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# BULLETIN

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THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND THE ARMED FORCES OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

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## MOVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TOWARDS MAP

Interview with the Commander of NATO Headquarters in Sarajevo,  
Brigadier General John Bullard

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# MOVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TOWARDS MAP

## *NATO Partnerski ciljevi (Partnership Goals-PG) za Bosnu i Hercegovinu i obaveze preuzete u Procesu planiranja i revizije (PARP)*

Bosnia and Herzegovina has taken on the obligation to develop various mechanisms for providing an interactive cooperation with NATO, and one of them is the Planning And Review Process ( hereafter referred to as: PARP). This is the second two-year cycle of PARP in which BiH has been involved, and which began with replying to the PARP Questionnaire. Otherwise, PARP is NATO programme, aimed at promoting the highest standards of transparency in the national defence planning and better preparation of partner forces for a cooperation with forces of the Alliance. This programme strikes to encourage the development of interoperability between the forces of partners and the alliance in a full spectre of the PfP operations, as well as to encourage training and exercises. Within the PARP process, NATO team from Brussels visited BiH during the period from February 16<sup>th</sup> to February 17<sup>th</sup> 2010. They discussed the Partnership Goals of BiH. The Partnership Goals of BiH have been developed in accordance with the PARP ministerial directives of NATO members, the PARP estimation of BiH and the Partnership Goals for 2008. The Ministry of Defence of BiH, as the leading Ministry for PARP, in a cooperation with NATO Coordination teams of the Council of Ministers of BiH, the Ministry of Security and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, adjusted a content of the text of the Partnership Goals and updated the PARP text of estimation of BiH during the period mentioned above. In relation to the last meeting, held in 2009., the representatives of NATO team from Brussels emphasized the successful movement towards the PG implementation. The delegation of BiH attended the meeting of the Euro Atlantic Partnership Council – EAPC in format 28+BiH, held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010 in Brussels at NATO Headquarters, with the aim of giving a further discussion and clarification of the PG and the PARP estimation of BiH. The BiH delegation, headed by the Deputy Minister of Defense for Policy and Planning, Mr. Zivko Marjanac, consisted of representatives from the Ministry of Defence of BiH, the Ministry of Security of BiH and the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of BiH. After the meeting and making some additional comments, a content of the text of the PG of BiH and the PARP estimation were sent to NATO members, according to procedures of silence.



### ***II Implementation of the Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP BiH)***

On the IPAP level, the cooperation between BiH and NATO is still one of the most important partnership mechanisms, particularly in the area of engendering the mutual cooperation and the reform process implementation in the country. In October 2009, NATO coordination team of the Council of Ministers of BiH has started the process of preparation and producing of the document of a new cycle of the IPAP BiH, for the period 2010 – 2012., on the basis of the



recommendations and guidelines of NATO, as well as on the basis of the previous experience obtained from the previous cycles of the IPAP. The first draft of the document mentioned above was defined at the beginning of February 2010, which is currently being updated, so that it can be delivered to NATO HQ Brussels on adjustment. The legal procedures for the document adoption in the institutions of BiH will be applied after the document adjustment, as well as a final approval on NATO level, with which the document would become valid for the next cycle of IPAP BiH. A very important segment of the process “ Self-assessment of the IPAP BiH implementation for 2009.” (Self – value), which was delivered to NATO HQ in Brussels on January 2010 (as instructed by NATO, in accordance with the appendices of the relevant ministries of BiH), and which prepared by NATO Coordination



Team of the Council of Ministers of BiH, in cooperation with relevant ministries and institutions of BiH. The implementation of all IPAP BiH activities, undertaken during the last year, was described and explained in details. Then followed the visit of NATO experts in a period from February 23<sup>rd</sup> to February 26<sup>th</sup>, when the final adjustment and changes of the Self-assessment were made. The NATO experts will make their own assessment of implementation of the IPAP BiH 2009 and deliver it to all NATO members, after which the final evaluation of success in implementing of the IPAP BiH will be given in a format “28+BiH”, or given in a format, in which attend the representatives of all NATO countries and the representatives of countries, participating in IPAP (in this case BiH). Please note that the head of NATO Expert Team, Mr. Jaroslaw Skonieczka, said at the end of his assessment that the Self-assessment represents the basis and well prepared document, which would serve NATO in assessing of the IPAP BiH implementation for 2009. During the discussion it was concluded that in the framework of the IPAP BiH during the year 2009, it was made a positive progress in the area of political and security issues, defense and military issues, issues of public diplomacy, crisis management and security protection issues and resources, and it was emphasized this trend should be kept in the future, so as to ensure all pre-conditions for the further development of the mutual cooperation with NATO at higher levels. It was also emphasised the realisation of the most planned activities took place as planned and in the frame of implementation.



The representatives of the North Atlantic Council, headed by General Secretary of NATO, visited Bosnia and Herzegovina on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010, when it was emphasized that it is necessary to make progress in reforms ( in terms of correction of the electoral law and respect for minority rights, resolving the issue of military property, disposal of surplus military ordnance, sending troops to Afghanistan) as a very important pre-condition for joining the MAP programme, which is the last stage of integration towards NATO. Bosnia and Herzegovina was awarded with NATO Membership Action Plan. However, the MAP implementation will start after the military immovable property is registered as the state property.

# SURPLUS OF WEAPONS AND MILITARY EQUIPMENT

According to data from the operational record of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the total state of weapons, ammunition and explosive ordnance, taking into account the approved Command material formations and units of the AF of BiH, the Decision on the equipment of the AF of BiH with primary weapons, weapons and equipment systems, and the Decision on the approval of class V of combat kit equipment and strategic reserve formation, the division of the total amount of « moveable military property » into perspective military property and the one identified as surplus for the future equipment of the Armed Forces of BiH.

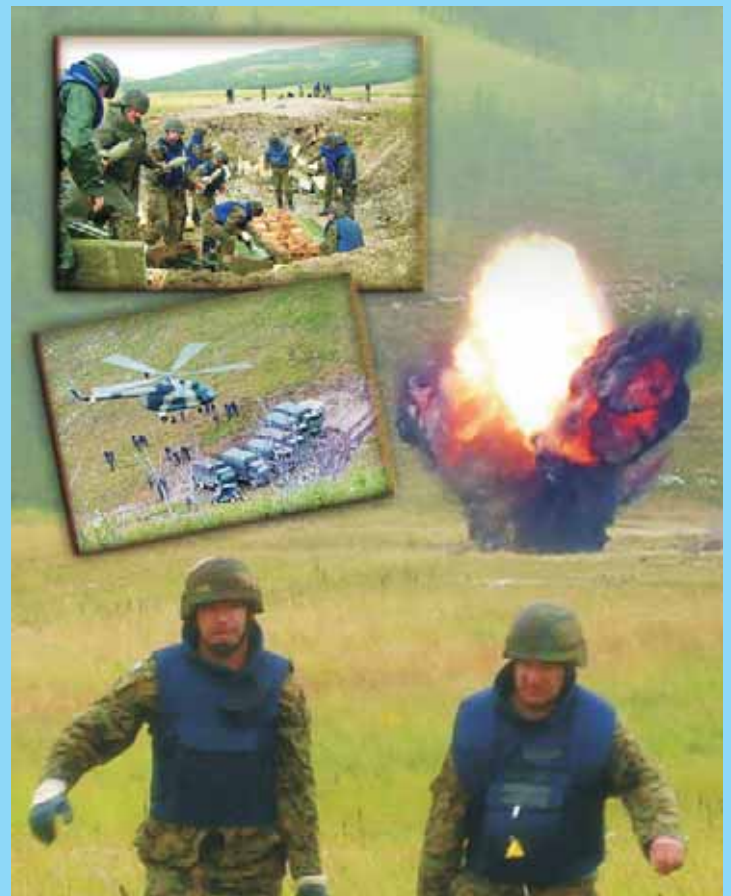
Category	Total amount	Perspective according to material formation	Surplus
Weapons	105.465 pcs	24.143 pcs	91.331 pcs
Ammunition and explosive ordnance	approx 27.157 tons	approx 7.500 tons	approx 19.657 tons

The Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina have 124.025 pcs of various kinds of weapons and approx. 30.000 tons of various types of ammunition and explosive ordnance, of which 23.500 tons are the surplus of the AF of BiH. The weapons have been stored mainly in all the locations, where the AF of BiH have been deployed, and the ammunition at 18 locations. According to the Presidency Conclusion about the size, organisation and locations of the AF of BiH, the locations for storage of weapons should be reduced to 2 perspective locations, and ammunition and explosive ordnance to 5 perspective locations.



## *Sale of surplus ammunition and weapons*

The Presidency of BiH at the 62. regular session, held on October 8<sup>th</sup> 2009, in connection with the proposal of the Ministry of Defence of BiH, brought forth the Decision no. 01-011-2562-47/09 on what should be sold, destroyed and donated.



