

# THE BONDSTEEL BULLET

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NEWSLETTER

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SKENDERAJ, Kosovo -- Firefighters stand in front of their newly donated building at the Skenderaj fire station, July 8. Area Support Team Balkans, in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy in Pristina, donated the building as part a process to help communities in Kosovo improve their capacity for humanitarian response and disaster readiness. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Cody Barber, 11th Public Affairs Detachment)

- Area Support Team Balkans have donated over 300 buildings to Kosovo, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Bosnia.
- Area Support Team Balkans has the base operations mission at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo with a forward operating office at Camp Butmir, Bosnia-Herzegovina.

## AST Balkans donates building to fire station in Kosovo

Story and photo by Sgt. Cody Barber, 11th Public Affairs Detachment

Area Support Team Balkans, in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy in Pristina, Kosovo, donated a building to a local fire department here, July 8.

The fire station received the building from the Camp Bondsteel team, as part of a process to put non-essential buildings into the hands of people and communities in the Balkans region.

"This project is part of a larger project to help communities in Kosovo to improve their capacity for humanitarian response and disaster preparedness," said Tracey Ann Jacobson, U.S. Ambassador to Kosovo. "When [the building] became available, we knew that in Skenderaj there was a need for more capacity."

The building was disassembled at Camp Bondsteel and the building materials were transported north over 30 miles to the town. The municipality of Skenderaj was responsible for the pick-up, delivery and set-up of the building. Additionally, it is responsible for the sustainment and proper use of the

building for the long term.

Della Hodges, AST Balkans Director, said this is just one of the many buildings that have been donated to the Balkans area.

"We have donated over 300 buildings to Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Bosnia," she said. "It has been a success story in taking in what is no longer needed at Camp Bondsteel by the U.S. Army, and putting it to good use elsewhere."

Limon Geci, Skenderaj Fire Station chief, said receiving the building will greatly improve the capabilities for his firefighters.

"Before, we had to store the fire trucks in an unsafe location," said Geci. "Now the trucks will be stored in the new building and we will be able to react faster and safer."

When the ceremony concluded and the sign above the building door was unveiled, Geci was very thankful that his fire station received the donated building that could ultimately help his crew save lives.

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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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Tracey Ann Jacobson, U.S. Ambassador to Kosovo and deputy mayor of Skenderaj Fadil Nura officially inaugurate the building that was donated to Skenderaj firefighter station. Area Support Team Balkans, in collaboration with the U.S. Embassy in Pristina, donated the building as part a process to help communities in Kosovo improve their capacity for humanitarian response and disaster readiness. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Cody Barber, 11th Public Affairs Detachment)

# Four Reasons to Visit Prizren

Story and Photos by Ardian Nrecaj, Public Affairs Specialist

Just an hour and a half southeast of Camp Bondsteel is the town of Prizren. With many different festivals throughout the year, the rich history and heritage make it the cultural capital of Kosovo.

The main landmarks in Prizren are the 16th century bridge over the Lumbardh/Bistrica River and the ruins of an 11th century castle. Even though the castle lays in ruins on top of a hill with a beautiful overlook to the city, it reflects strength.

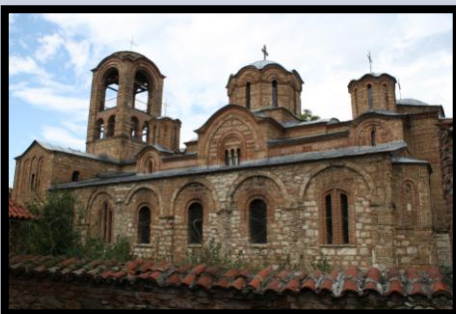
"Apart from many historical sites, it is worth visiting monuments that make Prizren distinctive and combine different cultures," said Nora Arapi, a Prizren native and architect by profession. Arapi points to five main historical objects that anybody visiting must see.



*Sinan Pasha Mosque was built in 1615, it stands on high level overlooking the main street in Prizren.*



*The Turkish Bathhouse locally known as the hamam of Prizren was built in 1573.*



*Church of Holy Virgin of Ljeviska dates back to 9th – 11th centuries.*

**1. Sinan Pasha Mosque.** Built in 1615, its architecture demonstrates compactness, gracefulness and elegance. It represents a rarity in Islamic art thanks to its position, elegance, massive properties and the graceful minaret. The enormous dome is fitted harmoniously into the square mass of the building, dominating over the surrounding part of the town.

The mosque stands on a high level overlooking the main street in the historical part of Prizren. The interior of the mosque is decorated with geometrical designs, still-life and draperies, while the other parts of the walls are painted in strong light colors. The mosque still preserves its original stone flooring and interior decoration as well as the podium and the carpentry works. It is one of the most attractive monuments in Prizren.

**2. Gazi Mehmet Pasha Hamam (Turkish bathhouse).** The Hamam of Prizren is an early Ottoman-era monument in which oriental and local traditions combine. The bath was founded in 1573.

It is unusual that this is a double bath, one half for men and the other one for women, separated with a special entrance for each. It has the same internal different spaces: area for undressing, warm area, and heated area with different small washing rooms. The heated area has vaults and small domes covered by lead sheets while the undressing area has domes covered by tiles. The building is constructed from rubble stones and lime.

Presently, galleries of Turkish Bath of Gazi Mehmet Pasha are mainly used for figurative and photo exhibitions, literary promotion meetings, chamber music concerts, etc.

