



the CHRONICLE

KFOR's Magazine

April 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.

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Dear reader,

Welcome to April's edition of the Chronicle. The photograph on the front cover comes from OF-3 Fabio CAPRIATI of the PAO Branch and depicts Exercise "Golden Sabre" 2023.

In this month's edition of the chronicle, we concentrate on "Exercise Golden Sabre", which occurred recently in Camp Novo Selo and get an insight into the experiences of the MSU, and a CRC Platoon Commander.

DR. Linda SZOKE of the KTRBN gives us an insight into the recent KTRBN HOTO process while introducing us to the Hungarian Defence Forces 30th Armoured Infantry Brigade, 1st Infantry Battalion.

Miranda ROHNER, Chief GENAD and Elisabeth SCHLEICHER, PhD, Deputy GENAD give us a detailed explanation of the victim centered interview room initiative with the Kosovo Police and outlining the associated benefits of the initiative.

Anna PONGO of 111th Public Affairs Detachment, Nebraska National Guard, gives us an insight into the important and crucial role that aviation mechanics play within KFOR to ensure that KFOR helicopters keep flying and that operations can continue seamlessly.

Rune HARTUNG LARSEN describes the DANCON March and its origins while also detailing the fantastic work of the Charity, which the proceeds of the recent DANCON March were donated.

Skyler SCHENDT of 111th Public Affairs Detachment, Nebraska National Guard provides us with an article regarding the benefits, advantages and end goals of Operational Rehearsals.

Enrico DI MARCO of RC-W introduces us to the 5th Parachute Battalion "El Alamein".

In the book review segment, we review 'Make your bed – Little things that can change your life? And maybe the world' by Admiral William H. McRaven.

This will be my final edition of the Chronicle, as my tour of duty concludes at the end of April and I return home to Ireland. I would like to sincerely thank everyone for their contributions, photos, advice and above all camaraderie over the past 6 months. The PAO Branch has been a fantastic place to work with many friendships gained. I would like to wish my colleague Comdt. Paul Ryan all the best in his role as Chief Internal Information for the next 6 months and hope he finds the job as rewarding as I did. We really hope you enjoy reading this month's edition of the Chronicle.

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



EXERCISE “GOLD



Exercise “Golden Sabre” is an exercise conducted inside Camp Novo Selo involving multiple units from KFOR and EULEX, focusing on deploying to and handling civil disturbance scenario operations in Kosovo. The exercise tested the procedures and readiness for the quick deployment of forces to deal with any possible crisis scenario. The activity tested the interoperability and C2 capability of the different multinational units partaking in the exercise while responding to various simulated injections. Crowd and Riot Control teams, assets for the removal of roadblocks, and engineering assets for the clearance of explosive devices were deployed in close cooperation with EULEX (European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo) units.

The exercise involved 2 x Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) capable Coys split between RC-W, RC-E, MSU, and the KTRBN. Additional participants include RC-E Medevac, JLSG, JENG, ISRBN and OPFOR provided by KFOR units as well as participants from EULEX. The success of the exercise ensures that KFOR maintains high levels of readiness of its units. Each multinational unit encountered varying experiences throughout the exercise so it is essential to attain the varying perspectives to fully appreciate and learn from the exercise.

The KTRBN A COY operated in the exercise with two platoons and a company staff. The company was equipped with the following vehicles: 1 Mitsubishi L200 land rover, 2 URAL trucks and 4 BTR-80 APCs. In this scenario the company provided one CRC platoon, wearing combat protective equipment, and one kinetic platoon, armed with APCs and firearms, bulletproof vests and helmets. The company's composition for the CRC exercise consisted of a company staff, manoeuvre platoons, and a sniper team. The company were required to interoperate with a Tactical Psyops Team, Freedom of Movement Detachment, Medical Element, and International Military Police units.

As mentioned above, the company took part in this exercise with reduced numbers. After arriving in the assembly area, the company's units were conducting the undermentioned things. The dismounted CRC platoon provided force protection to FOMD of the 2nd Italian company. The kinetic platoon was right behind this column with its 3 APs as its 4th APs and the belonging personnel were left behind on order to secure the north-western part of the assembly area. The first task of the CRC platoon was to block a crossing street behind the main forces of the task force, until they were changed by the EULEX platoon.

“DEN SABRE 2023”



After that the task force was continuing the pushing of the crowd, then the CRC platoon got the order to change the albanian platoon in the front of the 1st Italian company in order to ensure a rest period for them. The platoon was holding its position until the FOMD managed to break through the heavy barricade behind the 2nd Italian company. After tearing down the heavy obstacle, the platoon had to move further on the assigned road, pushing the crowd, until they reached another obstacle. Then two OPFOR soldiers with blank ammunition opened fire on the formation. The platoon immediately took cover in the grooves along the road and behind a bank, even so they had drilling casualties. When they reported it, as a company commander I alerted the kinetic platoon, gave them the supposed location of the OPFOR's firing position and directed to them to eliminate it. The kinetic platoon was divided into a support and an assault team, and using the fire and movement method, utilizing the cover of the terrain and smoke grenades, they conducted an assault into the flank's of the firing position, eliminating them. The platoon neutralized the firing position, secured the area, and sent a report to me. The CRC platoon's drilling casualties were treated and were

handed over to the MEDICAL element. After that the CRC platoon continued the performance with approaching the barricade, then pushing the crowd beyond it and holding a safety distance from it. The company commander gave the signal to the FOMD to start their clearing procedure. While the FOMD was clearing the obstacle, the CRC platoon was hit with Molotov cocktails where upon they reacted at great pace and kept holding the position. On the task force's commander's order, CRC platoon was reinforced with another platoon in order to push the crowd out of the square. They managed to achieve that task, the obstacles were dismantled and the SASE and FOM were restored.

