



GUARDIAN

EAST

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COVER PHOTO: Multinational Battle Group-East transfers authority at Camp Bondsteel June 1. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Samantha Parks, 4th Public Affairs Detachment)

BACK COVER PHOTO: Polish soldiers practice loading into a blackhawk with full crowd-and-riot control gear. See more photos on PG 33. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Randy Ready, 4th Public Affairs Detachment)

Guardian East welcomes commentaries, articles and photos from readers. Submissions should be sent to the editor at mngbeast@gmail.com by the 21st of each month and include details such as the who, what, when, where and why of the photos. Please include the person's name, rank and contingent of who took the photos for the photo credit.

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MNBG-E CMDR

As I look back at the beginning of this operational deployment I'm amazed how little time has passed, but how long ago it feels. We are just passing our second month of the deployment and what a journey this has been.

Hohenfels was a whirlwind. We spent an intensive three weeks train up at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany training for multiple contingencies that could occur here in Kosovo. Overall, the time spent at Hohenfels was an eye opening experience as we learned to adjust our systems, procedures, and taught our leaders how to seize the initiative in a peace support operational environment. The training was excellent and through our experience, I believe we grew closer together as a team.

On June 1, we took the reins from KFOR 16. The transition between KFOR 16 and 17 was the best I have ever witnessed in my 24 years of service. The professionalism, and KFOR 16's desire for us to succeed was unprecedented. Col. Blake Story and his team did a great job setting us up for success.

Now we are settling in. The tempo is high and the demands on your time, capabilities, and resources are demanding. Now, more than ever, I believe we are at a critical moment that requires every ounce of your skill and experience to help the people of Kosovo secure the stage for irreversible momentum. We are witnessing first hand that people can work through differences peacefully. You are taking part in a historic event. You are helping the people of Kosovo move Forward Together.

For me, the experience in Kosovo has been uplifting. I have meet and experienced so many interesting people and places in my official capacity over the last 30 days. I want to ensure that all of you will have many of the same opportunities. Hopefully, you will have the opportunity to enjoy a few day passes in Kosovo through the MWR program, to see the area and enjoy the history and culture that surrounds us. I encourage everyone

to take the time and do that. Take the time to get to know the people, do your best to understand their perspective, but always balance that with remaining status neutral.

To the families back home, I want to say, thank you. Your support is more important now than ever. I want you to know that your Soldier is making a difference, a difference in the lives of hundreds of thousands of people's lives that will never know your Soldiers name, but at the same time they have a deep respect and love for your Soldier like no other I have ever seen. I have witnessed grown men and women here in Kosovo tear up at the sight of your Soldier, tear up with a gratitude, tear up with respect, tear up knowing that what years of the KFOR presence has done for them. Enabling them to live free, send their children to school, provide for their families, build a home, fly their flag. However your Soldier can only do the mission with your support and love. Please keep reaching out, sending those e-mails, cards and letters... and every so often a package doesn't hurt. I also ask you to reach out to your Soldiers buddy...not everyone is as fortunate to have someone like you. Let's leave no one behind.

This has been an incredible experience so far and nothing like I've been a part of before. I believe that the Soldiers of MNBG-E are in the right place at the right time, with the right focus. Finally, as we all settle in for the 4th of July holiday and celebrate the United States of America's independence, I ask that you take a moment and pause and keep in mind the Soldiers of MNBG-E. Have a safe and happy Fourth of July.

One Team, Forward Together.

-Lightning 6



Wow, I turned around a few days ago and realized that we, Multinational Battle Group-East, had already been here for 30 days. Where has the time gone? It seems like just a couple of days ago we were making that midnight flight into Kosovo. It makes me wonder how much we can affect the mission here with time moving so quickly.

The Soldiers of MNBG-E are working hard after finally settling in. The progress we've made since we departed Fort Bragg is phenomenal. Soldiers successfully completed the mission readiness exercise at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, certifying their preparedness to assume the mission here in Kosovo. With the execution of the Transfer of Authority ceremony, the next phase of this deployment began. We bid farewell to the Soldiers of the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and welcomed in the responsibility of KFOR 17. As always, the Soldiers of the 525th and those Soldiers and multinational partners that have become a part of the 525 family have risen to the challenge of KFOR 17 and are prepared to execute for success.

Since being here I've been fortunate in that I have had the ability to travel a little bit. I attended the Kosovo Security Forces Warrior Leadership Course graduation June 22. The pride on their faces was precious. The Liaison Monitoring Teams of Joint Readiness Detachment-East have invited me on a couple of occasions to visit with them at local schools. It is always humbling to be treated so graciously and always as an honored guest by the local population. Their continued support of NATO forces is espoused every day. As I travel from one place to another, I'm struck by the same thoughts that I have had on numerous occasions in the past, in other places around the world. People are people wherever you may be. They want basically the same things. They want to live their lives and to be happy and to enjoy life. They don't even have to be rich, they just want to be able to have pride in themselves and what they do and who they are. I can only hope that by the time we leave, someone's life here can be as greatly enriched as mine already has been.

So thank you MNBG-E for making the first 30 days such a huge success and for making the time pass by so fast. Enjoy this deployment and embrace our mission here as the next 8 months will go by quickly.

MNBG-E CSM

Lightning! On the move!

-Lightning 7



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

MOROCCO

Officially the Kingdom of Morocco, it is the most westerly of the North African countries. It has Atlantic and Mediterranean coastlines, and a rugged mountain interior.

King: Mohammed VI of Morocco

Independence: 1956

Capital: Rabat

Currency: Moroccan dirham

Official languages: Arabic, Berber languages

The country's military consists of the Royal Armed Forces- this includes the Army (the largest branch), Navy and Air Force- the National Police Force, the Royal Gendarmerie (mainly responsible for rural security), and the Auxiliary Forces.

Information taken from CIA Factbook.





