

KFOR CHRONICLE

The KFOR Magazine for KFOR Soldiers

April 2015

OPERATION GOLD RUSH



CAMP FILM CITY
5K "CHARITY RUN"

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KFOR Chronicle photo competition prize giving.

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NATIONS WITHIN KFOR



EXAMPLE, ENDEAVOUR, ENTRUST

OPERATION GOLD RUSH

The sound of helicopter blades spinning cracked through the sky as six helicopters from three different nations zoom from Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo to Camp Maréchal de Lattre de Tassigny (CMLT) to pick up Hungarian army infantrymen for a mission.

U.S., Croatian, Slovenian and Hungarian soldiers, all part of Multinational Battle Group-East (MNBG-E) participated in Operation Gold Rush, a training exercise where infantrymen were airlifted for a mock operation, 05 April 15.

“It was our job to take 91 Hungarian infantrymen to assault an objective,” said U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Quentin Hastings, an instructor pilot with the 1st Battalion, 150th Aviation Regiment, New Jersey National Guard and the air mission commander for the operation. “We provided helicopters to the infan-

try unit so they could be dropped off on the mountain, which they otherwise couldn’t reach on foot.”

Three U.S. Black Hawks, two Croatian Mi-8’s and one Slovenian UH-1Y Super Huey, were used for the mission.

The six helicopters flew in a group to pick up the Hungarian soldiers from CMLT and placed them into different insertion points in the mountains of Kosovo. Hungarian soldiers assaulted up the mountain to complete their ground mission.

Once aviation received a call they extracted the infantryman and brought them back to their

camp and the mission was complete.

“Today was an absolute success,” said Hastings. “There are many more variables involved when working with other nations. From performance abilities to the different aircraft to the communication, all around many things are different. The great thing is that we are all pilots and the aviation language is English, so we were able to cross mission execution boundaries and communicate with each other and accomplish the mission efficiently.”



PICTURE: PAO MNBG E

MNBG-E is made up of several countries and the missions often require different nations to work together.

“We don’t fight wars as individuals,” said Hastings. “Training with our NATO allies keeps up our proficiency and strengthens our ability to complete missions successfully.”

This was the first multinational mission for the Slovenian pilots.

“This is the first time we were able to fly with other countries,” said Slovenia Army Maj. Franko Jesensek, a helicopter pilot. “It had some challenging moments. We don’t usually fly with six other aircraft like we did today, so that was quite an experience. We are used to flying with just one aircraft. It was harder because you have to communicate with the other pilots and pay close attention to what they are doing.”

The flight crews met at the end of the day to discuss the pros and cons of the mission. All of the pilot teams agreed that the mission was a victory for every nation.

Sergeant Melissa Parrish
OR-6 US A



PICTURE: PAO MNBGE (3)

5K “CHARITY RUN” AT CAMP FILM CITY

A road running competition over a distance of five kilometres was held last March the 27th in Camp Film City (CFC) –KFOR Headquarters. The event, which was organized by the US Contingent in CFC, attracted hundreds of male and female participants. Quite good weather conditions provided ideal conditions for the athletes to complete two laps around the perimeter of the base.



The competition provided the opportunity for all KFOR members to participate in the fun run raising much needed funds for charity. As a matter of fact, all participants donated their registration fee to a Kosovo humanitarian organization called “SOS Children Villages”, an NGO which provides support to orphaned children all over Kosovo. The runners were awarded with a Running t-shirt displaying the race logo. The entire amount collected by the staff was donated to the NGO representative at the end of the race.

Even though the competition was a “fun run” to help needy people, the top three males covered the distance in less than 18 minutes. The first male across the line was an Austrian soldier, Friedrich Klaus



PICTURE: OK-4 Di-Giovannti Giuseppe (2)

and the first female was an Irish Captain, Danielle Murphy.

The initiative was deeply appreciated by COM KFOR, Major General Francesco Paolo FIGLIUOLO who participated in the event himself. All participants enthusiastically took part, primarily to demonstrate a show of solidarity for the event. Sport is beneficial to all, and the “Charity Run” is a clear demonstration how KFOR troops continue to support the peace building process in support of Kosovo communities.

