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BROCHURE

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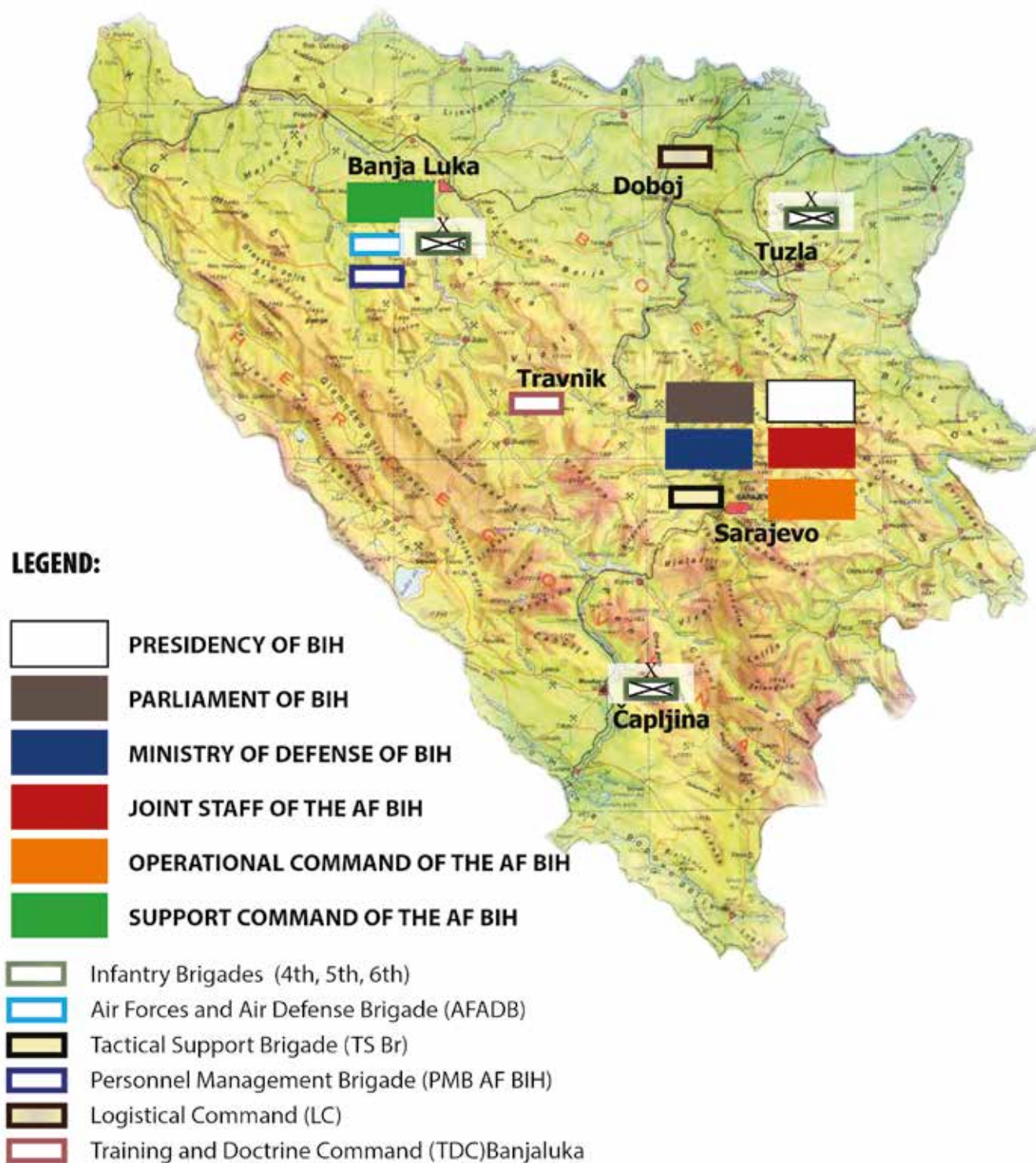
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BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

DEFENSE STRUCTURE OF BIH



REFORM OF DEFENSE STRUCTURE IN BiH

In July 2001, the Presidency of BiH expressed clear commitment for accession of Bosnia and Herzegovina into European and Euro - Atlantic integration and the NATO Partnership for Peace Program, as well as for implementation of the reforms required in terms of the defense system and the restructuring of its Armed Forces. Having these objectives in mind, major efforts have been made over the past period in order to create the environment necessary for successful process of the reform of the defense system, for attaining of internal stability and creating the conditions for credible NATO bid.

2002

- **OCTOBER** - The General Secretariat of the Standing Committee for Military Affairs was established as an antecedent to the Ministry of Defense of BiH.



Meeting of the Commission, Sarajevo, 2003

2003

- **MAY** – The Commission for Reform, of Defense in BiH was established.
- **DECEMBER** – The first Law on Defense of BiH was passed, thereby establishing the Ministry of Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Meeting of the first Minister of Defense and his Deputies with the representatives of the military and diplomatic corps in BiH, 15 December 2004

2004

- **MARCH** – Nikola Radovanovic was appointed the first Minister of Defense in Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as his deputies, Enes Becirbasic, Deputy in charge of policies and planning, and Marina Pendes, Deputy in charge of resource management.
- **MAY** – The first-ever joint collective exercise was conducted between the Army of the RS and Army of the FBiH.
- **JUNE** – The NATO Summit in Istanbul was held, at which heads of countries and governments of the North Atlantic Alliance members appealed on BiH to make „continuous progress towards establishment of the single military forces“.
- **JULY** – 13 Generals of the AF BiH were appointed.



Meeting of the USEUCOM representatives with the newly appointed Generals of the AF BiH, 13 July 2004

- **NOVEMBER** – Honorary Unit of the AF BiH was formed.

2005

- **FEBRUARY** – The Decision of the Presidency of BiH passed expressing BiH commitment for NATO membership.
- **MARCH** – The Law on Participation of the Members of the AF BiH, Police Officers, Civil Servants and Other Employees in Peace Support Missions and Other Foreign Activities was passed.
- **MAY** – The Presidency of BiH passed the decision on deployment of troops from the AF BiH into the Peace Support Mission in Iraq.
- **JUNE** – The 1st rotation of the AF BiH UXO disposal unit was deployed into the Iraqi peace support mission.
- **DECEMBER** – The second Law on Defense of BiH was passed - the Law on Service in the AF BiH was passed.



First presentation of the Honorary Unit of the AF BiH, 26 November 2004



Farewell ceremony for members of the 1st rotation of the UXO Disposal Unit bound for Iraq, 1 June 2005

2006

- **JANUARY** – The Entity Ministries of Defense and Army were revoked:
 - The Employees from the MoD's of the FBiH and the RS became the employees of the MoD BiH
 - Mandatory military service was revoked;
 - The new single budget for defense at the state level came into application;
- **JULY** – the Decision of the Presidency of BiH was passed pertaining to the size, structure and locations of the AF BiH
 - a total of 16 000 members, specifically:
 - a) 10 000 professional military personnel
 - b) 1 000 civilians
 - c) 5 000 reserve members
 - representation of ethnic groups in the AF BiH:
 - a) Bosniaks 45,9%
 - b) Serbs 33,6%
 - c) Croats 19,8%
 - d) Other 0,7%
- **DECEMBER** – the First Anniversary of the AF BiH.
- **DECEMBER** – Admission of BiH into the NATO Partnership For Peace Program.



Marking of the First Anniversary of the AF BiH Day, 1 December 2006



NATO PfP Program Framework Document Signing Ceremony in Brussels, 14 December 2006

2006 - 2007

-
- **OCTOBER 2006 – OCTOBER 2007** – Personnel transition in the MoD and AF BiH
 - January 1, 2006 – 12 668 employees
 - November 19, 2007 – 9 392 employees

2007

- **FEBRUARY** – Selmo Cikotic was appointed the second Minister of Defense in BiH as well as his deputies Igor Crnadak, Deputy in charge of policies and planning, and Marina Pendes, Deputy in charge of resource Management.
- **MARCH** – BiH signed the Agreement on Exchange of Security Information with the NATO.
- **MAY** – Formation of the Support Command – Formation of the Personnel Management Command.
- **JUNE** – Formation of the 4th, 5th, and 6th Infantry Brigades.
- **SEPTEMBER** – Formation of the Tactical Support Brigade – Formation of the Air Forces and Air Defense Brigade – Formation of the Training and Doctrine Command.
- **SEPTEMBER** – The NATO Coordination Team of the Council of Ministers of BiH was established.
- **OCTOBER** – Formation of the Logistics Command,
 - Admission of BiH into full membership of the Southeast Europe Defense Ministers Organization (SEDM)
 - All commands and units of the AFBiH formed and stationed at the locations defined in the Presidential Decision on the Size, Structure and Locations of the AF BiH of July 2006.

2008

- **JANUARY** – The Presidency of BiH passed the Decision on Amendments to the Decision on the Size, Structure and Locations of the AF BiH (pursuant to the Decision, the required dislocation of the commands and units was completed in compliance with the Plan for Dislocation and Redeployment of Commands and Units).
- **FEBRUARY** – Beginning of Implementation of the training project for the AF BiH members from all brigades.



Tactical Support Brigade Formation Ceremony,
12 September 2007



Session of the NATO Coordination Team, chaired by
Mr. Igor Crnadak, 10 October 2007



Military base "Airport Dubrave", Živinice

- **MARCH** – At the May 3rd Barracks in Doboj, the Agreement on Final Disposal of Mobile Military Assets was signed.
- **APRIL** – NATO Summit in Bucharest, the invitation to BiH for “intensified” dialogue.
- **APRIL** – The first Public Announcement was published for admission of soldiers into the AF BiH.
- **JULY** – Transfer of duty between the Heads of Joint Staff of the AF BiH.
- **JULY** – The Presidency of BiH passed the Decision on the Structure of the General Corps in the AF BiH.
- **AUGUST** – The 1st rotation of the AF BiH Infantry Unit deployed in Iraq for the first time.
- **SEPTEMBER** – BiH invited into membership of the US-Adriatic Charter.
- **DECEMBER** – The official end of the participation of AFBiH members in the “Iraqi Freedom” by the arrival of the final group of AFBiH members from Iraq.



Agreement Signing Ceremony in Doboj, 27 March 2008



Ceremony at Transfer of Duty between the Heads of JS AF BiH, 21 July 2008



Farewell Ceremony for the members of the 1st rotation of the Infantry Unit bound for Iraq, 14 August 2008



Ceremony at the arrival of the 8th Rotation of the EOD unit and i 1st rotation of the Infantry unit, 15 December 2008

2009

- **JANUARY** - The BiH Presidency made a decision to deploy 10 staff officers of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF); in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.
- **MARCH** - BiH became a TCN to ISAF after the signing of the Agreement on AFBiH participation in ISAF and the Financial Agreement.
- **MARCH** - 2 officers deployed to Afghanistan, Danish Contingent on 25 March 2009 - official start of engagement in the ISAF mission.
- **APRIL** - Military Section of the BiH mission to NATO, HQ Brussels officially commenced its work on 1 April 2009.
- **APRIL** - Decision made on the development of the strategic document - Defense Review (27 April 2009).
- **MAY** - Signing of the Agreement on BiH joining the NATO Codification System (NCS). BiH accepts NCS principles, procedures and policies. BiH has an opportunity to join the NATO Codification System and to use the established data bases.
- **JUNE** - The Agreement to cooperation between the BiH Ministry of Defense and the BiH Ministry of Security regarding response to natural and other disasters.
- **JULY** - The institution of the Parliamentary Military Commissioner established by the adoption of the Law on the Parliamentary Military Commissioner of Bosnia and Herzegovina (7 July 2009).



Session of the BiH Presidency, 5 January 2009



Signing of the agreement, Brussels, 11 March 2009



Signing of the agreement, 14 May 2009



Signing of the agreement, 29 June 2009

- **JULY** - The first Partnership Goal for joining NATO met - Partnership goal G-0355-I language standards.
- **AUGUST** - Operational Command and Control Center for BiH defense institutions opened.
- **SEPTEMBER** - Joint Endeavor 2009 - more than 435 participants from 27 countries and BiH as a host nation had an opportunity to test the global telecommunication interoperability.
- **SEPTEMBER** - 8 AFBiH officers deployed to the ISAF mission, Afghanistan, as part of the German contingent.
- **OCTOBER** - BiH submitted the application for joining the Membership Action Plan (MAP).
- **OCTOBER** - Closing ceremony of NATO TF and opening of the BiH MoD Regional Transition Centers.
- **NOVEMBER** - Meeting of US-Adriatic Charter Ministers.



Certification award ceremony for STANAG team
AFBiH, 14 July 2009



OC opening ceremony, 5 August 2009

2010

- **MARCH** - 300 AFBiH soldiers discharged from the AFBiH due to the termination of their contracts.
- **APRIL** - The decision made on cooperation between Bosnia and Herzegovina and NATO at MAP level.
- **MAY** - The decision made on the NATO Perspektiva Program.



Joint Endeavor 2009, exercise site Kozara Barrack,
Banja Luka, 4-17 September 2009



NATO Summit in Tallinn (Estonia), 22-23 April 2010

- **JULY** - The first 2008-2010 IPAP cycle completed.
- **JULY** - The BiH Presidency made a decision to deploy 45 members of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission, (27 July 2010).
- **OCTOBER** - The first rotation of the AFBiH infantry unit deployed to ISAF.
- **NOVEMBER** - NATO Perspektiva Program.



NATO HQ, Brussels, 14 July 2010



Deployment ceremony, Dubrave Military Base, 15 October 2010



BiH Parliamentary Assembly, 18 November 2010

- **JANUARY - DECEMBER** – Termination of professional military service for 182 AFBiH soldiers who did not meet the requirements for extension of contracts on professional military service.
- **FEBRUARY** - Organization of the 51st Military Ski Championship.
- **APRIL** – In accordance with the decision made by NATO Allied Command Transformation, three PSOTC courses were accredited in the NATO Education Training Opportunities Catalogue.
- **OCTOBER** – The BiH Presidency made the decision on deployment of a group of instructors to the ISAF mission To work at the military police school.



