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KADET

SPECIAL EDITION

Croatian Armed Forces Cadets Newspaper

WELCOME dear FRIENDS!



Photo CADET PETRA POPOVIĆ

Dear guests, in front of you is a special edition of the Croatian Cadet that we have prepared especially for you. Although our newspaper is still in its infancy and we are a young and inexperienced editorial staff, I still hope that you will like it and that you will enjoy reading our best texts. The Croatian Cadet is the first and only newspaper of the cadets of the Croatian Armed Forces and so far we have published four issues. In this special edition we are writing about our young

scientists who managed to sweep away their competitors at CEFME Conference last year in Brno and have become the pride of the entire Cadet Battalion. We had the opportunity to mark the Day of the Croatian Armed Forces during ceremonious lining-up at the stadium in Kranjčevićeva Street. The manner we are trained and schooled in is best shown by stories and reports from our boot camps and courses as Combatant Diver Course that was run this year in Split. We have demonstrated our

human trait in a series of activities as voluntary donation of blood and we are also somewhat talented for sport. We are making efforts to establish good cooperation and communication with cadets from other countries and you can read about Polish cadets in the column Cadets from Other Meridians. We would be exceptionally honored to insert interesting news items of the colleagues cadets from your countries in our future editions. Editorial board of the Croatian Cadet.

CROATIAN cadets excellent at the YOUNG SCIENTISTS forum

CEFME JUNIOR 2016

LENGTHY PREPARATIONS OF THE PAPERS, ELABORATION OF THE COMPETITORS' TOPICS AND EFFORTS MADE BY CADETS AND ADVISORS HAVE YIELDED FRUITFUL RESULTS. THIS WAS A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE FOR OUR CADETS BECAUSE THEY GAVE PRESENTATIONS IN ENGLISH LANGUAGE ON THE TOPICS THEY WERE GOOD AT BEFORE A BIG AUDIENCE.

Text Cadet JELENA KOVAČEVIĆ Photos with several mobile phones



Croatian cadets demonstrated once again the quality of the Croatian military education with presentations they made at the CEFME. CEFME (Central Forum on Military Education) is an initiative of ten Central European countries and Croatia is among them. It is a conference of young scientists that serves to the exchange of research results among countries of the CEFME. This was the fourth time that Croatian cadets took part at the Conference that was held in Brno, the Czech Republic. Lengthy preparations of the papers, elaboration of the competitors' topics and efforts made by cadets and advisors have yielded fruitful results. The first place in the field of military technology went to the Cadet Corporal Ivan Lovrić, the second and the third place in the field of military leadership went to Cadet Corporal Josip Olujić and female Cadet Corporal Ivana Tolnaj. After a rather long journey, presentations were reviewed again by cadets. "My topic was Technology for Dismantling Explosive Devices Based on Protection of the Demolition Experts", Cadet Corporal Ivan Lovrić told us. He wrote his paper with assistance of his mentor Colonel Darko Možnik. The second place in the field of military leadership went to the paper of Cadet Corporal Josip Olujić on the topic "Ethical Dilemma in Decision Making". LTC Mira Žutić considerably helped him in preparation of his paper.

After ethics some socializing

"I wrote a paper of 15 pages in the English language that was based on examples. I offered stories and examples from real life, films and wherever I saw a connection with the problem I analyzed", Cadet Corporal stated for the "Croatian Cadet".



Cadet Corporal Ivana Tolnaj gave a presentation on military ethics in military leadership that provided her with the third place in the field of military leadership. "No matter how much I was sure in my presentation I had a big stage fright because we had to bear the burden of giving presentations not only on behalf of the Croatian Defense Academy but on the entire Armed Forces and our country. I think that this stage fright helped me to do my best although, surely, one can always do better", Cadet Corporal Tolnaj said whose mentor was LTC Mira Žutić. Cadets were divided in two groups (Military Leadership and Military Technology + 2 papers with topic on Military Chemistry) and they were sent to the section-purposed premises. At this conference they gave presentations on their papers before an international board that consisted of PhDs. They were given 15 minutes to give the best possible presentation of their papers in the English language. The entire Cadet Battalion waited with impatience for the outcome of the competition. The awards presentation ceremony was followed by a dinner and a get-together for all the participants.