CAMP BONDSTEEL, Kosovo—Five members of the United States House of Representatives visited Camp Bondsteel May 26. Representatives Joseph Wilson (S.C.), Tom Rice (S.C.), Denny Heck (Wa.), Pete Gallego (Texas), and Lois Frankel (Fla.), toured the camp and took time to meet with U.S. troops from their respective states. The soldiers are currently deployed to Kosovo with Multinational Battle Group-East in support of the NATO Kosovo Forces mission in maintaining a safe and secure environment for all people of Kosovo. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Samantha Parks, 4th Public Affairs Detachment)



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4TH PAD DSN: 5200, 3024





S.C. UNIT HANDS OFF COMMAND TO 525TH BFSB





Story and photos by U.S. Army Spc. Samantha Parks
4th Public Affairs Detachment

For the first time in nearly a decade, an active duty U.S. Army unit assumed command in Kosovo during a transfer of authority ceremony held at Camp Bondsteel June 1.

The 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, stationed out of Fort Bragg, N.C., took command of Multinational Battle Group-East from the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, a National Guard unit based out of Charleston, S.C.

U.S. Army Col. Waymon B. Storey III, a native of Plum Branch, S.C. and the commander of the 218th MEB, transferred authority of MNBG-E to U.S. Army Col. David J. Woods, a native of Denbo, Pa., and the commander of the 525th BfSB.

Storey congratulated his soldiers and commended them on a job well done.

“These men and women have served with distinction over the past nine months,” Storey said. “They have remained committed to providing a safe and secure environment while also fostering relationships, which have helped set conditions for positive change in Kosovo.”

The commander for Kosovo Forces, German Army Maj. Gen. Volker Halbauer, similarly praised the work of the 218th MEB for their efforts throughout the deployment.

“You have successfully completed all missions and thus decisively contributed to the overall accomplishments of KFOR, moving us all ‘Forward Together’,” said Halbauer.

Storey also reflected on the relationships that were built while in Kosovo and the lasting impact of their work.

continued on page 8





The reviewing party of Multinational Battle Group-East inspects the troops during the transfer of authority ceremony at Camp Bondsteel June 1.

continued from page 7

“When we first assumed this mission, we pledged our commitment to provide security for all through cooperation with local communities, institutions in kind, and international organizations,” Storey said.

“I pledged to you that my multinational team would be responsible and accountable to a vision we all share, which is a future of sustainable stability in Kosovo. Truly your success has been our success, and it is my sincere hope that we measured up to your expectations, for you deserved nothing less than our absolute best efforts.”

In handing over responsibility of the battle group, Storey was positive the future of Kosovo would continue to improve with the 525th BfSB.

“I can say with confidence to all here that you will find an incredible partner in Col. Woods and his dynamic team,” Storey said. “They stand before you prepared to assume this mission thanks to the hard work of their soldiers, the steadfast support of their families, and quality, realistic training and support provided by all national contingents represented in their formation.”

Woods said it is an honor to be working with their multinational partners and he hopes to continue the great work of KFOR 16 in creating a better future for all those in Kosovo.

“I look forward to working with you, building a team and moving ‘Forward Together’ to ensure our mission here continues to progress and to assist the local people in bringing peace and stability to Kosovo,” said Woods.

In his last remarks before handing over the reins of Multinational Battle Group-East, Storey closed with one final message.

“It has been an honor to serve here with all of you during these past nine months of marked progress in the history of Kosovo,” Storey said. “I greatly value the relationships we forged, and will miss them greatly. You all have our heartfelt wishes for continued success. Thank you, and Steadfast.”



Troops from Multinational Battle Group-East stand in formation during the transfer of authority ceremony held at Camp Bondsteel June 1.



Responsibility for the Multinational Battle Group-East Forward Command Post transferred from 1st Battalion, 118th Infantry Regiment, activated out of Union, S.C., to 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, from Fort Bragg, N.C., at a ceremony held at Camp Novo Selo May 24.

(U.S. Army photos by Spc. Samantha Parks, 4th Public Affairs Detachment)



MNIBG-E TF MED

Task Force Medical 16 transferred authority to Task Force Medical 17 at a ceremony held at Camp Bondsteel May 25.

U.S. Army Col. Noreen K. Diedo, a native of Warren, Mi. was the outgoing commander for TF Med 16, a unit comprised of more than 50 U.S. Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers from 11 different states.

Diedo wished the incoming commander, U.S. Army Maj. Marc R. Welde, a native of Ogden, Utah, the best of luck as his team, 421st Multifunctional Medical Battalion stationed out of Baumholder, Germany, assumed the TF Med mission.

(U.S. Army photos by Spc. Samantha Parks, 4th Public Affairs Detachment)



Joint Regional Detachment–East, made up of U.S. and international soldiers, changed hands May 26 from the 1st Battalion, 8th Infantry Regiment of the South Carolina National Guard to the 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade of Fort Bragg, N.C., as a part of their assumption of the Kosovo Forces mission.

The JRD serves as the eyes and ears of KFOR by meeting with local leaders and the people of Kosovo. The JRD is made up of several liaison monitoring teams, who routinely meet with mayors, businessmen and other influential people in Kosovo.

(U.S. Army photos by Staff Sgt. Cody Harding, 4th Public Affairs Detachment)



Joint Regional Detachment East





The Polish Coy transferred authority at a ceremony held on Camp Bondsteel May 27.

(U.S. Army photos by Maj. Wencke Tate, MNBG-E PAO)

POLISH COY





The Armenian Coy transferred authority at a ceremony held on Camp Bondsteel June 8.

(U.S. Army photos by Capt. Randy Ready, 4th Public Affairs Detachment)



ARMENIAN COY



SHARP

During the Sexual Harassment and Assault Response Prevention training held June 18-21, the Multinational Battle Group-East SHARP Program encouraged small group discussions on several SHARP topics. This included a discussion on the focus and operation of the SHARP Program, the effectiveness of the current prevention strategies, and the individual responsibility and accountability for maintaining a climate of dignity and respect.