It was a great opportunity for the KTRBN A COY to work together with different units of KFOR during an exercise, and to share and learn each other's methods of CRC. It was very useful for the COY that they had to use multinational radio networks and great lessons were learned.

OF-1 Tamás János CSEH,
HUN,
KTRBN.

EXERCISE “GOLD



The MSU unit of KFOR also partook in Exercise Golden Sabre. Exercise “Golden Sabre” is one of the most important learning opportunities and training of Crowd and Riot Control during the deployment. It is an opportunity to demonstrate the level achieved by each individual NATO nation and to test the power of each unit for a hypothetical future CRC event. In order to put into practice each unit’s skills, the Golden Sabre is developed following a very precise scheme, which is the result of intensive preparation. The ultimate goal of the exercise was to “clear” the road from troublemakers and remove all the obstacles on the path in order to restore the SASE and FOM, as required by UN resolution 1244. An important and requisite intervention was the one performed by the FOM-D assets that cleared the streets from “real-life”

roadblocks permitting the soldiers to progress with the CRC element, which increased the success of the exercise with the realism introduced. MSU’s point of view of the exercise was more than satisfactory and highly beneficial as it allowed MSU personnel to put into practice every type of technique related to the CRC as well as technical-logistics operations. Just like in Italy, the MSU managed to fulfil its main tasks, which are maintaining public order, guaranteeing security of citizens, safety and protection of property, always in compliance with proportionality of force, necessity and legality. The correct use of the equipment and CRC procedures were compatible with KFOR guidelines. The MSU personnel, as well as all the other forces employed, have therefore responded well to the tasks called to carry out during the exercise.

“GOLDEN SABRE 2023”



The exercise allowed a comparison and provided an insight into the varying tactics, techniques and procedures employed by the different multinational units.

A schedule that spanned several meetings and an in-depth study of Lessons learned allowed all participants to make less mistakes than the previous exercise. Although the event has become a “routine exercise” which takes place in Kosovo every year, MSU believes that Golden Sabre has proved the real synergy between Italian CRC assets and other nation’s participants.

A Hot Wash-up was held to end the event in the most appropriate way, so that each participant could be aware of the problems that occurred during the operations. In conclusion, in order to achieve high

quality standards and the sought-after peace, we must remember our current motto, which always accompanies us during every activity: “Shape the present for a better future”.

KFOR multinational contingent operates on the territory of Kosovo under the mandate of UN Security Council Resolution 1244 of 1999 with the task of ensuring a safe and secure environment as well as freedom of movement for all communities in Kosovo.

OF1 Daniele Marinelli,
ITA,
MSU.

VICTIM CENTERED



Have you heard the statement, “communication is the most important”? I am sure you have. It is true that communication is very important both in the business world and in private life. Nevertheless, it is even more important in police work. Police communication skills matter more than ever. Excellent police communication skills are required to investigate domestic violence crimes, de-escalate situations, and to build trust with communities. In order to help the Kosovo Police to sharpen their skills in fighting domestic violence, the Gender Advisors from KFOR, EULEX, and OSCE conducted briefings for the Kosovo Police on how to utilize the Kosovo Police Victim-Centered Interview Rooms.

What are Kosovo Police “Victim-Centered Interview Rooms”?

A “Victim Centred Interview Room” is a room set up according to internationally recognized standards, for listening to victims of domestic violence in a peaceful and relaxing environment. These rooms allow victims to tell their stories to the KP Officers in a safe and comfortable structure.

What is so special about these rooms and why is it better to interview victims of domestic violence in such a room?

Imagine that you are a victim of domestic violence. You take all your courage to go to the police and report the incidents. You are afraid that the perpetrator might find you. Nevertheless, after having experienced domestic violence from your partner for a long time, you finally decide to walk into the police station to report the crime. When you walk in, the police officer takes you into a room that is next to the main entrance where everyone who enters the police station walks by and can look into. The door does not shut properly so you feel that everyone who walks by can hear what you say. You

also have your little child with you, but there is no place for your child to play. You also don't want your child to hear the things you say. The room in which you are interviewed in is simply uncomfortable, and you would want to leave as soon as possible because you are afraid that the people who walk by might recognize you and tell your family that they have seen you at the police. The police officer asks you some questions, but you do not feel safe, so you keep your answers short and you leave out important facts. Do you think that such an atmosphere is helpful to gather the necessary evidence and to prosecute the cases? The answer is obvious. Such an atmosphere is not helpful when interviewing domestic violence victims. This is precisely the reason why these rooms are so important.

So how do these rooms help in prosecuting abusers?

