

# CROMIL

CROATIAN MILITARY MAGAZINE

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THE CROATIAN NAVY

## THE COAST GUARD PROTECTING CROATIAN INTERESTS AT SEA

THE CROATIAN ARMY'S MILITARY  
INTELLIGENCE BATTALION

# KLEK 12

INTERVIEW - MINISTER OF DEFENCE ANTE KOTROMANOVIĆ

WE WILL CREATE A SMALLER  
BUT **MORE EFFECTIVE** AND  
TRANSPARENT SYSTEM

20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

**SURVIVED IN THE PAST,  
WON IN THE PRESENT,  
SECURED A FUTURE**

A CONTRIBUTION TO  
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY  
THE CAF IN EU BATTLEGROUPS





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PROJECTS THAT WE ARE PROUD OF...



A close-up portrait of Ante Kotromanović, a middle-aged man with dark hair and a light beard, wearing glasses and a suit. He is looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. The background is slightly blurred, showing parts of the Croatian flag (red, white, and blue) on the left and a plain wall on the right.

INTERVIEW

MINISTER OF DEFENCE  
ANTE KOTROMANOVIĆ

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I see Croatian military newspapers, who have done an excellent job at covering this topic so far, as having a particularly important role in valuing and maintaining the memory of the Homeland War. I hope this will be the case in the future as well.

Željko Stipanović, Vesna Pintarić, Photos by Tomislav Brandt

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# WE WILL CREATE A SMALLER BUT MORE EFFECTIVE AND TRANSPARENT SYSTEM

We spoke about the NATO summit in Chicago, about cooperation with allies through the Smart Defence Initiative, about our future engagement in Afghanistan as well as about issues surrounding restructuring and the ambitious and decisive moves that he plans on making in regards to the equipping and training of Croatian soldiers to Minister of Defence Ante Kotromanović, who among other things mentioned that he would advocate the MOD's making even more open and transparent business transactions.

**The greatest focus at the NATO summit in Chicago was on cooperation, solidarity and connecting ally forces. How much can the Republic of Croatia and its Armed Forces contribute to that and incorporate itself into future joint action?**

The summit is an opportunity to introduce a new approach to developing and maintaining skills and a new way of connecting them. In this respect the Smart Defence Initiative is significant. The intention is to introduce Smart Defence as a long-term approach in NATO in acquiring the necessary skills. Here small countries such as Croatia have a particular interest.

Through Smart Defence small countries get the opportunity to access projects that otherwise due to various reasons would be extremely difficult to access. Furthermore, Smart Defence can also assure us that our existing skills will be maintained and strengthened through cooperation with our partners. Croatia

I want to see a Croatian soldier whose level of training, equipping and skill do an honour to us all and who justifies the trust that is entrusted in him by the people of this country. Our goal is for our soldier, sailors and pilots have favourable conditions for a better life, equipment and pay. We will create a smaller system that will be more transparent and more effective and well thought-out in its purpose, action, and operation mode.

atia has a full range of skills that make it distinctive within the Alliance and it is these skills that represent our potential to give a tangible contribution.

**Does the Republic of Croatia and its Armed Forces participate in that initiative and to what extent?**

From the very beginning, we have been observing and including ourselves in the development of the initiative. In doing so our intention is quite clear and I firmly believe that it is justified as well. Croatia, which itself is in a financial crisis, sees Smart Defence and an international approach to building defence capabilities as an opportunity to maintain its exiting skills and acquire new ones.

From the area of cooperation's initial package, through an assessment based on the justification, perspective and possibility of action, Croatia has expressed its intention to participate in 8 projects. It is with great pleasure that I can say that out of the eight chosen projects five have entered the Smart Defence's most promising project package that will be presented at the upcoming summit.

I would also like to emphasise our collaboration with the Czech Republic on the establishment of joint standardised trainings for helicopter mentoring teams, where part of the training takes place in the Czech Republic and part takes place in Croatia. This project has already been established and our helicopter mentors have already undergone joint training in the Czech Republic. The beginning of the joint training in Croatia will start at the end of this month. Even before the summit, we demonstrated the possibilities of a multinational approach in the best possible way through this collaboration. This collaboration must be examined within the context of a possible formation of a wider multinational aviation training centre, which would be a direct contribution to the quality of our training and an affirmation of our national capacities. Besides the mentioned projects, we will continue examining the possibility of including other projects in







The Croatian Soldier magazine and other publications are our voice to citizens. For that reason it is very important for us to preserve their trust and I will insist that the information we give them be true, relevant and complete.

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**In course is the restructuring of the Ministry of Defence as well as a decrease in the number of employees. What is the realistic numerical size for the Ministry of Defence?**

The restructuring of the Ministry of Defence is nearing its end and the number of employees will be decreased by about 200 people so that by the end of June there will be 1115 people in the Ministry. But we will not stop there. We consider this restructuring the beginning of a more significant restructuring that will commence in 2014 when we plan to additionally decrease the MOD down to approximately 700 people. As for the people that will be leaving, they will mainly be civil servants who are leaving the system while receiving a severance pay that we have assured 23 million kuna for this year.



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Croatian military newspapers, who have done an excellent job at covering this topic so far, as having a particularly important role in valuing and maintaining the memory of the Homeland War. I hope this will be the case in the future as well.

**You had the opportunity to attend a number of CAF member's exercises. Are you satisfied with their level of training, their skill and their equipping?**

I would like to clearly state that one of my key priorities absolutely is the training and heightening of CAF member's readiness. Therefore training is a key segment in maintaining the Armed Force's readiness in completing assignments that are entrusted to them, whether they be national assignments or assignments in international operations and missions. Our armed forces' level of readiness is at an enviable level, and this is confirmed daily through our engagement in operations, and I am personally very proud of this. The continuation of intensifying and increasing the scope of training and raising the interoperability level of our forces are challenges that lie ahead of us. As the minister of defence I intend on doing everything that is necessary to rise to these challenges and to provide all the necessary means. I want to see a Croatian soldier whose level of training, equipping and skill do an honour to us all and who justifies the trust that is entrusted in him by the people of this country.

**What goals and plans do you intend on implementing with the aim of improving the activities and raising the general efficiency of the MOD and the CAF?**

This is already intensely being worked on. In the field of systems planning, we are already working on a new

Defence Law and on a Croatian Armed Forces Service Law that will better meet the needs of the functioning of defence nowadays. The draft of the new Strategic Defence Review has been presented to the public, and based on it we will begin drafting a new Long-term CAF Development Plan for the next decade.

As for material resources, we want a greater investment in modernisation. And so, just to give a few examples, we will complete the Patria project, commence the construction of a coastal patrol ship for the Coast Guard, equip our forces with new assault rifles that are domestic products, invest in improving the working and living conditions of our soldiers and sailors, invest in constructing safe storage for a large number of killing devices that we are storing and capacitating the Faust Vrančić ship for sea pollution interventions. This year we will also issue a decision on the control of airspace. NATO membership and entry into the EU provides us with the opportunity for the joint development of skills with Allies and partners, and so we will involve ourselves in projects that we deem to be useful to us in those fields as well.

In the area of finance, it is clear to us that a budget in which two thirds of the funds are spent on personnel costs is not sustainable in the long-term. That is why we are planning to structure the budget in such a way that we spend half of the budget on personnel costs, and about 20% on equipping and modernisation. That which I will personally insist on is the improvement of the Armed Forces' training. It must be intensive, realistic, and focused on the task.

**How important is the role of military magazines as well as other printed and video forms of media that are available to the public in the goal of greater transparency?**

One of my main intentions as minister of defence is to open the Ministry of Defence to the public. Croatian citizens must be familiar with the way we manage and use the resources and funds that are available to us. The *Croatian Soldier* magazine and other publications are our voice to citizens. For that reason it is very important for us to preserve their trust and I will insist that the information we give them be true, relevant and complete.

Croatian military newspapers play a very important role in informing people within the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces. Since we want to be transparent towards our citizens, it is equally important to be so towards all of our employees. I want to see well-informed and engaged people in the system; people that understand what we do and that believe that we do, we do in the best interest. That is why I want military newspapers and publications to continue doing a good job and strive for the best standards and achievements, which is also what I expect from every segment of the defence system.

Today, twenty years later, when we recall 15 January 1992, we are probably not even aware of just how much that day really meant. The Republic of Croatia became a reality of the international community and established itself within it as an equal, democratic country

20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION OF THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA



# **SURVIVED IN THE PAST, WON IN THE PRESENT, SECURED A FUTURE**

- The recognition of Croatia happened at a moment when almost one third of the country was under the occupation of the Yugoslav Army and paramilitary Serbian units, in the midst of the Homeland War, during the days when Croatian soldiers died defending their people throughout the Homeland. And although we knew that this recognition would not cease the aggressions, it was a confirmation of our aspirations and struggles.



Although the struggle for international recognition unfolded in many areas, we give special thanks to our veterans, especially to those who, with their lives, gave the most that they could...

Željko Stipanović, photos by T. Brandt

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It was a battle for truth and justice, an acknowledgment of our victims, hopes and faith. This was an affirmation of the fact that we were on the right path and incitement to not give up... and we succeeded against all odds. Today, twenty years later, when we recall 15 January 1992, we are probably not even aware of just how much that day really meant. On that day, much of the world's countries approved our Constitutional decision on independence and sovereignty, which was declared by Croatian parliament on 25 June. The international community recognised the decision on independence that we had declared on 8 October. The Republic of Croatia became a reality of the international community and established itself within it as an equal, democratic country, although it only came to its borders, which were internationally recognised, six years later, following the peaceful reintegration of Slavonia and the Danube Basin.

After Croatia had been recognised by all twelve countries of the European Union, during that day of 15 January 1992, the recognition of many other countries followed - Malta, Austria, Switzerland, Hungary, Norway, Bulgaria, Poland, and Canada. The day after, Argentina, Australia, the Czech Republic, Chile, Lichtenstein, New Zealand, Slovakia, Sweden and Uruguay did the same, and by the end of 1992, 44 countries had recognised Croatia.

What must be mentioned is that Slovenia (26 June), Lithuania (30 June), the Ukraine (11 December), Latvia (14 December) and Estonia (31 December) had recognised Croatia back in 1991, but these were all countries that had not been recognised themselves. The internationally recognised country that will be remembered as the first to have recognised Croatia is Iceland (19

**The recognition of Croatia happened at a moment when almost one third of the country was under the occupation of the Yugoslav Army and paramilitary Serbian units, in the midst of the Homeland War, during the days when Croatian soldiers died defending their people throughout the Homeland**

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**The realisation of an independent Croatian state was not only a true challenge but also the unfulfilled dream of many Croatian politicians, and that challenge is almost as old as Croatian history itself**

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December 1991), and on the same day Germany was to follow (although this came with the decision that the recognition was to come into force on 15 January 1992, along with the other members of the European Union).

