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INTERVIEW

CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF
OF THE CAF LIEUTENANT
GENERAL DRAGO LOVRIĆ

CAF MEMBERS RECOGNISED AS TOP PROFESSIONALS

THE CROATIAN ARMED FORCES

THE SPECIAL MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

20 YEARS OF THE CROATIAN ARMED FORCES

THE ARMY WHICH COMPLETED

THE MOST SACRED OF ALL TASKS

DEFENDING AND FREEING THE HOMELAND

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FUTURE SOLDIER

HEAD-UP DISPLAY (LOOK THROUGH)

The Head-up (or look through) display is very important part of the Future soldier. It means that the Soldier does not need to stare in to SDT's computer display instead to do his task. The display could be mounted on to a helmet and used when necessarily only. Certain audio signals have been used for basic communication with the Soldier to have the Soldier's activities maximum time concentrated on the battlefield.

PERSONAL ROLE RADIO

The development of the system has led to use of the PRR (Personal Role Radio). This is a module that enables networking with other members of the unit with data and voice (voice over IP - VoIP) capabilities, with spectrum for high speed data transfer enabling real-time video features. For budget saving purposes, SDT-T and SDT-P computers could have wireless capabilities: in this case PRRs functions will be done by SDTs software and radios.



SOLDIER's COMPUTER and PRR

Typically, the Future soldiers has been equipped with a version of the SDT (Soldier Data Terminal). The SDT is available in a two formats:

- Commander's Planning System (SDT-P)
- Tactical terminal (SDT-T)

Both the SDT-P and the SDT-T utilise a mature and highly intuitive human-computer interface (HCI). The SDT-T differs from the standard SDT in that it is physically smaller and much lighter, with a display reduced to reflect the area of interest (AOI) applicable to a tactical operation.

MOUSE-LIKE INTERFACE

To have much more soldier-friendly man-machine interface, mouse-like interface has been installed.

OTHER PRODUCTS/PROJECTS DEVELOPED BY SDT SUSTAV:

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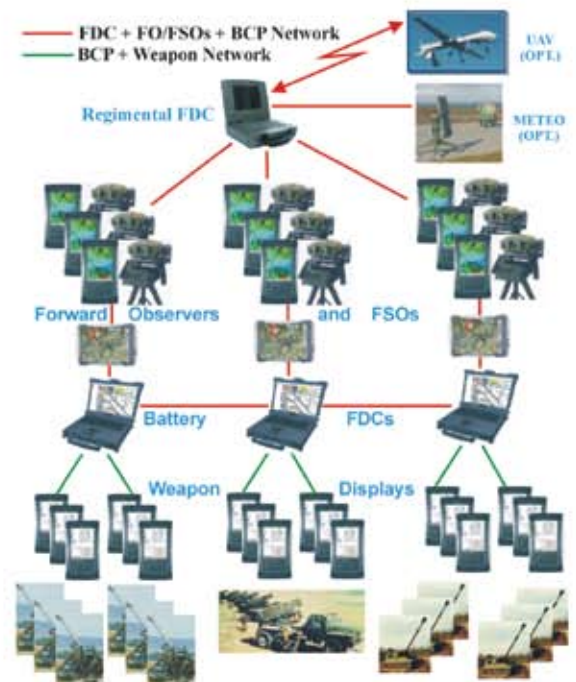
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CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF OF
THE CAF LIEUTENANT GENERAL
DRAGO LOVRIĆ

Even before its entry into NATO, with its participation in the NATO-led ISAF operation in Afghanistan, the CAF had shown and proved that it is an equal partner to even the most developed countries' armed forces. All of the efforts that for years were invested in the armed forces growing over the course of the Homeland War that have transformed them into modern forces with new capabilities have shown their results.

CAF MEMBERS RECOGNISED AS TOP PROFESSIONALS

You have taken on the position of the CAF's Chief of GS in the year marking the 20th anniversary of the Armed Forces. Besides being well aware of how the forces look from the "inside", since 2007 you have been our military representative to NATO and to the EU, so you know first hand what our status is in the international community. Taking all this into consideration, can you tell us how the CAF has really fit into NATO's joint operations?



Even before its entry into NATO, with its participation in the NATO-led ISAF operation in Afghanistan, the CAF had shown and proved that it is an equal partner to even the most developed countries' armed forces. All of the efforts that for years were invested in the armed forces growing over the course of the Homeland War that have transformed them into modern forces with new capabilities have shown their results. Even today this result is best expressed and represented in the joint participation in operations that establish stability in Afghanistan and in Kosovo. In these international military operations, members of the CAF were recognized as top professionals. All this means that in many areas, our forces, both units and individuals, have reached the required level of compatibility and interoperability that are required for a unified effect in highly complex and demanding conditions that today are carried out the Al-

liance's operations. However, along with participation in operations, there is another important element - our members' work in NATO's command structure. We can not ignore the fact that Croatia, as the youngest NATO member, has one of its own in the position of brigadier general in SHAPE. This points to the trust placed in us, and also to the commitments assumed in the active participation in the creation of the further development of NATO, which, faced with new security challenges, continuously develops its existing and new capabilities. In this process, the CAF can not be isolated; rather it must adapt and change in all areas of the transformation and integration, from doctrine, organization, education and training, equipping and modernization, to a number of other segments in order to be able to successfully cope with the changing environment.

Given the time in which we live, the changing security situation in the world, the new threats that all armed forces including our own must adapt to in organizational and technical terms, can it be said that today, 20 years later, the CAF is somewhat at the beginning of a new phase in its development?



I would say that it is more a matter of continuous change and development than the beginning of a new phase. I mentioned that NATO is constantly transforming, seeking adequate responses to current challenges, but is also developing new concepts for potential future





challenges. The CAF is going through a similar process. In this process, of course, individual partial solutions to the forces' structure, to equipment, etc. may seem new, but when you go deeper into their structure it is clear that as a rule, they represent a real response to the goals we have set for ourselves through our own strategic documents, accepting the obligations of NATO membership that are expressed in the forces' Goals. In doing so, after the NATO summit in Lisbon and the adoption of the new Strategic Concept, before us are new requirements to which we must respond as a trusted member. This means that our new development priorities must be defined, not only in relation to the Strategic Concept, but also in relation to our internal human and material potential and to our state's funding capacities in financing defence purposes. Given the number and unpredictability of potential threats, both to our national security and to that of the Alliance we belong to, skills development must primarily be focused on the effects that we want to achieve by acting independently and/or within the Alliance's framework. Like this we will best make use of all the advantages we receive with NATO membership in order to successfully accomplish all the missions and tasks set before the CAF.

At the beginning of your mandate you announced that it is necessary to reduce the Armed Forces' large structure. What specifically did you mean by this and how do you plan on accomplishing this?



The fact is that the CAF did not achieve the desired numeric size anticipated in the CAF's currently valid Long-term Development Plan which was passed by the Croatian Parliament

We can not ignore the fact that Croatia, as the youngest NATO member, has one of its own in the position of brigadier general in SHAPE. This points to the trust placed in us, and also to the commitments assumed in the active participation in the creation of the further development of NATO, which, faced with new security challenges, continuously develops its existing and new capabilities.

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and confirmed by the Croatian President's decision on the numerical size of the armed forces. It is necessary to reduce the size of the organization in relation to the number of members and in relation to the internal structure. Expert assessments indicate that a total of 15000 people, with regard to financial possibilities and to an assessment of potential threats and risks, is appropriate for a country of our size and population. On the other hand, the internal structure presents a complicated and time consuming problem that is visible at several levels which I will mention, but not in order of priority. The first is the relationship between the ranks of officer and NCO. Since the required numerical size was not achieved, what took place was the natural process of a prioritized filling of the organizational positions of senior officers and NCOs, which disturbed the so-called pyramid of ranks. The recently adopted Officers' and NCOs Professional Development Standards will help everyone recognize and define their statuses. The Armed Forces' goal is to achieve a transparent system of equal opportunities in which those who get promoted are those who deserve it because of their work. The second level is the overall relationship between officers, NCOs and soldiers which is not sufficiently balanced. The third level is the age structure; here significant progress has been made, but the structure must further be corrected by admitting young officers and soldiers into the military service. The fourth level is the educational structure, both in terms of civilian and military education, where the situation is better than ever but still in part differs from officer's educational structures. The fifth level is the ratio of so-called administrative to operational positions. The goal is to get the number of people in command, from the battalion level to the General Staff of the CAF, reduced by 20% in the new structure. This of course will not be a linear decrease; rather, the assignments and responsibilities of each command will be considered individually in order to determine their final configuration.

According to your projections, which other segments of the armed forces must be transformed?



There is not a single part of the system which is ideal and does not need to be changed. The transformation of one segment will affect changes in a number of other segments. This applies to all systems and functional areas, from management, planning, operational activities, and personnel management to train-

ing and logistical support. The transformation will certainly be affected by certain strategic decisions which must be made at the highest political and military levels. I would like to set the decision on the procurement of fighter aircraft for the surveillance and protection of the airspace in peacetime (so-called Air Policing) as an example. If it should be decided that the MiG-21 airplane be replaced with a new one, then the inner transformation of Air Force and Air Defence would be relatively small. On the other hand, if such a decision is not made, then that branch would go through a thorough transformation, as there would be no need for a squadron of fighter aircraft, the requirements for aircraft maintenance, the structure of the flight school, and many other elements would change. Therefore, one decision could have far-reaching effects on changes for the armed forces as a whole. The ultimate goal is that the CAF be professional, mobile and expeditionary, and be able to rationally use all necessary human, material, training and other resources with the capacity to increase in size in the event of a crisis of major proportions.

The preparation of new strategic documents which will define the further development of the CAF is in progress. How are things progressing and will these documents really be consistent with reality and possibilities?

→ I have already mentioned that the preparation of the Strategic Defence Review is in its final stage. We expect that this document will soon be submitted to the Croatian Government for it to be adopted, so that the CAF's Long-term Development Plan, which will be adopted by the Croatian Parliament, can be completed. One of the LDP's elements is the financial indicators for develop-

The Air Force and Air Defence forces with 2 helicopters, flight and ground crews and medical evacuation teams have currently achieved readiness for the Nordic battle group in which Sweden is the leading nation. In a year, in the second half of 2012, CAF members will participate in the EU's Battlegroup with Germany as leading nation. Various forces with a total strength of 250 people will be engaged in it, with a motorized battalion on BoV 8x8 PATRIAs as a central part.

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ment needs, particularly in the area of equipping and modernization. In developing these documents we are fully aware of our country's economic realities. Of course I would prefer that the allocation for defence be 2% of the GDP and that the allocation for modernization be more than 20% of the defence budget as per the Alliance's recommendations, but we know that it would be very difficult to achieve this within the next few years. Therefore, we must realistically determine our priorities in meeting our constitutional obligations and the obligations arising from membership in the Alliance, and soon enough in our membership in the EU, and see what we have to develop ourselves, and what we must develop with other partner countries. The key guiding principle for us is that as a NATO member and a country with limited resources, Croatia can not and should not be pursuing the development of a wide range of defence and military capabilities; rather, the balanced development of all three branches of the CAF must constantly be the focus.

Although not yet an EU member, we actively participate in European defence and security policy. What do you have to say about that and what new things will Croatia's accession to the EU bring in this area?

→ I would like to bring to mind the CAF's participation in the EUFOR operation in Chad, when our members first participated in an EU-led operation. We are currently participating in the Atalanta operation, and can say that such a proactive approach has many good sides; one is surely our members' work according to the European Union's procedures and standards, and the other I would like to mention is sending a message about Croatia's commitment to an active involvement in the EU's Joint Security and Defence policies. The Air Force and Air Defence forces with 2 helicopters, flight and ground crews and medical evacuation teams have currently achieved readiness for the Nordic battle group in which Sweden is the leading nation. In a year, in the second half of 2012, CAF members will participate in the EU's Battlegroup with Germany as leading nation. Various forces with a total strength of 250 people will be engaged in it, with a motorized battalion on BoV 8x8 PATRIAs as a central part. Current and future participation in EU operations adds a new dimension to our overall capabilities and contributes to the development of our defence system.



→ CROATIA'S LEGENDARY BRIGADES

Croatia's legendary brigades – 1st Tigers, 2nd Thunder, 3rd Martens, 4th Spiders, and the later-established 5th Falcons, 7th Pumas, 8th (easy-assault) Eagles and 9th Wolves, along with special units took charge of defending and liberating the Republic of Croatia.



