



the CHRONICLE

KFOR's Magazine

June 2023



CONTENT

3 Letter from the Editor

4 Mobile Phone Security - MSU

6 Protecting The Decani Monastery

8 The fight against Domestic Violence

10 MNMP Rebranding & Retasking

12 NPA - Battle Area Clearance

14 CIMIC Donations Regional
Command - West

16 1-131st Aviation Regt -Task Force
"YELLOWHAMMER" TOA

18 Vets in Practice - Regional Command - East

20 Book Review:

21 CSM Corner

22 Snapshots

24 Photo of the Month

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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 June's edition of the Chronicle. The photograph on the front cover, by OR-4 Antonio Russo, PAO, shows Turkish contingent troops disembarking at Pristina APOD. The photograph on the back cover, by OR-4 Daniel Paciarelli, PAO, shows Specialist Victoria Sarnoff, from Delta Coy, 156th Brigade Engineer Battalion rendering honors during a Changing of Command ceremony in Camp Bondsteel recently. In this month's edition of the chronicle we look at a number of topics from around the mission area including CIMIC donations in RC-West, vets in KFOR, Task Force Yellowhammer, the MNMP, the joint fight against Domestic Violence, and a joint battle area clearance project between KFOR and Norwegian People's Aid.

OF-2 Enrico DI MARCO, ITA-A, PAO Chief, RC-W, gives us an insight into the ongoing work of the RC-W tactical CIMIC teams and the excellent work they do within their local communities to deliver vital supports in areas such as healthcare, education and infrastructure.

OR-6 Anna Pongo, 111th Public Affairs Det, Nebraska National Guard, brings The Chronicle readers through the mission and tasks of the RC-East veterinary staff, and how they support both working military dogs in KFOR and also how they conduct outreach in their local area to support the overall mission.

OR-7 Herschel Talley, 111th Public Affairs Det, Nebraska National Guard, gives an overview from the Task Force YELLOWHAMMER Transfer of Authority ceremony which took place in Camp Bondsteel recently to mark the end of their tour of duty.

OR-7 Marco BASSI, ITA MSU - S6 Sys Admin, gives us a background to mobile device security and some of the key threats which exist in this area today. He also gives some advice on how we can protect both ourselves and our home and professional structures by taking some easy steps to improve our habits and procedures in this area.

The KFOR HQ GENAD team talks to The Chronicle about its recently run Domestic Violence forum, which saw the close coordination of a number of supporting multinational and local organisations alongside KFOR, to foster awareness and dialogue between the various representatives present.

OF-4 (CHE-A) Matthias Brunner, KFOR Force Provost Marshall, describes the rebranding project of the KFOR Multi National Military Police and how their newly developed unit insignia plays a part in the modern roles and tasks of multinational and multi role military police units.

MCIV-7 Ciprian "Chip" ANDRICA (LTC Retd), KFOR Chief Explosive Threat Management, talks The Chronicle readers through an ongoing project being conducted by Norwegian Peoples Aid in Kosovo, which is being supported by KFOR Engineering branch.

OF-2 Enrico DI MARCO, ITA-A, PAO Chief, RC-W talks The Chronicle readers through KFOR's commitment to the protection of The Dečani Monastery as a vital installation, and a key area of cultural importance and sensitivity within the missions area of operations.

In the book review segment we review Taking the Guidon: Exceptional Leadership at the Company Level, by Nate Allen and Tony Burgess.

The staff of The Chronicle would like to take this opportunity to send best wishes to the soldiers of KFOR whom were involved in the operational activities which took place on the 29th of May in Northern Kosovo, particularly those who suffered injuries during this deployment. Your duty, commitment, dedication to the mission, and professional service are an example to all soldiers who hold the line of peace. KFOR wishes you all a speedy recovery in the coming weeks and months. As usual, we really hope you all enjoy reading this month's edition of The Chronicle.



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

MOBILE DEVI



What is mobile device security?

Mobile Device Security refers to the measures designed to protect sensitive information stored on and transmitted by laptops, smartphones, tablets, fitness or lifestyle wearables, and other portable devices. At the root of mobile device security is the goal of keeping unauthorized users from accessing the enterprise network.

What is a mobile security threat?

Just like common viruses and spyware that can infect your home or office PC, there are a variety of security threats that can affect mobile devices in a similar manner. We divide these mobile threats into several categories: application-based threats, web-based threats, network-based threats and physical threats.

How sensitive is application data on smartphones?

We exchange information on a daily basis with our colleagues, even personal information, using social media. Maybe we have sent screenshots of places where events have happened or perhaps personal information or drafts of documents which have been prepared, perhaps for urgency or maybe thinking that this information is only displayed in the phones of the sender and the recipient alone. Instead, we forget that all this information passes through external storage centres as a part of this transaction between colleagues or friends, either on the servers of the app we use, or potentially to be stored by third parties that make data storage available to us, such as various "clouds", where daily backups of our precious data are performed.

Leaving aside the vulnerability of storage, there is

another operation that we often undertake very carelessly, which is the downloading of an application or app to our mobile device. All the apps which we download will inevitably request or even require various permissions from us for access authority, for example access to cameras, microphones, contacts, photos or global positioning or location information via tracking. In providing these authorizations carelessly, which if denied would often prevent the full operation of the app, we give a lot of information away about what we do in our daily life, where and with whom we associated etc.

