



the CHRONICLE

KFOR's Magazine

February 2023



CONTENT

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 3 | <i>Letter from the Editor</i> | 18 | <i>Interreligious Meeting in Camp Film City</i> |
| 4 | <i>Multilingualism</i> | 19 | <i>Earthquake Appeal</i> |
| 8 | <i>Military Working Dogs</i> | 20 | <i>Book Review: Out of the Mountains – David Kilcullen</i> |
| 10 | <i>HOTO in RC-W</i> | 21 | <i>CSM Corner</i> |
| 12 | <i>How to Protect Yourself from Cyber Threats</i> | 22 | <i>Snapshots</i> |
| 14 | <i>EOD in KFOR</i> | 24 | <i>Photo of the Month</i> |
| 16 | <i>The Importance of CIMIC in an Operational Environment</i> | | |

Commander KFOR XXVII
OF-7
Angelo Michele RISTUCCIA
Italian Army

Chief Public Affairs Office &
COMKFOR Spokesperson
OF-5 Andrea GALLIENI
Italian Army

Chief Internal Information &
Editor the Chronicle
OF-3 Michael BRENNOCK
Irish Defence Forces
kforhqpaointernalinfo
@hq.kfor.nato.int

Design & Layout
Mr. Afrim HAJRULLAHU

Photographer
Daniel PACIARELLI
&
Antonio RUSSO
OR-4
Italian Army

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

Printed by “Europrint”

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.

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, Turkiye, United Kingdom, United States.

Non-NATO (7) Nations; Armenia, Austria, Finland, Ireland, Moldova, Sweden, Switzerland,

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.

Dear reader,

Welcome to February's edition of the Chronicle. The photograph on the front cover comes from OR-3 Roberto Yaya and depicts RC-W personnel carrying out a recent training activity on snowy terrain in the territory of Böge, Rugova Valley in Western Kosovo.

In this month's edition of the chronicle OR- 7 Herschel TALLEY interviews personnel from RC-E and describes the stories of those who can speak additional languages, how they learned it, and the benefits that can be provided in an operational environment.

OR-6 Anna PONGO, interviews U.S. Army Spc. Richard D'ornellas, of the 100th Military Police Canine Detachment and discusses the relationship between a handler and his military working dog Ddunn while also giving an insight into the training involved and what makes a successful team.

OF-2 Enrico DI MARCO of RC-W discusses the recent HOTO in RC-W and gives us an insight into the history, missions and activities of the 9th Alpini Regiment.

OF-2 Ahmet DUZENCI outlines seven practical steps on how to protect yourself from Cyber Threats while also detailing best practices to further limit the risks while operating online.

LTC Ciprian ANDRICA (Retd), KFOR Chief Explosive Threat Management, outlines the current explosive threat in Kosovo, discusses mitigation of the threat while explaining the Kosovo EOD response system.

The S3 Office of the MSU detail the importance of CIMIC in an operational environment and provide examples of the outstanding work and cooperation that has occurred within theatre.

OF-1 Antonio DI SAVINO, KFOR Chaplain discusses the recent Interreligious meeting between the that was held in Camp Film City so that common points of reference could be found to ensure interreligious dialogue and promote the role of religious leaders in strengthening peace.

In the book review segment we review 'Out of the Mountains: The Coming of Age of the Urban Guerilla' by David Kilcullen.

We really hope you enjoy reading this month's edition of the Chronicle.

***Sincerely,
Your KFOR HQ PAO Team.***



DISCOVERING THE WORLD THROUGH LANGUAGE



1st Lt. Aivaras Barkaitis poses with a Lithuanian flag while deployed in Kosovo, Feb. 9, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Herschel Talley)

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 21 percent of people in the United States of America speak another language, other than English, at home. While 78 percent of Americans speak only one language, this can make things difficult for them abroad. The stories of those who can speak additional languages, and how they learned it, can often be as interesting as the language itself.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Aivaras Bartkaitis is a Medical Operations Officer with the 2nd Battalion, 151st Infantry Regiment, 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team (IBCT), Indiana Army National Guard and was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The son of Lithuanian immigrants, his parents had a hard time raising him and his siblings due to their financial situation. Bartkaitis, his brother and sister were sent to Lithuania to live with their grandparents and godparents. When he turned 16, Bartkaitis and his siblings returned to the United States and finished high school before enrolling in college and the Army National Guard. Bartkaitis says he speaks fluent

Lithuanian and English, but also grew up knowing Russian as well. "In Lithuania, the Russian language is very common as well," Bartkaitis said. "I want to say I'm fluent in Russian; I would say I understand it and can speak it to a fourth-grade level, because I'm struggling to keep up that language skill."

Russian was a required language for all the Soviet States and was a secondary language of Lithuania, when it was part of the Soviet Union after World War II. "They [Lithuania] had a very historical event called the Russification," Bartkaitis said. Russification began under the Tsars, or Russian emperors, in the late eighteenth century and continued until the collapse of the Soviet Union, December 26, 1991. The Russification was a form of cultural assimilation in which non-Russians, whether voluntarily or involuntarily, gave up their culture and language in favor of Russian culture and language. "The language is a very sacred part of Lithuanian culture because we had to deal with the whole situation of Russia trying to get rid of our language and having to do underground schools, books, smuggling and all that

LANGUAGES: DEPLOYED SOLDIERS' STORIES

to keep the language alive," said Bartkaitis.

Bartkaitis said although the Soviet Union collapsed at the end of 1991, many of his relatives still spoke Russian and it was used in many TV shows and books. He added that it became a second language that was offered in schools, but was not mandatory. "I just picked it up from being around relatives and talking to other people," Bartkaitis said. Bartkaitis noted the similarities between his picking up of Russian and the Soldiers he is currently serving with in Kosovo, learning Albanian. "It was kind of the same situation especially when you went into a restaurant. They would have Lithuanian written and Russian written right underneath, or the street signs would have Lithuanian written on top and Russian beneath it, so it was a very quick way to pick up things," Bartkaitis said.

