



# the **CHRONICLE**

## KFOR's Magazine

February 2021



**Air Mobility**

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*Croatian Mi-8 cockpit from the multi-national exercise.*

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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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# Air Mobility

*Multi-national flight passing Sharr Mountain in Southern Kosovo.*

*Photo by:  
OR-6 Lauretti*



**M**obility is essential for all militaries. By road and by air, it is essential that you can move people and equipment to where you need them to be as fast as possible. KFOR is no different. We need to be able to respond in a fast, efficient and credible way to any evolving threat. For that reason KFOR has air assets. Three nations provide aerial support to KFOR: Croatia, Switzerland and the United States of America. Each of these nations have their own slightly different way of doing things so standardisation and familiarisation is required. KFOR conducted a standardisation exercise with six helicopters: two Croatian MI-8, a Swiss Super Puma, and three US Blackhawks. An impressive sight, even for the civilian populations that were used to seeing helicopters operate throughout Kosovo. The low level altitude through much of the flight allowed me to see cars and people stopped below us, faces turned upwards at the sight, wonder what on earth was happening.

The exercise objective was to increase interoperability between the contingents by ensuring that the flight crews understood how their counterpart's helicopters handled in the varying conditions and how they needed

to modify their procedures to ensure that all crews were trained to respond in the same way.

A lot of planning goes into organising an exercise of this magnitude. Balancing the exercise ambitions, the operations commitments and the real world limitations was a significant challenge for the staff at J3 Air, the air crews involved and the Operations Cells in RC-E and RC-W. The flight operations element was led by Captain Filip Petrinjak from the Croatian Armed Forces. He was responsible for the planning, coordinating and deconflicting all aspects of the flight with the support and coordination of Lt Col Danilo D'Amato and his staff in J3 Air. Freeing up significant assets to be able to commit them to this exercise was a major challenge for the planners; ensuring that assets were serviceable and available with other tasks covered by reserve assets, ensuring that essential functions such as medevac remain available throughout. KFOR controls the Kosovo low airspace, however, it still needs careful management of flight plans in order to ensure that a large group of helicopters at low altitude do not cause challenges for routine



civilian traffic as well as deconfliction with the civilian Air Traffic Control in Pristina International Airport. This was even more important when considering that during the exercise, the initial take off and the low level fly past originated from Slatina Military Airport which shares the runway with Pristina International Airport.

The fleet took off from Slatina Military Airport, flying in a tight formation before overflying Camp Bondsteel in the South East of Kosovo, Prizren in the South West and conducting synchronised landing and take-off drills on the airfield outside Gjakova before moving on towards, Pec/Peja. A low level formation flypast was conducted when back at Slatina Airport, all aircraft flying 10m apart at 150km per hour and only 20m from the ground. The fleet finally landed in KFOR HQ, Camp Film City.

Exercises such as this ensure that all contingents are familiar with each other's procedures so that in the event of an operational tasking requiring a multinational response, the deconfliction has already been done and they know each other's procedures and emergency actions. Flying in close formation requires a lot of communication and planning. Ensuring that everyone is travelling at the same speed, altitude and direction takes effort. It is only achieved through continuous training and effort.

Speaking with the aircrews before the exercise, it was clear that there was significant excitement

about working with equipment that they had not seen before. The crews studied every aspect of their colleague's choppers in order to explore their key traits, how they handled differently in differing conditions, which choppers would require more space to turn, which ones gave out the most turbulence and so on.

"It is essential that all of the flight crews are able to work together and that they understand how each other's aircraft handles and how they will respond. The increased interoperability that results from multinational exercises such as this one, significantly enhances KFOR's capabilities resulting in a more robust force that is able to respond to any threats arising anywhere in Kosovo." Lt Col Danilo D'Amato J3 Air Chief.

The after action review identified a few learning outcomes for all of the crews, highlighted a few challenges that they crews had to deal with and emphasised the importance of further interoperability training in the future.

The exercise ensured that KFOR remains a robust military force, ready to act as a credible deterrent against any threats and maintains its capabilities to perform emergency medical evacuation flights at all time.

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



# A Pilot's Perspective

There is a saying "I'd rather be lucky than good", but for the flight of six helicopters on 25 February 2021 it had to be a little bit of both. I say that because from the ground watching the aircraft fly by, it probably looked as if the pilots had done this many times before and all we had to do was fly next to each other on a perfect sunny day and look good doing it. But what isn't seen is the hard work and planning days and even weeks in advance that went into the two hour flight that day.

