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Ministarstvo odbrane-obrane



БОСНА И ХЕРЦЕГОВИНА
Министарство одбране-обране



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of the Ministry of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Armed Forces
of Bosnia and Herzegovina

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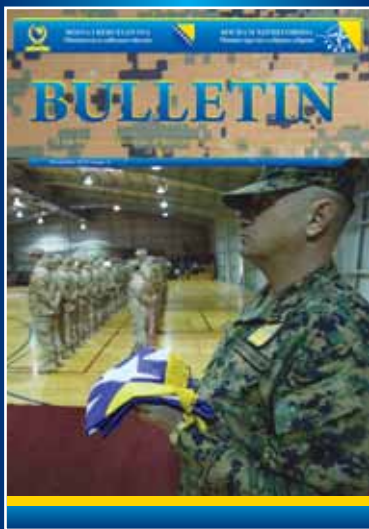
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The AFBiH declared the year of 2010 as the year of rationalization and downsizing of its structure. However, this did not diminish their readiness and capabilities to execute missions prescribed by the law. Although the preparation, organization and execution of defined tasks are becoming increasingly complex in terms of scope, requirements and engagement of human and other resources, the AFBiH are managing them with success.

The AFBiH ascribes their success to good training, which is of fundamental importance for execution of missions and tasks. Furthermore, the application of the NATO Operational Capability Concept (OCC), which BiH officially joined when it declared its units for the NATO Pool of Forces, will improve the capabilities of AFBiH and help them achieve a satisfactory level of interoperability, as a result of what AF BiH will be able to expand their participation in NATO-led operations. The fact that AFBiH commands and units have organized a large number of exercises of different character and at different levels, which were executed in cooperation with other institutions and agencies, attests that the AFBiH have achieved a satisfactory level of proficiency.

Bearing in mind the importance that training has for the AFBiH, human resource management has invested a lot of effort to ensure that all segments of training are properly addressed. In 2010, 2,747 members of the AFBiH attended

425 education events in BiH and abroad. Due to age-limit requirements, professional military service was terminated for 1,322 soldiers older than 35. In order to maintain the necessary level of operational capabilities of commands and units, this year some 600 vacant military posts will be filled with candidates selected on the basis of vacancy announcements. The process of selection of candidates is underway. Once selected, the candidates will have to undergo necessary checks and screenings and then proceed to training. Requalification and education of AFBiH personnel at military academies, command-staff and general-staff colleges are important career aspects for AFBiH personnel.

International cooperation entailed a large number of events, the peak of which was deployment of an AFBiH infantry unit to the NATO-led ISAF mission. The unit is deployed with a Danish contingent and will be responsible for base security. Apart from the infantry unit, ten AFBiH officers have been deployed to Afghanistan, were



AFBiH Day

they are serving with the German and Danish contingents. The AFBiH has also deployed five military observers to the UN Mission in Kongo.

Furthermore, the Sarajevo conference of the US-Adriatic Charter, which was organized by the AFBiH, clearly indicates how much partner countries trust the AFBiH. Presence of senior NATO officials is a testimony of how much allies value their partners and regional security cooperation.

In the country, AFBiH provided support to civil authorities in a number of areas. It is important to mention the assistance provided in response to natural



projected demining dynamics indicate that the 2010 plan for demining of mine-contaminated areas will be successfully implemented.

In order to provide a safe environment for BiH citizens, the AFBiH is also investing efforts in disposal of obsolete and surplus weapons and ammunitions. Destruction of 8,137 rounds of

AFBiH also achieved significant sport results at both national and international level. CISM membership has resulted in a significant increase in AFBiH activities in this area, which we consider to be useful in the context of international cooperation.



and man-made disasters (Bileća, Derventa, Čelinac, Bijeljina, Livno and Tomislavgrad municipalities), as well as in medical evacuations in BiH and abroad.

This year the AFBiH also participated in a number of road reconstruction projects (six municipalities), school reconstruction projects, etc.

Unfortunately, mine contamination is still a big problem in BiH. So far, the



ammunition and explosive ordnance and 30,081 rifles is a proof of how invested the AFBiH are in this issue. Logistic support was provided in all tasks and missions of the AFBiH, including the differentiation of property that the AFBiH will use in the future and the property that has been identified as surplus and will be transferred to the entities, training and equipping of the PSO unit, and the training process in general.

Apart from the tasks that primarily focused on improvement of the AFBiH system in general and cooperation with foreign and international bodies, the

In the next period, the AFBiH will be faced with the following challenges:

- Organization of deployment of AF BiH personnel to missions abroad and larger participation in PSO missions;
- Training of units declared for the Operational Capability Concept;
- Fulfillment of the obligations related to implementation of partnership goals;
- Intensified training and higher overall readiness to provide military support to civil authorities in mitigation of consequences of natural and man-made disasters;
- Preparation, organization and implementation of activities related to the 51st World Military Ski Championship.



First rotation of AFBiH infantry unit in ISAF

AFBiH Unit in Afghanistan

BiH Minister of Defense, Dr. Selmo Cikotić



“Bosnia and Herzegovina wants to and can give an adequate contribution to joint efforts for building and keeping peace and stability in the world, and therefore, I find it necessary for our personnel to take part in peace support missions. Our experience verifies the defense reform progress that creates better pre-conditions and increases the credibility of BiH in its aspirations to

join Euro-Atlantic institutions. In order for BiH to become a NATO member, it must prove that it is capable to share risks and difficulties in peace support operations, but other mechanisms of collective security as well, which is the quintessence of NATO. Our members in missions abroad have represented the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Bosnia and Herzegovina in the best possible way. Their readiness and training also prove that they can respond to biggest challenges in extremely difficult conditions. It is the result of joint work of all those involved in the process of defense reform, and of our wish to become not only a user but a contributor to world security, which has come true.”

BiH Deputy Minister of Defense for Policy and Plans, Mr. Živko Marjanac



“In addition to the fact that Bosnia and Herzegovina, as a country which has been the user of international assistance for so many years, now has a moral duty to be ready to actively participate in peace support operations in the world, I would like to underline the practical aspects of our participation. Through participation in peace support missions, members of the AFBiH acquire experience which cannot be substituted even by the best possible training. This makes members of the Armed Forces of BiH who have taken part in peace support operations much better prepared for successful performance in the future. In the wider sense, Bosnia and Herzegovina aspires to integration which may guarantee security, stability and prosperity. In the world we live in, those values are not for free, and therefore not a single country, including Bosnia and Herzegovina may choose a currency to pay for those values. By playing an active role and assuming responsibility on the international scene, we make ourselves a credible partner in collective and cooperative security. The alternative in which BiH would try to become an island, a self-sufficient entity, would be more expensive and provably unsuccessful in the long run “.

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The AFBiH infantry unit arrived in Afghanistan on 21 October 2010 and started conducting its tasks in ISAF. Prior to their arrival in Afghanistan, the unit spent four days in Denmark, where they conducted final planning activities for the mission.



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The AFBiH unit will be providing internal security in two NATO bases in the province of Helmand, Southwest Afghanistan. The AFBiH infantry unit, with its 45 members, is deployed with the Danish contingent for six months. All unit members are volunteers.

Here is the chronology of activities that preceded their deployment to ISAF. On 18 March 2010, the BiH Ministry of Defense submitted to the BiH Presidency Information on the possibility of engagement of AFBiH units in the International Security Assistance Force mission in Afghanistan. The BiH Ministry of Defense proposed that the BiH Presidency adopts a conclusion in favor of the Information, and make the BiH Ministry of Defense responsible for negotiation and preparation for deployment. At its 44th session on 14 April 2010, the BiH Presidency approved the engagement of the infantry unit in ISAF, Afghanistan, within the Danish contingent in the Regional Command South. The BiH MOD was made responsible for negotiations with the Armed Forces of the Kingdom of Denmark and NATO structures regarding AFBiH participation in the mission. In line with the conclusion of the BiH Presidency, the BiH Minister of Defense send a Letter of Intent on 15 April 2010 to the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE) stating the readiness of BiH to participate in ISAF with a security unit. The Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), Admiral James G. Stavridis, sent a letter to the BiH Ministry of Defense on 18 June 2010, commending BiH for its decision to increase the number of its troops in Afghanistan, and gave a full support to BiH on its path towards full-fledged membership in NATO.

In line with Article 4 of the Law on participation of AFBiH members, police officers, civil servants and other employees in peace support operations and other activities abroad, the BiH Ministry of Defense obtained from relevant local institutions a justification assessment for participation of an AFBiH unit in ISAF, Afghanistan.

The Operational Command of the Danish Armed Forces sent an expert team to BiH from 29 June to 1 July 2010 with an aim to assist in preparation, training and resolving administrative issues with regard to deployment of the AFBiH unit with the Danish contingent. At its 48th session held on 27 July 2010, the BiH Presidency passed a decision to deploy 45 members of the Armed Forces of BiH to ISAF, based on the proposal of the BiH Council of Ministers. The Presidency forwarded the decision to the BiH Parliamentary Assembly, House of Representatives for approval, which happened at its 82nd session on 28 July 2010.

Another expert team from the Danish Armed Forces was in BiH from 19 August to 2 September 2010 for training and certification of the AFBiH unit for ISAF. The Evaluation exercise "HOT SUMMER" was conducted, and after thorough preparations, the temporary unit (70 members) was certified on 1 September 2010 for deployment to ISAF.

The House of Peoples of the BiH Parliamentary Assembly confirmed the decision on deployment of members of the Armed Forces of BiH to ISAF, Afghanistan, at its session on 1 September 2010.

On 15 October 2010, there was a ceremony in the Dubrave military base, Tuzla, marking the departure of the first rotation of the infantry unit of the Armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina to Afghanistan.

AFBiH members' capability, high motivation and discipline



Following the Evaluation Exercise "HOT SUMMER" and after thorough preparations, the temporary formation (70 members) was certified for deployment to ISAF on 1 September 2010. The expert team of the Danish Armed Forces certified the unit which would be deployed with the Danish contingent in line with the Decision of the BiH Presidency.

