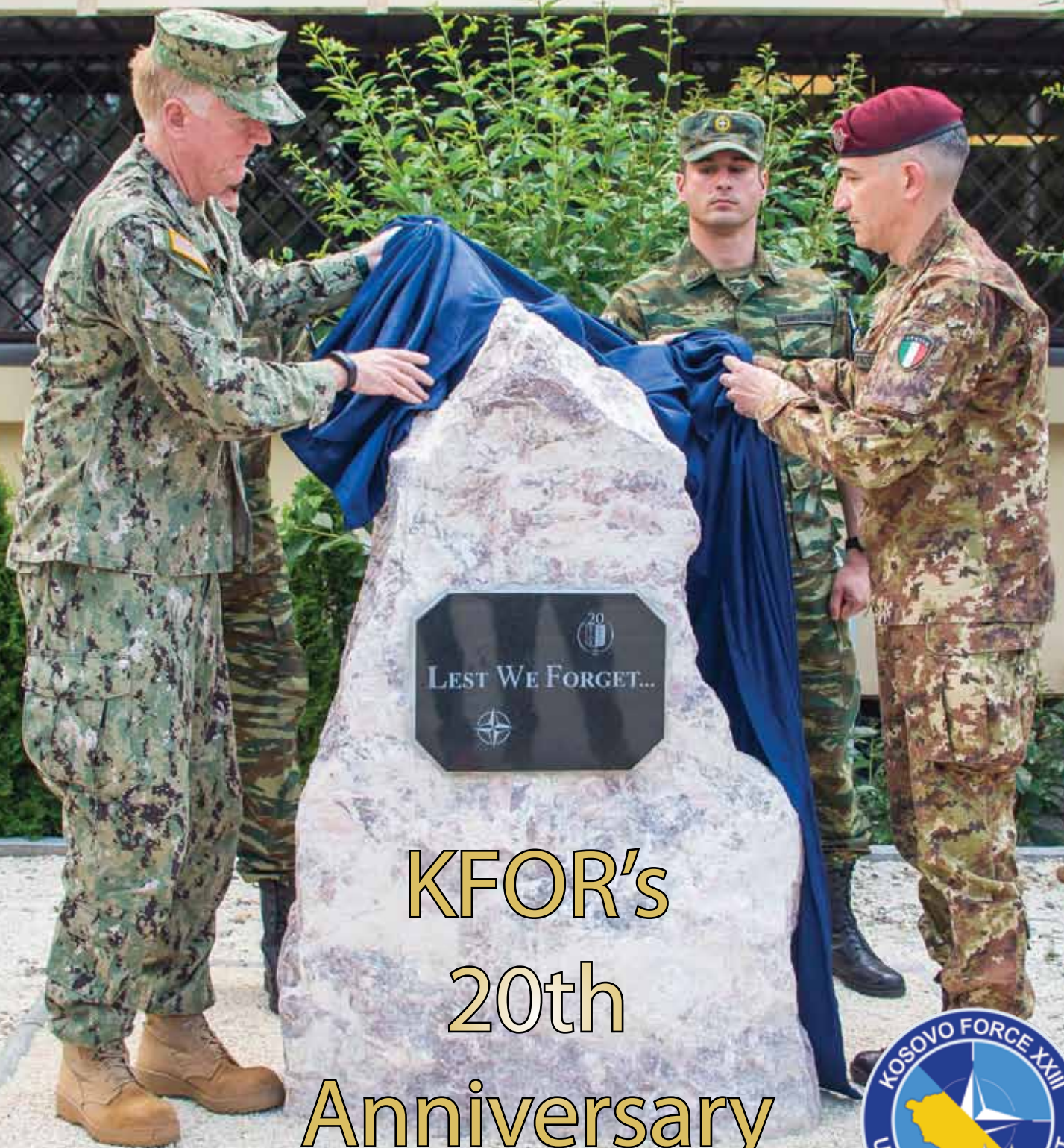


# KFOR CHRONICLE



KFOR's  
20th  
Anniversary





## KFOR Tribute

## LEST WE FORGET



On 01 JUL 19, our comrade, OR-8 Hauptfeldwebel Karsten DÖKEL, the Postmaster of the German Contigent, passed away suddenly at Camp Film City, Pristina. His fellow KFOR international community stood as a mark of respect, in silence and saluted Hauptfeldwebel Karsten DÖKEL on his final journey home through a procession along the Main Street of Camp Film City. A fitting tribute to our colleague who will be remembered by all. Our thoughts are with his family, relatives and German colleagues at this time. May He Rest in Peace.

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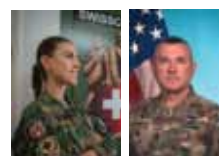
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## 20th ANNIVERSARY

## KFOR HQ

On the morning of the 11 JUN 2019, Commander NATO Joint Force Command, Naples, Admiral James Foggo led the ceremony with COM KFOR Major General Lorenzo D'Addario with representatives of all troop contributing countries in a memorable commemoration of KFOR's 20th Anniversary.

For all KFOR soldiers it was a true privilege to be a part of such a solemn ceremony, which held such significance, remembering the deployment of approximately 50,000 soldiers from 39 countries into Kosovo, to help pave the way forward for a permanent solution to conflict in Kosovo.