Two days before the European Union, on 13 January, the Republic of Croatia was recognised by the Holy See, even though the Vatican had announced its recognition of Croatia and Slovenia back on 20 December 1991, through a special document which had taken a stand toward the Slovenian and Croatian demands for diplomatic recognition. The day after the Holy See, San Marino had also recognised Croatia. Then, among others, followed the recognitions of Russia (17 February), Japan (17 March), the USA (7 April), Israel (16 April, although the establishment of diplomatic relations only came five and a half years later), and China (27 April).

The first Asian and Islamic country (if not taking into account Turkey) that recognised Croatia was Iran (15 April 1992) and the first African country was Egypt (16 April 1992). With its admission into the United Nations on 22 May 1992, Croatia definitely became an equal member of the international community and entered into the community of the world's free nations as its 178<sup>th</sup> country. The realisation of an independent Croatian state was not only a true challenge but also the unfulfilled dream of many Croatian politicians, and that challenge is almost as old as Croatian history itself. Far too often, a complex lack of belief in its own strength predominated, which, along with proverbial Croatian disunity and an empty faith in supranational ideology, moved the Croatian nation away from its final goal. Casting off all illusions and set traps, it was the modern Croatian state that vivified the idea of independence. Although the struggle for international recognition unfolded in many areas, we give special thanks to our veterans, especially to those who, with their lives, gave the most that they could. May they be the ones that come to mind first when we commemorate this special and important day in recent Croatia history.

Although the Ministry of Internal Affairs' special units operation was limited, considered among all the subsequent activities, this operation was of a relatively small magnitude but was the first operation of the sorts and a highly successful one, and its positive effects went far beyond its importance in terms of armament.

## 21<sup>ST</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION "PLITVICE"

Like every year, a commemorative program at Plitvice on 31 March marked the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Operation "Plitvice" and the killing of policeman Josip Jović, the first Croatian soldier killed in the Homeland War. The wreath laying ceremony at the memorial on site of Josip Jović's death, giving him honour and respect, was attended by top government and military officials, as well as by many friends, comrades-in-arms and participants in Operation "Plitvice". Let's recall what was happening on that fateful day in Croatia at Plitvice as well as the previous actions of the Croatian police forces... Throughout the world there began to be meetings about the alleged threat, a state of emergency was trying to be declared, explosives were planted, threats, lies and fear were spread, barricades were erected... All this pointed to war and violence. The young Croatian Armed Forces, then slowly coming into existence within the Ministry of Internal Affairs as its special units – which at the time was the only legal option – as the most trained and most organized units, had to confront all of this. "Plitvice" was one of the very first actions, and later proved to be a crucial one as well. The special units' operation was preceded by a "truth meeting" at Plitvice, which was organized by Serbian extremists, at which it was demanded that the Plitvice Lakes National Park remain within the so-called Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina. A day later came another illegal decision, that on the shift of the National Park's management, and the terrorizing of workers of non-



# "BLOODY EASTER 1991" – HISTORY WE MUSTN'T FORGET

Serbian nationality began. A bus full of extremist from Knin arrived at the Plitvice Lakes area, which is otherwise known for its beauty and is under the protection of UNESCO. The extremists invaded the National Park's administrative building, blocked the major state road towards the south, and raised the flag of the so-called Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina on the Korana Bridge ...

A number of domestic and foreign guests were vacationing at Plitvice at the time, not knowing just how Easter of 1991 would be etched into their memories. The events demanded an immediate intervention. The young Croatian police forces had the difficult assignment of establishing peace and order in the area of the park.

About five hundred members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' special units Rakitje under the command of was Josip Lucić, the Lučko anti-terrorist unit under the command of Marko Lukić as well as the Kumrovec special unit that was sent as an extra line all headed towards Plitvice right before Easter. However, before the break of dawn on 31 March, in the main direction towards which the troops were headed, the line of vehicles with Croatian specialists in them was ambushed not far from the Plitvice hotels. Fire was opened from the surrounding woods and a rifle grenade was thrown into a bus full of Croatian policemen, which, thanks to the pin not being pulled, did not explode. This was followed by the policemen exiting the vehicle as quick as



This chapter in recent Croatian history indicated that the battle for Croatian freedom and independence would be difficult and bloody. Later events would confirm this. It is in fact this tragic event that will remain recorded in our history as "Bloody Easter", a history that we mustn't forget because that is the only way we can be sure that it will not repeat itself.

Vesna Pintarić, photos by Tomislav Brandt, Drago Havranek

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**Plitvice, in a way, united within itself in all the previous special police operations, in Pakrac, Glina, Petrinja, Jasenovac, Karlovac... and the death of the first Croatian police officer Josip Jović gives this operation particular importance**

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"Bloody Easter" Plitvice 1991



protect the whole time, the Yugoslav National Army arrived at Plitvice with more transporters, armoured vehicles and tanks, allegedly to assure a ceasefire. As time would later show, their goal was actually to protect Serbian extremists.

Croatian forces were given an ultimatum in regards to leaving Plitvice, which was briskly rejected. During negotiations, it was decided that members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' special units at Plitvice were to establish a police station, which was placed under the jurisdiction of the Gospić Police Department, and leave the park area after its establishment. Although the Ministry of Internal Affairs' special units operation was limited, considered among all the subsequent activities, this operation was of a relatively small magnitude but was the first operation of the sorts and a highly successful one, and its positive effects went far beyond its importance in terms of armament.

Plitvice, in a way, united within itself in all the previous special police operations, in Pakrac, Glina, Petrinja, Jasenovac, Karlovac ... and the death of Josip Jović, the first Croatian police officer to die during the war, gives this operation particular importance. This chapter in recent Croatian history indicated that the battle for Croatian freedom and independence would be difficult and bloody. Later events would confirm this. It is in fact this tragic event that will remain recorded in our history as "Bloody Easter", a history that we mustn't forget because that is the only way we can be sure that it will not repeat itself.

lightening, lying down by the side of the road and opening fire towards the direction they were being shot at and slowly moving forward in the thick fog and deep snow that covered Plitvice that Easter... The battle lasted several hours. Unfortunately, during the operation, an enemy bullet fatally injured 22-year-old Croatian policeman Josip Jović, a member of the Rakitje Special Tasks Unit. According to his fellow-fighters, he was forward-most in the attack. Despite the rapid intervention of the medical corps, Jović did not make it to the hospital alive... About ten other Croatian police officers were also wounded... Still, the attackers were forced to retreat. According to police reports, approximately thirty extremists were arrested, among which was Goran Hadžić, member of the Main Committee of the Serbian Democratic Party and Borivoje Savić, the Secretary of the Municipal Board of Vukovar. In newspaper clippings from those times, it is stated that they were headed for a meeting in Titova Korenica (with weapons on their belts and the rest of the arsenal hidden in the vehicle!). As would regularly be the case in battles that followed, until it didn't begin to openly side with those who it was in fact trying to





The exercise is one of the CAF's elite unit's two key training events this year. The first phase of the exercise was carried out on a map where command is trained in the process of decision making after receiving a task from the parent command. In the second phase, after the commander of the Task Forces developed a plan of action with his command, a heightening of the of subordinate unit's level of combat readiness, the unit's preparation and insertion into the area of operations were implemented during the exercise.





Through this exercise, the unit demonstrated the following skills: aerial insertion into and withdrawal from the area of operation, placing a large area of the operation under surveillance, using teams for in-depth monitoring, using crewless aircrafts and electronics, autonomy without logistical support for a period of seven days, transmission of collected data, nomination and selection of targets, target tracking, analytical processing of collected data, management of field units in accordance with intelligence assessments and close air support

Leida Parlov, photos by Tomislav Brandt



## THE CROATIAN ARMY'S MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION

# KLEK 12

- In March, members of the Croatian Army's Military Intelligence Battalion successfully conducted a very demanding exercise codenamed Klek-12. After a given training cycle, through a multi-day exercise, they tested their specialist skills and assessed their abilities in the implementation of complex tasks. We took this opportunity to visit the Military Intelligence Battalion at their base at the "Sv-Petar" barracks in Ogulin as well as during the implementation of the military training exercise at the "Eugen Kvaternik" military training grounds. The exercise is one of the CAF's elite unit's two key training events in 2012, said deputy battalion commander Major Goran Atljija, and it was implemented in two phases that are highly related. The first phase of the exercise was carried out on a map (MAPEX) where command is trained in the process of decision making after receiving a task from the parent command. In the given amount of time and on the map, the unit's command had to understand the task, develop an acceptable course of action and complete the entire process by drafting operational orders for subordinate organizational units. →







➔ In the second phase, after the commander of the Task Forces had developed a plan of action with his command, a heightening of the of subordinate unit's level of combat readiness, the unit's preparation and insertion into the area of operations were implemented during the exercise. The tactical elements of the unit, within the given amount of time, had to complete clearly defined tasks from operational command in the opponent's area. While the first phase sought to educate the staff on the proper task preparation procedures, the second more dynamic phase demonstrated the teams' and groups' level of training in the implementation of tasks assigned to them in the field of operations.

During the implementation of the exercise, the focus was also one of intelligence's principles, that being centralized coordination, in order to ensure the most effective use of all available resources. The exercise was carried out combining intelligence collecting and processing disciplines - human sources (HUMINT), electronic surveillance (SIGINT), imagery display - sources (IMINT) and open source intelligence (OSINT). The Military Intelligence Battalion, through the implementation of such a complex

**The exercise was carried out combining intelligence collecting and processing disciplines - human sources (HUMINT), electronic surveillance (SIGINT), imagery display - sources (IMINT) and open source intelligence (OSINT)**

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and important training event and with a systematic process of command-oriented intelligence and information gathering, as well as with the production of intelligence products, practiced its work in order to examine the skill of the support in the planning and decision-making process at the required level. Major Atlija said he was very satisfied with the results. Namely, during the whole process our certified CREVAL assessors had conducted the evaluations. He also pointed out that a very good inter-branch cooperation took place, where members of the Croatian Air Force and Air Defence's Transport Helicopter Squadron demonstrated exceptional dedication and helped implement the assigned goals of the training. As for future plans, Major Atlija noted that the analysis of the exercise as well as the elaboration of lessons learned will provide clear guidelines for further training processes, which is in fact one of the goals of the exercise. "One of the major points of military intelligence work is looking ahead. In being guided by this way of thinking we want, through the implementation of trainings and the training of our members, to be ready to answer any future challenge that may be placed before our unit," said Major Atlija.



