



OPERATION **ALTHEA**
EUROPEAN UNION FORCE IN **BiH**



**INFORMATION
BOOKLET**

March 2019

**Camp Butmir, Sarajevo
Bosnia and Herzegovina**

WELCOME TO EUFOR

The European Union provides significant resources to Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) as part of its comprehensive approach, supporting the country on its journey towards European integration. European Union Force (EUFOR) Operation ALTHEA is the EU's military commitment to this journey.

Our main objective at EUFOR is to ensure a Safe and Secure Environment (SASE) in the country, especially supporting the BiH authorities' efforts in maintaining this. This information booklet gives you a concise overview of EUFOR Operation ALTHEA's mission, objectives, force elements and activities to promote a climate in which the peace process can continue.



Since becoming Commander EUFOR in March 2018, I have noticed the substantial work undertaken by Armed Forces of BiH (AFBiH) in dealing with the surplus of weapons and ammunition. Together with EUFOR and international partners, the Armed Forces are focusing upon clearing the remaining landmines throughout the country as part of the plan 'Mine Free by 2025'. Furthermore, the AFBiH are developing into a force used for both civil and military tasks: the idea of a dual use of forces and assets for crisis tasks such as medical evacuation, engineering and disaster relief efforts.

Many of these capabilities have been developed by EUFOR's Capacity Building and Training Programme which concluded in 2018. The Training and Co-operation Plan, signed in December 2018, will enhance the ability of the AFBiH to contribute to international military operations, such as in Afghanistan. BiH is now transforming successfully from a security consumer to a security provider.

Since EUFOR's mission began in 2004, the responsibility for the execution of many tasks has been handed over to the local authorities according to the principle of "local ownership" and in line with BiH's path towards EU membership. Nevertheless, EUFOR retains full responsibility and authority to re-take control, if the situation so requires.

The personnel of EUFOR, from 19 different countries, are the tangible representation of their countries' commitment to the future security of BiH – EUFOR is 'One Mission, One Team'.

Commander EUFOR
Major General Martin Dorfer

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EUFOR Mission and Mandate

On 2 December 2004 the EU launched EUFOR Operation ALTHEA in BiH, taking over from NATO-led SFOR (Stabilization Force). EUFOR has the main peace stabilization role with regard to the military aspects of the General Framework Agreement for Peace, while closely cooperating with NATO under the “Berlin Plus” Agreement.

The “Berlin Plus” Agreement enables EUFOR to draw on mobile and versatile reserve forces held in readiness by NATO to augment in-theatre forces and deal with any military contingency that arises, including the support of the BiH Ministry of Security and the Ministry of Defence, upon request.

Based on its executive mandate under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, the Force has contributed to the maintenance of a SASE in BiH, promoting a climate of peace and stability. In the meantime, the responsibility for the execution of many tasks related to a SASE has been handed over to the local authorities according to the principle of “local ownership” and in line with BiH’s path towards European integration.





Having explicitly been framed as part of the EU's comprehensive approach, Operation ALTHEA closely cooperates with the civilian parts of the EU presence in BiH, mainly the EU Delegation to BiH and the EU Special Representative.

Since 2004, the EUFOR mandate has evolved. Based on a decision of the EU Foreign Ministers in 2010, EUFOR provided "Capacity Building and Training" (CB&T) to the AFBiH in order to support them with military expertise and train them according to international standards for participation in Peace Support Operations and to enhance BiH's resilience (e.g. disaster relief). The CB&T program concluded in November 2018; EUFOR signed a Collective Training Plan with AFBiH in December 2018 in order to continue supporting their training efforts.



Extract of Main Legal Aspects

Mandated by the UN Security Council, Operation ALTHEA was launched on 2 December 2004. EUFOR currently operates under the legal authority of UNSCR 2443 (2018) and an Operational Plan issued by the Operation Commander.

Paragraph 3 of UNSCR 2443 (2018) authorizes EUFOR as a legal successor of SFOR, and by this including IFOR, to fulfil its mission in relation to the implementation of Annex 1-A and Annex 2 of the GFAP (Dayton Accord) in cooperation with the NHQ Sa on the basis of the "Delineation of Tasks" as agreed between NATO and the EU recognizing that EUFOR ALTHEA will have the main peace stabilization role under the military aspects of the Peace Agreement.

