



# the CHRONICLE

## KFOR's Magazine

March 2024



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Sincerely,  
The Chronicle Team.

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**Dear reader,**

Welcome to March's edition of the Chronicle. The photograph on the front cover comes RC-W PAO and depicts soldiers of the 21st Eng, near the village of Vrelo/Vrellë.

In this month's edition of the chronicle (OF-1) Domenico MASSARO, CHIEF PAO Regional Command-West takes us with the soldiers of the 21st Eng, as they carried out maintenance work on the embankments and construction of the banks of the Drini i Bardhë river, near the village of Vrelo/Vrellë as part of a CIMIC project. RC-W marked International Women's Day 2024 by joining the OSCE and PEĆ/PEJË University at a conference on gender equality

OF-3 Krzysztof ŁUGOWSKI introduces us to the Polish Military Contingent in KFOR: Polish Engagement in Kosovo: POLBAT and POLUKRBAT.

OF-3 Miranda ROHNER, Chief GENAD and MCIV-5 Elisabeth SCHLEICHER, PhD, Deputy GENAD detail two events; one in Camp Film City when DCOM KFOR, Brigadier General Federico BERNACCA, invited KFOR civilian and military females as well as male personnel to mark International Women's Day 2024 and one event in the University of Prishtina, where the GENAD Office organized a joint conference on the occasion of the International Women's Day.

Snapshots are a peek at what's on our social media platforms and reminder to check them out, like, subscribe and follow.

OF-2 Firat KARADAŞ, TUR ORF BN LNO introduces the recently arrived ORF BN and their proud history.

In the book review segment, we review The Kosovo Conflict: A Diplomatic History through Documents, edited by Philip and David Auerswald. The 1999 Kosovo conflict brought an unsettling close to the 20th century, representing both a critical test of post-WWII international security structures and a chapter in a human tragedy that is far from concluded. In The Kosovo Conflict: A Diplomatic History through Documents, Philip and David Auerswald have compiled the definitive collection of official, unclassified documents surrounding this event.

We introduce the NCO and Soldier of the month for March, OR-9 Antonio CATALANO and OR-4 Marco GIANNINI both from the Italian Carabinieri and currently working with the Multinational Specialized Unit, Carabinieri Battalion, Alpha Coy.

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

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



## KFOR: RC-W GENIE CARRY OUT WORK



In March, a Civil and Military Cooperation (CIMIC) project was inaugurated in the municipality of Istok/Istog which involved the Engineer platoon of the 21st Italian Combat Engineer Regiment. The soldiers of the 21st Eng, part of KFOR's Regional Command West (RC-W), carried out maintenance work on the embankments and construction of the banks of the Drini i Bardhë river, near the village of Vrelo/Vrellë. The work was carried out thanks to the coordination between the Liaison Monitoring Team (LMT) operating in the municipality of Istok/Istog and the CIMIC part of RC-W, in addition to the contribution of the Italian Engineers of RC-W.

These interventions will allow the correct flow of water in a section where, on rainy days, free circulation was precluded.

The excavation operation and the construction of the banks lasted a total of two weeks and involved the entire unpaved stretch of the stream, including the portion of the stream located near the bridge, where earthmoving machinery from the Engineering Corps was used.

Civil and military authorities were present at the completion ceremony of the works, including the Commander of the Western Regional Command, Colonel Francesco Ferrara and the Mayor of Istok/Istog, Sir. Ilir Ferati.

In generally, the Italian military Combat Engineer represents a fundamental pillar of the Italian Armed Forces and plays a vital role in assistance abroad. The skills and capabilities of these specialized units are recognized internationally and are often requested on missions abroad to address complex and delicate challenges.

The excellence of the Italian Combat Engineer is based on a long tradition of professionalism, training and innovation. The engineering units are made up of highly qualified personnel capable of operating in different operational scenarios, both in war contexts and in peace and humanitarian support missions.

One of the main areas of intervention of the Italian Combat Engineer abroad concerns battlefield engineering. These units specialize in building essential infrastructure such as bridges, roads,

# ON THE RIVER BANKS AT ISTOG/ISTOK



helicopter landing pads and defense systems to ensure the mobility and safety of troops on the ground. One of the main activities of the Italian military engineers in Kosovo was to identify, defuse and remove landmines and unexploded ordnance left during the armed conflict of the 1990s. As well as having contributed to the reconstruction and repair of infrastructure damaged during the conflict, such as bridges, roads and buildings.