Our cadets had the opportunity to meet cadets from other countries and to hear about their ways of studying. "At the beginning I suffered from a minor stage fright because I represented the Republic of Croatia and the CAF in an international environment. However, when I saw that other candidates mostly read their papers, and got confused while giving presentations, making it visible that they suffered from stage fright, I managed to eliminate my fear and was given additional determination to give a good presentation", Lovrić continued. This was a beautiful experience for our cadets because they gave a presentation on the topics they were good at in the English language in front of a big audience. "I would describe that as an excellent, interesting experience. We met many cadets – mostly Polish and Czech", Olujić said.

See you in Croatia

In closing, Cadet Tolnaj said: "While cadets, we have to commit and improve ourselves as much as we can, but it is up to an individual how much he/she wants to pursue that. Regardless how it will be organized, I think that other countries will be pleasantly surprised with us as their hosts. Our accommodation facilities have met the highest standards as compared to the one we stayed in the Czech Republic. I have no doubts about the organization, I am confident everything will pass with quality and nicely". CEFME Junior 2017 will be held in Croatia at the CDA. "I would recommend to all cadets who are interested in science and are eager for competition to send their applications for CEFME Junior 2017 because they will be considerably enriched by this experience as persons and cadets", Cadet Corporal Lovrić concluded.

PHOTO STORY

SABRE ceremony was INTRODUCED the best cadet

It has been a very well arranged event with an art program and minutely directed ceremony of passing the sabre which will be given to the best cadet for that year. They used the scenic historical costume of Count Petar Zrinski who passed over the sabre to the Cadet Battalion Commander MAJ Tomislav Kasumović and he gave it to the first laureate soldier Jurica Bilić. The audience could listen for the first time to the cadet prayer said by the first bearer of the passing sabre.



The highlights of the ceremony was when the best cadet of 10th generation, soldier Jurica Bilić received the passing sabre from MAJ Tomislav Kasumović.

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Text Cadet LUCIJA SAFUNDŽIĆ
Photo MARIJA SEVER



The inauguration of the new tradition of the Croatian Defense Academy was watched by the most responsible officers



CDA Commander LTG Slavko Barić gave a statement to national TV stations



Cadet Eugen Pranjić thrilled the audience with his solo guitarist performance



Recognitions were received by: Matija Hoić, D. Sc., 1LT Dario Bilješković, 1LT Rebeka Krušelj, 1LT Zdenko Mihaljević, 1LT Ivan Janković, 2LT Leopold Gelemanović, LTJG Maja Marković, 1LT Hrvoje Benić, soldier Robert Matok and soldier Jurica Bilić.

Student LIFE is not at WAR with the UNIFORM



Interviewed by Cadet JELENA KOVAČEVIĆ Photo Cadet LUKA TRBARA

The first organized unit we already had in early July given that on July 7, 1991 we participated in the first combat operations in Tenja. In September we liberated the barracks in Đakovo, Našice, and guard houses in Donji Miholjac and Slatina

During the war you were the commander and founder of the 107th Brigade, aka the Drava Wolves. What were your beginnings like considering the fact that as a young man you immediately assumed a command duty in the middle of the war for the defence of Croatia?

Today it is difficult to fully understand this, because back then we neither had the appropriate

weapons nor the military equipment, and we were not organized in the proper sense of the word. Our brigade consisted of battalions from Đakovo, Donji Miholjac, Valpovo, Našice, and later Orahovica. That was the decision of General Martin Špegelj, the defense minister at that time. Given that we knew each other he simply said to me: "Listen, you should establish a unit, get to work." It

was not clear neither what kind of formation was in question, nor with what people should we start, even though at that time – at the end of June 1991 – when the order was given, I had a certain number of people who were, so to speak, “illegally” trained and equipped with light weapons purchased outside the country. We underwent the training literally overnight, introduced the young boys to the weapons, equipment and explosives, establishing the foundations of the Brigade. The money for the weapons and military equipment we received from the companies operating in these municipalities. The first organized unit we already had in early July given that on July 7, 1991 we participated in the first combat operations in Tenja. In September we liberated the barracks in Đakovo, Našice, and guard houses in Donji Miholjac and Slatina. Then we got hold of the first tanks, IFVs, first Malyutkas, first cannons and large caliber mortars. We seized in these operations large amounts of ammunition, resulting in the Brigade’s apex which took charge of certain tasks on the left bank of the Drava River. Even better, we crossed the Drava and erected a breastwork on the right bank, so one part of Baranja, which was occupied at the end of July, was still in our hands.

