

KFOR Chronicle

February 1, 2008

Edition 1



MSU School Donation

New KFOR Chronicle Editor in Chief

My name is Major Gernot Schwarzenberger.

I am the new Chief Internal Information in HQ KFOR, and therefore responsible for the monthly KFOR Chronicle as an Editor in Chief.

In addition to my career as an officer, my professional background is a technical journalist and editor. My military profession is to maintain radar systems for the Austrian Aerial Surveillance. I'm also a member of the Public Affairs Office in the Military Command located in my hometown Salzburg.

This is my first deployment, but now after a few hard weeks in this theatre, I really enjoy working with my fabulous team:

Journalist Capt Valerii Petrushka (Ukrainian Army) has a sixth sense for outstanding stories, while Mr. Armend Aquifi is a professional photographer with high level skills for preparing the layout of the magazine and additional press-related products. Both became invaluable supporters for me.

My special thanks go to Lt. Col. Rex Johnson (U.S. Army), who, besides his CPAO job in MNTF E, is proofreading every single article for the KFOR Chronicle.

I would like to thank my predecessor Maj. Ewald Klinger (Austrian Army) for the great job he did here. He poured all of his heartpower into the KFOR Chronicle and prepared an excellent base for my handover/takeover procedure. Ewald, good luck to you and your family; let's stay in contact!

Since Dec. 10, the KFOR mission has been again in the focus of local and international media. For this reason, our main task will be to illustrate KFOR in a positive way. We will provide up-to-date information, step by step for newcomers and mission repeaters. For this work, we need your help!

If you have some good ideas, or special interests, just send it to us via e-mail kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int.

Use this chance because you won't easily find again a place where 16,000 soldiers from 34 nations are itching to read your story.

I wish all of you a safe tour while completing your mission with KFOR and good luck in the future.



KFOR CHRONICLE



Cover photo by
Armend Aqifi

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HQ KFOR

Estonia
Finland
Hungary
Netherlands
Norway
Portugal
United Kingdom

MNTF (C)

Czech Republic
Finland
Ireland
Latvia
Slovakia
Sweden

MNTF (N)

France
Belgium
Denmark
Greece
Luxembourg
Morocco
Estonia

MNTF (S)

Germany
Austria
Azerbaijan
Bulgaria
Georgia
Switzerland
Turkey

MNTF (W)

Italy
Hungary
Romania
Slovenia
Spain

MNTF (E)

United States of America
Armenia
Greece
Lithuania
Poland
Romania
Ukraine

COMKFOR New Year Letter for 2008

To all members of the KFOR Family, military and civilian:

It was an honor to spend the final four months of 2007 here with you. I would like to start 2008 by wishing you all a safe and happy New Year. As you all know by now, the immediate future promises to be not only a very historic time for Kosovo but also very challenging. I look forward to leading KFOR through this most unique period.

As we support the International Community and the leadership of Kosovo in navigating the steps that lay ahead, KFOR must continue to focus on its mission of providing a safe and secure environment for all the people of Kosovo in an even-handed manner, regardless of ethnicity. The professionalism of the members of the KFOR family thus far has been overwhelming. I am sure everyone will continue to perform in the same outstanding manner which will be a significant part of the reason we will maintain the peace not only for the politicians but also for all the people in Kosovo, many of whom work on a daily basis to provide support to KFOR. I look forward to your continued support in executing our mission while embracing our motto,

"PEACE WITH DETERMINATION"

Thank you again for your service. I wish you all a safe and healthy 2008 and may God bless you as he has me by making you all a part of the KFOR Family.

**Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac
Commander Kosovo Force**



Children of different ethnicities benefit from KFOR

Story by Capt. Valerii Petrushka, Ukrainian Army and
OR-6 Jason Smith, U.S. Air Force, Photos by Armend Aqifi

Students of different cultures are benefiting from their friendships with Kosovo Force through school supplies and other special treats.

The Italian Carabinieri and French Gendarmerie of the Multi-National Specialize Unit delivered supplies and gifts to a Serbian school on Dec. 18 and an Albanian School Dec. 19.

The first visit on Dec. 18 was to the Serbian school Kralj Milutin in Gracanica/Gracanice. More than 1,400 students attend the school in all grades. Students go to classes in three different shifts so they can all be accommodated. The school's director Gligorije Stojanovic said the school was one of the oldest Serbian schools in Kosovo, recently celebrating its 133rd year of existence.

This particular visit was to a class of about 30 third graders. OR-5 Axel Dahlquist, French Gendarmerie said the French and Italians wanted to do something special just before Christmas. Through cooperation with each other they organized this event. Once the students gathered in a classroom, the French and Italian soldiers opened boxes of back packs, pencils, rulers and various other school supplies. They also provided juice and cake to the children.

"All of the items were donated from Italy," said OR-5 Dahlquist. "We wanted to give the children something around Christmas. We try to help all the schools of Kosovo; Serbian and Albanian. It feels good when we do this."

After the gifts were passed out, all of the students raised their juice in a toast and said, "Thank you," in English. One girl in the class presented a coloring of Santa Claus to the MSU team.

