

EUFOR FORUM

March - May 2023

European Union Force in BiH



#135



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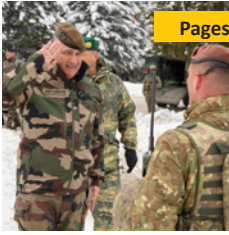


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Operational Commander visited BiH

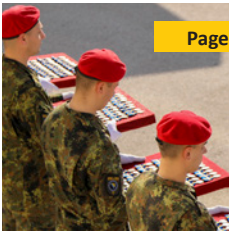
As part of Lieutenant General Hubert Cottereau's visit to BiH, there were a number of engagements.



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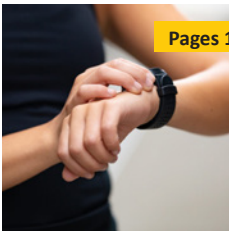
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138 soldiers from 10 different nations within EUFOR received the Common Security and Defence Policy Medal for Operation Althea.



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Fitness Testing in the Belgian Defence Forces

Personnel serving in the Belgian Defence Forces must complete an annual fitness test, known as Physical Evaluations Fitness.



Editor in Chief

Lt Col Alexander Kovacs

Dear readers of EUFOR Forum Magazine!

The last few months were very busy ones for the EUFOR Public Affairs Office. A lot of important events including HoTo of COS EUFOR, Change of Command in the MNBN, numerous visits and office calls of COM EUFOR, production and dissemination of EUFOR campaign EUFOR FOCUSED CAPABLE RELIABLE were executed and covered by PAO. With that, I am happy to offer you the second edition of our EUFOR FORUM since I

took over as Chief PAO earlier this year.

In edition #135 you will find information about all of these events and projects, will learn more about our new COS and the new Commander of the MNBN, see more details about our cross media campaign and find useful information about Srebrenica, fitness testing in the Belgian Defence Forces and our social media activities.



Filming with MNBN

I want to thank all branches who supported our efforts on media activities for EUFOR Althea and especially the MNBN for supporting us in producing video clips for a variety of topics.

If you have a story you want to share within the EUFOR family, do not hesitate to contact us!

Finally, I kindly invite you to follow us on our social media channels!

Commander EUFOR
Major General Helmut Habermayer

EUFOR Public Affairs Chief
Lieutenant Colonel Alexander Kovacs

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Today COM EUFOR Major General Helmut Habermayer visited the Institution for the Care of Mentally Disabled Children and Youth in Pazarić. EUFOR has regular engagement and a longstanding relationship with the institution.
<https://tinyurl.com/yp2rk5kc>



5,889
People reached

824
Engagements

Boost post

66

1 share

COM EUFOR Major General Helmut Habermayer visited the Institution for the Care of Mentally Disabled Children and Youth in Pazarić. EUFOR has regular engagement and a longstanding relationship with the institution.



1 1 16 1,311

A commemoration ceremony was held in Camp Butmir today recognising all civilian staff members who lost their lives whilst in service to UNPROFOR, IFOR, SFOR and EUFOR missions. During the ceremony the names of the deceased members were read out and a wreath was laid.



As the oldest European Union military mission, EUFOR ALTHEA joins the celebration of Europe Day on 9 May, marking the historic "Schuman Declaration" signed in 1950 that has since steered Europe toward a path of peace, prosperity, and cooperation.



Today EUFOR staff participated at EU Day celebrations in Brussels, informing visitors about how Operation Althea is focused, capable and reliable in providing a safe and secure environment for the population of BiH.

- 
colonel.running Best wishes from Austria. Dieter!

1w 1 like Reply
- 
colonel.running Hi Eima! Nice to see you on pictures from EU Day. All the best!!!