Psychologically it was difficult for me because I was a teacher in high school, and almost 80 percent of those who signed the unit – were my students. That is not easy because the burden of responsibility becomes more difficult

Soon you were assigned a new duty...

After the barracks were liberated

the Đakovo Battalion detached and the 122nd Đakovo Brigade was formed. On October 20, I was given a duty of forming the 132nd Brigade. I was to form a new brigade and return to the 107th, however in the spring of 1992 I had a serious traffic accident so I didn’t go back to the 107th any more. So we began forming the 132nd Našice Brigade, and believe it or not, in just ten days I sent out the first battalion into action. The idea was to create a unit functioning as a reserve for the Osijek Operative Zone and able to operate in that entire area. At that time we already had enough weapons and we controlled a lot of territory. The biggest pressure was especially before and after the fall of Vukovar on the line between Osijek and Đakovo. Just before Christmas of 1991 we liberated much of the area on Papuk and captured much of the weapons and equipment, later to be used in combat operations.

At that time you were in your early thirties. I’m sure it wasn’t easy for you at all. How did you cope with all these challenges and responsibilities?

I had a certain military knowledge because I went to the Reserve Officers School. When invited I would regularly take part in military exercises. However, it was the company level military knowledge – it was not experience and knowledge to form a brigade.

One thing is when you get a ready-made unit with all its elements, from weapons and equipment to officers, NCOs, soldiers and commands, and it’s quite another thing when all this you’re just beginning to organize missing many of all the necessary elements. Much time was spent, you had to be omnipresent, you had to answer for clothing, food, schedules, armament training, have permanent contacts in that

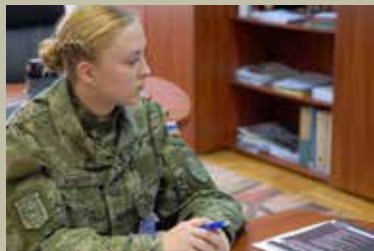
environment, and be constantly in contact with Zagreb. It was difficult psychologically for me as well because I was a teacher in a high school, and almost 80 percent of those who signed the unit – were my students.

That is not easy because than the burden of responsibility becomes even more difficult. Times were very hard and I was not sure I was up to these tasks. So, it was up to me, to accept it or to reject it. Still, those were the times when the most soldiers made such decisions. When thrown into the water: either you swim out or you sink.

I am very pleased with the first two generations enrolled in our military university programs. Our university program was presented an international accreditation, and that indeed is a good start.

You held various positions after the war – head of the Military Office in the Office of the President, military envoy of the President for the peaceful reintegration of the Croatian Danube Region, Deputy Chief of the General Staff until 2012. From than on you have been the commandant of the CDA. What are your ideas and projects envisaged for the Croatian Defense Academy and the education of cadets?

Before the war, I worked in the education sector, so I’m no stranger to this issue. Through travelling and touring as part of my duties in the Armed Forces, I realized it is very important that Croatia has its own system of officers education. Ideas to educate our officers abroad were not realistic for economic reasons, but also because each country must educate and train its officers to its own specific needs. At a time when



INTERVIEW

LT GEN SLAVKO BARIĆ, PHD

Željka Antunović was the Minister of Defense, I got the opportunity to coordinate and establish a system of officers' education, generating as well the Cadet Project. Then, I would say, we started the synthesis of the civil and military education. When I assumed the duty of the CDA Commandant, I had a clear idea of the goal – it was time that our cadets get all academic and military knowledge, all this fit into the system of education consistent with the Bologna, and that their university degree is recognized both in Croatia and abroad. My predecessors had also worked towards a similar model, but did not find the best way to carry out that project, because the cooperation with the University of Zagreb wasn't addressed seriously enough. If we want to develop our own educational programs, it simply has to go hand in hand with the entire academic community. Finally we have done it and the results of this were the Military Leadership and Management and the Military Engineering study programs. Everything went well beyond expectations and I must say that I am very satisfied with the first two generations enrolled in our military university programs. Our university program was presented an international accreditation, and that indeed is a good start.

