

KFOR CHRONICLE

The KFOR Magazine for KFOR Soldiers

April 2018



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PICTURE: OR-4 Castellaneta Filippo

23rd of March 2018, COM KFOR Major General Salvatore Cuoci and Mr. Ramush Haradinaj, salute and remember all the fallen soldiers of KFOR.



NALT

Enduring Commitment with KFOR
page: 3



KFOR XXII

Command Sergeant Major
page: 6-7



MNBG-E

ToA begins KFOR 24 rotation
page: 10, 11



Jemi ku Jemi

Jeton Mikullovc
page: 14 - 17



Soldier of the Month

OR-2 Klemen Baloh
page: 21



PROFILES

Dieter Skibitzki
Derenik Gizhlaryan
page: 23



Change of Command

Joint Regional Detachment – North
page: 4-5



MNBG-W

Combat Service Support Transfer of Authority
page: 8, 9



A VISUAL OVERVIEW

page: 12, 13



Kosovo Museum

Recently re-opened
page: 18-20



Pictures of the Month

Be part of it!
“The Bridge of Love”
April 2018 Winner:
OF-2 Mertoglu Ugur, JRD-S
page: 22

ENDURING COMMITMENT WITH KFOR COMMAND SENIOR ENLISTED LEADERS

On Wednesday, 4th of April 2018, a Command Senior Enlisted Leaders Conference took place in Camp Film City at the initiative of NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT). The goal of the conference was the presentation and exchange of views on Non-Commissioned Officers (NCO's) work in the KFOR structure and their cooperation with the Kosovo Security Force. The conference was attended by all of the Command Senior Enlisted Leaders serving within the respective areas of responsibility in Kosovo.



PICTURE: OR-4 Castellaneta Filippo

The main objective of the conference was to improve relations between the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) and the KFOR Senior Non-Commissioned Officers structure and the related exchange of individual national views.

The conference was held under the sponsorship of KFOR Command Sergeant Major, Gianluca Mattei, and was organised and coordinated by NALT NCO Advisor, OR9 Igor Svečak, who is deployed as the NALT NCO Development Advisor to the KSF.

Initially, Colonel David Nixon, Chief Advisor NALT, presented his view of the Command Team within a military organisation, and highlighted the need for understanding the role of the Non-Commissioned Officer in the Command Team.

During the main part of the conference, under the title of 'Military Leadership in the 21st Century', Brigadier General Janos Csombok, Deputy Commander of KFOR, offered the participants his views on contemporary threats in the world and the desired response of military structures to them, with an emphasis on the role of the Non-Commissioned Officer.

The NCO Support Channel organisation within Kosovo Security Force was presented by the CSM of the Kosovo Security Force, OR-9 Genc Metaj. He outlined

the challenges they faced on their way to establishing the NCO Corps and highlighted the great progress they have made, with excellent support from the NALT.

The KFOR CSM raised the subject on Facing Changes, setting out the expectations of the military structures and its leaders towards the non-commissioned officers. Major General Salvatore Cuoci, Commander KFOR, provided the closing remarks of the conference and expressed the sincere support of such initiatives, and repeatedly pointed out that the work of Non-Commissioned Officers in the highest positions within KFOR is recognised as excellent and also constitutes an indispensable element within structures of KFOR.

The participants concluded the event with an open discussion regarding the current challenges in the work area of the non-commissioned officers in individual armies. The Commander of KFOR, Major General Salvatore Cuoci and the Command Sergeant Major, Gianluca Mattei both thanked OR9 Igor Svečak for the excellent organisation and execution of the entire event.

CSM Igor Svečak
NCO Development Advisor NALT

CHANGE OF COMMAND JOINT REGIONAL DETACHMENT – NORTH

The Change of Command of JRD N took place on Saturday the 7th of April at Camp Novo Selo. Colonel Dominique Saudan, from Switzerland, took over the command of JRD N from Colonel Hansjörg Fischer. COM KFOR, Major General Salvatore Cuoci, thanked the departing commander and paid tribute to the excellent work completed during his tenure.



At the beginning, the day was cold and windy, but just as the ceremony commenced at Camp Novo Selo the sky cleared and the guests and soldiers could enjoy the sunshine. Colonel Hansjörg Fischer was not only the Commander of JRD N, he had also been in the position of the National Contingent Commander.

With the Change of Command, the era of Colonel Hansjörg Fischer ended.

Sign Off

During the ceremony the first speech was given by Colonel Fischer. He presented a review of the past months and then thanked

in particular all partner units of the JRD-N: The Greek and Slovenian LMTs, the intervention units of the Multinational Battle Group East, the MSU, the KTRBN, the command of KFOR and of course Swiss relatives in the JRD-N. “We found a common language and worked with high professionalism”, he concluded.



