



the CHRONICLE

KFOR's Magazine

May 2023



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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 Paul RYAN
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,

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Dear reader,

Welcome to May's edition of the Chronicle. The photograph on the front cover by OR-4 Antonio Russo, shows soldiers from the Greek guard being interviewed by a local girl for RTK as part of a visit to Camp Film City. The photograph on the back cover, submitted by OF-2 Travis Kirchner, shows Austrian contingent troops taking part in exercise "Operation Avenger Fury",

In this month's edition of The Chronicle, we look at a number of branches and activities from across the KFOR mission as well as focusing on some external organisations and issues which contribute to security and assistance within Kosovo.

Staff from the Joint Effects Centre deliver an article on the threats posed by Disinformation and Misinformation in the modern environment, and outline how KFOR is supporting both educational efforts and raising awareness within Kosovo to help counter this issue.

OR-4 Skyler Schendt details the work of US National Guard soldiers and the crossover in KFOR from their civilian lives as serving police officers at home in America.

A-5 (CIV) Szilvia Hegyi brings The Chronicle readers through a background to, and an explanation of some key points on The Ohrid Agreement and how this political dialogue is forming a cornerstone of the route back to normalisation between Pristina and Belgrade relations.

MCIV-5 Arian BALLANCA details the importance of both human resource management and the human factor in modern organisations. He outlines the personnel support work that goes on behind the scenes in a multinational environment such as KFOR.

OF-1 Bálint István Nagy discusses Fire Phobia training and how it plays a vital part in the operational capability of CRC qualified troop contingents throughout KFOR.

Ms. Lone Kjelgaard speaks to The Chronicle about the mission and capabilities of NALT in Kosovo. She describes how NALT supports KFOR through its professional outreach and guidance to form improved state structures and capabilities.

SPEC OF (OF-2) Xhetare REXHAJ details the buildup to and handover of command responsibility for the region of SUVA REKA to the SWISS LMT.

OF-1 David BALAZS details the background and tasks of TRANSCOY, the vehicle maintenance, supply and mobility support unit of KFOR.

In the book review segment, we review "MOSHE DAYAN: Story of My Life" - an Autobiography by Moshe Dayan.

As the incoming Chronicle Editor I would like to thank everyone for their contributions, advice and support to this edition. My intent moving forward is to represent the hard work, professional efforts and commitment to the mission of all KFOR staff, both military and civilian, over the coming six months. The KFOR HQ PAO team are here to deliver what you want to see in your mission publication and to help display the best of your particular role, your branch, and your national contingent. We really hope you enjoy reading this month's edition of The Chronicle.

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



DISINFORMATION



The last decades of the evolution of mankind have undergone spectacular changes in technological progress; the age in which we live is paradoxical, tumultuous, a world of informational abundance, subject to continuous change. With this evolution, threats, risks, and vulnerabilities have gained new registers of understanding and manifestation. Malicious influence operations are a growing problem, exacerbated by social media platforms that enable the scale-up of misinformation, disinformation, propaganda and information disruption operations and new algorithmic technologies that have the potential to cause changes in the long term regarding the perceptions, attitudes, and behavior of the targeted audiences.

Changes in the technological sphere have also led to behavioral changes. Humans behave differently in different environments, and the online environment offers unlimited possibilities with effects that we still cannot fully interpret. Social networks initially aimed to create an optimal environment in which people have the chance to be connected, to share ideas, thoughts, experiences, and memories. In a world where almost anyone can become a journalist or at least take a journalist's role in informing through social media, disinformation can be considered a daily challenge for society.

The purpose of this article is to briefly highlight both how disinformation is part of everyday life and methods on how to fight with one of the 21st centuries key threats - disinformation.

Disinformation in Kosovo

The major threat today's postmodern, digital and globalized disinformation poses is an attack on the very foundation of democracy. By blurring

and undermining categories such as truth, facts or scientific knowledge, disinformation "corrodes the foundation of liberal democracy, our ability to assess facts on their merits and to self-correct accordingly" (Thomas Rid, 2020). This is what makes disinformation so dangerous - and why any modern, digital democracy and media system needs profound knowledge about the purpose, patterns, topics, and actors of disinformation. And thus, the study of disinformation leads the way towards a more resilient society, media, and politics (Christopher Nehring, 2023).

In Kosovo, social media platforms are the main playing field used by those who wish to spread disinformation, partially due to the large number of users of certain social media sites within Kosovo. Whilst many privately operated social media pages appear like legitimate media outlets on the one hand, trolling activities by these pages is one of the most frequently used tactics for disseminating misinformation.

As in any other society that faces polarization in a large scale of topics, Kosovo is facing disinformation narratives that aim to create a parallel reality, to create wrong perceptions and beliefs about different topics, or to distort the truth to create confusion and fog. Kosovo cannot be immune from the contamination of this century's biggest challenge, thus ways to properly approach the subject must be of interest for the leading institutions.

KFOR's campaign in the fight against disinformation

One of KFOR's present campaigns is focused on increasing positive media literacy in Kosovo, encouraging the population to be aware, be more careful, be smart and verify the information before believing it through an 8 step process described in a very catchy call-to-action key word: VERIFY (VERIFIKO - in Albanian, PROVERITE - in Serbian). The slogan of the campaign is "Detect, and disregard disinformation!". The campaign has a cross-media approach, with products on radio, social media, TV, and printed materials, in order to reach out and get the message heard. These specific products are not designed to work as a standalone, but to support other products that treat the same subject with different techniques which will follow them.

in a Post-Truth Era

Conclusions and the way ahead

Spectacular changes in terms of technological progress, the ubiquity of digital technologies, the digital revolution, the global digital order, the constantly increasing importance of digital platforms, the speed at which information is transmitted, the algorithmization of personal life, the power to direct and change public opinion, are only a few features of the 21st century. Within this reality, a general conclusion is that the online environment, although initially perceived as an environment with fewer risks and threats than the real environment, has become the appropriate place for manifesting various threats. Our needs in the digital environment can be exploited and used to guide our behavior and decisions. The current information environment, mainly characterized by a very high level of digitalization and use of digital media, is a challenge also for Kosovo.