Captain Alessandro Eterno
OF-2 ITA A



PICTURE: OR-4 Di Giovanni Giuseppe (3)

COL WOEHL-DANZINGER ASSUMES COMMAND OF THE JOINT LOGISTICS SUPPORT GROUP

On Saturday, March the 28th, Major General Francesco Paolo Figliuolo, Commander Kosovo Force, supervised the combined Change of Command ceremony of the Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG) and the Austria Contingent (AUTCON) together with the Deputy Commander Kosovo Force, Brigadier Anton Waldner, in front of the multifunctional tent in Camp Film City in Pristina. The honored guest present was the Austrian Ambassador Johann Brieger. The JLSG headquarters' staff, subunits together with the Officers, NCOs and Soldiers of the Austrian Contingent 31, set up an impressive display of their capabilities and assets. The ceremony was conducted in old Austrian traditional manner by the AUTCON 31 Chief of Staff, LTC Alexander Raszer.

With great pride, after six months as commander, Colonel Franz-Josef Madner, outgoing COM JLSG, handed over the JLSG Colors to COM KFOR whom handed it over to Colonel Karl Woehl-Danzinger, incoming COM JLSG. During his address, Colonel Franz Madner stressed the benefit of JLSG and highlighted the important

achievements of the JLSG's 10th rotation, as well as the great contribution of the AUTCON to the KFOR mission and expressed his great appreciation to the HQ KFOR staff and warmly thanked COM KFOR and DCOM KFOR for their guidance and assistance.

As Austrian Senior National Representative, DCOM KFOR,

Brigadier Waldner addressed the parade and took the opportunity to publicly recognize the outgoing Austrian Soldiers for their performance and credit to their country. In his speech Brigadier Waldner expressed his appreciation for the professional way the Austrian Soldiers have performed their mission in this theatre,



PICTURE: OR-4 Di-Giovanini Giuseppe

accomplishing all their tasks in a successful and very efficient manner. Brigadier Waldner stated, “As Austrian soldiers, embedded in this multinational environment, and in the presence of local and international institutions, you have once more dignified the Austrian Armed Forces. I wish you all a safe return home to your families and friends”.

In the statement by COM KFOR, Major General Francesco Paolo Figliuolo reminded that logistics always poses special challenges and these challenges are certainly magnified in such a large AOR such as KOSOVO. The JLSG AOR involves multiple logistical lines of communication and many countries. Major General Francesco Paolo Figliuolo pointed out the Col Madner and his soldiers took on this challenge without hesitation and performed magnificently by



conducting numerous projects and activities within the JLSG. The JLSG conducted an incredible amount of operations supporting KFOR including EOD, Engineer, FOM support, and transportation movements. Of note were the multiple road repairs across Kosovo, RWDOB Prep work, the new

runway for KFOR assets at Camp Villaggio Italia, and the dismantling of FOP 31. JLSG moved over 4,500 people and their equipment in and out of Kosovo.

Major General Francesco Paolo Figliuolo further stated, “Every KFOR soldier owes a debt of gratitude to the JLSG for support



PICTURE: OR-4 Di-Giovanni Giuseppe (2)

given". After the official speeches, DCOM KFOR BG Anton Waldner conducted as Austrian Senior National Representative the Change of Command from AUTCON 31 to AUTCON 32, followed by Major General Francesco Paolo Figliuolo conducting the JLSG Commander Change of Command.

With effect from March 29th 2015, Colonel Woehl-Danzinger assumed command of the 32nd Austrian Contingent in KFOR and as Commander of the JLSG. After final orders and retiring of the colors, LTC Raszer concluded the ceremony and led the 600 guests inside the multifunctional tent concluding the Austrian Contingent and JLSG Change of Command ceremony.

Major Alexander Bauer
OF-3 AUT A



PICTURE: OR-4 Di-Giovannti Giuseppe

KFOR LOGISTICS CONFERENCE (KLC)

KFOR LOGISTICS CONFERENCE (KLC)

Headquarters KFOR ACOS Support (SPT), in close coordination with the KFOR Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG), hosted a KFOR Logistics Conference (KLC) on 25 Mar 2015 at CFC. The event is held on a quarterly basis and allows participants to address all logistical topics of interest affecting the KFOR mission.

Col Bojić (ACOS SPT), addressed all representatives, including National Support Elements (NSEs), Troop Contributing Nations (TCNs) and KFOR Units (G4/S4 Chiefs). Col Bojić reinforced COM KFOR's intent of ensuring that all logistics planning and management systems remain updated in order to meet KFOR's current and future logistics needs.