PICTURE: OR-4 Castellaneta Filippo (2)

To the following Contingent 38 he wished a lot of success as well the necessary soldier's luck right before he left in a typically Swiss way with the words "I sign off, thank you and goodbye".

Thank You and Good Luck!

Brigadier Werner Epper, Deputy Commander of the Air Force, travelled from Switzerland to attend the Change of Command ceremony. He praised the suitability of a neutral Swiss commander in Kosovo and in addition, the meaning of this KFOR command for the Swiss Army. The last speaker was the commander of KFOR, Major General Salvatore CUOCI, who thanked the departing commander for his extraordinary work and who awarded him with the the Balkan medal. He further expressed his appreciation to the Swiss Ambassador, Jean-Hubert Lebet, for the good cooperation during the last six months. At the end of his speech, COM KFOR wished good luck to the next commander, Colonel Saudan: "I am looking forward to the cooperation"

Command Again For One Year

The new cooperation started with the takeover of the flag. After the NATO anthem, Colonel Saudan asked permission of COM KFOR to close the ceremony. From now on, the leadership of Kosovo North will be under his command.

Capt. Konstadinos Ponirakos
OF-2 GRC ARMY



PICTURE: OR-4 Castellaneta Filippo (3)

KFOR XXII

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

CSM Gianluca Mattei is the Command Sergeant Major for KFOR XXII. This is his first time to serve in KFOR. The KFOR Chronicle team sat down with CSM Mattei to talk about his background and asked him some questions on his experiences to date in Kosovo.



Gianluca was born on 3 May, 1977 in Lecce (Italy). He joined the Army in 1997 as an infantryman at Lagunari Regiment "Serenissima" where he was appointed a corporal in 1998. Upon graduating from the Army Non Commissioned Officer's School in 2000, he was assigned to the Italian Army Cavalry School as a Drill Sergeant. His next assignment was in the 3rd Cavalry Regiment "Savoia Cavalleria" to serve as a Platoon Leader and Squadron Sergeant Major. From August to December of 2004, he was deployed to Iraq for Operation "Antica Babilonia 5" as a Platoon Leader.

From 2005 to 2009 he participated in many NATO exercise campaigns and was deployed twice in Lebanon, taking part in UNIFIL operations "Leonte 3" and "Leonte 7." As platoon leader, he also participated in the Army homeland security operation "Domino" in Tuscany.

After attending the Italian Army Branch Staff Course, in 2010, he was selected to attend the United States Army Sergeant Major's Academy (USASMA class 61) where he meritoriously graduated in June 2011. Following the successful completion of the USASMA, he was assigned to the Italian Army General Staff, logistics branch, and afterwards as special assistant to the Head of the Military Personnel Department. Before being appointed as CSM KFOR, he was stationed in Lecce at the Italian Army Cavalry School as branch assistant at the Personnel Office.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Political Science and International Relations from the University of Viterbo. During his career, he has attended several military courses including parachuting, military physical training, basic life support and Army evaluation team.

His personal awards include:

- UNIFIL commemorative medal
- Peace keeping operation commemorative medal
- Italian Commemorative cross for humanitarian mission
- Italian medal for homeland security
- Long service silver medal
- 2 commendations and 4 praises.

He is married to Lorena, and they have two lovely daughters Sofia and Asia.

Can you describe the roles and responsibilities of the CSM in KFOR?

As recommended in the NATO NCO Bi Strategic Command Strategy and NCO guidelines the KFOR CSM serves as a senior advisor to the commander and the staff element leadership. The CSM makes recommendations to the commander on all matters pertaining to other Ranks. As the CSM, I have the responsibility to ensure all KFOR members maintain compliance with the policies, adhere to the standards set and performance required and that discipline is maintained within the organisation. All my actions are in support of the commander's intent and to finalise

his decisions. I am a member of the MWA COUNCIL and the NATO Meritorious Medal board. I have the responsibility to organise and conduct the NATO Non-Article 5 Medal Parade. It is a great challenge that I carry with honour.

Have you faced any new challenges in this mission that are different or similar to other overseas missions you have taken part in?

I'm experiencing a very different kind of mission with respect to the previous ones I have served in. I proudly served as a cavalry guy and my missions were fully immersed in the operations field. I was a platoon leader and patrolling the AoR was my daily duty. My soldiers, my tanks, the combat ration to eat, and the patrol report to fill in after hours of dismissed road driving were my normality. I enjoyed being a soldier with my boots in the mud. In others missions I was deployed as Coy CSM and again supporting my soldiers and my captain on daily missions was my only task. The challenges that I'm facing in this mission are very different. The highest level of the command and the staff duty has forced me to focus on different tasks every day and more frequently. My schedule some days is crazy and I "jump" from one chair to another attending meetings with the commander, the staff or for CSM business with my team organising events, shaking hands, following exercises. All these aspects are not compromising my ability to stay close to the soldiers in KFOR and most of the time I walk back to my box with the boots covered with mud, and I'm very proud.