It is very difficult to assess the threat and the consequences that a particular action in the online world can have but, based on some principles to guide the behavior in itself and digital behavior in particular, we have a higher chance of not reaching undesirable situations and will stop being victims of disinformation. Another aspect to be considered is the reality that even if actions are taken in the digital world, the consequences are very often felt in the real world.

In this direction, the following steps are considered necessary in order to formulate a future strategy for neutralizing specific risks in the online environment, increase positive digital literacy, train critical thinking, increase positive emotional skepticism, investment in the education of the younger generation, control and understanding over explicit digital behavior (a better knowledge of the consequences that our actions can have in the online environment), cultivate security culture adapted to the current realities and implement this among the population, increase media literacy (establishing the agreement between the title and text, checking authors and sources, consulting anti-fake news sites etc.), existence of awareness programs for individuals / institutions with strategic positions (which are at a higher risk of being targeted by hostile entities and also have power to influence through their messages a greater number of people), and create strict regulations regarding the use of information and data of all media users.

Within Kosovo, KFOR has identified the threats, risks, vulnerabilities, and is focusing on SHAPING THE PRESENT FOR A BETTER FUTURE!

SO TAAD, JEC
KFOR HQ, CAMP FILM CITY

PROVERITE!

-  **P** Verify the source of your information!
-  **R** Eliminate any suspicious source of information!
-  **O** Protect yourself from false information!
-  **V** It is important to investigate the accuracy of the news!
-  **E** We repeat again, check the Facts! Facts! Facts!
-  **R** Compare the information and their sources with each other!
-  **I** Identify the author!
-  **T** Try to direct your friends to accurate resources!
-  **E** It is clear that to ensure the accuracy of information it must be checked!

DETECT AND DISREGARD DISINFORMATION!

VERIFIKO!

-  **V** Verify the source of your information!
-  **E** Eliminate any suspicious source of information!
-  **R** Beware of false information!
-  **I** Investigate the accuracy of the news!
-  **F** Facts! Facts! Facts!
-  **I** Identify the author!
-  **K** Compare the information and their sources with each other!
-  **O** Direct your friends to accurate resources!

DETECT AND DISREGARD DISINFORMATION!

To Protect & Serve:



When joining the US Army National Guard, soldiers can choose their job, or military occupational specialty (MOS). One of the best parts of this is that they can choose a job similar to their civilian careers, or they can choose a MOS that is completely different to add to their tool belt.

When a group of Indiana National Guard soldiers found out they were heading to Kosovo, they had no idea how valuable their skills learned from being civilian police officers would be to the peacekeeping mission they signed up for.

Staff Sgt. Derek Rine is currently serving as a squad leader within Bravo Company with the 2-151st Infantry Battalion stationed at Camp Nothing Hill, Kosovo. At home, he is a state trooper for the state of Indiana. "I've always enjoyed the military aspect of my life and being able to help people, and I saw the correlation between military and law enforcement to where I can still help people in a way that I feel makes a big difference," Rine said. "Protecting people and trying to make my community a better, safer place to live.

From the beginning of his police career, his main goal has been helping the people in the communities he lives in. No matter the community Rine calls home, he feels called to protect its safety and security. From enlisted to officers alike, there is no denying the advantage that they bring to the Kosovo Force (KFOR) mission with the expertise they have acquired from serving as police officers in their hometowns.

Capt. Jesse Morganthaler is currently the commander of the Liaison Monitoring Teams that operate out of Camp Bondsteel. He has served on the Elkhart City Police Department in Indiana for eight years in the uniformed division. "I think the biggest thing is

probably the ability to talk to the civilian population. It's something that officers do every day," Morganthaler said. "Whether it's a mayor or talking to Kosovo Police chiefs, obviously there's some connection there just because of the backgrounds."

Morganthaler says he always knew he wanted to follow in his father's footsteps and become a police officer. He had no original plans to join the military until he was figuring out how he would pay for college. "I joined the National Guard to pay for college, not knowing that I could make a career out of it," admitted Morganthaler. "Law enforcement just kind of brings something new every day which is one of the reasons I wanted to get into the field and the military."

The leadership roles of a National Guard soldier play a key component in a wide variety of other civilian occupations. Morganthaler plans on taking his experience in his leadership role from the KFOR mission and applying it to his civilian law enforcement position. "Having to balance personalities and get everyone on the same page to accomplish the mission is similar to what I would have to do back home as a patrol sergeant," explained Morganthaler. "I think that the leadership skills that I've learned here will hopefully translate to me progressing myself back home and into a leadership role." The correlation between civilian law enforcement and the mission of these soldiers in Kosovo doesn't stop with leadership skills, but also includes the ability to understand complex security challenges, according to Lt. Col. Jared Sheets.

Sheets has served over 15 years as a police officer with the Fishers Police Department in Indiana and is

At Home and Overseas



currently serving as the Battalion Commander for the 2-151st Infantry Battalion, serving as the maneuver battalion for KFOR Regional Command-East. "That experience in law enforcement and the challenges that they face as law enforcement officers back home also enables them to demonstrate empathy towards the struggles of the communities in Kosovo," Sheets said. "This experience is invaluable and it's only possible through their service in the National Guard as a citizen-soldier and cannot be replicated in the Active Component."

According to Sgt. 1st Class Dexter Whitten, an Indiana State Trooper in the Lafayette District who is currently serving as a platoon sergeant within Bravo Company of the 2-151st Infantry Battalion, stationed at Camp Nothing Hill, his team's mission in KFOR is similar to his mission back home, despite not being the first responders for law enforcement in Kosovo. "We are here as more eyes and ears," Whitten said. "We coordinate with the local police and bring things to their attention so they can [respond] to it."

For these Soldiers, their civilian careers have allowed them to make more meaningful connections with members of the Kosovo Police when they interact with one another. One Soldier has noticed the difference it can make when developing working relationships



with Kosovo Police officers.