Olympic mountains of Jahorina, Igman, Bjelašnica, 21 -26 February 2011

2011

2012

- **JANUARY- FEBRUARY** - 23rd International Conference of Heads of Religious Services in Military, 30 January - 03 February in Sarajevo.
- **FEBRUARY** - Appointment of the third BiH Minister of Defense, Muhamed Ibrahimovic, M.Sc. and his deputies: Deputy Minister for Policy and Plans Marina Pendes and Deputy Minister for Resources Mirko Okolic.
- **FEBRUARY** – First group of six AFBiH military police officers deployed to Afghanistan as instructors, within the team composed of members of armed forces of the countries signatories to the U.S.-Adriatic Charter.
- **APRIL** – The BiH Presidency made the Decision on Changes and Amendments to the Decision on Size, Structure and Locations of the AFBiH - in accordance with the decision, new 63 prospective military locations identified.
- **MAY** – NATO Summit held in Chicago during which BiH was credited for the results achieved on the path to NATO.
- **MAY - JUNE** – International exercise "Shared Resilience 2012".
- **JUNE** – Second Conference of NCOs of the U.S.- Adriatic Charter Member States' Armed Force.



Conference opening ceremony 30 January 2012



Official verification of the records on transfer of authority of the BiH MoD senior officials, 16 February 2012



NATO Summit in Chicago, 20 and 21 May 2012



Čapljina, 28 May - 07 June 2012



Sarajevo, 12 -15 June 2012

- **OCTOBER** – South Eastern Europe Defense Ministerial Meeting (SEDM).
- **OCTOBER** – MoD and AF BiH TV serial has started broadcasting "Our Force".
- **NOVEMBER** – New Minister of Defense Zekerijah Osmić appointed.
- **DECEMBER** – AFBiH Military Police Unit deployed to the ISAF mission in Afghanistan to provide military police support to U.S. forces on the ground and to mentor the Afghan Civilian Police.



Sarajevo, 2 - 4 October 2012



House of Representatives of the BiH Parliament confirmed the appointment of the new BiH Minister of Defense, 23 November 2012

2013

- **JANUARY** – BiH Presidency made the Decision to relieve Lieutenant General Miladin Milojevic from the position of the Chief of AFBiH Joint Staff and the Decision on appointing Major General Ante Jelec as acting Chief of the AFBiH Joint Staff, and decisions to relieve and appoint general officers in the AFBiH.
- **JANUARY** - PSOTC reintegrated into the AFBiH.
- **FEBRUARY** – International military-logistics exercise LOGEX 13.



Transfer of authority of the Chief of the AFBiH Joint Staff, 28 February 2013



Barracks "Rajlovac" - Sarajevo, 4-15 February 2013

- **JUNE** – Explosive ordnance and remnants of war EXPLODE project launched.



EXPLODE project ceremony, Dobo, 27 June 2013

- **JULY** – Ammunition, Weapons and Explosive Ordnance Strategic Committee established.

1st Strategic Committee, Army Hall – Sarajevo, 16 July 2013

- **SEPTEMBER** - NATO Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović visited the BiH Ministry of Defense.



Meeting between NATO ASG and BiH MoD management, Sarajevo, 23 September 2013

- **OCTOBER** – Cooperation Agreement in the Fields of Defense and Security between the BiH Council of Ministers and OSCE and the Protocol on the Implementation of the SECUP Project between the BiH MoD and the OSCE signed.



Signing ceremony, Sarajevo, 9 October 2013

- **NOVEMBER** - US Adriatic Charter Chiefs of Defense Conference (A5).



A5 Chiefs of Defense Conference, Sarajevo, 19 – 21 November 2013

- **DECEMBER** – Ethic Line project launched in the BiH MoD and AFBiH.

2014

- **FEBRUARY** – Training of the first generation of civilian candidates for AFBiH officers started.
- **MARCH** – The BiH Presidency issued a decision on the participation of the BiH AF in the Integrated Multidimensional Stabilization mission of the UN in the Republic of Mali - MINSUMA, on 6 March 2014.
- **MARCH** – Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflicts – Empowering Local Security Forces in Peace Support Operations Conference.
- **APRIL** – Temporary Mine Action Center commenced its work.
- **APRIL** – BiH Ministry of Defense registered its official Facebook profile.
- **MAY** – BiH Presidency authorized the BiH Minister of Defense to employ the Armed Forces in flooded areas in BiH.



Ethic Line Presentation, Sarajevo, 2 December 2013



Ceremony marking the beginning of training of future AF BiH officers, Pazarić, 5 February 2014



Sarajevo, 28 March 2014



Temporary AFBiH Mine Action Center, Rajlovac, 1 April 2014



BiH MoD Facebook profile, 4 April 2014

AF BiH ENGAGEMENT DURING FLOODS, MAY 2014



BIJELJINA



MAGLAJ



DOBOJ



B. ŠAMAC



ORAŠJE



ŽELJEZNO POLJE

- **JUNE** - 8th Balkan Countries Chiefs of Defense Conference (B9).



Sarajevo, 4 June 2014

- **JULY** - BiH Presidency made a decision on promotion of AFBiH general officers and promotion of officers into general officer ranks assigned to the highest and most responsible duties in the BiH MoD and AFBiH.



Sarajevo, 8 July 2014

- **SEPTEMBER** - NATO Summit in Wales.



BiH MoD and AFBiH delegation at NATO Summit, Wales, 4 September 2014

- **SEPTEMBER** - Full Training Capability Certificate presented to PSOTC by the US Government, first such center in Europe.



Certificate award ceremony, Butmir, 25 September 2014

- **DECEMBER** - Promoted the first generation of young AFBiH officers.
- **DECEMBER** – BiH Presidency decided on AFBiH participation in the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan.



Contract signing ceremony, Sarajevo, 17 December 2014

- **DECEMBER** - BiH Presidency decided on AFBiH participation in the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan.
- **DECEMBER** – Deployment ceremony of the AFBiH infantry unit to the new coalition mission Resolute Support.



Čapljina, 26 December 2014

2015

- **MARCH** – Two AFBiH NCOs deployed to the Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan within the A5 framework.
- **MARCH** - New BiH MoD management appointed: Marina Pendeš, Minister, Dr. Emir Suljagić, Deputy Minister for Policy and Planning and Boris Jerinić, Deputy Minister for Resource Management.
- **MAY** - Memorandum of Understanding signed between the BiH MoD and entity ministries of health and the Health Department of the Brčko District Government.
- **MAY** - Ceremony marking the 15th anniversary of BiH participation in PSOs.



Pleso Airport – Zagreb, 4 March 2015



BiH MoD new management



MoU signing ceremony, Army Hall, Sarajevo

Marking the 15th anniversary of BiH participation in PSOs BiH

- **JUNE** - The Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces contributed to the magnificent visit of Pope Francis to Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Minister Pendeš at the arrival ceremony for Pope Francis, Sarajevo Airport

- **SEPTEMBER** - The Framework Agreement on participation of BiH in EU-led crisis management operations signed.



Ceremony marking the signing of the Agreement, Brussels, 15/9/2015

- **DECEMBER** - In December 2015, the BiH Council of Ministers initially supported and adopted four multi-year projects, as follows:
 1. Ensuring and improving operability of AFBiH helicopters, implementation timeline 2016 – 2025 (project value BAM 300 million)
 2. Ensuring and improving operability of AFBiH motor vehicles, implementation timeline 2016 – 2018 (project value BAM 21.2 million)
 3. Procurement of equipment to assist execution of tasks related to provision of assistance to civil authorities in case of natural and other disasters, implementation timeline 2016 – 2020 (project value BAM 8.8 million)
 4. Education of officers, MOS – aviation, implementation timeline 2016 – 2024, (project value BAM 7.8 million)



Session of the BiH Council of Ministers, Sarajevo, 30/12/2015

2016

- FEBRUARY** – A contract on the allocation of funds for Phase II Project EXPLODE signed to accelerate the process of disposal of unstable ammunition and advance knowledge of the personnel dealing with those issues for the period 2016-2017. In 2016, the process of disposal of white phosphorus ammunition, the most hazardous ammunition for further storage and use, started for the first time within Project EXPLODE.
- APRIL** – Countermine Action (CMA) and Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) Center opened.
- MAY** – The UN certified two courses of the Peace Support Operations Training Center (PSOTC) - UN Police Course and UN Military Experts on Mission Course.
- SEPTEMBER** – A contract on the allocation of funds for the UNDP EXPLODE+ project worth EUR 100,000 for disposal of around 1,000,000 pieces of ammunition for personal weapons and over 20,000 artillery shells.



Ceremony marking signing of the Contract, Sarajevo, 4/2/2016



Opening ceremony, Rajlovac, 11/4/2016



UN certificate of training recognition for PSOs in PSOTC, Sarajevo, March, 2016



Ceremony marking signing of the Contract, Sarajevo, 28/9/2016

- **OCTOBER** – Standing Balkan Medical Task Force – BMTF opened in Skopje. The main purpose of the BMTF is building regional medical capabilities for wide spectrum rapid reactions.
- **OCTOBER** – International exercise REGEX 16, took place with more than 1,000 members of the armed forces of 11 NATO partner countries from various cooperation programs and with EUFOR.
- **NOVEMBER** – The BiH Presidency adopted the Defense Review and accompanying 2017-2027 AFBiH MoDernization and Development Plan, and the Decision on the AFBiH Size, Structure and Locations which will come into force after the activation of the NATO Membership Action Plan.



BMTF Opening ceremony,
Skopje, 5/10/2016



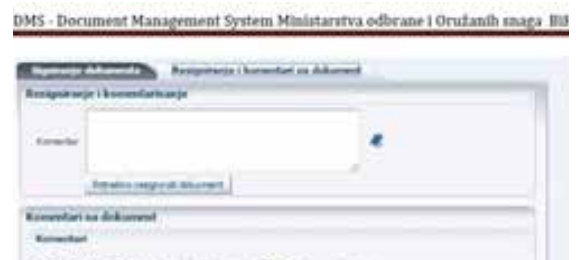
REGEX 16, Kozara Barracks, Banja Luka,
AFBiH Manjača range, 24 – 27/10/2016



Defense Review adopted at the session of the BiH
Presidency on 24/11/2016

2017

- **JANUAR** – The Book of Rules on Document Management System (DMS) in MoD and AFBiH adopted and came into force on 1 January 2017.
- **FEBRUARY** – NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg visited the BiH Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces.
- **MAY** – The BiH Presidency adopted the Decision on the Deployment of AFBiH Members to the EU-led Mission in the Central African Republic. Two AFBiH staff officers will be deployed.



The Document Management System launched in
Sarajevo on 1 Jan 2017



Visit of NATO SecGen
Sarajevo, 2 Feb 2017

- **MAY** – The Protocol on the implementation of the project for improved safety at ammunition storage sites in BiH (SAFE-UP BiH) signed between the OSCE Mission to BiH and the BiH MoD.



Protocol signing ceremony, Sarajevo, 29/5/2017

- **JULY** – Two AFBiH staff officers deployed to the EU-led mission in the Central African Republic on a six-month tour with a possibility of extension for one month.



Meeting with Chief AFBiH JS,
Sarajevo, 12/7/2017

- **JULY** – EU Contribution to Stockpile Management Technical Support and Ammunition Surplus Reduction Agreement signed - Project EU STAR.



Ceremony marking signing of the agreement,
Sarajevo 14/7/2017

- **DECEMBER** – The BiH Council of Ministers adopted the Decision on the multi-year project for procurement of helicopters for the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of BiH.



Sarajevo, 22/12/2017

2018

- **FEBRUARY** – The BiH Presidency adopted the Decision on the Assignment of Professional Military Personnel to General Officer Posts in the MoD and the AFBiH.



Session of the BiH Presidency,
Sarajevo, 15/2/2018

- **FEBRUARY** – Major General Senad Mašović took over the duty of the Chief of the AFBiH Joint Staff from Lieutenant General Anto Jeleč.



TOA Ceremony AFBiH JS Sarajevo,
28/2/2018

- **MARCH** – The Book of Rules (BoR) on Awards and Commendations in the MoD and AFBiH signed. The BoR came into force on 1 April 2018, governing the types and designs of awards and commendations, as well as awarding authority, criteria and procedures. This was the first time that the MoD and AFBiH defined their own medals and decorations.



The initial BoR on decorations signed on 6/3/2018

- **MARCH** – Significant progress achieved in registering prospective defense property. A total of 33 sites of the currently prospective 63 were registered, i.e. 31 of the 57 prospective defense sites.



Progress in registration of prospective defense
property, 15/3/2018

- **JUNE** – The Law on Amendments to the Law on Service in the AFBiH was adopted, enabling privates to remain in service until the age of 40 instead of 35, as it had been the case previously.



BiH Parliamentary Assembly,
Sarajevo, 5/6/2018

- **JULY** – A Donation Agreement was signed between the BiH MoD and OSCE Mission to BiH and the opening ceremony was held for a laboratory for testing chemical stability of gunpowder in TROM.



Opening ceremony,
Dobož, 19/7/2018

- **NOVEMBER** – The BiH Presidency adopted the Decision on the Deployment of AFBiH EOD Team to the Resolute Support Mission in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. The EOD team has 5 members.



BiH Presidency, Sarajevo,
7/11/2018

- **DECEMBER** – NATO Ministers of Foreign Affairs invited BiH to submit its first Annual National Program (ANP) within the Membership Action Plan (MAP).



NATO, Brussels, 5/12/2018

2019

- SEPTEMBER** – SEL-1 evaluation of the Light Infantry Battalion Group (INF-L-BNG) conducted at the Manjača range. This is so far the largest declared AFBiH unit for peace support operations within the framework of cooperation of BiH in the Partnership for Peace.
- OCTOBER** – The first military competition “The fittest AFBiH service member” organized by the 4th Infantry Brigade in Čapljina.
- DECEMBER** – The agreement on the procurement of four US helicopters Bell Huey II for the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina signed.
- DECEMBER** – The new Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina appointed with Sifet Podžić as the Minister of Defense, Mijo Krešić Deputy Minister for Plans and Policy, and Mirko Okolić Deputy Minister for Resource Management.
- DECEMBER** – The Reform Program submitted to NATO Headquarters Brussels.



INF-L-BNG evaluation, Manjača, 26/9/2019



The title of the first fittest AFBiH service member awarded to Private 1st Class Neven Cicović, 4th Infantry Brigade, Čapljina, 10/10/2019



Signing ceremony on the procurement of new helicopters, Sarajevo, 13/12/2019



Nomination of the new BiH Council of Ministers, Sarajevo, 23/12/2019

2020.

- **MARCH-MAY** – Based on the BiH Presidency's decision, for the purpose of protection from the COVID 19 pandemic, the AFBiH provided necessary resources and physical security at nine border crossing points in BiH, as well as other forms of assistance to civil authorities.
- **AUGUST** – Members of the Foreign Languages Section of the AFBiH Joint Staff Personnel Division conduct regular NATO STANAG 6001 English language testing of Montenegrin Army personnel in Danilovgrad, Montenegro.
- **NOVEMBER** – A two-day AFBiH – US bilateral exercise was successfully completed with a demonstration of operational capabilities of AFBiH members in the field with close air support of two US F-16 fighter aircraft from Italy, guided by AFBiH members at the Glamoč military training range. This exercise confirmed new capabilities of the AFBiH specialists - Joint Terminal Attack Controllers (JTAC).