What aspects do you enjoy of working in the multi-national environment of KFOR HQ?

It is amazing to see how soldiers and civilian workers from 28 different nations can work together in a joint and combined environment. Every day is a cultural trip deep in the many differences that are KFOR. Although we all come from many diverse backgrounds, these do not present a barrier for the professional understanding and the friendship. The aspect that I enjoy while working in the multi-national environment of KFOR is the commitment of the officers, NCOs and soldiers that work closely to reach a common goal.

How would you describe your leadership style?

My leadership is inspired by the outstanding

Commanders that I have had the honour to serve with throughout my career. All of them taught me something and I always reflect back on their lessons when I am faced with leadership challenges. By being friendly and close to the soldiers they feel my appreciation for their commitment to KFOR. A good leader is recognised from the bottom to the top. My aim is to be a leader who has earned the respect of his soldiers for his performance, not based on the position.

Do you have a personal motto or do you use something to inspire or motivate yourself?

The motto that is inspiring my mission is SOLDIERS FIRST! All of the outstanding results that we are achieving as KFOR in this region are the result of the efforts of our soldiers. Hundreds of patrols, hours of observation points, days and days spent on the road meeting people, ensuring the safe and secure environment in Kosovo, mentioning the close logistic support to all the activities kinetic and non-kinetic, these are the most important things I recognise in this mission done by our soldiers and NCOs that sacrifice themselves and their family by serving overseas. It is for them I stand and my enduring commitment is for them in this operation.

What message would you like to give to all the soldiers of KFOR?

I would like to thank everybody for their loyalty, the commitment, the professionalism shown to the Commander and to this mission. I wish I could meet each and every one of them personally to share my feelings of appreciation. I receive motivation and strength from their actions and dedication.

Comdt. Michael Cullen
OF-3 IRL ARMY

MNBG-W COMBAT SERVICE SUPPORT TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY

On March 24th 2018 the Transfer of Authority between Combat Service Support Unit was held in Camp "Villaggio Italia" in Peje/Pec.



The ceremony was presided over by Multinational Battle Group West Commander, Colonel Ettore Gagliardi.

Lieutenant Colonel Paolo Murru was replaced by Lieutenant Colonel Paolo Sciaudone as the Commander of the MNBG-W logistic support Unit.

In his speech, the outgoing Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Murru, thanked his soldiers for the professionalism demonstrated during their six months' tour of duty and for supporting the KFOR mission under all situations.





The new logistic support Unit was based in Italy and provides CSS to the Airborne “Folgore” Brigade. About 110 soldiers are now deployed to support MNBG-W and to manage POEs (points of embarkation)/PODs (points of debarkation) connecting Kosovo to

Italy.

Combat Service Support provides substantial logistic to each of the four nations of the MNBG-W. Italian, Slovenian, Austrian and Moldovan troops are committed to Operation “Joint Enterprise” to ensure a safe and secure environment and

guarantee the freedom of movement of the Western part of Kosovo in accordance with the 1244 United Nations resolution.

Cpt Fabio G. Capriati
OF-2 ITA ARMY



MNBG-E: TRANSFERS AUTHORITY BEGINS KFOR 24 ROTATION

CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo (March 20, 2018)— The latest rotation of Multi-National Battle Group – East (MNBG-E) and the NATO Kosovo Force (KFOR) mission began on March 20, when Col. Michael Spraggins, Commander of 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, Arkansas National Guard, transferred the authority of MNBG-E to its 24th commander.



“This mission has a very personal significance for me,” said Col. Nick Ducich, the newest MNBG-E commander, with the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, California National Guard. “I’m the first American officer of Serbian heritage to command Multi-National Battle Group – East. I am privileged to be serving here and devote my utmost commitment for a safe and secure environment for all people of Kosovo.”

Brig. Gen. Janos Csombok, Deputy Commander of KFOR, presided over the ceremony and awarded Col Spraggins the NATO medal, on the conclusion of his mission in Kosovo.

“It is with joy and sadness that I speak to you today,” Spraggins said. “The joy that I and the rest of my KFOR 23 team, will soon be home with our families and friends after

an outstanding deployment.” We are also joyful that our mission in Kosovo was successful, Spraggins added, and that it was one marked with peace and security for the





people of Kosovo. “The sadness that I feel is that it is time for me to say goodbye to many new friends and also to a country and people who I’ve grown to love deeply,” Spraggins said.

Spraggins also wished the incoming KFOR 24 team a great rotation and spoke about his nine-month tour. “We trained diligently for the mission and were joined by great allies here from Poland, Romania and Turkey” Spraggins said. “We banded together to create this

MNBE-E team for a mutual cause of peace and stability. We are proud to strengthen this tremendous alliance through training and daily exercise of interoperability; our efforts alongside our NATO allies and partners reassured everyone in the region that we are strong as NATO. We are here. We are committed.”