1st Sgt. Wayne Wilkie has been with the Warsaw City Police Department for 21 years. Currently, he serves as the first sergeant for Bravo Company with the 2-151st Infantry Battalion at Camp Nothing Hill. "When my commander and I go out to do the key leader engagements with the police officials, you can see the demeanor in their faces change once I introduce myself and tell them that I'm a police officer," said Wilkie. "They tend to open up more and talk more freely and they feel more comfortable." The main effort for the KFOR mission is to provide a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all communities in Kosovo. This effort is nearly identical to the goals of local law enforcement agencies in the United States. "A safe and secure environment is exactly what civilian law enforcement strives to do and really enable people in their communities to feel that they live in a safe environment and they don't have to modify or change their lifestyles based on threats from outside sources," expressed Sheets. "So that is exactly what we do here in Kosovo."

(OR- 4) Skyler Schendt,
111th Public Affairs Detachment
Nebraska National Guard

The Belgrade -



Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro, North Macedonia, and Serbia, the six countries of the Western Balkans, although in different phases and with diverse ambitions but, are all on the path to Euro-Atlantic integration. Kosovo's unilateral declaration of independence on 17 February 2008 triggered controversial reactions internationally. It is hardly surprising that Serbia is among those countries that do not recognize Kosovo. Not only did Serbia strongly oppose the declaration but it also refused to deal directly with the Institutions in Kosovo (IiK) for three years. The EU-facilitated Dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina (BPD) was initiated in 2011 in order to normalize relations in a comprehensive way, a crucial precondition for EU-membership. Multiple rounds of technical level dialogue resulted in a number of agreements on e.g. freedom of movement, integrated border/boundary management, recognition of university degrees, and transfer of civil registries and cadastral data. In 2013 Belgrade and Pristina assented to the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations (also referred to as 'the Brussels Agreement'). NATO also played an important role in securing the Agreement and KFOR stands ready to support in its implementation.

The Brussels Agreement itself is only a framework that needs to be accompanied by a detailed implementation plan. Its articles focus mainly on the planned Association/Community of Serb-majority

Municipalities (A/CSM), and policing; beyond that it touches upon judicial authorities, courts, elections, energy and telecommunication. 2015 saw the signing of further agreements in four key issues by the representatives of Belgrade and Pristina: energy, telecommunication, A/CSM and the Ibar River Bridge (known as the Austerlitz Bridge). In 2018, following Kosovo's unilateral imposition of 100% tariffs on all Serbian goods, the two parties suspended the dialogue.

A new momentum

In April 2020 Miroslav LAJČAK was appointed EU Special Representative (EUSR) for the BPD and other Western Balkans regional issues. In July 2020, after a 20-month break, the dialogue resumed following a partial lifting of the tariffs by Kosovo. In July 2020, the EU High Representative (EUHR), Josep BORRELL, hosted a high-level meeting with the then Prime Minister (PM) of IiK, Avdullah HOTI, and the Serbian President, Aleksandar VUCIC. This was the first dialogue meeting since November 2018.

Following a 2022 Franco-German initiative, EU-facilitated negotiations culminated in the submission of an 11-point EU-proposal in February 2023: 'Agreement on the path to normalization between Kosovo and Serbia'. President VUCIC and IiK PM Albin KURTI had a 12-hour discussion on 18 March 2023 in Ohrid, in the presence of EU and US delegations. Although following the meeting EUHR announced

Pristina Dialogue



that “Kosovo and Serbia have agreed on the Implementation Annex of the Agreement on the Path to normalization of Relations between them” and that “the Parties have fully committed to honor all Articles of the Agreement, and implement all their respective obligations expediently and in good faith”, the two parties comments did not echo that sentiment. The different attitudes towards the agreement reflect the longstanding difficulty in finding common ground for working on a comprehensive, legally binding normalization agreement. The 2013 agreement did not solve the question of the status of Kosovo and Serbia concluded that it did not require the recognition of Kosovo as a state. Obstacles in this regard include the two sides’ differing notions of what normalization means. For Kosovo it involves mutual recognition, while for Serbia it does not, for them the establishment of A/CSM is the minimum requirement for progress in the dialogue in order to reach further tangible agreements. Unfortunately, the parties have a different interpretation of A/CSM as well. Serbia sees it as a governing entity to be established under the agreement, while for Kosovo it is an inter-municipal association involved with helping local governments coordinate and share expertise and, most notably, an association without executive powers.

Recent meetings

The BPD continued this spring both at technical and at high level. On 04 April 2023 Deputy PM of liK, Besnik BISLIMI and Director of the Office for Kosovo and Metohija, Petar PETKOVIC met in Brussels with EUSR, and the chief negotiators of both Pristina and Belgrade agreed on the text of the Declaration on Missing Persons. Following the by-elections on 23 April 2023 in four municipalities in the North

of Kosovo, President VUCIC and liK PM KURTI had a meeting convened by EUHR and EUSR in Brussels on 02 May 2023. The main outcome this time was the adoption of the Declaration on Missing Persons. As there was no progress related to other issues, BORRELL and LAJCAK, and several representatives of the International Community (IC), similarly to other occasions, made joint efforts to swiftly bring about yet another meeting. The chief negotiators met in Brussels again on 15 May 2023 under the mediation of the EU. These negotiations achieved some progress related to energy but overall the atmosphere cannot be labelled as positive.

Regrettably the understanding of agreements, especially related to their implementation, has always been characterized by the parties differing, often complete opposite approaches. Even though the now 12-year process can be described by limited progress and several episodes of heightened tensions, BPD is viewed by the IC as key to solving the political deadlock between the two parties, and has helped improve relations between them.

Other developments related to Kosovo’s path to EU-integration

On 18 April 2023, the European Parliament endorsed the agreement on short-stay visa freedom with Kosovo. After the law enters into force in January 2024, citizens of Kosovo will be allowed to travel to the EU without requesting a visa, for periods of up to 90 days in any 180-day period.

