



the CHRONICLE

KFOR's Magazine

July 2021



VEHICLES OF KFOR

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

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Welcome to this month's edition of the KFOR Chronicle. This month our main feature goes to the vehicles of KFOR, the workhorses that propel us on our journey each day, but these vehicles without drivers and maintenance would be worthless. This month we carry articles from those who maintain and use our vehicles on a daily basis, keeping the mission moving.

The toughest challenge took place in July, whereby the DANCON march was held in Camp Nolo Selo. We bring to you an article about the grueling heat, the difficult terrain, but the sense of self satisfaction from all of those who completed it.

The main interview for this month is with Lt Col Fekets, the KTRBN COM; here Lt Col Fekets talks about the issues faced when preparing for a deployment during the Covid-19 Pandemic and the challenges that he faces daily in trying to keep the mission Reserve operational on daily basis.

July was a special month for KFOR, as Hungary donated thousands of vaccines to the civilian staff of the mission in order to protect them against Covid-19. The article featured here outlines the delivery of the vaccines by the Hungarian Minister of Defence for distribution to the civilian staff of the mission.

There are also loads more articles and information pieces that took place throughout the last month.

Finally this edition asks for your input into the Yearbook, coming out in a couple of months. The theme of this year's book is – "KFOR XXV in 25 words" and we would like to invite you to submit the words that you feel best represent your experience of KFOR XXV. For more information check out page 23.

We really hope you enjoy reading this month's edition and we look forward to seeing your input into the yearbook.

Sincerely
Your KFOR HQ PAO team.



Comdt Aidan RYAN, Chief Internal Information, PAO.

THE VEHICLE

The BTR-80 is an 8×8 wheeled, amphibious, Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC). It has a single 260hp V-8 turbocharged, water-cooled diesel engine. The rear portion of the hull accommodates the single engine. Standard equipment includes TNPO vision blocks, TNP-B and TKN-3 optical devices for the driver and commander, an OU-3GA2M infrared search light, six 81 mm smoke grenade launchers 902V "Tucha", a radioset (R-173 or R-163-50U), an intercom, and hydrojets for amphibious propulsion.

The cone turret allows for the 14.5 mm (0.57 in) KPVT and coaxial 7.62 mm (0.3 in) PKT machine guns to be elevated to a maximum of 60 degrees. This high angle of fire is useful in engaging targets on steep slopes, in urban fighting, and for engaging low, slow flying air targets. The turret also includes firing ports, the forward firing ports sit in angled recesses, which allows infantry to fire to the front of the vehicle.

The side doors are split horizontally with the upper portion opening forward; this gives dismounting troops some protection against small arms fire from the front of the vehicle. The lower portion opens down, forming a step. Six smoke grenade projectors are mounted on the rear of the turret.

The BTR-80 can climb a slope with up to 60% gradient and climb a vertical step of 0.5 m.

THE CREW

The driver

My name is OR-4 Henrik Molnár-Annus, I am serving in the Hungarian Defence Forces (HDF) 25th Infantry Brigade, 1st Infantry Battalion, 1st Infantry Company. My role since 2016 is as an APC driver in the 1st Platoon. It's my 2nd deployment to KFOR. Currently I'm a driver in B COY, 2nd Platoon. My primary tasks are patrolling and participating in my company's training exercises. On patrol duties I drive the squad commander's vehicle, in CRC exercises I'm a member of the detaining team. The biggest challenge is not just the responsibility for my vehicle's combat readiness but also for the safety of the soldiers that I carry inside.

The vehicle commander

My name is OR-4 József Kocsis, I'm serving at Tata 25th Infantry Brigade, 1st Infantry Battalion, 1st Infantry Company. In my home unit I'm an APC gunner on the BTR-80/A. This is my 2nd deployment to KFOR as a deputy squad leader. My primary tasks in this deployment is to look after my fire team, their fighting capability, their motivation and the maintenance of their equipment.