During the ceremony, Spraggins and Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Stane, commanding the 39th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, cased their colors and Ducich and Command

Sgt. Maj. Andrew McKindley, command team of the 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, uncased theirs, signifying the commencement of the latest rotation of the US KFOR mission.

Sgt. Casey Hustin
OR-7 US ARMY



A VISUAL OVERVIEW



14 MAR 2018
KFOR Commander, Major General Salvatore Cuoci, met Admiral Dimitar Vasilev Yordanov Chief of Staff of Bulgarian Joint Force Command, at Camp "Film City" NATO KFOR Headquarters.



19 MAR 2018
DCOM KFOR, Brig. Gen. János Csombók, received the visit of Brig. Gen. Milko Petek Force Commander the Slovenian Armed Forces, at KFOR Headquarters.



23 MAR 2018
KFOR Commander, Major General Salvatore Cuoci, received the visit of HE Daniel Maksymiuk Ambassador of Canada to Kosovo, at KFOR Headquarters.

A VISUAL OVERVIEW



03 APR 2018

KFOR Commander, Major General Salvatore Cuoci, met Admiral Evangelos Apostolakis Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff, at Camp “Film City” NATO KFOR Headquarters.



05 APR 2018

KFOR Commander, Major General Salvatore Cuoci, received the visit of Lt. Gen. Giovanni Nistri C. Carabinieri Commander, at KFOR Headquarters.