Kosovo applied to join the Council of Europe in May 2022 and on 24 April 2023 the necessary two-thirds of the member states voted in favor to send Kosovo’s application for membership to the organization’s Parliamentary Assembly, with Serbia voting against it.

Szilvia HEGYI
A-5 (civ)

POLAD Special Advisor HUN, KFOR HQ

Human Resource



Imagine an organisation without people? How is it created? How does it operate? What is its mission/vision? - Impossible right? This is why we, the staff of J1 Branch in KFOR HQ believe that people, be they military or civilian staff, are the soul of an organisation and are the key element of any and all successful organisations. KFOR is no exception to this belief. Personnel Branch, known in NATO military structures as J1 Branch, falls in the Support Division, where it is responsible for both military and civilian personnel management, resourcing and structures. Its activities are spread both organically within the KFOR Area of Operations (AOO) and also outside of this sphere, such as in the NATO Military Liaison Office in Belgrade, Serbia. There is an old saying that people are the true resource of an organisation, i.e. that nothing operates if the right person or people are not behind it. To a vast extent this is true in all aspects of life but particularly in large scale multinational, multifaceted organisations such as NATO, and in turn KFOR. J1 believe that the human capacity is most fruitful when the systems we have in place, as well as the rules and regulations we have developed, are fully adhered to and are respected by all contributors to the organisation.

Working in J1 is always interesting, often fun and seldom difficult due to the support, professionalism and comradery of our branch colleagues. J1 is committed to maintaining the highest standards of

professional and personal conduct in such a way as to uphold the trust and confidence of the employees of all categories. Often this is easier said than done in a multinational and multicultural environment, in a dynamic world that has been reshaped by recent natural disasters, social unrests and political challenges. It is the responsibility of J1 staff to develop an enjoyable professional environment in a very diverse and exiting multinational and multicultural environment, promoting at the same time fundamental values of the organisation and ensuring that its personnel act within the NATO code of conduct. J1 coordinates different recognition programs for both serving military and contracted civilian employees. In this contest it ensures that each soldier is decorated with the Non-Article 5 medal or SACEUR NATO Meritorious Medal (highest recognition), and that each civilian staff member's quinquennial work anniversary is recognised and appreciated by the organization's chain of command. J1 ensures that each branch receives the human capacity needed for them to accomplish their mission. It assists in the analysing of human resource requirements, identifying of workforce and workplace based needs and then presents these findings to higher commands, or indeed makes applications for funding or approval to higher authorities for assistance in areas which require improvements

Management



or modernisation. Finally J1 then assists in the implementing of such improvements flawlessly, and in line with existing regulations. It also ensures that support tasks such as the filling of billets are kept in order and wherever needed, it puts mechanisms in motion to have them filled in the fastest and most efficient way possible. The current workforce has never been more complete to full strength than in the recent past. J1 is proud of this capacity building element.

J1 manages several Card Issuing Centers (CIC) spread throughout the AOO. It develops policies and structures for this matter, as well as ensuring each KFOR member is equipped with a personal ID card and that they are aware of the privileges and immunities that come with the respective item. It coordinates other CIC stakeholders and ensures that they are operational and act in compliance with the rules and regulations in place. Leave/absence management is another important function of the branch, supporting administration of thousands of absence cases per year. It is responsible for the accountability of all staff figures pertaining to boots on the ground, both when active in theater and when processing in or out of mission for whatever reason, such as when commencing your mission, departing on mission leave or at the end of a tour of duty. Another important function the branch thoroughly enjoys is registering and documenting the performance of

each staff member. It recognizes services way and beyond normal duties and administers thousands of performance evaluations annually, often used to detect deficiencies or assist in improving the work flow and work environment in general through the human capacity and output.

Within the civilian component it is obligated to remunerate them for their work professionally and to keep ensure their working standards and structures, e.g. by paying them accurately and in a timely manner always. J1 manages millions of Euros in funds on an annual basis. It tracks its expenditure to conform to NATO directives and forecasts future budgetary requirements based on both quantitative and qualitative data which the branch monitors constantly throughout each fiscal year. J1 takes particular pride in the supervisory and administrative role that it plays in ensuring the safety of all mission personnel who drive fleet vehicles in KFOR. Within this space it ensures that valid driver licenses are issued to all required KFOR personnel after validating their national driving permits from their home nations.

Administrative support is the last but not least function J1 embraces. The branch is known to support in-processing and out-processing of all staff members; produce countless workforce reports for branches, as well as command and higher headquarters, mediate various complicated situations arising due to workforce deficiencies or conflicts and helps coordinate countless activities and working groups. All these functions are carried out by a team consisting of eight staff members only, always with a smile on their face and matched with a tremendous dedication to the daily, monthly, yearly and at times the necessary ad-hoc work that is commonplace when dealing with real people and the inevitable individual circumstances each and every one of them represent.

It truly is an honor to be a part of such a tight knit and highly dedicated team, whom accomplishes so much for the better of so many other staff members, and also to see the KFOR mission continue to not only thrive as an organisation within NATO, but to see its mission objectives consistently accomplished through the efforts of its greatest asset, its people.

MCIV-5 Arian BALLANCA
Civilian Human Resources Manager, J1 Branch
KFOR HQ Spt

FIRE PHOBIA TR



Fire Phobia training is conducted in order to familiarise KFOR soldiers with current Crowd Riot Control (CRC) tactics, techniques and procedures, and also to train soldiers to become confident in the physical and mental skills required to manage the high stress scenario caused by the use of petrol incendiaries such as handheld petrol bombs or the more commonly known molotov cocktail whilst deployed in active overseas situations. The members of the Hungarian KFOR Tactical Reserve Battalion (KTRBN) regularly conduct fire phobia training for their own contingent and for other allied nations also, given their expertise in the area. According to events within KFOR in the past it is necessary that this skillset remains ready to deploy at all times to support the mission objectives and the intent of the mission Commander whenever required, therefore it is extremely important to prepare our troops (mentally, technically and tactically) in how to face all threats which may be likely in a small, medium or indeed large scale deployment where KFOR CRC assets are required.

