



the CHRONICLE

KFOR's Magazine

March 2023



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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.

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.

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Dear reader,

Welcome to March's edition of the Chronicle. The photograph on the front cover comes OR-6 Thomas OBERDORFER, PA NCO from AUTCON47 and depicts Austrian freefall jumps recently over Camp Novo Selo.

In this month's edition of the chronicle OF-3 Miranda ROHNER, Chief GENAD and MCIV-5 Elisabeth SCHLEICHER, PhD, Deputy GENAD detail two events in University of Pristina and in Camp Film City that were coordinated by and attended by KFOR personnel on International Women's Day on 08 March 2023.

OF-2 Harutyun HARUTYUNYAN explains the role of the Armenian Contingent in KFOR, describes the Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade and gives us an insight into Armenia's history with NATO and peacekeeping missions.

OF-2 Enrico DI MARCO of RC-W describes the operational activity of Patrolling the ABL.

Emina HYSENI SHALA, Radio Station Manager explains the history of K4 Radio and elaborates on the vital role that the radio station plays within the area.

OF-2 Mustafa YUCEER of J6 describes ransomware and explains the crucial role of backups while outlining steps to limit the risk involved with ransomware.

OR-4 Skyler SCHENDT of the 111th Public Affairs Detachment, Nebraska National Guard describes the duties and roles of the 720th Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Company from Camp Bondsteel and interviews personnel regarding their experiences to date as a member of an EOD team.

OF-2 Davide TEDESCO of Role 1 describes the recent collaboration between KFOR, the Nicola Ciardelli Onlus and Pisa hospital and the pediatric oncology department of the University Hospital of Pristina which aimed to increase the possibility to implant pediatric central and ports and venous catheters for the care of children suffering from leukaemia.

There are also featured articles explaining the role of both the JOC and J3 Air.

In the book review segment we review 'My Share of the Task: A Memoir of General Stanley McChrystal'. We really hope you enjoy reading this month's edition of the Chronicle.



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

INTERNATIONAL



On 8 March, COM KFOR, Major General Angelo Ristuccia, invited KFOR civilian and military female personnel for a reception at Camp Film City to mark International Women's Day. During his speech, Major General Ristuccia underscored that the presence of men and women within KFOR makes us more capable to achieve a safe and secure environment for everyone in Kosovo. Furthermore, he addressed the women at Camp Film City saying, "Whether you work as a team leader in the field, a staff officer in the headquarters, a doctor, or a member of one of our many valued support elements, your work does not go unnoticed".

What is the reason for having an International Women's Day?

Maj Miranda ROHNER, Chief GENAD states that International Women's Day is, at its core, a day that recognizes rebellion and uplifts radical demands for equality. The first women's protests took place back in 1857 in New York. Women employed in the textile industry staged a strike in the streets and publicly demonstrated against inhumane working conditions and low wages.

In March 1911, the tragic 'Triangle Fire' in New York City took the lives of more than 140 working women, most of them Italian and Jewish immigrants. This disastrous event drew significant attention to working conditions and labour legislation in the United States that became a focus of subsequent International Women's Day events. Since then,

International Women's Day has been observed all over the world as a special day. However, it is not just about celebrating women's achievements, it is also a day to remember that in many countries women face violence or discrimination.

How did KFOR mark this day?

MCIV-5 Elisabeth SCHLEICHER, Deputy GENAD stated that with women from many different countries and various cultural backgrounds working within KFOR, it can sometimes be tricky to find the right way to mark this special day. We are aware that not all women want to celebrate. Somewhere in the recent past the 8th of March has slipped into a merger of Mother's Day and Girls Night Out. However, International Women's Day is a political anniversary, remembering a tough history of women's struggles, protests and victories, first and foremost in the workplace.

Therefore, KFOR marked this day by COM KFOR inviting all female workers at Camp Film City to a reception to acknowledge their hard work. We did not want the 8th of March to lose its meaning and to be just another day of the year when one buys flowers for women. Our main purpose of marking this day was to respect the women, to appreciate their work, and to show gratitude for everything they do.

Flowers are sweet, but it is more important to sincerely salute and acknowledge all the civilian and military women who work towards KFOR's motto of "Shaping the Present for a Better Future."

WOMEN'S DAY



Based on a meeting between COM KFOR and the Rector of the University of Prishtina, Prof. Dr. Qerim Qerimi, the GENAD Office in close cooperation with the University of Prishtina organized a talk on women and their contribution to peace and security. This talk was held on the occasion of International Women's Day. Prof. Dr. Qerim Qerimi, in his introductory speech, stressed the importance of advocacy, engagement, and social responsibility for creating a progressive society that promotes gender equality. Prof. Asst. Dr. Remzie Shahini-Hoxhaj moderated the event stating that women in Kosovo continue to be underrepresented in decision-making positions and therefore continuous efforts on girls and women's empowerment is needed.

