



KFOR CHRONICLE

The KFOR Magazine for KFOR Soldiers

August 2017

EXERCISE "DRAGON FIRE"



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On 10 August, the Commander of the Bundeswehr Joint Forces Operations Command, Lieutenant General Erich Pfeffer, transferred the command over the German KFOR forces in Kosovo from Colonel Jochen Gumprich to Lieutenant Colonel (GS) Hans Jürgen Elsen at Camp Prizren.



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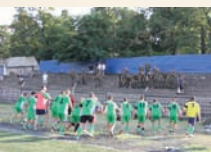
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CHIEF OF STAFF (COS) KFOR

I am honored with this opportunity to return to KFOR XXI as the new Chief of Staff (COS), and am excited to follow in a great tradition of support from the U.S. for this NATO mission. Having served as the COS Military Assistant from July 2014 to February 2015 as part of KFOR XX, I experienced the dedication of many nations who contribute military members to this mission, and look forward to serving the people of Kosovo again.

Our NATO Peace-Keeping Operation here in Kosovo is extremely important. Our lines of operations focus on providing a safe and secure environment, freedom of movement, building local capacity, and supporting other members of the International Community hard at work here in Kosovo. There is no doubt that this operation is extremely complex and rewarding, and many KFOR members will wrestle with the challenges of working in a Joint and multi-national environment. However, we can overcome any challenge by working together, maintaining our professionalism, and focusing on our mission at hand. Our commander, MG Fungo sets the example with our motto – “Trust and Commitment,” and it is our responsibility to follow that example building trust and demonstrating commitment within KFOR, and with our external allies and partners in Kosovo.

My position as COS ensures complete synchronization of the Headquarters staff to take MG Fungo’s guidance and direction, and turn it into orders, policy, and directives that ensures unity of command, synchronization of activities, and support of information and resources to all units in our formation. I agree with the former COS, BG Anslow’s philosophy of three keys to staff member success: ANTICIPATE, EMPOWER, and COORDINATE. Under her leadership a great team of Branch Chiefs and Section members formed, and I’m already proud of their level of expertise and dedication.

I am a member of the North Carolina Army National Guard, and just completed a tour with the National Guard Bureau in Washington DC. The Army National Guard is the oldest component of the United States armed forces, having formed as a militia at the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1636. Since that time, the Guard has participated in every U.S. conflict from the Pequot War of 1637 to our current deployments in Afghanistan, Iraq, and of course Kosovo. When we are not serving in uniform, Guard men and women serve in all areas of civilian professions such as teachers, police officers, fire fighters, doctors, and lawyers. When called to serve the State or Nation, they bring this experience and skills with them, making them the perfect fit for a peace-keeping mission like KFOR. I am proud to serve alongside both my National Guard military



members, as well as the Active Duty and Reserve members who make up the USA contingent.

Focus, coordination, and information sharing is critical to our continued success. I submit that all successful leaders should begin with the end in mind. I have done this to maintain my focus, and ask that you do the same. I offer the Acronym CAV: Coordinate, Anticipate, and Verify to help us remember the critical nature of coordination every day. Also, always ask yourself, “Who else needs to know what I know?” This is a reminder to share information benefiting our shared situational awareness.

I look forward to a year of challenges, opportunities, and service here in Kosovo. This is a unique environment, and I plan to make the most of my time to learn from different allies and partners about their military, countries, and cultures. I recommend all members of KFOR do the same. Working together, we will achieve success for our countries, NATO, and KFOR creating the conditions for the people of Kosovo to continue to succeed as a nation.

Brigadier General Randy Powell

EXERCISE DRAGON FIRE – 11 AUG 2017

*KTR BN CONDUCTS CORDON, SEARCH AND SURGE INTEROPERABILITY EXERCISE WITH
KFOR RECCE AND AVIATION ASSETTS*



ZEGOVAC, Kosovo was the area of operation which saw the KFOR Tactical Reserve Battalion (KTR BN) prepare and conduct Exercise DRAGON FIRE for the purpose of practicing staff and manoeuvre sub units on planning and conducting air assault and cordon and search operations in order to enhance interoperability capabilities with multinational partners in KFOR. This is an important aspect of training as it demonstrates the capability of the KTR BN to be deployed KOSOVO wide utilising KFOR HELI assets. The KFOR Units involved comprised of troops from Hungary, Ukraine, US, Italy and Austria. The training exercise which occurred on the 11th August 2017 and was attended by COM KFOR, Major General Giovanni Fungo in addition to VIP observers and local media was preceded by weeks of planning and full scale field rehearsals.