How is the curriculum of our fifth year designed?

After completion of four years, you are assigned to a military unit for a year or two, most probably

two years. You return here, the teaching programs are according to the Advanced Officer Course, you get another 60 points from the academic part and you have that graduate level. This is the curriculum designed for you. I am confident that we will solve the graduate level in order to be integrated with the undergraduate level, or rather to be three plus two. Maybe it lasts a long time but it provides continuity. However, what awaits you is not going to be so terrible. Just when you have seen what the real life is, you are back in classrooms, attend lectures and sit for exams and that degree level ends.

We have assessed that by next year you will be ready to be sent as observers to attend exercises. Do not worry, you will experience Slunj and Gašinci and Red Earth Training Area standing beside the members of the Guards units

Given that Basic Officer Course is integrated into the officer's part of the education through university study programs, what will happen to the Officer School?

The Officer School will continue to be functioning, in one part for the students who will come from civilian life into the CAF. We think we need them since we have not covered all the requirements through university programs. However, the Basic Officer Course

will not be attended every year but rather according to the requirements. Most probably, the Course will be organized every two years. A number of people from the system who graduated from faculties will attend the Basic Officer Course according to the previous program. The Basic and part of the Advanced Officer Course will remain. In your case, the Advanced Officer Course will be more a course than school since most of its contents will be integrated into the fifth year of your education.

Is there a possibility that our cadets participate in big military exercises, like interservice exercise of the joint forces at the Eugen Kvaternik Training Area?

That is part of our curriculum plan that will be implemented in the third and mostly in the fourth year. Next year you will visit the greatest part of the command and units, and take part in many exercises in the third year as observers. In the fourth year you will take part in exercises with assigned tasks. I know you are impatient, but believe me, you will perform all the roles in the CAF that await you in your future job. We have assessed that by next year you will be ready to be sent as observers to attend exercises. Do not worry, you will experience Slunj and Gašinci and Red Earth Training Area standing beside members of the Guards units.

What are the possibilities of exchanging cadets with other

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LT GEN SLAVKO BARIĆ, PHD



military colleges in the world?

That possibility exists but it is exercised in the third or higher years of the military studies. Talks with partners have resulted in sending a number of cadets to the Slovak Republic in September next year. Similar arrangement has been reached with our Polish counterparts. Hungarians have invited us to attend an exercise and this year we were in Macedonia. Cooperation with the USA is very important to us and next year we will send a delegation of our Academy to the USA and arrange cooperation with the authorities in Minnesota or make direct arrangements with the Citadel Military Academy where the Commandant of your Battalion graduated from.

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Renovation of the Croatian Defense Academy campus is in full swing. Can we, as it has been announced, hope for a new hotel and swimming pool?

I am making efforts to realize what has been planned. Funds for the hotel have been made available and permits are required for the swimming pool. We received

designs from architects and plans are made to finish the hotel next year. That is fairly certain. I am not sure that the swimming pool will be finished next year but we will certainly begin with its construction. I am sure that you will be able to swim in the swimming pool and enjoy in the hotel by the time you have completed your education.

I would like you to express your wishes and I certainly do not want to impose programs for your free time activities. I guess you do not expect I will play any music for you!

Do you have any other interesting project?

Our ambition is that Croatian Defense Academy is organized as a military university. It means that in addition to graduate studies we will also establish a postgraduate doctoral studies, launch several educational programs and realize cooperation with military colleges from our partner countries. We have to work some more on raising the standard of our training area Gakovo and provide more modern facilities and programs to our military college campus. We are also interested in you having your own club, your part of space nobody will enter in. Equally, we have to increase the level and quantity of publishing and writing of professional literature and launch a military professional journal. By the mid of next year we

intend to issue the first number of our international professional journal.