Thanks to their timeliness in intervening and their ability to coordinate with other Armies and other international agencies, the Italian Combat Engineering units play a fundamental role in providing emergency aid and in contributing to the stabilization of the affected areas and is confirmed as a important resource for national defense and security, but also as a valuable ally in promoting peace and well-being in international contexts. The Italian military Combat Engineer collaborated with other international military forces present in Kosovo to ensure effective coordination of operations and maximize the use

of available resources.

The operational capabilities of the 21st Engineer Regiment range from clearing and demining operations to the construction of bridges and roads in operational theater contexts. Thanks to specialized training and the constant search for innovation, the regiment has stood out for its efficiency and ability to adapt to modern challenges.

The professionalism, efficiency and dedication of men and women of these units are an excellent testimony to Italy's contribution to security and stability in the world and their work represents a tangible example of how the Italian armed forces can contribute positively to the peace, security and development of countries affected by war.

RC-W Chief PAO  
OF-1 Domenico MASSARO

# The History of Tur



The Turkish (TUR) ORF Battalion arrived in Kosovo for the first time on June 05, 2023 and conducted peace and security operations for a 3-month deployment. Most recently, on 28 February 2024, TUR ORF Battalion deployed to Kosovo for a second deployment, and is currently conducting operations.

The 65th mechanized infantry brigade command was established in 1940 in İzmir/Bornova under the command of the 65th mechanized infantry division.

In 1950, the 241st Infantry Regiment was deployed to Korea, and proved to the whole world that the Turkish Armed Forces can fight heroically wherever they are in the world, and that the Turks are strong and helpful.

As part of United Nations forces, the Turkish "North Star" Brigade, formed by the 241st Infantry Regiment, changed the course of the Korean War winning 14 battles. The first medal in the Korean War was awarded to the Turkish Brigade for their outstanding service in the Battle of Kumyangjang-ni. The "Distinguished Unit Medal" and "Medal of Honor" were also the first medal awarded

# Turkish ORF Battalion



by the United States to the military of a foreign state. 19,436 Turkish soldiers participated in the war over 3 years notably including Colonel Nuri Pamir, Deputy Brigade Commander and 241st Regiment Commander. The Brigade lost 721 martyrs over the course of the campaign, with 2147 wounded.

The 65th Mechanized Infantry Division was transferred to Tekirdağ/Çorlu in 1953 and to Kırklareli/Lüleburgaz in 1955. In 1992, the division was transformed into the 65th Mechanized Infantry Brigade Command

The Commando Battalion (TUR ORF Bn) within the 65th Mechanized Infantry Brigade participated in operations against terrorist groups in Iraq and Syria between 2017 and 2024.

The 65th Mechanized Infantry Brigade, whose history is full of glory and honour, has the strength and determination to fulfil any task that will be assigned to it today, as in the past, at all costs.

OF-2 Firat KARADAŞ,  
TUR ORF BN LNO

# Polish Military Contingent KFOR in Kosovo: Polish



At the end of the 1990s, in the face of escalating conflict in Kosovo, Poland decided to send a reinforced, over 800-strong 18th Bielski Air Assault Battalion as part of the Polish Military Unit of the Strategic Reserve of the NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe (PJW OS SACEUR), under the command of Lt. Col. Roman Polko. This battalion, organized as POLBAT, was transported to the Kosovo-Macedonian border, where a base named Camp White Eagle was later established. POLBAT's tasks included ensuring the safety of civilians and international forces, demilitarizing

the area, patrolling the border, and supporting humanitarian actions.

Gradually, POLBAT was reinforced by the inclusion of a Lithuanian infantry platoon, a Ukrainian 37th Independent Company, and a special team from the 1st Battalion of the 10th Special Forces Group (based in Böblingen near Stuttgart).

In July 1999, Ukraine proposed the establishment of a joint military unit with Poland, resulting in the creation of the Polish-Ukrainian Peacekeeping Battalion (POLUKRBAT). This battalion was transported to Kosovo in June and July 2000,

# Engagement in Kosovo: POLBAT and POLUKRBAT



taking over responsibilities from POLBAT. It consisted of approximately 850-900 soldiers from Poland, Ukraine, and Lithuania.

Despite the end of the war, the situation in Kosovo remained unstable, necessitating further interventions. POLBAT intervened in Mitrovica, occupying the southern part of the city in November 2000. Meanwhile, POLUKRBAT prevented unrest in its area in October and November 2000, and strengthened its contingent during the Albanian-Macedonian conflict in Tetovo between January and August 2001.