Then, the children sang some songs before again offering an enthusiastic "Thank you!"

MSU CIMIC team continued their activities at Albanian primary school Ditet e Minatorit in Kishnica/Kishnice, the municipality of Gracanica/Gracanice. This school is composed with 280 students and 22 professors.

"Thanks and respect to MSU and KFOR soldiers from me, my teacher's team and students for this helping," said Bajram Binakaj, the school director. "It is really good what you do for people in Kosovo and an example is what you have done for our school. Thanks again." He has been leading the school for eight years, previously serving as a deputy director of a school in Gracanica/Gracanice.

A lot of useful things such as academic exercise books, satchels, pencils, juice, cakes and two electric heaters were presented to the kids by the team. At the end the children received hand-made hearts that were made by students in Italy and forwarded to the MSU team to share. The kids had great fun, because they won an arm wrestling competition with the Italian policemen.

The students sang one of the famous songs and finished with an overwhelming "Faleminderit," in Albanian language, which means thank you, and "Thanks, good bye," in English.

"All CIMIC activities are useful," said MSU Deputy Chief of Staff Lieutenant-Colonel Joelle Vachter. "It is very important for us to deliver help for everyone who needs. We just want to help growing children and it does not depend on where they are from. Around the world all children are children."

We have to remember these meaningful words: "Around the world all children are children", because they don't have to care about politics and other difficult adult things. They just need to feel that they are in peace and security.

No matter their background, MSU and KFOR are prepared to help the students of Kosovo for a better future.

MSU SCHOOL DONATIONS







Peace with D

COMKFOR visits Social-Education Centre

Commander Kosovo Force Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac made a visit to the Social-Education Centre "Don Bosko", Jan. 8, 2008, in Pristina/Prishtine.

During the visit, General de Marnhac met with the

school principal Don Mateo Disiore as well as the teachers and students. Disiore informed General de Marnhac about the conditions, school programs, classrooms, and cabinets of the Social-Education Centre.

"KFOR is responsible for the security in Kosovo, and we will do what ever is necessary to maintain a safe and secure environment," said General de Marnhac. "The future of Kosovo depends from the intellect of these children, who are also the future of this country. We are trying to support educational programs and local institutions should invest more for the youth."

"The centre is open for everybody, without differences in gender, religion, ethnicity or social level," said Disiore. "This centre offers educative and cultural support to the youth of Kosovo and it shows a special care as for the human formation as for their vocational training in a reality which is characterized by a high level of unemployment with a slow economic development."

The whole project includes the Centre for Vocational Training, Lyceum (Middle School of Electronics), a youth centre, library, and space for social and cultural activities. It also includes sports fields and open areas for outdoor activities.



etermination



COMKFOR General de Marnhac Visits KPC

In the continuation of tour to Kosovo Protection Corps, Commander Kosovo Force Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac visited two of the Protection Zones in January.

On Jan. 9, 2008, General de Marnhac, accompanied by the KPC Commander Lieutenant General Sylejman Selimi, visited the KPC PZ II in Prizren.

"KPC is established as a civil organization in order to react in emergency cases for the interest of local citizens," said General de Marnhac. "The visit in this Zone was a unique opportunity to see KPC preparations for its mission. We can have a cleared view on how things are going with the KPC. My assessment is that the transformation into another organization requires a lot of work, efforts and training. We have good cooperation in training, and KFOR will continue with these training"

"Members of KPC are capable and ready to assist KFOR and other institutions at all times, because KPC has necessary capacity and readiness," stated General Selimi. "We have proved since the establishment of KPC that our members are trained in many areas, we have given our contribution as a civil organization, and therefore it is needed for Kosovo to have its protection force."

During the visit, General de Marnhac had a meeting with the KPS Commander of PZ II Col. Enver Cikaci. Cikaci

informed General de Marnhac about the latest developments and tasks in their zone.

COMKFOR General de Marnhac also made a visit to KPC PZ V Jan. 15, 2008, in Pristina/Prishtine.

The KFOR Commander assessed the security situation in Kosovo as good, without elements for destabilization. At the end de Marnhac visited the barracks in Lukare/Llukar.

"I pleased with visits throughout KPC Protection Zones," said de Marnhac. "I have seen movement of this institution towards development, professionalism, thus lining up as an institution of specific importance in Kosovo."



New MNTF North

commander assumed command



Brigadier General
Christian Dexter
Commander MNTF North





fascinating months here and this is something I owe to all of you," said outgoing commander General Jumelet in his farewell speech. "I would like to address all of the Task Force soldiers. You

are the closest to my heart. I am proud of you, of your professionalism and action, your enthusiasm and dynamism during these last four months. Afterwards COMKFOR General de Marnhac personalized the ceremony by thanking MNTF North commander and soldiers for service and dedication to KFOR. "General Jumelet and his soldiers have provided excellent leadership for this MNTF during the past four months. I know that General Jumelet understood what was needed in this area of responsibility and he did an outstanding job of leading the Task Force in that direction," said General de Marnhac.

MNTF North has contributed to the KFOR mission by establishing and maintaining a safe and secure environment, stability and freedom of movement, performed patrols, manned checkpoints and also a lot of different tasks in their AOR.