Have you perhaps thought of opening the Officer Center for citizens and students from other faculties? For example, dancing-parties during weekends or theater plays, music groups or alike.

I have not been thinking about that, but if you make me do it and make a proposal, then I will think about it. Next week I will have a meeting with the Dean of the Faculty of Kinesiology that has dancing sections and they would probably come to practice in our facilities. We can talk about everything and realize a lot. I would like you to express your wishes and I do not want to impose programs for your free time activities. I guess you do not expect I will play any music for you because it would surely be completely different from the music you listen to! We talked about Freshmen Night and I said I would not organize it. However, if students request it, I will give them everything what is necessary within our capacities. You have uniforms, tasks, duties and restrictions but that does not mean you can not enjoy in everything your generation enjoys in.

So, may we write and send suggestions?

It is up to you to talk to your Commanding Officer and he will come here. I am willing to listen to every good idea. I am telling you that in advance.

COMBINED events with 10 kg EQUIPMENT

Cadets did well in Gakovo during an interesting and demanding program over the working weekend – from activating explosive devices and fitting into the work of firing team up to combined events



Cadets had a very tasking and interesting working weekend at the Gakovo Training Range. First there were training working points such as peace support operation comprising 5-25 procedures, contact activities during driving in a vehicle and tactics of infantry weaponry. During the training from 4c procedures – procedure of bumping into explosive ordnance, cadets ensured the area around improvised explosive device. When some cadets would activate an improvised explosive device

other cadets were evacuated at a safe distance. During the commanding over the platoon and squads the emphasis was on team work and compatibility with the work of firing team, squad and platoon which is perfect for strengthening of the cohesion between platoons and cadets but also it is a rest from the stress of the city environment of the CDA Barracks.

The peak of the working weekend was a multiple military event on Sunday. It was conducted in

groups of 8 squads and it included marching about 12 km under the minimum of 10 kg equipment together with 5 tasks: dismantling and putting together of HS pistol, VHS1 assault rifle and AK47, throwing a hand grenade, carrying the wounded and shooting. According to the score of the tasks and total time needed for marching a ranking list was made and squads were awarded medals for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place in combined events as well as three best cadets for shooting discipline. (km)





Academy OPEN DAY

Open Doors event was hosted by cadets who could show their future colleagues best what to expect

As part of Zagreb University, Dr. Franjo Tuđman Croatian Defense Academy, alongside with presenting the undergraduate programs Military Leadership and Management and Military Engineering, this year decided to largely open its doors to young candidates. For the first time Croatian Defense Academy opened its doors to young civilians. High school graduates from entire Croatia had an opportunity to see

how cadets live, at what time they wake up, where they train, what and where they study, train, go to Mass, sleep, even where they take a shower after a busy day. At the beginning of the Open Doors event, Vice Dean for Cooperation and Development of CDA Academic Affairs COL Slobodan Čurčija addressed visitors. He explained the visitors the conditions for the admission to study programs, the way of work and living of

cadets and all the persons in Cadet Battalion who take care of them. Waking up before dawn did not delight the high school graduates but they were very curious to see weaponry and military equipment and the cadets showing them. As well as the previous years, the interest was great and we expect that next year the best and the bravest ones visit us.

Good luck to them! (ik)

That was BREATHTAKING

We were accompanied through the entire town only by positive comments made by passers-by and military personnel: compliments were generously made to the youngest members of the armed forces