During a well tailored and implemented evaluation exercise that relied on a scenario based on the planned mission, the expert team of the Danish Armed Forces assessed that all AFBiH unit members and the unit were fully trained and capable of conducting all tasks and necessary procedures for safeguarding the military base of the Coalition Forces in Afghanistan. The expert team was in particular impressed with the motivation and discipline of AFBiH unit members, in addition to their technical preparedness and physical fitness. Of course, this superb achievement during the evaluation was the result of the planned activities carried out by the 5th Infantry Brigade in 2009 and 2010 in preparation for deployment to ISAF. The high motivation and capability for the mission is the result of a large number of AFBiH members who volunteered for the mission. In addition, the superb achievement during evaluation was also the result of the efforts invested by the MOD, AFBiH and the 5th Infantry Brigade Command.

The evaluation was the final activity in the preparation phase prior to deployment of AFBiH members to ISAF, so the unit was ready to go and accomplish this complex mission.

BiH Deputy Minister of Defense for Resources, Ms. Marina Pendeš



"Deployment of AFBiH members to the ISAF mission in Afghanistan is a continuation of BiH participation in peace support operations after December 2008, when we finished our mission in Iraq. Bosnia and Herzegovina wants to become a NATO member. Our obligation and commitment to membership in NATO and Euro-Atlantic integration is laid down in our laws.

Another strong argument in favor of our participation in the NATO-led ISAF operation is the fact that by taking part in the mission, AFBiH members have the opportunity to learn and train, shoulder to shoulder, with the best prepared armed forces in the world. They will gain experience which will be useful to them upon their return, but also in the future, in joint activities within NATO.

AFBiH members are well equipped and trained to accomplish their mission tasks. According to the results they scored during the training, they are prepared and trained for any task or challenge they may encounter in Afghanistan. The activities the unit deployed to Afghanistan went through are the confirmation of their capability to professionally carry out tasks assigned to the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

I believe that our troops in Afghanistan will represent Bosnia and Herzegovina and AFBiH with honor and dignity, that they will be capable and responsible in carrying out any task assigned to them, and that they will be the best promoters of Bosnia and Herzegovina."

Chief of AFBiH Joint Staff, Lieutenant General Miladin Milošević



"Participation of AFBiH in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan and other similar missions, confirms the readiness of AFBiH to participate on equal footing with allies and partners in carrying out very complex and demanding tasks of collective security.

Participation in peace support operations is the best way to test and increase AFBiH interoperability and compatibility with the armed forces of NATO member countries. Additionally, it provides important experience with complex tasks abroad. Our participation in peace support missions helped us learn the following lessons: all missions were successfully accomplished; the experience will help us prepare for future missions; we gained trust of our partners through our previous successful missions, which was confirmed by the invitation to take part in ISAF; AFBiH members and units have conducted their tasks in a professional and responsible manner which has been confirmed to us in direct contacts with the forces AFBiH personnel has worked with.

By participating with our infantry unit in guarding a base of the coalition forces in ISAF, Afghanistan, we have practically demonstrated our readiness on the ground to maintain the continuity of our participation in collective security operations. With the assistance of local institutions and international partners, we believe that we will successfully accomplish this AFBiH mission, too."

Ceremony Marking Deployment of AFBiH Infantry Unit to Afghanistan

A ceremony marking deployment of the first AFBiH infantry unit to Afghanistan took place in military base Dubrave, Tuzla, on 15 October 2010.

Along with members of the contingent and their families, the ceremony was attended by senior representatives of the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces, Boško Šiljegović, Parliamentary Military Commissioner, representatives of NATO Headquarters, EUFOR, OSCE, Danish Embassy, and foreign defense attaches and diplomats accredited in BiH.

Deputy Minister of Defense Marina Pendeš, Chief of AFBiH Joint Staff Lieutenant General Miladin Miložčić, and Commander of the 5th AFBiH Infantry Brigade, Brigadier General Senad Mašović addressed the unit members, guests and VIPs. Deputy Minister Pendeš said that all the activities the unit had been through proved that they were capable of professionally performing any task assigned to the AFBiH, in line with laws and regulations and commitment of BiH to membership in NATO and Euro-Atlantic structures.

Deputy Minister Pendeš underlined that “in accordance with the results achieved by unit personnel during training, the unit is trained, qualified and capable of handling all tasks and challenges in Afghanistan”. She also said that “the unit has proved its professionalism and ability to represent AFBiH with honor and dignity”.



Chief of AFBiH Joint Staff, Lieutenant General Miladin Miložčić said that by taking part in ISAF “the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the state of Bosnia and Herzegovina prove their readiness for Euro-Atlantic integration processes, and make their contribution to collective security in the world”. General Miložčić underlined that the training of AFBiH members after the mission in Iraq never stopped, adding that “members of this unit are individuals who are professionally, physically and mentally fit, and who have completed a thorough and demanding training for the execution of the mission”.

Commander of the 5th Infantry Brigade, AFBiH, Brigadier General Senad

Mašović said that it was the first combat unit ever to deploy to a mission. “In the past, we had individuals in missions, but now we deploy a combat unit with a concrete task and a specific mission - to secure bases of the coalition force in the province of Helmand, as part of the Danish Battle Group”, Mašović said. General Mašović underlined that “the training process was organized in phases, and the whole training was compatible with that of the armed forces of NATO member countries. All unit members are trained for individual and collective tasks within the mission”.

General Mašović concluded by saying that he expected members of the unit to be true ambassadors of Bosnia and Herzegovina as a whole.



Lessons learned from the mission in Afghanistan

Mission – An Opportunity for a Soldier to Apply His Skills in Real War Situation



Lieutenant Colonel Taib Karaica is Head of the Logistics Department, AFBiH Joint Staff. He was in ISAF mission, Afghanistan in the area of responsibility of the Regional Command North, with the German contingent (Camp Marmal, Mazar-e Sharif), from September 2009 to March 2010. He served as staff officer in CJ-5 (long-term planning), and also Chief of the 1st BiH Contingent (BIHCON-1), and BiH national representative.

According to Karaica, the deployment of AFBiH officers to ISAF should be seen in the context of the obligation of BiH and AFBiH to actively participate in collective security operations and peace support operations. "The primary goal of BIHCON-1 mission was to give its expert contribution to the RC North, at various staff positions assigned to our officers, and thereby prove that AFBiH members are qualified to work in a sophisticated international environment. According to evaluation performance reports of BIHCON-1 members, signed by our superiors, we accomplished our tasks extremely successfully and promoted our country in the best possible way. Our results should be seen in the light of the overall efforts of BiH to achieve Euro-Atlantic integration. No doubt, such success positively reflects on our efforts", LTC Karaica said.

Speaking about motivation for deployment to ISAF, Karaica said that it does not differ from the motivation of any professional soldier from any other country: "Regardless which country they come from, their motivation can be explained as a combination of professional challenge, patriotism and financial benefit.

When I say professional challenge, I have in mind working in a war zone, implementation of a wide spectrum of various tasks, multinational environment, improving knowledge and skills, and acquiring priceless experience. As for patriotism, in our case it is undoubtedly our wish to give our direct personal contribution to the efforts of our country on its path towards NATO and EU, while the financial motive is a relative thing. Actually, I believe that the professional and individual experience one gains in the mission is something that will last forever, and it comes way before the financial aspect".

LTC Karaica shared his impressions about his time in Afghanistan, saying that a mission is definitely the best way for a professional soldier to apply his skills and knowledge to a real war situation, to improve his knowledge and broaden his professional experience. "Officers from BiH have no single reason to feel inferior to any officer from any other country when it comes to their qualifications. However, what we all learned is that in addition to qualifications, the key to success is initiative and proactive approach to problem solving. Moreover, I had the opportunity to hear some officers complaining to their superiors for not giving them more tasks and duties. They even asked to be reassigned to posts where they would work more. Anyway, it was a fascinating experience to see a big multinational headquarters function successfully and how it had an appropriate and rapid response to any situation. The words that best describe the system are professionalism, commitment, initiative and flexibility.

On the other hand, I was fortunate to spend quite a lot of time cooperating with Afghan officers and learn a lot about their culture, their approach to problem solving, and their tribal and religious customs. One would be willing to pay for this experience, and I even got paid for that".

LTC Karaica remembers one moment in particular when he had to go on special leave because of the death of an immediate family member: "Only couple of hours after I learned what had happened, I was in a German aircraft flying from Mazar-e Sharif to Uzbekistan (the city of Termez) and there was only one passenger onboard – me. There was another MEDEVAC aircraft waiting at the runway in Uzbekistan, which had only two passengers in addition to the crew – a wounded German soldier and me. It is unbelievable that in only 8 hours I was evacuated from Mazar-e Sharif to Cologne. This tells you about the superb organization of the military system".

We asked him whether he would go again to a mission and what would be his piece of advice to those who are interested in going to PSOs. Karaica said: "Although the mission in Afghanistan is extremely demanding and challenging, I'd be glad to go again. Honestly, not immediately, because it takes some time to get over the accumulated stress, to compensate for the time one was separated from the family, and to get back to normal life again. However, I would advise all those who are interested to go for it, because of the manifold benefits that I have already described. Of course, they have to be ready for the unforeseen and the risks this profession entails".

He also pointed out the celebration of the Day of AFBiH, 1 December in Afghanistan: "This is something that all members of BIHCON-1 will never forget, but our guests will remember it, too. In attendance were the RC North Commander, his deputies, COS, senior staff officers, J Heads, and our dear friends from the branches we worked in. With this celebration, which we improvised in the war environment, we managed to promote AFBiH and the state of BiH.

We accepted all our guests with open heart, and this celebration was something that people talked about long after it happened in Camp Marmal as an example of good organization, promotion and good time for everyone", Karaica said.

Interview: Brigadier General David Enyeart, Commander, NATO HQ Sarajevo

Members of the AFBiH will represent the best of their country



Brigadier General Enyeart, in your opinion, what is the importance of the participation of BiH AF members in peace support missions abroad? Can you also tell us what is your opinion regarding the mission ISAF in Afghanistan and participation of the BiH AF members in this mission?

The deployment of BiH units in peace support operations is very important, for two reasons.

Firstly, projecting a country's forces to counter internationally agreed security threats is one of the best ways of demonstrating both willingness and ability to make a contribution to international security. The ability to do this is one of the things that NATO expects of prospective members. Basically Allies will expect BiH's institutions to effectively deploy a credible and compatible contribution to international security.

