

EUFOR FORUM

January - February 2024

European Union Force in BiH



#138



EUFOR Change of Command

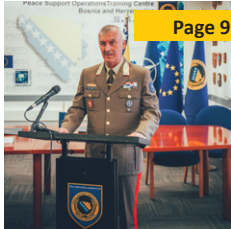
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Flag raising ceremony for arrival of Swedish contingent

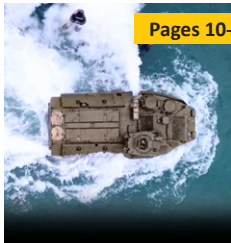
The Swedish flag represents the 23rd nation to pledge support to the authorities and citizens of BiH in maintaining SASE.



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Signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding

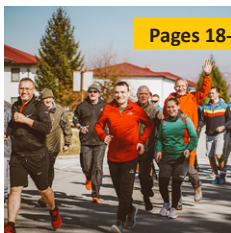
The intent of this Memorandum is to underline the arrangement for the use of specific property within Camp Butmir by the PSOTC...



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Lagunari "Serenissima" Regiment

This prototype of a naval infantry unit participated in all the major battles in the history of the Venetian Republic of that time for the supremacy of the Mediterranean Sea.



Pages 18-19

CISM International Day of Military Sports

The purpose of this run was to celebrate the International Military Sports Council, which was founded 76 years ago.

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Editor in Chief



Captain Sarah Donnelly

Dear readers of EUFOR Forum Magazine!

I would like to introduce myself. I am OF-2 Capt Sarah Donnelly and I have just taken over as the EUFOR Spokesperson. I am delighted to publish my first edition EUFOR FORUM as editor in Chief.

The last few months were very busy ones for the EUFOR Public Affairs Office. A lot of important events including HoTo of COM EUFOR, the

International Day of Military Sports (CISM) 'Run for Peace' and numerous visits and office calls of COM EUFOR happened. The Public Affairs Office has also expanded with a number of new positions.

In edition #138 you will find information about our new COM and find useful information about the Romania IRF Company, the Lagunari "Serenissima" Regiment and our social media activities.

I want to thank all branches who supported our efforts on media activities for EUFOR Althea.

EUFOR Forum is about the soldiers and personnel of EUFOR. It is a chronicle and memories of your time spent in BiH as part of Operation Althea. So as always, we invite you to share your experiences and have those experiences recorded in print and shared digitally. Please email (EuforPIO@eufor.europa.eu) if you have anything that you would like covered or have an article or photograph you would like to share.

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European Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina
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Focused, capable, reliable but also dedicated, strong and flexible... men and women from EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (OSBiH) participated in the cross-fit competition at camp Butmir, organized by the commander of the headquarters of EUFOR. Congratulations to the category winners and everyone who participated and pushed their limits to become better athletes and soldiers!

Focused, capable, reliable, and also dedicated, strong and flexible... men and women of EUFOR and Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) presented their best qualities at the Cross Fit Competition in Camp Butmir, organized by EUFOR HQ Commandant. Congratulations to the winners of the categories and to all who participated and pushed their boundaries to become a better sportsperson and a better soldier!

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YouTube

EUFOR MNBN's dynamic display during a visit of the German Minister of Defense Boris Pistorius

EUFOR MNBN's dynamic display during a visit of the German Minister of Defense Boris Pistorius

Operation EUFOR Althea @euforbih · Feb 13

Today, COM EUFOR Major General László Sticz had a courtesy call with Minister of Defence Zukan Helez and Deputy Minister Aleksandar Goganović, where the security situation and future collective training opportunities with the Armed Forces of BiH were discussed. #EUFOR #AFBiH

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euforbih #EUFOR #euforbih #StrongPartner #supportingBiH #training #preparation #exercis... more

EUFOR Highlights of the Month

#EUFOR #euforbih #StrongPartner #supportingBiH #training #preparation #exercise #vehicles #helicopter

EUFOR Change of Command



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On the 31st January 2024, at EUFOR HQ in Camp BUTMIR, Sarajevo, a ceremony took place to mark the Change of Command of the Force Commander (COM) of Operation Althea, European Union Force (EUFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH).

Major General László Sticz of the Hungarian Defence Forces took over command from the outgoing COM EUFOR Major General Helmut Habermayer of the Austrian Armed Forces.