The panellists included 4 female KFOR soldiers – two from the U.S., one from Canada and one from Italy. Further speakers included Colonel Afërdita Mikullovc, Director of Regional Directorate Mitrovica South Kosovo Police Station and Major General Irfete Spahiu, General Inspector Kosovo Security Force. Irfete Spahiu, is the first female General in the Kosovo Security Force. All speakers spoke about their challenges when they started their careers in the security institutions. Major Wheaton-Sparkes from the Royal Canadian Air Force explained how much has changed from when she first enlisted 28 years ago. First Lieutenant Valdeta Mehanja, from the Alabama National Guard encouraged the audience to be the best version of themselves and to never

give up. The intent of this event was not just to celebrate International Women's Day, but to highlight the achievements of women in the security sector and to encourage the students of the University of Prishtina, particularly the female students, to pursue their educational and professional goals. In addition, the conference with the title "Women, Peace, and Security" was a commitment to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

In summary, security sectors that reflect the communities they serve are more likely to be accessible and more effective in establishing and maintaining peace and stability. By increasing the inclusion of women, we strengthen security and conflict prevention in a pragmatic way. This ultimately leads to more stable and sustainable security for all.

Miranda ROHNER,
OF-3
Chief GENAD

Elisabeth SCHLEICHER, PhD,
MCIV-5
Deputy GENAD

ROLE OF THE AR



The Armenian Contingent, part of the Multi-National Headquarter Support Group, performs a critical role for all members of KFOR. They secure the military APOD, ensuring that personnel and material continue to flow freely to where it is needed anywhere in Kosovo. This 24/7 duty is coordinated and performed by the Armenian Contingent. The sophisticated, multi-layered defensive structures in place deter any threat against KFOR's military airport by maintaining comprehensive physical security measures at the entrance and within/around the site. The Armenian Contingent operate a guard command post, multiple checkpoints, conduct gate security, secure APOD operational facilities, conduct mobile and static perimeter patrols and provide immediate reaction forces. They are aided in this task by the complex security camera system. Early in the deployment, the Armenian Contingent conducted an exercise at the Slatina military airport to test the force protection procedures, operational capabilities and

operational readiness of its personnel. The Contingent is drawn from the Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade (APB). The Peacekeeping Brigade is one of the special units of the Armenian Army with its role being to participate on peacekeeping missions abroad. The Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade participate in missions with NATO in Kosovo, and with UNIFIL in Lebanon. In February 2004, the first group of Armenian peacekeepers (consisting of 34 soldiers) deployed to Kosovo for six months. Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade units have been deployed in Afghanistan since 2010 and in Lebanon since 2015. Selected soldiers serve in the Armenian Peacekeeping Brigade for their whole careers and after missions return home and continue their duty in the same unit, ready to deploy to the next mission area. Therefore, the members of the APB are highly experienced peacekeepers. Training is a high priority for the APB and they participate in annual NATO Operational

ARMENIAN GUARD



Capabilities Concept assessments and evaluations by teams of international assessors.

Armenia has a long and proud history as a NATO partner nation. It contributes to NATO-led operations and cooperates with Allies and other partner countries in many other areas. A key priority for NATO has been to strengthen political dialogue and to provide focused advice and assistance in support of democratic, institutional and defence reform efforts in Armenia. Armenian relations with NATO started in 1992, when Armenia joined the North Atlantic Cooperation Council. The Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council succeeded this forum for dialogue in 1997. Bilateral cooperation began when Armenia joined the Partnership for Peace (PfP) program in 1994. Armenia is an active contributor to the NATO-led operation in Kosovo. Armenia has contributed troops to NATO's Kosovo Force (KFOR) since 2004. Armenia works with NATO's Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Center (EADRCC) to improve its

emergency preparedness and response capabilities, to deal with disasters and asymmetric threats, to improve contingency planning, and to contribute to International disaster relief operations. NATO and Armenia have also cooperated on the establishment of the Crisis Management National Centre in Yerevan. Since 1993, Armenia has engaged with NATO. Key areas for cooperation have included defence against chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear agents (CBRN), and disaster forecast and prevention. Armenia organizes an annual NATO Week to raise public awareness of NATO and Armenia's cooperation with the Alliance.

HARUTYUNYAN Harutyun
OF-2
ARM
HSG

PATROLLING



The KFOR Regional Command West, based on the 9th Alpine Regiment of the "Taurinense" Alpine Brigade, constantly conducts operational patrolling activities on the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL). The aim is to monitor the territory in its area of responsibility, in favor of the Kosovo Institutions. The area under the responsibility of RC - W is located north of the Municipality of Istog/Istok and spans for a total length of 16.75 kilometres. This is entirely in mountainous territory, at an average altitude of 1500 metres. In winter, the stretch is completely covered in snow and the activity must be carried out using special All Terrain BV vehicles. These are the only tactical vehicles that can move in these ground conditions, or it can be completed on foot with skis

or snowshoes. This activity is carried out with the aim of constantly increasing the level of security in favor of all the communities of Kosovo, in full compliance with Resolution 1244 of 1999 of the Security Council of the United Nations.

The staff of the 9th Alpine Regiment, to be ready to operate in a non - permissive environment like this, constantly carries out training activities such as marches in a mountain environment, basic, advanced and qualifying specialty courses, mountain warfare courses, as well as training cycles aimed at the preparation of personnel for operations on the national territory and international missions. The focus of the training is to increase the professional preparation of the Regiment's personnel in order

IG THE ABL



to increase their ability to move, live and survive in a hostile environment in all climatic conditions. The training is always conducted in high intensity scenarios both at day and night and is always oriented towards maximum realism. Personnel must have the ability to operate for a long time in extreme climatic conditions.