Secondly, when soldiers and military organizations from several different countries are able to work together over a period of time, in a challenging environment, they learn valuable lessons that can be used to

improve future operations and indeed to improve the armed forces as a whole. I often hear representatives from NATO Allies explain how their participation in NATO-led operations contributed to a much greater level of professionalization within the military structures.

NATO welcomed BiH's decision to contribute forces to ISAF during 2009 and appreciates the expansion of that commitment in 2010. I am certain that deployed

members of the AFBiH will contribute to the overall ISAF mission while representing the best of their country.

A training of the BiH AF members done by the mobile teams of EUFOR in coordination with NATO HQ Sarajevo has started this month in Travnik. What is your comment regarding this and will there be more similar trainings?

With its new expanded mandate to provide training and mentoring support to the AFBiH, EUFOR has introduced the use of Mobile Training Teams (MTTs) as part of a general effort to build capacities at the tactical level. This approach aims to increase the capacity of AFBiH instructors to train AFBiH soldiers in line with NATO standards. We call this 'training the trainers'. This new EUFOR task is complementary to one of the main tasks of my HQ, namely to support the development of defense capabilities in BiH. I think this kind of training clearly shows practical synergy in the joint effort of EUFOR, NATO and the AFBiH. We will continue to cooperate in this manner.



What are your impressions and thoughts about the previous results from missions?

As a country, BiH has already contributed to a number of international missions around the world, whether on an individual basis under the UN umbrella, or as a highly specialized EOD unit with coalition forces in Iraq.

These deployments have helped to develop a new perception of BiH, as a credible contributor to security: as we often say, BiH has gone from being seen as a consumer of international security to being a contributor. The ISAF deployment will reinforce this perception.

How do you estimate the readiness and training of the BiH AF members who already were and are going to be deployed in the next period to missions?

The infantry unit that recently deployed with the Danish Contingent to Afghanistan had undergone a focused training program here in BiH.

My staff has followed the training and has been impressed with what they have seen. The 5th Infantry Brigade, headquartered in Tuzla, had done a good job on the training, something that was clearly demonstrated in connection with the Danish certification of the unit.

The Danish Army certified this unit in accordance with the same standards as they apply to their own guard units, and only minor issues were identified. As I understand it, these will be covered through additional in-theater training for those that have already deployed, and these aspects will be strengthened in the training package for the next rotation.

NHQSa will of course continue to support this process.

How do you estimate the overall cooperation between the NATO HQ Sarajevo and Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces BiH?

NHQSa has been here since November 2004 and played a key part in the development of the single military force that came into existence on 1 January 2006. Our relationship with both the Ministry of Defense and the AFBiH has always been based on mutual respect. As NATO's Senior Military Representative in BiH I have regular meetings with both the Minister of Defense and the Chief of the Joint Staff, and this close working relationship is mirrored between the professionals in the BiH defence institutions and the advisors in my staff. We are not here to tell BiH what to do, but rather to assist in finding solutions that will work in a NATO context, thereby supporting BiH in its efforts to join the Alliance. We are here as a resource for your readers and I encourage you to make use of us. We are here to help.

Cooperation between the AF BiH and the NATO HQ in Sarajevo

Bosnia and Herzegovina has a bright future in NATO



In 2004 the international community organizations who were active in the field of defence reform in BiH agreed that in the coming year NATO would assume primary responsibility for supporting the defence reform process in BiH.



NATO Allies formalized this commitment at their June 2004 summit in Istanbul, agreeing to establish NATO Headquarters in Sarajevo (NHQSa), as one of the two legal successors to SFOR (EUFOR being the other). On 01 December 2004, when NHQSa was established formally, the HQ had been mandated, as its primary task, to "advise the BiH Government Authorities on Defence Reform, including coordination of Partnership for Peace (PfP) related activities, in order to contribute to further Euro-Atlantic Integration". Furthermore, the NHQSa Political Advisor had been appointed with the mandate to co-chair the Defence Reform Commission (DRC – established in 2003 by the High Representative and extended throughout 2004 and 2005) with then Minister of Defence Nikola Radovanovic.

Throughout 2005 the NATO staff worked directly with BiH and international

representatives in the DRC and its many sub-committees in order to find good NATO-compatible solutions for the future AFBiH and MoD. They provided political, analytical, conceptual and legal support, and helped to facilitate consensus on the many complex issues addressed by the DRC. They also made all possible efforts to share standards, principles and best practices from NATO countries.

The DRC mandate was terminated at the end of 2005 and as of 1 January 2006, when the new BiH defence legislation came into force, BiH assumed the leadership role in the development of its defence system on the path to NATO membership. NHQSa has continued to serve as an external pool of resources that the BiH defence system can draw upon as needed. Very close working relationship has continued over the years as NHQSa has provided both funds and expertise in the continuous implementation process of the new defence system.

Since joining the Partnership for Peace (PfP) Program in December 2006, BiH has continued to deepen its relationship with NATO through participation in various gradually more wide-ranging and challenging PfP programs. NHQSa continues to support BiH in this process, working with a wide range of institutions on issues related to NATO accession. They look forward to supporting the MAP process once the 69 defence properties, required for future defence purposes, are registered to the State of BiH, as stipulated by NATO Allies. "BiH has a bright future in NATO and NHQSa looks forward to helping it get there", it is stated from NHQSa.

AFBiH Personnel in

Since 2006, AFBiH members have participated in two UN Missions, UNMEE – UN Mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea, and MONUSCO – UN Mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo.

From January 2006 to May 2008, the total of 14 AFBiH personnel took part in the UN mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea. This mission ended in July 2008 by a UN resolution. Between January 2006 and August 2010, a total of 20 AFBiH members took part in the UN mission MONUC, now MONUSCO, in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Five AFBiH members are currently serving in this mission.

Experiences from the Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea – UNMEE

It is Soldier's Duty to Serve in the Interest of Global Security

Major Nermin Hasić is Peace Operations Officer in AFBiH Joint Staff. From 7 March 2007 to 7 March 2008, he was in the UN Mission to Ethiopia and Eritrea, the UNMEE. Ethiopia and Eritrea used to be a single country, but on 24 May 1993 Eritrea declared independence. "Following the war between the two countries, a comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed in Algeria in 2000. The parties agreed to a 'permanent cessation of hostilities' and establishment of a neutral commission for border delineation. A provisional security zone was established along the border. Some of the major tasks of military observers was to monitor the ceasefire and provisional security zone in order to enable implementation of the agreement, patrolling the designated areas, reporting and coordination with non-governmental organizations", says Hasić. He told us that the AFBiH members were deployed to Ethiopia. The mission lasted from 31 July 2000 to 31 July 2008. The first BiH military observer was deployed to this peace mission in January 2001, and already in February we had 8 military observers there. The mission was extended from 30 January 2008 to 31 July 2008, when it ended. The peace keepers returned to their countries of origin. "I am proud that I took part in this mission as a military observer from BiH", says Hasić. As for his motives to apply for the mission, he told us there were many. "One of the most important ones was that only some years ago we had had military observers from all over the world and they had come to my country to help us make and keep peace. This motivated me additionally, because it was our turn to help someone. I must not forget another additional motive - the international environment. Officers from 55 countries participated



in this mission. And finally, the financial aspect was also important". Hasić says that the peace keeping mission was a great experience for him, because working in an international environment, such as the UN, was a great challenge, both personally and professionally: "To live and work with people of different background, tradition, race, culture, is a huge and valuable experience. Since I was a team leader during the mission, I had the opportunity to meet with local population, but also with the international staff working in the mission. Cooperation with the local population was exceptionally good, and I believe it was key to the successful end of the mission. Cooperation with mission personnel from other countries was also very good. This could be observed at the team sites where the observers worked together 24 hours a day. In short, after the mission, I became more content with my life, and I have to say I see things differently now". And finally Hasić tells: "I would go again, and I honestly hope I will. I believe that nowadays a soldier's

duty is to serve in the interest of global security, at home and abroad, throughout the world. Of course, it is good if you can find a balance between your profession and your personal life. I believe that participating in a peace building or keeping mission anywhere in the world is the most valuable thing a soldier can do during professional career. I would also like to underline that all five AFBiH members who took part in this mission represented BiH and AFBiH with dignity, they were professionals, qualified, and they were like one, so that observers from other countries took us as an example and often said that their contingents should be like ours. I believe that it would be useful to expand participation of AFBiH members in UN missions and display our support to the UN organization in peace support operations, as well as prove ourselves as a responsible member of the international community willing and able to make its contribution to joint efforts for building and keeping peace and stability in the world".

UN Missions

UN Mission in Congo – Lessons learned

Military Observer Must Be Mentally Strong and Adaptable

Major Željko Bradić is Plans Officer in the AFBiH Joint Staff. He has already served in two UN missions: from 28 August 2003 to 12 September 2004 in Ethiopia/ Eritrea, and from 4 March 2009 to 5 March 2010 in Congo. Comparing the two missions, he says that the mission in Congo is the much bigger and more complex one due to the mandate the UN Security Council gave to the MONUC mission in Congo. “It means that the UN forces may engage in combat-related activities and enforce peace, if required and in line with the assessment of the operational situation on the ground. This refers to the armed UN troops coming from different countries to participate in the mission. The MONUC mandate covered a wide range of activities, such as: peace keeping, security, DDRR operations, humanitarian activities, protection of children, and everything else a democratic country should have”, Major Bradić says. His personal motive for going to peace support missions was, above all, to meet his obligation as an officer in the context of BiH’s commitment to take part in missions. On the other hand, it was a big challenge – to be a staff officer in a multinational environment and represent his country at that level. Bradić tells us: “I learned a lot, and especially what it means to serve as a military observer under the UN flag. There were 750 observers from 42 countries in the MONUC mission. And to give you an example what it means, you live 24/7 with a team, you share everything – space, food, toilet, your free time. You change your habits completely. And you have to accept it. The UN mission in Congo is a big one, the biggest UN mission in the world, with some 20,000 members, plus local civilian hires. It is a huge country, and the infrastructure, including roads, is poor. Asphalt roads can only be seen in the capital and provincial centers. Let me give you one example to illustrate how big this country is. After I arrived in the capital, Kinshasa, and completed the administrative procedure, I got an order specifying where I should go, to which team. It took me 4 hours by plane, one hour by helicopter, and 3.5 hours by car to get there, to my team, where I spent six months. There was no phone or internet connection, and it was very difficult to stay



in touch with my family. I am just giving you this example so that you can understand what a military observer has to be prepared for. Above all, in addition to being physically fit, one must be mentally strong and adaptable”.