During his address the outgoing COM EUFOR, Major General Habermayer thanked the soldiers, sailors, aircrews and civilians of EUFOR, stating that, *“I truly appreciate your daily work, which is important and will continue to matter. Be proud of what you are doing, it is essential to accomplishing the mission of EUFOR”*.

Major General Habermayer highlighted key events from his year

as EUFOR Commander, including:

- Conducting a full inspection of BiH law enforcement agencies weaponry and registering more than 30,000 weapons in nearly 300 locations.
- EUFOR supporting the donation of 68 new vehicles for the AFBiH Demining battalion, financed by the European Peace Facility.
- The investment of 360,000 EUR to strengthen BiH “aviation network communication” and enhance the level of flight safety for EUFOR/ AFBiH aircrafts

Incoming COM EUFOR, Major General Sticz in his address to the ceremony, congratulated his predecessor Major General Habermayer on his achievements as COM EUFOR and acknowledged the commitment of the 23 Troop

“I am well prepared to assume command and looking forward to the upcoming year of command, but more importantly, the 20th anniversary of EUFOR”

Contributing Nations. Major General Sticz outlined his full commitment to accomplish the EUFOR Althea mission and stated that he would continue the work of his predecessor to strengthen EUFOR’s military capabilities.

He stated that, *“we are here to support the local authorities, primarily the armed forces and law enforcement agencies, but we have the power to deter and if necessary, to defend against anyone who aims to destruct this safety and security”*.

He stated that, in the spirit of the European Union’s Integrated Approach, he is looking forward to continuing working together with EUFOR’s international partners, the High Representative, the European Union Special Representative, the OSCE and the co-located NATO Headquarters in Sarajevo, as well

as with the Ministry of Defence and the Law Enforcement Agencies of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Directly addressing the EUFOR's personnel on parade, Major General Sticz stated that *"I am well prepared to assume command and looking forward to the upcoming year of command, but more importantly, the 20th anniversary of EUFOR"*. He ended his address with his motto "Forward, Onward, Together in Bosnia and Herzegovina".

In his address, the EUFOR Operation Commander Lieutenant General Hubert Cottreau thanked the outgoing COM EUFOR Major General Habermayer for his *"dedication to the Operation, and his unwavering commitment to support the authorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina"*.

He also congratulated Major General Sticz on taking over as Commander of EUFOR in BiH and stated that *"we all have full confidence that you will demonstrate determination in tackling EUFOR's mission and tasks in support of BiH"*.

The ceremony was also addressed by the EU Special Representative (EUSR) Ambassador Johann Sattler. The EUSR thanked the outgoing COM EUFOR Major General Habermayer for his dedication to EUFOR and BiH, and wished the incoming COM EUFOR Major General Sticz success in his position.



Outgoing COM EUFOR Major General Habermayer, EUFOR Operation Commander Lieutenant General Hubert Cottreau and incoming COM EUFOR Major General Sticz



Guests at Change of Command Ceremony



Operation Commander Lieutenant General Hubert Cottreau and outgoing COM EUFOR Major General Habermayer



EU Special Representative (EUSR) Ambassador Johann Sattler delivers the speech

Commander's biography

Major General László Sticz pursued his secondary and higher education in military educational institutions and graduated from the Kossuth Lajos Military Academy in 1988 as a mechanized infantry officer. In his first position he commanded a mechanized infantry platoon. After serving as a company commander, he led a mechanized infantry battalion.

In 1999, he obtained his master's degree in military leadership at the Zrínyi Miklós National Defence University. In the same year, he was assigned to the General Staff of the Hungarian Defence Forces, where he served as senior officer in positions in the area of defence planning.

He gained invaluable mission experience as an operations officer in the joint operations center of the NATO Headquarters in Pristina, Kosovo and expanded his knowledge of international force planning within the framework of the Allied Command Transformation SEE (SHAPE, Belgium) between 2003-2006. After returning to Hungary, he utilized his international planning experience at the Ministry of Defence.

In 2011, he was appointed as the deputy commander of the Hungarian Defence Forces Military Health Center and later, as the chief of staff of the Hungarian Defence Forces Health Centre (including the Military Hospital).