From a basic statistical survey on smartphones and computers, the countries in the world in order of the most active viruses detected are as follows, The United States, Spain, South Africa and Italy. These countries are also some of the world's leading antivirus and IT system protection manufacturers.

To give a dimension of the phenomenon worldwide, there were over 14 million malicious files found globally in 2021. The main threat comes from the so-called "Trojan" programs that attempt to install themselves in a device with the objective of taking control of it and its applications. These are mainly malware systems that exploit the news of the moment, to be spread or "travel" on board messages that invite you to download apps or visit sites related to the daily news or related news or suggested articles or advertisements.

Recently some experts have performed mobile device hacking experiments to show how easy it is to access confidential data and banking account information for example when you are not careful about your online security and activity. Among these as an example was an experiment conducted by an Italian TV broadcaster that had tested software developed for global intelligence and law enforcement organisations, which is able to record live telephone conversations, activate and disable device applications, as well as powering on or off the mobile device without the user's knowledge or without physical contact with the targeted device. Actions such as activating front and rear cameras for example, allows for the taking of photo sequences of the location surrounding the device to build environmental information on the location of the device or the targeted user, performing video recordings, often with both cameras, audio recordings for real time environmental interception

CE SECURITY

of confidential or personal voice conversations which can then be sent at planned intervals set by the hacker to pinpoint the location of the device and still have complete access to all the social media outputs of the smartphone etc, all without the victim realizing anything.

But how can you hack the smartphone? The victim will often receive a text message or email for example from a friends contact address, which will be configured to look innocent and quite routine. The victim whom receives the text message from the believed friend will often reply or open the mail without hesitation. In this case however it is the hacker who, thanks to the software being utilised, has sent a "disguised" message, which will seem to come from the trusted contact. The message will contain an attached link that once selected or opened, will send the hacker a code that will be the command to take control of the smartphone. The most complicated part of the procedure is getting access from the victim. So crucially, the victim here can be both the strongest and weakest link in this activity.

If in everyday life we care about personal data such as financial or banking information, medical information, professional business or family documents etc, it is easy to understand what level of attention and confidentiality we need to address this information with, which we often now process solely by means of our personal mobile smart phones. When we look at the current military theatre which we are deployed within, we must keenly understand that a potential cross over in the personal and work space practices when it comes to mobile device security, and that the possible breaches of these mobile platforms has potentially huge repercussions for us personally, and also for the organisations and indeed states which we work for.

Below is a list of everyday precautions that we can all take to help mitigate these risks,

When it is not strictly necessary, Do Not Click on any link that we get in unfamiliar messages,
Update our phone frequently and never from anonymous sources found on the web, but directly from the official website of the parent company that releases the update.

Most Common Threats to Mobile Devices

1. Data leak. Some of your mobile apps can collect data from your device and cause unintentional data leakage.
2. Public Wi-Fi.
3. Phishing attacks.
4. Spyware.
5. Malicious apps.
6. Ransomware.
7. Unsecure apps.
8. Password security.

How to Secure Your Mobile Device: 8 Tips

1. Use strong passwords/biometrics.
2. Ensure public or free wifi is protected.
3. Utilize a VPN.
4. Encrypt your device.
5. Install an Antivirus application.
6. Update to the latest software correctly.
7. Be discerning and selective.
8. Keep backups.

OR-7 Marco BASSI
ITA MSU - S6 Sys Admin



Protecting the



The Monastery of Decani was built between 1327 and 1335, and is one of the sacred places of reference and worship for faithful followers of the Orthodox Christian Church in both Kosovo and Serbia. The location was chosen by St. Stefan Uros III, the great martyr of the Orthodox Church, who had the land surrounded by walls and fortified by towers for the protection of the monastery. One of the key features of the location is the so-called citadel of the Monastery, to which the monks' cells and other monastic buildings are adjacent. The Monastery stands on the right bank of the Bistrica River, which originates from Mount Mokra, on the border between Montenegro and Kosovo. The river flows along the entire Rugova Valley until it reaches the municipality of Decani, which borders to the North with the municipality of Pec. To the East lies the municipality of Djakovica, to the South the municipality of Junik, and to the West lies the Republic of Montenegro. The Monastery Church is 36 meters long, 24 meters wide and towers to a maximum dome height of 29 meters. For its construction, polished stone slabs were used, while the facade was created using two types of marble in contrast to each other, the light yellow onyx of Pec together with the red marble of Decani. The interior of the Church is frescoed with sacred representations such as key scenes from the Old Testament, the Cycle of Life, Christ Pantocrator with the Apostles, the Madonna on the throne, the

Penitent sinner and other religious images which adorn the many painted columns throughout the churches spectacular interior.

