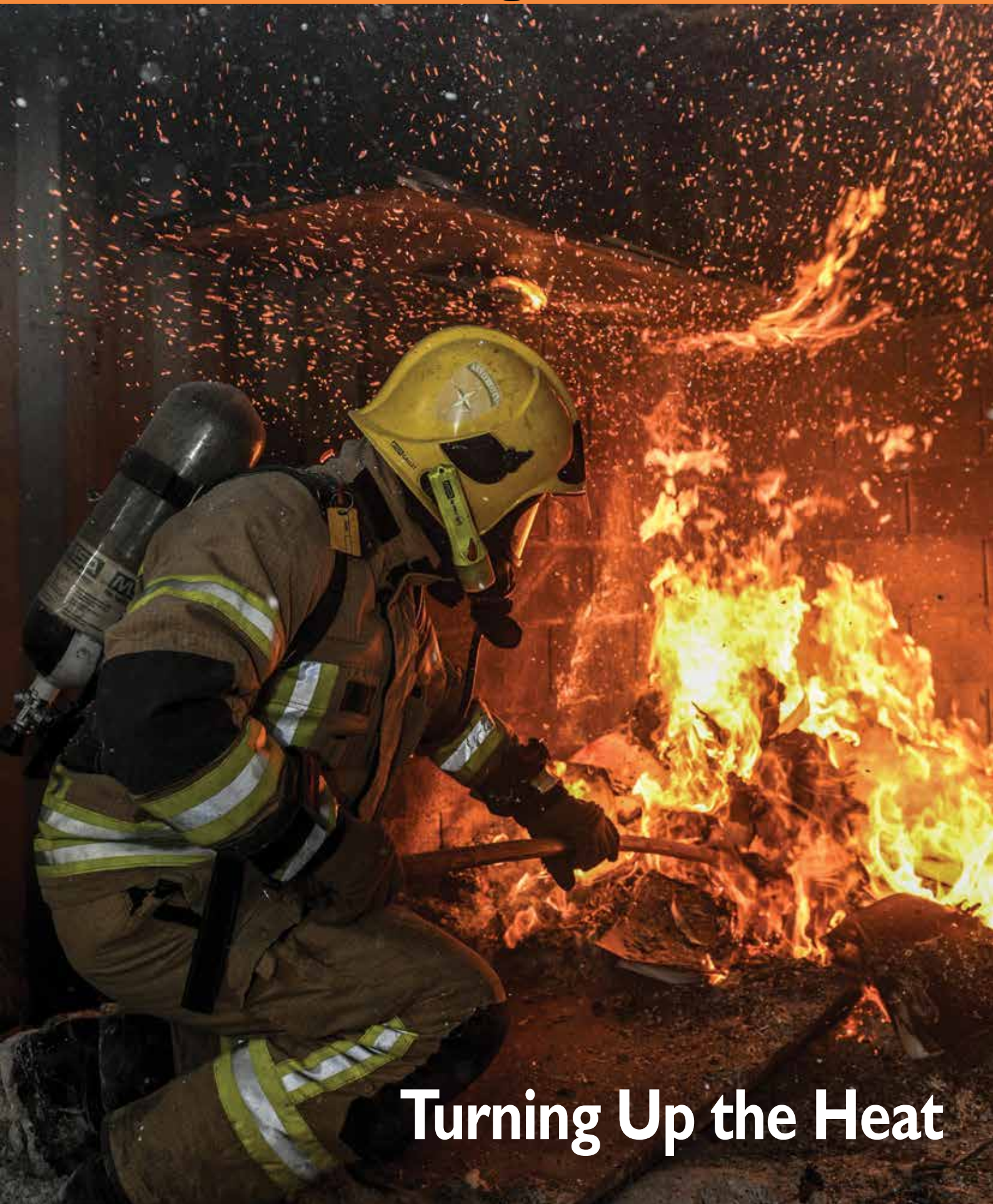




the CHRONICLE

KFOR's Magazine

January 2021



Turning Up the Heat

Fellow KFOR Soldiers and Civilians!

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

We are at the frontline in protecting the hard earned peace and security that Kosovo currently enjoys. I sincerely hope that 2021 will bring more peace and security to Kosovo. The greatest challenge in recent years to face not only Kosovo but all nations has been COVID-19. This pandemic has been hard on all of us but we must remain confident that our human interactions will return to normality this year. However, in the interim, we must remain a credible deterrent to any threats to fulfilment of UNSCR 1244 of 1999. We will do this by remaining a professional and capable force that is ready to respond to all challenges to a safe and secure environment or freedom of movement for all communities in Kosovo. I thank you for your continued dedication and professionalism and the sacrifices that you and your families have made to ensure that KFOR remains a robust military force.