1w 1 like Reply
- 
patricio_arancibia_herrera 🇪🇺🇧🇮🇨🇨🇺

1w Reply

View insights

Boost post



EUFOR Chief of Staff Handover Takeover Ceremony



Outgoing COS EUFOR, COM EUFOR, incoming COS EUFOR

Wednesday 17 May 2023 marked the occasion of the Handover Takeover ceremony for EUFOR Chief of Staff with Brigadier General Zoltán Somogyi of the Hungarian Defence Forces handing over to Brigadier General Ovidiu Lungu of the Romanian Armed Forces. The ceremony was attended by

Romanian Ambassador to Bosnia and Herzegovina H.E. Anton Păcurețu, Ambassador of Hungary to Bosnia and Herzegovina H.E. Krisztián Pósa, Chief of Defence of the Hungarian Defence Forces Lieutenant General PhD Gábor Böröndi, Major General Ivica Jerkić, Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff AF

BiH for Operations, Major General Radovan Ilić, Commander of the Operations Command AF BiH.

Brigadier General Somogyi has been COS EUFOR since May 2022 and consistently worked to ensure unity of effort across all EUFOR HQ Branches and Units. During the ceremony Brigadier General Somogyi was presented with the Italian Ministry of Defence Commemorative Cross for the Peacekeeping Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the EUFOR Operational Althea Common Security and Defence Policy Medal and a Commander EUFOR Commendation in recognition of his outstanding service and commitment.

While addressing the parade, outgoing COS EUFOR Brigadier General thanked COM EUFOR Major General Habermayer, COM NHQSa Brigadier General McGaha, Major General Jerkić Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff AF BiH for Operations



COM EUFOR inspects the troops



Incoming COS EUFOR addresses the parade

An extract from new COS EUFOR biography

Brigadier General Ovidiu Lungu is a command and staff officer with more than 25 years of experience as commander at various levels and as an operation and planning staff officer at the tactical and joint level. He was commissioned in 1995 as Second Lieutenant and his first appointment was in a field artillery battalion.

Brigadier Lungu's military education includes Command and General Staff Officer Course at the US Army's Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth (class of 2010), Advanced Joint Operations Staff Officer Course (2014), National War College (class of 2018), National Defense University, Fort McNair, Washington DC, where he earned his Master of Science Degree in National Security Strategy, and Post University Continue Professional Development "Security and good governance" - 2020/Romanian National Defense University. In addition, he has a bachelor's degree in social management, and a master degree in Geopolitics and International Relations.

His awards and decorations include Non-Article 5 Medal relating to NATO Operations in Afghanistan, ROU Land Forces Emblem of Honor, ROU General Staff Emblem of Honor, ROU Armed Forces Emblem of Honor, Humanitarian Actions Emblem of Merit and the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara.

Brigadier General Ovidiu Lungu was born in 1973, in Ploiești, Prahova County.

He is married and has a son.

and his fellow EUFOR soldiers for their support and comradeship throughout his time as COS EUFOR. He also wished incoming COS EUFOR Brigadier General Lungu future success in his new role. He concluded by stating

"I wish all the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina all the very best. I firmly believe that they deserve a progressive, prosperous and peaceful future."

During the ceremony an exchange of badges took place, symbolising the handover of authority. Incoming COS EUFOR Brigadier General Lungu addressed the parade, stating:

"I am particularly excited about the potential for cooperation with our partners in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Through commitment, support, dedication and, most importantly, a combined effort, we can achieve lasting peace and stability in this region."

COM EUFOR Major General Habermayer addressed and expressed his gratitude to Brigadier General Somogyi for his commitment to EUFOR and for the support he has given to COM EUFOR and his predecessor and stated "I have witnessed first-hand your ability to innovate and drive change; I am sure that the Hungarian Defence Forces will be very much enhanced by your return."

COM EUFOR also welcomed Brigadier General Lungu to the mission, stating *"Your knowledge and experience will be invaluable and will make a significant impact on the operational effectiveness of EUFOR."*

Operational Commander's visits to Armed Forces BiH

As part of Operational Commander of Operation ALTHEA Lt Gen Hubert Cottereau's visit to BiH, there were a number of engagements with AFBiH.

On Thursday 16 March, Lt Gen Cottereau met with Maj Gen Radovan Ilić, Commander of the Operations Command AFBiH in Camp Butmir. During their meeting they discussed ongoing and future cooperation between EUFOR and AFBiH.

