EXERCISE QUICK RESPONSE
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Brezovia, Kosovo, 11th October 2016. DCOM KFOR, BG Christian Riener, presided over the opening ceremony of a new Field House for the LMT, under Polish Command, based at Brezovica.
It has been almost five years since the Hellenic Army assumed the responsibility for guarding the KFOR Headquarters and the facilities in Pristina's Camp Film City (CFC). Day and night, 24/7, regardless of weather conditions, the Greek soldiers maintain comprehensive physical security at all entrances, within and around CFC, to deter all possible threats. The challenges are many since the terrorist attacks on European soil are on the rise. Physical security maintenance efforts are updated continuously and so is the training of the guards. “Security has significantly improved over the past years”, says Sgt Arnaoutis Panagiotis, an experienced NCO who is currently serving his second tour as a guard in CFC. Pre-deployment training covers a number of topics, including firing of various weapons and in-depth IED/EOD training. Additional IED/EOD trainings take place throughout the deployment by the IED/EOD team in CFC. On a daily basis personnel at critical points such as the Check Point and the Main Gate are updated and alerted about the situation. “Being posted at the gate, checking people as they walk in and out might not sound like something terribly exciting, but keeping the CFC personnel safe is our top priority”, says SGM Adamopoulou Georgia, Main Gate Guard. Even if not on duty, the guards are always ready to swiftly react to any emergency situation. Thanks to the continuous trainings, they are prepared to respond with Immediate Reaction Force within a few minutes notice.

The Command Post of the guards is called “SPARTA”, named after the ancient Greek city of Sparta – renowned for having one of the most feared military forces in the ancient world, epitomized in the epic stand of the Spartan King Leonidas with his 300 Spartan soldiers against the supernumerary Persian army. When Xerxes of Persia demanded that the Greeks surrender their weapons, according to Plutarch in a classical expression of defiance, King Leonidas responded with the phrase *Molon Labe*, meaning “come take them.” This neatly encapsulates the professionalism and determination of the Greek Guard to secure Camp Film City, irrespective of the challenge or perceived threat.

1st Lt. Kalkounos Nikolaos
OF-1 GRC-A
EXERCISE QUICK RESPONSE 2016

This month the Chronicle reports on a major milestone for KFOR, when the KTM Battalion were involved in a significant regional exercise, involving a challenging road and logistical move through four countries to undergo joint training with the EUFOR Mission in Bosnia Herzegovina (BiH).

Exercise Quick Response 2016 conducted from 25th September to 05th October 2016 was a unique deployment, which saw over 240 troops of KFORs Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM) being deployed to reinforce the European Union Force (EUFOR) in Bosnia-Herzegovina (BiH). This was a joint KFOR/EUFOR Exercise, which traditionally has not actually been practised in real time and physically implemented for exercise purposes. It therefore represented a unique opportunity for KFOR and specifically the KTM to be involved in a major NATO based regional exercise involving close and coordinated planning between two separate but sister missions, EUFOR and KFOR. The exercise not only rigorously exercised the troops of the KTM, but virtually every Division and Branch within KFOR who supported the Exercise in both real-time and also in the detailed planning, preparation and coordination process that took place across the spectrum, required to bring the exercise to fruition.

Over 750 troops were involved in the exercise, composed of the Armed Forces of Bosnia-Herzegovina 5th Brigade (AFBiH 5th Bde) and the EUFOR Multi-National Battalion (MNBN) composed of troops from Austria and Turkey. Additionally, troops of the Intermediate Reserve Company from the United Kingdom and of course the KTM Battalion of KFOR with their Hungarian and Portuguese troops.

The KTM played a critical role in the exercise, as they were the Tactical Reserve or “Over the Horizon” Force, who are capable of being deployed to reinforce EUFOR in BiH as and when required. The KTM literally and metaphorically brought a great deal as part of their participation in this rigorous and demanding exercise. KTM has a wide range of capabilities for implementing security operation, including Crowd and Riot Control (CRC). In their deployable reserve capacity, the KTM can be deployed anywhere in the theatre of operations and perform a multitude of tasks for an unlimited period of time, where they play a key role in deterring and countering any threat against a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) and Freedom of Movement (FOM). The KTM has a unique binational structure, integrating Portuguese and Hungarian troops, and its motto reflect this very uniqueness, “Two Nations, One Force.” The KTM Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Manuel de Almeida Sousa, emphasised the real importance of the Exercise: “Quick Response was really important, in that it allowed for the first time a validation of the Balkan Wolf Plan; and has demonstrated in a real and tangible way the projection of KFORs Tactical Reserve to reinforce EUFOR, should the situation rise.” When asked what as Battalion
Commander had been the biggest challenges for him throughout the exercise process he identified the clear logistical challenge of moving “five major multi-serial convoys, along a considerable and often torturous road route, moving through four countries in the process.”