20 YEARS OF THE CROATIAN ARMED FORCES



THE ARMY WHICH COMPLETED THE MOST SACRED OF ALL DEFENDING AND FREEING THE

At the beginning of realizing its centuries-old dream of an independent and sovereign state, the Croatian population came under the fire of the politics of Greater Serbia, which from 1991 to 1995 threatened the elementary survival not only of the young country, but of Croatian beings altogether. It was a time in which the foundations of a young country had to be created from virtually nothing...



The Log Revolution and first special forces

As early on as the mid-1990's, the leadership of the then-joint state was ready to destroy the democratically elected Croatian government. Greater Serbia ideologists accused Croatia of endangering Serbhood, leading a special war by organising so-called truth meetings and by creating the so-called Ser-



➔ TRAINING OF POLICE OFFICER CANDIDATES BEGAN

On August 5th, 1990 in the Ministry of Interior's School Centre of the Republic of Croatia in Zagreb, the training of nearly 2000 police officer candidates began, and shortly after the first special units were established – the Lučko Anti-Terrorist Unit and as well as the Special Tasks unit of Croatia's Ministry of Interior. By the end of 1990, the Ministry of Interior had 45 000 members.

Prepared by Vesna Pintarić, Leida Parlov, Toma Vlašić, photo archive

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TASKS HOMELAND

bian Autonomous Region (SAO) in Krajina in Croatia. Croatia at that time was unarmed. Out of the storage of the Territorial Defence (TO) of the then Socialist Republic of Croatia, authorities illegally and secretly confiscated weapons from 250 thousand members of the Territorial Defence. At the same time there were Serbian provocations, road blocks... It was the beginning of the Log Revolution. Conflicts became

From a country that was host to peace-keeping forces, we became a country and army that invests great effort in building peace throughout the whole world by participating in numerous peacekeeping missions and operations. Thanks to our own efforts and victories, those in the Homeland War and those put before us by modern times, we have become part of the most powerful military-political alliance in the world, and today, as the 27th member of NATO, we proudly stand alongside the world's most powerful armies. The journey which began on Kranjčevićeva Street was the path towards victory and a coming of age journey for a young army which today has grown into modern, respectable and professional armed forces.

more widespread and dangerous and soon turned into bloodbaths of unimaginable proportions.

Assaults on Croatian police became more frequent, police stations were attacked, and the first major clash occurred in the Plitvice Lakes National Park, which was occupied by Serbian paramilitary units. Croatian police intervened, did away with the terrorists and established supervision over the park, and that episode of the Homeland War was noted in most recent Croatian history as Bloody Easter.

Namely, during that action, the first victim of the Greater Serbian rebellion, Croatian police officer Josip Jović, was killed. The persecution of the Croatian population continued, and units from the Yugoslav Army (JNA) openly sided with the rebels. It was more than obvious that the rebels were trying to destabilise the newly elected Croatian democratic leadership, which along with political measures also began taking more concrete measures to defend democratically elected institutions.

On August 5th, 1990 in the Ministry of Interior's School Centre of the Republic of Croatia in Zagreb, the training of nearly 1800 police officer candidates began, and shortly after the first special units were established – the Lučko Anti-Terrorist Unit and as well as Special Tasks units of Croatia's Ministry of Interior. By the end of 1990, the Ministry of Interior had 45 000 members.

The Establishment of the National Guard

On April 17th, 1991, the Law on Amendments to the Law on Internal Affairs, which helped bring about the Decree of Formation of the Croatian National Guard (ZNG), the first professional armed units with ➔

At the FC Zagreb on Kranjceviceva street, the Croatia Army's first units held parade



→ defence and training duties. The Croatian National Guard's first established brigades took their solemn oaths to the Croatian homeland on the historic day of May 28th, 1991, when there was also a formal parade

The National Guard's first established brigades took their solemn oath to the Homeland on my 28th 1991



The Croatian National Guard's first established brigades took their solemn oaths to the Croatian homeland on the historic day of May 28th, 1991 when there was also a formal parade held at the FC "Zagreb" stadium on Kranjčevićeva street. The Croatian Armed Forces now celebrate that day as the day of its establishment

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held at the FC "Zagreb" stadium on Kranjčevićeva street. The Croatian Armed Forces now celebrate that day as the day of its establishment. Croatia's legendary brigades – 1st Tigers, 2nd Thunder, 3rd Martens, 4th Spiders, and the later-established 5th Falcons, 7th Pumas, 8th (easy-assault) Eagles and 9th Wolves, along with special units took charge of defending and liberating the Republic of Croatia.

Heroic Vukovar

In the Summer of 1991, Eastern Croatia came under a very strong attack by Serbian extremists. The aggressor's goal was to gain control of Osijek, Vinkovci, Đakovo and Našice. The level of aggressions rose – at the end of June, the Yugoslav Army's tanks ram-paged through the streets of Osijek, the Yugoslav Army's heavily armoured vehicles entered Baranja

Vukovar, November 18th 1991





→ BLOODY EASTER

The first major clash occurred in the Plitvice Lakes National Park, which was occupied by Serbian paramilitary units. Croatian police intervened and did away with the terrorists and established supervision over the park, and that episode of the Homeland War was noted in most recent Croatian history as Bloody Easter.

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at the beginning of July, the enemy attacked Osijek, burned down the village of Čelije, there was a battle for Tenja and Laslovo, the enemy took Dalj, Aljmaš and Erdut... By the end of August, all of Baranja



was occupied. Command and units of the Croatian Army were rapidly established and began defence preparations.

The pocket around the legendary City of Heroes, Vukovar, was getting tighter and Croatian soldiers provided heroic resistance. But despite the soldier's superhuman efforts, on November 18th 1991, the completely devastated and destroyed Vukovar lost its last battle. The cavalry of Vukovar soldiers that was captured after the city was occupied was brought to Serbian concentration camps, from which many never returned. Wounded Croatian soldiers from the Vukovar hospital, about 260 of them, were taken to the nearby Ovčara farm. To date, the remains of 200 people have been exhumed from the Ovčara mass grave. In the battle for Vukovar, the Croatian soldiers had about 600 of their men killed, and about 1500 had been taken to Serbian concentration camps, while the civilian casualties were even greater.

Along with members of the legendary 204th Vukovar brigade, Croatian soldiers from other parts of the country such as Đakovo, Čakovec, Varaždin and Zagreb also participated in the defence of Vukovar. Thanks to the heroic defence of the Vukovar soldiers, which in terms of the ratio of forces to the aggressor is considered a kind of phenomenon in world



The Water tower in Vukovar was one of the most frequent targets of the enemy's artillery



→ ATTACKED FROM SEVERAL DIRECTIONS

In western Slavonia the enemy attacked from several directions – fighting in Okučani began in Mid-August of 1991, and enemy forces also attacked the Nova Gradiška area. The Systematic organisation of the Croatian Force's defence stabilised the western-Slavonian battlefield, thwarting the enemy's plan to divide Croatia in the Okučani-Virovitica direction.



20 YEARS OF THE CROATIAN ARMED FORCES



After an agreement was concluded on the complete cessation of combat operations in Croatia on January 2nd 1992, the Croatian defence was consolidated after heavy trials. That was the end of the first stage of the war. At the time of the Sarajevo cease-fire, the enemy occupied 17 300 square kilometres of Croatian state territory

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military history, the prerequisites for the defence of the rest of Croatia were created in the three months of fierce fighting and casualties in Vukovar.

The first offensive actions in western Slavonia

After Vukovar, the enemy headed for Osijek, but due to the exceptional efforts of the soldiers, the Greater Serbian campaign ended unsuccessfully. The aggressor tried to achieve the plan of reaching the boundaries of the fictional "Greater Serbia" on other Croatian fronts as well.

In western Slavonia the enemy attacked from several directions – fighting in Okučani began in Mid-August of 1991, and enemy forces also attacked the Nova Gradiška area. Members of the first Guard's Brigade of the ZNG at that time were the main offensive and defensive forces of the Croatian Army in that area. The Systematic organisation of the Croatian Force's defence stabilised the western-Slavonian battlefield, thwarting the enemy's plan to divide Croatia in the Okučani-Virovitica direction.

Croatian troops at that time undertook a number of offensive actions in western Slavonia at Bilogori, Orkan-91 and Otkos 10, all in order to release the occupied territories.

In Western Slavonia, the enemy was attacking from several directions





→ THE SIEGE OF DUBROVNIK

In October the enemy headed towards Konavle and Ston, they occupied Slano and divided the Croatian territory into two parts.

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From June to October 1992, units of the Croatian Army carried out a number of liberation actions during which Dubrovnik was unblocked



Those were the first offensive-liberation operations of the Croatian Army and police in the Homeland War. In the liberation operations that took place in October, November and December of 1991, Croatian units liberated 2275 square kilometres of western Slavonian territory. Croatian forces were in full swing on that territory up until January 2nd 1992, when the Sarajevo Accord was concluded.

The release of the barracks

On the Banijska-Pokupsko battlefield and in the Zagreb area a series of important and decisive events followed. In Zagreb from September 13th to December 23rd 1991, the Croatian Army took over 68 Yugoslav Army's buildings, which significantly increased the armed capacities of Croatian forces throughout the whole area of the Republic of Croatia. In the Croatian capital, fourteen brigades were established, of which only four operated in the Greater Zagreb area, while the others fought on battlefields across Croatia.

The enemy was stopped on the Kupa and Sava Rivers, Sunja and Sisak were defended from it and headed for Zagreb.

From the time units in the Karlovac area were established, not only a consolidation of the defence but also the first offensive-liberation actions also took place on that front. Despite the devastating attacks on Karlovac, Duga Resa and Ogulin, Croatian forces firmly defended their positions and managed to cast aside the enemy.

On the Lika battlefield, the enemy turned its attack towards Gospić and the roads that go to Senj, and Serbian attacks were particularly visible on Perušić,

Lovinac and Sv. Rok... And on this area the Croatian Army in late-Fall of 1991 engaged in several liberation actions and liberated many places.

The defence of the Croatian south

At the end of June 1991, the intense organising of the defence of the Zadar, Šibenik and Split areas began with the establishment of the first units on land and sea. Croatian forces in this area were forced to set up defences in three directions – those of Vodice, Skradin and Drniš.

In the Croatian south, the enemy tried to dominate the Neretva valley and cut off and occupy that part of Croatia.

In October the enemy headed towards Konavle and Ston, they occupied Slano and divided the Croatian territory into two parts. Fierce attacks on Dubrovnik followed over the course of the next few months, and along with civilian casualties during the siege, the city also suffered great devastation to its historical heritage. Thanks to the soldiers in southernmost Croatia, the wounded Pearl of Croatia and of the World survived the siege.

After an agreement was concluded on the complete cessation of combat operations in Croatia on January 2nd 1992, the Croatian defence was consolidated after heavy trials. That was the end of the first stage of the war. At the time of the Sarajevo cease-fire, the enemy occupied 17 300 square kilometres of Croatian state territory.

Meanwhile, the Croatian armed forces had evolved into a respectable military force that, in the following days and in a manner which was in line with Croatian constitutional law, returned that last span of occupied Croatian territory. The Croatian Army was →





On May 1st 1995, Croatian Armed Forces began military-police operation Flash in which the territory of Western Slavonia was liberated

➔ divided into three branches – the Croatian Ground Army (HKoV), the Croatian Navy (HRM) and the Croatian Air Force and Air Defence (HRZ and PZO). The largest was the ground army, which was organised into six sections and had a very strong echelon that was directly subordinate to the General Staff of the Croatian Armed Forces.

Days of pride and glory

At the end of March 1992, the Croatian armed forces were ready to change the unsustainable state of the grounds. Thus began the second phase of the Homeland War, which would see a number of liberation operations which were to change the strategic balance of forces. The first goal was to lift the blockade on Dubrovnik and free southern Croatia. Croatian forces' most important actions in that area were operations Scorched Earth, Tiger, Liberated Land, Descent on Cavtat and Vlačica.

This was a huge success in that phase of the Homeland War was extremely important for the

In parallel, the military operation Flash began in May 1995, in which Croatian forces in a coordinated and consociated way launched the liberation of western Slavonia, and in only 32 hours broke out to the Sava River and liberated Okučani and Stara Gradiška, as well as the entire Slavonski Brod and Posavina County

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Croatian Armed Forces, both in terms of the morale of Croatian soldiers and for the further course of the war whose end was not yet in sight.