In 2006, there was a reduction and restructuring

of KFOR forces, leading to the relocation of the Polish contingent to Camp Bondsteel in Uroševac. A Polish motorized company was also detached to the north of Kosovo to form Task Force Ibar.

Ten years after their arrival, the Lithuanian infantry platoon left Kosovo, ending its participation in POLUKRBAT. However, the Polish contingent remained active, continuing to contribute to maintaining stability in the region.

Stabilization Mission and Operational Actions  
The Polish Military Contingent (PKW) KFOR in the Republic of Kosovo plays a significant role in maintaining stability and security in the region.



Since its inception, PKW KFOR has focused its efforts on carrying out stabilization missions, monitoring compliance with international agreements and treaties, and supporting local authorities in maintaining public order.

The main goal of PKW KFOR is to provide conditions for the safe existence of Kosovo's inhabitants and to normalize the situation in the region. To achieve this, the contingent carries out a range of mandated tasks, such as observing UN resolutions and technical agreements, ensuring security and freedom of movement, and supporting civilian organizations in establishing law and public order.

An important aspect of PKW KFOR's actions is

also countering organized crime, smuggling, and corruption. Through daily patrols, participation in joint operations with local security authorities, and maintaining readiness of Quick Reaction Forces (QRF), the contingent actively works to ensure security in the region.

The Polish Military Contingent consists of up to 300 soldiers, who are grouped within the Multinational Battle Group - East. The commander of the XLIX rotation of PKW KFOR is Lt. Col. Łukasz Maciuszko, who, together with soldiers from various military units from across Poland, such as the 1st Logistics Brigade, the Center for Foreign Missions Preparation, and the Special Military Police Unit, ensures the effective



implementation of the mission in Kosovo. PKW KFOR's actions include not only daily patrols in the field but also setting up checkpoints on border roads, monitoring road conditions and traffic intensity in the border area. Cooperation with Kosovo's security authorities and international organizations, such as EULEX, plays a crucial role in ensuring the effectiveness of operations. The Polish contingent also actively engages in actions aimed at supporting humanitarian aid and countering attempts to smuggle goods between Serbia and Kosovo. Thus, PKW KFOR not only demonstrates military presence in the region but also effectively contributes to improving the living conditions of Kosovo's inhabitants.

Twenty-five years since Poland joined NATO, participation in peacekeeping missions such as PKW KFOR in Kosovo confirms our commitment to common security and stability goals worldwide. Poland continues its mission as an integral part of the Alliance, ready to act for peace and security wherever needed.

The mission of the Polish Military Contingent in Kosovo is not only an expression of our commitment to international efforts for peace but also a confirmation of our readiness to act for common values and interests.

OF-3 Krzysztof ŁUGOWSK

# KFOR Gender



On 8 March, DCOM KFOR, Brigadier General Federico BERNACCA, invited KFOR civilian and military females as well as male personnel to mark International Women's Day 2024.

**The campaign theme for International Women's Day 2024 was "Invest in Women: Accelerate Progress". We asked BG BERNACCA how this theme applies to KFOR.**

DCOM KFOR, BG BERNACCA said, "For KFOR, "Investing in Women" means that, if we invest in women, we are also investing in peace and security. KFOR's current motto "Together Stronger for Peace" demonstrates that KFOR remains unified and has a common vision in bringing peace and stability to all inhabitants especially women and girls in Kosovo".

**Today, some might question whether we still need an International Women's Day. What would you say?**

OF-3/CIV Rosi MATHES, Chief GENAD:

YES, I firmly believe that we still need an International Women's Day. It is important that we remember the past achievements of women. We have come a long way because of THEIR past achievements. We are not supposed to take the current situation for granted, because some

people have fought hard so that the situation today could be better than it was. Without their support, we would not be where we are today. There are still doors that need opening today. This is the reason why we still mark this day. It is not just about celebrating. It is also about remembering the women and men who have opened many of the doors for us that were shut in the past.

**Why did you invite men as well if it is an International Women's Day?**

MCIV-5 Elisabeth SCHLEICHER, Deputy GENAD: Sometimes, when I go to gender meetings downtown, the room is full of women, and there are few or even no men at the table. I do believe that the diversity makes KFOR stronger and allows us to better perform our mission. There is no good reason to not invite men on this day. It is about inclusion and not exclusion.

