



the CHRONICLE

KFOR's Magazine

May 2021



KFOR IMP

CONTENT

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 3 Letter from the Editor | 14 Interview with COM KFOR |
| 4 Force Provost Marshall | 16 Artwork at Camp Bondsteel |
| 5 International Military Police | 17 RC-W Key Leader Engagements |
| 7 Multinational Medical Exercise | 18 High Level Meetings |
| 8 K10 LMT RC-E | 20 Snapshots |
| 10 Best Warrior Competition | 22 CSM Corner |
| 12 Mother's Day on deployment | 23 Retrospect & Continuity |

Commander KFOR XXV
Major General
Franco Federici,
Italian Army

Chief Public Affairs Office &
COMKFOR Spokesperson
Lt Col Antonio Minutella,
Italian Army

Chief Internal Information &
Editor the Chronicle
Comdt Aidan Ryan
Irish Defence Forces
RYANA@hq.kfor.nato.int

Design & Layout
Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu

Photographer
Davide Lauretti
OR-7 Italian Army

E-mail and Web
kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int
<http://jfcnaples.nato.int/kfor>

Printed by "Blendi"
Tel.: 044 149 115

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.

The Chronicle is produced and fully funded by HQ KFOR. It is published for KFOR soldiers and civilians in the area of responsibility. The contents are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the coalition governments' defence departments. Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Internal Information Section of HQ KFOR's Public Affairs Office (PAO) in Pristina, Kosovo. PAO HQ KFOR reserves the right to edit content to conform to style and space requirements. Articles are run on a space-available basis. Articles appearing in the Chronicle may be duplicated in official NATO publications subject to KFOR PAO authorisation.

Welcome to this month's edition of the Chronicle; this month we are bringing you a really exciting publication. As COM KFOR approaches the half way mark in his tour, the Chronicle team were very fortunate to have the opportunity to sit down with him and discuss his experiences so far in the mission.

We also have some interesting articles provided to us by the KFOR Provost Marshall and the International Military Police. Maintaining discipline on a daily basis is a difficult but an essential task in any force and here those involved outline the roles and responsibilities that they face on a daily basis.

Military Service is always a unique experience, but it's even more unique if you're able to conduct it with your son. Mother and son, Maj Sarah Jacobs and SPC Dalton Krum are both presently serving in Regional Command East.

In the April edition of the Chronicle we discussed with you the important role that Liaison Monitoring Teams play in the area of operations, well this month we bring you an article from the Liaison Monitoring Team K10, who have a massive amount of experience in KFOR on previous tours and are able to provide a wealth of knowledge on the mission area.

As always, we bring you a news roundup of what's been happening in the mission area and any significant events that have taken place throughout the month.

In the Command Sergeant Major Corner, Command Sergeant Major Torre tells us about the importance of discipline in a professional army and his experiences with this topic.

We bring you a really special Retrospect and Continuity piece this month where we look back to a time where CH-47 Chinook helicopter ruled the skies and we outline the unbelievable work that they provided in the early years of the mission ensuring supplies were delivered to those who needed them most.

We really hope you enjoy reading this month's edition as much as we enjoyed putting it together for you.

Sincerely
Your KFOR HQ PAO team.



Comdt Aidan RYAN, Chief Internal Information, PAO.

Force Provost Marshal

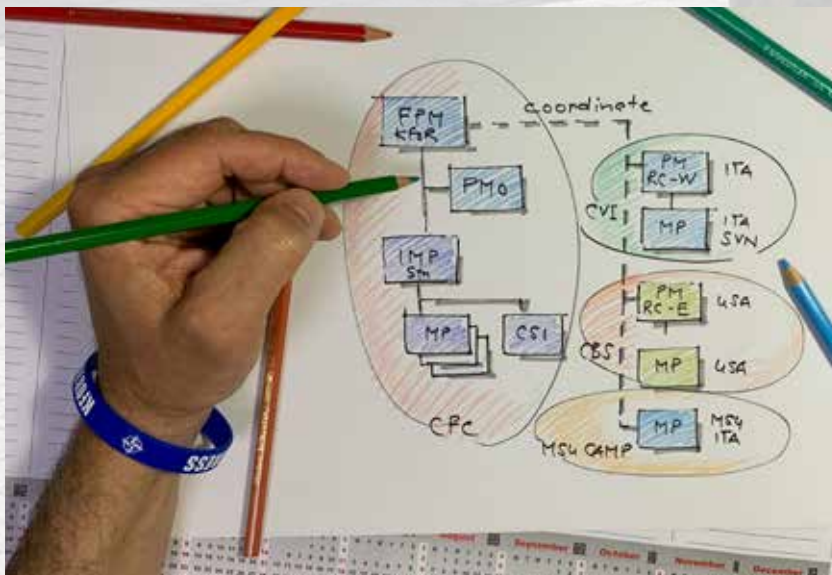
The Force Provost Marshal (PM) is presently LTC Matthias JAHN (OF-4). He's a very experienced Officer who is exceptionally passionate about the role that he recently took over. He has massive experience in the Military Police (MP) and previously to his current role he held the position of vice-commander of the MP's Security and Protection Operations Command in Switzerland. LTC JAHN has been serving as a career officer for 20 years now since graduating from university with a degree in military science and cadre training. In parallel with his career and in