When gathering evidence during the investigation of domestic violence or gender-based violence crimes, it is necessary that the victim feels as comfortable as possible. Family rooms are rooms created to listen to victims of domestic violence, in a quiet and safe environment. In such a context, victims may feel free to open up to the police without pressure and without social judgment. Because these rooms are created to help victims of abuse, it is vital to make them as comfortable and welcoming as possible. Every family room consists of things that can help victims ease their pain, such as a TV, coffee table, couch, soft chair and especially a corner dedicated entirely to children. In addition, the wall colours are precisely chosen: they are warm and modern. Therefore, even if these rooms are within the police buildings, they seem anything but an interrogation room. Here victims can share with the police everything they experienced, to help authorities prosecute abusers. These rooms are

INTERVIEW ROOMS

designed to help the Kosovo Police to build rapport and trust with the victims when starting the interview.

Communication is the most important. How does this look like in interviewing victims of domestic violence?

Domestic violence is a fundamental breach of human rights. It affects everyone, but particularly women and girls. The first interview in a domestic violence case is often the best chance to get the evidence right and to build the legal case. To achieve this the victims must feel safe and give the statement in a pleasant and receptive environment. The interview must provide victims with a sense of trust. Otherwise, the victim will never come out and tell the truth. The phrasing of questions during victim interviews is important. Depending on how a question is asked, it might be perceived by a victim as blaming them for their actions. Statements such as "I believe you." Or "What happened to you was not your fault" are good communication examples that help the victim to gain trust in the police officer. Beginning with questions such as "Where would you like to start?" or "Would you tell me what you are able to share about your experience?" sets a supportive tone for the interview. Asking questions in this way also invites the victim to describe what happened, their thoughts, and their feelings in their own words, which is valuable evidence to document in the case report.

What other benefits does the room play in sensitive victim-centered interviewing?

First, the rooms are designed to ensure easy access. They are usually located with ease of access, reasonable privacy, allowing victims to terminate the interview at any time. In addition, this provides police officers with the possibility to conduct a more robust interview process. Second, the design of the rooms reflects a serene and calm environment aiming to make victims as relaxed as possible according to their physical and psychological injuries. The furniture is adapted to the needs of the victims and children, aiming to ensure ease of movement in the area and set the ground for an inclusive truth-seeking cognitive interview process. Third, preferably a children's playroom can be separated from the interview room so the police can interview without the child's physical presence. Fourth, every room is recommended to have a 360-degree type camera system installed. Audio and video recordings of interviews may become necessary for evidentiary purposes.



The Gender Advisors from KFOR, EULEX, and OSCE are conducting briefings for the Lipjan, Prishtina South, Suhareka, Prizren, Peja, Skenderaj, and Mitrovica North Police stations. The aim of these briefings is to guarantee gender-sensitive police support to domestic violence victims. The ultimate purpose is to fight all forms of domestic violence.

KFOR is here to contribute to a safe and secure environment for all people in Kosovo, especially those most at risk. On this basis, we consider it important to offer support for both the Kosovo Police to best combat domestic violence. This is done best by cooperating with the Gender Advisors of the OSCE and EULEX who bring a different perspective to the matter and who are subject matter experts when it comes to international standards concerning victim-centered interviewing and the Kosovo legislation and policy.

Miranda ROHNER,
OF-3
Chief GENAD

Elisabeth SCHLEICHER, PhD,
MCIV-5
Deputy GENAD

THE DANCON



What is the DANCON March and what is the purpose one could ask?

The DANCON March is a Danish tradition that dates back to 1972 when Denmark was a part of the UN Force in Cyprus. The purpose of the march was, and still is, to demonstrate the physical readiness required of a soldier. Since 1972, Danish soldiers in the Balkans have upheld the DANCON March tradition. During the 1990s, the march has been completed in the UNPROFOR-, IFOR-, and SFOR-missions and in August 1999, the first Danish Contingent to Kosovo brought the tradition with them. Besides the physical test, the march has developed into a social event in which soldiers from all the nations in the mission can participate. The DANCON March in Kosovo normally takes place four times a year, being planned and executed by soldiers from the Danish platoon in Camp Novo Selo in the frame of the Danish Contingent (DANCON).

The Danish platoon uses the DANCON March as a joint project to focus on something else beside the normal duties and tasks in CNS. For soldiers this kind of joint project is highly appreciated, because you get the opportunity to support a good cause. In many deployments, you do not always get to see the changes you, as a soldier, made during your deployment. However, with a charity event such as this, you experience the happiness and joy from the receiving part. Such experiences tends to boost the morale of soldiers, which also makes the event a good tool for the leadership.

The planning and execution of the March also requires the Danes to reach out to many nations for assistance, which creates good relationships and develops interoperability between the nations and the Danes. This is a good thing, because NATO countries should always seek to strengthen their mutual relations and ability to cooperate. This is also, why Danes spend so

ON MARCH



much time planning such an event, because without it, it would likely be hard to be noticed, since we are few in number. We are fortunate here in KFOR, that so many nations and people support and take part in the March.

The March is the largest social/physical event within KFOR. The latest marches took place 31 March 2023 and 1 April 2023 and between the two days more than 1,000 soldiers from KFOR participated – or more than 25% of the total force! The March would be very hard to run without the support from good colleagues – especially from Camp Novo Selo. Many practical roles have to be manned. For example, first aid and medical support, logistical support, security by International Military Police and photographers immortalizing the event.