OR-4 MOLNÁR-ANNUS & OR-4 KOCSIS

BTR-80

The gunner

My name is OR-2 Kirill Sejlinger, I serve as a BTR-80 gunner in the KTRBN A Coy. My training was 6 weeks long at Tata. We provide fire support for the Infantry Squad. At home, in the HDF 25th Infantry Brigade we use 2 types of mounted guns, the 14,5 mm KPVT heavy machine gun and the 30 mm 2A72 auto cannon. It's good to be in KFOR and to develop my skills, as our APCs are here and I can train almost every day.



OR-2 EJLINGER

The technician

My name is OR-8 Zoltán Vass, I'm the technician in the KTRBN A Coy. I started my military career in 1996 as a company technician NCO in the 25th Mechanised Infantry Brigade. My task here is to maintain the HMMWVs, trucks and APCs in my company. Every week I have to make a thorough inspection of our vehicles. I like my job, because it's interesting and I can learn something new each day.



OR-8 VASS

Linda SZÖKE
OF-1 HUN-A
KTRBN PAO

“We fix everything”

SWISSCOY's maintenance group is responsible for ensuring that around 250 pieces of equipment, including all vehicles, are in working order. In Kosovo, the ten mechanics are on their own when it comes to repairs. That's why they can use their mechanic skills all the more in military operations.



Four mechanics work diligently on various vehicles. In the large workshop halls, in mid summer it becomes exceptionally hot. There are two off-road vehicles and a truck in the hall, the radio is playing pop music in the background. It's a snapshot of what you'd see in a car garage. You would think you were in Switzerland if the vehicles were not prominently labelled "KFOR" and if the men were not wearing Swiss army uniforms.

Mechanics in uniform

On one of the two off-road vehicles, Soldier Pascal Hauser was replacing the shock absorber bearing. As a trained car mechanic he flew to Kosovo with the 44th SWISSCOY contingent in April. This is his first military deployment in support of peacekeeping. Over the next six months, he will repair the contingent's vehicles as well as power units and heaters. He explained his motivation for volunteering abroad: "I wanted to do something new and work in a different environment". Soldier Josef Reichlin echoed similar sentiments, explaining that he wanted to gain positive memories of the country and its people as

well as new work experience. "Because we don't repair normal passenger cars, but especially off-road vehicles, and we can only work with the tools we have, I'm learning some new things."

Greater independence

Sergeant Marek Schär is the supervisor of the maintenance group as well as workshop chief. He quickly summarised what work falls within their remit: "Everything that has an engine and breaks down has to work again afterwards." A typical job, he says, is repairing chassis damage, because the road conditions in Kosovo are worse than in Switzerland, or overhauling the drives. That may sound simple, but it is not, because you are on your own during the mission, he explained. This circumstance has a great advantage: "Defective parts that would simply be replaced in Switzerland are repaired in the theatre of operations if possible. This means that you have to work in a solution-oriented way here and can be a bit more of a 'mechanic' in the narrower sense than in Switzerland." For Sergeant Schär, it is not the first deployment, which is why he has always been able

ing that hums”

to observe a development among the maintenance members: “People return home from the deployment more independent than they were when they started.”

Periodic checks for safety

In addition to pending repairs, all vehicles are subjected to periodic inspections. This included re-establishing the readiness of the material in the Peace Support Service. This is done every time there is a change of contingent and involves all materials, not just vehicles. The resulting work that has to be done on the materials is scheduled and must be completed by the middle of the deployment period. In addition, the vehicles are regularly serviced and then subjected to an inspection, which is equivalent to the motor vehicle inspection for private vehicles. To do this, the uniformed mechanics drive directly to the individual SWISSCOY locations. This gets them out of the garage and gives them the opportunity to get to know the different SWISSCOY locations in Kosovo.

To ensure that the SWISSCOY vehicles comply with

the strict safety regulations, they are inspected on site by employees of the Armed Forces Logistics Base. There is an international exchange with members of other armed forces. Even if Switzerland does not carry out any actual repairs on foreign vehicles, they help each other out by lending tools, for example. Although the members of the maintenance group do not work directly together, they have an enriching exchange with the other nations.

The members of the maintenance group have varied activities at a total of ten locations. In this way, the trained mechanics can ideally combine their knowledge with the military environment and experience with international exchanges, while at the same time performing a valuable service in favour of peacekeeping.