A key role in facilitating this process was provided by the Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG) of KFOR, who were tasked with facilitating the myriad of interlocking logistic threads required to facilitate this major operation, whose success was very much predicated on key logistic support. Captain Terezie Klimesova of the JLSG utilised her extensive experience in the National Movement Coordination Centre (NMCC) of the Czech Armed Forces, to coordinate and track the exercise as it evolved and developed. She noted that, “while I have worked extensively in this speciality, nonetheless this Exercise represented a major challenge for all the Staff Officers within the JLSG, it was a fantastic experience in which to work together in such a dynamic environment.”

On 28th September, the KTM, exactly on schedule, commenced their move to Camp Danilovgrad in Montenegro, which was utilised as a way station and rest-up for the troops on the long journey through the stunning scenery, represented by this part of the Balkans. The following day they moved from here to Camp Butmir in Sarajevo, EUFOR HQ, from where the Exercise was coordinated and acted as the main staging base for the KTM. Camp Butmir was a jump-off-point for the KTM prior to occupying the Forward Operating Base (FOB) at Camp Manjaca, just outside Banja Luka in Northern BiH, where the Exercise proper would take place. Throughout this period and indeed for the duration of the Exercise, the Joint Operations Centre (JOC) at KFOR HQ liaised with and monitored the Exercise in real time with their EUFOR counterparts. The J3 JOC Director Col. Thierry Fusalba, coordinated the multinational team within the JOC. He noted that “on a regular basis Crisis Assistance Team (CAT) Exercises are regularly conducted within the JOC to ensure that we can respond efficiently and rapidly should a scenario as envisaged with Exercise Quick Response evolve and develop. But, the unique real-time deployment associated with the Exercise lent a whole new validity and sense of realism for the JOC team.”

While the KTM were in preparation at Camp Butmir, COMKFOR Major General Giovanni Fungo utilized the opportunity to inspect the assembled troops of the KFOR KTM Battalion, prior to their actual deployment to the FOB and exercise area at Camp Manjaca. COMKFOR was met by the EUFOR Commander Major General Friedrich Schrötter, and afterwards both respective Commanders attended a brief, where they were given a full update on the progress of the exercise by both EUFOR Staff Officers and by Lt. Col. Manuel de Almeida Sousa and his key staff. Afterwards, COMKFOR gave a short speech to KFOR troops emphasizing the commitment and value of KTM soldiers and the fantastic opportunity that this joint exercise represents to enhance their already very high level of training and efficiency, through their participation in Exercise “Quick Response 2016.”
On 30th September, KTM as a unit prepared their logistical and communication support at Camp Butmir. A great deal of pre-planning and preparation in particular went into ensuring that the Communications Information Systems (CIS) were interoperable to ensure the success of the exercise. Following this, on 1st October KTM moved to the Manjaca Training Ground where the FOB had been transformed into a major tented encampment, with feeding facilities put in place that ensured that the troops were well accommodated and rationed throughout the exercise period. This in itself was a significant aspect of the exercise, whereby rapidly deployable logistical support can be quickly put in situ to support the exercise troops. This is a testament to the excellently honed Logistical apparatus that both EUFOR and KFOR can deploy when and where deployed, as without such Logistical support these operations are simply not sustainable or tenable.