addition to other continuing education courses, he completed the leadership course to become a senior police officer.

LTC JAHN describes the role of the Force PM Office as providing command and control over the International Military Police (IMP) and coordinating all MP tasks for KFOR. Centralised planning and decentralised control maximises MP's effectiveness and enables greater efficiency, i.e. operational readiness and flexibility. In this way the office ensures that MP assets are used in an efficient manner to meet the specific requirements.

As PM, LTC JAHN's understanding of KFOR's operational and legal context ensures that the MP are well situated to fairly and impartially support and improve force effectiveness through advising the KFOR Commander and Chief of Staff on police matters. He also performs the function as the prosecutor of KFOR and as the commander of the IMP.

LTC JAHN enjoys the variety, the broad spectrum of operations and the challenges that he faces in his present role. He states that "I see my function as a service provider, a supporter of the KFOR leadership. With the IMP I am also the last bastion to ensure peace and order in the service. Even if not everyone welcomes our work – for example in enforcing the Covid-19 protection regulations - we are often perceived as the spoilers; I am proud of our efforts



MP ORG CHART

Photo by:
PM STAFF

and the social skills of my IMPs. And if you don't hear about our work, that's normal; in conducting our duties, we like to be friendly, understanding and empathetic - but we are not looking for friends in enforcement."

The Force PM outlines the following when any incident occurs, "I would like us to be notified and involved early when incidents occur. This way, the IMP can get involved effectively and efficiently. I don't want others to decide whether or not the police are needed in the event of an accident, for example. With our competence we can quickly assess what

the consequences are - also for the protection of our KFOR soldiers."

In the office of the Force PM is an experienced administrator, who is also a crime scene investigator. LTC JAHN states that "I like to rely on his assessments of the situation to reflect my formation of opinion. My deputy assists me in carrying out my assignments and activities, and performs special duties in addition as required by me."

Matthias JAHN

OF-4 CHE A

Force Provost Marshall

International Military Police

The IMP is a specialized Military Police asset that is qualified and authorised to execute the full range of MP activities. The IMP provides Police and Combat Support on a tactical level to KFOR. Acting as an international asset, the IMP is subordinated to the Force Provost Marshal.

The IMP is presently comprised of Austrian, Polish and Swiss military policemen. The IMP Station is a tactical asset, which is led by the Station Commander. The tasks of IMP units are:

- Mobility support operations
- Security operations
- Detention operations
- Police operations

Mobility support operations are composed of route reconnaissance and surveillance, intelligence collection and reporting, convoy escorts and supporting movements prior to point of entry operations.

Security operations contain the tasks of physical se-



curity, personal security and close protection.

When it comes to detention operations the IMP provide specialised planning and advice, oversight and surety for the correct handling and processing of detained persons in accordance with applicable international conventions and laws. One of the bigger tasks of the IMP is police operations like law enforcement, investigations, crime prevention, traffic control operations and road traffic accident responses.

Although the IMP are located in KFOR HQ, they can be tasked with carrying out operations within the whole KFOR AO. There are presently 27 different nationalities that comprise KFOR, made up of 3500 soldiers and 2900 civilian employees; which means that the scope and reach of the IMP is massive. Some nations have provided their own organic MP assets with their units in KFOR, but in a situation where there is an in-

cident with no national MP representation, then the IMP are responsible for those cases.

Although the primary responsibilities of the IMPs has always been the maintenance of good order and discipline throughout the mission area, this role became even more difficult with the Covid-19 pandemic and the additional rules and regulations that required enforcement. Not only were the IMP required to follow these rules correctly to ensure that they remained operationally effective throughout the pandemic, they were also responsible for ensuring that everyone also followed the rules so that the mission remained operationally effective.

