NATO’s Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), General Tod D. Wolters visits NATO’s Kosovo Forces (KFOR) Headquarters.

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NATO’s Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), General Tod D. Wolters visited NATO’s Kosovo Forces (KFOR) Headquarters in Camp Film City on 18 July 2019.

General Tod D. Wolters assumed his duty as NATO’s 19th Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) on 03 May 2019. As SACEUR, he is one of NATO’s two strategic commanders and commands Allied Command Operations (ACO), which is responsible for the planning and execution of all Alliance operations. He is responsible to NATO’s Military Committee for the conduct of all NATO military operations.

During his visit, General Wolters was met by COM KFOR, Major General Lorenzo D’Addario and discussed the latest developments of the current security and socio-political situation in Kosovo. He also took the opportunity to meet with the Prime Minister, Ramush Haradinaj, Minister for Defence, Rrustem Berisha and the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) Commander, Lieutenant General Rrahman Rama. The aim of his visit to Kosovo was to familiarise himself with the situation on the ground and to look for opportunities to improve the cooperation and interaction with the NATO military forces, while also to encourage peace and sustainability in the Balkans region.

During a media interview that was conducted in Camp Film City, Gen. Wolters acknowledged that open communication lines are a priority in maintaining peace and security in Kosovo and the region. He expressed that his impression of the situation in Kosovo is calm and he is happy with the accomplishment of KFOR’s mission, which is to provide a safe and secure environment. He spoke about KFOR and NATO’s readiness to response to all such challenges, which he seems to see mainly in the segment of disinformation and propaganda. Yet, he says that KFOR is ready for any type of threat that could pose in Kosovo. General Wolters stated that “KFOR is ready, willing and capable to adopt and work under any potential different situation that could take place in the region”.

During his interview, the following topics were discussed; Kosovo Security Forces’ transition process, the Kosovo – Serbia’s dialogue influence on KFOR’s mission, the future of the peacekeeping mission and the importance of mutual cooperation among the International Community Organizations and Institutions in Kosovo, to enhance, through dialogue, the stability and overall security in Kosovo.

Gen Wolters concluded his interview by stating that “security and safety in the Western Balkans have extraordinary importance for the entire Europe. And I am proud to report that we have entities that work hard to promote a safe and secure environment here in Kosovo”.

Comdt. Joanne Naughton
OF-3 IRL-A
PAO Chief Internal Information
Inauguration Ceremony

In the 20 years of proud service, KFOR elements have reorganized the structure of the KFOR Force in response to the operational environment and needs of the people of Kosovo.

On 15 August 2019 an inauguration ceremony took place at KFOR HQ, presided over by COM KFOR, Major General Lorenzo D’Addario, who sanctioned this new change in the structure of the KFOR organisation. The new change of structure involves the two Multinational Battlegroups namely Multinational Battlegroup East (MNBG-E) and Multinational Battlegroup West (MNBG-W), and the three Joint Regional Detachments, namely Joint Regional Detachment-South East (JRD-SE), Joint Regional Detachment-North (JRD-N) and the Joint Regional Detachment-West (JRD-W), merge into the two new Regional Commands. The aim of this reorganisation is to simplify the command and control structure; enhance the ease and speed of coordination between KFOR kinetic and non-kinetic force elements; and enable KFOR to better fulfil its tasks under a more direct command structure.

The decision for the restructure of the KFOR Forces was approved in December 2017 by NATO’s Supreme Commander to Europe, General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, under the revised KFOR Area Command and Control Concept (AC2C). It must be made clear, that although there is a new structure to the Force, KFOR’s mission remains unchanged as a result of the AC2C process.

During the inauguration ceremony, Major Gen D’Addario addressed the KFOR troops and gave direction on the importance of the new KFOR structure. He described the need for simplifying the command structure as “We need simple things, because when the situation is difficult we need to have straight lines. This structures us; it creates a system, when we have a single command in any given space. So, whoever is in that space is under the control of that command, and
critically it offers the same staff to assess, to provide directions under one single command to all the components”. He explained that “There are not two KFORs. The LMTs will continue to do exactly what they do now. The patrols will continue to do what they do now, but they will be working seamlessly”. He stressed that this new structure will remain focused on supporting the LMTs; it will continue to support the patrols, as the eyes and ears on the ground communicating with the people of Kosovo. He referred to the people of Kosovo as “the hostages of this incomplete situation. They have suffered for many decades and I think it’s time that we put all the conditions to enable these sufferings to an end and for a political solution to be achieved”.