The KTM Battalion having firmly established themselves at Camp Manjaca, commenced a number of linked exercise serials based on the exercise scenario, that were designed to test both their Command and Control functions and also their response and reaction times to dynamic incidents, as and when they developed. This was intended to portray in as realistic a manner as possible how a reserve unit acting in such a capacity could react swiftly and effectively. Many of the exercise serials took place simultaneously in real time, which imposed an additional challenge to the Tactical Operations Centre (TOC) of the KTM Battalion as to how they would and could most effectively deploy their resources to unforeseen incidents that developed in real time. These incidents included manning a series of Checkpoints (CPs) in a perimeter around the camp, securing the camp itself and also the exfiltration and evacuation of a number of
civilians from a dangerous and hostile environment. Concurrently, preparations were also put in place for the Distinguished Visitors Day (DVD) that would take place on the 5th October. So it was that on the 5th October, after all the months of preparation the Exercise was conducted in front of the visiting dignitaries. The main scenario of the Exercise evolved around a Village Meeting with parties representing the conflicting sides. The KTM provided an armored escort to bring the protagonists to the meeting. KTM also provided Close Protection Teams (CPTs) throughout the course of the designated meeting. While the meeting progressed, a major riot situation developed near the vicinity of the meeting and EUFOR was obliged to deploy Counter Riot Control (CRC) troops to contain this interference from ‘spoilers’ and ensure that the meeting could continue safely. It was then deemed that the security of the key players at the meeting was compromised and the KTMs B Coy was then deployed in their Pandur armored vehicles to initiate a VIP extraction. They rapidly developed a secure cordon in the vicinity of the meeting and safely escorted the VIPs to the vehicles for subsequent extraction. Camp Manjaja proved to be an excellent location for the exercise as it was a former Yugoslav Army Tank Training Ground, where the natural valley provided an excellent viewpoint for all the participants as the exercise unfolded. Watching the conclusion of the Exercise, in one of his last appointments as DCOM KFOR, Brigadier General Ferenc Korom expressed his justifiable pride in seeing his countrymen, serving with their Portuguese comrades in the KTM, perform to the very highest professional standard, which in turn for him was a wonderful way to end his tour with KFOR.

This brought to a successful conclusion the actual exercise proper, but KTM now also began preparations for their return to Camp Film City (CFC), which saw all troops back in base tired but safe on 8th October. Throughout the course of the Exercise, Captain Paulo Gomes, the KTM Press officer played a pivotal role in ensuring the regular submission to the Public Affairs Office (PAO) of KFOR with regular Press Releases, which in turn could be released on the KFOR website. Video footage was also expertly edited to portray some of the key dynamic elements of the Exercise. Additionally, the KFOR Chronicle Team was on hand to record the conduct of the Exercise, and in turn received outstanding assistance from Lt. Comdr. Carl Harwood, EUFOR Spokesperson and his finely honed Public Affairs Team at Camp Butmir.

The outcome and achievements of the Exercise were perhaps best summarized by KTM Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Manuel de Almeida Sousa, “I think that possibly the biggest challenge of ‘Quick Response 2016,’ was the projection of force, with a considerable volume of kinetic means, including a multitude of vehicles, troops from two different nations, through a land movement of some 1800 Kms, covering four countries, all in safety.”

Maj. Rory Finegan
OF-3 IRL-A
DANCON MARCH IN KOSOVO

The famous and obviously popular “DANCON March” was held for the fourth time this year at Camp Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny (CMLT) on the 9th of October 2016 with more than 1100 participants (EULEX KOSOVO, KFOR troops).

The DANCON March was held for the first time in 1972 at Cyprus and has become a tradition in the Danish Defence Forces. At the time the march consisted of a 25 km route on dusty and hilly roads in the Troodos Mountains and the time limit was a gruelling 6 hours. Since then, DANCON March has been part of Danish International Operations in Cyprus, Bosnia, Iraq and Afghanistan. Soldiers from countries, allied with Denmark, have always been invited to participate in the march, and in fact the first DANCON March at Kosovo was held in August 1999.

For each one of the participants who finishes the DANCON March within a predetermined time the reward is a medal, a diploma and in the advertised categories the first three successful participants get individual recognition. The purpose of the march is to support the work of organisations helping Danish veterans and their families. The start and finish line was at Camp Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny (CMLT) in Novo Selo. The traditional 25 km and an extended 40 km route called “Dragoon” appointed in the surrounding hills. All participants, from some 23 participating countries, for both marches had to carry 10 kilogramms and had to be wearing military uniform with boots during the march, not easy in the often slippery underfoot conditions that prevailed. Major General Fungo and Brig. General Anslow donned their 10 Kg backpack and participated in the march, and yes even Generals can get blisters on their feet!

This DANCON March was prepared and planned by the Danish Guard Detachment who is responsible for security at CMLT. Those people who performed the 40 Km challenge received additionally as is the long established tradition the serving Danish regiments badge affixed to the medal.

Congratulations to all the participants, and thanks to the Danish Platoon for the organization.