In 1455, the Monastery fell under the control of the Ottoman Empire and remained so until the beginning of the 1900s. Even with the Turkish occupation of much land and removal of key religious possessions from the monks, the Monastery still enjoyed important privileges and favors from the Ottoman sultans. During WWI, after the withdrawal of the Serbian troops, the Monastery was placed under the control of the Bulgarian army and later under that of the Austrian army. In 1918 the Monastery regained its freedom thanks to the Serbian Duke Kosta Pecanac. However, the religious infrastructure was completely emptied, the interior looted and neglected, the floors ruined, the furniture smashed or stolen, the windows broken, the vegetable gardens destroyed and the extensive orchards badly damaged. The monks put the structures of the Monastery back in order and managed to reclaim some of the previously stolen religious possessions and artefacts. In the last decade before the Second World War, major restoration works were carried out on the location. On April 20, 1941, the German army entered the Monastery, but in that same month the Germans were replaced by the Italian Carabinieri, who began to take care of protecting the Monastery throughout the war. In 2004 the Orthodox Monastery of Decani was declared a World Heritage

Decani Monastery



Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Today, about twenty monks live in the Monastery who, in addition to their conduct of daily religious services and prayers, carry out ongoing upkeep and maintenance work to guarantee the economic livelihood of the religious community, and also to ensure the deep religious history and practices of the monastery survive. In particular as a part of their caretaking heritage and commitment, a centuries-old iconographic tradition has been handed down inside the Monastery through the monks who serve it, involving a technique of painting with gold polish. In the fertile land around the Monastery, cereals, potatoes and seasonal vegetables are grown, both for daily use and for the preparation of preserves.

The production of wine is a key and historic activity in the monastery and is fueled by the processing of the grapes grown in both the vineyard of Decani itself, and also from crops gathered in the vineyards owned by the Monastery which are located in the locality of Velika Hoca, in the municipality of Orahovac. In addition, the monks raise cattle and sheep for the production of milk, from which they produce different types of cheeses both for sale to the public and to support their own community.

At the end of the large scale armed conflict in Kosovo, immediately after the entry of the KFOR contingent in June 1999, the Monastery was placed under

the protection of the Italian contingent within the mission, and up until a few years ago, KFOR also provided for the additional security of the movements of the monks outside of the Monastery walls, given the tensions in the locality surrounding the religious site. Currently the security of the Monastery, where KFOR is the first line of response, is entrusted to the contingents of Regional Command - West. The guard service is carried out by a Platoon of the RC - W Kinetic Battalion, seven days a week, twenty-four hours a day, rotating between Italian, Austrian, Croatian, North Macedonian, Moldovan and Albanian personnel. These military personnel both secure the location given its special status in the mission, but also interact with the religious staff of the monastery on a daily basis, where they can be regularly seen passing time with both the monks and the civilian volunteers within the monastery as they go about their daily routine, or indeed assisting with visitors to the location ensuring that the monastery is at all times treated with the respect and sensitivity it deserves, given its heritage and historical significance.

OF-2 Enrico DI MARCO,
ITA-A
PAO Chief, RC-West

Collaboration in the Fight



More than 80 participants attended KFOR's Domestic Violence Forum on June 14th, 2023 in Pristina. This forum was organized by the KFOR Gender Advisor (GENAD) office in close cooperation with the Gender Advisors of OSCE and EULEX. Domestic violence is something that happens every day, and we need to work proactively against this violence every single day. Therefore, the goal of this forum was to foster awareness and dialogue between the various representatives present.

Chief of Staff, BG Bozicevic, on behalf of COM KFOR, who firmly supports the fight against domestic violence, opened the forum by stressing that KFOR's mandate supports a safe and secure environment for everyone in Kosovo, this includes men, women, boys, and girls. "As we all know, men and women often face different forms of security threats due to their different roles in society. If you are not safe in your own home, you are not safe anywhere in the society", BG Bozicevic stated.

A particularly touching moment was when one of the speakers from Serbia, Milena Beran, shared her personal story of domestic violence in her childhood that left the audience speechless. "There were some minutes of silence where my father wasn't trying

to kill my mother in front of us, where I would hug my mum so tight and she would whisper to me that everything will be okay", Milena said.

There are many forms of gender-based violence that affect women and girls. They include intimate partner violence; sexual violence by non-partners; child, early, and forced marriages; trafficking; sexual harassment; femicide, and domestic violence to name just a few. This issue compels KFOR to work together with other key actors in this country to end this suffering. It is a crime that must be addressed in close cooperation between the various organizations that attended the forum, to include health care and social workers, shelters, religious representatives, the Kosovo Police (KP), Institutions in Kosovo, prosecutors, NGOs, academia, civil society organizations, and other international partners.

Domestic violence does not just affect women. In her speech, Madame Jahjaga, former president of Kosovo and Founder of the Jahjaga Foundation, stated that men must also stand up against domestic violence if something is to change. Kadri Gashi, CEO and Founder of the Center for Counseling, Social Services and Research, is one of the few men working in this field. He talked about his work in counseling violent

Against Domestic Violence

boys and men. His organization offers programs which work in order to change the abusive behavior of men towards their partners or family members. He mentioned, that there is a severe lack of psychological supports for both victims as well as perpetrators in this area.

Violence against women also harms children, families, and communities. Children of abused women experience anxiety and behavioral problems that can drastically impact both their health and development, families may suffer from loss of income, and entire communities suffer when survivors' productivity is affected, and women are not able to fully participate in public life. We know that children exposed to violence will sometimes be perpetrators of violence as adults, and/or are more likely to suffer violence themselves. This cycle of violence must end as it affects everyone.

The following two projects serve as an example of KFOR's supports to end domestic violence.

Firstly, over the last few years, MSU and KFOR refurbished "victim-centered interview rooms" (Family Rooms) in seven KP stations (Lipjan, Pristina South, Prizren, Suhareke, Mitrovica North, Skenderaj, and Peja). The aim of these infrastructure projects was to help the KP better support domestic violence victims and witnesses.

