



the CHRONICLE

KFOR's Magazine

October 2021



KFOR XXVI
DUTY-RELIABILITY-COMMITMENT

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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 the Chronicle T-Shirt is awarded each month to the winning photographer. You will be immortalised in the Chronicle!

Is that not something to be proud of?

Sincerely,
The Chronicle Team.

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Non-NATO (8) Nations Armenia, Austria, Finland, Ireland, Moldova, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine.

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A lot has changed since our last edition of the Chronicle and our main focus here is to record and feature those changes. KFOR XXVI has now taken command and the main feature of this month will focus on the change of command ceremony on the 15 Oct 21 and also to introduce our new COM KFOR, Maj Gen Kajári.

There's a really interesting article about an ITA soldier from RC-W who has a massive range of experience in conflicts globally and also in KFOR in the past, this article outlines to us his history and his achievements throughout his career.

JENG also had the opportunity to attend an EOD and mine awareness seminar, whereby they had the chance to explain and demonstrate their skillsets and also be educated in skill sets of other militaries and forces. This article outlines the seminar and the benefits of it.

Operation Silver Sabre took place in Sept, which is a coordinated exercise between KFOR and responders from the Institutions in Kosovo. This exercise plays a vital role in ensuring if there was ever the need for KFOR and other responders to work together during a natural disaster, that all parties understand each other's TTPs.

It's hard to believe, but only recently, for the first time ever an MP station in Camp Novo Selo was opened. Here we bring you an article outlining the background to the project and the immense benefit that it'll bring to the camp and the IMPs.

We've also included for you loads more articles from the key events that took place throughout the month.

Finally, this will be my final ever edition of the Chronicle to put together, as my tour of duty comes to an end this month. I would like to thank you all for your input, photos, guidance and advice over the last 6 months, it would not have been possible to do it without you. Wishing Comdt Liam McDonnell all the best in the future as he takes over and I hope that he enjoys the job just as much as I did!

Sincerely
Your KFOR HQ PAO team.



Comdt Aidan Ryan, Chief Internal Information, PAO.

KFOR Change of Command



Admiral Burke reviews the Honour Guard on parade

On the 15 Oct 21, in the most horrendous weather conditions possible, the change of command ceremony between KFOR XXV and KFOR XXVI took place, outdoor in Camp Film City.

The ceremony was presided over by Admiral Robert P. Burke, Commander of NATO Joint Force Command Naples, who during his speech took the opportunity to express his appreciation to the outgoing COM KFOR, Maj Gen Franco Federici for leaving an indelible impact on this essential mission. "General, I'm proud of how you led your team through this period, and of what you have achieved during your time in command. Your clear vision enabled KFOR to press forward with the larger mission and truly embodied the motto, **"As One We Progress."**

This was followed by a speech from the outgoing COM KFOR, Maj Gen Federici, who took the opportunity to thank all of those who supported him during his tenure with KFOR XXV. Speaking with intent, Maj Gen Federici also took the opportunity to stress the importance of everyone working together and closed off his speech with the KFOR XXV motto, **"As one we progress"**

Following these speeches the NATO flag was marched on parade by the KFOR XXV Command Sergeant Major, (CSM) Torre. The flag was passed from the CSM to Maj Gen Federici, who in turn passed the flag to Admiral Burke, marking the end of the tenure of KFOR XXV. Admiral Burke then passed the flag to the incoming COM KFOR, Maj Gen Ferenc Kajári, marking the beginning of KFOR XXVI. The flag was finally passed to the Command Sergeant Major of KFOR XXVI, CSM Tamás Zsiros and marched off the square to take its place alongside the Honour Guard of the parade.

Following this, Maj Gen Kajári had the opportunity to address the parade whereby he thanked Admiral Burke for the opportunity to lead KFOR and outlined the importance and privilege of holding such a position. COM KFOR XXVI also took the time to outline the motto for his tenure in charge, "Duty, Reliability and Commitment" and explained to all in attendance why he had chosen these words.

Command Ceremony

Finally, the NATO anthem was played and the ceremony ended with KFOR XXVI now taking command of the mission. A special mention must be made to the Parade Commander, the KFOR DCOM, Brig Gen Günter Schöpf and all of the Honour Guard who had to endure heavy rain and strong winds throughout, but still gave an impeccable performance.