On Friday, 17 March, Lt Gen Cottereau, accompanied by COM EUFOR Maj Gen Habermayer, visited Rajlovac Barracks where he met with members of the Tactical Support Brigade. Brigade Commander Col Jasmin Čajić, provided a welcome brief during which he thanked Lt Gen Hubert Cottereau and Maj Gen Habermayer for the ongoing support received from the European Union including the €10m donation of demining equipment. Col Čajić then outlined the history of Rajlovac Barracks and the Tactical Support Brigade and the mission, structure, strength, disposition, operational tasks and training activities conducted the Brigade. Col Čajić highlighted the excellent cooperation between EUFOR and the Brigade, noting future intentions to build upon and improve this cooperation.



Maj Gen Radovan Ilić welcoming Lt Gen Hubert Cottereau

Company Commander, Demining Battalion, Capt Tarik Mušikić then gave a brief on the Demining Battalion. Capt Mušikić explained the history, accreditation, structure and tasks of the Battalion, including cooperation with EUFOR to conduct mine risk education.

Following this, Lt Gen Cottereau visited a static equipment display from the Demining Battalion which included stands from Manual Demining, Mine Detection Dogs Mechanical Demining, Reconnaissance Platoon and EOD Company.

On conclusion of the visit, Lt Gen Cottereau commented that *"Mining activities are at the core of the EU Force ALTHEA because we are here to support the BiH Government when it comes to installing and maintaining a Safe and Secure Environment."*

"I am very proud and happy to have seen the level of professionalism and commitment of this Battalion. I have been able to see the result of the donations of the EU and I am sure that in the upcoming years the numbers of demining activities will increase to the benefit of the population and therefore to peace within this beautiful nation."



Lt Gen Hubert Cottereau with members AF BiH



Operational Commander visited EUFOR MNBN



Operational Commander during a static equipment display

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On Wednesday 14 March, Operational Commander of Operation Althea Lieutenant General Hubert Cottereau arrived in BiH to commence a three day visit.

On arrival he received a number of briefings from EUFOR HQ personnel regarding EUFOR operational and training capabilities and plans.

On 16 March, Lt Gen Cottereau, accompanied by COM EUFOR, was briefed by Multinational Battalion Commander Lieutenant Colonel Matthias Lampl.

During the brief, Lt Col Lampl outlined the mission, operational activities and training exercises conducted by the MNBN. During the meeting they had an engaging discussion surrounding a number of matters including the structure,

capabilities and equipment of the MNBN. Following this, Lt Gen Cottereau travelled to Hotel Igman where he received ground orientation and exercise briefs from members of the MNBN Romanian Coy.

Lt Gen Cottereau then observed an exercise during which the

Romanian troops simulated the evacuation of a LOT house including the activation of medical and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) assets. Finally, a static equipment display was presented to Lt Gen Cottereau during which he was shown weapons and equipment from the MNBN Romanian Coy.



EUFOR welcomes its 22nd troop contributing nation!



Belgian personnel raise the Belgian flag during the ceremony

On 24 April a flag raising ceremony was held at Camp Butmir to mark the return of Belgium as a troop contributing nation to EUFOR. The Belgian flag was raised by a member of EUFOR's Belgian contingent and Lieutenant Colonel David Lambeens, Belgian Defence Attaché.

During the ceremony, Mr Benjamin Sturtewagen Head of the Diplomatic Office of the Kingdom of Belgium in Sarajevo addressed the parade stating

“Belgium fully supports the EU perspective of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Political and social

stability as well as peaceful coexistence are an integral part of that perspective. It is also through that lens that Belgium’s renewed participation to EUFOR Althea must be seen”.

COM EUFOR Maj Gen Habermayer also addressed the parade stating that ***“The return of the Belgium flag to EUFOR’s Flag Park makes EUFOR a stronger and more diverse force. Your presence here, even in small numbers, symbolizes the continued interest of the Kingdom of Belgium and broader International Community in ensuring a Safe and Secure Environment for all the people of BiH.”***

The return of Belgium brings to 22 the total number of troop contributing nations in EUFOR Operation Althea.