For many years, it has been common practice to donate the profit from the march to a worthy organization needing support. Based on advice from

the EU-office in Pristina it was for the March/April March decided that the profit of 11,500 €, was to be donated to Kosovska Bozur, Mitrovica North, which is a day institution for around 50 mentally disabled children and youngsters. On the 06 April 2023, the children benefited for the first time from this donation during a day trip to a spa-resort in Northern Kosovo. In addition, this summer the institution will, with our support, take the children to Western Serbia for a week's entertainment in a spa resort.

It is not always that a soldier has the chance to do more than one good thing at a time, but with the willing participation of KFOR-soldiers in the proud tradition and social event, that is the DANCON-March, it is also possible for us to make life a bit happier for those less fortunate.

Rune HARTUNG LARSEN
OF-2
DANCON

AVIATION MECHANICS ENSURE K



From carrying water to people who have none, to rescuing people in medical emergencies, Kosovo Force Regional Command-East's (KFOR RC-E) Task Force Aviation works ceaselessly to ensure that the Soldiers and Community in Kosovo are safe and secure. Although, those who fly the helicopters could not do their job without the mechanics who work long hours to keep the aircraft airborne. For these Soldiers with the 1-131st Aviation Regiment, Task Force Yellowhammer, from the Alabama Army National Guard, the behind-the-scenes maintenance they execute to keep the UH-60 Black Hawks flying, ensures the success of KFOR's mission in Kosovo.

"For every hour of flight there is roughly 4 hours of maintenance that goes along with it," explained 1st Sgt. David Forbes, the 1st Sgt. for D Co., 1-131st Aviation Regiment. "The flying part would not happen without the maintenance piece to keep them operating safely." All this responsibility means that often these Soldiers are working long hours. "You will often find us out here until 8 o'clock at night on Saturdays, when most have already called it quits at noon," said Forbes. "And then, depending on the mission requirements, we will most likely be out here on Sundays as well. There's always something going on. There is not a lot of slow time in maintenance."

The maintenance company is made up of 36 Soldiers who fall into the Headquarters Platoon, Component Repair Platoon and Allied Shops Platoon. Each works together to make the mission a success. The Headquarters Platoon is comprised of the Command Team, Production and Quality Control and Supply.

The members of Quality Control, or the Technical Inspectors (TIs), are the subject matter experts of aircraft. They look over each aspect of the repairs to ensure they are up to specifications and the maintainers are performing their job to the standard. "The most important part, you can't fly without supply," said Forbes. "We keep some bench stock here, but if it's something big like a blade or an engine, it is ordered. They are critical. Once we run out of nuts and bolts, someone has to be there to replenish that stock location."

Spc. Courtney Martin, an Automated Logistics Specialist with D Co. expresses how the mission requirements affect her day-to-day job working in supply. "My normal day is non-stop," said Martin. "You're either making sure that something is on order, placing an order for the guys or handing them parts that they need so the aircraft can keep running... This is the heart of aviation because your supply people have to keep everything ordered to keep everyone flying."

The Maintenance and Component Repair Platoon is made up of the overall maintainers of the aircraft. The Soldiers' military occupational specialties are Army UH-60 (Blackhawk) Helicopter Repairer, CH-47 (Chinook) Helicopter Repairer and AH-64 (Apache) Helicopter Repairer, but on this mobilization, each works together to maintain the three medical specific UH-60Ls (Blackhawk) helicopters and the six traditional lift UH-60Ls (Blackhawk) helicopters. For these repairers, their daily tasks include removing and installing aircraft subsystem assemblies such

KFOR HELICOPTERS KEEP FLYING



as engines, rotors, gearboxes, transmissions and mechanical flight controls.

Finally, there is the Back Shops Platoon. "There you have the Engine shop-which is Power Plant," explained Forbes. "You have Powertrain shop-which is drivetrain and transmissions, the Sheet Metal shop-which is everything that has a screw go through it and blade repair, and you've got the Avionics and Electrical shop that kind of work together." Each of these sections plays a vital role in keeping the helicopters safe for their missions.

Those who work in the Sheet Metal shop have the additional challenge of being able to create composite work with fiberglass and sheet metal. "We need to be able to think outside the box," said Staff Sgt. Michael Hollingsworth, who is the non-commissioned officer in charge of sheet metal, one of the backshops section sergeants. "For a lot of our stuff, there is no right or wrong way of doing it because our job is so unique. It's not cut and dry. We always have the challenge of trying to make something work, over just pulling and replacing a part."

Being able to solve problems you may have not encountered before is a vital part of everyone's job who works in D Co. Staff Sgt. Shena Senatore works in the Avionics and Electrical shop and is the unit's TI in those areas. This means she looks at the repairs after they are complete to ensure that the aircraft is airworthy. "It's exciting to see them learn and troubleshoot and accomplish a task on their own," said Senatore. "That's one of my favorite parts of the job. It's been a growing experience for all of

us for sure, but luckily, we've tackled almost all the preexisting faults. We've gotten our heads above the water and learned from them all."

