

CROMIL

CROATIAN MILITARY MAGAZINE

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INTERVIEW - DEFENSE MINISTER OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CROATIA BRANKO VUKELIĆ

**ENTRY INTO NATO CONFIRMATION OF
CROATIA'S PROGRESS IN ENTIRETY**

CROATIAN SOLDIERS

**IN THE MISSION ISAF IN
AFGHANISTAN**

INTERVIEW - GENERAL JOSIP LUCIĆ

**RECOGNITIONS
ARE FLATTERING BUT
BINDING**

CROATIAN ARMY WITH THE LARGEST FORCES IN NATO LED OPERATIONS

**RECOGNIZED AND
APPRECIATED IN
INTERNATIONAL
ENVIRONMENT**

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NEW CROATIAN CAMOUFLAGE COMBAT UNIFORMS

Defense Minister of the Republic of Croatia Branko Vukelić and KROKO - Internacional Director and holder of the contract of the Association of Bidders, Denis Popović have signed a Contract. For the procurement of new combat uniforms for the CAF's requirements for 2009 that could last several years. This is a procurement of new combat uniforms in camouflage. The so-called desert variants that

are technically and visually different from the old ones will have a stylized picture of the Croatian map. Specific qualities of the new uniforms are raw-materials structure, prolonged time of usage, long-lasting dyes, increased airiness and stability of material, as well as a specially designed recognizable "ornament". Uniforms could be worn maximally for two years, meaning that durability has been prolonged.

PRINT:

The digitalized ornament is a relief-shape of the Republic of Croatia. It is already used on the desert uniform and it enables easy recognizability of the uniform.

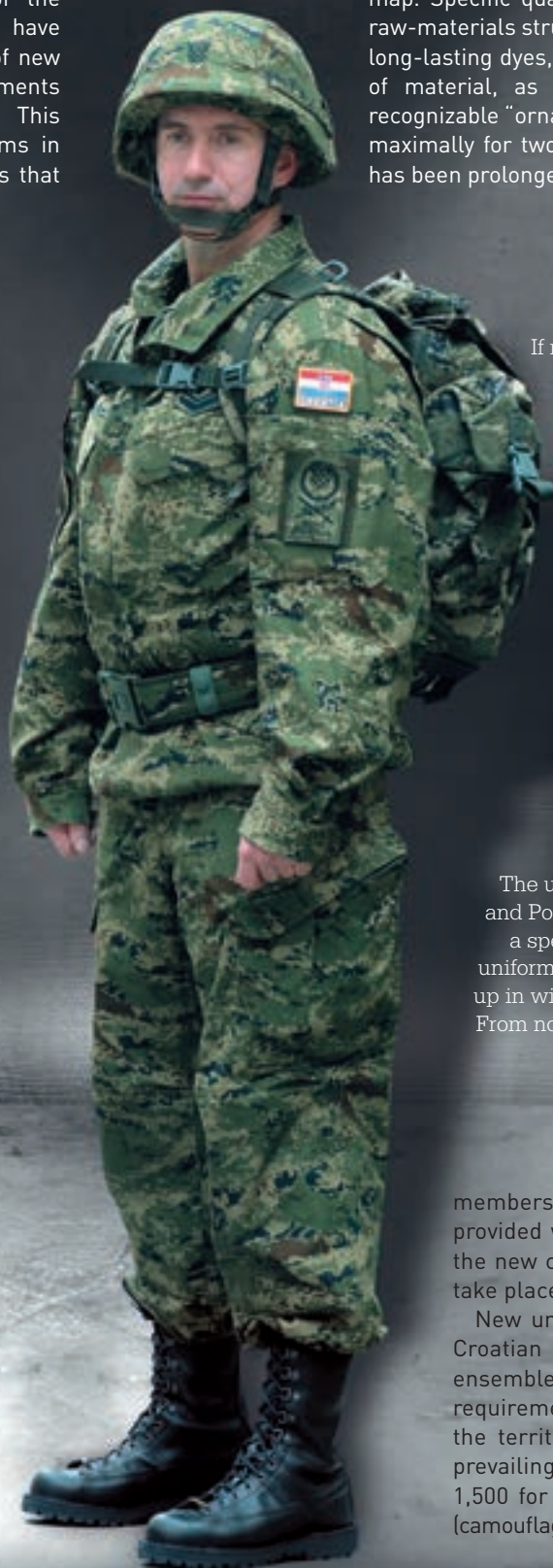
BELT:

As compared to the old one, the new belt has three safety systems that substantially diminish the possibility of coming off during crawling.

PROTECTIVE GEL:

Pockets containing special gel d30 were placed on the knees and elbows. This latest invention additionally protects soldiers' knees and elbows.

The contract amounts to 40 million HRK and the goal is to equip and arm Croatian soldiers with Croatian equipment and weapons; this four-year old project has produced a Croatian product that is recognizable and of quality. Workmanship of the new uniform for one Croatian soldier will cost, about 2,400 HRK (in distinction from former 4,000 HRK). By the end of this year, half of Croatian soldiers will have received their new uniforms, and in 2010, all



BACK PACK:

If needed, a soldier can release the back pack by pushing a button.

POCKETS:

All pockets have Velcro straps and do not have buttons.

MATERIAL:

The uniform is made of special cotton and Polyamide. The desert uniform has a special coat that is a repellent. The uniform does not retain sweat, it warms up in winter and cools down in summer. From now on soldiers' protection will be improved by 70 percent.

members of the armed forces will be provided with them. The first delivery of the new combat uniforms is expected to take place in April.

New uniforms will be produced by 14 Croatian companies; these are 10,000 ensembles and 8,500 of them will be for requirements of the Armed forces on the territory of Croatia (camouflage, of prevailing green color in digital print), and 1,500 for use in peacekeeping missions (camouflage, of desert color in digital print).

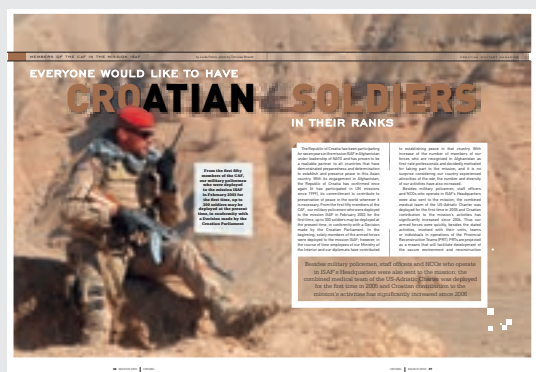
photo by Davor Kirin



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EDITORIAL

Dear readers,

You have in your hands a new edition of the Division of Croatian Military Press, of the Public Relations and Information Department of the Croatian Ministry of Defense, a magazine that will initially be published twice a year and primarily be dedicated to the promotion of our armed forces in the world. As the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Army pace slowly but with certainty towards set international goals and the forthcoming entry of Croatia in NATO is certainly one of the most important goals, we also wanted to make an additional step on that pathway.

The purpose of this magazine is manifold.

Croatian soldiers throughout the world participate in peacekeeping missions and solely receive commendations for the performance of their tasks. We wish that this magazine should provide support while they carry out their tasks, that colleagues they work with in joint operations could read and learn more about Croatia and the Croatian Armed Forces. We have all the reasons to proudly say something about ourselves!

The magazine is also dedicated to our employees who work in the NATO Alliance Headquarters of and whose numbers will increase with Croatia's entry in NATO. Through the magazine CROMIL, their staff members from other countries will be able to obtain even more data and information about the international activities of the Croatian army, about the modernization that is carried out in conformity with possibilities and the Croatian military industry that has become increasingly competitive on the international market...

From now on, by means of this magazine we wish to share with all the people we work with the reputation we have earned as a country and as an army through the dedicated and responsible execution of tasks in every international activity. We hope we will be able to realize that mission in equal terms of quality.

Željko Stipanović
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



DEFENSE MINISTER OF THE
REPUBLIC OF CROATIA
BRANKO VUKELIĆ

Croatia has for its part done everything that was necessary to become a member of NATO. The invitation to become a member of NATO is not merely evidence of our military capabilities as it is not only the army that is entering NATO, but it is also evidence that Croatia has made headway and developed all segments of its society like other democratically developed countries. That is a great recognition for Croatia and a great recognition to all members of the armed forces and employees of the Ministry of Defense

“ENTRY INTO NATO CONFIRMATION OF CROATIA’S PROGRESS IN ENTIRETY”

As the reform process develops, what are the experiences after the end of the training of voluntary conscripts? How does the Minister comment on the numerous commendations Croatian soldiers receive for their participation in peacekeeping missions? These are some of the questions we asked the Minister of Defense Branko Vukelić on the eve of the forthcoming full Croatian membership of the NATO Alliance that represents one of the top priority goals of our foreign policy.

A little more than a year has passed of your mandate as Minister of Defense. What would you emphasize as the greatest achievement in the defense system of that period?

→ Great efforts have been made in the last ten years in the Ministry of Defense and the Croatian Armed Forces in the field of reform and transformation. That has, in any case, contributed to our status of a candidate for membership in NATO and I am convinced that entry into full membership of NATO Alliance will happen in the near future. As a new head of the Ministry of Defense, I wanted to initiate some processes I considered not noticeable enough. What I would like to mention first of all, not as the most important but as very essential is that this ministry is according to its nature, a system that is more closed than some other ministries. I wanted and I still want to open it to public as much as I can. For me, it is important that activities in the ministry and the armed forces are transparent, perceptible and identifiable in public. The general public exceptionally appreciates that the Croatian

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We are the only country that is not a member of the NATO Alliance but in some missions we execute tasks that require very high level of capability and professional competence



Army developed during the Homeland War and it has a very high reputation among Croatian citizens. That imposes an obligation upon us to be even more approachable and closer to citizens and to show everything we do since they finance all our activities through the government budget. Apart from numerous activities related to the accession to the NATO Alliance, I am also satisfied with the equipping and modernization projects we proceeded with and speeded up some of them.

I would like to take this opportunity to point out my great satisfaction with the praise and commendation our soldiers received from NATO's officials and other Defense Ministers. What is especially singled out during those meetings the high level of training, motivation and professionalism of Croatian soldiers. This is exactly the greatest richness and power of the Croatian army. I am proud that Croatia, as a country that knows what it means to be at war and that appreciates peace, takes part in numerous peacekeeping missions throughout the world. From my viewpoint, I am satisfied with last year and with everything what was done. Naturally, I will always point out how it is very important members of the armed forces, employees of the ministry, the state leadership and citizens in the whole are satisfied. I hope I share their satisfaction with the breakthrough that has been achieved.



I am proud that Croatia, as a country that knows what it means to be at war and that appreciates peace, takes part in numerous peacekeeping missions throughout the world





At the beginning of your mandate you announced that the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Croatia will be more transparent and open the public in its entire operations. Are you satisfied with the achievements in this field so far?