Of course it all started with the initial concept: Croatian, Swiss, and the U.S. conduct a multinational, mixed multi-aircraft operation to practice flying together and learn each other's tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) in order to better support our NATO ground forces in Kosovo.

The AMC, Capt. Filip Petrinjak of the Croatian Air Force, hosted an initial planning meeting to discuss the basics with the Kosovo Force Joint Operations-Air team, Regional Command aviation operations officers, various aviation unit Commanders, and Pilots in Command (PCs). The Air Mission Brief would then be conducted which finalised who the crews would be, flight route, timing, helicopter order, individual duties, airspeeds, altitudes, call signs, formations, spacing, communications, minimum weather, landing, and refuel

plans. After that, additional contingency and safety considerations were discussed: loss of visual contact, lost communications, inadvertent instrument meteorological conditions, go-around plans at landing sites, potential downed aircraft recovery procedures, go no-go times, and calls for weather or maintenance. Eventually each PC would go on to brief their own crew for each aircraft and their own internal crew coordination, emergency, and safety considerations.

The Air Mission Brief is where we all began to learn from each other as professional military aviators. We discovered each of the countries had slightly different TTPs and each aircraft had different performance characteristics and capabilities that was taken into account. Due to the experience and professionalism from all involved it became quickly apparent that commonality, safety, and common sense prevailed. While all of this was going on maintenance, operations, fuel, and all of the other logistics and support personnel began their planning and execution behind the scenes in order to make this mission even possible.

By the end of the flight, we were "lucky" our weather turned out to be a beautiful sunny day with clear skies and no maintenance issues. We were "good" by safely executing the mission and improved not only our skills as pilots and crew-chiefs but improved our relationships with our NATO partners.



Jeremy Briggs,  
OF-3, USA-A,  
RC-E Task Force Aviation S3



# J3 Air – Controlling our Skies



Helicopter operations at CFC are controlled by the staff of Blackbird Tower. Currently, there are two USAF Air Traffic Controllers responsible for the safe, orderly and expeditious flow of air traffic to/from CFC. In the event of an accident, they are responsible for raising the alarm and coordinating the initial response of the CFC Fire Crew. Both controllers have extensive experience both at home and on deployment, and enjoy the unique variety that comes with working in a multi-national environment. Blackbird Tower is also home to J3 Air's Heli Ops team, currently staffed by two members of the Czech contingent. They are responsible for processing all requests for the use of helicopters by the various units in KFOR. They must balance the mission requirements of the requesting units with the availability of helicopters and flight crews, while maintaining a contingency capacity in case of necessity in the KFOR AOR. One member of this team is on his third deployment with KFOR over a span of 15 years, and has seen many changes

and positive developments in the mission and the AOR in that time. Both teams work together in close cooperation on a daily basis, along with the rest of the J3 Air Branch. Other personnel in the branch are involved in the authorisation and de-confliction of civilian and military Unmanned Aerial Systems (drones). Without proper control and regulation, these can present a serious hazard to the safe operation of aircraft. The rapid advances in the capabilities of this technology and the increasing number of these systems being utilised in recent years have presented great challenges to regulators and air navigation service providers across the world, and KFOR is no different. Close cooperation and collaboration with the Kosovo Civil Aviation Authority in this area, along with other airspace normalisation projects, is an important and ongoing task for the J3 Air Chief and his staff.

Graham McKeown  
OR-5, IRL-A  
J3 Air



# Feldpost – Keeping us Connected



Every Tuesday and Friday, a steady stream of smiling soldiers can be seen making their way around Camp Film City, clutching their packages and letters. They have just been to the Feldpost, the German post office provided by the German NSE in Camp Film City. I spoke to the Post Master - Stabsfeldwebel (Master Sergeant OR-8) Ingo about what it takes to have this facility in place for the multinational contingent in Kosovo. Stabsfeldwebel Ingo is at the start of his six month deployment to Kosovo, his first posting overseas but far from his first time as a postman. From Hessen in Germany, he has worked for the German postal service, Deutsche Post, for over 12 years and has worked domestically for the military equivalent, the Feldpost, for over 3 years.

Every week the Feldpost office in Camp Film City receives over 550kg of mail from Germany; another 200kg is sent in the opposite direction. But how does it get here? Every Tuesday and Friday morning a truck is loaded with all of the materials for the

German contingent, including the mail and leaves Darmstadt in central Germany and drives through Austria, Hungary and Serbia in order to reach Pristina some 3 days later. Reverse loads are also used to send anything back to Germany for the German NSE or as the starting point to anywhere in the world for mail. The post office provides all of the same services, at exactly the same costs as any other Feldpost or Deutsche Post. This vital service, which the German contingent kindly provides for all troops in KFOR offers some much needed links to the outside world, allows people to receive news and supplies from home and more importantly, order all those vital supplies from online. Order before Thursday and you will have it on Tuesday, an excellent facility considering that the Kosovo equivalent takes 2-3 weeks and costs far more.