The pilgrimage to Marija Bistrica has been organized since 1993 and a great number of soldiers and policemen, members of the Ministry of the interior, war veterans and their families have traditionally taken part in it. This was the first pilgrimage our youngest cadets went on, members of the 1st cadet company and the older cadets have already had several years of experience. Among a huge number of berets and caps of the navy, infantry and air force, we, cadets also stood in a military echelon as representatives of the future of the Croatian armed forces, awaiting the order for the beginning of the pilgrimage. Proudly marching through crowded streets of Marija Bistrica, accompanied by curious looks of the civilians, the procession proceeded towards the church. Eucharist celebration was prepared by the outdoor altar of the church of the blessed cardinal Alojzije Stepinac, and it began



with ceremonious procession and parade led by standard-bearers. War-flags of the military units from the homeland war headed the column, followed by proud streaming of the disabled veterans' flags, of the war veterans, active duty police units, army and of the historical units. After ceremonial eucharist celebration the participants had a break for

sightseeing the shrine of Marija Bistrica. Pilgrim-lunch under tents was military beans. At 15:00 hours we all gathered again at the place where open-air religious service is held to depart on a ceremonial way of the cross. The sight of the column of pilgrims led by standard-bearers was breathtaking. It is indeed a great honour to be a part of the pilgrimage. Beautiful voices of the Sveti Juraj Croatian navy a capella band lent solemnity to 14 stations of the way of the cross and made all gathered participants thrilled by their performance. Cadets returned to buses. We were accompanied through the entire town only by positive comments made by passers-by and military personnel: We were accompanied only by positive comments of the passers-by and military personnel: compliments were generously made to the youngest members of the armed forces. New tasks and new victories waited for us at the Croatian defense academy. (ap)



The celebration was led by the Military Ordinary in the Republic of Croatia Mons. Juraj Jezerinac, and participants of the pilgrimage were members of the CAF led by the Chief of the General Staff General Drago Lovrić, units of the Ministry of the Interior, historical units ...and of course, male and female cadets of the Dr. Franjo Tuđman Croatian Defense Academy led by Captain Mario Pavlak.

Visiting Dutch CADETS

Our cadets with their commander MAJ Tomislav Kasumović were introduced with the education of Dutch cadets and there was opportunity for sightseeing and meeting Dutch citizens



Croatian Delegation was one of the NATO member states delegations visiting and getting familiar with the Dutch Royal Military Academy (Koninklijke). Cadet Marko Bošnjak i Cadet Anamarija Čurković had an opportunity to get familiar with the living and studying of their colleagues. As part of cooperation between the Croatian Armed Forces and the Kingdom of the Netherlands the members of the Cadet Battalion met cadets from other countries and different cultures. Together with our members of the Cadet Battalion, ten more delegations participated in the program that the hosts prepared for their guests from Spain, Portugal, Finland, Norway and our country to show their way of living and studying. The exchange of experience of cadets and making new friendships were the main goals of the gathering. Our cadets with their commander MAJ Tomislav Kasumović were introduced with the entire process of education of future 2LTs. Together with work and studying, there was an opportunity for sightseeing and having fun. “The Kingdom of the Netherlands, known as a country full of joy and nice people will rest in our



memories too. People are easy going and communicative. The goal of our trip has been fulfilled. We have seen how other countries take care of their cadets as well as their



life behind the walls with which we can also identify. We have made various acquaintances and we hope this is one of European trips yet to come”, Cadet Čurković said. (ik)

First salute of HONORARY CADET line-up

“Investing in knowledge is the only true investment for the future of a country or a system that will pay back multiple times”, said CDA Commandant LTG Slavko Barić



Dr. Franjo Tuđman Croatian Defense Academy celebrates its anniversary each year by educating and upbringing NCOs, officers and cadets. The celebration was also attended by the President and Commander-in-Chief of the Croatian Armed Forces Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović. “Dr. Franjo Tuđman Croatian Defense Academy offers education and training thus forming the best members of the

Croatian Armed Forces to be the foundation of our security and to grow into modern Armed Forces ready to respond to all kinds of threats”, said President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović. The visit by President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović was special for the following reason: for the first time in history, the President was saluted by Honorary Cadet line-up. After a lot of preparations, the

cadets stood alongside with other Croatian honorary line-ups. Croatian Defense Academy Commandant LTG Slavko Barić said in his speech: “An individual makes a successful organization resulting in its benefit and presenting its highest value. Investing in knowledge is the only true investment for the future of a country or a system that will pay back multiple times.” (ik)

ITALIANS are charming!