→ One can never be completely satisfied with that field. I will always be saying to myself and to other people that a lot more and better can be done. I am satisfied with the progress we have made but I do not think that suffices. In order to be more satisfied in this area, before all, we have to reinforce departments that are responsible for that task but also train and educate people in charge. Naturally, public relations mostly depend on me and my associates. I repeat, progress is visible but this year we will make additional efforts and try to be better in that field. As a ministry that has about twenty thousand people with the Armed forces, we are of special importance to any country and are obligated to be present in public, available and transparent in all processes that are implemented. All the more so, since we received substantial budgetary funds from the citizens of the Republic of Croatia. That is precisely what obligates us to make all we do visible and provide justification for the purpose and manner of spending funds. Through programmes and projects we prepare, through offset programmes we carry out, a chance will be given to the Croatian economy and this makes me especially pleased.

A year of cutting down expenses and self-sacrifice is announced. What segment of the military system could this be reflected on most?

It is of crucial importance that we invest all funds in modernization and equipping in a completely transparent manner and in this matter I think of implementing procurement procedures but also giving a chance to Croatian economy through those investments

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→ A military system can not be an isolated island. We can not share the destiny of the country and not bear the burden of a time marked by financial crisis. We will, as everybody else, save very much and behave rationally. That means we will keep expenses that are not indispensable under strict control. A great part of our budget relates to funds that are necessary for equipping and modernization, contracts we signed are an obligation we have to keep and those are projects we have to complete. However, it is of crucial importance to invest all funds into modernization and equipping in a completely transparent way and in this matter I am considering implementing the procurement procedure and giving a chance to the Croatian economy through all those investments. There is no strong state without a strong economy.

Could we say in the context of rationalization that Croatia is giving up the acquisition of new fighter airplanes?

→ Firstly, I have to say that the purchase of fighter airplanes was not planned for this year. Last year we carried out the procedure of gathering informative offers that we analyzed very carefully. Of course, in a situation of global financial crises, it is neither possible nor wise to enter into some major projects that require exceptionally substantial funds. Our dynamics in the process of purchasing fighter airplanes for this year was to continue analyzing what would be best for Croatia and prepare for decisions that could be realized in the following period. Everything we have in our strategic plans will depend on funds, but this year we will not think about projects that could place a strong burden on the government budget.

What will the restructuring in the following period be focused on?

→ When we talk about the entire system, about the armed forces and the ministry, it should be said that most of the reform has already been implemented. A lot has changed in the past several years. This year, we have to finish organizing our Armed forces and finalize the structure of the Ministry of Defense. With this organization, we want to define business processes according to the standards of the NATO Alliance in conformity with the size of our armed forces and avoid all overlappings that occur in the system. When we talk about the Ministry of Defense, we aim to reduce the number of active military personnel except for the necessary part of jobs for which those persons are indispensable. Rationalization in the number of people will probably be carried out, but in view of thousands of people who

found second career prospects out of the system during past reforms, activities ahead of us do not mean that a great number of people will end up outside the system or that employees of the Croatian Ministry of Defense will experience any stresses. We have provided all those who will not see their prospects in our armed forces or ministry with models and incentives so as to continue their business future in some other place.

The first generation of voluntary conscripts completed their training. Have expectations from this project been completely met?

→ Satisfaction with the first generation of voluntary conscripts is mutual and I am especially glad about that. Our commanders are also satisfied with the high motivation of the voluntary conscripts who completed the training. I had the opportunity to talk to some of those young men who had only words of praise about the completed training and the conditions it was carried out in. It is on the basis of that that today, we can confirm that this sort of a pilot-process was completed successfully and that this year we can proceed with it. I am also delighted that far more candidates than we can admit have applied, and I hope that voluntary military service will provide young people with a manner and place for gaining rich experience that will make any future job they will have easier.

Croatia occupies a very high position on the UN's scale of contribution to peacekeeping missions. Since last year, it has become a participant of two new missions on the Golan Heights and in Chad and it is among countries that have members deployed to most of the missions. Great confidence but also responsibility has been placed in us. How do you comment on that?

→ We showed and proved to our partners, with the performance of our soldiers in the missions, how much our members and training are of quality. It is true that we take part in a great number of missions but not by the number of members because we are a small country. All partner countries especially emphasize the quality of our participation that is manifested in all missions. We are the only country that is not a member of the NATO Alliance but that in some missions executes tasks that require a very high level of capability and professional competence. This is exactly what everybody points out. That is also evidence of the ability and motivation of our soldiers and also of their level of training, education and ability to quickly acquire new knowledge and skills. Although we do not have a long tradition of



I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize my great satisfaction with the praise and commendation our soldiers have received from NATO's officials and other Defense Ministers. What is especially emphasized during those meetings is the high level of training, motivation and professionalism of Croatian soldiers

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participation in peacekeeping missions, we gained experience in the Homeland War and that is exceptionally important for each one of our members. Not so long ago members of the peacekeeping missions were deployed to Croatia and each one of our soldiers knows how valuable and important it is to be a member of the peacekeeping mission in eyes of the people they are among.

At the NATO summit in April Croatia should already participate as a full member of the Alliance. It would be a realization of one of the greatest successes of Croatia's foreign policy and its armed forces. What would that mean for you as Head of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Croatia?

→ I am optimistic and I believe that we will carry out the ratification procedure and deposit protocols in Washington by the summit and become member of NATO. Croatia has done everything that was necessary to become a NATO member. Membership in the Alliance is of exceptional importance to Croatia in entirety because that is one of the two strategically most important goals of our foreign policy. Invitation into the membership is not merely evidence of our military capabilities as it is not only the army that is entering NATO, it is also evidence that Croatia has made progress and developed all segments of its society as other democratically developed countries have. That is a great recognition to the Croatian state and a great recognition to all members of our armed forces and employees of the Ministry of Defense. For me, as Head of this ministry, admittance in the membership will be a great event and an exceptionally great honor but I emphasize once again the contribution made by the state leadership and the consensus of all political parties. I therefore believe that at the beginning of April all of us will celebrate this great event. ■



INFORMAL MEETING OF THE DEFENSE MINISTERS OF SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES IN ZAGREB



FOR **PEACE** AND **SECURITY**

OF THE REGION, BUT ALSO OF THE WHOLE WORLD

Informal meeting of the Defense Ministers of South-Eastern European countries was held in the Hotel Westin in Zagreb in early March. The topics of the main meeting were: security in the South-East of Europe, the increase in the number of countries within the US-Adriatic Charter, NATO's role in the South-East of Europe, the enlargement of NATO and the contribution to peace and stability through peacekeeping operations and crisis response operations

The Meeting confirmed the necessity to organize such gatherings more frequently and the goodwill and wish of everybody to contribute to better mutual cooperation, peace, stability and security of the Region but also of the whole world

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The meeting was an absolute success, it provided an additional motive for countries in the Region to continue with mutual cooperation, to reinforce it and to find new programmes of cooperation, the Minister of Defense Branko Vukelić concluded at the media conference after the end of the Informal meeting of Defense Ministers of the countries of the South-East of Europe. Apart from hosting the meeting, Minister Vukelić, Albanian Minister of Defense Gazmend Oketa and Ambassador Jiri Šedivy, NATO's representative and Assistant to Secretary General for Defense Policy and Planning, also addressed journalists at the closing media conference.

Besides the main meeting, there was a series of bilateral meetings of Defense Ministers and other high-ranking officials from 14 countries (Croatia, the USA, Albania, Macedonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Greece, Turkey, Hungary, Bulgaria, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, Serbia). Topics of the main meeting were: the security in the South-East of Europe, the expansion of the number of countries within the US-Adriatic Charter, NATO's role in the South-East of Europe, the enlargement of NATO and the contribution to peace and stability through peacekeeping operations and crisis response operations

Minister Vukelić emphasized that the Meeting confirmed the necessity to organize such gatherings more frequently and the goodwill and wish that everybody to contribute to better mutual cooperation, peace, stability and security of the Region but also of the whole world. All that is easier to realize with the full support provided by NATO and the European Union and Euro-Atlantic integration processes countries of the Region strive for. Of concrete measures, the Minister mentioned that it is necessary to additionally strengthen bilateral cooperation among countries of the Region so that is visible in several segments.

Albanian Minister Gazmend Oketa addressed the audience in his additional capacity as Chairman of the A-5 initiative. Having publicly praised the Meeting's excellent organization, Oketa announced that a similar gathering will be held in a few months and will be hosted by his country. "This meeting was held at the right place and time", Oketa emphasized and made an allusion to the forthcoming accession of Croatia and Albania to NATO; he also commented that the success of each country in Euro-Atlantic integrations is in effect, the success of the entire Region.

Ambassador Šedivy pointed out that from NATO's viewpoint, the Meeting clearly confirms the dedication of all the countries of the South-East of Europe to strengthen the stability and security of the Region since those countries, once "users", have become providers of the world's security in various peacekeeping operations throughout the world. NATO's door will remain open to all countries that want to be members and share the same values as the members of the Alliance and the Alliance will continue to be engaged in the Region, Ambassador Šedivy said in conclusion.

The Minister of Family, Veterans' Affairs and Intergeneration Solidarity, Jadranka Kosor was present at the first part of the meeting on behalf of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Croatia. Speaking about the imminent enlargement of



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A whole series of bilateral meetings among representatives of the states was held on margins of the Meeting and it can be said for Croatia that it was particularly active

NATO, the Minister expressed the conviction that this is a confirmation of how far the entire region has moved on its pathway to security and general progress. "Every effort aiming at fostering regional cooperation contributes to the better understanding, greater stability and better relations", Minister Kosor emphasized.

A whole series of bilateral meetings among representatives of the states was held on margins of the Meeting and it can be said for Croatia that it was particularly active. We are singling out meetings that Minister Vukelić had with a delegation from Greece led by Defense Minister Vangelis Meimarakis, with State Secretary of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Italy Giuseppe Cossiga and Turkish colleague Mehmet Vecdi Gönül. High government representatives considered various forms of developing defense cooperation and also talked about cooperation in the field of industry for designated purpose. ■

GENERAL JOSIP LUCIĆ,
CHIEF OF THE GENERAL STAFF OF
THE CROATIAN ARMED FORCES

We are encouraged by the recognition that the Republic of Croatia is „a state that will bring to the Alliance a new quality with its knowledge and war experiences, that has already proven itself as a reliable and relevant partner in international peacekeeping missions throughout the world, especially in Afghanistan“. We have to admit that such recognitions are flattering but are also binding since we have to fulfill the expectations NATO has placed in front of us



RECOGNITIONS

ARE FLATTERING BUT BINDING

Last year was marked by the realization of several major projects in the field of equipping and modernization of the CAF, international cooperation at all levels was very intensive, a great effort was made in full professionalization of our armed forces. Almost each one of the set goals has achieved success, the first man of the CAF, General Josip Lucić assessed, summing up everything what was achieved

The reform of the CAF is a permanent process that in fact never stops. What will be the emphasis of the reform in the next period?