Gender is everyone's business. International Women's Day is a great opportunity for men to get involved, to show their support for strong and successful women and to start thinking about how gender expectations affect everyone — men, women, boys, and girls.

# Advisor GENAD



**As we mark International Women's Day, it is crucial to reflect on the progress made and the hurdles yet to overcome in the journey towards gender equality. What is some of the progress you can see and what still needs to be done?**

MCIV-5 Elisabeth SCHLEICHER, Deputy GENAD: In recent years, Kosovo has witnessed notable advancements, particularly in education, signalling a positive trajectory.

The situation of women in Kosovo, despite significant improvements in the last two decades, is still concerning: still today, many women are not active in employment, decision making or politics and, in general, hold lower-paid positions. While achieving, on average, higher education standards compared to men, women still encounter barriers in accessing quality employment. Many find themselves relegated to precarious, low-paying jobs, perpetuating economic inequality.

These unfortunate realities result in women being unequal members of Kosovar society, inhibits women's freedom to make independent choices and, in some cases, incites domestic violence against them.

**So what are some of KFOR's projects to address this situation?**

OF-3/CIV Rosi MATHES, Chief GENAD:

KFOR is fully committed to addressing this situation and supporting women in their pursuit of better working and living conditions. The activities carried out by the GENAD Office, Radio K4, Liaison and Monitoring Teams and CIMIC units are aimed at helping domestic violence shelters, establishing Kosovo Police (KP) family rooms, educating KP cadets about the gender perspective in the operations and raising awareness in the younger generations about the various security needs of the different groups in society. Moreover, KFOR invests in education by talking about stereotypes and gender bias that are learned through society and can also influence future job choices. Only TOGETHER we are stronger for peace.

OF-3/CIV Rosi MATHES,  
Chief GENAD  
&

MCIV-5 Elisabeth SCHLEICHER,  
Deputy GENAD

# Invest in Education



Based on a long and fruitful cooperation between KFOR and the University of Prishtina, the GENAD Office organized a joint conference on the occasion of the International Women's Day. The topic of the conference was "Invest in Education = Invest in Women".

Education is crucial for women because it strengthens economies and reduces inequality. Despite improvements among younger cohorts, women in Kosovo still present lower levels of education than men. World Bank statistics show that some 50% of working-age women have lower-secondary education or below. Employment rate among lower educated are low, 30% among men and 5% among women. Women are also more likely to lack work experience than men.

Prof. Asst. Dr. Remzie Shahini-Hoxhaj moderated the event highlighting that education empowers

women to challenge societal norms and break free from the limitations imposed upon them.

The panellists included 2 KFOR soldiers – one from Austria and one from Canada – and 1 NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT) representative who serves as the Chief of Staff at NALT.

Colonel, Markus MAUTZ (AUT), Commander Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG) and AUT Senior National Representative (SNR) spoke about his personal experience in working with female soldiers in Austria as well as in international missions. He stressed that the most important factor in terms of whether or not someone is qualified for a job is not their sex, but their level of social competence and education. COL MAUTZ concluded that "comprehensive security can only be achieved if everyone in our populations is included".

# = Invest in Women



Lieutenant Colonel Corinne KOEKHUYT (CAN), Chief Joint Logistics Operations Centre (JLOC) at the Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG) and CAN SNR, shared her expectations before joining the CAN Armed Forces and also talked about why she would encourage women to consider a job as a soldier. She encouraged the students to pursue their areas of interests and not let others limit them based on whether they are male or female because "if we want innovative solutions to global challenges, we need to leverage the full potential of the entire population", LTC KOEKHUYT highlighted.

Ms. Lone KJELGAARD (DNK), Chief of Staff at NATO Advisory and Liaison Team (NALT), spoke about her leadership role in a male-dominated environment and said that women's leadership in security is not just a benefit, it is a necessity. Ms. KJELGAARD further emphasised that working in a

political context has changed significantly for the better due to a deliberate effort by NATO. Ms. KJELGAARD encouraged the audience to "seek professional challenges and take on responsibilities in order to make a lasting difference."

The intent of this event was not just to celebrate International Women's Day, but to highlight the achievements of women in the peace and security sector and to encourage the students of the University of Prishtine, particularly the female students, to pursue their educational and professional goals.

