Facebook page for details of upcoming exhibits: https://www.facebook.com/Galeria.e.Arteve.e.Kosoves

Maj. Colin Lawlor
OF-3 IRL A
PICTURE OF THE MONTH

January 2016

Contribute to the KFOR Chronicle!

Just send your photos to: kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int by the 25th of the month explaining where you took the photo and what equipment you used. We will then select one of the submitted images and publish it in the next edition of the Chronicle.

You will be immortalised in the KFOR Chronicle!

Is that not something to be proud of?

Sincerely
The Chronicle Team
Military Education: I joined the US military in February 2007 and completed my basic training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas. After my basic training I attended Technical School where I specialised in Morale and Welfare Activities (MWA). My first base was at Minot, North Dakota where I worked as a cook for four years. I have also worked at SHAPE in Belgium and worked as gym manager in Rumstein, Germany. During this time I have participated in career development courses in order to qualify for advancement in rank.

About the Mission: I work in the HSG Billeting Section where I am responsible for co-ordinating all accommodation at Camp Film City. I also work as the Communications and Information System, Point of Contact (CIS POC) for the HSG.

Family Reaction: My family live in Texas, Georgia and California and I stay in contact with them through “Facetime”.

Hobbies: Taking care of my dog Freya, snowboarding, pool, soccer, volleyball and travelling.

Name: Miranda Harris
Rank: OR-5
Nationality: USA
Unit: HSG

Military Education: I started my military career in 2004 when I completed my basic military training in Ascoli Piceno. In December 2004, I was assigned to “Lancieri Di Montebello” Cavalry Regiment also known as “Verdi Lancieri”. I was assigned to the Honour Squadron and was the first female soldier to wear the historical regiment uniform which dates back to 1859. I served in the national operation for homeland security in Rome and also in the Multinational CIMIC Group in Motta de Livenza. I have served in Kosovo on two previous occasions in 2006 and in 2014. I have been awarded the Memorial Cross for military peace missions, the Italian commemorative medal for homeland security and the NATO commemorative medal non-article 5.

About the Mission: I work at COM KFOR’s front office as an admin clerk and driver. It’s always very busy but I really enjoy the work.

Family Reaction: My family are from Sicily and we are very close. I talk with them every day on “Skype”.

Hobbies: I enjoy cycling, volleyball, motor cycles, reading scientific journals and I also love dolphins!

Name: Emiliana Gambino
Rank: OR-4
Nationality: Italian
Unit: KFOR HQ
Rules:
The standard consists of a grid Sudoku field with $3 \times 3$ blocks, which are each divided into $3 \times 3$ fields, a total of 81 fields in 9 rows and 9 columns. In some of these fields at the beginning digits 1 to 9 are registered (“targets”).

The task is to fill in the blanks of the puzzle so that in each of nine rows, columns and blocks of each digit from 1 to 9 appears only once.

The three areas (row, column, block) are equally units or groups.