Lorenzo AGENENDT
OF-1 AUT A
IMP STN CDR

Accident, damage to property, personal injury, need for protection, fact finding, police-relevant event, dangerous situation, misdemeanor, imminent danger, punishable act, crime

Point of Contact IMP,
Information, Consulting,
Request for

- Mobility support
- Security escort
- Area and event security

**DHS MS > CNTRL > COS > IMP >
KFORPublic**

IMP DESK 24/7
048 100 821
+383 48 100 821



**PROVOST MARSHAL
OFFICE (PMO)**
CFC Building 90
(038 70) 2776
+383 38 70 2776

Multinational medical exercise at Camp Film City

On Monday 3 May 2021, a multinational medical exercise took place under the leadership of the Chief Nurse of the Swiss contingent and the Austrian commander of the ambulance group. The aim of this exercise was to consolidate international cooperation and to test the level of training of all participants, including their communication.

A stand-by team and an emergency team were involved in the exercise. The emergency team consisted of a certified emergency paramedic, an emergency doctor and a driver. The patient was provided by the JMED PLAN OPS. The two teams consisted of Swiss, Austrians and American soldiers deployed in KFOR.

The exercise scenario began with a patrol finding a person lying motionless on the ground. Due to a fall from a height, the person suffered a head trauma along with other injuries to his body. The patrol conducted their Immediate Action drills and also alerted the ambulance staff. After the arrival of the emergency team, they assessed the injuries sustained and started to treat the patient. The on-call team was then alerted to assist. The scenario was made more difficult for the participants as they also had to ventilate and resuscitate a "training dummy". After about 45 minutes, the patient and the training

dummy were treated and prepared for transportation to the next appropriate care facility that could deal with the injuries sustained.

After the exercise, an extensive after action review was carried out with the aim of standardising the procedures. The importance of an after action review from exercises like this cannot be overstated; for example, different names are used for the same medical equipment amongst the different nationalities that took part. This can lead to an unnecessary loss of critical time during the initial treatment of an injured person. The alert plan was also revised by the medical elements in order to be able to provide even faster care for injured soldiers. Our internationally staffed emergency teams and preparedness groups have agreed to increase their operational readiness with further exercises in the near future. In this way, they can guarantee KFOR soldiers even faster and more optimal care after accidents. The benefits of conducting exercises like this with international colleagues means that they can learn from each other and in turn improve each time.

Sebastian SCHREIBER
OR-5 AUT
AUT PIO



K10 LMT RC-E

The role and concept of the Liaison Monitoring Team (LMT) is to create a link between KFOR, the community, civilian authorities and non-governmental organisations. The aim of the LMT concept is to propose a structure tailored to maximise availability and usability of resources in order to successfully achieve situational awareness, and provide a timely warning of any significant deterioration in the situation. LMTs are considered as the eyes, ears and the voice of KFOR and COM KFOR. The teams are operating as boots on the ground, conducting overt information gathering and liaising with locals in order to “Feel the pulse of Kosovo”. We represent KFOR and COM KFOR on the field, showing a presence and building bridges by earning trust and credibility between KFOR and the locals, and somehow becoming members of the local community through cooperation and dialogue.

K10's area of responsibility is the area of Podujevo/ Podujeve, the municipality located in the North-Eastern part of Kosovo, adjacent to Serbia from the EAST. The team is primarily made up of Hungarian personnel and has been conducting activities in

this area since 2011. The overall situation in the municipality is calm and stable and the team's relationship with the local people and authorities is balanced and fruitful. People are really friendly towards K10 and KFOR; they frequently express their appreciation and thankfulness for K10's work. This kind of welcoming attitude creates a comfortable and heart-warming working atmosphere.

The K10 LMT is comprised of nine members, which is divided into three sub teams of three members each. Each team has a team leader, a note taker and a driver. The leader is always an officer, coordinating the activity of the team and conducting liaison. The note taker is a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) who supports the sub team leader in every way they can. The driver is responsible for operating the cars and navigating to the right place at the right time. Most of the team members have a Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) or LMT background, or also has experience in KFOR from previous deployments which can help them work as experienced professionals. Notwithstanding the fact that there are members from different professions, as a team everybody can



OF-2 Szilvia CSONTOS briefs COM KFOR on his visit to LMT K10 AO in May 21

Photo by: PAO Staff



learn from each other and teach or train each other towards a common goal.