“As a military observer, you cooperate with the local population each day through patrolling the area of responsibility, you talk to them, you write down everything that may be interesting from the security point of view, such as robberies, insurgents, rapes, illnesses, epidemics, quality of life, etc. and then through daily reports you try to paint a picture for the Command of what is going on on the ground, so that they can act based on information that you provide. Misunderstandings are quite frequent, because all communication is in English, and many do not speak English. I tell you this as a former team chief. I was on duty for six months, and I had officers from India, Pakistan, Paraguay, Zambia, Mongolia, Uruguay, and Nepal. The list of the countries tells you about the differences in culture, religion, food, and customs. This is, indeed, an excellent experience, and not a single training or education can prepare you for that. You have to experience it, you have to live it to understand what it means.” Bradić was also intrigued by the several hundreds tribes that live in Congo. “It shows you all the complexity of the country. Each piece of the country, each tribe has to be integrated in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Each tribe has its chief or a king and they have their own traditions /laws in place, while the country is trying to impose democratic laws. I found myself in situations when tra-

ditional and state laws were in contravention. The traditional king does not accept the state laws, but implements the traditional ones the way he interprets them. The police and the army cannot do anything about this, because the majority of the population follows and trusts the kings, and not the democratically elected government and its representatives.”

This is Bradić’s advice to those who are interested in going to a mission: “I would encourage those who would like to go, but I would advise them to go through good training, especially English training, and other mission-specific training. Very often people ask me if it was dangerous. I tell them it was, and they have to understand that wherever UN forces are, some sort of conflict is present, the ‘sabers are rattling’. However, the job of a professional soldier is to go to war, and that speaks of the dangers that await those who deploy to missions. All those who decide to go have to understand that it is a completely different world and environment that you have to adapt to, accomplish your tasks, and return home to your family. I have taken part in two missions so far, and yes, there were difficult moments, especially because I was separated from my family. But I succeeded because of the unreserved support and understanding for what I did from my wife and my three children. And finally, wherever you go as a representative of your country respect local population, their culture and customs, and try to adapt, because only then will you be accepted and able to fulfill your mission and represent your country in the international environment.”

Experience from the Mission in Iraq

A Rare Opportunity for Soldiers and NCOs to Gain Experience



MSG Ivo Lukačević is the chief NCO for EOD operations at the AFBiH Operational Command. He has been deployed to the mission in Iraq twice. He first deployed to Iraq on 1 June 2005, with the first rotation, and he returned on 21 September 2007, with the sixth rotation. About his motives to go to Iraq he said: "In both rotations I was a member of an EOD Unit. As a member of a professional military unit, besides the experience I gained from being deployed to such a mission, there was also the financial aspect which could not be disregarded, especially having in mind a soldiers' pay at the time. I volunteered for both rotations, although, looking back, I realize that there was a difference in the pre-deployment atmosphere. There was a lot of uncertainty about the first rotation because nobody had been in such an environment before and there was no first-hand information. For the second rotation, the situation was much more relaxed, because we had "prepared the terrain."

About his experience from the mission, Lukačević said: "The first thing that comes to one's mind about the mission is the safety risk. The risk exists, of course, but the fact is that only the people who are deployed to an affected area can actually assess that risk. The picture created here by the media is different from the one you get on the ground. Also, by working and living in field environment, a soldier learns to use everything he was taught during the training. In a desert environment soldiers must focus on water, weapons, communication, food, hygiene, because the desert climate affects these things differently. Our EOD job also carries certain risks. The good specialist training provided by the US

instructors resulted in successful completion of each EOD mission. We worked in different environments: inside the Camp, in inhabited areas and in completely uninhabited parts of the desert. The purpose of our engagement was to ensure unimpeded use of parts of the Coalition Forces' camps that were contaminated with unexploded ordnance, enable the freedom of movement for the local population, and prevent insurgents from using the scattered unexploded ordnance for making improvised explosive devices (IEDs). The overall quantity of destroyed ordnance is a proof of this mission's success. After successfully completing the task, it felt good to receive commendations from the superiors in the chain of command of the Coalition Forces, but also to enjoy the kindness, gratitude and hospitality of the local population. Direct cooperation with members of the Coalition Forces from other countries was an invaluable experience.



As we received missions from the commands to which we were attached, in execution of each mission we relied on close support from other members of the Coalition Forces. With the members of the US Marine Corps we went through a large part of the Anbar Province, from Fallujah and Ramadi to Ar Rutbah and Karbala, and with the members of the Polish Contingent we travelled throughout the area of responsibility of the Multinational Division – Central South. This mission proved that our units could operate together with units from NATO member countries".

According to Lukačević, the first rotation of the EOD Unit in Iraq was at the same time the first unit formed from the former VRS and FBiH Army: "As a result of joint pre-deployment training, which took place in different parts of BiH, from Glamoč and Manjača to Pazarić, we had a team that confirmed its professional attitude at the very beginning. Each rotation received good performance evaluations, commendations and awards from the Commander of the Coalition Forces and the Commander of Multinational Divisions. Unfortunately, some of the experience gained in this mission was irretrievably lost with the soldiers whose professional contracts with the AFBiH were not extended this year.

When asked if and why he would go to another country or mission again, and what would he suggest to those who are interested in deployment abroad, Lukačević replied: "To the best of my knowledge, we expect deployment of the first group of four NCOs to ISAF, besides our officers already deployed to the HQ of the MND North. I have applied for this mission. I believe that I will have my chance in one of the rotations. The experience acquired in missions outside BiH is truly valuable. These missions are a rare opportunity for soldiers and NCOs to gain experience in a completely different operational environment and be proud of it. Several months of pre-deployment training followed by deployment to a mission are an important career step that each AFBiH member needs. Deployment of AFBiH members is always on the voluntary basis, and I believe it will remain that way."

At the end of our conversation, he stated: "Support and understanding from family members are of great importance. Separation from the family, especially if a soldier is deployed to an area affected by combat operations, can influence his performance and execution of tasks. Therefore, families need to be provided with everything they need during our absence, and they need to stay in touch with their loved ones."

Experience from the Mission in Iraq



Multinational Environment – An Opportunity for Improvement and Promotion

Lieutenant Edin Osmić is the Demining Operations Officer (AFBiH Operational Command). He has been deployed to the peace support operation Iraqi Freedom twice. The mission of the EOD unit in Iraq was to support the Coalition forces in identification and disposal of conventional unexploded ordnance (UXO) in Iraq. During the eighth rotation, in line with the requirements of the Coalition forces and upon obtaining approval from BiH, the mission of the AFBiH EOD unit was expanded to include assessment of combat readiness of the Iraqi Army Engineer company. During his first mission (third rotation), Osmić was an UXO handler. The unit was stationed in the US Camp Adder Ali, Tallil province. Our members were clearing sites (surfaces contaminated with UXOs) in this province and on the border with Kuwait. Some UXOs remained even from the Desert Storm.

He told us that his motives to apply for the PSO were, above all, professional. "As a professional military, I've always wanted to go to a PSO, to see first hand what it is like to be on a mission abroad, how it feels to help others and what I can do to make a positive impact as a soldier. Of course, a PSO deployment helps you settle another burning issue that we all have: financial compensation that can afford you a comfortable family life upon return. The second time, during the eighth rotation, I was Deputy Commander. The unit was first stationed in Camp ECHO, Al Diwanijah province. We cleaned sites in this province. The second time my motives were purely professional. I had an opportunity to see how PSOs were planned and con-



ducted. It is a good feeling to work with military professionals from ten different countries. You share experiences and improve your work to make the mission a success. I performed my duties in a professional manner, which is reflected in my excellent evaluation report, Commendation by the BiH Minister of Defense and the US Achievement Medal".

Speaking of his personal impressions in Iraq, he says: "First of all, the fact is that we had no casualties in Iraq (no one was even wounded). This is important because we had two units there. But I think this is due to the fact that we were well trained and prepared and conducted our tasks in a professional manner. During our mission in Iraq, we were seen as problem solvers, not as part of the problem. Another important thing is that when we deployed our unit to Iraq we were (and still are) one

of the few countries in the world that had peacekeepers on their own territory (EUFOR) and at the same time deployed soldiers to another country. We have proven our readiness to meet conditions to enter Euro-Atlantic integrations. Working in a multinational environment, like our forces did, is an excellent opportunity both for individual and collective promotion and improvement of skills of each AFBiH member. Of course, I should say that the credits for success of the mission belong mostly to our soldiers who expressed readiness and courage to go to Iraq. This is especially important, because from the beginning to the end deployment to Iraq was on a voluntary basis".

Lieutenant Osmić also points out the friendship among AFBiH members: "The friendship we developed in Iraq is a lasting one, and it proves that co-existence among peoples in BiH is possible. You only need to look around and see that that is exactly what this country needs. We are all equal and we rely on each other, because when you are in a convoy you pray to God you don't get hit, but then you look around and think how you can protect not only yourself but your colleagues, too".

Finally, Lieutenant Osmić says he would go again: "Once you have been in a mission, you want to go again. It is important to decide to go the first time. In a way, it was the financial aspect that made me decide, but there is the adrenaline, too. You want to learn more, you want to experience more, to improve yourself as an officer. I would like to participate in a UN mission, to experience that and to learn how it feels to help a nation under the UN flag".

AFBiH Members in Peace Support Operation “Iraqi Freedom”



Being a matter of state politics, the decision on deployment of AFBiH personnel to the mission in Iraq, just like any other military deployment abroad, was mainly a political issue. On the other side, it was also a technical issue in terms of Bosnia and Herzegovina's numerous obligations related to Euro-Atlantic integrations, such as NATO and EU integration. Development and upgrade of AFBiH defense capabilities can be best achieved through Euro-Atlantic integration – membership in NATO and the EU. The official politics of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Ministry of Defense recognized the need to develop defense capabilities through cooperation of the AFBiH with partners, and by reaching the standards that would ensure participation of AFBiH units, among others, in the peace support operation in Iraq.

