

KFOR CHRONICLE

The KFOR Magazine for KFOR Soldiers

April 2017

EXERCISE "SILVER SABRE 2017-1"



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On 28 March 2017 the Joint Regional Detachment North of KFOR helped solve a sanitation problem that had existed in isolated villages of SHALA VALLEY since 2015. Schools in villages of MELENICA/MELENICE, ZABRDJE/ZABRXHE, and VLAHINJE/VLLAHI had no water access and their water tanks had been empty for two years now.

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KFOR ACKNOWLEDGES INTERNATIONAL MINE AWARENESS DAY

4th APRIL 2017



On the 8th of December 2005, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly declared that the 4th April each year would be officially observed as the International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. The UN called on all countries to continue their efforts to help establish and develop a national mine-action capacity in locations where mines and explosives constitute a threat to the safety, health and lives of people, or hinders social and economic development at the national and local level.

According to International records

(Landmine Monitor Report 2005) 84 countries worldwide are affected by Landmines and unexploded ordnance which are responsible for the death or serious injury of between 15,000 and 20,000 adults and children annually.

On the 4th April 2017, to acknowledge this important International event (International Day of Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action) KFOR Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) in close cooperation with, Kosovo Police (KP) Improvised Explosive Device Disposal IEDD, Kosovo Security Force (KSF)

EOD, Halo Trust and Norwegian People's Aid conducted a joint demo operation in Rahovec/Orahovac to dispose 35 types of UXOs found in Kosovo.

Through these activities, KFOR continues to ensure a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all citizens of Kosovo.

Maj. Eamonn Kenneally
OF-3 IRL-A

EXERCISE "SILVER SABRE" 2017-1

"A NEW CHAPTER"

From 03 to 13 April, Exercise Silver Sabre 2017-1 was conducted for KFOR Units along with Kosovo Police, European Union Rule of Law in Kosovo, Kosovo Security Force and the Emergency Management Agency to test their readiness and interoperability while working within each unit's particular mandate.

"Silver Sabre the flagship of our exercises is a KFOR led and KFOR driven event. It is nested in our given mandate and mission, referring to proven and well implemented KFOR plans, orders and contingency management. "Silver Sabre" is executed via two tracks: A staff Table Top Exercise and subsequently a live exercise. Both tracks lead to and merge in the final event, today's DVD". DCOM KFOR Brigadier General Christian Riener



Introduction: Silver Sabre 2017-1, a Bi-annual KFOR led exercise was conducted in 3 locations this year. These were Camp Film City (Table Top Exercise) Camp Pomazatin (KSF Camp) and Camp Vrelo (KP Camp). The responsibility of ensuring that COMKFORs intent, in relation to Exercise Silver Sabre was achieved was assumed by KFOR Deputy Commander Brigadier General Christian Riener. As Exercise Director he had responsibility for overseeing all aspects of preparation and execution of this exercise. The Staff Officers of KFOR HQ J3 led by Colonel James David Eriksen Jr. who

was competently assisted by Michael Glenn, Kenneth Thornild and Laszlo Budai, devoted weeks of planning to ensure that this exercise built on the lessons learned of the past and also set new and demanding challenges for all participating personnel. In support and ensuring that the exercise was sustained throughout were the staff of KFOR HQ J4 branch and Officers and NCOs of the HSG. Captain Josh Rodak J4 was tasked as the overall Safety Officer for this Exercise.

Purpose: The purpose of Exercise Silver Sabre is to train coordinated planning and execution of personnel recovery, Field Office evacuation,

emergency disaster, civil disturbance operations amongst KFOR, European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) and Kosovo Security Organisations(KSO) including Kosovo Police (KP), Kosovo Security Force (KSF) and the Kosovo Emergency Management Agency (EMA), where applicable.

Table Top Exercise Hollywood Center

On the morning of the 3rd April all organizations reported to Camp Film City to begin the Table Top exercise. The purpose of this phase of "Silver Sabre" was to test and evaluate all participants in their staff

work as they planned and executed a number of different scenarios as set by the directing staff. Day one began with an address by DCOM Brigadier General Christian Riener who welcomed all participants and set out and explained COMKFOR

scenarios ranging from natural disasters to civilian unrest. The battle rhythm of the table top exercise increased as the hours and the days past. Each group working within their own mandate and closely liaising with the other organisations

from all players as each commented in the end of exercise discussion. During this phase of the exercise a number of VIPs guests visited the Hollywood center to view the exercise in progress. The VIPs included COMKOR Major General



Major General Giovanni Fungo objectives and the desired end state. He emphasized that Silver Sabre provided the opportunity for all organisations to work together in an effort to achieve a common goal. Following a capabilities brief by each group the exercise began numerous

planned and presented the Courses of Action (COA) that they developed as they worked through the decision making process. The interoperability and cooperation between all participants was very evident throughout the week, which resulted in a very positive response

Giovanni Fungo, Brigadier General Gezim Hazrolli of the Kosovo Security Force and Rashit Qalaj Operations Department Director of the Kosovo Police.