Maj. Rory Finegan
OF-3 IRL-A

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<th>25 km (men):</th>
<th>25 km (women):</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cpt Hannes SILBERBAUER (AUS) in 2h16m</td>
<td>Maria TORNACK (DEU) in 3h20m</td>
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<th>40 km (women):</th>
<th>40 km (men):</th>
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<td>Lieutenant Zsofbia KOUSZ (HUN) in 5h38m</td>
<td>Sergeant Romy MONTANELLI (ITA) in 4h39m</td>
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ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL!

...So we grew together
Like to a double cherry, seeming parted,
But yet an union in partition,
Two lovely berries moulded on one stem...

~William Shakespeare, A Midsummer Night’s Dream

Twins have always been special people because their apparent ability to do things that ‘average’ people cannot do; mysteriously they can tell each other’s emotions and can sense if something is happening, regardless of where they are.

So, how does this inherent ability become a beneficial factor, specifically when deployed in an operational deployment? Two sets of Twins are serving in KFOR as apart of the KTM and living in this unique environment, so to say the least there is a story to be told.

Filipe and Alexandre Abrantes (PRT Army) decided ‘mutually’ to join the army in 2010. They have an older brother that has served in the Paratroopers, so they followed his lead. They are serving together in the 2nd Paratrooper Battalion and oddly enough volunteered to deploy with the KTM here in Kosovo.

Károly and Miklós Szabó (HUN Army) decided as children to become soldiers. Back home in Hungary they are serving together in the 25th, György Klapka Infantry Brigade, and yes they also deployed together to the KTM.

Each one of the four soldiers feels that they have a huge advantage serving together as twin brothers. During the mission, besides their day-to-day operational tasks, they also help and support each other, which is a fine example of comradeship for all others. “If we are together, we can work better, because it doesn’t matter where we are and what we do, we feel everywhere at home.” said the Szabó twins. “We are not only brothers, we are also comrades; together through thick and thin,” agreed the Abrantes twins. Obviously our “Four Musketeers” present unique problems for the Chain of Command when trying to give them orders and tasking’s on an individual basis, but equally our redoubtable twins are quite sanguine about this, and see it oddly enough as not their problem. Well that is twins for you after all!

Capt. Veronika Husza’r OF-2 HUN-A
The Military Technical Agreement (MTA), known as the Kumanovo Treaty, which marked the end of the NATO campaign in the former Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (SRJ) and the withdrawal of Yugoslav forces, the Yugoslav Armed Forces (VJ) and the Yugoslav Police (MUP) from Kosovo, was signed on the 9th of June, 1999. The withdrawal of the Yugoslav army and Serbian police from Kosovo was successfully completed on 20th June 1999. The provisions of the treaty were built into United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1244, which was passed the following day, June 10 1999, and which has remained the International framework for the Kosovo issue to this day. These are the basic documents which have to be adhered to and govern the JIC Process.

According to the MTA Article IV, a Joint Implementation Commission (JIC) was to be established with the deployment of an International Security Force, Kosovo Force (KFOR) to Kosovo, directed by the Commander Kosovo Force (COMKFOR) in order to liaise within the MTA.

Joint means dealing with the surrounding countries, including Montenegro, Albania, FYROM* and also with Serbia and the Implementation Commission, which is our counterpart in the General Staff of Serbian Armed Forces, in Belgrade.

Implementation is to execute and fulfil the tasks based on the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and the MTA. The JIC mission is to facilitate communications between the COMKFOR and Serbian Joint Security Forces within the framework of the MTA and counterparts in Albania, Montenegro and FYROM. Today, JIC remains responsible for the oversight of the entire Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) as it relates to KFOR. Serbia places a lot of emphasis on the various sections and detail contained within UNSCR1244. The Agreement on Temporary Operating Procedures (ATOP) and Directions for Implementation of the Temporary Operating Procedures (DOPA) relate to the MTA, and it is here that one finds the operating procedures and directions that must be followed by KFOR and the Serbian Forces. The Didactical Handbook outlines the procedures that must be followed by both KFOR and SAF patrols. It is especially relevant when patrolling close to the ABL, between Kosovo and Serbia.

The HQ KFOR JIC Branch is composed of a Chief JIC and two Senior Staff Officers. Chief JIC is of OF-5 rank and is currently Captain (N) Boris Geršak from Slovenia.

The SSO OPS /Deputy Chief is from Ireland and is responsible for current and future JIC operations. SSO PLANS is from Finland, and is mainly responsible for policy, planning and Integrated Border Management (IBM) issues, and acts as a Military Assistant (MA) to the Chief. The Chief JIC can reinforce JIC with a National Admin NCO and/or additional staff officer to support SSO OPS. HQ JIC has the support of the HQ DOS interpreters. KFOR HQ JIC interacts with many HQ Branches on a weekly basis. In addition, HQ KFOR JIC is in daily contact with their JIC counterparts in the Battle Groups.