Since the adoption of the Law on Defence of BiH, there has been no sale of weapons or ammunition by the Ministry of Defence of BiH. The sale of weapons has currently been put into regular procedure, contracted by the former entity Ministries of Defence, in accordance with the Presidency Conclusion on the implementation of outstanding contracts on the sale of moveable property. Upon the recommendation of the Parliamentary Committee on Defence and Security, the Ministry of Defence should implement the sale of surplus of ammunition, weapons and explosive ordnance within 18 months, according to the law, and then follow the disposal of remaining amounts. With the conclusion, brought forth in the 69<sup>th</sup> regular meeting, held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010., the Presidency of BiH obliged the Ministry of Defence of BiH with making preparations for the destruction of all surplus weapons, high risk ammunition and explosive ordnance, and with destroying of all surplus donated weapons, ammunition and explosive ordnance after the agreement had been provided by the donators. With the implementation of the

above mentioned conclusions, all surplus of light arms (approx. 80.000 pcs) will be destroyed, so there will be no sale of these types of weapons. According to the NATO criteria and recommendations made by technical staff of the OSCE and EUFOR, all surplus ammunition and explosive ordnance, owned by the AF of BiH, have been classified into the category of the high risk ammunition, so that the possibility of its sale is questionable. The high risk ammunition, controlled after signing of the Agreement on the sub-regional weapon control are the only surplus recourses of the AF of BiH, to which the documents mentioned above have not been used.

### ***Destruction of surplus weapons and ammunition***

The destruction of defective and unstable ammunition and mine-explosive means is very demanding, expensive and long-term process. Up to now, two methods for destruction have been used, and to:

1. The method « Obod » - the destruction with the explosion on polygons Manjaca and Glamoc (ammunition, declared as the most unstable controlled-technical review of expert teams ),
2. Delaboration method – separation of the projectiles, after which arise the secondary raw materials and delaborated explosive.

The activities have been carried out continuously by the



Ministry of Defence of BiH and the Armed Forces of BiH. The delaboration of the unstable ammunition and explosive ordnance have been carried out in four locations – the workshop « TROM » in Dobojo, the firm «Unis Pretis» in Vogosca, the firm «Binas» in Bugojno and the firm «Ilgman» in Konjic, while the destruction with a method of detonation in two polygons – «Manjaca» in Banja Luka and «Gladna Brda» in Glamoc. From January 1<sup>st</sup> 2006 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2009 a total of 6.763.331 kg of unstable ammunition and mine-explosive ordnance have been destroyed, approx. 5.100 tons in military capacity, and approx. 1.700 tons in commercial capacity. The ammunition destruction project has been carried out under the Project control and reduction of small weapons in BiH (SAC BiH), approved by the Council of Ministers of BiH. Since the Law on defence of BiH has been brought forth, 7.678 pieces of various surplus weapons have been destroyed. These destructions were carried out in the first period of 2006 and they were the result of the initiated projects on surplus weapons resolution in BiH, in cooperation with UNDP, through the Government entities.

### ***Plan on Surplus Weapons and Ammunition Resolution***

In accordance with the Decision of the Presidency of BiH on the establishment of surplus weapons, ammunition and mine-explosive ordnance in the Armed Forces of BiH, the principles of their resolution (no. 01-011-1599-32/09 from June 10<sup>th</sup> 2009), the Decision of the Presidency of BiH on the resolution on surplus weapons, ammunition and mine-explosive ordnance of the AF of BiH

(no. 01-011-2562-47/09 from August 10<sup>th</sup> 2009), the Ministry of Defence has taken action on implementation of the mentioned. According to that, the Ministry of Defence brought forth the operational measures through the Decision on: -Donation of weapons and ammunition to the Afghan security forces;

-Donation of weapons and ammunition to the Republic of Srpska – the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Srpska;

-Donation of weapons and ammunition to the Federation of BiH – the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Federation of BiH  
-Allocation of museum exhibits for the equipment of infantry regiment museums of the AF of BiH

So far, the most important donation has been given to the Afghan Security Forces in the first period of 2007. It was donated 4.500 pcs of M70 automatic rifles, 400pcs of M72 machine guns and 1.000.000 bullets 7.62 x 39 mm (the Decision of the Presidency of BiH no. 01-011-2177-33/06 from December 13<sup>th</sup> 2006).

One donation to Afghan security forces has currently been arranged at the international level. It is about 15.000 of M70 automatic rifles, 7,62 k 39 mm, 60 pcs of howitzers D30 122 mm and 1000 of EPO 9 k 19mm short machine guns. Also, the donation of certain small quantity of weapons and ammunition to the entity of Ministries of Internal Affairs.

### ***Control of surplus weapons destruction***

The Ministry of Defence of BiH controlled the process of destruction of surplus unstable ammunition in the situations when the MoD of BiH directly arranged the contracts for the implementation of the process as mentioned above (the example is BINAS Bugojno). The control was not performed in the situations when the competition was organised by UNDP as a contractor, which controls all international contracts. Furthermore, the state is in majority the owner of companies of military industry and their work has closely been observed with regular inspections by relevant ministries (the Federal Ministry of Energy, Mines and Industry - FMERI). The last level of control has been maintained by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations, which gives the permission to perform basic activities on an annual basis. International Organisations, UNDP and OSCE, have largely contributed to the resolution on surplus weapons, ammunition and mine-explosive ordnance in the Armed Forces of BiH. One of the most visible indications of their contribution was the organisation of workshops, in which power structures talked about the solution and final disposal of all the rights and obligations of the movable property, which will continue to serve the needs of defense.

# THE PARTICIPATION OF THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF BIH IN THE ISAF MISSION (INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE FORCE) IN AFGHANISTAN

In accordance with all relevant Security Council Resolutions, ISAF's primary role is to assist the Afghan government in the establishment of a secure and stable environment. To this end, ISAF Forces conduct operations to secure and stable country, in cooperation with the Afghan national security forces, which are directly involved in the development of Afghan national army through mentoring, training and equipment.



In order to have the feeling of the prospect of prosperity and security according to its regional integration with Europe and international communities, Bosnia and Herzegovina's commitment to participate in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan presents one of the most convincing arguments, which approves and encourages its efforts towards NATO membership. Bosnia and Herzegovina is aware that the Union requires a lot of tasks and obligations to be fulfilled and adapted for joining the security organisations membership, like NATO membership, which is considered to be as very important for global security in the future. Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of rare countries, which has had very important experiences in peacekeeping missions around the world, even before it received the conditions to join MAP membership. Bosnia and Herzegovina, whose final aim is Euro-atlantic integration, has been invited to participate in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan as soon as the resolution of the ISAF mission proposal has been established. In order to become a partner of the countries, participating in the ISAF mission, Bosnia and Herzegovina must carry out certain procedures in order to fulfill scheduled activities for complete participation in the ISAF mission, from the patrol of the beneficiary country, through the preparation and training of personnel to prepare proposals and decisions for participation in the ISAF mission, in relevance with legal requirements and specified forces and resources. In accordance with the following documents: „General Directions and Priorities for the Implementation of the Foreign Policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina“, adopted by the Presidency of BiH on March 26<sup>th</sup> 2003, „the Law on Defence of BiH“ and

„the Law on the Military Service in the Armed Forces of BiH“, it has been established that Bosnia and Herzegovina will join into the Euro-atlantic integration process and the system of political-military structures of NATO Alliance, which present the priority for the establishment of a secure and stable environment in the country. The mission of BiH in the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan has started with the resolution on the participation of members of the AF of BiH in this mission, which was signed by the Presidency of BiH. With the resolution, brought forth by the Presidency of BiH on January 5<sup>th</sup> 2009., it has been determined that the participation of 10 officers of BiH will be located in the Headquarter Commands in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan. Their mission is to perform operational, administrative and other staff tasks, which requires the stipulation of staff members duties within a contingent of the AF of Germany and a contingent of the AF of the Kingdom of Denmark. With this resolution, the Presidency of BiH has obliged all the institutions of BiH, especially the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence and the Council of Ministers, with the maximum of effort to fulfill all conditions required to gain full membership in the NATO. In accordance with the obligations and authority given, the Ministry of Defence of BiH has immediately started the process of the implementation of the resolution, established by the Presidency of BiH, and in doing so of the first steps has already been implemented on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2009 in Brussels, where the Minister of Defence of BiH, dr Selmo Cikotic, and the General Deputy of the NATO, Jaap de Hoop Sheffer, signed the Agreement, valid for all participating members of ISAF in a standard and uniform manner, which sets the conditions required for the participation in the ISAF mission.

« After the signing of the Agreement, our officers can now go to Afghanistan, which they could not do until now. Then follows the



procedure for the resolution of the proposal for the participation of the AF units of BiH in the International mission in Afghanistan. The General secretary of the NATO presented high ratings for BiH's current contribution to the peacekeeping missions, as it has been noted as being the most complex NATO mission. “, said dr Selmo Cikotic, the Minister of Defence of BiH, after the signing of the Agreement. Having in mind that the Ministry of Defence of BiH and the AF of BiH have been continuously working on the preparation of the members of the AF of BiH for the participation in peacekeeping operations, they needed a minimum of time to fulfill all the conditions required. At the end of March 2009, the first 2 officers of the AF of BiH were sent into the Danish military groups in Regional command JUG, then from September 2009, 8 officers of the AF of BiH were sent in a contingent of the AF of Germany in the Regional command NORTH in Afghanistan. These officers are working in commands of the mentioned contingents as staff elements of the command. Before they were sent to the mission, they had been trained in contingents of the AF of these countries. The mission of officers lasted 6 months, but the Presidency of BiH prolonged the mission for to the duration of a year in January 2010.