On the morning of 10th April all participants began their dynamic





preparation phase of the exercise in Camp Pomazatin and Camp Vrelo. At both these locations all organisations practiced and rehearsed the tactics and procedures ensuring their drills were slick and everyone was ready for the big day,

13 April.

After many weeks of training and preparation all organisations were ready for the true test of their readiness and operational effectiveness. The day's events started at Camp Pomazatin. COMKFOR

Major General Giovanni Fungo addressed the gathered guests who included VIPs, KFOR Military Commanders, and Commanders from the Kosovo Police, EULEX, Emergency Management Agency and the Kosovo Security Force in





addition to a large group of Media, He highlighted the importance of Exercise Silver Sabre in the KFOR yearly training plan. He identified the objectives of conducting a Joint exercise of this magnitude and in doing so once again stressed the operational and training outcomes, for all actors working within their own mandates, which are:

- a. Improved mutual outstanding regarding each other's roles, capabilities and capacities related to emergency response and large scale civil disturbance situations and demonstrated capabilities to conduct personnel recovery and Field Office evacuation.
- b. Improving liaison, synchronization and interagency cooperation in order to act as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd responder in an efficient way.
- c. Establishing a common understanding of applicable CRC TTPs among KFOR, EULEX and KP CRC units.
- d. Establishing a common understanding of applicable response to natural disasters and relief among KFOR, KP, EULEX, KSF and EMA, and demonstrating the ability to perform synchronized planning and execution of natural

disaster relief operations.

Dynamic Exercise Serial One – Camp Vrelo

This year's dynamic exercise would bring far more challenges and exercise scenarios than previous years. J3 staff exercise planners setup five different lanes to test the participants in a number of varying skills:

Lane 1- Hazardous Chemical/ Mass Casualties: MNBG-E in close cooperation with KSF, KP and EMA.

Lane 2 - Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD): MNBG-E in close cooperation with KSF and KP.

Lane 3 - Field Office Evacuation: MNBG – W.

Lane 4 - Personnel Recovery – MNBG – E.

Lane 5 – Crowd Riot Control (CRC) 1st, 2nd and 3rd Responder concept – KFOR/KTM (HUN), in close cooperation with, MSU, EULEX, and KP supported by FOMD from KFOR.



LANE 1

In the Camp Pomazatin the first exercise lane began. A US Army Command Post located close to the scene coordinated all activity and requests to KFOR JOC and MNBG-E Air Operations. In Lane 1, MNBG-E working in close cooperation with KSF, KP and the EMA took part in a Chemical/Mass Casualty exercise. The situation developed as a civilian was trapped in a building and had to be removed by KSF specialist. This process involved specialist KSF personnel using hydraulic equipment to cut through concrete walls and rescue the civilian who received medical first aid before being air lifted by a USA Black Hawk Heli to a Role 3 facility.



LANE 2

Following this part of the exercise, MNBG-E, in close cooperation with KSF and KP demonstrated their skills as they removed dangerous ordnance from a building across a ravine using specialist equipment. This display by all participants highlighted the synchronization and interagency cooperation that is necessary to complete complex tasks. On completion of the serial at Lane 2 all personnel including VIPs and Media moved to Camp Vrelo, where Exercise Silver Sabre continued with demonstrations on 3 more lanes.



LANE 3

The exercise at lane 3 began with a brief by the Italian Lt Colonel, Giuseppe Connazza the Commander of the Manoeuvre battalion from MNBG-W. The scene was set! Soldiers from MNBG-E were tasked with evacuating KFOR personnel who were trapped in a Field Office by angry civilians. A CRC Coy of Slovenian soldiers moved into the area in perfect military precision with the mission of evacuating their KFOR colleagues. The Slovenian CRC Coy moved forward to push the angry crowd away in order to provide a clear path to recover their colleagues. The tension increased as elements of the angry mob did not follow the Coy Commanders instructions to move away peacefully. Dangerous missiles continued to be thrown at the KFOR troops despite several calls by the CRC Commander to leave the area. Finally in the interest of safety and to ensure the protection of all, Austrian soldiers moved forward with their Anti-Riot weapons and fired less than lethal ammunition at the hostile few (paper targets). This action resulted in the angry mob leaders leaving the area, thus allowing KFOR soldiers evacuate their colleagues. This was a very well planned and executed exercise lane. The dynamic nature of this lane drew a lot of interest from the gathered VIPs and media.