Secondly, the KFOR, EULEX and OSCE GENADs recently conducted training for KP staff on how to best use these "Family Rooms". Chiara Tagliani, the EULEX GENAD, explained that this activity aimed to ensure the sustainability and quality of this service and guarantee gender-sensitive policing support to gender-based violence victims and witnesses, a key factor of which is confidence and trust in the reporting structures of serious domestic violence crime, and in turn, a confidence and trust in the people that these crimes are reported to, and the way in which they are received by organisations or persons in authority or support roles.

Victims of domestic violence are often hesitant to report this crime to the police because of a lack of awareness. Therefore, KP Officer Hatixhe Hoxhaj, from the KP station in Prizren explained the process of how reporting works and how the relevant organizations get involved.

The discussion during the panels was emotional and active. Also, religious representatives such as Pastor

Artur Krasniqi from the Protestant Church, Bashkësia e Popullit të Zotit, in Pristina, added that it often seems that we take more interest in the numbers or statistics surrounding domestic violence incidents, rather than creating positive and credible programs to help the victims of these crimes feel properly supported and recover from these incidents in a safe and secure environment. In his opinion, the involvement of institutions on the ground, such as churches, are important to help people who suffer severe trauma due to domestic violence.

Finally, lasting peace in Kosovo can only be achieved by fully engaging all members of Kosovo's society and by ending the structural violence that too often limits society's potential. Structural violence continues for victims of domestic violence when they are not provided the support they need. When they are not provided medical and emotional healing, when they are not provided adequate safeguards against the recurrence of violence.

A problem of this magnitude, with such wide-ranging ramifications, can only be solved through collaboration. Domestic violence is a crime with many victims and only by treating it as such can we bring about the healing this society so deeply needs.

OF-3 Heidi OBWALLER, PhD
Chief GENAD

MCIV-5 Dr. Elisabeth Schleicher, PhD
Deputy GENAD

OF-3 Miranda Rohner
GENAD SO



Multinational Military Police



The integrity of the force as well as enabling activities to support the forces of KFOR; these are the key aspects of the mission of the Multinational Military Police in KFOR.

Clearly, NATO doctrine would foresee additional tasks and functions with regards to closing a civilian post conflict policing gap. However, due to the success of all those who came before us, these requirements progressed to civilian, and most importantly local responsibility.

Contrary to national MPs (TCN MP) the attribute "multinational MP (MNMP)" refers to a number of challenges and characteristics, the definition is rooted in NATO doctrine AJP-21. Firstly, MNMPs have additional rights, privileges and obligations with regards to force members of a nation other than their own.

Secondly, MNMP operate as a patchwork style unit with as many contributing, in our current situation this is Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Poland, United States of America, and Latvia.

For the role of policing the force the MNMP are deployed 24/7 in mixed shifts and teams throughout KOSOVO, taking on duties such as traffic accident response and investigation or preventive patrols concerning force discipline. When the MPs are tasked with enabling activities, the policed style patrol management and coordination has to shift to the military decision making and command style. This duality requires discipline, awareness and multirole

capabilities all the way from the patrolman or women up to the leader. These different identities of the MP community ensure a permanent need for training and education. Clearly with a patchwork force like the MNMP, with all of its different backgrounds, national and individual policing and military training every individual needs to understand their specific role and tasks. Most importantly, a lesson learned has to be quoted: "To understand multinational policing, you have to break free from the boundaries of your national understanding."

Multinational MP in KFOR will *police as well as enable and support* the force with activities within the following functions: **Police Function** - conduct law enforcement operations within KFOR, **Security Function** - perform security operations and assistance for planning and support of security and force protection tasks, **Mobility Support** - contribute to mobility support for KFOR troops throughout KFOR AOO, **Detention Support** - provide advice, planning, oversight and support to KFOR troops and Commanders for the correct handling and processing of Captured Persons (CPERS), and **Stability Policing (SP)** - this function is not applied in KFOR due to the active restraint on civilian law enforcement. Support of SP is limited to public security measures with a dedicated focus to situations of civil disturbance.

In NATO, the Commander of the MP unit is the Provost Marshal. At a tactical level a Provost Marshal is responsible for three main tasks. He or she acts as

- Rebranding and Retasking



the police advisor to the Commanders and the staff, contributes to staff work and procedures and he or she may be awarded a command function, as it is the case in KFOR.

Currently, the Multinational MP in KFOR has restructured significantly due to its operational requirements. While the service within both RC-E and RC-W remains largely unchanged, the former IMP unit has transferred to the now KFOR Multinational MP Company or KFOR MNMP COY. A key aspect of which is to expand the MP capabilities in KFOR's main area of activities.

An International Military Police (IMP) unit is not defined in NATO any more, nor has it been for quite some time now, and therefore cannot exist anymore. Historically an IMP unit was a small MP detachment which was tasked with on-base security and discipline tasks in a multinational HQ. This was in part the case

during the early years in KFOR, when the Brigades or Commands had MP and the IMP detachment served HQ KFOR internally. However, an IMP unit did not have a mission to provide support to the force with tactical tasks outside of formal camp or base locations within the operational theatre. The visual sign for the long overdue transfer of the name and more importantly our identity is expressed with the new unit insignia which can now be seen being worn by all of the MNMP staff proudly as they carry out their daily duties in support of the mission.