The ceremony was divided into two separate parts. Outside the KFOR Headquarters, Commander NATO Joint Force Command, Naples, Admiral Foggo and COM KFOR, Maj Gen D'Addario unveiled a monument to remember our fallen comrades. Admiral Foggo in his address spoke of the importance of remembering our fallen soldiers. "Our attention, rightly, is on the



sacrifice of KFOR's fallen: some 213 personnel lost in combat and non-combat related deaths. They came from around the world: 28 NATO and partner nations. These brave women and men deployed to Kosovo in the service of peace over the last 20 years". He spoke of how the solid rock was made as firm as KFOR's continued commitment and as a permanent reminder of our sisters and brothers in arms who made the ultimate sacrifice. Their sacrifice has been





## 20th ANNIVERSARY



an essential contribution to one of NATO's greatest achievements since the end of the Cold War: helping restore peace and security throughout the Balkans at times when a return to conflict might have seemed inevitable.

The official ceremony was attended by the President of Kosovo, Hashim Thaci, Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj, Ambassadors, Ministers and several other distinguished guests. The official ceremony saw the nation flag bearers with their respective national flags, the Polish Honor Guard, the Flag hoisters and personnel from all Unit representatives in formation. The official party was led by Commander

NATO Joint Forces Command Naples, Admiral James Foggo, accompanied by COM KFOR Maj Gen Lorenzo D'Addario, DCOM KFOR Brig Gen Reinhard Ruckstuhl and COS KFOR Brig Gen John Boyd. The parade commander for the ceremony was Colonel Mark Hearn, Commander of the Headquarters Support Group. The formation was inspected by the official party and the NATO flag was hoisted to the NATO anthem.

During his address, COM KFOR Maj Gen D'Addario reflected on the stark differences that he recalled during his time in Pristina in 1999, referring to the feeling of despair and fear, but also, a feeling that the worst was over after those disastrous months of war. "Many people were displaced, lacked security and basic services. We were part of an unprecedented gathering of Nations, a force strong in its commitment to intervene on the ground and to make a difference, despite all of the challenges". He assessed that KFOR has ensured security and freedom of movement for all, hence providing the conditions for restarting the services, political and civic life, working together with other International Organisations and Missions in our capacity of International Security presence, mandated by UNSCR 1244. During the parade a minutes silence was observed to reflect on the sacrifices of our fallen comrades and of their families. This was followed by a fusillade salute by the Polish Honour Guard. COM KFOR said "Today, we commemorate our fallen comrades. We, the soldiers and civilians of KFOR, honour their memory. We honour them best by continuing to provide the same commitment, impartially and passionately, as they did. As a result, Kosovo is a country far different





# KFOR HQ



than it was 20 years ago. Kosovo has seen 20 years of peace and development". He acknowledged that much more needs to be done, and that reconciliation with the past requires courage to compromise, to "ensure that the clock is never wound backwards and that the legitimate aspirations of a brighter future for all people are met". Admiral Foggo considerably expressed how "together, we are committed to European security and promoting peace in Europe and beyond. This is our continued mandate for the children and youth. Ladies and gentlemen, as we mark KFOR at 20 years, I encourage all of us to reflect. Yes, it is a time to remember, but it is also time to move forward".

As the Croatian MI-8, the Swiss SUPER PUMA and the US BLACK HAWK helicopters flew over the parade, all personnel stood in silence as a unique sense of privilege, purpose and pride filled the air as we remember this substantial chapter of history, which will remain in the hearts of the soldiers that were present on 11 JUN 2019.

Being part of this significant commemoration, acknowledging 20 years of strong military devotion, pride, impartiality, loyalty and respect by all soldiers

who have served under the NATO flag will be etched in our minds forever, as we continue in the next chapter of our mission here, providing better and safer conditions for the people of Kosovo.

Comdt. Joanne Naughton  
OF-3 IRL-A  
PAO Chief Internal Information





## Emergency Response Exercise

# SWISSCOY



**An emergency can occur at any time. Suddenly, surprisingly, without preparation. Without appropriate training and regular practice of the necessary procedures, these circumstances can have detrimental effects. For this reason, a wide variety of scenarios are practiced, both in the Swiss Armed Forces and in KFOR to prepare for all possible eventualities.**

On 19 JUN at 0900hrs, "Exercise PEGASUS" began with the EOD receiving information that an unknown object has been found in Camp Vrelo, possibly an IED (Improvised Explosive Device). The EOD team moved out immediately, followed by the Medics and a patrol of the International Military Police (IMP). On site, the surrounding buildings are immediately evacuated



and the area is closed off on a large scale by the IMP. A robot is used to inspect the area around the unknown object. After assessment of the scene, a member of the EOD team approaches the suspicious package to examine it. Suddenly an explosion occurs; the EOD specialist is seriously injured. The dynamic of the scene has changed, the event has escalated and now every second counts: first aid is taken over

by the EOD's comrades, and then the injured person is taken from the danger zone to the medics. At the same time, the 9-liner is sent to the PECC and a corresponding MEDEVAC request is sent. Though teamwork, the patient continues to be treated until the helicopter lands at 1245hrs and a Medevac was initiated to the Role 2 hospital in Camp Film City. Concurrently, at HQ level in Camp Film City, the Officer in Charge receives the incident report from Camp Vrelo. The crisis staff is called up; at 1300hrs the first orientation report follows and the focus is now on the rapid relaying of information, which must be maintained with all elements involved. The Medevac arrives at the Role 2 successfully and the EOD specialist receives treatment for his injuries.

Ex PEGASUS exercised a wide variety of cells in KFOR HQ, during which the Swiss EOD team, the IMP, the PECC, the Role 2 hospital, Air MEDEVAC, staff of the Swisscoy contingent and Swiss Medics were all practiced in their areas of expertise to deal with this life threaten injury that had occurred.