Written by:  
OF-3/CIV Rosi MATHES, Chief GENAD  
MCIV-5 Elisabeth SCHLEICHER, Deputy GENAD

# KFOR, OSCE AND PEJË/PEĆ UNIV



On March 8, 2024, almost 115 years after the first Women's Day, a conference on gender equality organized by the multinational contingent Regional Command West (RC-W) took place at the University of Peć/Pejë. of KFOR, led by the 1st Bersaglieri Regiment, in collaboration with the OSCE and the "Haxhi Zeka" university of the same municipality. The conference was opened by the Commander of RC-W, Col. Francesco Ferrara, flanked by the director of the OSCE mission to Kosovo, Dr. Riccardo Celeghini and by the rector of the "Haxhi Zeka" University, Dr. Armand Krasniqi.

The meeting, entitled "The future is in your hands", aims to help raise awareness in the community on the importance of promoting gender equality and enhancing the role of women in society.

There was a large participation of local authorities and women belonging to different working and social contexts, of all Kosovar ethnic groups, united by the desire to enhance the role of women in society. During the conference, various current issues related to gender equality, the fight against domestic violence and the promotion of women in the world of work were addressed. There were various interventions and testimonies that brought significant contributions to the discussion.

Speakers at the conference were Lt. Alessandra Adamo, representative of the women of RC-W; Adelina Paqarizi representative of the NGO "Hareja"; Mrika Nikçi, famous mountaineer known for being the youngest woman in the world to have climbed the Seven Peaks; Silvia Raskovic, responsible for the community of returnees in Kosovo (MOCRs); Albiona Kelmendi, student of "Haxhi Zeka" university; Have Lajqi, OSCE representative.

Below are the words of the speakers:

Mrika Nikçi says, about gender equality, "Historically, sports have been dominated by men, with women often facing discrimination, unequal pay, and limited opportunities to compete. However, despite these challenges, women athletes have risen to the occasion time and time again, breaking records, shattering stereotypes, and inspiring generations to come. Women athletes are not just competing for themselves; they are challenging societal norms and redefining what it means to be strong, competitive, and successful. They are proving that women belong in the arena just as much as men do and that they are capable of achieving greatness in any sport they choose."

Albiona Kelmendi says "As students, we are the torchbearers of tomorrow's world, and it's

# DIVERSITY ON GENDER EQUALITY



within our power to shape a future where gender equality isn't just an aspiration but a reality. Gender equality isn't merely about equal rights for men and women; it's about acknowledging and dismantling the systemic barriers that prevent individuals from reaching their full potential regardless of their gender identity. It's about ensuring that every person, regardless of their gender, has equal access to opportunities in education, employment, healthcare, and decision-making. Women are still underrepresented in leadership positions, face wage gaps, and encounter discrimination based on their gender identity. Similarly, men face societal pressures and stereotypes that dictate rigid expectations about their roles and behaviors. But the future is indeed in our hands. Each one of us has the power to challenge these norms, to break down barriers, and to create a more inclusive and equitable society. It starts with fostering empathy and understanding, with recognizing our own biases and privileges, and with standing up against injustice wherever we see it."

"Today, in this important International day, which commemorate, or trying to do it, the role of the WOMEN in modern society, not forgetting all the historical steps which made

it, I would like to discuss about a crucial issue that, unfortunately, continues to plague part of our society: discrimination, particularly from the lens of gender. In this modern age, where we pride ourselves on progress and equality, it is disheartening to see that gender discrimination still persists in various forms, affecting individuals worldwide." Silvia Raskovic's words.

"It is a great pleasure for me to be here today to celebrate International Women's Day, in this evocative multi-ethnic venue. This day does not just mark a historic celebration. The topic of gender equality is part of a large project we are launching with all communities living in Kosovo, bringing together a wide range of interconnected and mutually reinforcing topics. Today we reiterate our commitment to supporting and empowering, with concrete examples, women in all areas of life" the words of Col. Ferrara.

KFOR recognizes the importance of gender equality and supports all efforts towards a world where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

RC-W Chief PAO  
OF-1 Domenico MASSARO



The KFOR Reserve Battalion of Regional Command East of the NATO-led KFOR mission marked the conclusion of its services with a ceremony held in Camp Novo Selo. The Senior National Representative of Hungarian Army, Colonel Róbert Kiss, expressed his appreciation to the soldiers for their professionalism and commitment in support of KFOR's efforts to ensure a safe and secure environment for all communities in Kosovo. The soldiers of Kinetic Reserve Battalion were honoured with the non-Article 5 NATO medal in recognition of their contribution to KFOR mission. Numerous civil and military authorities took part in the ceremony, including the Ambassador of Hungary to Kosovo His Excellency Béla Bozsik, the Commander of Camp Novo Selo, Lieutenant Colonel Róbert Rédei, the Commander of the Tactical Reserve Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Botond Hetényi, the Commander of the Non-Kinetic Battalion, Lieutenant Colonel Andrej Krivec, the Deputy Commander of the Intelligence Surveillance Recognition Battalion, Major Nathanael Hoyois, and KFOR Command Sergeant Major Cengiz Yilmaz.