From left: Lt Col David Lambeens, Belgian Senior National Representative, COM EUFOR, Mr Benjamin Sturtewagen

COM EUFOR visited the 5 Infantry Brigade AFBiH in Tuzla



COM EUFOR and Colonel Emir Kliko inspect 5th Infantry Brigade AFBiH

On 12 April COM EUFOR Major General Helmut Habermayer visited the Headquarters of 5 Infantry Bde, AFBiH in Tuzla. On arrival at Camp Dubrave, COM EUFOR met with Colonel Emir Kliko, 5th Infantry Bde Commander, during which they had a positive discussion surrounding the cooperation between EUFOR and the AFBiH.

Following this, COM EUFOR received an information briefing on 5th Infantry Bde, where the key operational and training tasks of the Brigade were explained.

COM EUFOR commented very positively on the high number of female personnel serving within the Brigade, nearly 12%, the

highest percentage within AFBiH formations. The Commanders discussed the status of Reserve Forces within the AFBiH and the current manning challenges experienced by the Bde. The planned training activities of the Light Infantry Battalion Group in 2023 were discussed, along with the prospects of future foreign deployments for its personnel.

COM EUFOR then attended a display by the 5 Infantry Bde's Recce Company. During this display, the tactics, capabilities and equipment of this unit were presented and discussed. COM EUFOR spoke to the members of the Recce Company about his time as a Recce Platoon Commander in the Austrian Armed Forces during the Cold War. He complimented the Recce troops on their professionalism and commitment to serve within such a specialised unit.



EUFOR's First Campaign in 2023

Throughout its history, EUFOR has shown full commitment to BiH and maintained full situational awareness. When called upon in the past, EUFOR has successfully supported BiH authorities.

EUFOR is always FOCUSED on maintaining a safe and secure environment in BiH. In February 2022, as a result of the international security situation, EUFOR deployed its reserve forces, demonstrating that it is CAPABLE of responding quickly. The increased contribution of EU nations highlights that EUFOR is a RELIABLE partner. EUFOR is 100% committed to BiH.

EUFOR: FOCUSED CAPABLE RELIABLE, FOR A SAFE AND SECURE BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA.

In April, EUFOR launched its first media campaign of 2023. The campaign, titled Focused Capable Reliable aimed to highlight the history of the mission and how, since 2004, EUFOR has maintained situational awareness and has been ready to react to the evolving security situation. This ability was last demonstrated in February 2022, when EUFOR doubled the size of its troops by deploying the immediate reserve forces, while at the same time the number of contributing nations saw an increase from 19 to 21, and the number of liaison and observation teams rose from 17 to 19.

The campaign included a campaign video and posters in local language. The multi-media campaign featured on 7 TV stations, 60 radio stations, 6 newspapers, 5 cinemas, public transport in 11 cities, 50 billboards and online and social media advertisements.



EUFOR: Focused, Capable, Reliable

Focused, capable, reliable.
For a safe and secure Bosnia and Herzegovina!
<https://euforbih.org/focused>



1,128,141
People reached

14,492
Engagements

Boost post



Joint exercise in the area of Mostar



Turkish soldiers carry out the evacuation of people at risk



infantry platoon from Republic of North Macedonia

The Turkish company of the EUFOR Multinational Battalion conducted a training exercise in the area of Mostar from 20-25 March.

Under the command of Company Commander Captain D., the Turkish company and a subordinate infantry platoon from Republic of North Macedonia trained the evacuation of a LOT house.

EUFOR is at the heart of international military engagement in BiH, providing a stable security framework for the benefit of all BiH's citizens.

The task of the Turkish soldiers was to carry out the evacuation of people at risk, while the infantry platoon from Republic of North Macedonia had to mitigate against hostile activities towards the evacuation forces. Such drills are part of the permanent training for all EUFOR Multinational Battalion soldiers.

EUFOR's multinational make up offers troop contributing nations the chance to further understand the Balkans region, whilst progressing BiH towards a better future and ensuring regional security.