"You fight like you train: In order to be prepared for an emergency, such exercises are indispensable and bring added value to all participants," says Chief Nurse, OR-9 Maria Vitale.



Capt. Stefanie Walterspül  
OF-2 CHE-A  
PAO CHE





## Transfer of Authority Ceremony

# COS



**On the afternoon of 13 JUN, KFOR headquarters personnel lined up in formation in recognition of the Chief of Staff (COS) Transfer of Authority ceremony between Brigadier General John Boyd and Brigadier General Shawn Harris.**

Gen Boyd in his address spoke about how much it meant to him to be part of the KFOR community for the past 11 months, joining a 28 nation team and how his mission to help to provide a safer environment to the people of Kosovo was real every day. He thanked the Prime Minister Ramush Haradinaj and all the institutions in Kosovo. He also praised his military and civilian staff

who he referred to as “the bows of his ship” and for their efforts and hard work during his time here. He also thanked the people of Kosovo and expressed to them to “Look at the future and work each day to be part of that future”. He closed his speech with acknowledging the comradeship of his US contingent, “you have made me very proud to be in your ranks, to stand side by side with you, you have represented the United States of America in an exemplary manner, you have done a great job, you should be very proud of yourselves because I am, and your nation is”.

COM KFOR Major General Lorenzo D’Addario responded to Brigadier General Boyd’s speech, thanking him for what he has done and the manner by which he did it. “You have been my main advisor, providing common sense and judgement when I have had to make decisions.” He also acknowledged that, he not only profited from General Boyd’s skill and dedication but that it had been a personal and professional pleasure to have worked with him. COM KFOR ended his speech issuing a warm welcome on behalf of the force to incoming Brigadier General Shawn Harris.

## Change of Command Ceremony

# NALT



**On 28 JUN, there was a very special and inviting atmosphere in the entrance area of the Ministry of Defence, as a large number of distinguished guests filled the bright room to acknowledge the outstanding service of outgoing Brigadier General Uwe A. Becker after his ten (10) month deployment as Director of the NALT.**

During Brig Gen Becker’s address, he thanked the Prime Minister of the Republic of Kosovo, Mr Ramush Haradinaj, all the ambassadors and institutions of Kosovo, COMKFOR, his fellow colleagues and in particular Lieutenant General Rrahman Rama, Commander of Kosovo Security Forces. He stated “thank you for the close cooperation, your openness and professionalism. We have achieved an excellent

working relationship, in an environment of mutual trust, of respect and transparency within our respective mandates; we have worked together for a common goal, for the development of a professional KSF with representatives from all communities working for the benefit of all citizens in Kosovo” He stated that “he feels proud of what we have all achieved together”

COMKFOR Major General Lorenzo D’Addario, in his address, thanked Brig Gen Becker for his hard work stating that “it has been a pleasure working with you and your team, you’re a comrade, an accomplished soldier, with whom I have been able to work shoulder to shoulder to enable NATO’s intent” He also welcomed Brig Gen Michael G. Oberneyer and said that ‘he was looking forward to working with him sharing this exciting mission that we have here’. The ceremony concluded with Brig Gen Becker being awarded with medals for his distinguished service and with the transfer of authority protocol from the outgoing NALT to the new Director of NALT, Brigadier General Michael G. Oberneyer.

Comdt. Joanne Naughton  
OF-3 IRL-A  
PAO Chief Internal Information



## COMBINED FIELD EXERCISES

**Multinational Battle Group-West (MNBG-W) and KFOR's Tactical Reserve Battalion (KTRBN) took part in two combined field exercises, aimed to improve their interoperability for a synchronized response to react to a real life threat.**

KFOR soldiers from MNBG-W along with soldiers from KTRBN took part in two joint field training exercises named "Swift Lynx" and "Western Storm". The exercises were conducted to refine tactical and technical procedures among KFOR units.

Set in the countryside of Prizren, exercise "Swift Lynx" started

on 24 JUN, after the planning, preparing and rehearsing phase were completed. The aim of this exercise was to coordinate the operational effectiveness of a Liaison Monitoring Team (LMT) extraction in a countryside environment. The advance party made up of Slovenian soldiers from MNBG-W (Sierra Coy) began the tactical deployment by road at 0500hrs, to secure the designed area where the operation would unfold. At 1000hrs the tasked KTRBN Coy, having received communications that the area had been secured by the Slovenian forces, deployed by two MI8 helicopters from the Italian base "Villaggio Italia". The KTRBN Coy landed 30 minutes later on the designated point. As soon as the Hungarian platoons

stepped off the helicopters, they started patrolling the area in order to reach the extraction point and to accomplish their mission. The Tactical Operational Centre (TOC) initiated the exercise; immediately the sharpshooters' team neutralized the enemy surveillance in order to block the main entrance of the LMT's kidnappers. Without hesitation, covered by a wall of smoke, the unit broke into the area extracting the Liaison Monitoring Team. Having secured the LMT team, they were extracted to a prearranged landing zone and at 1300hrs the extraction team along with the LMT's soldiers withdrew to "Villaggio Italia". The 2 day field exercise was successfully accomplished by the Hungarian and Slovenian soldiers under the monitoring and supervision of the





# MNBG-W & KTRBN

MNBG-W and KTRBN Command group.

Exercise “Western Storm” depicted a Crowd & Riot Control (CRC) exercise conducted on the 10 JUL, which aimed to verify the interoperability between MNBG-W’s units and KFOR’s tactical reserve battalion (KTRBN).