The primary Unit involved in this exercise was the KTR BN which

is well known for its extensive Crowd Riot Control (CRC) capability, however the focus of exercise DRAGON FIRE from a tactical perspective was to test the Infantry capability of the Unit when engaging armed elements conducting illegal activities that were located in an isolated countryside urban dwelling. The complex exercise commenced with recce /surveillance assets and personnel being deployed prior to the main effort being inserted in order to survey the target area.

The use of Sniper teams and Arial drones accomplished this aspect of the mission supplying much needed intelligence and information on the terrain and hostile forces. With a Heli landing zone identified and secured the morning silence was broken by the sound of three UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters approaching through the valley and simultaneously inserting into a countryside field whereby three sections of Hungarian KTR personnel disembarked and took up cover and concealment in a



ditch line orientated towards their direction of travel to the target area. Maintaining their tactical discipline at all times the group was accompanied from a distance by KFOR Chronicle and invited local media in an observational capacity. As the main effort tabbed towards the target area using the cover and concealment of treelines and the undulating mountainous terrain the low hum of an arial drone could be heard overhead relaying live pictures back to higher tactical command. The target area which comprised of a number of urban buildings and outhouses and surrounded by a 7ft high wall on three sides with only one main avenue of approach and a small secondary entrance was occupied by approximately ten heavily armed personnel. At this stage of the exercise communication and manoeuvre drills were tested to ensure that the element of surprise was achieved. With the fire support group getting into position to establish a fire base there was a loud yell from one of the opposing forces followed by a volley of fire from several AK-47s in the direction of the section and with that a firefight ensued. Meantime the main effort of two sections traversed the target area using the concealment of the outhouses and walls establishing two staging points for a simultaneous attack on the main target area. With the Kosovo sun blazing down on the exercise troops, the concentration, command and control of section leaders and fitness and stamina of section personnel was clearly put on test as they quickly scaled the walls, dropping into the courtyard before engaging opposing personal. The exercise afforded the KTR



BN personnel the opportunity to conduct house clearance drills of the target area neutralizing and capturing members of the opposing forces. The Hungarian KTR BN personnel were assisted by a Ukrainian EOD Dog team and robot in the search and clearance of incendiary devices as well as medical personnel who removed injured parties. With the area cleared and secured a loud whistle blast signalled ENDEX of the exercise. COM KFOR who observed the entire engagement

from within the confines of the courtyard addressed all present underlining the importance of collective training to ensure that KFOR units maintain flexibility and responsiveness in the performance of their duty.

Maj. David Farragher
OF-3 IRL ARMY



DONATION TO NURSERY SCHOOL - PRIZREN



There is a nursery school managed by the Catholic nuns in Prizren - so called "the city of the 40 mosques", which have been teaching Muslim and Catholic children to live together for 15 years. There is a nursery school in Gorazdevac, where teachers are doing their best to give education to children

attending the only school in the Serbian enclave. These are the different realities of two religious and ethnic minorities, that a group of combative and solidarity associations of two Italian regions, Friuli Venezia Giulia and Veneto, decided to help with a collection of educational materials, books

and toys. The request for help came from the young and dynamic Sister Amanda Shkoza of the parish "Maria Ausiliatrice" of Prizren, who works in contact with the local youth. She speaks a perfect Italian, like all the nuns which belong to the "Figlie di San Paolo" (Daughters of Saint Paul) congregation, and recently has started to organize Italian language courses mainly addressed to the young Kosovo people. That's why Sister Amanda had the idea and asked for help to create a library in Prizren where young people can find classical, modern and didactic books of the language they are studying, but also a collection of learning books for childhood, in the way to use it to teach Italian language to the 120 children of "Nena Kabrini" kindergarten also, as they already



know so many songs in the Dante's language. At the same time, the nun asked to upgrade the nursery with school supplies (rubber rugs, Lego, projectors) and games. This request immediately and enthusiastically was taken up by the Associazione Nazionale Bersaglieri of Pordenone, former soldiers with the characteristic long feathers military hat, which has launched among its members an appeal, "Helping a kindergarten in Kosovo", to which other associations have joined, like Rotary Club of Sacile, Associazione Nazionale Carristi of Treviso and the Equal and Solidarity Group of Oderzo and Motta di Livenza. No amount of money was requested and it proved to be a winning move. In the space of a month and a half, a lot of books and toys as well as notebooks, erasers, pencils, creped paper, glue, plasticine were collected. Over 130 bulky boxes were packed to accommodate a second kindergarten, the Serbian one in Gorazdevac, reported by Italian soldiers of Villaggio Italia Camp in Peja/Pec. The Commander of the 132rd Armored Brigade Ariete



