

KFOR CHRONICLE

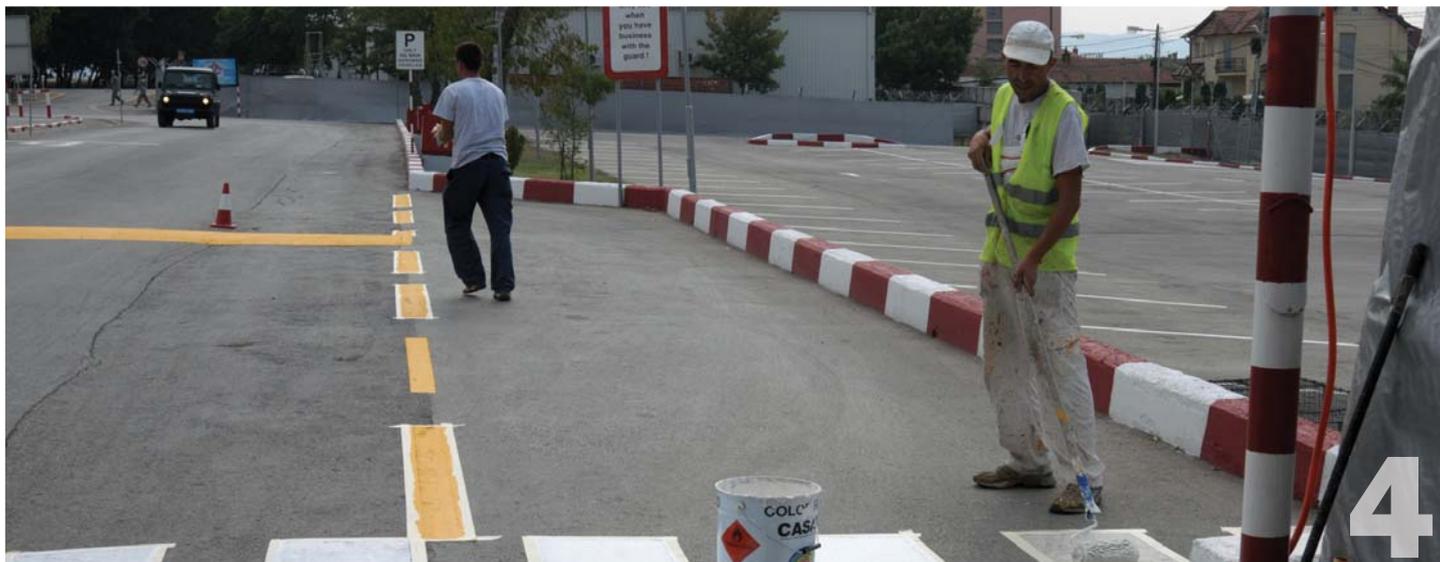


- CHANGE OF COMMAND
CEREMONY AT
KFOR HQ -

- MARCH 2004 RIOTS
REMEMBERED -

GENDER ADVISOR
TO COM KFOR

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GENDER ADVISOR TO COM KFOR

Soldiers and civilian members of KFOR!

It is a great pleasure for me to be with you in Kosovo. This month, I assumed command of KFOR and I am honored to be commander of this multinational force – combined of troops from 30 nations. Together with all of you, I would like to follow on the successful work of my predecessor.

Kosovo has endured many changes over the years but I think it is fair to say that, for the past 13 years, KFOR has remained a constant and solidified its reputation as a professional force committed to progress. We as KFOR assume our part of the huge task to provide a safe and secure environment and ensure the freedom of movement. To this end, KFOR will continue to closely cooperate with international partners as well as institutions in Kosovo. KFOR has developed a strong partnership with local institutions in Kosovo, the international community, KSF and KP and our goal remains to continue to hand over responsibilities to local authorities.

Given the accomplishments of KFOR over the past year I assure you that KFOR has contributed significantly to progress and security, especially in the North, where the situation was at times challenging. A commander cannot achieve anything without his troops and I want to express my sincere pride and appreciation for the outstanding manner in which the soldiers and the civilian members of KFOR perform their duties. We have many challenges ahead of us and I am confident you will do your best and perform in the pro-



essional manner for which KFOR is traditionally known. I have no doubt that we will continue the success story of KFOR. Our motto “FORWARD TOGETHER” describes the joint effort to contribute to progress towards a peaceful and prosperous future of Kosovo. This is not to be achieved individually or by a single organization. It is a common task

and requires that we combine all our efforts – combined efforts will bring us forward.