The local people and local officials constantly remind us that they are happy about our cooperation and interest in their everyday life. They also express that they appreciate our presence and are satisfied to see us each time we visit. So far we have been able to successfully finish a CIMIC project we can be proud of. Thanks to the Austrian Contingent (AUTCON), we managed to liaise and implement a donation of twenty wheelchairs for the local community, called HANDIKOS which is responsible for helping people living with disabilities. There are similar ongoing CIMIC projects which are aimed at helping the local community. This is done by identifying and fulfilling their needs in order to contribute and enhance the safe and secure environment and the freedom of movement in Kosovo, to make the life of local people easier.

Previous KFOR experiences assist in enhancing the situational awareness of our mission. Soldiers that have formerly served within the framework of NATO and KFOR find their roles in the system easier,

given that they've already experienced the work and responsibilities required. Soldiers can develop their skills during tours of duty and gain leadership, language, communication skills and routine, which can all help them in their future career. For example, our team leader has served in KFOR twice and has brought this experience to her current role for the benefit of all the team members.

Those who have served in KFOR previously have commented on the spectacular development of the infrastructure, this includes the newly built roads, the enhanced stability of the electric supply and the illumination from the street light system.

The biggest reward for our work is the kind, supportive and friendly feedback that we get each day from the locals. A satisfied look, some kind words and a handshake is priceless after a successful CIMIC project. Often it's the small things that has the greatest impact on the locals.

Marko DUSA
OF-1 HUN K-10
Deputy Team Leader

RC-E KFOR Soldiers compete

Soldiers from RC-E competed in the Best Warrior Competition at Camp Bondsteel, 19-21 Apr 21. Warriors from across RC-E competed in events which tested their strength, endurance and U.S. Army knowledge to score points toward becoming the KFOR 28 Best Warrior for either Junior Enlisted or Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO).

"We started out with a showdown to see what we had in our ruck," said Staff Sgt. Tyler Mathis, Best NCO winner assigned to Headquarters & Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment, Iowa Army National Guard. "The next morning, we had the physical fitness test."

The physical fitness test included two-minutes of pushups, situps and pullups followed by a two-mile run. The competitors were graded on the number of repetitions completed within the time limit for the first three events and how quickly they completed the run.

After breakfast, Soldiers tested their M4A1 carbine marksmanship at the Engagement Skills Trainer and Sig Sauer M17 pistol at the range. Points were awarded for each target successfully hit.

"After that, we did our lanes," said Mathis.

This event gave the warriors a chance to test their Army knowledge at a variety of stations. They conducted operations in tactical combat casualty care, communications, land navigation, weapons function as well the history of the NCO Corps and the Sexual Harassment and Assault Response and Prevention program.

"For weapons, we had to clear the weapon, disassemble the weapon, reassemble it and clear it, for five different weapons," said Spc. Brandon Cline, Best Soldier winner assigned to HHT, 1-113th Cavalry Regiment. "On the medical, I had a [simulated] patient with her leg cut off. I had to take care of them and make sure they were all right until medics came."

Finally, on the morning of April 21, 2021, the warriors conducted a six-mile ruck which took them around the perimeter of Camp Bondsteel.

"It's definitely challenging both mentally and physically," said Mathis. "The hardest moments were the six-mile ruck."

The boards were the final challenge the warriors had to face. They sat before a panel of senior enlisted leaders answering even more questions testing their Army knowledge.

"If I had to say anything to anyone who's considering competing, just do it," said Mathis. "It's tough. It sucks, but at the end of the day, it's worth it."

Jonathan PERDELWITZ
OR-5 US-A
RC-E PAO

e in Best Warrior Competition

Col. Derek Adams, COM RC-E, presents a certificate to Spc. Brandon Cline, a signal support systems specialist with Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment, Iowa Army National Guard, at the conclusion of the RC-E Best Warrior Competition at Camp Bondsteel, on 21 Apr 21. Cline was named overall Best Warrior in the junior Soldier category. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Tawny Schmit)



A U.S. Soldier performs pull-ups during the RC-E Best Warrior Competition. The BWC started with a series of physical challenges, including pushups, sit-ups, pull-ups and a two-mile run. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Tawny Schmit)



Iowa military family celebrates



Maj. Sarah Jacobs and Spc. Dalton Krum, mother and son, smile for a photo at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, on 30 Apr 21. Jacobs and Krum are both deployed to KFOR. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Staff Sgt. Tawny Schmit)

Spc. Dalton Krum and Spc. Kane Jacobs grew up with two parents serving in the Iowa National Guard, so when the brothers decided to join themselves, they knew all too well the large amount of time families can spend apart between drill weekends, annual training and deployments. But one thing they never expected was to be deployed at the same time along with their mother, Maj. Sarah Jacobs.