As One We Progress!
Franco Petrucci

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Commander JFC Naples, Adm Burke observing Decani Monastery on a reconnaissance flight during his visit to KFOR.

Admiral Burke visit to KFOR

On 19 January 2021, the Commander of the NATO-led KFOR mission, Major General Franco Federici, received Admiral Robert P. Burke, Commander of the Allied Joint Force Command Naples in his first official visit to KFOR.

Admiral Robert P. Burke was welcomed to KFOR Headquarters Camp Film City, by Major General Franco Federici. After an update on the current security situation in Kosovo, he met with KFOR troops, with whom he exchanged views on his command's continued support to the mission.

"Stability and security of the Western Balkans is important for NATO and for peace and stability in Europe. That is why I came here to get a better sense of the region. It's important that we always look to how to continue to strengthen our partnership, our well-established cooperation through NATO's ongoing support to military reforms and capability building and with joint efforts to ensure a peaceful and safe environment for all, which is a prerequisite for prosperity. Working together is something that improves us all, makes us better, stronger and more prepared to face the ever-changing and increasingly complex security challenges of today. We face the same security challenges in our shared Euro-Atlantic region, and dialogue and cooperation are important to address them effectively." Admiral Burke said. "This is my first visit to Pristina; and I expect it to be the first of many", he pointed out.

Admiral Burke restressed the importance of KFOR's stabilising presence for security in Kosovo and for regional stability. He expressed his appreciation to MG Federici for his distinguished services at the helm of KFOR. For the past 21 years KFOR has been helping transform Kosovo into a safer place. Today, it continues to ensure a safe and secure environment with freedom of movement for all communities in Kosovo, in accordance with its mandate under the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of 1999. The Kosovo Force consists of around 3,500 troops contributed by 27 countries, including 19 NATO members and 8 partner countries.

Admiral Burke also expressed his personal and NATO's gratitude to KFOR for supporting local communities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, including through donations and the provision of logistical support for aid delivery from NATO Allies and partners.

Accompanied by the KFOR Commander, Admiral Burke took part in a reconnaissance flight by helicopter over the KFOR Area of Responsibility and received updates by the two KFOR Regional Commanders on the activities carried out by their units on the ground. The Allied Joint Force Command Naples oversees four NATO-led operations across the Western Balkans: The Kosovo Force, NATO Headquarters Sarajevo, the NATO Liaison Office in Skopje, and the NATO Military Liaison Office in Belgrade.



Turning up the heat Camp Film City Fire Service

KFOR Fire
Fighters
apply
water to
the wall of
a building
to tackle a
fire.



Camp Film City is a town within a town. It has to deal with many of the same problems that any other town has to do, from medical services to police and even a fire service. In Camp Film City, this fire service is provided by a team of highly skilled and experienced fire crew, recruited from throughout Kosovo, they form an essential part of the KFOR team. Since its inception in 2001, the crew has developed some of the most refined fire fighting techniques anywhere in Kosovo. The crews are trained to the highest standards internally and internationally and many of their crew have participated in other missions abroad in places like Afghanistan and Kuwait. It is this breadth of experience that makes them such a valued asset in KFOR.

Comprising of just 32 people, the fire crew are on immediate standby 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to deal with any emergencies that might arise anywhere within the camp. Four crews comprising of six Fire Fighters, a Crew Chief, a Deputy Crew Chief and a Dispatcher are there to keep KFOR soldiers safe. Their primary

tasking is the provision of 2 crash trucks to the Category 3 Helipad. In addition to that, their tasks are as diverse as responding to fire alarms in accommodation and office blocks to fires in workshops or traffic accidents requiring people to be cut out of vehicles throughout Camp Film City, CMLT Novo Selo or Camp Notting Hill. Speaking with the Fire Chief, Altin Salla, he proudly told me that the crew's response time from activation of an alarm to having a crew on site and hoses deployed to anywhere within Camp Film City is under 4 minutes! That is impressive in anyone's books. As if keeping three KFOR camps safe was not enough of a challenge, they are often called on to provide assistance to the fire services in Pristina when they are under pressure responding to major incidents.