of Pordenone, General Michele Ristuccia, gladly granted delivery of the goods by the logistic personnel of the 32nd Taurian regiment of Colonel Stefano Imperia, at that time leading the command of the MNBG-West. On May 26, the Cimic cell coordinated by Captain Riccardo Pace arrived with a convoy at the "Nena Kabrini" kindergarten in Prizren, where Commander Imperia handed materials to the director Sister Agata who, with all the teachers and children of the institute, organized a great party.

On May 31, another convoy, coordinated by Italian Cimic personel left for the Gorazdevac enclave, with the materials that Commander Imperia delivered to the director of the school, Milivoje Sdrakovic, at the presence of the representative of the Serb community Slobodan Petrovic.

Lieta Zanatta,
Messaggero Veneto



KFOR HOSTS NATO WESTERN BALKANS PUBLIC AFFAIRS CONFERENCE



KFOR Public Affairs Office, under the patronage of NATO Joint Force Command (JFC NAPLES) was afforded the opportunity to coordinate and host the NATO Western Balkans Public Affairs Conference at Camp Film City, Pristina. July 25th saw the coming together of the Western Balkans Public Affairs family for the first time in six years and was an ideal opportunity for each of the regional Offices to communicate the manner in which they promote NATO's involvement to their respective local audiences. The conference was also utilized to invite International civilian organizations and directors of local media within KOSOVO so that they could share their experiences when interacting with each other and KFOR, also discussing the manner in which positive relations in media engagement can be enhanced within the communication sphere to all parties concerned.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FAMILY: The conference commenced on the morning of the 26th of July at the Hollywood centre in Film City where Col Max A. BARBACINI, KFOR Chief Public Affairs Office (CPAO) welcomed all the Command and regional PAO representatives as well as KFOR sub unit and contingent PAO personnel to the conference. Captain (OF-5) Rick HAUPT, Allied Joint Force Command Naples Public Affairs Chief & Senior U.S. Navy representative made the opening address stressing the importance of the role that NATO Public Affairs Personnel play within

the Western Balkans. He commented that the purpose of the meeting was to strengthen and improve higher echelon support to regional offices and this initial conference was the beginning of being better engaged and understanding Commanders priorities within the Western Balkans area of operation.

Following on from opening remarks and introductions each of the Public affairs Offices and Liaison Offices made a presentation on how they communicate and network within the media environment relevant to their country of operation. KFOR CPAO spoke about the media spectrum in KOSOVO and how each of the traditional media (Newspapers, radio, TV) and social media operate throughout Kosovo and the target demographic that they appeal to. It also was an opportunity to highlight the positive impact that KFOR has within the region and how it is vital to have



a relevant communications strategy, planning and implementation policy in order to enhance the KFOR reputation in a complex environment like Kosovo. KFOR PAO Media Analyst, Vjosa Loshay addressed all in attendance on the topic of Freedom of media in Kosovo and challenges for Journalists. In an interesting and extensive presentation she outlined the Media environment in Kosovo under sub topics such as

Freedom of media

Legal framework

Ownership of the Media both Economic Ownership and Political Ownership

Challenges in the Media environment

KFOR's presence and image in the media



The conference was then opened up to the floor where MLO Belgrade and NLO FYROM briefed on the media spectrum in Serbia and FYROM respectively. On the conclusion of the morning session personnel were invited to lunch where KFOR hospitality at its best was on show and hosted by COM KFOR, MG Giovanni Fungo, giving people the opportunity to mingle with each other in an informal setting.