Cultural immersion is another way to learn a language. When a person is engaged in a culture, they have the opportunities to pick up the language and understand it. Bartkaitis said a lot of the culture comes from slang or humor, and is a direct reflection of the area. "When you know the language, you understand more of the culture; where the language came from and the culture puts you in a better perspective [to learn] how people live in a different part of the world," said Bartkaitis.

U.S. Army Sgt. Logan Babcock agreed that cultural immersion is a great way to learn another language. A Soldier with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 76th IBCT, Indiana Army National Guard, deployed to Kosovo, Babcock studied at Indiana University and enrolled in the Turkish Flagship program. This program was different from most because the students would meet with a native speaker twice a week, conduct one-on-one conversations and the speaker would also help them study. He also said the students would do language immersion trips within Indiana and speak in Turkish throughout the weekend with the native speakers. "I also did a summer and two semesters abroad at Baku Language University, in Baku, Azerbaijan," Babcock said. Traveling to Azerbaijan, Babcock continued his program there. He still stayed with families who were from Turkey, but lived and worked in Azerbaijan. "It was a unique challenge of not only trying to learn Turkish abroad, but also trying to learn Turkish in a country where Turkish isn't necessarily the dominant language," Babcock said. Babcock was drawn to learning Turkish and had always associated it with the Ottoman Empire being the bridge between the East

and West in Asia and Europe. He also said the Turkish language uses the Latin alphabet, which was an attractive feature of the language. Babcock has used his Turkish language in Kosovo during a trip to the city, Prizren. Turkish is also one of the minor languages of Kosovo and Babcock had several conversations in Turkish with some of the locals.

"I think they expected that we would all speak English to them, so it was cool I could talk to them in Turkish," Babcock said. Kosovo Force hosts a contingency of Turkish Soldiers and Babcock used that as an opportunity to practice his additional skill. "I've been able to interact with the groups of Turks who work with us, as part of our Kosovo mission," Babcock said. He said the Turkish Soldiers are often taken aback at his ability to speak Turkish with them. "It's a less studied language throughout the globe, so it's very surprising when they [Turkish Soldiers] find somebody able to speak it," Babcock said.

While Bartkaitis and Babcock have both learned their languages through immersion into the culture by living in the countries, U.S. Army Spc. Joshua Steelman took a different path. Steelman joined the Indiana Army National Guard in 2020, and now serves with the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 76th IBCT, deployed to Kosovo. Prior to leaving for basic training, Steelman had the opportunity to take the Defense Language Aptitude Battery, which evaluates how well a native English speaker can learn a new language. Questions on the test range from selecting words that have different sounds and applying basic grammar rules to made-up words. Based on their results, applicants are divided into four categories by difficulty to learn. Steelman's scores placed him in the Category III language: Farsi. Category I is considered the easiest and shortest course at 30 weeks. It has six languages including Spanish, Italian and French; while Category II has four languages including German, Romanian, and Indonesian. Category III is the largest category, having 28 languages including Polish, Ukrainian, Russian and Farsi, which are learned over 48 weeks. Category IV is the highest level, with languages like Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and Pashto, requiring 63 weeks of learning. After basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., Steelman was sent to the Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center in Monterey, Calif. for 48 weeks to learn Farsi. "It was intense," Steelman said, when asked what the training was like. "It was eight hours a day of learning the language with teachers, in the classroom setting and then, in addition to that, we had two hours of



Spc. Joshua Steelman reads his Farsi Bible while deployed in Kosovo, Feb. 8, 2023 (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Herschel Talley)

homework, so it was a very intensive study of that one language.” Steelman said the course started with sound and script for the first two weeks, learning the alphabet, the sounds of the language and how to write the script. He said even in the beginning, the students were required to learn 30 new words a day. After the first two weeks, the students went topic by topic beginning with family, food, places of interest. “There was speaking practice at the end of the day where we participated in made-up scenarios,” Steelman said.

“Through two thirds of the course, one hour each day was dedicated to a new grammar point and towards the end, the topics got a little more complex, like with economics and politics. At the very end [of the course], it was just studying what we felt we needed to work on the most.” Despite being deployed in Kosovo, Steelman still keeps up with this Farsi however he can. “I have a Farsi Bible that I read sometimes,” Steelman said. “I listen to the Farsi BBC, and YouTube and there’s some Farsi podcasts and talk shows that I watch.”

Keeping up on a language can be a matter of necessity for individuals with family who speak

another language, or, in the case of U.S. Army Spc. Tristan Reed, can’t speak at all. Reed is a Combat Engineer, and also a member of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 76th IBCT, Indiana Army National Guard, deployed to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. He grew up with an aunt who was fluent in American Sign Language (ASL) because her parents were deaf. “I would always go and hang out with them almost every other weekend or every weekend and it just intrigued me to learn more about sign language,” Reed said. Reed attended high school in Indianapolis, Ind. and needed to take an elective foreign language class to get his core 40 honors. He decided to take sign language due to the new teacher actually being deaf. Reed said he saw this as an opportunity to learn more and be able to surprise his aunt with his knowledge. “I was very intrigued on learning how it all worked and just learning more about sign language,” Reed said, as he knew nothing of the culture prior to the class. As with learning any new language, the class started with the alphabet and greetings, before moving on to presentations on signing and getting hands-on practice. Reed said every year the class would



Spc. Tristan Reed (left) shows Spc. Connor Templeton (right) how to spell his name in American Sign Language, in Kosovo, Feb. 25, 2023. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Herschel Talley)

put on a concert in sign language during Christmas time. "I remember my junior year, we did 'Jingle Bell Rock' in sign language and her [the teacher] entire deaf community came out as we sang and signed," said Reed. Reed still used his skills outside of school when he worked in the local hospital's cafeteria. He said the nurses knew he could sign and would ask him to help communicate with patients. "Most nurses would know another language or they would have some type of translator, but they had no one for sign language," Reed said. In ASL, knowing the culture and the nuances is critical. Reed said he learned a lot of signing is using your expression and body language when speaking, if you want to be understood. "The simple fact is when you 'speak' in sign language, you have to use expressions and emotions, otherwise the context is lost," Reed said.