OF-4 (CHE-A) Matthias Brunner,
KFOR Force Provost Marshall

BRINGING LIFE



NORWEGIAN PEOPLE'S AID BATTLE AREA CLEARANCE IN KOSOVO

THE CHALLENGE: EXPLOSIVE REMNANTS OF WAR

In Kosovo Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) are still present in the form of land mines and Unexploded Explosive Ordnance (UXO) even after more than two decades since the armed conflict ended. The threat includes the presence of Bomb Live Units (BLUs) from Cluster Bomb Units (CBUs) and other types of Abandoned Explosive Ordnance (AXO). Due to the permanent efforts of local and international agencies qualified in the clearance of areas contaminated with mines and other ERW, and based on critical contributions from donor countries and organizations, since 1999 the number of Hazardous Areas (HA) has decreased from more than 3520 to no more than 70.

MITIGATING THE EXPLOSIVE THREAT.

Between 1999 and 2001, under United Nations Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) coordination, an intense clearance effort was vested in removing the explosive threat. Unfortunately, it was prematurely declared that the problem had been largely solved whilst the clearance effort did not include Northern Kosovo,

which still remained heavily contaminated by cluster munitions. The contamination in the North was not systematically surveyed until 2015 when Norwegian People's Aid (NPA), a politically independent membership-based organisation working in Norway and in more than 30 countries around the world, identified 30 areas contaminated by 83 cluster bomb strikes.

According to Ms. Vanja SIKIRICA, NPA Country Manager, the surveyed area included the municipalities of Zubin Potok, Zvečan, and Leposavić which is home to a significant number of people of Kosovo Serbian (KoS) ethnicity, but the lack of clearance has also affected Kosovo Albanian (KoA) populated villages in Southern Mitrovica, where cluster munitions also contaminate farmlands and residential areas. In addition to the contamination limiting the use of forests, agricultural and grazing land, the presence of ERW negatively affects the development efforts. In total, NPA estimated that 3,872 people were directly affected by the ERW contamination in Northern Kosovo municipalities. Indirectly, the contamination affects tens of thousands of people, especially in recent years when tourism and legal hunting has expanding.

TO NORMAL



THE SUCCESS.

With the Non-Technical Survey (NTS) of Northern Kosovo done in 2015, beginning in 2016 the NPA has implemented Battle Area Clearance (BAC) and Technical Survey (TS) tasks with ethnically and gender-mixed teams in both KoS and KoA affected communities and with Technical Assistance (TA) provided by both KFOR and the Kosovo Security Force (KSF).

Having started with two BAC teams, the program currently operates with eight teams being funded by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the USA Department of State, the Japanese Embassy in Kosovo, the NRK Telethon and beginning in 2023 by the European Union (EU) through the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA).

Of particular note within the Kosovo Mine Action community is the fact that the NPA program employs both KoA and KoS ethnic staff. KoS make up approximately 40% and KoA approx. 60% of the 110 national staff members. One single person, the Country Manager, is an international staff member. Female employees make up approx. 32% of the total staff. Out of 15 senior and mid-management positions, 27% are held by female staff.

Since late 2016 until 2022 the NPA released approximately ten square kilometres of the land suspected or confirmed to be contaminated with cluster munitions Kosovo wide within the following Municipalities: Leposavić, Zvečan, Zubin Potok,

Mitrovica South, Podujevo, Pristina and Gracanica, with a number of 6.883 beneficiary. A total number of four hundred and fifty cluster munition remnants and other explosive ordnance have been found and destroyed by KFOR and KSF as part of TA provided to the NPA.

In 2023, for the NPA, the Humanitarian Demining season started on the 16th of March in Gracanica where the Demining Action project funded by the EU with a EUR 3.9 million grant has been formally launched. In addition to Gracanica, currently the NPA is operating in two additional locations namely Majdan in the Zvečan Municipality and Bare in Mitrovica South. During the first months of 2023 KFOR has already assisted fourteen times in support of the NPA and executed final disposal of thirty-two elements of cluster munitions and ninety-two elements of small arms ammunition.

Even though the Kosovo Mine Action Strategy for 2019-2024 was optimistic foreseeing that at the end of its period the mine and ERW clearance problem in Kosovo should be solved, the mine action effort continues in both demining/area clearance and EOD emergency response directions as Kosovo still has a long and difficult way to go until the complete removal of explosive hazards within the whole of its territory is a reality.

MCIV-7 Ciprian "Chip" ANDRICA (LTC Retd),
KFOR Chief Explosive Threat Management

Regional Command -



The civilian and military cooperation activities (CIMIC) carried out in the KFOR RC-W Area of Responsibility are of fundamental importance. Both from the point of view of integration within, and support to the local society, and from a purely operational point of view. All CIMIC activities constitute the interface between the civil environment and the military component of RC-W through the concrete support to all communities present in the RC-West area of operations.

These types of support activities are carried out by the Commands CIMIC cell, which is part of the RC-W Tactical Effect Center (TEC), where specialists who come from the Multinational CIMIC Group of Motta di Livenza (TV) operate, along with the support of specialised personnel from the Italian Navy.