Much like a soldier, for a fire fighter, training is essential. The crew are trained as Fire Fighter Level 1, Fire Fighter Level 2, Hazard Material Awareness and Operations, vehicle and building structural fires, medical first responder, search and rescue, crash rescue, helipad management

and a wide variety of other skillsets. This training is time and labour intensive but the dedication and hard work of the crew are testament to their commitment to fire safety. To that end, in 2020, 597 hours of in-house training was conducted with the crew, despite all of the challenges that COVID-19 offered. At least two training serials are conducted on every shift, covering a diverse range of real challenges for the teams such CPR, hose management, breathing apparatus or extinguishing fires. Prevention is the best cure when it comes to fires. In 2020, Altin and his team conducted 160 fire alarm system tests, 797 fire safety patrols and 86 fire inspections of buildings. The team trains all new arrivals in Camp Film City on fire safety and the use of fire extinguishers and inspects all private maintenance companies before and during "hot work" operations such as cutting or welding. All callouts are serious but sometimes you have to laugh too, on one recent callout a soldier had to be rescued after climbing a tree to rescue a cat, only to become stuck in the tree themselves!

Paul O'Callaghan
OF-3, IRL-A
Chief Internal Information

Fire safety tips

- Do not overload electrical outlets
- Do not leave electrical devices plugged in unattended
- Do not light candles or other sources of flame indoors
- Do not cover electrical heaters
- If you hear a fire alarm, evacuate the building immediately and do not re-enter until the Fire Service have told you it is safe to do so.
- Telephone the JOC if you see smoke or fire in any KFOR camp



A KFOR Fire Fighter dons his self contained breathing aparatus before entering a smoke filled environment.



KFOR Fire Fighters treats a casualty recovered from a fire.



KFOR Fire Fighters deploy a hose before tackling a fire in an exercise.



Name: Adnan Abdullhu

Career: 2004-2008: Fire Fighter
Camp Bondsteel
2008-2010: Fire Fighter Camp Film
City
2010-2012: Fire Fighter ISAF
2012- Current: Fire Fighter Camp
Film City

What made you want to be a Fire Fighter?: *"It is an addictive job. When I work I get dirty. When I get dirty I know that I have earned my money. I really enjoy working with my team. We spend more time with each other than we do with our families. They are my second family."*

Name: Albin Ismaili

Career: 2006 – 2009: Fire Crew
Watchkeeper Camp Film City
2009 – Current: Fire Fighter Camp
Film City

What made you want to be a Fire Fighter?: *"Until you meet the people you work with and you assess the risks, you will not know if you like your job. KFOR has given me the responsibility of sons, daughters, mothers and fathers of people from all over the world from NATO and partner nations. Thanks to them we now live in peace and I can now give back to them and return the favour."*



Key Leader Engagements

COM KFOR, MG Federici has continued his High Level Talks with countries bordering KFOR's Area of Responsibility. In recent weeks, COM KFOR was hosted by North Macedonian, Albanian and Serbian representatives. These engagements represent an effective opportunity to exchange information and points of view on the overall security situation in the Balkans area.

MG Franco Federici met with President Pendarovski on his visit to North Macedonia. As one of NATO's newest members, President Pendarovski reiterated his country's continued commitment to peace and security in the region.



COM KFOR, met the Albanian Chief of Defence MG Bajram BEGAJ, in Tirana. MG Federici highlighted the excellent relations between the Albanian Armed Forces and KFOR, and he expressed his appreciation for the outstanding contribution of the NATO Albanian staff officers to the KFOR HQ. On this occasion MG Federici met also the new Albanian Minister of Defence, Mr. Nikko Peleshi. They discussed important themes mainly related to the overall situation in Kosovo and the latest political developments and they agreed about the importance of cooperation in order to enhance the security situation in the region. Minister Nikko Peleshi confirmed the full support of his Country to NATO KFOR mission in Kosovo.

KFOR Commander, Major General Franco Federici visited Belgrade where he met with representatives of the Serbian Government and Armed Forces.

At the meeting with Chief of the General Staff of the Serbian Armed Forces, General Milan MOJSILOVIC, the two generals discussed the security situation in the region and agreed that direct communication between KFOR and the Serbian Armed Forces is essential for monitoring the situation on the ground and preserving security. During his visit, KFOR Commander met with Serbian Defence Minister Nebojsa, who thanked Major General Federici for preserving peace and security in Kosovo. Both sides reiterated their mutual commitment to the maintenance of ongoing cooperation between the Serbian Armed Forces and KFOR.



COM KFOR Visits Decani and Mitrovica



COM KFOR was briefed by Fr. Sava about some of the artifacts contained within Decani Monastery.

COM KFOR, MG Federici recently visited Decani Monastery for the first time. Decani Monastery is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, dating from 1335 and is the only heritage site in Kosovo for which KFOR is the First Responder. KFOR is committed to the fulfillment of our mandate, UNSCR 1244 of 1999 which includes providing a safe and secure environment for all communities in Kosovo as one of its main pillars. This commitment has seen KFOR provide a continuous presence at the Decani Monastery 24 hours a day, 365 days a year in order to protect this culturally significant site.