**3. Church of the Holy Virgin of Ljeviska.** Just west of the city center, the Mother of God Ljeviska Cathedral is one of the most important churches to have survived in the entire region, and one of the finest examples of late Byzantine architecture. The Ljeviska Church dates back to the 9th-11th centuries. The original construction was a three-aisled basilica. In 1306, it was remodeled by King Milutin of Serbia when a cross-in-square design was incorporated into the central nave of the old basilica.

The church's most famous feature is its' decorative wall paintings, which include scenes such as the "Wedding at Canaa", "Healing of the Blind" and "Holy Mother of God with Christ the Guardian". Some of the paintings were damaged during riots in 2004 and since 2006 the Ljeviska Church is on the UNESCO world heritage list. During the Ottoman rule the church was turned into a mosque and a minaret was placed on top of the tower, but after the departure of the Ottomans in 1912 it was reversed and the minaret was removed in 1923.

**4. Cathedral of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.** This Roman-Catholic church is situated on the west side of the city center, about a five minute walk from Shadërvan Square. It was built around 1870-1875 in the time of Archbishop of Skopje, Dario Bucciarelli. The bell tower with the clock was added later in the 20th century. According to the roof with a cross-arched ceiling, façade [rosette and niches] and arched openings, this church belongs to a Neo-Romanesque style. The cold stone exterior of the building is a contrast to its colorful interior of marble and paintings. The portraits of Gjergj Kastrioti "Skënderbeu" [an Albanian national hero] and John Hunyadi [Hungarian commander] at the northwest side of the church are of a national significance. The church is a part of a greater ensemble composed from Neo-classical facilities built during the 20th century.





In that regard, we must have approval on any structures being built between the buildings that may trap or hinder fire fighters ability to freely move around without hindrance, tripping, falls, or entrapment should the fire flare up.

Keeping these areas organized and free of potential obstacles is of the utmost concern. There must be controls in place to protect those that are protecting us. Grills, chairs, benches, and other comfort materials in between the buildings must be maintained in an orderly fashion when not in use.

Move them to the center of the pathway to give the fire fighters room to maneuver; or once cooled down or charcoal is out, place them next to the building.

We must maintain no less than 36 inches of uncluttered space from porch rails to the nearest obstruction, or a clear center aisle.

No handmade structure can extend beyond the lateral lines of the end of buildings so we can maintain a clear path in between the quads of buildings.

## A word from Safety about Fire Prevention Tactics

Story by William Beecher, Area Support Team Balkans Safety Manager

As the weather continues to warm, conducting fun activities outdoors increases proportionally. So do bad habits that we are unaccustomed to after the fall and winter.

Those activities outside the norm and not covered in standard operating procedure require written risk assessments and command decisions for acceptance of risk for that activity.

The Camp Bondsteel Fire SOP outlines the rules on having grills at the required distance from the wooden structures for fire prevention. The rule states, "No heat or open flame can be closer than 10 feet from the building."

Radiant heat can cause wood to smolder in a relatively short time and spontaneously erupt. These structures are 10 years beyond their expected life span and we have taken a hard line on protecting what we have with great success.

Ground fires, including bonfires, fire pits, and camp fires are not authorized on Camp Bondsteel. Also stacks of wood piled in and around the buildings cause hazards in a case of fire.

We have become lackadaisical in this regard and need to tighten controls to prevent a catastrophic loss.

Fire needs to be contained in a grill-like device that can be covered, smothered, and controlled when sparks start coming off the heated surfaces. Any other burning source must go through a vetting process with Department of Public Works for approval.

Wind limits for CBS are above 20 knots and in case a wind advisory is issued for 21-34 knots by the Air Force Weather Squadron, grills and fires should be extinguished.

Self Help Projects project MUST be approved through DPW, whether it's a planter box or ground decking in between the buildings.

The reason for this is that in case the fire department has to respond they likely will have to move between the buildings, dragging hoses to control the fire and keep it from spreading and save as much of the building, and your personal belongings, as we physically are capable of doing.





# 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.

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](mailto:anthony.c.mullings.naf@mail.mil)  
[jay.m.debose.naf@mail.mil](mailto: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 CONTEST**  
 on August 28,  
 starting at 1900 hrs,  
 at Cool Beans  
 Coffee shop

There are different tournaments and regular daily activities such as:

- *Outdoor Volleyball Tournament on August 19, from 1800 hrs at South Town Fitness Center.*
- *Home Run Derby Competition on August 23, from 1500 hrs at South Town Softball Field.*
- *3 Point Basketball Shootout on August 26, from 1800 hrs at South Town Fitness Center.*
- *Ping Pong Tournament on August 27, from 1800 hrs at South Town Community Center.*
- *Softball League Championship Game on August 31, from 1500 hrs at South Town Softball Field.*
- *Step Interval and Toning Class every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, from 0630 hrs at South Town Fitness Center.*



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brent Freese from Multinational Battle Group East TF Aviation received the Camp Bondsteel Fire Department T-Shirt as the winner of the monthly Fire Safety Quiz which can be obtained in the dining facility main entrance and South Town Gym. Presenting Freese with his T-Shirt is Jon Stanescu Firefighter Chief at Camp Bondsteel. (Photo the courtesy of Camp Bondsteel fire department).

 Check out Facebook for all the great photos and work going on [www.facebook.com/KFOR.MNBG.East](http://www.facebook.com/KFOR.MNBG.East)

 Email your photos for the monthly magazine to [mnbgeast@gmail.com](mailto:mnbgeast@gmail.com)

 Get the links for videos your in on [www.youtube.com/MNBGEast](http://www.youtube.com/MNBGEast)

 Tune into **Channel 12 or 35** to watch various movies, shows and our weekly newscast



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