Cadet corporal Ivan Lasić participated in the module on esop in turin. Our colleague earned 2 ECTS-credit points and found out many interesting things about the host country



This year Croatian Defense Academy accepted the invitation of General Bert and sent cadet corporal Ivan Lasić to participate in module ESOP (European Security and Defense Policy). The module was organized in Turin and consisted of lectures and seminars. It is worth 2 ECTS-credit points which was recognized to our cadet corporal Ivan Lasić. As cadet Lasić told us, Croatian cadets are equally trained as other cadets. We do not have



to be ashamed of anything we are participated side-by-side with all of them. In addition to that, we are slightly better than them in military training. Moreover, our colleague was impressed by lunchtime. All invitees were standing and waiting for the general and when he came all are set. General gave out a command to them to sit down and the lunch began, invitees were served by waiters. The lunch lasted 1 hour because it is sacred to Italians and nobody would force you to swallow the

food in 10 minutes. And when we talk about Italy itself, cadet Lasić told us that Italians like sports, there are no oversized people, neither young nor old. The mindset of Italians differs thru regions but it is common to all of them to dress well and they know how to approach the girl. But this is most important: the Italian girls are no better than the Croatian ones! "Priceless experience was to get to know motivated cadets with whom you broaden your horizons and learn from them – how they function and think. Italians are very nice people, ready to help. And they like to kiss. At the departure I kissed the whole bunch of officers and cadets! All in all, that was a great experience", said Cadet Corporal Lasić. (nt)

CDA won silver in shooting

The 21st championship of the CAF was organized at the automatic shooting range Vrapčanski potok. There participated 12 teams from various CAF units. The competition in VHS rifles was in two categories: ISSF - the precision part and CISM - rapid military shooting. The CDA rifle shooting team consisted of: 1LT Hrvoje Heštera, cadet Dario Markač and cadet Nikola Malenica. The CDA won 2nd place in precision shooting with total score of 645 circle hits. For example, Hrvoje Heštera set the new competition record with 244 circle hits. In rapid shooting the CDA team won one more silver medal with 547 circle hits thus contributing to the overall CDA placement and won second place for total score. (km)



BLOOD donated by 64 cadets and active military personnel

At Dr Franjo Tuđman Croatian Defense Academy there was a voluntary blood donation. Among 84 donators from three cadet companies, blood was given by 64 cadets as well as active CDA military personnel. Initiated by the cadets, blood was donated for the second time this academic year organized by Cadet Corps. Cadet battalion participates, plans and organizes numerous humanitarian events. Since the interest and response were great, the cadets will keep on with such activities and continue the cooperation with the Croatian Institute for Transfusion Medicine. (ak)

CDA - the best in swimming



The competition in swimming of the Croatian Armed Forces took place in Vinkovci. The winner announcement was in the 5th Guard Brigade Slavonski sokolovi Barracks. First place was won by the CDA team, the second one by the Guard Motorized Brigade, and the third one was taken by the Croatian Navy team. The CDA team was represented by: Iva Bilandžić, Barbara Prša, Martina Tešija, Luka Jurić, David Lugarić, Filip Krstić and Dino Pašukan. They competed in the following disciplines: 50m freestyle, 50m in uniform with a rifle, 50m breaststroke, 4 x 50m freestyle relay and 4 x 50m relay in uniform with a rifle. The CDA won first place in 4 x

50m freestyle relay, and third place in 4 x 50m in uniform with a rifle. Singles results: women - Barbara Prša 1st place 50m freestyle, Iva Bilandžić 2nd place 50m freestyle, and men: David Lugarić 2nd place 50m breaststroke, Luka Jurić 2nd place 50m freestyle and Filip Krstić 2nd place 50m in uniform with a rifle. (km)

Sports Day: female cadets THIRD in VOLLEYBALL, cadets THIRD in BASKETBALL

Sports Day at the CDA was organized this year as well, and, together with the cadets of the 1st and 2nd Company, there were also colleagues from the Faculty of Electrical Engineering and Computing, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Faculty of Mechanical Engineering and Naval Architecture. There were competitions in several disciplines: indoor soccer, and shooting. After the opening of the competition and opening speech, matches were played on several playing grounds: basketball and volleyball in sports hall, mini soccer at grassy playground and shooting at shooting hall. Cadets (women) took 3rd place in volleyball, cadets (men) also took 3rd place in basketball, and 2nd place in mini soccer. In addition to real sports matches, that day was a great opportunity to meet and talk to people from civilian faculties. (as)



Soccer Tournament “Four Platoons”



This year there was a first tournament of 1st Cadet Company: Four Platoons. Good soccer, sports behavior (mainly) and great audience marked the tournament. The winner was 4th Platoon. We impatiently look forward the next tournament, and, until then, soccer players have nothing else but to prepare for new victories. (ep)



Through
FOR



hardship to the stars:
POLAND!