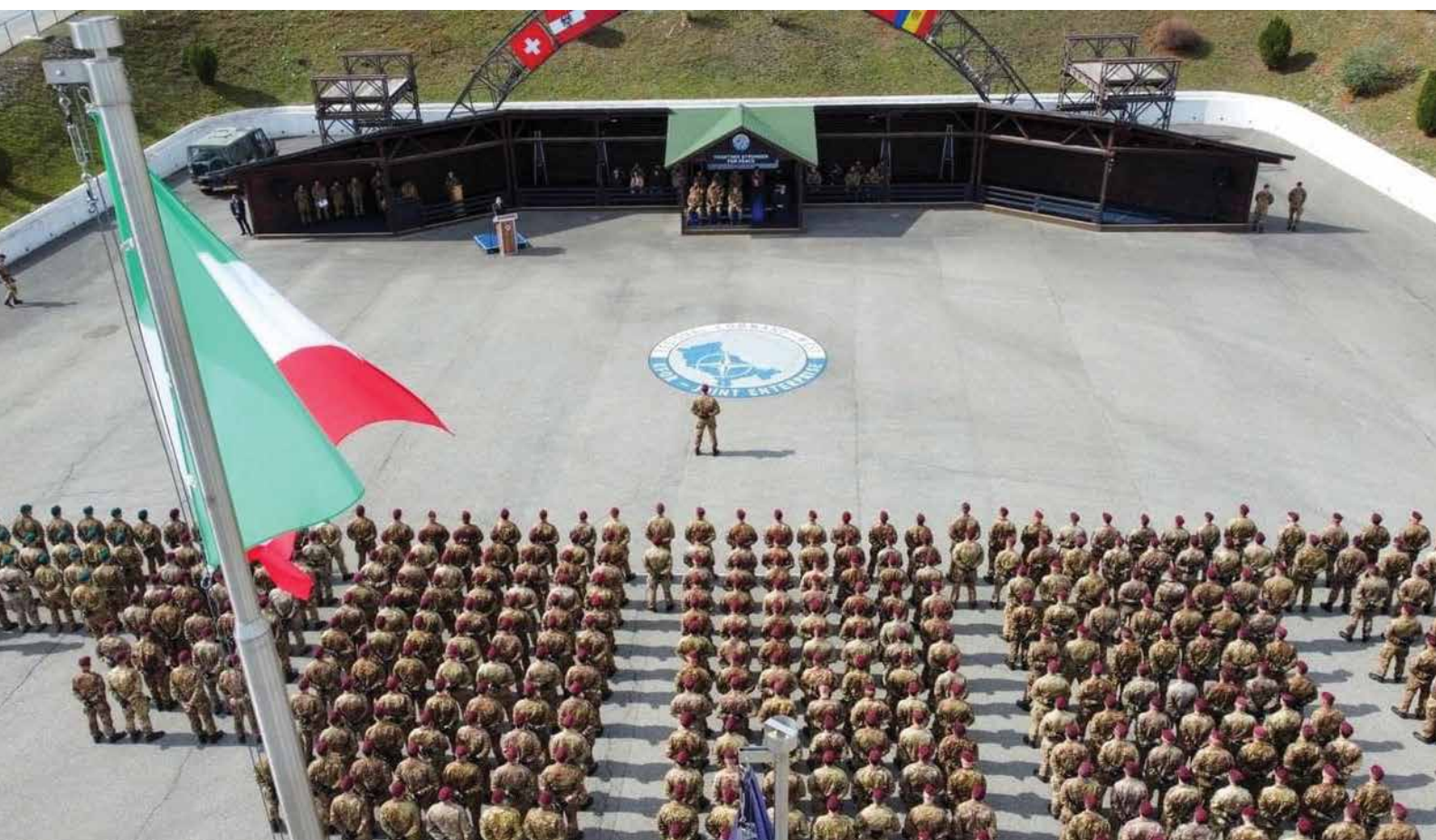
The Regional Command East of the NATO-led KFOR mission donated safety equipment and radios to the fire brigade in the municipality of Zvečan/Zvečan. This initiative aims to enhance local capacity to respond swiftly and effectively to emergency situations affecting the well being of all communities.