One of the training tools utilized in the small group discussions was an excerpt from a case where a soldier, U.S. Army Pfc. Natasha Schuette, was sexually harassed and assaulted by her drill sergeant during basic training.

Schuette shares her experience because she wants to ensure other soldiers don't experience the same physical trauma and mental anguish she endured. She wants to encourage everyone to report any incident involving sexual assault and harassment. With Schuette's permission, the Center for the Army Profession and Ethic believes her story can be used to reinforce the importance of the Army profession as a way to eradicate sexual harassment and sexual assault.

Schuette's account outlines everyone's role in preventing sexual harassment and sexual assault. Everyone from the individual soldier all the way up through the chain-of-command has a role in the SHARP Program. Gen. Robert W. Cone, the commander for the U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, said that recruits and trainees in his command are a uniquely vulnerable group in the Army, but even well-intentioned leaders haven't always seen that.

The perpetrator, Schuette's drill sergeant, was found guilty and convicted in November of 2012. His charges included forcible sodomy, abusive sexual contact, indecent conduct, assault, adultery, and failing to follow a lawful order. He was sentenced to five years in prison, reduced in rank to private, and he forfeited his \$2,886 monthly salary.

We will continue to seek new ways to spread the SHARP Program's message to all soldiers throughout the battle group. If you have any ideas or suggestions on how to improve our training, contact the MNBG-E SARC/SHARP Specialist at terry.l.jenkins.mil@mail.mil or the MNBG-E VA/SHARP Specialist at danielle.e.carlsen.mil@mail.mil. You can also reach one of us at DSN 4567 or cell 049-774-590. We are more than happy to hear your ideas and take them into consideration!

To view PFC Schuette's interview visit: <http://cape.army.mil/case%20studies/pfcschuette.php>

MNBG-E Victim Advocate/SHARP Specialist
1st Lt. Danielle E. Carlsen



MNBG-E conducts SHARP training with small, centralized groups. (U.S. Army photos by 1st Lt. Danielle Carlsen, MNBG-E SHARP Specialist)





U.S. ARMY

I.A.M. **STRONG**SM

INTERVENE



ACT



MOTIVATE

Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Prevention

INTERVENE

When I recognize a threat to my fellow Soldiers, I will have the personal courage to **INTERVENE** and prevent Sexual Assault. I will condemn acts of Sexual Harassment. I will not abide obscene gestures, language or behavior.

I am a Warrior and a member of a team.

I will **INTERVENE**.

ACT

You are my brother, my sister, my fellow Soldier.

It is my duty to stand up for you, no matter the time or place. I will take **ACTION**. I will do what's right.

I will prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault.

I will not tolerate sexually offensive behavior.

I will **ACT**.

MOTIVATE

We are American Soldiers, **MOTIVATED** to keep our fellow Soldiers safe. It is our mission to prevent Sexual Harassment and Assault. We will denounce sexual misconduct. As Soldiers, we are all **MOTIVATED** to take action.

We are strongest...together.

www.preventsexualassault.army.mil

Military OneSource • 1-800-342-9647



Happy birthday U.S. Army!

Soldiers with Multinational Battle Group-East celebrated the U.S. Army's 238th birthday with a 5k fun run and a cake cutting ceremony June 14. (U.S. Army photos by Spc. Samantha Parks, 4th Public Affairs Detachment)



Greetings from the Camp Bondsteel Legal Assistance Office!



The LAO is here to provide servicemembers and other eligible personnel with legal advice on a variety of different issues. Powers of attorney and notary services can be performed on a walk-in basis.

A legal assistance attorney is available to help with a variety of other legal issues by appointment. The command provides a legal assistance attorney to assist individuals in whatever manner we can to alleviate stress and allow people to focus on the mission. Some common legal issues we can assist with are: family separations and child support obligations, real estate and rental, credit report problems, Service Members Civil Relief Act, immigration, taxes, claims, OERs and NCOERs, FLIPLs, and letters of reprimand.

When an individual comes to see an attorney for legal assistance related to the matters listed above, an attorney-client privilege is formed. That means that all interactions with our office are confidential. The legal office at Camp Bondsteel generally does not assist individuals with responses to investigations or criminal law matters but we can assist with referrals to trial defense services for that assistance.

While no one in the legal office is a certified financial planner, we can offer some general advice on personal finance in a deployed environment. A deployment offers many financial benefits and opportunities.

One program individuals should consider is the Savings Deposit Program through the finance department. While saving for retirement is always a good idea, if you are going to have a very low taxable income due to the deployment, you might consider reducing tax deferred Individual Retirement Account or Thrift Savings Plan contributions and placing that money in a Roth IRA.

Individuals who have sizeable tax deferred 401(K)'s or TSP accounts might consider a conversion of some of those funds into a Roth IRA this year as the converted funds are likely to be taxed at a lower rate if your overall tax burden is low due to the deployment income tax exemption.

When making an appointment for legal services it is important to provide as much information as possible to the intake paralegal so that they can determine whether or not the issue is something we can handle, and to allow the attorney to prepare to make the most of the initial meeting. The legal office can assist you better if you come in with all of the information, documents, and contacts that are relevant to the legal issue. Bring everything you have.

If you, one of your battle buddies, or subordinates is facing an issue that might be a legal issue, it is always best to come by our office or call in to ask about it. If we can help you, we will.

The legal office is also here to assist commanders with advice on investigations, counseling, disciplinary matters, ethics, gifts, claims, and other fiscal or administrative law issues.

The LAO is located on Admin Alley, Building 1330C, Room 3N. If you are seeking assistance with something other than a notarization or power of attorney, please call 781-4575 to make an appointment.