At the same time, the Croatian Army began Operation Jaguar in the Zadar region and the Miljevci action in the Šibenik hinterland. The above-mentioned operation and action showed that the Croatian Army, in a relatively short period of time, became an armed force that was able to carry out complex operations, and their members developed from lightly-armed volunteers to experienced soldiers that were ready for even the most demanding military assignments.

In early 1993, with the aim of joining continental and southern Croatia, the Croatian Army began Operation Maslenica. In only 72 hours the army liberated a number of occupied villages in Zadar's hinterland as well as dominant positions on Mount Velebit.

In the Sinj area, Croatian forces liberated the Peruča power plant, which the enemy had mined and threatened to demolish, and they began Operation Medak Pocket on the Lika battlefield.

Liberation actions and operations continued throughout 1994, and each one of them helped create better conditions for the complete liberation of the entire Croatian territory. The first one of these was Operation Winter 94, followed by Operation Jump 1 and Operation Jump 2, and in order for the preconditions for the liberation of Knin to be created, in mid-1995 the Croatian Army began Operation Summer '95.

In parallel, Flash the military operation began in May 1995, in which Croatian forces in a coordinated and consociated way launched the liberation of western Slavonia, and in only 32 hours broke out to the Sava River and liberated Okučani and Stara Gradiška, as well as the entire Slavonski Brod and Posavina





→ THE OPERATIONS THAT FOLLOWED

The unstoppable liberation actions continued in the operations that followed, Mistral and Southern Move, but Storm was the operation that showed the world the strength and power of the Croatian Armed Forces.

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County. With Operation Flash the Croatian armed forces demonstrated their determination and competence in liberating the remaining occupied parts of our Beautiful Homeland.

A triumphant final operation – Storm

Military Operation Storm began early in the morning of August 4th, 1995. The task was to return all occupied territories to the Croatian constitution. Croatian forces launched into action simultaneously in 30 directions on almost 700 kilometre-long front. The Guard's Brigade was the major impact force on the main directions of attack, and was supported by the special police, the Croatian Guard Corps and home guardsman and reserve units.

In the tactical and strategic sense, that was a military operation which, thanks to its originality and success, will be studied by many military analysts.

By the second day of the operation, eighty percent of the planned combat tasks had been executed.

Most of the occupied Croatian cities were free again, and with the liberation of Knin, the centre of the enemy's rebellion in Croatia, the most important politico-strategic and military goal of not only Operation Storm but of the entire Homeland War was reached.

In just 84 hours, the Military Operation Storm, which almost 200 000 Croatian soldiers were engaged in and in which over 10 000 square kilometres of occupied territory had been liberated, the Croatian Army had achieved all the goals it had set.

That glorious liberation-winning operation prompted a change in strategic relationships, in favour of the Croatian forces, of course.

The unstoppable liberation actions continued in the operations that followed, Mistral and Southern Move, but Storm was the operation that showed the world the strength and power of the Croatian Armed Forces.

A proud NATO member

The Croatian Armed Forces, in an incredibly short amount of time, went from being a volunteer unit to a real army that was ready for even the most demanding tasks. The Croatian Army met the fundamental and sacred goal of any armed forces, that of defending its homeland. There were many



Military Operation Storm began early in the morning of August 4th 1995

In just 84 hours, the military operation Storm, in which almost 200 000 Croatian soldiers were engaged in and over 10 000 square kilometres of occupied territory had been liberated, the Croatian Army had achieved all the goals it had set. That glorious liberation-winning operation prompted a change in strategic relationships, in favour of the Croatian forces, of course

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victims over the course of its coming of age and strengthening, but we can be proud of what was accomplished: a great victory for a small army that realised ancient Croatian aspirations and gave us a free country.

During the period that followed, the Croatian Army constantly adapted to new challenges. It completely professionalised, developing forces and the capability to participate in joint operations, international crisis response operations, humanitarian operations and peacekeeping operations, all within NATO or EU forces.

From a country that was host to peacekeeping forces, we became a country and army that invests great effort in building peace throughout the whole world by participating in numerous peacekeeping missions and operations. Thanks to our own efforts and victories, those in the Homeland War and those put before us by modern times, we have become part of the most powerful military-political alliance in the world, and today, as the 27th member of NATO, we proudly stand alongside the world's most powerful armies.

The journey which began on Kranjčevićeva Street was the path towards victory and a coming of age journey for a young army which today has grown into modern, respectable and professional armed forces.





A modern and professional army

The progress of a large system such as the armed forces has never been and can not be absolute. In the works is the preparation of new strategic documents which will determine the further development of the armed forces and of the modalities, dynamics and priorities of the modernization. But what is most important is that the Croatian Armed Forces be ready and able to perform its mission at home and in the international environment at any given time.

After the victory achieved in the Homeland War, the Croatian Armed Forces in all its segments gradually started to adapt to peacetime conditions and organization. The goal from the very beginning was to form a small, modern, mobile armed forces. The Armed Forces have changed in terms of organization and in the number of its members has gradually decreased. The modernization of its equipment and weapons also inevitably began. During the reorganization process, the professionalization of the armed forces was also carried out and compulsory military service was replaced by voluntary service.

The Croatian Armed Forces have changed in terms of organization and in the number of its members has gradually decreased. The modernization of its equipment and weapons also inevitably began. During the reorganization process, the CAF's professionalization was also carried out and compulsory military service was replaced by voluntary service

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→ NEW TASKS AND MISSIONS

The changes that have followed, given that this is an ongoing process, are still in progress. Global trends must be monitored by all segments of society, including the army, which had and still has new tasks and missions.

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Participation in international missions and operations

The changes that have followed, given that this is an ongoing process, are still in progress. Global trends must be monitored by all segments of society, including the army, which has had and still has new tasks and missions. The country had been defended and it was time to move on. Full NATO membership was preceded by our membership in the Partnership for Peace and other international initiatives such as the U.S. Adriatic Charter. All this contributed to the better understanding and strengthening our defence capacity on an international level, especially in the area of contribution to global security.

Very quickly, as a responsible member of the international community, the Republic of Croatia and its armed forces engaged themselves in peacekeeping missions throughout the world. It all began with the participation in the UN's international missions, then with NATO-led operations and finally with EU missions. The CAF sent its first military observers to the UN's mission in Sierra Leone in 1999. Today, 12 years later, members of the Armed Forces holding various functions, about 460 of them are involved in seven UN missions, in two NATO-led operations, in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan and in the KFOR mission in Kosovo, to be precise, and in the European Union's Atalanta mission.

Croatia is a part of the European Union's Nordic battle group in which it is participating in with two



helicopters and its crews. Next year the CAF will be a part of the group that is led by Germans.

Involvement in ISAF's training activities

In addition to increasing the number of members of the Armed Forces in missions and operations, the tasks the members perform in them have also changed. By actively participating in and being certified at the international level, by developing regional cooperation and active efforts to create peace and stability in the region and in the world, two years ago, at the NATO summit in Strasbourg →

As a responsible member of the international community, Croatia's Armed Forces are engaged in peacekeeping missions around the world



➔ INTENSIVE WORK ON INTEROPERABILITY

In order to be able to work with other NATO countries, the CAF worked intensively on developing and achieving the necessary degree of interoperability, which they later showed proof of in a number of military exercises.



20 YEARS OF THE CROATIAN ARMED FORCES

Members of the CAF have long been engaged in various ways in the training of the Afghan National Army and Police



➔ and Kehl held in April 2009, Croatia achieved one of its most important foreign policy objectives – full NATO membership.

However, processes in the Armed Forces did not stop there, and activities at the international level continued, and increased even in terms of quality. This is most clearly evident in the ISAF operation in Afghanistan, where the first military police officers were sent in 2003. Gradually and in line with trends in NATO, a growing importance was placed on training activities and on mentoring the Afghan National Army and Police.

A great number of the 17th HRVCON's members, currently in Afghanistan, are in some way involved in training and mentoring the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police. Although members of the Armed Forces have been engaged in the training of ANA and ANP for quite a number of ways, special mention must be given to their participation in the KMTC (Kabul Military Training Center), in the School of Logistics, in the Artillery School and in the Engineering School; with this, the Republic of Croatia's contingent became the leading nation in the Military Police School. This is one of the ten current branched and specialized training institutions in Afghanistan, established as part of

By actively participating in and being certified at the international level, by developing regional cooperation and active efforts to create peace and stability in the region and in the world, two years ago, at the NATO summit in Strasbourg and Kehl held in April 2009, Croatia achieved one of its most important foreign policy objectives – full NATO membership.

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NATO's training mission (NATO Training Mission - NMT) whose purpose is to give direct support in the training of the Afghan Security Forces (ANSF). Among the CAF members in the ISAF mission is an aircraft mentoring group, composed of technicians and pilots from Air Force and Air Defense units, whose assignment is to help helicopter component of the Afghan Air Force and train to their pilots and technicians.

Top-level training confirmed at international military exercises

In addition to missions and operations, the CAF also participates in other international activities, such as military exercises. In order to be able to work with other NATO countries, the CAF worked intensively on developing and achieving the necessary degree of interoperability, which they later showed proof of in a number of military exercises. One of the largest international exercises in which the CAF demonstrated its superior training was NATO's Noble Midas Exercise, which was held in Croatia in October 2007. Members of the CAF's Military Police have been active in NATO's Multinational Military Police Battalion (MNMPPBAT) since 2005, when that unit, which also includes



➔ NEW EQUIPMENT AND WEAPONS

All the CAF's changes and new tasks, in accordance with plans and possibilities, are accompanied by the monitoring and upgrading of equipment and weapons in all three branches of the Armed Forces.

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members from Polish, Slovak and Czech military police forces, was established.

Joint training is conducted during Black Bear international exercises. Until now it has been held three times, and last year it was held in Croatia. NATO's MNMPBAT's full operational capability should be achieved by 2012. Several international and special forces exercises were held in Croatia. In September 2007, Croatia hosted Adriatic Eagle, and two years later as a full NATO member, hosted the Jackal Stone 09 exercise, which was the largest special units exercise in Europe that year.

In these and in many other international exercises, members of the Armed Forces, even before Croatia had become a full member of the Alliance, proved that they could successfully work together with NATO troops.

Although a synergy of many elements is necessary for the successful functioning of any system, at the beginning and at end of it all stands a man. In our case, that man is the soldier, NCO and officer who is knowledgeable, professional and able to work in an international environment. Therefore, one of the prerequisites for the achieved successes and was the investment in education. From year to year and in accordance with the standards of modern armies of the world, the CAF's education criteria rise to an increasingly higher level. This is essential not only for successful participation in missions and other international activities but also for work in

The CAF's Long-Term Development Plan 2006 – 2015, adopted in June 2006, provided a modernization plan and gave an overview of the situation and of planned activities up until 2015.

In the weapons and military equipment furnishing process, domestic development and production resources will be used maximally, in accordance with possibilities and the level of technological development of the Croatian economy.

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NATO headquarters, whose doors were opened to members of the Armed Forces through entry into the Alliance.

Modernization and equipping of the Croatian Armed Forces

All the CAF's changes and new tasks, in accordance with plans and possibilities, are accompanied by the monitoring and upgrading of equipment and weapons in all three branches of the Armed Forces. This process was further accelerated during preparation for and entrance into NATO. While developing the plans and strategic documents which define the main projects and the equipping and modernization dynamics of the Armed Forces, primary attention was paid to the CAF being able to perform its current and future tasks as best as possible.

The CAF's Long-Term Development Plan 2006 – 2015, adopted in June 2006, provided a modernization plan and gave an overview of the situation and of planned activities up until 2015. Of the many systems which entered into the CAF's composition, as well as of those which have just been introduced, a rise in their readiness and ability to perform tasks is expected, both in the domains of national defense and in commitments within NATO.

In the weapons and military equipment furnishing process, domestic development and production resources will be used maximally, in accordance with possibilities and the level of technological develop- ➔



→ THE MODERN HS GUN AND VHS ASSAULT RIFLE

Croatian soldiers carry the modern HS gun type, a Croatian product from the HS Product company. The same company also developed a new VHS assault rifle.



20 YEARS OF THE CROATIAN ARMED FORCES



Member of the Ground Army were equipped with combat uniforms which come in two models, continental and desert, which are a product of the Croatian companies. Croatian soldiers carry the modern HS gun type, a Croatian product from the HS Product company. The same company is also developing a new VHS assault rifle, and the first series is being tested by the CAF.

