

KFOR CHRONICLE

The KFOR Magazine for KFOR Soldiers

June 2018



**A visit to the Memorial
by JFC Naples Cmdr Admiral Foggo
with COM KFOR**



<http://jfcnaples.nato.int/kfor>



<http://www.facebook.com/NATOKFOR/>



https://www.flickr.com/photos/nato_kfor/



twitter.com/NATO_KFOR





On June 12th Kosovo remembered all those who died during active service with KFOR. The above photograph shows the monument built to represent our fallen comrades. This comes at a time when we recently lost a fellow comrade, Staff Sgt. Conrad Robinson. A sobering reminder of what can happen. May he Rest in Peace.



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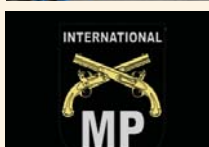
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MNBG-WEST TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY CEREMONY

Change of Command at KFOR's main operational Unit responsible for security in the Western Sector of Kosovo

On June 14th 2018, Multinational Battle Group West (MNBG-W) Transfer of Authority (TOA) ceremony was held at Camp "Villaggio Italia" in Pec/Peje. After a successful six month tour of duty, the 185th



"Folgore" Airborne Artillery Regiment will return to Italy. This ceremony marked the occasion of the hand-over of responsibility to the incoming Italian 5th Alpine Regiment. Colonel Ettore Gagliardi handed over authority to Colonel Ruggero Cucchini in the presence of the Italian Joint Operations Headquarters Deputy Commander, Major General Nicola Lanza de Cristoforis and the KFOR Commander, Major General Salvatore Cuoci. Many other local civilian, political and religious authorities attended the ceremony.

During his speech, Colonel Gagliardi expressed his sincere appreciation for all the personnel who served under his command, remarking their "Enduring Commitment". General Cuoci thanked soldiers of MNBG-W, expressing satisfaction and deep appreciation for the excellent results achieved. At the end of the ceremony, COM KFOR handed the NATO

Flag to Colonel Cucchini, symbolising the beginning of his tour of Duty.

During their mission, MNBG-W Soldiers from Italy, Slovenia, Austria and Moldova contributed to



maintaining a safe and secure environment and the freedom of movement in Kosovo and promoting the development of local Institutions through CIMIC projects under the United Nation's 1244 Resolution.

Cpt Fabio G. CAPRIATI
OF-2 ITA ARMY



SLOVENIAN CONTINGENT TOA CEREMONY



On June 19th in Camp Villaggio Italia (Pec/Peja) the TOA ceremony of the Slovenian MNBG-W Contingent was held.

The 36th KFOR Slovenian Contingent was a fundamental piece of MNBG-W over the past six months, providing S-COY Manoeuvre Company and several key appointments in MNBG-W. The Deputy Commander MNBG-W, Lt. Col. Gregor Hafner, was awarded with the NATO Non-Article 5 Medal for Operations in the Balkans directly from Colonel Ruggero Cucchini, Commander of the MNBG-W.

The Slovenian contribution to KFOR will continue unchanged for the next period: personnel have been replaced by the 37th KFOR Slovenian Contingent under the leadership of Lt. Col. Gregor VODEB, the new MNBG-W deputy commander.

Lt. Col. Gregor VODEB will also be the Slovenian NCC (National Contingent Commander): to underline the importance of his role, the ceremony was attended

Forces Brigade, who handed the Slovenian flag symbolically to Lt. Col. VODEB.



Slovenian Armed Forces have participated in KFOR since January 2000 and are currently one of the largest contributors in terms of troops, with over 200 soldiers deployed across Kosovo.

Capt. Francesco D'Aniello

OF-2 ITA ARMY

Photographer: OR-4 Paolo Massarsi ITA ARMY



by H.E. Mr. Bojan BERTONCELJ, Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to Kosovo, and Col. Robert GLAVAS, Commander of the 1st Slovenian Armed



MOLDOVAN CONTINGENT TOA CEREMONY



On June 12th in Camp Villaggio (Pec/Peja) Italia the rotation ceremony of Moldovan contingent was held. Maj. Ruslan Varinov handed over the mandate of Moldovan NCC (National Contingent Commander): Lt. Col. Veaceslav Balan. Maj. Varinov addressed the audience and expressed his thanks to all TCNs for their assistance and to his own troops for their efforts throughout their tour of duty.

Maj. Varinov finished his tour of duty by handing over the Moldovan flag to the incoming Commander Lt.



Col. Balan as a symbolic gesture to signify the passing of command from one Commander to the other.

The Moldovan contribution to MNBG-W is very important: Moldovan Armed Forces deploy one (1) manoeuvre platoon added to the Italian P-COY and one (1) EOD team, the only specialist team in this branch of the MNBG-W.

Capt. Francesco D'Aniello
OF-2 ITA ARMY



Get Involved

You can be part of KFOR Chronicle. There are many ways through which you can get involved with our magazine, from writing an article or a major feature to taking pictures and sending them to us with a short caption.