In 2016, he returned to the field of the planning and implementation of the capability development of the



Hungarian Defence Forces and the Defence and Force Development Program. Between 2019 and 2022, he led the Force Planning Directorate of the Hungarian Defence Forces Command, being responsible for the management of an extremely complex capability development system of the Hungarian Defence Forces.

From 2022 until assuming the position of the Commander of the European Union's Operation Althea, Major General László Sticz served as the commander of the Hungarian Defence Forces' Force Modernization and Transformation Command, a newly established command with the main task to promote, support and enable the Hungarian Defence Forces' ability to transform and adapt to the challenges of the future.

Major General Sticz holds a doctorate in Military Sciences since he defended his dissertation in 2010 at the Zrínyi Miklós University of National Defence and in 2015, he completed a Senior Course at NATO Defense College, Rome.

Major General Sticz has been decorated with several high-level awards during his career, among which there are the Knight's Cross of the Hungarian Order of Merit, the Golden Grade of the Service Merit Award with Laurel Wreath, the NATO Non-Article 5 Balkans Medal for peacekeeping service in KFOR and the Service Award for Migration Crisis Management.

Major General Sticz is married with one daughter, who also serves as a soldier and in 2022, she gave birth to a daughter, the first grandchild of Major General Sticz.



COM EUFOR Major General László Sticz addresses the CoC Ceremony

Flag raising ceremony for arrival of Swedish contingent to EUFOR



On the 22 November 2023, EUFOR Commander of Operation (COM EUFOR) Althea, Major General Helmut Habermayer presided over an official flag raising ceremony to welcome Sweden as a troop contributing

nations of EUFOR. The ceremony was held the day after the 28th anniversary of the initialling of the Dayton Peace Agreement and is a poignant demonstration of the continued commitment of the European Union to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH). The Swedish flag now represents the 23rd nation to pledge support to the authorities and citizens of BiH in maintaining a safe and secure environment.



Ms Elin Fredriksson, the First Secretary of the embassy of Sweden to BiH

Ms Elin Fredriksson, the First Secretary of the embassy of Sweden to BiH addressed the ceremony and proudly stated that Sweden is committed to *“further strengthen the EU Common Security and Defence Policy”*. The first secretary also noted the long history and deep cultural links between the countries with approximately *“100,000 people of Bosnian descent currently living in Sweden”*.

COM EUFOR Major General Helmut Habermayer in his speech during the ceremony stated that *“The presence of Sweden here is symbolic of the allegiance and will of all European nations”* and noted the *“proud record of peacekeeping across the globe”*. EUFOR is a strong, capable and reliable partner to the BiH and remains committed in supporting the authorities of BiH in maintaining a safe and secure environment.

EU invests € 363,000 to increase flight safety in BiH



Minister of Defence of BiH Zukan Helez and Major General Habermayer

Common “aviation network communication” strengthens the partnership between EUFOR and AF BiH

On 11th January 2024, Commander EUFOR Major General Helmut Habermayer and Minister of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina Zukan Helez signed a Letter of Intent to use one common aviation communication network outside controlled airspace for EUFOR and Armed Forces BiH aircraft flying in the same area.

The EU is investing 363,000 euros to overlay the existing civilian network with a military one to create redundancy. Benefits will include: easier and simplified collaboration between EUFOR and AFBiH, unhindered access to resources for both parties. The common aviation communication network will ensure a higher level of flight safety.

COM EUFOR in his address stated that: *“This is another example that shows how excellent and valuable the collaboration between EUFOR and the Ministry of Defense is. Together, we are uniting our strengths for safety and security with an investment fostering cohesion and strategic cooperation”.*



Minister of Defence of BiH Zukan Helez signing a Letter of Intent

In detail, the agreement allows EUFOR the use of three radio towers owned and maintained by the Ministry of Defence of BiH. On the other hand EUFOR will provide two connections and two controller work terminals to the network for Air Force of Armed Forces BiH. The next step is to develop an agreement to regulate the mutual relations for the implementation of the technical cooperation.

Apart from the main mission of EUFOR in Bosnia and Herzegovina, which is supporting the BiH Authorities in ensuring a safe and secure environment, its members are often able to provide assistance in saving human lives when needed. In case of a request for support from the Ministry of Security of BiH to participate in a rescue mission, EUFOR has the ability to assist with a helicopter for medical evacuation - within means and capabilities.

Signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding



Commander NATO HQ Sarajevo, Minister of Defence and COM EUFOR at the MOU signing

On 21 February 2024, COM EUFOR Major General László Sticz, alongside the Minister of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Commander NATO HQ Sarajevo, Brigadier General Pamela McGaha, attended the signing ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between NATO Headquarters Sarajevo, EUFOR and the Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the operating framework for the Peace Support Operations Training Centre (PSOTC) in Camp Butmir.

PSOTC performs individual education and training of military personnel, police officers and civilians from BiH and other countries in domain of PSO-focused collective security operations, in order to contribute to development of BiH MoD and Armed Forces capabilities for participation in NATO, UN or EU—led collective security operations, thus supporting the overall BiH contribution to international peace and security.

The intent of this Memorandum is to underline the arrangement for the use of specific property within Camp Butmir by the PSOTC.

It also establishes the procedures, security arrangements, responsibilities, organizational and financial arrangements to be observed by the parties regarding the use of facilities, services and logistics support to be provided to the PSOTC within Camp Butmir. In addition it also provides an appropriate framework for cooperation which could result in subsequent agreements that the Parties may deem necessary.

During the signing ceremony COM EUFOR stated that he is 'strongly convinced that it is not only the opportunity but the obligation

of EUFOR and other international actors to support this PSOTC in Camp Butmir so they can continue their invaluable work in training, educating and preparing members of AFBiH and partner nations for peace support operations.

This way, PSOTC supports Bosnia and Herzegovina to become a security provider, and this effort is shared by EUFOR and NATO, too.'

The duration of the MoU is 5 years and it may be extended further if mutually agreed in writing by the Parties.



Lagunari “Serenissima” Regiment Ita Army Amphibious Unit



Soldiers ready for their mission

Protection Force. This Joint Force has been set up to conduct any kind of amphibious and seaborne operations constituting the national landing force capability.

In this context, the regiment is specialized to conduct combat activities both on the land and in amphibious/riverine environment. The wide variety of the carriers that can be used by the unit (APC, amphibious vehicles, assault boats) as well as the airborne skills developed in the recent years (in close coordination with Italian Navy and Army’s Helicopter assets), makes the regiment extremely flexible in any kind of employ.

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The early origins of the Regiment date back during the period of the IV Crusade, when the Venetian Doge of that time, Enrico Dandolo, decided to constitute an infantry regiment embarked on the ships of the “Serenissima” Republic, called “Fanti da Mar”. This prototype of a naval infantry unit participated in all the major battles in the history of the Venetian Republic of that time for the supremacy of the Mediterranean Sea and defended the borders of the Venetian lagoon. Of course, over the years, the geopolitics of the Italian Peninsula changed, but one thing that didn’t change was the maritime traditions and peculiar orography of the city of Venice, that still needed a specialized unit trained to fight on ships and in the harsh lagoon environment.

has today, inheriting the hundreds years of traditions.

Due to its origins and to the fact that the regiment is located in the Italian city of Venice, our ensign is the winged lion of Saint Marcus and the name of the unit recalls the appellative of the “Serenissima” Republic of Venice.

Nowadays the regiment is the only amphibious infantry unit of the Italian Army and, together with the Italian Navy’s Third Naval Division and San Marco Marine Brigade, forms the Italian Armed Forces’ Sea

The Lagunari Regiment, besides the Headquarter, consist of:

- An Amphibious Infantry Battalion, formed by 3 Amphibious Assault Companies and a Maneuver Support Company (Heavy mortars, anti/tank and sniper teams);
- An Amphibious Tactical Support Company, formed by a RECON Platoon, an Amphibious Assault Vehicles Platoon and an Assault Boat Platoon;
- A Command and Logistic Support Company;
- A Training Company.



After the WWII and during the Cold War the unit began to evolve into the unit it is today. It was first divided in different battalions, known as “Lagoon Grouping”, with the task to defend the northeastern border of the country and on October 25th 1959, in San Marco Square in Venice, it received its colours. It was only in 1992 that the unit was resized to regiment and was restructured to the internal organization that it still



Emerging from the water

From the Balkans through Middle East and Africa, the regiment has been deployed in all the major international operations starting from the early '90s until today. The 1st Amphibious Company "Marghera" is now deployed in Camp Butmir, and was previously deployed in Mogadishu, Somalia in 2022.