To inaugurate this new regional command structure, the unit commanders of JRD-SE, JRD-N and JRD-W were relieved from their posts and their unit flag’s which identified their organisations were rolled and cased. Through this act the JRD Commanders, Col Dominique Saudan and Col Nicola Perrone were relieved from their responsibilities and this led the foundation for the designated commanders of the new Regional Commands to take post. The JRD-W Commander Lt Col Musa Unsal was re-appointed as the Non-Kinetic Commander of RC-W, while Col Daniele Pisani was inaugurated as the RC-W Commander and Col Robert Hughes took command of RC-E.

This reconfiguration will improve the coordination of the activities, guaranteeing an even more effective support for the fulfilment of the mission in Kosovo that is, contributing to the maintenance of a safe and secure environment and consolidating the socio-economic progress in Kosovo as it has been providing for the last twenty years.

Comdt. Joanne Naughton
OF-3 IRL-A
PAO Chief Internal Information
KFOR Restructure

RC-West
The ceremony on the 15 August 2019 sealed the remodelling of the chain of command and control of Multinational Battle Group West (MNBG-W) to Regional Command West (RC-W), an Italian-led unit by Col Daniele Pisani, deployed in the western sector of Kosovo from Camp Villaggio Italia (CVI). The newly formed RC-W now incorporates, the kinetic units already employed by the pre-existing MNBG-W with the additional non-kinetic units of Joint Regional Detachment West (JRD-W).
RC-W will continue to carry out activities by means of a kinetic component consisting of maneuvering units at the battalion level to support the security and stability of the area of responsibility, while also, through non-kinetic units continue through their Liaison Monitoring Teams (LMT’s) the connection with local authorities and non-governmental organizations at regional level.
RC-W has 12 municipalities in it’s Area of Responsibility (AOR). The transformation also increased the multinationality of the RC-W, with the addition of assets from Turkey, Poland and Switzerland to the four nations operating in the pre-existing MNBG-W, namely Italy, Austria, Slovenia and Moldova.

RC-East
RC-E is now led by U.S. Army Col. Robert Hughes from RC-E HQ’s in Camp Bondsteel. He is the commander of the 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, New Jersey Army National Guard; a reserve component unit of the United States Army. The newly formed RC-E now incorporates, the kinetic units already employed by the pre-existing MNBG-E with the additional non-kinetic units of Joint Regional Detachment North (JRD-N) and Joint Regional Detachment South East (JRD-SE).
RC-E supports the people of Kosovo in 26 northern and eastern municipalities, a mission which has remained the same regardless of adjustments to internal force structure. RC-E is now organized with four battalion-level elements, in addition to the RC-E headquarters: the Kinetic Battalion, Non-kinetic Battalion, General Aviation Support Battalion, and a Logistics Support Battalion. The nations representing RC-E remain the same as under the previous MNBG-E structure. COY-sized elements include Turkish, Polish, and American units, while Liaison Monitoring Teams (LMTs) of Greek, Swiss, Slovenian, Italian, Finnish, and Hungarian troops constitute the Non-kinetic Battalion. The Liaison Monitoring Teams, which now fall under the Non-kinetic Battalion and RC-E staff for coordination and reporting purposes, will maintain their presence in the communities with which they work hand-in-hand.

Comdt. Joanne Naughton
OF-3 IRL-A
PAO Chief Internal Information
The KFOR Military Police is composed of International Military Police (IMP), Regional Command West (RC-W), Regional Command East (RC-E) and the Multinational Specialized Unit (MSU) Military Police elements which contribute to a distinctive, specialized skill set coupled with core individual competencies that are unique to any other Unit in KFOR.

Employment of these skills and competencies are guided by the KFOR Force Provost Marshal (FPM) in support to the COM KFOR objectives.

The KFOR MP, as a combat support force multiplier, provides essential operational assistance to combat, non-combat and staff elements through the commander by the conduct of MP activities. While support is an activity appreciated by all, the field of police and security could sometimes be less appreciated, but nevertheless necessary for any military operation. The first priority is the safety and security of KFOR personnel.