INTERNATIONAL NGOS/LOCAL MEDIA PERSPECTIVE:

The afternoon was primarily aimed at providing a platform where International civilian organizations and directors of Local Media could contribute to the forum and express their experiences operating within KOSOVO and their relationship with KFOR. COM KFOR, MG Giovanni Fungo opened the session by welcoming all participants of the conference. There were three International Organisations present,

namely, EULEX, OSCE AND UNMIK. Each of the briefers explained their methodology and policy surrounding their organisations media engagement. The floor was then opened to round table discussion where the several local media organisations present were given the opportunity to explain their role within society from their perspective and the challenges that they faced. The general feeling from all in attendance was that local reporting was accurate and fair however it was mentioned that there were certain constraints placed on media outlets such as financial support and the increasing influential phenomenon of social media. Media representatives commented that local politicians were now using the social media platform more frequently to communicate their messages to the public and by passing traditional media sources. This practice is seen as a negative development as the information is being publicised unsubstantiated and may be inaccurate or portray an unbalanced view point. In addition, it was put to all the International organisations including KFOR that current press relations could be developed further than what they currently are. This would include the feeding of relevant information to the media organisations and operating a more open door policy which would encourage and enhance timely and accurate reporting. All in all it was a busy and productive conference giving all those who attended food for thought in how best to develop media strategies and improve relations in order to ensure accurate and timely reporting of all matters of concern within the region.

Maj. David Farragher
OF-3 IRL ARMY



A VISUAL OVERVIEW



01 AUG 2017
KFOR Commander, Major General Giovanni FUNGO, welcomed the representative of the Swiss National Council, Hon. Hans-Peter PORTMANN, at KFOR HQ.



07 AUG 2017
US Admiral Michelle J. HOWARD, Commander Allied Joint Force Command NAPLES, visited the Headquarters of KFOR at Camp Film City in Pristina, where she was welcomed by COMKFOR, Major General Giovanni FUNGO.

A VISUAL OVERVIEW



09 AUG 2017
KFOR Deputy Commander, Brigadier General Christian RIENER, welcomed the Deputy Cdr, Operational Medical Support Command, Inspector General of Reserve Affairs at the Bundeswehr Joint Medical Service, Brigadier General Andreas HOELSCHER



11 AUG 2017
KFOR Deputy Commander, Brigadier General Christian RIENER, welcomed the Commander Bw Joint Forces Operations Command, LTG Erich PFEFFER.

"OUR LADY OF LETNICA"- PILGRIMAGE



Thanks to Father Salvatore, HQ KFOR and MSU chaplain, who organized the event, more than 150 KFOR Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox soldiers accompanied by their respective chaplains from all KFOR camps, met in Letnica to pray Cernagore Black Madonna, known as "Our Lady of Letnica". They moved silently in a procession to the sanctuary carrying the cross and passing it

from one soldier to another, from one country to another, from one religion to another. At the sanctuary they met people coming from all over Kosovo and from abroad, Croatia, Montenegro, and Bosnia-Herzegovina. Muslims and Christians joined together to honor the statue of the Virgin Mary with her child. That statue is said to have inspired Mother Therese to take her vows in order to become as the

Virgin Mary who assisted the poor, the forgotten, and the sick people in the most poor, forgotten and sick places of the world to witness that God is everywhere and brings love where before only misery existed.

The soldiers who attended joined thousands of civilians, to chant and pray together a miracle that is repeated every year. A miracle that shows people are equally important and no difference exists





before God. That miracle occurs every 15 August in a small village of Kosovo, Letnica. The symbolic message this event wants to send to humanity is to transform an ordinary day through becoming God's ambassadors of Love and Freedom for all humankind. Those

values to be cultivated on a daily basis with actions, thoughts and true feelings are often diverted in other directions that the rhythm of modern life imposes upon us. Love and freedom were the chants that young and old, white and black, men and women sang together

throughout the day resonating in Letnica valley passing beyond physical borders to spiritual ones. That frequency could continue to resonate throughout our lives affecting our friends and relatives, and the environment we live in, but it is important we keep the fellowship witnessed in Letnica alive in our consciousness and will and continue to share the love we experienced each day in all we do. If we do not continue to spread the love that 15 August is only a waste and an empty day like many others of our lives. This is the experience I learned: how to make a difference, remember this day, and give value to each day of my life and those around me.



Lt Col. Nico Caiazza
OF-4 ITA ARMY

BATTLE OF THE CAMPS

KFOR AND KSF PERSONNEL COMPETE IN THE 1ST MULTINATIONAL MILITARY GAMES AT FILM CITY, PRISTINA



Saturday 05 August 2017 saw the coming together of KFOR and KSF personnel at Film City, Pristina in order to compete in the 1st Multinational Military games. Tagged with the title of BATTLE OF THE CAMPS, the competition was endorsed by COMKFOR in order to promote “esprit du corps” – pride and loyalty among those participating. A substantial amount of preparation, time and effort went on behind the scenes by the organizing committee to ensure that the games were competitive, challenging and enjoyable and designed to test both military and mental skillsets of all the competitors. The format of the competition consisted of eight teams of five personnel in combat dress which battled each other in five disciplines while being awarded