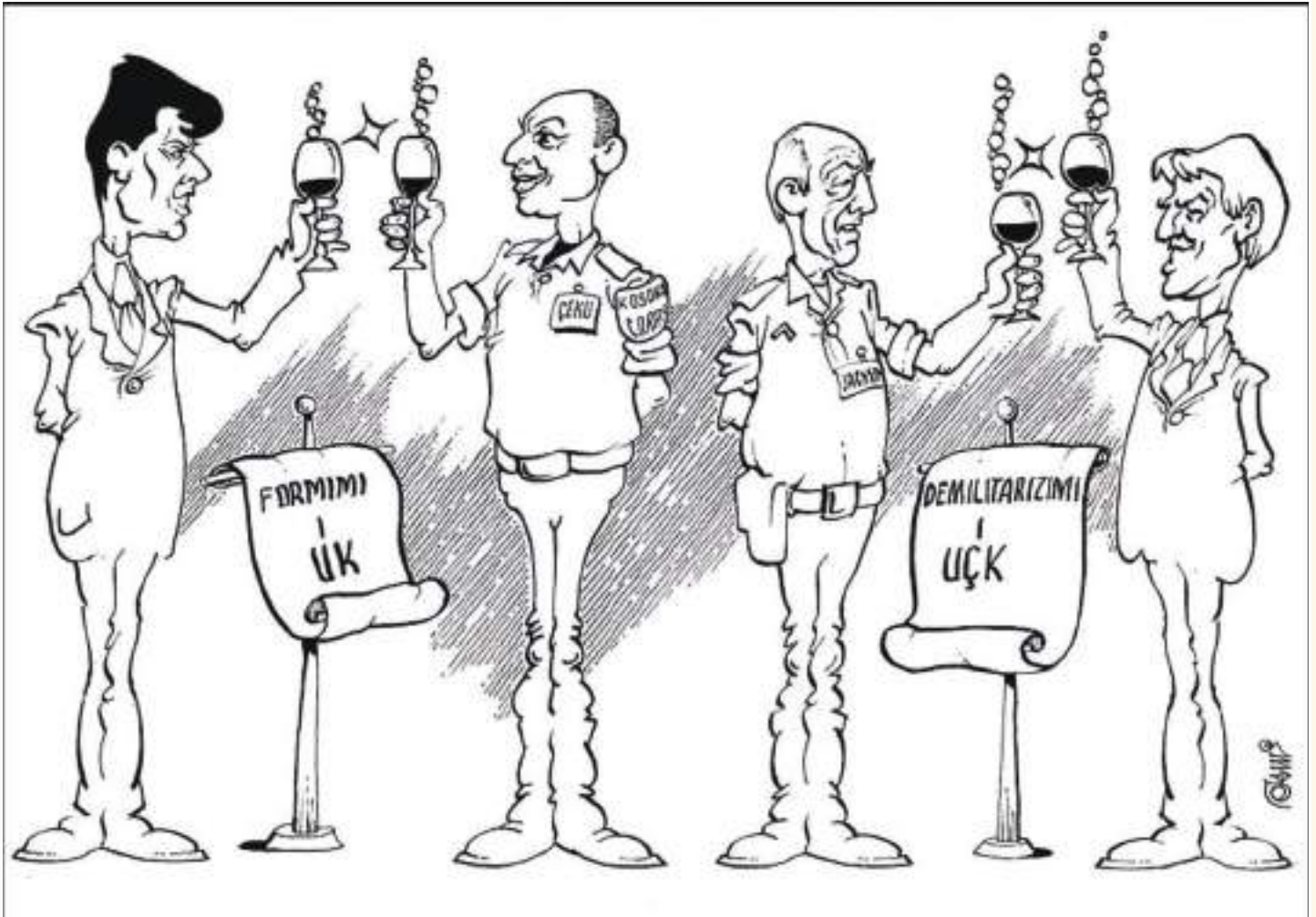


05 APR 2018

KFOR Commander, Major General Salvatore Cuoci, received the visit of Mr. Thomas Silberhoh Parliamentary Secretary of State of German Federal Defence, at KFOR Headquarters.

JETON MIKULLOVCI-JEMI

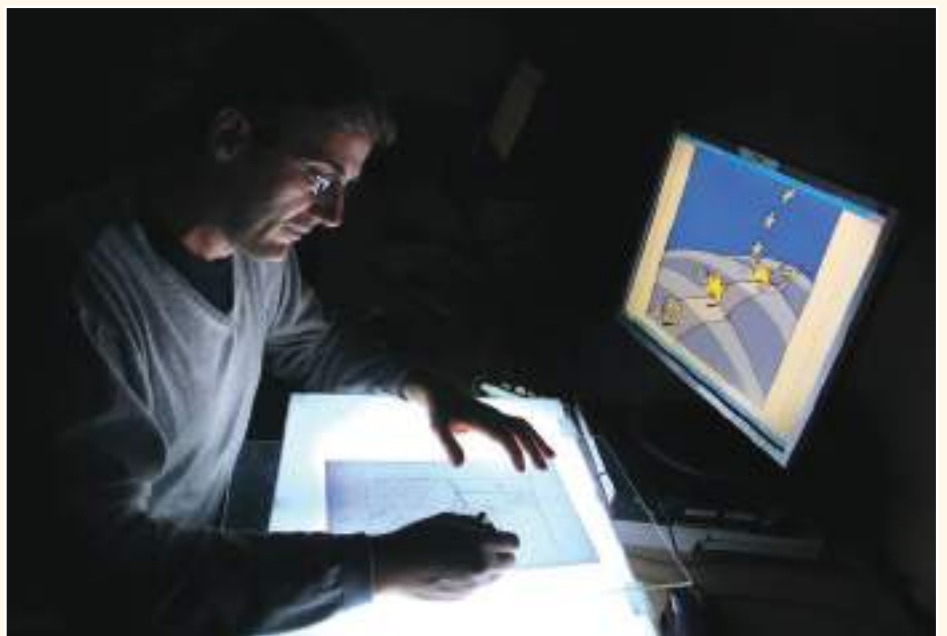
Jeton Mikullovc-Jemi has worked for the daily Koha Ditore since 1997 as Editorial Cartoonist and illustrator. His cartoons mostly signify political events in Kosovo.



1999 - The interpretations of an agreement: "The demilitarization of the KLA" or "The process of formation of an army"

In 1996 when the political situation in Kosovo was getting from bad to worse, Jeton was given a chance to show his talent and start doing cartoons for the "Koha" weekly magazine. Jeton recalls that "It was also a personal impulse to express my perspective on actualities of the time. However, it was a huge challenge for me- doing cartoons in 'dark times', because Kosovo was on the brink of the war".

As a kid, he was very fond of comic books. Later on, he was very much inspired by the Italian satirical comic book "Alan Ford" created by Max Bunker. When it came to





1999 - The unexpected arrival of Russian troops in Kosovo before NATO peacekeeping force.

political cartoons, initially, he was inspired by cartoonists which were very active in “Rilindja” the only daily newspapers in Kosovo during the ’80s.

Reminiscing, when he spoke with the KFOR Chronicle team, he recollected that “even though I studied civil engineering, I decided

to get back to my passion which was art. Now, I have 22 years of experience on drawing cartoons as a self-taught cartoonist”.

Jemi has kindly allowed the KFOR Chronicle to republish cartoons that he created related to KFOR’s presence in Kosovo since 1999.

The cartoon from 2006 displayed

on the cover of the KFOR Chronicle shows NATO as a book mark in the history of Kosovo. Jemi’s initial cartoons from 1999 depicts how two sides can interpret the same agreement differently and secondly the Russians arriving into Kosovo before the NATO troops. In 2010, Jemi visually demonstrated the



2010 - KSF striving to become a real army, but still has to wait, operating with reduced use of weapons.

restrictions placed on the KSF while the 2011 image reflects the confusion of where the responsibility lay for unblocking the road blocks in northern Kosovo, which characterised that year. The image from 2012 represents the parallel security structures in the North as a Body Building competition.