Currently, MP’s from Austria, Italy, Poland, Slovenia, Switzerland and USA, are providing Mobility Support, Security, Policing and a Detention capability to the whole KFOR. The KFOR MP’s are able to carry out its mission at all times, in all situations and wherever KFOR personnel are deployed. On a regular basis, meetings are organized with the KFOR Military Police. Led by the FPM, the overall military police effort is coordinated at the KFOR level. These meetings also strengthen team spirit and allow for the exchange of best practices. The opportunity to work in a multinational environment allows for personal and collective development and edification.

“Our philosophy is based above all on prevention in the field of policing and high operational readiness in the field of support. KFOR is a small community. Like any community, someone must ensure that laws and rules are enforced, but also be ready to provide rapid and efficient help anywhere and anytime. This is the role that KFOR MP is fulfilling together with and for the Force”, explains LTC Stéphane “Sté” Theimer, KFOR Force Provost Marshal from the Swiss Army.

LTC. Stephane Theimer OF-4 CHE KFOR FPM
Airborne Exercise

KFOR Austrian and Italian paratroopers held a multinational airborne exercise in close coordination with a platoon of the Hungarian KTRBN in order to display the KFOR light infantry units skills and their interoperability.

On 13 August 2019, KFOR paratroopers from Austria and Italy performed a joint exercise with a platoon of KTRBN in Krusevo Airfield, 20 km East from Pec/Peja, in Regional Command West (RC-W’s) Area of Responsibility (AOR).

This kind of airborne exercise is something original in the consolidation of KFOR unit's skills, because of the high number of paratroopers serving in KFOR XXIII, the unprecedented capability to increase readiness in projecting combat power by exploiting the 3rd Dimension.

The exercise was planned according to the operational effects pursued by KFOR, in a particular period and environment, in order to enhance its credibility in upholding UNSCR 1244.

The detailed planning phase was followed by a preparation phase aimed at consolidating the interoperability and the coordinating procedures, as well as rehearsals for the whole operation. The preparation phase began a few days prior to the main exercise, which involved both AUT and ITA paratroopers carrying out a series of familiarization jumps from HRV Mi-171 at 7600 ft. over the Krusevo Airfield with KTRBN assets on the ground.

On the day of the exercise, KFOR troops simulated an enemy approach from the North threatening the Safe and Secure Environment (SaSE) and Freedom of Movement (FoM). On call, an airborne operational detachment of ten (10) Italian paratroopers were rapidly inserted by free fall jump into the Area of
Operation (Krusevo Airfield) in order to seize and secure an occasional drop zone. Once the area was secured, also with the support of Italian snipers, the second “chalk” of ten (10) Austrian paratroopers jumped on the airfield, linked up with the Italians and moved forward to set up temporary blocking position along the hostile forces’ avenue of approach. The consolidation of the blocking positions and the seizure of the area allowed the request for a relief in place. This was conducted by the Hungarian platoon of KTRBN in light armoured vehicles, standing by in a designated Assembly Area.

This successfully executed exercise was to train the effectiveness of the KFOR multinational joint units and their capability to conduct full spectrum operations, enhancing its credibility as the most relevant organization granting SaSE and FoM in Kosovo.

Pierangelo Monica
OF-2- ITA-A
PAO
“My Life In Your Hands” is the basic life support training campaign which began on 09 August 2019, led by the Regional Command West’s (RC-W) medical units and young athletes from the Peje/Pec Municipality.

The information campaign is focused to inform youth athletes to rapidly intervene with the right procedures in an emergency situation. During the activity, youngsters took part in a theoretical briefing, after which they had the opportunity to practice the standardized protocol in cases of sudden cardiac arrest or respiratory failure.

Basic Life Support is the primary medical aid provided to a person in an emergency medical situation. This procedure can prove to be very helpful to save people’s lives, gaining some valuable time until emergency medical aid arrives. The RCW’s team, who studied the project, have chosen young athletes first of all, because as young individuals they are more inclined to learn BLS procedures faster, secondly, because in practicing sports, especially non-competitive categories, athletes often do not undergo pre-participation screening, therefore there is a higher rate of cardiac arrests. This campaign is not only conducted to train youngsters along with their instructors on basic life support procedures, it was also aimed to spread and improve the knowledge and importance of Basic Life Support procedures.