*Legal Assistance, Claims, Fiscal and Administrative
Law Judge Advocate*
Capt. Sean Kumar



FIRE

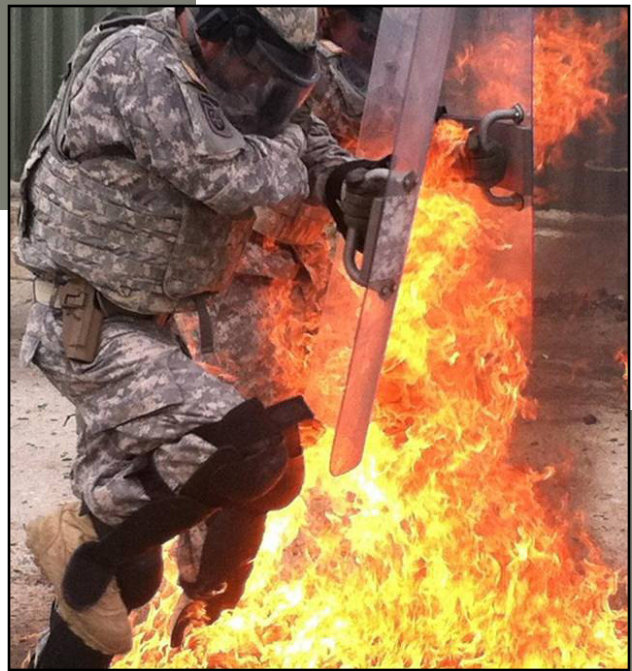
PHOBIA TRAINING

Soldiers with the Forward Command Post conducted fire-phobia training at Camp Novo Selo in May.

The purpose of the training was to show soldiers how to avoid injury in the event of fires while conducting crowd and riot control.

The training also assisted in helping soldiers overcome any fear they may have.

(U.S. Army photos courtesy of 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment)



ADAPT AND OVERCOME: GATE ONE SEES NEW IMPROVEMENTS

Story and photos by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Cody Harding
4th Public Affairs Detachment

As Kosovo Force 17 continues to settle into their new posts, soldiers have identified a number of opportunities to improve their living conditions and quality of life. At Gate One, a KFOR camp near the Administrative Boundary Line in northern Kosovo, these opportunities are already beginning to take shape on the ground.

One of these changes is modifying the overall structure of the camp in order to improve the quality of life for soldiers near the ABL.

According to U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jesse Harris, the “Mayor” of Gate One, this is being accomplished by adding in fresh gravel for the roads to keep equipment and soldiers from losing their footing in the mud. Harris says that laying the gravel will also help curb any issues with pests and sickness on the post that may arise from having muddy trails and stagnant pools after it rains.

In his duties as mayor, Harris is in charge of the maintenance and improvements of the post. For this, he has enlisted the help of KFOR multinational partners. Ukrainian Coy engineers began dropping off over 1,000 cubic feet of fresh gravel June 18, which over the course of two weeks, will become the new roads and pathways leading up and into the post.



(left) Soldiers with Company C, 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, conduct rappel tower training at Gate One June 18.

(right) Soldiers with Company C, 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, open boxes of Morale, Welfare and Recreation supplies brought up from Camp Novo Selo to the Gate One MWR tent June 17.



“That’s one of the perks to doing this job, I get to work with a lot of different [multinational] coys,” Harris, a Fort Bragg, N.C. native said. “I’ve worked with the Turkish so far, and I’ve met the Polish, the Ukrainians, Armenians, Albanians, Slovenians, Germans, French and the Moroccans. It’s hard to learn ‘Hello’ and ‘Thank you’ in all of those languages.”

Harris is also planning for the addition of new tents to better accommodate the soldiers stationed there. Though change doesn’t happen overnight, Harris is wasting no

time in laying the foundation for improvement.

Gate One is also seeing an improvement in soldier care. Thanks in part to the Forward Command Post stationed at Camp Novo Selo, Gate One recently received several boxes of supplies for their Morale, Welfare and Recreation tent to help improve the variety of activities soldiers can take part in during their time off.

U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Robert Allen, the incoming 1st Sgt. for Company C, 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, said that getting the supplies

was a huge morale boost for his soldiers.

“Where we’re at, we just have stuff that gets us by,” Allen, a native of Columbus, Ga. said. “Showing up with good stuff is always a morale booster for the guys.”

To help soldiers maintain a high level of readiness, the soldiers of Gate One have also expanded their training facilities, building a rappel training tower on the camp to provide safe, easily accessible training to multinational forces stationed on the post.

“The guys are enjoying it, they love the mission that we’re doing in Kosovo,” Allen said. “Hard training, hard working, and we all appreciate what MWR is doing for us, no matter how big or small.”



U.S. Army Spc. Anthony Atunku, a member of 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, packs up a box of supplies meant for Gate One at Camp Novo Selo June 17



CHAPLAIN



Chaplain (MAJ) Timothy J. Meier, Society of Jesus, Multinational Battle Group-East Chaplain, met with Imam Morina June 12 in Hodancoc to reestablish contact. According to Morina, KFOR had not met with him since 2010. Meier asked Morina various questions about Ramadan, which begins the night of July 8. At the end of the meeting, Meier told Morina that he would pray every day during Ramadan for Morina and his congregation. Morina smiled and replied, “Five times a day, 365 days per year, we pray for KFOR and all the American people.”

(photo courtesy of MNBG-E Chaplain)

Joint Readiness on the ABL

Story and photos by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Cody Harding
4th Public Affairs Detachment

The Multinational Battle Group - East Kosovo Forces 17 Joint Law Enforcement Liaison Team met with Polish soldiers, the European Union Rule of Law mission in Kosovo, known as EULEX, and the Kosovo Police in Gjilan to enforce security measures along the Administrative Boundary Line between Kosovo and Serbia May 29.

The JLELT, comprised of soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 525th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, operates alongside their counterparts from various nations and organizations to train and prepare the KP and Kosovo Border Police to provide a safe and secure environment in Kosovo. They also serve as a liaison between the KP and KFOR, inviting the local institutions to ask for training or assistance from the NATO-led mission.

U.S. Army Capt. Anthony Wilkins, from Kansas City, Mo., said the level of professionalism and technical proficiency he's seen while working with the KBP has been impressive.

"It makes it easier, but at the same time it's challenging as well," said Wilkins. "With a higher level of training, you have to dig into your kit bag deeper to find training to help them progress."