Turkish soldier participating in the exercise

Change of Command Ceremony for MNBN Commander



New MNBN Commander takes the MNBN colours from COM EUFOR

On 28 March EUFOR held a Change of Command Ceremony for the Multinational Battalion (MNBN) Commander. During the ceremony, outgoing MNBN Cdr Lt Col Matthias Lampl formally handed over command to incoming MNBN Cdr Lt Col Alfred Steingress. The ceremony was presided over by COM EUFOR Maj Gen Habermayer and the parade command was Maj Baranyai from the Hungarian Armed Forces.

Also present at the ceremony were distinguished guests; Ambassador of the Republic of Austria to BiH H.E. Dr Ulrike Hartmann, Ambassador of Hungary to BiH H.E. Mr. Krisztián Pósa, Ambassador of the Republic of Bulgaria to BiH H.E. Mr. Valeri Yotov and Minister Counsellor, Embassy of the Republic of North Macedonia to BiH Mr. Borcho Damjanov.

During the ceremony, Lt Col Lampl addressed the parade, referencing the speech he made on the commencement of his tour of duty where he stated that "life is a journey, not a destination." Lt Col Lampl thanked COM EUFOR Maj Gen Habermayer and COS EUFOR Brig Gen Zoltán Somogyi for their leadership and support, and thanked each MNBN Company in their native language.



As a sign of the Transfer of Authority, COM EUFOR took the MNBN colours from Lt Col Lampl and handed them over to Lt Col Steingress. Following this, Lt Col Steingress addressed the parade, during which he stated that he will lead his soldiers according to the motto "Lead with brains, heart, with toughness and with humor!" Lt Col Steingress thanked Lt Col Lampl for his professionalism and wished him well on returning home.

To conclude the parade, COM EUFOR Maj Gen Habermayer congratulated Lt Col Lampl on completion of a successful tour of duty and presented him with the Common Security Defence Policy Service Medal. COM EUFOR Maj Gen Habermayer noted Lt Col Steingress' experience as a military commander and wished him success in his new role.

Lt Col Alfred Steingress, New MNBN Commander



COM EUFOR inspects the troops

Lieutenant Colonel Alfred Steingress joined the Austrian Armed Forces in 1988 and graduated from the Theresian Military Academy as Armoured Infantry Officer in 1993. His first appointment was as a Commander of an Armoured Infantry Platoon, followed by an appointment as Commander of the 1st Armoured Infantry Company of the 13th Armoured Infantry Battalion/4th Armoured Infantry Brigade. Between 1999 and 2002 he was a Commander of an Anti-Tank Company. During this period he was deployed to KOSOVO twice, in 2000 and in 2001 and commanded a Heavy Infantry Company of Task Force DULJE/Multinational Brigade "S"/KFOR. In 2003 he served as a Training Officer at the Theresian Military Academy.

In 2004 he returned as S2 Officer and subsequently as

S3 Officer in an Armoured Infantry Battalion. From 2005 to 2006, he completed the course for Battalion Commander and finished top of his class. Following this he was appointed as Deputy Commander of the 13th Armoured Infantry Battalion. Since 2014 he has led this Battalion, which is equipped with modern Infantry Fighting Vehicles "ULAN". In 2010 and 2018 he participated as Chief of Staff and Deputy Senior National Representative of the Austrian Contingent in the KFOR Mission. In 2013 he commanded EUFOR's MNBN.

Academically, he holds a Master's Degree from the National Defense Academy, Vienna. He has frequently participated in the drafting of many regulations, with the main focus being on Armoured Infantry and crowd and riot control.



"... For me, to lead MNBN is without doubt a highlight of my military career and it fills me with pride that I have the honor to fulfill these tasks for a safe and secure BiH with the largest possible effort.

Nevertheless, it is a challenge for me to work with soldiers from different nations. But still I am glad to have the chance to live up to this challenge again. Additionally the conduct of combined and collective training with the Armed Forces of BiH will be of great importance. I'm looking forward to this cooperation and hope for interesting and successful trainings.

I will lead my soldiers according to the motto: "Lead with brains, heart, toughness and with humor!"