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complement and improve the functionality of the personal equipment system.

Croatian soldiers carry the modern HS gun type, a Croatian product from the HS Product company. The same company also developed a new VHS assault rifle, which is gradually being introduced into the CAF's units. Non-lethal equipment was also purchased; the Special Military Police Company of the Army's Military Police Regiment received Taser X-26 electric paralyzers. The Ground Army acquired a number of Iveco LMV and HMMWV light armored vehicles. But the biggest vehicle procurement project is the procurement of Patria AMV armored modular vehicles. Croatia has signed a contract for a total of 126 of those vehicles.

The CAF is being renewed and equipped with new training, military and other types of facilities, as well as with military barracks and polygons in order to fully adapt to the highest standards of soldier accommodation and training. Thus, the "Pukovnik Predrag Matanović" barracks, which are strategically important to the CAF, have, after their renovation and construction, become a model Croatian barracks of the twenty-first century. They are situated in Petrinja, a place south of Zagreb. They cover an area of 322 hectares and are home

→ ment of the Croatian economy. As far as imports are concerned, preference will be given to cooperation with foreign companies through common development and offset programs.

The new uniforms and weapons in the Croatian Army

Of the equipment that is in the process of being purchased, we would like to mention the new combat uniform which comes in two models, continental and desert, which are a product of the Croatian companies. They are tailored to the needs of the modern soldier, and have a new and advanced digital camouflage scheme. Their cut allows them to move unfettered and to perform all tasks. The materials used allow better heating in the winter and more easily cool the body in the summer and contribute to the greater comfort of soldiers in ground conditions. With the new uniforms come optional accessories (helmets, boots, backpacks, combat jackets, waterproof winter jackets ...) that





→ **ROBOT tEODor**

In preparation for the battle against modern threats, the Croatian Armed Forces, in order to fight against improvised explosive devices (C-IED), acquired a tEODor robot that professionals from the Pioneer Battalion of the Croatian Ground Army's Engineer Regiment are trained to work with.

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base for two mechanized battalions of the Motorised Guard Brigade. More than 1000 CAF members live and work in the barracks.

Within the barracks there are three training units; that is, two training fields and one shooting range for the purpose of tactical trainings of all types for international military operations in which members of the Tigrovi (the Tigers) and Gromovi (the Thunder) regularly participate. The barracks are also an excellent road infrastructure for the training of Patria armored combat vehicles.

In preparation for the battle against modern threats, the Croatian Armed Forces, in order to fight against improvised explosive devices (C-IED), acquired a tEODor robot that professionals from the Pioneer Battalion of the Croatian Ground Army's Engineer Regiment are trained to work with. One tEODor, the robot being at the top of the world of technology when it comes to disabling and destroying improvised explosive devices, was acquired along with its associated equipment and heavy protective suits.

New aircraft and simulators in the Croatian Air Force

For the training purposes of pilots, the Croatian Air Force, along with the existing turboprop Pilatus



Among the major vehicle procurement projects in the Army is the procurement of Patria AMV motorised armoured vehicles



→ **Mi-171 Sh HELICOPTERS**

Helicopter forces have been strengthened with the purchase of 10 Mi-171 Sh helicopters. The helicopters were additionally armed for increased levels of protection from infantry weapons.



20 YEARS OF THE CROATIAN ARMED FORCES



- PC-9M school aircraft, received five piston-engined school Zlin 242L aircraft which are used for selecting flights and for the basic and advanced training of military pilots. An MiG-21 bis flight simulator was also purchased for the training of fighters pilots. It bears the FTD TL-21 label and is a product of the Croatian company Soko Z.I.

Even members of the air defense use the modern simulator. SIMIG 2000 is the name of the portable simulator of the Anti Aircraft Defense's Igla missile system. Engineers from the University of Zagreb's Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing have produced the simulator. Firefighting aircraft are also part of the Air Force's composition. In recent years, 6 Bombardier CL-415 firefighting aircraft and 6 smaller Airtractor firefighting aircraft have been purchased.

Helicopter forces have been strengthened with the purchase of 10 Mi-171 Sh helicopters. This acquisition was the result of an agreement between the Republic of Croatia and the Russian Federation, which settled a part of the debt between the two countries. The purchase of transport helicopters is an example of the successful realization of one of the important long-term goals set by the Croatian Armed Forces' Long-Term Development Plan, in which investment in equipment and modernization of the Air Force and Air Defence's fleet is defined.

For the training purposes of pilots, the Croatian Air Force, along with the existing turboprop Pilatus PC-9M school aircraft, received five piston-engined school Zlin 242L aircraft which are used for selecting flights and for the basic and advanced training of military pilots. An MiG-21 bis flight simulator was also purchased for the training of fighters pilots. It bears the FTD TL-21 label and is a product of the Croatian company Soko Z.I.

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→ LM-51 KORČULA ANTI-MINE SHIP

In recent years, the Croatian Navy's composition received an LM-51 Korčula anti-mine ship. The LM-51 Korčula, in addition to basic military purposes, can be also be used for many civilian purposes.

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The helicopters were additionally armed for increased levels of protection from infantry weapons. Instead of having "classic" back doors, the new helicopters have a hydraulic ramp, which significantly facilitates soldiers' landings, as well as loading and the transport of various types of cargo.

New anti-mine ship and missile gunboats in the Croatian Navy

In recent years, the Croatian Navy's composition received an LM-51 Korčula anti-mine ship. The ship is the work of the Montmontaža-Greben shipyard from Vela Luka, of the Brodarski Institute in Zagreb, of the Marine Electronic Centre in Split, of Engineering for Industrial Electronics from Zagreb and of the professional office of the Ministry of Defence, who jointly built Croatian anti-mine ship. The LM-51 Korčula, in addition to basic military purposes, can be also be used for many civilian purposes.

The main purpose of this ship is to detect, locate and identify bottom and moored mines and to destroy or mark them. In 2009, the Navy received two Helsinki-class missile gunboats. These are 41 and 42 rocket gunboats, which have arrived from Finland and were given the names Vukovar and Dubrovnik. All of the equipment on the ships is NATO-compatible; they are multi-purpose vessels that can carry out traditional tasks and serve the needs of the Coast Guard,

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Two Helsinki-class missile gunboats - Vukovar and Dubrovnik



thus substantially strengthening the Croatian Navy's capabilities.

The progress of a large system such as the armed forces has never been and can not be absolute. In the works is the preparation of new strategic documents which will determine the further development of the armed forces and of the modalities, dynamics and priorities of the modernization. But what is most important is that the Croatian Armed Forces be ready and able to perform its mission at home and in the international environment at any given time.



All of the equipment on the ships is NATO-compatible



THE SPECIAL MILITARY POLICE COMPANY

Each unit of the armed forces which in its name carries the designation “special” must have the best trained members. One of those in the Croatian Armed Forces is the Special Military Police Company of the Military Police Regiment of the Croatian Army. The Special Military Police Company is the oldest and the only unit in the Croatian Armed Forces which has remained unchanged since its establishment. It was established in early March 18 years ago, and still maintains the tradition and professionalism of the elite military police force created during the Homeland War. The main basic requirement and criterion that was set before the members of the squad dur-

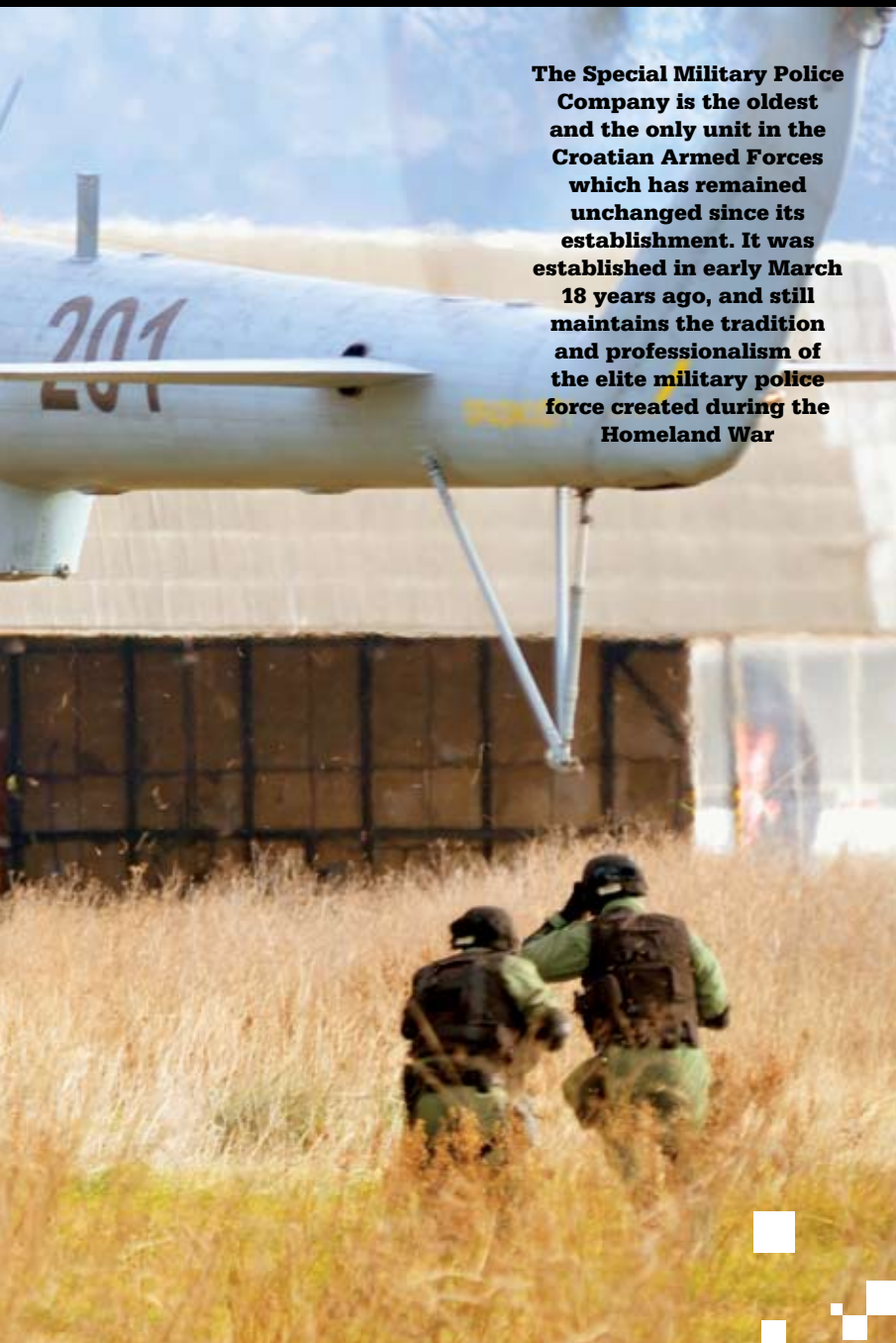
ing the Homeland War is still the same today – and that is integrity.

An Elite Team

Throughout its history, it has changed its name from the Antiterrorist Military Police, to the Special Purpose Company, to eventually be named the Special Military Police Company. It went through many restructurings, carried out tasks during the Homeland War and at peacetime, but it never changed its mission and task – carrying out the Military Police’s specific operational procedures, which it still carries out today. It is a branch of the Military Police Regiment of the



The Special Military Police Company is the oldest and the only unit in the Croatian Armed Forces which has remained unchanged since its establishment. It was established in early March 18 years ago, and still maintains the tradition and professionalism of the elite military police force created during the Homeland War



Croatian Army and is located in the "Domobranska" barracks in Karlovac. The mission of the Military Police Company is the implementation of all military-police tasks and activities in accordance with the Scope of Work, to duties and to Croatian Armed Forces' Military Police authorities. Among their other duties is making high-risk arrests, specific Military Police operational tasks and procedures, providing security for protected persons on the spot and in motion, resolving high-risk situations in buildings, vehicles and other transport means, etc. Members of the Special Military Police Company have the authority to act over the whole Croatian territory,

→ ELITE TEAM

Having physical and mental readiness, high motivation, the desire to acquire new knowledge and skills, impeccable self-control and superb discipline are just a few of the attributes that entrance to the elite team implies.