CBRN disinfection in protection from COVID 19 pandemic, Herzegovina, 20 May 2020



Testing Montenegrin Army personnel, Danilovgrad, 31 August - 4 September 2020



AFBiH JTAC specialist exercise, Glamoč, 18 and 19 November 2020

2021.

- **JANUARY** – Based on the decision of the BiH Presidency, the MoD and the AFBiH provided resources for accommodation of migrants in Camp Lipa near Bihać, which prevented a humanitarian crisis in BiH.



Setting up Camp Lipa for migrants, 1 January 2021

- **MAY** – As part of Defender Europe 21 multinational exercise, the largest exercise between the AFBiH and the US Armed Forces so far – Immediate Response 21 was conducted in BiH at AFBiH military training ranges Manjača and Glamoč, and Dubrave airbase and barracks near Tuzla.



Immediate Response 21 exercise, Manjača,
17 May – 2 June 2021

- **JUNE** – Based on the BiH Presidency's decision following NATO North Atlantic Council's decision on the final withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan, the AFBiH ended their participation in NATO's Resolute Support peace mission.



Final return from Afghanistan, Ortiješ airport,
23 June 2021

- **SEPTEMBER** – Bosnia and Herzegovina became the first country in the region whose armed forces, with the support from HALO Trust and EUFOR, completed the project of marking and registration of small arms and light weapons (SALW), calibers up to 100 mm.



Ceremony marking the completion of the SALW
registration project, Sarajevo, 9 September 2021

- **DECEMBER** – Official handover of four new US Bell Huey II helicopters for the AFBiH in the AFBiH Rajlovac barracks.



Handover ceremony for new helicopters,
Rajlovac, 10 December 2021

2022.

- MARCH** – Successful completion of the Safety and Security Upgrade of BiH Ammunition and Weapon Storage Sites project (SAFE-UP), conducted since 1 January 2017 by the OSCE Mission to BiH and the BiH MoD, with support from EUFOR.
- JUNE** – At the summit in Madrid, Kingdom of Spain, NATO members decided to support Bosnia and Herzegovina with a package of material-technical assets through an initiative aimed at building defense and security capacities.
- SEPTEMBER** – Combined Endeavor 22 exercise conducted at Manjača range, used for the final evaluation of the AFBiH Light Infantry Battalion Group's combat capabilities at NEL-2 level.
- SEPTEMBER** – Light Infantry Battalion Group (INF-L-BNG), as the largest declared unit of the AFBiH, was evaluated as 'excellent' by NATO and partner evaluators at NEL-2 evaluation and became ready for the NATO Pool of Forces, making this unit available for peace operations around the world and participation in NATO exercises.



Ceremony marking the completion of SAFE-UP project, Sarajevo, 17 March 2022



BiH delegation at NATO summit, Madrid, 29 June 2022



Combined Endeavor 22 exercise, Manjača, 21 September 2022



Presenting NEL-2 evaluation, Sarajevo, 23 September 2022

2023.

- **JANUARY** – Zukan Helez appointed as Minister of Defense of BiH and Deputy Chair of BiH Council of Ministers, Slaven Galić appointed as Deputy Minister of Defense for Policy and Plans, and Aleksandar Goganović appointed as Deputy Minister of Defense for Resource Management.



Appointment of the BiH Council of Ministers, Sarajevo, 25 January 2023

- **FEBRUARY** – Members of a temporarily formed unit of the AFBiH participated in the humanitarian mission of assistance in mitigation of consequences of the devastating earthquake in the Republic of Türkiye.



Temporarily formed unit departing to humanitarian mission in Türkiye, Rajlovac, 10 February 2023

FEBRUARY – The final package of non-combat assistance to BiH, which includes nine defense capacity building projects and three projects for the BiH security system, was adopted at the NATO Ministerial Meeting.



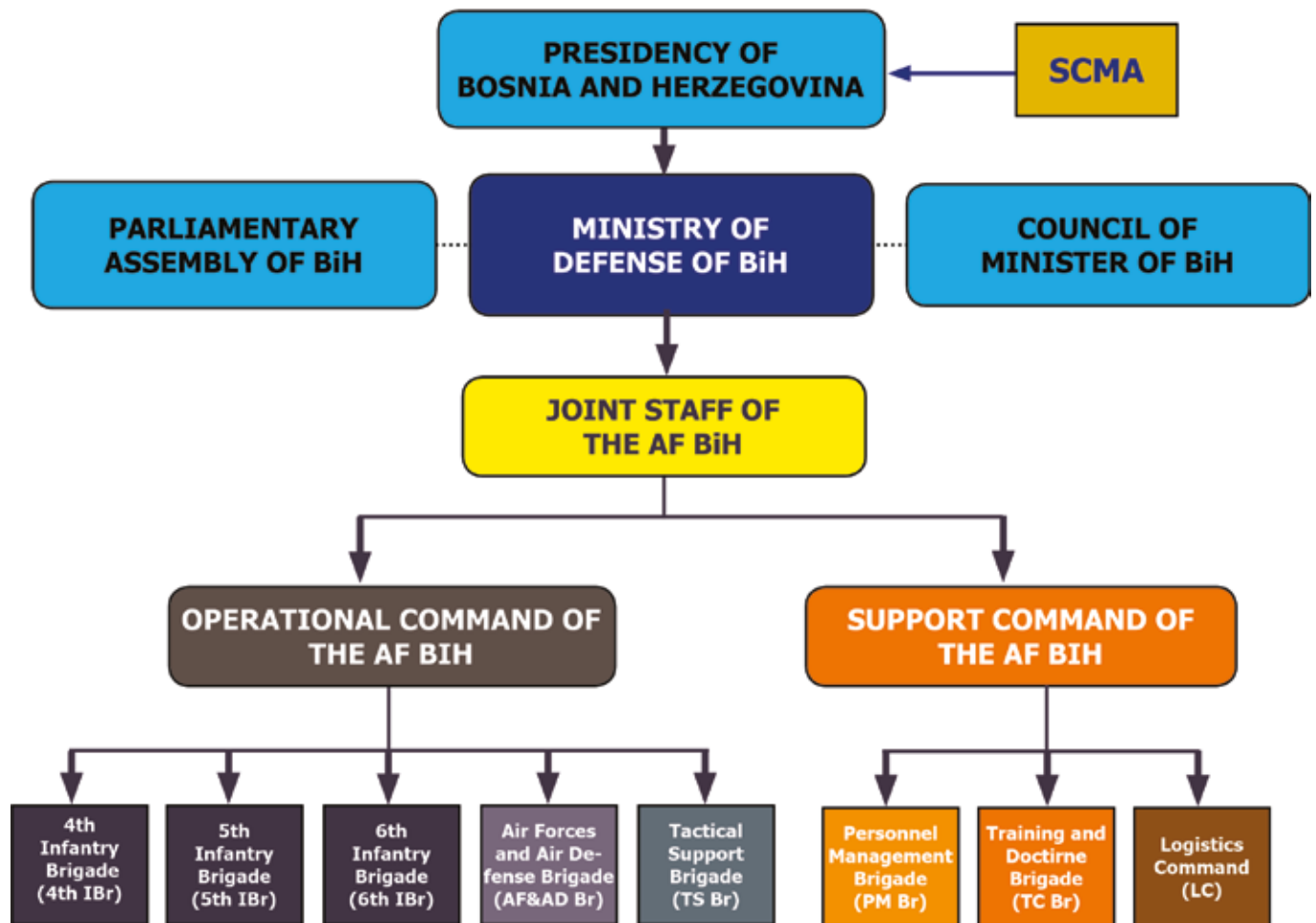
NATO Ministerial Meeting, Brussels, 14 February 2023

- **FEBRUARY** – BiH Defense Minister Zukan Helez awarded the first Medal for Courage to SGT Zihad Hrelja, medical technician of the AFBiH Demining Battalion, who rescued a twenty-year old girl from drowning in the Drina River on 18 February.



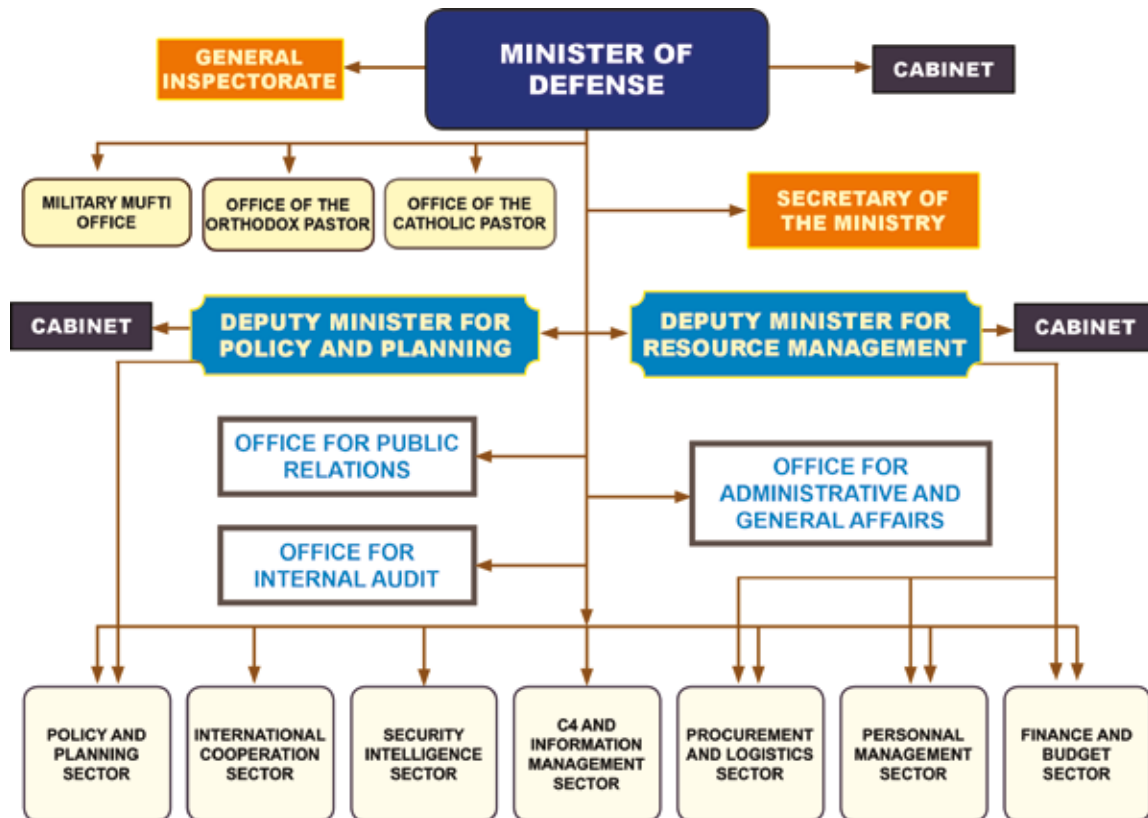
Minister Helez awards Medal of Courage to SGT Hrelja, Sarajevo, 21 February 2023

CHAIN OF THE COMMAND AND CONTROL IN THE ARMED FORCES OF BiH



- **Presidency of BiH** – has supreme command and control over the AF BiH;
- **Parliament of BiH** – has democratic and parliamentary oversight over the AF BiH;
- **Ministry of Defense of BiH** – administrative organization in charge of the overall defense strategy and policy;
- **Joint Staff of the AF BiH** – tasked to translate the MoD policy into detailed plans – responsible for planning, organization and implementation of directives and orders issued by the Minister of Defense;
- **Operational Command of AF BiH** – has command over all brigades and mobile units - has the primary responsibility for implementation of plans pertaining to operations and collective field training;
- **Support Command of the AF BiH** – manages personnel, logistics and training.

STRUCTURE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF BiH



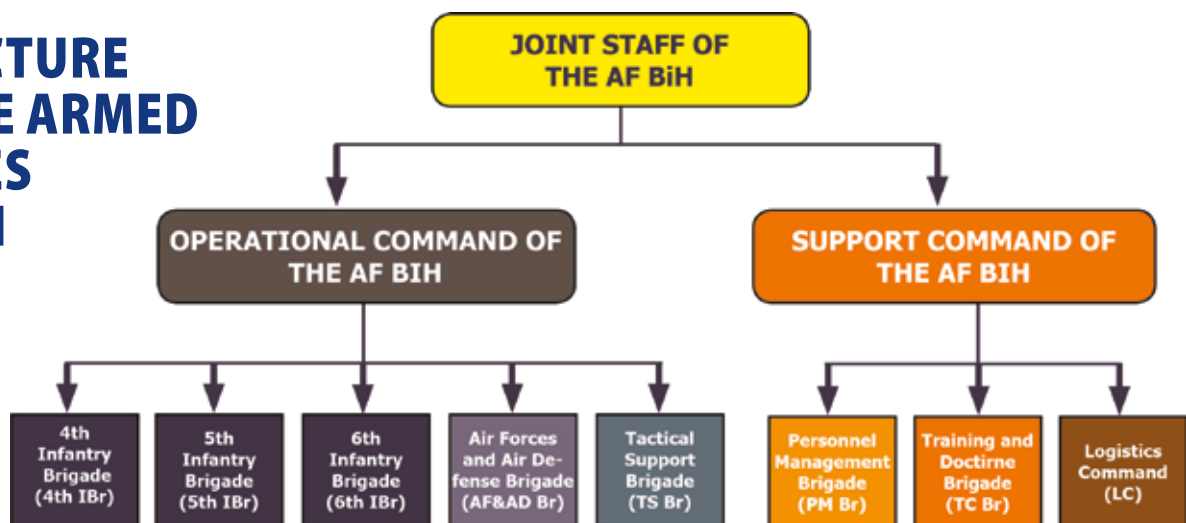
Competencies:

- Creation and maintenance of defense capacity in order to ensure protection of sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and international subjectivity of BiH,
- Supervision over all aspects of the Armed Forces of BiH,
- Representation of BiH in international relations related to defense affairs,
- Drafting, review and updating of the defense policy of BiH as approved by the Presidency of BiH,
- Drafting and approval of policies and regulations in terms of organization, administration, training, equipping and use of the Armed Forces of BiH,
- Ensuring compliance by BiH of international commitments related to defense,
- Activation of reserve units and reserve members for all operations except scheduled training,
- Deployment or use of any segment of the Armed Forces outside of Bosnia and Herzegovina for all operations or training activities,
- Issuance of instructions to the Head of the Joint staff of BiH for use or deployment of any unit of the AF BiH within BiH for the needs other than training,
- Establishment of procedures for approval of military assistance to civilian authorities in case of natural disasters or catastrophes, upon approval provided by the Presidency of BiH,
- Establishment of procedures ensuring transparency in the duties of the Ministry of Defense,
- Other competencies as per the law.