For the exercise to be as realistic as possible, opposing forces (OPFOR) also participated. OPFOR forces included members with extensive experience in international military operations who also invested a tremendous effort in order for the exercise to be implemented in the most realistic conditions possible

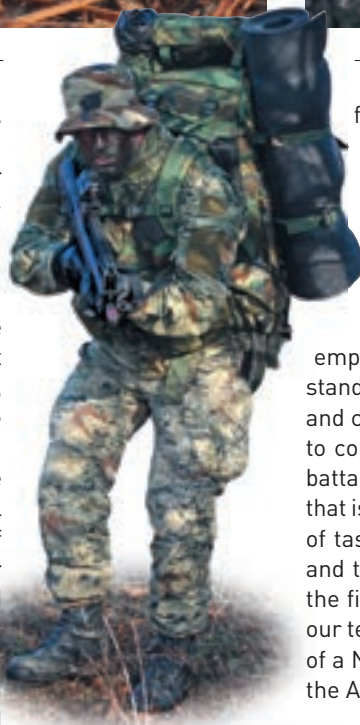
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#### **Skill in aerial insertion into and withdrawal from the area of operation exhibited**

We spoke to Task Force commander Captain Petar Kampać about the second phase of the Klek-12 exercise, who first and foremost emphasised the complexity of this bilateral land exercise and stressed the important factors that make up one of the most demanding exercises implemented up to date. The exercise was carried out according to a scenario that places the unit in NATO forces' current environment, it being almost identical to the environment that the ISAF Operation is taking place in.

Through this exercise, the unit demonstrated the following skills: aerial insertion into and withdrawal from the area of operation, placing a large area of the operation under surveillance, using teams for in-depth monitoring, using crewless aircrafts and electronics, autonomy without logistical support for a period of seven days, transmission of collected data, nomination and selection of targets, target tracking, analytical processing of collected data, management of field units in accordance with intelligence assessments and close air support. For the exercise to be as realistic as possible, opposing



forces (OPFOR) also participated. OPFOR forces included members with extensive experience in international military operations who also invested a tremendous effort in order for the exercise to be implemented in the most realistic conditions possible.

Stressing his extreme satisfaction with the execution of the exercise, Captain Kampać emphasised that it demonstrated where the unit stands as far as the training of the teams, groups and crews is concerned. It also showed the ability to collaborate with all organisational units in the battalion and the state and quality of the equipment that is necessary for the implementation of this kind of task. Also noteworthy is the close air support and the joint terminal attack controller (JTAC) on the field. Namely, for the first time, air support to our teams on the field was provided by the air force of a NATO ally, in this case the U.S. Air Force from the Aviano Air Base.

**For the first time, air support to our teams on the field was provided by the air force of a NATO ally, in this case the U.S. Air Force from the Aviano Air Base**



**Major General Mirko Šundov**  
Croatian military representative  
to NATO and the European Union

The project of managing the Military Police School in Afghanistan, where Croatia as the country leading the project brought together partners and allies from the region, was particularly well-accepted by NATO

In early April Croatia marked the third anniversary of its entrance into the NATO alliance. We spoke with Major General Mirko Šundov, Croatian military representative to NATO and the European Union, about the functions of a military representative to NATO and the EU, about the contribution to European security and defence policies, about participation to NATO's ISAF and KFOR operations as well as about the future engagements and challenges that our Armed Forces can expect as responsible Alliance members.



# THREE YEARS OF CROATIA

Croatian Military Representation to NATO and the UN, as a part of Croatia's Permanent Representation to NATO, presents and represents the interests of the Republic of Croatia in that alliance. With its participation in the work of committees and working bodies of

**You have been on duty as the Croatian military representative to NATO and the EU since December of 2011. What are currently the most important roles and assignments of the office and what does this position mean to you personally?**

sitions and stances of the Croatian Armed Forces, where we directly rely on the commands, instructions and guidelines of the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces, but is also a source of military advice on the behalf of ambassadors to NATO and the EU. A military representative, as a representative of the Chief of Staff, represents the Republic of Croatia and its Armed Forces in NATO and the EU's Military Committees.

For me, this position is a real professional challenge. This duty is different from all of the past duties I have served. However, almost every military position is an opportunity to prove oneself professionally and to affirm one's own abilities.

NATO and of the EU, the Military Representation closely monitors the processes and happenings in NATO and the EU, and recommends the appropriate activities and decisions. First and foremost, the Military Representation represents the po-





I am convinced that Croatia has reached the threshold of the doors to the European Union thanks to, besides achievements in other fields, its willingness to participate in European defence policy initiatives and projects, also including operations, with its Armed Forces

Vesna Pintarić, photos: Archives

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The very name of our organisation implies that we represent our Armed Forces, not only in NATO but in the EU as well, in the Union's Military Committee to be more precise. Since Croatia signed the Treaty of Accession to the European Union on 9 December 2011, the doors to all military authorities of the European Union have been open for us. That is the Military Committee and its working groups, as well as the special mechanism that runs the financing of operations, called Athenamechanism. Croatia can actively participate in the work of these institutions; it just cannot participate in formal decision-making yet. This means that it is expected of Croatia to have its representatives that will actively follow the themes and processes in the field of Common Security and Defence Policy present at every Military Committee or working group meeting. This most certainly is an added challenge in the organisational but even more so in the contextual sense because a whole series of new themes and questions are brought up that require additional expertise and people. In progress now is the final staffing process for the European Union as a component of the Military Representation.

**Since 9 December, Croatia's Military Representation to NATO also represents Croatia in the EU's Military Committee. Within the context of Croatia's upcoming entrance into the EU, this is an added challenge and responsibility...**

**Croatia already contributes to European security and defence policies, namely Croatian BGEU components have already undergone training, and the process of assessing their readiness is nearing its end. How is Croatia's engagement being assessed?**

Croatia has been participating in the European Union's Battlegroups for some time now. With our contingent comprised of two helicopters, we have successfully participated in preparations and exercises and in the end reached the state of readiness in the so-called Nordic Battlegroup. Also, for some

convinced that Croatia has reached the threshold of the doors to the European Union thanks to, besides achievements in other fields, its willingness to participate in European defence policy initiatives and projects, also including operations, with its Armed Forces.

**Croatia's contribution to stability and security in Kosovo is also highly valued within NATO. What makes our contribution exceptionally high-quality is our soldiers' specific expertise and knowledge of the regional conditions, as well as their professionalism, sense of responsibility and neutrality**

# AN MEMBERSHIP IN NATO

time now we have been getting ready for participation in the Battlegroup in which Germany, Austria, the Czech Republic, Ireland and Macedonia participate in, to be in a state of readiness in the second half of 2012. For participation in that Battlegroup, Croatia declared and infantry company, a horizontal construction platoon, a squad from the Military Police, a CIMIC team, medical personnel, logistical elements, units and officers, PSYOPS officers and headquarters staff.

Solidarity and the willingness to share the burden in international relations have always been valued. This is particularly evident when it comes to cooperation on the military field, which demonstrates a readiness to take risks by participating in operations or through crisis management.

Thus, EU members value Croatia's willingness to take on its part of the responsibility and burden to build safer and more peaceful surroundings. I am

**How much has Croatia progressed and justified its participation in the Alliance over the course of the three years since its entry in NATO and how can its overall contribution to the Alliance be rated? What are the most visible changes to Croatia and its army since entrance into the Alliance?**



Croatia had prepared itself for NATO membership for many years, starting with its entrance into the Partnership for Peace program in 2000, and later with the Membership Action Plan (MAP). It was estimated that Croatia was one of the readiest new NATO members. However, it was only after our entry that we began the true integration into NATO, but we have to be aware that apart from in a very limited sense, there is no real, physical integration. All NATO members are sovereign and voluntarily join and accept common rules and standards to the extent that suits them. Integration into NATO, first and foremost, means accepting a way of function-

ing, adopting doctrinal principals, procedures and practices and training skills for joint actions.

There are two specific fields in which we could speak of a physical integration into NATO: integration into NATO's communications and information network for data exchange and integration into a common air defence system, better known as NATINADS. Croatia has completed a great deal of work in this and both projects are unfolding under the planned dynamics.

What is important in this context is that Croatia has decided to develop and modernise its Armed Forces in line and in agreement with the other members through joint defence planning processes, whereby the goals that each member's armed forces must meet are collectively determined. Through NATO's defence planning processes, Croatia has accepted its Armed Forces' development goals that became an integral part of our Armed Forces' long-term development plan. In a time of economic difficulties and financial constraints, these goals are realised in accordance with our society's actual possibilities.



In principle, it is difficult for states to decide to participate in operations, especially when such an engagement poses a real threat to the lives and health of its members participating in the operation. That is why anyone who is willing to participate in joint operations is viewed with due recognition and respect.

Croatia is a part of NATO and we can only speak of the prevailing tones and stances within NATO in regards to individual operations. However, it can be said that participation in operations is highly valued and that every such engagement is evaluated with various mechanisms and methods. For example, the engagement of all countries that participate in NATO's operation in Afghanistan is evaluated and compared, where Croatia is in eleventh place according to its contribution. Such a high position, significantly higher than a comparison to the figures would indicate, points to the fact that our contribution is assessed as being high-quality and necessary. This is primarily due to the relatively high proportion of instructors and mentors in our contingent.

**The CAF has been participating in NATO's mission in Afghanistan for nine years now and from year to year its engagement is all the greater. How does NATO view Croatian participation in the ISAF mission, specifically in light of the withdrawal of forces from the mission and the focus on training and mentoring activities?**

Croatia confirms that what is necessary for success in the operation in Afghanistan is the unity and cohesion of all members in the ISAF operation. Due to this, the willingness to continue its participation in the operation is expressed, and additional focus is placed on training and mentoring programs for members of Afghan security forces. In accordance with transition of responsibility processes for the security of countries with ISAF forces in Afghan institutions and with the announced plans for a decrease of combat units and increase in training and mentoring elements, Croatia actively participates in planning the future structure of NATO's forces in Afghanistan. In that respect, our military planners and logisticians are intensively discussing with their Alliance colleagues. Decisions about our future contingents in Afghanistan are dealt with exclusively by our relevant institutions. However, Croatia has announced that, as a responsible NATO member, it will duly announce all of its decisions and actions to other Alliance members and partners and will commence their implementation in coordination with the others.





**Since mid-2009, Croatia has been contributing to NATO's KFOR mission in Kosovo. How valued are the Republic of Croatia's efforts and contributions to stability and security in the region?**

Croatia's contribution to stability and security in Kosovo is also highly valued within NATO. Our relatively modest contribution of two helicopters is particularly meaningful in a time when the number forces in KFOR is being decreased all while tensions in northern Kosovo are increasing. What makes our contribution exceptionally high-quality is our soldiers' specific expertise and knowledge of the regional conditions, as well as their professionalism, sense of responsibility and neutrality.