The ceremony was attended by local and international representatives, despite some restrictions and necessary security measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Admiral Burke addressing the ceremony



Saluting the NATO anthem

Aidan RYAN
OF-3, IRL-A
Chief Internal Information

Major General

Biography



Major General Ferenc KAJÁRI was born in 1967 in Budapest, Hungary. Upon graduating from the military secondary school, he joined the Kossuth Lajos Military College of the Hungarian Defence Forces in 1985 and got commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in 1988 with an armoured reconnaissance officer degree and a general engineer degree.

From 1988 until 1996, General Kajári served at Infantry Brigades in different reconnaissance and MI positions as platoon leader, company commander, S2 staff officer and Brigade S2.

In 1996 he was assigned to the Hungarian Engineer Contingent of IFOR and served as an S2 and liaison officer in the staff. Upon finishing his deployment, he was transferred to the Ministry of Defence, where he served in a number of positions, most notably as

Aide-de-Camp to the Deputy State Secretary for NATO Integration.

In 1998 he was selected to serve in one of the newly established Partnership for Peace staff positions, and was assigned to the Headquarters of SACLANT, where he served in the PFP staff element until Hungary's NATO accession in 1999. Following this, he served in the Education and Training Department.

Since his return to Hungary in 2001 he has been serving in different staff positions at the J2 Directorate of the Hungarian Defence Forces.

In 2001 he enrolled to the National Defence University (Budapest), and in 2004 earned his Master's degree in military leadership.

In 2004 he deployed to Darfur as an EU representative and Military Observer of the African Union Mission in the Sudan (AMIS), where by the second half of his tour he organised the S2 section in his sector and became the sector S2 chief.

In 2007 he deployed to Afghanistan, where he served as the first Hungarian Chief CJ2, ACOS in RC-North of ISAF.

Between 2014 and 2015 he attended the General Staff Course of the National University of Public Service, where he earned the "ZRÍNYI Award" of the class of 2015.

In 2016 he was appointed as the director of the Military National Security Service Intelligence Directorate. In 2017 he was promoted to Brigadier General and in 2021 to Maj Gen.

Maj Gen Kajári is married to Veronika, and has a daughter and a son.

Ferenc KAJÁRI

Letter from COM KFOR

Fellow Soldiers, Team KFOR XXVI,

It is a great honour to be your Commander and serve together with you in NATO's longest running and without doubt most successful mission.

Over the past two decades KFOR has earned the respect and appreciation of all involved parties as an impartial and reliable guarantor of security in Kosovo. My overall goal is to preserve all these values. I made a promise to continue my predecessor's work, and to keep the direction that he has put this organisation in, but I also I believe there is a lot more work ahead of us. All leaders have the obligation to make his organization better, more efficient, more credible and more rational, perhaps in a different manner or style. As an old saying goes: You shall always leave your farm to the next generation in a better condition than it was in when yourself took it over. Maj Gen Federici did that, and I intend to do the same thing.

As your Commander I would like to build on not just

continuity but teamwork as well. I am fully aware of your expertise and dedication. We may come from 28 different countries but sharing the same vision to reach new heights of success with a joint effort.

For the success of a military operation, it is essentially important that every member of the organisation has the sense of duty and most of all, put duty first. We must all be reliable to complete the tasks on time and in compliance with the military discipline that distinguishes every soldier. Commitment is also needed to overcome the challenges and endure the hardship that comes with accomplishing our tasks. That is why I have selected as a motto for the 26th command period of KFOR these values: Duty – Reliability – Commitment.

I look forward to meeting and working with all of you in the field.

***Maj Gen Ferenc KAJÁRI
COM KFOR XXVI***



Moonlight drowns out all but

OR-6 Gianluca Maria Lorenzo Ricatti was born in Barletta in 1986, under the shining sun of one of the most beautiful lands of Southern Italy. Once he was old enough in 2006 he promptly volunteered in the Army and as a Private he was assigned to the 32nd Signal Regiment. Despite his young age, his proficiency in using weapons earned him an assignment to the Company armory, where he had the opportunity to improve his knowledge of weapon systems.