The penultimate cartoon from 2014 portrays KFOR as a provider of peace who requires protection. JEMI's final animation pictures the resolve and strength of KFOR being tested, but it is uncertain who is testing it.

In 2002, "Koha" published his cartoon book "Jemi ku jemi", which

summarised the five years (1997-2002) of political events in and about Kosovo. This is a reflection of events from the pre-war period to Kosovo's liberation. The catchy title 'Jemi ku jemi' when translated from Albanian means "The situation we are in" or "We are where we are".



2011 - Was characterized by road blocking in the north and often by confusion that who is responsible to un-block the roads



2012 - The north is shown as a muscle parade of the security parallel structures



2014



2017

Jeton Mikullovcic has been continuously remarking and representing by his art, mostly about significant political and social matters in Kosovo. Additionally, he has published hundreds of illustrations mainly for children books and various awareness campaigns.

Comdt. Michael Cullen
OF-3 IRL ARMY

KOSOVO MUSEUM



Kosovo Museum is located in a beautiful nineteenth century structure in the middle of Prishtine/Prishtina. This brightly painted villa, housing the museum was built by the Austro-Hungarians to their style of construction for the Turkish army during the final twenty years of the nineteenth century. It was the headquarters for the Turkish army which was commanded by Jashar Pasha during that period. The real aim of the building was establishing the high military command of that era. It was used by the Yugoslav national army until 1975. Since 1980, the building has been used as the museum of Kosovo.

The museum was founded in 1949 and is the largest Museum in Kosovo. The museum is the earliest institution of cultural heritage in Kosovo, established with the

goal of preserving, restoration-conservation and presentation of movable heritage in the territory. It is situated in a special facility,

from an architectural point of view but also because of its location as it can be found at the old nucleus of the city centre. It has been active





in sponsoring archaeological excavations, conservation and other scientific work. The extensive permanent archaeology exhibition details life in the region during the Illyrian, Dardanian and Roman periods with excellent English language texts. Centre stage is the six thousand year old statue, found at Tjerrtorja in 1956 and returned to Pristina in 2002. The museum is reflective of the many and varied historical sites dotted throughout Kosovo which include Ulpiana, a 1st century Roman city near Gracanica, Decani monastery and Sinan Pasha Mosque in Prizren to mention just a few.

There are three parts to the overall museum: Kosovo Museum itself, Emin Gjiku's Housing Complex where an ethnological exhibition has been presented, and the Museum of Independence. The museum consists of four sectors,

archaeological sector, ethnological sector, historic sector and natural sector. The main museum building consists of three halls or galleries. One of them serves as a hall for permanent archaeological

exhibitions, but various exhibits are also presented in the inner yard of the museum as well as at the lapidarium, respectively in the Archaeological Park, which is located next to the museum building, or on the right





side of it. The lapidarium is a place where stone monuments and fragments of archaeological interest are exhibited.

In the cellars of the museum, are located the warehouses of thousands of findings, artefacts and movable fragments of archaeological material, which are systematised and kept in special conditions with particular attention and care. The working environment of Kosovo Archaeological Institute, a scientific-professional institution responsible for archaeological research, is located on the third floor of the Kosovo Museum.

The Kosovo Museum recently re-opened on the 23rd of February

with a demonstration of Kosovar culture. In addition to its historical presentations the museum is currently hosting two photographic exhibitors. Afrim Hajrullahu's, the photographer with the KFOR Chronicle, black and white images, display his and his family's experiences as refugees in 1999. Fanny Sari, a street photographer, who has a long association with photographing Kosovo and its people, captures images in both urban and rural settings.

There are many interesting artefacts to be seen. COM KFOR, Major General Salvatore Cuoci, visited the Museum on March 24th and was given a guided tour by the Museum

Director, Mr. Skender Boshtrakaj. The Museum Director provided a detailed tour of the facility including the story of how Mother Teresa's image was created from just staples. The large image of Mother Teresa adorns one complete wall of the lobby and has one of her famous quotes 'Peace begins with a smile'.

It is a wonderful facility to visit and admission is free. It is a gateway to the ancient past of Kosovo and as the summer approaches an inspiration to visit the many other historical locations throughout Kosovo.

Comdt. Michael Cullen
OF-3 IRL ARMY



Soldier of the Month

Name: Klemen Baloh

Rank: OR-2

Nationality: Slovenian

Unit: LMT Istog/
Istok – JRD-C



OR-2 Klemen Baloh started his military career in 2003. His main role in the Slovenian Army is as a pyrotechnic instructor. During his career he has earned various medals and compliments. In 2015 he received a bronze medal from the Slovenian Army Chief Of Staff. He has completed many military courses including; CBRN live agent training, Pyrotechnics, Instructor training on F200s and GL1 40mm, an aim point instructor course, Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) course, forklift controller and dismantling ammunition. In 2017 he won the "Best Warrior Competition" in Baumholder, Germany.