The delegation of the Ministry of Defence of BiH and the Armed Forces of BiH, headed by the Minister of Defence of BiH, dr Selmo Cikotic, visited Afghanistan from July 21<sup>st</sup> to July 24<sup>th</sup> 2009, in order to explore the possibilities of engaging the AF of BiH in the peacekeeping mission in this country. In the period from July 2009 to March 2010, The Ministry of Defense of BiH submitted several proposals for the possible engagement of units of the AF of BiH in the ISAF mission. In order to make adequate decisions, the Presidency of BiH carefully considered every active initiative within a regular procedure, searching for extra information or an extension of negotiations with coalition partners on proposals for the engagement of an AF of BiH unit in this mission.

At the meeting, held on March 10<sup>th</sup> 2010, the Presidency of BiH acknowledged the information from the Ministry of Defence of BiH about the possibility that units of the AF of BiH will be engaged in the ISAF mission and gave its approval for the engagement of 10 instructors of the AF of BiH in the ISAF mission to train Afghan security forces, after statutory procedures have been carried out. At the 44<sup>th</sup> urgent meeting, held on April 14<sup>th</sup> 2010, The Presidency of BiH received more information from the Ministry of Defence of BiH about the possibility of engaging the units of the AF of BiH in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan.

**At the same meeting, consensus was given for the engagement of infantry security units in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan, which counted 45 members of the Dutch military force group in Regional command JUG.**

The Presidency of BiH has obliged the Ministry of Defence of BiH to coordinate its activities with the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Denmark and the Armed Forces of BiH, with the aim of preparing, equipping and training the units of the Armed Forces of BiH, in order to carefully instruct them in the ISAF mission. The Presidency of BiH has authorised the Minister of Defence of BiH to send a letter of intention to the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE), about the readiness of BiH for the participation of its security units in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan, after carrying out of legal procedures. The Council of Ministers of BiH is obliged to inform the Presidency of BiH about the participation results, given by the infantry units of the AF of BiH in this mission. The Council of Ministers of BiH estimates the quality of



participation of the infantry units in the ISAF mission. While expecting an answer from the Ministry of Security as soon as possible, the Ministry of Defence of BiH received a positive opinion from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and Treasury and the Ministry of Justice. After that, the Ministry of Defence of BiH will make a proposal to provide justification for the infantry units' participation in the ISAF mission and to deliver it to the Office of the Legislative Council of Ministers, and then to the Council of Ministers of BiH. The Ministry of Defence of BiH gives its opinion about the participation of the infantry units in the ISAF mission and expects

that the Council of Ministers will give its positive remarks about it and justify this participation and, therefore, require that the proposal for the decision for the participation of the infantry units of the AF of BiH in the ISAF mission be delivered to the Presidency of BiH. As soon as the Presidency of BiH makes the decision, other legal procedures are expected to be applied, primarily the declaration of the Parliament of BiH about that decision, as well as providing a special NATO team unit certificate.



Acting in accordance with the conclusions of the Presidency of BiH, the Ministry of Defence of BiH sent a letter of intent to the General Secretary of NATO, Commander of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE) and to the Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of Denmark.

**In accordance with the Law on participation of the members of the AF of BiH, police officers, civil servants and other employees, employed in the peacekeeping operations and other activities abroad, the Presidency of BiH brings the decision on the participation of the units of the AF of BiH in these activities. Before making a final decision, the Presidency of BiH requires a Justified evaluation of a unit participation in a concrete operation by the Council of Ministers of BiH.**

**The assessment should include foreign-political, legal, defense, security and financial aspects. The relevant Ministries of BiH are involved in the making of a Justified evaluation. The Council of Ministers of BiH is obliged to submit to the Presidency of BiH with submitting the required assessment within 60 days after submitting the application.**

**In addition, the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH is obliged within 60 days to consider the decision, made by the Presidency of BiH, about the participation of the members of the AF of BiH in foreign countries.**



# THE PROCESS OF TRANSITION OF MILITARY PERSONNEL INTO THE ARMED FORCES OF BIH

## REJUVENATION AND DISCHARGE OF THE MILITARY PERSONNEL

According to the Presidency of BiH about a size, structure and locations of the AF of BiH, it has been defined that the AF of BiH has 10 000 active military personnel, from which 50% of soldiers, 30% of NCOs and 20% of officers. Law on Service in the AF of BiH defines the maximum length of the military service in the AF of BiH as follows:

- a) officers - 30 years, but the maximum to 55 age,
- b) non-commissioned officers - 30 years, but the maximum to 50 age and
- c) soldiers - 15 years, but the maximum to 35 years.

When entering the AF of BiH, future soldiers will sign the contract for three years, with the possibility of its extension to 35 years of age, or totally 15 years of service in the AF of BiH. The Ministry of Defence and the AF of BiH have been conducting activities of selection and admission of soldiers to the AF of BiH., according to the Public advertisement, published on July 2009. In fact, the young soldiers have been elected during the year 2010, in proportion to the number of soldiers, who must leave the AF of BiH, in accordance with the decision of the Presidency of BiH on size, structure and locations of the AF of BiH. The first and the second group of candidates finished the training for professional military admission, or the fourth and the fifth generation of young soldiers. The first group of 29 young soldiers, of whom 30 women, signed their professional contracts on February 1<sup>st</sup> 2010, and the second group of 296 young soldiers, of whom 25 women, finished their training on April 2010 and they have been assigned in the operational units of the AF of BiH, where they will continue further education. Dynamic of admission of young soldiers in the professional military service has been adjusted to dynamic of dismissal process of personnel from the AF of BiH, so as to prevent operative capability of the AF of BiH. That is how, in accordance with the Operational plan of soldiers' admission, the admission of the third group of 300 young soldier candidates will be held on September 1<sup>st</sup> 2010, while the reception of 300 of new soldiers has been planned on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011. It means that it will be a total of 1200 young soldiers of the Armed Forces of BiH, who will be admitted on the basis of a Public advertisement, published in 2009.



**Considering the admission of young soldiers, according to the Public advertisement published in 2008. and the Public advertisement from 2009., 1405 candidates successfully have finished the training, of whom 93 are women and they have been situated in operational units of the AF of BiH. Entering the AF of BiH, series of possibilities for a long-term engagement in the AF of BiH have been offered to the young soldiers. The Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of BiH have been adjusting to the NATO standards of the age average for the military service in the AF. The current personnel has been replacing at the same time, to which the Contracts on Service in the AF of BiH cannot be prolonged due to the law in the area of defence.**



Various solutions have been searched for the members of the AF of BiH within the real presumption and possibilities, in a cooperation with the institutions of BiH, the Presidency of BiH, the Council of Ministers of BiH and the Joint Commission for defence and security of the Parliament of BiH. Various measures and activities have been applied in order to decrease the total number of persons, to whom the contracts have just been expired, filling the vacant positions, resulting from the process of retirement, recategorisation of soldiers to civilians and noncommissioned officers, NCO's to officers and the military service contract extension for some critical military-evident speciality. Minister of Defence of BiH, at the suggestion of the Chief of Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of BiH, extended contracts for 1451 soldiers to 3.5

months, in order to maintain operational capability and provide the national structure of the AF of BiH, in accordance with article 104. the Law on Service in the AF of BiH (Official Gazette, no. 88/05, 53/07 and 59/09). However, a significant number of members of the Armed Forces of BiH still remains. They will have to leave the AF of BiH and it will be necessary for them to provide assistance. The Ministry of Defence of BiH develops the Programme of transition and care for the discharged military personnel of the MoD and the AF of BiH, entitled «Perspective», with the aim of implementation of project assistance to help the reintegration of the discharged personnel into civilian life. The programme presents total, professional and effective system of measures and activity, which enables the discharged personnel to have unique institutional, advisory, educational and other kind of professional assistance and support. This programme does not enable the fund, except the legal right to financial compensation on the basis of

unemployment, enabled by the competent employment service. The Ministry of Defence of BiH terminated the military service of 310 soldiers on February 28<sup>th</sup> 2010. One-day transitional workshops, held in Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Tuzla and Capljina on February 25<sup>th</sup> 2010, were attended by 280 soldiers. Registration documents for the participation in the programme «Perspective» were taken by 200 persons, and 160 persons have already been registered. The termination of a military service for 600 soldiers has been planned with June 18<sup>th</sup> 2010. The termination of the military service for 459