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in other words, in all military facilities and buildings of importance to the Ministry of Defence and to the Croatian Armed Forces, at military events, and in other cases where it is of importance to and in the interest of the MOD and the Armed Forces. The entrance criteria for admission to this unit are high, which is reasonable with respect to its tasks and mission. The emphasis is solely on quality. This comes as no surprise as military police-officer specialists, due to the complexity and difficulty of the tasks they perform, are at the top of the pyramid because of the skills that are required to have and because of the possible procedures they must do. The path of soldiers and of members of the Armed Forces to becoming members of the Special Military Police battalion of the Military Police Regiment can take many years. Having physical and mental readiness, high motivation, the desire to acquire new knowledge and skills, impeccable self-control and superb discipline are just a few of the attributes that entrance to the elite team implies.

The criteria are high but not unattainable

As with all special units, criteria are high but not unattainable. How badly do you really want it? This is a question that is very universal and describes the motivation for belonging to something like the Special Military Police very well. Even those who enter the unit, who live and work in it, sometimes give up because they still were not sufficiently or fully prepared. Readiness sometimes entails a compromise, a sacrifice, hard work and an effort to succeed. To become a member of the Special Military Police, one must successfully pass the selective training for the acceptance of candidates which takes place in several stages. The aim is to select and choose candidates who can meet the established criteria. The candidate must be satisfactory in each phase in order to access the next. Each stage is exclusive. This is corroborated by the fact that only slightly more than ten percent of the applicants actually meet the criteria needed to join the training.

The preselection procedure is the first phase of selective training. This precisely is the biggest hurdle that a candidate has to overcome for further selection even to be taken into consideration. The candidates' motor skills and psychological abilities and motivation levels are tested; and in cooperation with the relevant institutions, an insight into possible disciplinary, misdemeanour, or criminal liability is foreseen. A security clearance is conducted. The skills of swimming, diving, reacting to stress, fear, and others are also tested. The high entrance criteria are not surprising, because in the business of Military Special Forces officers there is no room for error or failure. They are expected to be qualified, trained and educated in a very short time, under pressure and to be able make the right decision in a stressful situation in order to proceed. →



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- ➔ Those who deserve to be in the Special Military Police Company, along with having military knowledge and skills, also need to be policemen. In other words, they must always be collected, be able to think soberly at any time and be ready to answer to all obstacles when performing military police duties and tasks in the water, on land and in the air.
- Applicants who have successfully passed the first phase enter the second phase of the selective training. The second phase includes a practical training of candidates on the field which is physically and mentally the toughest part of the selective training. Only those who have successfully coped with all the setbacks, strains and challenges which take them to the limit of their endurance during the practical training on the ground that takes place in all weather and climatic conditions, remain.
- Although they expect a difficult training, candidates for becoming military police specialists admit that one can ever be prepared enough for something of the sorts. Daily physical and mental efforts, executing the required tasks under stress and lack of sleep are all things that every candidate begins and ends his day with. They work up to 18 or 19 hours a day along the constant presence of instructors who supervise and evaluate everything.
- With the successful completion of the second phase of the selective training, candidates enter the

penultimate phase, which requires the successful completion of the Authorized Officials of the Military Police Course (OSO). This is the official course of the Military Police and it is held at the "Bojnik Alfred Hill" Military Police Education Centre, and is a prerequisite for any military officer in order for him to carry out tasks within the scope of the Military Police. With the successful completion of the OSO course, a military officer is qualified and legally authorized to apply the statutory powers of the Military Police.

After successfully completing the authorized official's course, the candidates enter the final stage of selective training, which is unofficial, but, according to members of the special military police, the longest and the hardest. And that is being a member of the Special Military Police Company.

The Special Military Police Company in NATO's multinational battalion

By signing the Memorandum of Understanding between the Czech Republic, the Republic of Croatia, the Republic of Poland and the Slovak Republic in 2005, the NATO Multinational Military Police Battalion (MNMPBAT) was created. The project was founded based on the NATO meeting in Prague in the Czech Republic in 2002 where through a declaration the document entitled the *Prague Capability Commitment* was adopted. With this document, among other things, NATO suggested the creation of Military Police Battalion which would be part of NATO's rapid deployment forces. With the four countries' acceptance of the project, the procedure for establishing MNMPBAT based on the principles of equality and multi-nationality began. The Republic of Croatia, more specifically the CAF's Military Police, accounts for one Military Police platoon and headquarters staff in the mentioned project.

This Military Police platoon comes from the Special Military Police Company. For the purpose of the successful implementation of the project, each member country is responsible for training and preparing its nominated forces for the required skills and tasks itself. The Special Military Police Company, more specifically the nominated Military Police platoon, has so far successfully participated in three of NATO's international MNMPBAT military exercises on the field, with the aim of reaching full operational readiness by 2012. In order to achieve this, the Special Military Police Company continuously conducts trainings of its members each year, and this culminates in the final international exercise organized by the host country on an annual rotating basis. By reaching full operational readiness projected by 2012, MNMPBAT, as well as the platoon from the Special Military Police Company, will become a part of the Multinational North-East Corps, one of a total of 10 corps within NATO.

The Republic of Croatia is the leading country which is training NCO's and officers from the Afghan National Army's (ANA) Military Police School in military police operations. Even though for quite some time members of the CAF have been engaged in the training of members of the ANA, this is the first time that Croatia is the leading nation in such a project.

CROATIA

THE LEADING COUNTRY IN THE ANA'S MILITARY POLICE SCHOOL

The Republic of Croatia is the leading country which is training NCO's and officers from the Afghan National Army's (ANA) Military Police School in military police operations. The school is situated not far from Kabul in Camp Darualam. Croatia took over the leading position in the school by sending its 17th HRVCON to the ISAF mission in March. The military police school is currently one of the ten branch and specialist training institutions in Afghanistan established within NATO's training mission in Afghanistan (NATO Training Mission – NMT) whose goal is to offer direct support to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). Work on the establishment of these training projects immediately began after the ac-tuation of the NMT in accordance with the decision made at the NATO summit in Strasbourg and Kehl in 2009, and their number, due to the effort to further professionalize the ANSF, will continue to grow. Even though for quite some time members of the CAF have been engaged in the training of members of the ANA, among which our participation in the School of Logistics and in the School of Engineering

Members of the CAF do not directly instruct members of the ANA's military police forces; rather, they instruct their trainers and monitor their work and the entire training process.

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must be mentioned, this is the first time that Croatia is the leading nation in such a project. Coincidentally or not, the first forces which the Republic of Croatia sent to Afghanistan back in 2003 were also military police forces. Now, eight years later, the military police and their specific expertise are key in the implementation of this assignment, which is surely one of the most demanding assignments which our soldiers are undertaking in the ISAF. As the leading nation, Croatia has a great deal of work ahead. It is important to mention that the Military Police School, like other training institutions, is not a part of the Alliance's army but rather a part of the Afghan National Army. Members of the CAF do not directly instruct members of the ANA's military police forces; rather, they instruct their trainers and monitor their work and the entire training process. 110 places in the school are intended to be open to the Afghan National Army, and 40 or so places to soldiers from the Alliance. Engaged within the 17th HRVCON of the CAF are 14 mentors, including the commander of the school and the Warrant



Engaged within the 17th HRVCON of the CAF are 14 mentors, including the commander of the school and the Warrant Officer. Among other things, members of CAF lead the training department, the operative department, communications, logistics and maintenance. Along with them, there will also be three members of the CAF as a part of the National Support Element.



➔ Officer. Among other things, members of CAF lead the training department, the operative department, communications, logistics and maintenance. Along with them, there will also be three members of the CAF as a part of the National Support Element.

Croatia announced its final decision to take on this project at last year's NATO Lisbon Summit. "We have experience and the proposal we received to take over this institution came based on the strength of our forces, on our skills and on our professionalism. It is up to us to put forth our best," said Zoran Drča, head of the NATO delegation and the P&P. Of course, everything is done with the coordination and assistance of NATO's training mission in Afghanistan, and the Military Police School follows the NTM's priorities in terms of creating sustainable and functional institutions in the ANA and in the further professionalization and specialisation of the ANA. Namely, after an intense effort was made to increase the number of ANA soldiers, the emphasis is now placed on their professionalization and specialisation. It is in this

Nearly 50 percent of the 17th HRVCON which is now in the ISAF international operation in Afghanistan will in some way be engaged in the training and mentoring activities of the Afghan National Army

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very context that specialised institutions such as the Military Police School play a special role in creating self-sustaining Afghan security forces.

The School's training consists of 2 parts. The first part of the training will be done in the school, and after the unit returns to home base, a mobile team from the School will accompany it and spend a given amount of time with it. The training is intended to provide basic training to NCOs and officers.

Croatia engaging countries from the region in the project

Croatia, say Drča, will be identified with its work in the Military Police School: "We are responsible for its functioning and staffing, but what is also important in this project is that we also seek to engage other countries in it, primarily countries in the region". Namely, as we will be filling all the positions in the School ourselves, and knowing that our neighbouring countries also have the capacities to participate in this activity, the intention is to engage



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them in the project. In this way we are promoting regional defence cooperation and Croatia's role as a NATO member in the region, we are supporting the Euro-Atlantic aspirations of the countries in the region, and to the Allies we are sending the message that countries from the region know how to recognise the Alliance's values and the goals in Afghanistan and that they are ready to assume responsibilities in building collective security. Discussions are primarily being held with countries from the Adriatic Charter, but also bilaterally with the Republic of Slovenia.

Experts in their field

Members of the CAF were not required to attend any kind of special vocational training to work in the Military Police School. They were recruited based on their specific experiences, expertise and knowledge which can not be acquired by taking a short course. This is something that they have been doing their whole lives and that they experts in.

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With such an engagement, Croatia confirms that it is a trustworthy ally in the ISAF mission and responds to the demands that are put forth in creating Afghanistan's security and the common security of all the Allies in a timely and appropriate manner

With such an engagement, Croatia confirms that it is a trustworthy ally in the ISAF mission and responds to the demands that are put forth in creating Afghanistan's security and the common security of all the Allies in a timely and appropriate manner. "We are doing exceptionally good work, and our engagement in Afghanistan, whether it be in bilateral or other contacts, always proves to be exemplary," says the head of the NATO delegation and of the PfP

Success is undoubtable. The military police, like the other parts of our national contingent in Afghanistan, does its job well. This is certainly a great recognition for them. Members of the CAF have skills, combat experience and specific applicable military knowledge. When you have that in your system and when you have the determination to give a concrete contribution, good results are inevitable. Nearly 50 percent of the 17th HRVCON which is now in the ISAF international operation in Afghanistan will in some way be engaged in the training and mentoring activities of the Afghan National Army.

Based on the agreement signed between the MOD and the Croatian Olympic Committee, twenty top Croatian sportsmen and sportswomen became employees of the CAF after the successful completion of their training. This is a matter of mapping a new direction, a new coupling of the army and top sport which has many advantages for Croatia, Croatian sport and for the MOD and the Armed Forces...

THE CROATIAN ARMY

Domagoj Vlahović, photos by Davor Kirin

TOP ATHLETES BECOME SOLDIERS



Based on the agreement that the Ministry of Defence and the Croatian Olympic Committee signed on September 3rd 2010, members of a group of twenty top Croatian sportsmen and sportswomen, after successfully completing training, became employees of the CAF on March 7th of this year. This is a matter of mapping a new direction, a new coupling of the army and top sport which has many advantages for Croatia, Croatian sport and for the MOD and CAF. It is a custom which has long been recognized and implemented by many countries that are renowned for their athletes and their militaries.

Jobs within the CAF will give athletes existential security and the ability to devote themselves to their sports goals. And these goals and successes go beyond their personal interests. In Croatia, we have long understood what success in sports means to the general affirmation of a state or

Jobs within the CAF will give athletes existential security and the ability to devote themselves to their sports goals.

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nation. This was confirmed during our country's struggle for independence, when Goran Ivanšević, Dražen Petrović and others were the best ambassadors of our young country. The MOD will in this way contribute to the overall positive image of Croatia in the world. We believe there will be many successes, in global competitions and at the biggest events: the Olympics, World and European Championships... Most of these athletes no longer need to count their domestic successes, but rather their more difficult world successes. Accompanying this article is a list of athletes and of some of their greatest successes. What is most important is that the point in question is very young people who have accomplished a lot but whose biggest successes are yet to come, and now, as members of the Croatian Armed Forces, it will be easier for them to accomplish their goals.



➔ FIRST GENERATION

After a successful training, the first generation of top Croatian athletes were handed a resolution of active military service at a ceremony at the Croatian Military Academy. Their results from now on will closely be followed by their new military colleagues.

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LIST OF ATHLETES

- Filip Hrgović - boxing, World junior champion
- Bojan Djurković - shooting, Croatian national team member
- Tonimir Sokol - wrestling, bronze at the European Championships
- Ivan Kljaković-Gašpić - sailing, European champion, World Cup winner
- Tina Mihelić - sailing, European champion
- Igor Marenić - sailing, European champion, World junior champion with Fantela
- Šime Fantela - sailing, in a pair with Marenić
- Tonči Stipanović - sailing, European champion
- Ivana Maranić - judo, bronze at the European Championships
- Andreja Djaković - judo, silver at the junior European Championships
- Danil Domdjoni - karate, two-time World champion
- Natko Zrnčić Dim - skiing, bronze at the World Championships
- Lucija Zaninović - taekwondo, European champion
- Filip Grgić - taekwondo, World champion
- Stipe Jarloni - taekwondo, bronze at the European Championships
- Marko Premužić - parachuting, World successes in junior competition
- Valent Sinković, Martin Sinković, Damir Martin, David Šain - rowing, World Champions in quadruple sculls

Agreement signed on September 3rd 2010. The most interesting item is the one on the joint planning of the construction, conversion and development of sports facilities.

Optimism was also increased by the two-week training of sixteen candidates for service in the CAF that began on January 10th of this year. Four had earlier completed their military service. Although the training was their first encounter with the army for most, they successfully mastered most of the basic tasks that every soldier should know. Rising at dawn, arranging rooms, morning motility and day-long intensive training were not a problem for them as they are top athletes accustomed to work, order and discipline. "The demanding regime of the military life is not a problem for me because the military and sport are very similar, they require perseverance, sacrifice and great efforts," said sailor Igor Marenić during training.

After a successful training, the first generation of top Croatian athletes were handed a resolution of active military service at a ceremony at the Croatian Military Academy. Their results from now on will closely be followed by their new military colleagues.

On the other hand, the MOD and CAF will greatly benefit from these new soldier-athletes. First of all, each one of their successes will also be the success of members of the CAF, and thus of the entire system that supports them. Second, the emergence of top athletes in uniform means a lot to the image of the military profession. They are a good example to all young people who are thinking about wearing the uniform of a professional soldier.

Croatian military sports will now get a big boost. Also, we expect medals from our athletes in international military sports competitions, and the CAF will get top coaches and instructors, who will contribute to raising the overall readiness and capabilities of the CAF.

The cooperation between the Croatian Ministry of Defence and the Croatian Olympic Committee is thus further reinforced, as are other items in the



In signing the Agreement on Service in the CAF in the status of active duty of soldiers, top athletes receive the following rights:

- basic pay, which consists of multiplying a coefficient defined for the soldiers and the basis for calculating salaries, increased by 0.5% for each year of service (approximately 4 600 kuna net per month)
- insurance period with an increased duration in accordance with the Regulation on the establishment of active duty military personnel (up 12/15)
- supplemental health insurance and an accident insurance policy

Military orchestras are an indispensable part of any the world's militaries' major events, and often an attraction and generally cause delight to civilians. But few armies can boast as unique a musical composition as can the Croatian Army with its Navy's a capella band Sveti Juraj. So far, they have issued ten albums. They have more than 1100 performances on various occasions behind them...

THE CROATIAN NAVY'S A CAPELLA BAND "SVETI JURAJ"

The Croatian Navy's a capella band "Sveti Juraj" was founded ten years ago, in early January of 2001. A handful of enthusiasts gathered at the Croatian Navy's rocket base in Žrnovnica, at the initiative of Monsignor Josip Šantić, the General Vicar of the Military Ordinariate. They wanted to found a band of the Croatian Navy, which would represent the Croatian Armed Forces at the opening ceremony of the International Military Pilgrimage to Lourdes. At the time, recalls the a capella band leader Sergeant Marko Bralić, they didn't have a vision of this kind of vocal composition within the Ministry of Defence. Honoured by being trusted with representing their nation at a large international military event, they gave a masterful first public performance before soldiers from more than 40 countries from all over the world. They quickly became a recognisable symbol at the pilgrimage in Lourdes, France, where they call them "chorale de la Croatie", and became globally recognisable as well.

Every name carries some kind of symbolism, and in choosing its name, the a capella band looked to Saint Juraj, who was a soldier that had executed

Emperor Diocletian in the name of Christian ideals. Among the Croatian population, on the coast and in continental regions, it is almost impossible to find a place that does not have a chapel that is dedicated to Saint Juraj; the same goes for mountain tops, etc... The peak of Mount Mosor, the missile base as well as a military unit that was part of the 4th Guards Brigade and then the Croatian Navy, all carry the same name as the patron saint, Saint Juraj. Under the artistic leadership of professor Maria Božić, the singers of the Croatian Navy's a capella band "Sveti Juraj", Hrvoslav Kužić, Marko Bralić, Domagoj Žanić, Darko Tranfić, Ivica Kuzmanić, Bruno Andrić, Goran Bralić, Jakov Šegvić and Ignacio Tranfić, have been providing an invaluable contribution to the promotion of Croatian cultural heritage and to its armed forces with their superior voice ranges and stage performances for years. Everyone is proud of the sailors in white uniforms whose ten years of work have been marked by numerous awards, prizes and recordings. Every new beginning is difficult, and so was theirs. With their hard work and with every new success, a real need for the existence and organisa-





➔ WWW.KLAPA-SAINT-JURAJ.COM

They hope that the Navy's musical tradition within the Armed Forces remain permanent, just like in other armies of the world. More information about the "Sveti Juraj" Croatian Navy Ensemble can be found on their website: www.klapa-saint-juraj.com

CROATIAN MILITARY MAGAZINE

tion of a acapella band as a part of the vocal section of the CAF's orchestra was created.

So far, they have issued ten albums. They have more than 1100 performances behind them on various occasions - civil and military protocols, concerts, charity concerts for many organizations, victims and those in need throughout Our Beautiful Nation... It is difficult to single out just one, but one of their greatest rewards and motivations most certainly is their audience, particularly when their audience is comprised of Croatian war veterans and their families who experience them in a unique way and feel like they are their own. "When you touch people's heart and soul, they repay you with a deep thankfulness that springs from the soul and which becomes an incentive to continue. I always remember the legendary maestro Ljubo Stipišić Delmata who used to say: "Children of mine, do not sing beautifully, anyone can do that, a song must have a soul, otherwise people will not hear it!" This is how the manager of the Sveti Juraj a capella band Sergeant Bralić described their singing. Besides regularly performing at home, they also perform abroad (in Italy, Germany, Poland, Belgium, Hungary, France, Austria, Slovenia, Bosnia, and Montenegro). Among their numerous performances, noteworthy were the ones at the NATO base in Mons and in Brussels at the Allied Command Europe. They believe that they will continue with equal success, representing the cultural heritage of the Croatian people and their thousand-year affiliation in a united Europe and worldwide through their music.

With their superior voice ranges and stage performances, they have been providing an invaluable contribution to the promotion of Croatian cultural heritage and to its armed forces for years.

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ALBUMS ISSUED BY A CAPELLA BAND SVETI JURAJ

Sa krša ovog glasi te zovu (2002)
Hrvatski Božić (2003)
Domovini s ljubavlju (2004)
Priče mora (2005)
Pismo moja (2006)
Cvijet čežnje (2007)
Tebe tražim Bože moj (2008)
Ružo crvena (2009)
Gospi velikog hrvatskog zavjeta (2010)
Zapivaj klapo moja - best of (2010)

It makes them particularly happy to have become a role model in some ways and to have inspired others to establish similar bands in other state institutions, ministries and establishments. They hope that the Navy's musical tradition within the Armed

A CAPELLA BAND SVETI JURAJ HAS ALSO RECEIVED MANY ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND AWARDS...

- 1st Prize (gold) at the International Festival in Boleslawiec (Poland) 2002;
- the Mare Nostrum Croaticum gold plaque with cadence for 2005 for the exceptional sustainment and fostering of the Croatian people's national, cultural, historical and religious assets in the world.
- nominated for a Porin music award in 2005 in the classical music category for Best Performance by a large chamber ensemble, chamber or symphony orchestra or choir for the song Ave Maria;
- the Cambi Silver Tower (the second public's choice award) at the "Kaštelanski dir" evening in 2005
- gold plaque at the pèlerinage Militaire International PMI's 50th International Meeting of the World's Armies in Lourdes, for an outstanding contribution and participation in international programs in 2008;
- Gold-plated historical coat of arms of the city of Skradin - 1st professional jury prize for the best performance of an original folk songs at the 29th Meeting of Dalmatian Klape in Skradin in 2008;
- Grand Prix - Split music festival 2009 and third jury prize for the collaboration with Đani Stipaničev on the song Mali Paškin;
- 1st jury prize and prize for best Dalmatian song at the International Marco Polo Festival of Songs and Wine in Korčula in 2010 for the song "Zapivaj klapo moja".



Forces remain permanent, just like in other armies of the world. More information about the "Sveti Juraj" Croatian Navy Ensemble can be found on their website: www.klapa-saint-juraj.com

The celebration of a capella band Sveti Juraj's 10th Anniversary in the same year in which 20 years of the Armed Forces is being celebrated will be marked by a number of concerts and performances throughout the country in collaboration with the Navy's as well as the Army's Orchestra, but also with Croatian TV Tamburitza Orchestra and numerous other friends and associates from the Croatian music scene.



AUTOMATED SHOOTING RANGE

VRAPCANSKI POTOK

AMONG THE BEST EUROPEAN SHOOTING RANGES

"Vrapcanski Potok's" modern era began with the 2nd Military World Games in 1999, which were the main impetus for the renovation of military sports facilities. The shooting range was renovated and expanded, and 122 electronic target systems were installed. Since then, great world-class civilian and military competitors have been frequent guests at "Vrapcanski Potok". They meet at civilian and military competitions and break personal, national and world records...

All who follow the many military and civilian competitions at the CAF's Vrapcanski Potok Automated Shooting Range highly praise it, saying that it is perhaps the best facility of its kind in Europe. Being host to a top shooting event is strong proof of this, although many other arguments can be made in favour of that claim. We received hosting honours thanks to Major Kresimir Vrancic, commander of the shooting range. Major Vrancic is a long-time competitor and trainer and is very active in competitive shooting.

The shooting range's story begins with its history. It was opened in 1985 and already then was intended



IMPORTANT COMPETITIONS

World Championships (2006)
World Military Championships (1999, in conjunction with the World Military Games in 2009)
World Cup (1989, 1991, 2003)
European Championships (1989, 2001)

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in "Vrapcanski Potok" so that it served as a warehouse and ammunition and mines test range for some time. However, in the fall of 1993 the Shooting range once again began to serve exclusively as a shooting range.

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Its good reputation is all due to the staff and their colleagues from the Croatian and Zagreb Shooting Federations. Its collaboration with sports institutions and with the city is excellent. The collaborators also make a great contribution to the hosting of competitions and also to the maintenance of the Shooting range. Important competitions in fact provide motivation to maintain "Vrapcanski Potok's" high level of quality, claims Major Vrancic, who is the head of this facility which employs only four active military personnel, the rest being civil servants and employees.

CAF units primarily hold shooting practice at the Shooting range, but the Shooting range is also regularly where the CAF's Shooting Championships are held. These championships often prove that there is much talent in the CAF as far as competitive shooting is concerned. As a shooting enthusiast, Major Vrancic is always ready to help talented Croatian soldiers who would like to be more seriously engaged in competitive shooting.

Of course, you can often find active Croatian civilian competitors. The agreement on the use of the facility,



THE 49TH ISSF WORLD SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

in "Vrapcanski Potok" was the first championship whose entire competitive course, whose every shot and hit, could be followed by viewers on the internet. This was made possible thanks to a Swiss electronic system. "We then set an example for all important competitions, we became role models and set high standards," Major Vrancic reminisced.

That World Championship was named the best organised in the history of the event!

not only for military purposes but also for the development of shooting sports in general. It was built according to ISSF (International Shooting Sport Federation) standards. It is attention-grabbing because it is well-equipped technically and also because of its location: its attractive positioning, its well-connectedness to the city centre and its north-south orientation, are all favourable for shooting sports. The first major competition that was held there were the European Championships in 1989 and the World Cup was also held there that same year.

The Homeland War interrupted sporting activities

The first major competition that was held there were the European Championships in 1989 and the World Cup was also held there that same year

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through the Croatian Olympics Committee, permits our best athletes from the city of Zagreb and the Croatian Shooting Federation to train in the facility.

In conclusion, it must be mentioned that often military shooting ranges such as "Vrapcanski Potok" throughout the world are commercialised and open to the public. The same goes for Zagreb's shooting range: there are office hours and prescribed rates. One can practice at "Vrapcanski Potok's" shooting range by a making a reservation and upon signing a form related to security measures. But there is always room for a wider use of the Shooting range's capacity.

The fact that the American company TNT Productions Inc., which specializes in organizing such international fairs, chose Split for this event was a great acknowledgment for Croatia. At this first exhibition in Split, more than 130 exhibitors from 23 countries were on display. All exhibition spaces were sold out. The Spaladium was completely filled with the latest military equipment, weapons and military technology. Besides the 50-odd domestic companies engaged in the defence industry, there were also a number of foreign companies in Split. Among them were world class companies in this industry such as BAE SYSTEMS, SAAB, Eurofighter, ITT, Thales, IVECO and Panhard...

"ASDA 2011 ADRIATIC SEA DEFENCE AND SECURITY EXHIBITION AND CONFERENCE"



CROATIA JOINED THE MILITARY INDUSTRY'S LEADING



→ ASDA

Military industry exhibitions are usually held every two years. Judging from the posters that during the exhibition had already announced the following ASDA 2013 as being held in Split, we believe that Croatian officials' wishes that this exhibition, the biggest in this part of Europe, become a tradition will come true.

Leida Parlov, photos by Tomislav Brandt, Josip Kopi

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When Croatian brands that are recognizable in the world are in question, these are primarily Croatian manufacturers of military uniforms, helmets and pistols. To be credible and to be able to fully convince others of the unquestionable quality of their products, they must first equip their own army, as was the case in Croatia. The Croatian soldier, with a domestically produced Croatian pistol and rifle, helmet and uniform that is successful in missions in the country and abroad, has become a promoter of the quality of the Croatian military industry. And so the army on the one hand is the real driving force behind the Croatian economy, and on the hand other it opens the doors to world markets to domestic defence industry producers.



TRADE FAIRS



➔ Eurosatory in Paris, DSEi in London, IDEX in Abu Dhabi and BSGA in Bucharest are some of the defence industry's exhibitions that Croatia has joined with its ASDA exhibition in Split this year. Namely, from March 29th to 31st, in the Spaladium Arena in Split, the "ASDA 2011 Adriatic Sea Defence and Security Exhibition and Conference" was held and organized by the American company TNT Productions Inc and was sponsored by the Croatian Government and co-organized by the Ministry of Defence.

The fact that the American company TNT Productions Inc., which specializes in organizing such international fairs, chose Split for this event was a great acknowledgment for Croatia. The number of exhibitors, the arrival of some of the leading companies in this area, the excellent organization and attendance of the fair go to show that no mistake was made in the choice of venue.

At this first exhibition in Split, more than 130 exhibitors from 23 countries were on display. All exhibition spaces were sold out. The Spaladium was completely filled with the latest military equipment, weapons and military technology. Besides the 50-odd domestic companies engaged in the defence industry, there were also a number of foreign companies in Split. Among them were world class companies in this industry such as BAE SYSTEMS, SAAB, Eurofighter, ITT, Thales, IVECO and Panhard...

The ASDA 2011 Adriatic Sea Defence and Security Exhibition and Conference will remain marked in the business diary of the Đuro Đaković company, which signed a memorandum of understanding about their future joint appearance on third markets with Patria Land Systems.

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They all presented their modern army, air force and navy defence technology.

These exhibitions are not self-serving. As a rule, as was the case in Split, they attract attention and are visited by lovers of military technology. However, they are primarily intended as a business event and are intended for government and defence industry representatives. Their basic purpose is to introduce exhibitors, to allow an exchange of experiences, to create new business opportunities, to help make business contacts and cooperation agreements, to promote the strategic affiliation of business people and the government sector whose support is necessary for the development of the defence industry.

Contributing to regional dialogue, stability and security

The exhibition was opened by Croatian Prime Minister Jadranka Kosor, who, on this occasion, among the many features of ASDA, pointed to its role in strengthening regional cooperation: "In its own way, ASDA will give an important contribution to regional dialogue and be part of the mosaic of building regional stability and security". ASDA, she believes, will be an additional stimulus to the development of the Croatian economy and its competitive ability on the European and world markets, but also the beginning of a good tradition and an



inevitable place for meets, business and exchanges of experiences.

The opening ceremony was a good opportunity to wish much success and business contacts to exhibitors, especially to Croatian companies which have already proved themselves and taken their place on the international market, as was pointed out by defence minister Davor Božinović.

When Croatian companies are the matter at hand, many of them nowadays have a world-recognized brand that emerged during the war. Already in 2003, as part of the Croatian Chamber of Commerce, the Association of the Producers of Equipment for Special Purposes was formed. In no other area of economic activity was Croatia able to create as internationally recognized a brand as in the arms and military equipment segment, said the president of the Croatian Chamber of Economy Nadan Vidošević, adding that there can be no technical and technological progress and development in a country without a military component that is built into it.

When Croatian brands that are recognizable in the world are in question, these are primarily Croatian manufacturers of military uniforms, helmets and pistols. To be credible and to be able to fully convince others of the unquestionable quality of their products, they must first equip their own army, as

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was the case in Croatia. The Croatian soldier, with a domestically produced Croatian pistol and rifle, helmet and uniform that is successful in missions in the country and abroad, has become a promoter of the quality of the Croatian military industry. And so the army on the one hand is the real driving force behind the Croatian economy, and on the hand other it opens the doors to world markets to domestic defence industry producers.

The ASDA exhibition even had a humanitarian dimension. Namely, the State Secretary at the Ministry of Defence Mate Raboteg and the director and owner of the American company TNT Productions Inc. Justine Webb, organizer of ASDA 2011, presented the Mistral Children's Home Split with a monetary donation in the amount of about 20 thousand kuna which was raised from tickets sold at the ASDA 2011 Adriatic Sea Defence and Security Exhibition and Conference from visitors who did not report in time for the fair and were not accredited as per the usual practice for this type of trade.

Military industry exhibitions are usually held every two years. Judging from the posters that during the exhibition had already announced the following ASDA 2013 as being held in Split, we believe that Croatian officials' wishes that this exhibition, the biggest in this part of Europe, become a tradition will come true.

The Croatian company INsig2 from the IN2 Group, which is engaged in the design and implementation of sophisticated integrated corporate security solutions, has successfully concluded its first project, as a company from Croatia, with NATO. Having recently completed and been given the assignment of equipping the NATO base in Naples with information security, INsig2 broke the ice and in some made history...



The most noticeable positive effect of Croatia's membership in NATO is the "security policy" that we received by becoming part of the most powerful military-security alliance in the world. Among the best arguments for this is the fact that the security and democratic standards that membership entails make our country more desirable for investment. The event, which was noted mainly in media dealing with economic issues, confirmed the positive effect of the accession of Croatia into NATO in the most direct way possible. Namely, the Croatian company INsig2 from the IN2 Group, which is engaged in the design and implementation of sophisticated integrated corporate security solutions, has successfully concluded its first project, as a company from Croatia, with NATO. Having recently carried out and been given the assignment of equipping the NATO

Full membership in the Alliance is one of the conditions for a company from a given country to even get a chance to participate in the tenders organized by NATO agencies such as e-NAMSA and NC3A

base in Naples with information security, INsig2 broke the ice and in some way made history.

Success due to a well thought-out business plan

The idea of doing business with NATO did not come accidentally; rather it was the product of a well thought-out business plan. "Croatia is a small country. If you look at the portfolio of our services in greater detail, you will see that the services are first and foremost intended for large companies, of which there are about 50 in our country," said INsig2's CEO Goran Oparnica. So, as a way of surviving, INsig2 had no other choice but to seek expansion outside of Croatia. "Croatia's entry into NATO presented us with an excellent opportunity. Suddenly, we didn't only have a market of four and a half million people, but



→ SUBJECTS OUTSIDE OF NATO'S UMBRELLA

Subjects outside of NATO's umbrella get a chance in only very particular situations, if they offer a service which no one from the inside offers.

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INsig2's next goal is to get the opportunity to do classified work for NATO. In support of this is the fact that the company is part of the consortium working on the project of integrated solutions for the MOD's and CAF's military identification cards, precisely dealing with security.

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and the presentation of the Agency in October of 2009, and then all the necessary information on the required documentation was gathered from the website. Through representatives of the Croatian Mission to NATO in Brussels, all the required documents were filled out and submitted. In addition to the documentation sent to the NC3A Agency, they also filled out an application for the issuing of a Certificate of Suitability which they sent along with all the necessary documentation to the Croatian Ministry of Economy, Labour and Entrepreneurship, which, at the request of the Agency, issued the certificate.

Winning the NATO tender

Soon after being certified, information on tenders announced within the framework of NATO began to be sent by the Croatian Chamber of Commerce's Department for Cooperation with NATO, which acts as a kind of mediator between NATO agencies and Croatian companies. INsig2 recognised business opportunities in some of these, and two tenders that were reported in early November last year were key. "We decided to apply. Of course, we didn't expect

Full membership in the Alliance is one of the conditions for a company from a given country to even get a chance to participate in the tenders organized by NATO agencies such as e-NAMSA and NC3A. Subjects outside of NATO's umbrella get a chance in only very particular situations, if they offer a service which no one from the inside offers.

much, which is normal when you are participating in something for the first time, but we worked intensively for fifteen days in order to make the best possible offer. After we had sent our application, a speedy week later we received the news that we got the job". The company once again broke NATO's ice, and was entrusted with equipping one of NATO's most important commands with information security. Some would say that a small company from a small country that had just become a NATO member had won, but this was proof that NATO has no prejudices and is widely opening its doors to Croatian companies which with their cleverness, products and services can comply with the Alliance's and its *exclusive club* members' high standards. INsig2's next goal is to get the opportunity to do classified work for NATO. In support of this is the fact that the company is part of the consortium working on the project of integrated solutions for the MOD's and CAF's military identification cards, precisely dealing with security. Receiving a Croatian Certificate of Business Security from the Office of the National Security Council is in progress, and this will pave the way for INsig2 having a wider choice of NATO tenders.

a market comprised of all of the member countries". Full membership in the Alliance is one of the conditions for a company from a given country to even get a chance to participate in the tenders organized by NATO agencies such as e-NAMSA and NC3A. Subjects outside of NATO's umbrella get a chance in only very particular situations, if they offer a service which no one from the inside offers.

Having recognized these advantages, organized itself, and examined NATO's needs, the company did its first ice breaking in August of last year. Having applied and met the conditions, the company signed a Contract with NC3A, NATO's Consultation, Command and Control Agency, and also prominent are the NAMSA and NCSA Agencies. The procedure began when representatives from Croatia's Military Mission contacted NATO, which enabled the arrival



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A visit to the military and special footwear factory convinced us that Croatian manufacturers follow modern technological trends and offer top-quality and competitive footwear. The new military boots that CAF members are equipped with are different from and have more advanced features than the old boots.

Text and photos by Toma Vlašić

THE CROATIAN MILITARY INDUSTRY



INKOP PRODUCTION OF MILITARY BOOTS

The INKOP shoe factory from the small town of Poznanovec next to Bedekovčina in Zagorje has been around since 1919, when it opened as a tanning factory. In 1960, INKOP also started producing shoes, as a logical continuation of the previously-established and proven manufacturing quality leather. At the beginning of the Homeland War, many Croatian companies turned to military production, thus helping Croatia's overall defence potential. And so INKOP, after the necessary preparations in 1993, started producing military boots for the Croatian army. Today INKOP employs more than 340 workers who annually produce about 420 000 pairs of shoes and 240 000 square metres of finished leather. INKOP cooperates with numerous foreign partners in the fashion footwear and leather segment: Mephisto, Geox, Samsonite, Scholl, Alpina, just mention a few. INKOP conducts the most international business

The company has exported specialised footwear to Bulgaria, Macedonia and Montenegro. INKOP is also turning to potential new markets in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, and steps have been made towards strengthening cooperation with NATO's NAMSA logistics agency.