Fire phobia training is usually conducted at a platoon or company sized level in Camp Novo Selo and takes 3 to 4 hours to conduct for a given unit. During the training the trainee soldiers must conduct all training whilst wearing full personal protective CRC equipment, including flame retardant suits or clothing as issued to each troop contingent. After the initial safety briefings a demonstration team from the

KTRBN instructor staff shows the trainee soldiers how to react in the case where a rioting crowd deploys fire or petrol as a destructive tool. The trainees then learn step by step drills for the proper techniques required by each individual with the help of the trainers. This is first conducted without the use of training petrol bombs until the required standard of drills have been rehearsed properly. To minimise the risk of injuries, the trainees can only continue the training if they have fully understood the instructions of the training staff and can fully demonstrate their competence in the previously rehearsed procedures. Unfortunately this type of highly realistic tactical training does not come without a calculated risk. In the past there have been minor injuries during training, this can often occur due to a lack of confidence in equipment or mistakes in the correct wearing of protective equipment, often by first time trainees, or if drills are conducted incorrectly. During training the KTRBN provides a medical team with an ambulance on standby at all times and the trainers carry fire extinguishers at all times to react to any emergency situation which may occur. These planning factors are vital for the conduct of realistic but well controlled and safe training. Without a properly staffed and trained medical team, or the designated fire extinguisher teams the training cannot take place.

After proving that they are capable to progress through the training without the use of fire, the soldiers have to demonstrate what they have just

TRAINING - KTRBN



learned within the initial classes of instruction, however this time with real molotov cocktails under the supervision of the training staff. The first time the students will experience real fire rehearsals they will do so individually, then in sections or squads, then by platoon, and finally at company level. The correct reaction from a trainee soldier who first identifies the threat of a molotov cocktail in a hostile crowd is the following, she or he will shout „Cocktail! Cocktail! Cocktail!” to warn the personnel in the CRC formation that the rioters are using molotov cocktails. Then he or she has to employ the tactic that they have learned, namely closing their legs, bending their knees to create a strong stance, holding their shield tight to protect themselves, and with their other arm they must protect their own neck and throat from petrol fumes or flames. For safety reasons the cocktails are thrown directly to the ground and not on or over the head of the trainee soldiers. After hitting the ground the fuel from the glass bottles will spread and most likely will ignite the trainee’s shield and protective equipment. The trainee then has to stamp their feet and begin waving their shield quickly up and down to shake off any burning fuel to help put out the fire. In some cases this procedure is not enough alone, so the fire has to be extinguished by the designated soldier with the correct type of fire extinguisher. Finally the trainee has to stand firmly and has to continue with the task ahead, which usually requires advancing forward to gain safe ground beyond

the site of the flames or possibly to withdraw and reorganise the formation. It is important that the trainers focus only on the correct techniques for reacting to a petrol or fire scenario here in detail, and do not try to cover other CRC tactics in this lesson. The instructors encourage each nation to use their own formations, commands and CRC tactics, techniques and procedures developed and designed according to the trained nation’s organisation, equipment, armament and national caveats.

For the KTRBN this type of training is significant for every troop contributing contingent in KFOR to experience and to achieve a high standard in as a part of their full operational capability when it comes to crowd riot control. Often for first time trainees this training can be very challenging as it is very realistic and must be done correctly without question. However, it is the experience of the KTRBN training staff that soldiers often find this training highly rewarding and enjoyable to take part in and most KFOR soldiers learn this skillset very quickly and become very confident in deploying in this type of scenario.

OF-1 Bálint István Nagy
BRAVO company, KTRBN
Company commander

NALT - Advising Kosovo's Security



Are you good at talking with different people? Do you like to share your experiences? Do you know how to improve procedures and create capacities? Can you identify and implement lessons learned? If you can say yes to these questions, you should consider joining the NALT!

What is the NALT?

The NALT, or NATO Advisory and Liaison Team, enables NATO's support to the development of the security organizations in Kosovo with a focus on capacity-building, education and training coordination. Unlike KFOR, we represent and report directly to NATO Headquarters in Brussels as we have a different command chain. The NALT was created in 2016 through the merger of existing liaison and advisory teams. Prior to this, KFOR provided advice on the development of the Kosovo Security Forces (KSF) under their original mandate. A separate team was focused on development of the civilian KSF oversight structures. We operate according to clear terms of reference. Not all NATO Allies recognise Kosovo independence. Therefore, we cannot advise on any KSF activities outside the original 2008 KSF mandate. This provides for KSF support to civilian authorities in

response to emergencies, civil protection operations, and crisis response. Advice which supports KSF recent aspirations to become a conventional military force is a redline for the NALT. But there is still plenty of work to be done. Our mission is to support the development of the security organisations in Kosovo, from their ability to exercise civilian control and democratic oversight, to the effective establishment and development of appropriate force structures and capabilities. In other words to help develop the mechanisms and procedures we know from our home countries. Our activities focus on capacity building, and education and training coordination. Our support aims at strengthening regional stability by contributing to internal security and confidence-building among regional actors.

The NALT is made up of a team of civilian and military personnel, with contributions currently from 16 Allies and Partners as well as local civilian hires. The big team is broke into smaller teams which each focus on providing different strands of advice and support. The NALT coordinate relevant issues with KFOR and there is excellent information exchange between us. KFOR provides the real-life support to the NALT based

Organisations on Behalf of NATO



on an MOU or Memorandum of Understanding. This is our daily interaction with KFOR. NALT and KFOR leadership meet weekly to ensure that both lines of NATO effort are linked up.

But what does the NALT actually do? What does an adviser's day/week look like?

Spotlight on: NALT Medical Advisor Major Madlen Banholzer

"I work with the KSF to improve their medical capabilities. It is a big challenge. The KSF lacks equipment and training personnel. The KSF still relies on civilian medical services for many things. However, with our help, progress is being made. Our Kosovo counterparts welcome our support and it is satisfying to see them use the skills they have learnt. The highlight of my tour? Probably facilitating MEDEVAC training in coordination with KFOR".