Communications and Liaison are the main functions, while the main effort is focused on Serbia, JIC have responsibility for corresponding and dealing with any events that may involve FYROM, Albania and Montenegro.

There are three levels of meetings which JIC operate at during the year. COMKFOR operates at the highest level where he meets with the Chief Head Of Defence (CHOD) SAF.

*Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its Constitutional name.
especially, and also CHODs and Ministers of Defence of the other neighbouring countries. High Level Meetings are usually held quarterly while both Main Level and Local Level Meetings are held on a fortnightly basis. High Level Biannual Meetings are held with other countries and more frequently with SAF, with both Main Level and Local Meetings held on a monthly basis. Main Level Meetings alternate between Serbia and KFOR Area of Responsibility (AOR), while the Local Level Meetings are usually held at locations close to the ABL. While the meetings are held formally with their associated set of formalities and protocols, they are conducted in a very professional, mutually respectful and friendly manner by all participants. JIC also discusses and co-ordinates with EULEX and KP / KBP in relation to the Integrated Border Management (IBM) structures aligned to EU standards, which are necessary to facilitate mobility of persons. By effectively tackling customs fraud, trafficking and illegal migration, progress can be made in key policy areas such as trade, customs and visas.

This facilitates cooperation on the ground and improves interoperability between border management bodies of the EU Member States and of the Eastern Partners. In the Agreement on Temporary Operating Procedures for Cooperation and Coordination astride the Kosovo Administrative Boundary from 17 Aug 2001, (TOPA), the boundary was officially named “Kosovo Administrative Boundary”. It became known as the ABL, it is a “No Fire Line” that was used as a line of withdrawal which in places, currently divides farms and villages along the boundary. This has become very challenging for KFOR, the local population and the Kosovo Police (KP). KFOR may conduct routine activity in the vicinity of the ABL. Communications between KFOR JIC and our Serbian Counterparts is maintained on a twenty-four (24) hour basis. If KFOR conduct operations within 1000m of the ABL, SAF are informed twenty-four hours in advance. Warning signs which have been erected on route to the crossing points have been put in place in order to avoid any violations of the ABL by KFOR personnel.

Maj. Rory Finegan
OF-3 IRL-A
29 SEP 2016
KFOR Commander, Major General Giovanni Fungo, met the Ambassador of Albania to Kosovo, HE Mr Qemal Minxhozi, at Camp “Film City” NATO KFOR HQ in Pristina.

07 OCT 2016
KFOR Commander, Major General Giovanni Fungo, had a meeting with the new Head of the Organization for Security Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Mission in Kosovo, H.E. Ambassador Jan Braathu of Norway, in Pristina.

12 OCT 2016
Chaplains’ meeting was held today in Film City Camp, Kosovo. Catholic and Protestant Chaplains were in attendance. They all serve in the national contingents and come from: Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and USA.
A VISUAL OVERVIEW

13 OCT 2016
US Admiral Michelle J. HOWARD, Commander Allied Joint Force Command NAPLES, visited the Camp Film City in Pristina, where she was greeted by COMKFOR, Major General Giovanni Fungo.

18 OCT 2016
Gracanice.
COMKFOR, Major General Giovanni Fungo, paid a visit to Gracanice Monastery where he was welcomed by the Bishop of Raska-Prizren, Teodosije Šibalić.

19 OCT 2016
Pristina.
COMKFOR, Major General Giovanni Fungo, paid a visit in Brnjak, along the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) between Kosovo and Serbia.
On the 12th October a major multi-serial Fire Fighting and Prevention Exercise was conducted at Camp Film City (CFC) by the Fire and Rescue Section of the Headquarters Support Group (HSG). Its aim was designed to test response times and procedures in dealing with critical emergencies in an often dangerous firefighting situation and to carry out joint training with their counterparts in the KSF.

Within the Fire Station at CFC, there are 24 Firefighters divided into a number of Fire Crews and Watch-Room Staff, who combined provide a wide range of emergency responses to structural fires, automobile accidents, helicopter crash rescue (ARFF), technical rescues, and hazardous material incidents.