We welcome your contributions.

Help make KFOR Chronicle even better.

MNBG-E: KOSOVO – WORLD CUP

What happens when World Cup fever plus developing good relations combine. It equals KFORs MNBG-E soccer tournament.



World Cup fever hit Multi-National Battle Group-East earlier than expected. On June 8th in Camp Bondsteel, a tournament of international soccer matches was held. Teams from Turkey, Poland, Serbia and the United States played in a series of friendly matches, highlighting the unique experiences that are afforded soldiers currently serving in Kosovo. The teams were made up of soldiers from the troop-contributing nations that patrol the Administrative Boundary Line between Kosovo and Serbia. The tournament demonstrated the goodwill and cooperation between Kosovo Force - KFOR and the Serbian Armed Forces. There were some excellent displays both individually and as teams on show throughout the day. This was evident from the scorelines:

Turkey vs. Poland: 3-3

Serbian Armed Forces vs. USA: 6-1

Turkey vs. USA 1-6

Serbian Armed Forces vs. Poland: 6-0



ST. VASILJE OSTROŠKI FESTIVAL BUILDS TIES BETWEEN KFOR'S MNBG-E AND KOSOVO'S SERBIAN POPULATION

Leposavic, Kosovo – Kosovo Force (KFOR) Soldiers got the unique opportunity to participate in the St. Vasilje Ostroški Festival on May 12th in the scenic mountain town of Leposavic in northern Kosovo.

The festival celebrates St. Vasilje, known as St. Basil in English, and the completion of Leposavic's Orthodox Christian church.

Ninety U.S. Army Soldiers from KFOR's Multi-National Battle Group – East (MNBG-E) and about a dozen Swiss and Slovenian soldiers arrived in Leposavic the morning of the festival. They ran in a 5km and 600-metre races, watched a youth soccer tournament, visited the Church of St. Vasilje Ostroški and patronised the town's restaurants, shops and street vendor stalls.

"It was a great day," said Staff Sgt. Daniel Knox, a California National Guard Soldier serving with MNBG-E. "The city was absolutely beautiful—the steep mountains covered with trees and a river running through the town. The race was a lot of fun with a big crowd and everybody cheering. The whole day was positive. Everybody was friendly."

The purpose of KFOR's participation in the festival in Leposavic, a majority Kosovo Serbian town, was to establish relationships and build trust in the municipality, enhance civil-military relations, engage with civil authorities and have a social and economic impact.

KFOR's participation came after MNBG-E commander Col. Nick Ducich, who is a second-generation Serbian American, met Leposavic Mayor Zoran Todoc at St. Vasilje Ostroški Church.

"Three weeks ago I had the pleasure to meet Col. Ducich at the liturgy on Sunday morning," Todoc said



through an interpreter. "It was an unofficial visit and I didn't know the colonel was going to be here. I met him and we made plans for KFOR to participate in the festival.

"First of all, today is both Saint Vasilje Ostroški Day for the municipality and for the church," the mayor explained, adding that the town has been celebrating the holiday for the past 15 years after completion of construction of the church that carries Saint Vasilje's name. "Not only is this a religious holiday that has been taking place for 15 years, we also have the internationally recognised race that is taking place for the 15th time in a row. Today, U.S., Swiss and Slovenian forces had a chance to take part in the race, which adds to the importance of the occasion."



Following the meeting at the church between Ducich and Todoc three weeks prior, MNBG-E Civil-Military Cooperation Officer



Maj. Amir Bahadori got in touch with the race organiser.

Bahadori said 35 U.S. Soldiers ran in the races through the centre of the town. “We participated in the entire event and met our goal to enhance local relationships. It was a good step to get KFOR exposed to the community of Leposavic, and vice versa. The people of Leposavic were open, welcoming, and many understand English.”

“I could not be more pleased with the turnout and results of the day,” Col. Ducich said. “Across the crowd were smiling faces and the removal of barriers through sport and fun. Amazing how a simple conversation and an invitation from the mayor leads to new opportunities to forge bridges of trust.”

“The people and shopkeepers were very friendly and the food was delicious,” said 1st Lt. Pamela Flores, a Cal Guard Soldier serving with MNBG-E. “It was very impressive



to see the town come together to celebrate their patron saint.”

“Today’s holiday is what brings the Orthodox Christian people together,” Mayor Todić said. “It’s our duty and responsibility that we’ve accepted from our ancestors.

It’s important to keep this long tradition in the culture, and, most importantly, all the values to carry on for generations to come.”

Capt. Jason Sweeney
OF-3 US Army

PARC, SKOPJE “NOT JUST TALKING THE TALK.”

The Chronicle team had the opportunity to visit and speak with personnel from the Public Affairs Regional Centre (PARC), in Skopje.