Meticulous care is taken in the planning and conduct of activities aimed at operations carried out in mountainous and snow-covered terrain, the true raison d'être of the Alpine Troops. These activities tend to instill in the staff a very high sense of Alpine values in absolute compliance with the strictest rules

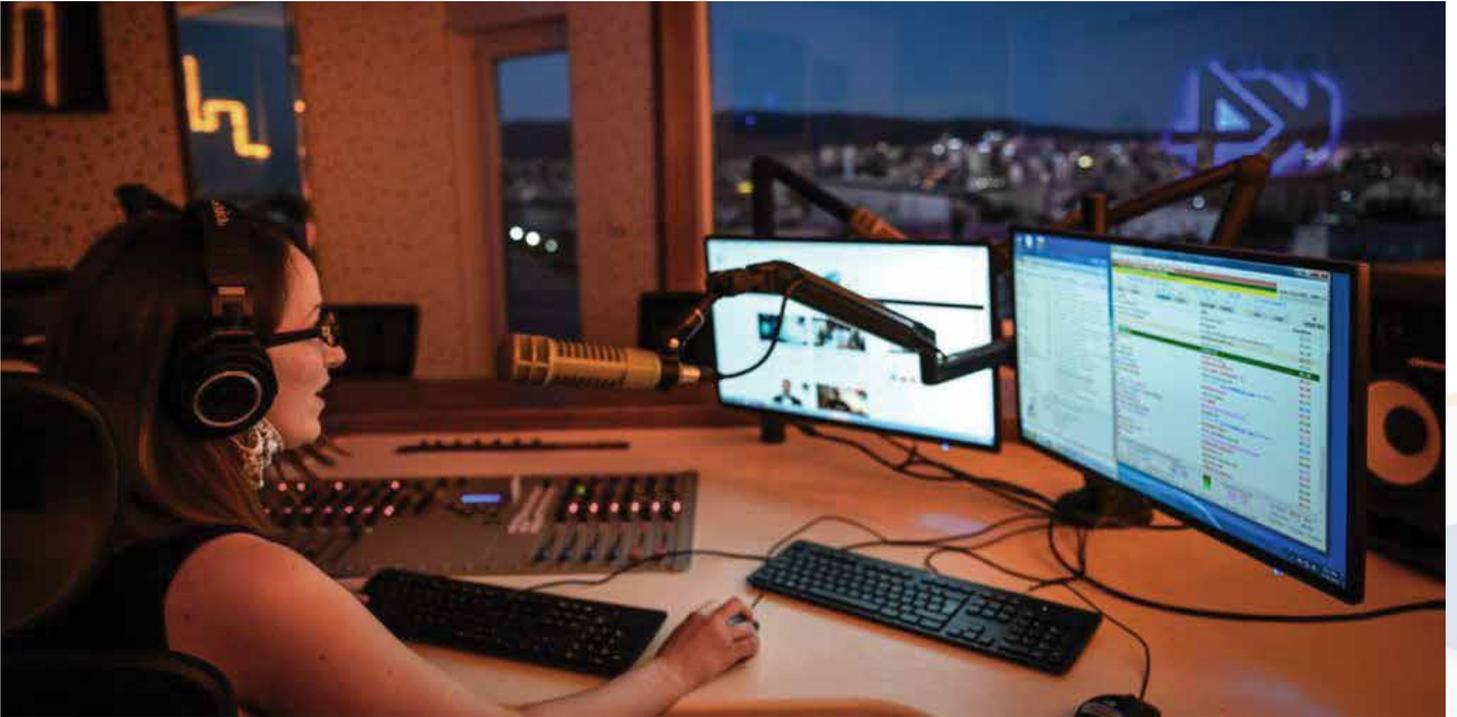
relating to physical safety.

The 9th Alpine Regiment of the Taurinense Alpine Brigade is the most decorated light mountain infantry unit of the Alpine Troops Command of the Italian Army, and today constitutes an instrument that increasingly responds to the conditions imposed by today's and future geostrategic scenarios.

Enrico DI MARCO
OF-2
ITA
RC-W



RADIO K4 - YOUR V



Radio KFOR was first established in September 1999 by the British Forces in Kosovo. Initially it was named Radio Galaxy. However, once the KFOR mission was established and clarified Radio Galaxy was renamed to Radio KFOR and it became the voice of the peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. Radio K4 remains committed to promoting positive values such as peace, coexistence, tolerance, multi-ethnicity, freedom of movement, etc. For many years the broadcasting was combined in Albanian and Serbian. But in 2007 the radio finally managed to get two radio frequencies and to split broadcasts in the respective languages.

RADIO K4 – 13h LIVE PROGRAM

Today Radio K4 broadcasts LIVE 13h per day in both frequencies, starting at 07:00 in the morning and finishing with the live evening shows at 20:00 from Monday to Sunday. The rest of the hours are covered with the pre-recorded special shows and music provided by famous International DJ's.

RADIO K4 – PROMOTION OF SASE AND FOM

Radio K4 is a reflection of the KFOR mission. Therefore, its mission is to promote the foregoing positive messages and values. As such, Radio KFOR is a bridge between the KFOR mission and the KFOR Commander with the local population. Thus, the aim and goal of Radio K4 are to present an accurate image

of the KFOR mission and help maintain its credibility among the local population. In addition, in case of crisis situations, Radio KFOR's mission is to convey the accurate messages of the KFOR mission, and promote Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) and Freedom of Movement (FOM). Radio K4 also aims to entertain the audience through the regular radio program.