Michelle STEINEMANN
OF-2 CHE-A
SWISSCOY PIO



The Toughest Challenge

The DANCON (Danish Contingent) march has been a tradition with Danish Troops since 1972, when the first event took place in Cyprus. The march invites foreign militaries, serving with the DANCON to participate in the 25km or 40km march. This year, due to Covid-19 restrictions, the march took place on the 10-11 Jul 21, in Camp Novo Selo and rather than two events, there was only one event with a distance of 29km.

Participants were released in groups with an interval of 15 minutes between the groups. The route took them from Camp Novo Selo, around the roads and hills in the locality. It was an exceptionally challenging route, when combined with the heat from the summer sun, this resulted in a maximum effort required from all participants for the duration of the march.

The route saw participants move from the camp 5km out to the first water station, this essentially was the beginning of what would become 2 x 9.5 km loops up to the top of the hill, along a saddle and back down to this point, only to be repeated a second time. The loop had participants climbing from 551m to a max height of 780m. The majority of the loop was completed on tracks and saw some very steep climbs to be completed. In particular, the last climb up to the highest point was exceptionally challenging for

participants and was marked by a water station at the top that was packed with KFOR soldiers trying to refill with water and food as they also tried to get their breath back and summon the energy to keep going. Along the saddle from this point allowed participants to take in some of the most beautiful views and feel a massive sense of satisfaction looking down at the hills that they had just come up from; it ALMOST made it worth it! Coming down from this point was sometimes as challenging as getting up to it, as the steep declines along difficult tracks had a massive impact on speed and footing, as your momentum pushed you downhill, but one wrong step could have resulted in a loss of balance. The second loop was even more challenging than the first, as the water station at the bottom was used to get any recovery and refueling needed before participants summoned the energy to take on the hills once more.

Once the second loop was completed, it was a 5km march back into the camp, on whatever energy levels that you had left in your body. Completely exhausted at this stage, and with legs screaming and muscles aching, participants managed to summon up the courage to make one last push over the hill which began 2km out from Camp Novo Selo and pulled uphill for 1.2km. Once everyone crested this



ge - DANCON JUL 21



hill, totally annihilated, the camp was in sight and all that stood in their way was an 800m downhill end-leg towards the finish line.

The march was made up of a number of different surprises that kept everyone going; the children that lined the route, cheering everyone on made all of the difference, and provided a welcome boost when required. There was also those who made a massive effort by carrying an array of different objects, from flags, to lump hammers, and they are to be commended for their effort in bringing a bit of colour to the day. Finally, there was those who went out of their way to lend a helping hand or a kind word to

those who were struggling more than them. These were the participants who showed selflessness in the face of adversity to help those that without it, may not have made it throughout the march.

Finally credit must be given to the Danish troops of KFOR who organised this event, with over 800 participants (almost a quarter of the personnel in KFOR) taking part over the two days, this was an event that was thoroughly enjoyed by all, if at times you felt like screaming!

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



It's the Experience that Counts



The Austrian Armed Forces are responsible for a wide variety of tasks within KFOR. Since 1999 Austrian Soldiers have served in this area of the Western Balkans, each soldier contributes to improving the already highly regarded reputation of the Austrian Contingent. Currently approximately 350 Austrian Soldiers serve within KFOR. They proudly represent the 44th Austrian KFOR Contingent.

The Austrian Contingent Command: Under the command of Colonel (GS) Georg Podlipny, the staff of the Austrian Contingent Command are responsible for the well being of the Austrian Soldiers. Colonel Podlipny stated that he is extremely proud of the experience of his soldiers. For him, the Austrians serving for KFOR combine profound military skills with a high level of cultural awareness, along with a deep commitment to the common goals of KFOR. Colonel Podlipny is the perfect example of the experienced Austrian Soldier, he first served in KFOR as a deputy infantry platoon leader in 2002.

A-COY – the Austrian Infantry in RC-W: The soldiers of the Austrian Infantry Company are based in Camp Villaggio Italia (CVI) in RC-W. Together with soldiers from Italy, Slovenia and Moldova they are part of

the Manoeuvre Battalion. As a part of a multinational Battalion the Austrians in RC-W fulfill different tasks like guarding the Visoki Decani Monastery and patrolling throughout western parts of KFOR. A-COY has a big share in guaranteeing a Safe and Secure Environment in KFOR. This contribution is highly appreciated all over the area of operations (AO).