Dalton and Sarah are both deployed to KFOR and Kane is deployed to Kuwait with the 3654th Support Maintenance Company under Operation Spartan Shield. Sarah previously deployed to Afghanistan in 2012 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"Initially, when I was asked to go on the deployment, I was worried [Dalton] would have negative feelings

Maj. Sarah Jacobs and 1st Sgt. Frank Jacobs, Iowa Army National Guard, pose for a photo with their sons in 2010. Their sons, Kane Jacobs and Dalton Krum, have since joined the IANG, and are on their first deployments to KFOR and Operation Spartan Shield in Kuwait. (Courtesy photo)



about it," Sarah said. "This being his first mobilization, I wanted him to be able to have his own experience. But he felt like it was a cool thing."

Sarah, who serves as the Sexual Assault Response Coordinator for RC-E, is stationed at Camp Bondsteel, while Dalton is serving at Camp Nothing Hill a couple of hours away with Troop B, 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment.

While their separate locations and different jobs keep them busy, the mother and son find ways to stay connected with each other and the rest of their family.

"It's been nice," Krum said. "She's very helpful with getting snacks and stuff I don't think about. She's

s Mother's Day on deployment

probably watching out for me more than I am for her because she's been deployed before. I'm very thankful to have her here."

Sarah was able to travel to Camp Nothing Hill on Christmas Eve, where they shared dinner, exchanged gifts and fulfilled a family holiday tradition.

"We were on a video call with my husband and we have traditional movies that we always watch," Sarah said. "So, we all watched 'Christmas Vacation' and took a selfie."

As Mother's Day approaches, Sarah and her family have reflected on what it has meant to grow up watching your parents serve and raising children who followed in their footsteps.

Both Sarah and her husband, Frank Jacobs, felt it was best to never put pressure on their children to serve. Actions, Sarah said, influence children more than anything else. So, when their sons started thinking about joining the Guard, they focused on simply providing information for them to make their own decisions.

She recalled when Krum started talking about wanting to join, but was hesitant to "pull the trigger."

"You hear stories about people saying, 'Oh I would have joined...' Sarah said, 'but truthfully, I feel like what separates people talking about joining and people who join is that commitment upfront. I said, 'If you know you want to join, why are you going to wait?' He left shortly after graduation that summer. Giving that time up is the first part of that feeling of sacrifice for the greater good."

Sarah said she's prouder of her kids' service than anything she's done in her own career, and now that all four of them wear the uniform, the family has found comfort in the common language that comes with serving in the Army. When Kane or Krum are confronted with problems, or just need to talk to someone about their day, their parents understand the "military jargon" and can offer unique perspectives that come with decades of service. However, it's important to Sarah and Frank that they

give room for their sons to grow in their own careers. When Krum or Kane are in tough situations, Sarah said she tries to remember what it was like to be a specialist, and accept that much of the knowledge that will stick with them will come from their own leadership and experiences.

"One of the weirdest things for me, because I've done this for so long, is sometimes I feel like I'm just the first sergeant instead of the dad," Frank said. "Sometimes you need to step back and be a parent, not a person in the military."

Frank has adjusted to more than just being a military dad to sons who are Soldiers. Over the years, Frank has deployed twice while Sarah stayed home. Now, he's getting a taste of what it's like to be the one holding down the fort.

"I've found out how truly difficult it can be to stay home and not have the other person as a resource or to bounce off of," Frank said. "And the amount of stuff Sarah's done over my 25 years to help me go to schools, take care of the family, work, go to college and get her master's, and still being an officer? It takes a special person to do all of that and I'm very proud of her and the boys."

With women making up less than twenty percent of the U.S. Army, Frank said it can be easy to take for granted how much women contribute to the success of the organisation and the sacrifices they make for their families. But this Mother's Day, Frank and his sons want Sarah to know how much she's truly appreciated.

"I'm very thankful for her," Krum said. "She's always there to support me, even if she's being hard about it. Everything she does is out of love. It's been an amazing opportunity to be here, serve with her, deploy with her, work with her and have her here, because literally no one else in the entire brigade can say that."

Tawny SCHMIT
OR-6 US-A
RC-E PAO

INTERVIEW WI

As Major General Federici approaches the halfway mark of his tour of duty as COM KFOR, the KFOR Chronicle team were lucky enough to catch up with him to discuss his experiences in the job so far.



As we approach your ½ way mark as COM KFOR, how would you describe your experience of the role?