The Radio KFOR mission is to produce reliable content that informs, educates, entertains and engages all people in Kosovo to care and respect each other by sharing the values of a common multi-ethnic culture. RADIO K4 – STRONG VOICE IN RAISING PEOPLES' AWARENESS AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Radio K4, in addition to its daily activities and programs, is promoting Kosovo institutions, Kosovo Police, and topics that affect every citizen in Kosovo. Radio K4 was strongly committed in promoting the good work of medical staff in Kosovo during the pandemic. We are also a strong voice in raising peoples' awareness against domestic violence, and we are constantly promoting campaigns that address this issue. Among many campaigns, Radio K4 strongly promotes the importance of learning foreign languages, especially the languages of the neighbours. In addition, we promote all KFOR donations in Kosovo as well as different info campaigns such as mine awareness, electricity etc.

VOICE IN KOSOVO!



RADIO K4 – 23 YEARS BEING VOICE OF PEACE!

This year Radio KFOR will mark the 24th anniversary of its existence, broadcasting in Albanian and Serbian languages throughout Kosovo LIVE 13 hours per day, becoming one of the most listened to and reliable radio stations in Kosovo.

People who are part of Radio KFOR staff are the Radio Station Manager, 2 Editors (KOA and KOS), Radio System Admin, Radio Technician, 6 KOA and 6 KOS radio broadcasters.

It is important to mention that Radio K4 has one of the best coverages with radio signal, by allowing everyone in Kosovo to hear our voice, the voice of peace!

RADIO K4 – ONLINE

The Radio KFOR is available also on social networks. Radio has its own webpage www.radiokfor.com, where, besides the local news we are publishing, people can also listen to us online. Today, we count around 35 thousand followers on our Facebook Pages: Radio KFOR 90.2 Shqip & Radio KFOR 96.6 Srpski. In addition, on Instagram @radiokforshqip & @radiokforsrpski we are promoting our daily materials. Radio KFOR is reachable on the Mobile Application (IOS & ANDROID) too.

Radio K4 mission is of great importance because it represents a long journey of hard work, dedication and commitment, which started 24 years ago and will

continue even stronger in the future.

RADIO K4 – THE RIGHT FORMULA OF TOLERANCE, HARD WORK, PROFESSIONALISM, COMMITMENT AND POSITIVITY

Without a doubt, Radio K4 will continue to be the powerful voice of the peacekeeping mission in Kosovo. We are stationed in Camp Film City, into our premises wherein we have very modern studios. Therefore, our next project is to launch our radio-vision. Through it, we aim to combine traditional radio broadcasting with online streaming of certain shows on our media platforms. This in turn will bring our audience closer with their favourite broadcasters and Radio K4 shows.

It is important to mention that Radio K4 was awarded in 2022, with the Kosovo Trust Building Award for Media, as a medium that builds trust in Kosovo. Kosovo Trust Building Platform is supported by UNMIK.

On my almost 24 years journey with Radio KFOR, we have managed to come up with the trust building formula consisting of tolerance, hard work, professionalism, commitment and positivity. I invite all of you to try this formula!

Emina HYSENI SHALA
Radio Station Manager
Radio K4

DON'T FALL VICTIM TO RANSOMWARE



Ransomware is one of the most dangerous types of cyberattacks that businesses and individuals face today. Once a ransomware attack occurs, the attackers can encrypt important files and demand payment to release them. Unfortunately, paying the ransom does not guarantee that the files will be decrypted, and it can also make the victim more vulnerable to future attacks.

Despite implementing technical precautions, organizations are still vulnerable to ransomware attacks. Attackers are continually developing new tactics to evade security tools and infiltrate systems. Ransomware attacks can occur through various means, such as phishing emails, malicious links, and software vulnerabilities. Even with robust security measures in place, a single click on a malicious link or attachment can lead to a ransomware infection.

One of the most effective ways to protect against ransomware attacks is by **creating and maintaining backups of critical data**. Backups can help prevent data loss, reduce downtime, meet regulatory requirements, and provide peace of mind. In this article, we will explore the importance of backups in detail and provide tips on how to create and manage

backups effectively.

Protecting Your Data with Backups

The most significant benefit of backups is that they can protect your data in case of a ransomware attack. If your data is encrypted, you can restore it to its pre-attack state using backups. By creating backups regularly, you can ensure that you have the latest versions of your data. This can be invaluable in cases where attackers have been in your system for some time and have encrypted multiple versions of your data.

Reducing Downtime

Ransomware attacks can cause significant downtime for businesses and individuals, leading to lost productivity and revenue. Backups can help to reduce downtime by providing an alternative source of data that can be used to restore systems quickly. With backups, you can resume normal operations much faster than if you had to rebuild your systems from scratch.

Preventing Data Loss

Ransomware attacks often result in the loss of data. Attackers may threaten to delete or permanently destroy data if the ransom is not paid. Backups can

RE: THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF BACKUPS



prevent data loss by providing a safe and secure copy of your data that can be restored in case of an attack. With backups, you can avoid the risk of losing important files and data.

Providing Peace of Mind

Creating backups of your data provides peace of mind, knowing that your files are protected in case of a ransomware attack. With backups, you can rest assured that you have a plan in place to recover your data and get back to normal operations quickly.