The NALT does have a set structure, but the type of work it does requires flexibility and internal coordination and information sharing. Every morning the advisers have a huddle and go over the current key tasks or projects. After another cup of coffee and a chat with colleagues, the advisers pick up the

car keys and disperse to different locations all over Kosovo. Advisers meet their counterparts and talk on a daily basis. This is all for the purpose of identifying what structures, procedures, and capabilities are in place, and where there is room for improvement. At the end of the day, these observations are captured in an all-encompassing overview. This may sound like a lot of paper work, but it is not really. The NALT also host a number of workshops and conferences where external experts are brought in to share their expertise with relevant Kosovo counterparts. These events cover areas from host nation support, how to write an MOU, what is humanitarian international law, to building resilience – you name it. These events provide our Kosovo counterparts with valuable insights into Kosovo best practice.

Every Friday we have dinner together and share what happened during the week. So, should you happen to walk past the Athens building on a Friday night and hear laughter - hurry up and find a way to join the NALT.

Ms. Lone Kjelgaard

Chief of Staff, A5
NATO Advisory and Liaison Team
Camp Film City, Pristina, Kosovo



SWISSCOY HOTO Liaison and



Ensuring a secure and stable environment is one of the two main missions of the Kosovo Force (KFOR). An important contribution to this is made by the Liaison and Monitoring Team (LMT), in which Swiss military personnel also perform their service in Kosovo. At the end of April 2023, an additional team was added to the five existing locations in Suva Reka. At various locations throughout Kosovo, LMTs (Liaison and Monitoring Teams) act as KFOR's eyes and ears in the field. They are in daily contact with both the population and representatives of the local authorities, and are thus aware of social and political developments in real time. It is precisely such information that highlights potential conflict that could have a negative impact on security and stability in Kosovo and the Balkans as a whole. The information gathered is summarised in reports and then evaluated by analysis cells in the mission's regional commands so that KFOR can both orientate and coordinate itself according to possible developments within the greater Area of Operations (AOO). SWISSCOY has so far comprised LMTs at five locations, each consisting of about ten people - in April, a new location was added with the team in Suva Reka. By fulfilling their mission for KFOR, Swiss military personnel contribute to peace and stability within both KFOR and the greater Balkans as a whole.

SWISSCOY - A reliable partner within KFOR

Until now, the Austrian Armed Forces led the LMT in Suva Reka, but since 27 April this year, Switzerland has taken direct command of the observation team in South-Western Kosovo. As early as September 2022, two members of SWISSCOY were integrated into the LMT responsible for Suva Reka in order to work closely with the previous Austrian officers in charge

during the following six months. The overarching mission included preparing the LMT Suva Reka site to the extent that it could already operate with limited operational capacity from the start of SWISSCOY contingent 48 in April 2023. This created optimal conditions for the smooth takeover of the site. This was not only about familiarisation within the region, but also about passing on contacts and understanding the dynamics within the local population and how they could best be supported by the LMT and its efforts. The fact that SWISSCOY was able to take over the LMT in Suva Reka also shows that Switzerland and its military contingent is a key contributor within the current KFOR mission context. This handover of command also demonstrates Switzerland's reliability and commitment as an active partner within both KFOR and NATO, and demonstrates its highly valued military expertise and capabilities. SWISSCOY has also endeavored to consistently develop the trust and mutual support of all key actors within its region of operations, a factor which is indispensable for the work of a liaison and monitoring team deployed at the tactical and operational level of any modern mission.

LMT Suva Reka under Swiss responsibility

Finally, on April 27, 2023, the official ceremony took place to hand over LMT Suva Reka from Austria to Switzerland. For just over 10 years the Austrian contingent have been present in Suva Reka and during this time they established vital contacts and conducted exceptional work within their area of responsibility. The Swiss contingent will build on this history of positive engagement and will benefit from the work completed by their Austrian predecessors. Also present at the ceremony was the Deputy

Monitoring Team Suva Reka



Commander of KFOR, Brigadier General József Szpisjã. During his address he paid special mention that he looked forward to the joint cooperation with the Swiss contingent in this newly acquired role, noting the essential contribution played by regional LMTs in ensuring a secure and stable environment within Suva Reka, and also emphasizing the key role which these assets play within the local population throughout Kosovo. With the takeover of LMT Suva Reka, part of the Swiss contingent will now relocate to this region, which is a somewhat historical throwback to their previous deployments in Camp Casablanca which was previously occupied by SWISSCOYs in the recent past.

Suva Reka & KFOR A look at history

Shortly after the end of the Kosovo war in 1999, Suva Reka already served as a base for numerous troop contributing contingents involved in KFOR, including the Swiss Military, the Austrian Army and the German Bundeswehr. Camp Casablanca was located on the outskirts of Suva Reka and served to support both as a service support location and as an operations center. The Swiss-Austrian Task Force Dulje, as part of a multinational brigade, was already providing services at that time, which served in particular to ensure stability and security in the region. With the positive progress made in this regard, new

operational needs developed for the mission. In order to be able to identify processes and dynamics within the population throughout the country as early as possible, KFOR deployed additional sensors. In this context, the LMTs were formed in 2004. A year later, the Austrian Armed Forces deployed their first LMTs, which at that time operated from Camp Casablanca. As a result of the development and strategic restructure of KFOR, the camp closed its doors in 2012 after thirteen years of extensive use. The SWISSCOY troops previously stationed in Suva Reka were moved to KFOR headquarters in Pristina and to the then Prizren field camp. This also marked the end of the SWISSCOY era in the Suva Reka region. For the Austrian LMT, the move into a field house in the center of the village followed. The life of KFOR personnel in an ordinary house, in the midst of the local population, was, and still is, to be understood as a clear message of KFOR's absolute commitment to creating a valued and credible trust within local populations. The Swiss LMT is now building on this to fulfill its KFOR mission of ensuring a secure and stable environment throughout Kosovo.