During the exercise, conducted close to the Decani Monastery, a disturbance was simulated of an escalated protest by local citizens. An Austrian platoon from MNBG-W had been tasked to replicate the protestors. The exercise took place

at 1000hrs. The first phase envisaged the deployment of one Slovenian company, tasked to separate the initial protest. The second phase saw the disturbance escalating, this aimed to verify the timings for the KFOR’s tactical reserve deployment and the synchronization between the two units involved. The exercise was concluded with the overcoming of a roadblock, built up by the protestors, to prevent the CRC units’ maneuvers. The coordination between the MNBG-W’s EOD team (Moldovan), which checked if the roadblock was clear of any explosive

device, and the FOMD’s vehicle, which removed the aforementioned roadblock, concluded the last part of the exercise after clearing all the barricades on the “Rino” road. During the exercise, 253 KFOR’s soldiers were deployed with 32 vehicles and two MI8 helicopters.

OF-2 Stefano DE SANTIS  
ITA –A  
PAO MNBG-W





## Jersey Blues Take Command



**On 19 JUL, Kosovo Force (KFOR) soldiers began the KFOR 26 rotation with the transfer of authority ceremony held at Camp Bondsteel. The 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), New Jersey National Guard, assumed command of Multinational Battle Group East (MNBG-E) from the outgoing 29th IBCT, Hawaii National Guard.**

"After many months of training and preparation, the units before you stand ready to take their place as an integral part of the KFOR mission," said Army Col. Robert Hughes, the incoming commander of MNBG-E and hometown commander of the 44th IBCT.

In addition to Soldiers of the 44th IBCT, KFOR 26 is comprised of the Soldiers of the 1-297th Infantry from the Alaska Army National Guard; 1-171st General Support Aviation Battalion, Georgia Army National Guard; 586th Field Support Hospital and 40th Public Affairs Detachment

from Fort Campbell, Kentucky; 93rd Military Police Company, Fort Stewart, Georgia; 702nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal, Baumholder, Germany; as well as units from Turkey, Poland and Romania.

In addition to crediting the continued success of the KFOR mission to the international presence in Kosovo, COM KFOR, Maj. Gen. Lorenzo D'Addario, complimented the rotational units of the MNBG-E headquarters.

"It is always refreshing to work with the American military," D'Addario said as he addressed the new units of MNBG-E. "They bring enthusiasm, professionalism,

and qualities which make us all stronger."

The transfer of authority continues KFOR's united commitment to a safe and secure environment for the people of Kosovo. Hughes complimented the outgoing commander of KFOR 25, Col. Roy Macaraeg, for his leadership of MNBG-E.

"You have accomplished your tasks, you have exceeded the standards, and you have set conditions for the units of KFOR 26 to find continued success," Hughes said. "I wish you Godspeed as you return home to your families with honor."

Hughes and Macaraeg added the phrases "Mahalo" and "Aloha" to their remarks, meaning "Thank You" and "Goodbye," a nod to the 29th IBCT's unique culture of the Hawaiian Islands. The 44th IBCT, also known as the Jersey Blues, bring their own "can-do" spirit to the KFOR mission in support of the people of Kosovo.

*OF-2 Amelia C. Thatcher  
USA-A  
PAO MNBG-E*





## MEDICAL PRODUCTS DONATION

## MNMG-W



**The Italian contingent from Multinational Battle Group West (MNMG-W) supports local hospitals with donations of medical products.**

A new medicine donation cycle has started this month in support of local hospitals and polyclinics in the western part of Kosovo, MNMG-W's sector. The project was initiated after an agreement was made in Italy among the Joint Operational Command, the Military Ordinariate and the Banco Farmaceutico ONLUS Foundation, which was ratified on 10 May 2018. The donations have been conducted by CIMIC (Civil and Military Cooperation) teams and aim to support the local population, in the areas where the Italian contingents are deployed.

In Kosovo medicine donations saw hundreds of medicine boxes delivered in different hospitals and polyclinics such as: Pejë/Peč and Gjakovë/Djakovica's regional hospitals, and Gorazdecač/Gorazdhec and Osojane/Osojan's polyclinics. The medicine distribution was

conducted considering the hospitals and polyclinics' needs and requirements for their patients. During the distribution activity, more than 5,000 packages of anticoagulant, almost 9,000 packages of analgesics and 3,600 bottles of physiological solution have been delivered. These

medicines are in addition to the 16,624 packages of medicines that were distributed since the beginning of this year.

MNMG-W's Cdr, Colonel Daniele Pisani, during the activity, met with the doctors from all the medical institutions involved. During the meetings, he mainly discussed issues involving the local population's health requirements. He furthermore offered full cooperation, highlighting the paramount importance of such activities focused on supporting and resupplying local hospitals with different kinds of medicines and aimed to guarantee that the local population benefits from the CIMIC donations of MNMG-W.

*OF-2 Stefano DE SANTIS  
ITA –A  
PAO MNMG-W*





## A VISUAL OVERVIEW



19 JUN 2019  
KFOR Commander Major General D'Addario welcomed UK Ministry of Defence – Director of Euro Atlantic Security, Mr Nick Gurr, to KFOR HQ.



24 JUN 2019  
KFOR Commander Major General D'Addario welcomed H.E Ine Eriksen Soreide Minister of Foreign Affairs, Norway to KFOR HQ.



02 JUL 2019  
KFOR Commander Major General D'Addario welcomed H.E Burim Ramadani, Deputy Minister of Defence to KFOR HQ.



# COM KFOR



11 JUL 2019  
KFOR Commander  
Major General D'Addario  
welcomed Brig Gen Simon  
Goldstein, UK Deputy  
Commander Force Troop-2.