PARC, Skopje was set up in 2005. It has been a national education and training centre since then. In 2009, it was recognised as a regional centre and since June 2013 it became a PTEC (PTEC- Partnership Training and Education Centre), approved by NAC. PARC is the only PTEC in Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia* (FYROM) and what's even more important, from today's thirty two (32) PTEC centres around the world; PARC is the only one which exclusively specialises in Public Affairs (PA).

PARC's progress and importance is evident as it continuously grows. Since 2014, PARC has been open to all NATO, Partnership for Peace (PfP), Mediterranean Dialogue (MD), Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI) and other global partners. PARC, is the PA hub in Europe, where NATO and partner (PfP, MD, ICI) countries and partners across the globe can meet, communicate, learn, network and succeed. From a beginning where only three (3) countries participated, today PARC has trained over fifteen hundred (1,500) personnel from thirty three (33) countries across the world.

PARC trains national and international Public Affairs (PA) personnel from Armed Forces, Ministries of Defence and other State administration institutions in developing their skills in communications and techniques, increasing their expertise in PA, enabling them to operate in peace time, during a crisis and or during an operation.

During our visit, we had the opportunity to view first hand their “Crisis Communication course”. KFOR HQ's PAO branch was represented with the Deputy Chief of the PAO branch Lt. Col Giuseppe Prete completing the course.



*: Turkey recognises FYROM under its constitutional name Republic of Macedonia.



The deputy spokesperson for NATO, Piers Cazalet gave the opening remarks. Col. Vincenzo Grasso, Chief PAO Branch KFOR HQ gave the closing remarks.

There are two (2) courses scheduled for the remainder



of 2018, the “Basic Public Affairs course” and the “Public Affairs in International Operations course”. Additionally there are two (2) more courses in the pipe line, “Building integrity in Public Affairs” and a “Social Media Course”, both to be completed in the second half of this year. See www.parc.mk or PARCSkopje on Facebook for further details.



Finally, PARC, Skopje offers mobile training teams to assist in delivering PA courses through standard or tailored packages. PARC, Skopje has the flexibility to produce tailored courses to suit both military and civilian target groups in line with NATO (PG 1204). Demand from countries interested in sending personnel is increasing; as a result demand for PARC, Skopje courses is growing expeditiously!

Comdt. Damien Keogh
OF-3 IRL ARMY



ISR BN CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

On Wednesday June 6th 2018, the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Battalion (KFOR ISR Bn) Change of Command ceremony took place between Lt. Col. Giovanni Montelli and Lt. Col. Alfredo Russo of the Italian Armed Forces.

This brought to a close Lt. Col. Montelli's tour of duty in Kosovo. The Change of Command Ceremony was presided over by COM KFOR Major General Cuoci. The parade commander was ISR Bn Deputy Commander Lt. Col. Kostantin Oberleitner (Aut). The ceremony took place in front of the multifunctional tent in Camp Film City. The soldiers on parade were drawn from the eight different nations that constitute the ISR Bn. The colours for both the ISR Bn and NATO were marched on parade. The troops on parade were reviewed by COM KFOR. The ceremony was also attended by many guests, military and civilian, to witness the Change of Command



and also to wish Lt. Col. Montelli the best of luck in his future career. Lt. Col. Montelli addressed the audience and expressed his thanks to "all of his staff and comrades in KFOR." He thanked "the ISR Bn, comprised of eight (8) different nationalities." He thanked "all the soldiers of the ISR Bn for their dedication to the mission for the past seven (7) months and wished

all every success in the future." COM KFOR responded to Lt. Col. Montelli's speech, noting the makeup and role of the ISR Bn. He specifically stated, "Under Lt. Col. Montelli's command, the ISR Bn



has continued a high performance level as one of the leading units in KFOR." COM KFOR went on to say "it is difficult to summarise the excellent job Lt. Col. Montelli has done during his deployment. His command benefited from three (3) previous missions to Kosovo beginning in 1999. When considering the accomplishments this unit achieved over the past seven (7) months with missions assisting the MNBGs, multiple intelligence gathering products, it is evident to me that they have contributed tremendously to the progress made in KFOR." COM KFOR concluded by wishing LT. Col. Montelli a safe return home to his family and welcomed the new ISR Bn Commander Lt. Col. Alfredo Russo, and that COM KFOR specifically mentioned that "No commander can fulfil his duties without highly motivated soldiers under his command and he was proud of the work you have done." Lt. Col. Montelli was presented with a Letter of Commendation



for his exceptional performance as ISR Bn Commander from COM KFOR Salvatore Cuoci. The ceremony concluded with the traditional passing of the ISR Bn Colours from Lt. Col. Montelli, outgoing ISR Bn Commander, to the incoming ISR Bn Commander, Lt. Col. Russo. This represented the formal and symbolic transfer of authority and responsibility between the two commanders. Prior to the parade commander reporting the end of the ceremony to COM KFOR, the soldiers on parade and guests stood at attention for the NATO anthem.