Reed, along with Bartkaitis, Babcock and Steelman, all agree that knowing a second language is invaluable. While being able to communicate in another language is useful, it is the understanding and appreciation of another culture that makes the struggle to learn

worthwhile. "It gives us a different perspective of life overall," Bartkaitis said. He said he knows it's no easy task to learn another language, but with each language a person learns, the more about the culture they can understand. Steelman said knowing another language helps expand your horizons and understand different views. "I think it also provides a deeper look into other cultures," Steelman said. "I learned a lot about its [Farsi's] people, about how they view the world, their perspective on everything, and I think the language really helps with that."

Herschel TALLEY,
OR-7
111th Public Affairs Detachment,
Nebraska National Guard

FROM FEAR TO LOVE: A MILITARY



"The relationship between a military working dog and a military dog handler is about as close as a man and a dog can become. You see this loyalty, the devotion; unlike any other." – Robert Crais, #1 New York Times–bestselling author. Ddunn, a patrol and explosive detector Dutch Shepherd, was born in Texas at Lackland Air Force Base where he was raised to serve and protect. Ddunn and his handler, U.S. Army Spc. Richard D'ornellas, 100th Military Police Canine Detachment out of Stuttgart, Germany, work hard to ensure the safety of everyone inside the entry-point gate at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.

D'ornellas and Ddunn have been working together for nine months. In that time, life changed greatly for Ddunn. This is 6-year-old Ddunn's second deployment to Camp Bondsteel. Like on his last, his job on this tour is to search for explosives on the vehicles that come through the gate. But something is different from last time. "Ddunn was a different type of dog on his last deployment to Kosovo," said D'ornellas. "He wasn't very friendly with people, very aggressive. This deployment, people (who guard the gate) remember him. And they've given me a 'good job' for making him nicer." With his past handlers, love wasn't the focus in his training. Compulsion training didn't work for him and it had made him afraid and hostile. According to Whole Dog Journal, "the primary tool for compulsion trainers is positive punishment (the dog's behavior makes something bad happen, like a jerk on the leash), often followed by a treat, a pat, and or verbal praise to keep up the dog's enthusiasm for the training process."

For some dogs this works, but not for Ddunn. "I met Ddunn when he was at a different kennel," said D'ornellas. "He wasn't being touched. He wasn't being used. He was really aggressive. Nobody wanted to get inside his kennel." After hearing about Ddunn and his personality challenges, D'ornellas drove to the kennel that was two hours away. He was told 'You can take this dog if he lets you in his kennel.' "So I opened up his kennel and he showed his teeth," explained D'ornellas. "And I just sat there and waited till he stopped, which took another couple hours. I was there all day waiting for him to just be normal. Did we get into a little rough spot a couple times? Yes.

But it was definitely worth it and now he's the best dog I've ever had." When D'ornellas, a Tampa, Fla. native, joined the military in 2016, he had a few options for his job, or Military Occupational Speciality (MOS). After thinking about military police or firefighter, D'ornellas chose Army military working dog handler (MOS 31K) because it meant he would be able to work with dogs and give them the love and care they deserve. "My favorite thing about this job is definitely the dogs," said D'ornellas. "I am a dog person, and understand, especially his case, he didn't have the best of handlers." With each passing day of the deployment together, Ddunn has the opportunity to feel more secure in his relationship with his handler, and in his own skills as a highly proficient explosives detector. On their days off, the two of them are constantly training. "We train as we fight," said D'ornellas. "So on the training lanes, we hide explosives exactly how someone would if they were trying to cause damage.

MILITARY WORKING DOG'S STORY



We search roadways, warehouses, vehicles and open areas. Basically anywhere a dog can go."

This training serves to enhance the initial training that military working dog handlers receive at their Advanced Individual Training (AIT). "From the schoolhouse you only learn the basics," said D'ornellas. "So you have to learn from the other handlers and basically become your own handler." By understanding what works best for him as a handler, D'ornellas was able to better understand how he wanted to train each dog he worked with. Through his last seven years in the Army, he has served with four dogs. "When you get your new dog, you give them no commands, no nothing," said D'ornellas. "You let them be a dog, just let them run around. You sit in the middle of the yard and wait until the dog comes to you. Just so he knows 'hey, this person is always going to be there to take care of me and play with me.'"

Even when they are hard at work, Ddunn gets to see his deployment as an adventure. "A lot of these dogs see what the job is, and it's playtime for them," explained D'ornellas. "They're looking for a reward, they're looking to play." Between getting to enjoy his job of ensuring the lives of the Soldiers around him are safe, and finally receiving the love that he needed, Ddunn has formed a bond with D'ornellas that will last far beyond Camp Bondsteel. "When it came to loving him, it was brand new to him," said D'ornellas. "But now he isn't just being used for his job; he is wanted."