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



# KTRBN Operational Readiness Exercise



In order to act as a deterrent against any potential threats to the security situation in Kosovo, KFOR must be a credible military force, capable of responding to any incident that might happen. Pivotal to this credibility is KFOR's ability to respond in a timely manner to address threats early, before they have the potential to escalate. This ability to deploy does not just happen. It comes about through hard work, training and maintaining a constant state of readiness. In early February, the Hungarian lead KFOR Tactical Reserve Battalion (KTRBN) were exercised as part of this readiness, and just like the real thing, they did not know it was coming.

If there is one KFOR unit that knows about the importance of training, it is the KTRBN. As part of their role in KFOR, they are responsible for the conduct of CRC and FOMD training for all other contingents. It is this multinational effort that makes KFOR such a valued asset to the maintenance of peace and stability in the region.

Brigadier General Günter Schöpf, KFOR Deputy Commander launched a surprise exercise on the KTRBN. The fictitious exercise scenario was that a civil disturbance was happening in a town in a remote part of Kosovo and that KFOR as the Third Responder had been requested to assist. The exercise scenario was designed to test not only the readiness of the troops, but the ability of the commanders to plan an operation with limited time constraints and limited information and the ability of the battalion to sustain

itself for an extended period of time. Planning how to respond to a challenging a dynamic environment without knowing the full picture or having enough time is standard for all armies, but it is an essential component of all military operations and it is what militaries are renowned for.

As part of the exercise, the KTRBN commanders mobilised advanced elements early to gather more information on how the situation was progressing to assist in the response planning and to secure access for the main effort. In the meanwhile, as orders were being prepared, concurrent work was ongoing to meet the logistical requirements of deploying and sustaining a military force in the field for a sustained period of time.

As H-Hour approached, General Schöpf arrived for an inspection of the unit's personnel, equipment and preparations and received an operational briefing from the company commander. Satisfied that the unit was ready to respond to whatever may face them, General Schöpf stood the unit down from the exercise and allowed them to return to routine operational tempo.

The exercise highlighted the high levels of preparedness of the KTRBN and their commitment to the fulfilment of UNSCR 1244 of 1999.

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





## Cakay – Keeping CFC Moving

Cakay Maintenance and Construction (or simply Cakay for short) provide a lot of essential services throughout Camp Film City, the APOD and across the network of rebroadcasting sites throughout KFOR's area of operations. Employing over 120 people from across Kosovo, they are a key enabler for KFOR HQ, allowing the military element to focus on their military tasks, confident in the support from Cakay's army of tradesmen and labourers. From facilities maintenance to major construction projects Cakay are essential in keeping CFC functional. Just one contemporary example of the fine work conducted by Cakay was during recent snowfall in Pristina. Despite the temperatures dropping as low as -18°C as darkness fell or that it was a Saturday night, Cakay were immediately tasked to ensuring that the

walkways and roads around CFC were kept open. Workers with shovels, snow machines and snow ploughs worked through the night to ensure that KFOR HQ maintained mobility throughout.

Cakay provide a 24/7 service for emergency repairs. If you have a blown bulb in your office or a problematic air-conditioning unit in your bedroom or a leaking shower, Cakay are on hand to fix it. On my first night in Kosovo, I tripped the circuit breaker for my room by plugging in an extension lead. Within minutes the technician was at my door to assess and fix the problem.

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







## Crowd and Riot Control

Papa-Coy of the Italian contingent in Camp Villaggio Italia conducted a Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) training exercise. The exercise involves the deployment of a rapid reaction force, ready to act as a deterrent to any threats. Constant training is necessary to ensure that all contingents are ready to respond immediately to a highly complex environment like a CRC threat. As with all KFOR activities, the aim is to ensure a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all communities in Kosovo in accordance with UNSCR 1244 of 1999.



## New Italian Capability

The Italian contingent in RC-W have deployed a new capability in support of KFOR operations in Kosovo, the Counter Unmanned Aerial Systems (C-UAS) technology. Operated by the 17th Regiment of anti-aircraft artillery "Sforzesca" of the Army, the technology allows KFOR to counter the threat posed by the possible hostile use of drones belonging to the mini and macro categories.