EUFOR Main Objectives

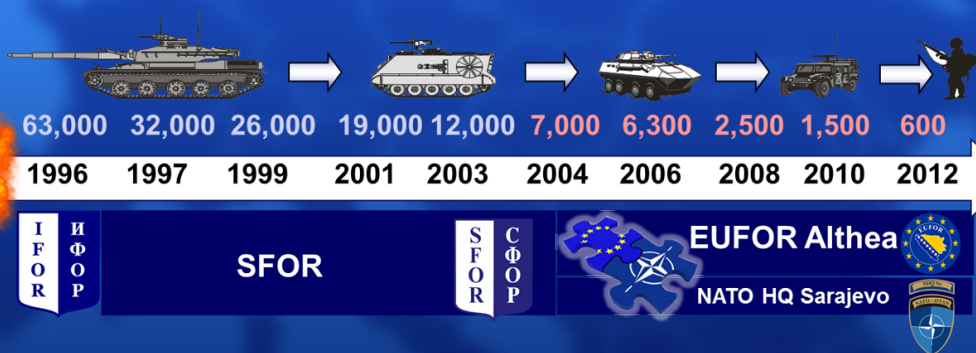
- Support the overall EU comprehensive approach for BiH.
- Ensure a SASE in the country, especially supporting the BiH efforts in this regard.
- Support the AFBiH via Collective and Combined Training in order to support their ability to sustain international standards.
- Specialist activities:
 - Monitoring the technical activities of demining organisations.
 - Monitoring and mentoring the AFBiH teams undertaking the management, storage, movement and disposal of Ammunition, Weapons and Explosives (AWE).
 - Delivering Mine Risk Education (MRE) to school children and the broader at-risk civilian population.



EUFOR Elements and Troop Strength



- The Headquarters at Camp Butmir.
- The Multinational Battalion.
- 17 Liaison and Observation Teams (EUFOR LOTs) spread across the country.
- The LOT Coordination Centre (LCC) coordinating the EUFOR LOT network.
- Embedded Advisory Teams (EATs) attached to the AFBiH.
- National Support Elements of Troop-Contributing Countries (TCC).



* Additional 200 personnel are required for logistic support provided by the National Support Elements (NSE) of the TCC.

Political Challenges



The majority of the BiH population perceives the presence of EUFOR as a reassuring element contributing to their sense of security. EUFOR still maintains a country wide presence, which allows EUFOR to have situational awareness and is also a visible sign of the EU's continuing commitment to BiH.



BiH is progressing on its path towards EU accession, having achieved significant progress on the socio-economic Reform Agenda, launched in 2015, and submitted its application for EU membership in 2016. Nevertheless, important challenges still need to be addressed:

- Power sharing mechanisms, which are based on an ethnic key and disempower those who don't belong to the "three constituent peoples", are in contradiction with EU core values.
- The leadership of the three "constituent peoples" still lacks a common vision for BiH. Bosniaks would prefer a strong and unitary state, whereas Bosnian Serbs tend to push for their self-governance, and Bosnian Croats continue to strive for what they consider a 'fairer share' of the power arrangements.
- Public institutions are costly, fragmented and partly dysfunctional, with civil servants often being selected according to political affiliation rather than merit.
- The reconciliation process, which is crucial for progress, goes slowly and is constantly hampered by politicians engaging in inflammatory nationalistic rhetoric.
- Short election cycles (general and local elections alternating in a 2-year rhythm) do not contribute to political continuity.
- The current system benefits those, who govern by keeping alive resentments and the fear of the other as basic means of achieving in-group consensus.

Threats to Peace and Stability

Threats to a SASE and obstacles to substantial progress in BiH:

- Ethno-nationalist centered politics.
- Polarization and demagoguery.
- Nationalistic and inflammatory rhetoric from political key figures.
- Tendency towards ethnically motivated acts of intimidation, harassment and in some cases violence.
- Powerful organized crime networks.
- Corruption.
- Weak economy.
- High unemployment rate, especially among the young generation.



Security Challenges



POLITICAL INSTABILITY

INTER-ETHNIC TENSIONS

EXTREMISM

TERRORISM



POLITICAL INSTABILITY



TERRORISM



EXTREMISM



INTER-ETHNIC TENSIONS



FOREIGN
TERRORIST
FIGHTER (FTF)
NETWORKS



SOCIO-ECONOMIC
INSTABILITY



ECONOMIC FINANCIAL CRIME
AND CORRUPTION



ORGANISED CRIME (OC)

FOREIGN TERRORIST FIGHTER (FTF) NETWORKS

SOCIO-ECONOMIC INSTABILITY

ECONOMIC FINANCIAL CRIME AND CORRUPTION

ORGANISED CRIME (OC)

Arms Control

Arms Production

EUFOR conducts verifications and inspections of Defence Industry Factories in close coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations and the Ministry of Security for Situational Awareness on imports and exports of Ordnance, Munitions and Military Equipment.