With this in mind, we will step “FORWARD TOGETHER”.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Volker Halbauer".

MAJOR GENERAL VOLKER R. HALBAUER
COMMANDER KOSOVO FORCE

PREPARING FOR THE CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY

The conducting of a professional and dignified Change of Command ceremony along with the successful execution of a number of associated events necessitated much organised preparations. The planning commenced many weeks in advance, led by the Chef de Cabinet (CDC) Colonel Faust, through regular coordinating meetings. Phased physical preparations saw the ceremonial area built and made ready for use with much painting, cleaning and setting-up, everywhere in evidence. Beforehand and less visible but equally important was the updating of guest lists, sending out of invitations, getting ready and

printing of special publications, speeches and translations, programmes and welcome folders. Security, parking and transport had to be designated, while escort officers to receive guests needed to be nominated. These and many more tasks with myriad detail had all to be allotted and attended to. The involvement of KFOR's Headquarters Support Group (HSG) under Colonel Murphy being particularly prominent. But they were far from alone, the entire undertaking involved the necessary input and involvement, from and of, many people. Successful execution requires not only proper planning

and preparation, but rehearsal also, and this was achieved in two steps, key leader briefing and recce followed by a full dress rehearsal. Then to the day of the Change of Command ceremony itself and its successful performance. This was accomplished by the precise carrying out of orders by each component element, as per the sequence of events, before the end state was fulfilled. Finally, the dismantling of the ceremonial area commenced following the conclusion of the ceremony and points to note for the After Action Review and compilation of lessons learned were noted. ■