COM KFOR's visit and his engagement with Father Sava Janjic, the Abbot of the Monastery highlight's KFOR's continued commitment to the

maintenance of peace and security in the region.

In addition to his recent visit to Decani Monastery, COM KFOR visited the bridge in Mitrovica. KFOR's Multinational Specialized Unit maintains a stable presence 24 hours a day on the bridge in close cooperation with the Kosovo Police.

"The Ibar Bridge has a highly symbolic value and I believe that any issue related to it is to be treated with care by the local municipalities".

MG Federici

Paul O'Callaghan
OF-3, IRL-A
Chief Internal Information

COM KFOR assessing the situation at the Ibar Bridge in Mitrovica.

Photo by PAO Staff



COM KFOR discussing the security situation around Decani Monastery with Fr. Sava.

Photo by PAO Staff



A Slovenian soldier stands guard on the road leading to Decani Monastery. KFOR maintains a continuous security presence on this UNESCO monument.

Photo by PAO Staff



New Commander at Regional Command West

Colours being called on parade as part of the Change of Command ceremony.



At the military base of Camp "Villaggio Italia", Colonel Gianluca Figus, in the presence of the Commander of the Kosovo Force, MG Franco Federici and the Italian Ambassador to Kosovo, H.E. Nicola Orlando, handed over the leadership of the Regional Command West to Francesco Maioriello. The multinational unit, includes military contingents from: Austria, Italy, North Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Slovenia, Switzerland and Turkey.

"As it is well known, our mandate has been very challenging, especially because of the COVID-19 pandemic. We went through numerous lockdowns and restrictions on freedoms that affected our living conditions and sometimes also limited our operational capability. Nevertheless, We didn't give up, We are still here fighting against the adversities and always keeping our highest values as the shining light in the dark", underlined Colonel Figus, thanking the Regional Command West troops for their commitment. "As many of you know, I was here in 1999 and the emotion to come back after twenty years has been great and greater are the steps forward that have been made to improve the lives of all Kosovars, from the elders to the youngest generations. During my tour here in Kosovo, I visited

many places and municipalities and I really appreciated the beauties of this Country. There is a beautiful nature, amazing landscapes and gorgeous mountains, but the true beauty of Kosovo is its cultural diversity: an example of ethnic variety and tolerance towards all people who live here. This is the reason why we have tried with our CIMIC projects to work on this direction, involving the population from all sides and investing in crucial sectors to improve the Kosovars' quality of life. In particular we tried to support the educational system and the healthcare sector, the best guarantees for the future of this Country, the best guarantees for the children and the next generations. I'm aware that six months will never be enough for a Commander to cope with all the challenges that still keep the international community in Kosovo since 1999 but I am sure that the excellent work done by my predecessors and the efforts of the Commanders to come, will represent at the end a significant contribution for obtaining a safer and brighter future for Kosovo".

During their mission, the artillerymen of the 5th "Superga" regiment of the Italian Army, in compliance with UN Resolution 1244 of 1999, guaranteed freedom of movement to the local population and maintained



*MG Federici
entrusting
the colours of
RC-W to Col
Maioriello,
COM RC-W.*

the security and stability conditions necessary to foster the continuation of the dialogue between Serbia and Kosovo promoted by the European Union. In the field of civil-military cooperation activities, over 40 projects were carried out by Regional Command West in an impartial manner in favour of the institutions in Kosovo and the local communities. Particular attention was paid to measures to prevent Covid-19 infection. Many donations of medical equipment and personal protective equipment were made. Moreover, thanks to the professionalism of the specialized health teams, who acted in full compliance

with the provisions of the local authorities, numerous schools were sanitized, allowing students to resume their lessons.

The Moldovan contingent, present in KFOR since March 2014, contributes significantly to the building of a safe and secure environment with freedom of movement for all communities in Kosovo in accordance with UNSCR 1244 of 1999. Their key role within RC-W acts as a force multiplier, enhancing the operational capability of the force as a whole. In the same parade that marked the Change of Command of RC-W, the Moldovan contingent also rotated.



*Andrea Morano
OF-2, ITA-A
PAO RC-W*

*Outgoing COM
RC-W presents
the Moldovan
colours to the
commander of
the Moldovan
contingent.*

Swiss LMT on Patrol in Mitrovica



Swiss LMT monitoring the situation in Mitrovica.