points for were they finished on completion of each event. The winner was determined to be the team who accrued the most amount of points after completion of the five events. The games which are intended to be an annual competition were well supported

in the inaugural event. Personnel representing, HQ KFOR, Camp Film City, Camp Prizren, Camp Villaggio Italia, Camp Marechal de l'attre de tassigny, Multinational Specialized Unit, Pristina, Kosovo Security Force, Camp Bonsteel and a final combined team (Multi Camp)



made up the eight competing teams. On what was a sweltering day with temperatures ranging from 38 – 40 degrees Celsius the competing teams commenced the games by undertaking a blindfolded striping and assembly of a 9mm Beretta with Camp Villaggio Italia coming out on top which was then followed by Hand grenade distance & accuracy, Tug of War, Water Balloon dodgeball and culminating with a combat relay race. The leader board standings continuously fluctuated after each



discipline with Camp Bonsteel leading after the third competition. At the end it was a tight affair were Camp Villaggio Italia consisting of soldiers from Italy, Slovenia, Austria

and Moldova narrowly pushed the US team from Camp Bonsteel into the runner up position and Film city taking the third spot. All those who took part were congratulated by COMKFOR with the winning

team attaining the honour of being the first Camp to have their name engraved on an impressive plaque consisting of a mounted sword which they will hold in their possession until the next BATTLE OF THE CAMPS. To round off and add to the excellent day had by all everyone present had the opportunity to avail of a BBQ which was followed by a Rock band who blasted out live music for all to enjoy.

Maj. David Farragher
OF-3 IRL ARMY



KFOR - EULEX JOINT AIR MEDEVAC FTX

On the 31st of July 2017 KFOR conducted a multifaceted Medevac Exercise along with EULEX employing both ground and air assets at two locations, PRETEN in the SHALA VALLEY and EULEX Log Base in MITROVICA. The Exercise was organized and coordinated by JRD-N in close cooperation with EULEX and the Joint Operations Cell (JOC) at KFOR HQ (Film City – Pristina). The primary aim of the exercise was to evaluate the procedures to be implemented in the case of an emergency situation containing multiple casualties. KFOR Military personnel from Greece, Switzerland and the US as well as EULEX police personnel were involved. The exercise focused on a KFOR LMT Team (Greek personnel) discovering Swiss KFOR casualties involved in two vehicle accident and a separate unprovoked shooting altercation with unknown personnel at a EULEX Logistical compound.

The Exercise commenced in the morning with multiple briefings for the trainees, instructors and exercise casualties. Various injuries were simulated in order to increase realism during the exercise. The two scenarios comprised of a serious car accident of two JRD-N LMT cars with multiple casualties in combination with a low manning of JRD-N TOC and a shooting incident outside the EULEX Log Base where KFOR LMTs were seriously injured. The purpose of the exercise was to evaluate the effectiveness of response procedures from the time of the incidents until all elements were secured in base. In addition



liaison and support between EULEX and KFOR were tested through involvement of the JOC (KFOR) and the JOR (EULEX).

The combination of extremely hot weather and nature of the scenarios placed a substantial amount of stress on those participating and added to the realism of the exercise. Trainees were expected to secure the area, to provide a timely and accurate 9 liner medevac report to the TOC JRD-N, and identify, prioritize and provide the requisite medical treatments within their means to the casualties on the ground. Once the casualties were

stabilized they were segregated and then manually transported to a secured Heli landing zone or road and transported either by KFOR HELI assets or EULEX emergency Ambulance.

A final welcoming whistle blast signalled the exercise endex at each location and a quick debrief was conducted by Instructors. The lessons learned and identified regarding procedures on the ground, in the TOC and in the JOC will be analysed and possible improvements initiated.

Capt. Evangelos Xepappas,
OF-2 GRC ARMY



INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT IN THE STADIUM OF PRIZREN

“Football is a simple game; 22 men chase a ball for 90 minutes and at the end, the Germans win”, once said former England and Everton striker and all round football legend, Gary Linaker. It would appear that the Germans are at it again, this time during the International Football Tournament in the Football Stadium “Përparim Thaçi” in Prizren which was organized in memory of former Prizren Football Players Ali Maralushaj and Agim Maloku. Four Teams took part in the two-day sporting occasion which comprised of the teams, The Football Veterans of Prizren, The Veterans of Football Club KF Liria, KFOR German Team and The Veterans of Izmir Turkey. Fun, Friendship and the game was the priority of this event. The blazing hot sunshine, a friendly atmosphere and enthusiastic spectators accompanied the teams throughout the duration of the competition over the two days.