The donations which are organised through these activities take place through a series of steps, and the role played by the Liaison Monitoring Teams (LMT) present in the area of responsibility is of particular importance here. Namely in the initial phase of the activity where they must assess the needs and requirements of the local community to ensure the correct supports are delivered to those most in need. Thanks to this continuous flow of information between the LMT and CIMIC cell, the analysis and evaluation of possible supports for these key projects takes place rapidly. The current semester was characterised by the desire to make at least one important donation to each municipality of the AoR. This was then bolstered by donations supported by the direct assistance of the JEC - CIMIC cell of KFOR HQ. To guarantee a quick resolution to urgent requests, CIMIC has developed

numerous "Quick Impact Project" activities, which are carried out at no cost thanks to the use of qualified RC-W assets. In this case we see projects such as the deployment of both a specialist cardiologist and an otorhinolaryngologist, who supported the health centers of the local municipalities with specialist visits. To increase the level of KFOR presence in the AoR, some donations were made during the conduct of field exercises, such as those performed during the "Cobweb" and "Eagle Nine" activities.

The types of donations made can be divided into four macro areas: essential support to the civilian environment, humanitarian support, essential civil infrastructure and civil administration.

An example of donations would be the supply of advanced medical equipment to health care centers, specialised equipment for the local Fire Brigades to allow for increased emergency intervention capabilities, the installation of energy production systems for electricity generation and storage with solar panels, or the creation of playgrounds to allow young people to have well maintained areas where they can spend their free time in safety and be able to socialise and mix freely.

During the semester some donations took place which continue beyond the initial handover ceremony and are supported by an ongoing implementation or assistance phase. An example of this was seen with the donation of a newly fitted professional kitchen facility, complete with all supporting accessories and appliances, which was made to the non government association (NGO) "Jeta" of Decani. This organisation aims to help women of any ethnic group, age or

West CIMIC Donations



religion, who are in difficulty, offering them training courses to learn skills in the professions of hairdressing, beauty therapy and cookery. This initial donation was followed up by on-going support to the conduct of formal cooking courses which were held by the military personnel of the Italian contingent, who are deployed to the mission area as military chiefs to cook for the personnel of Regional Command - West in a full time capacity.

One donation in particular which demonstrates the often highly emotional aspect of the vital work conducted by the staff of the RC-W CIMIC cell, was that of the medical and IT material donation which was made to the pediatric oncology department of the University Hospital of Pristina. Here we see the inherent human factor in this type of work and how it demonstrates the best of the people who serve within the command. This donation was the result of a synergy activity with the non - profit organisation "Vivere per Amare - Life to Love" and the command CIMIC staff, where being able to complete the donation promptly was an essential factor in aiding the young patients of this hospital, which does outstanding work here in Kosovo within a hugely significant area of pediatric care.

A key highlight of the period was the twinning of the

Italian Athletics Federation and the Kosovo Athletics Federation. On this occasion, the President of the Italian Federation arrived in Kosovo to donate over 2,000 items of sporting equipment to young Kosovar athletes, who in the future aspire to perhaps train at the Italian federal structures as part of this long term project.

Last but not least for the CIMIC cell in this period, was an ambitious project which focused on three fundamental cornerstones of social development as its core objective, these being health, safety and education. This project delivered 38 brand new defibrillators across secondary schools in the 15 municipalities which RC-W is responsible for. This project was completed thanks to the joint support of the Municipality of L'Aquila and the National Alpine Association - Section of L'Aquila. This city, located in central Italy, hosts the 9th Alpine Regiment of the Brigade "Taurinense", a unit of the Italian Army currently leading KFOR's Regional Command - West.

OF-2 Enrico DI MARCO,
ITA-A,
PAO Chief, RC-W

TASKFORCE YELLOWHAMMER



New Aviation Battalion Welcomed to Kosovo by KFOR's Regional Command-East

Kosovo Force's Regional Command-East Aviation Battalion (Task Force Yellow Hammer) held a casing of the colors ceremony, during which authority was transferred from Task Force Yellow Hammer to Task Force Rogue, at Camp Bondsteel Kosovo, on Jun. 8th, 2023.

The 1st Battalion, 131st Aviation Regiment, Alabama Army National Guard (Task Force Yellow Hammer), relinquished responsibility to the 1st Battalion, 126th Aviation Regiment, Rhode Island Army National Guard (Task Force Rogue).

Col. Chris Mabis, the Commander of Regional

Command-East, thanked Task Force Yellow Hammer for blessing Regional Command-East with the team they brought to Kosovo.

"Everyone in Task Force Aviation played their part and did a phenomenal job," Mabis said.

During the ceremony, Task Force Yellow Hammer cased their unit's flag, signifying the end of their nine-month mission in Kosovo. Task Force Rogue then unfurled their unit's colors, representing the beginning of their support of KFOR's mission.

"The Task Force Sgt. Major and I can confidently stand up, in front of you, and say we are ready to assume the mission and we're very proud to be standing in front of this formation," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey A. Sills,

- TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY



Commander of Task Force Rogue.

Task Force Yellow Hammer supported every major training event and operation from rappelling, air assault lanes, sling loading resupplies and real-world medical evacuation missions during their nine months in Kosovo,

Col. David G. Goodall, Commander of Task Force Yellow Hammer, wished the best of luck to Sills and all of Task Force Rogue, and thanked Task Force Yellow Hammer for rising to every occasion.

"You provided key capabilities to the Regional Command East Commander, and your actions had major impacts on the key events here in Kosovo," Goodall said.

"It's been tremendously fulfilling watching you learn, grow and execute this mission and every single one of you should be proud of your personal contributions to what Task Force Yellow Hammer has accomplished here."

KFOR RC-East comprises ten contributing NATO partner nations. Its mission is to maintain a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for all communities in Kosovo, as mandated by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of 1999.