He joined the Airborne Troops in 2007, starting his long journey into the vast world of the maroon berets. His training started, like many other young aspiring parachutists, in the Airborne family, the Airborne Training Center (CAPAR) in Pisa (Tuscany). In the late days of autumn, he started his basic training in parachutist infantry tactics and procedures, getting ready for the moment of his first jump, the first of many.

Reborn as a fully trained and qualified parachutist, he was assigned to the 183rd Airborne Infantry Regiment, located in Pistoia, and started his duty as a rifleman. Along with his new Regiment, he served Italy in several Homeland Security Operations

throughout the following years and he proudly served in Afghanistan twice. In 2009, as a Corporal, Ricatti was deployed with his fellow comrades, in the Election Support Force TF, based in Shindand, with the task of supporting CIMIC activities during KLEs and humanitarian aid distributions. It was during one of these activities, called Operation "Swift Response", that his unit was ambushed in the outskirts of Parmakan village. A fierce fight broke out, there were insurgents firing from the rooftops with many weapon systems (AK47s, RPGs and even mortars), unfortunately, Corporal RICATTI suffered serious neck injuries while firing with his machine gun from the rooftop hatch of his fighting vehicle. He held fast until the fight was over and then he was sent back to home to receive the correct medical attention. After a few months he was ready to return to active duty, eager and anxious to rejoin his comrades.

His peaceful days in Italy ended in 2011 when he was sent back to Afghanistan again, in Bala Morghab, where he was assigned the duty to patrol the area around the Forward Operating Base and manage several Combat Out-Posts in order to prevent any insurgent attempt to directly attack friendly



the brightest stars, in RC-W



territory. Fierce gunfights broke out all around the Bala Morghab FOB during the time he spent there, and every comrade who was there with him still remembers how harsh that time was.

Once back home, Gianluca decided to move forward and applied for a career as an NCO; the promotion to Sergeant arrived in 2013 and then he was assigned to the 185 Airborne Artillery Regiment based in Bracciano (Rome). With his new Regiment, he served in 2015 in Iraq, in the Italian "Prima Parthica" training mission. Training young volunteers fighting for the survival and freedom of their people going to leave a deep mark, and that's exactly what happened, as these moments are engraved into Gianluca's fondest memories.

In 2017-2018 Gianluca was deployed to KFOR as Squad Leader of the Italian P-Coy, there he served for six months bringing all of his experience across three different missions, from two of the most challenging theatres of war of the last decades.