soldiers has been planned for August 31<sup>st</sup> 2010, while the termination of military service for another 459 soldiers has been planned for December 31<sup>st</sup> 2010, which means 1828 soldiers will have to terminate a military service in 2010. The Ministry of Defence of BiH will carry out one-day transitional workshops with the soldiers, who are in transition in 2010., from April 20<sup>th</sup> to May 13<sup>th</sup> 2010 at 23 locations of the AF of BiH. The military service of other soldiers, older than the Law on age limit in a military service allows, will be terminated in future years. The team for transition of personnel in MoD and the AF of BiH manages all processes of transition and discharge in 2010. Due to the plan for entering of 1200 of young soldiers into the AF of BiH up to January 1<sup>st</sup> 2011, the process has been developing in accordance with both the Dynamic plan for soldiers of the AF of BiH, who must terminate the military service and the Dynamic plan for young soldiers, who will enter the military service. The Ministry of Defence of BiH sent a letter to the Agency for Labour and Employment of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federal Employment Service, Employment Service of the Republic of Srpska and Brčko District, regarding assistance and support for activities of the MoD and the Armed Forces of BiH in the fields of transition and discharge of military personnel. The letter was also sent to the chiefs of all municipalities in BiH, regarding the assistance and support for the activities of the MoD of BiH and the AF of BiH in the fields of transition and discharge of military personnel. Nineteen of municipalities have given the support for

measures and activities of the MoD of BiH so far and they will be available to assist in future projects on the military personnel discharge. The Ministry of Defence of BiH is in contact with 67 security agencies in BiH, 7 security organisations in Bosnia and 2 entity Civil Protection Administration, of which are expected to assist and support these activities. Also, several other institutions have offered their assistance in the field of transition and military personnel discharge ( The Aperion University, Eko-Klek-Zavidovici, Forests of the Federation of BiH, Rasmer LTD ).

The transition personnel department and the Regional transitional centers have established a wide network of support with the local institutions, development agencies, NGOs, economic, educational, cultural and other entities on the territory of BiH, and potential donors with the purpose of providing assistance and support for future projects on personnel management. The Ministry of BiH has still been working to provide additional ways of assistance to our soldiers and it is open to consider all suggestions

and solutions, which are in accordance with the existing legal arrangements and the commitment of Bosnia and Herzegovina towards the

Euro-Atlantic integration. Moreover, within budget for 2010, the Ministry of Defence of BiH has planned to spend an amount of one million convertible marks for management of military personnel, who are in the transitional process, and it is expected that the same amount will be spent for the next two years ( a total of 1.5 million euros). The funding, support and assistance have been requested from the NATO, the European Commission and other potential donors, which would contribute to generate the income for discharged military personnel with the establishment of a new NATO

Trust Fund for BiH. The new NATO Trust Fund is expected to be established by the end of May 2010., and Norway, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Holland, Austria, Italy, the UK and the U.S.A announced their assistance. It takes the three-year basis to raise as much funds as possible (from a minimum donation of 3.335 million, up to 7.2 million euros), which provides, with resources of the MoD of BiH, the real basis for a successful realisation of NTF II or for reintegration of discharged personnel into civilian life. With the establishment of the NTF II, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the NATO would secure a continuity of joint action, cooperation and leadership in the reform of defence system, in order to gain a full membership of BiH in the NATO and the European Union.



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# INTERVIEW WITH THE COMMANDER OF NATO HEADQUARTERS IN SARAJEVO, BRIGADIER GENERAL JOHN BULLARD

## What does the condition for BiH's integration towards MAP membership mean for Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2010?

On 22<sup>nd</sup> April at the Ministerial Summit in Tallinn, NATO foreign ministers granted "conditional" Membership Action Plan (MAP) status to BiH. The condition is the solution of the defence property issue. NATO recognises the major defence reforms that BiH has achieved and the progress in recent months on key issues such as destruction of surplus weapons and ammunition, however solution of the ownership of defence property is essential to permit the full functioning of the state Armed Forces and so the 'activation' of the offer of MAP is linked to that solution.

## MAP is going to be developed through several annual periods, and the construction of the annual programme is the task for the first period. Could you tell us what does that document mean?

The core of MAP is the Annual National Programme (ANP), which establishes objectives, targets, mechanisms and work schedules for tasks related to becoming a credible candidate for NATO accession. The ANP, developed by aspirant countries in consultation with NATO, is designed to address the priorities identified by the country. Each ANP covers issues in several categories, similar to the Individual Partnership Action Plan in which BiH is already participating: political/economic, defence/military, resource, security and legal. NATO provides advice and support to the country through various mechanisms and there is a continuous exchange of information. A consolidated progress report is required each year, and aspirant countries meet with NATO Allies to discuss these reports and to receive feedback from Allies. MAP is not a guarantee of membership; rather, it is a mechanism through which a country may prepare itself for membership. The decision to begin accession talks remains with NATO Allies.

## What is your opinion about the fulfilment of the conditions for BiH's integration towards MAP membership? In other words, could BiH fulfill the conditions of 69 perspective military locations until September 2010?

Bosnia and Herzegovina has been working towards NATO membership in the Partnership for Peace programmes for many years. This shows that the necessary long-term political commitment and consensus does exist across the entire country. BiH could fulfill the condition that NATO has applied to initiating MAP by resolving the immovable defence

property issue so that the MAP can be activated on schedule with the first Annual National Plan in September.

The responsibility lies with BiH political leaders.

## If BiH could not solve the question of the perspective military property until September 2010, what will happen with the Annual National Programme?

The normal Annual National Plan cycle is September through June. We are encouraging BiH to resolve immovable defense property before September, in order to facilitate BiH commencing MAP with Montenegro. It is very important to keep the momentum going to enter the MAP cycle in September 2010 and not delayed until September 2011.

## The summit where the new strategic concept should be considered is planned in Lisbon at the end of 2010.

## What are the main aims of the new strategic concept, in relation to NATO operations? In your opinion, what is the meaning of the new strategic concept of the West Balkans?

On 17th May the Group of Experts appointed by NATO Secretary General Anders Rasmussen to lay the foundations of a new Strategic Concept for NATO presented its recommendations to the North Atlantic Council. The two underlying conclusions were that the Alliance has an ongoing duty to guarantee the safety and security of its members and that this can only be achieved through dynamic

engagement with countries and organisations outside of its boundaries. In today's environment providing safety and security means transforming military forces to make them more versatile, more suitable to 'Rapid Response' and capable of dealing with a wide variety of geographically and technically diverse threats'. The Expert Group also stressed the need for inter-operability and for building partnerships with countries outside of NATO, in particular with Russia. For the western Balkans we can speculate that this approach will mean greater emphasis on regional co-operation and regional integration of military and security forces.

The emphasis on a 'lighter', more versatile and more rapid military can give smaller countries such as BiH a greater role within the Alliance as providers of 'niche' capability. The emphasis on building a partnership with Russia could help to build a progressive consensus on NATO membership and security within Serbia, the Republika Srpska and across the western Balkans.

## In your estimation, could you tell us how long will Bosnia and Herzegovina be the member of MAP, or otherwise, how long will take BiH to become the full member of NATO alliance?

NATO accession is a performance based process and the responsibility lies with BiH political leaders to facilitate that performance. NATO never fixes dates or timelines because



progress depends on performance. The performance of BiH in meeting the expectations of the Allies is the key factor in what is ultimately a political decision. A successful solution to the issue of defence property ownership would certainly be noticed by the Allies and would allow for the initiation of the MAP on schedule in September.

**Are you satisfied with the current abilities of the Armed Forces of BiH?**

The Armed Forces should be proud of the way that they have managed a process of major change and reform yet maintained operational abilities. The current Armed Forces of BiH came into existence only a short time ago. A comprehensive defence reform process has been in progress for seven years and the efforts of the defence leadership have been focused on implementing reforms and implementing the new force structure. Nearly two-thirds of the units were established in new locations, with new personnel. Work has been ongoing within NATO's Planning and Review Process to improve defence capabilities. It is impressive that while all of that was going on, the Armed Forces deployed explosive ordnance disposal and infantry units to Iraq over a period of four and a half years. As well, infantry and military police units are now being prepared for Afghanistan, to join the 10 BiH staff officers that are already there. This is a respectable effort. The operational capabilities of the Armed Forces will continue to improve through the defence review process, as resources are matched to capabilities, as equipment is modernised, and as the age and rank structure of the armed forces is optimised. The current AFBiH structure provides a good basis for a NATO compatible force. Further improvements will be made within the framework of the PFP Planning and Review Process and the Membership Action Plan. A comprehensive personnel management system needs to be developed that will ensure the Armed Forces have quality personnel, trained and capable of carrying out the many complex tasks and missions required of a modern military force. Other systems will also need to be enhanced over time to ensure that the Armed Forces have the resources necessary to be properly trained and equipped to operate in ways compatible with NATO-led multi-national operations. This will include the rationalisation and modernisation of the current structure within the context of a review of missions and capabilities. This could also include the development of niche capabilities for use within the context of NATO/PFP and Peace Support Operations.