The campaign foresees a cycle of meetings that will last until September, in support of the sport associations which took part in the initiative. During the past days, the young athletes that were visited by KFOR’s soldiers had the opportunity to share information with specialized personnel; practice a one-to-one basis training on standardized procedures; using training dummies to prove all the foreseen maneuvers.

To create the information campaign, the RC-W’s HQ used its medical teams to support youths from different ethnic backgrounds who share a common interest in sports and provide this vital training that could someday assist in saving someone’s life.

OF2 Stefano DE SANTIS
ITA - A
RC-W PAO
Task Force Aviation conducted a multi-aircraft training operation with their NATO partners from the Croatian Air Force at Camp Bondsteel on 6 August 2019. The operation aimed to improve overall interoperability between NATO partners while preparing Task Force Aviation (TF AVN) for future Kosovo Force operations. This was TF AVN’s first time working with the Croatian Air Force since KFOR 26’s Regional Command East rotation began in July.

Lt. Col. Christopher Buck said the task force’s mission is to provide KFOR both airlift and air medical evacuation assets to provide safety and mobility, which supports the overall NATO mission in Kosovo. Buck serves as the battalion commander for TF AVN’s 1st Battalion, 171st Aviation Regiment. The coordination of this cross-training exercise allowed the two aviation forces to maneuver Army Black Hawk helicopters (UH 60) and Croatian Hip transport helicopters (MI 17). The flight patterns they practiced allowed the two Black Hawks to lead and swap flight positions during the training event.

“It was definitely a learning experience for us to see how our partner nations operate,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Stephen Gayton, who serves as an instructor pilot with TF AVN’s 1-171 Avn. Reg. “How they [The Croatian Air Force] fly their aircrafts as well as their overall capabilities is important if we have to operate together in the future.” Gayton said this operation increases mission readiness and the overall comfort level particularly with multinational partners, such as the Croatians. The operation gave both aviation teams confidence in their partnership. TF AVN pilot 1st Lt. Tyler Johnson, a platoon leader with the 1-171 Avn. Reg., said an important aspect of the joint exercise was establishing clear communication with their multinational partners.

“Even though we all speak English, everyone has their own code words and brevity terms,” he said. “So an exercise like this was good for how we understand each other and how we operate.”

Spc. Grant Ligon
USA-A
RC-E
The KFOR Magazine for KFOR People

A VISUAL OVERVIEW

07 AUG 2019
KFOR Commander Major General D’Addario welcomed Brig Gen Hans Scatzmann Commander of the Swiss Military Police to KFOR HQ.

07 AUG 2019
KFOR Commander Major General D’Addario hosted Mr Michel Soula Head of Operations and Missions NATO International staff to KFOR HQ.

14 AUG 2019
KFOR Commander Major General D’Addario welcomed H.E. Quemal Minxhozi, Ambassador of the Republic of Albania to KFOR HQ.
20 AUG 2019
KFOR Commander
Major General D’Addario welcomed H.E. Ruari O’Connel, Ambassador of the UK to KFOR HQ.

20 AUG 2019
KFOR Commander Major General D’Addario met with LG Kostantinos Floros, Commander of the 1st Greek Army Corps, to KFOR HQ.

21 AUG 2019
KFOR Commander Major General D’Addario hosted Mr Alkiviadis Stefanis, Greek Deputy Minister of Defence to KFOR HQ.
On 03 August 2019, the Austrian contingent (AUTCON 40) organized an international event “Tough Soldiers Competition”, in KFOR HQ’s, Camp Film City.

This extremely challenging course was tackled by 17 teams, made up of four (4) people and included personnel from 11 nations. The participants that entered this challenge of physical endurance and strength were seven (7) Austrian teams, two (2) German teams, a team from Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, Italy, the United States, and three (3) mixed teams, consisting of Canadians, Irish, Swiss and Polish personnel. All teams consisted of one (1) Officer, one (1) NCO, and a female soldier in the squad. All stages of the course had to be completed as a team, testing personnel’s teamwork skills under strenuous physical conditions while boosting Esprit De Corps as teams competed hard to beat their opponent’s times.