Creating and Managing Backups Effectively

Creating and maintaining backups can be a simple and effective way to protect against ransomware attacks. Here are some tips on how to create and manage backups effectively:

1. Determine what data needs to be backed up and how often: This may vary based on your specific needs, but it's generally a good idea to back up critical data daily or weekly.
2. Use multiple backup locations: Store backups in multiple locations, including external hard drives, cloud storage, and network drives. This helps to protect against data loss due to hardware failures or disasters.

3. Test backups regularly: It's important to note that backups are not foolproof. Test your backups regularly to ensure that they are working correctly and can be used to restore data in case of an attack.

4. Keep backups secure: Backups can also be targeted by attackers. Encrypt backups and store them in a secure location to prevent unauthorized access and tampering.

5. Automate backups: Use backup software that can automate the backup process, ensuring that backups are created regularly and reliably.

In conclusion, backups are critical in the fight against ransomware. They can protect your data, reduce downtime, meet regulatory requirements, prevent data loss, and provide peace of mind. By following the tips outlined above, you can create and manage backups effectively, ensuring that your data is protected against ransomware.

Mustafa YUCEER
OF-2
TUR-AF
J6 Cyber Plan OP/SO

HIGH RISK, H



The people of Kosovo have been working for over 20 years to continue removing unexploded ordnance from conflicts that occurred in the region. The torch has now been passed to the 720th Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Company during Kosovo Force Regional Command-East's 31st rotation. "Normally whenever we get one of the 9-lines they're coming from local civilians," said Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Baldwin, an EOD Technician with the 720th EOD Company from Baumholder, Germany. "They'll encounter ordnance either on their own property or when traveling for commerce up in the mountains."

The team typically receives two to three calls a week during the winter months, and up to five calls during the summer months. This increase is due to individuals going into areas that are usually inaccessible during the winter, like up in the mountains for example, Baldwin said. "We've been finding a wide range of stuff, all the way from World War I up to the war in Kosovo back in the '90s," said 1st Lt. Naomi Dawood, commander of Task Force EOD from the 720th EOD Company, Baumholder, Germany. "I would say hand grenades are probably the most common things we find here though."

The EOD team at Camp Bondsteel is on call 24/7 and has an average response time of 30 minutes upon receiving a 9-line request. After normal business hours, or if there are multiple calls at once, it may take an hour or more before they are able to leave the base. However, it's not just the Soldiers from 720th EOD Company that gets to have all of the fun. Their team works closely with other NATO partners and allies, as well as the Kosovo Security Forces (KSF) to work together on clearing the region and keeping communities safe.

"Working with other EOD units has really been an honor," Baldwin said. "It's very interesting to see some of their practices, they're very different from what we typically do on response missions, but that's because we haven't had a lot of interoperability training with them before coming into theater." The KSF also has an advantage when it comes to locating these unexploded ordinances (UXO), according to Dawood. "They've been super cooperative and eager to work with us," Dawood said. "They obviously live here, so they're a little bit more knowledgeable about the land than we are, which is nice when we get lost sometimes trying to find a UXO."

HIGH REWARD



The road to becoming an EOD technician is no small feat. The job comes with a rigorous interview process, followed by 9 months of Advanced Individual Training (AIT). Another unique part about this military occupational specialty (MOS) is that enlisted Soldiers and officers alike work side-by-side as classmates throughout the entire course. 1st Lt. Dawood originally wanted to become a doctor when she was commissioning through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) program, but decided she wanted something a little more adventurous. "Wanting to become an EOD tech is probably the best thing I've done in the Army," Dawood said. "It's very exciting and it's always a challenge, which I really like."

The excitement and challenges seem to be a large interest in those Soldiers who are interested in taking the career path of an EOD technician. As one of the non-commissioned officers in Task Force EOD, Baldwin said he also enjoys the high intensity moments that come with the job. "As an EOD tech, I think my favorite part of my job is wherever I'm working with my team members, essentially by ourselves. There is a huge degree of responsibility we inherit whenever we are on mission," Baldwin said. "We have support from

local law enforcement and usually a medic, but other than that, it's myself and two of my team members working on UXO calls in very high risk situations."

Operations such as these are vital to the region in ensuring a safe and secure environment for all people of Kosovo. The collaboration between Kosovo Force (KFOR) and local law enforcement is essential for continuing effective communication and dialogue. "The KFOR mission really is important because it is one of the examples of NATO coming together, supporting a conflict resolution and trying to bring stability to a region," Baldwin said. Task Force EOD is committed to their mission here in Kosovo. Their team members are dedicated to the history of the region and the people who live there today. "This is something that I've heard about for a very long time, even before I became an EOD tech, so it's awesome for me to actually be here and have an impact on the community and learn about the ordnance that's here," said Dawood.

LSkyler Schendt,
OR-4
111th Public Affairs Detachment,
Nebraska National Guard

COLLABORATION BETWEEN KFOR, THE HOSPITAL AND THE PEDIATRIC ONCOLOGY HOSPITAL OF PRISTINA



On Tuesday 07 FEB 23, a very important event occurred that allowed the implementation of medical capabilities in favor of the Kosovar population, for the care of children suffering from leukaemia. The project arose from the straight collaboration between NATO's KFOR Mission, the "Amici di Nicola" Association and Pisa Hospital and the Pediatric Oncology Department of the University Hospital of Pristina, and aimed to increase the possibility to implant pediatric central and ports and venous catheters, which are fundamentals for the therapy of malignant tumors. Cancer therapies in fact require continuous infusions of chemotherapy drugs, which cause additional suffering to the young patients, often lasting for months if not years.