OR-7 Herschel Talley,
111th Public Affairs Det,
Nebraska National Guard

KFOR Veterinary team



The three Soldiers of the 64th Medical Detachment Veterinary Services Support (MDVSS) serve a dual purpose in Camp Bondsteel and in the surrounding communities. They work hard to keep both the animals and people safe as they continue the Kosovo Force (KFOR) mission together.

The small but mighty veterinary team from Baumholder, Germany has what they call the “animal mission” and the “food mission”.

Captain Freilie Mitchell and Cpl. Alexis Leyno are in charge of the animal part of the mission. Camp Bondsteel has two U.S. military working dogs whose job it is to check vehicles at the camp entry point for items such as explosive devices to keep all personnel serving inside Camp Bondsteel safe. Mitchell and Leyno in turn keep the dogs safe and healthy.

“A lot of times people overlook our military working dogs as service members,” said Mitchell. “They are service members like any other, they are weapons, so if we can keep them up and going, we multiply the force and its protection capability. They defend our gates and so they defend our service members here on base.”

The job of being a veterinarian, like Mitchell, or animal care specialist, like Leyno, is truly a work of passion. Caring about the animals they look after is the highlight of the job for them.

“My favorite thing about my job is the dogs,” said Leyno. “They all have their own personality. Every dog is just different in their own way and some have different qualities than others. So it’s nice to just be

around all these dogs and get to understand them.” For the U.S. working dogs, the team conducts a twice-a-year physical to ensure that they are healthy from top to bottom. This includes dental and full physical screening, just like with humans. They are also always on call if there are any incidents which K9 assets can assist with.

This part of the service extends to the other K-9s serving the KFOR mission also. Mitchell explained that they provide emergency care to their Austrian, Italian and Czech coalition partners.

“It can be very calm here at times, considering that we only take care of two U.S. military dogs on a daily basis,” said Leyno. “But we also do life, limb, or eyesight, emergency care for the other foreign military dogs.” For the other half of the mission, the focus is on the human soldiers instead of their four-legged fellow service-members. Sgt. Deonte Collins, the unit’s food inspection specialist, conducts routine inspections of all of the dining facilities across Kosovo.

“The best way to destroy a military is through their stomachs,” said Mitchell. “So he takes care of the people.”

Collins inspects anywhere there is food that service members might consume. This includes how they store the food, how the food is shipped, and if anything’s expired, he’ll either make sure it’s taken off the shelf or checked for quality and condition, and then extend the shelf life if it is still good.

ms - Vets in Practice



"Our job is important here, our mission is to ensure the Soldiers food is always safe to consume," said Collins. "We ensure that everything is good for them to eat, and we work to make sure they can get their favorite foods like steaks to keep their morale up." The job for a food inspector here is a little different than it is back in the U.S. "It's been a different experience from when I'm back in the states where everything's solidified to have all the regulations," explained Collins. "But here we have to go off of our knowledge and deep dive into regulations to make sure the soldiers are safe."

Safety is of utmost importance for both the human and animal sides of the veterinary team. Part of their mission to ensure this, is training the dog handlers, medics and first responders in point of injury care for the K-9s that they come in contact with.

"We often train, because the most important thing is if an injury happens, is that point of injury care," said Mitchell. "And so we make sure that they can adequately treat any of those injuries, and then we train them on how to get the K-9s to us quickly."

The veterinarian team's mission extends beyond the confines of the military bases however. Community outreach is an important part of their mission in Kosovo.

"We try to do as much community outreach as possible," said Mitchell. "We've gone to local shelters



and we've trained with their veterinarians on how to do ultrasounds, different techniques for surgeries, and for spays and neuters to keep the stray population low and healthy. We can learn from each other and trade technical skills."

In addition to working with local veterinarians, the team has also seized the opportunity to speak to local high school students about pet health and food safety.

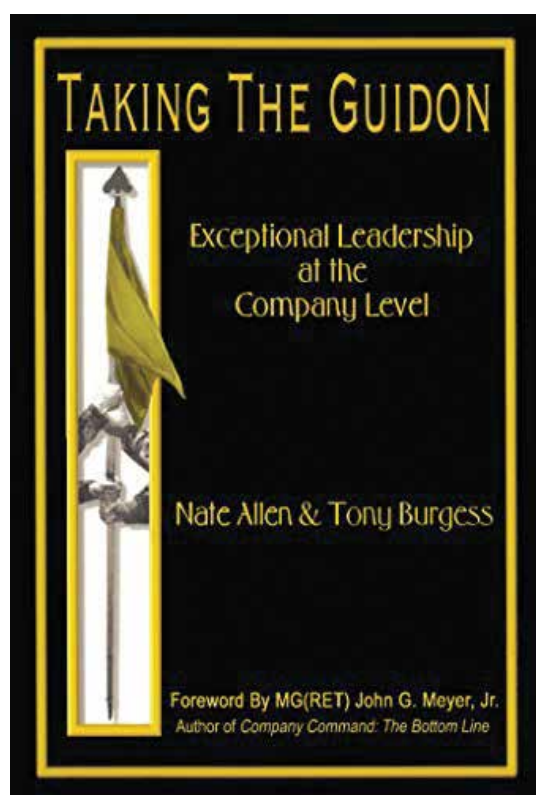
"We have a continued project with the local high school that has a veterinarian program," explained Mitchell. "We are going and talking to them, not only about different diagnostic techniques that we use but also about herd health, because much of our surroundings here are quite rural and revolve largely around an agricultural type of community."