SPEC OF (OF-2) Xhetare REXHAJ
Press and Information Officer SWISSCOY 48

TRANSCOY - Kee



Transport Section or TransCoy is a sub-unit of Headquarters Support Group. TransCoy includes a fleet of 145 vehicles, the Fleet Management and Administration Section, the LAD (Light Aid Detachment) workshop, the POL (Petrol, Oil and Lubricants) Station, the Dispatch Office, the Carwash and a professional team of military and civilian colleagues whose job it is to support the daily operations of transportation assets for KFOR. Our 'family' has 16 members: the Transport Administrator, the Fleet Management Storeman, the LAD Chief, the Motor Maintenance Team Leader, two Motor Mechanics, the LAD Storeman, the Dispatch Leader, four Driver/Instructors, Carwasher operators, two POL Station Storemen and myself as the overall Transport Section Manager or TransCoy Chief. We can truly call this team a family, because if it is necessary we can help each other to do the best in our job and for the mission here.

The Transport Administrator's job is to manage the KFOR Fleet. He monitors the utilisation and controls the lifespan of service vehicles. He maintains records about every activity of KFOR Fleet vehicles. The KFOR operational fleet contains both Blue and Green Fleet vehicles. People can recognise easily KFOR Fleet vehicles because of the blue plate with 'KFOR' and three digits. Green Fleet vehicles also have blue plates, however the 'Green' designation refers to more formally recognised military or tactical vehicles, for example our Ford Rangers, Toyota Hilux or MB

G-Class vehicles. People can use KFOR Fleet vehicles only with KFOR driver permits issued by J1. This is done only after mandatory mission driver training is completed and registered.

The LAD workshop is opened for repairs till second level maintenances and annual inspections for KFOR Fleet vehicles which are not under warranty. For servicing under warranty the LAD Chief and the Motor Maintenance Leader has to manage external contracts made by J8 with external companies and keep contact with contractors daily on this type of on-going works. They have to schedule the regular maintenances and annual inspections for all KFOR vehicles.

LAD also controls a number of specialised transport assets, for example platform elevators and heavy lift equipment, hydraulic pressure machines, engine cranes, tire changing machines and tire balancing equipment. The Motor Mechanics are qualified and highly educated to operate this equipment to assist with all vehicle service issues. Another important 'member' of the LAD team is our recovery truck 'GINA'. 'GINA' has helped many times in the recovery of broken down or immobilised vehicles within the KFOR AOO. LAD includes a warehouse facility also, which is suitable for storing the necessary spare parts and liquids which are inherent to maintaining a large operational transport fleet. Fleet Management Storeman and LAD Storeman manage to keep our stock at the necessary levels to ensure constant

Supporting KFOR Moving



availability of parts wherever possible. Facilities and equipment of the LAD are available only for KFOR fleet vehicles.

The POL Station provides diesel and gasoline for refueling of the KFOR fleet, national contingent fleets, fleets of contractor companies like Cakay and NATO and civilian vehicles as required. The total unit figure for this fleet is close to 800 vehicles, which our POL Storemen support on a daily, weekly and monthly basis without failure even despite this constant volume of vehicles. The POL Station also provides to refuel heat and electricity generators around Camp Film City as a key part of their work. Customers can refuel their fleet vehicles from Monday to Saturday during working hours, but in case of emergency the POL Station is opened for MNMP, KFOR Fire Department, ROLE-1, ROLE-2 and EOD teams on a 24/7 basis.

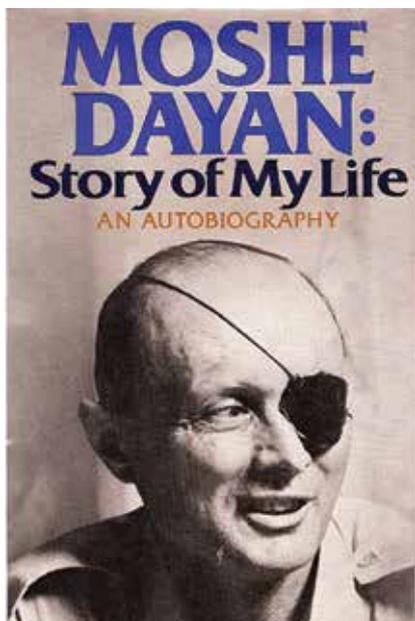
The Dispatch Office within the Motorpool provides mobility of authorised KFOR personnel as requested through the NDSS system. Nominated branch POCs can submit vehicle requests for members of their branches. After the request is accepted by appropriate level staff the beneficiary, or nominated driver, can pick up the assigned vehicle in the dispatch office. After the mission or task they must hand over the vehicle(s) washed, clean and refueled, accompanied by any required paperwork completed as per their KFOR driver training. The dispatch office can provide special vehicles for special demands too, for example

armoured vehicles for special missions, firetrucks for the firefighters, forklifts for moving weights such as pallets of water, short and long cargo trucks and buses with 18 or 20 seats. If the branches don't have the necessary driver permit to operate these vehicles, they can request our experienced drivers also from the dispatch office through the NDSS system. The dispatch leader organises driver permit training every Saturday for newly authorised KFOR members and after the training issues the permits.

TransCoy includes a vehicle carwash service also. This facility has two garages and both of them are equipped with high pressure washing system which is suitable to support mixed washing liquids to ensure all vehicle's are kept to the highest of standards. Customers can use it alone in working hours or they can request our carwash staff to wash and clean their vehicle if needed. It is opened for KFOR and national fleets. The TransCoy staff are here to support both the mission and the staff of the mission to operate in a safe, efficient and professional manner at all times. Both the military and civilian staff of TransCoy are proud to serve within KFOR and look forward to engaging with all mission staff whenever we are needed.