When we talk about the reform of the CAF, sometimes it is wrongly identified with personnel restructuring in conformity with decisions on the size, structure and territorial deployment of the CAF. The personnel reform, besides the processes of raising the quality of education and training, has to be accompanied by a material reform carried through in terms of quality, i.e. by the equipping and modernization of our commands and units, especially those that take part in international peacekeeping operations. Those will be our central tasks in 2009, but even at a later point. The prospect of a full membership in the NATO Alliance already has and will continue to open the issues of adjusting our defense system to the system of collective defense to an increased degree, as in legislative changes so in every other field, from the doctrine, training, education and organization to complete adjustment of the system of defense planning, planning of forces and operational planning. The overall manner of functioning and deliberation will have to be changed so that we could be ready for challenges and opportunities that are offered by the membership of the NATO Alliance.

During 2008, Croatia participated in two new missions, UNDOF and EUFOR Tchad/RCA, and has placed itself among the countries that have their members in the most peacekeeping missions. Discussions are also held on participation in Kosovo in the operation KFOR...

This transformation from a state that from 1992 to 2002 had four UN peacekeeping missions (UNPROFOR, UNCRO, UNTAES and UNMOP) deployed on its territory, to a state that will celebrate ten years of participation in peacekeeping missions is somewhat marvelous. Even before the last UN mission left Croatia, our ten members were deployed to Sierra Leone, a little later to Eastern Timor and to other missions. Nowadays, the Republic of Croatia with eleven UN missions, one NATO mission and one EU mission belongs to the world's leading countries that are providers of peacekeeping forces; this trend will continue and will increase with participation in KFOR, the other NATO mission in Kosovo. Our members who gained

In conformity with the Long-Term Development Plan of the CAF, the number of our members in peacekeeping missions will be increased, following the political decisions and financial possibilities

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In 2009, we will have about 470 members in peacekeeping missions and 384 million HRK will be allocated to their equipping, material and personnel expenses

experience in the Homeland War know what peacekeeping forces mean for agonized people and their hope for a better tomorrow. The professional carrying out of duties and the respect for diversities – historical, culturological, religious and social – is the foundation of our success that the entire system of training and preparation of our individuals and units for participation in peacekeeping operations is built on.

How do partners in the world experience the efforts made in accession and preparations for the forthcoming membership of the NATO Alliance?

During the last period of reforms, many military officials who are highly positioned in the world of politics in their states and in the Armed forces throughout the world visited us. The result of all those talks is an encouraging recognition that the Republic of Croatia is a „state that brings to the Alliance a new quality with its knowledge and experiences gained in the war, that has proven to be a reliable and relevant partner in international peacekeeping missions throughout the world, especially in Afghanistan“. We have to admit that such recognitions are flattering but are also binding because we have to fulfil the expectations NATO has placed in front of us. All afore mentioned strengthens our conviction that in April 2009, the Republic of Croatia will achieve one of the two strategic goals and become full member of NATO. ■





➔ OPERATIONAL MENTOR TEAM

The deployment of this Operational Mentor Team to Afghanistan is a result of an exceptionally successful cooperation between the Minnesota National Guard and the CAF that has lasted several years



MILITARY EXERCISE

by Leida Parlov, photo by Tomislav Brandt

AMERICAN-CROATIAN MN COMBAT SUPPORT
OMLT READY FOR ISAF

CROATIAN AND AMERICAN SOLDIERS TOGETHER TO THE MISSION

Within structure of the 13th HRVCON that takes part in the mission ISAF in Afghanistan, for the first time the Republic of Croatia also has an international American-Croatian MN Combat Support OMLT. MN CS OMLT consists of 12 members of our armed forces and 12 members of the US Army Minnesota National Guard

A step forward and a specific tribute to the successful participation of our soldiers in NATO mission ISAF is deployment multinational Combat Support OMLT, in which the Republic of Croatia is the lead nation to Afghanistan. Namely, within structure of the 13th HRVCON that takes part in the mission ISAF in Afghanistan, for the first time the Republic of Croatia also has an international American-Croatian MN Combat Support OMLT. MN CS OMLT consists of 12 members of our armed forces and 12 members of the US Army Minnesota National Guard; this activity and trust that was placed in the Croatian army is a confirmation of the continuity of good partner relations and confidence between the USA and Croatia. Commander of the CS OMLT is Major Ivan Galović who is otherwise Commander of the infantry battalion of the infantry regiment of the Training and Doctrine Command „Fran Krsto Frankopan“. Major Galović was also the first observer of the CAF in the UN mission at the Ivory Coast and this assignment represents a new challenge to him and other team members. Great confidence has been placed in them but this is also an obligation.

Joint training in Croatia

After the first part of the training that each side had undergone in their homeland, weeks-long joint training was held in the training area at Gašinci. The objective was to practice all situations that could be expected in the area of deployment to the mission in conditions as realistic as possible and the training area Gašinci provided excellent conditions for that. Representative of the American side, Major Elstad Peter Leif confirmed it. He mentioned that they began with preparations for joint training several weeks prior to their arrival in Croatia. He evaluated cooperation with the Commander of the team, training and practice in the training area Gašinci, where the accommodation provided was also very good. “This is an excellent training area, conditions and capacities for practice are very good and I think we will gain valuable experiences here.” Their main task in the mission is mentoring, training and providing



→ TEAM COMMANDER

In addition to the Team Commander, members of our armed forces will carry out duties of the intelligence officer and will be covering three companies: reconnaissance, artillery, engineering. Besides the first NCO, the American side will have their men in the commanding company and the Headquarters



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practice to the Afghan army so that they could take over future tasks by themselves and create better security conditions in their country; they will also try to help the Afghan army adopt and improve the doctrine of the operational use of their forces as well as they can. Members of the Afghan national army ANA will be mentored in reconnaissance, artillery, engineering, commanding company and mentoring of the staff battalion.

In addition to the first NCO, the American side will have their men in the commanding company and the Headquarters and both sides will each have four drivers in the team. The proponent of the entire activity before the CAF is the Training and Doctrine Command Fran Krsto Frankopan (ZOD); other units of the CAF which otherwise take part in training our soldiers for participation in international missions were also engaged in this training. It is good to know that both sides functioned excellently together from the very beginning of the training in Croatia.

Besides the Team Commander, members of our armed forces will carry out duties of the intelligence officer and will be covering three companies: reconnaissance, artillery and engineering

This was confirmed at exercises during which they demonstrated the manner of executing training and achieved capabilities. One such exercise that demonstrated methods and procedures in case of attack on a convoy was held in late February. It was already at that time, when training was in its initial phase, that it was demonstrated that both sides functioned excellently as a team. Commander of the Croatian Army, Lieutenant General Mladen Kruljac and Head of the American Department for Defense Cooperation, LTC Charles Davis who monitored the exercise, confirmed that deployment of this Operational Mentor and Liaison Team to Afghanistan is a result of an exceptionally excellent cooperation between the Minnesota National Guard and the CAF that has lasted several years. The team consists of excellent soldiers; most of them have experience from international NATO and UN missions and our soldiers gained experience in the Homeland War.

All that and high-quality training is surely a warranty that a good job will be done in Afghanistan and that Croatia will justify the confidence placed in it as the lead nation in this Operational Mentor Team. ■

➔ EQUIPPED AND TRAINED

Apart from their basic tasks, all units of the Croatian Army are also equipped and trained for participation in international operations where they proved to be exceptionally esteemed professionals



➔ MILITARY TASKS

In addition to military tasks, the Croatian Army has always placed a great importance on cooperation with civilian population, in all areas of the Republic of Croatia

THE CROATIAN ARMY

by Leida Parlov, photo by Tomislav Brandt

CROATIAN ARMY WITH THE LARGEST FORCES IN NATO LED OPERATIONS

RECOGNIZED AND APPRECIATED IN INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT

As the biggest component of the CAF and through Partnership Goals, the Croatian Army has been giving the greatest contribution to total declared forces for NATO led operations. The Croatian Army is a proponent of the implementation of 13 Partnership Goals





➔ INVESTMENTS

Besides investments in equipment and armament, the Croatian Army places a great significance on equipping exercise ranges

CROATIAN MILITARY MAGAZINE



A component of the CAF with peak strength, with most of its members deployed to international operations in which the Republic of Croatia participates. That is always ready to assist the civilian population, is well trained with rich bilateral and multilateral cooperation are only some of the distinctive features and first associations linked to the Croatian Army. Created in war together with other components of our Armed Forces, the Croatian Army developed very quickly and today participates in numerous international exercises and in the preservation of world peace along with its partners from the most developed militaries of the world. The Command of the Croatian Army is situated in Karlovac and its units are deployed throughout Croatia. In the actual restructuring of the Armed forces that is carried out with a goal to create a well equipped, small and mobile army, the Croatian Army has also been restructured. Lieutenant General Mladen Kruljac is the Commander of the Croatian Army and during his mandate, the reform was implemented, numerous novelties in the training process were introduced, and international cooperation of the Croatian Army was intensified through participation in international missions as well as in the implementation of the Partnership Goals.

Besides INF OMLT and Garrison OMLT, the Croatian Army participates for the first time with its partner, the Minnesota National Guard in the joint CS OMLT in which the Republic of Croatia is the lead nation

Apart from the downsizing of the Croatian Army during the reform, some of its units were dissolved and some were newly established. The Guards Armored Mechanized Brigade and the Guards Motorized Brigade are its main forces; in addition to them, the Military Police Regiment, the Signals Regiment, the Military Intelligence Battalion and the NBC Battalion, Training and Doctrine Command with its organic entities are within the structure of the Croatian Army. As in other services of the CAF, modernization that is implemented in conformity with the Long-Term Development Plan of the CAF is underway. Besides investments in equipment and armament, the Croatian Army places a great significance on fitting out exercise ranges. The accommodation capacities are undergoing systematic refurbishment at the three main military exercise ranges of the Croatian Army "Eugen Kvaternik"- Slunj, "Gašinci"- Gašinci and "Crvena zemlja" - Knin; APS and ATS training infrastructures are being built, more precisely shooting ranges for instinctive and situational target practice, a shooting house, a training area road - convoy and control stations, all with the aim to raise the level and standard of training.

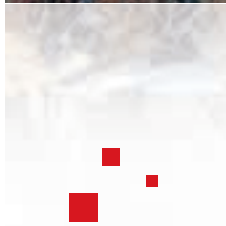
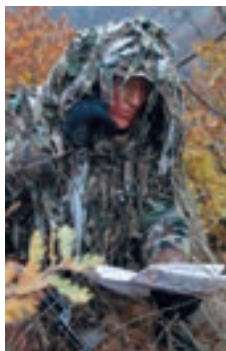
Apart from their basic tasks, all units of the Croatian Army are also equipped and trained for

In the mission ISAF in Afghanistan, members of the Croatian Army constitute eighty percent of the CAF's HRVCON ➔

- participation in international operations where they proved to be exceptionally esteemed professionals, decidedly motivated for the preservation of world's peace.

In the mission ISAF in Afghanistan, members of the Croatian Army constitute eighty percent of the HRVCON. It is also worth mentioning that the CAF are one of the five countries – providers of the forces for the mission ISAF with OMLT team. In addition to INF OMLT and garrison OMLT, the Croatian Army participates for the first time with its partner, Minnesota National Guard in the joint CS OMLT in which the Republic of Croatia is the lead nation. The Croatian Army is taking part in nine missions led by the UN; among them is the UNDOF mission, the only UN mission to which our Armed forces have deployed a unit at the company level. The army is also the most numerous at the Golan Heights in HRVCON which exercises supervision of the armistice between Israel and Syria.