Densely forested hilly landscapes surround the district, which is called Mitrovicë in the Albanian language and Kosovska Mitrovica in the Serbian language. It is the area of operation for a Swiss Liaison Monitoring Team, which ensures KFOR's connection to the civilian population. Mitrovica is located in the north of Kosovo and lies at the southwestern foot of the Kopaonik Mountains. The town is divided in two by the river Ibar. The Austerlitz Bridge connects the northern, predominantly Serbian-speaking part and the southern, predominantly Albanian-speaking part of Mitrovica. The district is not only separated by the river, but also by different administrative units and schools. While the larger south is part of the municipality of Mitrovica e Jugut, the north forms the municipality of Severna Kosovska Mitrovica. The district is home to many different ethnic groups. Thus, in addition to Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Serbs, minorities such as the Roma population group also live in their own neighbourhoods.

The challenging area and the COVID-19 situation also changed the work for the Liaison Monitoring Team in Mitrovica. KFOR's eyes and ears have to listen and pay even more careful attention to the population in these difficult circumstances. At the same time, it is

important to adhere to the COVID-19 restrictions. Not only to protect the soldiers, but also to set an example. When patrolling the city in their white G-Classes, the Liaison Monitoring Team is highly visible and noticed by the population, people pay attention to what they do, they become the role models. Wearing their protective mask and keeping their distance, even at meetings, is crucial. Despite the restrictions, the Liaison Monitoring Team shows presence wherever possible and, in addition to meetings and vehicle patrols, also conducts patrols on foot. *"We try to dig deeper with the help of our interpreters and aim to really understand what the situation is like for the population. But it is complicated and takes a lot of time and patience,"* says Bernhard Schwab, Specialist Officer (OF-2) and team leader of one of the sub-teams. He is also referring to the situation with the different ethnic groups. Fortunately, the Swiss Liaison Monitoring Team enjoys a good reputation amongst all its contacts and can thus ensure the flow of information to RC-E of KFOR.

Laura Marty
OR 5 – CHE-A
SwissCoy PIO

Swiss LMT in Prizren



Swiss &
Turkish LMT
from K23 with
COM KFOR in
Prizren.

Prizren is located on the slopes of the Šar Mountains (Albanian: Malet e Sharrit) in the southern part of Kosovo. The municipality of Prizren covers an area of 640 km² (5.94% of the area of Kosovo) and contains 76 settlements. It borders on the municipalities of Suhareka/Suva Reka and Rahovec/Orahovac in the north, on the municipality of Dragash in the south, on Štrpce and the North Macedonia in the east and on Albania in the west.

With its demonstrable settlement structures, Prizren is one of the most multicultural and ethnically heterogeneous areas of Kosovo. This is well visible from the point of Kalaja Fortress where one has a beautiful view over the city. All ethnic and religious groups are represented in a very small area. For example, the Mosque of Sinan Pasha is right next to the Church of St. George and further down the road meets the Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Succour.

The Swiss LMT K23 lives and works in the Roma quarter in the city of Prizren. The team consists of eight persons, two of them are women, who come from different parts of Switzerland which is a great linguistic advantage. Having two women in the team also brings a different feeling into the group or towards the population. The wide range of different backgrounds and experiences from the team members' civilian lives is a great enrichment. Capt Tamara Peschutter, Team commander of K23, agrees with these words completely: "It is a pleasure for me to fulfil a mission with so many different individuals, together as a team". However, the task of leading a team which members are subordinates and housing community partners at the same time is not always easy, "but so far it's not

working too badly".

Capt Peschutter herself was a company commander of a unit with almost two hundred enlisted soldiers the last four years. While the structures and the daily routine were always clear in the refresher courses, here she has learned what flexibility is meant to be. Whereas in Switzerland she reported to a Battalion Commander, here she has an OPCON-commander but also a national contingent commander. On the national side, the form of command, the command rhythm and the expected products are clear and as used to be done as in Switzerland. On the OPCON side, with new superiors, orders and means of communication, it is not always easy to keep an overview. "The duration of the deployment for six months and many other things are also different from what I am used to". Whereas in her unit she led clearly through her direct reports, here she is closer to the troop. "But it is neither easier nor more difficult to deal with the tasks or to lead a small team, it is just simply different." Speaking about difficulties COVID-19 was very tough for them as a LMT because they could not hold meetings for a long time. "However, in order to be the eyes, ears and mouth of the KFOR, we just have to meet people." Additionally, the LMT patrols in the municipality to show presence but also to report any special incidents to the superior level. "We want to see and understand the needs of the population", emphasizes Capt Peschutter.

Tamara Peschutter
OF-2 CHE-A
LMT K23

Czech footprint in KFOR

Members of the Czech Contingent manage and maintain the Helipad in Camp Film City. This essential service ensures that KFOR remains ready to respond to any incident as fast as possible.



The Czech Armed Forces have been represented in Kosovo from the very beginning of KFOR, initially with Operation Joint Guardian commencing on 12 July 1999 and in 2005 as part of Operation Joint Enterprise. The role, size and distribution of the Contingent has varied as their role within KFOR has evolved. The Czech commitment to the attainment of UNSCR 1244 of 1999 remains as steadfast today as it did over 21 years ago.