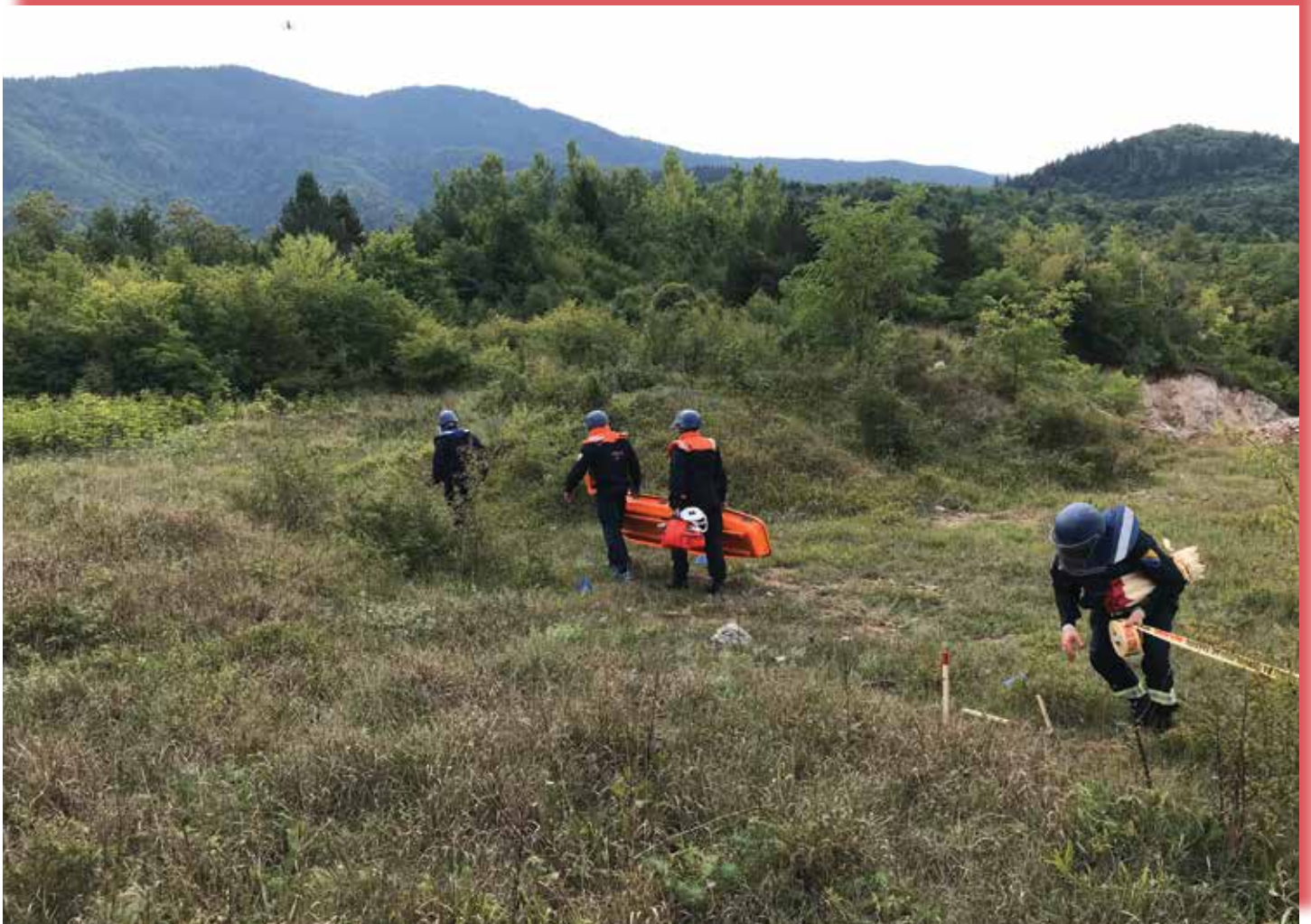
He is again deployed in KFOR, this time as the Deputy Team Leader in the K14 Liaison Monitoring Team. K14 can proudly claim that one of the most skilled and experienced soldiers in the Italian Airborne Brigade is now deployed as part of their ranks. Due to Gianluca's experience with different cultures and local habits, developed across many years of active duty, the

municipality of Deçane has for sure gained the most reliable reference point for issue of any kind. As lightning, always and wherever!

Michele LO MONACO
OF-4, ITA-A
RC-W PAO



Western Balkans Demining



Between 7th and 9th of September 2021 in SARAJEVO, Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) the Demining and EOD Seminar for Western Balkans took place. The activity was organised by Intelligence-Sec Limited in partnership with BiH Federal Administration of Civil Protection (FACP) and consisted of two (2) days of lectures bringing together a wide range of international speakers delivering in-depth knowledge on Humanitarian Demining and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) and one (1) field day where real situations and demonstrations were presented by BiH EOD Teams from FACP.

Shared presentations and case studies were presented by representatives of Mine Action Authorities from BiH, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia. International programs and support for demining and EOD were

presented by the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

NATO was represented by the most relevant Centres of Excellence (COEs), respectively NATO EOD COE, NATO Counter Improvised Explosive Devices (C-IED) COE and NATO Military Engineering (MILENG) COE. NATO Kosovo Force (KFOR) was represented at this activity by LTC Ciprian “Chip” Andrica (Retd) who lectured on KFOR’s successful way in addressing the whole range of explosive threats in Kosovo. The audience was briefed initially on Kosovo’s explosive threat main components and then on the existing mechanism of tackling the threat which is the Kosovo EOD Response System. While referring to KFOR means mitigating the explosive threat, the speaker detailed

g and EOD Seminar - JENG

the KFOR support provided to Institutions in Kosovo and their effort in controlling the civil use of explosives.