ARMED FORCES OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

- Pursuant to the Law on Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Armed Forces of BiH are professional, single military force organized and controlled by Bosnia and Herzegovina. The Armed Forces, as an institution of BiH, comprises of the members from among all three constitutive ethnic groups and from among of others, in compliance with the Constitution and the legislation of BiH. BiH organizes, develops and maintains the military capacity and preparedness of the Armed Forces in order to ensure sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independency and international subjectivity of BiH, in order to promote foreign policy objectives of BiH, meet the international commitments of BiH, as well as to protect the citizens of BiH.

STRUCTURE OF THE ARMED FORCES OF BiH



Mission of the AF BiH:

- Ensuring the sovereignty, territorial integrity, political independence and international subjectivity of BiH, Promotion of the BiH foreign policy goals, Meeting of the international commitments of BiH, Protection of BiH nationals.

Tasks of the AF BiH:

- Participation in collective security operations, peace and self-defense support operations, including fight against terrorism, Provision of military defense to BiH and its citizens in case of attack, Assistance to civilian authorities in response to natural and other disasters and catastrophes, Mine action in BiH, Meeting of international commitments of BiH.

Professional military personnel:

- Generals, officers, NcOs(non - commissioned officers), soldiers

Members of the reserve:

- Reserve generals, reserve officers, reserve NcOs(non - commissioned officers), reserve soldiers

Departments of the AF BiH:

- Land Army, Air Forces and Air Defense

Branches of the AF BiH:

- Infantry, Artillery, Artillery and Rocket Units of the Air Defense, Armored Mechanized Units, Aviation, Engineering, Communications, Atomic, Biological and Chemical Defense, Electronic Surveillance and Defense, Air Surveillance and Alarming, Military Intelligence

LOCATIONS AND INSTITUTIONS OF THE AF BiH UNITS:

Joint Staff of the AF BiH - Sarajevo Operating Command of the AF BiH - Sarajevo

- Infantry Brigade (4th) - Čapljina
- Infantry Brigade (5th) - Tuzla
- Infantry Brigade (6th) - Banja Luka
 - Infantry Battalions - Banja Luka, Bihać, Bijeljina, Bileća, Čapljina, Kiseljak, Livno, Orašje, Prijedor, Tuzla, Ustikolina, Zenica
 - Artillery Battalions - Doboj\ Mostar, Žepče
- Air Forces and Air Defense - Banja Luka
 - Air Defense Battalion - Sarajevo
 - Air Surveillance and Alarming Battalion - Banja Luka
 - Air Forces Support Battalion - Banja Luka, Sarajevo
- Tactical Support Brigade - Sarajevo
 - Communications Battalion - Pale
 - Engineering Battalion - Derventa
 - Military Intelligence Battalion - Sarajevo
 - Mine Clearance Battalion - Travnik
 - Military Police Battalion - Sarajevo
 - Armored Battalion - Tuzla

Support Command of the AF BiH - Banja Luka

- Personnel Management Command - Banja Luka
- Training and Doctrine Command - Travnik
- (CTC - Pazarić, CPD - Travnik, CSC - Manjača, CTC - Manjača, PSOTC - Butmir)
- Logistics Command - Doboj
 - Logistical Support Battalions - Banja Luka, Čapljina, Tuzla, Sarajevo



MANNING OF THE AF BiH

- The BiH Presidency's Decision on the size structure and locations of the Armed Forces of BiH sets out that the AFBiH will have a total of 16,000 members:
- **Professional military members** (officers, NCOs, and soldiers) 10.000
- **Civilians** 1.000
- **Reservists** 5.000
- The same decision sets out the ethnic representation, as follows:
 - Bosniaks; 45.90% or 4,826 persons
 - Serbs: 33.60% or 3,533 persons
 - Croats: 19.80% or 2,084 persons, and
 - Other nationalities: 0.70% or 74 persons

RANKS IN AF BiH

GENERAL OFFICERS



Brigadier General
(OF-6)



Major General
(OF-7)



Lieutenant General
(OF-8)

SENIOR OFFICERS



Major
(OF-3)



Colonel
(OF-4)



Brigadier
(OF-5)

OFFICERS



2nd Lieutenant
(OF-1)



1st Lieutenant
(OF-1)



Captain
(OF-2)

NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICERS



Sergeant
(OR-5)



Staff Sergeant
(OR-6)



Sergeant First Class
(OR-7)



Master Sergeant
(OR-8)



Sergeant-Major
(OR-9)

SOLDIERS



Private
(OR-1)



Private First Class
(OR-2)



Corporal
(OR-3)

MILITARY IMAM RANK



Battalion Imam
(OF-2)



Brigade Imam
(OF-3)



Staff Imam
(OF-4)



Head Imam
(OF-5)

MILITARY PRIEST RANK



Battalion Priest
(OF-2)



Brigade Priest
(OF-3)



Staff Priest
(OF-4)



Head Priest
(OF-5)

MILITARY CHAPLAIN RANK



Battalion Chaplain
(OF-2)



Brigade Chaplain
(OF-3)



Staff Chaplain
(OF-4)



Head Chaplain
(OF-5)

DECORATIONS AND AWARDS

The Sash of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina



Awarded to commands and units of the Armed Forces of BiH, brigade-level and higher, for excellent achievements in executing the mission and tasks of the Armed Forces of BiH.

BiH MoD Gold Plaque



Awarded to commands and units of the Armed Forces, officers, general officers and civil servants in the Ministry of Defense, national or international legal or natural persons for outstanding contribution to development of the defense system in BiH.

BiH MoD Silver Plaque



Awarded to commands and units of the Armed Forces, officers, general officers and civil servants in the Ministry of Defense, national and international legal or natural persons for significant contribution to development of the defense system in BiH.

AFBiH Gold Plaque



Awarded to commands and units of the Armed Forces, officers, general officers and civilians in the Armed Forces, national or international legal or natural persons for outstanding contribution to development of the AFBiH.

AFBiH Silver Plaque



Awarded to commands and units of the Armed Forces, officers, general officers and civilians in the Armed Forces, national or international legal or natural persons for significant contribution to development of the AFBiH.

AFBiH Commands and Units Plaques



Awarded to commands and units of the Armed Forces of the same or lower level, NCOs, officers, general officers and civilians in the Armed Forces, national or international legal or natural persons for contribution to development of and cooperation with the AFBiH.

MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND THE ARMED FORCES OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Medal of Honor



Is the highest award awarded by the Minister of Defense at the proposal of the Chief of the Joint Staff to privates, NCOs, officers, general officers and civilians in the Armed Forces who risked or lost their lives while executing their duties

Meritorious Service Medal



Is the award for longstanding honorable service in the BiH defense system. The Meritorious Service Medal may be awarded to NCOs, officers and general officers at the end of their career, and may also be awarded to religious officers, civilians in the Armed Forces, employees and civil servants in the Ministry of Defense

Medal for Military Achievements



Awarded as the highest award for military service. Medal for Military Achievements is awarded to privates, NCOs, officers and general officers. It is awarded to privates, NCOs, officers and general officers who spent at least two professional contract periods in the service

Medal for Courage



Awarded to privates, NCOs, officers, general officers, cadets, cadets in training, religious officers, civilians in the Armed Forces, employees, and civil servants in the Ministry of Defense for courage in executing combat tasks or rescuing lives and property.

Medal for Outstanding Services and Professionalism



Awarded to privates, NCOs, officers, general officers, religious officers and civilians in the Armed Forces for meritorious service, professionalism, initiative and outstanding contribution to improvement of combat readiness and reputation of the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces.

Medal for Service in the BiH Defense System



Awarded to privates, NCOs, officers, general officers, religious officers, civilians in the Armed Forces, employees and civil servants in the Ministry of Defense for exemplary service after 10, 20, 30 and 40 years of service.

Medal for Achievements in Science, Culture and Sports



Awarded to privates, NCOs, officers, general officers, cadets, cadets in training, religious officers, civilians in the Armed Forces, employees and civil servants in the Ministry of Defense for outstanding concrete achievements in those areas in the country and abroad, whose results contribute to the development and promotion of the defense system in BiH.

AFBiH Gold Badge



Awarded to privates, NCOs, officers, general officers, cadets, cadets in training and civilians in the Armed Forces for outstanding, responsible and conscientious execution of duties, achievements, protection of lives and property of the Armed Forces, protection of lives of citizens and property of Bosnia and Herzegovina

AFBiH Silver Badge



Awarded to privates, NCOs, officers, general officers, cadets, cadets in training and civilians in the Armed Forces for responsible and conscientious execution of duties, achievements, protection of lives and property of the Armed Forces, protection of lives of citizens and property of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

AFBiH Badge for Service in Missions outside Bosnia and Herzegovina



Awarded to privates, NCOs, officers and general officers who were deployed to operations in line with Article 2 of the Law on Deployment of AFBiH Members, Police Officers, Civil Servants and Other Employees to Peace Support Operations and Other Activities Abroad (BiH Official Gazette 14/05) for responsible and conscientious execution of duties

MINISTRY OF DEFENSE

2004 - 2007



MINISTER OF DEFENSE
NIKOLA RADOVANOVIĆ
3/15/2004 - 2/8/2007



Deputy Minister
for Policy and Planning
ENES BEĆIRBAŠIĆ
3/19/2004 - 2/8/2007



Deputy Minister
for Resource Management
MARINA PENDEŠ
3/19/2004 - 12/31/2006

2007 - 2012



MINISTER OF DEFENSE
SELMO CIKOTIĆ
4/22/2007 - 2/10/2012



Deputy Minister
for Policy and Planning
IGOR CRNADAK
3/1/2007 - 6/9/2009



Deputy Minister
for Policy and Planning
ŽIVKO MARJANAC
6/11/2009 - 2/10/2012



Deputy Minister
for Resource Management
MARINA PENDEŠ
2/9/2007 - 2/9/2012

2012 - 2015



MINISTER OF DEFENSE
MUHAMED IBRAHIMOVIĆ
2/10 /2012 - 10/31/2012



MINISTER OF DEFENSE
ZEKERIJAH OSMIĆ
12/22/2012 - 3/31/2015



Deputy Minister
for Policy and Planning
MARINA PENDEŠ
2/10/2012 - 2/31/2015



Deputy Minister
for Resource Management
ŽIVKO MARJANAC
12/6/2013 - 3/30/2015



Deputy Minister
for Resource Management
MIRKO OKOLIĆ
2/10/2012 - 11/23/2013

2015 - 2019



MINISTER OF DEFENSE
MARINA PENDEŠ
4/1/2015 - 12/23/2019



Deputy Minister
for Policy and Planning
EMIR SULJAGIĆ
4/1/2015 - 12/15/2015



Deputy Minister
for Resource Management
BORIS JERINIĆ
4/1/2015 - 12/17/2018



Deputy Minister
for Policy and Planning
SEAD JUSIĆ
5/13/2015 - 12/23/2019

2019 - 2023.



MINISTER OF DEFENSE
SIFET PODŽIĆ
12/23/2019 – 1/25/2023



Deputy Minister
for Policy and Planning
MIJO KREŠIĆ
12/23/2019 – 1/25/2023



Deputy Minister
for Resource Management
MIRKO OKOLIĆ
12/23/2019 – 1/25/2023

Zukan Helez

BiH Defense Minister

My primary objectives, and therefore priorities in my work, are Euro-Atlantic integrations, primarily integration into NATO and securing a better status for AFBiH members, as well as creating better living and working conditions within the defense system of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The defense reform has been the most successful reform in BiH, but there is still much work to be done.

We will continue activities aimed at training AFBiH members to NATO standards. In addition to the Light Infantry Battalion Group, which has been in the NATO Pool of Forces since the last year and is trained to NATO standards, we also have eleven declared units that are ready to participate in peace missions and international exercises.

Through the Program of Reforms of Bosnia and Herzegovina, we will continue to plan and implement activities at annual level in order to increase interoperability of our personnel with their peers from NATO countries, but also to develop capabilities for even more efficient support to civil authorities and larger contribution to the demining process in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In this context, we will continue with active implementation of the program of cooperation with NATO, which helps us improve our skills, training, combat readiness and interoperability and a very important security dialogue in international fora.

I will pay special attention to our personnel, as the most valuable resource, who have never failed us. As the Deputy Chair of the BiH Council of Ministers, I am proud that we have managed to increase the defense budget for the first time since the establishment of the AFBiH. I will personally endeavor to further improve



the status of our members and build a more favorable working environment for quality young personnel in order to keep them in the defense system and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Implementation of the remaining obligations from the 2016 Defense Review is high on my list of priorities, and especially implementation of the AFBiH 2017 – 2027 Equipping and Modernization Plan.

With the support provided by friendly countries and NATO through realization of the Defense Capacity Building package, we will significantly improve equipment and training.

Despite many difficulties over the past seventeen years, members of the Armed Forces of BiH, thanks to their professionalism, commitment and skills, have proved to be an irreplaceable factor and a partner to citizens and civil authorities, and the best part of the BiH society.

Investing in the country's security is the best investment and we will work continuously to create even better conditions, ensuring that our soldiers can perform their duties in the best possible way and fully execute their mission as defined by the BiH Law on Defense and BiH Law on Service in the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Slaven Galić

BiH Deputy Defense Minister for Policy and Plans

In complex times like these, each country's defense system becomes even more important and is considered one of the top priorities for a country that wishes to protect its citizens from numerous and diverse challenges. The Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina have been the pillar of our defense system since their establishment and we must not neglect their further development.

Members of the Armed Forces, but also employees of the BiH Ministry of Defense, must be aware of their role in the defense system and must perform their duty responsibly and diligently for the benefit of all peoples and residents living in Bosnia and Herzegovina. This is by no means easy in the context of permanent economic, political and security challenges.

Modern technologies, accompanied by globalization processes, have relativized and annulled former perceptions of space and time, which has made various threats become even closer and more present. Today, the challenges related to illegal migrations, potential terrorist threats, pandemics or cyber security threats may occur unannounced and in various combinations, even in the form of hybrid warfare against our country's democratic order, which should encompass peace, tolerance, equality for all and opportunity for progress and better life.