18 JUL 2019  
KFOR Commander  
Major General D'Addario  
welcomed NATO Supreme  
Allied Commander Europe  
(SACEUR), General Todd  
Wolters.



24 JUL 2019  
KFOR Commander  
Major General D'Addario  
welcomed UNDP, H.E  
Maria Suokko at KFOR HQ.



## BATTLE HAND OVER

## MSU & JRD-SE

On 12 JUL, a platoon from the Multinational Specialized Unit MSU Carabinieri, the Joint Regional Detachment South East (JRD-SE) and Liaison Monitoring Team (LMT) K9, J-MED and J6 conducted a battle Handover Exercise in the Kosovo Electrical Company (KEK) area, in the municipality of OBILIQ/C.

The training objectives of the exercise were to improve the LMT's kinetic unit mutual understanding, to support the MSU ROC Platoon, to enhance the MSU's platoon CRC (Crowd Riot Control) rapid deployment capabilities and to improve Heli-insertion into an unknown area as a KFOR reserve, while also implementing the test 9-line request and Heli-medevac skills.

The exercise aimed at providing its LMT with a complete Check-List, regarding the information that the LMT Team Leader (Incident Commander) is required to conduct during the BATTLE HAND OVER to the maneuver unit's leader (On scene Commander) after the JOC requested a Kinetic Unit to be deployed to the incident location to re-establish a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) and Freedom of Movement (FoM).

In the training scenario, the LMT had to face a growing protest in front of the KEK gate which simulated incidents that happened in the past. In this scenario the Kosovo Police (KP) and EULEX were unable to manage the situation, and therefore KFOR, as 3rd responder, with the order from the JOC, sent the MSU ROC Platoon to the incident.



This exercise tested the troops operational readiness and the rapid deployment of the CRC unit which was deployed via air by a MI-8 Helicopter (provided by Croatian Aviation Detachment) to the Heli Landing Site (HLS) near the KEK. On reaching the incident, the MSU ROC Platoon leader conducted a BATTLE HAND OVER between the KP and MSU. After a few minutes, two backup CRC teams arrived to support the troops, carrying reinforcements, and together they dispersed the protestors. During the dispersing of the protestors, 2 LMT soldiers were injured. The K9 leader requested a Heli-medevac using the 9-line request and an UH-60 "Black hawk" transported the two casualties to the Camp Film City (CFC) Role 2B.

Finally, when the situation was calm and stable, the ROC Platoon Commander handed over the scene to the KP officers present at the location. During the CRC operation, the LMT continued to monitor the situation and liaison with the municipality, KP and the KEK personnel.

The exercise was a great opportunity to test and improve interoperability between kinetic and non-kinetic units and enhance the readiness of KFOR troops to the highest standards, while also training troops on communication skills which were decisive in achieving the mission during this exercise.

Capt Luigi Scalingi  
OF-2 ITA-A  
MSU S3 Chief PAO





## CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY



**"Without security there cannot be any dialog, by the time that you return to your families, you return as better soldiers, with the pride of soldiers that have accomplished their mission".**

These words were spoken by COMKFOR, Major General Lorenzo D'Addario, who addressed the soldiers from MNBG-W at the Transfer of Authority Ceremony between the Commander of the 8th Field Artillery Regiment "Pasubio" Colonel Gianfranco Di Marco and the Commander of the 24th Field Artillery Regiment "Peloritani" Colonel Daniele Pisani, in Camp Villaggio Italia (CVI) on 13 JUN.

During the Transfer of Authority (ToA) ceremony, the outgoing MNBG-W Commander Colonel Di Marco recognized the professionalism shown by the women and men that served under his command during his tour in the last six months. In his farewell speech Colonel Di Marco highlighted that on the same day, 20 years ago, the 8th Field Artillery Regiment was deployed to Kosovo in the Operation "Joint Guardian", to guarantee security

for the local population: "Many of those soldiers that are now in front of us, clearly remember that time, the difficulties and the sacrifices they made to restore stability in this country. Being here on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of NATO Forces' deployment in Kosovo for us is very important because it testifies that we are part of Kosovo's stabilization process. This process today is in a very advanced phase, but NATO presence is still needed". Furthermore, Col Di Marco recalled all of the exercises conducted by MNBG-W soldiers under his command, aimed to increase interoperability with other KFOR Units and maintain a high level of operational readiness. He also mentioned the CIMIC projects that



## MNBG-W

were completed successfully in favor of the local population. To appreciate and testify the strong relationships that were built up between the KFOR soldiers from MNBG-W and the nearby local institutions, there were Mayors and several representatives from the 15 municipalities included in the MNBG-W area of responsibility. Concluding his speech, Col. Di Marco stressed the deep friendship between him and the new Commander, Col. Pisani, wishing him all the best and while also stating that although much has been achieved, there is still work to be done.