The NATO-led KFOR mission KFOR hosted two events in honor of International Women's Day. The first event took place at Camp Film City in Pristina, featuring the campaign theme "Invest in Women – Invest in Security". The Deputy Commander of the NATO-led KFOR mission, Brigadier General Bernacca, in his speech, emphasized, "If we invest in women, we are also investing in peace and security". This discussion aimed at encourage Kosovo's youth to recognize the value of education as a tool for fostering peace and security. The second event, held at the University of Pristina, brought together KFOR, NALT and the University for a panel discussion with the motto "Invest in Education – Invest in Women". This discussion also focused on promoting education as a means to contribute to peace and security.



The Commander of the NATO-led KFOR mission, Major General Özkan Ulutaş, met with Vjosa Osmani, at KFOR Headquarters, in Camp Film City, in Pristina. Major General Ulutaş emphasized the crucial need for ongoing coordination and collaboration between #KFOR and the Institutions in Kosovo and the Kosovo security organisations to ensure lasting security across Kosovo, for the benefit of all communities. He restated KFOR's unwavering commitment to the daily and impartial implementation of its UN mandate. He also underscored KFOR's continued security efforts in support to the EU-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina.



The Italian unit of the Operational Reserve Battalion of the NATO-led KFOR mission concluded its four month-deployment, with a ceremony held in Pejë/Peć. The unit consisted of the 186th regiment of Italian paratroopers "Folgore" and additional personnel from the Italian Army and Carabinieri. Colonel Giovanni Corrado, Commander of the regiment "Folgore," was honoured with the non-Article 5 NATO medal, in recognition of his excellent services. "I would like this to be a moment of recognition of the spirit with which this splendid and heterogeneous group of people tackled and accomplished their mission," he said. KFOR Deputy Commander, Brigadier General Federico Bernacca, expressed his appreciation to Colonel Corrado and his troops for their invaluable contributions. "Women and men of the Operational Reserve Battalion, your daily actions have demonstrated the credibility and effectiveness of your role. You have risen to the challenge and you have honoured the prestige of the Italian flag in this region of strategic importance for the Alliance, through your unconditional service," he pointed out. Brigadier General Bernacca also highlighted KFOR's continued security efforts across Kosovo to ensure a safe and secure environment and freedom of movement for the benefit of all communities. The Italian Deputy Ambassador, Dr Ugo Ferrero, said: "I would like to underscore the words of appreciation that the KFOR Commander, Major General Özkan Ulutaş, shared with us just a few days ago on the readiness you have displayed in the implementation of all of the tasks assigned to you, including those related to the guarding of Serb municipalities buildings and other security activities in northern Kosovo, notably in the municipalities of Zubin Potok and Zvečan/Zvečan, as well as in Mitrovicë e Jagut/Južna Mitrovica and Podujevë/Podujevo." "Italy's significant contributions to KFOR over the past 25 years have been synonymous with trust and professionalism, which have been recognized by all parties involved." Numerous civil and military authorities took part in the ceremony, including the Commander of the EU Rule of Law Mission (EULEX), Major General Pietro Barbano, the Commander of KFOR Regional Command West, Colonel Francesco Ferrara, the Commander of the Multinational Specialized Unit, Colonel Massimo Rosati, and the Commander of the Military Police of the Regional Command West, Major Francesco Giangreco.