Our country's defense system reform has always been referred to as the most successful reform. Wherever AFBiH members go they prove to be highly professional and the best representatives of our country and the whole society. When the situation is difficult, in natural disasters and emergencies, they are always ready to help civilian institutions.



Our members are also affected by all hardships in the society. Our task as political officials is to provide them with the best possible status and living and working conditions. Only then they can remain committed to responding to all challenges and see their future in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Armed Forces of BiH.

All accountable countries have become aware of the need to further develop their armed forces and lagging behind in this field would not benefit the people or any resident of our country. More funds for the Armed Forces is not a mere phrase but a practical necessity. Implementation of the Defense Review and the AFBiH Development and Modernization Plan must be prioritized, but they also require more funding while taking into account the capacities of the entire society.

An efficient response to contemporary threats is possible only in cooperation with partners and allies. With regard to this, Bosnia and Herzegovina's integration to NATO and the EU has no alternative. Creating conditions for accession to NATO is a legal obligation of all institutions at state level. We must continue along this path while acknowledging all concerns arising from different historical circumstances. Resolution of all internal issues requires internal political consensus through an open and sincere dialogue. If we follow these principles, I believe that further development of the MoD and AFBiH will be indisputable.

Aleksandar Goganović

BiH Deputy Defense Minister for Resource Management

With the appointment to the position of BiH Defense Minister for Resource Management, my responsibilities were specifically directed towards personnel management, finance and budget, and procurement and logistics in the defense system.

Although I believe that the time ahead of us will bring many challenges, given the current geopolitical developments in the world, which, undoubtedly, reflect on the countries in the region, including Bosnia and Herzegovina, we all have a duty to consider the actual needs and possibilities in terms of priorities of the Ministry of Defense and maintain and improve the capabilities of the Armed Forces of BiH in accordance with the tasks defined by the Law on Defense.

I believe that the members of the Armed Forces of BiH are the most valuable resource in the defense system. They have proved and presented their capabilities many times by contributing to assistance to civil authorities in response to natural and other disasters and accidents, cooperating with local communities and participating in collective security operations within peace support operations in the world, which has made them recognizable as successful, courageous and humane.

In addition to improvements of the training process in the defense system, which is a continuously planned, organized and implemented process, I believe that the activities related to personnel issues are equally important. With regard to this matter, we will continue the process of rejuvenation



of the soldier, NCO and officer corps, with the aim of strengthening the overall capabilities of the AFBiH members. Although the process of rejuvenation of personnel is one of the major challenges in the defense system, I will endeavor to ensure that the process is continued in a satisfactory way, through the regular dynamics of recruitment of young soldiers into professional military service.

In terms of security challenges, with support from our international partners we will continue our work on the process of disposal of surplus weapons, ammunition and explosive ordnance and return of non-prospective defense locations, which burden the AFBiH and require financing. I believe that the resolution of this issue would ensure better functioning of the Armed Forces of BiH.

The AFBiH status and the needs for resources, personnel and modernization are defined in the Defense Review and the Modernization Plan. However, it is a fact that the budget for the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of BiH is rather limited. Hence, we all need to invest efforts in order to upgrade capacities and operational capabilities of the Armed Forces of BiH, whether through the use of internal reserves and austerity measures or through rationalization of assets in all aspects of work.

ACCESSION OF CANDIDATES TO PROFESSIONAL MILITARY SERVICE IN THE ARMED FORCES OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

- **1. Who may apply?**

- Young men and women with secondary school degrees, level III and IV (enlisted candidates) or university degrees (officer candidates)
- Not younger than 18 or older than 27 years of age
- Meet basic requirements from the vacancy notice for a particular duty post

- **2. Papers required to apply:**

- Application form and biography *
- Certificate on citizenship
- Birth certificate
- Certificate of the place of residence
- Original or certified copy of a diploma or certificate on completed studies
- Certified statement that the individual has not been previously dismissed from civil service. The form is available at: www.MoD.gov.ba

- *** NOTE:**

- Prior to filling out the application form, read the vacancy notice carefully, make sure you meet the general requirements as well as the specific ones, if any, for the position you wish to apply to. More details are available at web sites of the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of BiH.
- Documents, originals or certified copies, that may not be older than the date stated in the vacancy notice, should be posted via registered mail to one of the four AFBiH Recruitment and Transition Centers; the addresses are printed here on this text.

- **3. Once the application has been accepted,** candidates are invited for testing in one of the four AFBiH Recruitment and Transition Centers (Sarajevo, Banja Luka, Tuzla or Čapljina)

- **4. Testing**

- **Testing is done as follows:**

- The entire physical fitness test (push-ups, sit-ups and running) is video recorded to avoid any irregularities. Enlisted candidates are

administered a psychological test, and officer candidates an English language test. The tests are administered, upon invitation, in one of the AFBiH Recruitment and Transition Centers. Tests are completed in a single day. Norms for physical testing and presentation of testing are published along with the text of the vacancy notice on the MoD's official website.

- Officer candidates are further tested to assess their leadership potential, group behavior and individual characteristics of a candidate (writing skills, psychometric test, syndicate discussions, leadership skills test, presentation skills and physical fitness test). The tests are administered in the AFBiH Training and Doctrine Command, Travnik and last for five days.
- Medical and security checks (candidates for enlisted and officers).

- **5. The most successful candidates are sent for BASIC TRAINING:**

- **Basic military training** is conducted in the Basic Training Center, AFBiH Training and Doctrine Command, Pazarić and lasts for three months. After successful training, candidates accede to the professional service in the Armed Forces of BiH.
- **Officer candidates** attend the Basic Officer Training, Basic Training Center, AFBiH Training and Doctrine Command, Pazarić which lasts for three months. After that they are referred to the Professional Development Center, AFBiH Training and Doctrine Command, Travnik. Once they successfully complete this 9-month training, the candidates sign contracts on accession to professional military service in the initial rank of officer, whereby they officially become members of the Armed Forces of BiH.
- Specialist training for branches and services to which they will be assigned is conducted in AFBiH units.

EDUCATION AT MILITARY ACADEMIES ABROAD

- Each year per bilateral cooperation plans with partner and friendly countries vacancy notices are published for slots at military academies in Austria, Greece, Croatia, Italy, Germany, North Macedonia, Serbia, the United States of America, Turkey and the United Kingdom.

INTERNAL VACANCIES FOR ACCESSION OF AFBiH NCOs

- Candidates who join the professional military service in the enlisted category have an opportunity to apply for internal vacancies to be filled by NCO candidates. The vacancy is published each year for candidates not older than 35.
- The internal vacancy procedure for accession of NCO candidates is the same as the one for officer candidates, except the education requirement is a high school or junior college degree, after which they are referred to the NCO training in the Professional Development Center, Training and Doctrine Command, Travnik for three months.



RECRUITMENT AND TRANSITION CENTERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Documents, originals or certified copies, that may not be older than the date stated in the vacancy notice, should be posted via registered mail to one of the four AFBiH Recruitment and Transition Centers:

Sarajevo, tel. 033/773-437

BiH Ministry of Defense, Armed Forces of BiH, Personnel Management Command, Recruitment and Transition Center Sarajevo (Rajlovac Barracks), Safeta Zajke bb, 71000 Sarajevo

Banja Luka, tel. 051/335-886

BiH Ministry of Defense, Armed Forces of BiH, Personnel Management Command, Recruitment and Transition Center Banja Luka (Kozara Barracks), Knjaza Miloša bb, 78000 Banja Luka

Čapljina, tel. 036/811-084

- BiH Ministry of Defense, Armed Forces of BiH, Personnel Management Command, Recruitment and Transition Center Čapljina (Božan Šimović), Grabovina bb, 88300 Čapljina

Tuzla, tel. 035/814-954

- BiH Ministry of Defense, Armed Forces of BiH, Personnel Management Command, Recruitment and Transition Center Tuzla (Aerodrom Dubrave Military Base), 75273 Dubrave Gornje



PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS TRAINING CENTER (PSOTC)

Acting as a NATO partnership training and education center and regional training and education center for Southeast Europe, the Peace Support Operations Training Center (PSOTC) conducts individual education and training of military personnel, police officers and civilians from Bosnia and Herzegovina and other countries in the domain of collective security operations, focusing on peace support operations (PSO).

In such a way, the PSOTC contributes to development of capabilities of the BiH MoD and AFBiH for participation in NATO-led, UN or EU collective security operations, thus supporting the overall contribution of Bosnia and Herzegovina to international peace and security. In 2023, the Center shall mark its 20th anniversary.

As it was established by the international community, in formal communication the Center also kept its English abbreviation PSOTC (Peace Support Operations Training Centre). From its inception in 2003 until 2012, when it became an organizational unit of the AFBiH, the PSOTC had an international status. Afterwards, the Center continued to have a

high level of cooperation with partner countries, which is primarily reflected in the use of English as a working language, certification of courses by NATO and the UN, the process of exchange of instructors with international partner institutions for education and training, as well as engagement of mobile training teams in partner countries.

International Profile

Within the framework of implementation of its education and training activities, since its establishment the PSOTC has:

- organized exchange of instructors with partner institutions in 20 countries;
- participated in the education and training of more than 4,000 international students from 63 countries;
- engaged its mobile training team in 16 partner countries on more than 60 different courses.

As a credible education and training center, the PSOTC is a member of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centers (IAPTC), European Association of Peace Operations Training Centers (EAPTC) and the community of NATO Partnership Training and Education Centers (NATO PTEC).



Contribution to NATO

In May 2016 the Center received Quality Assurance Accreditation Certificate from NATO. The accreditation was re-awarded in April 2022 for a period of 6 years. In this respect, the Center actively participates in the implementation of activities within six NATO education and training disciplines: Military Contribution to Peace Support; Land Operations; Building Integrity; Gender Equality in Military Operations; Education, Training, Exercises and Evaluation; and Strategic Communications, within the framework of which it organizes seven NATO-approved courses.

As a credible NATO partner, the PSOTC participates in the implementation of activities from the NATO

Building Integrity Programme. Furthermore, the Center gives a significant contribution to the work of the NATO working group on PSO Training and Education and NATO Operational Capability Concept Programme.

Contribution to UN

PSOTC organizes four UN-certified courses: UN Military Observer Course; UN Staff Officer Course, UN Police Officer Course and UN Comprehensive Protection of Civilians Course. The listed courses are an integral part of the UN Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System and pre-deployment training, which is a prerequisite for deployment of military personnel, police officers and civilians to UN peace keeping operations.

Contribution to EU

In cooperation with the Austrian National Defense Academy and the European Security and Defense College (ESDC), the PSOTC organizes education and training in EU Common Security and Defense Policy (EU CSDP). The Center has been an associate member of the ESDC network since 2019.

Instructor Exchange Programme

The PSOTC actively participates in the exchange of instructors with international partner institutions, thus ensuring appropriate level of expertise in different areas of education and training. In addition to exchange of instructors with other partners, the Center actively participates in the Instructor Exchange Programme (IEP) within the community of NATO Partnership Training and Education Centers (NATO PTEC).

Friends of PSOTC

Friends of PSOTC meetings are organized every year so that national and international partners of the Center can consider the Center's activities and work results, as well as plans for the following period. Special emphasis is placed on modalities of potential cooperation and support by partners to the planning and implementation of education and training organized by the AFBiH PSOTC.

In addition to representatives of the BiH MoD and AFBiH, these meetings are also attended by representatives of Austria, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Czech Republic, Croatia, Italy, China, Kuwait, Hungary, Norway, Germany, United States, Switzerland, Türkiye and the United Kingdom, as well as representatives of the OSCE Mission to BiH, EUFOR and BiH Ministry of Security.

MINE ACTION AND EOD CENTER

The Mine Action and Explosive Ordnance Disposal Center is a part of the organizational structure of the Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) and is located in the AFBiH Rajlovac barracks.

The center organizes courses in humanitarian demining and disposal of explosive ordnance (EOD) for the requirements of the AFBiH, armed forces from the region, as well as requirements of other organizations dealing with humanitarian demining and EOD. The establishment of the Center significantly enhanced assistance to all institutions in BiH in the area of increasing safety of mine actions.



The training is organized through different courses which are implemented in line with (NATO and IMAS) standards and AFBiH standard operating procedures for humanitarian demining.

From December 2019 to January 2023 the following courses were held:

- fifteen humanitarian demining courses for different levels of training (basic, advanced and specialist level), and
- five EOD courses.

Humanitarian demining training

From December 2019 to January 2023, a total of 318 students successfully completed humanitarian demining training. Of this number, 273 students were from the AFBiH, while others were from the BH Mine Action Center (BH MAC), civilian demining organizations (Mines Advisory Group - MAG, STOP MINES, IN DEMINING), Norwegian People's Aid (NPA) and EUFOR.

Within the framework of preparations for implementation of mine actions and in line with the plan for additional training of demining personnel from the Demining Battalion of the AFBiH Tactical Support Brigade, the Mine Action and EOD Center regularly tests its personnel.

At the beginning of 2020, 2021 and 2022 testing of the personnel of the AFBiH Demining Battalion (around 400 members per year) was conducted as follows:

- leaders of Demining Squads - Teams and their deputies,
- medical technicians,
- leadership personnel, and
- deminers by locations of assignment.

This is a regular and mandatory activity defined by BH MAC regulations. It is conducted during the winter demining campaign (period from December to January when members of the Demining Battalion do not perform mine clearance activities).



EOD training

From December 2019 until January 2023, a total of 82 students successfully completed EOD training. Of this number, 75 students were from the AFBiH, and seven from the Montenegrin Armed Forces.

In the same period, the Mine Action and EOD Center conducted pre-deployment training of the AFBiH contingents to be deployed to the Resolute Support PSO in Afghanistan. Prior to the ending of the Resolute Support mission in 2021 a total of 40 members from the EOD Company of the Demining Battalion completed the pre-deployment training. In addition to preparation of the EOD contingent for PSOs, the Center also participates in the training of AFBiH personnel to be deployed to UN and EU-led PSO, through counter-improvised explosive device (C-IED) and countermine training.



Evaluation of training of the EOD Company is a regular activity of the Center and is organized twice a year. The activity includes evaluation of specialist EOD skills, level 1 through 4. Each member of the EOD Company is evaluated in individual and collective tasks. Acquired knowledge and training are constantly maintained at the highest level. The entire composition of the EOD Company of the AFBiH Demining Battalion goes through the evaluation cycle every year.



Support to others

In addition to the regular demining and EOD training tasks, the instructor staff of the Center also provide support to implementation of other courses organized within TRADOC. In line with the training requirements and plans, the Center is also engaged in implementation of training in specialist topics related to counter-improvised explosive devices (C-IED) at the Professional Development Center in Travnik, at all officer and NCO courses.

