

# KFOR CHRONICLE

The KFOR Magazine for KFOR Soldiers

December 2017



## Festive Spirit in Camp FilmCity

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13<sup>th</sup> of December 2017, Medal Parade Ceremony at KFOR Film City.



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## COM KFOR's Address – Reflecting and looking forward to the New Year



*Dear members of KFOR,*

As another year draws to a close, and many, but not all, celebrate the season of Christmas, we realise in this period of celebration and contemplation, that while each of us is unique, there is much we share in common. As members of KFOR we are united by our mission to the people of Kosovo, to ensure a safe and secure environment and the freedom of movement for all the people of Kosovo. Equally, the absence from our families and loved ones unites us.

The majority of the KFOR members will spend the Christmas season apart from their family. While I realise the individual sacrifice each of you has made by being separated from your family, I feel our families, through their support for us, are the ones who really make this mission achievable and they carry a huge part of the burden. In the absence of our immediate family, here in KFOR, we have developed a family of friends and colleagues who support one another.

For many this period is associated with the birth of a man who tried to bring peace to the world. In this, he may not have succeeded, however he encouraged

respect, reconciliation and dialogue. I encourage you all during this period of festivity, and for the remainder of your tour in Kosovo, to make the time to learn about the other members of your KFOR family. Take time to learn about each other's traditions, culture and languages. One of the satisfactions of being in a multi-national environment is the opportunity to participate in different customs. Make this period a jubilant occasion that you will remember forever.

There is no strength without unity. Celebrate our differences and through a greater understanding of each other, increase our capabilities to ensure an enduring commitment to Kosovo and its people. To all the staff of KFOR, civilian and military, remember all that you have done here in Kosovo, reflect with pride on what you have achieved and imagine how your actions, no matter how small, in 2018 can improve the lives of the people of Kosovo.

May the caring spirit of peace be with you and your families as we begin the New Year.

# MULTINATIONAL BATTLE GROUP WEST (MNBG-W): MOLDOVAN CONTINGENT TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY



On December 11th 2017, the Transfer of Authority (TOA) ceremony of the Moldovan contingent which are part of the Italian led Multinational Battle Group (MNBG-W), was held in Camp 'Villaggio Italia'. The ceremony was presided over by MNBG-W Commander Colonel Enzo Ceruzzi. Lieutenant Colonel Andrej Taranu of the Moldovan Armed Forces was replaced by Major Ruslan Vrivanov as National Commander of the Moldovan Contingent in Kosovo.

In his farewell speech, the outgoing contingent Commander thanked

his military for the high level of professionalism demonstrated, and the contribution offered in

order to achieve the KFOR goals. The new Moldovan contingent will continue to carry out its mission of





maintaining a secure environment and guaranteeing freedom of movement in Kosovo in accordance with the mandate specified by UNSC Resolution 1244.

The Moldovan contingent consists of 41 soldiers divided into an infantry platoon and an EOD team both from 22nd Peacekeeping Battalion of Moldovan National Army based in the capital of the

Republic of Moldova, Chisinau. This Battalion is a specialised unit tasked to provide soldiers which take part in International Peace Support Operations.

Currently, the Moldovan contingent in Kosovo is based in the compound “Villaggio Italia” in Pec and is part of the MNBG-W, embedded in the Italian PAPA Coy. It participates in the main operational activities including training, joint patrols and, significantly it provides security to the Decani Monastery, where KFOR maintains responsibility as 1st responder.

LTC. Antonio Bernardo  
OF-4 ITA-A

## SPECIALISED MULTINATIONAL UNIT

*In 1999, in order to lead Kosovo to the so-called „self-feeding“ process of peace, a MSU (Specialised Multinational Unit) contingent was sent to Pristina to act as the KFOR Tactical Reserve. At the beginning MSU was composed of 350 personnel from Italy, Estonia, France and Austria.*

Since 2013 MSU has been composed entirely by 140 Carabinieri. The MSU Commander, Col. Marco Di Stefano, is COM KFOR's advisor on public order control and public security. The MSU Regiment is a military unit composed of military forces with a police background, equipped with tactical and logistical means. It was, and continues to be, an innovation in peacekeeping missions.