This extremely demanding sports competition incorporated a variety of disciplines that needed to be mastered in the areas of stamina and strength endurance under time constraints. It began with a gruelling backpack run carrying a weight of 15kg over a distance of 1000 metres. This was followed by an obstacle course which involved; a tire run, a trench crawl, overcoming obstacle crossings, a powerlifting exercise, target grenade throwing, and a “CASEVAC”- run carrying a 65kg stretcher for 100 metres. On
approaching to the grand finale, a vehicle had to be pulled or pushed over a distance of 25m up a slope to the finish line. All competitors where cheered on by their contingent and work colleagues as their tired bodies fell over the finish line with a sign of relief and sense of personal achievement! The dignified winners of the “Tough Soldiers Competition” were a team from the Hungary Contingent (Bálint István Nagy, István Oberna, Andrea Filipinyi; Zsolt János Pap). Rightly, this outstanding winning team can be proud of their achievements to be awarded the “Toughest Soldiers” in Camp Film City (CFC)! Second place was awarded to the Austrian team from B Coy, with third place going to the Polish team. A hugely successful competition that nurtured the important skills required of a combat soldier while also creating a team bonding, multinational and competitive environment which pushed the competitors to the edge of their operational fitness levels. Congratulations to all the members of the Austrian Contingent who organised this event which was thoroughly enjoyed by both spectators and all teams that participated.

Comdt. Joanne Naughton
OF-3 IRL-A
PAO Chief Internal Information
&
1SG Andre Ogris
OR-8 AUT-A
NCO PAO
During the month of August, the MSU Regiment, through their CIMIC team, reached out and helped two families who required assistance by providing them with basic requirements to improve their standards of living.

The first donation was performed on 04 July 2019, assisting a Kosovo Albanian (KOA) family living in the municipality of Mitrovica South. The needs of this family were identified while MSU personnel were patrolling and observed that this family was in distress from a social and economic perspective. The household comprised of a 40 years old mother and her four children: three boys of thirteen (13), nine (9), six (6), and one three (3) year old girl. The MSU CIMIC team intervened to provide assistance, to improve the conditions and quality of life for the family by donating clothes, toys and foodstuff. The generosity and the friendly presence shown by the MSU boosted the morale of this family, making them feel both acknowledged and respected by KFOR troops.

The second donation occurred on 06 August 2019, assisting a KOA family in the municipality of Prizren. One of the main aims of the daily presence and activities of the MSU patrols is to assess the situation on the ground and to listen to the needs of the local population. This interaction with the local population and the Village Chief led to an exciting example of integration and intervention of the MSU CIMIC to help a KOA family in need. The family consists of father and four children aged between eleven (11) and four (4). They are totally dependent on government subsidies. The CIMIC team assessed what the family required and they donated foodstuffs, clothes, shoes and toys. Both CIMIC projects are a true reflection on how KFOR CIMIC projects can brighten up a family’s life and help the most vulnerable people in Kosovo to smile again!

OF-2 Luigi Scalingi
MSU S3 Chief
PAO
CHANGE OF COMMAND OF THE GREEK CONTINGENT

KFOR Deputy Commander, Brigadier General Reinhard Ruckenstuhl, presided over the Transfer of Authority ceremony of the Greek Contingent in Camp Film City.
After six months of outstanding service, the outgoing Greek Commander, Lt Col Nicolas Politis, handed over the responsibility to Major Efstathios Katsrakis. Addressing the troops, DCOMKFOR expressed his appreciation for the outstanding work done by Greek soldiers in his opening remarks “Opu doxa ke patrisz – where you achieve glory, there is your home. You served and protected Camp Film City in the past 6 months successfully which became your and our home for that time”.
Lt Col Nicolas Politis congratulated his soldiers stating that he was delighted with the performance of his subordinates, who were fully dedicated to their mission and determined to meet expectations. He acknowledged how it had been a true privilege to serve under the command of COM KFOR Maj Gen D’Addario, DCOM Brig Gen Reinhard Ruckenstuhl, COS Brig Gen Shawn Harris and HSG Comd Col Mark Hearns, “I promise you that the memories of our service under your command will always put a smile on our faces”.