As for any other international operation, before joining the Operation Althea in BiH, the 1st company conducted the pre-deployment training lasting about six months. Besides general infantry training, the company went through a large variety of different modules, specific for this mission. The main topic we went through were CRC, Live Fire Exercises, medic training, mobility training, cultural awareness, C-IED training and the national validation Livex for deploying units.

In order to ensure the full operational capability, once we arrived in Camp Butmir, the Company completed FOC training and validation. During this intensive activity we had the opportunity to show our skills which were developed during the pre-deployment trainings, in specific mission-oriented task such as CRC, first med aid, mobility and communications capability with our vehicles and radios and interoperability with heli assets. The whole activity has been conducted in close coordination with a



Macedonian Platoon attached to our Company, giving us the possibility to cooperate with an international partner, increasing the level of the training output.

Our expectations for this mission are very high and we are sure that during

this period will be very proficient in any situation and it is also an important occasion for professional growth and cooperation in an amazing international environment.

ONE MISSION, ONE TEAM!

Text and photos: IT Contingent

Italian company successfully confirmed Full Operational Capability

Towards the end of the year an Italian company successfully completed the certification exercise to confirm Full Operational Capability (FOC).

FOC means that a contingent has passed all necessary orientation and pre-deployment training and is now fully capable of deploying with MNBN.

During this exercise the Italian contingent demonstrated their operational capabilities, with a number of dynamic serials testing everything from Crowd and Riot Control, first aid to company level tactical deployments.



The Romanian IRF Company

The Romanian Mountain Troops



Members of the Romanian Mountain Troops

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The Mountain Troops

The Romanian Mountain Troops are light infantry units, highly mobile and self-sufficient, being capable to perform missions in any type of terrain even in the harshest conditions, mostly operating in mountainous terrain. They specialize in small group tactics, rock climbing, skiing and wilderness survival. 2nd Mountain Brigade and 61st Mountain Brigade are the main units that form the Mountain Troops Corps who defend the Carpathian Mountains from North to South. Each of these two brigades are formed of three maneuver battalions, one field artillery battalion, one air defense battalion and a CSS battalion. Moreover, there are six independent companies subordinated directly to the Brigade Headquarters. We are proud to say that most of the soldiers that are part of the brigades were deployed at least once in Iraq or Afghanistan and

until recently as the Strategic Reserve Force company deployed in Kosovo. Currently we have soldiers deployed in Central African Republic and Bosnia and Herzegovina where the majority of the Romanian contingent are drawn from the Mountain Troops.

A little bit of history

It is very important to have some historical landmarks in order to understand what it means to be a soldier in the Mountain Troops Corps. The Mountain Troops Corps was created on 3 November 1916 and soon after that marched hundreds of kilometers and taking part in the worst battles of World War I. In just one year they contributed to the most important victories of the Romanian Army in WWI. During World War II they defended the reputation of these elite troops by taking part in the East and West campaigns marching around 3000km, transiting through battles in seven countries,

always being on the front line. "Whoever climbs the mountains is above others" is the first verse in the Mountain Troops hymn, so we no choice but to uphold this reputation by being strong, fearless, robust and united.

61st Brigade IRF Company

After celebrating our 107th anniversary on 3rd of November we received an activation order to start our deployment to Bosnia and Herzegovina and so the day that we were waiting and preparing for since 2018 had finally come. It also very important to mention that this company is dual hatted, which means is also part of the Operational Reserve Force which on necessity can be also deployed to Kosovo. The IRF Company is part of the 24th Mountain Battalion in the 61st Mountain Brigade and consist of 134 soldiers, who now have the opportunity to contribute to the successful implementation of the Safe and

Secure Environment alongside very well trained international partners. This particular reserve force it is not organized as a regular Mountain Troops Company because it had to be adapted to the specificity of this mission. As result it is comprised of three light infantry platoons, one reconnaissance platoon, one military police platoon and one CSS platoon which designed to offer a large array of logistical support including cooking, maintenance and repairs for the vehicles and communication support which bluntly translates into highly mobility and self-sustainment anywhere within the Area of Operations.