**How do you assess the cooperation between NATO Headquarters in Sarajevo and the Ministry of Defence of BiH and the Armed Forces of BiH, and where do you see the possibilities for achieving the better cooperation?**

We enjoy excellent relations with the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of BiH. Our advisory team is located in the Ministry of Defence building and BiH and NATO personnel interact continually. We have common goals, defined by the PFP programmes in which BiH is

participating; we have frequent, open and professional discussions on how to achieve those goals; and the NATO Advisory Team works with counterparts at all level in order to implement the agreed plans. NATO membership is about more than the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces, and so we work with other institutions such as the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Security, the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, and the BiH Council of Ministers NATO Coordination Team. This cooperation will intensify as BiH continues to work on its NATO accession requirements.

**Are you satisfied with the public support given by the people of Bosnia and Herzegovina for its integration towards NATO membership?**

In meetings with people across this country we have found widespread support for NATO membership that is very encouraging. It is true that opinions about NATO are often defined by ethnicity and by lingering emotion from the war. Because of the recent history of this region many people know NATO only as a military alliance. Since the end of the Cold War it is the civil and political aspects of NATO that have become of prime importance. NATO is now a means of strengthening liberal, democratic values and good governance. NATO membership has proven to generate economic improvements and NATO membership has become a gateway to the European Union. Together with the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of BiH, NATO HQ Sarajevo has been carrying out a very active campaign of communication and dialogue with people all across BiH for over four years. The result is a growing appreciation in all areas of BiH that NATO is not just about the military – it is a means of improving the entire country and moving it towards full integration into the community of European nations. Our experience is that people in the RS who were originally skeptical of NATO membership are increasingly interested in NATO. They want to find out how joining NATO may benefit them. There is an increasing willingness to support joining NATO in terms of providing a stable, secure future with opportunity.

**How do you estimate the regional cooperation and the cooperation of the Armed Forces in region?**

The Minister of Defence and Chief of the Joint Staff believe that regional cooperation is very important and they have made great efforts in this regard. In addition to exchanging information and ideas on a bilateral basis, BiH is also a member of the Adriatic Charter, which provides a forum for cooperation on issues of mutual interest to BiH and four of its regional neighbours, plus the United States. NATO's Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council, comprised of all NATO Allies and PFP members, offers a wider forum in which regional issues can be discussed. As well, the BiH Peace Support Operations Training Centre offers excellent regional possibilities. BiH has also benefited from information exchanges with NATO Allies from the region, particularly with respect to practical aspects of NATO integration. Cooperation among regional countries will continue to increase as progress is made towards membership in NATO and the European Union, in line with the sovereign foreign policy choices of each country.

January  
12  
2010

## THE MEDAL AWARD CEREMONY TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA FOR THE ACHIEVEMENT IN THE OPERATION « IRAQI FREEDOM »

The medal award ceremony for the achievement of 48 members of the Armed Forces of BiH in the Operation «Iraqi Freedom» was organised on January 12, 2010 in the Army Hall of the Armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The representatives of the Armed Forces of BiH, headed by the Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of BiH, General Major Rizvo Pleh, as well as the representatives of the U.S. Embassy in BiH, attended the ceremony. The Advisor of the U.S. Embassy in BiH, Mr Jonathan M. Moore, addressed all present, congratulated the winners on receiving the medals and emphasised that they should be proud of their contribution given towards the Operation «Iraqi Freedom». The Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of BiH, General Major Rizvo Pleh, also addressed all present and emphasised that the Armed Forces of BiH have been participating in the Operation «Iraqi Freedom». He said that the accent is on the awarded members of the AF of BiH, who are the best ambassadors of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the world. The appropriate reception was organised after the ceremony in the restaurant of the Army Hall of the AF of BiH.



## THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF BIH MET WITH THE STATE SECRETARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY

The Deputy Minister of Defence of BiH, Mrs Marina Pendes, met with the State Secretary of the Republic of Hungary, dr Agnes Vadai and her associates on January 26<sup>th</sup>, 2010. The Deputy Minister of Defence of BiH, Mrs Marina Pendes, thanked dr Vadai for her visit, and emphasized that the Ministry of Defence of BiH and the Armed Forces of BiH have reached very successful cooperation with the Republic of Hungary in the previous years, particularly in the financial area, where the Republic of Hungary has given its financial support and the support to BiH for education and training. Moreover, the Deputy Minister of Defence of BiH, Mrs Marina Pendes, briefly met dr Vadai with the participation of the Armed Forces of BiH in peacekeeping missions, as well as with the tendency of BiH towards NATO and EU integration. After the meeting, the Deputy Minister of Defence of BiH, Mrs Marina Pendes, and dr Vadai, with their delegations, visited the sights of the city of Sarajevo. In addition to the today's meeting in the building of the Ministry of Defence of BiH and to the sightseeing of the city of Sarajevo, dr Vadai will be accompanied by Mrs Pendes on January 27<sup>th</sup> 2010., to the city of Mostar, where she will meet with the Mayor of Mostar. On that occasion, it has been planned that «the Stone» of the Old Bridge with the suitable text is to be delivered to the State Secretary of the Republic of Hungary, dr Vadai, for the engagement of the engineers' units of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Hungary in the reconstruction of the Old Bridge in Mostar. The following day, on January 28<sup>th</sup> 2010., the Deputy Minister of Defence of BiH, Mrs Marina Pendes, and dr Vadai, together with their delegations, will lay wreaths at the memorial centre «Potocari» in Srebrenica.

January  
20  
2010

## VISIT OF THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF THE KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The Deputy Minister of Defence of BiH, Mrs Marina Pendes, accepted the visit from the Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mr Eimert van Middelkoop, the Military Attaché and the Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Deputy of the Minister of Defence of BiH, Mrs Marina Pendes, welcomed the Minister van Middelkoop in the Ministry of Defence of BiH, and briefly met him with the most important current issues in the MoD and the AF of BiH, like the issues of perspective and non-perspective property, transition of the military personnel of the AF of BiH, the participation of the AF of BiH in ISAF mission, as well as the BiH membership towards NATO and EU. In addition, the Deputy of the Minister of Defence of BiH, Mrs Marina Pendes, thanked for the current very successful cooperation between the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and the Ministry of Defence of BiH, and also emphasised that the Kingdom of the Netherlands has been providing the financial aid for the Ministry of Defence and the Armed forces of BiH with the donation of the equipment, as well as in the area of education and training. The Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mr Eimert van Middelkoop, praised the progress of the Ministry of Defence of BiH and the Armed forces of BiH, as well as BiH as a whole, on its way towards NATO membership, and he also emphasised that the Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands will continue to support the Ministry of Defence of BiH and the country of BiH as a whole, and continue the successful cooperation with the Ministry of Defence of BiH. At the end of the visit, the Deputy of the Minister of Defence of BiH, Mrs Marina Pendes, and the Minister of Defence of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Mr Eimert van Middelkoop, exchanged their suitable presents.





March  
22  
2010

## THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENSE AT THE MEETING IN NATO HQ IN BRUSSELS – TRUST FUND

The Deputy Minister of Defense of BiH, Marina Pendes, met with the officials of NATO HQ and with a number of presenters of NATO and PfP countries, on March 25<sup>th</sup> 2010 in Brussels, with whom she discussed the possibilities for the establishment of the new NATO Trust Fund, which will be used to help the redundant soldiers in the next period due to the age limitation. This meeting was the extension of the broad and continuous activity of BiH officials and the members of NATO Mission in BiH, since dr Selmo Cikotic had sent the letter to the General Secretary of NATO the year before, with the appeal to help BiH in the process of releasing of the personnel of the Armed Forces of BiH. The assistance has been requested for 3300 persons, who will leave the Armed Forces of BiH in the next two years. The Deputy Minister of Defense of BiH, Marina Pendes, emphasized the strong decision to continue with the BiH movement towards NATO and the implementation of the legal clause, according to which the age limitation for the employment in the Armed Forces is 35 years. In addition, the stress is on the intention to give help to the redundant soldiers, in accordance with the possibilities. The Ministry of Defense of BiH will cooperate with the other institutions at the entity and municipal levels. In that direction, the certain activities have already been carried out, and there are also the certain, but modest, financial funds available. The representatives of NATO and PfP countries have given their full support in this project, and they have also expressed their good will to give a further help. A number of countries have already promised to give a certain financial support for this activity. Moreover, the representers of certain countries showed their interest in examining the possibilities for the participation in, above all, a humane fund, while the representatives of other countries gave their opinion that, due to current financial crisis, they will not be able to participate in this project during the current year.