Participation in operations is highly valued and every such engagement is evaluated with various mechanisms and methods. For example, the engagement of all countries that participate in NATO's operation in Afghanistan is evaluated and compared, where Croatia is in eleventh place according to its contribution. Such a high position, significantly higher than a comparison to the figures would indicate, points to the fact that our contribution is assessed as being high-quality and necessary. This is primarily due to the relatively high proportion of instructors and mentors in our contingent

**The NATO summit in Chicago should define the future joint work of Alliance members in terms of defence and security under the principles of Smart defence and multinational forms of cooperation. How are our mission's preparations for the summit coming along and what projects will the CAF be included in?**

Croatia has recognised the importance and potential of this initiative and is trying to identify the projects that could give results that are in accordance with our needs. For the time being, we have identified seven projects that need to be further developed with interested members (Immersive Training Environments, CIS E-Learning Training Centres Network, Senior Female Leaders in Security and Defence, JLSG HQ Capability from NFS Commitments, Multinational Military Flight Crew Training, Distributed Training and Exercise, Shared Scenarios).

These projects certainly do not represent the end of our efforts in identifying areas where, with joint efforts, we could build the skills that we need. With that goal, efforts aimed at partners in the region highlight areas in which cooperation could give a new quality to training and education, especially in operations. The project of managing the Military Police School in Afghanistan, where Croatia as the country leading the project brought together partners and allies from the region, was particularly well-accepted by NATO. This project is often described as a model for allies and partners in aid and institution building missions and operations in a country that is in need of help.

**Croatia confirms that was is necessary for success in the operation in Afghanistan is the unity and cohesion of all members in the ISAF operation. Due to this, the willingness to continue its participation in the operation is expressed, and addition focus is placed on training and mentoring programs for members of Afghan security forces**

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## THE CROATIAN ARMY

From the very establishment of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy, Croatia has been actively engaged in it and has followed its development, with a particular emphasis on Armed Forces in EU operations and participation in the conception of EU Battlegroups







A CONTRIBUTION TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

# THE CAF IN EU BATTLEGROUPS





➔ Activities associated with the Republic of Croatia's process of accession to the European Union began in parallel with Croatia's process of accession to NATO, and particularly intensified over the last ten years. Croatia has been in NATO since 2009, and expects to enter the EU in 2013. On this long road, the country has gone through and will continue to go through many reforms, and as far as the defence system is concerned, it can be said that the reforms were undergone much quicker than in other fields. This was confirmed not only by accession into NATO and the implementation of the Membership Action Plan (MAP) which preceded the accession into the Alliance, but also by earlier contributions that our country gave to missions and operations within NATO (through the Partnership for Peace) and the UN. Even though NATO and the UN are different types of international organisations, it is undeniable that they share the same values, even when it comes to the defence and security sector, and therefore the reforms that took place with the goal of entering NATO also effected the forthcoming EU accession.

#### **Engaged prior to full membership**

From the very establishment of the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP), Croatia has

**The evaluation of units was carried out in accordance with NATO readiness assessment standards (NATO ACO Forces Standards) for ground (CREVAL) and special (SOFEVAL) forces. The evaluations were held by the Croatian Army's assessment teams as well as by Support Command**

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been actively engaged in it and has followed its development, with a particular emphasis on Armed Forces in EU operations and participation in the conception of EU Battlegroups (EUBG).

As far as EUBGs are concerned, EU membership is not a prerequisite for certain countries' units' participation in battlegroups; countries that are not EU members but that are waiting to be accepted into the Alliance can participate in battlegroups. Even countries that are full EU members but that haven't acceded NATO have units in battlegroups.

#### **Standards and criteria**

In order to nominate themselves for a European Union batlegroup, the batlegroup's packages must meet the criteria of jointly defined and coordinated military skills standards. The standards and criteria presented in the *EU Battlegroup Concept* and in the *EU Battlegroup Preparation Guide* are the basis on which participating countries develop precise guidelines in order to insure the cohesion of the parts in a battlegroup's package, all while taking the demands of multi-nationality into consideration. The fundamental principle is that the training of a battlegroup is the responsibility of each member. The EU allows the coordination of member countries. The certification





of battlegroups is also the national responsibility of each member that sends one. Members that send forces must assure that the offered skills meet all applicable standards and requirements specified in the existing referential documents or are capable of meeting the criteria in the time granted to equip and prepare the forces. One month before the six-month standby period, member states contributing forces to the BG must confirm that their skill package in the BG meets the BG's standards and criteria. The EU's Military Committee, with the help of the EU's Military Staff, oversee the battlegroup's certification process, which must be implemented according to the European Union's set and agreed procedures.

#### **The Nordic BG - proof of Croatian capabilities**

Training is the battlegroup's key requirement. Member states implement a series of exercises as a part of that training before commencing the battlegroup's standby period.

Certification of member states' battlegroup's packages will ensure the EU the battlegroup is ready for a potential mission. The commander of the operation, who is chosen by the Council for each operation, has the authority to shape the command and surveillance structures and the equipment and

### **EU-led operations**

Besides participation in Battlegroups, Croatian contributions to the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy can best be seen in EU-led international operations.

#### ***EUNAVFOR* Somalia (Atalanta) - Golf of Aden**

The Republic of Croatia is participating in international efforts to deter and prevent acts of piracy and armed robbery along the coast of Somalia. Resumed was participation in the operation involving the boarding of naval officers onto Allied ships (a ship from the Netherlands, Italy and Spain) as well as sending one staff officer (in two rotations) to operations headquarters in Northwood, Great Britain.

#### ***EU ALTHEA* - Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Croatia continues to lend logistical support to operation EU ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the same way as in past years, by ensuring the smooth passage of transport for the needs of operations on land and at sea as well as maritime transport in accordance with the needs and use of Croatian port capacities.

#### ***EULEX* - Kosovo**

The Republic of Croatia supports the EU's efforts on the EULEX civilian mission in Kosovo by providing logistical resources. In accordance with the EU's request, the loan period for two armoured personnel carriers for the needs of the EULEX mission was extended.





➔ skills of the battlegroup according to the specific demands of the operation.

The first inclusion of the Republic of Croatia in a EUBG began with the declaration of helicopter forces (20 members and 2 helicopters) for the Nordic battlegroup lead by Sweden. CAF members who demonstrated the appropriate skills and readiness participated in the battlegroup's final preparatory exercise named "Joint Action" in late 2010, and within the first six months of 2011 those same Croatian forces were declared ready to work within a EUBG. The "Readiness-12" exercise

The CAF's new important assignment will be participation in an EU battlegroup lead by Germany, which will be on standby from 1 July 2012. Croatia sent an infantry company, a horizontal construction platoon, a Military Police section, a CIMIC team, medical personnel, logistical elements, units and officers and PSOPS officers and headquarters staff. An important test before the final inclusion in the EUBG was the "Readiness 12" exercise, which was held from 29 March to 5 April at the "Eugen Kvaternik" military training grounds in Slunj. The main host of the exercise was the Croatian Army, more specifically the Guards Motorised Brigade, and the aim was to assess the readiness of Armed Forces' components in regards to various commitments to NATO and the EU, including the aforementioned components that will participate in the German EUBG. To be more specific, the Motorised Battalion from the "Tigre's" company, a logistical support section from the "Tigre's" motorised battalion, a CIMIC team comprised of members from the Croatian Army and from the Planning Directorate of CAF Headquarters, the Engineering Platoon for Horizontal Construction from the Croatian Army's Training and Doctrine Command, a maintenance group for engineering machinery used by the horizontal construction platoon, a section from basic Military Police Regiments and National Connection Elements were included in the EUBG II/2012 national certification process. Along with the components

**European Union Battlegroups - EUBGs are highly trained military formations that under the command of the EU. These units, whose structures are composed of many elements from various units, are considered to be the smallest self-sufficient and interoperable military units that can quickly be deployed into an area where a military operation is being performed under EU leadership. EUBGs are intended for the rapid execution of operations that, in coordination with other international factors, are run by the EU in remote hot spots. Battlegroups are one of the most important tools for the mobilisation of EU member states and for the implementation of joint foreign defence policies.**

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from the Croatian Army, the EUBG II/2012 national certification process was also undergone with the declared units from Support Command: the ROLE 1 medical team, an officer from ROLE 2, PECC/ZzP, a fuel storage section and a cargo handling section. The evaluation of units was carried out in accordance with NATO readiness assessment standards (NATO ACO Forces Standards) for ground (CREVAL) and special (SOFEVAL) forces. The evaluations were held by the Croatian Army's assessment teams as well as by Support Command.

#### **A high level of readiness and skill**

As they have done many times before, all the declared components from the Armed Forces for various forms of engagements in international military operations showed a high level of operational readiness for the declared skills during this exercise. Whether it is a demonstration or display of skills for NATO-led operations or engagement in European Battlegroup, the soldiers, their equipment, their weapons and their vehicles show a high level of interoperability for all the future assignments and challenges that await them. Proof of this was provided by the assessors certified under NATO standards (applicable to EUBG as well) that have confirmed this with their professional approach and assessments that were praised by NATO officers who supervised and monitored them throughout all the incidents and events.

The final test before the beginning of their activities will be the international exercise in Germany, whose goal is to achieve the complete joint operative readiness of the declared units from Croatia and the other countries that form EUBG whose leading nation is Germany.



# OUR WORK PUTS US UP WHERE WE BELONG

Geofoto Zagreb – Geofoto Latinoamerica – Geofoto Scandinavia – Geofoto Zenit – Geofoto Osijek  
Geofoto London – Geofoto Dubai – Geofoto Belgrade – Geofoto Bosnia and Herzegovina – Terramap  
Praha – Geofoto Argentina – Terramap USA – International Geofoto Switzerland – Geofoto Bulgaria  
Infomax – [www.geofotogroup.com](http://www.geofotogroup.com)

Aerial survey – digital photogrammetry – cadastral survey – production of topographic and cadastral  
databases – design and creation of geoinformation systems and solutions – digital cartography





The Coast Guard pays a great deal of attention to collaborating with the inhabitants of islands. This way, it builds and acquires the confidence of fisherman, of island residents and of everyone who lives by the sea. Its support is extremely important to them. The Coast Guard wants to show that it serves the people, and the island's inhabitant's reactions to it are exceptionally positive

# THE COAST GUARD

## PROTECTING CROATIAN INTERESTS AT SEA

Security at sea is one of the priorities of Croatian defence and security policy, and the Republic of Croatia's most important public service in the protection of interests at sea is the Coast Guard. This is a naval unit whose role in the protection of national interests is irreplaceable. It is within the composition of Croatia's Navy and is of national importance to the Republic of Croatia

Security at sea is one of the priorities of Croatian defence and security policy, and the Republic of Croatia's most important public service in the protection of interests at sea is the Coast Guard. This is a naval unit whose role in the protection of national interests is irreplaceable. It is within the composition of Croatia's Navy and is of national importance to the Republic of Croatia. Its versatile structure de-

termines its capacity to implement various tasks in a maritime environment.