*OF-2 Stefano DE SANTIS  
ITA -A  
PAO MNBG-W*





## CHANGE OF COMMAND OF THE ARMENIAN CONTINGENT



*On the 12 JUN, KFOR Deputy Commander, Brigadier General Reinhard Ruckstuhl, presided over the Change of Command of the Armenian Contingent. The 29th Commander Captain Artak Petrosyan handed over the command to the 30th Commander Major Gor Zaqaryan. Addressing the troops, DCOMKFOR expressed his appreciation for the important work done by Armenian soldiers. Armenian forces have been part of KFOR's peacekeeping mission since 2004.*

## CHANGE OF COMMAND OF THE UKRAINIAN CONTINGENT



*On the 15 JUN the Transfer of Authority of the Ukrainian Contingent between the outgoing Commander Maj Sergiy Kovalchuk and the incoming Major Roman Kizieliev took place in Camp Film. Addressing the troops, COMKFOR Major General Lorenzo D'Addario praised the significant work done by the outgoing contingent. Ukrainian forces have been part of KFOR's peacekeeping mission since 1999.*

## CHANGE OF COMMAND OF THE ISR BATTALION



*On the 06 JUL, COMKFOR Major General Lorenzo D'Addario presided over the Change of Command ceremony of the Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance Battalion in Camp Film City. After six months of honourable duty in KFOR, Colonel Roberto Sacchi handed over the Command to the incoming Commander Pasquale Silvestro.*



# CIS UPGRADE TO INTEGRATED WAVE

# J6



with complete success.

*KFOR utilizes HARRIS 117F radios for Tactical Satellite Communications for more than 12 years. This system provides secure Communication from KFOR HQ to Sub-Commands HQs as tactical radio on the field or fixed radio in Joint/Tactical Operation Centers.*

## Implementation of KFOR's Integrated Waveform Tactical UHF Radio System.

NCIA initiated the requirement to transfer Tactical Satellite services from Demand Assigned Multiple Access (DAMA) configuration to Integrated Waveform (IW). This will enable NATO UHF users to more than double the number of circuits that the existing satellite constellation can support, as well as reduce slot- conflict issues for half-duplex terminals. Utilizing the new military standard, IW can transmit forward order wire (FOW) bursts on selected control channels while user communication can be given to any available satellite service on their allocated channel allowing for easier programming and more reliable communications.

The KFOR wide operation commenced on 18 JUN at 1600hrs. Transitioning the services on all of the KFOR radios was finalized on 19 JUN at 1000hrs. To carry out the UHF operational transition of services in the KFOR area of responsibility, Mr. Joseph Murray (NCIA) deployed to ensure the transition went smoothly, and he supported the KFOR VCN team if

any problems would have occurred. Mr Murray also provided training to J6 personnel, J3 JOC personnel, and all CIS POCs. The VCN/TACSAT Technicians deployed the morning of the transition to various sites across Kosovo to ensure all services were 100% operational,

Ongur TOHUMCU  
ICC-5 TUR CIV  
KFOR J6 VHF UHF Advisor





## 20 MONTHS ON THE FRONT LINE

### *A farewell message from Former Chief PAO*

It's hard to say goodbye after such a long time leading the fantastic family of KFOR PAO, a mix of military and civilian professionals, committed to monitoring the relevant media and managing official KFOR communication daily.



Twenty challenging and enthusiastic months, that started in a very optimistic mood, due to the positive atmosphere I found in November 2017, which gave the impression of being on a well-paved road to the normalisation of relations between Pristina and Belgrade. However, the situation changed rapidly, with a series of events that developed through all 2018 and the first half of 2019. It began with the death of Oliver Ivanović, it continued with the arrest of Marko Djurić, the visits of president Vučić to the north of Kosovo and of mister Thaçi to Gazivode lake, the missed visa liberalisation and the non-acceptance of Kosovo in the Interpol, the approval of laws for the formation of the "Kosovo army", the imposing of 100% tariff on goods from Serbia and

BiH and finally a couple of police operations in the north by special units of Kosovo Police. The biggest challenge, however, was represented by the continuous harsh rhetoric, the endless vocal provocations and the indiscriminate use of misinformation, particularly that run through certain Serbian media, frequently targeting even KFOR. All these factors have made it so that the public information environment has long since become the "front line" of KFOR operation and the KFOR PAO commitment in dealing with media has sometimes become the "battle".

Once we identified the need to adapt our communication posture, we also realised that we ourselves could be media too because, together with the traditional press conferences and press releases, we had our own "new media" which could be used as "weapons" in this battle.

Strong in this new-found awareness, we changed the use of our Social Media, mainly Facebook, moving away from an ordinary diary of visits and ceremonies to a more "operational" instrument to inform the public, often directly countering and denying the propaganda trying to depict catastrophic situations not existing in reality.

Thus, we understood that KFOR as one of the most trusted organisation in the region could play an important role in mitigating the groundless tensions pervading the perception of citizens in Kosovo, particularly the Kosovo-Serbs, the real victims of the political uncertainty that is affecting their future.

And we succeeded, since videos and statements published on the KFOR Facebook page have been widely reported on media in Kosovo and Serbia, repeatedly countering the



negative effects of bombastic and misleading reports.

Moreover, we also realised that a real and effective communication could not be limited to the Kosovo territory, but should also reach the Serbian audience, indicating the need to extend our traditional network of contacts, so far limited mostly to the Kosovo media, both in Albanian and Serbian. It took some time, many efforts, attempts and many challenging media engagements, including some personal exposure to unfair media attack, but it were worth trying and in the end we got it: KFOR's voice is now heard, considered and reported also in Serbia proper.

So, it was a success and it is particularly due to three major factors.

The first is the cooperation of KFOR





# KFOR PAO

Staff and Units, when providing PAO with useful details and information to build reliable news.

Then, there are the skills and competence of PAO Staff, that enable the monitoring, analysis and interpretation of the complex world of news and the delivery of effective products to be published.

The third is the strong and decisive leadership of the Commander, able to define through clear directions the path to follow and the unequivocal objectives to be reached.