This weapon is designed to disrupt and disable drones and UAVs technologically, digitally and multidimensionally at the military facilities of KFOR and the Visoki-Decane Monastery where KFOR act as first responders for security aspects, as well as the performance of control activities and maintenance of freedom of movement in Kosovo. In this way it contributes to the consolidation of peace and stability in the region, to the process of civil growth and to the development of local institutions.





## Slovenian Heli Ex

Sierra Coy of the Slovenian KFOR contingent performed a heli CRC training exercise in cooperation with the Croatian heli team. Inter contingent training such as this enhances KFOR's capability, increases our credibility and ensures that we are always ready to respond to any threats to a safe and secure environment in Kosovo. The ability to bus and debus a helicopter in a fast and efficient manner, particularly when deployed on a CRC task, is essential to allow for the rapid deployment of troops to anywhere in Kosovo.



## Austrian FOMD

Ensuring Freedom of Movement for all communities in Kosovo is one of the primary functions of KFOR. All contingents must be proficient in CRC and FOMD drills, ready to deploy to any incident if KFOR is requested to assist. Austria-Coy recently completed their FOMD training with the Ukrainian contingent. This robust training environment is designed to put prior training to the test and to ensure that the soldier's approach to all challenges is standardised, ensuring efficient and effective inter-operability among all KFOR troop contributing nations.

Images by: Lorenzo Nigro  
OR-4, ITA-A  
PAO, RC-W

Captions by: Giorgio Alba  
OF-4, ITA-A  
PAO, RC-W





COMKFOR hosted a visit by the Slovenian Minister of Defence, H.E. Matej Tonin accompanied by Major General Robert Glavas Slovenian Chief of Defence in Camp Film City. During the meeting, General Federici expressed his gratitude for Slovenia's valuable past and present contribution to KFOR and highly praised the professionalism, expertise and dedication of Slovenian soldiers. Minister Tonin said that he is very proud of his soldiers and their dedication within KFOR. He also reaffirmed Slovenia's commitment to KFOR with relevant positions both in the HQ and in subunits.



COMKFOR met with the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Local Government Goran Rakić, together with four mayors from the north, Milan Radojević, Zoran Todić, Vučina Janković and Srdjan Vulović, in North Mitrovica. They discussed the current situation in Kosovo and the possibilities for improving living conditions in the North of Kosovo. The officials thanked KFOR for the good cooperation and assistance in the form of medical material donated to the hospital in North Mitrovica and for the support given during the recent flooding in the area. COMKFOR reassured that KFOR will continue to provide a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement to all Communities living in Kosovo.



COMKFOR received EUFOR Commander, Major General Alexander Platzer, in Camp Film City in Pristina. The commanders discussed the general security situation in their operational areas and in the wider Balkans region. The meeting was also an opportunity to highlight the importance of training for troops operating on the ground and to consider future joint exercises in the Balkans. The relationship between KFOR and EUFOR is excellent with both Headquarters cooperating closely to achieve mutual support in their respective missions.





## FINCON Ceremony

Finland has a long and distinguished commitment to international peacekeeping. Their commitment is recognised around the world for their professional and dedicated soldiers, some of whom have paid the ultimate sacrifice for their service to peace. Finnish soldiers have been serving throughout the Balkans region in a variety of mission areas since the mid-1990s. It was also in this region where Finland's most costly accident occurred. Three Finnish peacekeepers died on February 1, 1997, when a helicopter carrying them collided with power lines in North Macedonia, above Lake Mavrovo. The troops were serving with UNPREDEP (United Nations Preventive Deployment Force) in North Macedonia. The helicopter broke into several parts in the collision and all those in the helicopter were immediately killed. Major Risto Vuori, the commander of the 2nd Nordic Battalion, and Captain Tapani Kulmala, the company's deputy commander, and Kaisa Arvola, the battalion's dentist,

died in accident.

On 31 January, the Finnish Contingent in KFOR paid their respects at a memorial to peacekeepers killed in the helicopter crash in North Macedonia. The memorial stone is located in the area of the battalion's old staff near Skopje Airport. This is an old Yugoslav army garrison currently used by the North Macedonian army. The memorial stone has the names of Finnish victims and is decorated with three blue helmets. In connection with the memorial service, we also paid a courtesy visit to the garrison commander. It was clear from the discussion that they still highly value the contribution of all peacekeepers to restoring stability in the region, and it is of particular importance to them that they are allowed to host Finnish visits with a memorial stone.