Since August of last year, the commander of the Coast Guard has been Captain Marin Stošić, who is also head of the government's Coordination for Protection and Sea Monitoring Committee. Besides sea surveillance tasks with the goal of detecting possible contaminations and accidents, the Coast Guard's air







Leida Parlov, photos by Tomislav Brandt, Davor Kirin, Ivica Hrčić

and naval forces also participate in search and rescue operations and they offer support to other relevant government bodies, at territorial sea and within the internal waters of Croatia, in the application of laws and regulations under their jurisdiction in accordance with the articles in the Coast Guard Law. The Coast Guard continuously strives to raise its skill level in order to be more proactive and to resolve situations at sea more effectively and more optimally. Being in the area, maximally reducing the response time to the threat and acting proactively are rules that Captain Stošić singled out as being the Coast Guard's basic procedures postulates. Together with other ministries and government bodies that are in charge of protecting interests at sea, the Coast Guard regularly undergoes exercises (ADRIATIC) with the goal of practicing skills that enable them to deal with threats at sea and elsewhere that are pushed into the background, such as pollution, smuggling and other asymmetric threats that are conventional threats.



In order for the Coast Guard's proficiency at sea to be all the greater, the entire Navy's resources were strongly networked and tied together, especially with the Coastal Monitoring Battalion, which is the fundamental unit supporting the Coast Guard.



## THE CROATIAN NAVY



Commander of the Coast Guard Captain Marin Stošić

The Croatian Coast Guard has recently received its own free public telephone number. The lines are open 24 hours a day, and the number is 0800-0007. Anyone who notices any kind of suspicious activity at sea, threat or incident can notify the Coast Guard. This way the response time is quickened and everyone can contribute to the protection of the sea

### The excellence of naval personnel

A great deal of importance is placed on the training of personnel in the Coast Guard. Thus, for example, young officers are sent to be trained at NATO's prestigious Centre of Excellence, but the Coast Guard has also developed its own models of functional personnel training for its own needs. "We must be aware that we are a small navy, a small Coast Guard. But our human resources and the education thereof, the skills at sea that we demonstrate not only in national but also international surroundings, our talent and our naval tradition are great. The excellence of our personnel is an imperative, and the talent we have must be preserved," says the commander of the Coast Guard Captain Marin Stošić.

In order for the Coast Guard's proficiency at sea to be all the greater, the entire Navy's resources were strongly networked and tied together, especially with the Coastal Monitoring Battalion, which is the fundamental unit supporting the Coast Guard.

### International cooperation

At the international level, an intense cooperation was developed with the Kingdom of Norway, which, according to the commander of the Coast Guard, offered aid in a quicker development of sea protection skills to our coast guard and to other countries' coast guards, specifically those on the eastern coast of the Adriatic. When the matter at hand is the protection of the Adriatic, sub-regional cooperation is particularly important, and that is why a stronger cooperation with countries from the eastern coast of the Adriatic is being strived for. We all must try to develop more resources in order to achieve a greater synergistic effect; we must help each other and work together. "We are all aware," says Stošić, "that the Adriatic is our fate".







The use of weapons in the Coast Guard is very clearly regulated by law and demands that the crew and artillery men be highly trained. The use of forces must be proportional to the danger and in accordance with international and national laws and regulation regarding the use of forces.

CROATIAN MILITARY MAGAZINE

# THE COAST GUARD'S NAVAL AND AIR FORCES' TRAINING

The Coast Guard, the Republic of Croatia's most important public service in the protection of interests at sea, conducted the training of some of its naval and air forces at the maritime training area in the waters of the central Adriatic throughout April for but a few of the assignments of this unit which is of national interest to our country.

Patrol boats' artillery crews engaged in shooting practice with a 12,7 mm (Browning) which is the basic weapon that can be used in the Coast Guard's assignments, and search and rescue activities were practiced by the air forces.

The conditioning of artillery crews is regularly undergone throughout the year primarily so that young artillery men may better familiarise themselves with the weapons and be able to efficiently complete the assignment that is entrusted to them in all sea conditions. Training, notes commander of the Coast Guard and Captain Marin Stošić, is implemented systematically, in other words, in accordance with combat condition objectification methods. This means that the conditions in which the training is implemented progressively become more complex and are identical to the possible actual use of forces at sea.

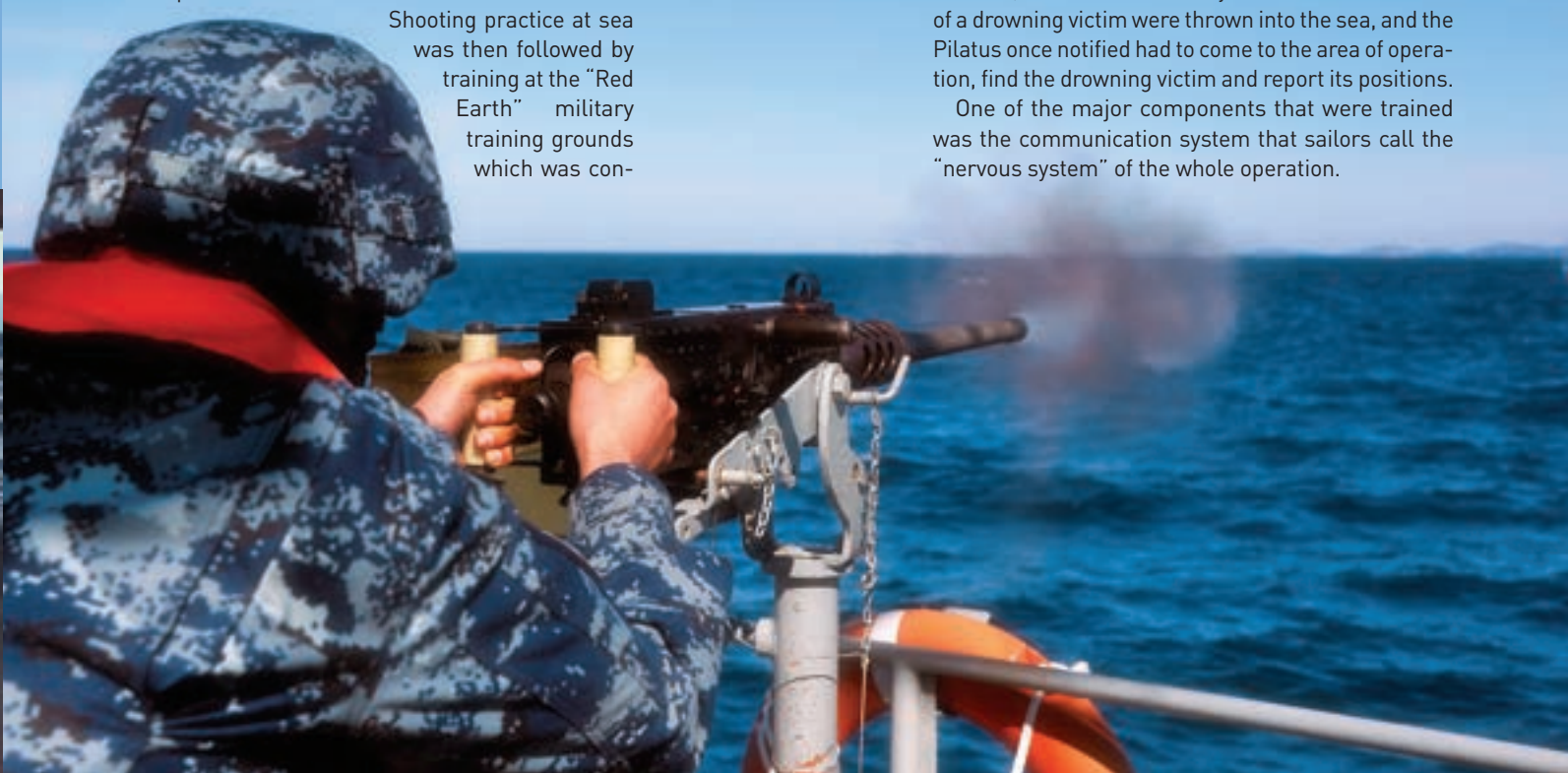
Shooting practice at sea was then followed by training at the "Red Earth" military training grounds which was con-

**Inasmuch a ship is engaged in illegal activities and poses a threat to national interest at sea, the Coast Guard has the right and obligation to stop and arrest it. If the ship resists it has the right to persecute it, and shots fired by machine guns serve as a warning to the forced arrest. If this still does not lead to an arrest, only then can weapons be used on the ship, but taking care to cause the least possible damage. Such procedures require highly trained crews.**

ducted on a stable platform, on a podium. Next, training in sea conditions followed. The first phase consisted of shooting under real conditions, in normal visibility, in regular 1 to 2 sea conditions at an average ship speed. The targets were at a distance of 1200 to 1400 metres. Two OB1 and OB2 patrol ships were at sea and on them shooting at the targets were crews from all of the Coast Guard's ships. During the next phase, explains Captain Stošić, the training will be conducted with the ship being at maximal speed and under more complex conditions, and the most complex part will be night shooting in real meteorological conditions.

Besides shooting practice, a search and rescue at sea training was also conducted that air forces were engaged in, primarily Pilatus that are in operative use in the Coast Guard and that were coordinated by Colonel Antonela Marinov, an MI 8 helicopter pilot and officer for the use of air forces in Coast Guard Headquarters. Although it is not necessary to emphasise the role of the Coast Guard's air force components, it is important to be reminded that they in fact are the first scouts that go to the remotest areas that are under Coast Guard's area of responsibility. During the exercise, dolls that realistically simulate the silhouette of a drowning victim were thrown into the sea, and the Pilatus once notified had to come to the area of operation, find the drowning victim and report its positions.

One of the major components that were trained was the communication system that sailors call the "nervous system" of the whole operation.



Croatian Pride 12/1 is the final exercise of components of the 19<sup>th</sup> Croatian contingent for the ISAF mission, whose purpose is to train and assess the readiness of the components of contingents according to elements of NATO's combat readiness rating system. On 24 January at the "Gašinci" military training ground, the final part of the preparations for leaving for the mission began...