MSU gathers information in order to monitor and assess Kosovo Police performance. Its responsibilities are country wide performing daily patrols to ensure a constant feed of up-to-date information with the aim of possible use in public order operations. Additionally the Regiment performs Kosovo wide patrols (RECCE) in order to gather information regarding foreign fighters' presence, jihadist locations and the identification of Imams who are proselytizing in favor of radical Islam. The main and important tasks



of MSU are the observation posts of Austerlitz Bridge, that split the North and South part of Mitrovica, and the dynamic patrols of the Mitrovica, where the relationship between the Serbian and Albanian Kosovars is still fragile.

Additionally MSU tasks include

training and mentoring of Kosovo Police, with courses on operating procedures in public order services, use of special equipment and transmission devices, road accidents, marksmanship training, scientific investigations and environmental protection.

Through CIMIC (Civilian & Military Cooperation) MSU carries out Support and humanitarian aid for the indigent populations with the donations from Italian donors, agencies and NGOs, and executes multiannual projects implemented by funding from the Italian Joint Operational HQ.

Finally, another important feature of MSU is the Military Police in support of the IMP (International Military Police) to provide an increasing security in Pristina airport area.

Col. Marco Di Stefano, pointing out the importance of MSU in Kosovo,



underscoring that the situation in the Country remains stable but fragile due to the fact that “interethnic conflicts are still dormant and just a small spark could create a tension that leads to episodes of violence”, adding, “Our presence acts as a deterrent especially in Mitrovica, on the bridge of Austerlitz, where the volatility of the situation is more evident”.

Maj. Antonio Leotta  
OF-3 MSU



# MULTINATIONAL BATTLE GROUP EAST (MNBG-E): KSF, KP, U.S. EOD RESPOND TO CACHE

*Kosovo Security Forces Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Kosovo Police Improvised Explosive Device Defeat and U.S. EOD removed an ordnance and weapons cache in Verbove, Kosovo Nov. 6. The U.S. EOD team received a detailed report of unexploded ordnance and weapons around 5:30pm Nov. 5 and responded with members of KSF EOD and KP IEDD that evening. After assessing the cache they secured the area, leaving a guard for the night, and returned the following morning to remove the cache.*

Staff Sgt. Behxhet Kodra, the deputy commander and noncommissioned officer in charge of the KSF EOD platoon, said they found “everything” in the cache. Kodra and members of his platoon worked alongside their U.S. and KP counterparts for several hours to safely sort and remove the hazards from the cache.

“We found ammunition, projectiles, antipersonnel mines, mortars, hand grenades, three different caliber machine guns and lots of rounds,” Kodra explained after the cache had been sorted and laid out in the open field.

The teams were meticulous while removing each piece of the cache. Items were sorted according to type, all explosive hazards were carefully assessed before being stacked in one section of the field. Buddy teams carried various projectile launchers and their separate components to another section so they could be properly inventoried.

“We removed over 1,100 pieces of ordnance, weapons and components,” 1st Lt. Joshua Johnson, detachment commander for U.S. Task Force EOD, explained. “It would have taken a lot longer without KSF and the KP out here.” Before removing anything from the cache, which was partially dumped in a ditch on the east side of the field, each unit sent representatives to investigate and ensure there were



no immediate explosive hazards in the daylight.

“Our team that did the recon last night didn’t notice any booby traps or anything,” Sgt. Jacob Barrett, TF EOD Team 3 team leader, “but we always want to double check before we start going through a pile of weapons and ordnance.”

After all three entities declared

the cache safe to start removing they started with the explosive hazards before moving to the bulky machine guns and projectile launchers. They removed over 120 weapons and components, more than 900 12.7mm rounds, and over 150 explosive hazards when all was said and done.

For Lieutenant Muhamet Rushiti,

chief of KP IEDD, what they found wasn't out of the ordinary, but the amount of items recovered was more than usual. Rushiti explained dump sites like this are found regularly.