The Reconnaissance Company – KFOR Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance (ISR) Battalion:

The Austrian Reconnaissance Company is a high value asset for collecting information all over KFOR. No matter what the weather is like, no matter how high up in the mountains, no matter how far away from KFOR HQ, the soldiers of the reconnaissance company are always on track to add to the common operational picture of KFOR.

The Transportation Company – KFOR Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG):

The heraldic motto of the Austrian Transport Company is “Viribus Unitis” which refers to the combined effort in supporting the transportation of KFOR personnel and equipment. Based in Camp Novo Selo the Transport Company moves equipment and soldiers all over the KFOR AO.

- Austrian Contingent in KFOR

In addition to these three central parts of the Austrian KFOR contingent, there are many Austrian soldiers serving across different key positions in KFOR. Austrians within the International Military Police cover the whole spectrum of military police duties. Two Austrian Liaison Monitoring Teams (LMT)-Houses keep in touch with the local population and act as the eyes and ears of KFOR. The Austrian Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team plays an important role in removing and disposing of unexploded ordnance (UXO) or supporting the rescue of personnel in mined areas, if required.



Currently the KFOR Deputy Commander is an Austrian officer also; Brigadier General Günter Schöpf holds the position of DCOM KFOR. Additionally the Austrian National Contingent Commander, Colonel Podlipny, is head of the Joint Logistics Support Group. Several other Austrian Soldiers serve in different positions in KFOR HQ. The majority of these soldiers are working here for a second or even a third time. It's the experience that counts!



Martin KHULL-KHOLWALD
OF-3 AUT-A
MA/XO JLSG COM



INTERVIEW WITH

This month the Chronicle team had the opportunity to interview the commander of the KFOR Tactical Reserve Battalion (KTRBN), Lt Col Zoltán Fekets. The KTRBN is stationed at Camp Novo Selo and they are directly under COM KFOR Tactical Control. KTRBN's capabilities includes a wide range of security operations, road control, escorting columns, surveillance, reconnaissance, population aid and other infantry tasks. KTRBN is specifically trained in Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) Operations and provides CRC training to all KFOR units, in particular for Fire Phobia. The KTRBN can be deployed anywhere in the theatre of operations and perform any task or mission for an unlimited period of time, working completely independent.



Prior to taking up his position as the KTRBN COM, Lt Col Fekets held the appointment as the commander of the 1st Battalion (Bn), 25th Infantry Brigade (Inf Bde) in Hungary since 2017. This experience as a Battalion Commander has served Lt Col Fekets well as he undertook the massive challenge as KTRN COM during this rotation.

Lt Col Fekets describes his experience in KFOR, 'the last time that I served in KFOR was 2004 and I can see major infrastructural changes that has taken place since that time. Back then the destruction was clear to see, but it's evident that there has been a lot of hard work taking place over the years and it's comforting

to see the positive trends that are now present.'

Being KTRBN COM is a unique role and Lt Col Fekets discusses the challenges of it, 'The KTRBN is essentially the reserve (RES) unit for KFOR and as such must be prepared for all eventualities. Militaries rarely train the RES, it's often the main effort or the supporting effort where exercises are concentrated, so my challenge was to train the KTRBN to be operationally effective at all times, without knowing exactly what our tasks are if we had to deploy. No one ever wants to be in a situation where the RES has to deploy, but if the situation arises we must be prepared to go and achieve the mission. The challenge is always guaranteeing that level of operational readiness for COM KFOR.'

'Knowledge and experience are key in a role such as this', states Lt Col Fekets. He goes on to state that 'I tried to deploy with a lot of my key staff from my battalion at home into the KTRBN. This has allowed for habitual association, as we all know how to work with each other, especially in an unknown environment. This prior experience with my commanders makes the decision making process much easier for me.'

Lt Col Fekets is satisfied that even during a pandemic he has always been able to keep his unit operationally effective, 'the loss of staff due to isolation put massive pressure on us at times during the preparation, it meant that others had to pick up the extra work load and plans were constantly changing, but we managed it successfully through the discipline and professionalism shown by all of our troops.'