From 2013 to 2015 he participated in the rehabilitation of an abandoned gunpowder factory in KIK Kamnik.

As an unexploded devices expert he works with the Office for Protection and Rescue at a national level. On a daily basis, he cooperates with the Special Unit of Civil Police Department as an expert to identify UXOs and IEDs.

This is his third deployment to the KFOR mission and he has been here for over five months. He works as an LMT driver and with his knowledge of languages (English, Serbian, Croatian) he is able to participate in the LMT meetings with key leaders and local population which is very responsible work.

He enjoys this appointment and displays an extremely high level of concern for fellow soldiers, often prioritising his colleagues above himself. He is always looking to develop his skills and consequently he can complete even more demanding tasks. His cleanliness, orderliness and his conduct of vehicle maintenance, is an example for all soldiers.

Acts of Bravery

Slovenia

OR-2 Klemen Baloh loves sports and he has a heart full of desire to help people in trouble. During the KFOR mission while on leave in Slovenia, he witnessed a traffic accident where two cars crashed. In one car there was a grandmother with three kids and in the other a mother with a disabled child. He did not hesitate to help immediately.

He protected the accident site, where an electricity pole had smashed the car with the grandmother and children. This pole also created an electrical hazard. He rescued the children and grandmother from the crashed car and provided first aid. He called the police and ambulance services. Before the police arrived he alerted passing traffic to the electrical hazard. He received a Letter of Appreciation from the Chief of Police.

Kosovo

During his KFOR duty when his LMT (Istok/Istog) had a meeting in the municipality building he noticed that a parked car without a driver started to move toward the main road. He ran in front of the car and stopped it on its own with his bare hands. Klemen stopped it a metre before the car would have been on the main road preventing an accident. He pushed the car back into its parking place. He found a stone and blocked the wheel to prevent this re-occurring. Many locals who saw what he had done congratulated him and some also took pictures with him. For these two acts of bravery, he was proclaimed Slovenian Soldier of the Month in March 2018.

Commander KFOR XXII
Major General
Salvatore Cuoci,
Italian Army

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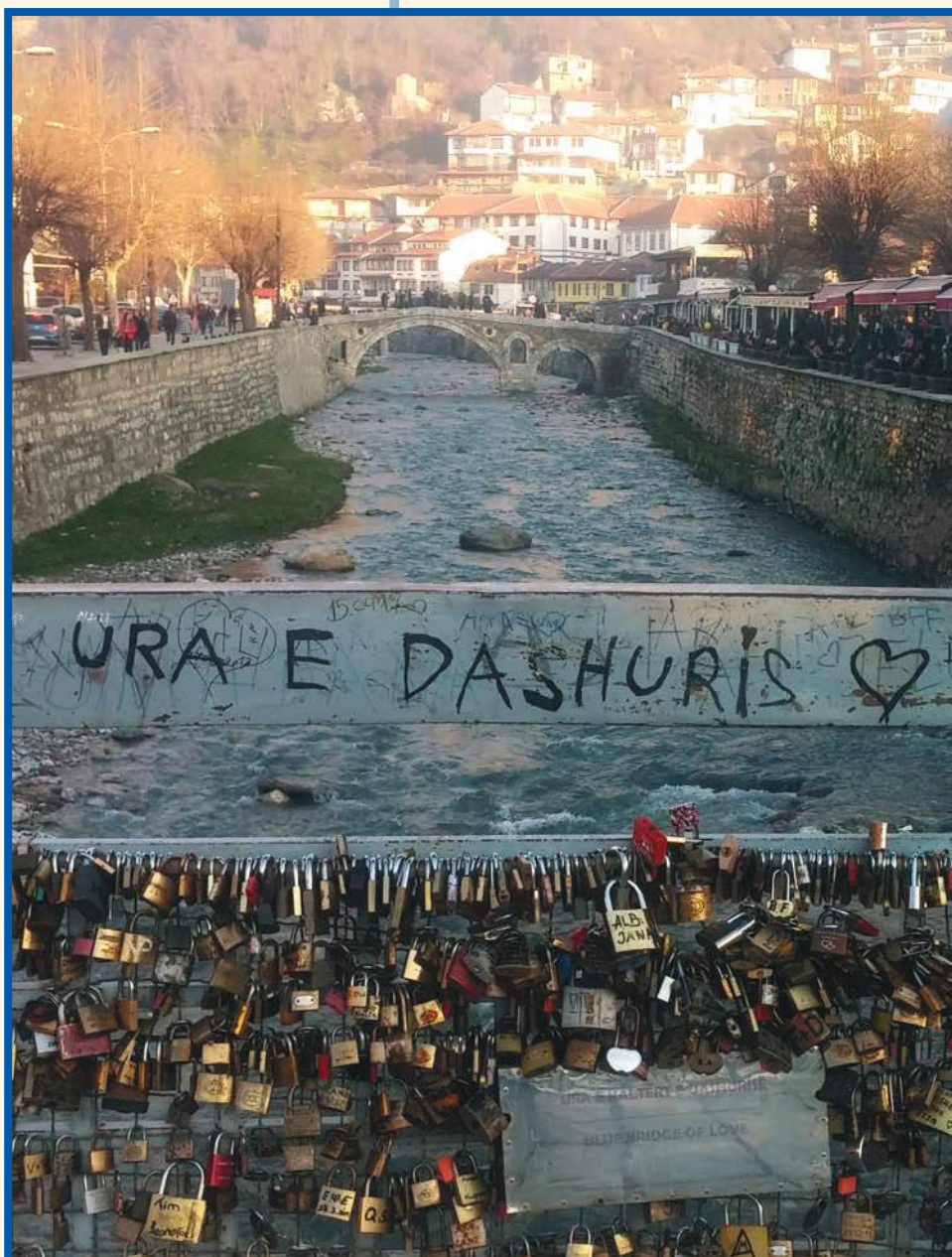
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Albania, Bulgaria, Canada,
Croatia, Czech Republic,
Denmark, Estonia, Germany,
Greece, Hungary, Italy, Norway,
Poland, Portugal, Romania,
Slovenia, Turkey, United Kingdom,
United States.