The first Czech unit that came to Kosovo was a Reconnaissance Company, which deployed in June 1999 initially to camp Gornji Šibovac and later moved

to camp Šajkovac / Shajkofc. As the Czech role with KFOR evolved, the reconnaissance company was replaced by a joint Czech-Slovak battalion in 2002, which stayed in Kosovo until 2005.

Between August 2005 and July 2006 Czech Republic was in command of Multi-National Brigade Centre and later Multinational Task Force Centre. Starting in the middle of 2005 an independent Czech military contingent comprised of more than 600 soldiers was deployed at Camp Šajkovac/Shajkofc and operated from there until October 2011.

The Czech military's history with KFOR is not limited





Members of the Czech Contingent remember their national colleagues who made the ultimate sacrifice for Kosovo's security.

to ground forces only. The Czech Air Force took part in fulfilling KFOR's mission by deploying an AN-26 aircraft between 1999 and 2001 and Mi-17 helicopters since 2007.

Since 2011, the Czech military presence moved to KFOR Headquarters in Pristina where smaller task forces have been deployed. Currently, the Czech Armed Forces are represented by the 19th Task Force consisting of soldiers of various military specialisations whose positions within HQ KFOR are part of "crisis establishment". OF-3 Pavel Netolický, the Czech Senior National Representative works

within Joint Logistics Support Group as a specialist responsible for all fuel deliveries to KFOR. Two other members of Czech contingent manage the full spectrum of KFOR's air operations. Their tasks include planning the flight routes with respect to current security situation and real-time airspace traffic. The remaining two members of Czech contingent are part of HQ KFOR staff.

Pavel Netolický
OF 3 – CZE-A
JLSG

RC-East Conducts Unit Recovery Team Training

US troops learn how to assess, record, prepare and transport human remains in the event of a fatality in the force.



Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Wells, mortuary affairs non-commissioned officer in charge, Regional Command-East, Kosovo Force, trained a unit recovery team on mortuary affairs at Camp Bondsteel in early January. Unit recovery teams are responsible for recovering the remains of RC-E multinational and U.S. Soldiers in the event of their death. Four soldiers were certified to make up the team, starting with a classroom portion in the morning. In the afternoon, they conducted a scenario analysis before working as a team in a practical exercise. Wells assessed the team on proper evaluation, documentation and transportation of remains.

"We honour the Soldiers throughout the process with dignity and respect," said Wells. "We want to make sure the Soldiers that are on these teams understand the complexity and respect the situation."

Wells said they make the training as thorough as possible. Attention to detail is extremely important throughout the process; if anything is missed, the team would have to start over again.

Spc. Matt Dedonato, an avionics mechanic with 3rd Battalion, 238th General Aviation Support Battalion, Delaware Army National Guard, was selected to be

the team lead for the training exercise. He said he had never done remains removal training before, but he was ready to learn and take on a new challenge.

"We learned how to sweep an area before recovering the remains," said Dedonato. "There are certain things that need to be flagged. The area has to be mapped out, and that's all to take accountability of the area. There are also certain personal effects that need to be documented, and of course the actual transportation of the remains."

Wells emphasised the importance of the transportation process as a way to honour the Soldier. There are a lot of moving parts working together to reassure friends and family that their loved ones are treated with respect. The team is trained to handle situations with extreme care from the moment they receive the mission to the moment they return the remains back home.

"We want to make sure that Soldier or individual is not delayed and is taken care of properly," said Wells.

Zachary Zippe
OR-5, USA-A
PIO RC-E



CSM Torre on the ground in Mitrovica North.

WITH COMPETENCE COMES CONFIDENCE

Team KFOR, another month has passed, and once again, I had the privilege of watching our soldiers' extraordinary accomplishments. The commitment of KFOR Military and Civilian personnel never ceases to amaze me. Our chosen profession, the Profession of Arms, often keeps us away from home and forces us to operate in a high operational tempo. Thus, it is essential to stop and recognise a job well done and appreciate our soldiers' efforts whenever possible.

When Major General Federici took over command and published his vision, he defined the women and men of KFOR as the single most crucial element of the force, the backbone of our formations. While observing the exceptional achievements of team KFOR, I have asked myself what is it that makes a coalition of 27 troops contributing nations work together successfully. I have tried to find an answer in doctrine, and doctrine says that an effective team must possess specific characteristics to function

properly and achieve organisational goals. There is a compelling purpose among those characteristics, people with the right competencies, a solid team structure, and a supportive organizational context.