Additionally EUFOR trains, mentors and monitors AFBiH personnel in order to provide sufficient ammunition related know-how for demilitarization of surplus ammunition by conducting Ammunition-Delaboration courses. AFBiH is now conducting its own marking and registration of approximately 70,000 Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in accordance with international standards, and should be completed in 2019.

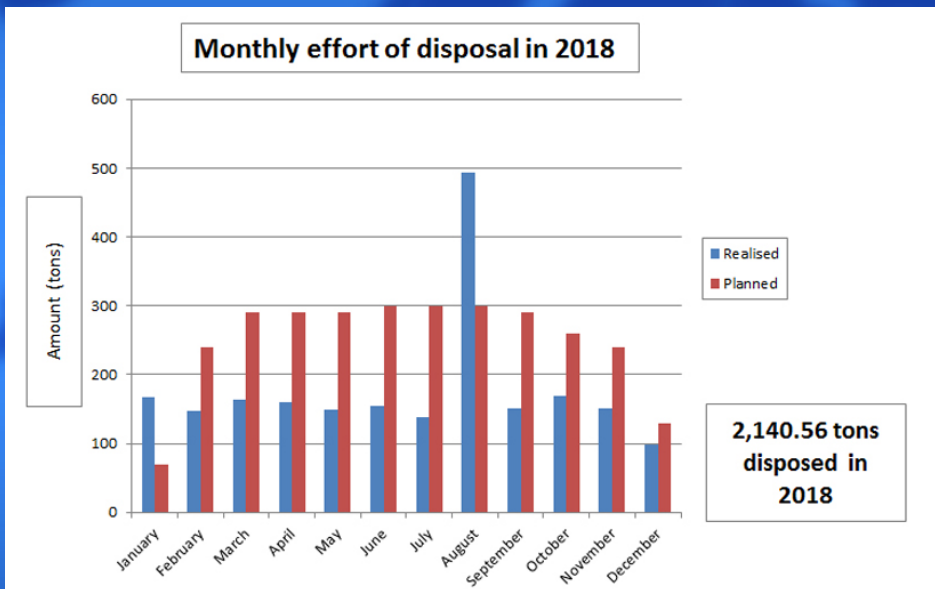
The excessive stockpiles of ammunition and associated problems continue to pose a significant danger to human security and infrastructure in BiH. The AFBiH are responsible for the management of ammunition located in 15 storage sites throughout the country. All ammunition currently in stock is not only over several decades old, but also at the end of its life cycle, becoming increasingly hazardous as time passes.





Weapons and Ammunition

EUFOR conducts verifications and inspections in weapon and ammunition storage sites. To establish a safe Ammunition Life Cycle Management visual inspections are essential to identify usable ammunition and to mark which has to be destroyed to prevent uncontrolled explosions.



Disposal of unsafe and surplus ammunition is conducted by AFBiH, local, regional and international companies with support of the International Community. Biggest financial donors are the European Union and the U.S. State Department.



AWE Masterplan

The “Ammunition, Weapons and Explosives” (AWE) Masterplan, developed by EUFOR and the International Community (IC) and owned by the BiH Ministry of Defence, assigns EUFOR a leading role in the coordination of BiH’s and the IC’s efforts to reduce the amount of dangerous surplus AWE in BiH and establish a sustainable “Life Cycle Management”.

EUFOR provides essential expertise, support, monitoring and mentoring in the following areas:

- Storage sites infrastructure (installation of safety and security of systems).
- 100% inventory of all ammunition (completed in November 2018).
- Disposal of surplus ammunition.
- Establishment of a “Life Cycle Management” for ammunition stockpiles.
- Efficient coordination of the efforts of the IC (including donors and funds).

Funds and equipment essential for these efforts are provided by Switzerland, Germany, Norway, the UK, Turkey, Denmark, Czech Republic and Liechtenstein for upgrading security infrastructure and the EU, Germany, Netherlands, USA and the US State Department for disposal of ammunition.

Projects



EUSTAR Project

The EUSTAR (European Union Assistance to Stockpile Management, Technical Support, and Ammunition Surplus Reduction) represents the second phase of EU support to the establishment of sustainable stockpile management in BiH. The project is the successor to the EXPLODE project which witnessed the disposal of more than 1,800 tons of ammunition over its life cycle.

