

BULGARIAN MILITARY PERSONNEL IN THE KFOR AND UNMIK MISSIONS IN KOSOVO

On the basis of UNSC Resolution 1244 dated 10 June 1999, the UN Security Council started the KFOR operation, whose tasks were aimed at putting an immediate end to violence and repressions in Kosovo, withdrawal from Kosovo of Serb military, police, and paramilitary forces; and the deployment in Kosovo of effective international civil and security presences, involving significant contribution on the part of NATO with forces and command and control elements, establishment of interim administration, safe and free return of refugees, disarmament of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), and creation of conditions conducive to the economic development of the crisis-stricken region.

In implementation of Resolution 1244, the withdrawal of Serb forces and the deployment of the first KFOR elements in the province were completed by 20 June 1999.

Since February 8th, 2000, a 40-strong Bulgarian engineering platoon, attached to the Dutch contingent, and since May 24th, 2000, attached to the German contingent, took part in the construction, maintenance and repairs of engineering facilities, as well as in the reconstruction of buildings for the needs of the local population. Since January 15th, 2000, Bulgarian military observers have also been deployed to participate in the UN peacekeeping operation in Kosovo UNMIK.

As a result of the transformations carried out with regard to NATO Stabilization Force (SFOR) in Kosovo, the Multinational Brigade Southwest, under whose command the engineering platoon was placed, was transformed into Multinational Task Force West (MNTF-W) and Multinational Task Force South (MNTF-S). In compliance with the above-mentioned transformation, since July 1st, 2006, our engineering platoon, deployed in Prizren, continued performing its tasks within the Multinational Engineer Company (MNEngCOY) providing engineering support to the MNTF-S.

In implementation of the planned reduction in the strength of KFOR, our engineering platoon terminated its participation in the operation at the end of 2009.

To date, our contribution to KFOR is represented by 10 military personnel at the Headquarters of the mission.

More information about the mission is available at: <http://www.nato.int/kfor/>