TH KTRBN COM

I'm very proud of my unit, states Lt Col Fekets. 'My soldiers always obey the rules and follow orders, this is complimented with smart and talented subordinate commanders who always show huge commitment. The 1st Bn is the backbone of the KTRBN and it's been an honour for me to lead them. We need to keep this dedication and focus going and finish the mission out successfully.'

In offering advice to his troops, Lt Col Fekets had this to say, 'having studied in the United States I'm a firm believer that mission command is the secret to success as a commander, I like to issue tasks to units and I don't want to be in the weeds, no one does.'

Finally, Lt Col Fekets added that when it comes to mission success that 'only as one we progress, that everyone must pull in the right direction and work as a team in order to achieve mission accomplishment.'

In what was a fascinating and educational interview with Lt Col Fekets in relation to command and leadership, the PAO team would like to thank him for his honesty and the time that he gave up to facilitate the interview.

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



PAPA COY - Following

PAPA Coy, from RC-W are comprised of troops from the historic 40th Battery, which forms part of the "Aosta" Artillery Battalion in the Italian Army.

Today, the 40th Battery remains a field artillery battery with strong "Alpine" connections. It's able to employ three different lines of artillery weaponry, from the heaviest 155mm howitzer FH70, to the 120mm rifled heavy mortar THOMPSON RT120, to the light 105mm howitzer 105/14 (reintroduced into service in 2018). In combination with Forward Observer Teams and flexible Command and Control structure, it can be employed for Direct Support tasks attached to manoeuvre units with either mountain or mechanised mobility.

Over the years the 40th Battery took part in the AMF-L (NATO rapid reaction force: ACE MOBILE FORCE-LAND) in several multinational exercises in Norway, Germany, Turkey, Denmark, Belgium, Greece, England, Scotland, Portugal, Slovenia and of course Italy. In 2001 the 40th Battery had a brief experience as SAOC Battery (Observation Surveillance and Target Acquisition) and in 2003 got back to functioning as a Field Artillery Battery. The 40th Battery took part in several Peace Support Operations in Kosovo (2000, 2001, 2002, 2005 and 2021) and in Afghanistan (2003 Op. ISAF).

In KFOR, the PAPA Coy DCOM is Lt (OF-1) Andrea Cavallotti. When talking about KFOR, Lt Cavallotti states that 'I feel I'm trying to do my best to be a part of something that is keeping things progressing. I know we are here for reasons that go far beyond my personal profit, and I see anytime that we go out of the base and patrolling in the villages, towns and countryside, that the Kosovar people recognise us as part of the solution, not part of the problem. What I can clearly see from my perspective, is that our actions always impact our perception as KFOR, no matter what flag you wear or the colour of your uniform, **Different Uniforms Same Values.**'



On dealing with the pandemic he states, 'Covid-19 makes life more difficult, what I see is that here, maybe I'm feeling much more active and useful. Here, within KFOR, I live and work in a pretty safe and controlled environment that allows us to operate without any great issue. At home, listening to the news, they are still struggling through lockdowns and quarantines and I felt deeply upset about this, especially for my family'.

On ending his mission and returning home, Lt Cavallotti has this to say, 'I hope a little break, after six months of uninterrupted deployment. After that, I guess we will start again with training and preparation for homeland security operations. I will take all of the essential and the precious experiences gained here in Kosovo to improve my performance on future

g A Historic Tradition

deployments, either at home or abroad. I know that this will mean more time away from my loved ones, but they understand me and my efforts and sacrifices'.

Giorgio ALBA
OF-4 ITA-A
PAO RC-W



Hungary Donates Vaccines



On the 07 Jul 21, a momentous occasion took place, whereby the people of Hungary donated 5,100 Covid-19 vaccines in order to vaccinate the civilian staff of KFOR. This donation will assist in keeping the KFOR mission operationally effective in the future, as it deals with any potential future waves of the pandemic.