March  
30  
2010

## THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF BIH, DR SELMO CIKOTIC, MET WITH THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE OF DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF GERMANY, DR KARL-THEODOR FREIHERR ZU GUTTENBERG



The two delegations, the Ministry of Defense of Germany and the Ministry of Defense of BiH, held a meeting on March 30<sup>th</sup> 2010 in the Ministry of Defense of BiH, led by the two Ministers, dr Karl-Theodor Freiherr zu Guttenberg and dr Selmo Cikotic. They discussed the efforts of BiH and the MoD of BiH to the faster and better integration towards NATO and EU, fulfilling the condition of BiH joining into MAP membership, the commitment of the Armed Forces of BiH to ISAF operation in Afganistan, and also a bilateral cooperation between the Ministry of Defense of BiH and the Ministry of Defense of Democratic Republic of Germany. The Minister of Defense, dr Selmo Cikotic, gave thanks for the help given by Germany and the Armed Forces of Germany, which took place through the broad bilateral cooperation between the two ministries, which manifested through the implementation of various programmes of support given to the Ministry of Defense and the Armed forces of BiH, and specially for the participation of members of the Armed Forces of Germany in EUFOR mission in BiH. Minister Cikotic emphasized that Germany encourages the progress of BiH integration towards NATO, insisting on the criteria that Bosnia and Herzegovina has to fulfill in order to gain MAP status. « It is important to maintain the momentum towards NATO, as the fundamental mechanism of BiH progress towards Euro Atlantic integration as a whole», said Minister Cikotic. The Minister of Defense of Germany, dr Karl-Theodor Freiherr zu Guttenberg stressed the importance for the participation of the Armed Forces of BiH in peace support operations and expressed his expectation that the Armed Forces of BiH will continue with the engagement in ISAF operations in Afganistan. He emphasized that Germany and BiH have had very good relations, and that Germany supports all efforts made by BiH towards EU and NATO membership: « Steps achieved in the defence sector are encouraging, and other sectors should also follow their example and continue to fulfill international community requirements. », said Minister Guttenberg at the end. The Ambassador of Germany in BiH, Mr. E. Joachim Schmidt, participated in the discussions in the Ministry of Defense of BiH with the deputies, Mr. Zivko Marjanac, Deputy Minister for Policy and Planning, Mrs. Marina Pendes, Deputy Minister for Resource Management and DC of JS of the AF of BiH for operations GM Rizvo Pleh, who represented the delegation of the Ministry of Defence of BiH.

April  
08  
2010

## SIGNED THE CONTRACT BETWEEN BIH AND THE HOLY SEE ON THE PASTORAL CARE OF THE CATHOLIC BELIEVERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF BIH



The Contract between BiH and the Holy See, on the pastoral care of the catholic believers, who are the members of the Armed Forces of BiH, was signed on April 8<sup>th</sup> 2010., in the Army Hall of the AF of BiH in Sarajevo. The Contract was signed by the Minister of Defence of BiH, dr Selmo Cikotic, as the representative of BiH, and the Apostolic Nuncio in BiH, Alessandro D'Errico, in the name of the Holy See. The signing ceremony was attended by the representatives of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, the Joint Parliamentary Commission of BiH for Defense and Security, the Joint Parliamentary Commission of BiH for the Human Rights, the Council of Ministers, the representatives of dioceses, churches and religious communities in BiH, the representatives of NATO Headquarters in Sarajevo and EUFOR, as well as the highest officials of the Ministry of Defense and the Joint Staff of the AF of BiH.

The Minister of Defense, dr Selmo Cikotic, stressed the importance of the Contract ratification between BiH and the Holy See on the pastoral care for the catholic believers, who are the members of the Armed Forces of BiH, which presents the significant event for the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of BiH, as well as for Bosnia and Herzegovina as a whole. For the Armed Forces, it means: «...the realisation of the clauses of the Fundamental contract in practise, the establishment of the Military ordinance, the better quality of the pastoral care for the catholic members of the Armed Forces of BiH, the contribution of the AF of BiH to the improvement of human (religious) rights, according to a model and reputation of the most developed democratic countries, the development of comprehensive cooperation and understanding with the Holy See, which has been provided a complete support in most difficult times for BiH », and, as Minister Cikotic emphasized, « this also means the development of the cooperation between the Institutions of Defense and the Institutions of the Catholic Church in BiH and between the churches and the religious communities in BiH. «

The Apostolic Nuncio in BiH, Archbishop Allesandro D'Errico, expressed his satisfaction with the ratification of the Contract. He emphasized that « This Contract is not seeking the privileges. It seeks what is agreed for the Catholic Community to be agreed with other communities.» As the Archbishop Alessandro D'Errico emphasized, «The reasons for this request are very simple: above all is the principle of the equality of the constituent people and the religious communities, which are a part of the Inter-Religious Council, and the second is that we believe in ecumenical, interreligious dialogue and in a need of harmony among religious communities.» The Contract on the pastoral care of the catholic members of the Armed Forces of BiH is to be ratified in the coming period by the Parliament of BiH.

April  
09  
2010

## CELEBRATION OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE 1<sup>ST</sup> INFANTRY ( GUARD ) REGIMENT OF THE AF OF BIH AND THE 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF HVO

The central ceremony of the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HVO and the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> infantry guardian regiment was held in the barracks « Mato Lucic Maturica « in Kiseljak, on April 9<sup>th</sup> 2010. The ceremony was attended by the Deputy Minister of Defence of BiH, Mrs Marina Pendes, the Minister of Defence of BiH, dr Selmo Cikotic and other representatives of the Ministry of Defence of BiH and the Armed Forces of BiH, as well as a number of senior military and civilian delegations, church dignitaries, the representatives of war associations, international delegations and other distinguished guests. The regiment parade was held by the Deputy Minister of Defence of BiH, Mrs Marina Pendes, to whom the Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> infantry guardian regiment, Brigadier Slaven Lasic, presented his report. The Deputy Minister of Defence of BiH, Mrs Marina Pendes, and the Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> infantry guard regiment, Brigadier Slaven Lasic, addressed the audience with prominent words. Mrs Pendes thanked all present, who came to celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> infantry ( Guardian ) regiment of the AF of BiH and the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HVO together with the members of the MoD of BiH and the AF of BiH, and she also emphasised that « The progress in the field of defence reform, made by the AF of BiH, is the proof of the BiH devotion to accept common values in terms of democracy, human rights and the rule of law, which have to be followed in order to achieve the full process of Euro-Atlantic integration. « Brigadier Lasic briefly met the audience with the development and the operation of HVO and the 1<sup>st</sup> infantry regiment of the AF of BiH, and also emphasised the importance of all three regiments in the reform process of defence.



January  
29  
2010

## BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS OF THE MINISTRY

# OF DEFENSE OF BIH AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

The delegations of the Ministry of Defense of BiH and the Ministry of Defense of the U.S.A., on January 29<sup>th</sup> in Sarajevo, discussed the aspects of the bilateral relations of the two countries in the area of defense. Minister Selmo Cikotic headed the delegation of the Ministry of Defense of BiH, while the Principal Deputy Assistant State Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs (ISA), Joseph McMillan, headed the delegation of the Department of Defense. The main topics of the discussion were the status of the Defense Review and the priorities of the defense reforms, the efforts of NATO in the defense reforms in BiH, the projects made in cooperation with the American Command for Europe and the National Guard of Maryland, as well as the



applications of BiH for MAP joining. The discussion was attended by the delegations of the American Command for Europe (US EUCOM) and the National Guard of Maryland, the Commander of NATO Headquarters in Sarajevo Brigadier General John Bullard and the representatives of the U.S. Embassy in BiH. After the two delegations had finished their discussion, the Principal Deputy Assistant State Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs (ISA), Joseph McMillan, emphasised in his statement to the media: «The U.S.A. has chosen to continue the cooperation with BiH, and BiH contribution given towards peacekeeping missions is the proof that this country could still contribute a lot towards the international peace and stability.» The Principal Deputy Assistant State Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs (ISA), Joseph McMillan, also stated that the U.S.A. has permanently chosen to work on the development of the partnership with BiH: «We thanked Minister Cikotic and BiH leaders for their successful support to the international peacekeeping missions, which is the proof that BiH can contribute towards the international peace and stability. We also discussed the extension of the american support for the contribution and the modernisation of the Armed Forces of BiH», said McMillan. **The U.S.A promised the aid in resolving the problem with surplus**

**phosphor and cassette weapons, which the Armed Forces of BiH still have in their warehouses, and also to help with resolving of the defensive reform with the aim of BiH joining towards NATO.** « We wish to have more mutual activities, like the training « Combined Endeavour 2009 ». Considering the successful organisation and the implementation of this training, we have offered to BiH to be the host of the next training, which would be organised in 2012 », said McMillan. The Minister of Defense of BiH, dr Selmo Cikotic, stressed that the discussions were very successful, but that they did not present anything sensationally new. « These discussions confirm the U.S.A. presence and its decision to keep the positive progress of BiH on



completion of the activity, related to the construction of the functional defensive structure, but also of the activity, related to the membership of BiH towards NATO, as well as to provide BiH with the aid in making of the decision and with the deployment of our unit within ISAF in Afghanistan.», said Minister Cikotic.

Minister Cikotic emphasised that the visit of the american delegation is the proof of the determination of the U.S.A. to support the reform of Defense and all the efforts made by the defensive structures and BiH as a whole, in terms of the developing progress within the defensive structures of BiH towards the full NATO membership.