I fully recognise the responsibilities as the commander of such a flexible and robust force. I am cognisant of my responsibility towards each and every soldier of KFOR. In KFOR, tactical level decisions can have strategic implications, so therefore we must be able to trust all of our commanders and soldiers. KFOR, at times can be a difficult operating environment due to the interactions with liK, IOs, Ambassadors and the population.

How have your previous experiences helped to prepare you for a role like this?

Previous commanding experiences have definitely helped me in the role, context is everything and that each day we all have a lot more to learn than we do to teach. KFOR is a unique operating environment when compared to other missions due to the structures with the Regional Commands, KTRBN and the LMTs that exist in the force.

How would you describe the differences between being a commander on a NATO mission rather than being a commander on a UN mission?

Of course the operating environment in mission areas are all different, but they all share some distinct features. Modern missions require an ability to work with multinationals and although language and culture barriers can require a lot of in theatre learning, the value brought from the experiences of other nations is priceless when working in complex environments. Whether it's a NATO or UN mission you always have a mission statement to follow and achieve. This unifying concept for all in the mission area helps to bond all the soldiers working towards one goal. So when you have soldiers working towards achieving one mission, it's irrelevant whether it's NATO or UN, it's all about mission accomplishment.

What achievements are you most proud of so far?

I am most proud of how every single member of KFOR has worked tirelessly in keeping the mission operational during the global pandemic with Covid-19. Everyone has

TH COM KFOR

sacrificed a lot during this period and it's with immense pride that I can say that even during the most difficult period we kept operations going. Serving abroad with NATO at the best of times can be personally challenging, it's even more challenging during a pandemic. The restrictions and demands that we have expected from our people in recent months have been very difficult, but each day I am so impressed with how our people have met these challenges and overcome them. Without the support and buy in from everyone in the mission area to reduce the infections of Covid-19, the situation had the potential to be much worse. I'm so proud of each and every person in the mission area and how resolute they stood in the face of adversity during this period and continued to keep operations going and achieve the mission set out for us.

How do you think the soldiers of KFOR are engaging with the mission?

There is no doubt in my mind that there is full engagement from all of our soldiers and staff with what we are trying to achieve. The demands placed on our personnel are so difficult presently, that if we did not have their commitment things would have begun to crack a long time ago. As I said before, our people have sacrificed a lot and continue to sacrifice a lot in order to take part in this mission; without this engagement and commitment, we would not be in the position that we are in today. I try to engage all of the units in KFOR as much as is practical during these time with Covid-19 and what is palpable is the energy and commitment that I see from our soldiers, across all ranks, from 27 different nationalities on a daily basis. Their ability to sacrifice so much and still conduct regular patrols and security operations is a testament to their professionalism and character, and this humbles me on a daily basis for me to be able to say that I am their commander.

What message would you like to deliver to the soldiers of KFOR?

I would like to say thank you, thank you for all that you have done for the mission and all that you are continuing to do. I don't limit this message to those presently in KFOR but I would include all of those who have served here as far back as Sir Gen Mike Jackson's time as COM KFOR. We are all bonded by this willingness to see a brighter future for the mission area and with



your continued commitment and determination during your service here we can all continue to improve the situation for the population, regardless of ethnicity, race or religion; we continue to stand firm in achieving our mission. We must always remember those at home that continue to support us, to allow us to take part in essential missions such as this, our families cannot be forgotten about.

What is the one key bit of advice that you would offer to all the personnel of KFOR?

I would advise everyone to keep doing what you're doing, that you have shown that irrelevant of the challenge, you have an ability to adapt and overcome. You should continue to think positively, continue to move forward, never be afraid to take on new challenges, never take a retrograde step and understand that we are all in this together, as one we progress. After six months as COM KFOR, I would like to confirm what I said in my first speech: 'The strength of the group is from the individual and the strength of the individual is from the group'. It is a daily privilege to serve with you.

Aidan Ryan
OF-3, IRL-A

Chief Internal Information



Young Kosovo artists display artwork at Camp Bondsteel

Young artists from the Ferizaj/Urosevac municipality in Kosovo displayed their artwork in a small exhibition at Camp Bondsteel, 24 Apr 21. U.S. Soldiers assigned to RC-E, viewed the paintings and spoke with the artists about their work.

KFOR's K21 LMT and leadership within the Ferizaj/Urosevac Art and Mural Festival Association worked together to make the event happen.

"K21 is very involved with our municipality," said 1st Lt. Jacob Bruggeman, officer in charge of K21. "We try to find any sort of philanthropic events we can assist with. In this case, we all thought bringing the event on to Camp Bondsteel would be beneficial to bridge the gap between Kosovo culture and Soldiers stationed at the base."