Though the primary goal for the unit is to keep the UH-60s flying safely every day, a secondary one is for each Soldier to gain new experiences and expertise in aircraft maintenance. "We are always working to grow the maintainers and their skills," said Forbes. "Cross training is important."

Aircraft Pneudraulics repairer, Spc. Michael Weaver is an example of this cross training. Through this deployment, he has learned many new skills to help in all areas of aircraft maintenance. "I've been helping the 15Ts (UH-60 Blackhawk Repairers) with their inspections and the maintenance," explained Weaver. "I try to get in with them and they teach me stuff so I can help out as much as possible. It's been great training all around and if they need to operate the crane to pull an engine, I do that." Through all their hard work the Soldiers of D Co. have been able to ensure the success of aviation in KFOR and allowed them to log almost 1,500 hours of flight time across Kosovo.

"Aviation maintenance is the cornerstone of any aviation program," said Forbes. "They go fly, but when they come back, they can't go again until we do our thing."

Anna PONGO
OR-6

111th Public Affairs Detachment,
Nebraska National Guard.



On 22 March 2023, in Camp Novo Selo, Lieutenant Colonel Levente István NAGY, commander of the Hungarian Defence Forces 30th Armoured Infantry Brigade, 1st Infantry Battalion, following the Change of Command Ceremony of the Hungarian Contingent, assumed the Command of the KFOR Tactical Reserve Battalion. He started his professional military career as an artillery officer serving in an infantry battalion in 2004. It was the same battalion of which he took command the beginning of this year. The first abroad assignment was in Kosovo as a Guard and Security platoon commander in 2006, which was followed by 7 other missions in Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan and Iraq.

HDF 30th Armoured Infantry Brigade/62th Infantry Battalion/ 1st Infantry Battalion

Now, let me introduce the history of our battalion in some words. The 62nd Infantry Regiment was established in Tamási in 1951. The regiment relocated to a new garrison in 1953, which is our current hometown, Hódmezővásárhely. The unit reorganized to a motorized infantry regiment in 1954, then to a mechanized infantry regiment in 1973. The regiment structure was renowned for brigade-formation in 1987. The brigade staff and the subunits integrated to the HDF 5th Infantry Brigade except for the 62th Infantry Battalion, which operated as an independent unit until 2007. Now, in the first day of this year the battalions in Hódmezővásárhely were separated from

the HDF 5th Infantry Brigade and formed as the HDF 30th Mechanized Infantry Brigade. The 62th Infantry Battalion was renamed to the 1st Infantry Battalion. The major roles of the unit are the homeland operations and taking part in NATO/UN missions all over the world – except in jungle and/or arctic circumstances. Our Battalion has participated in many missions. The first in 1999 in Kosovo under the auspices of KFOR. An additional 12 more in Kosovo followed that mission. Our unit was deployed in Bosnia-Herzegovina three times and North Macedonia twice. In addition we served in Afghanistan four times, and Iraq twice.

KFOR Tactical Reserve Battalion

The history of the Hungarian Contingent started in 1999 with the HDF Guard and Security Battalion, in Pristina. In the year of 2008, the decision was made that an additional Hungarian Infantry Battalion would be assigned to the Italian-led brigade stationed in Pec. This infantry battalion carried out its tasks in the Western Region of Kosovo, under the operational control of KFOR Multinational Task Force - West (MNTF-W) Headquarters. From 2011 to 2017, the KFOR Tactical Reserve Manoeuvre Battalion (KTM) was stationed in Camp Slim Lines, Pristina, and it was a joint deployment between Portugal and Hungary. The structure of the Hungarian Contingent evolved every time, in accordance with the current tasks. The unit designation of KTM changed to KFOR Tactical Reserve Battalion (KTRBN) on the 20th July

HOTO



2017, and since that time, it has operated under the direct operational control of the Force Commander (COM KFOR). Nowadays, the battalion is stationed at Camp Novo Selo. It has all the sections necessary for self-sustainment, such as Administration (S1), Intelligence (S2), Operations (S3), Logistics (S4), and Communications and Information Services (S6). They work in unison in order to prepare the Commander, and develop the best decision, depending on the situation.

KTRBN's mission is to be prepared to be deployed as the Tactical Reserve of COM KFOR in order to maintain the Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) and Freedom of Movement all over the area of operations. KTRBN can be deployed anywhere in Kosovo, and they are able to perform a wide range of operational tasks self-sufficiently. KTRBN is specifically trained in Crowd and Riot Control (CRC) Operations in close cooperation with the Freedom of Movement Detachments (FOM-D). In order to maintain the capabilities, the companies execute CRC cross trainings with all kinetic KFOR units. KTRBN

is responsible for fire phobia trainings for all KFOR soldiers, who are deployed to the theatre. This kind of training is crucial for KFOR units, as it is a mandatory capability that needs to be achieved in order to reach Full Mission Capability.

The companies are fully mission capable manoeuvre units. They are flexible with a high readiness status, capable of conducting CRC operations. In addition to road movement, the platoons are trained to be deployed via aerial assets (helicopters) as well. The KTRBN's soldiers can conduct their tasks in dismounted or mounted formation, depending on the operational requirement. They can be deployed with armoured personnel carriers, trucks, High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWVs), and unarmoured pick-ups, depending on their tasks.