# CROATIAN

THE FINAL MILITARY EXERCISE FOR THE ISAF OPERATION

**During the components of the 19<sup>th</sup> Croatian contingent's exercise, the ability to implement assigned missions was demonstrated, and the Croatian Army's assessment team, along with trainers and the exercise's management headquarters, gave their opinion on the success of the forces, applying combat readiness assessment elements in accordance with NATO's CERVAL evaluation method**

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# PRIDE

The time at Gašinci served members of the contingent as a final refinement of knowledge and upgrading of skills that will help them in Afghanistan in the completion of their demanding tasks. Croatian Pride is an exercise that takes place twice a year, in January and in June, with the components of two annual rotations of the Croatian contingent for the ISAF operation. Assessors from parent units, assessors from the Croatian Army and a team from the General Staff, as well as inspectors from the General Inspectorate, at not very welcoming winter temperatures, assess the readiness both of individuals and of components for the mission. According to what was proven time and time again, to the satisfaction of all those who have

followed the preparations our soldiers from the very beginning, a high level of knowledge and skill was demonstrated. An upward trend has been noted. This comes as no surprise when considering that many members from past contingents now function as instructors, as they can transfer first hand the necessary practical knowledge, which is upgraded through long-term exercises and training. The Croatian Pride exercise was held for the first time in January 2008. The host in charge of the organisation and implementation of the exercise is the Croatian Army, which is also the unit that contributes the greatest number of forces to the Croatian contingent in the ISAF mission. Croatian Pride 12/1 is the final exercise of compo-





# WILL, KNOWLEDGE, EXPERIENCE



nents of the 19<sup>th</sup> Croatian contingent for the ISAF mission, whose purpose is to train and assess the readiness of the components of contingents according to elements of NATO's combat readiness rating system.

## Assessing success

During the components of the 19<sup>th</sup> Croatian contingent's exercise, the ability to implement assigned missions was demonstrated, and the Croatian Army's assessment team, along with trainers and the exercise's management headquarters, gave their opinion on the success of the forces, applying combat readiness assessment elements in accordance with



NATO's CERVAL evaluation method. In short, this is an evaluation method that assesses the abilities of units and individuals in many areas and in such a way that the final grade is as objective as possible and presents the most authentic picture of individuals' and units' abilities to implement the tasks that were entrusted to them. The various assessment levels are also interesting: The first level involves self-assessment. This is followed by an assessment at the Croatian Army level, and finally an assessment at the CAF's Headquarters level. As a part of the training and preparation process as a whole, assessments must be planned in long-term, short-term and near-term cycles of training planning.



### **Success lies in the details**

We have observed HRVCON members from their very arrival to Croatian Pride. When interviewed they said that they are proud to be a part of the long line of greatly successful CAF members that have been completing tasks in Afghanistan. The seriousness and professionalism that they showed at Gašinci convinced us that we will hear their praises coming from far and wide. Over the years enormous steps have been made in equipping the members in our contingent in ISAF. That was our

mission: to equip, train and train our soldiers and to make sure that they could entirely dedicate themselves to their work during their assignments in operations. Of course, during this time of preparation, the guys and girls try to justify the trust placed in them as members of the 19<sup>th</sup> HRVCON. We also observed them at lectures on Islam culture and tradition and went to mass with them. It is in fact the soldiers, NCOs and officers who in one way or another are included in the implementation of the Croatian Pride exercise that make sure that





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every detail of the demanding training, every part of logistical support, be seen as flawless in the layman's eyes; while they train for encounters with improvised explosive devices, while they prepare for mentoring their Afghan colleagues and while they exchange experiences in radio communication. Of course, a special mention must be given to the Guards Armoured Mechanised Brigade, the unit which in the new Croatian contingents supplies the largest number of members. For this Croatian Pride to be a source of pride to all

of us, the exercise's director Lieutenant Colonel Denis Tretinjak had to incorporate a great deal of knowledge and organisational skills into it. Observing every detail of the preparations, one could rest assured that nothing was left to chance, that every question posited by the assessor had an answer. We firmly believe that we will continue to hear Croatian soldiers being described as excellent mentors who very skilfully transmit their knowledge and experience to members of the Afghan police and army.



The topographic map production process is designed in a way that military topographic maps are produced from a cartographic database. The basis for the development of a cartographic database was NATO's conventions on the standardisation and demands of the Croatian Ministry of Defence

#### THE CROATIAN MILITARY INDUSTRY



# GEOFOTO

## THE PRODUCTION OF TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS

The production of topographic maps is a very complex job which is based on modern data bases, and the final result is the user's ability to obtain maps that have the necessary characteristics at any given moment. Geofoto, founded in Zagreb in 1993, has become one of the largest companies in the fields of geodesy and geoinformation. The company employs 140 people, three of which are PhDs and 16 of which are licenced engineers... and because of the specificity of the job, they perform the trainings for a part of the uncommon knowledge. When this is considered in light of the fact that other companies of the same sort on average have ten employees and that only a few companies at the European level have more employees, one can get a better idea of the true size of the company. Investing in people is a permanent commitment and workers are further educated in order to acquire the new knowledge

**Geofoto offers users a complete service and product. The company has its own data collection capacities, that is, aircraft that records the desired area, as well as experienced field teams that function as support and enable the required quality and precision that areal shooting demands. Experts and technology enable data processing and the final design of an intelligent data system**

and skills that are necessary for a successful performance on the global market. The main activities of the company are aerophotogrammetric surveys, digital photogrammetry, cadastral surveys, digital cartography and the production of topographic and cadastral databases, digital cartography and designing and producing geoinformatic systems and solutions. The final product, or the services and products that the company provides the customer with, include, among other things, the creation of digital terrain models, photomaps, general master plans, digital cadastral plans, topographic maps, military maps, topographic and cartographic data bases, three-dimensional models and city models, creation of web and desktop solutions (communal infrastructures, geoportal and cadastre solutions), and the company also offers complete and specialised software solutions.



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In all the departments and throughout all the business phases, workers use the latest operating equipment. Geofoto, when the project requires it to do so, can also develop specific software solutions. The company supplies advanced (and expensive) equipment, from special software applications to the very modern laser space scanner (LIDAR), which there only are a few of in Europe.

### Military applications

Geofoto produces topographic maps on two scales for the Croatian Ministry of Defence: 1:50.000 (VTK50) and 1:250.000 (JOG-G). The Croatian territory is covered by 175 VTK50 map sheets and 14 JOG-G map sheets. Military topographic maps at a scale of 1:50.000 (VTK50) are basic topographic maps that are used by ground and air forces to support land operations in planning, tactical operations, terrain study

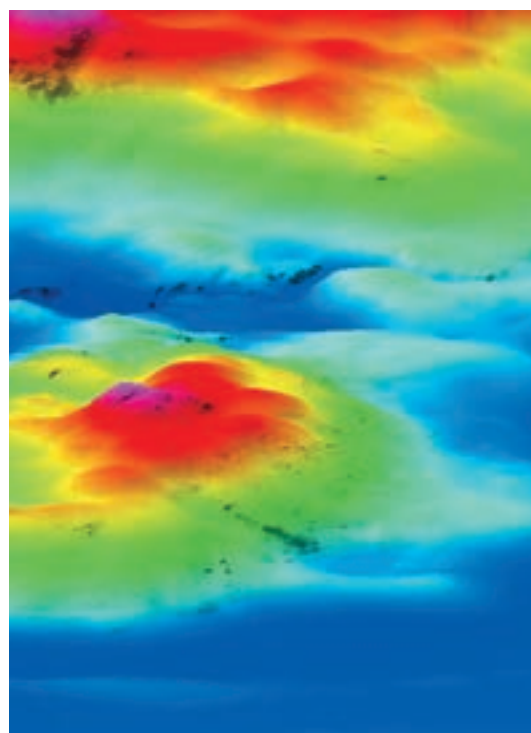


and in target collection. The graphical representation of joint operations – the ground forces version (Joint Operations Graphic – Ground version, JOG-G) is intended for ground forces that participate in land and air forces' joint operations and are primarily used for tactical and logistical planning, as well as for search and rescue. The topographic map production process is designed in a way that military topographic maps are produced from a cartographic database. The basis for the development of a cartographic database was NATO's conventions on the standardisation and demands of the Croatian Ministry of Defence. The cartographic databases that were created satisfied geoinformatic systems (GIS) philosophy and also enable thematic and other kinds of maps to be created. Due to such a manner of producing maps, the company is able to produce topographic maps according to the customer's wishes and needs.



**The topographic map production process is designed in a way that military topographic maps are produced from a cartographic database. The basis for the development of a cartographic database was NATO's conventions on the standardisation and demands of the Croatian Ministry of Defence**

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With the solemn signing of the Note of Accession in Szczecin, Poland on 30 January 2012, The Republic of Croatia officially became a part of the Multinational Corps North-East, one of NATO's 9 Rapid Deployable Corps



MULTINATIONAL MILITARY POLICE BATTALION

# CROATIA BECOMES MULTINATIONAL C

The Multinational Military Police Battalion (MNMP-BAT) is the only unit in NATO which operates under the multinational principles of reciprocity and equality. Members of the military police from Croatia, Poland, Slovakia and Poland jointly participate in MNMPBAT's activities, with Poland sending a company to the composition and the other countries sending platoons. Emphasising the principles of reciprocity and equality means that all of the countries MNMPBAT is comprised of enjoy the same rights, decisions are made on the basis of mutual agreement and none of the countries can make a decision that the others do not assent to.

The idea of establishing such a unit came about following 2001 and the terrorist attack on the USA. At a conference held in Prague in 2002, the need



for the establishment of military police forces that, when necessary, would be capable of responding to the threat of global terrorist, was recognised and defined. The task of founding a multinational NATO military police component was then entrusted to Poland, and soon after a collaboration in the formation of MNMPBAT was offered to Croatia, along with Slovakia and the Czech Republic. In mid-2005, the Croatian, Polish, Czech and Slovak ministries of defence signed a Memorandum of Understanding, in 2006 the Technical Cooperation Agreement was signed and in 2007, in Giwice, Poland, the four MNMPBAT nations were lined up under the same flag for the first time.

This was followed by years of collective work and continuous cooperation between members of the

The medal awarded to Lieutenant Colonel Tihomir Zebec, Chief of the CAF's Military Police Staff the "Honorary Medal for considerable services for the Military Gendarmerie" is an award of the Military Gendarmerie of the Republic of Poland which, at the proposal of the Commander of the Gendarmerie, is dealt by the Polish government. The medal is dealt to particularly distinguished people, institutions, military units, soldiers and officials for achievements in promoting activities and contributions to the development of the Military Gendarmerie of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland. This award was given to the Chief of the CAF's Military Police Staff Lieutenant Colonel Tihomir Zebec on 7 February 2012 in Poland, as a recognition of his long-time work and significant contribution to the NATO MNMPBAT multinational project







#### → CROATIA JOINED THE CORPS

The Multinational Corps North-East (MNC NE) is one of NATO's 9 Rapid Deployable Corps. MNC NE is located in Giwice, Poland, and was founded in 1999 by Denmark, Germany and Poland. Later Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, the USA, Romania and, this year, the Republic of Croatia also joined the Corps.