Our soldiers' deployment abroad was fulfillment of Bosnia and Herzegovina's obligations prescribed by the law, as one of the AFBiH missions is to participate in peace support operations (BiH Defense Law and BiH Law on Service in the AFBiH).

In accordance with the decisions of the BiH Presidency, and upon approval by the state Parliament, the first rotation of the AFBiH EOD unit's first contingent (36 members) was deployed to Iraq via Kuwait on 1 June 2005. Rotations took place every six months. The AFBiH unit with the task to provide security for the part of the Victory Camp (49 members) was deployed to this mission on 18 August 2008. The return of the second and the last group of AFBiH soldiers from Iraq on 15 December 2008 marked the end of our country's participation in the Operation “Iraqi Freedom”. In total, our country had two contingents deployed to this operation: the AFBiH EOD unit and the AFBiH unit providing security at the Victory Camp, Baghdad.

The training of AFBiH members for their mission in Iraq comprised of basic training, specialist training, MOS training and refresher training. Before their deployment to the Iraqi warzone, our soldiers had 10 to 12 days for acclimatization in Kuwait and during this period they underwent training tailored to their needs – training with the equipment, primarily motor vehicles, used in the operation in Iraq.

The mission of the AFBiH EOD unit was to support the Coalition Forces in identification and disposal of unexploded conventional explosive ordnance (EOD) on the Iraqi territory. The mission of the AFBiH unit providing security to a part of the Victory Camp in Baghdad was to protect the Coalition Forces, civilian personnel, infrastructure, facilities and equipment within this military installation.

Mission results

Upon arrival in Iraq, our soldiers were first stationed in the Al Taqaddum Camp and, within only a short period of time, they demonstrated a high level of military professionalism and proficiency. From one rotation to another, all eight rotations of the AFBiH EOD unit, based in 3 camps in Iraq, achieved remarkable results in EOD clearing activities outside their camps, but were

also successful in other areas and social activities. They even managed to win a number of medals and other awards in sport competitions.

During our soldier's deployment in Iraq, the area they cleared from explosive ordnance was made safer, and this was their tangible contribution to creating safer environment, especially for the local population. Although their mission's success should not be measured by the amount of disposed unexploded ordnance, they, according to consolidated data, identified and successfully destroyed nearly 350,000 pieces of unexploded ordnance.

In eight rotations of the EOD unit in Iraq over a period of three and a half years, 288 AFBiH members participated in this mission – 214 of them once and 74 twice. In addition to soldiers in these two units, BiH also had a liaison officer at the MNS Command in Baghdad. Actually, five officers were rotating in this position over the deployment period. Among our soldiers in Iraq, there were five women in five rotations of the AFBiH EOD unit and three in the AFBiH Unit securing the camp.

The fact that not a single AFBiH soldier was injured or wounded during the mission in Iraq was considered the highest achievement. Also, from the beginning to the end of our mission in Iraq, participation in the mission was exclusively on voluntary basis. With this mission we practically confirmed Bosnia and Herzegovina's commitment to Euro-Atlantic integration, specifically through deployment of our soldiers to military operations abroad. Bosnia and Herzegovina should be proud of its soldiers deployed to Iraq because they represented this country beyond its borders as true ambassadors. Their deployment abroad proved Bosnia and Herzegovina as a reliable partner with a potential to succeed in the integration processes, especially those related to future membership in NATO.



Transition of military personnel



REJUVENATION AND DISCHARGE OF MILITARY PERSONNEL

Pursuant to relevant laws and reform commitments, the BiH Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces of BiH are conducting activities on selection and recruitment of young soldiers for the AFBiH, discharge of military personnel, and implementation of the Perspektiva program, which is designed for soldiers whose professional military contracts will not be extended.



The AFBiH are currently conducting a selection of candidates who applied for professional military service following the fourth public announcement of recruitment. The number of candidates for military service in the AFBiH is several times larger than the number of vacancies. A total of 11,869 applications were received in response to the previous three vacancy ads, and around 6,000 candidates applied for the recently advertised 600 positions in the Armed Forces of BiH.

Due attention has been given to the recruitment process, starting from the regulations that govern the recruitment of soldiers into the AFBiH, planning, and recruitment of soldiers in the AFBiH. Selection of recruits is a rather complex and

demanding process. Uniform standards for recruitment of soldiers have been established, allowing selection of the most qualified and skillful candidates for recruitment into the AFBiH. In the previous three recruitment rounds, a total of 1,701 young soldiers (117 of which were women) were recruited into the AFBiH. Furthermore, as of 27 September 2010, 298 candidates are attending the basic military training and will sign professional military service contracts on 1 January 2011. Consequently, the total number of soldiers recruited on the basis of three vacancy ads will be 1,999.

The timeline of recruitment of soldiers into professional military service is harmonized with the timeline of termination of military service for soldiers whose contracts cannot be extended due to legal requirements. The Ministry of Defense terminated military service for 299 soldiers on 28 February 2010, 598 soldiers on 18 June 2010, and 429 soldiers on 31 August 2010. On 31 December 2010, military service will be terminated for additional 464 soldiers, which means that in 2010 military service will be terminated for a total of 1,790 servicemen. While termination of military service for 191 servicemen is planned in 2011, no discharge of soldiers is planned for 2012.

It is expected that by the end of November 2010, the Ministry of Defense will receive approximately 250 requests from officers for pensionable retirement in accordance with the law, and in 2010 a total of 46 AFBiH officers retired in accordance with the law.

The BiH Ministry of Defense is implementing the Perspektiva transition and resettlement project for MoD and AFBiH personnel whose military service will have to be terminated in 2010 pursuant to the law. The goal of the project is to facilitate reintegration of discharged personnel into civilian life. The project is a comprehensive,

technical and efficient system of measures and activities which will provide the discharged personnel with streamlined institutional support, as well as with advisory, technical and education assistance and support. The project does not envisage a severance pay. However, discharged soldiers will be entitled to financial support for unemployed, which is to be provided by relevant Employment Offices.

Furthermore, NATO Perspektiva program has been established for discharged soldiers (earlier NATO TF II). The program will be implemented from 1 October 2010 to 30 September 2012. Lead nations in this program are Norway, the Netherlands and Slovenia and the executing agency is the International Organization for Migration (IOM), which together with the BiH Ministry of Defense will provide technical support to facilitate social and economic integration of military personnel that will be discharged in the 2010-2012 period. Donors of the NATO – Perspektiva program are Luxembourg, Norway, the Netherlands, UK, Sweden, Slovenia, USA and Bosnia and Herzegovina. Funds planned for this program amount to approximately 4,840,000 Euros.





Meeting of Chiefs of Defense of the US-Adriatic Charter

A meeting of Chiefs of Defense of the US-Adriatic Charter (A5) was held in Sarajevo on 20 May 2010. The meeting, with the working title “Partnership for Peace and Development of Operational Capabilities with the Focus on Disposal of Surplus Ammunition”, was a good opportunity for a discussion on future regional cooperation in the context of ammunition disposal. Besides the AFBiH Chief of the Joint Staff, LTG Miladin Milojević, the meeting was also attended by the Chiefs of Defense of Albania, Montenegro, Croatia, Serbia, Macedonia and Slovenia, as well as the Deputy Commander of the US European Command, LTG John Gardner, Commander of the NATO JFC Naples, Admiral Mark P. Fitzgerald, Commander of the NATO HQ Sarajevo, BG John W. Bullard Jr, EUFOR Commander MG Bernhard Bair, US military representative to NATO Vice Admiral Richard Gallagher and NATO JFC Naples Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, MG Bill Wade. BiH Minister of Defense, Dr Selmo Cikotić emphasized the importance of strengthening regional cooperation and stated that „all countries participating in the process will benefit from joint planning and coordination in different initiatives and operations“. General Milojević pointed out good regional and bilateral military cooperation with the neighboring countries, PfP members and NATO Alliance, and referred to the significant results achieved by some of the Charter member countries in the region, including full-fledged membership in NATO and MAP-Membership Action Plan for NATO. General Gardner reiterated the importance of the meeting which confirmed the high level of agreement on development of regional military cooperation and overall security. A joint statement on the priorities for future cooperation was signed at the end of the Conference.

Meeting with Delegation of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly



Representatives of the Ministry of Defense and the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina met with a delegation of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, headed by the Chair of the Defence and Security Committee of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Sverre Myrli. The NATO PA delegation comprised of members of the Defence and Security Committee and members of the Assembly's Standing Committee. On behalf of the Ministry of Defense and the Joint Staff of the AFBiH, the meeting was attended by Defense Minister Deputies, Marina Pendeš and Živko Marjanac, and Chief of AFBiH Joint Staff, LTG Miladin Milojević and his Deputy, MG Slavko Puljić. Representatives of the MoD and AFBiH Joint Staff informed their distinguished guests about the ongoing activities on fulfillment of requirements for the activation of the MAP and issues related to the transfer of military property, transition of military personnel, development of the Defense Review document, and AFBiH participation in the ISAF mission. The guests expressed their support to BiH defence institutions' efforts on the path to NATO membership.

Visit of Hungarian Ministry of Defense Delegation to BiH MoD



On 8 July 2010, a delegation of the Hungarian Ministry of Defense, headed by the Hungarian Defense Minister, Dr. Csaba Hende, visited the Ministry of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Hungarian Defense Ministry delegation was received by BiH Minister of Defense Dr. Selmo Cikotić and his associates. The two delegations discussed bilateral and regional cooperation, with a special emphasis on security situation in the West Balkans.

Minister Cikotić expressed appreciation for Hungary's support to the PSOTC in Butmir, this country's significant contribution to the EUFOR mission in BiH, and financial assets donated to the NATO Trust Fund for the resettlement of discharged AFBiH personnel. “Our intention is to initiate substantial cooperative activities between our defense structures, but also to participate in regional projects and initiatives”, stated Minister Cikotić after the meeting.

Hungarian Defense Minister, Dr. Csaba Hende, expressed his satisfaction with the visit to BiH and announced broad cooperation between the two ministries in the future. During the meeting, special attention was given to the strengthening of regional cooperation and achieving higher level of security in the interest of both countries. “The Hungarian Ministry of Defense and the Hungarian Government will continue to support BiH in fulfilling requirements for NATO and EU membership”, stated Minister Hende.