Visits to HQ EUFOR



Commander of the Slovenian Armed Forces, Maj Gen Roman Urbanč paid a visit to COM EUFOR Maj Gen Helmut Habermayer. They discussed the role and engagement of Slovenian contingent in EUFOR Althea mission.



COM EUFOR welcomed Lt Gen Francisco Braco Carbó, Commander of the Operational Command of the Armed Forces of Spain. The visit was part of a wider visit marking the 30th Anniversary of the presence of the Spanish Armed Forces in BiH.



COM EUFOR met with a delegation from the South Eastern Europe Brigade (SEEBRIG), led by their Commander BG Evangelos Mitroutsikos. SEEBRIG is a Brigade size formation established by seven participating nations (currently 6 contributing nations) in order to contribute to regional security, stability and further enhance cooperation in the conduct of Peace Support, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Operations.



COM EUFOR Major General Helmut Habermayer welcomed General Rudolf Striedinger, Austrian Chief of Defence Staff to EUFOR Headquarters in Camp Butmir.



COM EUFOR met with newly appointed Prime Minister of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Mr. Nermin Nikšić. This was their first official meeting and a positive discussion was held during which COM EUFOR congratulated Mr. Nikšić to his recent appointment as the new Prime Minister.



COM EUFOR, Major General Helmut Habermayer, met with the President of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina Ms. Lidija Bradara.

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COM EUFOR welcomed a Belgian Delegation



Wednesday 17th May 2023 COM EUFOR Major General Helmut Habermayer welcomed a Belgian delegation including H.E. Mrs. Hadja Lahbib, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Affairs and Foreign Trade of the Kingdom of Belgium, Mr. Benjamin Sturtewagen, Head of the Diplomatic Office of Belgium in Sarajevo and Mr. Wouter Detavernier, Deputy Director General European Affairs, Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of Belgium.



On arrival H.E. Mrs. Lahbib received an Honour Guard from members of EUFOR's Multinational Battalion.

COM EUFOR then held a meeting with the delegation. During their meeting they had a positive discussion surrounding a number of matters including the current security situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the engagement of Belgium as a troop contributing nation to EUFOR Operation Althea.

Srebrenica

It has been 28 years since the worst massacre of the Bosnian war, a war crime categorized both by ICTY and International Court of Justice as an act of genocide. It is estimated that 8372 people were killed by RS military in a period of seven days, following the capture of the enclave on 11th July 1995.

Prior the final attack, Srebrenica was already in an extremely difficult position, given the fact that the enclave was packed with refugees from the surrounding towns and villages and completely under RS military siege for a long period of time. The area was cut off from any supplies and was facing constant humanitarian catastrophe.

The final stage of Srebrenica's misery started on 8th of July 1995 with a ground offensive of the RS military, which simply overran the Bosniak opposition and the UN's Observation Points and within 4 days captured the enclave.

Mass killings started the following day after men were separated from women in the vicinity of the UN compound, or were captured trying to escape through the mountains. Mass killings took place in prearranged execution sites and often in proximity of already dug mass graves.

In attempt to conceal the size of the atrocities, body remains were removed and relocated in a careless manner resulting in cases where remains of a single person were found in 4 different locations in 200 square kilometers. The creation of secondary mass-grave sites made the process of finding and identifying persons extremely difficult and it's unlikely that all victims will ever be found, as time passes by and it's hard to find new evidence and willing witnesses.

Long-lasting ICTY trials have brought numerous high ranking RS officials to face overwhelming accusations, including the two highest ranking political and



military officials, Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic. Both were convicted on long-lasting prison sentences for war-crimes and genocide.

Former UN General Secretary Kofi Annan admitted that Srebrenica was the UN's worst mistake since its foundation quoting: "the tragedy of Srebrenica will haunt our history forever", since the UN failed to protect what was officially declared as UN safe area. Being in a strategic disadvantage and low battle readiness, the UN simply was not up to the challenge and this remains a lesson for all peace keeping missions in the future. Having regard to its resolutions of 7th of July 2005, 15th of January 2009 and 9th of July 2015, EU formally declared 11th July as EU day of Srebrenica commemoration. Srebrenica remains to be frequently discussed subject among the Bosnian society considering the difficult reconciliation process and large number of people is still

Srebrenica Flower named "Remembrance" has been created by women's association from Gracanica, Bosnia and Herzegovina.