Mikko Sistonen  
OF-4, FIN-N  
XO, Joint Effects Center (JEC)





# APOD Defences the Armenian Contingent

*Armenian troops  
conduct gate  
security at Slatina  
Military Airport.*

*Photos by: PAO Staff*



*A sophisticated  
CCTV system allows  
for continuous  
monitoring.*



The Armenian contingent, part of the Irish led, multi-national Headquarter Support Group, performs a critical role for all members of KFOR. They secure the military APOD, ensuring that personnel and materiel can continue to flow freely to where it is needed anywhere in Kosovo. This 24/7 duty is performed by the Armenian unit. The sophisticated, multi-layered defensive structures in place deter any threat against KFOR's military airport by maintaining comprehensive physical security measures at the entrance and within/around the site. The Armenian Contingent operate a guard command post, multiple check points, conduct gate security, secure APOD operational facilities, conduct mobile and static perimeter patrols and provide immediate reaction

forces. They are aided in this task by the security camera system.

The Contingent is drawn from the Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade (APB). The Peacekeeping Brigade is one of the special units of the Armenian Army, its role is to participate on peacekeeping missions abroad. APB participate in missions with NATO in Kosovo and Afghanistan, also with UNIFIL in Lebanon. In February 2004, the first group of Armenian peacekeepers (consisting of 34 soldiers) were deployed to Kosovo for six months. APB units have been deployed in Afghanistan since 2010 and in Lebanon since 2015.

Selected soldiers serve in the APB for their whole careers and after missions return home and continue





*Vigilance is critical to security.*



*Troops remain ready at all times to respond to any threat.*

their duty in the same unit, ready to deploy to the next mission area. Therefore the members of the APB are highly experienced peacekeepers. Training is a high priority for the APB and they participate in annual NATO Operational Capabilities Concept assessments and evaluations by teams of international assessors. Armenia has a long and proud history as a NATO partner nation. It contributes to NATO-led operations and cooperates with Allies and other partner countries in many other areas. A key priority for NATO has been to strengthen political dialogue and to provide focused advice and assistance in support of democratic, institutional and defence reform efforts in Armenia. Armenian relations with NATO started in 1992, when Armenia joined the North Atlantic Cooperation Council. This forum for dialogue was succeeded in 1997 by the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council. Bilateral cooperation began when Armenia joined the Partnership for Peace (PfP) program in 1994. Armenia is an active contributor to NATO-led

operations in Afghanistan and Kosovo. Armenia has contributed troops to NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR) since 2004. Armenia works with NATO's Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre (EADRCC) to improve its emergency preparedness and response capabilities, to deal with disasters and asymmetric threats, to improve contingency planning, and to contribute to international disaster relief operations. NATO and Armenia have also cooperated on the establishment of the Crisis Management National Centre in Yerevan. Since 1993, Armenia has engaged with NATO. Key areas for cooperation have included defence against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear agents (CBRN), and disaster forecast and prevention. Armenia organizes an annual NATO Week to raise public awareness of NATO and Armenia's cooperation with the Alliance.

Levon Gharibyan  
OF-2, ARM-A  
LNO, HSG



# Living with COVID – Part I – Personal Resilience



COVID-19, our invisible enemy, has put incredible pressure on us all. The pandemic has made us tired, worn out, sad and distressed. Everyone is paying for the psychological implications of the COVID-19 pandemic; those who have experienced the direct effects of the virus and those people that have feared for their lives or that of their loved ones.

The lockdown, the curfew, the fact that we have to lock ourselves up and take cover, look a lot like a war scenario, only in this case the enemy is invisible. The sensations of threat and danger that we experienced are the same, as are the psychological consequences on individuals, manifesting in visible and invisible symptoms: depression, anxiety symptoms and internalised invisible stress. The invisibility of the enemy, together with the fear of contagion, therefore require particular attention from each of us, in order to be transmitters of emotional positivity in our interactions between us men and women of KFOR.

There are some major risks that worsen the danger of infection and harm our person: old age, diabetes, obesity, isolationism, individualism, little propensity for meditation. Therefore, good prevention rules are not enough (wash your hands, sanitise yourself, wear a mask, physical distance), they are essential but something else is needed, especially looking at the long period that we now have behind us. Immediate help in addition to the normal rules that must always be respected are therefore: good reading, healthy diet, sport and for some, prayer. We must help to make people understand the importance of respecting the rules; not out of obedience to the rules but out of the desire to preserve all of our health. For this, it is not good to be indifferent to "private" social events, such as special dinners, birthdays or farewells. We are only as strong as our weakest link. If we do not

adhere to the rules all of the time, then they become ineffective all of the time. Right now we need to focus our prevention not just on norms, but on building resilience - the ability to withstand adversity and recover from difficult life events.