The GERMAN KFOR Team achieved victory in their first encounter against the Veterans



of Izmir on a score line of 5:0 advancing to the final where they would meet The Football Veterans of Prizren who also navigated their way into the Final match. The epic final between the GERMAN KFOR team and the Football Veterans of Prizren ended 2:2. As usual in the resulting penalty competition like most penalty competitions that the Germans find themselves in, they achieved victory lifting the silverware. German petty officer second class Janine was declared player of this tournament. The Veterans of Izmir were declared the fairest team of this event.

“We had to select a football team of 28 soldiers in a very short period of time”, remarked Sergeant Major Mario B, the coach of the German KFOR Team. “My team won the final game on penalties and went down in history as the cup heroes of Prizren”, added Coach Mario in a very tongue in cheek manner. Overall a great sporting occasion was enjoyed by all participants and spectators.

Dritan Hoti



PICTURE: Dritan Hoti (2)

AVIATORS TRAIN ON AERIAL FIREFIGHTING CAPABILITIES



CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo – In the event of a wild fire in Kosovo, Multinational Battle Group-East Aviators are capable of providing aerial firefighting assistance if called upon.

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 185th Aviation Regiment, Mississippi National Guard conducted Water Bucket training with UH-60 Black Hawks between Gjakova Airfield and Radoniq Lake in western Kosovo July 28, 2017.

“The ‘Bambi Bucket’ is a highly effective precision firefighting tool that Army Aviators use to conduct aerial fire suppression,” said 2nd Lt. Joseph Sears, an MNBG-East Black Hawk pilot and platoon leader for A Co, 1-185th AV.

“Bambi Bucket” is the brand name for the water bucket designed

to hook up to the aircraft as an external load, explained Sgt. 1st Class Michael Walker, the standardizations instructor and platoon sergeant for A Co., 1-185 AV. The bucket is lowered into a sufficient water resource to be filled. It holds the water for transport and releases through a controlled valve.

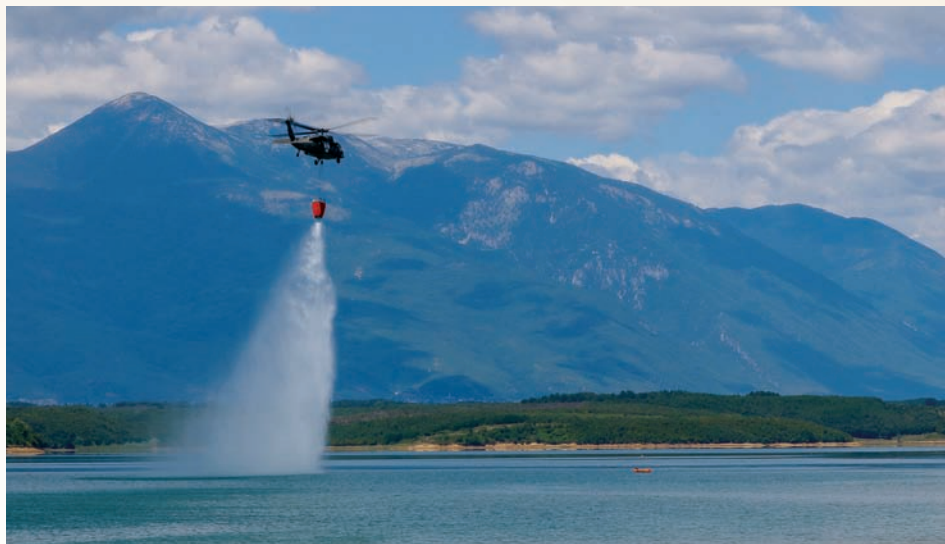
Walker went into detail about the bucket’s functionality that allows for precision drops. The valve under the bottom of the bucket is called the torrentula valve. It is electronically operated by the crew chief in the aircraft. Once the aircraft is over the point where they need to release the water, the crew chief will press a button that opens the valve. It takes less than one second for it to come to a full open and it deploys the water.

This specialized equipment allows

for the aviation units stationed out of Camp Bondsteel to have a more dynamic approach in supporting the Kosovo Force mission, said Sears. The capability ensures continuity of a safe and secure environment as well freedom of movement throughout Kosovo.