Since gaining the status of Reserve Company we have gone through lots of training modules which consisted of a bunch of STXs, FTXs, LFXs, and Mission Rehearsal Exercises which included CRC training as well. In order to integrate and improve cooperation with the Military Police Platoon, they were included in all of this training process also. One of the most important parts of our training and also a finite result of the continuous preparation process was the participation of the whole company in the Multinational Exercise KFOR 29 in Hohenfels, Germany.

Our first few days in Bosnia and Herzegovina were very similar to our international colleagues meaning we received communications training, EOD training and the MP platoon were we have improved our skills in cooperating and working with different nations. After a short period of time we were deployed to temporary stationary areas, more precisely to Mostar and Livno, where we proved our self-sufficiency and capability of conducting military operations. By doing so we have increased the visibility of EUFOR and gained some positive support from the local population in the vicinity of the beautiful cities of Mostar and Livno.

Text and photos: RO Contingent



Military Police complete CRC training



Building clearance drills

HQ Visits & Meetings



COM EUFOR MG László Sticz, during his meeting with member of BH Presidency H.E. Denis Bećirović, emphasized that under his command, EUFOR will remain an impartial, united and capable force and will continue to support local authorities in maintaining a safe and secure environment.



Supporting local authorities in maintaining a safe and secure environment in Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the key tasks of EUFOR, COM EUFOR MG László Sticz highlighted during a meeting with member of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina H.E. Željka Cvijanović.



COM EUFOR MG László Sticz met with High Representative Christian Schmidt. They agreed that #EUFOR and OHR are united in the effort to support BiH on the road of EU integration and in maintaining a safe and secure environment for all.



COM EUFOR MG László Sticz held a meeting with Head of EUD/EUSR Ambassador H.E. Johann Sattler. COM EUFOR emphasized that under his command EUFOR continues to closely cooperate with EUSR, in order to support BiH's progress towards EU integration by its own efforts.



COM EUFOR, MG László Sticz welcomed the President of Slovenia H.E. Nataša Pirc Musar in Camp Butmir. During this meeting they discussed the security situation in BiH, the role of the Slovenian contingent and the experience and knowledge that they bring to EUFOR.



COM EUFOR MG László Sticz met a delegation from the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defense. The general security situation in BiH and the engagement of France as a Troop Contributing Nation to EUFOR were discussed.



COM EUFOR, MG László Sticz welcomed the Ambassador of Romania to Bosnia and Herzegovina H.E. Anton Păcurețu to Camp Butmir, Sarajevo. During this meeting they discussed the security situation in BiH and the engagement of Romania as a Troop Contributing Nation to EUFOR.



COM EUFOR, MG László Sticz had a courtesy call with the Chairperson of the Council of Ministers Borjana Krišto. COM EUFOR discussed the security situation in BiH and EUFOR's work to maintain a safe and secure environment (SASE) for all citizens of BiH.



COM EUFOR MG László Sticz hosted the Minister of Defence of Türkiye, H.E. Yaşar Güler in Camp Butmir. COM EUFOR expressed his appreciation for Türkiye's contribution to EUFOR and the role of Türkiye as a member of the steering board of the peace implementation council.

Mine Risk Education Accreditation Instructor Course



Students prepare their Mine Awareness presentations



Students have written and practical assessment

EUFOR remains committed to supporting local mine action authorities and remains an active partner in mine action to work towards a mine free BiH. As part of this commitment EUFOR and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina (AFBiH) came together to conduct a Mine Risk Education Accreditation Instructor Course from 12-15 February.

Eleven students undertook the course, this included six personnel from AFBiH, three EUFOR personnel from its Liaison and Observation Team (LOT) houses and two personnel from NGO MAG.

Over this week the students completed a number of modules including an introduction to countermine actions,

The students completed a number of modules including an introduction to countermine actions, topography and security measures, data collection and processing and communication on mine risk.

topography and security measures, data collection and processing and communication on mine risk. The mix of students from different organizations allowed them to learn and develop from each other's knowledge and experience.

The course concluded with a written and practical assessment which all students successfully passed.

These instructors will now work with communities in Bosnia and Herzegovina to raise their awareness to the mine situation in the country which will aid in ensuring a safe and secure environment for the population of BiH. The next iteration of this course is due to be conducted in December 2024.