The EUSTAR Project will see close cooperation between local authorities (MoD and Armed Forces of BiH) and international actors (EU, EUFOR and UNDP) – to coordinate and implement activities designed to contribute to the disposal of around 3,000 tons of unsafe and unstable ammunition, and complex weapon systems.



The marking of SALW project will:

- further strengthen the security of military stockpiles,
- reduce the risk of diversion by contributing to the establishment of a sustainable and comprehensive weapons management system in BiH,
- increase the capacity of the MoD and the AFBiH to carry out a comprehensive inventory of the military weapons stockpile and,
- implement effective marking, recording, and record-keeping practices.

This is done in line with the BiH AWE Master Plan and the BiH SALW Strategy (2016-2020), and BiH's international commitments on arms control.

Mine Action



BiH has one of the most severe landmine problems in the world. EUFOR is contributing to a SASE by:

- supporting BiH Mine Action authorities in order to make them more effective and efficient,
- supporting the EU on technical issues concerning new demining projects in BiH, in which the EU will invest significant funds,
- supporting the Demining Battalion of the AFBiH by monitoring, advising and assisting their demining operations in order to increase their operational and logistical effectiveness,
- continuing to provide Mine Risk Education (MRE) for vulnerable and at-risk groups such as farmers, forestry companies, hunting clubs and in particular children of all ages in order to raise awareness and promote safe behavior.



BEWARE!



BEWARE! MINES MOVE

LANDMINES CAN DRIFT AWAY FROM THE MARKED AREAS
DUE TO FLOODS AND SOIL EROSION !



17 EUFOR HOUSES ACROSS BiH



CAZIN BANJA LUKA ZAVIDOVIĆI VIŠEGRAD
 LIVNO TRAVNIK DOBOJ SARAJEVO TUZLA
 ZENICA MOSTAR JABLANICA BRČKO TREBINJE FOČA BRATUNAC

FOR A SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT

EUFOR throughout BiH

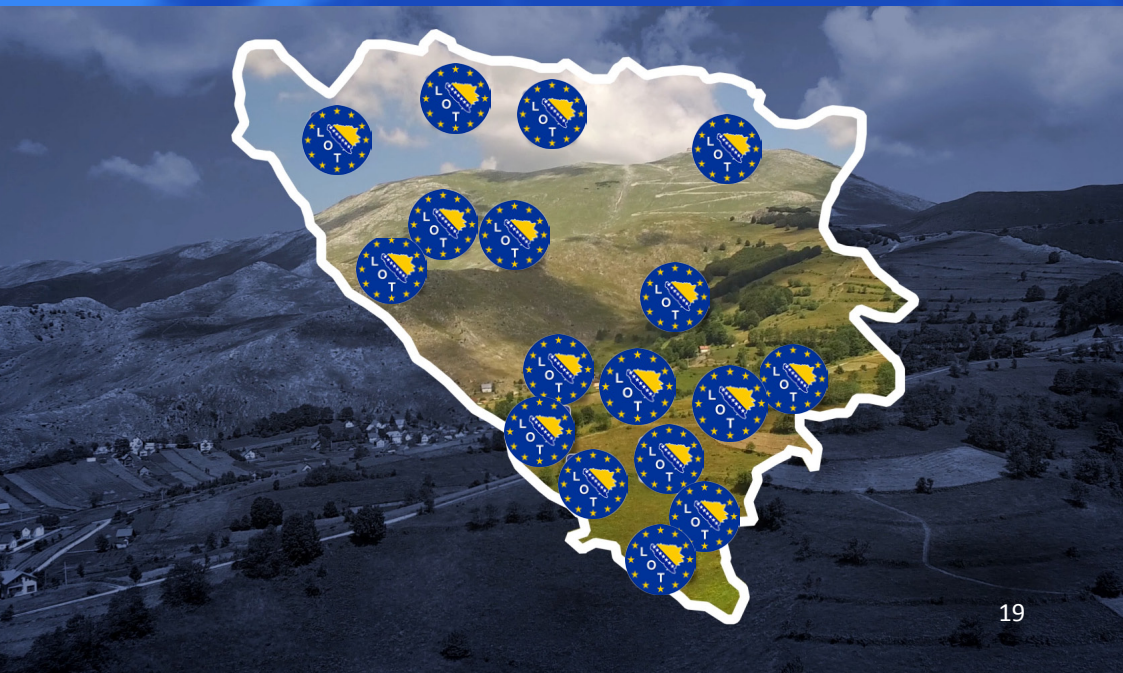


EUFOR retains its presence throughout BiH through teams of soldiers living in EUFOR LOT Houses across the country.