Through their continued efforts, the veterinary team hopes to further expand their impact in the local community and with their KFOR counterparts.

OR-6 Anna Pongo,
111th Public Affairs Det.
Nebraska National Guard
&

Photo credits to
OR-4 Skyler Schendt,
111th Public Affairs Det.
Nebraska National Guard

TAKING THE GUIDON: EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP AT THE COMPANY LEVEL



Nate Allen & Tony Burgees

The unit guidon serves to identify the unit, is a symbol of the Commander's authority and presence, and represents the collective pride and spirit of all soldiers, past and present, who have served under it. Historically, the guidon accompanied the commander into battle where, in the heat and confusion of the close fight, it emboldened and rallied the soldiers to accomplish the mission. Today, the unit guidon continues to be an honored symbol of the commander's authority and responsibility, and it connects the valorous deeds of past warriors with today's soldiers who continue the proud tradition of selfless service to a nation. A military unit conducts a change-of-command ceremony whenever a new commander takes charge. The central rite of this ceremony is the passing of the unit guidon from the outgoing Commander to the incoming commander. By taking the guidon, the new commander signals his or her selfless commitment to the traditions, values, and soldiers that the guidon represents. This book attempts to capture the ideas about how to best prepare for and command an Army company-level unit. In the book, the authors lay out a leadership

framework that was effective for them and, based on feedback from hundreds of readers, has made a significant difference in how others think about leading today. One of the best things that emerged out of this project was the idea for creating the Company Command (CC.army.mil) and Platoon Leader forums within the U.S military (PL.army.mil). Here is an excerpt from the preface that introduces the book: Combat is the ultimate team sport; the cost of losing is death. As an Army leader, your mission is to build a winning team of disciplined, fit, and motivated soldiers that will accomplish the mission. In this book, you will find some input into to the age-old dialogue on how to create a team and harness its energy to accomplish uncommon results. Leading soldiers is our inspiration; doing so has affected every part of our lives. To begin with, the knowledge that we would command a company motivated us to prepare doggedly for command. This book is a compilation of our research and thinking, validated by experience (both success and failure!). It is not meant to be prescriptive in nature; nor will all these ideas work for you and your situation. Rather, our intent is to spark your thinking and encourage you as you prepare for command. We were fortunate to work with and watch some great leaders in action and to learn from some challenging experiences. Now we are in a position to pass on some of what we have learned.



NCO OF THE MONTH

Both the NCO and Soldier of the month for June 2023 have been selected by the committee of CSMs within KFOR for their distinguished service to the mission whilst deployed during operational events in the North of the area of operations on the 29th of May 2023.

OR-6 ANTONIO GUARINO

This NCOs prompt, decisive, and meticulous intervention whilst deployed in command of troops conducting stabilization operations in the North of the area of operations, was vital in preventing the further escalation of the situation, and also in the efforts to ensure the safety of both the soldiers, and the civilian population, which he was responsible for. This NCO proved himself to be an example to both his troops and his follow leaders, displaying courage and determination, whilst also exemplifying the values of military spirit and self-sacrifice.



SOLDIER OF THE MONTH

OR-4 IVAN MICOCHERO

This soldier demonstrated the absolute and professional delivery of his advanced skillset as a qualified military first responder as he stabilized casualties who had become wounded during the conduct of stabilization operations in the North of the area of operations. This soldier's swift and meticulous interventions allowed for his colleagues to receive immediate tactical medical care, and then be transported to mission medical facilities which ensured their safety. His actions were key to the overall duty of care to his contingent and supporting mission colleagues.

Both the NCO and Soldier of the month for June 2023 are serving members of the 9th Mountain Troop Regiment of the Alpine Brigade 'Taurinense'.





A Croatian air crew member takes up an observation position inside a NATO air platform whilst transporting KFOR HQ staff within the mission area.

Photo by OR-4 Daniel Paciarelli, PAO



Regional Command -West Liaison Monitoring Team from K8 took an opportunity to interact and engage with local students whilst conducting art classes in Pristina.

Photo by OR-4 Daniel Paciarelli, PAO



Deputy Commander of the NATO-led KFOR mission, Brigadier General József Szpisják, presented the NATO Non-article 5 Balkans Medal to soldiers of the Hellenic contingent at KFOR Headquarters in Pristina, prior to their rotation out of the mission area after completing six months of service.

Photo by OR-4 Antonio Russo, PAO

KFOR Commander, MG Angelo Michele Ristuccia, presided over the ceremony of the Transfer of Authority of KFOR Regional Command-East between Col. Chris M. Mabis and Col. Kenneth Ross Walker during a ceremony held at Camp Bondsteel

Photo by OR-4 Daniel Paciarelli, PAO



Commander of KFOR Regional Command - West held meetings with mayors, councilors and representatives of minorities of Western Kosovo in Camp Villaggio Italia. Particular focus was put on safety, health and school education. 38 defibrillators were also donated through the Civilian and Military Cell of the Italian Contingent and the municipality of l'Aquila together with the Italian National Alpine Association.

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



Commander of the NATO-led KFOR mission, MG Angelo Michele Ristuccia, welcomed MG Stephen E. Osborn, the Adjutant General of Iowa National Guard to Camp Film City, HQ KFOR in Pristina.

Photo by OR-4 Daniel Paciarelli, PAO.





Photo by OR-4 Daniel Paciarelli, PAO