Comdt. Damien Keogh
OF-3 IRL-A



A VISUAL OVERVIEW



07 MAY 2018
KFOR Commander, Major General Salvatore Cuoci, met MG Timothy E. ORR Adjutant General National Guard USA, at Camp "Film City" KFOR Headquarters.



14 MAY 2018
KFOR Commander, Major General Salvatore Cuoci, met General Sir Adrian Bradshaw KCB OBE, at KFOR Headquarters.



14 MAY 2018
KFOR Commander, Major General Salvatore Cuoci, met HE Lars Lokke Rasmussen Prime Minister of Denmark, at KFOR Headquarters.

A VISUAL OVERVIEW



24 MAY 2018
KFOR Commander, Major General Salvatore Cuoci, received the visit of Mr. Michael Hammer Executive Chairman of the Austrian Parliamentary Commission for the Federal Armed Forces, at KFOR Headquarters.



25 MAY 2018
KFOR Commander, Major General Salvatore Cuoci, received the visit of the MG. Martin Dorfer Commander European Union Force Operation ALTHEA, at KFOR Headquarters.



30 MAY 2018
KFOR Commander, Major General Salvatore Cuoci, received the visit of the H.E. Christian Meuwly Ambassador of Switzerland to Belgium and NATO, at KFOR Headquarters.

OUT AND ABOUT WITH THE LITTLE YELLOW MEN

Massive metal rollers crush the rocks, Archimedean screws wash out slag and endless conveyors run through the huge hangar. It's pandemonium. There are clanging and clattering noises everywhere, rattling cogs and sloshing water and mud. The background noise we encounter is overwhelming. DEU PA, DEU CBRN and KFOR HQ Environmental Officer are in Leposavic, in a production facility of the Trepca mining company in northern Kosovo.



The team consisting of Portuguese Lt. Col. Torcato and Captain OF-2 Lars R. has an important mission to accomplish here. As the CBRN Environmental Officer in KFOR headquarters, Lt. Col. Torcato is responsible for conducting Toxic Industrial Material (TIM) inspections in Kosovo. He is assisted with this by the German CBRN defence forces (DF) led by Capt. Lars M. "The TIM inspections serve to support the Force Protection: potentially dangerous substances that are stored in companies in the area of operations are identified and checked regularly. This ensures we can complete assessments frequently, minimising potential hazards for KFOR and the local population," explains Capt. Lars R.

ends with inspections such as this." Every week, he is out and about across Kosovo assisting KFOR HQ, inspecting companies that use chemicals and potentially hazardous substances.

Force Protection through Advice and Partnership

"The companies are divided into risk groups and reassessed regularly. For this, we cooperate closely with the Kosovan environmental ministry and the Kosovo Security Force (KSF). We now only provide support to KSF to perform these tasks independently, but because the North is not accessible to KSF, we have to conduct these inspections alone." Cpt Lars R.'s account shows that the situation is still tense, at least in northern Kosovo and highlights the tasks of KFOR as "Third Responder," providing security when required to support the local authorities.



Just a short time ago, we followed the idyllic course of the river Ibar northwards. Two Eagles and two armoured Wolf vehicles left Camp Prizren very early in the morning and set off for Mitrovica. From afar, we could see the enormous miners' monument. "Mitrovica was an important mining and industrial city, but today, many things are lying idle because there is no agreement on ownership and the required funding for new investments is absent" says Cpt Tobias M., who is also taking part in the TIM inspection in his capacity as commissioner for occupational safety and health.



As the CBRN DF Officer for the German KFOR Contingent, he is responsible for all protective tasks: "This starts with occupational safety and health, and

Mining as a source of hope

A lot of hope for economic development is pinned on the rich deposits of raw materials. However, a look at the huge industrial ruins is sobering. From an employment figure of about 20,000 workers, just 800 remain to keep the production running.

The administration building of the Trepca production facility in Leposavic dates back to pre-war times. The Serbian director receives us in a friendly manner; he already knows Lt. Col. Torcato from previous inspections. He views this as an opportunity to learn from each other. KFOR inspectors are experts in their field; in addition to inspecting stocks of chemicals, they also advise companies on storage and occupational safety.

During their meeting with the director, previous reports of inspections are discussed first. Cpt Lars R. explains that precise documentation is important: "This gives us a consistent picture of the local situation. We don't have to start from scratch again every

are the regulations for labelling adhered to?"

Entry of the little yellow men

As the CBRN DF reach the storage site in the hangar, there is a surprise waiting for them: Storage is spread over several floors – not an easy task for the men in the heavy yellow protective suits: Capt. Lars R. , "The equipment weighs up to 10 kg and is fully sealed. You can only breathe through the protective mask." Capt. Lars R. explains why this is still necessary: "Normally, we deal with standard substances, but some companies also store radioactive substances or highly dangerous chemicals, such as ammonia. Safety is therefore of utmost importance." The CBRN DF have various analytical instruments for their inspections: "We use electronic measuring instruments which enable us to determine the concentration of specific substances in the air. If we measure a positive value, further samples are required to be taken and analysed in the laboratory by our Kosovan partner organisations" explains Capt.