‘United in Commitment’, we made the difference, but much is still to be



done and an incessant commitment is needed to keep up with the unrelenting and demanding rhythm of the modern communication.

KFOR, keep going!

Col. Vincenzo GRASSO  
OF-5 ITA-A

## SOLDIER OF THE MONTH

|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Name:</b>        | <b>Istvan Oberna</b> |
| <b>Rank:</b>        | <b>OR-5</b>          |
| <b>Nationality:</b> | <b>Hungarian</b>     |
| <b>Unit:</b>        | <b>KTRBN, A COY</b>  |
| <b>Serving as:</b>  | <b>Squad Leader</b>  |

Sgt Oberna was born on the 29th of August, 1993 in Szentes, Hungary. He joined the Army in 2014 as an enlisted soldier and completed his basic training at the Hungarian Defence Forces NCO Academy. He started his service at the Hungarian Defence Forces 5th “Bocskai Istvan” Infantry Brigade, 62th Infantry Battalion, 2nd Infantry Company as a machine gunner. In 2016 he was deployed in Iraq (IKBK-2), and in 2017 to Kosovo (KFRO-17). In 2018 he was sent to the HDF NCO Academy, where he successfully finished the NCO course and became a Sergeant (OR-5).

Since the completion of his two deployments overseas, he has participated in numerous exercises and successfully finished the Combat Life Saver course in Budapest. He is currently deployed on his third mission to KFOR in the appointment of squad leader. In his free time he does martial arts, learns English and spends time with friends.

Sgt Oberna is one of the most reliable members of A

COY, 2nd platoon. In his work – whether on CRC, patrols or other taskings, he is extremely diligent and works very efficiently. He is motivated and a great team player. He has a great relationship with his colleagues and he has gained the respect of his peers. Despite his young age, he has a lot of experience and he helps the younger and less experienced soldiers in his Company. He has an extremely high level of physical fitness, he learns new skills very easily and constantly strives to improve himself. He volunteers for a lot of extra work to help his company and platoon and he likes to challenge himself by competing in the Dancon March and Wolverine Challenge. Congratulations Istvan on being a truly worthy winner of the Soldier of the Month Award.





## Bridging Communities

# JRD-N

### A small bridge makes a big impact on the inhabitants of Jagnjenica/Jagnjenice.

The inhabitants of the village of Jagnjenica/Jagnjenice's only link from their homes to Zubin Potok was a small bridge that had been severely damaged and it was not suitable for the passing of cars. The Municipality of Zubin Potok had repaired the bridge on several occasions but it was never adequate for the needs of the inhabitants and they did not have sufficient funding to upgrade it to the standard that was required. The small village reached out to KFOR for assistance to help them to improve the safety conditions of the bridge, which was especially hazardous during the winter. KFOR HQ provided the required funding for this project and J-ENG's began the construction on 11 JUN. The new concrete bridge was finished on 12 JUL and it has given the residents



heart for what they have done for the Serbian community and I hope they will continue to take care of us in the future". Adrijana HODZIC, Minister of Local Government Administration, thanked KFOR for the investment and good cooperation stating that this bridge is vital for the functioning of citizens, she emphasized that "For years KFOR has proven that they are not only an institution with weapons in their hands, but also people with great hearts. They sincerely wish the best for our people". KFOR Commander Lorenzo D'Addario, said "how happy he was to share this project with you, which has not only improved their transport facilities but has also benefited the economy of this region". He thanked the Major and Minister for their kind words and the testimony of work that we do together. He wished all the inhabitants a bright summer and especially a brighter future. The official opening of the bridge was inaugurated with the cutting of a ribbon ceremony.



in the area a new lease of life.

On 20 JUL, the inhabitants of this area gathered around with excitement for the official opening ceremony of this 6 meter long bridge. Their warm and friendly welcome showed how important this bridge meant to the inhabitants that live in the village of Jagnjenica. The ceremony was attended by the Mayor of Zubin Potok, Srđan VULOVIĆ, the Minister of Local Government Administration, Adrijana HODZIC and KFOR Commander Major General Lorenzo D'ADDARIO. Srđan VULOVIĆ, Mayor of Zubin Potok said: "This bridge is small, but represents a strong symbol, it shows us that KFOR thinks about us and the Serbian population. This bridge connects two small refugee settlements, which is of great benefit to all of us. I thank KFOR from the bottom of my

Comdt. Joanne Naughton  
OF-3 IRL-A  
PAO Chief Internal Information





## Helping the Youth

**KFOR's Joint Regional Detachment South East (JRD-SE) funded and supported four separate projects in their Area of Operation, coordinated by Commander of JRD-SE, Col Nicola Perone and his CIMIC team, which had an extremely positive impact on the development of interethnic relationships and improvement of facilities for the youth in their area.**



On 01 JUN, JRD-SE in conjunction with the Liaison Monitoring Team (LMT) K8 and "Play International" NGO's, organized an interethnic youth soccer tournament in the universe college gym in DEVET JUGOVICA/BARDHOSH, PRISTINA. The tournament consisted of ten (10) teams, 2 U-10 teams, 4 U-18 teams and 4 O-18 teams. The purpose of the tournament was to celebrate "International Day of Children" and to encourage young



people to engage in multi ethnic cooperation and teamwork.