LANE 4

It was MNBG-E who led the next lane. At this location the US Army Officer introduced the scenario which involved Polish soldiers assaulting a house against armed terrorists to rescue a captured KFOR soldier. This was a planned house assault that began with KFOR soldiers putting a cordon in place around the target building. The Polish assaulting troops approached as speed and entered the house took control of the situation and released the hostage. The drills displayed were slick and efficient. It was evident that these soldiers from MNBG-E- were well trained and used to working as a unit.



LANE 5

Lane 5 was the Crowd Riot Control exercise. It involved KFOR soldiers in particular the Hungarian KTM, members of the Italian Carabinieri, members of EULEX and Officers from the Kosovo Police. In this scenario which rehearsed the 1st, 2nd and 3rd responder concept in responding to a civil disturbance, the KP who responded to the original call moved into the area with well-rehearsed drills and procedures. As the KP Officers moved forward they moved the rioters out of the area. Suddenly the rioters were joined by many others causing civil disturbances in a number of areas. Forces firstly from EULEX and later KFOR soldiers arrived to assisting KP in managing the situation and thus activating the 1st, 2nd and 3rd responder concept. Initially the intensity of the rioters increased but it was quickly brought under control by the joint efforts of the KP, EULEX and KFOR.





In his closing address at the end of exercise Silver Sabre COMKFOR Major General Giovanni Fungo thanked all the participants for their commitment and great efforts during

the preparation and the exercise. He stated that this exercise was the best he had witnessed since taking over as COMKOR in September 2016.

Maj. Eamonn Kenneally
OF-3 IRL-A

A VISUAL OVERVIEW



02 APR 2017
KFOR Commander, Major General Giovanni Fungo, welcomed the Greek Army 34th Mechanized Infantry Brigade Commander, Brigadier General Sotirios Kostakoglou, to KFOR HQ.



11 APR 2017
Minister of National Defence of Hellenic Republic, Panos E. KAMMENOS, visited KFOR HQ. On behalf of COMKFOR, Major General Giovanni FUNGO, KFOR Deputy Commander, Brigadier General Christian RIENER expressed his gratitude for the valuable and professional contribution of Greek contingent in KFOR.



11 APR 2017
The Minister of National Defence of the Republic of Poland, Antoni MACIEREWICZ, paid a visit to KFOR HQ where he was greeted by COMKFOR, Major General Giovanni FUNGO.

A VISUAL OVERVIEW



12 APR 2017
Major General Giovanni FUNGO welcomed Brigadier General Dede PRENGA, Albanian Acting Chief of Defence, at KFOR HQ. KFOR Commander thanked the Albanian Armed Forces for the fruitful cooperation and contribution that has been “very valuable for KFOR in order to carry out its mandate and support the stability in the region”.



14 APR 2017
Lieutenant General Tullio DEL SETTE, the Italian Carabinieri Commander, visited KFOR HQ. General DEL SETTE was welcomed by Major General Giovanni FUNGO, KFOR Commander, who accompanied him to Austerlitz Bridge in Mitrovica, where the Italian Carabinieri have a primary role among KFOR Units in monitoring the situation at that location.



25 APR 2017
The Ohio Army National Guard Assistant Adjutant General, Major General John C. HARRIS, paid a visit to KFOR HQ where he was greeted by COMKFOR, Major General Giovanni FUNGO. KFOR Commander expressed his gratitude for the significant and professional contribution of the Ohio Army National Guard, within the United States contingent, to KFOR mission.