On this day's patrol, the JLELT visited Gate 6, which was under renovation from a recent move. They met with Ruzhd Abdulahu, the KBP commander at Gate 6, and members of EULEX who came to inspect the site. Later, they joined the KBP on a dismounted patrol of small mountain roads in the area.

Guzmend Jakupi, a member of the KBP, said it felt good to perform the joint patrols with KFOR.

"We like to have the joint patrols," Jakupi said. "We like to see if we can catch something, like the smugglers. We can stop them. We have to stop them."

The KBP checked several sites that have been used for black market activities in the past and set up a vehicle

control point on several of the roads, stopping vehicles moving to and from Serbia to inspect their vehicles and check their credentials.

Polish Army Private 1st Class Pawel Pelc, with the 23rd Artillery Regiment, said that keeping the boundary safe leads to keeping the people of Kosovo safe.

"I think we can give them peace here," Pelc said. "And they will feel better, not worry about their families."

Though the KFOR 17 JLELT has been in Kosovo for less than a month, U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Two Andre Harris has already been on three joint patrols with the KP and KBP. He said that building a rapport with his Kosovo counterparts, a critical part of their mission, was made easier by previous KFOR rotations.

"To be honest, I believe it is second nature to [the KBP]," Harris, from Rochester, N.Y. said. "This is KFOR 17, so they've seen rotation after rotation, so they're used to it. There's a bit of a transition period where the new unit has to build their rapport, but ultimately they're very cognizant of the new units coming in, so there's no issue. They're able to adapt."



U.S. Army Capt. Anthony Wilkins, a member of the Joint Law Enforcement Liaison Team, speaks with members of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo at the new site for Gate 6 outside the city of Gjilan, Kosovo, May 29.





German safeties observe and offer advice as French soldiers familiarize themselves with the German MG3 machine gun during the German weapons familiarization June 17. To qualify, soldiers had to hit a minimum of 10 shots with the German MG3 machine gun over three circles and one shot in each of three circles with the P8 pistol.

GERMAN TROOPS HOST RANGE FOR MNBG-E

Story and photos by U.S. Army Spc. Samantha Parks
4th Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers across Multinational Battle Group-East participated in a German-hosted range June 17 that gave all soldiers the opportunity to familiarize on German weapons in preparation for the German Armed Forces Badge for Weapons Proficiency.

The German Armed Forces Badge for Weapons Proficiency, known as the “Schutzenschnur,” is a combination of the German service rifle (G36), pistol (P8) and machine gun (MG3). If the number of required hits is met, troops qualify in either bronze, silver or gold standards.

U.S. Army Spc. Joshua Lytle, a soldier with Multinational Battle Group-East, said he was surprised at the differences between German and U.S. weapons.

“Trigger squeeze is the biggest difference,” Lytle said. “The MG3 tricked me a little bit. I thought I had it on safe, but I just had to pull it back more than I thought I needed to.”

The German troops have hosted several separate qualifications, but Kosovo Forces Command Sgt. Maj., German Army Command Sgt. Maj. Angelo Fuchs said each event is very important.

“Here we have the possibility to bring different nations together,” Fuchs said. “So not only do Americans have the opportunity to shoot with us [the Germans], but also other nations like the Slovenians, the Swiss, and so on.”

Lytle seconded Fuchs thoughts, but added a personal reason for having events like this.

“It’s important because it builds relationships between different countries,” Lytle said. “To me it’s also important because I’m part German and to take part in something like this is just something very personal.”

Fuchs added that not only are events like this enjoyable for soldiers to participate in, but it also breaks down potential barriers.

“What I figured out is, it is very challenging for some [people] to overcome the language problems and when they meet here in such locations, the language [barriers] suddenly become not that important,” Fuchs said. “So they meet each other [at the range] and some day when they have to work together, and that happens very often, then they have no problem to find common bases because they know each other.”

Driving in Kosovo is arguably the most hazardous event KFOR soldiers face on a daily basis. Even before KFOR 17 officially took over MNBG-E on June 1, members from its formation had already been involved in minor traffic accidents. Although the damage was negligible and no one was injured, KFOR 17 now has first-hand experience with local traffic accidents.

Coming from a different driving culture, one could easily think that local drivers are overly aggressive and that they take too many risks. Yes, it's easy to think that. Or is it that the local drivers have just come to expect that their fellow drivers are just as aggressive as they are? Having recently taken over, KFOR 17 faces a steep learning curve when it comes to predicting what often times is unpredictable driving behavior.

As I was working towards my certification as a safety professional, I remember taking a course on human behavior. On the surface, behavior and safety may not appear to go hand-in-hand, but I soon found out that there is a strong link between the two. A culture can be defined by its beliefs, its values, and its norms. Safety is linked into this in the form of the outputs, or actions, of a culture. The manner of driving by the local population is influenced by their culture. One of those outputs, or actions, is identified with their more aggressive driving style.

So what is the soldier of KFOR 17 to do? If you try and drive like the locals, you might find yourself driving well out of your comfort zone. If you become an overly defensive driver, then you could potentially find yourself run off the road. The best answer I can come up with is to keep your head on a swivel and maintain a defensive driving posture while being able to conjure up a hint of aggressiveness when it's needed.

All of the safety training I've taken has taught me to eliminate the risk. If the risk could not be eliminated, then an engineering solution should be utilized to all but eliminate the risk. If an engineering approach wasn't feasible, then administrative measures and personal protective equipment would be used to mitigate the risk. In the last two approaches, the risk still remains and you are merely attempting to minimize your personal contact with the hazard while safeguarding yourself with protective equipment. These are also the two methods KFOR 17 is left with to protect our soldiers from the hazards of driving.

SAFETY



While driving in Kosovo is probably one of the riskiest missions most soldiers will encounter, KFOR 17 will adapt to the conditions in time. In recent weeks, the accident rate has already started to taper off, but we must stay resilient to help keep this rate in decline.

