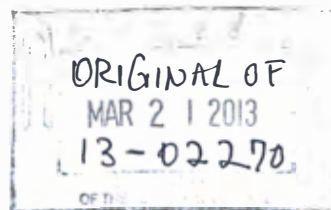




DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL
SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL DÉLÉGUÉ
AMBASSADOR - AMBASSADEUR
ALEXANDER VERSHBOW



DSG(2013)0072

12 March 2013

Your Excellency,

In accordance with paragraph 20 of UN Security Council Resolution 1244, I attach a report on KFOR operations covering the period from 1 April to 30 June 2012.

I would appreciate you making this report available to the members of the UN Security Council.

Yours sincerely,

Alexander Vershbow

Encl.

His Excellency
Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations Headquarters
United Nations Plaza 2
New York, NY 10017

PkG/04/004; POL/06/001

REPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS ON KFOR OPERATIONS**INTRODUCTION:**

1. This KFOR report is provided in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 and covers the period from 1 October to 31 December 2012.
2. As of 31 December 2012, the total number of KFOR troops in theatre was approximately 5,190.

SECURITY SITUATION AND OPERATIONS

3. The overall security situation in theatre by the end of the reporting period remained calm, but still volatile in the northern part of Kosovo. During the reporting period, KFOR contributed towards maintaining a safe and secure environment and ensuring freedom of movement in Kosovo. KFOR continued to effectively use situational awareness to deploy manoeuvre forces and reserves to rapidly deter violence and manage crisis situations. EULEX logistic convoys driving towards the crossing points at Gate 1 and DOG 31 were generally successful during the reporting period, although a few EULEX convoys were blocked in the northern part of Kosovo. With improved freedom of movement, EULEX increased the number of daily convoys to both locations¹.
4. The overall situation at the Administrative Boundary Line (ABL) has not changed and remains stable. During the reporting period, the majority of traffic used the crossing points at Gate 1 and DOG 31. However a limited number of drivers continued to use unauthorized crossing points.
5. On 4 December 2012, the EU facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina resulted in an understanding on the implementation of the already agreed IBM system. The parties gave the green light to the implementation of the already agreed IBM system and identified six Joint Interim Crossing Points four of which became operational during the reporting period².
6. During the reporting period, Kosovo-Serbs staged a number of peaceful protests in particular against the implementation of the customs agreement accompanying the IBM agreement. On several occasions, access to the IBM crossing points in the northern part of Kosovo was temporarily blocked. On 24 November 2012 and on 29 November 2012, hand grenades were found by EULEX at DOG 31. The crossing point was closed for several hours. After clearance, the crossing point was re-opened. No damages were reported.

¹ Since September 2012 EULEX has successfully conducted more than 400 convoys in the northern part of Kosovo.

² Gates 1 and 3, on 10 December 2012 and DOG 31 and Gate 5, on 31 December 2012.

7. On 31 December 2012, the German/Austrian NATO Operational Reserve Force Battalion ended its deployment in theatre.

SUMMARY

8. During the reporting period, KFOR, in coordination with EULEX and the Kosovo Police, has continued to contribute towards maintaining a safe and secure environment and to ensure freedom of movement in Kosovo. Whilst no major incidents were reported, the situation in the northern part of Kosovo remained tense due to the implementation of the IBM system agreed by Belgrade and Pristina in the context of the EU facilitated dialogue. KFOR continues to closely monitor the security situation on the ground.