The "Amici di Nicola" Association, established in memory of Nicola, an Italian Army officer who was the victim of an attack in 2006 while serving in Iraq, has so far made it possible to provide concrete help to the approximately 700 young patients registered at the paediatric onco-haematology ward of the Pristina Hospital and their families. This has also been possible thanks to the creation of a welcoming and free-of-charge facility, able to accommodate the parents of the hospitalised children who would otherwise not have the necessary means to sustain the very long journeys required to administer life-saving oncological therapies on site. The Nicola Ciardelli Foundation together with the Cure2children Foundation and the Stefano Bellaveglia Foundation have made it possible for more than one hundred

families to benefit from an economic support programme, also made possible by the opening of the 'Nicola's Children's House' in Pristina in 2018.

I took part in this activity as a KFOR Role 1 doctor. I tried to bring my experience as a general surgeon, in collaboration with the Onlus medical staff, with the aim of supervising the first two paediatric port operations. These operations were conducted by doctors trained in Italy: Petri Gjaka and Enver Hasi, both working at the paediatric oncohaematology unit of the Pristina hospital. We supervised all the phases of the operation, from the preparatory to the post-operative phase, ensuring their personal and professional support, actively contributing to the success of the interventions.

In the end the surgery was finalized and a permanent central venous line has been placed in two children. 20 days had brilliantly passed since the surgery and the children are benefitting from medical therapy. In this experience I found a great availability and gratitude from everyone involved in the activity, with the will to learn and improve day by day.

The hospital has the opportunity to take advantage of a new structure with technological innovations and prepared doctors, and this made this project achievable for the improvement of public health care in Kosovo and all the care of sick children. Together with the units of JMED, PAO and the CIMIC of KFOR, we have collected a large amount of sanitary materials and special facilities which are essential for the continuation of health care, with the aim of

THE NICOLA CIARDELLI ONLUS AND PEDIATRIC DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF PRISTINA



always guaranteeing high standard levels of health assistance to children. This medical equipment will be fully provided to the Pediatric Department soon, and our presence and support as KFOR will always be available to the doctors and children of Kosovo.

As KFOR Commander, Major General Angelo Michele Ristuccia, said "in the wake traced by Nicola" this milestone represents a new departure, to enable Kosovo to provide advanced care to children suffering from these terrible diseases. This emphasizes how the help provided by KFOR has been and will be fundamental, to enable new and increasingly ambitious goals to be achieved with the sole aim of saving as many young lives as possible. It is important to ensure that public health will be able to implant and manage apparatuses that allow drugs

to be administered without having to be re-injected into the patient's body, thus alleviating unnecessary suffering and making treatment more effective.

Our job is also to increase the population's trust in the local health institutions, which have trained and motivated staff who enthusiastically provide their professionalism for the benefit of all the people living in Kosovo. I am honored to have participated in this important medical initiative and once again to be part of KFOR. Together we are writing an important future for this country and for the children in need.

Davide TELESCO
OF-2
ITA

J3 AIR



J3 Air's primary role is to provide an air asset to KFOR. J3 Air work closely with the CAA (Civilian Aviation Authority). J3 Air regularly attend meetings with the CAA and with ATC in Pristina Airport to discuss all airspace matters. Currently, we are working on a new regulation called the Balkan Spins, which will see the introduction of new air routes via Albania and Montenegro in the future. This would make flying in and out of Kosovo with civilian airliners easier and more efficient

J3 Air consists of ten personnel and is made up of personnel representing Italy, Croatia, Czech Republic, USA, Ireland, Poland, Moldova and Albania. Six members are currently based in KFOR HQ while the remaining four members operate out of Blackbird Tower.

The roles of our members are as follows: Air Chief, ATC LNO, JOC AIR DESK, Air Traffic Controllers, Meteorologists and Heli Operations. The main roles of the J3 Air Chief and ATC LNO's are to approve/refuse civilian Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) requests, issue Diplomatic Clearances to visiting state aircraft and issue General Air Traffic clearances to civilian aircraft flying through Kosovo. It is their responsibilities to ensure the airspace in Kosovo is safe to use for all users of the airspace.

Our Meteorologists provide weather updates twice daily for flying units for planning purposes and situational awareness and for KFOR personnel to keep up to date with the weather which could hamper or affect operations.

Our J3 Air Desk SO/Deputy Commander has a busy and important role. He provides a KFSM (Kosovo

Flight Safety Message) to all flying units to make them aware of any activities which could affect the safety of a flight. Some of these activities include quarry blasts, shooting ranges, KFOR UAS' (Unmanned Aerial Systems) that are flying, civilian RPAS', parachuting activities and if any helicopter landing sites in Kosovo are unavailable for any reason. Also, this member of our team is responsible if there is an urgent MEDEVAC taking place, he must de-conflict this flight from any potential conflict such as a UAS or RPAS. He also acts as the JOC LNO working closely with the JOC director to keep him up to date with all air matters.

In Blackbird Tower, we have two Air Traffic Controllers who are on call 24/7. They provide an ATC service for the KFOR aviation detachments in and out of Camp Film City. They make sure there is a safe and expeditious flow of traffic to and from the camp. They are also on call 24/7 in the event of a MEDEVAC and must also ensure the airfield is safe and clear of any obstruction before any aircraft are cleared to land/take off.