Meeting of Defense Ministers of non-NATO ISAF contributing nations



A delegation of the Ministry of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina, headed by BiH Minister of Defense, Dr. Selmo Cikotić, attended a meeting of defense ministers of non-NATO countries contributing to ISAF in Afghanistan, held in Brussels on 11 June 2010. The meeting was attended by representatives of 46 ISAF contributing countries at the level of ministers of defense, representatives of NATO, ISAF and other institutions and organizations present in Afghanistan. The meeting focused on two key issues – transition and training mission. Transition was defined as an extension rather than completion of the ISAF mission with clearly defined priorities (the road map). It entails transfer of authority from international to Afghan representatives at all government levels (central and provincial), including the army and the police. The training mission in Afghanistan was recognized as an irreplaceable transition instrument. In order to take over the leadership, the Afghan structures need to be adequately trained, and therefore more instructors are needed to speed up the process of transition.

BiH Delegation visits Brussels



The Minister of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Selmo Cikotić, headed the BiH delegation at the meeting with NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, which took place at the NATO HQ in Brussels on 14 July 2010.

The reason for the visit was Bosnia and Herzegovina's successful completion of the first cycle of the Individual Partnership Action Plan (IPAP) in the period 2008-2010. The BiH delegation also included Minister of Foreign Affairs Sven Alkalaj and BiH Ambassador to NATO Nikola Radovanović.

NATO Secretary General Rasmussen congratulated Bosnia and Herzegovina for the progress achieved in IPAP and expressed satisfaction with the fact that most of the IPAP planned activities had been implemented. He also thanked Bosnia and Herzegovina for participation in the NATO-lead operation in Afghanistan (ISAF) and welcomed BiH's intention to increase its contribution to this extremely important operation. He called upon BiH to make additional efforts in order to register the immovable defence property selected for future use as the state property of BiH as soon as possible and, in this way, fulfill the condition for activation of the Membership Action Plan (MAP) set forth by NATO Foreign Affairs Ministers in Tallinn in April this year. The Secretary General, on his own behalf and on behalf of NATO, expressed readiness to continue with support to BiH in the reform process. The BiH delegation also met with the North Atlantic Council (NAC plus BiH) in order to discuss the implementation of the IPAP. In the course of discussion, a number of permanent representatives / ambassadors commended the recent progress achieved by Bosnia and Herzegovina.

NATO STANAG Testing Conference

The Minister of Defense, Dr. Selmo Cikotić, and the Chief of the AFBiH Joint Staff, LTG Miladin Milojević, opened the NATO STANAG Conference, held in the Army Hall in Sarajevo between 31 August and 2 September 2010. The



AFBiH Section for Evaluation of Foreign Language Proficiency (STANAG Team) was the host of this Conference organized by BILC (Bureau for International Language Co-ordination) in cooperation with the Marshall Center. The Conference gathered participants from 16 NATO and partner countries (Italy, USA, Denmark, Moldova, Serbia, Georgia, Macedonia, Armenia, Ukraine, Estonia, Canada, Azerbaijan, Albania, Croatia, Sweden and Germany). The Conference subject was Standardized Approach to Testing Speaking Skills. The offer from BILC and the Marshall Center to organize the Conference in BiH was of enormous importance for the BiH STANAG Team, and the AFBiH and MoD in general. It was accepted as recognition of professionalism, expertise and readiness of the BiH STANAG team, which, within a short period of time, had completed the training of personnel and established an efficient system for evaluation of English language proficiency in the AFBiH and MoD in accordance with NATO 6001 standards. This marked the completion of the first partnership goal (G-0355-I) for NATO membership - the one related to language requirements.

Austrian Defense Ministry Delegation Visits the MoD of Bosnia and Herzegovina

On 21 July 2010, a delegation of the Austrian Ministry of Defence, headed by Austrian Defense Minister Norbert Darabos, visited the BiH Ministry of Defense. The Austrian Defense Ministry's delegation was received by the BiH Deputy Minister of Defense, Marina Pendeš.



The delegation of the BiH Ministry of Defense and the AFBiH also included Deputy Minister of Defense Živko Marjanac, Chief of AFBiH Joint Staff LTG Miladin Milojević, and his Deputy, MG Slavko Puljić, as well as other MoD and AFBiH representatives. The meeting was also attended by H.E. Donatus Köck, the Austrian ambassador to BiH, and EUFOR Commander MG Bernhard Bair.

The two delegations discussed bilateral and regional cooperation, with the focus on security situation in the West Balkans, as well as the prospects and plans of the ALTHEA mission.

Deputy Defense Minister Marina Pendeš informed the Minister about the organization and structure of the Ministry of Defense and the AFBiH, and expressed appreciation for Austrian Defense Ministry and Government's support and assistance in the implementation of activities defined in the Memorandum of Understanding and the Bilateral Cooperation Program. The Austrian Minister of Defense, Norbert Darabos, expressed satisfaction with the visit to BiH and announced extensive cooperation between the two ministries in the future. During the meeting, the two sides exchanged opinions on the process of Bosnia and Herzegovina's integration to NATO and emphasized the importance of the decision of NATO Foreign Ministers to award a conditional Membership Action Plan to BiH.

AFBiH Members at Combined Endeavour 2010 in Germany



This year again, members of the Armed Forces of BiH took part in the Combined Endeavour exercise - the world's largest military communications exercise of NATO and PfP countries. The purpose of this exercise that brought together over 1000 participants from 38 countries was to test interoperability of NATO and PfP countries' communication equipment and systems. Experience gained from testing interoperability between countries is used for planning and execution of peace missions and operations. Combined Endeavour 2010 was held in the US base in Grafenwoehr, Germany, as the main operating base for this exercise, and the US MK base in Romania, as a support operating base, between 2 and 16 September 2010. Twelve AFBiH members took part in six functional areas of the exercise: radio communication, use of HF HARRIS RF 5.800 and VHF ASEL SAN 9.612 radio devices, telephone switchboards, use of ERICSSON MD-110 switchboard, information technologies, network services, use of HP PROLIANT ML 570 G4 server and CISCO 7206 VKSR series router, frequency spectrum management and cyberprotection. Besides the above equipment, one HF HARRIS RF 5800-400 V radio device, located in Camp Butmir, was used in one of the operating networks of the exercise.

Civil-Military Exercise Joint Response - Sarajevo 2010



A civil-military exercise of response to a terrorist attack and mitigation of consequences, titled Joint Response - Sarajevo 2010, was held in the Rajlovac Barracks on 15 September 2010. The exercise was organized by the BiH Ministry of Security in cooperation with the BiH Ministry of Defense, OSCE Mission to BiH and NATO HQ Sarajevo. Representatives of all government levels in BiH, as well as representatives of neighboring countries, took part in this exercise. The BiH Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina made a significant contribution to the organization and execution of the exercise through participation of their members in the Working Group for preparation of the exercise, and logistic and infrastructure support in the execution phase. The AFBiH actively participated in the execution of the exercise with their CBRN detection team and MEDEVAC air force team. They demonstrated a high level of proficiency and readiness, both in the execution of individual tasks and the tasks coordinated with the representatives of civil institutions.

MEDCEUR 2010 Exercise in Montenegro



On 17 September 2010, a delegation of the MoD and AFBiH, headed by Chief of Joint Staff AFBiH LTG Miladin Miložić, observed the emergency rescue exercise held in the „Milovan Šaranović“ Barracks in Danilovgrad, Montenegro, as a part of the Medical Central and Eastern European Exercise - MEDCEUR 2010. The international military medical exercise MEDCEUR 2010 was a good opportunity to assess the abilities of military and civil structures in emergency situations and their cooperation and interoperability. The final part of the exercise was also observed by the MoD BiH representatives, Assistant Minister for Logistics Trpimir Rebac and COL Mirso Zuhrić. The exercise was conducted on five training locations and it involved scenarios with a building on fire, traffic accident, chemical spill, collapsed bridge and treatment of casualties. The closing part of the exercise was a presentation on Montenegro's Protection and Rescue System. Bosnia and Herzegovina will host MEDCEUR 2012.

Minister Cikotić Attends SEDM Ministerial Meeting



A delegation of the BiH Ministry of Defense, headed by BiH Defense Minister, Dr. Selmo Cikotić, attended the SEDM meeting (South East Europe Defense Ministerial) in Tirana, Albania, on the 11th and 12th October 2010. The meeting was used to discuss achieved results and planned activities within the SEDM format. In his address, Minister Cikotić informed the participants about Bosnia and Herzegovina's progress in defense reform and efforts towards full Euro-Atlantic integration. He emphasized the importance of SEDM in achieving this objective. In addition, Minister Cikotić briefed the participants about the process of disposal of surplus weapons and ammunition and participation of the AFBiH and BiH MoD in SEDM activities. He welcomed the full membership of Montenegro and Serbia in this organization and supported the initiative to consider Bulgaria as a permanent host country to SEEBRIG HQ before the next SEDM meeting.

Simulation Exercise SEESIM – 2010

Between 20 and 24 October 2010, representatives of BiH MoD and AFBiH took part in the SEESIM 2010 exercise, held in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This simulation exercise gathered representatives of South East European countries (SEDM member countries) at the Ministry of Defense Operations Center in Sarajevo. The goal of the exercise was to simulate activities of the BiH Crisis Response Center, BiH civil agencies, the Ministry of Security, BiH MoD and AFBiH, as well as civil protection bodies, in response to emergency situation. Civil and military defense institutions from Albania, BiH, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Italy, Macedonia, Romania, Turkey, Ukraine and the SE European Brigade Headquarters (SEEBRIG) were involved in the exercise, while Serbia and Montenegro participated as observers. The Ministry of Security of Bosnia and Herzegovina was responsible for the preparation of this exercise in BiH with active involvement and support of BiH MoD and AFBiH. The host of the exercise was Tirana, Albania, while the exercise was organized by the US with support from the WIF fund.



Agreement on Cooperation between BiH and Montenegro



On 14 October 2010, the Minister of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Dr. Selmo Cikotić, and the Minister of Defense of Montenegro, Boro Vučinić, signed an Agreement on Defense Cooperation between the BiH Council of Ministers and the Government of Montenegro. The Agreement, among other things, envisages military cooperation in matters related to support in NATO institutions, weapons and military equipment, training, activities within PFP and regional organizations, exchange of experience on disposal of surplus weapons, logistic support, peace support operations, crisis management, etc. Based on this Agreement, the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Government of Montenegro will develop an annual plan of bilateral cooperation for the following year.