Lars R. draws a positive conclusion: "Our recommendations from previous inspections have been implemented; the overall condition of the facility is satisfactory



particularly with regard to occupational safety and health. Our advice was followed and that is an important signal to show confidence and reliability of this company." The chemicals are stored safely; the provisions for labelling and ventilation have been met. The inspection trip shows that KFOR's support is still necessary in order to provide advice to local security organisations and/or to assist as "Third Responder". In multinational operations with our KFOR partners, the CBRN DF of the German Contingent contributes significantly to ensuring security and stability in Kosovo.

Capt. Ulrich Veen
OF-2 DEUCON



time." The checklist contains the categories used in the assessment of companies: "Our aim is to obtain an objective picture of conditions locally: is there separate storage, what are the storage site conditions, how are they secured and ventilated,

Lars R.: "However, we already have an idea of which substances we are concerned with and we have an approximate value of the concentration levels."

The provisions have been met

At the end of the inspection, Capt.

KRCT INTERVIEW WITH EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FERIDE RUSHITI

The Chronicle team recently caught up with Feride Rushiti, Executive Director of KRCT (Kosovo Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims) to ask her a few questions in relation to her organisation, personal perspectives, own roles and experiences. To understand the context, Feride was an invitee to KFORs "International Conference on Women, Peace and Security in Kosovo", we asked, KFOR HQs, GENAD Chief to provide some background.

International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict

In 2015 the United Nations proclaimed 19 June as the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict. The date 19 June marks the second resolution on Women, Peace and Security - the Security Council resolution 1820 (UNSCR 1820) adopted in 2008, where sexual violence as a tactic of war was sentenced. The international day aims to raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence, to honour the survivors of sexual violence around the world and to pay tribute to all those who have courageously devoted their lives to and lost their lives in standing up for the eradication of these crimes. 2018's theme of the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is "The Plight and Rights of Children Born of War".

In UNSCR 1820, sexual violence in conflict was defined as a security problem which has to be addressed seriously. Conflict-related Sexual and Gender-based violence (CRSGBV) is used as a weapon in armed conflict resulting in the break-down of societies and increasing poverty due to the lack of law enforcement. To increase security for civilians, this entails also to preventing and responding to CRSGBV. It is still used as a strategy and one of tactics, even in contemporary security challenges

nowadays. Therefore CRSGBV became a necessary part of providing security.

Conflict-related Sexual and Gender-based violence was one of the discussed topics at the recent International Conference on Women, Peace and Security in Kosovo, organised by KFOR on 6 March 2018 in Camp Film City, Pristina. Ms Feride Rushiti, the Executive Director of KRCT (Kosovo Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims) was one of panellists on the panel at "Security Challenges of Women in Kosovo". On 23 March 2018, she was awarded with the International Women of Courage (IWOC) award.

Prepared by: OF 4 Suzana Tkavc, PhD (SVN – A).

Q1. What is the KRCT?

Feride:

Kosova Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims – KRCT is a non-government organisation with a long tradition of working in the community. Established in 1999, KRCT has fostered and maintained the character of an organisation that provides treatment and medical, psychological and social rehabilitation for the victims of torture. Also, throughout its existence, KRCT has continuously worked on capacity building of staff and public sector, in order to provide the best professional services for all target groups.

KRCT is continuously growing as



an organisation, by extending its mandate in monitoring the human rights in places of deprivation of liberty, including monitoring of correctional centres, detention centres, police holding cells, mental health and social care institutions. Furthermore, KRCT provides psychosocial services for asylum seekers and refugees in Kosovo, by monitoring immigration detention centres. Finally, KRCT is strongly committed in socio-economic empowerment of women in Kosovo, particularly in empowerment of victims of sexual violence from the last conflict in Kosovo.

Q2. Feride as Executive Director of KRCT, when did you take on this role? What is your background?

Feride:

During the conflict, I was a young medical doctor completing my studies at the Medical Faculty, University of Tirana. My first

contact with Kosovar refugees was during my time at the University Medical Hospital. I recall they were asking for treatment and psychological support. I decided immediately to volunteer through a local NGO in Tirana (the Albanian Rehabilitation Centre for Trauma and Torture) which was engaged with an emergency program by helping survivors and children refugees in Kukes, Tirana and Durres. I started working in these emergency shelters by assisting Kosovar families forcibly and massively displaced from their cities, villages and houses. Human suffering gave me the tremendous strength to switch my life and my professional orientation and become a 'human rights defender' and as a restless person towards social emancipation and sustainable change.

At the end of the Kosovo conflict, in autumn 1999, with the return of Kosovars back to their own homes, in order to set up, we received support from professional collaborators which were previously engaged in Albania and throughout the generous support of the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims (IRCT) we established the Kosova Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims.