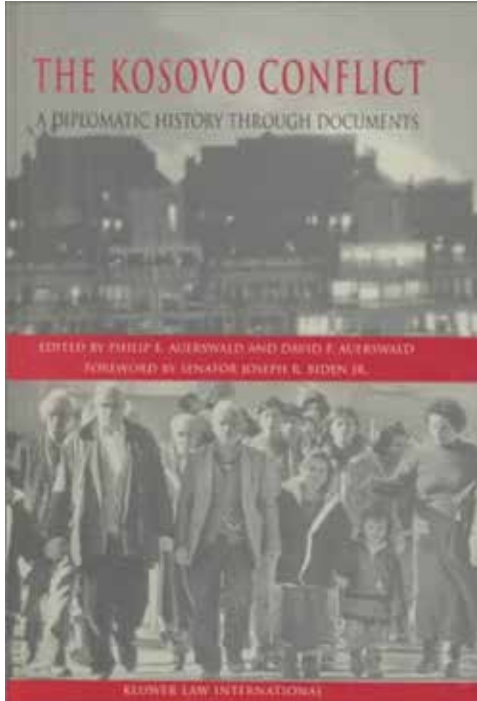


★ Turkish contingent has arrived in Kosovo, as part of the NATO-led KFOR mission. It will replace a unit of Italian troops previously deployed, as part of Reserve Forces assigned to KFOR. The deployment of the Turkish contingent reflects KFOR's steadfast commitment to continue to provide a safe and secure environment for the benefit of all communities living in Kosovo and freedom of movement, at all times and impartially, in accordance with its UN mandate based on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of 1999. It is also another concrete demonstration of NATO's continued engagement towards lasting security in Kosovo and stability across the Western Balkans.



Brigadier General Federico Bernacca, Deputy Commander of the NATO-led KFOR mission, visited Camp Villaggio Italia, the headquarters of KFOR Regional Command West. He was welcomed by Colonel Francesco Ferrara, Commander of Regional Command West. During his visit, Brigadier General Bernacca underscored that continued cooperation amongst various contingents from NATO Allies and partners is key to lasting security across Kosovo and regional stability.

## THE KOSOVO CONFLICT: A DIPLOMATIC HISTORY THROUGH DOCUMENTS, EDITED BY PHILIP AND DAVID AUERSWALD



The 1999 Kosovo conflict brought an unsettling close to the 20th century, representing both a critical test of post-WWII international security structures and a chapter in a human tragedy that is far from concluded. In *The Kosovo Conflict: A Diplomatic History through Documents*, Philip and David Auerswald have compiled the definitive collection of official, unclassified documents surrounding this event. The Kosovo Conflict begins with the full text of Slobodan Milosevic's speech at Kosovo Polje in April 1987, which marked the beginning of the junior Communist official's ascension to power on the ticket of Serbian nationalism. The volume's eleven chapters then trace growing tensions in the province over the ensuing decade, as well as the concurrent increase in international concern. Particular attention is given to the immediate prelude to the conflict and the conflict itself. More specifically, the volume details the international community's efforts to defuse the escalating violence in Kosovo from 1998 through 1999, beginning with economic sanctions and continuing through the October threat of NATO airstrikes, the January Racak massacre, and the Rambouillet negotiations. The volume then follows in detail the evolution of both diplomatic and US environments during the course of the NATO air campaign, leading to the end of the campaign in June 1999. Though rich in detail, *The Kosovo Conflict* places events in context. Each chapter is prefaced with an essay and chronology summarizing that chapter's events. The body of each chapter comprises key agreements, speeches, communiques, and statements of the major nation-states and international organizations involved in the Balkans. *The Kosovo Conflict* is an invaluable resource for practitioners, students of politics, and historians

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# NCO OF THE MONTH

## OR-9 Antonio CATALANO

Sergeant Major Antonio CATALANO is from the Italian Carabinieri and is currently working with the Multinational Specialized Unit, Carabinieri Battalion, Alpha Coy as 1st Team Leader. While he was on duty with his team on the Austerlitz Bridge in the center of North Mitrovica, an unknown individual with a small firearm approached the team. Thanks to Sergeant Major CATALANO and his Team Operator, Specialist Marco GIANNINI's calm reaction and professional management of the situation, Kosovo Police Officers detained the individual without any casualties. He not only managed the situation successfully; but also reported all event details through the chain of command. His professional approach to the situation shows his commitment to service and has been an excellent example to his comrades. His professionalism has contributed to the KFOR mission and he definitely deserves to be Non-Commissioned Officer of the Month for March 2024.



# SOLDIER OF THE MONTH

## OR-4 Marco GIANNINI

Specialist Marco GIANNINI is from the Italian Carabinieri and is currently working with the Multinational Specialized Unit, Carabinieri Battalion, Alpha Coy as a 1st Team Operator. While he was on duty with his team on the Austerlitz Bridge in the center of North Mitrovica, an unknown individual with a small firearm approached the team. Thanks to Specialist Marco GIANNINI and his team leader's calm reaction and professional management of the situation, Kosovo Police Officers detained the individual without any casualties. He not only managed the situation successfully; but also reported all event details through the chain of command. His professional approach of the situation shows his commitment to service and has been an excellent example to his comrades. His efforts and professional approach are greatly appreciated and have contributed to the KFOR mission and he definitely deserves to be Soldier of the Month for March 2024.