In order to mark this generosity, the vaccines were handed over by the Hungarian Minister of Defence, H.E. Tibor Benko, to COM KFOR, Major General Federici, at an event held in Camp Novo Selo. Upon his arrival to Camp Novo Selo, the Minister of Defence was greeted by an Honour Guard from the KTR BN and the Hungarian National Anthem was played. Following this was an Office Call between H.E. Tibor Benko, COM KFOR and the Hungarian Ambassador. After the Office Call, was the handover of the vaccines between the Minister of Defence and COM KFOR, this was followed by a press conference with journalists who had travelled from Hungary to report on this special occasion. During the handover of the vaccines, COM KFOR, Major General Federici spoke with H.E. Tibor Benko and said "Thank you for this

great donation, it will benefit not just KFOR, but also Kosovo as a whole", outlining the tremendous impact that this donation was going to make to many people in the country.

The Minister of Defence also had the opportunity to witness these vaccinations being administered to the civilian staff of KFOR. He received a thorough brief from Dr Victoria Barbalics (HUN-A) on the procedures being followed for the safe administration of the vaccines and the different stages that are followed in keeping with best practice. H.E. Tibor Benko was walked through all of the stages, from the registration stage, through the vaccine delivery stage and finally to the observation stage. He then had the opportunity to witness the civilian staff receiving their vaccine and the delight that it brought to all of those were in a position to receive it on the day.

Prior to his departure the Minister of Defence had the opportunity to meet the KFOR Hungarian contingent serving in Camp Novo Selo, taking this opportunity to meet with those who are doing so much hard work as part of the KFOR mission.

To Fight Against Covid -19

The day was an accurate example of the positive and powerful impact that donations such as this can have on the population of Kosovo and the immense generosity from the people of Hungary towards the Kosovar people. The day had an electricity in the air and the pride of all of the Hungarian soldiers was palpable. Donations of this scale and their impact are critical and are certainly worth marking the occasion, as took place by the visit of the Minister for Defence.

Linda SZÖKE
OF-1 HUN-A
KTRBN PAO



NATO Secretary General



On the 01 Jul 21 a historic visit took place for KFOR XXV, his Excellency, Mr. Jens STOLTENBERG, NATO Secretary General, visited KFOR HQ. As part of an incredibly busy programme, Mr. Stoltenberg began his tour with a visit to Camp Bondsteel where he undertook a number of engagements, including a visit to a memorial site at the base.

Following this, he visited KFOR HQ where he was hosted by COM KFOR, Major General Franco Federici. On arrival he received an Honour Guard, led by the Command Sergeant Major, OR-9 Andrea Torre. In KFOR HQ, Mr. Stoltenberg received a comprehensive operations update brief from the command element of KFOR HQ, outlining to the Secretary General the present security situation in the region. Mr.

Stoltenberg then moved to the front of the KFOR HQ building where he took time to brief a representative body of troops from KFOR; here he extended his thanks for all of the hard work that KFOR is doing presently and enforced the point that KFOR is the longest established NATO mission and will soon be the largest NATO mission.

There was also an equipment and capability display provided for the Secretary General, which was made up of dismounted troops in a conventional role, a Crowd Riot Control section, an Explosive Ordnance Disposal detachment and vehicle, a K9 Dog unit and finally a brief from one of the KFOR Liaison Monitoring Teams.

After lunch, Mr. Stoltenberg had an office call with

General visits KFOR HQ



the authorities within the institutions in Kosovo, Ms. Osmani, Mr. Kurti and Mr. Rakic, where they discussed developments in Kosovo and Mr. Stoltenberg underlined the importance of the dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade. Finally, prior to his departure, Mr. Stoltenberg held press and media engagements in Slatina Military APOD.

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





OR-3 Mirko KUCINIC, Slovenian LMT-RC-E, was awarded the title of 'Soldier of the Month', in recognition of his outstanding performance and excellent military bearing displayed while serving in KFOR. *"Your performance and professionalism is in keeping with the finest traditions of military service"* MG Federici said.

Photo by: PAO Staff



The transfer of authority for the KFOR Chief of Staff took place in KFOR HQ on the 02 Jul 21. COM KFOR, Major General, Franco Federici presided over the ceremony of the transfer of authority from Brigadier General Larry Henry (US-A) to Brigadier General John Maier (US-A).