The Center provides contribution and support to implementation of international courses at the Peace Support Operations Training Center with visiting lecturers for C-IED at the courses organized by the PSOTC.

Cooperation with other security agencies in Bosnia and Herzegovina is reflected in participation in various joint activities of the Center and the Agency for Education and Professional Training of Police Officers, BiH Ministry of Security in Mostar, where instructors from the Center participate in the implementation of training of BiH police officers in line with the agreement on mutual cooperation and support between the BiH Ministry of Defense and the BiH Ministry of Security.

AFBiH JS VERIFICATION CENTER



Verification Centre is the key body in the area of arms control and implementation of trust and security building measures with the neighboring countries.

In line with positive procedures, the fundamental tasks of the Verification Center of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of BiH are related to collection, processing and storage of information on the status and changes in the number and locations of personnel and weapons in the AFBiH.

The Verification Center has this information for the purposes of arms control affairs, but also for development and exchange of information on the AFBiH within the implementation of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, Vienna Documents 2011 and the Treaty on Open Skies; development of plans, orders, instructions and other documents required for implementation of inspections, observation flights, visits to military bases; training requirements and other activities related to arms control, as well as cooperation with the verification centers of other countries.

Within the above framework, in the period from December 2019 to January 2023 the Verification Center conducted 40 activities in total.

Implementation of Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control

In line with the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Annex 1-B, Agreement on Sub-Regional Stabilization, Article IV, and following the negotiations mediated by the Organization for Security and Cooperation, the decision on the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control was adopted on 4 January 1996.

The Agreement was signed on 14 June of the same year in Florence. Signatories to the document are Bosnia and Herzegovina, Republic of Croatia, Republic of Serbia and Montenegro.

The aim of the document is to establish measures for regional stability and arms control, necessary for development of stable peace in the region, establishment of new forms of cooperation in the field of security aimed at building transparency and

confidence, balanced and stable defense force levels with minimum quantities in order to avoid an arms race in the region; and promotion of shared responsibility in pursuit of more stability and security in the region.

The limitations defined by the Agreement are related to five categories of weapons: combat tanks, armored combat vehicles, artillery, combat aircraft and attack helicopters.

In the period from December 2019 to January 2023, the following activities were conducted in relation to the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control:

- 4 inspections (active quotas) by Bosnia and Herzegovina at locations of armed forces of other parties to the Agreement,
- 4 inspections (passive quotas) by other parties to the Agreement in Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- 12 meetings of the Sub-Regional Consultative Commission Permanent Working Group,
- 4 annual exchanges of Information on Weapons of BiH.

There were no problems in the process of verification of the situation on the ground, and all the signatories have complied with the provisions of the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control.

Implementation of Vienna Document 2011

Bosnia and Herzegovina is a signatory to the document that defines a set of measures for trust and security building and disarmament in Europe, as is stipulated in the final documents from the Madrid, Vienna and Helsinki meetings. The then Conference on European Security and Cooperation, as an important and integral part of the multilateral process, advocated undertaking new, effective and concrete actions designed to make progress in strengthening confidence and security and in achieving disarmament, so as to give effect and expression to the duty of the participating States to refrain from the threat or use of force in their mutual

relations as well as in their international relations in general.

For the purpose of fulfilment of obligations stemming from the document, as a signatory thereto, Bosnia and Herzegovina undertook to:

- exchange information on its military forces, i.e. military organization, manpower and major weapon and equipment systems;
- exchange information each year to provide transparency about each OSCE participating State's intentions in the medium to long term as regards size, structure, training and equipment of its armed forces, as well as defence policy, doctrines and budgets related thereto, based on their national practice and providing the background for a dialogue among the participating States, including the date on which the military budget for the forthcoming fiscal year was approved by the competent national authorities and the identification of those authorities. The information will be provided to all other participating States not later than three months after the military budget has been approved by the competent national authorities;
- co-operate with each other about any unusual and unscheduled activities of their military forces outside their normal peacetime locations which are militarily significant;
- arrange visits for representatives of all other participating States to one of its normal peacetime air bases on which such units are located in order to provide the visitors with the opportunity to view activity at the air base, including preparations to carry out the functions of the air base, and to gain an impression of the approximate number of air sorties and type of missions being flown;
- exchange with all other participating States an annual calendar of its military activities subject to prior notification and forecast for the subsequent calendar year;
- have the right to conduct inspections on the territory of any other participating State within the zone of application the document. The inspecting State may invite other participating States to participate in an inspection.

In line with the Vienna Document 2011, in the period from December 2019 to January 2023, the following activities were conducted in Bosnia and Herzegovina:

- 5 Specified Area inspections - passive quotas in Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- 1 Specified Area inspection – active quotas outside Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- 1 evaluation visit in Bosnia and Herzegovina,

- 2 evaluation visits outside the territory of Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- 2 visits to a military base outside Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- 3 meetings of heads of verification centers,
- 4 exchanges of annual Information on strength and weapons for BiH.

Implementation of Treaty on Open Skies

Recalling the commitments they have made in the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe to promoting greater openness and transparency in their military activities and to enhancing security by means of confidence-building measures, welcoming the historic events in Europe which have transformed the security situation from Vancouver to Vladivostok, wishing to contribute to the further development and strengthening of peace, stability and co-operative security in that area, the Open Skies regime for aerial observation has been established and includes the current 30 members.

Recognizing the potential contribution which an aerial observation regime of this type could make to security and stability in other regions as well, on 21 May 2003 Bosnia and Herzegovina ratified the Treaty on Open Skies.

The international Treaty on Open Skies is one of the three pillars of European collective security in the area of arms control, not as a classic agreement but as a measure on building trust and security. The essence of the Treaty is reflected in the mutual opening of entire national air spaces of States Parties without territorial restrictions with the aim of observation and survey of territory from an observation aircraft which during the flight may carry representatives of the observed and the observing party.

By 2020, BiH had four passive quotas and one active quota, which was an observation flight above Ukraine. Since the armed conflict in Crimea in 2014, BiH has been implementing its active quota together with Türkiye above Georgia. Since 2021, BiH has three passive quotas and one active quota. From December 2019 to January 2023, the following activities were implemented under the Treaty on Open Skies:

- 3 observation flights above Bosnia and Herzegovina,
- 1 observation flight above Georgia with an aircraft of the Republic of Türkiye.

In the coming period as well, the AFBiH JS Verification Center, will continue to fulfil, within its functional duties, the obligations stemming from the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control, Vienna Document 2011 and the Treaty on Open Skies, thus fulfilling the task of trust and security building in international relations.

ACTIVITIES OF BiH WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF COOPERATION AND PARTNERSHIP WITH NATO

Membership Action Plan (MAP)

Membership Action Plan (MAP) is the programme of cooperation of partner countries and NATO which is generally implemented through approval and implementation of the Annual National Programme (ANP), which is a list of goals and activities that the partner state wishes to implement within the cooperation. It is the last "step" towards full-fledged membership of the aspirant country in NATO, but not a guarantee of future membership. Each state sets its own goals and programmes which are updated annually. At the end of each cycle NATO submits a progress report.

At the meeting held on 5 December 2018 in Brussels, Ministers of Foreign Affairs of NATO member countries confirmed their readiness to continue to support Bosnia and Herzegovina on its reform path,

and expressed readiness to accept BiH's first Annual National Programme within the MAP framework.

In November 2019, the BiH Presidency adopted the first BiH Reform Programme and through the BiH Mission to NATO the document was provided to the Alliance on 23 December 2019. The adoption and presentation of the BiH Reform Programme to NATO established the framework for continuation of cooperation and partnership between BiH and NATO through implementation of the identified goals and activities. This includes also assistance and support by NATO in the implementation of the Defence Review document, as well as the AFBiH Modernization and Development Plan, which is its integral part. The Defence Review is a strategic document that provides the vision and long-term guidelines for development of the BiH defence system. The BiH Presidency adopted it in late 2016.



The 2022 BiH Reform Programme is the last document of kind that has been provided to the Alliance. The BiH Ministry of Defence is tasked with 67 actions from the document, and cooperates with other BiH institutions on 11 actions. Out of the five strategic chapters of the Reform Programme, two (Defence and Military Issues and Resources) are completely within the purview of the BiH MoD/AFBiH, which continuously implement them.

Planning and Review Process (PARP)

The Planning and Review Process (PARP) is one of the key mechanisms of BiH's cooperation with NATO. BiH has been using it since 2007. Implementation of the two-year PARP cycle for 2021 and 2022 is underway. Intensive activities are underway on the implementation of the 35 partnership goals (PGs) aimed at strengthening defence and security capabilities of the AFBiH, as well as enhancement of interoperability with NATO forces.

Within the framework of this cooperation mechanism, particular success has been achieved by the declared Light Infantry Battalion Group of the AFBiH in the final evaluation of its combat readiness, NEL-2, which was conducted by evaluators from NATO and partner countries. The unit was evaluated with the highest grade "EXCELLENT" and thus became a part of the NATO pool of forces for participation in international missions. Apart from this unit, in the NATO pool of forces we also have additional eleven declared units, ready to participate in peace missions and international exercises.

Defence Education Enhancement Project

Participation of BiH in the NATO Defence Enhancement Education Programme (DEEP) was approved in 2019. DEEP provides opportunities to partner countries to revise their training systems with NATO assistance in order to make the military education system compatible with that of NATO member countries.

NATO DEEP provides partner countries with assistance from NATO academic teams in the revision of career and other types of training of the armed forces, improvement of the capabilities of the instructor staff, and development of curricula for NCO and officer career courses, as well as foreign language courses, compatible with military education in NATO member countries.

DEEP is perceived as an excellent opportunity to enhance the quality of education within the overall

process of development of capabilities of the AFBiH.

Individual Partnership Cooperation Programme with NATO (IPCP)

The NATO Individual Partnership Cooperation Programme (IPCP) is also an important mechanism of cooperation with NATO. With the support of NATO, under this programme our military and civilian personnel participate at more than 200 skill development and training events at NATO education centres.

The PSOTC, as a NATO-accredited centre, also participates in the IPCP by hosting some NATO courses.

Building Integrity

Since 2008 we have been actively implementing the NATO initiative for Building Integrity in the defence sector. We are one of the first institutions in the region to establish a commission and develop an assessment of vulnerability to corruption for each position in the BiH MoD. The responsible BiH MoD Office of the Inspector General has excellent cooperation with the NATO Partnership Cooperation Cell, which is both our mentor and our partner. We also contributed to the development of the NATO brochure on creation of integrity measures in relation to small and light weapons (SALW).

Defence Capability Building (DCB) Package

At the NATO Summit in Madrid, in June 2022, Alliance members offered an assistance package, envisaged by the Defence Capacity Building (DCB) initiative. In February 2023, at the meeting of NATO Defence Ministers, the Assistance Package for BiH was approved. It includes nine defence assistance and three security assistance projects.

Defence resources include non-combat assets, primarily resources for the requirements of military police, CBRN defence resources, tactical telecommunication assets, noncombat means of transport, air medical evacuation assets, ground-to-air communication assets, and funds for improvement of training and infrastructure projects. The value of donated equipment for defence totals 54 million Euros.

BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL MILITARY COOPERATION

1. BILATERAL DEFENSE COOPERATION

Over the past years Bosnia and Herzegovina has implemented bilateral military cooperation with around 30 partner countries. Annual bilateral defense cooperation plans are operational-annual work programs agreed between BiH MoD and AFBiH on one side, and the MoD and armed forces of the country with which defense cooperation is being implemented on the other. Annual plans mainly include the following activities: education, training, participation at seminars, exchange of experience, bilateral visits, financial support to significant projects and initiatives, donations.

As BiH has no university-level military institutions to educate and train professional personnel, education at military academies in partner countries is of exceptional importance for the BiH MoD and AFBiH. On the basis of bilateral military cooperation, cadets and officers, members of the AFBiH, are educated at military academies in the following partner countries: United States, United Kingdom, Republic of Croatia, Republic of Serbia, Republic of Türkiye, Republic of Greece, Republic of Austria, Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of North Macedonia and Republic of Italy.

The BiH Ministry of Defense has also developed notable bilateral cooperation with countries with which it does not sign annual bilateral military cooperation plans, i.e. Canada, People's Republic of China, Swiss





Confederation, Republic of Slovakia, Spain, Ukraine, and to a smaller degree with countries such as Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Russian Federation, Kingdom of Denmark, Kingdom of Sweden, Czech Republic, Malaysia, Republic of Albania, Poland, Kingdom of Belgium, United Arab Emirates and other countries.

2. MULTILATERAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION

Taking into account long-term political, economic and cultural connections with the neighboring countries, intensification of relations and regional cooperation in general, both bilateral and multilateral, are an important aspect of strengthening stability and security, which contributes to fostering of trust and understanding in the region as a prerequisite for other forms of cooperation.

Through active work and contribution in this area,

activities of the BiH MoD and AFBiH present Bosnia and Herzegovina as an active contributor to peace, stability, prosperity and development and promotion of good neighborly relations in the Balkans, but also in Southeast Europe.

Regional defense cooperation is implemented through various forms, initiatives and processes, such as:

- US-Adriatic Charter (A-5)
- South East Defense Ministerial (SEDM) Initiative
- Central European Defense Cooperation (CEDC + WB) Initiative
- Balkan Countries Chief of Defense Forum (B-9)

For all the listed initiatives, in addition to other meetings, meetings at the highest levels are also organized (ministerial meetings and/or meetings of chiefs of defense of member countries of the listed regional/multilateral initiatives).



Balkan Medical Task Force (BMTF)

In 2022, in line with the Law on the Procedure for Conclusion and Implementation of International Agreements, the BiH Ministry of Defense completed the procedure for conclusion of two international agreements. Following that, the BiH Presidency adopted the decision approving the signing of the Agreements between the Government of the Republic of North Macedonia, Council of Ministers of the Republic of Albania, BiH Council of Ministers, Government of Montenegro, Government of the Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Republic of Slovenia on the host nation arrangements in relation to the status of the Standing Organization of Balkan Medical Task Force and its personnel and accession to the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare.

The signing of the Host Nation Agreement enabled the Balkan Medical Task Force (BMTF) to register in the Republic of North Macedonia as an international organization with full diplomatic status. The BiH MoD participates in this organization with one military representative serving as the Operations Officer. The AFBiH participates in this regional initiative with additional nine medical personnel. In 2022, the EU recognized the relevance of this regional project and decided to donate six-million EUR worth of medical equipment as support to the BMTF.

In terms of intensity of activities and the achieved results, the period from 2019 to 2022 was definitely the most fruitful period for the BMTF since the

inception in 2016.