Together with collaborators, I founded The Kosova Rehabilitation Centre for Torture Victims, in order to provide medical and psycho-social support for the first post-conflict returnees to rebuild their lives. From 2007, I have been very active by lobbying for human rights promotion and protection of peoples deprived of their liberty in places of detention. In recent years, I have been strongly engaged in recognition of the legal status for survivors of sexual violence from the conflict.



Q3. What is the mission and what are the objectives of KRCT? Feride:

The KRCT's mission is protection, enhancement and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms for survivors of torture and other forms of violence through: multidisciplinary rehabilitation and treatment, socio-economic empowerment, advocacy for legal and institutional reforms, obtaining justice for victims of human rights violation and strengthening capacities of the public sector.

In order to accomplish its objectives, KRCT provides psychosocial and

medical rehabilitation of survivors of torture and offers legal assistance for them. It is committed to the economic empowerment of survivors of torture, respectively of their employment, economic and social reintegration. KRCT records and documents the violations of human rights of survivors of torture. KRCT further develops research activities for protection and advancement of human rights of survivors of torture. In addition, KRCT publishes research on the rights of torture survivors in scientific and professional journals, as well as in the form of reports and



thematic studies from its scope. KRCT monitors places of detention to prevent violence, torture and all other forms of ill-treatment of persons deprived of their liberty. KRCT monitors judicial hearings on detention on remand with the aim of evaluating pre-trial detention, fair trial, enforcement of the right to life, freedom and security, and identifying cases of strategic litigation - as an advocacy tool for criminal code reform in Kosovo. KRCT continuously advocates through reporting, written requests, recommendations and communications on numerous aspects of human rights violations in correctional institutions and other detention centres.

Q4. How many personnel work in KRCT? Who provides the necessary support both internal and external to your organisation? Feride:

Currently there are twenty four (24) staff members which are strongly committed towards the achievement of KRCT's goals. They are professionals from different backgrounds such as: medical doctors, psychologists, gynecologists, social-workers, lawyers, economists and a political scientist. However, throughout the existence of our organisation, we have built up the channels of communication and cooperation worldwide with many eminent professionals in the field, and we are an active part of different national and international networks.

Q5. What achievements have you had as Executive Director? Feride:

Since the foundation of KRCT, I lead this organisation, with a very professional staff around me. Throughout, almost two decades of leadership we walked between successes and challenges. As a leader I will not list all successes, but I



would like to mention the major achievement of KRCT: recognition of the legal status for survivors of sexual violence in conflict.

Throughout almost two decades of advocacy, KRCT secured access to healthcare and justice for civilian victims of Kosovo's 1998-1999 conflict. In 2017, our constant work and struggle led to a landmark government decision to fund pensions for Kosovo's victims of sexual violence, setting a precedent for governmental engagement in efforts to deal with Kosovo's past.

Q6. In relation to the victims of the conflict, KRCT managed to achieve a watershed moment and are alone in successfully securing pensions to these people? How difficult was that to achieve? What other supports are now in place?

Feride:

Across 20 years of our work, KRCT often encountered various challenges and vicissitudes. It is not easy to work with marginalised groups, especially with survivors of sexual violence – breaking the taboos and fighting stigma among Kosovar society. Identification of survivors of sexual violence and access to the community besides posing a threat to the survivors themselves, at the same time challenged our work as well, and often the family and their relatives threatened us just to avoid 'family secret' and the past. 'Hear my voice' is the motto of our work with victims of sexual violence, is more than one motto. They simply were silent. From

the other side, survivors of sexual violence were never part of the top agendas of neither state institutions nor political parties, which clearly makes it difficult for us to put forward the issue of victims of sexual violence. The institutional support is a state mechanism under the National Council for Survivors of Sexual Violence in War, established by the decree of Ms. Atifete Jahjage (ex-President of the Republic of Kosovo) as well as Mrs. Vlora Çitaku, (former Minister of European Integration and Woman Caucus) currently the Ambassador of the Republic of Kosovo to the United States of America.

Q7. On a personal note, I believe you were recently in USA as part of a delegation and you received a prestigious international award for your work. Could you inform our readers about the necessary achievements to gain this award?

Feride:

This year I was honoured by the U.S. Department with International



Women of Courage Award. Indeed, this award recognises women around the world who have demonstrated exceptional courage and leadership in advocating for peace, justice, human rights, gender equality, and women's empowerment, often at great personal risk and sacrifice. And, this award I dedicate to survivors of sexual violence and to all women in Kosovo.

Since the foundation of KRCT, the survivors of sexual violence have been the focus of my engagement and activity. For years, I advocated and lobbied in addressing and recognising the legal status of survivors of sexual violence. Beyond legal recognition, I was personally engaged in implementing this law, particularly in the documentation and verification procedures.

My work on the ground, direct and ongoing contact with this sensitive social group, multiple campaigns and activities within the community, led to the breaking of silence, isolation and social prejudices.