High quality performance in our country as well as in international activities is for the most part the result of good training. Numerous successfully carried through military exercises in which the readiness of the forces is evaluated are evidence of that. Among numerous international military exercises in which units, teams or individuals from the army's structure participated, the



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High quality performance in our country as well as in international activities is for the most part result of good training

exercise ADRIATIC AURORA 08 in which units from the USA and the A3 member countries took part should be singled out. That exercise demonstrated the high level of interoperable capabilities of the Croatian Army in the execution of operations in an international environment. That is a confirmation of the exact direction and well chosen pace of training with a goal to achieve the highest level of NATO standards.

Besides training its own members, the Croatian Army also actively participates in training members of other components of the Croatian Armed Forces. One in a series of the training activities the Croatian Army realized with success is also the training of voluntary conscripts, a project the Armed forces began with in the second half of last year. Having successfully passed the exam in training the first generation of voluntary conscripts, the Croatian Army will soon be facing a new training challenge – the training of the contract reserve.

As the biggest component of the CAF and through Partnership Goals, the Croatian Army makes the biggest contribution to total declared forces for NATO led operations. The Croatian Army is a proponent of the implementation of 13 Partnership Goals. We will single out only some of them: land operations and training, defeating improvised explosive devices, multibranch military operations in urban environments,



capability of NBC defense... Apart from all stated, we also need to emphasize the rich bilateral and multilateral cooperation of the Croatian Army. During last year alone, 107 activities were realized within bilateral cooperation, 34 activities within multilateral cooperation and 16 international high-level activities were also carried out. More than eighty activities related to NATO with the participation of more than 1,200 members of the Croatian Army were also realized. Such rich international activities have continued this year as well. The Croatian Army also gives particular importance to the education of its members in our country and abroad, where a great number of its officers and NCOs receive education at all levels.

In addition to military tasks, the Croatian Army has always placed great importance on cooperation with the civilian population, in all areas of the Republic of Croatia. Repair and maintenance of the traffic and communal infrastructure at the local level, recovery of building plots of land, restoration of cultural and sacral facilities and construction of bridges are only some of the 33 activities carried out over the course of last year.

A lot more could be said about the Croatian Army and its accomplishments. Here, we tried to single out only the most important things it is renowned, recognized and esteemed for not only in our country but also in the an international environment. ■



photo by Davor Kirin

LIEUTENANT GENERAL MLADEN KRULJAC,
COMMANDER OF THE CROATIAN ARMY

Members of the Croatian Army are well-known as top-level, well trained professionals, and this mostly is the result of good and quality training...

"Yes. We have fully introduced today a new approach to training that was also noticed by our partners during joint training and military exercises carried out with the Croatian Army units. In all forms of training we are striving to achieve high NATO standards. Great assistance is provided by our partners from the Minnesota National Guard, the USA, either with direct training, passing on their experiences, training of the trainer and other activities we carry out together. Our rich bilateral and multilateral cooperation has also contributed to the advancement of the training and readiness of the Croatian Army members for participation in NATO, UN and EU missions and the implementation of the Partnership Goals with strengthening of the security and stability in the region. We are trying to expertly analyze and elaborate on experiences the Croatian Army members gained in international missions coupled with experiences from the Homeland War and give them to all members of the CAF for their use through introduction of the system of lessons learnt."

You also successfully carried out training of the first generation of voluntary conscripts, which is one of the most important projects of the CAF at the moment...

We designed new modern curricula for the requirements of training voluntary conscripts. Notwithstanding great demands imposed by the training and high criteria set for the level of success, even 208 conscripts out of 250 signed a contract with the Croatian MoD on joining selection training for admittance in the CAF's active service structure. That is sufficient evidence of the quality of training and promotion and it confirms that the basic goal of voluntary military service, manning of our units with young and fit members, has been achieved.

How would you evaluate the readiness and level of training of the Croatian Army's members and what does the Croatian Army expect from entry into NATO?

The Croatian Army has proved through all it has done so far that it has achieved the necessary level of capability and training that guarantees the successful implementation of all tasks deriving from the strategic documents and from participation in military operations. The level of training and readiness of the Croatian Army is confirmed from all levels, as from domestic institutions so from foreign partners. By achieving the requested capabilities and implementation of the modernization of the Croatian Army's assets, the requested goal will be fully accomplished and all preconditions for efficient operations on a wide spectrum of threats will be created. After entry into NATO, the Republic of Croatia and the Croatian Armed Forces will obtain a completely new dimension of protecting national interests and will be cooperating with partners in realization of common goals.

→ FULL CAPACITIES

For a number of years, the Croatian Navy has used its full capacities to implement its reform, modernization and interoperability with navies and other services of the armed forces of NATO countries



→ NOBLE MIDAS

The biggest such undertaking for the navy was a big NATO exercise Noble Midas that Croatia hosted in October 2007

THE CROATIAN NAVY

by Domagoj Vlahović, photo by Tomislav Brandt

THE CROATIAN NAVY - RELIABLE ALLY OF NATO

HIGHER VOLUME OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION UPON ENTRY INTO THE ALLIANCE

Aware of its essential role for security of the Mediterranean, the Croatian Navy has for a longer period of time made efforts to give its contribution to NATO after Croatia has entered it, to NATO's operation Active Endeavor that represents the strongest guarantee of the security of the Mediterranean's waters and coasts





➔ MODERNIZATION

Quite some time before the anticipated entry of our country into full NATO membership, the Croatian Armed Forces have adjusted its structure and modernization to the system of collective defense that is provided by the membership

CROATIAN MILITARY MAGAZINE

The first association that people throughout Europe and world have when they hear about the Republic of Croatia is the Adriatic Sea and its coast. That is very simple to explain since our long and well-indented coast is bordered by one of the most beautiful seas of the world and it is also ornamented with thousands of islands. Natural beauties, cultural distinctions and touristic tradition bring millions of tourists to our country each year and large Croatian sea ports serve as a commodity transit not only for Croatia but also for a series of Central and East European countries. Protection of the Croatian Adriatic is accordingly of vital significance to our country.

To a large extent Croats regard themselves as a maritime nation. Their maritime tradition is as old as Croatia, it began back in the early Middle Ages. Naturally, the same case is with the navy.

The Croatian Navy has, as other services of the CAF, with regained Croatian independence, assumed a great deal of responsibility for the defense of Croatia and has contributed to the final victory. What is more, already at beginning of the war, the enemy was banished from the greatest part of our territorial sea. Even at present, Croatia is the most important link in the system

Quite some time before the anticipated entry of our country into full NATO membership, the Croatian Armed Forces have adjusted its structure and modernization to the system of collective defense that is provided by the membership

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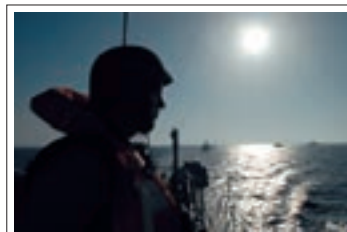
of sustaining Croatian sovereignty in our part of the Adriatic. In the context of the above mentioned facts, in view of the importance of the coast for all of Croatia, that role has become even more prominent than in most countries with a coast. However, in light of the entry into NATO and of the world's security in general, missions of the Croatian Navy are increasingly numerous and significant. Threat to security of the Croatian coast is also a potential threat to the "soft underbelly" of the Central and South East of Europe and even to the entire Mediterranean. The Republic of Croatia is absolutely aware of its responsibility and of the security of the neighboring and friendly countries, especially of the future North Atlantic partners. The Croatian Navy has for many years also been working on its reform, modernization and interoperability with navies and other services of the armed forces of NATO countries.

Maybe the biggest step that has been made for the past years for better protection of the Croatian coast is organization of the Coast Guard. That organizational unit operates within the Croatian Navy with a basic mission to strengthen the security of human lives and material assets and to preserve the environment as well as protect sea ➔



→ TWO MISSILE GUNBOATS

Ships of the class "Helsinki", that used to be in structure of the Finnish Navy are now called "Vukovar" and "Dubrovnik" and count their last days before they enter operational use; they have already demonstrated to be very suitable for executing missions in the Adriatic



THE CROATIAN NAVY

- resources so that they are used in conformity with Croatian laws. With its small and mobile vessel units and modern surveillance systems, the Coast Guard ensures its constant presence at sea and this brings along a decrease in criminal, terrorist and ecological threats.

Quite some time before the anticipated entry of our country into full NATO membership, the Croatian Armed Forces have adjusted its structure and modernization to the system of collective defense that is provided by the membership. Most of those changes, including the future ones, are defined by a strategic document entitled Long-Term Development Plan of the CAF. It is precisely in conformity with that plan that changes in the Croatian Navy have been implemented. The most important items are equipping and modernization. Clearly, they are not solely directed towards the requirements of NATO but first of all, towards operations of the Croatian Navy in the Adriatic and protection of our local waters and coast, with all specific features of operation in shallow waters, by many islands and well intended coast. The most important items of equipping and modernization have been recently implemented with phasing in of a mine hunter and operational use of the new radar system on ships; the acquisition of two missile gunboats has drawn particular attention. Ships of the class "Helsinki", that used to be in structure of the Finnish Navy are now called "Vukovar" and "Dubrovnik" and count their last days before they enter operational use; they have already demonstrated to be very suitable for executing missions in the Adriatic.

A series of other modernization projects has already been planned for this year and the Republic of Croatia is interested in including them in as many Croatian companies as possible. This should not be a problem in a country with an exceptionally well-established shipbuilding tradition.



New vessels will strengthen those possibilities. Entry into NATO will also even more so intensify the work of the Croatian officers and increase their number in the Command of the Alliance in Naples; because of its naval component it is logically closest to the Croatian Navy

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The modernization of the Croatian Navy is not only a question of new technology but also of new people. Our navy is a combination of experienced sea dogs from the Homeland War and a growing number of young cadre who is entering the system. The Croatian Navy permanently work on their professional-military training and on creating better conditions for their life and work in Croatian naval bases. The number of those bases has decreased, but in this case this decrease means that attention is directed towards facilities that have characteristics more suitable to the actual requirements of the Croatian Navy.

Entry into NATO for the Croatian Navy will surely bring along a higher volume of international cooperation. The biggest such undertaking for the navy was the big NATO exercise Noble Midas that Croatia hosted in October 2007, as the first country outside the Alliance that organized an interservice exercise of such a scale. At that time the Croatian Navy proved, together with friendly navies and representatives of the strongest world's maritime forces, that it is able to operate according to high NATO standards.

Aware of its essential role in the security of the Mediterranean, the Croatian Navy has for a longer period of time made efforts to give its contribution to NATO after Croatia has entered it, to NATO's operation Active Endeavor that represents the strongest guarantee of the security of the Mediterranean's waters and coasts.