The water bucket itself is not much different from any other weighted external load, said Walker. It is the water surface below the hovering aircraft that introduces a different element for the Aviators.

The pilots hovering over the water have less land references so the aircraft has a tendency to drift more, Walker pointed out. This requires attention from the pilots and the crew chief to monitor the drifting of the aircraft when filling the water bucket.



The aviators exercise specific safety precautions as well when dealing with water as the predominant surface for helicopter operations.

Everyone in the aircraft is required to wear a LPU-40 inflatable life preserver, Walker described. In the event of a loss of power to the aircraft, personnel onboard wait until the aircraft goes into the water and stops its movement before exiting. There is a CO2 cartridge that fills up the life preserver with air when the chord is pulled.



The training served as an opportunity for MNBG-East pilots and crew chiefs to receive certification on the special equipment and procedures involved in carrying out the firefighting task. Walker had three crew chiefs receive certification for their first time during the training.

“The crew chiefs practice the call outs for deploying the buckets,” said Walker. “The pilots practice hauling the load.”

Training on aerial fire suppression prepares the Aviators for the unpredictable nature of wild fires Kosovo could possibly face.



Staff Sgt. Nicholas Farina
OR-8 U.S. ARMY

KFOR AND KSF – COMBINED EFFORT IN FIGHTING THE SILENT WARRIORS – THE EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR



The Centre Ministry for the Kosovo Security Force is responsible for directing the Mine Action Authority over governmental demining entities, namely the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) demining units and non-governmental demining organizations that focus on both the clearance of areas contaminated with mines and other explosive remnants of war (ERW). This is also the case regarding intervention for solving Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) incidents involving the suspected presence of mines, Unexploded Explosive Ordnance (UXO) and Abandoned Explosive Ordnance (AXO) reported by Kosovo citizens and institutions.

While the humanitarian demining (HD) effort is successfully carried out by KSF, in 2017 demining Teams from the Civil Protection Regiment, HALO Trust and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) deminers have successfully cleared twenty-two (22) out of the existing one hundred and fifteen (115) Dangerous Areas. The Kosovo

EOD Emergency Response System (KEERS) is run by Kosovo Police (KP), KFOR and KSF employing from each organization the central coordination elements and EOD Response Teams.

Through the KEERS, practically all citizens and institutions throughout Kosovo can place a call to a local Police station or officer reporting a suspected explosive device. The response will be that an EOD team will attend the incident. Unfortunately the explosive hazards are still present in Kosovo; the last accident occurred on the 4th of March 2017 in KOSTERC/KOSTRCE, SUHAREKE/SUVA REKA were two (2) children (10 and 11 y.o.) sustained injuries from an AXO. This incident brought the figure to four hundred sixty-one (461) the number of people injured by ERW in Kosovo since 1999.

In 2016, members of the public and institutions in Kosovo reported three hundred and thirteen (313) EOD incidents from which KSF EOD Response Teams attended two

hundred seventy (270) incidents (87.3%); independently one hundred thirty six (136) incidents and in close cooperation with KFOR EOD Teams, one hundred and thirty four (134) incidents.

During the 1st half of 2017, one hundred and sixty-five (165) EOD incidents have been reported Kosovo wide. KSF EOD attended one hundred thirty-four (134) incidents (81.2%) while the rest have been solved by KP Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (IEDD) Team or the "Bomb Squad" or KFOR EOD Teams.

During the same time period throughout the Kosovo territory five hundred and sixty-one (561) different elements of mines and ERW have been found. KSF dealt with four hundred ninety-five (495) explosive devices (88.2%) while HALO Trust, NPA and KFOR dealt with remaining sixty-six (66) pieces of ERW (11.8%).

During the EOD response interventions, according to EOD safety procedures, an element of

explosive ordnance which cannot be moved is normally disposed of on site. This type of operation requires a substantial amount of effort and coordination on ensuring maximum safety for both the EOD operators and for the population and property. Ideally if a UXO or AXO can be safely moved, the EOD teams will transport it and explode it in a safe environment; alternatively it may be relocated to KSF safe storage locations to be disposed at a later date on a demolition range. The latest most significant intervention was executed by KSF EOD at KP request on 21st of June 2017 in the vicinity of KACIKOL/KEQEKOLLE where a quantity of one hundred and thirty-six (136) kilograms of tri-nitro-toluene (TNT) and one hundred twenty-seven (127) M-59 antipersonnel mines were found in a forest, all of them AXO.