I know our force is made up of competent individuals. I see it every day. I know that we can rely on cutting-edge technologies and equipment. I know that our organisational structure has proven to be effective throughout the years. Yet, I am not satisfied with the answer. There is definitely something else that makes KFOR such a premiere force. And that something is the good character of its people. I see it at the DFAC when folks from all over the world break bread together and talk for a few minutes. I see it when I am greeted with a smile by someone I have met for the first time in my life. I see it when organisational problems and issues are solved by collaborating in harmony, with no anxiety. When everyone is willing to go the extra mile to achieve the common

objective, not because they are ordered to, but because they feel it is the right thing to do.

It is a reminder that nothing is impossible to achieve when people with good character work together, accepting honest mistakes, recognising strengths and weaknesses with serenity, and supporting each other. It is also a reminder that even having the best equipment, structure, processes, and competencies do not guarantee success if people do not treat each other with dignity and respect.

So, Team KFOR, I want to thank you for what you do every day and how you do it. As long as we keep taking care of each other, I am confident that we will continue to conquer the challenges ahead. Shoulder to shoulder, AS ONE WE PROGRESS.

Andrea Torre
OR-9, ITA-A
CSM



The "Military Chaplains meeting" was held at the NATO KFOR base aiming to promote ecumenical and interfaith exchange between the multinational contingents of KFOR.

At the gathering were the Chaplain of the Hungarian, Italian, Polish, and United States contingents.

The Italian Chaplain, Don Stefano Tollu welcomed the participants at the Camp Film City's Church, where they joined in prayer and meditation.

KFOR Commander, MG Franco Federici, greeted the Military Chaplains highlighting the essential role of the spiritual assistant in favour of soldiers of all Armed Forces.

OR -5 Reinhold KRAPFL (AUT ARMY) was selected as soldier of the month of December for outstanding performance and excellent military bearing displayed while serving as Deputy Team Leader of the Medical Team, ALPHA Company, Kinetic Battalion of the Regional Command West. His work ethic, dedication, loyalty, devotion to duty and leadership were an outstanding example to his peers and subordinates.



COM KFOR, met with the EU Special Representative in Kosovo, as well as the 'Quint' ambassadors, which refers to the representatives of France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States. All parties reiterated their ongoing support for the fulfillment of UNSCR 1244.

The Greek Guard contingent of HSG, Camp Film City were awarded with their KFOR medals during their Change of Command ceremony presided over by Deputy COM KFOR, BG Schoepf. Hellenic Army MG Sotirios Kostakoglu was invited to present medals to the outgoing contingent.

Photo by PAO Staff



Polish soldiers conducted a routine patrol along the ABL. After the roads became too difficult to manoeuvre, the platoon hiked the rest of the way to their observation points.

Photo by Polish PIO



KFOR Command Sergeant Major Andrea Torre paid a visit to Sergeant Major of the Kosovo Security Force, Genc Metaj at the Ministry of Defence in Pristina. This was the first visit by any CSM to the KSF. They discussed their shared experiences on the security situation in Kosovo.

Photo by PAO Staff





2020 was a year that many were glad to see come to an end. Camp Film City marked the hope of better things to come with a fireworks display provided by the Mission Welfare Activities (MWA) section of HSG. Lets all hope that 2021 sees the end to the COVID-19 global pandemic.

Photo by PAO Staff



Polish Military Contingent in Kosovo donated 400kg of clothing collected by Caritas of the Polish Army Field Ordinariate. These clothes will be donated to the most needy inhabitants of Kosovo in the area of responsibility of the Polish Army, PKW KFOR. Additionally, Polish children donated toys for their Balkan peers. Humanitarian aid will be transferred to the villages of Janjevo and Strpce.

Photo by Polish PIO



On 31 December 2020, five Italian Primi Marescialli (OR-9) were promoted to the rank of Luogotenente (OR-9). This promotion recognises their long, distinguished careers where they have demonstrated exemplary leadership and commitment to their country. Of particular note was Lgt Lionello Bonaventura, KFOR PAO Staff.

Photo by PAO Staff

On the 15th anniversary of the tragic deaths of the 42 members of the Slovak KFOR contingent, H.E. Ratislav Kostilnik, head of Slovak Liaison Office, accompanied by KFOR Commander, MG Franco Federici, laid wreath at the memorial at KFOR HQ dedicated to those who lost lives in the military mission. A plane with members of the Slovak Contingent who were returning to their homeland having completed their mission, crashed on 19th January 2006 close to the Hungarian village Hejce.

Photo by PAO Staff



US Soldier from RC-E, secures a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter during an HLS clearing mission along the ABL. Regular HLS missions are essential to KFOR to maintain a safe and secure environment for all people in Kosovo.