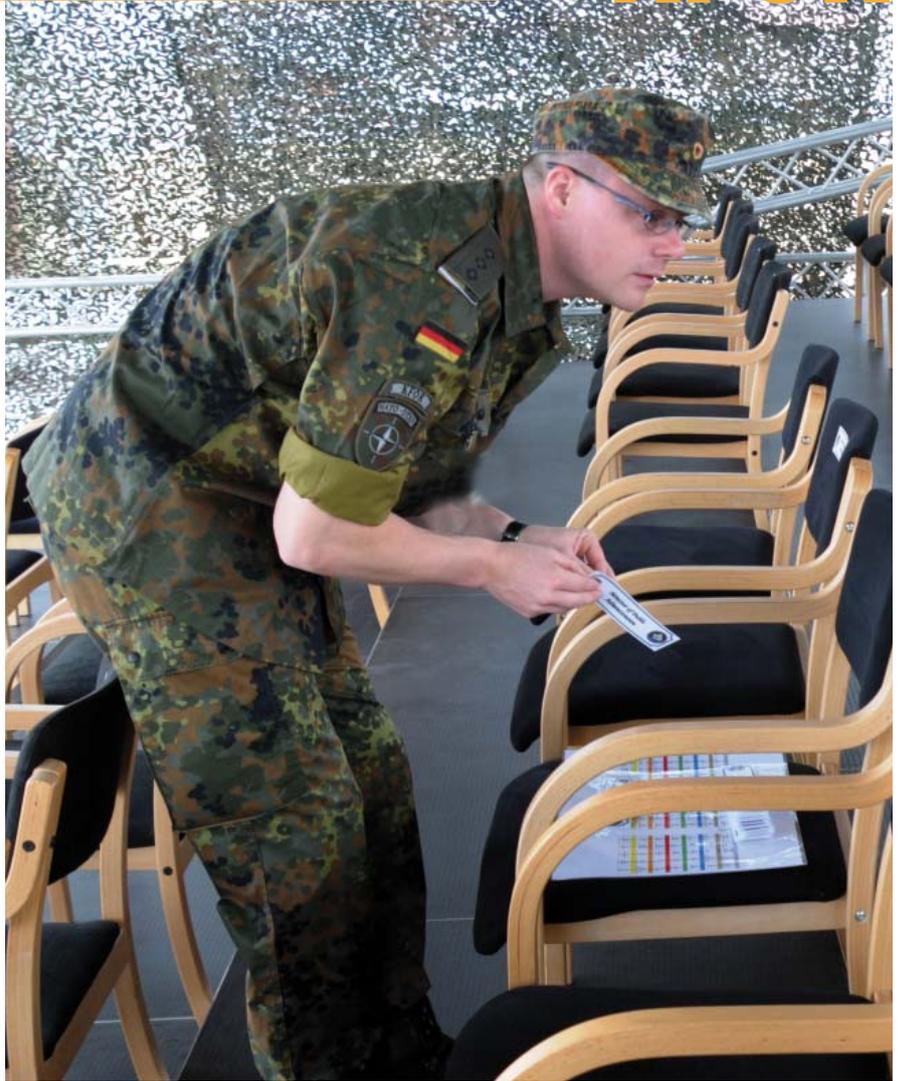




PREPARING FOR THE CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY



PICTURES: A. HAJRULLAHU



CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY AT KFOR HQ

KFOR conducted a Change of Command ceremony for COMKFOR Major General Erhard Drews and the designated COMKFOR Major General Volker Halbauer. The ceremony took place at the KFOR HQ Film City helipad area. COMJFC Naples Admiral Bruce M Clingan presided over and was the officiating officer of the event. Numerous distinguished visitors attended the ceremony,

including President of Kosovo, Mrs. Atifete Jahjaga, along with a large number of invited guests. Local and international media were also present and covered the event. Prior to the actual Change of Command ceremony on the days leading up to it, COMKFOR Major General Drews conducted his last KFOR HQ medal parade and subsequently bid farewell to all HQ personnel with a farewell

reception. COMJFC Naples Admiral Clingan hosted a VIP farewell dinner for COMKFOR in the Casa Italia followed by a torch-lit serenade. Finally a VIP pre-reception took place in the Swiss Chalet before the ceremony. Immediately following the Change of Command ceremony there was a reception for invited guests in the gymnasium.



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: A. HAJRULLAHU



CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONY AT KFOR HQ



PICTURES: A. HAJRULLAHU



MARCH 2004 RIOTS REMEMBERED

A sudden unforeseen eruption of interethnic violence in mid-March 2004 ignited riots across Kosovo. Caught largely unaware an overall imperfect response from the International Community did however in places see reaction by KFOR troops who in facing down the difficulties restored the peace. This was maintained by the rapid deployment of an additional 2,500 troops to speedily reinforce the existing KFOR strength. For a then Swedish Company Commander Niclas Wetterberg, presently Colonel and Commander of Joint Regional Detachment-Centre, his crowd and riot control (CRC) involvement on the 17th March 2004 to stop a rampaging mob, recalled now eight and a half years later, was a distinctly challenging leadership experience. "It was leading, under severe pressure. There were prior events, there was

a lead-up, but when it happened, it was huge. The situation as it unfolded didn't allow us operate the way we had trained. We had prepared for a worst case scenario but this was worse than that. It was not even on the scale of what might have been imagined to could happen. There had been interethnic clashes at Mitrovica earlier in the day and once news and rumours of this reached Pristina, a roadblock mounted by Serb villagers at Caglavica just three kilometres south of the city was a ready-made focus for their intentions. We put blocking positions on the road but the ground around them allowed them be bypassed, until eventually we positioned ourselves where ground falling away to our left and a large construction site to our right favoured a defence and there we made our stand. It was however on the very edge of the

village itself. The confrontation lasted from early afternoon to late evening. We were an ad hoc mixture of Military (Irish, Finnish, Czech and Swedish), UNMIK Police and Kosovo Police; without either clear overall command or co-ordination; and faced huge numbers of angry and determined demonstrators. Notwithstanding, we were well trained, had good equipment and were strong. They were mostly youths and students to begin with, importantly though as matters developed they were supported, supplied with Molotov cocktails, sandwiches and water. Some had weapons. Many equipped themselves with materials from the construction site and used these against us. After a while of tough hand-to-hand exchanges sheer weight of numbers began to force us back. Some houses began to be burned