CHANGE OF COMMAND OF THE GERMAN CONTINGENT

On the evening of 29 July 2019, the German Contingent held a Change of Command (CoC) ceremony in Camp Film City.
After seven (7) months of outstanding service, the German Commander, Col Gunnar Steinseifer handed over the responsibility to OF-5 Capt Volker Brasen (German Navy).
During the ceremony, Col Steinseifer reflected on the loss of their German colleague, OR-8 Hauptfeldwebel Karsten Dokel who passed away on 01 July 2019. He acknowledged how difficult this time was for the German contingent and honoured their friend with a minute silence.
COM KFOR acknowledged the outstanding work of Col Steinseifer as ACOS J5 and as the German Senior Representative. He thanked him for his friendship and said “he was proud to work with him and he learnt a lot from him”. He also thanked the German contingent for their sterling work, acknowledging their contribution of providing security as KFOR soldiers in Kosovo, which allows for the dialogue to continue at the political level. He issued a warm welcome to the new German Contingent and to the new Commander Capt Brasen.
In recognition of their KFOR service, Kosovo Tactical Reserve Battalion (KTRBN) soldiers received the NATO medals on 20 August 2019, in Camp Novo Selo.

The 20 August commemorates the Hungary’s first king St. Stephen, but can also be referred to as “the day of the new bread” because the tradition was to cut bread on this day to celebrate the arrival of the harvest. St. Stephen was the first king of Hungary; he led the country into the Christian church and established the institutions of the kingdom and the church. He was canonized on 20 August 1083 and it is now celebrated as his feast day in Hungary.

Lieutenant Colonel Szabolcs Rácz Commander of KTRBN pointed out in his speech that the 20 August, is the most significant National day in Hungary when – according to the traditions – the young cadets are commissioned and promoted to lieutenants every year. “I remember 20 years ago when I stood as a Lieutenant in front of the Parliament. I was really proud and I feel the same as well today. I am proud of you, your work and your efforts, what you have done in providing a secure environment in Kosovo.”

Major General Lorenzo D’Addario, Commander of KFOR attended the ceremony, and delivered his speech to the soldiers of the KTRBN. First of all, he greeted the soldiers in Hungarian. After that, he thanked the KTRBN soldiers for their excellent and devoted job during their mission here, in Kosovo. “You are always going to be able to make KFOR respect impartial. We are here and serving NATO to make difference. Also we learn here how to fight together, how to be effective together because of the security here is very important. It’s a very difficult job, and you have done it very well. I am extremely proud to be associated with you in this KFOR mission. I am very optimistic for the future in Kosovo because of us!”

Thereafter, Major General Lorenzo D’Addario, Mr. László Márkusz (Ambassador of Hungary), Colonel Erich Walker (DCOM MA), Colonel Jeffrey Brownlee (COS MA) and Lieutenant Colonel Zsolt Ferenczi (Commander of CMLT) awarded the KTRBN Commander and another 173 Hungarian and 4 American soldiers - who were members of KTRBN – the NATO Balkans non-Article 5 Medal.

OF-1 Csaba BÚZ
KTRBN
PAO
CSS Bn Take Command

The ceremony for the Combat Service Support (CSS) Battalion Commander’s Transfer of Authority was held in Camp “Villaggio Italia,” in the Regional Command West (RC-W) on 19 July 2019.

During the ceremony held by the RC-W Commander, Colonel Daniele Pisani, the logistic Regiment from “Garibaldi” Brigade passed the torch to the logistic Regiment from “Aosta” Brigade.

Before handing over the command to his colleague Lt Col Renato Bonfiglio, the outgoing CSS’s Commander, Lt Col Raffaele Faraca, expressed his gratitude to all the soldiers who served under his command. In his speech he recalled the efforts made by his soldiers to accomplish all their tasks during their six months tour. He mentioned the movements of different kind of vehicles, inbound and outbound; the logistic support offered to CIMIC projects in support of the local population and in his conclusion he mentioned the support offered to all the RC-W units.

The CSS’s Bn is a logistic battalion under the RC-W’s command chain. It guarantees logistic support to all the units in the Battle Group. The new unit composing the CSS’s Bn is a logistic Regiment based in Palermo (Sicily) under the “Aosta” Brigade command chain. The Regiment has operated in the western part of Kosovo since last 19 July 2019. Made up of 76 Italian soldiers, the CSS’s Bn fulfills logistic tasks in order to support all kinetic and not kinetic units from the RC-W’s.