Lebibe Topalli presents Col. Eric Soultz, deputy commander of RC-E, with a black and white painting featuring a Soldier reuniting with their child as a token of appreciation and long-lasting partnership.



Lebibe Topalli, executive director of the association, hopes the event is only the beginning of a long cooperation between the organisation and KFOR. One of their primary goals is to exchange cultural experiences between Soldiers and artists.

"Art is special, it's like therapy," said Topalli. "For my generation, it wasn't easy to study art. So based on my experiences and the difficulties I had, I'm trying to help these young artists now so they can practice it more easily and use their talents."

The students were energetic and happy to represent their communities at the display, and Bruggeman said seeing the Soldiers' reactions to their artistic capabilities was rewarding.

Tawny SCHMIT
OR-6 US-A
RC-E PAO

RC-W Key Leader Engagements

The purpose of Key Leader Engagements is to maintain and strengthen the partnership between the institutions in Kosovo and RC-W. The aim this month was monitor the pandemic situation, relating to the vaccination campaign and the response of local institutions. Importantly, after the elections in February, in accordance with the LMT's activities, these meetings were performed to assess the population's mood relating to any possible impact on the Safe and Secure Environment and Freedom of Movement.



On 15th April, COM RC-W, Col. Francesco Maioriello, conducted a Key Leader Engagement with the Mayor of Dragash, Mr. Shaban Shabani. During this meeting, with the Municipality, the discussion was focused on the pandemic situation, as well as the perception of the local community towards the new Government.

On 15th April, the COM RC-W, Col. Francesco Maioriello, conducted a Key Leader Engagement with the Mayor of Prizren, Mr. Mytaher Haskuka. During this meeting, with the Municipality, the discussion was focused on the pandemic situation, as well as the perception of the local community towards the new Government.



High Level Meetings

This month COM KFOR held a number of high level meetings with a number of key representatives and leaders in order to reinforce the importance of the KFOR mission.

Meeting with Albanian Defence Minister



Major General Franco Federici met with the Defence Minister of the Republic of Albania, Mr. Niko Peleshi, at the KFOR Headquarters in Pristina.

They exchanged views on the overall security situation in the Western Balkans and on NATO's continued contributions to regional stability.

General Federici highlighted the excellent role performed by the Albanian Armed Forces assigned to KFOR. Mr. Peleshi underlined that KFOR has been promoting peace and stability across the Western Balkans for more than two decades.

The NATO-led KFOR mission contributes to maintaining a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all communities in Kosovo, as mandated by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of 1999.



Meeting with Bishop Teodosije Sibalic



Major General Franco Federici met with Bishop Teodosije Sibalic in Gracanica.

They discussed the security situation and the importance of religious authorities in achieving stability in the area. General Federici stressed that KFOR encourages dialogue between all religious representatives in Kosovo to support peace, cooperation and progress for all communities in Kosovo. The possibility of organising a religious meeting with all the representatives of the various religions was also examined.

They reiterated their long-standing mutual trust and cooperation.

It was the first time that the two officials met face to face, due to the restrictive measures in place in order to prevent the spread of COVID 19

Meeting with Montenegro Minister of Defence and CHOD.

Major General Franco Federici, travelled to Montenegro to conduct a series of meetings with the Montenegrin Minister of Defence, Ms. Olivera INJAC and the Chief of Defence, Brigadier General Milutin Durovic.

During the meeting, the Minister of Defence and COM KFOR had the opportunity to discuss the importance of KFOR in ensuring a safe and secure environment in Kosovo, according to the UN resolution 1244. He stressed the importance of the effective role of KFOR to enhance the stability and the overall security in the area.





EX Fire Phobia took place in Camp Novo Selo on the 05 May 21. This was a joint EX between the KTRBN and EULEX, whereby both had an opportunity to view each other's tactics and procedures in order to synchronise these for any possible future operations.

Photo by: PAO Staff



A member of the MSU fires a pistol during an MP qualification range day at Camp Bondsteel, on the 10 May 21. MPs from across KFOR came together to celebrate National Police Appreciation Week.

Photo by: RC-E PAO Staff



Or-4 Paige CORRIAS (Aviation Bn) RC-E, was awarded the title of Soldier of the Month in May 21, in recognition of her dedication, professionalism and work ethic. She has consistently gone above and beyond, and her skillsets, both civilian and military have been utilised consistently during her deployment. "Your leadership and professionalism are in keeping with the finest traditions of military service and reflect positively on you," MG Federici said.