Entry of the Republic of Croatia into the North Atlantic Alliance is to the benefit of both sides. So is the case with naval component. With NATO, the Croatian Navy will obtain an additional injection of security in the Adriatic area and the countries of the Alliance will gain a reliable ally in protection of the security and peace in the Mediterranean and in the Central and South East of Europe. ■



From NATO exercise Noble Midas

by Marija Alvir, photo by Katsuhiko Tokunaga

SHORTLY WITH NATO FORCES IN THE OPERATION KFOR IN KOSOVO

Croatian airmen have participated in international peacekeeping missions within the structure of our contingents, but this is the first time that the CAirF and AD is also a proponent of such an assignment. Croatian Parliament took a decision on participation of the CAirF and AD in NATO's operation KFOR in Kosovo and twenty of their members and two helicopters will be deployed there at an early date

Members of the CAirF and AD participated in numerous international military exercises and their level of training and qualification for carrying out missions in NATO environment were highly evaluated

photo by Tomislav Brandt



The Croatian Air Force and Air Defense (CAirF and AD) is one of the three services of the Croatian Armed Forces, earmarked for ensuring the sovereignty of the Croatian air space and providing aviation support to other services in execution of their missions in joint operations. According to the new organization, it has two air bases within its structure: the 91st ab Zagreb and the 93rd ab Zadar, and three runways - a helicopter squadron is situated in Lučko and a squadron of fighter airplanes is situated in Pula; a squadron of transport helicopters remains at Divulje.

Key missions that are ahead of them this year are connected with admittance of the Republic of Croatia in NATO Alliance and that is before all related to integration of the CAirF and AD into a system of Air Situation Data Exchange (ASDE). In that sense, the air force will have numerous tasks in the system of control and protection of the airspace and will be exchanging recognized air pictures with NATO Alliance. In addition to that, Croatian



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Parliament made a Decision on participation of the CAirF and AD in NATO's operation KFOR in Kosovo and twenty of their members and two helicopters will be deployed there in the near future. Although Croatian airmen have participated for a long time in international peacekeeping missions within structure of our contingents, the CAirF and AD is a proponent of such assignment for the first time; besides experience learnt from participation in other missions, the experience gained in the Homeland War will be of use to them to a large degree.

Transformation and modernization in conformity with NATO standards

In conformity with strategic documents, the Strategic Defense Review and the Long-Term Development Plan of the CAF, it can be said today that there is a vision of the development of the CAirF and AD. After the overhaul of the aviation-technics



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Key missions that are ahead of them this year are connected with admittance of the Republic of Croatia in NATO Alliance and that is before all, related to integration of the CAirF and AD into a system of Air Situation Data Exchange (ASDE)



that was made in recent years, its modernization and adaptation to NATO standards was also carried out. So the CAirF has for several years now become richer by ten transport helicopters MI171Š that considerably increased transportation capabilities, five airplanes ZLIN-242L for selection and initial training of pilots, two fire-fighting airplanes CL-415 and three AT-802 Fire Boss; phasing-in new radar system „Sky“ and installation of the radar FPS-117 should also be emphasized.

Acquisition of new multipurpose combat airplanes that will replace existing MiGs is forthcoming and is expected to happen within two years. As Commander of the CAirF and AD, Brigadier General Vlado Bagarić emphasized in his interview with the magazine „Croatian Soldier“, the fighter squadron is the strike force of the Croatian Air Force and training and qualification of the fighter pilots are among our top priorities. The CAirF and AD has a civilian-military system of education of quality and possibilities to provide education and training to



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Members of the CAirF and AD participated in numerous international military exercises and their level of training and qualification for carrying out missions in NATO environment were highly evaluated

pilots from other countries. Therefore, they hope to become a regional centre for training military and civilian pilots in future. Since the education of pilots is a distinctly demanding, costly and lengthy process, there is no doubt that realization of that idea would be well accepted outside of Croatia as well.

The CAirF and AD take part in numerous activities, as military so too civilian. Fighting fires, medical transportation and search and rescue missions are most important with regard to providing assistance to the civilian population; in addition to their primary mission that comprises the defense of our country, they also successfully develop international cooperation. They participated in numerous international military exercises and the level of training and qualification of our airmen for carrying out missions in NATO environment were evaluated very highly. They are also ready to participate in NATO led operations and will soon be able to demonstrate that within KFOR security forces in Kosovo. ■

➔ PROVIDING TRAINING

They began providing training for the mission in mid October 2008; it was complex and comprehensive and organized in Poland with teams from about 15 countries



➔ COMMANDER

Commander of the Garrison OMLT is LTC Željko Kiršić, Commander of the Overhaul Establishment of the Support Command and the team has 13 officers and NCOs

THE SUPPORT COMMAND

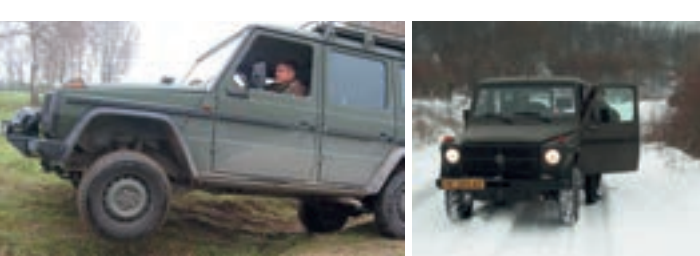
by Domagoj Vlahović, Leida Parlov, photo by Davor Kirin

OMLT FROM THE FUNCTIONAL AREA OF LOGISTICS IS DEPLOYED TO THE MISSION ISAF FOR THE FIRST TIME

LOGISTIC OMLT READY FOR ISAF



One Operational Mentor Liaison Team from the functional area of logistics will be deployed to the mission ISAF within the next regular contingent. This is the first Garrison OMLT accompanied by an employee of the Support Command and members of the Signals Regiment of the Croatian Army and the Croatian Defense Academy



➔ BASIC TASK

One of the members of the Croatian team in the mission will also carry out the engineer officer's duty and his basic task will be mentoring officers and NCOs of the ANA in maintenance and construction of the infrastructure, facilities and other installations necessary for life and work

CROATIAN MILITARY MAGAZINE



Our logisticians, employees of the Support Command have participated in the mission ISAF in Afghanistan for a longer period of time. By ensuring and organizing timely and quality-logistic support to our forces, they considerably contribute to the execution of their tasks in the mission. Besides providing logistic support to our soldiers, employees of the Support Command will soon be actively engaged in training and mentoring the Afghan Army. Namely, within the next regular contingent in the mission ISAF, one Operational Mentor Liaison Team from the functional area of logistics will be deployed there. This is the first Garrison OMLT accompanied by employees of the Support Command and employees of the Signal Regiment of the Croatian Army and the Croatian Defense Academy. Commander of the Garrison OMLT is LTC Željko Kiršić, Commander of the Overhaul Establishment of the Support Command and the team has 13 officers and NCOs. LTC Željko Kiršić already took part in the mission ISAF as member of the mobile maintenance team; he returned from the mission with positive impressions „It is important to help Afghanistan in restoring peace and stability so that people in that country could live in more humane conditions. I assured myself that Afghanistan has capable officers and NCOs and people of Afghanistan should be given a chance. That is the task of all us who are involved in the process of creating peace and stability in that area and creating conditions for the development and progress of the Afghan people.“

The basic task of the Garrison OMLT in Afghanistan will be mentoring, training and qualifying members of the ANA in logistic duties and that is a very complex and demanding task, LTC Kiršić emphasized. He pointed out that members of the OMLT also carry out those tasks in the CAF and he expects assignments in the mission will be accomplished. „We are tasked with providing advice, training and mentoring members of the ANA in functional areas such as: personnel affairs, operational-planning jobs, training and qualification, logistics (board and lodging, storage and supply with all classes of materials, maintaining weapons and military equipment...), maintenance and construction of infrastructure and facilities, providing security in the garrison, transportation, signals communications and telecommunications and medical assistance.

They began providing training for the mission in mid October 2008; it was complex and comprehensive and organized in Poland with teams from about 15 countries. Besides the joint practice of certain suppositions and tactical actions, during the training men were acquainted with part of the particular activities they will be faced with while deployed in the mission area. One of the members of the Croatian team in the mission will also carry out the engineer officer's duty and his basic task will be mentoring officers and NCOs of the ANA in maintenance and construction of the infrastructure, facilities and other installations necessary for life and work.

Considering that this is the first Croatian Garrison in OMLT, they will surely have a more difficult time than in the following rotations, but there is no doubt they will successfully carry out their tasks.

The basic task of the Garrison OMLT in Afghanistan will be mentoring, training and qualifying members of the ANA in logistic duties

HS Produkt

THE PERFECT FIGHTING HANDGUN

SEMI AUTOMATIC PISTOL

XDM

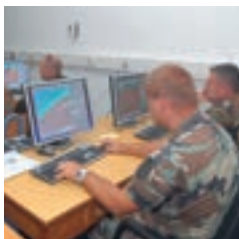
SERIES



EXPECT THE BEST

➔ EDUCATIONAL CONCEPT

Education in the CAF is implemented according to a concept very similar to the one in NATO member countries and it is directly connected with the professional development of the members of the Armed Forces



➔ MODERN METHODS

Contents of the programme are connected and harmonized with integration processes and in the implementation we use modern educational methods

CROATIAN DEFENSE ACADEMY "PETAR ZRINSKI"

by Marija Alvir, photo by Tomislav Brandt

In conformity with current approaching of Croatia Euro - Atlantic associations, international activities of the Croatian Defense Academy (CDA) have also increased

MILITARY EDUCATION ACCORDING TO THE **MOST MODERN METHODS**

One of the important segments of the Croatian Armed Forces is military education and the Croatian Defense Academy "Petar Zrinski" is responsible for that. In more than seventeen years of its existence, the Academy has undergone numerous transformations and restructurings, from courses organized during the Homeland War to the establishment of a military institution of higher education.

Numerous important achievements were realized in the past period and Commandant of the Academy, Major General Mirko Šundov emphasizes they are result of team work at the CDA "Petar Zrinski"; he also mentioned that all that is directly connected with the process of integration of the CAF in NATO. In that respect, it is worth emphasizing the implementation of all levels of education that has been carried out according to new programs

Bilateral cooperation has become more concrete and more comprehensive; it refers above all, to the neighboring countries and countries of the region and it also realizes good cooperation with other NATO member countries

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since this academic year; part of the education will shortly be provided in the English language which will enable participation of the attendants from NATO and Partnership for Peace member countries and from the Mediterranean Dialogue.

In accordance with the Long-Term Development Plan of the CAF, the system of education of the employees for requirements of the CAF and the Croatian MoD has been integrated at the CDA level where a general part of the education is provided; the specialist or rather practical part is implemented in cooperation with the CAF's services (Croatian Army, Croatian Navy, Croatian Air Force and Air Defense) and the Support Command. Education of cadets should be especially emphasized, a project that is fully implemented and an increasing number of candidates are interested in joining it every year.