"General Dexter! Welcome on board," said de Marnhac, welcoming the new commander. "The job in AOR of Task Force North is not finished. Much work remains to be done. You must continue to do everything possible to support the people of Kosovo on their way to a prosperous future. I am sure that

General Dexter and all the soldiers will be successful and support me in carrying out KFOR's mission while remembering our motto, 'Peace with Determination.'"

After the change of the symbolic flag between both generals words of gratitude and thanks were spoken by the new commander in his speech to the troops. "I am very honored and proud to be nominated as MNTF North commander," said General Dexter. "Dedication and efficiency are your two main qualities. All together we will continue to contribute and provide all local people with the security they need to live."

*Story by Captain Valerii Petrushka,
Ukrainian Army*

*Photos by OR-4 Sonia Poullain,
French Army*

An official Multi-National Task Force North transfer-of-authority ceremony took place on Saturday, January 26, 2008, at Camp de Lattre de Tassigny.

During the ceremony, Brigadier General Christian Dexter assumed command from Brigadier General Olivier Jumelet.

The ceremony was presided over by the Kosovo Force Commander Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac. Representatives from the multi-national KFOR contingent along with international and local civilian authorities were present at the ceremony.

Soldiers from France, Denmark, Greece, Belgium, Morocco, US, Estonia and Luxemburg occupied the fixed positions on the parade square.

"I have to leave Kosovo, my emotion is strong, since I have lived four



Salva



ation of a Human Life

Story and photos by
Capt. Pavla Polakova, Czech Army

Kosovo Force soldiers from the Czech contingent provided their assistance to two injured victims of a traffic accident on Dec. 9, 2007.

On Sunday afternoon, while transporting one of the contingent's members for special medical examination in the Military Field Hospital in Prizren, a Czech medical team unexpectedly arrived to a traffic accident about 10 from the city of Suva Reka/Suhareke.

"I saw an overturned car lying in a ditch close to the right side of the road, and some people gathered around it," said Rene Dallos, an ambulance driver serving in a garrison health care centre in Caslav. "My first thought was, that they had to be going really fast and drove off of a curve."

Two injured youngsters

Martin Schneider, another medic in the ambulance, confirms his words. "We approached the scene of the accident and witnessed how one of youngsters, who had traveled by the car, is trying to resuscitate his fellow," said Schneider. "He was acting quite chaotically, as he was probably still in shock".

They, then proceed to provide assistance.

Soldiers found out that there were two injured people



both approximately sixteen years old; with one of them in a serious condition. The first youngster suffered fractures of several ribs on the right side of his chest and a laceration on a hand. The second injured lay unconsciously on the ground and, though with difficulties, was breathing. The Soldiers pulled his head back in order to clear his tongue from his throat and free his airways. He suffered a fractured thigh bone of his right leg and had also multiple fractures on his left hand: of a humerus, a forearm, and an elbow.

At that moment the Kosovo Police Service (KPS) patrol arrived at the accident. As the situation called for a rapid action, the medics together with Daniel Svatosh and Milosh Vlasak, two military firemen who were also in the

ambulance at the time, and started their work. They put a brace on the neck of the seriously injured in order to prevent spine injuries around his neck. His left hand was fixed with the help of a vacuum splint and the patient was placed into vacuum stretcher as there still was a suspicion of spine and pelvis injuries.

All of this took less than ten minutes. With the assistance of the KPS patrol, the patients were transported to a hospital for further medical treatment. Doctors serving at an emergency department of a hospital in Suva Reka/Suhareke admitted the youngster in less serious condition and applied an infusion into the veins of the second patient. They determined that the further medical treatment of the seriously injured youngster exceeded the capabilities of their hospital. The Czech soldiers were asked to transport him to Prizren which is about 20 km away. In Prizren the youngster was hospitalized in a civilian hospital which was better equipped to care for his injuries. Doctors there were able to examine the patient and carry out the necessary surgery. At the time of the transition the patient was stabilized, was breathing without any assistance, and was fully conscious.

"We did nothing special," Schneider commented modestly "We were just doing our job."



CRC E

CAMP MARÉCHAL DE

DECEMBRE



EXERCISE

LE LATTRE DE TASSIGNYO

ER 15, 2007

VBRG



VBRG stands for "Vehicule Blinde de Reconnaissance de la Gendarmerie". The French Gendarmerie use the Berliet VXB-170 armored vehicle especial for riot control. Bulletproof glass windows with metal grid and a 7mm armory gives the crew totally protection and a secure feeling. Even the tires are bullet resistant.

A night vision device, machine gun 7.62mm and a 40mm tear gas grenade launcher is obligatory. Usual optional equipment is a water cannon and a bulldozer blade to break through barricades. Note that every VBRG is amphibious.



M113A2

The M113 is well known in many armies as APC which stands for armored personnel carrier. It was the first modern U.S. APC in the late 1950's. The M113 enjoys all the advantages of high mobility, transport capacity, also in amphibious terrain and light weight for air transport. Its capabilities were proven at many locations during the Vietnam War and Gulf Wars. A lot of other Armies around the world still use upgraded M113A2 versions.