There are 11 flower petals representing 11th of July, white color represents the innocence and the green center represents hope.



missing and have no known grave.

In 2022, the EU's chief diplomat Josep Borrell and Commissioner for Enlargement Oliver Varhelyi have spoken out on the anniversary of the Srebrenica massacre at the hands of Bosnian Serbs in 1995, calling it a failure and shame of Europe. "Europe has not forgotten what happened in Srebrenica and our responsibility for not being able to prevent and stop the genocide. In Srebrenica, Europe failed and we have faced our shame", the two diplomats said in a statement.

This year at least 20 newly identified victims will be buried which will increase the number of total found, identified and buried people of Srebrenica to 6741.

by Dženan Hadžović

International Medal Parade of Soldiers from 10 different nations



EUFOR colours arrive on parade

On Wednesday 22 Mar, EUFOR held an international medal parade in Camp Butmir. During the ceremony, 138 soldiers from 10 different nations within EUFOR received the Common Security and

Defence Policy Medal for Operation Althea.

The Parade Commander for the ceremony was Major Istvan Baranyai, from the Hungarian Armed Forces. Medals were

presented to the recipients by COM EUFOR Major General Helmut Haberymayer, COS EUFOR Brigadier General Zoltan Somogyi, DCOS OPS Colonel Mustafa Buyukkoroglu and HQ Camp Comdt Lieutenant Colonel Laszlo Balogh. The parade was also attended by Commander of Crisis Management Strategic Centre of Slovak Armed Forces Brigadier General Martin Stoklasa, who presented medals to recipients from the Slovakian contingent.

While addressing the parade, COM EUFOR Major General Helmut Haberymayer thanked the medal recipients by saying

“Today’s Medal Parade is a very significant event for me, as it provides me an opportunity personally to thank each of you, for your contribution to the continued success, of our shared mission.” He continued by stating, “I would



COM EUFOR addresses the parade



Medal Bearers

like to take this opportunity to think of your families and those loved ones you left behind, in your home countries. The support of families can never be appreciated enough, as without their support this mission would not be successful, especially in these challenging times."

The Common Security and Defence Policy Medal for Operation Althea was first awarded in 2004 and is given to every international member who serves in EUFOR. It is inscribed with the Latin phrase "Pro pace unum" meaning "United for peace". The Medal is awarded by the High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, Mr. Josep Borrell Fontelles. It is tradition for the medal to be worn for the whole day after it is awarded.

The European Union Force Operation Althea has executed the United Nations Security Council mandate for Bosnia and Herzegovina since 2004. The current mandate is UNSCR 2658 which was adopted by the Security Council on the 2nd November 2022. Currently, there are 21 different nations serving in EUFOR Operation Althea. The European Union is currently executing 21 CSDP Missions and Operations with this mission, Operation Althea, being the first one.



Fitness Testing in the Belgian Defence Forces



An alternative "Core Stability" test: the "Biering-Sørensen"

18

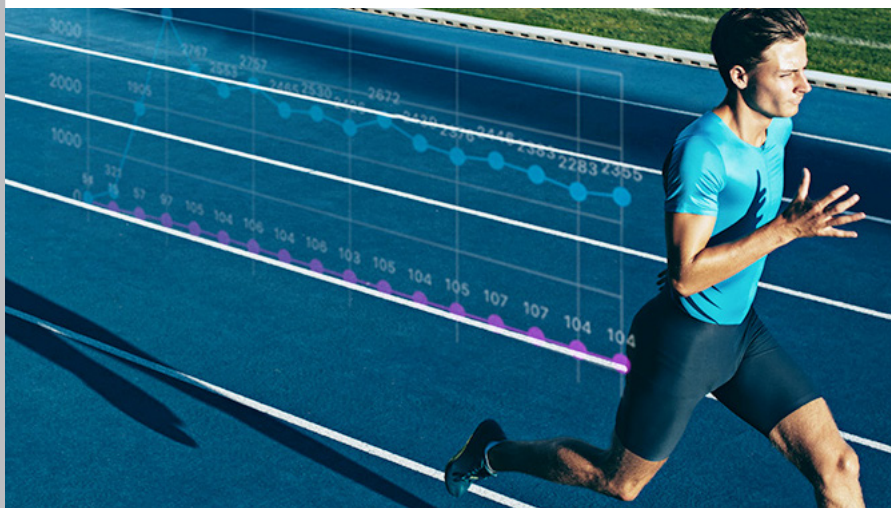
In previous editions of the EUFOR FORUM we presented you with our fitness test series covering the military fitness tests of Austria, Poland, Switzerland, Ireland, Hungary, Turkey, Slovakia, France, Italy, Romania, Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Germany. In this edition we want to introduce you the Belgian one.