→ In conformity with the current approaching of Croatia Euro-Atlantic associations, international activities of the Croatian Defense Academy (CDA) have also increased, as bilateral so multilateral. Those connected with NATO are also among them, as participation in preparations and at the Annual Conference of Commandants of Defense Academies of the NATO and PfP countries and Mediterranean Dialogue, organized by NATO Defense College from Rome; this is also related to cooperation with NDC and NATO School from Oberammergau and the European Centre for Security Studies "George C. Marshall". Bilateral

Lessons learnt from international missions in which members of the CAF participate have been built into the programmes...

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cooperation has become more concrete and more comprehensive and it refers above all, to the neighboring countries and countries of the region and it also has good cooperation with other NATO member countries.

It is important to emphasize that members of the foreign Armed Forces (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Germany, Slovenia and Ukraine) receive their education at the CDA, at all levels of education that last one academic year (War College, Command-Staff School, High NCO School); members of the Armed Forces from other member and partner countries also attend language courses held at the Foreign Language School. In cooperation with NATO Defense College from Rome and the Centre for Studies from Geneva, courses on distance learning are carried out and employees of the CDA are also trained for them. For further development of the CDA, educational projects initiated by the Croatian Ministry of Defense and the General Staff of the CAF in conformity with guidelines of the Long-Term Development Plan of the CAF are the most important. All projects are directly connected with the further development of the Academy with a goal that the CDA be developed into an acknowledged military institution of higher education connected with a civilian system of education but with specific features in conformity with requirements of the CAF. ■



... All that is in direct function of preparing the CAF's members to participate in international missions and also for work in NATO's organizational structure

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B1



BALLISTIC PROTECTION

Protective vest against fragments B1
Protection level: STANAG 2920
V50=480m/s



OZI M-2



NBC - PROTECTION

Isolation protective suit OZI M-2
Protection level: Duration time of
mustard gas (yperite) drop
penetration test - 24 hours



B2



BALLISTIC PROTECTION

Protective vest against bullet B2
Protection level: NIJ STD 0101.03
III-A



FEMALE OFFICER'S SHOE



OFFICER'S SHOE



MILITARY BOOT



Borovo

PROTECTION

→ EUFOR

15 members of the Battalion for Special Actions were deployed to the mission of EUFOR Tchad/RCA in October last year. They are in the Multinational Battalion-North MNB-N in Iriba in Chad within the Polish contingent



PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

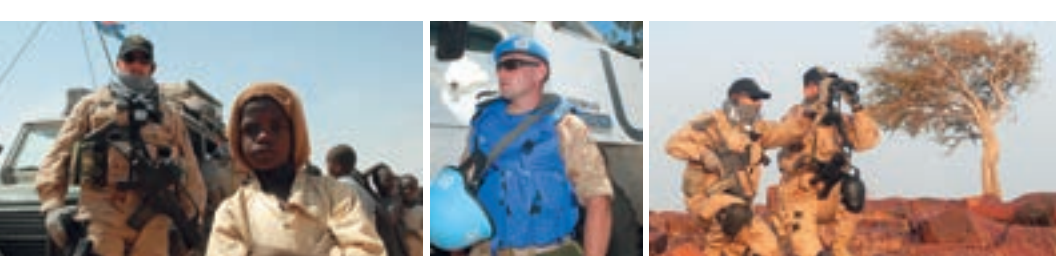
by Leida Parlov, photo by Tomislav Brandt

CROATIAN SOLDIERS ALREADY TEN YEARS IN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS UNDER COMMAND OF THE UN

FROM OCTOBER IN CHAD

This year the Republic of Croatia will mark ten years of participation in UN peacekeeping missions. Today, ten years later, Croatia is among countries that participate in most UN missions. The volume of activities and duties our peacekeepers carry out in the missions has increased over the years. In the beginning, they participated in the missions solely as military observers and later on also as staff officers of various specialties. However, an additional step was made...





→ MANDATES

Mission EUFOR is currently under the mandate of the EU and from 15 March it will be under the mandate of the UN

CROATIAN MILITARY MAGAZINE



This year, the Republic of Croatia will mark ten years of participation in UN missions. Croatia committed itself to be a keeper of world's peace at the time when it was using the assistance of the international community for establishment and preservation of peace on its territory. Already in 1999, Croatia confirmed that, as member of the international community, it would take an active part in world's peacekeeping processes wherever it would be necessary in the world. At that time, ten members of the Armed Forces in capacity of unarmed military observers were deployed to the mission UNAMSIL in Sierra Leone. Today, ten years later, Croatia is among countries that participate in most UN missions. The volume of activities and duties our peacekeepers carry out in the missions has increased over the years. In the beginning, they participated in the missions solely as military observers and later on also as staff officers of various specialties (commanding functions, physicians, operational staff, PR specialists ...) However, an additional step was made. In June of last year, an infantry company of 95 members of the CAF was deployed to the Golan Heights to the mission UNDOF; this is also the biggest contingent the Republic of

In June of last year, an infantry company of 95 members of the CAF was deployed to the Golan Heights to the mission UNDOF; this is also the biggest contingent the Republic of Croatia has ever deployed to some of the UN peacekeeping missions

Croatia has ever deployed to some of the UN peacekeeping missions. Members of our armed forces, who are on the Golan Heights and supervise the armistice between Israel and Syria, replaced their Slovak colleagues in the mission UNDOF. It should be mentioned that both sides, Israel and Syria, agreed that members of the CAF participate in the mission. The Commander of the first HRVCON in the mission UNDOF was Major Miroslav Vagner, an officer of our armed forces who participated in most missions – four altogether.

Members of the Croatian Armed Forces (133 of them) currently take part in 12 peacekeeping missions. They are in Africa (Western Sahara, Liberia, the Ivory Coast, Burundi, Sudan, Chad), Asia (India and Pakistan, Lebanon, Syria and Israel), America (Haiti), and Europe (Cyprus, Georgia). This survey would not be complete if we did not also mention participation of the CAF members in the mission of EUFOR Tchad/RCA (EU operation "Eastern Chad and North Eastern Central African Republic) where 15 members of Special forces were deployed in October of last year. They are in the Multinational Battalion-North MNB-N in Iriba in Chad within the Polish contingent. The key objective of this operation, currently under the EU mandate and which will be transferred from 15 March 2009 under the UN mandate, is the

Members of the Croatian Armed Forces (133 of them) currently take part in 12 peacekeeping missions

- ➔ protection of refugees and displaced persons and an efficient delivery of humanitarian aid.

It is expected of all members of our Armed Forces who are deployed to missions to act in the spirit of respecting all values the United Nations and the Republic of Croatia plead for. Owing to good preparations in which rich and valuable experiences gained in the Homeland War are involved, Croatian soldiers are recognized as professional, expert and honorable in the multinational environment they work in. Numerous commendations and acknowledgments with which they return from missions confirm that. One of the greatest confirmations of good and professional work was surely the appointment of Major General Dragutin Repinc to the duty of. Chief Military Observer in the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP). General Repinc filled that post from December 2005 to late

Owing to good preparations in which rich and valuable experiences gained in the Homeland War are involved, Croatian soldiers are recognized as professional, expert and honorable in the multinational environment they work in

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December 2007, even one year longer than the anticipated mandate. He received an expression of gratitude from the UN Secretariat and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations for an exceptionally successful carrying out of his duty as the UNMOGIP Chief Military Observer. Otherwise, all Croatian peacekeepers volunteer for deployments to missions. They are trained excellently and qualified for execution of all tasks, regardless of what part of the world and in what circumstances they were assigned to them. An important role in their preparation and training belongs to the International Military Operations Training Centre situated in the barracks "Knight Damir Martić" at Rakitje; its importance and capacities has grown together with the expansion of the participation of Croats in missions. Among other things, the Centre organizes courses for military observers and predeployment training for UN missions for our members but also for members



of the armed forces from other countries. All courses are held in English in conformity with UN, NATO and EU standards/modules. Experience that employees of the Centre gained in peacekeeping missions is of exceptional importance in preparing our military experts for peacekeeping missions. With their participation in peacekeeping missions, the CAF members are, together with colleagues from the Croatian Ministry of the Interior who also made a significant contribution to the UN international missions, surely the best ambassadors of Croatia

in the world. They have contributed to a large degree with their engagement to the reception of the Republic of Croatia in two-year non-permanent membership in the UN Security Council. It is beyond any doubt that participation of the Republic of Croatia to UN peacekeeping missions and the participation in NATO's mission ISAF in Afghanistan has considerably contributed to sending the invitation and the imminent full membership of the Republic of Croatia in the NATO Alliance.

In line with its strategic foreign policy commitments, the Republic of Croatia will continue, with its engagement in UN peacekeeping missions, to actively participate in preserving world peace in today's globalized world in which unfortunately, numerous conflicts and fragile armistice are still topical. ■



FRANCE STRONGLY SUPPORTS CROATIA'S JOINING THE EUROPEAN UNION AND NATO

French ratification of the protocol on the accession of Croatia to the North Atlantic Alliance reflects in the best possible way our standpoint on the readiness of Croatia to enter NATO. France, who is organizing a summit in Strasbourg-Kehl with Germany, would be exceptionally honored that Croatia accessed NATO during the summit

Croatia's aspirations to access the European Union and NATO are fully supported by France and this is confirmed by good French-Croatian bilateral relations with priority on the cooperation in military-defense field. We talked with French Defense Attaché to Croatia, LTC Olivier Rouanet about that military segment of cooperation between the two countries.

Members of the CAF are deployed in the mission EUFOR in which France is the lead nation. Do you have any information about experiences and impressions as regards the cooperation with Croatian soldiers in Chad?

Croatia's decision to deploy soldiers to the mission EUFOR, and especially soldiers of special forces is an evidence of the importance Croatia has been giving to operations within the European Security and Defense Policy. Croatia's commitment under auspices of the European Union to the benefit of the stability of Darfur region is very much appreciated.

News I have received about Croatian soldiers from Chad or Afghanistan where Croatian and French soldiers share the camp Warehouse induce me to confirm very positive evaluations of their performance. In fact, Croatian soldiers are regarded as serious, professional and know how to treat local populations with respect.



LTC OLIVIER ROUANET,
DEFENSE ATTACHÉ OF THE REPUBLIC OF
FRANCE TO THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

Croatia's commitment under auspices of the European Union to the benefit of the stability of Darfur region is very much appreciated

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As a Defense Attaché of the country that is one of the founders of NATO, how do you assess the readiness of our Armed forces for the Alliance and what support could Croatia expect from France on its pathway to entry into NATO and the EU?