A heavy machine gun 12.7mm is operated by the tank commander himself.

The M113A2 enjoys all the advantages of high mobility, transport capacity, also in amphibious terrain and including light weight for air transport.





Special event for the L



*Story and photos by
Captain Valerii Petrushka,
Ukrainian Army*

It was a usual evening for most of the members of the Kosovo Force Headquarters. But this was not the case for the military women because of special event which was organized for them during the dinner in the Dinning Facility on Jan. 19, 2008, at Camp Film City, Pristina/Prishtine.

The event was organized by the Chief Media Brief, Public Affairs Office HQ KFOR, Lieutenant Colonel Valerie-Claire Bermond and was attended by the Commander Kosovo Force Lieutenant General Xavier de Marnhac. There were about 40 women from France, US, Germany, Czech Republic, Spain,

Hungary and Norway who participated in the dinner. As the event began, no woman had been left

without care as the elegant waiter gave each a rose and wished them a wonderful time during the dinner. "All of you and other women who work hard in each Task Force do an excellent job here," said de Marnhac during the opening of the celebration. "KFOR soldiers serve for maintaining a safe and security environment; and both females and males make every opportunity in order to build peace for local people in Kosovo. I wish you a good beginning and finish of your mission and all the best for your families. Good luck." After the general's words they



Ladies of KFOR



in such a multinational environment."

"It's a great opportunity for us to have a social life and a good chance to know each other,"

said US Navy OR-8 Jean

Heitzman. "As far as different nations serve in

KFOR we have the opportunity to gain a lot of

cultural experience as military.

No matter where you are from, we are able to find common topics and discuss together because around the world people are the same."

took their seats behind the boards with a delicious meal, flowers and continued conversation. The

flame of candles made for a wonderful and friendly atmosphere.

"I wanted to get together all the military women from Film City in order to improve and build relationships, comradeship and friendships among women," said Lt. Col. Bermond in her congratulating speech. "Especially for the new comers, this is a good opportunity for each of us to meet everybody at the same place. I know that it is sometimes not easy for us to be deployed far from our family, children, husband, partner or friends. It is the reason why I wish to all of you, good luck in your mission here in Kosovo and hope that everyone enjoy their tour as much as I did

Women have been serving in various theaters throughout the world, including the KFOR mission. They have already proven professionalism and show high motivation to do different kinds of jobs in each branch and units of KFOR.



**for4U
fYou**



5 Years

Story by Vera Gerovac

Photos by Armend Aqifi

A ceremony celebrating five years of publishing "For You" magazine was held in the KFOR Headquarters on January 16th, 2008. "For You" is official publication that is published and financed by KFOR. It is printed in Kosovo in three languages: Albanian, Serbian, and English. It is distributed for free in elementary and high schools as a monthly edition except during the summer vacation (July and August). This magazine is intended for young people ages from 12 to 18. The first probationary edition was published in December 2002 with the first circulated edition distributed to Kosovo's school children in January 2003. Jubilee was celebrated one day after the 50th edition of this magazine was published.

In the honor of this jubilee, a promotional contest named "Five years with you" was organized for all readers of the magazine. The contest was actually a quiz consisted of 25 questions which were all related to "For You" magazine.



**for4U
fYou**

s with Kosovo Youth

More than 10.000 young people participated

Given the large number of participants, a total of 26 winners received valuable prizes: USB sticks, MP3 players, DVD players, and the main prizes were computers given out to two winners.

Present guests, among which Commander of Kosovo Force Lt. Gen. Xavier de Marnhac, representatives of media, various non-governmental organizations, and school directors were greeted by Leonora Shabanaj, Chief Editor of "For You" magazine, with following words:

"Our readers and their letters are the key drive for the effort and the commitment of the members of our editorial office. At the same time, this close contact represents also the biggest award for our work. I say these words, because wherever our journalists go they are welcomed by the youth, regardless of their ethnic background and this is the best indicator of our success."

COMKFOR handed over computers

Children were really amazed with the prizes as well as their parents and escorts, and the excitement reached its peak when they realized that the prizes will be handed out by the Commander of KFOR personally. Lt. Gen. Xavier de Marnhac addressed the children and their parents with the

following words:

"One of the goals of this contest was to encourage young people to read on regular basis. I say this because the print is a symbol of freedom everywhere in the world; the print is one of the ways to learn more about each other and also one of the ways to build a better future."

One of the winners of the main prizes, Taulant Kukaj from the municipality of Glogovac/Gllagoc, told us that he is reading "For You" magazine regularly:

"I am happy that I had an opportunity to meet Commander of KFOR and also because I won a computer. "For You" magazine is simply fantastic!"

Marko Virijevic, student of the seventh grade in Primary School "Stana Bacanin" in Lesak/Leshak, also the winner of the main prize, thanked us with the following words:

"Thank you for this prize - I am very happy! I am glad that I have received the prize from KFOR Commander personally. I would like to say to my peers - Read "For You" magazine!" "For You" magazine is very important for KFOR because it really does build the bridges of friendship among all young people regardless of their ethnical background.