BiH MoD and AF BiH to host 51st World Military Ski Championship in 2011



Following the acceptance of the BiH candidacy by the International Military Sports Council (CISM), the BiH Ministry of Defense and the AFBiH will organize and host the 51st World Military Ski Championship, which is scheduled to take place from 21 to 26 February 2011.

The championship will include the following four disciplines:

1. Alpine skiing, grand slalom,
2. Cross-country, women and men, 10 and 15 km,
3. Biathlon – women and men, 7 and 10 km,
4. Team cross-country – relay.

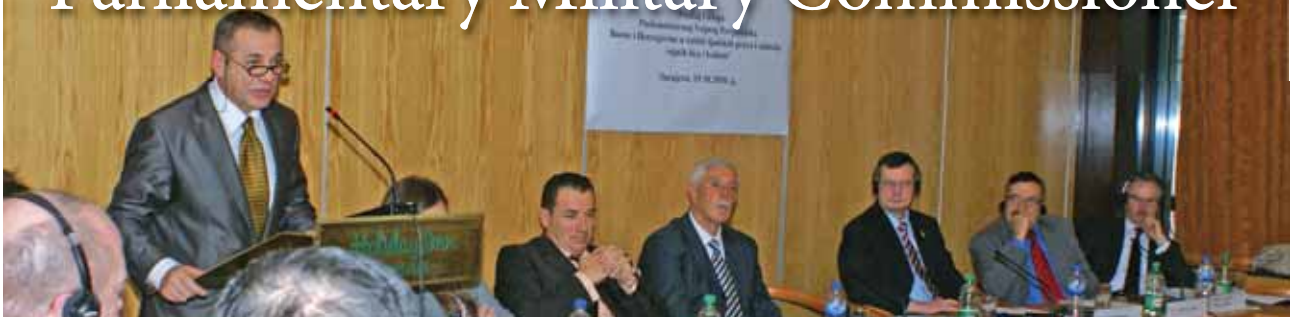
The competitions will take place on Olympic mountains Igman, Bjelasnica and Jahorina.

The AFBiH are ready for the 51st World Military Ski Championship and to host best soldiers/athletes from all over the world.

We hope and believe that our national tradition, hospitality and readiness will contribute to successful organization of this important sport event.



Conference on Importance of BiH Parliamentary Military Commissioner



On 19 October 2010, a conference titled „Importance and Role of BiH Parliamentary Military Commissioner in Protection of Human Rights and Freedoms of Military Personnel and Cadets“ was held in Sarajevo.

The conference was organized by Boško Šiljegović, Parliamentary Military Commissioner, and the OSCE Mission in BiH. In his introductory remarks, Branko Zrno, Chair of the BiH Joint Committee for Defense and Security, said “with the establishment of the position of the BiH Parliamentary Military Commissioner, the BiH Parliamentary Assembly primarily wants to develop and advance protection of human rights of all defense personnel. At this point, I can already say that we have been successful in that respect. With the estab-

lishment of parliamentary oversight in accordance with the constitutional and legal framework, the Parliamentary Assembly fulfilled one of the fundamental requirements for membership in the NATO Partnership for Peace Program.” Boško Šiljegović, Parliamentary Military Commissioner, noted that over a period of one year the Office of the BiH Parliamentary Military Commissioner had received 109 complaints from members of the Armed Forces of BiH, 44 of which have already been resolved. Šiljegović also said that the purpose of the conference was to analyze the work of the institution of the BiH Parliamentary Military Commissioner so far. “This is an autonomous civilian institution responsible for protection of basic human rights of AF

personnel. In the work I have done so far, I realized that special attention needs to be paid to the issue of the status of female AF personnel, particularly in areas such as access to military service and specific positions in the AF, jobs and equal promotion opportunities”, said Šiljegović.

Selmo Cikotić, BiH Minister of Defense, assessed that the institution of parliamentary military commissioner represents a formula which can serve as a positive example for resolution of many open issues in BiH. Helmut Kenigshaus, German Military Commissioner, said that in his country the Office of the Military Commissioner receives around six thousand complaints per year and that it will continue to provide support to democratic parliamentary control of the AF BiH. Vadim Kuznetsov, OSCE Deputy Head of Mission, welcomed the establishment and the work of the institution of the BiH Parliamentary Military Commissioner, and reminded that the OSCE was involved in the process of its establishment from the onset and participated in discussions and specific activities related to the establishment of this institution.



Activities of Support Command and its Subordinate Elements

Activities in Training Centers Successfully Completed



In 2010, the Training and Doctrine Command, which is a part of the AFBiH Support Command, completed all its planned activities. Three rounds of candidates for professional military service completed training at the Basic Training Center. The purpose of the three-month training was to prepare them for execution of basic military tasks and teach them basic military knowledge. Upon successful training they were recruited into the professional military service in the AFBiH and assigned to operational units in which they continued to develop their skills and further their knowledge required for timely and proper execution of assigned tasks. For the AFBiH this is a major step forward in rejuvenation of its military personnel.

This year, the Combat Simulation Center organized training for the third battalions of the infantry brigades. As part of preparation for their rotation in the Combat Training Center at Manjača near Banja

Luka, they completed simulation exercises with JANUS and BBS systems. Simulation exercises with the BBS system were also organized for infantry brigade commands.

In August, September and October 2010, the battalions successfully completed training in the Combat Training Center, which marked the end of the three-year cycle of collective training for infantry brigades. All exercises were done under the supervision of instructors from respective training centers.

The Professional Development Center (PDC) also conducted a large number of activities, majority of which was organized by the Language Section, focusing mainly on English Language courses. In 2010, a total of 343 servicemen completed two cycles of English Language Courses at the mini and midi English language centers, 99 servicemen in the main centers in Sarajevo and Banja Luka, and 76 servicemen completed English language courses organized within the IMET program in Rajlovac. The courses varied from basic level to upper intermediate. Two separate English language courses were organized for 60 servicemen, who are candidates for the PSOTC, two English language courses were organized for English language instructors, and one Specialist English language course was organized for military policemen.

As far as Turkish language training is concerned, intermediate level training, which commenced in 2009, was organized for 9 servicemen. Seventeen servicemen attended advanced Turkish language training and completed the cycle of learning Turkish language. On 14 October 2010, a new cycle

of basic level training in Turkish language begun for 17 servicemen.

In January 2010, in Banja Luka, 18 servicemen first completed the basic Greek language course, which begun in 2009, and then from early March to late June the intermediate Greek language course. On 13 September, thirteen of them proceeded to the third level of Greek language training.

French Language courses are organized in Rajlovac. All participants who successfully completed the basic course from January to May 2010, attended the advanced course that begun on 6 September. Currently, 9 servicemen are attending the course. A refresher course was held for 8 servicemen in May and June. The situation with German language courses is similar. In 2010, eight servicemen completed the basic German language course in Rajlovac, while 10 attended the refresher course that begun in October. Furthermore, in 2010, five servicemen of the AFBiH attended a three-month second-level Italian language course which was organized in Banja Luka.

Pursuant to the Annual Training Plan, from 20 January to 16 July the Professional Development Center organized a command-staff course for 32 officers, as well as basic and advanced officer and non-commissioned officer courses. Two Basic NCO Courses were organized for 30 NCOs, one advanced NCO Course for 30 NCOs, and one Basic and one Advanced Officer Course, for 30 officers each.

A number of specialist courses and training events were also organized, such as medical service course, NCO course for PSO, training for the Maneuver Training Battalion, T-84 operator and crew training, training of PDC instructors, IT courses, etc.



'Wave 10' BBS exercise completed



In accordance with 5th Infantry Brigade's 2010 Annual Training Plan, the brigade's Command Staff, together with commands of all subordinate units, conducted an exercise called 'Wave 10' on the Brigade Battle Simulation system (BBS), from 24 to 27 August 2010 at the Combat Simulation Center in Zunovnica. Along with brigade personnel and CSC instructors, a number of members of AFBiH Support Command (5th Logistic Support Battalion) and AFBiH Operations Support Command (Logistic Support Brigade and Air Force Brigade) also took part in this exercise.

The goal of the exercise was to train personnel in command and control procedures, coordination within the Brigade's Command Staff, as well as with superior commands, neighbors and subordinate units in an operation. This exercise was preceded by a MAPEX exercise at which operative documents necessary to conduct the BBS exercise had been developed. 'Wave 10' included all battle operating systems, with the main focus on the operation of logistic supply system.

Simulation Exercise Conducted at Combat Simulation Center



The Command and units of the 6th Infantry Brigade conducted a simulation exercise at the BBS system in the Combat Simulation Center, at the AFBiH site in Zunovnica. The V-60 and the V-30 meetings had been held with CSC personnel

before the exercise at which the Brigade Command was briefed on BBS capabilities and the Brigade's obligations in the preparatory and implementation phase, including the development of the brigade's METL concerning the occupation of an operations area, preparations for battle action in an operations area, passage through enemy lines, organization and execution of a counterattack and tasks of planned defense.

Upon receipt of an operations order (OPORD) from CSC, the Brigade Command went through the military decision making process, which included a series of analyses (mission, terrain, risks, own force), and which in turn led to the issuance of a decision befitting the mission and development of exercise documents.

The goal of the exercise was, of course, to train members of the 6th Infantry Brigade in the execution of mission through the execution of defined mission essential task list.

The officers invested considerable efforts and demonstrated great willingness to complete the mission successfully.

In accordance with CSC Standard Operating Procedures an After Action Review was conducted and the 6th Infantry Brigade received a certificate attesting to its successful completion of this BBS-based exercise.

Weapons demolition activities

Senior representatives of the MoD and AFBiH JS, and a delegation of the US Embassy in BiH led by the Ambassador, H.E. Patrick S. Moon, attended demolition of M 16 A1 surplus rifles at the Teufik Buza Tufo barracks in Visoko.



This demolition was conducted as part of the process to press-destroy 30,081 M16 A1 surplus rifles, under the control of Maryland National Guard and in coordination with UNDP and AFBiH. 8,500 rifles have been destroyed to date, at the rate of around 1,300 pieces a day.