The Fire and Rescue Section, and its team are not only responsible for CFC, but also HQ Main, the APOD and Camp Nothinghill. They are also emergency first responders for Camp Slimlines. Additionally, strong mutual aid agreements with the Pristina Fire Service and the International Airport Authority are in place for mutual support. Also, other KFOR Fire Departments throughout Kosovo can lend on the support and guidance of the CFC Fire and Rescue Section.

All major NATO exercises such as Silver Sabre, QRF training or riot control exercises, where Fire Phobia training is included, are ‘over watched’ by our Firefighters of CFC, who assist and support the exercises as and when required. They also play a key role in ensuring a whole raft of fire safety and prevention measures associated with the multitude of helicopter landings that often occur daily in CFC.

The purpose of this iteration of multi-serial training was to take part in the annual National Fire Prevention Week (NFPA). This is an annual event that takes place each year to ensure everyone is aware of the dangers of Fire. Although this is mainly a North American event, most Fire Departments in other parts of the world are encouraging their Fire Service members to adapt the NFPA policy and many Fire Colleges are changing their learning curriculum to meet the high standards put forth by NFPA and the International Fire Service Accreditation council (IFSAC)

This year’s Fire prevention week exercises were a demonstration of capabilities which included technical rescue, hazmat exercise, automobile accident, bomb threat/ bomb explosion, structural Fires,
emergency first aid/CPR/AED and helicopter incidents/ARFF.

The activities were altered slightly to facilitate NALT emergency management advisor OF4 Andrew Spencer (USA) about the possibility of joining together with 10 members of the KSF Firefighting Cell. This plan to combine both Fire Services together the HQ Fire service thereby allowed both joint training and a mutual professional exchange of professional techniques for the benefit of all. In the past the HQ Fire service has been involved in training the KSF Firefighters since their inception in 2009. Since then over 250 of their personnel have completed several professional development courses. The KSF members along with the HQ Fire service conducted four emergency response serials incorporated within the overall exercise, this included two serials involving hazmat identification, making the area safe, rescue of casualties and decontamination/medical care, and also two helicopter in-flight emergency/crash situations. It was also demonstrated to the KSF members a structural incident exercise involving a hot water boiler/tank that had built up pressure and ruptured in an ablution with two casualties inside and one without vital signs outside.

Additionally during the week, the Fire Station hosted two School visits, from Pristina and Vushtri. The Vushtri students had Intellectual Disability issues, but this didn’t prevent them having a wonderful time during their visit, which was a particular source of pride for all the Fire Station personnel. The students were treated to several Fire Station exercises, had the opportunity to wear Firefighter bunker gear with helmets and were treated to a pizza lunch in the Fire Station.

The Children were very happy and excited to see all the specialized Firefighting equipment and were treated to watch a live fire exercise in the training tower.

All personnel are reminded of the threat from Fire that living and working in a temporary military camp environment can bring.

Benjamin Banks CD
NATO Headquarters Kosovo Forces
Fire Marshall

Have a Fire Safe Tour!!!
Soldiers of the German KFOR Maneuver Company are lined up in perfect order, proud of their achievements. The end-of-mission parade will be their last formal military parade. September 30th marks the end of the Maneuver Company’s mission. Contingent Commander of the 44th German KFOR Contingent, Colonel Siegfried Zeyer bid farewell to his fellow servicemen and women as part of the military parade with many international guests.

The end-of-mission parade marks a festive highlight in a time of change. The last days of the Maneuver Company are over. It was approximately 17 years and 3 months ago when two German combat forces with about 7,000 troops as well as battle tanks and other armored vehicles entered into Kosovo as part of the international KFOR mission. The basis for this was UN Resolution 1244, which still applies to this day.

The parade ended with a gloomy feeling. The wooden sign reading “DEU EinsKp KFOR”, or German KFOR ManCoy was taken down and the German flag lowered. The German contingent’s last kinetic capability is returning home. There remain two important operational tasks for the German armed forces in Kosovo: operating the field hospital at Camp Prizren and providing reconnaissance forces. In addition, the German contingent ensures the camp’s operation, providing an infrastructure for KFOR troops from other nations as well.

Capt. Ines Blandau
OF-2 GER-A
Colonel (GS) Dirk Bejga is new Contingent Commander

General Mosmann transferring command of the German KFOR Contingent from Colonel Zeyer to Colonel (GS) Bejga (source: Dritan Hoti)

The fireworks display over Prizren ended with a loud bang and the last fireballs disappeared into the darkness. It was the Day of German Unity. But October 3rd had much more in store. The 45th German KFOR Contingent had hardly been around for two hours when the Army Band started with their concert in Prizren’s Shadervan square. Only a few hours prior, things in the camp got physical: soldiers participated in a “22 Pushup Challenge” for a good cause.