They are in touch with the local authorities and the population as well as other agencies to monitor the general situation across BiH and to be aware of local issues that could affect the security situation. The 17 EUFOR Teams provide information for the EUFOR Headquarters in Sarajevo and are guided by their LOT Co-ordination Centre (LCC) in Camp Butmir, Sarajevo.

For a Safe and Secure Environment

The LCC has been installed as a part of EUFOR to have full and timely situational awareness related to events in BiH and to propose actions related to security issues. While the EUFOR LOT houses have a limited area of responsibility, the LCC is responsible for the whole geographical area of BiH. Knowing what is important to the people of BiH enables EUFOR to provide support in maintaining a SASE in BiH.



Multinational Battalion



The EUFOR manoeuvre unit, the Multinational Battalion (MNBN) based in Camp Butmir Sarajevo, is currently made up of troops from Austria, Hungary and Turkey. At the moment it is the only military manoeuvre unit operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The MNBN is motorised, equipped and trained to respond to different kinds of situations. Additionally the troops contribute to EUFOR's Combined and Collective training and exercises with the AFBiH.

If the situation requires, EUFOR can be reinforced by reserves provided by EU countries and NATO. This is exercised on a yearly basis through the exercise series 'Quick Response'.





EUFOR

**FOR A SAFE AND SECURE
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA**

Collective and Combined Training



The EUFOR Capacity Building and Training (CB&T) project was started in 2010 and concluded in 2018 with over 5000 soldiers attending training courses. It provided the BiH authorities with military expertise and technical support.

In December 2018 EUFOR BiH signed a Collective Training Plan with AFBiH. The Collective and Combined training, at unit and brigade level, allows the AFBiH to contribute in international exercises and operations.

Along with military skills and leadership training, EUFOR has enabled a significant range of capability-enhancing training events including dismantling and delaboration of surplus and outdated ammunition, deployability and mobility, disaster relief operations, road construction, flight operations, flight safety and communications security.



MORE THAN JUST AN ARMY

ARMED FORCES OF BiH





EUFOR **WORKING TOGETHER** **FOR A SAFE AND SECURE BIH.**

Exercise Quick Response, October 2019

Quick Response Exercise Serial



Quick Response is a EUFOR-led peace support operations exercise practicing EUFOR's capability to call in reserve forces to maintain a SASE in close co-operation with local authorities, law enforcement agencies and the AFBiH.

This is exercised on an annual basis involving EUFOR's Multinational Battalion, the Intermediate Reserve Forces flying in from the United Kingdom and the KFOR Tactical Reserve Battalion coming from Kosovo.

Although the scenarios differ from year to year, they are all designed to provide the opportunity to expand knowledge and experience of large-scale peace support operations.





17 EUFOR LOT HOUSES ACROSS BIH. FOR A SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT. FOR YOU.

Many nations, one mission.

Locations marked on the map: CAZIN, BANJA LUKA, DOBOJ, BRCKO, TRAVNIK, ZAVIDOVIĆI, TIŠLA, ZENICA, SARAJEVO, LIVNO, JABLANICA, MOSTAR, TREBNIJE, VIŠEGRAD, FOČA, BRATUNAC, PRAČINA, ROMANIJE.

[f](#) [t](#) [i](#) [y](#) [v](#) [e](#) euforbih
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Public Perception of EUFOR



EUFOR conducts two major surveys per year to have an overview over the public opinion regarding EUFOR, EU, NATO, AFBiH, and security related issues. These surveys contribute to the overall situational awareness and help to design EUFOR's media campaigns and Measurements of Effectiveness (MoE).

Public opinion of the past two years at a glance

On EUFOR

- EUFOR is important factor for safety and stability in BiH.
- Supporting the IC and Collective Training with AFBiH are EUFOR's key roles.
- The number of people seeing the maintenance of a SASE as EUFOR's key role increases.

On the Overall Situation

- Most of the people living in BiH describe the political situation as critical or deteriorating.
- Majority of BiH citizens support a membership in the EU.
- The number of citizens who think an international military presence is necessary in the future increased.

On Armed Forces of BiH

- Military defence of BiH is seen the main task of AFBiH.
- Armed Forces should serve the people in BiH through disaster relief or demining rather than participating in peace support operations, combating terrorism or meeting international obligations.
- Participation of AFBiH in peace support operations around the world under EU or NATO flag divides the populace. There is consent when it comes to support missions under the UN flag.

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