*Anna PONGO,
OR-6*

*111th Public Affairs Detachment,
Nebraska Army National Guard.*



On 24 January 2023, in Camp Villaggio Italia, Colonel Mario BOZZI, Commander of the 9th Alpini Regiment, following the Ceremony for the change of the Italian contingent, assumed the Command of the Regional Command - West of KFOR. The 9th Alpine Regiment is a light mountain infantry unit, part of the "Taurinense" Alpine Brigade, belonging to the Alpine Troops Command of the Italian Army. In Italy it is based in the city of L'Aquila, located in the central part of the peninsula. The Regiment was born in Gorizia in December 1920, in the "Vittoria" barracks where, subsequently, on 1 July 1921 it was granted the War Flag.

The "Vicenza", "Bassano", "Feltre", "Cividale" Battalions were assigned to form the new Regiment and in 1935 the "L'Aquila" Alpini Battalion, heir to the "Monte Berico" Battalion, dissolved after the First World War. The MMIT became part of the "Julia" Alpine Division, with which it operated until its disbandment in 1943. During the Second World War, the 9th Alpine Regiment participated in the Greece - Albania Campaign (1940 - 1941) and subsequently in the Russian Campaign

(1942 - 1943), where in the locality of Selenyj Jar, in the middle of the vast Russian steppe, the Alpini of the 9th Regiment were the protagonist of one of the most heroic pages of modern military history. In both Campaigns the Regiment was decorated with the Gold Medal for Military Valor for the exceptional courage shown by its Alpini.

In 1944 the "Abruzzi" Alpini battalion was formed to participate in the War of Liberation and in September of the same year it became the "L'Aquila" Alpini Battalion again in Edolo. In 1946 it joined the 8th Alpine Regiment of the "Julia" Alpine Brigade at the headquarters of Tarvisio, in north-eastern Italy, where it remained until 1 September 1975, when it was transferred and welcomed with great enthusiasm in the city of L'Aquila there, in 1991, the 9th Alpine Regiment was reconstituted, to then pass in 1997 from the "Julia" Alpine Brigade to the "Taurinense" Alpine Brigade.

In the last 30 years, the 9th Alpini Regiment has participated in 13 foreign missions. The first in 1993 in Mozambique under the auspices of the United

n RC-W



Nations (UNOMOS). Followed in 1991 by that in Bosnia - Herzegovina (SFOR), those between 1999 and 2001 in Albania (AFOR) and Kosovo (KFOR). The Regiment was the protagonist for six shifts with NATO in Afghanistan (ISAF), the last of which dates back to 2012. In 2015 the unit was deployed in Lebanon (UNIFIL), subsequently, in 2017 in Libya (MIASIT) and in 2018 to strengthen the eastern flank of the Euro-Atlantic area in Latvia (BALTIC GUARDIAN).

In addition to the missions in foreign operational theaters, there are also the operations carried out on the national territory, among which those of 2009 and 2016 must be numbered, called respectively "Gran Sasso", "Sabina" and "Giotto", taken immediately after the earthquake of L'Aquila and Central Italy. Currently, in addition to the lead in RC - W of KFOR, part of the Regiment is engaged in Operation "Safe Roads" respectively in the cities of Rome, Milan and Turin.

The 9th Alpini Regiment is a peculiar and unique reality within the Italian Army, as it incorporates two

dimensions, the classic one with the manoeuvre unit expressed by the "L'Aquila" Battalion and the other that of the Battalion "Vicenza", multifunctional unit with the specific task of supporting the population in the event of a natural disaster, reconstituted in 2017. In the recent past, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the 9th Alpine Regiment contributed to the organisation of the vaccination hubs and, in parallel, detached its health teams, thanks to which it was possible to reach and immunize the smallest municipalities in central Italy.

The War Flag of the 9th Alpine Regiment, currently kept in the Commander's Office of RC - W, is the most decorated flag of the Alpine Troops of the Italian Army.

Enrico DI MARCO
OF-2
ITA
RC-W

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM C



In today's digital age, cybersecurity has become more critical than ever. With the increase in the number of internet users, cyber threats have also increased exponentially. Cybersecurity threats can range from phishing attacks, identity theft, malware attacks, and data breaches, among others. These threats can be damaging not only to businesses and governments but also to individuals.

Cybercriminals use a variety of tactics to steal sensitive information and compromise users' privacy. However, there are steps that users can take to protect themselves from cyber threats. In this guide, we'll explore some of the most effective ways to improve your cybersecurity awareness and behavior, but first, it is necessary to understand why the human factor is the weakest link in IT security.

The Human Factor: The Weakest Link in IT Security

Despite the many technological advancements in cybersecurity, the human factor remains the weakest link in IT security. Cybercriminals often use social engineering tactics to trick users into revealing sensitive information or downloading malware. For example, a phishing email that appears to be from a trusted source may ask users to click on a link that leads to a fake login page, where users unwittingly enter their login credentials, giving cybercriminals

access to their accounts.

To address this weakness, it's important to educate users about the risks and how to avoid them. This includes training on how to identify phishing emails and other types of social engineering attacks, as well as the importance of using strong passwords, enabling two-factor authentication, keeping software up-to-date, and being cautious when using public Wi-Fi.

7 Tips for Protecting Yourself from Cyber Threats

1. **Educate Yourself:** One of the most important steps you can take to protect yourself from cyber threats is to educate yourself about the risks. Learn about common cyber threats, such as phishing scams and malware, and how to avoid them. You can find a wealth of information online, including articles, videos, and online courses.

2. **Use Strong Passwords:** Passwords are the first line of defense against cyber threats, so it's important to use strong passwords that are difficult to guess. Use a combination of uppercase and lowercase letters, numbers, and symbols. Avoid using personal information, such as your name or birthdate, in your passwords.