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with Italy, France, Switzerland, the Russian Federation, Slovenia, Germany, Slovakia, Macedonia and Bosnia. The footwear production program is divided into fashion footwear, protective footwear and special purposes footwear, which covers the military, police, fire fighting and similar programs. We must mention that the company has orientated a substantial share of its production towards special purposes footwear because it is a stable market that is less prone to changes than the fashion footwear market. Because of the specificity of the market and the special requirements of such footwear, it is necessary to invest much effort into building a name and a reputation. However, its quality, reliability and employees' knowledge has proven that INKOP is ready to meet the strictest criteria that are set for special purposes footwear. The experience gained and the production references for the military



THE CROATIAN MILITARY INDUSTRY



→ in the harshest war conditions during the Homeland War were good collateral for future business. The special purposes footwear segment relies on both other partners and the cooperation of the Croatian Ministry of Defence, the Croatian Ministry of Interior and many Croatian public companies. These are all buyers looking for a large quantity of high quality special use footwear, and a long-lasting collaboration was the result of the production of numerous models of footwear meant for use in the most demanding conditions. We have mentioned that the production of military boots began during the Homeland War, and in 1995, 220 000 pairs of military boots were produced. Up to now, 1.3 million pairs of military boots have been produced. This number is proof of the knowledge and skill that have been recognized outside Croatian borders. The company has exported specialised footwear to Bulgaria, Macedonia and Montenegro. INKOP is also turning to potential new markets in the Middle East and Eastern Europe, and steps have been made towards strengthening cooperation with NATO's NAMSa logistics agency. In INKOP they are aware that the NATO member market is demanding, but are convinced that their results so far give them reason to believe that they will soon create a good business reputation in this market. Thus, INKOP has been placed among the group of Croatian companies that are striving to prove themselves in the most demanding yet rewarding NATO member market. INKOP, together with other Croatian special footwear manufacturers, is participating in the "Community Bidders" project to create new military boots for the CAF's soldiers. INKOP's General Manager

INKOP offers its customers summer and winter versions of their boots as well as specially tailored beige versions planned for desert and similar conditions with temperatures exceeding 40 degrees Celsius.

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Ivan Rogan said that the Croatian Defence Ministry has set the bar extremely high on this project, but the "Manufacturer Community" has managed to respond to the required criteria very well. "This four-year new boot project will provide stability and work to "Community Bidders" companies as well as employment for about 1000 people. Besides us having managed to create a high quality and distinctive Croatian product, we have also managed to save financial resources from the budget with this project, because the production cost of the new boot is about 40 per cent lower than that of competitors who manufacture identical or similar products," said Rogan. The new military boots that CAF members are equipped with are different from and have more advanced features than the old boots. This is a fact all serious military footwear manufacturers throughout the world are faced with, as scientific and technological development in the area of military footwear continuously brings forth new possibilities. This is the direction INKOP's development is going in. An entirely new mould has been made for black winter and summer boots, as well as for beige boots for desert conditions. In the making of the boots, innovative materials in the manufacture of special purposes footwear were used, such as membranes with breathable and waterproof properties. All this enables users to walk more comfortably with less fatigue. Special attention was paid to the ergonomics. INKOP offers its customers summer and winter versions of their boots as well as specially tailored beige versions planned for desert and similar conditions with temperatures exceeding 40 degrees Celsius.

► THE CROATIAN SOLDIER IN SERVICE OF HIS COMMUNITY

"The Croatian Soldier in Service of his Community," the book which has recently been published by the Croatian Military Newspaper Department, contributes to understanding and becoming aware of yet another one of the roles which the Croatian Armed Forces have in peace, and that is in helping the civil community when natural, environmental or ecological disasters strike. There are many examples of this, which we have tried to at least partially cover in this book with text and images in which the army helps flood-affected civilians, where it participates in fire-fighting activities and in rescue missions on rugged terrain, provides rapid medical transport to the injured, cleans debris, constructs facilities and participates in humanitarian and other activities... In all these activities it is in fact the CAF that often plays a decisive role



► MODERN ARMOURY

The first edition of Modern Armoury was published ten years ago, but since then there have been many changes in the field of armoury. The second amended version which was issued by the Croatian Military Newspaper Department outlines the new state of armoury and possible future trends.



PROJECTS THAT WE ARE PROUD OF...



► 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TIGERS 1ST GUARDS BRIGADE

One of the CAF's legendary units and the first established brigade, the Tigers, celebrated the 20th anniversary of its foundation last year on the 5th of November, 2010. On this occasion, the Croatian Military Newspaper Department released a video about their twenty-year existence. The twenty-minute film shows the war path of the unit as well as the formal celebration of the jubilee anniversary.



► THE CROATIAN ARMY

On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Croatian Armed Forces, the Croatian Military Press Division released the film "The Croatian Army". In a few scenes the fifteen-minute film presents the Croatian Army's capabilities and equipment as well as the military assignments and the aid to civilians that it is engaged in.



► "AN ARMY OF WINNERS – PROUDLY INTO THE FUTURE" PHOTO MONOGRAPH

The CAF's photo monograph "An Army of Winners – proudly into the future" was published by the Croatian Military Newspaper Department. This is the third amended edition which in over 160 pages of pictures displays the activities of all three branches of the Armed Forces. Besides those in Croatia, this photo monograph also leads us through international missions and operations that CAF members participate in. In comparison to the previous photo monographs, 70 percent of the photo material in this one is new, it is a kind of historical story of the CAF in a thousand pictures. Like the previous two monographs, this one is the result of the desire to showcase the CAF's performance, its possibilities and capabilities in the most objective way. This release encompasses the whole twenty-year journey of the Croatian army, which sprouted from the Homeland War and which is today a proud and valued NATO member.

PROJECTS THAT WE ARE PROUD OF...

► CROATIAN DEFENCE INDUSTRY CATALOGUE FOR 2011.

The Croatian Military Newspaper Department participated in the effort to enable the Croatian defence industry to have a successful performance in foreign markets by issuing its new release, the second amended Croatian Defence Industry Catalogue for 2011. The catalogue is in English and is a kind of overview of the possibilities and capabilities of Croatian companies. It contains a database of 42 Croatian companies that deal in the field of defence production...The catalogue lists the companies alphabetically, and gives basic contact information and other basic information about each company, along with a short presentation of individual products. We hope that this catalogue will be useful to all those outside the borders of Croatia who wish to get to know the Croatian defence industry and create contacts for potential future business collaborations.



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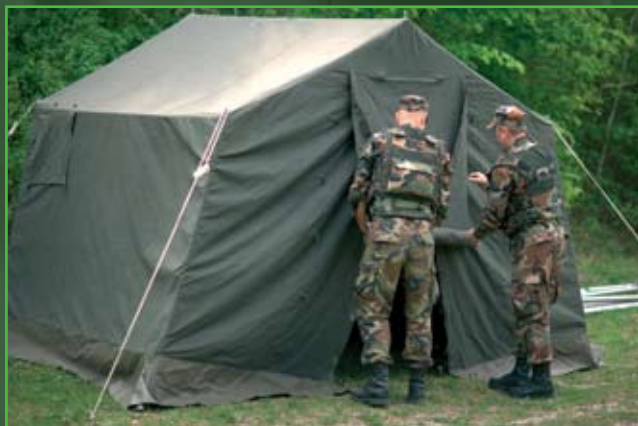
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With our various programmes, we at Werkos respond to the needs of the broad community. Our innovations are the result of our experience and our commitment to field-testing. Our products have earned us the image of a recognisable company specialized in engineering and in a range of specific products. The Mobile Units for Military and Civil Purpose Programme includes the equipment for the needs of the domestic market, yet it also shows our global orientation and our commitment to respond to increasing challenges of the unpredictable powers of nature - not to harness them, but to protect ourselves against them or to adjust to them. Mounting and assembly of Mobile Units is easy, quick and simple. The equipment including the lining, the cabin and the floor enables the usability of the tent even in some extreme situations, such as for medical corps and decontamination purposes. Spacious and airy, the tent can take in a large number of people (depending on its size): the wounded, the sick and the isolated. It is also suitable for safe storage of various types of goods.



M-01-W

TENT M-01-W is a tent type most frequently used to accommodate a small number of people for the following purposes: military, civil protection, the Red-Cross, fire department and scouts.

- material: cotton
- structure: aluminium pipes and joints
- width: 3 m
- length: 2.5 m
- crown height: 2.5 m
- lateral side height: 1.7 m
- floor surface: 7.5 m²
- accommodation for: 3 beds



BOX BARRIER

Box Barrier is a foldable mesh structure, made of heavy galvanized, double-braided wire. The internal structure is lined with geotextile, and has no bottom or lid. It can be filled with any available material: gravel, sand, soil.

Dimension of the Box Barrier are:

- Width: 1 m
- Length: 3-5 m
- Height: 1 m

• TENTS AND TENT EQUIPMENT • FOLD-UP BED • SYSTEMS FOR QUICK CONSTRUCTION OF MILITARY FORTS



tent for H.Q.



warehouse tent

V-01-W

TENT V-01-W is a general name for the tent type which, when combined with certain components, can be used as follows:

- For H.Q. (military) use : 28 m²
- As warehouse tent: 70 m²
- For medical use (it has lining and a floor): 70 m²
- For decontamination (it has a cabin, and can have a floor as well): 84 m²
- For kitchen (trailer): 14 m²

- material: cotton
- structure: aluminium pipes and joints
- width: 5.6 m
- length: 2.5 m
- crown height: 2.8 m
- lateral side height: 1.8 m
- floor surface: 14 m²
- accommodation for: 6 beds

* Dimensions refer to one tent section



FOLD-UP BED L-04-W

What seems to be an ordinary bag, easily turns into a comfortable foldable bed that is easy to transport or carry. The bed is delivered in a bag provided with a zipper and synthetic strap for carrying.

FOLD-UP BED L-04-W

In 2004 Werkos has been awarded the NCAGE code A009B (NATO Commercial and Government Entity Code) and the NATO Stock numbers (NSN) for Small Tent and Large Tent products, including all respective spare parts. The Codification into the NATO system is a proof of high quality and significance of the Werkos Mobile Units programme and of our recognisability in military and civil practice, on both domestic and foreign markets. FEEL FREE TO CONTACT US AND ASK FOR MOBILE UNITS BROCHURE...

CROATIAN NATO SOLDIER

Panoplied with top-line military equipment, with special accent on high quality Croatian made products.



ESS glasses and goggles with ballistic protection.

Shemagh desert scarf.

Combat helmet with ballistic protection, product of Sestan-Busch company, Croatia.

Backpack Kroko M115 with 3L Camelbak watter blader.

U-shaped 2-way neck communication device, developed by RIZ company, Croatia.

Protective combat vest Kroko M120 with ballistic panels, Thermotex and Outlast lining for better breathability and temperature regulation. Anti-slip rubber on shoulders. Pouches for hand grenades, ammunition, gas mask and other equipment can me modularly positioned depending of the operation needs. Front, back and side body protection. Developed and produced by Kroko International, Croatia.

New BDU in Croatian desert digital pattern with outstanding camouflage properties in desert enviroment, made from modern materials, treated for IR invisibility, armed forces.

„OSRH“ watter mark for copyright protection. Developed and produced by Kroko International, Croatia.

First aid kit.

Face protective mask (gas mask).

Duty belt with closed type holster Kroko M116 and holster extension.

Pistol HS2000, developed and produced by HS-Product company, Croatia.

Underwear: UnderArmour for hot climate conditions, Outlast with temperature regulation for cold weather conditions, and polypropilene for extreme conditions.

Boots: Various types according to the need, made in Croatia by Jelen, Inkop, Borovo and Sloga companies.

Knee protectors, developed and produced by Kroko International, Croatia.

Combat Knife, Extrema Ratio or Solingen Waffen-technik, distributed by Kroko International.

Assault rifle VHS, soon to be released by HS-Product company, Croatia.

Survival set Kroko, consists of top quality components such as Leatherman, Surefire, Camelbak...

Outershell: Jacket, underjacket and trousers made from 3-layer membrane material that is breathable but waterproof. Also made in Croatian desert digital pattern with outstanding camouflage properties in desert enviroment.

Other equipment in development.

manufacturer of military and police equipment:

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