## *How to build resilience?*

Smoking, obesity, and lack of physical activity have all been linked to a higher risk of transmission and or greater disease severity in COVID-19. Given the importance of other health complications in controlling the impacts of COVID-19, perhaps now is an ideal opportunity to reconsider quitting smoking, losing some weight, increasing your exercise etc.

For some, resilience and faith are heavily linked. This is why the KFOR chapels are always open and everyone is always welcome. For those that need resources, there are many available online. We find help in a good book and a good reading, many never read at home, here you have more time, why not use it positively? Let us invite each other and promote healthy conversations; we military chaplains have the duty to be there for you, to listen to you above all. We also implement healthy eating habits - a diet rich in fruits and vegetables, for example - are important for maintaining overall health and a strong immune system.

Next month we will cover community resilience and how it can help all of us come together, remain strong and defeat this virus. We are a strong, credible military force that thrives due to the strength of our people. It is only by all of us playing our part that we ensure that KFOR maintains this credibility. As one we progress.

Stefano Tollu  
Padre– ITA-A  
KFOR Chaplain





*Austrian troops from RC-W supported by Moldavia EOD elements, conduct a recce patrol in adverse weather conditions. Due to heavy snowfall, the patrol was conducted on skis. KFOR remains operational in all weather conditions.*

*Photo by: RC-W PAO*



*KFOR ensures that we remain a credible force, not just through military operations but through routine interaction between KFOR and the communities in Kosovo.*

*Photo by PAO Staff*



*KFOR Deputy Commander Brigadier General Günter SCHÖPF met the Turkish Liaison Monitoring Team in the municipality of Stimlje where he received the updates related to the situation on the ground. KFOR DCOM also had the opportunity to visit Stimlje and Racak village. The LMTs main task is to contribute to KFOR situational awareness, through liaison activities with the local institutions, International Organisations and the local population.*

*Photo by PAO Staff*





RC West Slovenian Company conducted "Heli Medevac" refamiliarisation training with the US military. Slovenian soldiers have been trained in cold and hot medevac loading procedures and lifting procedures. Multi-national and inter-contingent exercises such as this one ensure KFOR troops can seamlessly integrate their operations.

Photo by RC-W PAO Staff



Soldier of the Month for January 2021 was awarded to OR-4 Luca Aceti for his outstanding performance and excellent military bearing displayed while serving as personnel and logistics specialist with 2nd Recce Coy, ISR Battalion. "Cpl Aceti's leadership and professionalism are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect great credit upon himself, the ISR Bn and the Armed Forces of Italy" MG Federici.

Photo by PAO Staff



Don Stefano Tollu, KFOR Head Chaplain donated 500kg of food products to the Draganac Monastery for distribution to the local communities.

This donation was raised by the Camp Film City congregation and will be used to help those in the community most affected by the economic hardships of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo by PAO Staff



Colonel Stefano Fedele took over the command of KFOR's Multinational Specialized Unit (MSU) from outgoing commander Colonel Enio Simone. This Italian lead Carabinieri unit provides military police functions in addition to CRC tasks to KFOR's mission and acts as a rapid reaction force in the event of civil unrest. The MSU conducts daily patrols throughout Kosovo and maintains a 24/7 presence on both sides of the Ibar Bridge in Mitrovica.

Photo by PAO Staff



Staff Sgt Alicia Portell and her team of assistants organized a 'Half Murph' workout, Sunday February 14th in honour of Valentine's Day. "Why break your heart when you can break your body?" Troops from KFOR's Hungarian, Irish, German, Austrian, American, and Italian contingents participated. The CrossFit style workout consisted of an 800 meter run, 50 pull ups, 100 pushups, 150 squats, and finishing with another 800 meter run.

Photo by PAO Staff



Italian KFOR personnel recently completed sanification operations in schools in Mitrovica and Pristina. These operations, part of KFOR's efforts to combat COVID-19 in Kosovo were conducted at weekends, to ensure that the schools were not negatively impacted by the operations. KFOR remains committed to assisting the Institutions in Kosovo to combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

Photo by PAO Staffs







## Ready, Get Set... Let's Drive!

**A**re you heading out on the roads in Kosovo, and wondering if the route to that remote village is still snowed in? Do you want to cross the border of North Macedonia for a meeting in Skopje, and don't know what paperwork you will need? (Hint: Your first step is submitting a Movement Request Form). Don't forget to call JLSG MOVCON first!