When placed in a traffic-hazard environment, you'll learn quickly what works well...or not. In retrospect, the local driving tactic reminds me of a saying that was drilled to me as a young, prospective Jumpmaster, "Slow is smooth and smooth is fast." The manner in which some of these drivers maneuver their vehicles is somewhat impressive but dangerous nonetheless. Given a choice, I'll gladly add a few extra minutes to my travel time so that I can arrive at my destination accident free.

MNBG-E Safety Manager
Edson de Leon



U.S. Army soldiers with Task Force Aviation instruct Polish Army soldiers how to quickly load onto two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters with all of their crowd and riot control equipment at Camp Bondsteel May 30.

The U.S. and Polish soldiers are a part of Multinational Battle Group-East and were training how to load a Black Hawk in a safe, rapid and proficient manner in the event they have to rapidly respond to a civil disturbance.

(U.S. Army photos by Capt. Randy Ready, 4th Public Affairs Detachment)



Take 5

for Barbecue
and Food Safety

- *Never leave a hot grill unattended.*
- *Keep a fire extinguisher and first aid kit handy.*
- *Wash your hands, utensils and preparation surfaces often.*
- *Keep raw foods separate from ready-to-eat foods.*
- *Cook food to the recommended temperature.*
- *Refrigerate or freeze leftover food promptly.*

Take 5 ... then take action.



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Soldiers from Company C, 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment, from Fort Bragg, N.C., use all-terrain vehicles to reach areas of their patrol through mountainous and rough terrain in northern Kosovo June 12. U.S. Army Sgt. Aden Hameda, an assistant platoon sergeant with Company C, 1st Squadron, 38th Cavalry Regiment and an Indianapolis native, said "The ATVs are a method for getting to a site over a distance or terrain that we normally wouldn't be able to get to in a timely manner via walking or traditional truck drop off, but we found a use for them here up in the hills and mountains where it's pretty rough."

(U.S. Army photos by Spc. Samantha Parks, 4th Public Affairs Detachment)





French soldiers check on the Kosovo Police at a local monastery during a patrol in northern Kosovo June 10. During the patrol they also met with other KP in a near by village.

The soldiers also stopped to play games with children at the end of their patrol. French Army Staff Sgt. Matthieu Delacour, assistant platoon leader, said, “ To keep a good relationship with the civilians, we try each time we go to the village to meet the important people, teachers, doctors and village leaders.”

(U.S. Army photos by Spc. Samantha Parks, 4th Public Affairs Detachment)



KFOR COMPETES FOR PORTUGUESE NATIONAL DAY

Story and photos by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Cody Harding
4th Public Affairs Detachment

Members of Kosovo Force 17's Joint Regional Detachment -East competed alongside multinational coys as a part of a competition hosted by the Portuguese Coy in celebration of Portugal's National Day at Camp Slim Lines June 8.

Though the Portuguese National Day is June 10, the Portuguese Coy decided to hold the event on a Saturday so as not to interfere with the missions of the various agencies and coys that were invited to attend.

The JRD-E team was one of 15 teams that competed, ranging from the KFOR Liaison Officer team, the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo, or EULEX, team and multinational coys from across Kosovo.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ruben Cruz, a member of the JRD-E team, said working both with and against the multinational coys was a good thing not just for his team, but for KFOR.

"It builds camaraderie, and it supports everything that we're doing right now," Cruz, a native of Arecibo, Puerto Rico said. "Working together, one team one fight. We do everything together, and that's how we're going to be successful in Kosovo."

The teams were given six tasks set at stations across the camp that they needed to pass in order to proceed onward. The events ranged from familiar obstacles, like navigating a

notional minefield with improvised materials, to assembling a puzzle at the top of a "slide," a fully raised dump truck that had been coated with grease.

Once all the events were completed, competitors were treated to a barbecue, courtesy of the Portuguese Coy, and given the chance to relax after they had crossed the finish line.

Portuguese Army Lt. Col. Paolo Cordeiro, the commander of the Portuguese 2nd Paratrooper Battalion and the Portuguese Coy, said the event was designed to bring different members of KFOR together and to help build relationships.

"My intent is to bring some people who are not from this camp to spend time with us for this kind of familiarization," Cordeiro said. "It's also just as important for the commanders as it is for the Soldiers."

After the barbecue came the awards ceremony, from eighth place and up, with a promise from Cordeiro for a dedicated celebration to go along with the official Portuguese National Day Ceremony on June 10.

The Austrian Coy took first place overall, with the EULEX team coming in second. The U.S. Coy won fifth place overall, while JRD-E came out just ahead in fourth place.



Members of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo, or EULEX, attempt to reach the top of a greased-down 'slide' to assemble a puzzle at the top during the Portuguese National Day Competition at Camp Slim Lines June 8.



Antiterrorism

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Assess the environment before travel:

- State Department travel warnings
- Combatant Command warnings or restrictions
- Terrorist threat level
- High crime rate areas

Key references covering personal protection:

- CJCS Guide 5260, A Self-Help Guide to Antiterrorism
- CJCS Pocket Card, Antiterrorism Protective Measures
- Unit Antiterrorism Officer Handbook
- Antiterrorism Enterprise Portal

Determine travel requirements:

- Soldiers and DA civilians complete Level-I AT Awareness Training
- Family members ages 14 and older traveling outside CONUS on official business complete Level-I AT Awareness Training
- Encourage family members to complete Level-I Training before any overseas personal travel
- Country/Region (AOR) specific training
- Determine requirement for a Country Clearance

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School invites U.S. troops for field day

Story and photos by U.S. Army Spc. Samantha Parks
4th Public Affairs Detachment

What originally started as a day of question-and-answer between U.S. troops and school children quickly evolved into a day of fun, laughter and sports. Liaison Monitoring Team Four visited Kenan Halimi School May 30 to spend the day with the children, participating in activities like soccer, ping-pong, basketball and dancing.

"The kids were really excited," said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Charles Hipple, the LMT 4 noncommissioned officer in charge and Pittsburgh native. "They were dancing for us, playing football, basketball and ping-pong. It was a really good interaction between KFOR and the students and faculty here."