The third day of the seminar included the site visit to the bombed ammo depot in HADZICI (Western SARAJEVO) and a live demonstration of a victim evacuation from a minefield using both canine and drone support.

The event provided an excellent opportunity to have KFOR's top explosives experts updated on the current Mine Action concerns and developments in Western Balkans and in return, to share with the audience the KFOR experience and expertise gained in Kosovo.



LTC Ciprian "Chip" ANDRICA, (Retd)
KFOR Chief Explosive Threat Management



OPERATION

The summer of 2021 was exceptional for KFOR, compared to previous years. In fact, accomplishing the operation of the clearance of a bombed petrol station made this summer special. To understand the complexity of this operation, we must refer to its background.



The MARASH petrol station is a family business located in small town Lugbnar, quite close to Gjakovë/Đakovica. Potentially hazardous materials may have existed at the site which could have posed a threat to humans and any further development in the area. The surrounding areas had been cleaned in the past, but the collapsed building remained uncleared and remained untouched. For its clearance, an armored engineer vehicle was required, which was not available in KFOR previously. Communications between local representatives and KFOR began in 2014 and it was decided to launch a joint clearance operation aiming to remove all the remaining potentially hazardous materials. However, the entire operation was suspended at the final stage of its planning in May 2014 due to storage issues of any hazardous materials that may be found. A solution was eventually found for the storage issue and progress could be made. Eventually, following the agreement between all parties, the operation was revived.

Finally, during the summer of 2021, all of the details were prepared, and KFOR was able to accomplish the task, which was named OP BLUE VELVET. The first part involved participants from KFOR and KSF arranging several meetings to create a joint threat assessment plan, to find ways to decrease the level of risk for its personnel during the execution. Also, those meetings were arranged to discuss all execution procedures. Simultaneously, the Joint Logistic Support Group (JLSG) and Joint Engineer (JENG) led the preparation phase inside KFOR. In the end, to decrease the risk as much as possible, the JLSG Commander and the JENG Chief jointly decided to create an asset comprised of Swiss engineers with light engineer equipment and Ukrainian engineers with armored engineer vehicles for providing technical assistance to the KSF on the clearance of the building.

In fact, the decision to use an armored engineer vehicle was like a coin with two sides. On the one side, “the beast” provides the highest level of protection in

BLUE VELVET

case of any potential ordnance that may have existed in location. On the other side, it caused difficulties on how to deliver the 46-ton machine to Lugbunar. Unexpectedly, during the preparation phase, it became clear that the transportation of heavy equipment like Ukrainian IMR-2, based on a T-72 chasis to the South-West of Kosovo, was something that was never done before by KFOR. After several road reces, dozens of meetings with road and bridge experts, many phone calls to the the liK, leading KFOR engineers realised that only one route could be used for transportation from Camp Novo Selo to Lugbunar. Even this route contained three bridges with a limit of 50-ton, which meant that “the beast” must be offloaded from flat bed trailer and pass over these bridges on its own. Moreover, a main engine towing “the beast” had to go through cities and towns such as Pejë/Pec and Gjakovë/Đakovica.

On Jul 14, 2021, the operation commenced. With the assistance of the IMP, KSF MP and local Kosovo Police, Ukrainian engineers deployed heavy armored equipment to the site. On 15 Jul and 16 Jul 21, the IMR-2 pushed and demolished the building of the former petrol station. From the 19-22 Jul 21 Swiss engineers crushed concrete parts into tiny pieces and loaded them into trucks. During the execution, Swiss engineers provided watering to keep down the dust that may have contained hazardous materials. Before loading smashed concrete into trucks, it was checked for any hazardous materials.

Luckily, there was no hazardous materials found at the site and the mission was accomplished, and on 22 Jul 21, all KFOR engineering assets returned to the duty station.

Ivan NASTENKO
OF-3, UKR-A
JLSG



RC-E Mass Casualty and

The 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's (MTN) mantra is 'Ready to Go.' Training and repetition are paramount to ensuring Soldiers are ready to respond to a variety of situations.