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: A. HAJRULLAHU

and shots began to be exchanged between the KOS and KOA. Nonetheless we held the line intact. That we all did so was because of leadership at every level. The physical presence of section commanders in the same line as the troops, the platoon commanders only five metres behind placing their hands on the back of soldiers encouraging them. Behind them the company commanders in turn heartened them. The physicality was taking its toll and Norwegian reinforcements were called for. Suddenly a demonstrator was killed, a victim of the on-going firing. This infuriated another demonstrator who jump-started a truck from the construction site and drove it menacingly at our line. There was no doubt this was going to cause KFOR fatalities, aimed deliberate shots stopped him. The crowd became further

inflamed. Our communications went down, there were too many phones, radio sets in the one place at the one time. Then it got dark. Not being able to see adding to our communication and other difficulties. We used illumination. We were taking casualties. Burns and broken bones. The long shields however were good protection against the Molotov cocktails. The fighting had been on-going now for six or seven hours. With no food or drink, and the extreme physical demands, soldiers began to faint from dehydration and exhaustion. It gets cold. How many casualties can we sustain? It was time to take the initiative. With water cannon, APCs and our batons we moved forward. We didn't however have the impact we hoped for and were driven back. One APC got left behind, its engine stalling and failing to restart. The

crowd surround it. The crew look themselves inside. The crowd set fire to the tyres. The crew needed rescuing. We pushed forward again and reached the burning APC, getting the crew out safely before retreating again. A US company en route to Mitrovica arrives but cannot proceed further because of the rioting crowd. However having no CRC equipment they cannot really assist us but did have supplies of tear gas and illumination. It all suddenly stops. We go forward to Veterinik Ridge. Having held out for twelve hours the KFOR HQ planning begins to kick in and we get ready prepared positions for the next day to come. We had to become very focused in highly pressurised circumstances, and did. We defended the village but did so using proportionate force.”



MARCH 2004 RIOTS REMEMBERED



PICTURES: A. HAJRULLAHU , PAO ARCHIVE

YEARS AGO



GENDER ADVISOR TO COM KFOR

The office of Gender Advisor to COM KFOR was established in November 2010 and serves as COM KFOR's eyes and ears to many groups in Kosovo. The current Gender Advisor, Maj Elisabeth Schleicher, entered the role in June 2011 and has been working to establish the office and its functions. "The first thing I have to do is explain what I am NOT responsible for" she says. In her briefings, she starts by explaining that she is not in charge of Equal Opportunity, sexual harassment, or a women's rights activist.

"The Gender Advisor has an external role and is here to ensure that our operations take into account the security concerns of not only men, but women, boys, and girls as well. These groups are often overlooked and since part of KFOR's mandate is to contribute to a safe and secure environment for ALL people in Kosovo we need to be aware of their security concerns."

Gender can be seen as a non-

kinetic tool and as a force multiplier. The Gender Advisor is responsible for supporting our operation by maximizing information gathering and dissemination. Using a Gender perspective helps to get closer to the population which is the center of gravity for our operations. Maj Schleicher has been involved in many of KFOR's most important projects over the past year, making sure that we consider the impact our operations will have on the whole of Kosovo society. She was a key member of the team working on the unfixing of the Devic Monastery, by coordinating for a liaison between the Mother Superior and the Kosovo Police. She also works on projects of cooperation with groups in Kosovo. In March she organized a meeting of over 30 women's groups at Camp Film City. This brought together women working in all ethnic areas of Kosovo in a forum where they could interact and learn about each other and find areas where they can work

together. By working with these groups KFOR's situational awareness is increased. Much of her time is spent training Liaison Monitoring Teams on how to meet and interact with women in Kosovo. Each training session consists of examples and role playing allowing the team members to practice their skills prior to using them in the field. She also trains staffs on how to integrate a "Gender Perspective" into operations. She explains that a Gender Perspective is the ability to see "if and when" an operation will have a different impact on men, women, boys, and girls due to their roles in society.

The Gender Advisor provides a valuable link between KFOR and various NGOs operating in Kosovo. In May 2012, members of the NGO "Medica Kosova" from Gjakova volunteered to train soldiers of MNBG W and JRD W on what soldiers need to be aware of when operating in an environment with traumatized people. The purpose of the training



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: A. HAJRULLAHU

was to learn methods to reduce the negative effects of military operations without compromising the mission.

“An explicit part of my job is to assist in the training of the Kosovo Security Force. In cooperation with the Military Civilian Advisory Division and the NATO HQ in Sarajevo, I trained KSF members of the Ministry of KSF on how they could integrate a gender perspective into their tasks such as humanitarian assistance, CIMIC

and search and rescue.” Again, this training was operationally focused, taking into account the different needs of the whole population in order to increase the effectiveness of their operations by reach out to men and women.