3. **Enable Two-Factor Authentication:** Two-factor authentication is a security feature that requires users to enter a code or provide additional information in

CYBER THREATS: A GUIDE FOR USERS



addition to their password to access their accounts. Enabling two-factor authentication adds an extra layer of security and makes it more difficult for cybercriminals to gain access to your accounts.

4. **Keep Software Up-to-Date:** Cybercriminals often target outdated software that contains vulnerabilities that can be exploited. To protect yourself from these threats, keep your software up-to-date. Enable automatic updates for your operating system, web browser, and other software applications.

5. **Be Cautious When Using Public Wi-Fi:** Public Wi-Fi is often unsecured, which means that cybercriminals can intercept your internet traffic and steal your information. Avoid using public Wi-Fi to access sensitive information such as online banking. If you must use public Wi-Fi, use a virtual private network (VPN) to encrypt your internet traffic.

6. **Use Antivirus Software:** Antivirus software can help detect and remove malware from your device. Install reputable antivirus software and keep it up-to-date to protect yourself from the latest threats.

7. **Report Suspicious Activity:** If you notice any suspicious activity, such as phishing emails or suspicious login attempts, report it to the relevant authorities. Reporting suspicious activity can help prevent cyber attacks and protect other users.

In addition to these tips, there are several other best practices you can follow to protect yourself from cyber threats:

- Use different passwords for each of your accounts. If one password is compromised, it won't affect your

other accounts.

- Be wary of downloading attachments or clicking on links from unknown sources.
- Use a password manager to securely store and manage your passwords.
- Avoid sharing sensitive information online.

Conclusion

In conclusion, cybersecurity awareness is essential for all internet users. The human factor remains the weakest link in IT security, and improving cybersecurity awareness and behavior is essential to address this weakness. Educating users, using strong passwords, enabling two-factor authentication, keeping software up-to-date, being cautious when using public Wi-Fi, using antivirus software, and reporting suspicious activity are all steps that users can take to improve their cybersecurity awareness and reduce the risk of falling victim to cyber threats. While it may seem daunting, improving cybersecurity awareness is possible with the right self-training, tools, and mindset. By taking proactive steps to improve your cybersecurity awareness and behavior, you can help prevent cyber threats and protect yourself and others from the damaging consequences of cyber attacks.

Ahmet DUZENCI,
OF-2
TUR
PAO

NIHIL SIN



THE EXPLOSIVE THREAT IN KOSOVO. AN UPDATE.

After more than two decades since the armed conflict in Kosovo ended, the Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) are still present in the form of land mines and Unexploded Explosive Ordnance (UXO) which include the Bomb Live Units (BLUs) from Cluster Bombs Units (CBUs) and other types of Abandoned Explosive Ordnance (AXO). Thanks to the permanent effort of local and international agencies qualified on fighting the ERW threat, since 1999 the number of areas contaminated with mines and UXOs decreased from more than 3520 to no more than 70.

In addition to ERW, the safe and secure environment in Kosovo is threatened by hostile or crime related use of conventional explosive ordnance as hand grenades or improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Explosives are never safe, but this can change. It is being assessed that the presence of Potential Explosion Sites (PES) generated by the legal storage and use of explosives by military, security and civil organizations Kosovo wide generate both safety and security risks which must be firmly and permanently addressed and mitigated.

MITIGATING THE EXPLOSIVE THREAT.

During the last two decades, international presence, with strong and consistent KFOR support and in close cooperation and coordination with Institutions in Kosovo (IiK), has managed to set adequate mechanisms for controlling the environment in which

explosives can be encountered and the mitigation of the threat. The list of mechanisms and activities aimed at increasing the level of safety and security in relation to the explosive threat and in which KFOR has an important role are depicted below.

Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA) or Humanitarian Demining (HD). The Kosovo Mine Action Centre (KMAC) from the Ministry of Defence is responsible for planning, controlling and directing the activity of HD governmental and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The governmental HD organization is the Demining Coy of the Kosovo Security Force (KSF) while HD NGOs operating in Kosovo are the world wide renowned HALO Trust with premises in DAKOVICA/GJAKOVA, and Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) from MITROVICA. HALO Trust is a non-government organisation primarily working to clear landmines and other explosive devices left behind by conflict. MAT-Kosovo Training Centre located in PEJA/PEC is a private entity delivering personnel qualification and training according to International Mine Action Standards. While KSF runs its own HD tasks and provides technical assistance to HALO Trust, KFOR provides technical assistance in terms of the disposal of found UXO with its own EOD Teams for NPA. During 2022 KSF has managed to clear a surface of 1,197,830 square meters and neutralised 2605 mines and UXOs. HALO Trust and NPA have cleared a surface of 1,286,391 square metres containing 216

NE... EOD



ERW.

Kosovo EOD Response System. The primary responders for EOD incidents or “calls” in support of the local population and institutions are the Kosovo Police (KP) and KSF. While KP with its local agents and its own IED Disposal (IEDD) Unit intervene for EOD incidents connected with crime related cases, KSF use their own EOD teams for EOD incidents related to the presence of ERW in civil areas. KFOR EOD intervene with their own EOD Teams for own troops and mission’s Force Protection (FP) and as 2nd responder in support of KP or KSF. Having considered both own roles or mandate and capabilities, during the last number of years KFOR EOD Teams solved 10% of the reported EOD Incidents, most of them in Northern Kosovo, with KP IEDD Unit solving 20% while KSF EOD Teams solved the remaining 70%.

Monitoring the Civil Use of Explosives. Supervision of explosives use in Kosovo falls under the responsibility of the Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals (ICMM) and the Department for Public Safety (DPS) from Ministry of Internal Affairs (MoIA). COM KFOR through JENG Chief Explosive Threat Management (ETM) provides consent for any explosives importation or transfer. Joint inspections of any PES are regularly planned and executed by ICMM and DPS/MoIA inspectors with KFOR ETM section members and KFOR EOD Teams. All these measures are set for ensuring a civil use of explosives

in a safe and secure manner. As a result of this mechanism functioning, no major incidents with civil explosives or uncontrolled detonations occurred in Kosovo during the last decade.