In 2019, the BMTF completely finalized the training process. At the request of the BMTF Commander, the entire staff of the BMTF was evaluated by the NATO center of excellence from Budapest. Upon the completion of evaluation, the BMTF was evaluated as fully operational.

In addition to the regular planned activities related to BMTF training and exercises, there were also several activities in 2022 whose final outcome will particularly improve the future work and existence of the BMTF.



The most important activity is unquestionably the Decision of the EU Council on the award of a six million EUR grant to the BMTF. The funds are earmarked for procurement of necessary equipment and material for medical units of the armed forces of Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, North Macedonia and Serbia participating in the BMTF. They will be used to fund procurement of mobility assets - ambulances, components for field hospitals in line with Role 2 standards, laboratory equipment and items, as well as IT and communication equipment.

After the signing of the agreement,

the BMTF registered as a legal entity in the host country with the diplomatic mission status. The rotation of Framework Nations and key personnel in the BMTF took place in 2022. Slovenia took over from North Macedonia the role of the Framework Nation for a period of two years. In this period Slovenia will provide key resources (Role 2 hospital) and personnel for implementation of the planned and other activities within the BMTF framework.

In the process of rotation of personnel in the BMTF, Bosnia and Herzegovina maintained the same level of contribution. Namely, in the next two years, just as in the previous period, it will assign to the BMTF 10 personnel and a medical motor vehicle. Furthermore, the BiH military representative with the BMTF remains in the position of Chief Operations (S-3). In addition to this contribution, BiH also actively participates in the work of the BMTF Steering Board and provides additional support to the work of the Steering Board through engagement of 1 person as the secretary for a two-year mandate. Furthermore, in April 2022, BiH hosted collective training of BMTF key personnel in the PSOTC capacities. This reaffirmed strong commitment of BiH to constant institutional and material strengthening and further development of the BMTF.



SNAGA PARTNERSTVA - STRENGTH OF PARTNERSHIP - CHAGA PARTNERCTBA

State Partnership Program State of Maryland and Bosnia and Herzegovina

The State Partnership Program (SPP) is a key tool of US security cooperation which allows for cooperation in all aspects of international civil-military relations and builds personal relations at state level. Partnership between Maryland and Bosnia and Herzegovina is one of the 22 European partnerships in the US European Command State Partnership Program. The Partnership that promotes civil and military cooperation between the US State of Maryland and Bosnia and Herzegovina was established in 2003.

Currently, the most effective and productive form of cooperation within the framework of the State Partnership Program between Maryland and BiH is military cooperation. Partnership between the Maryland National Guard and the AFBiH is aimed at providing support to the AFBiH in the process of further defense reform activities, building and development of operational capabilities and capacities, as well as in the transition process of the AFBiH on BiH's path to full-fledged membership in NATO.

Through this form of partnership, joint military activities are continuously implemented, including among other things exchange of military personnel,

specialist courses, seminars, workshops, military exercises, military competitions, etc. This provides AFBiH personnel/units and BiH MoD employees with an opportunity to enhance their individual and collective capabilities, and to better understand, adopt and apply standards, techniques and procedures used in the armed forces of NATO member countries.

Joint engagement of the AFBiH military police unit with a Maryland NG unit in Afghanistan is yet another testament of successful cooperation. Other examples of expert support provided by the Maryland NG include the process of development of cyber security capacities and capabilities, establishment of the AFBiH Media Information Center, medical training, development of AFBiH NCO corps, etc.

Revival of civil-civil cooperation, which has an enormous potential, is expected in the coming period. The State Partnership Program has significantly advanced relations between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the US. In 2023, the State Partnership Program marked the 20th anniversary of successful cooperation between the State of Maryland and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

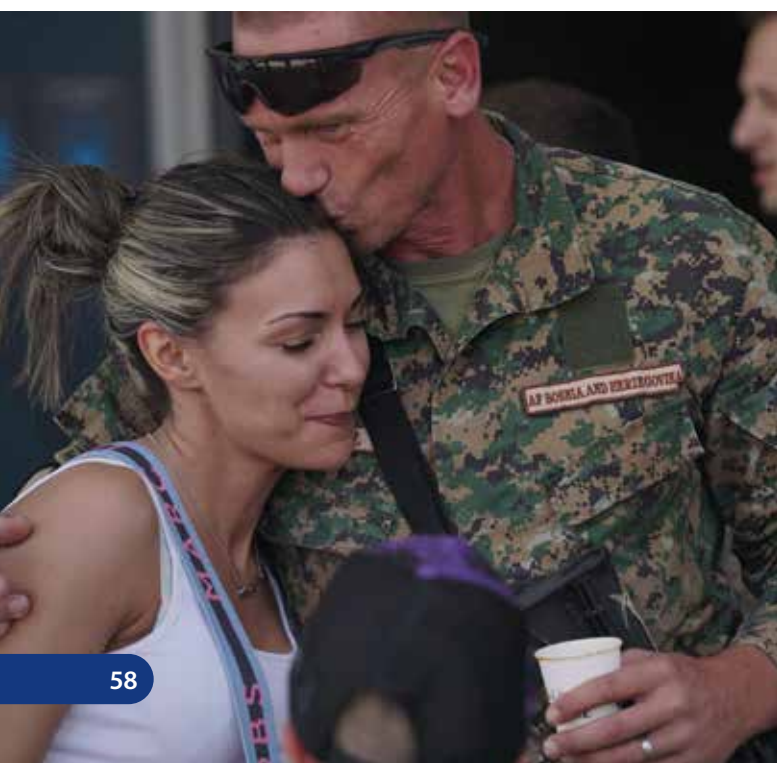
Participation of AFBiH Members in Peace Support Operations

For 22 years already, officers, NCOs and soldiers from Bosnia and Herzegovina have been successfully providing assistance in different crisis areas in the world (Ethiopia and Eritrea, Iraq, Afghanistan, Congo, Mali, Central African Republic). So far, about 2,000 AFBiH members have been engaged in peace support operations.

In accordance with decisions of the BiH Presidency, AFBiH members participate in the execution of different tasks in three peace support missions: UN Peace Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo, UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Republic of Mali, and the European Union Training Mission in the Central African Republic. In these missions, members of the Armed Forces of BiH are engaged as military observers, staff officers and NCOs.

In mid-2021, following the decision of NATO's North Atlantic Council on the final withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan and the respective decision of the BiH Presidency, the Armed Forces of BiH successfully completed their participation in NATO's peace mission "Resolute Support" in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

The decision on the completion of AFBiH participation in the peace support mission "Resolute Support" in Afghanistan was made by the BiH Presidency at its 131st extraordinary session on 15 June 2021.



The last AFBiH contingent included a 45-strong force protection infantry unit, a group of seven staff officers and two NCOs, an EOD team of five, and a group of eight AFBiH military police officers. Since 2014, 790 AFBiH members were engaged in the NATO mission "Resolute Support".

AFBiH members carried out all their assignments in Afghanistan in a professional and timely manner, without incidents, and participated equally in the operation together with NATO member states and partners. During the mission, there were no wounded or killed AFBiH members, which is a proof of high professionalism and responsibility as well as capabilities of the AFBiH members deployed to this peace mission.



UNITED NATIONS MISSION MONUSCO - CONGO

The Armed Forces of BiH participate with two to three military observers in the United Nations mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo – MONUSCO. Duration of the mission is 12 months.

Mandate: The mission is, among other things, related to the protection of civilians, humanitarian personnel, and personnel for protection of human rights under imminent threat of physical violence, and support to the Government of the DRC in stabilization and consolidation of peace efforts.

AFBiH participation: BiH has been participating in the mission since 2002. The task of the AFBiH military observers is monitoring and verification of withdrawal and demobilization of forces. So far, 77 AFBiH members have served in this mission.

The mandate of the 19th rotation, deployed to the mission on 1 February 2021 based on the BiH Presidency's Decision, ended on 31 January 2022 and it returned to BiH. Following a standstill in decision-making, on 22 December 2022, the BiH Presidency made the Decision on the extension of the mandate for the next rotation. In March 2023, two members of the 20th AFBiH rotation were deployed to the peace mission MONUSCO in Congo.



UNITED NATIONS MISSION MINUSMA - MALI

The Armed Forces of BiH participate with two staff officers in the United Nations mission in Mali – MINUSMA. Duration of the mission is 12 months

Mandate: The mission was established with the agreement and support of the transitional authorities of Mali for the stabilization of the country and implementation of the transitional roadmap, with a focus on major population centers and lines of communication, protecting civilians, human rights monitoring, the creation of conditions for the provision of humanitarian assistance and the return of displaced persons, the extension of State authority and the preparation of free and peaceful elections.

AFBiH participation: BiH has been participating in the mission since September 2014, when the first rotation of two AFBiH officers was deployed. Their task is to perform staff duties within the respective commands and HQs. So far, 14 AFBiH members have served in this mission.

The mandate of the 7th rotation ended on 2 January 2022 and it returned to BiH. Following a standstill in decision-making, on 22 December 2022 the BiH Presidency made the Decision on the extension of the mandate for the next rotation and the BiH MoD and AFBiH have initiated the procedure for implementation of the Decision.



EUROPEAN UNION (EU) MISSION – CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

The Armed Forces of BiH participate with three staff officers in the European Union mission in the Central African Republic – EUTM RCA. Duration of the mission is six months with a possibility of extension for up to one month.

Mandate: Supporting the defense sector reform by providing assistance to the Central African Armed Forces (FACA) to manage situation and to build the capacity needed to meet the goal of a future modernized, effective, ethnically balanced and democratically accountable military force.

AFBiH participation: Based on the BiH Presidency's Decision, the AFBiH deployed the first rotation of two AFBiH members to the operation EUTM RCA in July 2017. The contingent was augmented by one AFBiH member in January 2019, since when it has been made of three AFBiH members. Staff officers are engaged in staff duties within the Multinational HQ. So far, 27 AFBiH members have served in the mission.

Prior to deployment to the mission, AFBiH members undergo a week-long pre-deployment training in the ESDC College in Brussels, the Kingdom of Belgium.

Following a delay in decision-making on the extension of the mandate for AFBiH members and the withdrawal of the AFBiH contingent from the mission in July 2022, on 22 December 2022 the BiH Presidency made the Decision on the extension of the mandate for the next rotation, after which three AFBiH members were deployed to the mission.

Military diplomatic and military representatives of Bosnia and Herzegovina abroad

Pursuant to the Law on Defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and in accordance with basic directions and priorities for implementation of the foreign policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the interests of the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of BiH, the BiH Presidency has approved 21 positions for military diplomatic and military representatives abroad.

In accordance with decisions of the BiH Presidency, there are regular rotations of military diplomatic representatives in missions and of AFBiH officers in international military HQs and regional organizations, and the augmentation of military diplomatic representatives' network.

Defense attachés on bilateral basis:

Republic of Croatia (Zagreb), United States of America (Washington), Republic of Serbia (Belgrade), Republic of Türkiye (Ankara), United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (London), Federal Republic of Germany (Berlin), Russian Federation (Moscow), Republic of Austria (Vienna)* and Kingdom of Belgium (Brussels) (*Covered by the Permanent Mission of BiH to the OSCE and UN in Vienna and the Mission of BiH to NATO in Brussels, respectively), and Assistant Defense Attaché to the USA/BiH Liaison Officer with Maryland.



Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to NATO and military representatives:

Chief of the Military Element of the BiH Mission to NATO, Deputy Chief of the Military Element of the BiH Mission to NATO, (*Defense Attaché to the Kingdom of Belgium), Staff Officer in the Military Element of the BiH Mission to NATO and Technical Secretary of the BiH Mission to NATO (Brussels), Liaison Officer in NATO HQ SHAPE (Mons), Military Representative of BiH in NATO HQ (Brussels), Military Representative in OCC E&F (NATO SHAPE Section) of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (Mons), Military Representative of BiH in JFC Naples, Military Representative of BiH in NATO School Oberammergau in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Mission of Bosnia and Herzegovina to OSCE and UN:

Military Advisor in the Permanent Mission of BiH to the UN, OSCE and other international organizations in Vienna (*Defense Attaché to the Republic of Austria), Military Advisor in the Permanent Mission of BiH to the UN, New York, USA.

Military representatives of BiH in regional projects RACVIAC and BMTF:

Military Representative – Staff Officer in the Balkan Medical Task Force (BMTF), Skopje, Republic of North Macedonia, Military Representative in the Center for Security Cooperation (RACVIAC) Zagreb, Republic of Croatia.

CIVIL-MILITARY COOPERATION

Assistance to civil authorities is one of the legally mandated tasks of the Armed Forces of BiH. From July 2019 to January 2023, the Armed Forces of BiH engaged in provision of assistance to civil authorities upon requests of all municipalities in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

In total, 2,059 requests were met, related to: firefighting, support to marking significant events – sport and cultural, response to floods and landslides repair, construction of embankments to defend against floods, providing assistance by the AFBiH to civil authorities in case of snowfalls, search for missing persons, and aeromedical evacuation.

During the above period, the AFBiH engaged 1,032 members in providing assistance to civil authorities.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, and based on the BiH Presidency's Decision, the AFBiH provided required resources and physical security at nine BiH border crossings to protect against the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as other types of assistance upon request of civil authorities throughout Bosnia and Herzegovina. The assistance was related to delivery of assets for accommodation and disinfection to several cities, when the AFBiH CBRN Company was engaged, too.

Air Force and Air Defense Brigade in assistance to civilian population

The most important assistance provided by members of the AFBiH Air Force and Air Defense Brigade to civil authorities from 2019 to 2023 was related to carrying out the following tasks:

- Employment of helicopters to fight wild fires
- Transport of personnel and material assets in case of floods
- Medical evacuation (MEDEVAC)
- Support to different events and major activities led by civil institutions during which the AFBiH Air Force and Air Defense Brigade provided support with air transport.

Also, the Air Force and Air Defense Brigade takes part in AFBiH demining activities by providing MEDEVAC duty service for demining sites by deploying a helicopter with the crew, ready to react as soon



as possible, and to organize, if necessary, medical evacuation to the nearest medical facility.

In addition to the above activities of cooperation and support provided by the Air Force and Air Defense Brigade to civil institutions throughout the year, it is necessary to emphasize joint training with institutions such as: civil protection, mountain rescue services, BiH RCC (BiH Rescue Coordination Center) and police agencies. Training with these services and agencies is important to check common procedures that support execution of joint tasks.

Engagement of AFBiH engineers in assisting civilian population

Members of the Engineer Battalion of the AFBiH Tactical Support Brigade have also used their resources to assist civil institutions in case of natural disasters.