Hipple said though the children will run you ragged playing all of the games, the day went very well.

LMT 4 was joined by U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Sheryl Lyon, Multinational Battle Group-East CSM and native of Tompkinsville, Ky.

"I came to visit the school with the LMTs, at their invitation, to see a little bit of the countryside and a little bit of the communities," Lyon said. "I got to meet with the director [of the school] and I was able to ask him a lot of questions about how their school systems run. It has been very informative for me."

Lyon spent the morning touring the school and meeting the faculty before being taught a dance by the children. She said she had a blast and that dancing with the children was the most memorable part of the day.

"The kids are wonderful," Lyon said. "They want to laugh and talk and have a good time. They are letting us dance with them and learn their dances and showing us a lot of things, so it's really good."

U.S. Army Spc. Stanley Walker, a soldier with LMT 4 and native of Brentwood, N.Y., said they were out as a liaison team, but got to have fun interacting with the kids, building relationships and just getting to know the local community.



"I got to play ping-pong with some of the kids here today," Walker said. "It was fun. Today was my first time playing [ping-pong]. Some of the kids, I think, just let me win."

The idea for the visit originally started with the director of the school requesting LMT 4 to come and talk to the classes, Hipple said.

"During the course of me getting to know my area, I came to this school," Hipple said. "I talked to the director and he was really happy to see us. He told me that he hasn't really seen KFOR in the last two years or so."

On my second visit here, he told me about how he wanted KFOR soldiers to come in and have a little [question-and-answer] with the students; he just wanted us to come into the classroom and talk to the kids and let them practice their English. So on the third visit, when I came to confirm it, he said, 'hey would you guys be interested in coming out and playing some sports with the kids and just hanging out all day like a field day type thing.'"

Hipple said the director of the school, Mr. Milaim Misini, and his faculty completely organized the day.

"As long as the schools come up with it and organize it, I will participate wherever I can," Hipple said.

The main focus for him and his team over the next nine

months is the schools and children, Hipple said.

"It's my opinion that if we can get through to the kids and show the kids that there is a better tomorrow if they want it to be, then that's what's rewarding for me," he said. "I've been around to other schools in this village and everybody knew that we were coming here today. So the word is spreading that KFOR 17 is out here and we are here to engage with the local populace."

It's very important to Hipple that the community feels comfortable interacting with him and his team. He wants them to know KFOR troops and not associate them with any negative stigma.

"It's just going to show them that we're not someone to be scared of, that we're not all here just about business," Hipple said. "Because I've seen it in the past where military, in any country, will go out there and have this stigma about them like 'oh you can't talk to me, stay away from me, we don't know how to have fun.' We might suck at playing football, but we aren't afraid to try it, we aren't afraid to lose. We're humble people."

Kenan Halimi School will come together with several other schools in the community on June 4th for the ninth grade graduation. Hipple said he is very excited because he has already been extended an invitation and plans on attending.



A school child at Kenan Halimi School competes in a ping-pong game against Spc. Stanley Walker, Liaison Monitoring Team Four and native of Brentwood, N.Y.

(left) Children at the Kenan Halimi School teach U.S. troops how to dance.



Troops play a game of three-on-three basketball with school children.





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Jess Penner





Jess Penner and her band performed for troops at Camp Bondsteel June 19. Penner is an Indie-Pop song artist from Los Angeles. (U.S. Army photos by Spc. Samantha Parks, 4th Public Affairs Detachment)





KFOR troops, school principal host talent show

Story and photos by U.S. Army Spc. Samantha Parks
4th Public Affairs Detachment

More than 70 children participated in a talent show organized by Kosovo Forces and school administrators June 18. Liaison Monitoring Team Six worked with the Firaja school principal to put the event together for the communities of Boda and Firaja.

"The idea for the talent show was my idea," said U.S. Army Sgt. Megan Kent, a noncommissioned officer of LMT 6 and native of Lebanon, Mo. "With the help from LMT 6 and the principal of Firaja, we worked together to coordinate it."

Kent got the idea from her personal childhood.

"The reason I decided to bring up the talent show idea is because it is

something we do back home at the end of the school year," Kent said.

The principal provided the sound equipment needed as well as books for prizes for first, second and third place. Kent and her team provided two of the four judges and additional prizes for the children.

U.S. Army Pfc. Daniel Quevedo, a member of LMT 6 and a Miami native, said "Some of these towns haven't seen [KFOR] in a really long time, so we just want to make sure that they see us working with the kids and the teachers."

Quevedo added that events like the talent show reinforce the mission of KFOR, but also remind the communities that they are here to make friends and learn about their culture.

Children performed acts like singing, traditional and hip-hop dancing, and skits. The troops were also treated to poetry reading and traditional stories.

"The kids have been training for about a week, putting acts together," said Quevedo.

Polish Chief Warrant Officer 2 Mi-jrci Jrzlowcka, one of the judges selected from KFOR, said the day was excellent.

"My favorite part of the day was the little boy who danced," Jrzlowcka said. "Today is important in my opinion because KFOR and the local people should be more cooperative and interactive."



U.S. soldiers with Multinational Battle Group-East Liaison Monitoring Six enjoy the talent show with other children from the school. U.S. Army Pfc. Daniel Quevedo teaches several boys how to high five. Several acts featured dances with traditional clothing.





MWR JUNE SOCCER TOURNAMENT

FINAL SCORE: UKRAINE 5 U.S. 0



The Camp Bondsteel MWR hosted a soccer tournament June 23 with a Ukrainian team defeating an American squad to be crowned tournament champions.