The Joint Logistic Support Group (JLSG) provides 3rd line operational support to the KFOR mission, and includes a four-man team of Movements Control (MOVCON) personnel. The multinational MOVCON team – currently from Hungary, Croatia and Lithuania – is responsible for three main functions: 1) synchronizing Reception Staging Onward Movement (RSOM) for the entire KFOR mission; 2) reporting the condition of Main Supply Routes (MSRs) and Secondary Supply Routes (SSRs) in Kosovo; and 3) coordinating border crossing movements with the Host Nation Support Coordination Cells (HNSCCs) in the countries surrounding Kosovo, including Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Greece, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia.

To cross a border into one of the countries surrounding Kosovo, your Movement Request Form (MRF) is submitted by MOVCON to that country's HNSCC. The diplomatic clearance process runs simultaneously with the MRF process, which helps to explain why the deadlines to submit a MRF are so far in advance. MRF deadlines currently range between two days and seven days in advance, depending on the Host Nation.

Once your MRF and diplomatic clearance is approved by the Host Nation, you're cleared to proceed through the border with your NATO Travel Order in hand. Thanks to this seamless (and often invisible) support from the HNSCCs, you might see the North Macedonia border guards and road toll operators waving at you to pass through their guard booths without stopping or paying road tolls, after they see your KFOR ID card. If you're traveling through Albania, you might see an Albanian military police escort from the Albania - Kosovo border onwards, helping you to navigate through congested cities to your destination. Just remember, a military police escort doesn't mean you are exempt from the speed limits... oops!

MOVCON is also responsible for reporting the conditions of the KFOR MSRs and SSRs. If you notice your usual route is blocked by a recent landslide, a bridge collapse, or dangerous driving conditions, please let MOVCON know.

Finally, MOVCON shifts into top gear whenever KFOR CONPLANS must be activated: becoming a 24/7 Movements Control Centre, where every movement – whether by air, land or sea – is synchronized across the entire KFOR mission. This crucial coordination capability ensures that large convoys and manoeuvres can take place, without too many vehicles clogging the key Kosovo roads all at once.

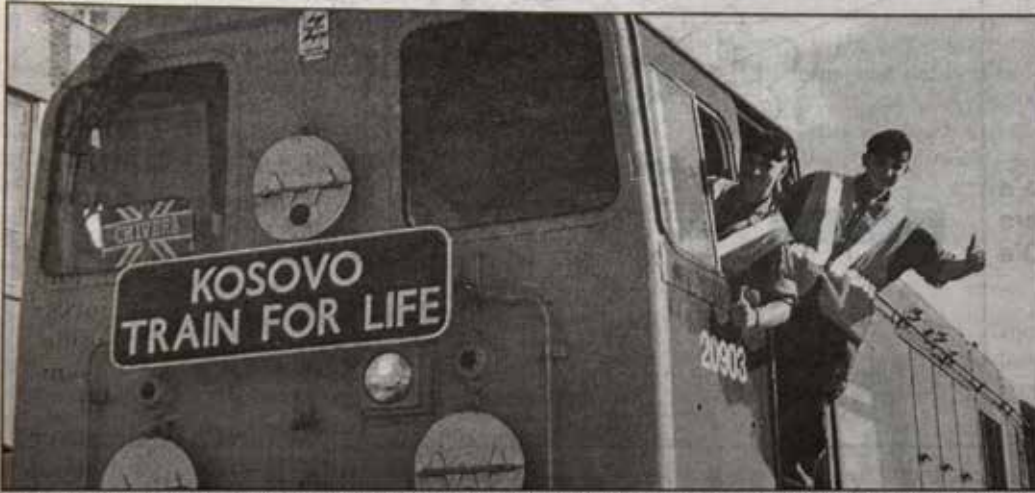
MOVCON is a bridge to help you get where you need to go. Let's work together, so KFOR can keep on trucking!

KFOR M&T Chief



## Retrospect & Continuity

# A Train for Life



Cpl Craig Taylor and Pvt Paul Wrightson from 79 (UK) Railway Squadron in KFOR helped drive the Train for Life from FYROM to Kosovo.

The Train for Life arrived in Kosovo on September 27, after having been driven by a team of volunteers all the way from England. It left England via the Channel Tunnel on September 16 and visited 11 countries on its way to Kosovo.