From 2019 to 2023, significant results were achieved in assisting civil authorities in terms of engineer works and other infrastructural activities, like works on river banks, recovery of roads in several municipalities, but also mitigation of the consequences of the migrant crisis.

In early 2021, and based on the BiH Presidency's Decision, the BiH MoD and the AFBiH provided, using their own resources, accommodation and conditions for stay of migrants in the Lipa camp near Bihać, thus preventing a humanitarian crisis in BiH. Members of

the Engineer Battalion of the AFBiH Tactical Support Brigade played the key role in this activity.

In accordance with their legal authority and available human and material resources, the Armed Forces of BiH will continue to provide all required assistance and support to civil structures in affected areas and will serve to all citizens of our country.

Other activities in the area of civil-military cooperation

In addition to support in marking significant events in Bosnia and Herzegovina at all levels of government, the Armed Forces of BiH, using their own human and material resources, support civil society associations, religious communities, educational and other institutions in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Armed Forces of BiH provide regular support to sport and cultural events, such as: Sarajevo Winter (Sarajevska zima), Sarajevo Film Festival, Banja Luka Marathon, Kid's Festival, Ethno Festival Kozara, Ozren Half-Marathon and Večernjakov pečat Award.

Cooperation with cultural institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina is particularly reflected in the engagement of the AFBiH Military Band or in the use of AFBiH concert halls. The Armed Forces of BiH also positively respond to requests of amateur sport societies with regard to the use of sport fields and shooting ranges of the Armed Forces of BiH.





Demining Activities of AFBiH Members

The Armed Forces of BiH are one of the rare armed forces in the world working on demining under extremely strict humanitarian standards. The AFBiH contribution to demining actions in BiH is growing by the year. As a result, the current contribution of the Armed Forces of BiH in the overall process of demining in BiH is at about 54%.

The AFBiH Demining Battalion has the following demining resources:

1. 34 manual demining teams
2. 4 explosive detection dog teams
3. 4 mechanical ground preparation sections, of which:
 - MH-05K – 2 pieces
 - Digger D3 – 1 piece
 - Digger D250 – 1 piece

Annual demining activities are planned in accordance with the AFBiH Mine Action Strategy, issued for the period 2018-2025. Based on this Strategy, the AFBiH demining organization has prepared the 2023 Mine Action Plan, under which it is planned to demine

3,543,793 m² of land. The plan is to carry out demining activities using manual methods, mechanical ground preparation and explosive detection dogs. It is planned to implement 29 regular demining projects in 22 municipalities.

In 2022, a surface area of 2,561,227 m² was demined, which is more than 2,249,733 m² demined in 2021.



Table of productivity per year

Year	2014.	2015.	2016.	2017.	2018.	2019.	2020.
Results in m ²	3,576.318	2,839.491	2,512.048	3,147.747	2,951.072	3,220.504	2,481.847

DISPOSAL OF WAME

The purview given to the Armed Forces of BiH includes the obligation to store, safeguard and maintain the overall stock of weapons, ammunition, and mines and explosive ordnance (WAME) that until 2006 was under the authority of the former entity ministries of defense and militaries.

At the time of the transfer of all obligations, the BiH Ministry of Defense assumed the authority over more than 38,000 tons of different calibers of AME and about 100,000 pieces of different weapons caliber, more than 25 years old on average. The official records on the condition, origin and manufacturer were not adequate and neither were the storing conditions. Some quantities were bought or manufactured in the recent past (the so-called wartime production), while the circumstances and quality of production could not have been determined.

With the adoption of the Tables of Equipment, it was determined that the AFBiH actually needed about 7,500 tons of AME, while the remaining 30,500 tons were identified as surplus. The same was done for weapons, as there were about 40,000 pieces of weapons of different caliber stored in our warehouses that were declared non-prospective, i.e. surplus for the AFBiH.

With the aim of achieving required security standards, both within the AFBiH and for the population in general, processes of upgrading technical conditions of surplus WAME storage and disposal were initiated.

Under the BiH Presidency's Decision, three principles of disposal of surplus AME were adopted: donation, sale and destruction. Prior to the actual field activities, regulations and guidelines were developed and adopted to define actions and procedures aimed at ensuring legality and transparency of the measures and actions taken.

Certain quantities of surplus WAME were donated to the entity ministries of the interior, while some were donated on several occasions to the armed forces of Iraq and Afghanistan. The procedure of sale has not been implemented yet. Observing high international standards, destruction/demilitarization of AME is conducted using three methods, as follows:

- Disassembling in military and civilian facilities
- Incineration in military and civilian facilities
- Open detonation at military ranges



The most important activity with this type of AME in 2022 was the destruction of surface-to-surface rockets 9M21F2 Luna, which were identified as "Category 3". Although these are high-risk processes, particularly in case of AME declared as "Category 3" following technical inspections, during demilitarization/destruction of AME no single incident with unwanted consequences for AFBiH members was recorded.

All these activities are supported by international organizations and institutions, like EUFOR, NATO HQ Sarajevo, OSCE Mission to BiH, UN Development Programme (UNDP), Office of the EU Special Representative (EUSR), and foreign embassies of the countries like USA, Switzerland, Austria, Sweden and others. So far, foreign donors include Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, France, Ireland, Italy, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Slovakia, Switzerland, Türkiye and Saudi Arabia, through various projects, such as EXPLODE, EXPLODE+ and EU STAR, the leader of which is the UNDP, as well as SECUP and SEFE-UP, led by the OSCE.

In late 2022, the AFBiH had about 11,790 tons of AME, stored at 12 ammunition storage sites and at two demilitarization locations. Out of these quantities, about 4,290 tons of ammunition are surplus and the subject of further disposal projects.

Marking of small arms and light weapons (SALW)

With the assistance of the organization HALO Trust and EUFOR in BiH, the project of marking small arms and light weapons (SALW) was implemented from 2018 to 2020 at five AFBiH locations, in accordance with law. In total, 61,705 pieces of prospective and non-prospective small arms and light weapons, both AFBiH holdings and surplus, of calibers up to 100 mm and the related ammunition were marked.

By doing so, Bosnia and Herzegovina has become the first country in the region whose armed forces have implemented the SALW marking project, all aimed at increasing safety and preventing misuse of weapons.

BUILDING INTEGRITY IN THE BiH MoD AND THE AFBiH

ESTABLISHMENT AND CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE ETHIC LINE

In 2013, the BiH Ministry of Defense started creating a legal framework for building integrity, such as the Code of Ethics for Professional Military Personnel in the BiH MoD and the AFBiH, Policy on Building Integrity, Reduction of Corruption Risk and Fight against Corruption in the BiH MoD and the AFBiH, Plan for Building Integrity and Fight against Corruption 2020-2024, and the Policy and Book of Rules in the area of corruption assessment.

In accordance with these documents, the BiH MoD has become the first state institution to establish the Ethic Line as a tool to report possible irregularities in the BiH MoD and the AFBiH. Originally, the Ethic Line was available only to inspectors in the BiH MoD Office of the Inspector General, and in 2022 the access to the module was made available also to AFBiH inspectors. Additionally, an education module in this area has been established in the Peace Support Operations Training Center (PSOTC), not only for BiH MoD representatives, but also for NATO and partner countries, thus supporting other partners and countries in the process of building integrity.



of work of the BiH MoD Office of the Inspector General. Also, all users can in a quick and simple manner access news posted on the BiH MoD web page.

A special place in the work of the BiH MoD Office of the Inspector General belongs to the process of legal regulation of the issues related to the agenda Women,

Peace and Security, which is in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution. The BiH Ministry of Defense had formed a team led by the BiH MoD Inspector General, which in 2020 began to analyze 327 by-laws. It has been determined that out of 327 internal documents in the BiH MoD and the AFBiH, 133 need to be amended, with most of the amendments being technical in nature. So far, 69 by-laws have been successfully amended.

In the past period, the Office of the Inspector General and AFBiH inspectors continued to pay visits to commands and units, and deliver training to members of AFBiH commands and units. In 2022 alone, 5,752 personnel attended different lectures given by the Inspector General and AFBiH inspectors. These visits were conducted together with the Parliamentary Military Commissioner, with whom very successful cooperation has continued.

As a result of good cooperation with BiH MoD organizational units, the AFBiH Joint Staff, commands and units, and based on identified lessons, a series of by-laws has been recommended, amended and passed, thus improving the work and functioning of the BiH MoD and the AFBiH. In this regard, cooperation with the MoD Commission for Assessment, Analysis and Improvement of Measures in the area of Reduction of the Risk of Corruption, as defined during the assessment of job positions in the BiH MoD prone to corruption, has continued.

Systemic resolution of challenges

Efficient cooperation with other BiH institutions, partner countries and international organizations on the implementation of the BiH MoD Policy on Building Integrity has continued.

As a result, a number of measures has been taken to systemically address challenges in the area of personnel management, procurement and logistics, ethics and professionalism, and the improvement of internal regulations and procedures, but also capacity building of the BiH MoD Office of the Inspector General.

Assistance, investigations and training

Through its primary functions – providing assistance, conducting investigations and training – the BiH MoD Office of the Inspector General has continued with activities aimed at eliminating circumstances detrimental to morale, efficiency and reputation of the Armed Forces of BiH, but also activities aimed at improving the system of efficiency of inspectors in the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of BiH. The number of reports on alleged irregularities has remained above 300 at annual level, which is the result of confidence of AFBiH and BiH MoD members in the system of inspectors. The system in the BiH MoD was established in 2005 with the aim of implementing the provisions of the BiH Law on Defense regarding the development of ethics and professionalism in the defense system.

In 2019, the BiH Ministry of Defense issued the new Code of Conduct for Military Personnel, Cadets and Candidates in Training in the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of BiH, as a result of lessons learned regarding the development of ethics, professionalism and building integrity in the Armed Forces.

The Office of the Inspector General has initiated and developed with its own capacities a mobile phone application "Moj inspektor" ("My Inspector") to enable quick and simple access for AFBiH members to information on the regulations in the area of ethics and professionalism, but also to other most important laws and by-laws within the purview of the BiH MoD. Important features of the application include a simplified access for contact with inspectors in the BiH MoD and AFBiH system, as well as information on the authority, functions and the process



OFFICE OF THE MILITARY MUFTI

Military religious service existed during the Ottoman Empire and Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and until the communist Yugoslavia. After the fall of communism, the standard of human rights and religious freedoms changed in all social segments, to include the Armed Forces of BiH.

The Office of the Military Mufti was established in 1999 and reconfirmed at the state level in 2007 with the signing of the Agreement on the Establishment, Organization and Functioning of the Office of the Military Mufti within the religious service in the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The Office of the Military Mufti is a part of the religious service in the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It contributes with its daily activities to the overall defense system of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The purpose of the Office of the Military Mufti is to provide support to Muslims and their religious activities, and to prepare them for full participation in the execution of assigned duties at all levels.

In addition to the Mufti and his staff in the Office of the Military Mufti, the Military Mufti structure includes military imams who are active across Bosnia and Herzegovina, i.e. at military sites, where they provide assistance and counsel to Muslims in relation to religious observance.



OFFICE OF THE CATHOLIC PASTORSHIP

The military ordinariate was established by the Agreement on the Establishment, Organization and Functioning of the Office of the Catholic Pastorship in the BiH MoD and AFBiH between the BiH Council of Ministry and the Vrhbosna Archdiocese on 11 September 2007. The Agreement between Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Holy See on pastoral care for Catholic believers in the Armed Forces of BiH was signed on 8 April 2010 and ratified on 7 July 2010 by the BiH Presidency.

The decree on the establishment of the military ordinariate in Bosnia and Herzegovina was issued by Pope Benedict XVI on 1 February 2011. The military ordinariate with more than nine chaplaincies which cover the whole territory of BiH is used for spiritual needs

of Catholics – members of the MoD and AFBiH and their family members. In the barracks with appropriate facilities or chapels, holy masses, spiritual preparations and penitential worship are regularly held before Easter and Christmas, as well as holy days of obligation.

The military ordinariate organizes pilgrimages to Lourdes, France and Marija Bistrica, Republic of Croatia. Together with the Vrhbosna Archdiocese, the ordinariate also organizes the prayer march to Bobovac in the municipality of Vareš. Distribution of Catholic newspapers, spiritual exercises, lectures and conferences are also activities organized by this ordinariate and coordinated with military chaplains and dioceses in BiH.

OFFICE OF THE ORTHODOX PASTOR



The Office of the Orthodox Pastor became a part of the religious service in the Ministry of Defense and the Armed Forces of BiH in line with the Agreement on the Establishment, Organization and Functioning of the Office of the Orthodox Pastor within the religious service signed on 11 September 2007 by senior representatives of the Serbian Orthodox Church and the BiH Ministry of Defense.

In line with the Agreement and the Book of Rules on the Religious Service in the MoD and AFBiH, the Office of the Orthodox Pastor is responsible for organization of religious activities for Orthodox Christian believers in the MoD and AFBiH.

This important and valuable service is spiritually led by the Bishop of Bihać and Petrovac Sergije, the representative of the Serbian Orthodox Church with the MoD and AFBiH.

The Office of the Orthodox Pastor within the defense sector has 12 religious servants: the Head of the Office, 10 military priests and one civilian. They work in the MoD and AFBiH units which are located in the areas of the Serbian Orthodox eparchies in BiH.

Since its establishment, the Office of the Orthodox Pastor bases its work on objective military requirements. Professional engagement of military priests in the MoD and AFBiH has a positive impact on the overall development of the defense system in BiH and contributes to improvement of mutual communication and relations among military personnel.

The focus of the Office of the Orthodox Pastor and military priests in the MoD and AFBiH are services, regular and occasional, institutional marking of important holidays in accordance with the calendar of the Serbian Orthodox Church, marking the anniversaries of the Army of the Republika Srpska, organizing receptions on the occasion of the most sacred Christian holidays, and memorial services for the fallen in the name of the homeland and faith.

In addition to religious services, in order to raise moral awareness and the need for spiritual development in life and work of Orthodox Christian believers – MoD and AFBiH members, the Office of the Orthodox Pastor organizes lectures, movie screenings, debates on topics related to religious practice and cultural and historical heritage, counseling sessions, distribution of religious books and magazines, participation of military priests in pastoral lectures, confessions and other spiritual activities.

Pilgrimages are important in the work of the Office of the Orthodox Pastor as they represent a synthesis of the above activities. For Orthodox Christian believers in the MoD and AFBiH, they represent practical and empirical cognizance of the historical values that surround us. So far, pilgrimages have been organized to the Holy Land, Mount Athos, Corfu, Thessaloniki, Istanbul, visits to holy sites in Greece, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Montenegro, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina.



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