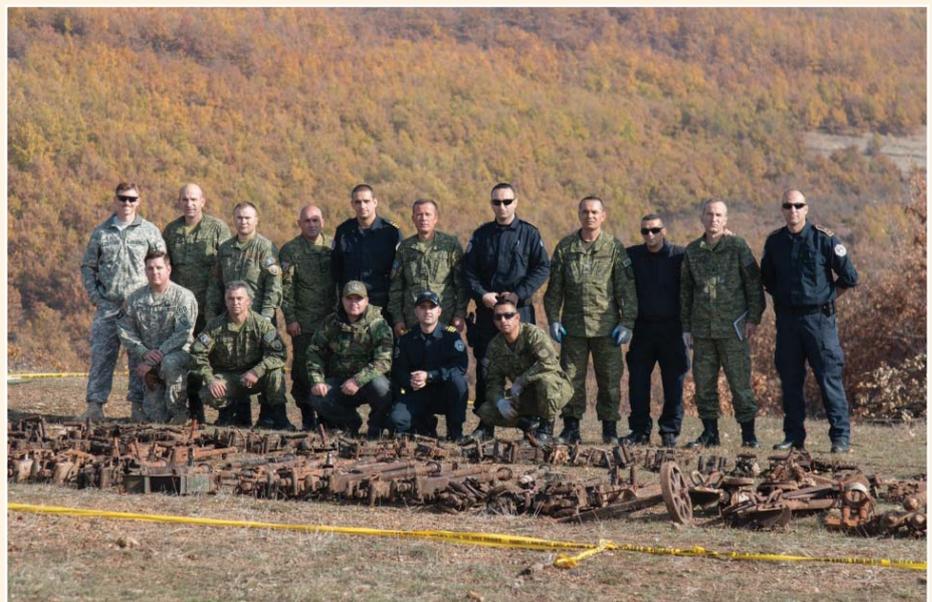
"Somebody some time ago threw away these weapons which were probably used in the war in 1999," Rushiti explained.

"The best option for the future of Kosovo is to collect dangerous weapons and ammunition from the hands of citizens," Rushiti said adding, "The goal of KFOR, KSF and KP is a safe Kosovo without weapons and dangerous items."

The removal of this cache moves them closer to that goal.

After completing a thorough inventory of the items recovered KP loaded the weapons and components onto trucks for storage before they can be properly disposed of. KSF took control of the explosive hazards and will dispose of them safely so they no longer pose a threat to the people of Kosovo.

Staff Sgt. Kelly Simon  
OR-9 US-A



# A VISUAL OVERVIEW



01 DEC 2017  
KFOR Commander, Major General Salvatore Cuoci, received the official visit of the Rt. Hon Dr. Istvan Simicko, Hungarian Minister of Defence, at KFOR Headquarters.



05 DEC 2017  
KFOR Commander, Major General Salvatore Cuoci, received the official visit of the German Secretary of State, Mr. Marcus Grubel, at KFOR Headquarters.



07 DEC 2017  
KFOR Commander, Major General Salvatore Cuoci, received the visit of Major General Okik Gasparyan First Deputy Head of the Republic of Armenia Armed Forces General Staff.

# A VISUAL OVERVIEW



12 DEC 2017  
KFOR Commander, Major General Salvatore Cuoci, received the visit of HE Kemal Minxhozi Ambassador of Republic of Albania to Kosovo, at KFOR HQ.



15 DEC 2017  
KFOR Commander, Major General Salvatore Cuoci, received the visit of H.E. Zahir Tanin Special Representative of the Secretary General and Head of UNMIK.



15 DEC 2017  
KFOR Commander, Major General Salvatore Cuoci, received the visit of H.E. Grnot Pfandler Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Austria in Kosovo, at KFOR HQ.

# "KFOR Annual Amateur P



**Do you have  
really special  
photographs?**

**Can you see things differently or  
can you capture the atmosphere in  
a single photo?**

**Do you really want to win a great  
prize and have your photograph  
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**by 30 January and hope that the  
selection committee awards you  
one of the three MWA sponsored  
prizes.**

# Photo Competition 2018

## Guidelines for applicants:

Photographs will be accepted from all personnel. Photographs, professional or amateur, will be published if deemed worthy. However, the competition is aimed for amateur photographers. Therefore, the prizes will be awarded to amateur photographers only.

Capture the atmosphere of a moment; KFOR troops, Kosovo culture, landscape, humanitarian activities or leisure activities.

Submissions should include the digital photograph, photographer's name and a short caption.

The winners will be published in the February 2017 edition of the KFOR Chronicle together with any other entry meriting special mention.