Text: Maj Grethe Oestern  
Photo: Cpl Graham Spark

The train brought 15 carriages of aid from the UK, with artificial limbs, blankets, winter clothes, medical equipment, children's educational toys and school furniture. Two thirds of the load was aid from

the K2K Fund, which is organised by the families of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps at their base in Rheindahlen, Germany.

Most importantly, the Train for Life left three locomotives behind in Kosovo for three months. KFOR will use those

locomotives to deliver aid by rail from FYROM to Kosovo before winter, with a target to ensure every house in Kosovo has one habitable room before winter, an unparalleled railway project that will save lives.

KFOR is currently running three trains each way per day from FYROM to Kosovo. Each trainload represents up to 50 lorry loads. Following the arrival of the three new locomotives, KFOR will be able to increase its working of the line to nine trains each way per day. This gives the potential to carry up to 450 lorry loads of aid each day. Using rail in winter provides the safest, most efficient and reliable way of moving high volumes of material.

There are only two past efforts that could be compared: when the British Royal Engineers during World War I ran troop trains from the Channel Ports to the front, and the Berlin Airlift when Berlin was cut off behind Russian lines at the end of World War II.

A lot has changed in KFOR in the last 21 years. At the beginning of our mission, KFOR was tasked with many of the functions that go hand-in-hand with that running of any population. From providing security through a SASE with freedom of movement, assisting with public administration, provision of medical care to more unusual activities that many may not be aware fell under the remit of KFOR all those years ago. One such example was the running of the trains. In October 1999, our second copy of the Chronicle covered a story about Trains for Life. A UK initiative

that brought materials from the UK to Kosovo by rail, but most crucially, donated trains and crews to supply essential goods to all communities in Kosovo through what is now North Macedonia. Travelling through much of Kosovo today, it is hard to imagine that a goal at the time was to ensure that each household had one habitable room! However, without the equivalent of 450 truckloads of goods arriving daily by rail through North Macedonia, many families would not have survived the harsh Balkan winter in 1999.

## KFOR Competition

Your KFOR, your motto. KFOR are looking for a new slogan! Can you come up with a clever use of the KFOR acronym to sum up KFOR's ethos? If you can, you could win some fantastic prizes for the best submissions and have your entry selected as part of KFOR's official branding.

The competition is open to all KFOR military and civilian personnel.

Closing date for receipt of entries 31 March 2021 to [kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int](mailto:kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int)



Knowledge.

Fortitude.

Operability.

Readiness.





## EFFECTIVE FOLLOWERSHIP ENABLES EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP

**T**eam KFOR, here I am again for our monthly appointment on the Chronicle. February has been a busy month for us all, and I want to thank you for your extraordinary support. In the past weeks, I had the great privilege of visiting our Units across the Area of Operations, observing training exercises and meeting the senior NCO leadership of our Regional Commands. I know I am repetitive, but I am always amazed by the commitment and dedication of the entire Kosovo Force. I believe the success of an organisation is not the result of a secret recipe, or of a complicated equation. It is instead the consequence of effective teamwork, where followers and leaders are able to work together with purpose and unity of efforts. Followership is the topic I would like to talk about this month. In almost every military doctrine, the concept of followership is somehow addressed. Being the military a hierarchical organisation, every

leader is a subordinate to someone; therefore each leader should also be a responsible subordinate. In certain contexts however, followership is perceived as a negative characteristic of an individual, since supposedly the idea of subordination and compliance is not that glamorous. I strongly disagree with this perspective, as I am convinced that being an effective follower requires the same attributes and competencies required to be an effective leader, and that following does not only mean doing what someone is told to. Effective followers assume responsibility for themselves and the organisations they belong to; they do not hold a paternalistic image of the leader, and do not expect the leader to provide for their growth, but instead they seek opportunities to fulfill their potential and maximize their value to the organisation.

This is exactly what I see when I circulate the AO. I see committed soldiers taking

initiative and solving problems. I see leaders allowing room for mistakes, not freedom to fail. It does not matter what is the role or the position held in the force, each team member can make a difference at her/his level. Our COMKFOR lately addressed the importance of a proactive approach, and the need of anticipating events to enhance our operational efficiency. Effective followership is a tool that definitely can help us out in this regard. We must be alert and engaged, and try to get ahead of the future challenges. I know that as long as we maintain this climate of trust up and down the chain of command, we will be successful in our endeavor. Shoulder to shoulder,  
**AS ONE WE PROGRESS**

Andrea Torre  
OR-9, ITA-A  
CSM





# 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](mailto: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.

**€500  
Prizes**



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!



Eye in the Sky



Photo: Marino DeSanctis  
OR-5, ITA-A