KFOR’s EOD.

An inherent part of the force, KFOR EOD units provide the unique capabilities and capacities which enable mobility and force protection. These capabilities include Explosive Ordnance (EO) identification, Conventional Munition Disposal (CMD) including the disposal of KFOR expired ammo, and Improvised Explosive Device Disposal (IEDD), etc. When required, KFOR EOD provide also support to local similar organizations.

Under JENG Chief ETM coordination, EOD units from Austria (AUT), Finland (FIN), Italy (ITA), Moldova (MDA), Switzerland (CHE), and United States of America (USA) perform detecting, identifying, conducting on-site evaluation, rendering safe, exploiting and the final disposal of all explosive ordnance which by their presence negatively impact the safe and secure environment and freedom of movement.

LTC Ciprian “Chip” ANDRICA (Retd),
MCIV-7

KFOR Chief Explosive Threat Management

THE IMPORTANCE OF CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION ACTIVITIES TO



The main purpose of Civil-Military Cooperation is to contribute to the achievement of civilian objectives in all fields (justice, culture, economy, social, security, etc.) in order to favor the reconstruction of the socio-economic structure in the area of crisis. It is an integral part of all crisis management processes and its role is especially significant during the initial stages, when Civil Organizations are not yet able to meet the multiple needs of local and regional populations and institutions. In particular, CIMIC constitutes the interface between the civilian environment and the military component in the Theater of Operation mainly through the performance of delicate functions of connection between the two aforementioned components and concrete support to the population. The activity of the CiMiC (Civil Military Cooperation) team of Carabinieri MSU Regiment in Pristina is a significant reality that brings relief and help to the population regardless of religious belief, political ideology or ethnicity. On a daily basis, the M.S.U. makes donations to families and communities that need special attention. In almost two months, from January 2023, the aid and closeness activities by the CiMiC of the Carabinieri have supported 26 families and various local associations.

To better explain the role of MSU CIMIC in Kosovo I

would like to highlight some of the main projects that MSU personnel have conducted in the last months.

In this context, on the morning of 26 September 2022, an important donation was made in Vushtrri in a village in the locality of Balinc in favor of a Kosovar family made up of parents and 6 children, three girls (16,15,11 years old) and three boys (9,7,4 years). At the moment the family is in a serious situation of economic hardship as none of the parents has a stable job. For these reasons, the CiMiC of the Regiment, after having identified and investigated the situation of objective difficulty, has donated to the parents and to the children of Balinc items such as food, clothing, toys and personal hygiene materials, succeeding in receiving an affectionate hug from the children.

An important facet of the support given to the population materialized on 14 October 2022 with the re-building project of a house in Jagoda (Klinë). Thanks to a charity event organized by MSU, whose proceeds had been allocated to the relief of the needy population, it was possible to raise money to re-build the roof of a house in Jagoda, Municipality of Kline, inhabited by an Albanian family (a grandmother and her 10-and-11-year-old grandchildren). In that occasion children have been assured of a new bedroom; the house has been equipped with a new

CIMIC OPERATIONS AND THE MISSION



stove and more efficient fixtures. The motto "Giving Dreams a Roof", recaps the final goal of the project, helping the family on one side and, on the other, make them thrive in the present and in the future.

On 30 November 2022, in the afternoon, took place the urgent medical transport from Pristina to Naples of Irena, a two-month-old baby with serious health conditions. Thanks to KFOR organization and to the Italian Joint Operations Command, an Air Force aircraft was able to transport her little girl, accompanied by her mother, from the hospital in Pristina to the "Monaldi" in Naples, where a specialized team of doctors would take care of her. The Carabinieri of the M.S.U. Regiment, accepted the request for help from the mother for the very serious heart disease of the child who had not been able to receive the necessary treatment in Kosovo. Immediately following activation by the CI.MI.C. of the Regiment, it was possible to quickly finalize the generous collaboration offered by the "Monaldi" Hospital, recognized as a center of excellence for neonatal pathologies and by the "Poor Daughters of the Visitation of Mary" religious institute in Naples, which will host the baby's mother for the entire period of treatment.



These concrete and significant gestures help to consolidate the relationship of friendship, cooperation and solidarity between the Carabinieri of the NATO KFOR Mission and Kosovo. The aim of these activities is to increase the ability to provide essential services for the entire population with a criterion of equity and balance between all the ethnic groups present in the area in the Operative Theatre. On the basis of these principles, MSU Personnel in Kosovo, in addition to operating daily to monitor the area of responsibility to guarantee security and freedom of movement, contribute to supporting the growth of local realities.

To conclude I would like to underline another important human aspect, reporting the sentence of a MSU CIMIC Carabiniere: "We know we have made a positive, loving gesture of pure and genuine affection towards another person or family, we realize that this causes us great joy and satisfaction in life that makes us and others happy."

S3 Office,
MSU.

INTERRELIGIOUS MEETING IN CAMP FILM CITY



On Monday 13 February, in Camp Film City, the Commander of the NATO-led KFOR mission, Major General Angelo Michele Ristuccia, met with Catholic Bishop Dodë Gjergji, Orthodox Bishop Teodosije Šibalić and Grand Mufti Naim Tërnavë. The meeting was an important event that saw representatives of different religions gather to find common points of reference to ensure interreligious dialogue and promote the role of religious leaders in strengthening peace. The meeting conducted can hopefully be the start of a broader journey. Peace is threatened in so many ways. This is apparent throughout the world and is unpredictable with its consequences. Building dialogue and being aware of the diversity that unites is the challenge and the hope.