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

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PICTURES OF THE MONTH

April 2018



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.
A KFOR Chronicle T-Shirt is awarded each
month to the winning photographer.
You will be immortalised in the KFOR
Chronicle!
Is that not something to be proud of?
Sincerely
The Chronicle Team

"The Bridge of Love"
Equipment Used: LG-D802TR
Photo by: OF-2 Mertoglu Ugur, JRD-S





Name: Derenik Gizhlaryan

Rank: OR-4

Nationality: Armenian

Unit: KHQ HSG

Military Education: I have served in the Armenian Army for 7 years, serving in special Army forces from 2008 until 2010 and in the Peacekeeping Brigade from 2013 to the present day. I have attended some courses and training exercises both at home and abroad. I participated in the RS mission in Afghanistan during 2015 as a member of the force protection team.

About the mission: KFOR is my second mission. This is my first time in Kosovo. I enjoy this mission because it gives me the opportunity to create new friendships with our multinational partners as well as learn new languages. The KFOR mission gives me a good experience working in a multinational environment. It provides me a different knowledge of peoples countries and cultures.

Family relations: I have been married for 8 years and my wife and I have 2 sons aged 5 and 2. Though it can be hard being away from them for so long they continue to support me in my military service.

Hobbies: As a teenager, I participated in boxing. I took part in many different competitions not only in Armenia but in other countries (USA, United Kingdom, France, Germany, Greece, Morocco and Ukraine). I received a Masters degree in Boxing. I enjoy going to the gym and working out, playing football and other sports games. I also like to learn about military history and military weapons of different countries.



NAME: Dieter Skibitzki

RANK: OF-2

NATIONALITY: German

UNITY: KFOR HQ J4

Military education: I joined the German AF in 1975, completing the regular basic military service. My first posting was to the NATO Satellite Ground Terminal 13. It was a NATO integrated post, designated to be the Power Plant Chief technician. From 1983 until 1985 I studied aircraft engineering at the Technical AIRFORCE Academy (Faßberg) and received a diploma. I was assigned to the GAF Material Logistic Agency, Cologne and was responsible for the procurement, development and support of aircraft ground equipment (AGE) for the Weapon System MRCA TORNADO. In 1993 I was transferred internally to another department and was given responsibility for the support of fuel trucks. In 2001 I was deployed to Logistic Agency of the Armed Forces. The post involved logistical support of fuel trucks for the entire Joint Forces and I was also a member of the working group for the development and procurement of armoured trucks of different classes. I'm retired since 2009 but continue to serve in the reserve forces.

About the mission: My first tour of duty in KFOR was in 2004 when I was assigned to the post Theatre Asset Management Section (TAMS). I act as a representative of NATO and manage the assets which are provided as NATO assets to the mission. It is a wide range of different types of equipment. The majority of this management work involves managing the KFOR vehicle fleet. It is my 7th tour as TAMS officer, but I also served as J5 analyst in Camp Marmal RC NORTH Afghanistan in 2011.

Family relations: I have one brother who served in the army. He was a technician for the helicopter Weapon System CH 53. He left the ARMY in 2017. He conducted more deployments on missions than me. For him and his family it was more challenging to serve in missions due to the number, duration and risks involved. However, together we both had a great time in the Forces. We were very much accepted in our social environment as part of the joint forces.

Hobby: I'm currently focused on my study, Cultural science. However there is enough time for some other interests like hiking, travelling, reading (primarily biographies), going to the theatre, listening to music. I like classical specifically. Finally I very much enjoy spending time with my sons and also my friends.