On 14 JUN 19, JRD-SE brought another really worthwhile CIMIC Project to fruition, which culminated in a donation of 100 tables and 200 chairs to "VUK KARADZIC", Primary School in the village of SILOVO/SHILLOVE and GNJILAN/GNJILANE Municipality. The school has 150 KOS/RAE Students. As education is the basis of the future society, this donation allows all students and teachers to work in ergonomic conditions in



the school. This CIMIC Project was a great way to help KOS and RAE students improve their learning environment, by supporting them so that they can study together for the future.

On 21 JUN and 10 JUL, respectively, JRD-SE in conjunction with "Spirit of America" NGO and LMT K18, USA-A, a donation of firefighting equipment was made to the BOSTANE village, NOVO BRDO Municipality and RANILUG



MUNICIPALITY. A "FIREFIGHTER'S DAY", was organized in both locations and 3 X 21 Litre Fire Backpacks were provided by SPIRIT OF AMERICA NGO, to improve the equipment of the firefighters. On the day, the firefighters conducting some small multi-ethnic classes and events for the youths that live in the villages of BOSTAN/E NOVO BRDO/E and PLAVICA. A donation of firefighter themed gifts for the youths of plastic helmets, washable tattoos and coloring books were also

given out.

The final JRD-SE CIMIC project took place, on 17 JUL, which involved a donation of soccer equipment to the Partes Soccer Team from the Italian "Opitergina Soccer Team". The aim of the project was to support and increase the skill of the Partes Soccer Team, while encouraging young people of different interethnic backgrounds to cooperation and work as part of a team. JRD-SE would like to continue to assist the new generation of young people, showing them that participating in sport helps to unite people and to look forward to a brighter future together.

*Giuseppe Iodice  
OR-9, ITA-A  
JRD-SE SO CIMIC*



## PHOTO OF THE MONTH July 2019

### Commander KFOR XXIII

Major General  
Lorenzo D' Addario,  
Italian Army

### Chief Public Affairs Office & COMKFOR Spokesperson

Col. Pio Sabetta,  
Italian Army

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### NATO Nations within KFOR

Albania, Bulgaria, Canada,  
Croatia, Czech Republic,  
Denmark, Germany, Greece,  
Hungary, Italy, Lithuania,  
Montenegro, 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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## 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.

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.

"Taking a Hike" in Rugova,  
Kosovo.

OR - 7 Jamie Smith,  
USA-A  
Chief, HSG Warehouse &  
Customs Receiving Officer







**Name:** Maria Vitale  
**Rank:** OR-7  
**Country:** Switzerland  
**Serving As:**  
 Chief Nurse in SWISS/  
 AUT Medical Centre

**Military Career and education:** I trained as a Registered General Nurse in St. Clara hospital in Basel and I worked there for 4 years after my Diploma in the ICU department. I furthered by studies in 2012 by qualifying as an Emergency Nurse. In order to be qualified to deploy to Kosovo as a Chief Nurse, I completed the Swiss Armed Forces operational training in the Training Centre SWISSINT for approximately 3 months and I also completed a PHTLS Course. (Lifesaver Course).

**Overseas mission:** This is my fourth mission in Kosovo. I deployed with the SWISSCOY 36/37 and 38 for a total of 18 months in 2017/2018. I was based in Prizren with SWISSCOY 36 as Chief Nurse and here in Pristina with the SWISSCOY 37 and SWISSCOY 38. After my KFOR deployments in 2018, I worked for 4 months as a ship Medic on the Cruise Line Pacific Eden in Australia before returning to KFOR in April of this year with SWISSCOY 40.

**Family reaction:** Initially my father was a bit skeptical of me deploying to Kosovo but now he is proud of me because I am the only one in my family abroad and working in a military environment. I wanted to deploy to KFOR because I knew that it would challenge me and it was a great opportunity for me to work in both a peace keeping and international environment.

**Hobbies:** I like to go to the gym, travel, cook and do Salsa Dancing. I am fluent in 5 different languages including Portuguese, Spanish, German, English and Italian! So I definitely have an interest in languages!!



**Name:** Michael  
 Cole Pray  
**Rank:** OR-9  
**Country:** USA  
**Serving As:**  
 United States Balkans  
 National Support  
 Element

**Military Career and education:** I joined the United States Marine Corps in 1987 for 5 years and qualified as a CH-53D Crew Chief. I have been in the Hawaii Army National Guard since 1992 and have served 28 years with this unit. Over this time I am qualified in the following areas of expertise, AH-1S Cobra Attack Helicopter Crew Chief, CH-47D Chinook Crew Chief, UH-60 Black Hawk Mechanic, Power Train Mechanic and Non-Destructive Inspector. I have also held the Leadership Positions of: Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant, Section Sergeant, First Sergeant, Assistant S3 NCO, and Command Sergeant Major with the 29th Brigade Support Battalion - Infantry Brigade Combat Team, currently Command Sergeant Major in the Unit. I have an associate Degree in Science for Criminal Justice and Aircraft Maintenance, a Bachelor Degree in Professional Aeronautics (Safety and Business Administration) and an FAA Rating - Airframe and Power plant License.

**Overseas mission:** I have served with the United States Marine Corps in Okinawa Japan, Republic of Korea, and the Republic of the Philippines. I also served with the Hawaii Army National Guard on two Combat Tours for one year each to the Republic of Iraq and two Command Post Exercises to the Republic of Indonesia. Currently I am serving one year in the Republic of Kosovo.

**Family reaction:** My family is very supportive of me and our country. My wife is in the Air National Guard and may have to deploy someday as well. My children are most affected, they do not show it, but I feel it.

**Hobbies:** I spend as much time with my family, Movies, Political Intrigue, International Current Events, playing Volleyball, and "rockin" on the drum set.





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