## THE CENTRAL CEREMONY ON THE OCCASION OF THE 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE 2<sup>ND</sup> INFANTRY (RANGER) REGIMENT OF THE AF OF BIH AND THE 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF BIH

April  
15  
2010



The central regiment ceremony on the occasion of the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 2<sup>nd</sup> infantry (ranger) regiment of the AF of BiH and the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Army of Bosnia and Herzegovina were held on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2010 in the barracks « Adil Besic » in Bihac. The ceremony was attended by the Chairman of the Presidency of BiH, dr Haris Silajdzic, the Ministry of Defence of BiH, dr Selmo Cikotic, the representatives of the MoD of BiH, the AF of BiH, the representatives of legislative and executive authorities, religious communities, veterans associates, the representatives of the international diplomatic corps, as well as many other citizens. The unit parade was held by the Chairman of the Presidency of BiH, to whom the Commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> infantry ( ranger ) regiment , Brigadier Mirsad Begic, presented his report. The Chairman of the Presidency of BiH, the Minister of Defence of BiH and the Commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> infantry regiment addressed the audience at the ceremony. The Commander of the 2<sup>nd</sup> infantry ( ranger ) regiment met the audience with the development and genesis of the Army of the Republic of BiH, as well as with the mission of the 2<sup>nd</sup> infantry regiment to cultivate identity and military heritage in the framework of the Armed Forces of BiH.

## THE DELEGATION OF THE AF OF BIH VISITED THE ARMY OF THE REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

April  
16  
2010

The Chief of the Joint Staff of the AF of BiH, Lt General Miladin Milojevic, headed the delegation of the AF of BiH. The delegation was invited by the Chief of the Staff of the Army of the Republic of Macedonia, Lt Colonel General Miroslav Stojanovski, to visit Macedonia from April 13<sup>th</sup> to April 16<sup>th</sup> 2010. The Minister of Defence of the Republic of Macedonia Zoran Konjanovski welcomed the delegation of the Joint Staff of the AF of BiH. They discussed the reforms of the Ministry of Defence and the Army of the Republic of Macedonia, the participation in peacekeeping missions, the capacities and possibilities of education at the Military academy in Skoplje, as well as experiences in using EOD units and in working with the Simulation Centre of the AF of BiH. The Chief of the JS of the AF of BiH, Lt. General Miladin Milojevic, accompanied by his host, visited the Military Medical Centre in Skoplje, the Military Academy of the Army of the Republic of Macedonia and the polygon Krivolak.



## DELEGATION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF BIH VISITS THE U.S.A.

April  
16  
2010

Delegation of the Ministry of Defence of BiH, headed by the Deputy Minister of Defence for Policy and Planning Zivko Marjanac, visited the U.S.A.



Ambassador of BiH in the U.S.A. Mr Mitar Kujundzic joined the delegation of the Ministry of Defence of BiH in the U.S.A. This visit was a part of the bilateral cooperation between the U.S.A. and BiH in the area of defence. It represents direct extension of the bilateral consultation in the area of defence, held in Sarajevo on January 2010. In addition, the delegation of the Ministry of Defence of BiH will strive to inform the U.S. administration about the progress made in the most important areas prior to the informal meetings of the two Ministers for Foreign Affairs of NATO members, which will be held in Tallin (Estonia) on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010. One of the topics at the meeting will be the consideration of BiH join into MAP, which is a very important step towards the achievement of NATO membership. During the visit to Pentagon, the delegation met with Mr McMillan, the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence for International Security Affairs. Together they analysed the previous bilateral

cooperation and possibilities for further improvement in destroying of unstable ammunition disposal, surplus ammunition disposal, mines and explosive ordnance in BiH, participating in peacekeeping missions, as well as in helping the transition of the soldiers from military to civilian life, who are going to leave the Armed Forces of BiH during the year 2010 and the following year. The Ministry of Defence of BiH will continue working with the U.S. Embassy in Sarajevo on the realisation of the programme of support in mentioned areas. At the end of the visit, the delegation visited the Commands and the Maryland National Guard units in the Maryland federation, with which Bosnia and Herzegovina signed the State Partnership Programme.

February  
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2010

## U.S.A. SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN VISITED THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The meeting of the two delegations, the U.S. Congress delegation and the delegations of the Ministry of Defence of BiH and the Armed Forces of BiH, was held in the Ministry of Defence of BiH, on February 5<sup>th</sup> 2010 in Sarajevo. The U.S.A. delegation was headed by Senators: John McCain, Joseph Lieberman, Saxby Cahmbliss and Mark Udall, as well as by the representatives of the Congress: Jane Harman, Loretta Sanchez and Jeff Flake.

The delegation of the Ministry of Defence of BiH was headed by the Minister of Defence of BiH, Dr Selmo Cikotic and the Deputy Minister of Defence of BiH, Mrs Marina Pendes, and the Chief of the Joint Staff of BiH and the Deputy Chiefs of the Joint Staff of BiH. They discussed the efforts of BiH and the Ministry of Defence of BiH for faster and better integration towards NATO and EU, as well as the U.S. support given to BiH in order to fulfill its conditions for MAP membership. In addition to that, it has been emphasised that the U.S.A. remains the strategic partner with BiH through the implementation of various programmes of support, and that the U.S.A. will continue to support BiH in the following period. The Minister of Defence, dr Selmo Cikotic, thanked the congressmen for the current comprehensive help of the U.S.A., which has been manifested through the implementation of the various programmes of support given to the Ministry of Defence of BiH and the Armed Forces of BiH, and he also emphasised that the reform of defence is „ the successful story thanks to the U.S.A.“

Senator John McCain stressed the importance of the participation of the AF of BiH in the operation „Iraqi Freedom“ in Iraq and expressed his expectations that the engagement of the AF of BiH will continue in ISAF operation in Afghanistan. Senator John McCain supported all the efforts made by BiH towards NATO and EU membership, emphasising that „ the reform of defence is the shining example in the process of reform “. In the end, the U.S.A. has offered to continue with their cooperation and support given to the Ministry of Defence of BiH and the AF of BiH in the following period. The U.S. Ambassador in BiH, Charles English and the Commander of NATO Headquarters in Sarajevo, Brigadier General John Bullard and his associates also participated in the discussions in the Ministry of Defence of BiH.



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2010

## PRESENTED THE LAW ON PARLIAMENTARY MILITARY COMMISSIONER OF BIH IN THE ARMY HALL OF BIH

The Law on Parliamentary Military Commissioner of BiH was presented in the Army Hall of the AF of BiH on February 11<sup>th</sup> 2010.

The presentation was attended by the Deputy Minister of Defence of BiH, Zivko Marjanac, the Chief of the JS of the AF of BiH, Lt. General Miladin Milojcic, as well as the Military Commissioner of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, Bosko Siljegovic. Beside the representatives of the Ministry of Defence of BiH and the JS of the AF of BiH, the presentation was attended by the Deputy Commander of EUFOR in BiH, Brig. General Tibor Nagy. The Military Commissioner of the Parliamentary Assembly of BiH, Bosko Siljegovic,

emphasised and met the audience with the importance, responsibilities and the role of the Parliamentary Military Commissioner of BiH in the protection of human rights and freedom of military personnel and cadets in the AF of BiH. Moreover, the Military Commissioner Bosko Siljegovic emphasised previous successful cooperation with the General Inspectorate of the AF of BiH, as well as the cooperation with the Ombudsman of BiH in the field of the law implementation and protection of human rights. The visit of units of the AF of BiH has been planned in the coming period with the aim of closer approach of the institution of the Parliamentary Military Commissioner of BiH to all members of of the AF of BiH.

The process of the establishment of legal framework for Parliamentary Military Commissioner of BiH was ended in 2009 with the acceptance of the Rules of Procedure and the Rules of cooperation with the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



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## THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF BIH DR SELMO CIKOTIC IN BRUSSELS

The Minister of Defence of BiH, dr Selmo Cikotic, together with a delegation of the Council of Ministers of BiH, headed by the Chairman Nikola Spiric, participated in discussions with General Secretary of NATO Alliance, Anders Fogh Rasmussen, and with the members of NAC, on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2010 in Brussels. Beside the Minister of Defence of BiH, dr Selmo Cikotic, and the Chairman of the Council of Ministers

of BiH, Nikola Spiric, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of BiH, Sven Alkalaj, also presented the delegation of the Council of Ministers of BiH. At the meeting, they discussed the preparation for the visit of NATO delegation to BiH, which has been planned for the end of March 2010. The main topics of the discussion were the progress of BiH in the field of defence, achieved from the last meeting by the ministers of the Foreign Affairs of NATO on December 2009, as well as the plans of BiH, which must be realised until the next meeting by the Council of Ministers of NATO, which will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2010 in Tallin (Estonia).

march  
22  
2010

## DELEGATION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND THE ARMED FORCES OF BIH IN BRUSSELS

The delegation of the Ministry of Defence of BiH and the Armed Forces of BiH, headed by the Deputy Minister for Policy and Planning, Mr Zivko Marjanac, and the Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff of BiH for Operations, Major General Rizvo Pleh, visited Brussels, in order to present BiH at the meeting of political-military committee of NATO Partnership for Peace. During the meeting, the delegation answered the questions of the representatives of 28 countries, who were the members of NATO, about a new set of partnership aims for BiH development of interoperability and compatibility of the AF of BiH with NATO. Besides 28 NATO countries, the meeting was attended by the representatives of other partner countries interested in the meeting. The delegation of BiH took the opportunity to introduce a series of BiH institutions activities, performed in order to achieve the implementation of the verdict delivered by a Jury in the European Court for Human Rights in the case of Sejdic and Finci. BiH delegation also introduced a strong effort made in order to speed up and continue with the process for resolving of surplus weapons, ammunition and mine-explosive ordnance of the Armed Forces of BiH and to continue with sending members and units of the AF of BiH in the mission of International Security Aid and ISAF mission in Afghanistan. The expected result of this meeting is that BiH will accept a new set of partnership aims as an important part of the Planning and Review Process (PARP), which will present a new step for BiH made in order to gain a full NATO membership. After BiH application for MAP membership had been rejected in December 2009, it was estimated that the next informal meeting of Ministries for Foreign Affairs of NATO countries would be the second opportunity for BiH to review the application for MAP membership. This meeting will be held on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and April 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010 in Tallin (Estonia).