Lada Puljizević, photos by Davor Kirin

CROATIAN MILITARY MAGAZINE

# S A PART OF THE CORPS NORTHEAST

Croatian Military Police and colleagues in Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic. The goal was to coordinate all of MNMPBAT's components and reach a level of joint action and teamwork that ensures that a unit can complete even the most complex tasks set before it. The process of multi-year joint work includes the organization and implementation of regular staff workshops, practical training for staff and staff command post exercises, as well as command post exercises with a computer simulation and application of the content to the national operational units. Finally, as the ultimate indicator of the success of cooperation at all levels, there is the annual "Black Bear" exercises.

The first in the series of "Black Bear" exercises was held in 2008 in Giwice, Poland; a year later the exercise was held in the Czech Republic, in 2010 "Black Bear" was held on the "Gašinci" military training grounds in Croatia and last year, the host was Slovakia who organised the exercise on the training grounds in Lešt.

**"Cristal Eagle 12" is MNC NE's main exercise and a preparation for MNC NE's future participation in missions. The scenario for this year's MNMPBAT exercise "Sharp Linx 12" is an integral part of "Cristal Eagle 12's" scenario. MNMPBAT will be certified during the exercise and following this will become a part of MNC NE**

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This year's MNMPBAT, which will take place in September in Poland, is called "Sharp Linx 12" and is particularly important because MNMPBAT will be certified during its course, after which, according to plan, it will become an operative unit of NATO's Multinational Corps North-East – MNC NE.

In order for this process to unfold smoothly, in mid-2010 the Republic of Croatia began the process of joining the MNC NE, completed the process in late 2011 and with the solemn signing of the Note of Accession in Szczecin, Poland on 30 January 2012, The Republic of Croatia officially became a part of the Multinational Corps North-East.

The note on Croatia's accession was signed by Commander of the MNC NE Lieutenant General Rainer Korff of Germany, by Deputy Commander Major General Ryszard Sorokosz of Poland and by Chief of Staff of the MNC NE Brigadier General Morten Danielsson of Denmark. On behalf of the Republic of Croatia, the Note of Accession was signed by Chief of the Military Police Staff Lieutenant Colonel Tihomir Zebec.





Within the composition of the 18<sup>th</sup> HRVCON is the third rotation of its Police Operational Mentor Liaison Team (POMLT) that mentors members of the Afghan National Police's command in the province of Balkh in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif and the police station in the district of Chahar Bolak. With their professional approach to the implementation of all planned assignments during the mentoring of the Afghan police, provincial POMLT teams in this type of engagement contribute to the overall positive assessment of Croatian participation in the ISAF operation



The Croatian Armed Forces, within the composition of the 18<sup>th</sup> HRVCON, have sent a third rotation of its Police Operational Mentor Liaison Team (POMLT) to mentor members of the Afghan National Police's command in the province of Balkh in the city of Mazar-e-Sharif and the police station in the district of Chahar Bolak. One of the main tasks of the provincial POMLT's team is training and mentoring the Afghan National Police in all of its functional areas for the continuous development of skills including the supervision of the police's local security assignments in their area of activity, all in order to improve the individual and collective implementation of all operations and habitual activities during the execution of all regular and emergency assignments. Brigadier General Esmatullah Alizai, a Pashtun

THE THIRD CROATIAN POMLT

# THE CAF'S TO MENTORING

**CAF members within the composition of POMLT teams are trained and employed based on their specific experience and knowledge. They are experts in their field, experienced in the art of war and in the practice of tested and proven military and police knowledge and skills**

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who has over 30 years of experience in the police as well as great influence over the region and who enjoys the respect of the local authorities, citizens and coalition forces, has been standing at the head of the police department in the province Balkh since April of 2010. 2309 police officers are employed at the police department, 100 of which work in the leading cadre of the police department. These forces include 42 members that are responsible for the personal protection of General Alizai. The great collaboration so far now reflects the mutual respect that was gained through the professional attitude of present as well as past POMLT teams, and this is one of the necessary preconditions for the realisation of mentoring plans. The city of Mazar-e-Sharif, thanks to the Afghan National Police which succeeds in maintaining the





The structure of the provincial POMLT is mixed; in its composition there is one Military Police officer from the military police regiment acting as team commander and mentor to the commander of the police department Brigadier General Esmatullah Alizai. There are also two members from the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Croatia, one from the Zagreb Police Department's Counter-Explosion Protection Affairs who is also a mentor to the personnel department and another from the Police Intervention Unit of the Zagreb Police Department who is a mentor in the Police Training Centre and in the Professional Development and Specialisation Department. Within the composition there is also one member from the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion of the Guards Motorised Brigade (GMTBR) functioning as an operational intelligence officer and mentor to the operational officer of the Police Department, a logistics officer from the Logistics Regiment who is a logistics mentor to the Police Department and nine members of the security forces of the GMTBR's 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion.

# S CONTRIBUTION POLICE IN AFGHANISTAN

required safety level, was determined to be a "Stable Environment". The city is also the capital of the Balkh province and one of largest commercial and financial centres of Afghanistan. Most GIRoA officials (Government of the Republic of Afghanistan, the official name for the government of the Republic of Afghanistan), as well as officials from the UN's agency and other nongovernmental organisations working in Regional Command North are all based in Mazar-e-Sharif.

Members of the POMLT team have built a strong relationship and collaboration with the province of Balkh's police department, and this greatly facilitates the smooth implementation of the third POMLT's mentoring assignments at all locations in the city and the collaboration with other members of the Afghan national security forces in the province

**Their concrete contribution to the mission has garnered excellent results on the field as well as the respect of police officers they are mentoring**

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of Balkh. The position of the provincial POMLT is extremely important to all members of the CAF who are currently working on the mission and who use transit routes throughout Mazar-e-Sharif as well as other roads which are under the surveillance of the Afghan National Police in this province and under the power and command of the police chief Brigadier General Esmatullah Alizai.

With their professional approach to the implementation of all planned assignments during the mentoring of the Afghan police, provincial POMLT teams in this type of engagement contribute to the overall positive assessment of Croatian participation in the ISAF operation and confirm us as a credible ally whose efforts contribute to the collective security of all allies and to building and improving the general security situation in Afghanistan.

**Lieutenant Colonel Lokas**

has earned NATO's highest award for his work during the period between March and September of 2011 within the 17<sup>th</sup> Croatian contingent in Afghanistan. He asserts that he is happiest when he sees that his work has contributed to the progress and improvement of the overall situation in Afghanistan...

# THE FIRST CROAT TO RE MERITORIOUS SERVICE

Busy due to the 16-hour work day that is part of the duty of a planning officer in the Future Operations Department of ISAF Joint Operations (IJC), Lieutenant Colonel Krešimir Lokas did not know that his superior, Brigadier General William Hix from the United States, had nominated him for a great award: NATO's Meritorious Service Medal. But that was only the first step: the nomination was accepted by Australian Major General Michael Krause, Deputy Chief of Staff Plans HQ IJC, who officially nominated the Croatian officer for the Alliance's highest honour, which was followed by the nomination being approved by three other NATO generals. Finally, following NATO's Military Committee's proposal, NATO's Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen presented him with the



medal. The medal was presented to him in Croatia by Supreme Allied Commander Transformation General Stéphane Abrial of France.

**Two key projects**

Lieutenant Colonel Lokas, who otherwise is an employee of the Operational Command Centre of the General Staff of the CAF, earned NATO's highest award for his work during the period between March and September of 2011 within the 17<sup>th</sup> Croatian contingent in Afghanistan. That was his first time in ISAF, though he already had experience in the UN's peacekeeping missions in Sierra Leone (as a military observer) and in Liberia (as a staff officer). The nomination highlighted two successful design



## NATO's Meritorious Service Medal

The NATO Meritorious Service Medal was first awarded in 2003 to commend NATO staff whose personal initiative and dedication went beyond their duty to make a difference both to their colleagues, and to NATO as an organisation. The Medal is the personal Award of The Secretary General of NATO, who signs each citation. Less than 50 medals are awarded each year and it remains the only significant award for individual personal effort for NATO staff; and can be awarded to Military and Civilian staff alike. When assessing nominations for the award, there are several criteria taken into consideration: the performance of acts of courage in difficult or dangerous circumstances; showing exceptional leadership or personal example; making an outstanding individual contribution to a NATO sponsored programme or activity; or enduring particular hardship or deprivation in the interest of NATO

# RECEIVE NATO'S MEDAL

and implementation projects that were entrusted to Lokas and very successfully implemented. The first project was a comprehensive analysis of the Kabul City Gates, a critical infrastructure that is vital to national security in the greater area of Afghanistan's capital city. Recognising the crucial importance of the project, he coordinated the defining of human and material resources needs, as well as the devising of an optimal model of concerted agency of the Afghan police, army and coalition forces, primarily Turkish, on that important security infrastructure. The second project involved the creation of detailed and comprehensive Synchronisation Matrices for plans and activities throughout Afghanistan. Among

them was the planning and implementation of military operations, improving the skills of Afghan security forces, support to civil authorities and local government, the implementation of renovation projects and economic development, etc. In short, it was an important job with great responsibilities, in which a number of details as well as circumstances that, in an unpredictable country, changed from day to day, needed to be taken into consideration.

### A contribution to progress

During a visit to CroMil's editorial office a few days after the awarding of the medals, Lieutenant Colonel Lokas recalled his days in the IJC, and above all, his colleagues. "I had the good fortune that before me, the Croatian Major Tomislav Kovačić, who everyone spoke very highly of, was in the IJC", said Lokas. Along with the Lieutenant Colonel's personal qualities, Kovačić's marks certainly played a part in Lokas becoming the project holder of the projects mentioned so soon after his arrival in Afghanistan. "I tried to do my job as best as I could", recalled the Colonel, who started from scratch and succeeded. Along with his knowledge and experience as a planning officer, he also used information technology, the Microsoft Project program at first and then the TOPFAS program which was developed by NATO's NC3A agency. Today, six months after his return to Croatia, Lieutenant Colonel Lokas, the first Croat to receive NATO's Meritorious Service Medal, is happiest when he sees that his work has contributed to the progress and improvement of the overall situation in Afghanistan. The medals that he received clearly confirm this. Perhaps it is enough to mention the conclusions from Lokas' nominations: "Lieutenant Colonel Lokas' extraordinary dedication to his duty had an appreciable impact on the IJC's productivity as well as on the success of the mission in Afghanistan, which does a great honour to himself, to ISAF, to the Republic of Croatia and to the NATO Alliance".

The medal was presented to him in Croatia by Supreme Allied Commander Transformation General Stéphane Abrial of France



I was ready and am still ready to go to our fellow man and provide spiritual support and give my time to each one of our soldiers, NCOs, officers and police officers. I think that must be an integral part of the life of every military chaplain. The local population sees Croats as spontaneous, open people who approach them with respect and solidarity. They simply felt our desire to help them and bring them something good...