OF2 Stefano DE SANTIS
ITA -A PAO RC-W

SOLDIER OF THE MONTH

Name: Marco Hager
Rank: OR-5
Nationality: Austrian
Unit: Alpha Coy, RC-W
Serving As: Squad Leader

Sgt Hager was born on 24 October 1992. He attended school until 2008 and he started his apprenticeship as mechanic until 2012. He began his military career in January 2013 in the 25th Infantry Battalion (airmobile). He was deployed for the first time in Kosovo in 2014. He commenced his NCO training in 2016 and he successfully graduated in 2018. Presently, he is serving as a squad leader in the 2nd company in the 25th Infantry Battalion (airmobile).

During the relocation of his Company, a technical defect occurred to the logistical truck which was carrying the equipment of two platoons. This malfunction would have prevented the movement of the entire Company, since they could not continue without their equipment. OR-5 Hager, squad leader in the infantry platoon, due to his mechanical knowledge reacted and repaired the vehicle which ensured the continued movement of the Company. This is just one example of how OR-5 Hager has shown his professionalism during his deployment here in KFOR.

He is a role model to his fellow colleagues concerning his attitude and devotion to duty. He is able to transfer his motivation and inspire all other soldiers in his Company. He impresses with his irrepressible commitment, skills and knowledge. He brings these attributes into the military service every day. All this and more makes him a worthy winner of the Soldier of the Month award.
FIGHT AGAINST REMNANTS OF WAR

Combined EOD Training

On 14 and 15 August 2019, a series of combined open demolition activities have been successfully executed as part of a Live EOD Training Exercise by the KFOR Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) operators and the Kosovo Security Forces (KSF), in the interim demolition range located close to ARIJACA/ HARILLAQ.

Under the command of the Chief Explosive Threat Management (ETM) from Joint Engineers (JENG) Branch of KFOR Headquarters (HQ) planned and coordinated a combined EOD task force training of different open demolition techniques, with Swiss EOD on site command and control, KFOR's Austrian, Moldovan, Swiss, Ukrainian and United States EOD Teams with one (1) EOD Team from Kosovo Security Force (KSF). The “training aids” used for the exercise, were forty-five (45) pieces of different types of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) collected by the KSF during their regular EOD response interventions over the past number of years.

During EOD response interventions, according to EOD safety procedures, an element of explosive ordnance, if it cannot be moved, will normally be disposed of on site. This type of operation requires a lot of effort and coordination to ensure the maximum level of safety for both the EOD operators and for the local population and their property. If the unexploded explosive ordnance (UXO) or the abandoned explosive ordnance (AXO) can be safely moved, the EOD teams will transport it and dispose of it in a safer place or it will be transported to a KSF safe storage location. Finally, the collected elements of ERW are moved and finally disposed of in safe demolition ranges.

Combined EOD Emergency Response Tasks

On 20 August 2019, while performing their normal Battle Area Clearance (BAC) tasks as part of the Humanitarian De-mining effort in Kosovo, the KSF deminers discovered an old ammo cache
containing mortar ammunition in a very unstable condition in close proximity to the beautiful Park of Liberty, in the vicinity of FERIZAJ/UROSEVAC.

With technical assistance and support of KFOR’s Regional Command East (RC-E), the USA EOD Task Force extracted more than one-hundred-fifty-five (155) pieces of unstable AXOs which was safely extracted, loaded and transported to a demolition site for final disposal by two (2) KSF EOD Teams. On the same day, a hand grenade was reported by a local inhabitant at his property close to KLINA/KLINË which was safely disposed of by the EOD Task Force. These combined emergency response operations are common in the KFOR area of operations and all EOD tasking’s much be executed with extreme caution and precision.

During the first eight (8) months of 2019, there have been 135 EOD incidents of which, KSF have solved 119 and KFOR EOD solved 16 incidents. In the same period of time, for HD effort coordinated by Kosovo Mine Action Centre (KMAC), KSF, HALO Trust and Norwegian People’s Aid managed to make 111 hectares of land safe to the public, which had been previously contaminated with more than 600 mines and UXOs.