The final disposal operations of the collected ERW are well pre-planned and coordinated and usually executed jointly, having KSF, KFOR and KP IEDD Teams participating. The last combined demolition operations have been executed in KFOR demolition Range ORAHOVAC/RAHOVEC on 21st, 25th and 26th of July 2017. A total number of sixty-two (62) pieces of collected explosive ordnance ranging from 40 to 105 mm have been safely disposed of. The KSF EOD mine clearance efforts and ERW clearance continues as Kosovo still has a long way to go in order to complete the removal of explosive hazards.

Mr. Ciprian Andrica



Commander KFOR XXI
Major General
Giovanni Fungo,
Italian Army

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NATO Nations within KFOR
Albania, Bulgaria, Canada,
Croatia, Czech Republic,
Denmark, Estonia, Germany,
Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania,
Luxembourg, 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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PICTURE OF THE MONTH

August 2017



"Kosovo Sunset"

Equipment Used:
Apple iPhone 7
5000 ISO, 15 Sec F2.8

Photo 1: OF-4 Jan Becker
Photo 2: OF-1 Tommaso Scalon

Contribute to the KFORChronicle!

Just send your photos to:
kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int by the 20th
of the month explaining where you took the
photo and what equipment you used. We will
then select one of the submitted images and
publish it in the next edition of the Chronicle.

You will be immortalised in the KFOR
Chronicle!
Is that not something to be proud of?

Sincerely
The Chronicle Team





Name: Gregor Lisjak

Rank: OF-1

Nationality: Slovenian

Military education: In 2009 I commenced my studies at the United States Military Academy at West Point where I graduated in 2013. During my studies I was afforded the opportunity to attend the US Army Airborne School which was one of the coolest things I've done in my career to date. After graduating from West Point I returned to Slovenia in order to complete Slovenian Army Officer training. Upon completion of my Officer training I joined 10th Infantry regiment and led my assigned platoon through a busy two-year training cycle where I got to hone both my tactical and leadership skills. My platoon's last four months of 2016 were spent in Estonia and Latvia training and conducting squad to company-level live fires as an attached platoon to Battle Company 2/503rd Infantry Regiment of the 173rd Airborne Brigade. It was one of the most rewarding training experiences I've had a chance to be a part of.

About the mission: This is my first deployment to Kosovo and it's a great opportunity to both get to know local history and dynamics as well as work with our partners and NATO allies.

Family reaction: I have an extremely supporting and caring wife who's eight months pregnant with our first baby. My parents and siblings are at this point used to not having me around much.

Hobbies: I'm an avid reader, a history buff, and I try to follow closely latest developments in international relations.



Name: Zalman Jackson

Rank: OR-8 Master Warrant

Officer

Nationality: Canadian

Unit: HSG/Canadian NSE

Military Education: I joined the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) in 1984 initially as an Infantryman in the Primary Reserves. In 1990, I joined the Regular Forces as a Finance Clerk. As a member of the Canadian Logistics Branch I have had the opportunity to be employed in the Royal Canadian Airforce, Royal Canadian Navy, United States Air Force and units of the Canadian Army. My favourite posting was aboard Her Majesty's Canadian Ship ST. JOHN'S, a Canadian Patrol Frigate. I have been trained in many aspects of both finance and administration for the CAF and take pride in supporting the Canadian Armed Forces. I am currently posted to 5th Canadian Support Group in Gagetown, New Brunswick as the Sergeant-Major for Corporate Services.

About the Mission: This is my third mission abroad, the first in the Balkans. I have previously been deployed to the Multinational Force and Observers in Sinai, Egypt and on HMCS ST. JOHN'S in the Mediterranean Sea as part of STANAVFORMED. I am currently deployed for six months to HSG as the S4 Customs and Canadian NSE Chief Clerk. I am enjoying working with the other nations discovering not only the differences but the similarity of our forces. It is also an excellent experience working with the civilian personnel employed at Camp Film City.

Family Reaction: I was born in Montreal Canada but was raised on the East coast town, Glace Bay. My family understands that I am a soldier in the CAF and that I have missed a number of birthdays, anniversaries, holidays, etc, but they support my wish to serve Canada.

Hobbies: I enjoy a number of varying hobbies, including restoring my 1968 Ford Mustang and learning to play a violin badly. Currently I am trying to develop skills in photography.