Readers may submit up to five photographs for inclusion in the competition. The competition will be judged by Chief PAO, a representative from MWA, the Editor and the photographic staff of the KFOR Chronicle. The Judges decision is final.

The winner, runner-up and third place will receive a prize sponsored by MWA.



# CIMIC MNBG-W IN SUPPORT OF THE LOCAL POPULATION



In the past few weeks, MNBG (W) has been heavily involved in CIMIC activities making some notable donations to the local population in their area of responsibility. In late November MNBG(W) CIMIC personnel, in the presence of the MNBG-W Commander, Colonel Enzo Ceruzzi, delivered medical supplies including a defibrillator to the Decan / Decani Health Centre. Separately they donated equipment for the visually impaired, folding sticks, special masks and sound balloons to the Blind Association in Istok / Istog. During the provision of these visual aids the importance of KFOR Psy Ops section producing the 4U magazine in braille was highlighted to the visiting

members of KFOR. 4U magazine is the only magazine in Kosovo that is printed in Braille

In early December, MNBG-W Commander, Colonel Enzo Ceruzzi, oversaw the delivery of chemical sets to eight of the schools





in the Dragash Municipality. Additionally, they also donated 33 computers to the school in Malishevo in order to improve the equipment of the computer lab.

In mid-December, during the last few days of his command of MNBG (W), Colonel Enzo Ceruzzi, was present with his CIMIC personnel for delivery of sports materials to two schools, one in Prizren and the other in Vitomirica municipalities.



CIMIC projects are part of the initiatives carried out by KFOR in favour of the local population of all ethnicities. They are conducted impartially and with the utmost respect for each of the different cultures and religious beliefs.

LTC. Antonio Bernardo  
OF-4 ITA-A



# MULTINATIONAL BATTLE GROUP –WEST UNITS CONDUCTED “CROSS TRAINING”

Italian led MMBG-W is based in Camp “Villaggio Italia”, in the western part of Kosovo. MNBG-W contributing nations are: Austria, Italy, Moldavia and Slovenia. In Belo Polje, on November 16th 2017, MNBG (W) Manoeuvre Battalion, supported by a Company of the KFOR Tactical Reserve Battalion (KTRBN), conducted Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) “Cross Training” exercise in the Camp “Villaggio Italia” training area.

The exercise was based on a realistic scenario and it was preceded by two days of preparation and training in Crowd Riot Control (CRC) drills and techniques. The purpose of the exercise was to maintain the Manoeuvre Battalion capabilities in order to enhance the operative integration and flexibility of the units involved in the training.

The “Cross Training Exercise” was attended by the Hungarian Defence Forces, Joint Force Command, Chief of Staff Major General Zoltàn Mihòcza. Major General Zoltàn Mihòcza and Col Enzo Ceruzzi, Commander of MNBG (W) both addressed the troops at the end of the exercise. They both commented positively on the realism of the training scenario and the excellent and professional attitude of all the troops involved.

LTC. Antonio Bernardo  
OF-4 ITA-A



# GOODBYE "MADRID"

*After almost seventeen years the PAO Branch has moved from the Madrid building to their new home in the Oristano Building leaving many memories and stories behind. The Madrid building will be removed in 2018 to make way for new accommodation on the current site. This is a poem that sums up the feelings of previous and current staff for their old home.*

## To 'Madrid' building

Like Real Madrid's 'Galácticos' we worked here with devotion  
 A squad of professionals who didn't care for promotion  
 As PAO building you were mostly known  
 An arena of champs we called our own

Like a fortress, you stood up proud  
 Your hallways were often times loud,  
 Your offices full of busy hardworkers  
 Some internationals, some locals

But the day has come for us to make a change  
 To move to a new building, to turn the page  
 Now we're in 'Oristano', a building that's big and new  
 We even get to have offices with a view

But we'll always miss you and even your flaws  
 To be sad that you're being torn down is not against any laws  
 Maybe we're being too emotional, that's true  
 Thankfully we have tons of pictures to remember you

You were a gallery full of memories and joy  
 Something that bulldozers cannot destroy  
 Today we say goodbye to you in tears  
 For you have been our home for so many years

Vjosa Loshaj



## SMILING FACES AT LOYOLA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN PRIZREN

*Laughing children and heartened soldiers: The pupils at Loyola Elementary School experienced a surprise visit by a delegation of the German KFOR contingent on the school's open day. The delegation included contingent commander Lieutenant Colonel (GS) Hans Jürgen Elsen, who was also pleasantly surprised.*



Children with happy faces, proud parents, impressive performances and heartened soldiers. The headmaster, teachers, pupils and parents of Loyola Elementary School in Prizren celebrated the renovation of large parts of their school with an open day. The event was also attended by a delegation of the German KFOR contingent, including contingent commander Lieutenant Colonel (GS) Hans Jürgen Elsen. Among the other German guests was Christian Heldt, the German Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo.