Seven different briefings were presented, including inputs from the J4 Chief, JLSG COM, JENGR Deputy Chief, Headquarters Support Group (HSG) Deputy Commander and J5 Chief Plans Policy. In addition, Head of Office

of the NATO Support Agency (NSPA) and Joint Force Command Naples (JFCNP) J4, participated with their own briefings. Several important topics were covered with an emphasis on the main areas of interest for current and future KFOR planning. The issues of KFOR Logistics Units capabilities, Camp Security, Accommodation Restructuring and Environmental were also developed. An open forum to discuss and highlight future logistics challenges, specific to the potential Future Force Posture (FuFoPo) also took place.

In summary, it can be stated that the sharing of information and

ideas in forums such as the KLC facilitates the development of value added working relationships. Such relationship networks enhance the capacity of KFOR's logisticians to deliver effective and efficient solutions to the challenges within the Balkans AOR. The KLC plays an important role in shaping logistics planning, co-ordination and service delivery allowing all stakeholders to "support together" KFOR's mission, wherever possible with maximum support.

Major Rui Oliveria
OF-3 PRT A



PICTURE: Afrim Hajrullahu

VISITS TO KFOR HQ - A VISUAL OVERVIEW



31st March 2015.
The Albanian Chief
of Defence, Major
General Jeronim
Bazo



2nd April 2015.
The Polish Prime
Minister, Mrs Ewa
Kopacz

PICTURE: OR-4 Di-Giovanni Giuseppe (2)

VISITS TO KFOR HQ - A VISUAL OVERVIEW



14th April 2015.
The Polish Armed Forces Operational Commander, Lieutenant General Marek Tomaszyci



20th April 2015.
Lieutenant General Joerg Vollmer, Deputy Chief of Staff of the German Army and Commander of German Field Army



22nd April 2015.
The President of the Republic of Bulgaria, Mr Rosen Plevneliev.

PICTURE: OR-4 Di-Giovanni Giuseppe (3)

KFOR TAG RUGBY - 'RATTLING THE ROOSTERS'

Sport is a valuable tool for the military in building positive community relations and developing enduring value added engagement with society as a whole.

Sport does not recognise rank, status or privilege. Sport offers a forum for competition between equals allowing both winners and losers to express themselves in an open, fair arena. Sport makes no allowance and shows no bias for or against race, colour, ethnicity, religion, social status or gender. It provides an opportunity to be judged as an individual or as a team on your merits within the rules of the game or contest.

It is with this understanding that personnel that a mixed KFOR panel consisting of Officers and NCOs, Males and Females, experienced and novice players alike took to the field of play on Thursday the 16th of April 2015. Our chosen opposition was the Kosovo Roosters Rugby Club who were established in Pristina in 2013. The aim of the 'Roosters', a mixed ethnicity team, is to bring Locals and Internationals together to play rugby. Our players came from 'Six Nations' and were drawn from KFOR (HQ, MNBG-E and MNBG-W), EULEX and the American Embassy. A pre match presentation took place by the KFOR team to the Roosters to mark the occasion.

Fitness, experience and the benefit of a series of organized training sessions stood to the KFOR team and allowed the 'Blues' to more than match their youthful opposition. In a keenly contested affair the Roosters scored a last minute try to draw the game. The final score stood at 11 all and stands as a testimony to the huge effort of both sides. The warm



PICTURE: OR-4 Di-Giovanni Giuseppe (2)

reception that both teams gave each other after the game, a hallmark of Rugby, highlighted how positive the engagement had been. A post game presentation of TAG Rugby Belts and Training Balls generously donated by the Irish Rugby Football Union was made to the Roosters to further support the development of Rugby in Kosovo.

All participants had a hugely positive experience, played with full commitment, accepted the final result and openly recognized and applauded the efforts of their opponent. It is through such norms, values and experiences that Sport has the capacity to enrich and enhance society and us all.

Commandant Neil Taylor
OF-3 IRL A



PICTURE: OR-4 Di-Giovanni Giuseppe (3)

MNBG-W: WINTER MOUNTAIN RESCUE COURSE

On Sunday the 22nd of March, in the BOGET/BOGE region of the RUGOVA Valley a final exercise was conducted marking the conclusion of the winter session of the mountain rescue course organized by MNBG-W in support of the PEC/PEJA municipality.