Finally, after almost two decades of activism and hard work, in December 2017, the Government of Kosovo approved the budget for the category of survivors of sexual violence. So, the application path for recognition and verification of status for survivors of sexual violence was finally adopted.

In fact, this award is recognition of the above mentioned 20 year commitment as a human rights activist.

Q8. To finish, thank you for your cooperation on this article, as an NGO it must be difficult to secure funding to run such an organisation. How can someone donate to the KRCT?

Feride:

KRCT as a non-profit organisation is based and operates on values such humanism, professionalism, effectiveness and dedication to interests, well-being and perspective of torture survivors. Its existence and work is strongly rooted at the organisation's vision: a society

without torture where human rights and fundamental freedoms are fully respected and protected.

We succeeded in our journey, in fulfilling our mission, only through continuous support of our donors.

Anyone who is interested in helping us fight against torture, can donate either by financing different projects or by contributing to our bank account which is visible at www.krct.org.

Interview prepared by:
Comdt. Damien Keogh
OF 3 – IRL Army



KEEP CALM & Respect the Rules

#summertime #behave #quiethours #respect #besocial

KFOR IMP

Summer time is here and the days are getting longer.
It's important to have time to relax,
since the military service is not always an easy life
But try to remember not to "cross the line"
of camp regulations and social rules.

***We are all in KFOR together!
Respect individual needs!***

Remember to:

- Avoid loud noises after 2230 especially in the accommodation areas;
- Avoid inappropriate behavior, especially when you consume alcohol;
- Stick to the rules!

MILITARY POLICE
will enforce the respective regulations

References : INS 5-7 CAMP FILM SITE RULES
INS 5-2 RULES FOR BARS, NATIONAL CLUBS



ARMENIAN CONTINGENT TOA CEREMONY



On June 12th in front of KFOR HQ, in Camp Film City the rotation ceremony of the Armenian contingent was held.

Maj. Tigran Sahakyan handed over the mandate of Armenian SNR (Senior National Representative) to Maj. Karen Davtyan.

The Armenian contribution to KFOR HQ is very important: Armenian Armed Forces provide the guard for KFORs APOD.



Maj. Tigran addressed the audience and expressed his sincere thanks to members of the HSG who provided the necessary support to the Armenian Contingent through their trip. He thanked the troops under his leadership for their professionalism and dedication. The troops on parade were reviewed by COM KFOR.



The symbolic hand over of the flag took place between the outgoing and the incoming commander. KFOR Deputy Commander Brigadier General Janos Csombok passed the flag between the commanders and thanked the outgoing commander and his staff for their loyalty and professionalism during their tour of duty.



Prior to the parade commander reporting the end of the ceremony to COM KFOR, the soldiers on parade and guests stood at attention for the NATO anthem.

Comdt. Damien Keogh
OF-3 IRL Army

Soldier of the Month

Name: József Varga
Rank: Subordinated officer
for LMT (OR - 8)
Nationality: Hungarian
Unit: HUN Liaison Monitoring
Team (LMT)



Warrant Officer (OR-8) József VARGA is a highly educated, job oriented and well trained professional soldier. He was born on March 28th, 1980. He started his military career in 2002 as a Squad Leader working for the HDF 62, Bercsényi Miklós Mechanised Infantry Brigade, Tank Battalion based in Hódmezővásárhely, where he completed his studies as Tank Commanding Non-commissioned Officer. In 2003, he was promoted to Staff Sergeant and in 2004 was assigned to work, first as an Anti-tank Squad Leader for the HDF 5, Bocskai István Mechanised Infantry Brigade and then later in 2007, as a Platoon Sergeant for the same unit. From 2013 to 2014 he worked as an Instructor at the HDF NCO School based at Szentendre. Since 2014 he has been deployed to the Hungarian Defence Forces Civil-Military Cooperation and Psychological Operations Centre where he was assigned the role of S3 NCO. József graduated as an S3 Operational and Planner NCO in 2017, he possesses a STANAG 1.1.1.1 English Language Certificate. During his career, he has been deployed 4 times abroad (in 2004 and 2006 in Kosovo KFOR, in 2007 and 2011 deployed to EUFOR) and is now fulfilling his 5th deployment in Kosovo, as subordinated Non-Commissioned Officer for the HUN LMT based in Podujevë / Подујево. During his service, he has been awarded with several National and International Medals and Awards. He is married and has three daughters. He is an avid sportsman, who loves boxing in his free time.

Warrant Officer (OR-8) József VARGA started working with the HUN LMT at the beginning of March 2018 as a constituent part of the Hungarian KFOR Contingent located in Camp Novo Selo, known as KFOR's Tactical Reserve Battalion. He continues to perform the tasks that his predecessor initiated. He remains loyal to his team's

concept of operation which reads "Feel the pulse of Kosovo". This concept continues open cooperation with all local communities as well as economic, social and religious representatives within their area of operations (AO). His team liaises with international, governmental and non-governmental organisations present in the region and Kosovo. With his effective and enthusiastic work, Warrant Officer (OR-8) József VARGA provides credible data and source of information necessary for further decision-making to Commander of the multinational Kosovo Force.