DR. Linda SZOKE
OF-1
HUN
KTRBN

THE 5TH PARACHUTE BA



On 6 March 2023, the 5th Battalion "El Alamein" of the 186th Parachute Regiment "Folgore", with its Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Giuseppe Petrella, reached Pec/Peja headquarters of Camp Villaggio Italia. The 5th Battalion, the 186th Parachute Regiment "Folgore" is a light parachute infantry unit, part of the "Folgore" Parachute Brigade, belonging to the Northern Operational Forces Command of the Italian Army. In Italy, it is based in the city of Siena, located in the central part of the peninsula. The Regiment was born on 1 August 1941 in Tarquinia, a small town northwest of Rome. This was the headquarters of the Royal Parachute School, from the 2nd Parachute Regiment, which formed the 5th Battalion, with inside the Battalion the 13th, 14th and 15th Company. On 1 September 1941, it passed under the newly established Parachute Division. On 27 July 1942 it took the name of 186th Infantry Regiment "Folgore". In August of 1942, from the Greek airport of Tatoi, it was airlifted to North Africa. There it subsequently assumed the operational command of the southern sector of the front. In the locality of El Alamein, between 23 October and 5 November, the Paratroopers of the 186th Regiment, thanks to their exceptional courage and daring, write one of the most glorious pages of contemporary military history, for which the War Flag is granted the Gold Medal for Military Valor.

Following the Battle of El Alamein, the Regiment dissolved and the surviving personnel were placed in

the 285th Battalion. This, in turn, was dissolved after having fought heroically in Tunisia. On 15 August 1952, at the Military Parachute Center in Pisa, a Parachute Battalion was formed on two companies which, appropriately re-articulated, gave life to the 1st Parachute Tactical Group. From 1 January 1963, with the establishment of the Parachute Brigade, the 1st Parachute Regiment was formed on two Battalions, called the 2nd and 5th, which remained until the Army was restructured. Following this restructuring, the 5th Parachute Battalion "El Alamein" was established on 30 September 1975 in Livorno. On 8 April 1976 it received the War Flag of the 186th Infantry Regiment "Folgore", decorated with the Gold Medal for Military Valor, from which it inherits the glorious traditions. In April 1977 the Regiment was transferred to Siena. As part of the reorganization of the Italian Army, on 16 September 1992, the Battalion was placed in the 186th Parachute Regiment "Folgore". The Regiment is currently made up of the Regiment Headquarters, Command and Logistic Support Company, 5th "El Alamein" Parachute Battalion, and 11th Maneuver Support Company. The 11th Maneuver Support Company employs inside of it the Heavy Mortars Platoon, the Counter-tank Platoon, the Explorers Platoon and the Sharpshooters team.

In the last 40 years, the 186th Parachute Regiment "Folgore" has participated in 15 foreign missions. The first in 1983 in Lebanon (ITALCON), in 1991 in Iraqi Kurdistan (AIRONE), in 1992/1993 in Somalia (IBIS

BATTALION “EL ALAMEIN”



1 - 2), in 1999 in Bosnia (SFOR), in 2000 in Albania (AFOR). These were followed in 2001 and 2004 in Kosovo (KFOR) and in 2007 in Lebanon (LEONTE). The Unit was the protagonist for 3 shifts with NATO in Afghanistan in 2009/2011 (ISAF) and in 2021 (RS). In 2017 it was employed in Libya (IPPOCRATES), in 2018 in Niger (MISIN) and in 2020 again in Iraq (NMI).

In addition to the Missions in foreign operational theaters, there are also those carried out on the national territory, among which we must mention the one on the Island of Lampedusa in 1987 and subsequently from 1992 to 1995 in Sicily (“SICILIAN VESPRI”). In 2001 the Regiment contributed to the security of the G8 in Genoa, and from 2003 to 2005 it was employed in Operation “DOMINO” to monitor many sensitive sites along the peninsula. In 2006 it was deployed in Val Susa to guarantee the safety of the Winter Olympic Games of Turin. From 2008 to 2022 it constantly participates in the shifts within

the “STRADE SICURE” Operation in support of public order in the largest Italian cities.

Currently the 186th “Folgore” Parachute Regiment, in addition to the use of the 5th “EL Alamein” Battalion in KFOR on a 15th Company Minor Complex basis, supplies augmented personnel within the “UNIFIL” Mission in Lebanon and provides some CPT assets in different operational theatres.

The war flag of the 186th Parachute Regiment Folgore is decorated with a gold medal for military valor and two silver medals for valor from the army, of which the latest received for the courage shown in dealing with the unrest that broke out in 2004 in Kosovo.

Enrico DI MARCO
OF-2
ITA
RC-W

PRACTICE MAKES PERFECT



It could be a large scale terrain model, a pocket map over the hood of a HUMVEE before rolling out, or even hopping on a radio call while traveling to your destination; whichever way it goes, operational rehearsals are essential to preparing Soldiers for an operation, keeping them safe and conducting a mission successfully. "An operational rehearsal demonstrates to the commander that everyone understands their tasks and objectives," said Capt. Philip Bougere, Chief of Operations for Kosovo Force Regional Command-East (KFOR RC-East). "Understanding the key task, the commander's end state and it is a way to get a pulse on shared understanding across the board."