The small German delegation presented the school with a net containing new footballs and basketballs, which was handed to

the children during a performance in the school's sports hall as a surprise. In a spontaneous free-

throw competition between the contingent commander, the German ambassador and the





future for the young generation. UNMIK, the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, and KFOR have been working together with the Asociation Loyola Gymnasium for more than ten years. Within the German KFOR contingent, the organisation has particularly close ties with staff division 9, which carries out civil-military cooperation projects.

Commander Peter Comans  
OF-4 DEU N

school's management, only the Director of the Asociation Loyola Gymnasium (ALG), Father Axel Bödefeld, managed to throw the ball through the hoop.

The German guests were then shown the modern equipment inside the classrooms during a tour of the school. The soldiers were surprised to be invited to a German lesson in one of the classrooms, where they experienced the children's eagerness to learn. Besides English, German is one of the foreign languages that is already taught to the children at elementary school age at the Loyola School.

The German Ambassador in the Republic of Kosovo, Christian Heldt, congratulated the school's management, teachers, pupils and parents on the success of their school. The senior diplomat reported that, wherever he went in Kosovo, he had only heard praise for the Asociation Loyola Gymnasium. He continued to say that he was particularly pleased that the flags of Germany and the

European Union were also flying in front of the school building, right next to the Kosovan flag.

The Loyola schools in Prizren are partner schools of the Federal Republic of Germany and flagship projects of the Federal Foreign Office and the Central Agency for German Schools Abroad of the Federal Office of Administration. The Loyola Elementary School in Prizren was launched as an addition to the Loyola Grammar School at the beginning of the 2013/2014 school year.

The Asociation Loyola Gymnasium is a charitable organisation which aims to support young people in Kosovo by providing them with a classical education and training. It is therefore a very future-oriented project because more than 50 percent of the Kosovan population are under the age of 25, which means the country has one of the youngest populations in Europe. Much like in other countries, the people of Kosovo also consider education as the key to a successful



# GREEK GUARD – KFOR HQ

## *“Your safety is our priority”.*



It has been six years since the Hellenic Army assumed the responsibility for ensuring the safety of Camp Film City (CFC) by performing access and perimeter security duties. This is achieved by a company strength of approximately one hundred (100) Hellenic Guards. In order to accomplish this vital task, it is necessary that the Guard Company's personnel are on duty 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week. This heavy schedule is managed through an efficient duty roster. A shift system is in operation in order to rotate members of the guard ensuring that the soldiers of the Hellenic Guard Company have a fair balance of work and rest. The Hellenic Guard Company is administered by Headquarters Support Group (HSG), which is

responsible for providing all the necessary equipment. This ensures they can perform their duties in an efficient and professional manner. The Hellenic guards perform a six month tour of duty at Camp Film City which is preceded by a one month pre-deployment training camp in the centre of excellence located in Hellas. The pre deployment training facilitates a number of training requirements to be undertaken in accordance with NATO standards. This includes range details, covering a multitude of weapons, and urban operations for example. However, training does not cease once in the mission area. Important routine drills continue to be rehearsed and completed. Additionally, EOD training is conducted by the EOD

team in CFC.

In conclusion, the mindset of the Hellenic Guards can be summed up in one phrase: “Your safety is our priority”. This neatly encapsulates the professionalism and determination of the Hellenic Guards to secure CFC, irrespective of the challenge or perceived threat and by combining the elements of initiative, inventiveness, adaptability, and flexibility.