An active shooter is certainly one of those situations.



situation,” said Capt. Richard Sugai, battle captain, Regional Command - East. “Having a clear picture ensures we are communicating accurately with all concerned parties. Once the initial call came in and we activated our phone tree, the call to shelter in place and lock down came quickly.”

Security surrounded the perimeter of the area where the active shooters were located, and emergency vehicles and military police arrived promptly on scene. Once they arrived, military police quickly assessed the situation and breached the building where the active shooters were located.

Regional Command – East conducted an active shooter exercise in Camp Bondsteel recently to train Soldiers from a variety of sections with a variety of specialties to ensure readiness in the instance of a real-world active shooter. The exercise included active shooters, casualties, response from the joint operations centre, civilian emergency responders, medical personnel, security details, and military police responses.

The call to the joint operations centre came just after 9:30 a.m. that there was a simulated active shooter.

Capt. Richard Sugai and Staff Sgt. Jeff Bissonnette were on duty at the battle desk in the JOC to receive the initial call. From there arose a flurry of activity. Soldiers taking notes, gathering information, and making necessary calls to communicate to the appropriate sections.

“Gathering necessary information and maintaining open communication with the forces on the ground is critical to allow us to paint a clear picture of the

“Military Police are trained to move directly to the threat, the 29th MP’s quickly analysed the situation and neutralised the threat within mere minutes of the initial call,” said Capt. Courtney Slaughter, provost marshal, Regional Command – East. “We train to build muscle memory and condition our Soldiers to think quickly in a high stress environment,” said Slaughter.

Once the threat was neutralised, civilian emergency responders began bringing out the wounded to a casualty collection area. During this time military police also interviewed witnesses from the building to gather as much information as they could. Military ambulances arrived on scene to begin bringing casualties to the medical facility here on Camp Bondsteel. Part of this process included evaluating each of the casualties, and identifying the severity of their wounds.

“All patients arrived to role 1E with appropriate Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) interventions, ensuring

Active Shooter Training

life-threatening extremity haemorrhage injuries and airway management had been appropriately treated to standard,” said Capt. John Gagnier, physician’s assistant, Task Force MED, Regional Command – East. “During the initial Golden Hour of care, patients were accessed and treated under the Damage Control Resuscitation principles prior to medical evacuation to higher echelons of care,” said Gagnier.

Casualties were then medically evacuated (MEDEVAC) to the medical facility. Once arrived, casualties were taken from the ambulances and more thoroughly evaluated by medical personnel. The wounded actors are each assigned a wound or ailment, and the medical professionals work to cypher the injuries each casualty has incurred based on their perceived symptoms.

“This exercise maximised our coordination and planning with all parties on Camp Bondsteel,” said Col. Brey Hopkins, commander, Regional Command–East. “Thesupportandparticipation from AAFES, ASG-Balkans, Contractors, CBS fire department, our multi-national partners and the entire RC-East team ensured that we exercised every muscle movement from incident location through transport to higher level medical care,” said Hopkins. “Exercises such as these are instrumental to our success and seamless execution in the event a real world event occurs.”

Mikel ARCOVITCH
OF-3 US-A
PAO RC-E



SILVER SABRE 2021 :



After one year of intense planning, and despite the significant limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Silver Sabre exercise finally took place in the Gjakove/Đakovica Airfield from 20-23 Sept 21.

The Silver Sabre exercise has been conducted since 2012, with the aim of testing and training the cooperation of various institutions in Kosovo, as well as the Kosovo Security Organisations (KSO), together with KFOR units in emergency response management.

For the first time being, the Kosovo Security Organisations played a role in the planning activities, mentored by KFOR subject matter experts and coordinated by the KFOR DCOM office. Since October 2020, KSO representatives and KFOR personnel met on numerous occasions in order to plan this complex exercise. The executive phase alone involved more than 350 people from 7 different organisations.

The exercise scenario was of a large-scale emergency response operation, where KFOR personnel together with Kosovo Security Council, Kosovo Police, Red

Cross, Kosovo Fire Fighters, Kosovo Security Forces, Emergency Management Agency and Gjakova/Đakovica municipality carried out all the necessary activities which should be carried out in order to restore safety and security.