As a consequence of positive voting held in French parliament in early February, France completed the ratification procedure of the protocol on accession of Croatia to the North Atlantic Alliance. This political support reflects in the best possible way our standpoint of the readiness of Croatia to enter NATO. France, who is organizing a summit in Strasbourg-Kehl with Germany, would be exceptionally honored it Croatia accessed NATO during the summit

France, as it showed during its chairmanship of the European Union, also wants Croatia to join the European Union. From this point of view, the growing interest of Croatia for issues of the European security and defense cooperation urges us to include Croatia into various European initiatives in the said field from now on. ■

IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO NATO IN AFGHANISTAN

LTC JONATHAN GEORGE ORMSBY LOWE,
DEFENSE ATTACHÉ OF THE UNITED KINGDOM
TO THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA



Military relations of the United Kingdom and Croatia have developed very well, Defense Attaché of the United Kingdom emphasized at the very beginning of our conversation. He otherwise lives in Vienna and also holds the function of a Defense Attaché to Hungary

YOU HAVE OUR SUPPORT FOR NATO AND THE EU

With the signature of our federal President under an appropriate law that was approved in Bundestag before Christmas 2008, my country has given an incontestable consent to full membership of Croatia in NATO

In the following months, Croatia will become a full member of NATO. However, we have to bear in mind that not only the Armed forces are entering the Alliance

We could state many reasons as an immediate cause for this interview. However, the fact that LTC Burkhard Kühnapfel is a Defense Attaché of the Federal Republic of Germany and also a doyen of the Military Diplomatic Corps in Croatia is a sufficient reason, all the more so because he has been in Croatia since 2005.

Members of the German and Croatian armed forces cooperate in peacekeeping missions throughout the world and in the mission ISAF in Afghanistan Croatian contingent is directly subordinated to the German one...

Croatian and German soldiers have made all efforts for the past five years to ensure stability and reconstruction of Afghanistan. Even 75% of the Croatian contingent in the mission ISAF is deployed in the northern part of the country together with German forces, mainly in Mazar-e-Sharif. Croatian soldiers have given there valuable contribution to realization of the set task. From the German point of view, this could not be realized without that contribution. Croatian forces share the responsibility in large measure for safeguarding the airport Mazar-e-Sharif. For example, German reconnaissance aircraft Tornado that are deployed in that airport could not fulfill their valuable task for ISAF without those forces. I heard only good evaluations on our cooperation with ISAF. Commanders of Headquarters set up regular meetings and consultations to keep it that way.



LTC BURKHARD KÜHNAPFEL,
DEFENSE ATTACHÉ OF THE FR GERMANY

Germany had given great support to Croatia during the Homeland War and in the post-war period and it has strongly influenced the international recognition of Croatia. Could we also expect such support in realization of our most important foreign policy goals, entry in NATO and the EU?

The question of the entry of Croatia into NATO for the German side is no longer a topic. With the signature of our federal President under an appropriate law that was approved in Bundestag before Christmas 2008, my country has given an incontestable consent for full membership of Croatia in NATO. Germany will also do its best to support Croatia's efforts to become a member of the EU because peace, stability and prosperity in throughout all of Europe are for us important pillars of foreign and security policy", Croatia has already been giving its voluntary support as if it were a member of the EU by participating in the mission of EUFOR in Chad and with its plans to participate in the year 2012 in the *EU battle group* concept with one contingent of soldiers. That military contribution deserves high recognition and respect and Germany especially supports that undertaking. ■

I will ask you directly, what do you think about Croatian soldiers?

When we talk about professionalism, status of the Croatian Armed Forces is extremely high. I would say that to anyone, not just to a Croatian journalist. I spoke with an Austrian colleague the other day about your contribution to the mission on the Golan Heights. He said "those boys are the most professional".

Croatia is close to joining NATO. What do the Alliance and especially the United Kingdom expect most of our army?

Firstly, I would say that it is wonderful to work in Croatia now when you are in this stage of entry

I think that Croatia is slowly moving towards major NATO's operations and it should be so

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into the Alliance. When your country is discussed, NATO's focus is surely on the contribution in Afghanistan and the same is with the United Kingdom: most of our military activities are directed towards ISAF, although there are other areas of our national and military interest like Iraq. I do not know what phase the deployment of your two helicopters to Kosovo is in. We support that action, our Prime Ministers Brown and Sanader talked about it. We would like to see those aircraft in Afghanistan too, but you decided not to do that, you will make one step at a time. In short, I think that Croatia is slowly moving towards NATO's major operations and so it should be. ■

EVERYONE WOULD LIKE TO HAVE CROATIAN

With its engagement in Afghanistan, the Republic of Croatia has confirmed once again (it has participated in UN missions since 1999), its commitment to contribute to preservation of peace in the world wherever it is necessary

SOLDIERS

IN THEIR RANKS

The Republic of Croatia has been participating for seven years in the mission ISAF in Afghanistan under NATO leadership and has proven to be a reliable partner to all countries that have demonstrated preparedness and determination to establish and preserve peace in this Asian country. With its engagement in Afghanistan, the Republic of Croatia has confirmed once again (it has participated in UN missions since 1999), its commitment to contribute to the preservation of peace in the world wherever it is necessary. From the first fifty members of the CAF, our military policemen who were deployed to the mission ISAF in February 2003 for the first time, up to 300 soldiers may be deployed at the present time, in conformity with a Decision made by the Croatian Parliament. In the beginning, solely members of the armed forces were deployed to the mission ISAF; however, over the course of time employees of our Ministry of the Interior and our diplomats

have contributed to establishing peace in that country. With an increase in the number of members of our forces who are recognized in Afghanistan as first-rate professionals and decidedly motivated for taking part in the mission, and it is no surprise, considering our country experienced the atrocities of the war, that the number and diversity of our activities has also increased.

Besides military policemen, staff officers and NCOs who operate in ISAF's Headquarters were also sent to the mission; the combined medical team of the US-Adriatic Charter was deployed for the first time in 2005 and Croatian contribution to the mission's activities has significantly increased since 2006. Thus our armed forces were quickly, besides the stated activities, involved with their units, teams or individuals in operations of the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT). PRTs are projected as a means that will facilitate the development of a secure

Besides military policemen, staff officers and NCOs who operate in ISAF's Headquarters were also sent to the mission; the combined medical team of the US-Adriatic Charter was deployed for the first time in 2005 and Croatian contribution to the mission's activities has significantly increased since 2006

An excellent level of training, professionalism, the respect of safety measures and motivation are a guarantee of success for the execution of any task

→ environment and reconstruction of some particular provinces of Afghanistan; they also started to carry out tasks of surveillance and security with organized infantry and security task forces (INF TF, HRV GUARD). The Croatian Armed Forces also have a Mobile Liaison Observation Team MLOT deployed in Afghanistan as an operational part of the PRT's military component. It is exceptionally mobile, it patrols in settlements in the PRT's area of responsibility and it operates in close cooperation with the local population. Our soldiers are otherwise known for their relations with local populations which is more than good. They appreciate diversities, the religious and cultural customs of Afghan people; they get detailed information about specific features of their way of living during predeployment training in which the *Meshihat* of the Islamic religious community in Croatia also takes active part. Besides all stated, Croatian soldiers also provide training, practice and mentoring to the Afghan National Army (ANA) in various functional areas; that activity is carried out by Operational Mentor and Liaison Teams (OMLT). The objective is to assist ANA in adopting the doctrine of the operational use of its forces in the best possible way so that it could assume future tasks by itself and create better security conditions in the country. From this 13th rotation of HRVCON on, our armed

Numerous commendations with which they return to their Homeland are a confirmation they possess all that; it can often be heard from the highest commanding structures, not only from the mission ISAF but also from other missions the Republic of Croatia participates in that they would like to have more Croatian soldiers in their ranks

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forces will have three OMLTs in the mission ISAF. Besides the existing INF OMLT, we will also have a Garrison OMLT deployed in Afghanistan; it will train the Afghan army in the functional area of logistics and a multinational CS OMLT constituted of the CAF members and members of the US Army Minnesota National Guard. Croatia is the lead nation in the CS OMLT, that is composed of 12 Croatian and 12 American soldiers and an officer of our armed forces, Major Ivica Galović, is in command of the team. Joint training was carried out in Croatia, and the confidence Americans have placed in us to be in command of their soldiers as well is surely one of the greatest recognitions and confirmation that our soldiers do a good job in Afghanistan.

Lengthy preparations and demanding training

An excellent level of training, professionalism, the respect of safety measures and motivation are a guarantee of success for the execution of any task. Numerous commendations with which they return to their Homeland are a confirmation they possess all that; it can often be heard from the highest commanding structures, not only from the mission ISAF but also from other missions the Republic of Croatia participates in, that they would like to have



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Croatia is the lead nation in the CS OMLT; it is composed of 12 Croatian and 12 American soldiers and an officer from our armed forces is in command of the team

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more Croatian soldiers in their ranks. Rotations of contingents are carried out twice a year and all members of the CAF who take part in the mission ISAF volunteer for that. Before they depart, they undergo lengthy preparations and demanding training and particular emphasis is placed on security. Standards and the level of training have increased year in year out and training is based as much on lessons learnt in missions as on our rich and valuable experiences gained in the Homeland War. At the initiative of Lieutenant General Mladen Kruljac, Commander of the Croatian Army, joint training of all components of the HRVCON to be deployed to the mission ISAF has been carried out lately. The exercise is known as Croatian Pride and the most recent one the readiness of the 13th HRVCON was evaluated on was held in late January at the drill field Gašinci. The training is carried out in conditions that are most similar to conditions members of the CAF will encounter in Afghanistan; in addition to the good level of training of our soldiers, their good fitting out with weapons, equipment or material contribute to their security. Considerable efforts have been made in equipping the military training areas with contents which render possible the practicing of all situations our soldiers could encounter in the mission and in the carrying out of training in conditions that are as realistic as possible. ■

EQUIPMENT

The following plan is momentarily the most important for Croatian manufacturers: that the entire apparel, footwear and other accessories (belts, pouches, cases, caps...), that members of the CAF will be equipped with in the future should be labeled "Made in Croatia"

From stockings or undershirts to fighter planes, all new elements of equipping the Croatian army are under special scrutiny of the Croatian public and media. There are three basic reasons for that. Firstly, sources of that equipping are in Croatian state budget and people want to know what their money is spent on. Secondly, the equipment of modern soldiers requires technological innovation with full particulars: the stated stockings and airplanes contain many details that are new, modern and interesting to the profession and to laymen. Thirdly, military occupation is demanding and dangerous, so concern for those who have decided to defend peace in Croatia and in the world is constantly present. Adequate level of equipment makes them safer.

Due to these reasons all activities of the Croatian company Kroko and the companies it works with, before all cooperation with the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of the Interior are regularly published in Croatian newspapers. Kroko has already acquired fame with the design and manufacture of the new uniform for Croatian soldiers in Afghanistan and a series of other special military wearing apparel it has developed or simply distributed to our market with domestic and foreign sub-contractors. The most recent undertaking was signing the contract for equipping the military of Montenegro with uniforms; they will also have a recognizable silhouette of the country's territorial shape as a camouflage "ornament".

However, the following plan is momentarily the most important for Croatian manufacturers: that the entire apparel, footwear and other accessories (belts, pouches, cases, caps...), that members of the CAF will be equipped with in the future should be labeled "Made in Croatia". For



Recognizable uniform

In the missions they are deployed to and in the mass of members of other armed forces, Croatian soldiers are identifiable to a large extent, not only because of their professionalism but also because of their new camouflage uniform with a recognizable pattern, a computer-stylized shape of Croatia. The uniform is characterized by new material, camouflage digital print and new cut; it excellently fits in the environment with its "Croatian" ornaments and this has been shown in all past testings and verifications.