There are multiple types of ways to conduct these rehearsals based on the time allotted. Most commands prefer face-to-face versus a terrain model, according to Bougere. Some more examples of rehearsal types include computer models, on a map or even a full-scale demonstration on the ground similar to the area of operation that the mission will be conducted in. "I think to plan a good rehearsal you can take two or three of those options and combine them," said Col. Chris Mabis, KFOR RC-East Commander. "So from a rehearsal on a map, then a terrain model and then on the terrain that is close to what you're going to operate on."

There are many important reasons for conducting operational rehearsals, but there is one reason in

particular that leaders everywhere can agree on: synchronization. "The challenge is conducting a rehearsal in a manner that is synchronized and can visualize the operation with whatever tools you're using," said Lt. Col. Jared Sheets, Commander of the KFOR RC-East Maneuver Battalion. There could be negative consequences due to a lack of operational rehearsals, no matter the scale of them. "If you fail at proper rehearsal, then the synchronization probably won't happen the way you intended it to," said Maj. Brendan Williams, KFOR RC-East Operations Officer. "Also in the rehearsal, there may also be certain contingency plans or items that weren't fully planned on the front end and it just makes your plan more complete."

A mission has many variables to work out before it can come to fruition. From pre-combat inspections, to logistic inspections, many things need to be taken into consideration. Planning preparation is only one factor. "Planning can only take you so far," Williams said. "If everybody doesn't rehearse and confirm they understand the plan, then you are less likely to succeed when you need to do the mission." Most U.S. Army leaders follow the "one thirds, two thirds" planning structure. Meaning, one third of a mission is spent on planning at the higher headquarters level and the other two thirds are allotted for the timeline planning from subordinate units. "It's very important to be stringent on the one third, two thirds planning horizon," Williams said. "It's better to get out 80% of a

KEYS PROGRESS



plan and rehearse it properly, than it is to get 100% of the plan out and not have any time for a rehearsal."

Without synchronization and proper preparation, chaos could ensue and lead to people getting hurt, according to Sheets. "You can create a lot more confusion through rehearsal, if it's not prepared properly because of the way it's conducted or the lack of detail doesn't enable adjacent units to synchronize their plans with other units," Sheets said. "If you make a bunch of changes during the rehearsal, but don't have time to notify anyone of it, then what's the point?"

On top of planning and synchronization, other barriers are present. Particularly in a multinational NATO environment, where not everyone speaks the same language, has different military doctrine or comes from a different cultural background. More time must be allotted to allow for proper interpretation and visual aids. "The one common language we all know is visual. I think everyone is a visual learner on some level," Sheets said. "The NATO standardization of the planning process, terms and graphics helps greatly." These communication barriers between allies have been present in almost all past military operations, dating back to WWI. For most, these barriers are unfamiliar waters to navigate. Fortunately, by working together as a team, these NATO partners and allies are able to learn from one another and ultimately become well-rounded fighting forces.

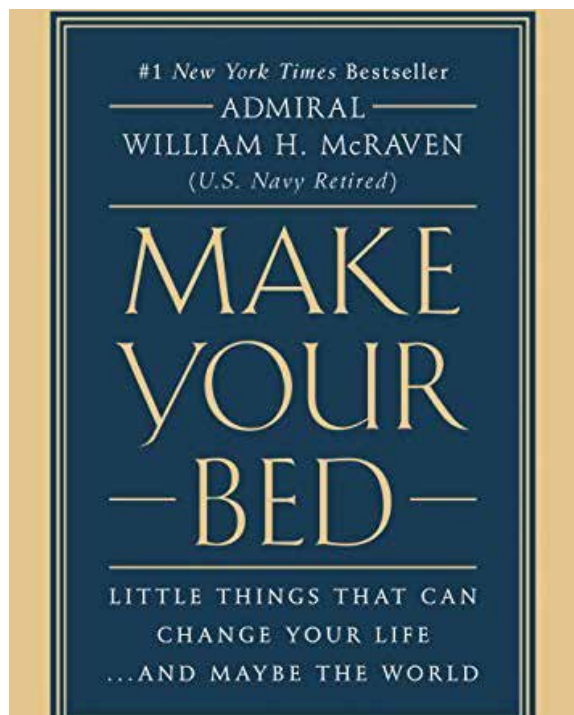
"We learn and improve by working with all of our Coys, regardless of the nation because everyone has a strength in something," Sheets said. "We've found that some units are absolutely phenomenal in their preparation before the mission, while other units are very good at detailed planning and a lot of units are good at operating very quickly." Operational rehearsals give units the time to ensure everyone is on the same page before the execution of a mission and builds an important comradery between friendly forces that allows for a higher chance of success for the operation. "The benefit of doing a rehearsal especially in a multinational setting is that you begin to learn how other militaries operate," Mabis said. "Most importantly you become familiar with those folks before you actually go execute a mission." With each operational rehearsal, new skills are acquired and new tactics are able to be implemented. These rehearsals ensure understanding of the key task, commander's intent and mission objectives, no matter which countries are involved.

"Our ability to work together when you pull all of these different nations together and you start to overcome language barriers, differences in tactics, cultural differences," said Mabis, "you start to build an even stronger coalition."

