

GUARDIAN EAST



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Multinational cooperation: U.S. Army Soldiers partner with KSF TRADOC



Left: Staff Sgt. Derek Beebe, a North Carolina National Guard Soldier deployed to Kosovo with the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, observes a group of Kosovo Security Force noncommissioned officers during an exercise at the KSF Training and Doctrine Command, Centre for University Studies, Oct. 24, 2015, in Ferizaj, Kosovo. **Right:** Sgt. Christine Vu, a flight medic with the MNBG-E Southern Command Post, explains medevac hoist procedures. (Photos by Ardian Nrecaj)

By Ardian Nrecaj

Multinational Battle Group-East

Multinational Battle Group-East Soldiers assisted Kosovo Security Force Training and Doctrine Command instructors during a series of exercises this past October in Ferizaj, Kosovo.

The KSF organization is located near Camp Bondsteel, where U.S. Army Soldiers in the MNBG-E headquarters live and work while deployed on NATO's peace support mission in Kosovo.

U.S. Army Maj. Frederick Keller, the deputy operations officer for MNBG-E and the North Carolina National Guard's 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, explained that there were two separate field training events: one event for the KSF officer's academy and the other for their basic noncommissioned officer course.

"The exercises were run by KSF TRADOC," Keller said. "Our involvement initially began when we were introduced to TRADOC's leadership by our [Kosovo Force] predecessors, and that relationship has continued to grow over the past months."

MNBG-E is part of NATO's Kosovo Force mission in the region, responsible for ensuring Kosovo's safe and secure environment and freedom of movement. KFOR soldiers support KSF staff and senior

leader development, such as within TRADOC, through KFOR's NATO Liaison and Advisory Team.

According to Keller the exercise went incredibly well, and he found KSF members to be "committed, professional and completely devoted to being the best they can be."

"Our soldiers and the KSF worked seamlessly together on many classes and larger events," Keller said. "The two-way flow of ideas and techniques was one of the best parts of the exercise, with our soldiers learning much from our KSF partners."

KSF Lt. Alban Bujupi, an instructor with Centre for University Studies at TRADOC explained that the main goal of the exercise was to prepare the cadets to practice putting the theories they've learned into action.

"We hold classes for them at the academy, so to learn them better, we are practicing those things," Bujupi said.

"The first-year cadets did individual movement, the other years focused on leadership and how to lead the troops during mission," he added.

Bujupi explained that this was not the first time they have had assistance from the U.S. Army.

"We gained a lot from them through their assistance and advice," Bujupi said.

U.S. Army Sgt. Ryan Skinner, a member of MNBG-E's Southern Command Post, was one of Sol-

diers who assisted during exercise.

"The cadets were really motivated and they learned pretty quickly," Skinner said. "Even the first-year cadets know their doctrine, and they did an excellent job."

During the exercise, Skinner and his colleagues observed the cadets completing land navigation during night and day, individual movement techniques, low- and high-crawls, and area reconnaissance patrols.

Keller explained that this partnership with KSF affects the core of mission with KFOR: promoting a safe and secure environment.

"Sharing our experience in areas such as natural disaster response, especially as National Guard soldiers, makes a tremendous impact," Keller said. "This direct involvement with the KSF also develops MNBG-E's soldiers and leaders, through the experience of learning from our partners."

KSF and MNBG-E are already planning further combined events for the remainder of the 30th ABCT's tour in Kosovo.

"Throughout the next two months we will conduct various training events with TRADOC that should culminate in another larger event in January 2016," Keller said.

Get packages home for the holidays by knowing international shipping rules

By Capt. Timothy Haga

MNBG-E Judge Advocate, Ops Law and Legal Assistance

With the holidays approaching, mail becomes a huge issue. In coordination with the postal detachment at Camp Bondsteel, there are things to remember when mailing packages back home.

Our packages are inspected once at the Camp Bondsteel post office, then again by German customs before finally going to their final destination.

It helps to be aware of the various postal and customs policies and regulations. In the event something looks odd on an X-ray or other method of inspection, that package will be pulled and eventually sent back to the sender.

Our postal detachment reports significant delays in those packages coming back.

To prevent delays and/or returns, or if you have any questions, please review the postal materials in the public JAG folder on the MNBG-E Shared Drive, talk with one of the representatives at the postal detachment, or contact the MNBG-E Legal Assistance office.

Join MNBG-E in recognizing National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month

By Master Sgt. Jenny Whichard

MNBG-E Equal Opportunity

The month of November was designated as National American Indian Heritage month in 1990. The title has since expanded to celebrate Alaska Natives as well. National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month celebrates and recognizes the accomplishments of the original inhabitants, explorers, and settlers of the United States.

Currently there are 566 federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes and more than 100 state recognized tribes across the United States. American Indians have participated with distinction in United States military actions for more than 200 years. Historically, American Indians have the highest record of service per capita when compared to other ethnic groups.

The American Indian cultures are known for their rich oral tradition used to share their history, customs, rituals, and legends through vivid narratives.

Each time a story was told, it breathed life into their culture, cultivated their verbal language, gave meaning to the tribe's history, and also taught life lessons about leadership and honor.

The month of November provides us with an opportunity to celebrate the profound impact of American Indians and Alaska Natives in shaping our country's character and our cultural heritage.



NATO and all Allied flags were lowered to half-mast at NATO Headquarters on Nov. 14, 2015, following the prior day's horrific terrorist attacks in Paris. Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg strongly condemned the attacks, saying, "We stand strong and united in the fight against terrorism. Terrorism will never defeat democracy." (Photo courtesy of NATO)



A U.S. Army explosive ordnance disposal Soldier from the 666th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company watches as a collection of unexploded ordnance is detonated, Oct. 30, 2015, on a demolition range at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. The unexploded ordnance had been recovered from civilian communities around Kosovo by MNBG-E and Kosovo Security Force EOD personnel. (Photo by Sgt. David I. Marquis)

National American Indian Heritage Month

Department of Defense Special Observance

Growing Native Leaders: Enhancing Our Seven Generations

"Navajo Code Talkers" Documentary

Saturday, 21 November 2015

1330 – 1445 hrs @ Medal of Honor Hall

JOIN US!

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