Our two personnel in Heli Operations have a key role in tasking the aviation detachments with their missions. All HELQUESTS go through them, so they must task each aviation detachment with the various requests. They are also responsible for updating the Heli Landing Site Directory and Local Area Procedures books that the aviation detachments refer to when flying

Jack WALSH
OR-7
IRE
J3 AIR.

THE JOC – SMALL TEAM, BIG OUTPUTS



If you want to know what is going on across KFOR at any given time, the best place to find out is in the JOC! The JOC monitors and assess the situation across Kosovo and manages all current operations. Staffed 24/7, the JOC ensures the Command Group, wider headquarter HQ and JFC Naples (our superior HQ) are kept informed of events.

In addition to 24/7 operations managers, the JOC also has liaison officers from all subordinate KFOR organisations as well as the links to external organisations including the Kosovo Police and EULEX. Planning for activities carried out by KFOR is normally conducted either by the headquarters or subordinate units and then handed over to the JOC to execute the operations. To ensure this is handled in the most efficient manner, JOC members will always be present during the planning process to understand what will be involved and how to respond if the initial plan becomes unfit for purpose. Over the last few months, the JOC has successfully managed operations to reinstate freedom of movement across the North

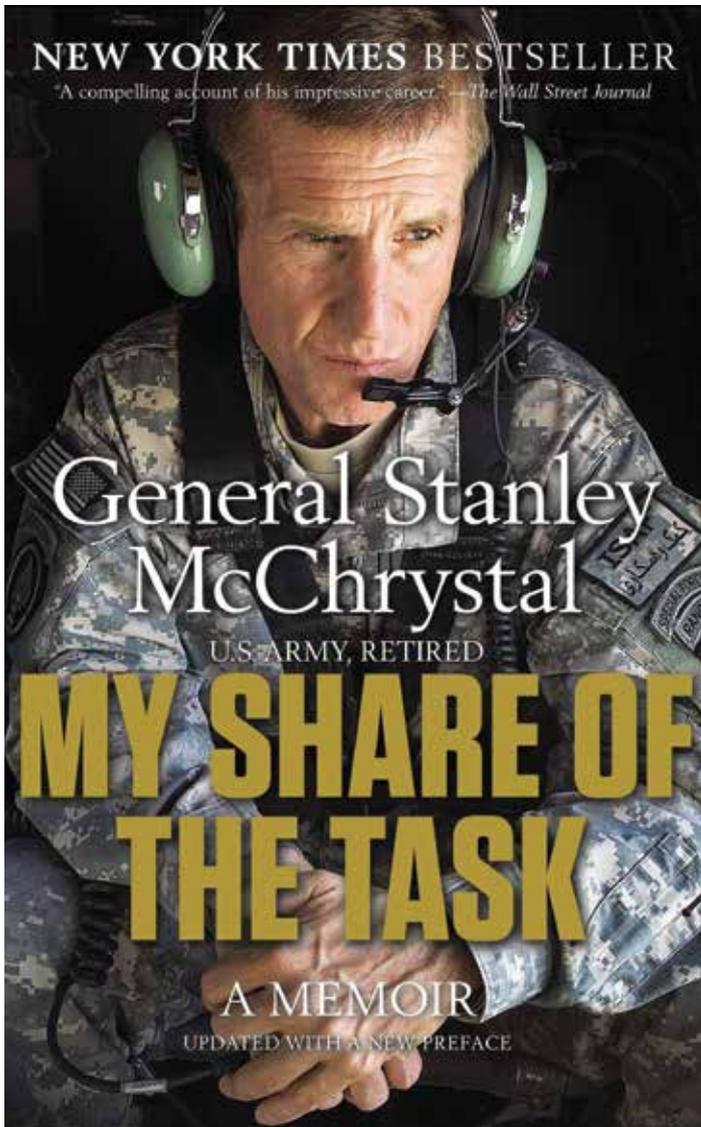
of Kosovo, monitor the floods and landslides and focus patrolling. The JOC is where everything comes together when something significant changes in Kosovo.

If the Command Group is the brains of KFOR HQ, then the JOC represents the heart of the organisation. Responsible for coordinating, corralling and managing all operational activity across the Kosovo area of responsibility, the JOC maintains the tempo. Although a small team, the JOC is exceptionally well resourced by the most qualified and competent staff for the necessary roles. It is possibly the most multinational team in KFOR with 13 nations represented from a team of 21. A close knit team the JOC 'family' are always on call and ready to step up, any time, any day.

Toby BLACKMORE
OF-3,
GBR-A
Joint Operations Centre



My Share of the Task: A Memoir of General Stanley McChrystal



General Stanley McChrystal is widely admired for his hunger to know the truth his courage to find it and his humility to listen to those around him even as the commanding officer of all U S and coalition forces in Afghanistan he stationed himself forward and frequently went on patrols with his troops to experience their challenges firsthand. In this illuminating New York Times bestseller McChrystal frankly explores the major episodes and controversies of his career. He describes the many outstanding leaders he served with and the handful of bad leaders he learned not to emulate. He paints a vivid portrait of how the military establishment turned itself in one generation into the adaptive resilient force that would soon be tested in Iraq Afghanistan

and the wider War on Terror. General McChrystal is a legendary warrior with a fine eye for enduring lessons about leadership courage and consequence¹. General Stanley A. McChrystal was born on August 14, 1954, in Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. In 1990, he became action officer for Army Special Operations, working in Joint Special Operations Command. In 1991, he saw action in the Desert Shield and Desert Storm tours. He was commander of the Joint Special Operations Command from 2003 to 2008. He became top commander in Afghanistan in 2009, but resigned in 2010.