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Students who completed the Mine Risk Education Accreditation Instructor Course



EOD suit on display

International Shooting Competition



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On 27th November 2023 the German contingent in BiH organized the 1st International Shooting Competition for Senior National Representatives (SNR) and guests from EUFOR and NATO HQ. For COM EUFOR who was the first participant that day this was *“an excellent and rare opportunity to get familiar with the German weapons and come together with*

several nations, which contributes to the cooperate identity of the mission – One Mission, One Team”. Besides COM and COS EUFOR 16 other international guests as well as SNR participated in the event at Pazaric Shooting Range.

After a safety briefing and introduction on the weapons, the participants had the chance for a

familiarization with the weapons and the competition started. The participants had to shoot with pistol and rifle on distances up to 25m and at different targets, for example a dartboard.

The weapons used were the Pistol P8 (9mm), also called HK USP, and the Rifle G36 (5,56mm) from Heckler & Koch, which have been the standard





weapons of the German Armed Forces since the mid-90s. Around 3000 rounds with the pistol and over 3000 rounds with the rifle were fired on this day.

“For me it was the first time getting in touch with German weapons and I admired the technical aspects of the G36, for example that it is useable for left and right handed soldiers. I liked the adjustable and useful components – like the precise sights and transparent magazines. What I found really surprising about shooting with the G36: there was almost no recoil and it required only 5 minutes of training before hitting the target!” Lt. Col. Tofiloski (MK SNR) said.

What’s special about the P8 is the trigger way. The double-action mechanism provides more safety, because the first shot requires a longer and harder trigger way than with a single-action mechanism. This means more training, which makes the P8 a real challenge to shoot.

The G36 is very light and easy to use, moreover it has two sights: a red-dot sight for up to 200m and a scope for targets till 800m distance. This leads to a noticeable off-set between barrel and sights.

The overall winner, CSM Slater, outline his special experience with

the G36: *“The G36 is a great weapon and the instructors were incredibly professional, they knew what to do and told me about the off-set between barrel and sight – so I knew I had to aim a bit higher. When the competition started I aimed for the bulls-eye, but after three rounds the instructor reminds me: Hey I think you should aim higher (because of the off-set). I will never forget this, but it was a hell lot of fun!”*

The award ceremony took place in the German NSE to celebrate the winners and to consolidate the international friendship. As it was a German celebration, 60 liters of beer were served in addition to homemade pizza.

Ranking Pistol: Lt. Col. Schreiner (DE SNR), Col. Aleksiev (BG), CSM Slater (US)

Ranking Rifle: CSM Slater (US), Lt. Col. Veltman (NL), Lt. Col. Lampf (AT)

Ranking overall: CSM Slater (US, 2nd from the right), Col. Aleksiev (BG, 3rd from the right), Lt. Col. Veltman (NL)

COS EUFOR appreciated the initiative of the German contingent to host an event like this, which combined military training, teambuilding and international comprehension and hopes that other nations will follow suit.



Camp Butmir celebrated 2024 International Day of Military Sports



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On 16th February the CISM International Day of Military Sports was celebrated in Camp Butmir. Over 300 participants were welcomed by COM EUFOR Major General László Sticz, who started the run.

The purpose of this run was to

celebrate the International Military Sports Council, known in short at CISM, which was founded 76 years ago on the 18th February 1948 in Nice (France). CISM organizes various sporting events for the armed forces of its 140 member countries and it is one of the largest multidisciplinary organizations in the world.

Through CISM, soldiers, who may previously have met on the battlefield, now meet in friendship on the sports playing field. This is in accordance with the philosophy and the ideals which were set out in CISM's mission statement in 1998, which was signed by all the member countries. This mission statement states, that 'Endorsing friendship



The International Military Sports Council (CISM) was founded on 18 February 1948 by five founding nations – Belgium, Denmark, France, Luxembourg and the Netherlands and today has 140 member countries.

International Day of Military Sports was celebrated globally with several walks and races taking place. Check out the CISM website and social media channels to see pictures of International Day of Military Sports events!