The Belgian Defense Forces is the national military of Belgium and is comprised of four components; the Land Component, the Air Component, the Marine Component and the Medical Component. Personnel serving in the Belgian Defence Forces must complete an annual fitness test, known as Physical Evaluations Fitness (PhEF). The objective of the PhEF is to evaluate the basic

fitness of all military personnel and it should encourage the military to stay fit and healthy.

The PhEF includes:

1. The "Core Stability" test consisting of:
 - (a) The "Left Side Bridge" (LSB);
 - (b) The "Right Side Bridge" (RSB).
2. A 2400 meter running test measuring aerobic power.
3. Alternative tests are possible in the case of a special medical exemption from duty:
 - (a) An alternative "Core Stability" test: the "Biering-Sørensen";
 - (b) An alternative aerobic test: the 12-minute swim test;
 - (c) An alternative aerobic test: the bicycle test.





The "Core Stability" test



Gender and age are taken into consideration when scoring the PhEF. To pass the PhEF, the soldier must earn half the marks for each part of the "Core Stability" test that they are required to take and obtain half of the points for the aerobic test they must complete.

Army personnel are required to permanently possess a number of basic competencies, skills and attitudes. Some of these basic requirements are the same for all Land Component personnel, while others vary according to the category to which the personnel belong and can include 32km

march, obstacle run and combat swimming.

Army personnel are divided into FOUR categories:

1. Combat-Unit Soldiers in contact (Cat 1).
2. Soldiers in contact from Combat Service and Combat Service Support Unit (Cat 2).
3. Permanently deployable military personnel (Cat 3).
4. Military personnel deployable after a term of at least FOUR Months (Cat 4).

Male Timings for 2400m run								
Age	<30	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	>60
20 points	9' 30"	9' 49"	9' 57"	10' 05"	10' 35"	11' 05"	11' 35"	12' 06"
15 points	10' 28"	10' 46"	10' 59"	11' 13"	11' 49"	12' 26"	13' 03"	13' 41"
10 points	11' 23"	11' 45"	12' 03"	12' 21"	13' 04"	13' 48"	14' 31"	15' 51"
5 points	12' 19"	12' 51"	13' 11"	13' 31"	14' 19"	15' 07"	16' 06"	17' 05"
0 points	>13' 04"	>13' 44"	>14' 06"	>14' 28"	>15' 19"	>16' 10"	>17' 21"	>18' 33"

Female Timings for 2400m run								
Age	<30	30-34	35-39	40-44	45-49	50-54	55-59	>60
20 points	10' 55"	11' 39"	12' 00"	12' 21"	13' 07"	13' 53"	14' 10"	15' 27"
15 points	12' 08"	13' 04"	13' 25"	13' 46"	14' 39"	15' 33"	15' 50"	17' 06"
10 points	13' 22"	14' 28"	14' 50"	15' 12"	16' 12"	17' 13"	17' 30"	18' 45"
5 points	14' 49"	15' 42"	16' 19"	16' 57"	17' 54"	18' 52"	19' 09"	20' 47"
0 points	>15' 51"	>16' 41"	>17' 30"	>18' 20"	>19' 15"	>20' 10"	>20' 27"	>22' 26"



FOCUSED CAPABLE RELIABLE

FOR A SAFE AND SECURE
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