U.S. Army photos by Staff Sgt. Kathy Gregg, MNBG-E CSM Administrative Assistant

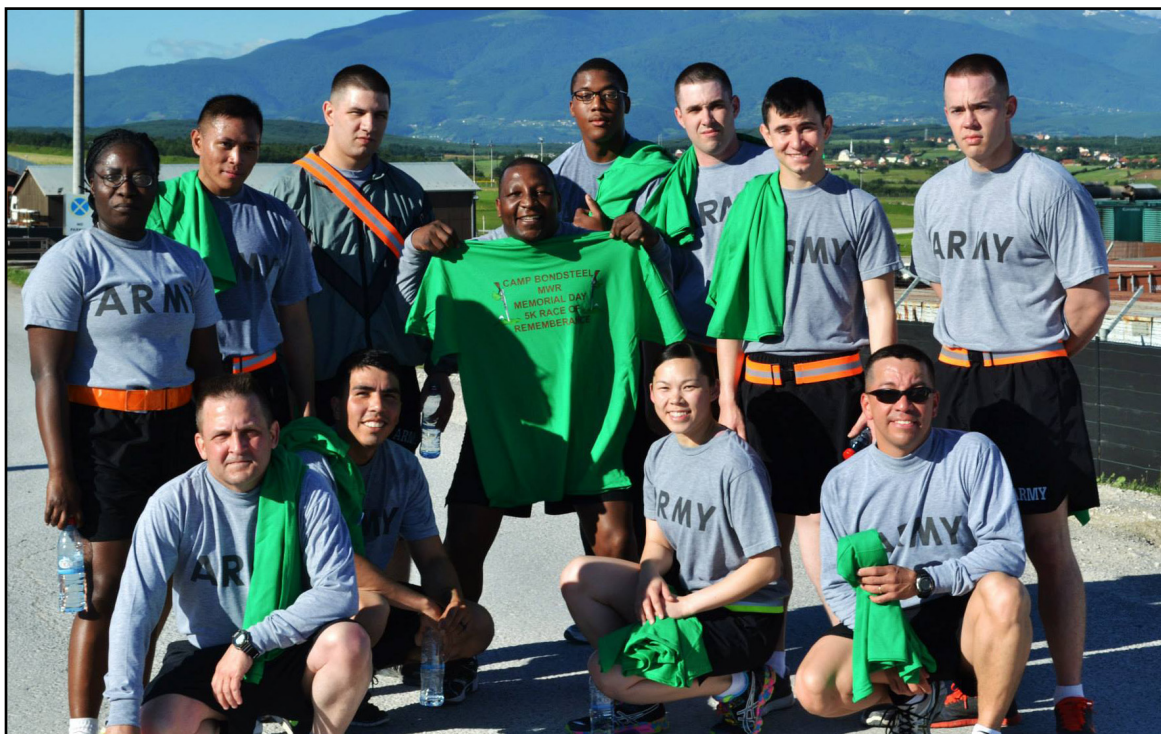


SUBMITTED PHOTOS

(Photo courtesy of JRD-E)



U.S. soldiers with Joint Regional Detachment-East climbed Mount Luboten June 16. Mt. Luboten is located near the FYROM border and can be seen from Camp Bondsteel. The group used the climb as a team building event, with more than 70 soldiers reaching the peak. Mt. Luboten is commonly nicknamed “Mt. Duke” by MNBG-E troops.



Task Force MED poses for a group photo after completing a 5k fun run May 31. (courtesy photo by Sgt. Ryan Sergeant, TF MED)

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BRAIN BUSTERS

Moderate

91

5	7			1				
2		8	7		6		9	3
4	9			2			7	
7	5				2		8	9
8	6	4		7	5			1
		5						2
1		7	2		4	5		
	4					3		

Drop off your answers to the public affairs office in BLDG 2130A. All those with correct answers will be entered into a drawing for a gift card. Answers must be submitted by July 12. Winner announced July 15 on the Facebook page. Answers posted in next month's issue.



My Time: _____ min

Beginner: 30 min

Intermediate: 15 min

Expert: 8 min

ACROSS

- 1 Some charity fundraisers
6 Outspoken
11 Org. with a code
14 Singer Davis with the 1998 hit "32 Flavors"
15 Airplane seat choice
16 Old ____, London theater
17 Joie de vivre
19 Lab eggs
20 Accomplish
21 Star-related
23 Prank player
26 "South Park" kid
27 Preceder of Bell or shell
31 Speed-happy driver
33 Book in which the first Passover occurred
35 Castle protector
36 Middle-earth meanie
39 Teacher's charge
40 Paris's ____ Invalides
41 Colder and windier
43 "____ a Tramp" ("Lady and the Tramp" tune)
44 Singer Pinza
46 Popular setting for a wedding
47 Fantastically wonderful
50 Snare
51 Daughter of Czar Nicholas I or II
53 Arctic bird
55 Newswoman Katie
57 Diner sign filler
62 ____-la-la
63 Speaking manner
66 Go wrong

- 67 Proficient
68 O.K.
69 Newsman Koppel
70 Fix, as laces
71 This puzzle's theme

DOWN

- 1 ____ Strip (much-fought-over area)
2 British P.M. ____ Douglas-Home
3 Whip
4 Prefix with matter
5 Like wearing a seat belt, e.g.
6 Lombardy province or its capital
7 De-squeak
8 CBS forensic drama
9 "Our Gang" kid
10 Famous Virginia family
11 Lofty place for an academic
12 Pepsi vis-à-vis Coke
13 Symbol of justice
18 Racetracks
22 Bout decision
24 Didn't stay on
25 Kerfuffles
27 Part of M.I.T.: Abbr.
28 Highway toll unit
29 Its academy is in New London, Conn.
30 Some E.R. cases
32 ____ vez (again, in Spanish)
34 Preowned
37 Singer McEntire
38 Wheat, barley or beans
40 In ____ of

- 42 First drug approved to treat AIDS
45 90210, for Beverly Hills
46 Feeling of loss
48 Person obeying a coxswain
49 Significant
51 Four duos
52 Peter of "M"
54 Super stars
56 ____-Tass news agency
58 Court plea, informally
59 Tributary of the Colorado
60 Rent-____ (security person for hire)
61 Wraps (up)
64 Snare
65 Prefix with dermis