In a complex scenario, such as an earthquake, personnel from the Kosovo Security Organisation faced search and rescue operations in an aquatic environment, intervention in a car accident and firefighting operations; this included medical treatment on casualties and a helicopter evacuation, operated by KFOR assets. Police activities, explosive ordnance disposal operations and toxic containment and decontamination activities were carried out by KSF specialised units.

The exercise serials were focused on training not just the tactical procedures, but also including the management of a large-scale emergency response operation at higher management levels. This also involved the command posts and the management of staff from the organisations participating in the exercise, which were involved in coordination and

Old Name, New Face

planning activities, and in simulating personality and media engagements.

KFOR DCOM – Brig Gen Günter Schöpf of the Austrian Army – followed all the steps to get to the final exercise since Oct 20, and stated that: “it has been challenging to plan this complex exercise, especially in this period in which the COVID pandemic affects all the aspects of our life; but finally we reached our objectives, remarking the professionalism of Kosovo Security Organizations in a large scale emergency relief operation, and effectiveness of working together for the same goal”.

In the end the final outcome of the exercise was definitely positive, showing good cooperation and relationships between organisations that were involved. It’s a good starting point for the 2022 edition...

Francesco D’ANIELLO
OF-3 ITA-A
PAO



IMP Station Opens



On Friday the 01 Oct 21 a historic occasion took place in Camp Novo Selo (CNS), for the first time ever an International Military Police (IMP) station was opened. For a camp the size of CNS, with the activity and amount of troops located in it, it's hard to believe that there was not an IMP station in location previously. Thanks to the hard work and diligence of a number of different personnel, including the KFOR DCOM, Brig Gen Günter Schöpf and the Force Provost Marshall (PM), Lt Col Jahn, the new station came about. The station would be managed and manned by Polish members of the IMP.

The arrival of the DCOM, Brig Gen Schöpf to open the station was marked with an Honour Guard from the Polish contingent and the playing of the NATO anthem, whereby the parade stood to attention and saluted.

Following the anthem the occasion was marked by a number of speeches, firstly by Brig Gen Schöpf, who outlined the challenges that are faced when trying to undertake a project such as this, "Most

of us know from experience that trying to change something within KFOR can be sometimes very tricky or difficult. During the summer Col Szabo (CNS Camp Commandant) approached me with the request to establish a permanent IMP-station here in Camp Novo Selo. I immediately supported this idea. However, I thought that the inauguration – if at all – would take place after my departure. As we can see, sometimes persistence pays off. Today we have the chance to officially inaugurate our new IMP-station, which has been operational for several weeks already. This was possible due to the fact that we all acted together". The DCOM went on to handover the station to the first ever station commander, Lt Jarosiewicz and wished him the best of luck in the future.

Brig Gen Schöpf was followed by the Force PM, Lt Col Jahn, who spoke about the importance of the IMP and their role in the mission, and made a donation of a number of items to the station in order to get it operational.

There was a final appeal to all, if possible to make a

at Camp Novo Selo



donation of essential kit and equipment in order to make the station functional.

The speeches were followed by a cutting of a ribbon and a tour of the station. The station commander, Lt Jarosiewicz took time to show Brig Gen Schöpf the new facilities in the station. Col Szabo was very grateful to the Irish contingent for the donation of a kitchen to the station, which would be utilised fully going forward.

Aidan RYAN
OF-3, IRL-A
Chief Internal Information





A commemoration was held on the 22 Sept 21, to mark the anniversary of the death of Senior Master Sergeant Hüseyin Kutlu, who died whilst in service with KFOR in 1999. The ceremony was presided over by the KFOR COS, BG Maier.

Photo by: PAO Staff



The official opening of the refurbished Headquarters entrance took place in KFOR HQ on the 02 Oct 21. The refurbishment works took place during KFOR XXV and was opened by MG Federici and HSG COM, Col Staunton.

Photo by: PAO Staff



On the 21 Oct 21, MG Kajári held a meeting in CFC with all of the troop contributing nations Senior National Representatives. COM KFOR took the opportunity to thank all of the SNRs for all of the hard work that their troops are contributing to KFOR.