“SHARK FENIKS GAMES”

It is every soldier's duty to ensure that they are in optimal physical condition in order to be prepared for every eventuality. If you want to “BE FIT” and “STAY FIT” it is essential that physical training is encompassed into your weekly schedule. As soldiers we are programmed to meet any physical challenge that presents itself head on and recently personnel of MNBG-W had their interest peaked when they were afforded one such opportunity. In late March personnel from the Slovenian and Austrian Contingents in addition to various units of the Kosovo Force under the supervision of the Italian 32nd Tank Regiment organized a Team training exercise opened to all KFOR personnel. The Competition “*Shark Feniks Games*” was held at Camp Villaggio Italia, supported by the Italian logistical Contingent. The format of the games involved several technical and operational disciplines which consisted of





* A loaded march, 10 kg pack plus individual weapon and equipment

* A military truck Push

* Grenade throwing event

* Combat Fitness test

* Small Arms Live fire shoot

Teams consisted of KFOR Soldiers from Italy, Slovenia, Austria, Moldova, USA, Portugal and Hungary. The eventual winning team came from Bravo Coy, Austrian contingent, MNBG-W. The competition showed how through *unity of effort* and cooperation KFOR personnel were able to coordinate and participate in a competition that demonstrated the peak levels of fitness and military skills of all those involved.

Well done to all who took part.

Lt Col Michele LO MONACO
OF-4 ITA



DECANI MONASTERY

Visoki Dečani Monastery is a major Serbian Orthodox monastery, situated in Metohija, 12 km south from the town of Pec. Its Cathedral is the biggest medieval church in the Balkans which contains the largest preserved monument of Byzantine fresco-painting.

In the past month members of the Public Affairs Office KFOR HQ had the opportunity of visiting Dečani Monastery. An Italian liaison Officer from Multi Battle Group West, took us on a tour of this marvellous site, his knowledge of the history of Dečani Monastery provided us with a very enjoyable cultural visit. This unique cultural heritage site which was built between 1327 and 1335 by the Serbian medieval king St. Stephen of Decani and was dedicated to the Ascension of the Lord. The monastery is located in the picturesque valley of the Bistrica river surrounded by the mountains and forests of the Prokletije mountain range. It is the largest and best preserved medieval monastery in the region. During its turbulent history the Monastery was an important spiritual centre with highly developed artistic and intellectual activities. Although the monastery buildings suffered damage from the Turkish occupation, the church has been completely preserved with beautiful 14th century fresco paintings. Today a young brotherhood of 30 brethren lives in the monastery continuing the centuries old tradition of the past. The brotherhood has developed various activities: wood carving, icon painting, book publishing and is also active in the missionary work.



The monastery was established in a chestnut grove by King Stefan Dečanski in 1327. Its original founding charter is dated to 1330, however. Next year the king died and was buried at the monastery, which henceforth became his

popular shrine. The construction activities were continued by his son Stefan Dusan until 1335, but the wall-painting was not completed until 1350.

The Cathedral dedicated to Christ



Pantocrator ('Ruler of All') and built from blocks of red-purple, light-yellow and onyx marble, was constructed by master-builders under the Franciscan monk Vitus of Kotor. It is distinguished from other contemporary Serbian churches by its imposing dimensions and obvious Romanesque features. Its celebrated frescoes comprise some 1000 portraits and cover all major themes of the New Testament. The cathedral contains original 14th-century wooden iconostasis, hegumen's throne and carved sarcophagus of king Stefan.

In 2004, UNESCO listed the monastery on the World Heritage List, citing its frescoes as "one of the most valued examples of the so-called Palaeologan renaissance in Byzantine painting" and "a valuable record of the life in the 14th century".

For centuries Decani with its medieval Romanic architecture and Byzantine Serbian frescoes has been the bridge that connected peoples and cultures, attesting that the sublimity, spirituality and beauty of artistic creations supersedes transient values and political conflicts.

Today Decani Monastery continues in this role today. Although a Serbian Orthodox monastery built by the Holy King Stefan of Decani at the beginning of the 14th century and a part of the Serbian cultural heritage, Visoki Decani is also a part of the local cultural heritage of Kosovo and Metohija and should be the pride and responsibility of all residents of this region regardless of their ethnicity or religious affiliation.





Name: Drakopoulou Kyriaki
Rank: OR-6
Nationality: Greek
Unit: Guards

Military Education: I joined the Greek Army NCO Academy in 2011 studying logistics / supply chain management. On completion of training I was posted to Xanthe in northern Greece where I assumed the role of Platoon Leader overseeing the movement and storage of army materials. I completed various types of vehicle training during this time. In 2013 I underwent a HF-VHF radio course. Last year I joined the Greek Military Foreign Languages School where I studied Chinese.

About the Mission: This is my first mission abroad. I'm part of the Greek Guard whose role is to ensure the safety and security of everyone who works and lives in Camp Film City (CFC). The duty at the main gate affords me the opportunity to meet people of all nationalities and make new friends. It also facilitates me practicing and improving my French and English.