The Explosive Threat Management (ETM) from the Joint Engineers (JENG) will continue to support the demining/area clearance and EOD emergency response with the KSF, to assist in providing the population of Kosovo with a safer environment and with the aim that someday, the UXO remnants of war will be removed from the territory of Kosovo for good.

Ciprian “Chip” ANDRICA, LTC (retired)
KFOR Chief Explosive Threat Management
PHOTO OF THE MONTH
August 2019

Contribute to the KFOR Chronicle!

Just send your photos to: kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int by the 20th 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. A KFOR Chronicle T-Shirt is awarded each month to the winning photographer. You will be immortalised in the KFOR Chronicle! Is that not something to be proud of?

Sincerely,
The Chronicle Team.
Military Career and education: I am currently serving as Joint Logistic Operation Centre (JLOC) Deputy Chief. Back home, I command the 2th Canadian Division Support Group (2CDSG) Maintenance Company. Also, as you may have noticed, I am a proud French Canadian.

In 2005, I completed a degree in Physics Engineering at University Laval (Quebec City) with a material specialty. I subsequently joined the Canadian Armed Forces in 2006 as a Direct Entry Officer before completing my field technical training to become a maintenance officer. At the start of my career, I was responsible for the 2nd line maintenance of the Atlantic area. I also logistically supported many pre-deployment Afghanistan training. I then became 1st line maintenance officer with the Air Defence (4AD Regt) followed by Deputy Commander of 5th Canadian Division Support Group (5CDSG) Maintenance Company and was subsequently assigned as G4 Operation Officer of this Support Group, supporting numerous domestic operations.

In 2016, I was transferred to Ottawa and was appointed as the technical officer, as Deputy Project Manager for several small arms procurement projects while obtaining post-blast forensic qualifications with the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC) of the United States. I was then selected to be an Executive Assistant to the Assistant Deputy Minister (Material)’s office within our National Defence Headquarters.

Family reaction: My family was extremely proud and supportive of this deployment. This came at a time in my career where I had been given the privilege to serve as Maintenance Company Commander and will return to this post after this tour. My family and my chain of command have being very understanding of this NATO mission opportunity!! They were also really excited to visit the Greek Islands during my leave as reward for their support.

Hobbies: I am a passionate hockey player that has always been involved in team sports. With my family, I enjoyed camping and travelling.

Name:        Jean-Raphael (JR) FLEURY
Rank:         OF-3
Country:      CANADA
Appointment in KFOR:  JLSG JLOC Deputy Chief

Military Career and education: I started my career in 2010 as a volunteer soldier at the Military Basic Training School in Ascoli Piceno, where I attended the basic training course. In June 2010, I was assigned to the ‘Military Equestrian Centre’ in Montelibretti (near Rome) where I carried out administrative and logistic duties. In September 2011, I was assigned to the Cavalry Regiment “Lancieri di Montebello” (8) in Rome where I served as a Gunner until 2017. In 2017 I was assigned to the Italian Army General Staff in Rome, in the Protocol Office of the Chief of Staff of the Italian Army prior to my deployment overseas. I graduated from Linguistic High School and I have a Bachelor Degree in Linguistic Cultural Mediation (English and German).

Overseas mission: This is not my first time in Kosovo, I served here from July 2015 to September 2016 as admin to COM KFOR XX and I also worked for two months with COM KFOR XXI in October 2016. I served in the National Operation for Homeland Security in Rome from NOV 2011 to JAN 2013. I also served in Shama, Lebanon from NOV 2013 to MAY 2014 with the Operation Leonte XV as a Gunner Specialist for the Sector Mobile Reserve (SMR). I have been awarded the Memorial Cross for military peace missions, the UN Commemorative Medal – Operation in Lebanon, the Italian Commemorative Medal for homeland security and the USA Army Achievement Medal. Currently, I work in administration in COM KFOR’s Front Office. Part of my responsibilities includes managing COM KFOR’s schedule.

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Hobbies: During my free time I enjoy swimming and running. I also like spending time with my friends and discovering the world of new cultures and languages. I love dancing and listening to different kind of music from all over the world.

Name: Melissa WAHEED
Rank: OR-4
Country: ITALY
Appointment in KFOR: ADMIN TO COM KFOR