

THE BONDSTEEL BULLET

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NEWSLETTER

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- 57 containers were transported from Camp Bondsteel to Port of Bremerhaven in Germany and then shipped to U.S.
- Almost all the organizations and teams out of Camp Bondsteel were involved in helping prepare TOA.

Approximately 200 guests that attended the latest transfer of authority ceremony that was held on February 13, 2014 at Camp Bondsteel were served food and drinks during a reception after the TOA. A team of civilians and contractors made sure that everything goes smooth before, during and after the TOA. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Cody Barber, 11th Public Affairs Detachment.)

Behind the Scenes of the TOA Ceremony

Story and Photo by Ardian Nrecaj, Public Affairs Specialist

Multinational Battle Group-East changes command almost every year during a transfer of authority ceremony. The event was attended by numerous guests that ranged from different mayors in Kosovo, Kosovo Police commanders, European Rule of law mission representatives, Kosovo Security Forces commander, numerous national military personnel and different ambassadors.

The last transfer of authority (TOA) ceremony was held February 13 where more than 200 guests attended, and most of them stayed for the reception after the ceremony.

The TOA ceremony involves the handover of the colors [the flag] that symbolizes the transfer of command from the old commander of MNBG-E to the new one.

But while it seems at first like just another transfer of authority ceremony, it does involve many organizations and teams.

Della Hodges, director of Area Support Team-Balkans, explained that a lot of people participate on preparing and making sure that everything during the ceremony itself goes smooth.

"The entire AST team of military, civilians and contractors is very important in the deployment of the incoming rotation, the TOA ceremony, and the redeployment of the outgoing rotation," said Hodges.

She then named some of the units that played a role.

team, KBR transportation, AST directorate for security, plans and operations, Housing, AST Department of Logistics, Customs, Military Working Dogs, Military Police and many more," added Hodges.

Chaya T. L. Shine, Kellogg, Brown and Root movement and control chief at Camp Bondsteel, said that the movement and control team starts their work months before the transfer of authority actually happens.

"The MCT assists the division transportation officer with meeting transportation milestones for redeployment. We coordinated the movement of 57 containers from Camp Bondsteel to the Port of Bremerhaven [in Germany]," said Shine.

These were KFOR 17 rotation containers shipped back to U.S. and their respective bases.

"While preparing for the redeployment of the outgoing unit, we also prepared for the incoming unit. We received 61 containers and two trailer mounted generators for the KFOR 18 rotation," added Shine.

Dan O'Brien Director of Directorate for Security, Plans and Operations, said that his office provides the continuity from one KFOR rotation to another.

"The rotation that is leaving goes through the planning process, we assist them with providing them with historical knowledge on what has and has not worked to go on ensure that in through the planning process we can go ahead and plan for all contingencies," said O'Brien.

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The Bondsteel Bullet is produced for civilians and military personnel on Camp Bondsteel.

Contents of this publication are not necessarily official views of Multinational Battle Group-East or Area Support Team Balkans.

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"We ran even smother this time then previous two ceremonies I have been involved in." – Dan O'Brien Director of DSPO



Guest arrived through Gate 1 of Camp Bondsteel. Area Support Team directorate for security, plans and operations made sure there are no issues during the arrival of the guests. (Photo by Ardian Nrecaj, Public Affairs Specialist)

Meet the Linguists

Isuf Hajrizi, project manager for Northrop Grumman Linguist Program said that Labinot and Nermina are great linguists.

"Labi is a go-to linguist when it comes to translating documents that require accuracy and are under tight deadlines. His contributions, by interpreting for the Command Sergeant Major during training, were highly valued by the customer. You can count on Labi to always do his best and meet all deadlines. Nermina is an energetic linguist who always puts mission first. She has many years of experience interpreting for a variety of different units which is a good testament of her dedication to her work and what she does as a linguist."

Nermina Kicic linguist with Northrop Grumman at Camp Bondsteel

How do you start your day?

Once my alarm goes off in the morning, I get out of the bed and try to prepare for the day.

Many people enjoy getting their daily exercise done first thing in the morning, but not being very much of a morning person, I try to get away with a little yoga or take 15 minutes of some good stretching as a substitute.

How long have you been working here?

I got here in fall of 2006, so I have been working with Northrop Grumman Technical Support (NGTS) as a linguist in Kosovo for more than seven years, even though I have not initially planned to stay this long.

What do you do here at Camp Bondsteel?

I work as a linguist for NGTS providing interpreter and translator services to the United States military forces deployed in Kosovo.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

There are lots of rewarding aspects but the most rewarding is the people I get to meet: colleagues and their families, locals, soldiers and new friends.

It is very motivating to know that I make a difference in simply helping people communicate and understand each other.

Where are you from and are you married? Kids?

I come from Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is a beautiful, heart shaped country in southeastern Europe, on the Balkan Peninsula, frequently referred to only as Bosnia. I am single with no children.

What do you and your family enjoys doing together?

Since I have not been home that often in the past few years, I really enjoy having nice long lunches with my mother, sisters and their families. During the summer time, we all love to get together and have picnics in the nature or barbecues in the backyard of my family house. Occasionally, we go for a swim in the nearby lake or even, take a long ride and spend a few days at the beach.

Hobbies or Sports?

Occasionally, I design and make fashion clothes and accessories for my sisters, nieces and myself. The idea of being productive makes me very content. I adore hand-knitted and crocheted garments and love making them. I love documentaries about legendary characters or historic figures and enjoy reading classic literature.



Labinot Gjonbalaj linguist with Northrop Grumman at Camp Bondsteel

How do you start your day?