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2010

## VISIT OF DELEGATION OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND THE ARMED FORCES OF BIH TO THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OF THE REPUBLIC OF HUNGARY

The Delegation of the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of BiH, headed by the Deputy Minister of Defence of BiH, Marina Pendes, paid a three-day official visit to the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Hungary. The State Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Hungary, dr Agnes Vadai, was the host to our delegation. The meeting with the civilian officials of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Hungary was followed with the conversation between the representatives of the Ministry of Defence of BiH and the representatives of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Hungary. The topics discussed were the strengthening of the bilateral cooperation, exchange of experiences achieved in peacekeeping missions, the plans for the opening of the Defence College in BiH, the cooperation in the field of education, etc. The representatives of both sides expressed their satisfaction with the cooperation, emphasizing their wish for cooperation. The Deputy Minister of Defence of BiH, Mrs Pendes, emphasized that: « Continuous support, given by the Republic of Hungary is very significant to our country for achieving a full NATO membership. This support will be greater when the Republic of Hungary, as a member of NATO Alliance, would preside over EU for next year.» During the visit, the delegation of the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of BiH attended the ceremony at the opening of the museum of the AF of the Republic of Hungary, dedicated to the participants in peacekeeping missions.

## CEREMONIALLY CELEBRATED 5<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE 3<sup>RD</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT OF THE AF OF BIH ( REPUBLIC OF SRPSKA) AND 18<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE AF OF RS

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The central ceremony was held on May 12<sup>th</sup> 2010 in the barracks « Kozara» in Banja Luka, in order to celebrate 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Armed Forces of Republic of Srpska and the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the AF of BiH (Republic of Srpska). The ceremony was attended by the member of the Presidency of BiH, Nebojsa Radmanovic, the Deputy Minister of Defence of BiH for Policy and Planning, Mr Zivko Marjanac, the Deputy Minister of Defence of BiH for Resource Management, Mrs Marina Pendes, the Chief of the Joint Staff of the AF of BiH, Colonel General Miladin Milojevic, together with his closest associates, the representatives of the institutions of BiH, entity institutions, international institutions in BiH, diplomatic corps, as well as a number of senior military and civilian officials, church dignitaries and other distinguished guests. The regiment parade was held by the member of the Presidency of BiH, Nebojsa Radmanovic, to whom the Commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment of the AF of BiH (Republic of Srpska), Brigadier Rajko Knezevic, presented his report. The member of the Presidency of BiH, Nebojsa Radmanovic, and the Commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Regiment ( Republic of Srpska) Brigadier Rajko Knezevic addressed the audience at the ceremony. In the framework of the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the AF of RS, which falls in May 11<sup>th</sup>, the delegation of the Ministry of Defence of BiH and the Joint Staff of the AF of BiH, headed by the Chief of the JS of the AF of BiH, Lt General Miladin Milojevic, attended the service for killed soldiers of the AF of RS in the Orthodox Cathedral in Banja Luka and laid flowers for dead soldiers of the AF of RS at the cemetery St. Pantelija.

## U.S. DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR PLANS, PROGRAMS AND OPERATIONS, BRIGADIER GENERAL THOMAS J. MASIELLO, VISITED THE MOD AND THE AF OF BIH AND ATTENDED WEAPONS DESTRUCTION ACTIVITIES

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Within the framework of the visit to the Ministry of Defence of BiH and the Armed Forces of BiH in the barracks « Rajlovac of the AF of BiH », the delegation of the State Department, headed by The Deputy of the State Secretary Assistant for Plans, Programmes and Operations, Brigadier General Thomas J. Masiello, attended weapons destruction activities by using a tank, on May 13<sup>th</sup> 2010. The weapons destruction activities were preceded by a joint meeting of top officials of the Ministry of Defence, the Armed Forces of BiH and the delegation of the State Department, after which the Minister of Defence of BiH, dr Selmo Cikotic, and the U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, Brigadier General Thomas J. Masiello, signed the Joint Statement on the reduction of surplus weapons, ammunition and explosive ordnance, identified as surplus by the Presidency of BiH. **The process of weapons destruction was attended by top officials of the Ministry of Defence of BiH, the Armed Forces of BiH and the delegation of the State Department, as well as a member of the Joint Commission for Defence and Security of the Parliament of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ivo Miro Jovic, the Ambassador of the U.S.A. in BiH Charles English, the Commander of EUFOR General Bernhard Bair, representatives of NATO HQ in BiH and representatives of UNDP, OSCE and OHR Organisations.**

The destruction of light arms, declared as surplus by the Armed Forces of BiH, and the destruction of light arms, collected in the operation « Zetva » (« Harvest »), represent a symbolic action on the beginning of the process of destruction of surplus weapons and ammunition, which presents a serious hazard to the environment and population. After the destruction process has been finished, surplus weapons and ammunition will finally be transformed into useful industrial raw material.

## LT. GENERAL MILADIN MILOJICIC ATTENDED THE MEETING OF NATO-ISAF MILITARY COMMITTEE IN BRUSSELS

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The Chief of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of BiH, Lt. General Miladin Milojevic, attended the meeting of NATO-ISAF Military Committee format in Brussels and visited NATO HQ for Operations in Mons from May 5<sup>th</sup> to May 6<sup>th</sup> 2010. There were exchanged some information about a current situation in Afghanistan and plans for further period. In honour to the first official visit of the Chief of the JS of the AF of BiH, Lt. General Miladin Milojevic, to NATO HQ for operations in Mons, the Deputy Commander of the Force Association Command for Europe, General Sir John McColl, organised a formal ceremony. Lt. General Miladin Milojevic met General McColl with the situation in the AF of BiH and plans for ISAF mission and with EUFOR mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina. After they had finished the conversation with General McColl, the delegation of the AF of BiH visited the Directorate for Military Cooperation, where they met with activities of NATO HQ for Operations, as well as with activities of the Directorate for Military Cooperation of NATO HQ for Operations.



# THE MOD AND THE AF OF BIH WILL BE THE HOST OF THE 51<sup>ST</sup> WORLD MILITARY SKIING CHAMPIONSHIP IN 2011

After accepting the candidature of Bosnia and Herzegovina by Directorate of International Military Committee for Sports (CISM), the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be the host and organizer of the 51<sup>st</sup> World Military Skiing Championship, which will be held in 2011. Competition will take place in the 4 disciplines: 1.alpine discipline - giant slalom; 2.nordic running woman and man on 10 and 15 km track; 3.biathlon – competition on 7 and 10 km track for woman and man; 4.teams – relay race. The competitions will be held on the Olimpic mountains : Igman, Bjelasnica and Jahorina. **The Armed Forces of BiH has become a full member of CISM in 2007. Their members actively participate in sporting events organised by CISM, and so far, they participated in the Military Olympic Games in India, then in the World Volleyball Championship in Germany, as well as in many regional sport competitions. Since last year our country has been very keen to host the Regional Cross Country Race, attended by seven regional countries.**

At this moment, the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina has been fully prepared to maintain the 51<sup>st</sup> World Military Skiing Championship and ready to welcome the best soldier athletes from around the world.

The competitors of the 51<sup>st</sup> World Military Skiing Championship will be accommodated in the barracks «Rajlovac», which is located on the west side of the city of Sarajevo. It is 5 km away from the Sarajevo Airport, and 12 km from the city centre. The barracks «Rajlovac» has a capacity of 1200 persons, and the supporting facilities: Kitchen block, clinic, sports hall, canteen, internet club, conference room, arena theatre, etc.

We hope and believe that our tradition, the will and readiness will contribute to the successful realisation of this important and sporting event. From the depths of our heart we are looking forward to the arrival of our colleagues from all around the world and deeply believe that, by filling of our obligations as organisers, and providing the hospitality as hosts, we will make new friendships and achieve our common mission – the preservation of the world peace and the strengthening of security architecture for the present and future generations.