On October 3rd, 2016, Brigadier General Dietmar Mosmann, Director of the NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT), transferred command of the German KFOR Contingent from Colonel Siegfried Zeyer to Colonel (GS) Dirk Bejga. Colonel Zeyer can look back on his second tour to KFOR as Contingent Commander. He already had the same assignment in the October 2014 to February 2015 period. For Colonel Bejga it is the second tour in the Balkans. In 2002, he was assigned as Chief of Staff of the 5th German Army Contingent for SFOR in Rajlovac, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Around 650 German servicemen and women are currently deployed to the KFOR mission. Their task is to assist the establishment of a multi-ethnic and peaceful constitutional democracy and providing military protection.

Brigadier General Dietmar Mosmann highlighted the unchanged importance of the Kosovo mission from the point of view of the German armed forces’ command level. “While KFOR functions as third responder, it must be able to react quickly and professionally to any deterioration of the situation or upon request by Kosovo’s security forces,” said the Director of NALT. “Fellow soldiers, you have managed to stay on the fine line between restraint on the one hand and permanent readiness on the other.” The parting commander agreed with the general. “The operational phase the KFOR operation is in right now is described as a “deterrent presence” for a reason; and Germany will continue to make significant capability contributions in coordination with international partners,” Colonel Siegfried Zeyer concluded. According to his assessment the KFOR operation is still a worthy cause. “By meeting people who appreciate KFOR as an efficient and neutral entity, I have experienced first-hand that the mission is worth it.”

Capt. Ines Blandau
OF-2 GER-A
The Gračanica Monastery is one of King Stefan Milutin’s last monumental endowments. He was a renowned builder of Monastic sites throughout the then period of the late Middle Ages. Milutin in 1321 rebuilt the Monastery as we know it today on the ruins of a 6th-century early Christian three-naved basilica. It is situated in the municipality of Gračanica, part of the Community of Serb municipalities in Kosovo. It is located 5 km from Pristina. Gračanica Monastery was declared a Monument of Culture of Exceptional Importance in 1990. On 13 July 2006 it was placed on UNESCO’s World Heritage List under the name of Medieval Monuments in Kosovo as an extension of the Visoki Dečani site which was overall placed on the List of World Heritage in Danger. The monastery is in the close vicinity of Lipljann (ancient Roman town of Ulpiana), the old residence of Bishops of Lipljan. The Chronicle Team indeed reported on Ulpiana and its extensive Roman ruins in last month’s edition. It is believed that much of the stone used to build the monastery is original Roman stones and even some columns from the Ulpiana site, which lends an even
greater degree of interest and significance to this unique cultural building.

Gračanica was constructed on the ruins of an older 13th-century church of the Holy Virgin, which was built on the ruins of a 6th-century early Christian three-nave basilica. It was located in the very heart of Eparchy of Lipljann. On the southern wall of the chapel is written the king’s charter, including the following words: “I have seen the ruins and the decay of the Holy Virgin’s temple of Gračanica, the Bishopric of Lipljan, so I have built it from the ground and painted and decorated it both from inside and outside.” In 1346, when Serbian Archbishopric was raised to the rank of Patriarchate, bishop of Lipljan was granted honorary title of Metropolitan, and since that time they were called metropolitan of Lipljan or Gračanica.

After the Second World War it was renewed by nuns and has been serving as a Convent since. Today there are 24 sisters in the monastery who are active in icon painting, agriculture, sewing and other monastic obedience’s. The gift shop sells some exquisitely made religious based items. After the Kosovo Conflict of 1999, Bishop of Raška and Prizren Artemije Radosavljević transferred his official seat to this Monastery from Prizren and since then the monastery has become the most important spiritual center of the Serbian people in Kosovo. The wall paintings of Gračanica rank highest among the achievements of Milutin’s period, characterized by influences of the Byzantine splendid and luxurious style called the Paleologan Renaissance. In terms of style, they are also related to the art of the other of Milutin’s foundations. When the Chronicle Team visited the Monastery in mid-October, a painstaking conservation project was in progress with a team of experts restoring the wall paintings back to their original splendor, this in itself is well worth seeing and the Chronicle Team strongly advises a visit to the Monastery, which is so very readily accessible, from Camp Film City.