Several times, Major General Ristuccia stressed how important it is, at this time, to promote together the values of tolerance, respect and cooperation to ensure, especially for the youngest generation, a future of peace. Each religious leader, in an atmosphere of cordiality and sincerity, expressed his or her point of view and perspectives for this journey that puts the different religious faiths in a position to intercept the deepest needs of the human heart. From religions people expect answers to the great problems of life, but these answers must be synergic and communal. The fruitful dialogue between the parties showed how beautiful it is for each religious leader to share the same horizon of good to be at the service of the

same people.

Borrowing an expression from Pope Francis, we should speak of the 'conviviality of differences', that is, imagining and building a happy future with each other. Promoting therefore with other believers, in a fraternal and convivial way, the path of seeking God while considering people of other religions not abstractly, but concretely, with history, desires, wounds, and dreams. Conviviality unites us socially, without colonising the other and preserving their identity.

Let us start, then, from what unites us and naturally makes us all brothers: the figure of the patriarch Abraham and his faith in one God. All of this will also be supported by the military chaplains working in the KFOR area who, by meeting monthly and making contact with the various religious realities scattered throughout the territory, will undertake to spread this message shared by all.

The KFOR commander also emphasised KFOR's commitment to supporting peace, cooperation and progress for all people living in Kosovo, as stated in UN Security Council Resolution 1244 of 1999.

OF-1
Antonio DI SAVINO
KFOR CHAPLAIN

EARTHQUAKE APPEAL



On Monday 06 February 2023 at 0417 hrs local time, a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck southern Türkiye near the city of Gaziantep, thus devastating areas of Türkiye and Syria. The earthquake was subsequently followed by a series of powerful aftershocks. The earthquake struck with no warning signs while people were inside their homes with the majority asleep in their beds. Then at 1324 hrs local time, a second earthquake of 7.5 magnitude hit the Elbistan district around 80 miles north of Gaziantep. As of 21 February 2023 over 45,000 people have lost their lives, over 100,000 people have been injured and approximately 23 million people have been affected. Thousands of buildings including hospitals and schools have been destroyed with local infrastructure severely damaged. The Turkish Red Crescent (Kizilay) has launched a crisis response operation and mobilised teams in more than 10 regions across the country, while the Syrian Arab Red Crescent is delivering assistance and support to those in need in the regions of Hama, Aleppo and Lattakia. The earthquake opened two enormous fissures on Earth's surface, where the land split by up to seven metres in opposite directions over a span of hundreds of miles. More than 4,300 aftershocks have hit the disaster zone since the initial earthquake, complicating the rescue effort. A new 6.4-magnitude earthquake on 20 February 2023 killed three people and injured more than 200 others in parts of Turkey laid waste by the initial earthquake quake that has killed over 45,000 people. In Turkey alone, an estimated 1 million people are living in tents and temporary shelters, while at least 80,000 injured people are in hospital. In Syria, up to 5 million people may be homeless, many already internally displaced after fleeing the civil war.

Hans Kluge, the World Health Organization's Europe director, said relief workers were facing "the worst natural disaster in the region for a century", adding that 26 million people need assistance across both countries. The WHO launched the largest rescue operation of its kind in the organisation's 75-year history.

People have been left without shelter in freezing winter conditions and desperately need assistance through emergency shelter, food, clean water and blankets. Hopes of finding more survivors are extremely low, as officials turn to how to repair the devastation. The European Union's health agency has warned of the risk of disease outbreaks in the coming weeks. Days after the quakes, there are growing concerns over health issues linked to cold weather, hygiene and sanitation, and the spread of infectious diseases.

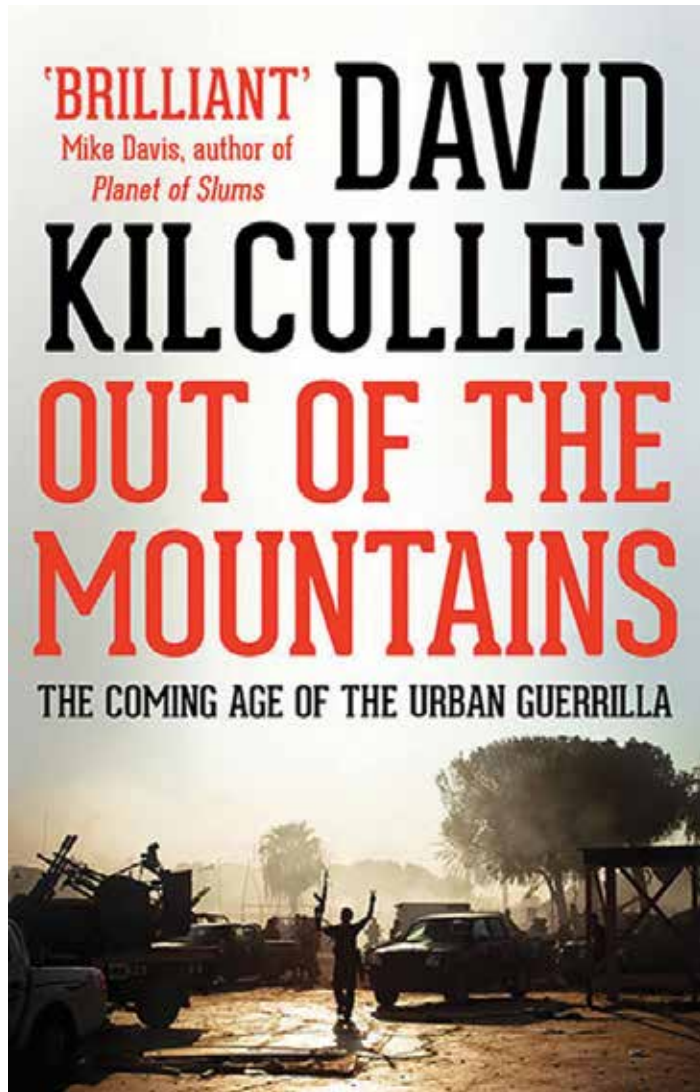
The Centre for Disease Prevention and Controls said that "food and water-borne diseases, respiratory infections and vaccine-preventable infections are a risk in the upcoming period, with the potential to cause outbreaks, particularly as survivors are moving to temporary shelters." "A surge of cholera cases in the affected areas is a significant possibility in the coming weeks," it said. The ECDC also warned of viral infections such as hepatitis A, parasites and bacterial infections that can all be spread by difficult hygiene conditions in emergency shelters and camps.