FATHER IVO TOPALOVIĆ MILITARY CHAPLAIN OF THE 18<sup>TH</sup> HRVCON

# A STAY IN AFGH – A LESSON IN THE SC

"As a military chaplain, I feel the call to be with our soldiers, NCOs and officers in all of their life situations; to be with them not only at their bases but also to accompany them and be their spiritual support everywhere they do what they are called to do" said father Ivo Topalović military chaplain at the 93<sup>rd</sup> air base in Zemunik and dean of the Split deanery. It comes as no surprise then that he has been the spiritual guide to our contingents in the ISAF mission in Afghanistan three times. He went to Afghanistan as the military chaplain of the 9<sup>th</sup> HRVCON for the first time in 2007, for the second time in 2010 and the third time he was the military chaplain of the 18<sup>th</sup> HRVCON which recently came back from the ISAF mission. Preparations taught him a lot about Afghanistan and our mission in that



country, and not for a moment was there a question about him wanting or being able to go. It did not take him long to adjust. He said that Afghanistan is a beautiful country. Still, the first images that arise when he speaks of his missions are that of poverty, hunger and freezing children whose feet are blackened by the cold but who are joyful. He said that it is in such a country that our soldiers along with soldiers from other countries are carriers of peace, or at least attempt to make peace. He shared their joys with them, but also their difficult moments. He went out on the field because he wanted to understand his soldier: "If a soldier told me that he was going through hardships, I wanted to feel and see those hardships. It is important to be with them when times are good, but also when times



**Each stay in Afghanistan was a new experience for him, a lesson in the school of life. Uncertainty, living under conditions that are completely different from those he came from, where people handle the problems of everyday life differently. He greatly benefited from meeting all the members of the contingents with whom he went on the missions, and this he is grateful for.**

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feel uncomfortable. According to him, these kinds of relations are greatly due to the excellent preparations our soldiers go through in which they are introduced to the customs and culture of the country: "If we wish to give people something, we must know a lot. All activities tied to the training are held in such a way that those who are to leave on missions are familiarised with the basics of Islam and with the customs and way of life of the people in whose country they are going to and these activities are of great benefit".

The fact that all the other countries also have a spiritual guide in their contingents speaks of the importance of spiritual guidance on missions. Father Ivo rates the cooperation with them as being excellent. Regular weekly meetings were held and activities were arranged. He went to all the parts of the country that our soldiers were in. Serving Mass and organising celebrations, blessings and spiritual meets were only some of his duties. He said that there were also christenings and confirmations: "This was a time in which we grew together in faith together".

Each stay in Afghanistan was a new experience for him, a lesson in the school of life. Uncertainty, living under conditions that are completely different from those he came from, where people handle the problems of everyday life differently. He greatly benefited from meeting all the members of the contingents with whom he went on the missions, and this he is grateful for: "I felt like each one of my contingents were my family, a community in which I felt good; a family that has its good moments, but also problems that we shared and solved together". He was particularly impressed by the solidarity that he saw, as well as by the willingness to give "Those who cannot do so are generally unhappy people," says father Ivo. He also mentioned that if necessary he would go on another mission, but not exclusively in Afghanistan: "I was ready and am still ready to go to our fellow man and provide spiritual support and give my time to each one of our soldiers, NCOs, officers and police officers. I think that must be an integral part of the life of every military chaplain".

# AFGHANISTAN SCHOOL OF LIFE

are bad, when they are going through hardships on the fields where they work, when there are hardships in their families that are miles away, and when they are having a personal crisis". He was in contact with the local people almost every day and went to their villages with our soldiers. They always tried to help them as best they could. Everything they gave, they gave wholeheartedly and the local war-torn people of the country could sense this. There was an underlying recognition and acceptance of differences as well as unobtrusiveness. "The local population sees Croats as spontaneous, open people who approach them with respect and solidarity. They simply felt our desire to help them and bring them something good". He said that Afghans were friendly towards them and that not even for a moment did he ever



The CAF's Orchestra is the representative orchestra of the Republic of Croatia that operates within Support Command and is comprised of about one hundred musicians. Over the years, the Orchestra changed, broke up, matured, proved and asserted itself on many occasions before very different and often very demanding audiences...



# FIRST OFFICIAL APPEARANCE DURING CROATIAN INDEPENDENCE

In late 2011, the CAF's Orchestra celebrated its twentieth anniversary. Its first public appearance was on 20 December 1991, during the program honouring the taking over of the "Croatia" barracks in Novi Zagreb, which until then had been under the control of the JNA. Not long after, on 17 January 1992, during the days when the Republic of Croatia's independence was being recognised by many different countries, the Orchestra had its first official protocolary performance.

The orchestra's founding was the continuation of the tradition of musical components within the Croatian Armed Forces, and the professional construction of the CAF created the preconditions for such a musical element. Throughout the years, the orchestra has changed its name a number of times, from the National Guard's Representative Orchestra, to the Croatian Army's Symphonic Wind Orchestra, to the Croatian Army's Orchestra, to finally be known as the CAF's Symphonic Wind Orchestra.

**Over the course of its twenty-year existence, besides carrying out its protocolary activities, the CAF's Orchestra has also participated in many concerts and festivals at home and overseas. The CAF's Symphonic Wind Orchestra is the winner of Croatian music awards, including the Milka Trnina diploma for top musical achievements in 1997 and the Vatroslav Lisinski award in 1998 for its interpretation of Croatian composers**

During the period that followed, the CAF's Orchestra in its own way participated in the difficult time of war and in the events that took place during that time: they had a series of protocolary performances and an even longer series of performances on battlefields throughout Croatia.

"What happens to your muses while guns are being fired? What is the first thing you think of when you recall the beginnings?" we asked the CAF's Orchestra's commander conductor Miroslav Vukovojac Dugan, who answered: "I recall that the performances back then were a combination of a true professional challenge and a strong patriotic charge. And I recall a feeling of fulfilment and satisfaction, everyone in the Orchestra felt that way". Over the years, the Orchestra changed, broke up, matured, proved and asserted itself on many occasions before very different and often very demanding audiences. During war times it had already begun its intensive concert activities. It





## → FIRST OFFICIAL PROTOCOLARY PERFORMANCE

On 17 January 1992, during the days when the Republic of Croatia's independence was being recognised by many different countries, the Orchestra had its first official protocolary performance

Along with the first chief conductor Mladen Tarbuk who worked in the orchestra until 2000 and frequent guest conductors Dragan Sremac and Tomislav Uhlik, many distinguished conductors have conducted the CAF's Orchestra, including Uroš Lajovic, Miljenko Prohaska, Pavle Dešpalj, Nikša Bareza, Vjekoslav Šutej, Krešimir Šipuš, Walter Hilgers etc. Today the CAF's Orchestra operates under the leadership of commander and conductor Miroslav Vukovojac Dugan and under the artistic direction of chief conductor Tomislav Fačini

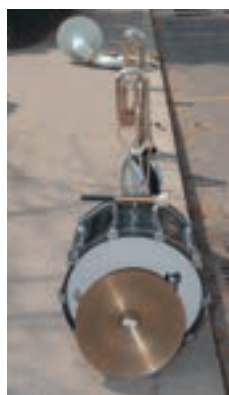
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# DURING DAYS OF RECOGNITION OF DEPENDENCE

performed its duties related to State protocol and its departments – Presidential, Governmental and Parliamentary protocol – and constantly received praise for its excellent renditions of the national anthems of foreign countries. During these years the orchestra also developed its visual identity: in late 1992 the first ceremonial uniforms were sewn, and the orchestra received ceremonial protocolary blue and white uniforms that borrowed elements from Croatian heritage (collar, dark blue colour, hat).

Today, the CAF's orchestra is the representative orchestra of the Republic of Croatia that operates within Support Command and is comprised of about one hundred musicians, 80 percent of which are highly educated, and consists of the Symphonic Wind Orchestra whose headquarters are in Zagreb, as well as the Croatian Navy Orchestra and the Navy's "Sveti Juraj" Klapa whose headquarters are in Split. Fulfilling their basic protocolary tasks,



these musicians have over 150 performances annually, but a complete picture of the versatility and commitment of the Orchestra can only be received if the ongoing activities that are tied to its concert and practice activities are also taken into consideration. The Symphonic Wind Orchestra has specialised in a classical repertoire which includes original compositions for wind sections, Croatian premieres of world heritage compositions, compositions from contemporary composers and premieres of Croatian composers, while the Croatian Navy's Orchestra formed its recognisability through a repertoire that emphasises the specific beauty of Dalmatian melodies that are a part of Croatian musical heritage. Meanwhile, the Croatian Navy's "Sveti Juraj" Klapa, with its repertoire and interpretations of Klapa songs, has opened the doors to a wider public and has confirmed many times that it has a place among the very best of Klapa singing.

# PROJECTS *that* WE ARE PROUD of...



## THE "BLOODY EASTER 1991" MOVIE

This is a ten-minute film that emerged as the third in a series from the Five Minutes to Remember edition which shows one of the Croatian Special Police Unit's first operations, which took place at the beginning of the Homeland War, in a short informative form. This historical event that is presented through footage from archives is all the more meaningful as during its course the first Croatian soldier in the battle for Croatian independence and sovereignty had lost his life. We remember this event as the operation called Bloody Easter as it had happened on the dawn of Easter 1991 at the Plitvice Lakes National Park and anticipated the uncertain future that was before Croatia and its emerging armed forces.



## HANDBOOK FOR CAF MEMBERS ON THE ISAF OPERATION

In order to contribute to the quicker and easier integration of CAF members who are going on the ISAF operation and in some way to make their six-month stay on the mission easier, we have published the Handbook for CAF Members on the ISAF Operation. This is a two-hundred-page pocketbook that summarises all relevant information about Afghan culture, history, tribal customs, religion, economy and political system as well as the organisation and operation of Afghan military and police security forces. In addition to this, in the handbook there is also a summary of ISAF's establishment with the role and assignments of regional commands as well as the deployment of units from international forces that operate in the mission, and a special chapter is dedicated to an overview of CAF member's participation in the mission. There is also a Croatian-Dari-Pashtu dictionary in the handbook with commonly used words, phrases and questions.

All members of Croatian contingents that are headed for the ISAF operation will bring a copy of this handbook with them, and with each new contingent the handbook will be revised and modified in accordance with current changes in the mission and will be an integral part of soldiers' equipment.

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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 m<sup>2</sup>
- 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.

## 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 m<sup>2</sup>
- As warehouse tent: 70 m<sup>2</sup>
- For medical use (it has lining and a floor): 70 m<sup>2</sup>
- For decontamination (it has a cabin, and can have a floor as well): 84 m<sup>2</sup>
- For kitchen (trailer): 14 m<sup>2</sup>



warehouse tent

- 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 m<sup>2</sup>
- 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...