Instagram: @cismmilsport

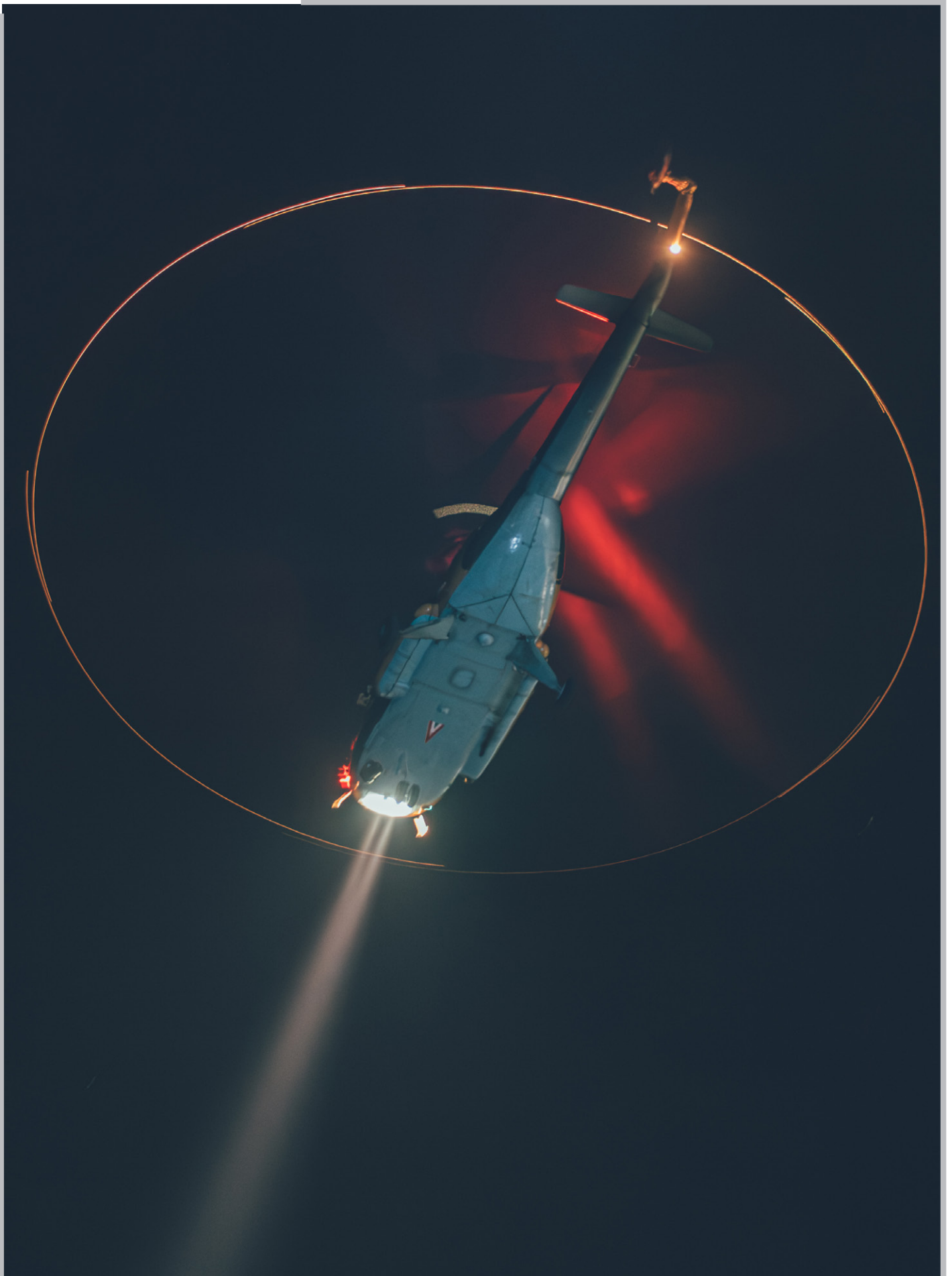
Twitter: @CISM_HQ

Facebook: @HQCISM

Youtube: @cismchannel

amongst soldiers, CISM is the worldwide international military sport organization devoted to bringing together armed forces personnel from all nations through sports activities, thus enabling the physical training, military readiness and education for the armed force. This philosophy and these ideals of CISM are shared by EUFOR, NATO and AFBiH, as they completed this run together, for training, for health and for peace. An enjoyable run was had by all and well done to all those who participated.





M-17 helicopter night training