Skyler SCHENDT
OR-4

111th Public Affairs Detachment,
Nebraska National Guard.

MAKE YOUR BED – LITTLE THINGS THAT CAN CHANGE YOUR LIFE? AND MAYBE THE WORLD



If you want to change the world, start off by making your bed.

On May 21, 2014, Admiral William H. McRaven addressed the graduating class of the University of Texas at Austin on their Commencement day. Taking inspiration from the university's slogan, "What starts here changes the world," he shared the ten principles he learned during Navy Seal training that helped him overcome challenges not only in his training and long Naval career, but also throughout his life; and he explained how anyone can use these basic lessons to change themselves-and the world-for the better. Admiral McRaven's original speech went viral with over 10 million views. Building on the core tenets laid out in his speech, McRaven now recounts tales from his own life and from those of people he encountered during his military service who dealt with hardship and made tough decisions with determination, compassion, honor, and courage. Told with great humility and optimism, this timeless book provides simple wisdom, practical advice, and words of encouragement that will inspire readers to achieve more, even in life's darkest moments. On May 1, 2011, President Obama and his national security team gathered in the White House Situation Room to watch a commando raid taking place half a world away. As the mission unfolded, the president was in continuous video contact with the senior

military officer directing the operation from a base in Afghanistan, Admiral William McRaven.

To this task, Admiral McRaven brought three decades of experience in special operations. The first officer to graduate from the Special Operations and Limited Warfare program at the Naval Postgraduate School, he has held commands at every level of the special ops community, from leading a single SEAL platoon, to his final post as commander of U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM). His experience includes commands in Desert Storm and Desert Shield, leadership of SEAL Team Three, and of NATO's special operations command (SOCEUR). At USSOCOM, Admiral McRaven oversaw and coordinated elite forces from all branches of the nation's military, including such storied outfits as the Navy Seals, the Army's Green Berets and Delta Force, and the Air Force Special Tactics Squadron. The success, that night in 2011, of the raid that eliminated Osama bin Laden without a single American casualty was due, in no small part, to the unique expertise of the man who organized and executed the plan, Admiral William McRaven. Since retiring from the United States Navy in 2014, Admiral McRaven has served as chancellor of the nine-campus University of Texas system.

From <https://www.elsotano.com>

SOLDIER OF THE MONTH

OR-1 OSKAR GORSKI

OR-1 OSKAR GORSKI was the overall winner of the 2023 DANCON march competition, carrying a weight of 20kg over the race distance, and completing the task in an impressive 2 hours and 15 minutes.

OR-1 GORSKI demonstrated his natural military ability and outstanding levels of fitness, self-discipline, resilience and determination to compete not only with the heavy equipment and terrain, but also competing with the difficult weather conditions on the second day of the task. This soldier is a proud example of what is required of the modern soldier to succeed when on operations



NCO OF THE MONTH

OR-6 URBAN CRETNIK

OR-6 CRETNIK has both a strong leadership quality and is a true motivator for both members of his own contingent and his KFOR colleagues. In addition to his own tasks, he always sets firm priorities within his specialist area and delegates responsibility to his team which gives guidance and ensures the mission is always achieved. Through natural self-discipline in both his everyday life, and in his daily training and military profession, he shows his determination, motivation, trustworthiness and genuine concern for his team. These characteristics and values are essential to all modern military leaders, and are key in achieving success in any operational or training environment.





Finally on the other side of the camera! Members of the PAO Branch, OR-4 Antonio Russo, OR-4 Daniel Paciarelli, and OF-3 Salvatore Volpe recently completed the DANCON March in Camp Novo Selo. In order to maintain a friendly atmosphere in the Office, all three individuals crossed the finish line together.

Photo by OR-6 Anna Pongo, 111th Public Affairs Detachment, Nebraska National Guard



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



The Change of Command Ceremony of the Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance Battalion (ISRBN) occurred recently in Camp Film City. The Command changed from Lieutenant Colonel Federico Ghiani to Lieutenant Colonel Sandro Leo. The photograph depicts Lieutenant Colonel Ghiani handing over the pennant to Major General Ristuccia prior to the handover of the pennant to Lieutenant Colonel Leo.

Photo by OR-4 Antonio Russo, PAO

KFOR Regional Command-East Soldiers from Task force Yellowhammer, 1-131st Aviation Regiment, Alabama National Guard and Bravo Company, 2-151 Infantry 76th IBCT, Indiana National Guard practice aerial rappelling, at Camp Bondsteel. Training for rappelling operations allows for the rapid deployment of troops from a helicopter in places where the aircraft cannot touch down.

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



Fire Phobia training for multinational units occurs on a regular basis with the KTRBN in Camp Novo Selo. This training proved to be highly beneficial during the recent Exercise "Golden Sabre" in which the various multinational units were put through their paces during various scenarios.

*Photo by OF-1 DR. Linda SZOKE, HUN,
KTRBN*



COM KFOR Major General RISTUCCIA recently visited Regional-Command East Soldiers of the Turkish Liaison Monitoring Team (LMT) in Gjilan. Major General Ristuccia received an update on the ongoing activities and discussed with them the general situation in the area.

Photo by OR-4 Antonio Russo, PAO





OF-2 (Captain) Sebastijan Trepšić, Croatia.