Maj. Rory Finegan
OF-3 IRL-A
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 Czech Military in July 2005 for basic military training and afterwards I entered the Czech Defence University. In 2008 I was selected for a position in the National Movement Coordination Centre (NMCC) of the Czech Republic. I was responsible for ensuring the detailed planning required for Air Transportation. I was responsible for MovCon MILU project and for planning procedures and implementation of strategic transportation of Czech troops regarding multinational contribution.

About the Mission: I am a member of MovCon MILU Team in JLSG in the appointment of MovCon Team Leader. We are responsible for planning and control of all movements within Kosovo and provide assistance with international movements outside Kosovo in terms of liaison and cooperation with HNS entities. Our main effort last months was to cooperate with KTM in accordance with exercise OPREH L2 in Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to support their (re)deployment there.

Family Reaction: I live together with my family in Mladá Boleslav. I have a little son, 4 years old, waiting for me there. My parents and my brother live close to my home in the same city, so we are used to see each other a lot and they help to care of my son.

Hobbies: Currently, my main hobby is to spend almost all my free time with my son. We use to spend a lot of time on trips, mainly in the mountains for hiking and rock climbing. I also like running, unicycling and winter sports like snowboarding.

Name: Terezie Klimesova
Rank: F-2
Nationality: Czech
Unit: JLSG

Military Education: I joined the Hungarian Armed Forces in 1988 as a Long Range Reconnaissance Officer. After a few exciting years within a dedicated paratrooper unit, I found myself in the USA to take part in Infantry, Airborne and Ranger training. Being desperate to learn as much as possible, after university I continued with PhD education and studied and articulated my thesis regarding military leadership in the recent strategic environment.

About the Mission: After two tours in EUFOR, as Military Assistant to DCOM EUFOR and then to COS EUFOR, now I am here again as a Military Assistant (MA) to DCOM KFOR. The mission of KFOR stated in UN SC Resolution 1244 is important not only for the international contributing troops, but also for people of Kosovo.

Family Reaction: My wife is very tolerant of me! During my long years of service, my deployments were accepted and understood. I know during our deployments the family suffers the most. In few days (after 387!), I return home and dedicate myself fully to my family: Leo 18 years old first son (!); Kevin 12 years old strong boy and Lara 5 years old young lady.

Hobbies: In my rare spare time, I watch movies in various subjects. I try to maintain this hobby during deployments in order to extend my universal education and enlarge my English skills. During this year with great support of MWA Library I have watched some 300 different movies, I must say thanks for this support!

Name: Attila Murinkó
Rank: F-4
Nationality: HUN
Unit: DCOM Office
In response to the often short supply of blood in Kosovo, the Italian Medical Team with the active support of the J-Med Branch, and also in close cooperation with the National Blood Bank of Kosovo, hosted a voluntary blood drive in the Italian Medical Center Facility in Camp Film City on October 1st 2016.

The event was jointly organised by military and civilian personnel who daily serve in different KFOR bases in Kosovo, from some 30 different nations. This blood drive has been organized with the hope that these donations will be held on a regular base in cooperation with civilian organization in Kosovo, in order to help people in need, because “you don’t have to be a doctor to save lives”. Collected blood is absolutely vital to meet ongoing daily blood requirement for first aid, surgery, chronic anemia and other serious illnesses.

Donating blood is an active way of helping others and indeed society as a whole: blood donation is a simple, safe and painless procedures, there is no risk for donors of giving blood and each unit of blood (450ml) can help up to three different patients. Despite medical and technological advances, blood cannot currently be man-made! The only way of getting hold of this literally life sustaining product is via blood donations from people who are willing donors. What's more blood components have a limited shelf life and it’s needed everyday. Moreover, donating blood on a regular basis can be a useful practise not only for receivers, but also for donors because it induces our body to renovate blood cells. If you haven't donated blood before please why not now during your tour with KFOR? “Blood Donors, Everyday Heroes.”

Emanuele Campoccio, MD
OF-4 ITA-A
&
Veronica Palombi, MD
OF-1 ITA-A
Driving in Kosovo can be dangerous especially when operating military vehicles.

For security and safety reasons, it is important that you stay always visible when you are driving a vehicle.

That is why you have to turn your lights on.

The SOP 3135 «Traffic Regulation in Kosovo» says:
«All vehicles must use their dim- or highlights for 24 hours a day …»

Then stay visible for the others and be …. a shiny KFOR member.