Photo by: RC-E PAO Staff

Comdt Paul O'Callaghan, the outgoing editor of the Chronicle was presented with a Letter of Commendation from COM KFOR for an exceptional performance of duty as Chief Internal Information (PAO), from Oct 20 to Apr 21. 'It has been an honour to serve with Comdt O'Callaghan, he has been an excellent ambassador for KFOR and his country,' MG Federici said.

Photo by PAO Staff



Soldiers representing numerous nations were awarded the NATO non article 5, Balkans Medal for their service within KFOR. "I can certainly say that you, KFOR soldiers from all over the world, continuing to deliver on our mission mandate throughout very demanding circumstances; you have met and exceeded my expectations" MG Federici said in his speech to the soldiers at the end of their six months mandate who were on parade.

Photo by PAO Staff



Brigadier General GÜNTER SCHÖPF visited the LMT from K12 on the 22 May 21. His visit began with a very informative brief from the LMT Leader, OF-2 Gokhan BIRCAN. He travelled to LIBJAN and JANJEVO where he visited religious sites. Brigadier General SCHÖPF thanked the members of LMT K12 personally for all of their hard work and professionalism.

Photo by PAO Staff



MIDDLE OF THE-ROAD DISCIPLINE



Team KFOR, this issue of the Chronicle revolves around the concept of discipline. Discipline is something everyone needs to accomplish as part of any objective in life, both personally and professionally. It assumes an entirely new level of importance for someone who has chosen the profession of Arms as her/his walk of life. I'm not saying anything new to you when I state that discipline is the guiding principle at the very core of anyone who wears a uniform, regardless of rank or nationality. Any initial basic training is geared towards acquiring a disciplined mindset by the recruit; it is gradually ingrained in all aspects of a Soldier's life. With time, and certainly not always painlessly, it becomes second nature and seemingly an innate trait of any service member. Discipline, however, is not an attribute that once acquired, does not necessitate training. I think discipline is like a plant and requires daily effort and care to maintain its strength and eventually grow healthy. The road of discipline is not devoid of hiccups and difficulties. Some days having a disciplined mindset (and behaving accordingly) comes easy, and the sacrifices it requires has no effect on us. However, some other days, this disciplined attitude makes us pay a high price in terms of focus, energy, and mental

strength. As soldiers, we have committed ourselves to a life of discipline, and rightfully so. That does not mean however that our "discipline" shines each day with the same brilliance.

Therefore, we must not walk the road of discipline near the sideline because any unexpected obstacle could potentially make us deviate from the main route if we do. The middle-of-the-road analogy reminds us all to strive and to stay at the center of the disciplined mindset; in this way, even in the most unfortunate moment of weakness, tiredness, or slippery conditions, we will not lose the main direction.

Team KFOR, every time I move around the AO, I see the disciplined mindset in all of you. It's a reminder that our chosen profession asks from us for effort and sacrifice, but it also pays us back with a level of satisfaction that's almost impossible to describe to someone who has never worn a uniform. I want to thank you for that and to tell you that I'm humbled to serve alongside such a proud cohort of Soldiers. Shoulder to shoulder, AOWP!

Andrea Torre
OR-9, ITA-A
CSM

Retrospect & Continuity

Air mobility in KFOR

For this month's Retrospect and Continuity piece we look back to the Sept 2001 edition of the Chronicle, which featured a piece on the tremendous support that the fleet of Chinook Helicopter was providing to the mission area.

In recent months the KFOR Chronicle carried an article on the importance of Air Mobility. In the article it outlined that mobility is essential for all militaries. It's essential that you can move people and equipment to where you need them, 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.

KFOR has always relied on its air mobility assets in order to accomplish the mission. The piece carried in the Sept 2001 edition outlines the work of the Chinook helicopters in transporting freight by air from the Republic of North Macedonia to Camp Bondsteel, as the roads were not passable. Such was the scale of the assets ability, that the helicopters were

able to carry a total of 50,000 tons by air on a daily basis, to help supply and sustain the mission area. It's a staggering figure and asset to have, taking into account that the average weight of a Main Battle Tank (MBT) is about 60 tons. If required, such assets had the ability to move the equivalent of over 800 MBTs into the mission area on daily basis.



Aidan Ryan
OF-3, IRL-A
Chief Internal Information



Photo of the Month



Camp Villaggio Italia

Photo: Dosio ELIA
OR-3 ITA A
RC-W / CVI