Stefanoudi Panagiota  
OR-7 GRC - A

# JRD - N DONATIONS



On the 7<sup>th</sup> of December JRD (N) donated rehabilitation equipment for children with special needs to the Basic Rehabilitation Centre in Mitrovica North. The donation was made following a request from Ms Mirjana Spiric who works in the Basic Rehabilitation Centre. The appeal to KFOR was for exercise equipment,

furniture and toys. JRD (N) donated a mini stepper, sets of weights, hoops and modelling clays. The Basic Rehabilitation Centre in Mitrovica North was very grateful for the support received from KFOR which will provide must needed equipment and help to the children with special needs.



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## PICTURES OF THE MONTH December 2017



-“Snipers”  
Ákos Szemenyei OR-2  
Hungarian Cont. CMLT Camp



-“DOG31 Border Crossing Point”

Equipment Used: Nikon D90  
Photo by: Rath Günter, OF-3  
AUT CONT

### Contribute to the KFORChronicle!

Just send your photos to:  
[kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int](mailto: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:** Nadia Cankja  
**Rank:** OF-1  
**Nationality:** ALB - A  
**Unit:** J3 JOC

**Military Education:** I was part of a limited number of candidates that were chosen to study in the Military Academy of Modena in Italy as part of a partnership program between our countries.

I was commissioned as an Officer in 2008 and I graduated in Computer Science in 2012. My military career is still young, but I have been given the opportunity to carry out important roles such as serving for almost 3 years as a communication Specialist in the Komando Battalion, Program and Application Specialist in Information and Communication Systems Agency, and now serving in KFOR.

**About the Mission:** This is my first mission abroad and I've been here for over 5 months. The position I hold is that of J3 JOC Land Desk Officer. Our position includes various tasks such as close coordination with LNO's and Plans Officers/TOC of subordinate units, monitoring the situation development and execution of land operations in the AOR, running KFTS, updating KFOR event list etc. So far it's been a great opportunity to work in HQ in a multinational environment and to exchange professional and cultural experiences. It has also been a great opportunity to catch up with people I studied with.

**Family Reaction:** I was born in Tirana which is the capital of Albania. My family supports and understands my role in the military and in overseas missions. I keep in contact with them daily, and because of MWA trips I've been able to meet them more often than predicted.

**Hobbies:** Being a software developer my hobbies include more indoors activities than most officers. I like to read and keep up to date with improvements in technology. I often travel with my friends or go camping. Even though the Albanian coast is a great destination to swim, hike, climb and other kind of activities I missed summertime this year, so I have to make up for the time lost when I go back home in December.



**Name:** Sven Blaschke  
**Rank:** OF-3  
**Nationality:** German  
**Unit:** CIS J6

**Military Education:** I enlisted in the German Air Force in April of 1994, as an NCO. In 2001 I was transferred from a Non Commissioned Officer to a senior officer (not regular career in the Bundeswehr). I received my commissioned in May of 2002 and became a career serviceman in December of 2003. My DOR is 9 July 2015. I live in Cologne and I'm based in Bonn at the Bundeswehr Communication and Information Systems Command (BwCISCOM) where I'm responsible for the IT-support for the whole GAF-Exercises.

**About the Mission:** This is my third mission in Kosovo but is my first mission being assigned to the HQ. The CSE section within the J6 Branch is responsible for maintaining all NATO Communication and Information Systems (CIS) within the KFOR AOR. My duty as the Circuit Manager is to manage all KFOR voice, video and data transmissions at KFOR HQ Pristina and its subordinate units across Kosovo. As the acting CSE Chief I coordinate all activities related to the mission operation of existing NATO CIS within the KFOR AOR and provide functional and administrative control of the section with approx. 25 technicians from various NATO Nations.

**Family reaction:** My family is very proud of my service and supports me in my military accomplishments and career endeavours. Before I started this mission my beautiful girlfriend was apprehensive of what would happen to our relationship while I was deployed. But we often talk to one another via Skype and now she believes the mission will strengthen our relationship. The support and encouragement of my girlfriend and my family helps me to do my best for every task and mission that is given to me.

**Hobbies:** I have a keen interest in photography and I like running in my spare time. I enjoy filling the two posts within the J6 branch for the 5 months and acting as the spokesman for the German service members at CFC. However, the training I enjoy most is when, on a part time basis, I mentor enlisted members of the Bundeswehr in the use of Germany military weapons. In Germany I'm an amateur actor in my free time.