Photography Contest

Take part and show with your photographs, how beautiful, interesting, and fun life is for KFOR soldiers!

- Have you ever wanted to participate in a photo contest?
- You are quite sure that your photos are the most beautiful?
- Do you have photos, with special charisma?
- Do you have an eye for things that others don't see?
- Do you find the surrounding people interesting?
- Can you provide brilliant landscape photos?

Then proceed! Images from troop life, leisure pursuits and site seeing are welcome. They represent a positive KFOR experience.

The KFOR Chronicle staff will select the winners. The winners' photos will be published in the KFOR Chronicle. Email kforchronicle@kfor.com with your photograph, photo description, and contact information.

PHOTO CONTEST 2008

2nd Prize
4 GB
iPOD Nano

3rd Prize
4 GB USB Data Stick



*Story by Maj. Gernot Schwarzenberger, Austrian Air Force
Ceremony photos by Armend Aqifi*

The KFOR Chronicle team is proud to announce the winners of the 2007-2008 photography contest.

The contest was first launched in 2003 and is currently held every year.

It offers KFOR soldiers from all nations the opportunity to show their photographic talents by presenting their best photos to a wide public.

From the many entries the best four photographs were chosen.

This year, the Photography Contest 2007-2008 reached a record number of submissions.

More KFOR contributing nations than ever in its history took part in the competition.

The Chronicle received more than 160 photos from 27 competitors out of more than 11 nations.

In addition to email submissions, some competitors took it very serious and showed up in our office with open drives or picture-CD's.

Thanks to everyone who sent amazing photos

The submitted photographs show amusing and different impressions that the photographers received from KFOR mission activities, humanitarian efforts, leisure pursuits and site seeing expeditions.

[>>> pages 20-21 >>>](#)



In the KFOR Chronicle Christmas Edition we announced a photo contest. The rules were very simple: KFOR soldiers should send us photographs of troops involved in KFOR mission activities, humanitarian efforts, leisure pursuits and site seeing expeditions. All photographs must be in good taste and represent a positive KFOR image. The deadline to send pictures was January 11, 2008. The prizes for the contest were donated by the KFOR Headquarters Morale and Welfare Activities branch (MWA).



A special prize for the best Kosovo landscape picture goes to Capt. Joao Albuquerque. The picture shows a black crow flying out of a frosted tree. He wrote to us: "Like this black crow flies away from the ice, I hope that Kosovo people will have wings to fly into a better future."



OR-4 Judy Jackie U.S. Army (Liaison Monitoring Team MNTF E) won third place. Judy's picture stands in clear contrast to the other picture taking techniques. The black-white image shows a man and his cow heading home. "In typical fashion they decided that they need to walk on the road instead of the shoulder. The man and his cow make their way despite of the cars passing them," wrote OR-4 Judy Jackie in her picture description. Judy received a 4GB USB Data stick.

3





Second place goes to Capt. Pavla Polakova, Czech Army (MNTF C), for her photo "Slovak soldier during CRC exercise".

A powerful image shows a photo journalistic approach of a dynamic scene.

This picture was praised by the jurors as a work which "conveys the impression that soon something powerful will happen" and "action foreboding awakens."

The scene stimulates the imagination of the viewer and speaks directly to the heart.

Pavla, have fun with your new 4GB iPod Nano!



2



The winner of first place, OR-2 Peter Zahner, Swiss Army, from Multi National Logistic Unit (MNLU in MNTF S) put his heart and soul in the image. His picture shows a Swiss jeep during a patrol on a grass mountain in Dragash Valley.

"While looking on the mountain pastures I realized how beautiful Kosovo is," OR-2 Peter Zahner explained. "Only when you hike a mountain you can see the distance and you have this special overwhelming feeling," Peter romanticized.

With his image he could not only generated the most votes but also convince the jury, because the image is an excellent combination of representing the grandiose landscape of Kosovo and KFOR troops on duty. As a reward for his photographic applications he can now look at a brand new Canon IXUS 75 Digital Camera!

1



Unfortunately not all participants could win a prize.

In the first step the KFOR Chronicle team sorted out the best 27 pictures including 10 landscape pictures and afterward the winners were chosen in a secret voting by most members of the Public Affairs Office branch.

After the contest the submitted photos will remain for future KFOR Chronicle editions in our archive.

Among a lot of interesting photos, which are not listed to the

first ranks it is worth to take a look at a selection of successful pictures who made it into the top 27.

For the members of the jury panel, it was not so easy to select the best pictures and to make a decision on the winner. Several pictures were ready to be chosen as the best. The Chief Public Affairs Office, Capt. Bonneau (FRA Navy) said, that it was hard work for the panel to decide the winner.

It's time to say goodbye



Brigadier General Reinhard Schoeberl, Austrian Army

I arrived here in KFOR HQ Pristina on July 17, 2007. Finishing my second deployment to Kosovo I have mixed emotions. On one side I am happy to return to Austria and to my family. However, on the other side I am also a little bit sad to leave so many excellent colleagues and good friends I have been working together for more than half a year.