“Gender is about men and women, old and young people. To have a man also working on Gender greatly increases the effectiveness of the office. CPT Andy Young, my first Gender Focal Point, has become an integral part of

the success of the office and has worked with me on almost all of my projects. Gender Focal Points are critical in integrating a Gender perspective into our operations.” The success of KFOR’s Gender Advisor has not gone unnoticed. She has been asked to present at NATO HQ in Belgium, the Nordic Center of Gender in Military Operations in Sweden, the NATO School in Oberammergau Germany, as well as other conferences.



“BRIDGE 167”

“BRIDGE 167” , on “ROUTE BULL” north of Mitrovica , following an inspection in mid-2011 was deemed to not be in a sufficient condition suitable for continued use by heavy trucks. It was decided a KFOR project ought commence to provide a temporary solution to this situation. This was the provision of another bridge,

placed parallel, until ultimately a new bridge to replace proper that one deemed unsuitable could be built. A bridge appropriate for this use was located in the now closed KFOR Camp Casablanca. This was relocated in sections to Camp Prizren. On the completed civilian-contracted construction of two bases to support the

bridge’s span, again in sections the bridge was transported to where required and under KFOR JENG supervision was, within three days, successfully constructed in situ. With further works involving the putting in place of approaches to the bridge completed, a safe crossing was provided.



KFOR JENG



BIRRA PEJA

Ancient Illyrs, besides cultivating and processing vine, they also produced domestic beer. Known as „Sabaja“, beer was consumed by at that time aristocrats. The geographical position of Kosova and its specific climatic conditions, rich and crystal pure water springs were important reasons, why beer production was very successful since the time of the ancient Illyrs. Nevertheless Continuity of beer production was interrupted during Ottoman Empire period in Balkan. The modern brewery was established and started being built in 1968, and the beer production has

started since 1971. The Complex of the factory gathers 24ha of land along with whole infrastructure. The beginning capacity was 300 thousand hectolitres per year and the current capacity exceeds 900 thousand hectolitres per year. Within the brewery properties, there are also the malt factory, refined alcohol factory and selling forces. Brewery possesses modern laboratory for regular chemical and microbiological analysing, raw material analysing, analysing of the production phases, final production and controlling of the hygiene conditions in production machines

and containers. Lead of the technological processes in every stage of production, like cooking, cooling, malt injection, fermentation, stagnation, filtration, pasteurization and at the end filling, are processes that are guided by an automatic-computer system. Since the privatization until April 2010, over 28 million euros are invested in new production lines, technology, energy, infrastructure and marketing as well as in other sectors. Assortments expand and launch of new products are main objectives in the coming year. ■



NICE TO KNOW



Commander KFOR

Major General Volker R. Halbauer,
German Army

Chief Public Affairs Office & KFOR Spokesman

Lieutenant Colonel Uwe Nowitzki,
German Army

Chief Internal Information & Editor KFOR Chronicle

Lieutenant Colonel Dan Harvey,
Irish Defence Forces
harveyd@hq.kfor.nato.int

Photographer & Design

Mr. Afrim Hajrullahu
hajrullahua@hq.kfor.nato.int

Cover Photo

Mario Spitz

E-mail and Web

kforchronicle@hq.kfor.nato.int
www.nato.int/kfor

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Estonia, France, Germany, Greece,
Hungary, Italy, Luxembourg, Neth-
erlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal,
Romania, Slovenia, Turkey, United
Kingdom, United States

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Austria, Finland, Ireland, Morocco,
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THE BLACKBIRDS ARE BACK

“The land of Blackbirds” is the direct translation for Kosovo. Strictly speaking however, the Blackbirds you see in Kosovo are Crows, Rooks and Jackdaws. However they are made up, whatever they are, wherever they've been, they're back! Neither yet in their full numbers nor giving full vent to their voices, nonetheless they are increasingly noticeable come evening time. It's almost as if, they knowingly, came back to be present for the annual KFOR Change of Command. Within

weeks, each daytime turning to dusk, they will be here in thousands, en-mass, madly manoeuvring themselves across the skies over Film City, coming to roost amongst the trees for the evening. Their dizzy aerial dance is accompanied by a raucous cacophonous collective cackle, that if indoors, you'll unmistakably know of their arrival. The hysterical haphazardness of their flight, dramatic at times is mirrored again come morning as they noisily set out once again. ■



STORY: D. HARVEY

PICTURES: PAO Archive