Italian mountaineering instructors from MNBG-W managed this two month long course, from February to March 2015, in order to train a group of 10 Kosovar civilians

on procedures such as search and rescue in the aftermath of avalanches, assessment of the status of snow, topography and first aid. All of these categories of instruction

were tested during the final exercise.

The event was supported by the MNBG-W commander, Colonel Carlo CAVALLI and Mr. Gazmend MUHAXHERI, PEC/PEJA mayor



PICTURE: MNBG W

both of whom attended the exercise. The project of creating a mountain rescue team in PEC/PEJA has been managed by the MNBG-W CIMIC cell. It aimed to develop the capacity to such a level that local personnel could effectively respond and intervene in times emergency specific to the winter environment. Furthermore, this capacity is expected to help the economical and touristic development in the RUGOVA valley, due to the increased reliability provided by the emergency responders.

Captain Francesco D'Aniello
OF-2 ITA A



HUNGARIAN NATIONAL DAY

On the 14th March 2015 members of the Hungarian contingent serving in Camp Slim Lines, Pristina, gathered to remember the 1848-49 revolution and the 167th anniversary of the War of Independence. Lt. Col. János Gacsal, the contingent Commander, mentioned numerous examples from history that can make all the Hungarians proud. If soldiers are well trained and disciplined, and led by charismatic commanders, we can be as successful as our ancestors, Lt. Col Gacsal said.

The Hungarian Revolution of 1848 was one of the many revolutions that year in Europe. The Hungarians fought for their independence against the Habsburgs. As Vienna faced its own revolution, the Habsburg Empire enabled the

Hungarian reformists to declare a new government and accepted its demands. The new government approved a sweeping reform package, referred to as the "April Laws", which essentially created a democratic political system

in Hungary. However, after the Austrian revolution was defeated, troops were sent to dissolve the newly elected Hungarian Parliament and the revolution turned into a war between Austria and Hungary. Initially the Hungarian Forces





achieved several victories, which sought Hungary's complete independence from Austria. As a consequence Habsburgs were pressed to ask for help from their most powerful ally Russia. Hungary

was left alone to fight against two of the most powerful countries of Europe and after a long range of battles, the Hungarian army surrendered at Világos. However, while the revolution was defeated,

those democratic theories set the example for most of the western democracies.

Warrant Officer Jozsef Csajbok
OR-8 HUN A



Commander KFOR XIX
Major General Francesco P.
Figliuolo,
Italian Army

**Chief Public Affairs Office &
KFOR Spokesman**
OF-4 Andrea Martellotti
Italian Army

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NATO Nations within KFOR
Albania, Bulgaria, Canada, Cro-
atia, Czech Republic, Denmark,
Estonia, France, Germany, Greece,
Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Luxem-
bourg, Netherlands, Norway, Po-
land, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia,
Turkey, United Kingdom, United
States.

**Non-NATO Nations within
KFOR**

Armenia, Austria, Finland, Ireland,
Moldova, Sweden, Switzerland.

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PHOTO COMPETITION PRIZE GIVING



SSGT. Ferdo Strgar SVNCON KFOR 30 has won 1st prize in the KFOR Chronicle Photo Contest 2014.



Mr. Naim Shala has won 2nd prize in the KFOR Chronicle Photo Contest 2014.



LTC Andrea DE COURTEN, Chief of Staff, SWISSCOY 31 has won 3rd prize in the KFOR Chronicle Photo Contest 2014.



Military education: I joined the Albanian Military Academy in 2001. Since finishing the Military Academy in 2004 I have completed many different Military courses like Professional Advancement Course, Counter-insurgency Course, Joint Conflict and Tactical Simulation (JCATS) Course, Joint Exercise Management Module (JEMM) etc. During my career I have served in several units and positions covering different roles in commanding and training fields.

About the mission: This is my second mission abroad; in 2012 I was deployed to Afghanistan under ISAF command. Working as HQs SECURITY OFFICER gives the opportunity to meet and cooperate with many different people both military and non-military. In this job human and professional relationships are very important in order to successfully accomplish the mission.

Name: Çlirim Shehu
Rank: OF-2
Nationality: Albanian
KFOR Unit: HQ Security Officer

Family reaction: I was born in 1980 in Kukes City located on Northeast of Albania. Kukes attracted international attention during the Kosovo conflict when approximately 450 000 Kosovo Albanian refugees crossed the border and were hosted there. In 2000 Kukes, because of its exceptional humanitarian role was nominated for Nobel Prize for peace.

Currently I live in Tirana the capital of Albania with my wife, despite the fact that she is a civilian, she always understood and fully supported me in every moment of my military career.

Hobbies: I love lots of sports but especially soccer and swimming. Even though the technology nowadays offers lots of entertainments I prefer reading books. I like to spend my free time with good friends, travelling and exploring beautiful places.



Military education: Trained paramedic. Underwent three months of Peace Support Operation (PSO) training with SWISSINT in Stans, Switzerland.

About the mission: First PSO deployment.

Family reaction: At first, my parents were skeptical since they didn't know much about the situation in Kosovo, except the images that mainstream media are showing. After some research and more detailed information about the mission and the training they are proud of my involvement. They support me at all times.

Hobbies: Handball, horse riding, motorcycling.

Name: Bürgler Sarah
Rank: OR-6/SFC
Nationality: Swiss
KFOR Unit: Medics, Medical Center Swiss Compound

slightly

4			7	2				
8						1		2
	6	2			1	3		
	4				2			7
		5	6		7	2		
7			3				9	
		7	4			8	1	
1		6						5
				1	5			9

medium

		5					9	1
					6			3
					2	4		
	4	2		9	5			7
9	5		3		7		8	4
7			8	2		5	1	
		8	4					
1			6					
6	9					7		

difficult

	4	2	3			8	6	1
7				8			3	
3		5						
					4	3		
	9	3		2		4	5	
		4	5					
						9		3
	3			7				6
4	6	8			1	5	2	

very difficult

					6	5		
		1			5		7	
9	5	8	1					6
2		4				7	8	
			3	2	4			
	1	9				4		5
8					3	2	9	7
	9		2			6		
		6	7					

Rules:

The standard consists of a grid Sudoku field with 3×3 blocks, which are each divided into 3×3 fields, a total of 81 fields in 9 rows and 9 columns. In some of these fields at the beginning digits 1 to 9 are registered ("targets").

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

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

Solutions March

7	1	4	5	3	2	8	9	6
3	9	8	6	1	7	2	4	5
6	2	5	9	8	4	1	7	3
8	4	6	1	5	3	9	2	7
9	7	2	8	4	6	3	5	1
1	5	3	7	2	9	4	6	8
5	3	7	2	9	1	6	8	4
2	6	1	4	7	8	5	3	9
4	8	9	3	6	5	7	1	2

SLIGHTLY

2	3	5	6	4	7	9	8	1
1	8	9	5	3	2	4	7	6
7	4	6	8	9	1	2	5	3
4	5	1	9	7	8	3	6	2
3	6	8	1	2	5	7	9	4
9	7	2	3	6	4	5	1	8
6	9	7	4	1	3	8	2	5
8	1	3	2	5	9	6	4	7
5	2	4	7	8	6	1	3	9

MEDIUM

2	8	4	5	9	1	6	7	3
5	6	3	7	4	8	2	9	1
1	7	9	6	3	2	4	5	8
3	4	2	9	7	5	8	1	6
9	1	6	2	8	4	5	3	7
8	5	7	1	6	3	9	2	4
4	9	1	3	5	6	7	8	2
7	2	8	4	1	9	3	6	5
6	3	5	8	2	7	1	4	9

DIFFICULT

8	1	2	7	5	6	9	4	3
6	3	4	9	8	2	7	1	5
9	5	7	3	4	1	6	2	8
3	4	5	1	7	9	8	6	2
2	8	9	6	3	4	5	7	1
7	6	1	5	2	8	4	3	9
5	2	6	4	9	3	1	8	7
4	9	3	8	1	7	2	5	6
1	7	8	2	6	5	3	9	4

VERY DIFFICULT



PICTURE OF THE MONTH

April 2015

Contribute to the KFORChronicle!

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



Apr. 2015

“The spring has come”.

Equipment used:
NIKON D3000,
F11,
1/60,
ISO 100

Rafael Viseu
OR-6 Portuguese Army