BiH Minister of Defense Selmo Cikotic noted the importance of transparency for this process and the importance of continuing destruction of weapons and ammunition surpluses identified by the BiH Presidency.

He also thanked the US and UNDP for their assistance in these efforts. Ambassador Moon expressed satisfaction with weapons destruction process so far and said that the US would continue to support AFBiH in this field. NATO HQ Sarajevo Commander David Enyeart and UNDP BiH Head Yuri Afanasiev also attended the event.

Third Infantry Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade, Successfully Completes Live-Fire Exercise



After the successfully completed reconnaissance and motor vehicles movement on the Ustikolina-(Goražde)-Tjentište-Čemerno-Gacko-Bileća-Berkovići-Stolac-Čapljina-Posušje-Livno-Glamoč-Ml iništa-Manjača route, from 23 to 27 August 2010, 3rd Infantry Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade, completed a live-fire exercise at Manjača local training range near Banja Luka. The exercise included firing from 120 mm (8) and 60 mm (2) mortars and a POLK 9 K 11 Fagot guided anti-tank missile system, and it was the last lap of training before the rotation exercise.

The goal of the live-fire exercise was to verify the level of readiness of the 3rd Infantry Battalion units and crews before the rotation exercise. It is worth mentioning that members of the 120 mm Mortar Platoon of the 3rd Infantry Battalion were assigned to this unit from the 2nd Infantry Battalion in Bileća, and the 60 mm mortar crew members came from the 1st Infantry Battalion in Livno.

The live-fire exercise obtained highest grades. The 3rd Infantry Battalion, as the next unit to go through rotation exercise, has now completed all the preparations for this major training event.

Assistance to local population fighting floods in Derventa



After the Ukrina river flooded in Derventa, members of the Engineers Battalion of the Tactical Support Brigade were engaged in providing support to local population on 22 and 23 June 2010. The battalion carried food and water to homes in most vulnerable areas, and transported people to safe locations.

The local population felt that dedication and skillfulness of the Engineers Battalion members at the time when the town was overwhelmed by panic and rush to save human lives and property were most valuable.

Their commended presence of mind was in part the result of good organization and team spirit that the Engineer Battalion nurtures.

Sixth generation of candidates for AFBiH completes training



A ceremony marking the end of training of the sixth generation of candidates for service in AFBiH took place on 27 August 2010 at the Basic Training Center in Pazaric. BiH Minister of Defense Selmo Cikotic, AFBiH JS Chief LtGen Miladin Milojcic, Support Command Deputy Commander Brig Gen Dragan Vukovic, and commanders of other AFBiH commands and units attended the ceremony. Representatives of NATO HQ Sarajevo and military-diplomatic corps in BiH also joined the event.

Two-hundred-ninety-six (296) soldiers, including twenty-five (25) women, completed training as the six generation of candidates, signed professional contracts, and are assigned to AFBiH operational units in which they will continue further on-the-job training.

Minister Cikotic said that BiH had expectations and hopes for the future and, through continued reforms, would pursue its ambition to join the family of developed and democratic nations. "This generation is a part of the process of AFBiH rejuvenation, which will continue in the period ahead", noted Cikotic.

Col Samir Nukic, Commander of the Center, congratulated the candidates on the successful completion of training, swearing of oath and signing of contracts, and added, "You will continue to face new challenges of skills acquisition and improvement and development as physically and mentally fit individuals. By developing as professionals and in all other ways, you will also contribute to the development and strengthening of AFBiH and the state of BiH."

Soldiers Uzeir Ahmetovic, Emir Begovic, Saban Rakovac, Irma Becirevic, Brankica Bajcic, Bojan Skrbic and Boris Matijasevic received commendations for diligence and good results during training and in free activities.

Declared company completes weapons qualifications

As part of its regular activities, 4th Infantry Brigade's 'declared company' completed live ammunition shooting exercise with personal and light weapons that are not part of weapons normally used by their brigade (i.e. are not included in their formation books).

The aim of weapons qualifications that took place at an automatic shooting range at the Vodena Gradina Range in Bileca was to verify the proficiency of the declared company's members in the use of formation and non-formation weapons.

The Commander of 1st Infantry Battalion, Col Mijo Steko, said that weapons qualifications enable each member of the declared company to achieve a higher level of readiness. Results achieved at this shooting exercise attest to the fact that previous

segments of training were properly completed, especially in light of the fact that a number of newly admitted soldiers met with certain weapons for the first time and still achieved good results.



3rd Battalion, 6th Infantry Brigade, carries out rotation exercise on Manjaca



An exercise to verify the level of training of 3rd Battalion, 6th Infantry Brigade, was held on 20 September 2010 at the Manjaca Range. Some 300 soldiers took part in the exercise which included firing SVLR APRA 122 mm, 210 mm howitzers, 60 and 120 mm mortars, POLK 9K 111 Fagot and

other infantry weapons. Tactical maneuvers and procedures were accompanied by a helicopter assault and MEDEVAC operations.

BiH Deputy Minister of Defense Zivko Marjanac, AFBiH JS Chief LtGen Miladin Milojcic, AFBiH Ops Commander MajGen Anto Jelec, Support Command Commander MajGen Mirsad Gutic, AFBiH brigade commanders, military attaches accredited in BiH, and NATO and EUFOR representatives in BiH attended the final part of exercise.

The Training and Doctrine Command developed a scenario that included a series of tactical tasks to be performed by the Battalion Command and units, including the occupation of an assembly area, receipt of an operation order from the superior command, military decision making process, movement to contact, planned defense, counterattack, tactical road march and the occupation of the battalion's combat position for conducting live fire exercise.

Engineer units from the Tactical Support Brigade, 5th Logistic Support Battalion from the Logistics Command, as well as an Artillery Battery and Reconnaissance Company of the 6th Infantry Brigade, and members of the Air Force and Air Defense Brigade and their materiel were assigned to the 3rd Infantry Battalion for the purposes of this exercise, but were also involved in all the preparations for it conducted beforehand.



Firefighting Exercise in Bileca

The 4th Infantry Brigade, AFBiH organized a joint firefighting exercise in Bileca on 11 June 2010, which, along with the brigade, also involved units of AFBiH Air Force and Air Defense Brigade, and fire brigades of Bileca and Trebinje municipalities. The 1st Helicopter Squadron of Banja Luka participated with two MI-8T helicopters, which were tasked to put down fire using a PPV-2000 bucket. The squadron's third helicopter, an SA-342 Gazelle, was tasked with conducting reconnaissance of the fire area and performing medical evacuations. A demonstration for members of the military diplomatic corps in BiH and representatives of the BiH MoD and AFBiH Operational Command was held immediately before the exercise, and it included description of tactical and technical capabilities of MI-8 and SA-342 Gazelle helicopters in firefighting and medical evacuation.



Purpose and tasks of the Flight Support Battalion

The Flight Support Battalion operates under the Air Force and Air Defense Command. Its role is to maintain a high-level readiness of aircraft and proficiency of personnel in order to provide air support to helicopter units under the AF and AD Command and maintain the communication system for the AF and AD Brigade. The Battalion's main tasks include: 2nd and 3rd level aircraft maintenance, test flights after maintenance, and standardization, planning, preparation and execution of mandatory individual and collective administrative procedures in all the Flight Support Battalion elements. The Battalion carries out 50-hour, 100-hour and 200-hour inspections of MI helicopters, phase inspections of UH-1H helicopters (6 phase inspections for every 150 hours of flight), and annual and C1 inspection of Gazelle helicopters. Upon completion of inspections and in coordination with flight units, the Flight Support Battalion is responsible for carrying out test flights.



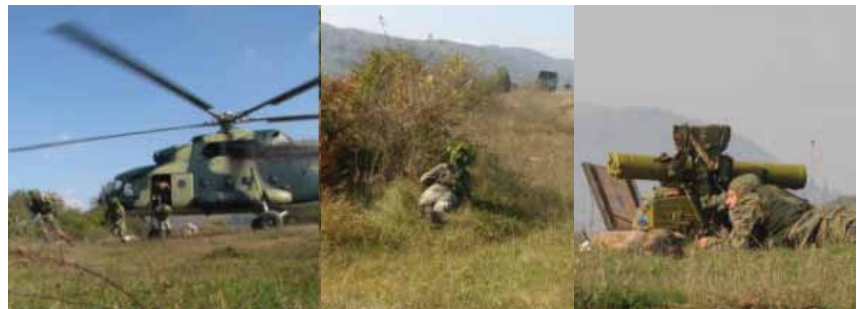
Parachuting competition

One MI-8T helicopter and two crews of the 1st Helicopter Squadron, accompanied by a logistic support team, took part in St. Peter's Parachuting Competition held in Prijedor on 3 and 4 July 2010 at the Urije Sports Airfield.

Jumpers from Slovenia, Hungary, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina (63 jumpers) came to compete at this two-day event and performed 567 jumps.



3rd Infantry Battalion, 4th Infantry Brigade, completes rotation



Members of the 3rd Infantry Battalion, the 4th Infantry Brigade, AFBiH completed a rotation exercise at the Combat Training Center's Manjaca Range, near Banja Luka, from 6 to 13 October 2010. The rotation exercise, which is the crown of the three-year training cycle, was conducted after long preparations and training of the 3rd Infantry Battalion Commands and units, which included a number of simulation exercises on JANUS Combat Simulation System and live ammunition weapons qualifications. The exercise was run following a scenario developed by the Training and Doctrine Command, which included a number of tactical tasks for the Battalion Command and units, from the occupation of an assembly area and receipt of an operations order from the

superior Command to the military decision making process, movement to contact, planned defense, counterattack, tactical road march, and the occupation of the battalion's combat position for live fire exercise. The high point of the exercise was the last day, on 12 October 2010, when the proficiency of individuals, crews and units was tested through the live firing of infantry weapons, M16-A1 rifles and M60 machine guns, 60 mm and 120 mm mortars, and FAGOT-POLK 9K 111 system.

The AF/AD Brigade took part in the exercise by providing medical evacuation. The last event of the exercise was attended by representatives of the 4th Infantry Brigade, AFBiH Operations Command and TRADOC representatives.

1 December



The Day Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina