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6TH FLEET
FLAGSHIP
OVERHAULS
IN CROATIAN
SHIPYARD

SPECIAL OPERATIONS BATTALION
A SNIPER'S TRAINING

THE "EUGEN KVATERNIK" MILITARY TRAINING GROUND
**YOUNG SOLDIERS UNDERGO
MILITARY TARGET PRACTICE**

"GROMOVI" AND MINNESOTA
NATIONAL GUARD TRAIN
AT CAMP RIPLEY

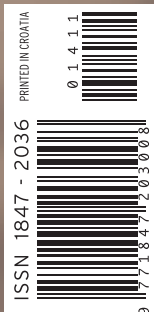
INTERNATIONAL EXERCISE

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE 11

THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS
BATTALION'S CAPABILITIES
FOR NATO'S NRF FORCES

THE JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY OF THE CROATIAN ARMED FORCES

20 YEARS OF THE CROATIAN ARMED FORCES



HRVATSKI VOJNIK

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE'S EXPERT MILITARY WEEKLY MAGAZINE

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PROJECTS THAT WE ARE PROUD OF...

Today, 20 years later, the CAF are a part of NATO and along with other Alliance members share the same values and are a respectable member... For all of the CAF's branches and nearly all of its units, 2011 was the year that marked the twentieth anniversary of its operation and establishment...

THE JUBILEE ANNIVERSARY OF THE CROATIAN ARMED FORCES



20 YEARS OF THE CROATIAN ARMED FORCES



Leida Parlov, Photos from Croatian Military Press Archives

→ CROATIAN MILITARY ACADEMY

The CAF's most important educational institution is the Croatian Military Academy. All levels of training for officers and NCOs are conducted at the CMA. Military-diplomatic training is also organised, and within the composition of the military academy there is also a Foreign Language School.

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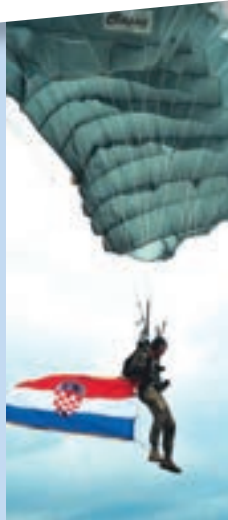


The Croatian Armed Forces began their developmental path 20 years ago, with a solemn alignment on 28th May, 1991 at the football stadium on Kranjčeva Street in Zagreb. This was during the Homeland War. Emerging from practically nothing, today, 20 years later, the CAF are a part of NATO and along with other Alliance members share the same values and are a respectable member. Besides protecting Croatian territory, with their resources – air, land and sea – they also provide their services when any of society's civil structures need them, this being one of their peacekeeping

The CAF's largest component is the Croatian Army. Today its main forces are two guards' brigades, the Guards Armoured Mechanized Brigade and the Motorised Guards Brigade.

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assignments. They also participate in international peacekeeping missions and operations, be they led by the UN, NATO or the UN. For all of the CAF's branches and nearly all of its units, 2011 was the year that marked the twentieth anniversary of their operation and establishment. The CAF's largest component is the Croatian Army. Today its main forces are two guards' brigades, the Guards Armoured Mechanized Brigade and the Motorised Guards Brigade. The reduction in armed force's size which was necessary for the army to adapt itself to peacetime needs as apposed to war- ➔



time needs was in accordance with the country's and the Croatian Army's needs and possibilities, and under no circumstances and in no way affected their combat readiness. In accordance with needs and financial capacities, the Croatian Army equipped itself and continues to equip itself with modern technology and weaponry. Thus, among other things, a number of Iveco LMV and HMMWV light armoured vehicles were purchased. The largest procurement project is currently the purchase of Patria AMV wheeled armoured vehicles.

Croatia has contracted the delivery of a total of 126 vehicles. Military facilities, barracks and shooting ranges are being renovated as well in order to fully adjust to the highest soldier-accommodation and training standards. An example of this are the "Pukovnik Predrag Matanović" barracks which are strategically important to the CAF; after renovations they have become model Croatian barracks of the twenty-first century. Parallel to this, the international engagement of members of the Croatian Army has increased in the ISAF operation in Afghanistan, in the UNDOF mission in the Golan Heights, and in the UN's peacekeeping missions where many army members are participating as military observers. A large part of the assignments which they are carrying out in the ISAF mission are related to training and are in accordance with the Alliance's priorities in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan.

The Croatian Navy is in charge of preserving national interests at sea. Since Croatia is a maritime country, one of its vital interests is protecting the Adriatic Sea. The Croatian Navy is committed to increasing its capabilities. A great deal of attention is paid to

Over the course of the last twenty years, the Croatian Air Force and Air Defence has also undergone great changes. They have successfully integrated into the NATO Alliance. Air security has been significantly increased with their new radar system, and when it comes to air monitoring, they are among the top trained countries in the NATO alliance in regards to their human and technical capabilities.

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the education of naval personnel, and equipping and modernisation are undergone in accordance with the CAF's financial possibilities and strategic documents. Throughout 2009, the Croatian Navy was equipped with two Helsinki Class missile boats that are equipped with NATO-compatible equipment. An anti-mine ship which was constructed in a shipyard in Croatia is also in operational use. It will become a common practice to equip the Croatian Navy's new ships with domestic developmental and protection resources. Also within the Navy's composition is the Coast Guard, which is vital to strategically protecting the Adriatic Sea. Its main tasks and duties are the protection of the sovereign rights and the implementation of the Republic of Croatia's jurisdiction in the protected ecological and fishing zone, in the continental shelf and at open sea. Over the course of the last twenty years, the Croatian Air Force and Air Defence has also undergone great changes. They have successfully integrated into the NATO Alliance. Air security has been significantly increased with their new radar system, and when it comes to air monitoring, they are among the top trained countries in the NATO alliance in regards to their human and technical capabilities. The Air Force has also developed in the world-renowned military pilot schooling system. Besides its basic task – monitoring and protecting airspace and protecting Croatian sovereignty – the Air Force, with its technical and human resources, is also always at the service of civilian society. They carry out emergency medical transportation and participate in search and rescue and fire-fighting activities. They are also active in international operations, more specifically, KFOR in Kosovo and ISAF in Afghanistan, where air



force mentoring group conducts the training of the Afghan Air Force's pilots and technicians. Croatia is a member of the Nordic Battlegroup in which the CAF participates in with its helicopter air forces. The CAF's most important educational institution is the Croatian Military Academy. All levels of training for officers and NCOs are conducted at the CMA. Military-diplomatic training is also organised, and within the composition of the military academy there is also a Foreign Language School. In this way, CAF members are trained for work in their own units and for work in international staffs and headquarters. Members from foreign armed forces also come for trainings at almost all levels. The Academy has an excellent collaboration with universities in Croatia as well as with many other civil institutions. There is also the Kadet program within the Military Academy which is only one of the many ways the Armed Forces keep its ranks filled with young people. Support Command is the umbrella logistical organisational unit in the CAF. It is not necessary to mention just how important logistics are for the uninterrupted and efficient functioning of armed forces in any country. Command today offers support to units not only in Croatia but throughout the whole world, in peacekeeping missions and also to NATO allies before a visit to or transit through Croatia. Besides offering logistic support, Support Command is also responsible for training in logistical specialties, and within its composition is the Military Medical Centre, which united the larger part of the units that were providing medical protection to members of the armed forces, such as the Institutes of Maritime and of Aviation Medicine and most of the



The Croatian Navy is in charge of preserving national interests at sea. Since Croatia is a maritime country, one of its vital interests is protecting the Adriatic Sea. The Croatian Navy is committed to increasing its capabilities.



clinics which the CAF's primary system of medical protection is comprised of. Support Command also provides daily logistical support to a number of missions in which members of our armed forces are participating in. An example of this is when in the ISAF mission Support Command established a national element of support, through which it can provide the complete logistical support that units of ours need in that mission. They organise the complete transport both of people and resources in missions outside of the country that units from the armed forces are sent to, and insure them the necessary logistical support from the country or by using the services of specialist countries. In addition to the national support element which from the very beginning has provided logistical and medical support to Croatian contingents in the ISAF operation in Afghanistan, Support Command also has some members in the OMLT garrison which mentors ANA members and is engaged in the ANA's Logistics School. Even from this brief overview it is evident that over the course of the past twenty years much was undertaken for the development of the Croatian Armed Forces. Of course, their development is not nor could ever be perfect. It is also important to mention that today the CAF is fully professionalised, and mandatory military service was replaced by voluntary service. The Armed Forces will continue to adapt to new challenges, to develop forces and capacities to participate in joint operations, in crisis response operations and in the UN's, NATO' and the EU'a peacekeeping operations. However, their primary and most important task will continue to be defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Croatia.

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIEGE OF VUKOVAR



THE DEFENCE OF VUKOVAR: **A PHENOMENON OF GLOBAL PROPORTIONS**

From the military point of view, the long-term defence of Vukovar was difficult to understand. The geographical position, the relatively unfavourable composition of the population in the city and in the surrounding areas along with the JNA's great strength theoretically didn't give it great hope for resistance. However, there was resistance, and due to this the defence of the city is a rare phenomenon, not just at the national level but also globally. The siege of Vukovar lasted three months. Three months with no electricity, water, or telephones.



Without food. Without medicine. Surrounded by 600 tanks and almost 50 thousand well-armed enemy soldiers. Enemy aircraft constantly flying over the city and expelling its lethal cargo. Grenades fell day and night. There weren't even two thousand defenders, poorly armed but proud. Military analysts' prognosis was that the city could only be defended for three days. The defence lasted much longer, because what was being defended was one's people, one's home, one's homeland. One's family... The result of the siege was a city razed to the

→ NEVER FORGET

The heroic defence of Vukovar embodies the defence of every meter of Our Beautiful Homeland. And let's never forget, in the foundation of the modern Croatian state, the victims are our fallen soldiers. If we forget about them, we forget that which we fought for and struggled for alongside the victims: for our homeland and for our freedom, both of which are priceless

Edited by Željko Stipanović, Photo Archives from the Croatian Military Media

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



ground. Nothing left, only smoke and ashes. There are no birds. There is no life. Only graves. The enemy enters the city accompanied by the rhythm of a terrible melody and even more terrible words... And translates them into reality. A gruesome one. It takes away the wounded. To the execution site. There are no witnesses. There are no military observers, they were chased off. Civilians and defenders are taken to concentration camps. For torture. Physical and mental. To die. We will forgive, because we have to. That's the only way one can move on. There is no life with hatred in one's heart. However, we will not forget. Because of all the graves, the discovered and undiscovered ones, the known and the unknown... In the name of those who have disappeared... For he who forgets his past is destined to repeat it. And today in our ears rings the eternal question: What exactly did we do for the enemy to attack everything Croatian with such hatred? All we wanted was to have our own country, our own national anthem, our own flag. Just like any other

Vukovar's War Autumn of 1991

If we were to search for the event which we could call the beginning of the conflict in Eastern Slavonia, this would most certainly be the event in Borovo Naselje. In Savulja, a nearby town, in the early hours of the 2nd of May 1992, a police patrol from the Vukovar station was attacked. Two officers were lightly wounded, and two others were kidnapped and taken to Vojvodina. The attempt at a police investigation and return of the kidnapped officers that same day ended catastrophically. 20 members of the Croatian police were killed. The JNA arrived from Osijek to the location of the skirmish and set a buffer zone. Officially, it was a question of dividing the conflicting parties, but unofficially it was about protection and preventing the Croatian forces in order to quell the rebellion and to mislead constitutional system over the entire Croatian territory.

There was already an escalation in conflicts in Eastern Slavonia in July and August, when the former army conducted a series of attacks throughout that area, destroying villages and expelling the local population. The enemy began Operation Vukovar on the 30th of September 1991. The basic idea of the conquest of Vukovar was to block the city, and then with the energetic action of assault squads and groups, acquire the most significant areas north and south of the Vuka, after which cleansing and complete control would follow. Two operative army groups were created to take the city – South and North. The assignment of cutting off Vukovar from Vinkovci was given to the strengthened Guard Mechanised Division which was focused on three tactical directions: Šid-Županja, Šid-Vinkovci and the Vinkovci-Vukovar corridor. On the 1st of October the division attacked the Vinkovci-Bogdanovci-Vukovar highway, captured the Marince village and cut Vukovar off from Vinkovci, and the following day it captured the Cerić village and continued with intense attacks on the Nuštar village which soldiers definitively defended on the night of the 6th of October.

While the Guard's division of the JNA regrouped its forces, it strengthened them and additionally fortified the area of the villages of Cerić-Henrikovci-Mirkovci-Nego-slavci, in mid-October the corps from Novi Sad continued its intense attacks on Vukovar and Borovo Naselje. Those were the most intense attacks up to then with which the JNA managed to penetrate the defence line in the area of Mitnice, the southern part of the Lužac settlement, Sajmište street and Trpinska road. With the penetration of these defensive positions, all that was left to the assailant were a few hundred meters to enter the centre of the city and Borovo Naselje with its infantry, which brought on fierce street fighting. This final effort at defending Vukovar prevented the highway between Vukovar and Borovo Naselje from being cut off. In an effort to help the surrounded city, from the 16th of October the Command of the Osijek operative zone tried to retrieve the injured from the surrounded city. A convoy of ambulances departed on the 18th of October, but the enemy tried to use it as an entrance into the city from the area between Bogdanovci and Vukovar and the defence was able to foresee this. In the end, the convoy entered the city from the direction of Lužac, collected the wounded, and in the first minutes of the following day arrived in Đakovo. Despite the ceasefire that was signed, the 23rd of October was a difficult day for the defenders of Vukovar because the city was under enemy fire and not even the hospital was spared; it was hit by about 40 rockets which burned it down and threatened the injured with the danger of a fire. In early November, the enemy attacked the Bogdanovci village that in the end was defended, as opposed to the Lužac settlement which Vukovar's defence was unable to defend, and so the army was able to cut off the defence of the city into two parts. After the fall of Lužac, the state of Vukovar grew worse from day to day. Fatigue, death and a lack of people, of weaponry and of equipment had left their mark. The free territory of the city was becoming smaller and smaller. The JNA's attack from the direction of Lužac, with the intent to occupy the overpass going towards the centre of Vukovar which could potentially link the army to the units which were attacking along the Trpinska road, was a prelude to the final battles for the city. In the early hours of the 17th of November, the commander of the Operative group from Vukovar received the dramatic message from the commander of Vukovar that he was left without men and ammunition, with a torn defence that was at the end of its rope. The city was captured on the 18th of November, and a day later, on the 19th of November, Borovo Naselje was captured as well, which marked the end of the organised defence of the city.



THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIEGE OF VUKOVAR



A CHRONOLOGY OF THE SIEGE OF VUKOVAR

25th August – Up to then, the fiercest attack on Vukovar. Tanks leave the barracks, and the National Guard destroys the first tank. Mortar projectiles destroy two operation rooms in the Vukovar Hospital.

5th September – Vukovar is attacked from Negoslavci, Bršadin, Borovo Selo, Bačka, and a river flotilla on the Danube participates in the attack. Every minute, a grenade or a rocket falls on the city.

14th September – “The day when the heavens opened up”. JNA aircraft bombard Vukovar approximately ten times. JNA and Serbian paramilitary units begin their offense with the goal of occupying Vukovar. The city is attacked by about 100 tanks; Vukovar is left without any electricity, water and telephone lines.

16th September – Croatian forces destroy 34 tanks, and 26 aircraft attacks are recorded. The JNA attempts to join its forces in Vukovar's barracks with forces in Negoslavci.

2nd October – a new multi-day attack begins on Vukovar on which over 7000 grenades, bombs, mines and rockets were thrown daily. Seven motorised and two armoured brigades and the JNA's elite Guard's Division were engaged in the attack.

18th October – A humanitarian convoy arrives in Vukovar: humanitarian help is given and part of the wounded is retrieved.

4th November – 65 air attacks are carried out on Vukovar.

14th November – The JNA enters Vukovar and separated Croatian forces in Vukovar from Borovo Naselje.

17th to 19th November – Due to a lack of ammunition, Croatian forces cease to resist. Vukovar is occupied.

18th November – The JNA enters the Vukovar Hospital and brings the wounded to Ovčara.



The siege of Vukovar lasted three months. Three months with no electricity, water, or telephones. Without food. Without medicine. Surrounded by 600 tanks and almost 50 thousand well-armed enemy soldiers. There weren't even two thousand defenders...

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nation which has this historical and vested right. All we wanted was to be able say who and what we are without any fear. And then, to the awe of the whole world, disarmed but united, having only heart, faith and courage, we stopped and defeated the enemy, because we were defending our people. Each defender embodied our ancestor's heritage which has been the bulwark of Christianity for centuries. They have died in the same way, out of the same reasons: defending their people, defending Croatia. It was terrible to see the little that was left of Vukovar. Almost nothing! Only burnt and looted ruins. We rightfully wonder who has been charged with the excessive shelling of the city that no longer exists. The testimonies of the Croatian heroes that broke through enemy lines to freedom were shocking, testimonies about shocking battles in the surroundings. We listened to the way of the cross of those who stopped counting the grenades that fell on them like rain on a daily basis in disbelief. They are our heroes, as are all those who came from all parts of Croatia to help and all those who suffered the same fate throughout the assaulted Croatia. The heroic defence of Vukovar embodies the defence of every meter of Our Beautiful Homeland. And let's never forget, in the foundation of the modern Croatian state, the victims are our fallen soldiers. If we forget about them, we forget that which we fought for and struggled for alongside the victims: for our homeland and for our freedom, both of which are priceless.



The “USS Mount Whitney” is the first US Navy flagship which has been overhauled outside the borders of the United States of America, and the workers at the “Viktor Lenac” shipyard successfully completed works on it within two months

THE CROATIAN MILITARY

Vesna Pintarić, photos by Josip Kopi, Tomislav Brandt

6TH FLEET FLAGSHIP OVERHAULS IN CROATIAN SHIPYARD

Overhauls on the 6th Fleet flagship of the US Navy's “USS Mount Whitney” in the “Viktor Lenac” shipyard in Rijeka were completed on the 9th of November. The “USS Mount Whitney” ship had been in the Croatian shipyard since September 2011 when works on it that were completed in time had begun. This is the first US Navy flagship which has been overhauled outside the borders of the United States of America. The “Viktor Lenac” shipyard got the job through a contest in which the competition was many European shipyards due to its experience, abilities, transparency, flexibility and valuable offer. The completion of the works was commemorated by U.S. ambassador to Croatia James B. Foley, Commander of the U.S. Navy's 6th Fleet Vice Admiral Frank Pandolfe as well as by the highest dignitaries from the Croatian Ministry of Defence and the CAF's Chief of Staff. On this occasion he took the opportunity to point out that the works were completed at the highest level,

which indicates that the Croatian shipyard business is among the best in the world. He also expressed the hope that the 6th Fleet would continue to have its ships overhauled at “Viktor Lenac”, seeing that the Mediterranean is the area in which the 6th Fleet is deployed and that is strategically important to NATO, which could only contribute to the longevity of this collaboration. The U.S. ambassador to Croatia James B. Foley, Commander of the U.S. Navy's 6th Fleet Vice Admiral Frank Pandolfe expressed their satisfaction with the quality of the completed work and with the collaboration they had with the “Viktor Lenac” shipyard and took the opportunity to express the





➔ WORKS COMPLETED

Overhauls on the 6th Fleet flagship of the US Navy's "USS Mount Whitney" in the "Viktor Lenac" shipyard in Rijeka were completed on the 9th of November 2011

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high professionalism of the contractor and their hope for similar collaborations in the future. Let us mention that the overall worth of the completed works to the ship amounts to 8.5 million Euros. The repair work and maintenance began in September after the official visit of NATO's Commander of Allied Joint Force Command Naples and Commander of U.S. Naval Forces Europe Samuel J. Locklear to the Croatian Ministry of Defence during which the collaboration between American forces and "Viktor Lenac" was announced. The American party then expressed the hope that the collaboration with "Viktor Lenac" would set a positive example for other Croatian shipyards, for the maintenance and repair-work service on American ships and that training and a technical collaboration between the 6th Fleet and the Croatian party would be made possible.

"USS MOUNT WHITNEY"

The "USS MOUNT WHITNEY" is the U.S. Navy's 6th Fleet flagship and is one of the U.S. Navy's two flagships; it also represents somewhat of naval headquarters at sea. The ship was built in the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock Company shipyard and it was named after the 4421 metre-high summit in the Sierra-Nevada mountain range which is the highest peak in the American lowlands. The crew consists of 150 non-commissioned officers, 12 officers and 150 civilians from the U.S. Military Administration for Maritime Transport. The ship is 195 metres in length, 33 metres in width and has 9 metres of draught. It has autonomy at sea for 90 days and the ability to support the evacuation of 3000 people. It also produces 378 541 litres of water a day and can contain 4 millions litres of oil which is enough for a 35-day long trip at a speed of 16 knots. The ship's two anchors have a combined weight of 11 tons with approximately 330 metres of anchor chain. Each anchor weighs almost 25 tons. The total electrical capacity of the ship is 7 500 kilowatts which is enough to supply a small city. The ship's communication capabilities during navigation are the best in the world. The ship can receive, process, and transmit large amounts of protected data from anywhere in the world using HF, UHF, VHF, SHF and EHF frequencies. This technology allows the Intelligence Centre and the Operational Command Centre to gather and connect critical information in motion. The ship unites various elements of the most advanced C4I technology as it is the most sophisticated ship for command and supervision, data transmission and protection, data processing and display and intelligence transmission (C4I) that has ever been made. This kind of system allows the commander an effective integrated command of widely-spread air, land, and naval units.



SATISFIED WITH THE QUALITY

I am very satisfied with the work. We are very impressed with the capability of the Viktor Lenac Shipyard. We have come in with a large agenda, a lot to get done, and I'm very satisfied with the quality. They have done an awful lot of steelwork

INTERVIEW

CAPTAIN TED R. WILLIAMS,
USS MOUNT WHITNEY COMMANDING OFFICER

The USS Mount Whitney, the 6th Fleet flagship, is one of the U.S. Navy's two flagships; because of its importance and possibilities it also represents somewhat of naval headquarters at sea. The final phase of the USS Mount Whitney's overhaul, which is being undergone at the "Viktor Lenac" shipyard, provided the opportunity for a visit of the ship and a talk with its commanding officer, Captain Ted R. Williams.

You assumed the duty of the Commanding Officer aboard the USS Mount Whitney in September of this year after completing your duty as the Executive Officer aboard the USS Dwight D. Eisenhower. Could you tell us more about your military career and previous duties?

Certainly, thank you. I've been in the military, the Navy now, for over 24 years. The first twenty years of my career I was primarily a pilot. I flew the EA-6B Prowler in many deployments all over the world. In 2004 – 2006 I had command of an EA-6B squadron, VAQ-131 the Lancers. I relinquished command in 2006 and was selected to join the Nuclear Power Pipeline. I went to Nuclear Power School and then I worked on a nuclear power aircraft carrier, the Eisenhower, as the Executive Officer for three years. After that, I came over to take command of this great ship. We will see what the future holds but that is what I'd done previously. I have also done a tour at Central Command headquartered out of Tampa, FL. I was there during 9/11. I have done tours in Japan and I've made appointments off the east and west coast of the United States and deployed all over the world. I have flown, many times, here in the Adriatic and in the Mediterranean, in the Arabian Gulf, and in the Pacific. It has been a busy 24 years.

USS Mount Whitney is one of two U.S. Navy flagships. It presents a great responsibility to be her Commanding Officer. How did you feel when you found out you were appointed to this duty?

Yes, I was very honoured. It's a great responsibility of course, as you mentioned, but it's also a great honour and I am very lucky to command this wonderful ship. We have a fantastic crew. It is an incredible vessel, as I hope you're getting to see today and we also have the pleasure of being homeported in beautiful Gaeta, Italy. So, it's a great honor to have this wonderful ship.

This is the first U.S. Navy Command warship being repaired and maintained outside the United States. What did the works include?

I am very satisfied with the work. We are very impressed with the capability of the Viktor Lenac Shipyard. We have come in with a large agenda, a lot to get done, and I'm very satisfied with the quality. They have done an awful lot of steelwork. As you heard your Minister, my Ambassador, and my Admiral say two days ago, over 26 tons of steel has been replaced. They have completely blasted and cleaned the hull and the underwater sides. They have taken out our shaft and our propeller and cleaned, prepared them and put them back in. They have cleaned my many, many miles of ventilation throughout the ship which was a massive project for a ship which is forty years old. They have completely refurbished my main galley down below decks. I don't think you saw that, they are still working down there but it was an awful lot of work down there. We have worked on our propulsion system and made that better, so there was an awful lot of great work done by the shipyard crew. They have done a superb job.





WORKS INCLUDED

They have completely blasted and cleaned the hull and the underwater sides. They have taken out our shaft and our propeller and cleaned, prepared them and put them back in. They have completely refurbished my main galley down below decks.

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Can you tell us a few words about the ship's previous tasks and engagements taking into consideration that she has participated in several key operations so far, including her role in the recently completed Operation Unified Protector in Libya?

As a 6th Fleet flagship, our primary mission, of course, is to support the 6th Fleet Commander and his staff and we are always ready to do that. Often times we can do that on short notice. When Odyssey Dawn came up to play with Libya the ship was ready to go very quickly and we had a large staff on board. I have 300 normally attached to this ship. The crew size will more than double when we bring the 6th Fleet and perhaps other NATO folks onboard. So, we're ready to support the Admiral and his staff at any time and we can do that. We also work throughout the region with engagement opportunities and we were pulled in to many unique locations and show the flag, engage in co-operation with that nation. That is another great opportunity for our vessel that we are able to travel around this beautiful region quite a bit and see many good places.

Owing to her impressive tactical and technical as well as communication capabilities, MTW is sort of a Navy headquarters at sea. What technologies make this ship so special?

Well, we have a very complex communication suite. We can speak with the radios and we have some good ability to do that. Perhaps you saw the JOC (Joint Operation Center) so you could tell in there that there is a lot of ability to communicate via radio, via telephone, via our displays there. That is what makes us unique; we have the ability to do that. We also have the ability, frankly, to put everybody on board. We can double in size quickly. We have not only the office space but we also have the living space and we have the ability to feed people and take care of people so that makes us unique. Most ships do not have the ability to expand that quickly but we have a lot of additional room to be able to do that. Our primary capability I would have to say is our incredible communications.

The ship has served as the training platform for Joint Forces Command Brunssum, Joint Command Lisbon and Special Operations Command Europe. Is MTW going to continue along these lines and what are the possibilities to train Croatian officers on the ship?

I will tell you my personal thoughts only and I would love to train with Croatians. I have no guidance or input from my senior leadership on that. I certainly hope we can continue to have a joint relationship with not only Croatia, but many other of our NATO allies. That is very important for us and I think that we all become stronger and learn a lot from the other team so it is very beneficial.

Which tasks await MTW and her crew after the works and maintenance at the Viktor Lenac Shipyard?

I can't get too specific in that as you probably know. Our first task is to get home safely and we will do that. When we leave here we will have to do some unloading of fuel and we will have to take our ammunition back on board and we'll do that on the way home. I hope to go home for a few days and let my crew rest. We will then get under way after a short time, I think before the holidays, and just test out our systems. Then, after the holidays are over I look forward to getting everybody back and continuing to work around the Mediterranean with engagement missions. I have really no more specific information I could pass on right now but we will stay busy. We will always be busy and be at the sea as much as we possibly can, working with all of our friends in the Mediterranean.



INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EXERCISE

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

The Immediate Response 11 exercise is primarily designed to enhance joint interoperability with allies and partner nations, as it helps prepare participants for successful participation in a joint, multinational and integrated environment. In its first Croatian edition it has proved that it is a serious, complex and well-elaborated exercise project, and an even more comprehensive, demanding and complex scenario is expected for the next exercise.

Immediate Response 11 is the largest military exercise that was held on Croatian territory in 2011 and is the first in a series of three consecutively scheduled eponymous exercises that will be held over the next two years. Each year the scenario will be more demanding and include a larger number of forces. The exercise will continue to be implemented

in Croatia, with an increase in number at the brigade level. The exercise took place from the 7th to the 18th of June and was conducted on two levels. The CPX/CAX Command Post Exercises took place on the premises of the Simulation Centre of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command in Zagreb. It was attended by officers from all the A-5 regional initiative states (the USA, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania), as well as by officers from Serbia. The fieldwork took place on the premises of the "Eugen Kvaternik" military training range near Slunj. There, a situational exercise at the platoon level and a land exercise at the company level were organized, with soldiers from Croatia and the United States participating. The Croatian participants mainly came from the Guards Motorised Brigade, and American



The Immediate Response 11 exercise is primarily designed to enhance joint interoperability with allies and partner nations, as it helps prepare participants for successful participation in a joint, multinational and integrated environment

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cise that focuses on ISAF and on helping in the preparation of participating countries for an increased contribution to the ISAF mission in Afghanistan.

A great number of the elements tied to the exercise were exhibited on presentation day at the "Eugen Kvaternik" military training range, which was attended by, amongst others, the President of the Republic of Croatia and Supreme Commander of the CAF Ivo Josipović, Croatian Defence minister Davor Božinović and CAF Chief of General Staff Lieutenant Drago Lovrić. The central events were demonstrations of units' reactions to a number of simulated incidents.

On the first, command point of the training range, the participants observed the battle from the seats where the managing of all the processes and forces that were on the range and the battlefield was being conducted, and where, among other things, opposing forces are monitored and the decisions and actions that are taken by superiors are implemented. As far as the fieldwork is concerned, the troops showed how to defend against insurgent attacks on convoys. Namely, officers carried out standard procedures, including providing 360-degree security, and because of the attack they requested the aid of air forces. In addition, they also called upon reinforcement troupes for aid in order to successfully defend themselves. Since the attack lead to injuries, a medical evacuation by helicopter was requested, and the process was coordinated with command centre the whole time. Both exercises that unfolded on the training range were carried out according to a fictional and elaborate scenario which, in its content,

DNSE 11

participants were from the Minnesota and New Jersey National Guard.

The Immediate Response 11 exercise is primarily designed to enhance joint interoperability with allies and partner nations, as it helps prepare participants for successful participation in a joint, multinational and integrated environment. Two co-directors, Croatian Colonel Robert Šuntešić, commander of the Engineer Regiment of Training and Doctrine Command, and American Colonel Ardis Ferguson, commander of the 209 ALT-a (Army Liaison Team) were responsible for its implementation. The purpose of the exercise was to educate and train participants in planning the implementation of peace support operations, in crisis response according to the UN's mandate as well as to Chapter VII and to develop an exer-



The initial part of the Immediate Response 11 exercise was attended by American Lieutenant General Mark Hertling, commander of U.S. ground forces in Europe (USAREUR). At the "Eugen Kvaternik" military training range he stated:

Today, the greatest challenge is to implement the most efficient training possible for the least amount of money possible; therefore, we must train smartly and cooperate smartly. An excellent example of this is the Immediate Response 11 exercise. Although the exercise may look like a

bilateral event between US and Croatian armies, Croatia is leading five other countries and this is a regional exercise. Its taking place is a historical moment, a step forward. This year, alongside the US as a partner, Croatia has a leading role, bringing together other A-5 Member States. Twenty years ago, some of these countries were on opposing sides, and now they are working together on regional security. This seems quite historical to me. Also, I would like to devolve what I heard at the Simulation Centre when I asked our soldiers "How many of you have done something like this?" One young member of the Utah National Guard said: "The Croatian Army is extremely professional, they are confident in their abilities and work just like we do". I agree with this. And what could be seen during the exercise in Slunj was very professional.

The CPX /CAX Command Post Exercises took place on the premises of the Simulation Centre of the Army's Training and Doctrine Command in Zagreb. It was attended by officers from all the A-5 regional initiative states (the USA, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Albania), as well as by officers from Serbia. The fieldwork took place on the premises of the "Eugen Kvaternik" military training range near Slunj. There, a situational exercise at the platoon level and a land exercise at the company level were organized, with soldiers from Croatia and the United States participating. The Croatian participants mainly came from the Guards Motorised Brigade, and American participants were from the Minnesota and New Jersey National Guard.

THE CROATIAN MILITARY



was tied to the implementation of the COIN operation (comprehensive counter-insurgency) in the NATO-led ISAF Operation in Afghanistan.

On the other part of the training range that was conceived as an Afghan village, seven buildings, whose construction along with 450 metres of road cost 389 thousand dollars, was financed by the U.S. government. For the story to be authentic there was also about thirty people dressed in traditional Afghan clothes. Since the army had received tips that there were terrorists there, they had to conduct a site search. But during patrol, and since they had secured the area, there was a shooting. Soon after that came a call for help, and Patria armoured fighting vehicles were sent to the scene of the event. Soldiers quickly came to the scene accompanied by a military police dog, a Belgian Sheppard, who quickly and successfully gained control over the terrorist who was trying to escape. Although this was a military exercise, the organisers and participants tried to make it as realistic as possible, and the most important contribution that it brought was also its goal, and that was to be a good preparation for soldiers' participation in the mission and the best reaction to all possible situations which they could expect over there. Everything needed to be considered, from overcoming language barriers to responding to an armed attack.



After the exercise, it was easy to conclude that these types of events are more demanding for the participants than it seems. Field exercises are a serious segment of the military profession and are a type of filter which shows the level of training and preparedness. The Immediate Response 11 exercise in its first Croatian edition it has proved that it is a serious, complex and well-elaborated exercise project, and an even more comprehensive, demanding and complex scenario is expected for the next exercise.

The five-week long Sniper Tactics Training for the needs of the CAF mainly takes place in Udbina. The training is performed by instructors from the Special Operations Battalion training section, and contains the basis for sniper skills. There is also a second level training which is undergone in the simulated conditions of an urban area, and the first level is a prerequisite for the second. The attendants come from various units, but mainly from reconnaissance. There is always a surplus of candidates; however twelve per group is the limit...

A SNIPER'S TRAINING

Throughout more recent military history, there is not a single military specialty that is as discussed and debated as is the use of snipers. But one thing is for certain, and that is that soldiers, snipers, are extremely accurate marksmen and that in addition to that they must possess a number of other military assets. These assets were clearly demonstrated by a dozen chosen men, CAF members who underwent a five-week long Sniper Tactics Training during the spring in a base in Udbina in the central part of Croatia. The training was performed by instructors from the Special Operations Battalion training section. This training contains the basis for sniper skills. There is also a second level training which is undergone in the simulated conditions of an urban area, and the first level is a prerequisite for the second. The attendants come from various units, but mainly from reconnaissance.

The attendants come from various units, but mainly from reconnaissance. There is always a surplus of candidates; however twelve per group is the limit and only the best stay on

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There is always a surplus of candidates; however twelve per group is the limit and only the best stay on. Namely, it is not easy to meet all the requirements which deserve of the sniper's badge. The well known adage "a keen eye and a steady hand", which is characteristic of a good marksman, is the first of the required prerequisites. However, for a well-trained sniper, other things are necessary as well, such as experience, above-average physical qualifications, knowledge in ballistics and topography, knowledge of camouflage techniques, stealth, survival methods... And that is but a part of what is necessary to successfully follow the rhythm of the demanding training.

The instructor pointed to a fact that is not very well-known to laymen. Namely, snipers work in a binomial (a pair) and the training that is undergone is based on this. Even though both members of the binomial need to be trained snipers, during the assignments

Starting from 400 metres onwards, the ability of a well-trained sniper to estimate distances well, to recognise and detect all the natural and technical factors which influence a bullet's trajectory become evident, and with this they can achieve accurate calculations when they take their shot. The distance from which the shots are taken is increased gradually by one hundred metres each day



one's responsibility is to be a sniper and the other is responsible for the telescope and is also armed with an automatic rifle for close defence. After a while, the roles are exchanged. The training follows what is happening in the world of snipers and in trends in doctrine, training and technology, which are then incorporated into the training.

The second part of the training takes place in Udolina. The first, two-week long training contains theoretical lectures in the BSD barracks in Delnice, a small town in Gorski Kotar. The first part also includes practicing shooting techniques, triggering, breathing, posture, seeing off hits... "Some come to the training as top marksmen, and some show high potential which needs to be polished," said the instructor

Besides by means of approximation (personal assessment) and laser targeting devices, snipers also determine distances with optical scopes with magic Mil-Dot reticles

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who emphasised that all the more units are sending their members to the Special Operations Battalion for special training such as this one as well as more and more young people who show a great willingness to learn and upgrade their military skills.

When we went to the shooting range where the participants practiced shooting at a distance of 400 metres, the instructor warned us that it was at that distance that "problems" began to surface. Starting from that distance onwards, the ability of a well-trained sniper to estimate distances skillfully and to recognise and detect all the natural and technical factors which influence a bullet's trajectory become evident, and with this they can achieve accurate calculations when they take their shot. The distance

→ IMPORTANT KNOWLEDGE

For a well-trained sniper, among other things, experience, above-average physical qualifications, knowledge in ballistics and topography, knowledge of camouflage techniques, stealth, and survival methods are all necessary...

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Snipers work in a binomial (pair) and the training that is undergone is based on this. Even though both members of the binomial need to be trained snipers, during the assignments one's responsibility is to be a sniper and the other is responsible for the telescope and is also armed with an automatic rifle for close defence. After a while, the roles are exchanged

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from which the shots are taken is increased gradually by one hundred metres each day. Besides by means of approximation (personal assessment) and laser targeting devices, snipers also determine distances with optical scopes with magic Mil-Dot reticles. The conditions on the range were ideal for shooting. The weather was sunny, and visibility was maximal. Some of the twelve men were shooting, while others practiced camouflage and stealth. Everything we heard that day has brought us to one conclusion: that snipers from all armies in the world are first and foremost extremely skilled, in other words, complete soldiers, and judging by everything that we had the opportunity to see, they are truly selected among the best.





"GROMOVI" AND MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD TRAIN AT CAMP RIPLEY

One of the indicators of the good collaboration between the CAF and the Minnesota National Guard is the Crominn joint military exercise which, within the bilateral collaboration with the USA, has taken place for the sixth year in a row. Participating in it are units at the platoon level, and at this year's exercise 27 members from the "Gromovi" battalion as well as just as many members from the Minnesota National Guard. The goal was a joint training of infantry platoons and a contribution to the development of security measures in the fight against terrorism

The successful and high quality collaboration between the CAF and the Minnesota National Guard had already been taking place for fifteen years. This "anniversary" was marked by a visit from the Minnesota National Guard's commander Major General Richard C. Nash to Croatia, by his meeting with the Minister of Defence Davor Božinović as well as by a military exercise on the Camp Ripley training ground in Minnesota that was held in July of this year. Both activities presented the perfect opportunity for an exchange of experiences, for discussions

The successful and high quality collaboration between the CAF and the Minnesota National Guard had already been taking place for fifteen years

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about the past and a further collaboration which in the future, claimed General Nash and Minister Božinović, could even be additionally expanded. To the Croatian party the use of active reserves, which the Minnesota National Guard has a lot of experience in, is particularly interesting, as is the way in which they include their military forces and resources during natural disasters and catastrophes throughout the USA. Minister Božinović pointed out the possibility of conducting joint trainings, for the needs of CAF and of the Minnesota Na-



tional Guard and for interested partner countries. There was also discussion about the joint Croatian-American multinational OMLT which is operating in the ISAF operation in Afghanistan, the Military Police School in Afghanistan where Croatian was the leading nation, the state of the region and the collaboration in the U.S.-Adriatic Charter (A5). What best illustrated what kind of a collaboration this is would be the fact that up to now various forms of trainings and schooling in the USA were undergone by about 550 people from the Republic of Croatia who attended more than 750 individual military trainings in that country.

A joint exercise for the sixth year in a row

One of the indicators of the good collaboration between the CAF and the Minnesota National Guard is the Crominn joint military exercise which, within the bilateral collaboration with the USA, has taken place for the sixth year in a row. Participating in it are units at the platoon level, and at this year's exercise 27 members from the "Gromovi" battalion as well as just as many members from the Minnesota National Guard. The goal was a joint training of infantry platoons and a contribution to the development of security measures in the fight against terrorism. A brief description of the exercise could be reduced to the following: The soldiers receive a specific exercise assignment and, separately, CAF members complete it followed by members of the Minnesota National Guard, or vice-versa. After the exercise, the results are jointly analysed, as are all of the procedures, an assessment is made over what would be best and after this they jointly apply what is decided and thus improve their work. Some of the exercise's segments were the use of combat armoured vehicles in the transport of infantries and a training on all the procedures in that process, as was a demonstration on entering facilities and the neutralisation of "terrorists". The first part of the exercise was on the training ground on which support during the unloading of infantries was provided by a combat armoured vehicle as well as by a Bradley tank, which recorded exceptional precision and accuracy on the fixed targets on the training ground which were at various distances. During the second part of the exercise which was organised in a specially built settlement with many buildings of different sizes we had the opportunity, from a close range of only a few metres, to see the implementation of the exercises in which the collaboration between Croatian and American soldiers was particularly brought to the forefront. It is interesting that even spectators were allowed to enter the premises during the implementation of the exercises. After their completion, the moderator practically "froze the picture in the building" and interested spectators could go from point to point and immediately con-



LIEUTENANT MANUELA DENŽIĆ

Lieutenant Manuela Denžić was born on 26th December 1983 in Varaždin. She has been a member of the Armed Forces since 2007. She is a traffic engineer by training, and she completed her degree within the Kadet civil-military program. After entering the CAF and completing Officer School, she became the Commander of the 1st Mechanized Platoon of the Army's "Gromovi" Motorised Guards Brigade. Besides Officer School, she also completed several courses for peacekeeping support operations. She speaks English and French.

verse with every soldier about the procedure that had just been participated in a few moments before. Over 230 CAF members have been through the Camp Riley training ground in Minnesota to date. On the Croatian side, members of the 2nd Battalion "Gromovi" have participated in the exercise, and they were successfully lead by the Croatian Army's Lieutenant Manuela Denžić.



THE MINNESOTA NATIONAL GUARD AND THE "STATE PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM"

During his stay in Croatia, Major General Richard C. Nash, Commander of the Minnesota National Guard, met with Minister of Defence Davor Božinović as well as with the CAF's Chief of General Staff Lieutenant General Drago Lovrić, and also visited the Croatian Army's Headquarters, where he was welcomed by Commander of the Croatian Army Major General Dragutin Repinc. On that occasion he visited the "Eugen Kvaternik" military training ground in Slunj and familiarised himself with the training infrastructure of the shooting range, with its accommodation capacities and with future development plans. At the Gašnici military shooting range, Generals Nash and Repinc visited members of the OMLT team that were getting ready to go on the ISAF peacekeeping mission in Afghanistan and also observed the Military Police's exercise at the automatic shooting range.

General Nash also visited the Zvončić City Day-care, which was renovated by soldiers from the Minnesota National Guard and members of the CAF during the Guardex 11 exercise. This project, according to General Nash, is a good example of collaborations with civil structures. He also believes that the money spent on the renovation of the Zvončić City Day-care was well spent on children and on their future.

Military target practice is training's crowning event, and a great deal of work must be invested in order to gain access to this final element. The SLVR's crews were comprised mostly of younger soldiers for whom this was the first military target practice, and an opportunity to apply all that they had learned in training up to date. During the target practice, calls for fire were conducted in English in accordance with NATO standards...

THE CROATIAN ARMY

Domagoj Vlahović, photos by Tomislav Brandt

THE "EUGEN KVATERNIK" MILITARY TRAINING GROUND

YOUNG SOLDIERS UNDERGO MILITARY TARGET PRACTICE





Even though this was the first military target practice for the young soldiers, they were graded as "well-trained"

CROATIAN MILITARY MAGAZINE

At the "Eugen Kvaternik" military training ground in Slunj, the Artillery-Missile Battalion of the Croatian Army's Guards Motorised Brigade conducted an SVLR 122mm "GRAD" - BM-21 battlefield target practice in late June. Tactical positioning is defined as a request for fire support by our forces in defence, and the SLVR's platoon is assigned to be fire support to infantries which are within the battalion on the main defence line. Target practice was undergone by the platoon of three SVLRs with necessary command elements, and there were 80 participants. The targets

During the target practice, calls for fire were conducted in English in accordance with NATO standards. Conducting the practice in English is one of the elements of firing that gives it a new quality because it shows proof of an increase in abilities and modernisation which enables the appropriate interoperability with NATO's allied forces

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were at a distance of 10,5 km. The SLVR's crews were comprised mostly of younger soldiers for whom this was the first military target practice, and an opportunity to apply all that they had learned in training up to date. During the target practice, calls for fire were conducted in English in accordance with NATO standards. Conducting the practice in English is one of the elements of firing that gives it a new quality because it shows proof of an increase in abilities and modernisation which enables the appropriate interoperability with NATO's allied forces.

Participating in the target practice was the rifle platoon which demonstrated its skill in preparing arms, in steering arms towards the azimuth of the basic direction with the help of a GPS and which underwent military target practice. The commanding element also participated, more specifically the fire management centre, which had the assignment of calculating the initial firing elements and undergoing corrections according to measured deviations, as well as forward observer teams who had set the goals, passing on information about the former to the fire management centre, in other words calling for fire and performing the correction of the fire and the communications unit which was in charge of maintaining the connection system between all the elements of the combat schedule.

Military target practice is planned and conducted as an exercise that simulates real-life applications. On the observation platform – a mandatory element of combat schedules – the commanding element for handling fire was present: the fire support company with the task of controlling the work of the forward observer teams as well as the forward observers. Even though this was the first military target practice for the young soldiers, they were graded as "well-trained".



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GEOFOTO

At the Drgomalj barracks in Delnice and at the Udbina military training ground, a national evaluation was conducted of two special operations teams which are, in line with the forces' goals, nominated to become part of NATO's NRF forces. The evaluations were done according to the SOFEVAL method, which is used to evaluate all of NATO's Special Forces and hence our Special Operations Battalion as well...

Leida Parlov, photos by Tomislav Brandt

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THE SPECIAL OPERATIONS BATTALION'S CAPABILITIES FOR NATO'S NRF FORCES

During the Sablja 11/2 exercise which the Special Operations Battalion underwent at the Drgomalj barracks in Delnice and at the Udbina military training ground, a national evaluation was conducted of its two special operations teams which are, in line with the forces' goals, nominated to become part of NATO's NRF forces (rapid response forces). The evaluations were done according to the SOFEVAL method, which is used to evaluate all of NATO's Special Forces and hence our Special Operations Battalion as well. The head of the evaluation team was Major Marko Krstanović who already has experience in executing evaluations on an international basis. The exercise's scenario was based on an array of

The evaluations were done according to the SOFEVAL method, which is used to evaluate all of NATO's Special Forces and hence our Special Operations Battalion as well

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skills that are based on the demands of the SOFEVAL evaluation method. Thus, skills such as reconnaissance, observation, infiltration, reporting procedures and report preparation, direct attack, tactical exploitation of targets were evaluated; in other words, all the skills, knowledge and abilities which special operations battalions must master. Special operations battalions prepared themselves for this evaluation throughout the whole year, explained the director of the exercise Captain Miro Pavić, who is also a CIMIC officer in the Special Operations Command in Alicante, Spain, under whose command our teams will also be over the next year. However, to join the NRF's forces they must first re-

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ceive a passing grade from the international evaluation team during the evaluation which will take place during the first trimester of next year. The Sablja 11 exercise proved to be an excellent preparation for this evaluation; it was held in April of this year and over its course, its own sort of evaluation of the Special Operations Battalion's special teams was undergone. However Sablja 11/2 was more complex and was held on two locations. Such a scenario, mentions the director of the exercise, was not accidental. Namely, the aim was to test the teams' abilities to form command and transfer units into the area of operation. The head of the Army's seven-member evaluation team was Major Marko Krstanović, the operating officer in the Artillery Missile regiment. He explained that this national evaluation is conducted under NATO standards according to the SOFEVAL method which was officially author-



Evaluated were the activities planned in the exercise's scenario and which allowed us to evaluate the training level and qualifications of the teams. The evaluation was undergone in three phases. The first was in Delnice in the barracks where the documentation and plans for the exercises were verified, as well as the liaison's documentation and the condition of the equipment. In the second phase of the exercise in Udbnina, throughout approximately twenty incidents, the unit demonstrated tactical abilities based on the array of its abilities. The third phase consisted of preparing reports



ised in September of this year. It is the tool according to which NATO's as well as our Special Operations Battalions are assessed. It is similar to the CERVAl method according to which infantry units are evaluated, but, clarified Major Krstanović, it is a customised tool for special forces. It was derived from CERVAl. We evaluated the activities planned in the exercise's scenario and which allowed us to evaluate the training level and qualifications of the teams, explained Krstanović. It was undergone in three phases. The first was in Delnice in the barracks where the documentation and plans for the exercises were verified, as well as the liaison's documentation and the condition of the equipment. In the second phase of the exercise in Udbnina, throughout approximately twenty incidents, the unit demonstrated tactical abilities based on the array of its abilities. The third phase consisted of preparing reports. Major Krstanović was the head of the evaluation team at the Sablja 11 military exercise. He has been working as an evaluator since CAF units began to be evaluated according to the CERVAl method. Besides participating in evaluating at home, he also gained international experience when in October of this year he was a member of the evaluation team which evaluated the Special Operations Command in Alicante, Spain.

Through certification, affirmation and affiliation, the Special Operations Battalion takes on part of the overall role of NATO's declared NRF forces, and that that role is to insure immediate military response in crisis situations as a part of the Alliance's comprehensive crisis management system, for operations within Article 5 as well as for crisis response operations

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Commander of the Special Operations Battalion Colonel Dražen Ressler mentioned that this is not the first meeting with colleagues from the evaluation team, who are true professionals in their functional field. "The Special Operations Battalion attaches a great importance to the evaluation process, because without the afore-mentioned process, one cannot move forward in the affiliation process, in other words, in our Forces' joining other Special Operations forces in NATO which the NRF is comprised of," said Colonel Ressler, adding that through certification, affirmation and affiliation, the Special Operations Battalion takes on part of the overall role of NATO's declared NRF forces, and that that role is to insure immediate military response in crisis situations as a part of the Alliance's comprehensive crisis management system, for operations within Article 5 as well as for crisis response operations. He also mentioned that the mission of the NRF, as well as that of our declared forciers after joining, is to provide a quick demonstration of force and an early establishment of a NATO military presence in support of Article 5 or a crisis response operation. With this, concluded Colonel Ressler, we give a contribution to the preservation of the Alliance's territorial integrity, which represents but a small part of the sum of the NRF's tasks.

The Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia carries out a quality selection of candidates for work in military-diplomatic envoys, both in bilateral and multilateral fields in international organisations. This is followed by the preparation of educated officers who have undergone part of their training in foreign countries. Croatia has a specific program which was developed back in the nineties – a course on military diplomacy – and experience has proven that this form of preparation of our military-diplomatic officer and NCO personnel meets needs and gives positive results

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Leida Parlov, photos by Tomislav Brandt



CROATIAN MILITARY

Military diplomacy is an important form of communication for modern armies that emphasises cooperation and mutual respect of interests and promotes a cooperative security model in the world. The development of our military diplomacy began at the beginning of the 90's, and the results achieved confirm that Croatian military diplomacy, in promoting the protection of national interests, is lead according to the postulates of modern military diplomatic practice. The Republic of Croatia sent its first three military attachés to the USA, Germany, Austria and the OSCE in June of 1994. The year before, military attachés from the USA, France, Germany, Great Britain and Hungary were in Croatia. That is how our military diplomacy began to develop and slowly build a network of military envoys throughout the world. Today, 18 years later, military attachés from 31 countries are accredited in Croatia. Croatia has its military envoys in 19 countries (which covers 31 countries, as our envoys are accredited for a number of countries). From the

Often after a visit to units, the military attaché takes the initiative to develop a bilateral military cooperation with the given unit. Contacts with military attachés are daily, interest in the events they are invited to is great, and cooperation and mutual understanding and appreciation is exceptionally good

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very beginning of contacts with military-diplomatic representatives, the procedures related to their accreditation, the development of bilateral plans and programs, as well as the arranging of other forms of cooperation and inaugural and valedictory visits have all been within Department for International Defence Cooperation's (DIDC) scope of work of the.

Croatia's entry into NATO did not affect the number of military-diplomatic envoys in Croatia. Individual countries just changed their headquarters; for example, Great Britain has its military attachés in Vienna, Canada, Budapest, Norway and Rome. This, explains the CAF's Department for International Defence Cooperation, only confirms that Croatia is a safe and stable partner country that together with others can help countries in the region in their path towards Euro-Atlantic integration. Therefore, both independently and in bilateral activities with partner countries, as a NATO member and soon as a European Union member, Croatia works for the region.



The goals of military diplomacy are the positive presentation of one's own armed forces, the protection of one's armed forces in the host country and the assessment of the host country's armed forces, and as such it helps the general understanding and cooperation of armed forces of two or more countries. In addition to sending quality staff to military-diplomatic missions, as only the best can meet the demands of modern military-diplomatic practice, Croatia as a receiving country seeks to implement numerous activities whose goals are better cooperation with military-diplomatic representatives and thus the countries they come from as well.

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to be in support of both the goals of our bilateral partners as well as our own. In recent years the emphasis has been on the development of interoperability and the capacities for joint participation in international missions and operations.

Military-Diplomatic Corps

On the other hand, this is also a cooperation with the Military-Diplomatic Corps (MDC). Namely, all military-diplomatic representatives are also members of the Military Diplomatic Corps, somewhat of a club for military attachés accredited in the host country. The Croatian Ministry of Defence organises more than twenty activities for the MDC every year. Military attachés are regular guests at anniversaries and other significant dates that are commemorated by our defence system, at military exercises and other training events. Visits to the Armed Force's units are also organised, as are annual and semi-annual briefings during which insight is gained on things such as defence budgets and their realisation, strategic documents, etc... MDC competitions in archery as well as various other receptions and protocol activities which are an integral part of diplomatic and military-diplomatic practice are inevitable. The goal of all of these activities is for military-diplomatic representatives to become acquainted with our armed forces and the knowledge and skills of our soldiers. It is the quality and the content rather than the quantity of activities that is important. Often after a visit to units, the military attaché takes the initiative to develop a bilateral military cooperation with the given unit. Contacts with military attachés are daily, interest in the events they are invited to is great, and cooperation and mutual understanding and appreciation is exceptionally good.

Representatives from the Croatian MoD and the CAF are also regular guests at the activities which are organised by the Military-Diplomatic Corps. One of these activities is the Annual Military-Diplomatic Ball. The Military-Diplomatic Corps entertains domestic and foreign companies in order for them to sponsor it, and the funds raised are donated to charities. In this way, military attachés actively involve themselves both in the military and civil dimensions of our society. The frequent cooperation with military attachés does not stop at their military mandate. Many come back to Croatia for their summer vacations, they bring their acquaintances and friends and they in their own way are our ambassadors in their countries.

DIPLOMACY

Understanding and cooperation

The goals of military diplomacy are the positive presentation of one's own armed forces, the protection of one's armed forces in the host country and the assessment of the host country's armed forces, and as such it helps the general understanding and cooperation of armed forces of two or more countries. In addition to sending quality staff to military-diplomatic missions, as only the best can meet the demands of modern military-diplomatic practice, Croatia as a receiving country seeks to implement numerous activities whose goals are better cooperation with military-diplomatic representatives and thus the countries they come from as well. The activities which are carried out are twofold. On the one hand they are the bilateral type, that is, every military representative participates in the development of the receiving country's and his home country's bilateral defensive cooperation plans, taking into account the mutual interests of the countries. The aim is for the activities

The frequent cooperation with military attachés does not stop at their military mandate. Many come back to Croatia for their summer vacations, they bring their acquaintances and friends and they in their own way are our ambassadors in their countries

With the goal of our soldiers undergoing the most successful preparations and participation both in international missions and in general work in an international environment, content that enables members of the CAF to have a broader view on various religions and cultures as well as on the customs of the countries they go to is included in the training program. It could be said that this is a kind of Croatian specificity that is recognised among our international partners...

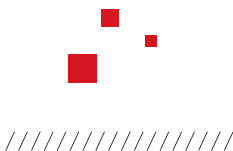
Among the many training activities that are carried out with the goal of our soldiers undergoing the most successful preparations and participation both in international missions and in general work in an international environment, content that enables members of the CAF to have a broader view on various religions and cultures as well as on the customs of the countries they go to is included in the training program. It could be said that this is a kind of Croatian specificity that is recognised among our international partners. It all began more than six years ago in collaboration with the Islamic community in Croatia in which effendi Aziz Hasanović, Deputy Chief Mufti and main coordinator of the Islamic community in Croatia, began familiarising CAF members that were going on the ISAF mission with the religious, tribal and cultural dimensions of Afghanistan. CAF members that are to go on the UNDOF mission in the Golan Heights also go through this education.

Gradually, this collaboration expanded. At the Croatian Military Academy, a course on Military Ethics was introduced in which students at all levels of training get a broader view on the specificities of various religions and cultures. In this context, an excellent collaboration with the rabbi from the Bet Israel Jewish community Dr Kotel Da-Don was also established.



CROATIAN SPECIFICITY IN PREPARATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL

Besides lectures, the collaboration also implies a visit to a mosque and to a synagogue, and when it comes to international missions Afghanistan is not where it all ends. Very quickly, this activity has become an integral part of preparing our soldiers for participation in other missions as well. Its importance was also recognised at the International Military Operations Training Centre, whose courses are attended by members of armed forces from other countries. Effendi Aziz Hasanović and Rabbi Kotel Da-Don are satisfied with their collaborations with the Croatian Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces as well as with the interest taken in their lectures by members of the CAF. The importance of this kind of collaboration is unquestionable as many unpleasant situations that arise due to ignorance could be avoided by getting to know the customs and culture of the country that one is visiting.



GLOSSARY OF ISLAMIC TERMS FOR THE ISAF MISSION

The "Glossary of Islamic Terms for the ISAF Mission" is the result of the years-long collaboration between the MOD and the Mesihat Islamic community in the Republic of Croatia in the training of our soldiers for participation in the ISAF mission but also in other international peacekeeping missions in which CAF members participate. The author is Aziz ef. Hasanović, and the publisher is the MOD's Public Relation and Information Office - Department of the Croatian Military Publications. The glossary explains over 600 terms that are not translated into world languages and that are used in the original form of the Muslim spoken expression. It is in pocket format, so that soldiers going on international mission can always carry it with them.



Kotel Da-Don,
rabbi at the Bet Israel
Jewish community in
Croatia

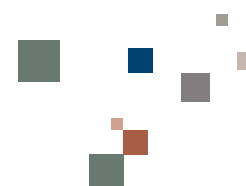
How important is it to familiarise CAF members that leave for international missions with the customs, culture and religion of the country they are going to and why is that so?

Knowledge enriches a man. I love to learn and generally think that it is good to study everything. It is important for the soldiers who go to areas in which people of a different religion live to familiarise themselves with their culture and customs so that they do not get into an unpleasant situation or offend someone. I help them gain knowledge that they will be able to use if they come into contact with people of the Jewish faith. In these preparations we organise a visit to a synagogue so they can see what it looks like from the inside, what are the differences between a synagogue and a church, a synagogue and a mosque.

You also teach at the Croatian Military Academy. What are your impressions?

Personally, I am very satisfied with how the attendants of the Croatian Military Academy have accepted my lectures and the way in which they participate in that course. It often happens that I plan on lecturing on five themes but don't even have the time to do three. There are many questions, and interest is quite great. During the lectures we examine many themes, we put a lot on the table and discuss. I personally love that they even ask questions about things that are not related to the theme. I prompt them to converse. I do not want them to be talking to a rabbi, but they do not ask about and get answers to everything that interests them, I do not only speak to them as a rabbi that has theological knowledge, I also speak to them as a soldier.

MISSIONS



In your lectures you often point out that there is no peace without a trust that is built with respect for the country that one is going to. Is this some kind of motto for your lectures?

Yes, that is what I advocate and claim, that without trust there is no peace. Without discussion and creating trust you can not provide the desired peace. You can not dominate with guns and other deadly weapons. We must, and this is what I tell our soldiers, gain trust. We had the Homeland War and peacekeeping missions and we know what this means. Thank God, our soldiers have acknowledged this, as have the host countries. In missions, our soldiers are recognised by their kindness and civility. We can not expect success any other way. They are recognised as well-intentioned and are welcome. If some information that they will get from us during the training were to make their lives easier in Afghanistan for even five minutes, I would be the happiest man on Earth.



Effendi Aziz Hasanović, Deputy Chief Mufti and main coordinator of the Islamic community in Croatia, appointed by Croatia

This has been recognised by the local population and by the international forces in ISAF!?

Yes. A little over two years ago, representatives from a joint American-Afghan staff came to visit the MOD. They also met with me and encouraged me but also further committed me due to what the representative of the American side said, and that was that what left a particular impression on them about our soldiers was their kindness, communicativeness and understanding and that they then came to know that the soldiers within their training also have this kind of lecture. He thanked us and said that he would work towards this kind of model being adopted by other armed forces that are participating in Afghanistan. All this additionally committed us and gave us the assignment to suggest this to international forces and to NATO who all recognise this. This is not spiritual counselling. My lectures are attended by anyone who goes on a mission. This is how they are designed and that is our advantage.

Creating new business successes on the basis of trust and the adoption of new products and technologies seems to be a good path that Croatian manufacturers of military equipment and weapons are safely marching on



ACHIEVING BUSINESS SUCCESS WITH TRUST AND THE ADOPTION OF NEW PRODUCTS AND TECHNOLOGIES

In Croatia there are nearly one hundred companies engaged in the production of military equipment and weapons or that produce other products and perform services needed for the functioning of the army (food, construction, services...). In the past year, companies that export arms and military equipment have exported around 120 million dollars worth of goods. These results will be known at the end of the year. Penetrating the demanding international military equipment and weapons market is not easy. This is a market that does not have any guaranteed positions or guaranteed achievements. A number of factors, from global security to the financial possibilities of each individual country, influence its stability, offer and demand.

What is significant, and this has been confirmed to us by some of the biggest Croatian manufacturers of military equipment, is that the announcements for next year are very good. This should come as no surprise, taking into consideration that throughout this year many activities were undertaken, most of them at the initiative of the Ministry of Defence, dealing with the promotion of the knowledge and technology that Croatia has at its disposal in that field. And so, one of the first meetings that Minister of Defence Davor Božinović held at the beginning of his mandate was with our military equipment and weapons manufacturers. He said that the Ministry of Defence will be



even more open towards our military equipment and weapons manufacturers and offer them help in opening new markets and in their being presented to the world in the best possible way.

In April of this year, with the signing of a contract with the following "community of tenderers": INKOP Footwear Ltd. Poznanovec, BOROVO Leather Footwear Ltd. Vukovar, JELEN PROFESIONAL Ltd. Čakovec and VIKO Footwear Ltd. Varaždin on the procurement of military boots and footwear for the needs of CAF members, the plan to have Croatian soldiers equipped and armed with products from the Croatian military industry was set into motion. This is just one of the proofs of the quality of the Croatian military industry and surely an additional contribution to the credibility and an important reference for our military equipment and weapons manufacturers on an international market. "Taking into consideration our country's size and population, and in comparison to similar countries and to countries with greater technological power than ours, our military equipment and weapons manufacturers have accomplished great achievements on the international market. There are many countries that are more developed and technologically stronger than ours that have a smaller or non-existent export of military equipment and weapons" said Ivica Nekić, director of Agencija ALAN Ltd.



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The export of new technology

Nekić mentioned that the importance of our exports lies in the fact that we export new technologies: "This is not the export of obsolete equipment or technology from the mid-twentieth century. For us, this is a full share in the export of new technologies and new solutions, which is really praise-worthy". The technologically well-equipped HS Produkt from Karlovac continues to have the largest share of exports. For years their HS 2000 hand gun has been a top product. HS Produkt's hand pistol being named pistol of the year three times in the USA says much about the pistol's success. It has become the official weapon of many armies and police forces throughout the world. Along with Croatia and the USA who are the biggest clients, many other armies and police forces throughout the world use HS Produkt's hand pistol. But the company has not stopped at the pistol. They will try to conquer new markets with their VHS assault rifle, the domestic military's new product.

The Šestan-Busch company which produces helmets is also among the companies that exports most of its products to foreign markets. They are one of the most significant representatives of our knowledge and technology on the world market. They have exceptionally high standards and their facilities produce nothing but the highest quality and toughest helmets,



which are comfortable as well. Each series goes through rigorous testing, and the helmets are worn by soldiers and police officers in many countries.

DOK-ING's demining machines are also valued and sought out on international markets. Their demining machines have penetrated the army compositions of many countries, including those of the USA, Australia, Sweden and at least ten humanitarian organisations which are involved in demining throughout the world. Their products, says Nekić, are surely among the top three products of the kind in the world, if not the best.

THE MILIPOL EXHIBITION IN PARIS

Croatian military equipment and weapons manufacturers at the MILIPOL exhibition in Paris

Croatian military equipment and weapons manufacturers showcased their products to the world at the MILIPOL police and military police weapons and military equipment exhibition that took place in Paris between the 18th and 21st of October. There were over 900 exhibitors from 41 countries at the exhibition.

The Croatian companies Agencija ALAN Ltd., HS Produkt Ltd., Šestan-Busch Ltd., Galeb Inc., Opteko Group and Kroko International Ltd. were within the organisation of the Croatian Chamber of Economy at MILIPOL. Exhibited were the Croatian hand pistol and assault rifle by HS Produkt, a RBG-6 hand grenade launcher constructed by Ratko Janković and produced by Metalic Ltd Rijeka, a MACS M4 sniper rifle produced by SCAM Marine Ltd. Rijeka, .300 Magnum and .338 Magnum sniper rifles produced by Berta Project Ltd., Šestan-Busch Ltd. presented a new collection of protective helmets, Opteko Group and Kroko International Ltd. presented equipment and Inkop Footwear Ltd. Poznanovec presented boots.



The ADRIA MAR shipyard has also achieved significant results, as well as Kroko Internacional ltd which is engaged in the production of military uniforms, armoured vests and special purpose clothing. When it comes to NATO, the INsig2 IT company from Zagreb was the first to open the doors to doing business with the Alliance. "These as well as other companies of ours which have managed to break through onto the international market have the most modern and complex technologies in the world in their field," claimed Nekić. He also mentioned that military equipment and weapons manufacturers can enter the market independently, that they can be represented by a state-owned company or any other company that is registered for that kind of business. What is important is for business to be done in accordance with the law and that results be achieved. There are many potential customers who, he says, want to do business through state-owned companies because this seems to provide the safest kind of guarantee to them. "When military equipment and weapons are being purchased, confidence is being placed in the country that is being bought from. This is a matter of national security and there must be much confidence in the supplier".



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Military equipment and weapons fairs

Military equipment and weapons fairs provide excellent business opportunities for establishing first contacts, renewing existing business collaborations and companies' penetration on to world markets. It is at fairs that it can be seen in what direction military industries throughout the world are expected to develop, what trends should be followed and that the possibility of entering onto new markets can be investigated. "Who is not at the fair," says Nekić, "does not exist". This year, Croatia had hosted its own military equipment and weapons fair for the first time. The ASDA 2011 Adriatic Sea Defence and Aerospace Exhibition and Conference, which was held in Split in March and organised by the American company TNT Productions Inc, has shown that Croatia and the world pervade in this type of work and was certainly important in the opening of new spaces to the Croatian military industry. It was at ASDA 2011 that the Đuro Đaković company signed a Memorandum of Understanding that is the basis for joint appearance on third markets with Patria Land Systems. This is a great business achievement for the Đuro Đaković company, and the signing of this memorandum is recognition of

COOPERATION WITH THE UN

At the invitation of Defence Minister Davor Božinović, Director of the UN Procurement Directorate Dimitri Dovgopoly recently visited Croatia. They spoke of the possibility of including Croatian companies in proving for the needs of the United Nations. It was agreed that soon the framework for a more direct collaboration between the Croatian MOD and the UN would be created. This could be an incentive for Croatian businessmen, and not only for those that are involved in the production of military equipment and weapons but rather for the economy as a whole, and opens up the possibility, in certain specific cases, of a simpler placement of Croatian products for the need of the UN. During his stay in Croatia, Dovgopoly also visited a number of military equipment manufacturers, the Kroko, Doking and Šestan-Busch companies as well as their top quality products and stated his belief that the Croatian economy has the chance to return to being among the major suppliers for the UN. In 1992, Croatia was among the ten major suppliers for the UN. "If that was possible during a time of war," said Dovgopoly, "it is also possible during a time of peace".



the efforts that they had placed in the commitment to production. "Contracts that are signed at fairs are the result of work that had begun to be prepared years and not months beforehand" said Nekić. He explained that "When the matter at hand is the sale of weapons and military equipment, this is business that takes years to conclude. Countries plan this kind of business within multi-year plans, both in terms of equipping and finances". Examples of this are the many activities of our companies, the crowning event being the signing of contracts at the INDEX fair in Abu Dhabi where the companies were accompanied by the Croatian Chamber of Economy. Šestan-Busch Ltd. signed a four-year contract for equipping the Egyptian army with 7000 helmets. Kroko International Ltd. will equip the Kuwaiti special police with 40 000 uniforms, 10 000 pieces of special purpose clothing and 5000 armoured vests. Support was given to our exhibitors at this prestigious world fair of military equipment and weapons by Minister of Defence Davor Božinović, whose presence at the fair drew the additional attention of foreign partners, and Croatian manufacturers welcome the Minister's contribution to Croatia's introduction at "INDEX". In sum, there are opportunities.



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THE IMPORTANCE OF STATE AGENCIES

It is a practice throughout the world for a buyer of weapons to be accredited during acquisitions by companies that are backed by the state, especially when important and complex business is the matter at hand. Therefore, states establish companies that are involved in export subsidies or that work through agencies within state administration. In Croatia, it is the Alan Agency that is state-owned. For a potential customer, this is an added guarantee with which the trust that is given to the vendor by the producer definitely rests on the country that is the owner of the Agency.

Agencies that are involved in production and sales can be established by a group of states (EADS European Agency Defence Security and others).

One of the ways to gain trust is to enter into a contract with companies that are important multinational players behind which stand a state or a number of states with big multi-year contracts (Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics, BAE and others).

In any case, experience shows that it is important to have an operative business centre which has knowledge and experience in working with the extremely demanding businesses of the buying and selling and transportation of weapons, which include specific requirements and knowledge related to: geopolitics, geostrategic and international relations, international trade and banking, security and logistics. Because of this, it is important to have a system in which both the state and private sector are involved in order to successfully in a joint effort resolve the issues that are posed by the complex projects of arms exports out of any country, including Croatia.

Countries that do not have any of the mentioned solutions in general don not have significant export achievements.

"For us to continue to be successful, we must adopt new products and help protect the existing capacities in such a way that we engage the domestic military industry in the maintenance and modernisation of the existing capacities as much as possible. Of course, it is also necessary to maintain the confidence we have gained on the world market," said Nekić.

Creating new business successes on the basis of trust and the adoption of new products and technologies seems to be a good path that Croatian manufacturers of military equipment and weapons are safely marching on.



In 1985, the Koplast-Šestan company which produces plastic components was established in the small Medjumurje town of Prelog with five thousand residents. Few could then have known that after twenty-five years that company would become one of the world's leading manufacturers of ballistic helmets for the army's and the police's use



ŠESTAN-BUSCH

Since its establishment, the Koplast-Šestan company has produced various plastic products and has supplied various companies such as Nike, Puma and Adidas with its plastic products. During the Homeland War, the Koplast-Šestan company turned towards commercial production and oriented itself towards the production of protective ballistic helmets. In 1994, the company began producing modern composite helmets to equip Croatian soldiers and with this began its collaboration with the German company Busch GmbH from Gütersloh, one of Europe's leading helmet producers. After preparations in 1995, the production of helmets in Croatia began, and at the same time Koplast-Šestan merged with Busch GmbH in Šestan-Busch's specialised production of protective helmets.

Its first production contract was signed with the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Croatia for 3000 helmets, and that was almost the annual production



capacity in 1995. Up to date, the company has developed around ten various types of helmets, and as a rule comes out with a new model every year.

The annual production of its helmets rose from its initial 3000 to approximately 100 000 helmets annually. So far, the company has produced and delivered over 500 000 helmets. That development was explained by board member and CEO Alojzije Šestan, who said: "From a small producer of 3000 helmets, Šestan-Busch has become one of the biggest manufacturers in the world and today it supplies more than 40 countries throughout the world. If it weren't for the Ministry of Defence and the Croatian Army's help, we most certainly would not have grown into this kind of a manufacturer. At every competition in these forty countries, we are always asked if we supply our own armed forces with helmets. That is one of the big conditions." The company successfully used the experience gained with manufacturing for the CAF to pen-

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THE SCREW-LESS HELMET

After years of development, in 2008 Šestan-Busch introduced its screw-less helmet, a helmet whose calotte is not pierced and has no screws in it. This type of constructional approach creates a helmet which has less weak points on it, decreases the risk of piercing, allows secondary fragmentation and decreases the gravity centre of the helmet. This reduces trauma in the case of a missile strike to the helmet by up to 30%, and the head surface which is protected by the helmet is increased by 14%

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HOW A HELMET IS MADE

The exact composite ballistic helmet production procedure is strictly kept secret by every manufacturer. However, what is known is the general course of the making of the calotte which begins with the tailoring of aramid fabric with a wave-built resin-lime which is cut into the specific elements of the construction of the helmet. These elements are bonded and are then pressed. After the pressing the edges are cropped and the finishing touches are made and the calotte is joined to the inner equipment. The inner equipment is the part of the helmet which is not visible because it is on the inside but is important in achieving the required ballistics characteristics and for the comfort of the helmet because it is always in contact with the users head.

in the world's largest fairs, showcase their achievements and compare them with direct competitors.

Šestan-Busch offers a line of thermoplastic and composite products. In the field of military equipment it operates in the field of ballistic protection devices, biological-chemical protective devices and the manufacture of plastic parts. Šestan-Busch is a modern factory whose production under the constant supervision of its own specialists trained for production and under the external supervision of foreign partners according to ISO 9002 standards and have a constant cooperation in the development of new materials with well-known institutes in Croatia, Germany, Italy, the USA, Spain and other countries. The company has access to modern technologies which meet the complex demands of the manufacture of military equipment and its products reach and surpass the top of world-class military products. Let's first mention the composite combat helmets that have high ballistic protection of V50 over 700 m/s, followed by the UPOD M1 and M2 universal personal decontamination kit, and various technical products made of special purpose plastic materials. Ready for future challenges Šestan-Busch constantly monitors and participates in the development of new materials, participates in the implementation of new tests, both for protection and for comfort and designs combat helmets and other products. Thus, also being developed are new helmets for armoured personnel carriers and pilot helmets, as well as some new products needed for the protection of modern soldiers, athletes and people in general. The company was the winner of the "Zlatna kuna" for the best small company two years in a row, in 2005 and in 2006.

The company employs 50 people. The products are exported to over 40 countries throughout the world. It has patents for the special production of helmets with which ballistic properties are bettered by 50 percent. In 2008, the company's offer was expanded with a new helmet which has no screws on it. The company has the patent for that type of helmet as well.



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AMONG THE WORLD'S LEADING PRODUCERS OF PROTECTIVE BALLISTIC HELMETS

strate foreign markets and with time received many international references which are proof of its success in the development and production of protective helmets. Of the contracts signed recently, Šestan mentioned the one with Italian Carabinieri, the third contract with the United Arab Emirates, the contract with the Russian police, and the contract for Kazakhstan.

A powerful position on the global market

Šestan-Busch is a company with over 25 years of experience in the manufacture, development and adoption of the most modern technology. During that period the company successfully positioned itself on the global market as a recognizable manufacturer of protective ballistic helmets that exports its products throughout the world. Besides the plant in Prelog, they also have plants in Germany, the Czech Republic and in Italy and are preparing to open a new plant in Russia with a local partner. They regularly participate

Nobody could have foreseen such a large number of excellent results on the behalf of the athletes, who are active members of the CAF, as well as the long list of those who will be participating in the London Olympic Games in 2012. Among them are 13 definite and 5 potential candidates. The collaboration between the Croatian MoD and the Croatian Olympic Committee has already proved to be fully justified...

THE CROATIAN ARMED FORCES

Domagoj Vlahović, photos by Davor Kirin, Josip Kapi



Valent Sinković, Martin Sinković, Damir Martin and David Šain (rowing)

CROATIAN MILITARY - ATHLETES "ON THE ATTACK" FOR OLYMPIC MEDALS

In early 2011, pursuant to the agreement between the Croatian Ministry of Defence and the Croatian Olympic Committee, a group of 21 top athletes entered the CAF's active composition. The MoD and COC officials who have carried out the mutually beneficial project have expressed their belief that there will be much success in world competitions and at the biggest events; at Olympics and at world and European Championships...

The athletes, presently active members of the CAF, singlehandedly justified that trust. In 2011 they achieved a series of great successes, and what is best of all is that some of these athletes have secured appearances at the Olympics in London in 2012



Lucija Zaninović
(taekwondo)

due to this. The athletes in question are marksmen Snježana Pejčić and Bojan Đurković, rowers Valent Sinković, Martin Sinković, Damir Martin and David Šain, yachtsmen Tin Mihelić, Igor Marenčić, Šime Fanteli, Tonči Stipanović and Ivan Kljaković Gašpić and taekwondoist Lucija Zaninović.

Within the group of Olympians, we must also mention the wrestler Neven Žugaja, who, like his brother Nenad, has a status that is different from the others. The brothers have been active officers in the CAF for a number of years already.

However, the list is not yet definitive. There is also a group of five military-athletes who are very likely to secure performances in London come spring.



Snježana Pejčić (shooting)

A bull's-eye for the marksmen

The first to secure her visa for London was Snježana Pejčić. The Rijeka native is an experienced Olympian and the winner of a bronze medal in Beijing in 2008. She was the last to enter into the CAF among the athletes, on 11 May 2011, and she secured a place in London by winning first place at the World Cup in Sydney in the 10 meter air rifle discipline. Besides this, at the Military World Games in Brazil at the end of July, she brought Croatia and the CAF its first gold medal at the competition since Zagreb in 1999, in the 50 m with a small-bore 3 positions rifle discipline.

As opposed to Snježana whose good results were expected, Bojan Đurković, her sports colleague, came as a great surprise. On 7 August at the European Championships in Belgrade, the relatively unknown twenty-two-year-old fulfilled the norm for the Olympics at the 3 positions with a small-bore rifle (50 metres) discipline, similar to the one that Snježana won in Brazil.

Two are certain and others still have a chance to go

The situation is interesting among Croatian representatives in the martial arts. In two sports, one athlete has succeeded, and two are pending. At the World Championships in Istanbul, the aforementioned officer Neven Žugaj won a bronze medal in Greco-roman wrestling in the 74 kg category. Along with a medal, he also won a trip to London. His twin brother and fellow officer Neven (84 kg category) and new recruit to the CAF Tonimir Sokol (60 kg category) were not as successful; however they still have three chances to qualify in the spring. The first chance will present itself at the European Continental Qualifications Tournament in Sofia (20-22 April), the second at the International Qualifications Tournament in Taiwan (China, 27-29 April) and the third will once again be at World Qualifications, this time in Helsinki (early May).

→ REPRESENTING CROATIA

One of the main reasons for this synergy with athletes is that they may have existential security and the conditions that enable them to have better results and to better represent Croatia. It is certain that even the biggest optimist could not have foreseen such a quick achievement of these results

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Over Kazan and Istanbul towards the Olympic Games

In taekwondo, Lucija Zaninović has also qualified. In early July, the Split native entered into the finals in the 49 kg category at the qualifications in Baku, Azerbaijan, which was sufficient for the Olympics. Stipe Jarloni (58 kg) and Filip Grgić (68 kg) are also likely candidates. The were not successful in Baku, but they will try to win the rights to compete in the Olympics at the European Tournament in Russian Kazan held 27-29 January 2012.

Filip Hrgović, the young super-heavyweight from Zagreb, is Croatia's most promising boxer and the junior world champion. At only 19 years of age he is already a top senior. At the recent World Championships, only one win or a series of results kept him from the Olympics. Due to circumstances he did not succeed, but he still has one chance, at the qualifications in mid-April in Istanbul. He must get to the finals.

Water sports athletes – all headed for the Olympics

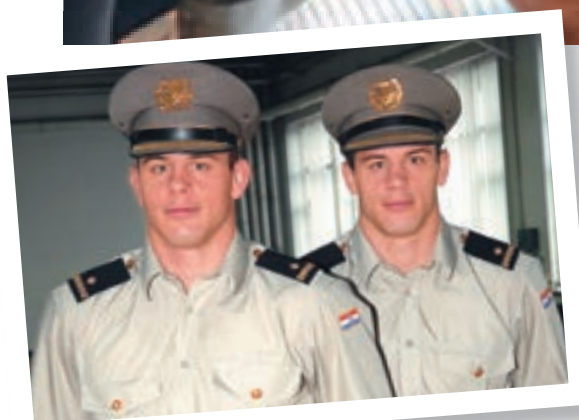
What to say of the water sports athletes, the rowers and yachtsmen? They are all on the path to the Olympics! Only injury can stop them. The V.Sinković-M.Sinković- Martin- Šain rowing quartet is a great Croatian Olympic medal hopeful. At the World Championships in Slovenia last summer, the excellent quartet won the bronze. Though this could have been viewed as a slight disappointment since the quartet did not defend the gold medal they had won in 2010, everyone was delighted by the results. With their results the young men rowed their way to London, where they will fight for the top place.

For the yachtsmen, December and the World Championships in Australia in the waters of Perth proved to be a great time. The Fantela-Marenić duo won the bronze in the 470 class, and the rest, (Tonči Stipanović in Laser, Tina Mihelić in Laser Radial, Ivan





Neven and Nenad Žugaj (wrestling)



THE CAF'S ATHLETES AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES IN LONDON

Participating: Snježana Pejčić and Bojan Đurković (shooting), Neven Žugaj (wrestling), Lucija Zaninović (taekwondo), Valent Sinković, Martin Sinković, Damir Martin and David Šain (rowing), Šime Fantela, Igor Marenčić, Tonči Stipanović, Tina Mihelić and Ivan Kljaković Gašpić (sailing)

Candidates with chances at participating: Tonimir Sokol and Nenad Žugaj (wrestling), Stipe Jarloni and Filip Grgić (taekwondo), Filip Hrgović (boxing).

Not participating: Andreja Đaković and Ivana Maranić (judo - do not have candidate status for the Olympics), Marko Premužić (parachuting - is not an Olympic sport), Danil Domdjoni (karate - is not an Olympic sport), Natko Zrnčić Dim (alpine skiing - sport in the Winter Olympics program).

Of the total 23 athletes, 13 (56,6%) are participating in the London Olympics, 5 (21,7%) may still qualify, and 5 (21,7%) will not be participating.

Kljaković Gašpić in Finn) have had notable results and will all be residents of the Olympic Village.

It would be appropriate to mention those will not be participating in the Olympics as well. Among the top athletes in the CAF stand the judokas Andreja Đaković and Ivana Maranić. The young champions are not Olympic candidates because the committee has decided that their time has not yet come. However, when the qualifications for the Olympic Games in Rio in 2016 begin, this will certainly no longer be the case.

Danil Domdjoni (karate) and Marko Premužić (parachuting) have the misfortune of their sports not being on the Olympic program. This is a real shame, as they are both world-class athletes and would be good candidates not only for participation but for medals as well. And finally there is the alpine skier Natko Zrnčić Dim. Of course, he will not be in London, but he will most surely participate in the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia.

It goes without saying that all these successes and the upcoming "colony" in London are greatly due to the Croatian Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces. One of the main reasons for this synergy with athletes is that they may have existential security and the conditions that enable them to have better results and

to better represent Croatia. It is certain that even the biggest optimist could not have foreseen such a quick achievement of these results. Spring and the final list of the CAF's athletes in London are eagerly awaited, and even more eagerly awaited are the Olympic Games.

Šime Fantela (sailing)



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We have always carried the name Croatian Soldier with pride and dignity, in honour of every Croatian soldier. Croatian Soldier has always been one of our biggest incentives and inspirations and will remain so in the future...

ANNIVERSARY

Željko Stipanović



20 YEARS OF CROATIAN SOLDIER MAGAZINE

In the year when the existence of most of the Croatian Armed Forces' units reached the twenty year mark, the Croatian Soldier magazine also celebrated that same milestone. We started out wanting nothing more than to tell the truth about our country, about the exploits of Croatian soldiers, to write about the truth of the destruction of our cities but also about the honourable defence of every corner of our country. Those were the beginnings of a magazine that from its very first issue Croatian soldiers gladly read in their rare moments of respite; because we wrote about them, we witnessed their successes. Perhaps a part of the Croatian army's successes would be forgotten had we not documented them. This has indeed been our main assignment, keeping all the Army has achieved from being forgotten. With pride we shared all of its successes and also rejoiced and mourned with it. In the final triumphant actions, we entered the freed areas with the soldiers, witnessing the joy of our country finally regaining its freedom. However, besides the texts about the soldiers and their exploits, we also published technical material that they studied from, texts that were being torn out of their covers and used as teaching material. Listening to their needs, we articulated all the themes that interested them in those texts. It is this synergy that created a relationship of

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trust and cooperation, a relationship in which we knew that we were both on the same path. That is why we have always carried the name Croatian Soldier with pride and dignity, in honour of every Croatian soldier. However, the time of pride and celebration is now behind us and everyone has begun to face the new responsibilities and challenges of the modern times. The magazine has also readily awaited them knowing that both during the war and today we had to and must continue to bear witness to the achievements of the Croatian Army. We did not simply want to stop at presenting our military units within Croatia; rather, we wanted to launch the CROMIL magazine which would spread the word about Croatian soldiers outside the borders of our homeland. In order for us to further and more widely promote our Armed Forces, we also wanted to make promotional films in addition to the magazine. Even though our first videos started off seeming technically and materially modest, today films about the CAF and its achievements are winning awards at an international level. It was right on the 20th anniversary of Croatian Soldier that our last video won a prestigious award at the International Military-Documentary Film Festival in Italy. And we do not plan on stopping there. Croatian Soldier has always been one of our biggest incentives and inspirations and will remain so in the future.

About ten books and photomonographies which we have published in the last five years, most of which are in Croatian and English, additionally promoted the Croatian Armed Forces, both within and outside the borders of Croatia



CROATIAN MILITARY MAGAZINE



HOW THE CROATIAN SOLDIER MAGAZINE CAME TO BE

The first issue of Croatian Soldier appeared on the media market in November of 1991 in the midst of the fiercest battles of the defence of the homeland. The magazine at first was issued as a bimonthly in a newsmagazine format with "kunstdruck" coloured cover pages, while the remaining 40 pages of printed text were on ordinary newspaper paper and cost 30 Dinars. The magazine was published at a Croatian publisher in Zagreb and fought its own battle for the right to illustrate the achievements of Croatian soldiers; it also brought to its pages articles about elementary military-technical knowledge. Alongside minor modifications and the increase in number of pages on which technical texts were gaining more importance, Croatian Soldier was published in that form in 1995, when the magazine became an established technical-military magazine that was published monthly, while reports from the battlefield as well as events that were important to CAF members were covered in the weekly publication of the informative and educational magazine Velebit. Velebit was released until June of 2000 when it was replaced by Obrana, which on far higher quality paper with its first four pages in colour, was published up until 2004. In October of 2004, the lack of financial resources lead to the merging of the technical-military magazine Croatian Soldier and the informative and educational magazine Obrana which from then on was published as one magazine in one format, at first with 32 and then with 36 colour pages, just as the magazine has been published ever since.

CROMIL

In order to promote its Armed Forces outside of Croatia's borders as well, in March of 2009 we launched the CROMIL magazine which is issued in English on 48 pages twice a year. The purpose of the magazine is to help colleagues from foreign armies that are in the same missions and operations as members from the Croatian Armed Forces familiarise themselves with the CAF's achievements.



The department develops graphic solutions and annually publishes about 10 brochures and billboards



VIDEO PRODUCTION

In the last five years, the Department of Croatian Military Newspapers has produced more than thirty films in which the abilities and the level of equipment of the Croatian Armed Forces are showcased. We have won awards at the international festival in Italy few years in a row already. The five-minute-long video about the Croatian Armed Forces won the first prize in the publicity category; the video about military-police operation Storm won a special international jury prize, and the greatest recognition we have received so far was given to us this year for a film about the Croatian Army which was made for the occasion of the marking of the army's 20th anniversary. We received one of the three main awards of the festival for that film - a plaque from the Italian's parliament's president.



PROJECTS *that* WE ARE PROUD of...



THE FILMS "THE CROATIAN ARMY" AMONG THE THREE BEST

In the last five years, the Division of the Croatian Military Press has released over thirty films in which the abilities and the level of equipment of the member of the Croatian Armed Forces are demonstrated. It has been winning awards at the International Military Film Festival in Italy for a number of years in a row already. At the last festival which was held in September 2011, we won the greatest award up to date about the Croatian Army. This film was created on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the Croatian Army. The mentioned movie won one of the three main awards at the festival - the plaque from the President of the Italian parliament. The fifteen-minute-long film demonstrated the Croatian Army's most important activities and achievements; over eighty hours of footage were filmed and about twenty hours archival footage was used to create the film. Shooting took almost two months at a dozen locations, on land, at sea and in the air. Thanks to the special effects which were used during editing, the quality of the film was raised to a higher level and due to this use of special video technology and to excellently structured frames that, in a unique fashion, demonstrate the span of modern military capabilities, the film was also recognised by the jury.



THE "TWO DECADES OF THE CAF" PHOTO-MONOGRAPH

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the foundation of the Croatian Armed Forces, an exhibition of photographs entitled "Two Decades of the CAF 1991-2011" was displayed which recorded moments from our recent history in a unique fashion and which saved the achievements which Croatian knights realised in their extremely difficult and uncertain path to freedom from oblivion. It is the story of about forty authors who, in about a hundred of their works, speak of the beginning of the organisation of the Croatian Armed Forces, of their coming of age and growth, of their participation in the war but also of later times of peace and of their participation in peacekeeping missions. The exhibition has been on tour in a number of Croatian cities, and in order to permanently preserve the memory of the rocky but proud road of Croatian defenders, we have consolidated them in this photo-monograph.

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Views expressed in this Magazine are not necessarily those of the Ministry of Defense.



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
- accomodation 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
- accomodation 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 water bladder.

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 be modularly positioned depending of the operation needs. Front, back and side body protection. Developed and produced by Kroko International, Croatia.

Tactical fire retardant summer gloves, made and developed by Kroko International, Croatia.

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

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

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

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

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 environment.

New BDU in Croatian desert digital pattern with outstanding camouflage properties in desert environment, made from modern materials, treated for IR invisibility, armed forces. "OSRH" water 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-Produkt company, Croatia.

Underwear: Under Armour for hot climate conditions, Outlast with temperature regulation for cold weather conditions, and polypropylene for extreme conditions.

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

Other equipment in development.

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