Photo by Sgt. Zachary M. Zippe



US troops from RC-E based in Camp Nothing Hill construct a launching mechanism for an RQ-20 PUMA UAV. The PUMA can be launched mechanically or by hand. Training on the PUMA aircraft will allow aerial route recce for vehicle patrols, ensuring safe road and environmental conditions.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Tawny Schmit





KFOR AMATEUR PHOTO COMPETITION 2021

KFOR Soldiers, do you have what it takes to take that really special photograph?

Can you see things differently or can you capture the atmosphere in a single photo? Do you really want to win and have your photograph published? Then the MWA/Chronicle competition is for you. Send your photos to kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int by **15 MAR 2021** and hope that the selection committee awards you one of the three MWA sponsored prizes worth €500.

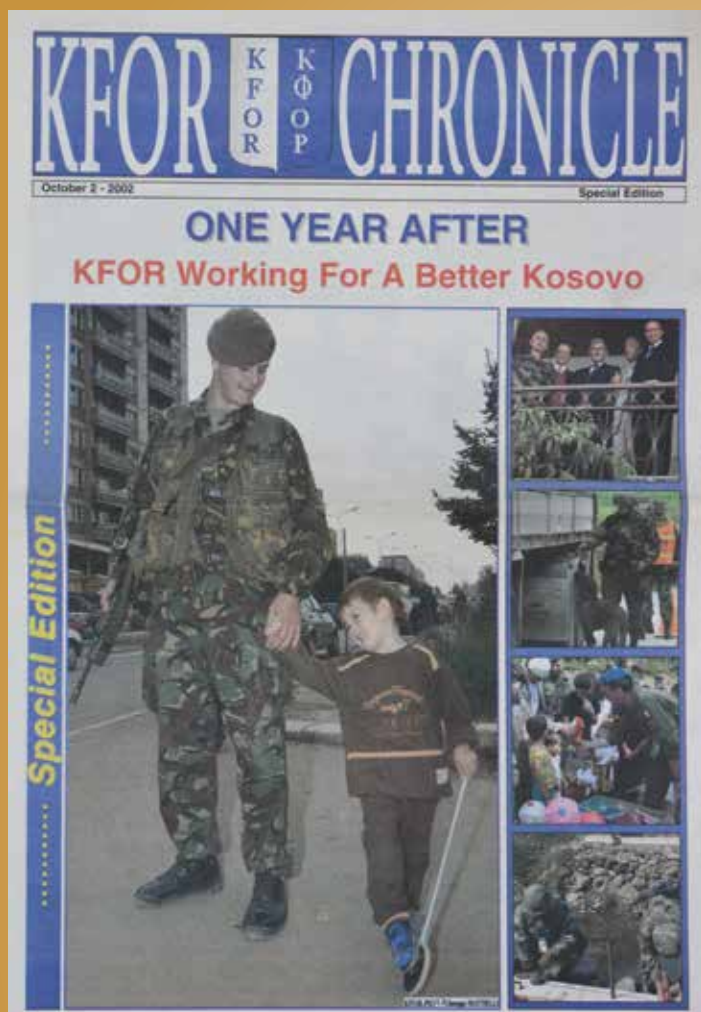
Guidelines for applicants: Photographs will be accepted from all personnel. Photographs, professional or amateur, will be published if they are deemed worthy. However, the competition is aimed for amateur photographers. Therefore, the prizes will be awarded to amateur photographers only.



Capture the atmosphere of a moment; KFOR troops, Kosovo culture, landscape, humanitarian activities or leisure activities. Submissions should include the digital photograph, photographer's name and a short caption. The winners will be published in the March 2021 edition of the KFOR Chronicle together with any other entry meriting special mention. Readers may submit up to five photographs for inclusion in the competition. The competition will be judged by Chief PAO, a representative from MWA, one from KFOR Command Group, the Editor and the photographic staff of the Chronicle. The Judge's decision is final. The winner, runner-up and third place will receive a prize sponsored by MWA. The very best of luck to all!

Retrospect & Continuity

The Chronicle was not always a magazine. In its initial iterations, it was a newspaper. The newspaper lasted from September 1999 until October 2002 when a Special Edition was released. The first magazine was released at the end of October 2002 and since that date, the magazine has been released on a monthly basis. The magazine format allows for more flexibility and use of images than the newspaper did. All issues of the Chronicle since January 2006 are available online at: <https://jfcnaples.nato.int/kfor/media-center/archive/chronicles>.



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Contribute to the Chronicle!

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

**Sincerely,
The Chronicle Team.**

NATO Nations within KFOR Albania, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States.

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

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Photo: Davide Lauretti
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