OF THE CROATIAN SOLDIER AS EXPORT BRAND

by Domagoj Vlahović, photo by Tomislav Brandt

that purpose, Croatian companies rely on word - association. The idea is in fact two years old and was generated by Kroko. Denis Popović, Director of Kroko claims that:

"we can go forward and fight for the job only with joint efforts". In other words, in the Europe that is coming to us, none of the Croatian market players are individually big and strong enough to manage the more serious challenge of equipping the military, including the Croatian Armed Forces. With the uniform for our "Afghan boys", that has received only commendations for its quality, we are not talking about mass production. These are hundreds and not thousands of uniforms and other items. This equipping for our associated manufacturers was a specific (and proven to be a successful) pilot-project in which, besides Kroko, Krateks, Hemco, Uriho, Borovo, Šešir, Croyosi Jakovlje, Odjeća, Sloga and Jelen took part. A series of other companies has applied for future projects and joint business operations.

Popović thinks that everything has been going well for Croatian manufacturers so far and claims: "We are ready to work for the Croatian Army". That readiness means they warrant quality "that we

control maximally in cooperation with the Textile-Technological Faculty, the Institute of Mechanical Engineering, independent inspection companies and various testing laboratories in Germany, Italy and the USA".

All this is on track of the basic goal of our companies - the Croatian soldier is to be dressed in Croatian clothing and with fine workmanship. Everything is known about the uniform, what about other items? Popović says everything can be realized and the focus is momentarily on the development of boots and gloves "which we are still searching a solution since in Croatia nobody has manufactured them for ten years". The only thing that will have to be procured from abroad in future are goggles. "We should not import anything except them", the manufacturer says. All that could be realized within two to three years. We could start very quickly with the development of the equipment for the navy and the air force: "Those are only modifications of the topic."

"The equipment of the Croatian soldier can become Croatian export brand", Popović concluded without hesitation.



Protective combat vest Kroko-M120

is one of the most important manufacturing achievements of Kroko and of the Croatian textile industry for a specified purpose

- the basic purpose of the protective combat vest Kroko-M120 is ballistic protection of Croatian army members and carrying weapons and personal equipment on the vest,
- the vest's cover, radio device case, protective mask case and hands guards belong to the basic M120 set,
- additional equipment for the vest can comprise six types of containers' holders, ammunition holder, one-fold and two-

fold pocket for bombs, rounds holder, five types of cases, water-bottle, pouch for small inventory and ballistic protection of thighs.

Level of protection

- the vest meets all requirements according to NIJ Standard-0101.04 standard,
- it provides protection of the level II-A, II i III-A (Croatian Ministry of Defense) in conformity with that standard,
- level III protection is achieved by use of protective polyethylene panels,
- level IV protection is achieved by use of protective ceramic panels.



HS PRODUKT FROM KARLOVAC WORLD FAMOUS COMPANY FOR MANUFACTURE OF PISTOLS

CROATIAN



After great success in the USA, pistol HS 2000 denoted by the name HS in 2005, over 50 models of that pistol have been manufactured and have entered several armies and police forces in the world as official weapons, naturally the USA and Croatia are among them

HS Produkt is a world famous company that manufactures pistols and is one of the best examples of how Croatia can, to a large extent, contribute to the development of the economy, especially when it is a question of companies that manufacture military equipment and armament. They modestly began with the workmanship and production of pistols in 1991, at the time when Croatia was in the grip of war, with an insufficient number of machines and expert labour force. Yet, they managed to produce very quickly the first Croatian pistol PHP. At the very beginning, the only buyer of PHP was the Croatian Ministry of Defense. Since they were buying their product and provided them with expert help, the Croatian Ministry of Defense helped them develop and upgrade production. Very quickly, by 1995, they produced the pistol HS 95. According to its features, their second pistol was already competitive as compared to other pistols that could be found on the world's market. They were not satisfied with that either. Owing to the expertise of its staff and innovations in manufacturing, the company from Karlovac today, 18 years later, is the world's most

According to the selection of the American National Association for Fire Arms (NRA), it was proclaimed the best pistol in 2003 and 2006. This is also the first time that pistols from one factory are holders of that prestigious American award twice in such a short time

of Defense that helped us at the very beginning and bought our first pistol, provided us with expert assistance and gave us very useful information on how our product behaved in real conditions, who knows if today we would be on the world's market and enjoying such success" the Director of **HS Produkt**, Željko Pavlin said. After great success in the USA, the pistol HS 2000, denoted by the name of HS in 2005 (it is manufactured in over 50 models) has entered several armies and police forces in the world as official weapons, including the USA and Croatia. HS has received numerous awards and recognitions for its quality. For example, according to selection of the American National Association for Fire Arms (NRA), it was proclaimed the best pistol in 2003 and 2006. This is also the first time that pistols from one factory were holders of that prestigious American award twice in such a short time. Today, **HS Produkt** employs 1,000 workers, it has state-of-the-art technology for the production of infantry weapons and it is one of the factories with the biggest production of pistols in the world.

Although today the Croatian MoD is neither

PISTOL

IN SEVERAL ARMIES OF THE WORLD

by Leida PARLOV
photographs archives of the **HS Produkt**

famous manufacturer of pistols. They dominate the world's market with pistol HS 2000, especially the most demanding American one. The American company SPRINGFIELD ARMORY, one of the oldest and most famous American manufacturers of armament was the first to recognize the true quality of that pistol. The long-term contract on cooperation was signed in 2001 and the company Springfield Armory marketed the pistol HS 2000 under the name Springfield XD-9 (XD - Extreme Duty) in calibres 9 mm Para, 40 S&W, .357 SIG, 45 G.A.P and 45 A.C.P. In this way the Croatian manufacturer that had been almost unknown until then, has become world-famed and their annual production and sale at present exceeds the production of the world's biggest manufacturers of pistols. "If we had not cooperated with the Ministry

Today, HS Produkt employs 1,000 workers, it has state-of-the-art technology for production of infantry weapons and it is one of the factories with the biggest production of pistols in the world

the principal nor the biggest buyer of pistols, the cooperation with them has remained equally good and long life and quality of that cooperation is a warranty that top-quality weapons will be delivered from the facilities in Karlovac. "Our present cooperation with the Croatian MoD and the CAF is carried out in a manner that is customary in the world. It is complete and more than satisfactory." Pavlin emphasized

Owing to experience and world-success in the development of pistols, the company made an additional step by initiating the development of the modern assault rifle. In that project it also closely cooperates with the Croatian MoD and the CAF. In view of the success they have achieved so far, they hope that the assault rifle will be their and thus a new Croatian export product. ■



BOROVO GUMITRADE LTD.

TRADITION

by Marija Alvir,
photographs archives of the *Borovo Gumitrade Ltd.*

BALLISTIC
PROTECTION
**PROTECTIVE VEST
AGAINST BULLET B9**



From thorns to stars and back is the title of the monograph about Borovo by the author Ante Duić; this could be a brief description of the pathway this famous rubber and footwear factory made from its creation to present time. It was established under the name Bata, later on Borovo, and after years of successful production, that factory became a leading manufacturer of rubber and footwear in this part of Europe and beyond. Yet, the former giant of world reputation suffered enormous damages during the Homeland War and aggression on Croatia and it has never fully recovered.

During aggression on the town of Vukovar late in 1991, Borovo was partly destroyed and the estimated war damage amounts to more than 300 million EUROs. For the first time in its history, Borovo discontinued its business activities in Vukovar and the management was forced to organize work in exile. From 1992 to 1997 the Management of Borovo operated from Zagreb, and production was placed in a plant in Donji Miholjac.

The retail network was limited only to Croatia and Slovenia and a part of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Business activities at the parent location in Vukovar were resumed early in 1998, concurrently with the process of the peaceful reintegration of Eastern Slavonia in the constitutional, legal and economic system of the Republic of Croatia.

Borovo took possession of its property in Vukovar that was destroyed by war and postwar devastations; it structured itself as a business group and started with production of footwear and rubber-technical goods.

Borovo today is a system built on manufacturing, commercial and service companies. Under leadership of the corporation Borovo Business Centre, seven trading companies actively run business operations. The trading companies cover the area of Croatia, Slovenia and

NBC PROTECTION
**PROTECTIVE COVERS FOR
MILITARY FOOTWEAR
NZ M-2**



EXPERIENCE

FOR HIGH QUALITY OF PRODUCTS

Montenegro with about 170 footwear outlets in which 1,5 million pairs of footwear is sold annually. Owing to the company Borovo Trade d.o.o. in Slovenia, Borovo is one of the Croatian companies that are also active in the European Union.

The entire production is run at a parent location in Vukovar, where the seats of the companies Borovo Gumitrade Ltd. and Borovo Leather Footwear Ltd. are situated. On an annual basis these companies produce about 400 thousand pairs of footwear for various purposes with additional production of the rubber programme. Owing to top-level quality of its products, Borovo Gumitrade has over the years had an excellent cooperation with the Ministry of Defense and the Croatian Armed Forces.

Special products for the military and police

The company Borovo Gumitrade Ltd. has been operating since 2003 as a trading company. It was established by integration of all production activities and trade of rubber products and rubber fabrics; their long tradition is the best evidence of their quality. Borovo Gumitrade has been producing transmission/driving belts and various rubber-technical goods for over 60 years, and the tradition of producing rubber footwear (working, protective, sports and civilian) is 75 years old.

Today this company manufactures and sales products for special purposes, rubber mixtures, rubber and linen footwear, driving/transmission, industrial and agricultural belts, shoemaking kits and glues and various rubber-technical goods

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That 25 years old production of goods for ballistic and nuclear-biological-chemical (NBC) protection, is especially interesting to the army and police. "Modern market requirements, new materials of top-level properties, high technical level of internationally recognized technical standards and similar conditions create a new orientation of the company's development in direction of modern ballistic and NBC protection. Valuable experiences from the recent war and permanent cooperation with top-level experts and institutions are the basis of the development in that direction", Borovo Gumitrade Director Husnija Burić said, emphasizing that products for ballistic protection and NBC protective footwear and clothes for military purpose were developed precisely for the requirements of the army and police.

In 2008, substantial funds were invested in equipment, technology and *know-how*. The company Borovo Gumitrade is the only manufacturer of rubber footwear and driving belts in Croatia; with a stable market and long tradition it also has experienced technical staff that is an additional warranty for the high quality of products. ■



NBC PROTECTION
PROTECTIVE BOOTS



NBC PROTECTION
ISOLATION PROTECTIVE
SUIT OZI M-2



PRODUCTS



Military weekly magazine *Hrvatski vojnik*
(Croatian Soldier)



Photomonograph of the CAF
- Army of Winners - Proudly Towards Future

Photomonograph on participation of the CAF
in the mission ISAF

**- From Defenders of the Homeland to
Keepers of the World's Peace**



Films and TV commercials on training,
exercises, participation in missions...

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Mini DVD - TV commercial
Croatian Armed Forces



Multimedia-CD - the Croatian Armed Forces



Musical CDs - Symphonic wind orchestra
of the Croatian Army
- Male vocal singing group of the Croatian Navy
„Sveti Juraj” (St. George)





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