Family Reaction: I was born in Athens on the 18th of September 1991. My home Unit is in Chios, the 5th largest Greek Island. I am currently single and have an older sister who I keep in touch with on a daily basis. I have a very strong bond with my sister who gives me great strength and comfort.

Hobbies: My Philosophy is in order to have a healthy mind you need a healthy body. I am very interested in all kinds of sporting activities. In the past three years I have been partaking in aerobic yoga and calisthenics. These exercises benefit me not only physically (muscular and cardiovascular fitness) but also benefit my psychomotor skills, such as balance, agility and coordination. The benefits I find from doing this is having a clear mind at work as I never have to question my physical strength.



Name: Sergio "Magua" Catalano
Rank: OF-2
Nationality: Italy
Unit: NALT

Military Education: I joined the Italian Army in 1997 as a conscript gaining experience before progressing to the NCO academy. I was commissioned as an Officer in 2002. I have assumed various roles throughout my career, serving one year as a Light Cavalry Squad Commander, 3 years as an NCO Tank Platoon Commander, 4 years as a 1st LT Light Cavalry Platoon Commander in the Italian Army Cavalry School in addition to 1 year as a Squadron Commander. In 2007 I was assigned to the RSTA branch where I progressed from an Instructor to Chief of the RSTA Department. In 2015 I was assigned to the "Pinerolo" Brigade Command working in G2. I've instructed on several courses such as C-IED, NBC, PT and Intel Operators course.

About the Mission: This is my fifth mission abroad, the second to the Balkans. I previously completed two tours to Afghanistan as an Operational Mentor and one tour with the European Union Training Mission in Mali as a Light Armoured Training Team Leader. I'm currently serving a 12 month tour in the NALT (NATO Advisory and Liaison Team) as an Officer Development Advisor.

Family Reaction: I was born in Bari, the heel of the "Italian Boot". I'm married, my wife is an archaeologist, and we have an 8 year old daughter, Greta. My family support and understand my role as a Soldier and the requirement to serve on overseas missions. I keep in contact with them daily and my little daughter continuously asks to come and visit me in Kosovo. Perhaps one day we will travel together to the Balkans through Africa and Afghanistan...who knows?

Hobbies: I enjoy racetrack biking on my Yamaha R6. I love ocean swimming throughout the year. I also have a passion for music, the guitar being my instrument of choice. I like to keep active by playing basketball, football and beach-volleyball, occasionally you can even find me in the kitchen cooking typical Italian food.



PICTURE OF THE MONTH

April 2017

Commander KFOR XXI
Major General
Giovanni Fungo,
Italian Army

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COMKFOR Spokesman**
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Italian Army

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Denmark, Estonia, Germany,
Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania,
Luxembourg,
Netherlands, Norway, Poland,
Portugal, Romania, Slovenia,
Turkey, United Kingdom, United
States.

**Non-NATO Nations within
KFOR**
Armenia, Austria, Finland, Ireland,
Moldova, Sweden, Switzerland,
Ukraine.

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"Sunset in Kosovo"

Equipment Used:
Canon 400D

OR-1 Damjan Vodenik
Slovenian Army

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



KFOR PROVIDES MEDICAL HELP ON “WHITE SATURDAY”

KFOR Soldiers from Liaison and Monitoring Team (LMT) K22 in Hani i Elezit municipality in Palivodenica/Paldenice, continued with the ongoing KFOR efforts of conducting CIMIC assistance to those in need throughout Kosovo.

On 1st April more than 100 people received medical examinations and treatment in Hani i Elezit/ Elez Han municipality from KFOR international medical personnel during the event known as “White Saturday”.

“White Saturday” is a series of events organized to provide basic medical care in villages, where the healthcare assistance is limited or not reachable for the locals, thanks to the cooperation between local and KFOR international medical personnel. The aim of “White Saturday” is to provide medical help for underprivileged people and increase the role of KFOR as part of the complex security and social system in Kosovo.

This was one of many “White Saturday” events organized by soldiers from Liaison and Monitoring Team (LMT) K22 in Hani i Elezit



municipality in Palivodenica/Paldenice village, which is inhabited by 300 families.

More than 100 people of various ages were medically examined and received treatment from the medical team of four doctors (one cardiologist, two internists and one paediatrician) and four nurses, inside the temporary medical facility established in the compound of the local primary school with the help of the school headmaster.

During the action, humanitarian assistance from Turkish CIMIC assets has been distributed among the local inhabitants. Also Polish LMT K22 has handed over some of the additional basic medical equipment for the Medical Clinic in Hani i Elezit.

Vjosa Loshaj
PAO Media Analyst





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