<https://www.goodreads.com>

SOLDIER OF THE MONTH

OR-4 Stefano MAISTO

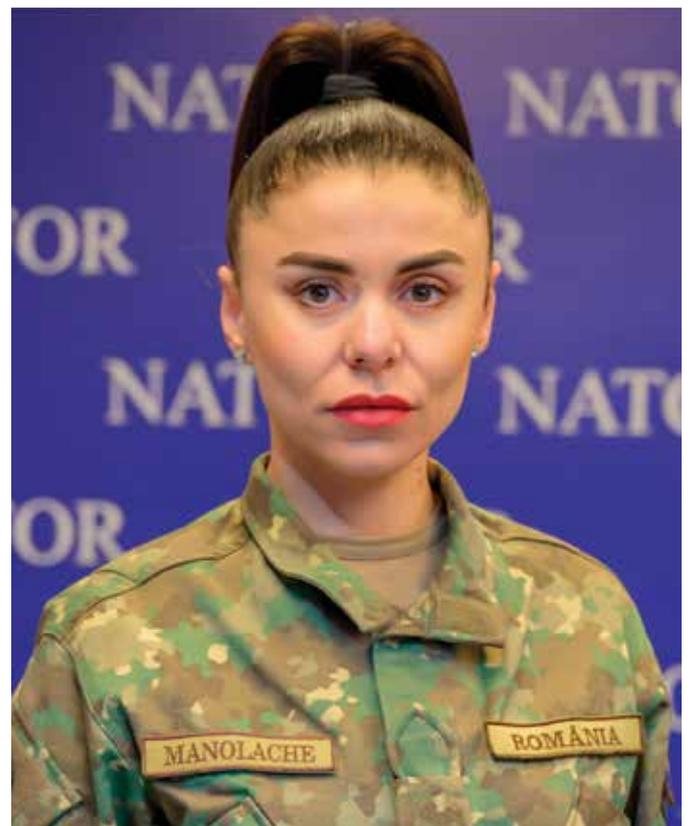
OR-4 MAISTO is always prepared to carry out any task with great enthusiasm and diligence. He is distinguished by his complete dedication to professional excellence and devotion to duty. In particular, on the occasion of the company's deployment to Novo Selo in support of RC-E, OR-4 MAISTO, assisted his Commander in the planning of the patrols in the assigned sectors of competence and in the conduct of activity in a very complex AOR. He has demonstrated initiative, zeal, professional ability and severe devotion to duty which has added immensely to the success of RC-W and the 9th Mountain Troop Regiment.



NCO OF THE MONTH

OR-7 Georgiana MANOLACHE

OR-7 MANOLACHE is a dedicated and professional NCO who has developed the skills to continually maintain the highest standards of professional excellence. Her attention to detail ensures that all tasks are completed to a very high standard and ensures a safety conscious environment. She constantly provides high results which is impressive given the sensitivity in the area of reception at Camp Film City from VIPs to the last graduate.





COM KFOR Major General RISTUCCIA recently presented letters of appreciation to civilian and military personnel within Camp Film City for their diligence, dedication and high professional standards they maintain on a continuous basis within the Camp in the execution of their duties.

Photo by OR-4 Antonio Russo, PAO Branch



The Canadian Contingent Medal Parade occurred on 22 March in Camp Film City. Col Kozak, SEMC, Canadian Armed Forces and Ms. Natalie Nidoba, Deputy Ambassador, Embassy of Canada to Croatia and Kosovo, presented members of the Canadian Contingent with their Non-Article 5 Medal and their Canadian Peacekeeping Medal.

Photo by LCH-5 Afrim Hajrullahu, PAO



Soldiers from Taskforce Yellowhammer, 1-131st Aviation Regiment, Alabama National Guard, prepare to descend in their UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter with a Humvee during sling-load training, at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. Training for sling-load operations allows for the quick deployment of supplies or to areas that are geographically difficult to reach during natural disasters or emergencies.

Photos by Sgt. 1st Class Herschel Talley, 111th Public Affairs Detachment, Nebraska National Guard

The Greek Guard Coy undertook Medical Training on 14 March in Camp Film City. The training was coordinated by J-Med with the aim of further increasing the operational capability and proficiency of the Greek Guard Coy in the operation of their duties in Camp Film City.

Photo by LCH-5 Afrim Hajrullahu, PAO



KFOR Units tested the Command and Control Capabilities and CRC readiness during the recent Exercise Cobweb by Regional Command West.

Photo by OR-4 Daniel Paciarelli, PAO



The Irish Contingent Medal Parade occurred on 17 March in Camp Film City. As per tradition on St. Patrick's Day, The Irish SNR presented Shamrock and Non-Article 5 Medals to members of the Irish Contingent.

*Photo by OR-4 Antonio Russo,
PAO Branch*





Task Force Yellowhammer practices Aerial Gunnery in North Macedonia

U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Skyler Schendt, 111th Public Affairs Detachment, Nebraska National Guard