In addition to performing his regular tasks, he also took part in KFOR's high visibility Silver Sabre 18/1 exercise, where distinguished military representatives and local high ranking political leaders were invited. The Commander of the HUN LMT, Captain Róbert RÁTÓCZI, has also described Warrant Officer (OR-8) József VARGA's work as being always extremely important and effective. He always represents the NCO core as expected and never fails in any tasks he is entrusted with.

Warrant Officer (OR-8) József VARGA's emphasis on any tasks - either operational or administrative - established him as the leading NCO at KFOR's HUN LMT. His outstanding performance and unwavering commitment to mission accomplishment reflected great credit upon himself, his unit the HUN DF Civil-Military Cooperation and Psychological Operations Centre, his Country and KFOR.

Commander KFOR XXII
Major General
Salvatore Cuoci,
Italian Army

**Chief Public Affairs Office &
COMKFOR Spokesperson**
Col. Vincenzo Grasso,
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NATO Nations within KFOR
Albania, Bulgaria, Canada,
Croatia, Czech Republic,
Denmark, Estonia, Germany,
Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania,
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 June 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

"Moon over Camp Bondsteel"
Equipment Used: Nikon COOLPIX
B500V, 40x optical zoom

Photo by: Jason Tsui, MNBG-E, KFOR 24





Name: Daniel Köppel
Rank: OR-7
Nationality: Swiss
Unit: Air Transport Detachment, APOD

Military education: Like the majority of Swiss soldiers, I belonged to the militia system, which means, that I am not a professional soldier. I did my basic military training with an infantry company as well as further training and education to obtain the rank of an Infantry Sergeant Major. I left Switzerland back in 1992 to work as hotel manager in various countries of South East & North Asia. I did not serve in the army since then. However, I am humbled and proud to have joined the ranks of the few Swiss Nationals who have the opportunity to serve in an international mission abroad with the Swiss Army, particularly in a peace supporting mission here in Kosovo with KFOR.

About the mission: As a warrant officer with the Swiss Air Force Air Transport detachment my duties include handling the financial aspects, support to secure the logistics as well as the maintenance of the physical nourishment of the Swiss Air Force Air Transport detachment at the APOD. Just think of a hotel with two AS332 Super Puma instead of limousines.

Family relations: Due to travelling the world as a hospitality professional for the past 25 years, I do not have a spouse, or children. I do however help my ailing, senior mother whenever I can.

Hobby: I am a Shodan in Nishio Ryu Aikido as well as practicing Laido (a type of Japanese martial art) since 2010. My Sensei has served 3 tours in the Vietnam War as a Navy Corpsman with the Marines. This is relevant since Aikido means "the art of peace". Only one, who knows War, can instruct how to practice a traditional Japanese Martial Art whose founder Morihei Ueshiba said: "The Way of the warrior has been misunderstood. It is not a means to kill and destroy others. Those who seek to compete and better one another are making a terrible mistake. To smash, injure, or destroy is the worst thing a human being can do. The real Way of the Warrior is to prevent such slaughter - it is the Art of Peace, the power of love."



Name: Sofie Kildahl Møller
Rank: OR-1
Nationality: Danish
Unit: KFOR Guard unit CMLT

Military education: I've been in the army for about 2 years now. I began my military career as a combat engineer, before I got recruited into the EOD as an advanced search specialist. There I worked in a 6 man team, where we assist in various tasks that require the highest assurance, everything from assisting the police with gathering evidence to finding IED's in high threat areas.

About the mission: Our mission in KFOR is very different from the work we do at home in our own units. Our mission in KFOR is to conduct access control in camp CMLT and do patrols around the vicinity to show presence. We are in charge of the main gate at the camp, and act as the "first responders" inside the camp if something should happen. Even though our mission as security may seem simple we still manage to do a professional job every day to make sure that the soldiers and people in the camp can feel safe. Even though we are not that many Danes in Kosovo anymore we are happy to contribute and represent Denmark.

Family reaction: My closest family is my parents and my younger brother. Even after I moved out, I still see them very often, because my family means the world to me. Despite no one in my family having joined the army, I know they support the mission. Other than that, I am grateful to have a lot of friends, whom I know will always be there for me.

Hobbies: I am in love with the active lifestyle and love doing sports. I mostly do running, indoor cycling and working out in the gym. After I finished high school I went to a sports school for ½ year. There I tried a lot of different types of sports, everything from ball games to adventure sports. At the school I joined some instructor programs to teach fitness, running and indoor cycling. I have almost always had a side job in sport shops, working as a sales assistant, because I have a love for sportswear and sports gear, and I like the customer service. So when I am not working out or at work, I spend time with my friends and family.