OF-1 David BALAZS
Hungarian Army
Transport Section Manager

MOSHE DAYAN: Story of My Life an Autobiography



“Moshe Dayan” is the autobiography of a soldier who never forgot his roots as a farmer, a loner who rose to the highest echelons of government. Here he describes his kibbutz childhood, his involvement in the Jewish underground, the battles he fought as the head of a commando unit in the War of Independence, his experiences as chief of staff and mastermind of the 1956 Sinai Campaign, and his tenure as Minister of Defence during the Six Day and Yom Kippur wars. One of the greatest generals in modern history, Dayan was also a man who hated the suffering that war brings, and who loved the land of Israel more than himself. He writes of his heroes, friends and enemies, providing candid portraits of Kissinger, Ben-Gurion, Golda Meir and other notables. This is a story of a brilliant soldier who grew up to be one of the most respected and heroic figures in the Middle East. Moshe Dayan (Kitaigorodsky) (20 May 1915 – 16 October 1981) was an Israeli military leader and politician. He was the second child born on the first kibbutz. As the fourth Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces (1953–58), he became a fighting symbol to the world of the new state of Israel. He went on to become Defense Minister and later Foreign Minister of Israel.

The Telem party won two seats in the 1981 elections, but Dayan died shortly thereafter, in Tel Aviv, from a massive heart attack. He had been in ill-health since 1980, after he was diagnosed with colon cancer late that year. He is buried in Nahalal in the Moshav (a collective village) where he was raised. Dayan willed his personal belongings to his bodyguard. In

2005, his eye patch was offered for sale on Ebay with a starting bid of \$75,000 U.S. dollars. Dayan was a complex character; his opinions were never strictly black and white. He had few close friends; his mental brilliance and charismatic manner were combined with cynicism and lack of restraint. Dayan combined a kibbutznik’s secular identity and pragmatism with a deep love and appreciation for the Jewish people and the land of Israel—but not a religious identification. In one recollection, having seen rabbis flocking on the Temple Mount shortly after Jerusalem was captured in 1967, he asked, “*What is this? Vatican?*” On his religious views, Dayan was an atheist. Dayan later ordered the Israeli flag removed from the Dome of the Rock, and gave administrative control of the Temple Mount over to the Waqf, a Muslim council. Dayan believed that the Temple Mount was more important to Judaism as a historical rather than holy site. Dayan was an author and claimed to be an amateur archaeologist, the latter hobby leading to significant controversy, as his amassing of historical artifacts, often with the help of his soldiers, seemed to be in breach of a number of laws. Some of his activities in this regard, whether illegal digging, looting of sites or commerce of antiquities, have been detailed by R. Kletter from the Israel Antiquities Authority. In 2005, Moshe Dayan was voted the 73rd-greatest Israeli of all time, in a poll by the Israeli news website Ynet to determine whom the general public considered the 200 Greatest Israelis.

NCO OF THE MONTH

OR-8 KARIM HASSANEIN - AUSTRIAN CONTINGENT

OR-8 Karim Hassanein displays the key characteristics required of all NCOs when deployed overseas. His high level of professional and personal commitment to the mission objectives, matched to his initiative to get the job done is an example to those around him. This NCO utilises his previous professional experience within the KFOR mission to deliver the highest standards both for himself and those around him every day. His exemplary performance within the mission here in Kosovo has set him apart as a key role model for the motivation and drive of the newly rotated Infantry company of the Austrian contingent.



SOLDIER OF THE MONTH

OR-4 DAVIDE LUNARDINI - MSU

OR-4 Davide Lunardini is currently deployed within KFOR as a CIMIC operator with the MSU. This soldier's professional initiative, inherent drive and motivation has helped him to develop a level of pride and prestige in both his unit and his national contingent. He contributes significantly to the mission on a daily basis through his focus on the organisation and delivery of vital CIMIC donations to families most in need throughout KOSOVO. He also commits his time to assisting at the pediatric oncology department of Pristina Hospital, which is a key location for KFOR CIMIC support within the local population in this theatre. This soldier displays the best values of the KFOR mission and also those of his home nation whilst deployed.





KFOR RC-W hosted a meeting of religious authorities from the Western part of the region at Camp Villaggio Italia. The meeting was an important event to underline the role of religious leaders in supporting peace, tolerance and dialogue.

Photo by OR-3 Roberto iAiA, RC-W PAO



The new format multinational KFOR medal parade took place this month with the presentation of NATO Non-article 5 Balkan medals to soldiers serving across all branches and troop contributing contingents at KFOR Headquarters.

Photo by OR-4 Daniel Paciarelli, PAO



KFOR Commander, Major General Angelo Michele Ristuccia, took part in an UNMIK event to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the Kosovo Trust building Forum and the launch of the “Barabar Dialogue Centre”, a unique initiative which aims to be an open, communal space for meaningful dialogue and direct exchange between members of all communities within Kosovo.

Photo by OR-4 Antonio Russo, PAO

The „Eagle Nine“ activity conducted by RC-W with the aim of increasing the presence of KFOR troops along the Administrative Boundary Line, and in some of the most remote areas of Kosovo, took place this month. The “Alpini” unit, thanks to their inherent mountain capabilities, monitored the territory and prevented any movement of illegal traffic across the border area.

Photo by OR-3 Roberto iAiA, RC-W PAO



KFOR and the Language Centre of the University of Pristina conducted activities aimed at deepening the knowledge of the language and culture of Italy for twenty students of the universities current Italian language course, a series of lectures, cooking lessons and open interaction with Italian soldiers was supported by COM KFOR to assess the level of learning achieved by the students to date.

Photo by OR-4 Antonio Russo, PAO



KFOR RC-E conducted “Operation Avenger Fury”, a joint Air Assault training exercise that consisted of soldiers from Turkey, Austria, Latvia, Finland and the US near Bobaj Bokes, Kosovo. The group photo includes soldiers from Bravo Company, 2-151 Infantry Battalion, Indiana Army National Guard and soldiers from the Finnish Contingent.

Photo by OF-2 Travis Kirchner, RC-E PAO





*Photo by OF-2 Travis Kirchner,
111th Public Affairs Detachment, Nebraska National Guard*