As stated people affected by the recent earthquakes will require substantial assistance in the coming weeks, months and years. It has been found appropriate by the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye to coordinate the assistance sent by personnel. Donations can be provided by following the link below.

<https://en.afad.gov.tr>

OUT OF THE MOUNTAINS: THE COMING OF AGE OF THE URBAN GUERRILLA

David Kilcullen



In his third book, David Kilcullen takes us out of the mountains: away from the remote, rural guerrilla warfare of Afghanistan, and into the marginalised slums and complex security threats of the world's coastal cities, where almost 75 per cent of us will be living by mid-century. Scrutinising major environmental trends - population growth, coastal urbanisation - and increasing digital connectivity he projects a future of feral cities, urban systems under stress, and increasing overlaps between crime and war, internal and external threats, and the real and virtual worlds. Informed by Kilcullen's own fieldwork in the Caribbean, Somalia, the Middle East and Afghanistan, and that of his field research teams in cities in Central America and Africa, *Out of the Mountains* presents detailed, on-the-ground accounts of the new faces of modern conflict from the 2008 Mumbai terrorist



attacks, to transnational drug networks, local street gangs, and the uprisings of the Arab Spring¹.

David John Kilcullen (born 1967) is an Australian author, strategist and counterinsurgency expert and is currently the non-executive Chairman of Caerus Associates, a strategy and design consulting firm that he founded. From 2005 to 2006, he was Chief Strategist in the Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism at the U.S. State Department. Kilcullen was a senior counter-insurgency advisor to General David Petraeus in 2007 and 2008, where he helped design and monitor the Iraq War troop surge. He was then a special advisor for counterinsurgency to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Kilcullen has been a Senior Fellow of the Center for a New American Security and an Adjunct Professor at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University. Highly critical of the decision to invade Iraq, he is on record as saying "There undeniably would be no ISIS if we had not invaded Iraq." Kilcullen has written four books: *The Accidental Guerrilla*, *Counterinsurgency*, *Out of the Mountains* and *Blood Year*². From <https://www.readings.com>

SOLDIER OF THE MONTH

OR 4 GIUSEPPE CARUSO (ITA-A)

Exceptionally skilled soldier coming from Italian Army - Driver of Role 1. During a regular duty outside of Camp Film City, he was faced with a road accident involving a car and bus. Immediately he decided to pull-over the ambulance and he administered care to a civilian man trapped in his overturned car. The man had a severe hemorrhage and for sure would have died if OR4 CARUSO had not stopped the bleeding from the left amputated arm.



NCO OF THE MONTH

OR6 MICHAEL AFFOLTER (SWISSCOY)

A proclaimed NCO of the month! Chef SWISS HOUSE, on his daily dedication to his guests, his love of good food and his flexibility, he quickly became known through CFC and beyond. He treats everyone at SWISS HOUSE like royalty. He is the perfect host and with his important work in the background contributes strongly to the morale of the soldiers in Camp Film City and all international contingents.





Latvian Soldiers from KFOR Regional Command-East, triage a mock burn victim during a mass casualty training event, at Camp Novo Selo, Kosovo.

U.S. Army photo Staff Sgt. Anna Pongo, 111th Public Affairs Detachment, Nebraska National Guard



Academics from Kosovo Universities of Pristina and Mitrovica and representatives of International Organisations recently met at the KFOR Headquarters in Camp Film City to intervene at the first Liaison Monitoring Teams (LMTs) Workshop. The aim of the conference was to improve LMT's skills in carrying out their duty in the operational environment.

Photo by: OR-4 Antonio RUSSO, PAO Branch.



The Irish Contingent recently organised a St. Valentines 5 kilometre run in Camp Film City in aid of the Ronald McDonald House Charity. The Ronald McDonald House Charity provides accommodation and a caring, supportive environment for families whose children are undergoing medical treatment.

Photo by: OR-4 Antonio RUSSO, PAO Branch.

RC-East soldiers trained the Kosovo Police Headquarters level medical team nurses at Camp Bondsteel. The training was on the roles of a nurse during polytrauma scenarios to better enhance their organic medical capabilities. The doctors practiced immediate lifesaving techniques including tourniquet application, nasopharyngeal tubes, needle chest decompression and intraosseous vascular insertion.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Anna Pongo, 111th Public Affairs Detachment, Nebraska National Guard



The Armenian Contingent recently conducted an exercise at Slatina Military Airport to test the force protection procedures and the readiness of its personnel.

Photo by: OR-4 Antonio RUSSO, PAO Branch.



RC-W recently conducted a training activity in the territory of Bogë, Rugova Valley. The activity saw personnel from different national contingents, training in mountain movement on snowy terrain which contributed to the increase in interoperability between contingents.

Photo by OR-3 Roberto Iaia, RC-W





Back Cover Photograph provided by OR-3 Roberto Iaia, RC-W