Photo by PAO Staff

A ground-breaking ceremony took place for the construction of a new state of the art building that will be constructed for the Allied Command Counter Intelligence Section, which is based in CFC.



Photo by PAO Staff

On the 05 Sept 21, to mark the United Nations International Day of Charity, two women in the British contingent organised a prize draw, to raise money for the Kosovo Women's Network (KWN). Over 600 tickets for the prize draw were sold, raising a total of €3,635 EUR.



Photo by PSYOPS Staff

The KFOR Gender Advisor Office donated video and online broadcasting equipment to the Department of Journalism of the University of Pristina on the 11 Oct 21. This equipment will allow students to transmit events online and inform the community about various topics.



Photo by PAO Staff

New CSM for



Generals, National Representatives, Officers, NCOs, Soldiers, Team KFOR,

It is a great honour and privilege to be here in KFOR. It is a historical moment for KFOR and for my country to become the lead nation in a NATO mission.

It is a great pleasure and merit to be here and take this crucial position from my predecessor, CSM Andrea Torre from the Italian Army. I appreciate his effort and achievement to create a friendly environment among nations. I'm humbled and honoured to continue his work as KFOR Command Sergeant Major.

As a CSM, I have a cardinal role in the command group to represent NCOs and Enlisted personnel from all contributing nations. Simultaneously, I act as a special advisor to the COM KFOR and COS for all NCOs and Enlistee related matters. 28 contributing countries have 28 different views, my goal is to create a shared understanding of the role of the CSM here. As you are all aware, there is no 'I' in the team. I cannot

do this alone; therefore, I ask you all to build a TEAM that helps to make this mission more straightforward and successful. At the same time, I want to create an NCO chain of command including the HQ and subordinate unit NCOs to help COM KFOR's decision making process in OR related matters.

There is a unique piece of advice: 'ASK, or TASK' That means I would ask all officers in our AOO to support me as CSM and support all NCOs who are the BACKBONE of this mission. At the same time, I TASK all NCOs and Enlisted personnel to provide their knowledge, experience, expertise and skills to develop the KFOR mission. For these reasons, I encourage you all to keep your heads up, be positive, and keep your physical and mental condition at the appropriate level.

KFOR is an active NATO operation that carries out its mission under a UN mandate to support the country and local authorities' efforts of maintaining

r KFOR XXVI

a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement. This Operation is remarkable for all of us because it's become the longest and largest NATO mission in history. Nowadays, KFOR is facing multiple challenges and invisible threats such as a pandemic. COVID 19 changed the entire World, also the mission environment. Therefore the force protection and safety measures are the number one priority in our mission environment. Adhering to the COVID 19 preventive measures is an obligation nobody is exempt from them. I highly encourage all officers and Senior Enlisted Leaders to lead with the example to coach and supervise their subordinates to follow the rules and regulations and adhere to discipline.

Our Commander, Maj Gen Ferenc Kajári and I signed the vision and intent of KFOR XXVI, and our motto is DUTY, RELIABILITY and COMMITMENT! Those are strong words, but all who sign up for this mission are on DUTY. We RELY on your expertise, knowledge and experience, and we do not expect more from you than to dedicate your COMMITMENT in your area of responsibility and presence. KFOR is a multinational and multicultural environment, and I ask you to get to know each other, be familiar with our diversity, make friends and create good memories.

Finally, it's a privilege for me and the entire Hungarian NCO system to be the first Hungarian senior non-commissioned officer in charge of the KFOR command. At the same time, I would also like to mention recognition, trust and honor. This step proves that the Hungarian NCO development process and the entire NCO Corps are on the right track and have achieved their ability to lead such a crucial mission. I am humbled to be a leader in this primary task.

I can assure you that I pledge to follow my predecessors' path extraordinarily paved in the past years—especially my Italian colleague from whom I take over this critical role. I will do my best to represent NATO, KFOR, my country, the Hungarian Defence Forces, and myself with dignity.

I wish you all the best and a successful KFOR XXVI mission.

Tamás ZSIROS
OR-9 HUN-A
CSM



Photo of the Month



KOSOVO

Photo: Elisabeth SCHLEICHER
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