Photo by: PAO Staff



The KFOR Gender Advisors Office organised a "5km charity run" to support children with special needs in Mitrovica North. Soldiers from all KFOR nations participated in this charity run, which took place inside Camp Novo Selo on the 18 Jul 21. €5,756 was raised in total and donated to the charity.

Photo by PAO Staff

MG Federici presided over the CoC ceremony for RC-E held at Camp Bondsteel on the 11 Jul 21. Colonel Derek Adams, outgoing commander, transferred command authority to Colonel Brey Hopkins, the new Commander for RC-E.

Photo by PAO Staff



During an activity in the centre of Pristina, COM KFOR MG Federici greeted the youth participants on the „Tour of Kosovo 2021“ in cycling. This is the 20th edition of this race, which is the most important activity for the Kosovo Cycling Federation and sees the participation of about 16 teams from Europe and around the world. COM KFOR highlighted the importance of promoting sport, and the spirit of sport among countries.

Photo by PAO Staff



On the 14 Jul 21 COM KFOR, MG Federici presided over the CoC ceremony for RC-W, held at Camp Villaggio Italia. Colonel Francesco Maioriello, out-going commander for RC-W transferred command authority to Colonel Andrea Bertazzo, the new commander for RC-W.

Photo by PAO Staff



I KNOW IT WHEN I SEE IT



Team KFOR, another busy month has passed, as usual, and here I am again addressing you from the pages of our Chronicle. In the last couple of weeks we have seen the Transfer of Authority in our two Regional Commands (RC). I don't have anything to add to what Major General Federici has already expressed about the outgoing Commanders, Colonel Adams and Colonel Maioriello, and their accomplishments. I want to acknowledge the outstanding support that I've received from CSM Strasser and CSM Grosso, RC-E, and RC-W CSMs, respectively. I am grateful for their mentorship and friendship. As the new Command Teams are beginning their journey in KFOR, I would like to give some thoughts on the true meaning of leadership. If you look in any reliable dictionary in the world, you will find a statement such as "the capacity to lead."

Well, the definition might be linguistically correct, but it's also utterly useless in our quest. The truth is, and I'm stealing this from a famous General Officer, that "I don't know what it is, but I recognise it when I see it." Leadership is so hard to define as it happens in the human domain; it's even harder to pinpoint the characteristics of successful leadership. That

being said, Team KFOR, while not providing you with the perfect definition, I want you to know that I certainly see it when I circulate our AO. The strength of our formations lies in the ability to build trustful relationships. I'm convinced that when people have to choose leaders, they don't look at their level of competency, but instead to the soundness of their character. We're not a perfect organisation (and indeed, there is no such thing as a perfect organisation), but I know for a fact that we have incredible leaders and loyal followers in our ranks. We have to be aware of our limits and strive to get better each day, as COM KFOR continuously exhorts. We also must bear in mind that the most powerful weapon in our arsenal is not an object, but the intangible yet mighty network of relationships that we can create. Team KFOR, thank you for what you do every day, and don't forget, we will only be successful if we progress as one!

Andrea TORRE
OR-9, ITA-A
CSM

KFOR XXV YEARBOOK HAVE YOUR SAY!



Annually a KFOR yearbook is produced at the end of each rotation of COMKFOR to capture and record the main images events that took place during that period; this yearbook will be produced for KFOR XXV in Oct 21.

The theme of this year's book is – "KFOR XXV in 25 words" and we would like to invite you to submit the words that you feel best represent your experience of KFOR XXV. These should be individual words that you feel best describes what KFOR XXV has stood for during this time. Feel free to submit more than one word when you send it into us, and if you like you can also send in photos from KFOR XXV that you feel best represents this word also.

This is an excellent opportunity for you to have a meaningful input into the book that will document and record the experiences of KFOR XXV for all. These words and photos will ultimately create the spine that will be the yearbook for this rotation.

Please send your submission to kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int by the 20th Aug 21 and keep an eye out for your submission in the yearbook when it comes out in Oct 21.

Looking forward to seeing what you come up with.

Photo of the Month



Camp Film City

Photo: Lazzaro CUTRONE
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PAO