Now it's time to say "Good bye". I took much pleasure in contributing to an efficient and smooth staff within the Support Division and with other KFOR HQ sections and branches that support KFOR's important mission with excellence.

There was indeed a lot of coordinating work to do, even more than I expected.

Some of my biggest challenges were many real life support issues especially in Film City, Camp Nothing Hill, NHQ Tirana, Air Scan and for the ORF battalion.

I have learned two important things:

- Be very careful, when you get the first report about an incident. Always ask for further information in order to get a clear picture of the situation.

- If you give an order, make sure that all personnel involved have understood your message.

It was an honor and pleasure for me serving within our KFOR Family. Thank you to all of you for your cooperation and friendship during my tour.

I wish my successor BG José de Oña Domínguez all the best. I'm proud to handover the authority of such a professional acting team.





New KFOR DCOS SUPPORT

Brig. Gen. José Alberto Ruiz de Oña Domínguez

Branch & Service: Artillery

Military Education: Military Academy for officers in Zaragoza, paratrooper officer; Command and General Staff course in Madrid; Human resources management and direction.

Assignment in Spain: Canary Islands; Chief of Staff of regional command.

Previous Missions: Joint Implementation Centre KFOR 2003.

Your Family Status: Married to Rosa, 2 sons, Alberto (23 years) and Joaquin (18 years).

Which expectations and objectives do you have for your tour with KFOR? To maintain and improve the DCOS Support level of performance in order to better accomplish the KFOR mission.

I will consolidate the DCOS Support team and optimize functional relationships across the area of responsibility and exercise true leadership while motivating each one of our team.

What message do you have for your soldiers in Kosovo and the readers of the Chronicle?

We are witnesses of exception, first-hand observers of events which will shape Europe's future.

Do you have a personal motto or some basic principles? Be proud of your country to proudly represent NATO.

What are your interests and hobbies beside your duty/career? I am very interested in history and currently working on military traditions like Santa Barbara. Santa Barbara is the patron saint of Artillerymen.



"DOCTORS IN WHITE"

*Story by Maj. Gernot Schwarzenberger,
Austrian Air Force
Photos by CCT & Armend Aqifi*

The military field hospital at Camp Plana was established in August 2003 and relies on the highest medical standards in diagnostics using the latest procedures.

The medical focus relies undoubtedly on the doctors who are providing emergency treatment for injured KFOR soldiers. Also further typical elements of a hospital are surgeons, anesthetists, pharmacists, and laboratory assistants. Radiology technical assistants provide a look inside a patient that cannot be seen from the outside, assisting in better medical diagnosis.

Toothcare makes sense

Dentist Capt. Laurent-Emmanuel Francois joked that he risks having his fingers bitten when he forgets to keep them out of a patient's mouth. He explained that the most important part of dental care happens at home. Brushing and flossing properly, along with regular dental checkups, can help prevent tooth decay and gum disease. A veterinary at the hospital is responsible for checking standards of food hygiene. He also provides medical care to military dogs. Without the nurses, giving the



***Lt. Col. Michel
Levadoux,
Chief Doctor and
commander of
military hospital at
Camp Plana***



THE BLUE



doctors assistance when needed and preparing patients, running a hospital would be an impossible mission.

30 patients every day

"We can't complain about missing customers", Lt. Col. Levadoux mentioned. "It is important for us to practice every day in order not to lose medical knowledge."

During winter time, when slippery roads do not allow for a fast driving ambulance, a MEDEVAC picks up injured persons and takes them to the hospital.

Taking care of the civilian population is

usually the biggest part of medical care provided in the military field hospital. There are a lot of local doctors who send patients to the field hospital. The cooperation between KFOR and civilian doctors is very positive. Every week approximately 140 civilians show up for consultations.

"In addition to our work here, we also perform missions twice a week into Serbian and Albanian enclaves where the means of conveyance are antiquated", Captain Francois explained.

Quality requires resources

The field hospital ensures an essential contribution to the health level of KFOR peacekeepers and civilians in Kosovo. The operation of the hospital is secured by the hard working medical team and huge financial money aid from KFOR.

"In the future we will continue to do our best in order to take care on each patient who need help", Lt. Col. Levadoux said.

Quality made in France

From outside, the hospital looked like any other military container camp in Kosovo. But as soon as one enters, the typical smell of a sterile hospital environment (as we all remember it from our home countries) is apparent.

Most members of the qualified and high level experienced medical team come from military hospitals in Marseille and Toulon. The French field hospital based in Plana is supported by the 1st Medical Regiment. In terms of the high tech establishment and medical supply, this modern hospital has reached until now an excellent reputation.



Complex 4 hour operation of an arm, performed by chief doctor Lt. Col. Michel Levadoux.



HEADQUARTERS KOSOVO FORCE

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HQ KFOR

PLEASE PREPARE
YOUR SECURITY PASS
FOR INSPECTION

ALL CELL PHONES
MUST BE DEPOSITED
TO THE GUARD

PERSONEL LAPTOP
UNAUTHORISED

GUARD GOT A NEW COMMANDER

*Story by Captain Fejes Pal,
Hungarian Army*

*Photos by Major Papp Attila,
Hungarian Army*

A medal parade is a very significant event for every contingent, because it anticipates the end of the mission and the ability to look back at the hard work and service. The medal parade of the Hungarian Guard and Security Battalion (HGSB) took place on Jan. 14, 2008, at Camp Szent Laszlo, Pristina/Prishtine.