As a linguist working for NGTS in support of U.S. Army peacekeeping operations in Kosovo each day is somewhat programmed for me. I am ready to go at around 0700, unless the mission requires me to be up and running earlier. After I finish the morning chores, I head to the dining facility and grab a bite to eat, after which I go to the office, brew a cup of coffee and start performing my usual daily duties.

How long have you been working here?

I have been working as a linguist for about nine years now.

What do you do here at Camp Bondsteel?

At Camp Bondsteel I provide interpretation and translation services for U.S. Military personnel stationed in Kosovo, currently I am part of a document translating team, mainly translating different documents that our military customer needs. However, as per mission needs, I provide interpretation services with representatives of local government, to include training the Kosovo Security Forces and other.

What is the most rewarding part of your job?

It is exciting to be part of a mission where the main goal is to provide a safe, secured environment for all Kosovo residents. And being part of such a mission makes me feel I am providing a valuable service to the U.S. men and women in uniform. I am helping them do their job, and this makes me feel important and proud.

Where are you from and are you married? Kids?

Currently I am living in Peja, a picturesque city located in the western part of Kosovo I am married to a beautiful woman, and I have a gorgeous and intelligent two-year-old daughter.

What do you and your family enjoy doing together?

Most of the time we try to get out of the house visit places, depending on the season we might play a game of bowling and of course, try food menus from different areas.

What do you and your family enjoy doing together?

We like going out from time to time, even though since our daughter's birth we have traded eating out in restaurants for places that provide a children's recreational area. Simply put, regardless of what we do, as long as we do it together as a family it is enjoyable.

2011 Frankfurt airport shooting illustrates terrorism's 'evolving threat'

Story by U.S. Army Sgt. Daniel Cole, U.S. Army Europe Public Affairs

In March 2011 a "lone wolf" gunman targeted a group of U.S. Airmen on a bus parked at Germany's Frankfurt International Airport. By the time he was apprehended, two Airmen were dead and two were wounded.

As the anniversary of that attack approaches, U.S. Army Europe antiterrorism officials are using that tragic incident to help illustrate terrorism's "evolving threat."

The Army is spotlighting the evolving threat of attacks on its Soldiers, equipment and installations as its current antiterrorism theme to educate members of the U.S. forces community against what they describe as a more innovative, opportunistic method of planning and carrying out attacks than people may consider conventional terrorist methods.

Antiterrorism experts say the evolving threat often centers on a "lone wolf" attack, a recent form of terrorist attack involving individuals who work on a much smaller scale and without specific guidance from organized terror groups to assault local targets. These smaller-scale attacks require less planning and coordination, and create fewer indicators that could alert others that an attack is imminent.

Antiterrorism officials say the airport shooting shows how the evolving threat is transforming terrorism with a shift away from the traditional "al-Qaida type attacks."



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Some simple ways people can protect themselves include:

- * Be aware of their surroundings and the actions of others around them
- * Reporting suspicious behavior
- * Not dressing or acting in a way that makes them stand out from local citizens or brands them as Americans or members of the U.S. forces community
- * Removing stickers and other items from their vehicles and belongings that indicate they are Americans or members of the U.S. forces community
- * Not wearing uniforms while traveling on public or commercial transportation (except taxis).

Because these smaller events require much less planning and attract less attention, the experts say, they can be carried out in a more nonchalant manner that gives the attacker greater opportunity to target members of the U.S. forces community.

In spite of the nature of these smaller attacks, USAREUR antiterrorism officials say there are still ways people can lower their risk of becoming victims of terrorism.

"Countering the evolving threat requires more individual efforts through continual vigilance, reporting suspicious activity, and practicing individual protective measures," said Jessica Bittle, a force protection specialist in USAREUR's Antiterrorism Division.

For more information and resources for combating terrorism, personal protective measures and reporting suspicious activity, visit the USAREUR vigilance web page at www.eur.army.mil/vigilance or the USAREUR Antiterrorism Division's "Stay Safe" Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/StaySafeAntiterrorism>



MWR Corner

If you have free time, or you are spending the night at Camp Bondsteel, there are many activities that MWR organizes during the month.

Monday, Mar. 17 there will be a 5 km **St. Patrick's Day** fun run starting at 0700 hrs at South Town Fitness Center.

You can reserve the indoor or outdoor basketball court at South Town Fitness Center. Send an email to Mr. Anthony Mullings and Mr. Jay Debose to make your reservation at the emails below:
anthony.c.mullings.naf@mail.mil
jay.m.debose.naf@mail.mil



If you like working out, Medal of Honor Hall gym and South Town Fitness Center are open 24 hrs.

Karaoke Night every Thursday starting at 2000 hrs, either at South Town Fitness Center or Coffee Shop

There are different tournaments and regular daily activities such as:

- 3 Point Shootout on Mar. 5, from 1800 hrs at South Town Fitness Center.
- Table Tennis tournament on Mar. 11, from 1800 hrs at South Town Community Center.
- 3 on 3 Basketball Competition on Mar. 12, from 1800 hrs at South Town Fitness Center.
- Bench Press Competition on Mar. 19, at 1800 hrs at South Town Fitness Center.
- Volleyball Tournament on Mar. 25, from 1800 hrs at South Town Fitness Center.
- 8 Ball Pool Tournament on Mar. 27, from 1800 hrs at South Town Community Center.

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He explained that some of the main issues they face during the day of the TOA.

"The last minute issues that we see is with the process with responding to requests [RSVP], where more people showed up then responded, for example there was a change from the mayor to a deputy mayor, and changing drivers out, so little things that occur every time, and that is where the continuity that AST provides is important," added O'Brien.

O'Brien explained that behind the scenes, the TOA ceremony ran really smooth and well.

"Even though there were some last minute issues, but they were no different issues than other TOA ceremonies, and actually I think we ran even smoother this time than previous two ceremonies I have been involved in," said O'Brien.



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