At about noon, the HGSB were on parade in the square of the camp. After the colors were marched on parade, the Kosovo Force (KFOR) Deputy Commander Major General Gerhard Stelz accompanied by the HGSB Commander Lieutenant Colonel Redei Robert arrived to the parade ground and marched in front of the formation. In addition, KFOR Chief of Staff

Brigadier General William T. Wolf and Headquarters Support Group Commander Colonel Patrick F. Moran were also present at the event.

Following the national anthem, Colonel Moran gave the official speech. He emphasized the importance and the complexity of the work of the Hungarian guard. He also stressed that although the Hungarian soldiers had to hold their own far away from their loved ones, they have been doing the job on a very professional level. Colonel Moran thanked them for the work that the HGSB performed and wished them good luck in the future. Following his remarks, Lt. Col. Robert expressed his gratitude to Col. Moran in his speech and recalled the most significant events of the Hungarian contingent in the last 6 months.

After the speeches, the 3 most senior officers presented the NATO "Non-Article 5" medals to the soldiers of the HGSB. Following that, a transfer-of-authority took place, outgoing Commander Lt. Col. Robert handed the unit flag over to incoming HGSB Commander Lt. Col. Megtert Istvan. At the end of the ceremony, the Hungarian national anthem was played once again.

After the parade, the guests were invited to a reception. At the beginning of this reception Major General Stelz gave a toast and spoke highly of the duties carried out by the HGSB. He also explained the importance of the Hungarian soldiers, who provided the first impression of KFOR for those VIPs and visitors that arrived to the Camp Film City. He praised the HGSB on their professionalism and positive image that they projected to other KFOR personnel and the outside world.



CIMIC - our hard work

*Story by Maj. Vedat Yumsak, Turkish Army
and OR-5 Andreas Huber, Austrian Army
Photos by MNTF S*

The term Civilian-Military-Cooperation (CIMIC) may sound very clear, but there are many who do not know what our CIMIC-Comrades are doing. In a very general description, we can say that they are supporting the Kosovo Force mission by keeping contact with the local population and assisting civil environment by giving different types of help; such as construction, reconstruction, society development and in humanitarian aid aspects.

CIMIC projects in Multi-National Task Force South or MNTF (S) are enabled by two main channels; multinational, and national.

Multinational CIMIC programs are carried out by using NATO resources and by means of the multinational units of the Task Force. These projects mainly concentrate on engineering and include building

of roads and sewage systems. Almost all of these constructions are conducted by the Multinational Engineering Company (MEC). Recently numerous road repairs and sewage system projects have been finished by the MEC; consisting of platoons from Bulgaria, Germany and Turkey. German, Austrian and Turkish CIMIC teams are also working very hard to be helpful to the people. There are a high number of national projects planned and realized by these CIMIC elements in which only national resources are being used. It is a fact that national projects add extra contribution to the reputation of the Task Force, as well.

New Dairy produces fresh milk

Austrian CIMIC started one of its biggest projects two years ago. About 60 pregnant cows were brought to Kosovo to support the local agricultural structure and enable farmers to work in a reasonable way. The milk is delivered to dairy of Suva Reka/Suhareke, which was also built with the help of Austrian CIMIC. Suva Reka/Suhareke is the only dairy in Kosovo that produces products out of fresh milk. This is a very forward-looking project, especially for small farmers.



king ants...

New school for 360 students

German CIMIC specialists in structural and civil engineering and agronomy are working together with local authorities and companies to plan and supervise major construction projects. One aim in CIMIC efforts is to support the local economy. In December, German CIMIC Coy opened the new school in Tumicina/Temeqine. Now, 360 students have chance to study in much better conditions than before.

Step by step for a better future

In previous months, there has been a wide spectrum of areas of concern in Turkish CIMIC projects. These include; maintenance and repairs at different schools and other institutions, opening of playgrounds, sports centres and a CIMIC youth centre for the young generation; medical checks, and distribution of medicine, food, clothing, fire woods and school bags for the poor. Renovations of historical and cultural assets were also supported by Turkey.

MNTF (S) will continue to cover municipalities and people in Kosovo. It is certain that CIMIC will make a tremendous contribution to force protection.



Winter Jeopardy - Signs and Symptoms of Cold Injuries

*Story by Capt. Kip R. Thompson,
Preventive Medicine OIC, Task Force
Med Falcon, MNTF-E,
Camp Bondsteel*

Cold and cold weather injuries have impacted military operations throughout history. During Hannibal's invasion of Italy in 218BC, it is estimated that 28,000 men from a total force of 47,000 died of exposure while crossing the Alps. During the battle of Poltava in 1709, 15,000 Swedish troops out of a total force of 20,000 died due to cold. More recently, in World War I, an estimated 8% of all casualties were due cold injuries. While modern equipment has reduced the rates of cold related injuries, the risks associated with military missions in the cold are still very real.

In Kosovo, the winter months of December, January and February are the coldest with average temperatures ranging from highs of 4.4oC (40oF) to lows of -5oC (23oF). However, it is important to keep in mind that temperatures do not have to be "cold" to be the victim of a cold weather.

There are 4 main injuries directly associated with the cold: chilblain, hypothermia, frostbite and immersion foot.

Chilblain occurs when skin is repeatedly exposed to air for prolonged periods of time with temperatures ranging from 15.6oC (60oF) to -6.7 oC (20oF). Symptoms include swollen and red skin (or darkening of the skin in dark skinned individuals), tenderness of the affected area and possibly itching.

Hypothermia is a potentially dangerous situation where the body's internal temperature begins to fall below a normal level of 37oC (98.6oF). Cases of hypothermia have been documented when the environmental temperatures were as high as 23.9oC (75oF). Hypothermia occurs when the body, especially the skin, is exposed for prolonged periods of time to temperatures below body temperature. Symptoms of hypothermia include shivering, drowsiness, mental slowness and lack of coordination. Ultimately, hypothermia can lead to unconsciousness and even death!

Frostbite occurs when exposed skin,



such as fingers, toes, ears and other facial parts freeze from exposure to cold. Symptoms include numbness, tingling, blistering and swelling of affected areas and pale or waxy looking skin color. Finally, affected areas may also have a wooden feel due to freezing.

Immersion foot results from prolonged exposure of feet to wet conditions. Immersion foot can occur when the temperature ranges from 15.6oC (60oF) to 0oC (32oF). Inactivity with damp socks and boots or boots that restrict circulation increases the risk of immersion foot. Symptoms include cold numb feet that progress to hot feet with shooting pain. Swelling, redness and bleeding can also occur.



Name: Martin Klima

Rank: OR-7

Nationality: Czech

Home Unit: Security Information Centre, Prague

Unit in KFOR: KFOR HQ, J6

About the mission: This is the third time I have served in Kosovo. The first time was in 2001 where I was in the Czech Camp as a Crypto Custodian. The second time I held the same position in the KFOR Headquarters. My job is to ensure the security of voice and data communications in KFOR. I find working in the multinational environment very satisfying. It is also a great opportunity to gain more work experience as well as improve my language skills.

Family reaction: I have been married for almost seventeen years. We have one daughter, fifteen years old. My wife was supportive of my decision to take another mission in KFOR, but since I have spent in total nearly two years in Kosovo, I would like to think that this will be my last KFOR mission.

Plans after mission: My end of tour is coming soon. When I return, the first thing I am going to do is take vacation with my family. After that, I am going back to my home unit. My future intention would be to use the experience I have gained here to seek more challenges and opportunities in a position in NATO.



Name: Selim Genç

Rank: OF-1

Nationality: Turkish

Home Unit: 28th Mech.Inf.Bgd.

Unit in KFOR: Program Producer, Mehmetçik Radio, Man Bn Dragash

About the Mission: This is my first mission abroad. I am doing my compulsory military service for 12 months. I prepare radio programs for the welfare of soldiers. We also broadcast all through our area of responsibility to contribute to KFOR activities. Since I have a university degree in Radio, TV and Cinema Broadcasting, and work at a TV station in my civilian life in Turkey; this mission has given me an exciting opportunity to get familiar with radio broadcasting. I am proud to be serving as a peacekeeper in Kosovo.

Family Reaction: When my parents had heard that I was going to be assigned in Kosovo, they told me that I had to represent my family and country in the best way to the friendly people of Kosovo and the International Community.

Plans After the Mission: When I finish my mission in Kosovo at the end of March, my military service will be complete. I will continue my previous job in the TV channel. And who knows, may be one day I will come back to Kosovo to make a story about the peace in Kosovo.

Name: Alessio Palma

Rank: OR-9

Nationality: Italian

Home Unit: COMFOTER- HQ of Landing Operation Forces

Unit in KFOR: DCOS OPS Chief Admin

About the mission: This is my eighth mission; one in Somalia, one in Serbia, four in Bosnia, and two in Kosovo. This is the first time that I worked in a headquarters. Therefore, for me it has been a great challenge to gain more experience and improve my military and English knowledge. Moreover, what I liked about this mission is working and cooperating together for a common aim. Serving in KFOR HQ, I had the possibility to make a lot of friend from different nationalities. I also learned about the situation in Kosovo and people leaving here.

Family reaction: Fortunately, I'm single, but my natural family is used to me being away for long periods. My parents supported me, and they are proud to have a peacekeeper in the family. However, they are looking forward to my return.

Plans after the mission: First, I will relax together with my family and friends and tell them my entire story in Kosovo. After that, I am interested in traveling and seeing other countries, so I am planning to go in Brazil for a couple of weeks. Then, I'll return to my HQ, and I'll be happy to transfer to my colleagues the knowledge I gained in Kosovo.



Best Landscape

KFOR Chronicle - 2008 Photo Contest



Photo by Captain Joao Albuquerque, Portuguese Army