FAMOUS LEADERS AND HEROES OF POLAND RECEIVED EDUCATION HERE. FOR ALL CADETS GRADUATION CEREMONY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT MOMENT IN THEIR LIVES. THAT IS A DAY ON WHICH THE ACADEMY'S MOTTO, PER ASPERA AD ASTRA, BECOMES REALITY AT THE MAIN SQUARE IN WROCŁAW

Text SZYMON KLIMEK
Photo VA TADEUSZ KOŚCIUŹSKO (Archive)

The Tadeusz Kościuszko Land Forces Military Academy is one of five higher military schools in Poland. The main task of the Academy is to train qualified commanding cadre for the Polish Army. The Land Forces Military Academy in Wrocław (Wyższa Szkoła Oficerska Wojsk Lądowych im. gen. Tadeusza Kościuszki) is the inheritor of the traditions of the Polish armed forces and universal values of education. The roots of the Academy and its intellectual heritage derive from the tradition of military education from the period of the First Republic of

Poland when the Knights School was established in Warsaw in 1765. This school provided education for even 600 officers of whom some became famous leaders of Poland afterwards. They are Jakub Jasiński, Józef Sowiński and Tadeusz Kościuszko. During the Duchy of Warsaw education of officers for requirements of the armed forces was carried out by the Corps of Cadets and in the Kingdom of Poland by the School of Infantry Cadets. On October 1, 2002 the Military Academy in Wrocław wrote a new chapter in its history. That day the Land Forces Military Academy was established

by the decree of the Council of Ministers of December 18, 2001. The Academy was established by integration of military colleges from Wrocław, Poznań and Toruń. Since August 2003 the Academy has been bearing its name after General Tadeusz Kościuszko.

Running, swimming, pull-ups

There are four steps for the enrolment in the Academy in Wrocław. Firstly, candidates have to pass medical examinations guaranteeing they are fit for the military service. After medical tests, every July candidates undergo physical check-ups and



Cover photo of the topic with soldiers in historical uniforms and fireworks, and photograph of the male and female cadets in dancing gowns taken on the Cadets' Day that is marked in Poland in November every year in memory of the famous Polish November Uprising. Other photographs on this page were taken during the graduation ceremony held at the main city square in Wrocław. The most important part of the ceremony is the moment when the Polish General proclaims Cadets to have become NCOs of the Polish Army by touching them on shoulders with a sword.





Polish cadets have excellent centers for regular and additional training such as diving or mountain climbing; this photograph shows Polish cadets and their colleagues from friendly countries that undergo additional training in horse riding training centre in Krakow.

interview. In order to meet the criteria, in a one-day testing they have to demonstrate their strength, endurance and swimming capabilities. Candidates have to run one kilometer with several sprints on a one hundred meter track, swim 50 meters and perform a number of repeated pull-ups. Female candidates have to run a distance of 800 meters, swim 50 meters, hold a pull-up on a crossbar and run the “envelope run”, race around poles placed on a 3x5m surface. After the physical testing, candidates are interviewed in order for their motivation, additional knowledge and skills to be evaluated. Final result consists of the results achieved at school-leaving exams, physical testing and interview. The subjects that are evaluated in the application procedure are the English language and one of the following subjects: mathematics,

physics, informational science or chemistry.

Both civilian and military education

The average number of enrolments is 160 cadets per generation. The number depends on the decree issued by the Polish Ministry of Defense. The portion of female cadets is, on the average, 10 – 15 %. The Academy provides education for the following branches: mechanized infantry, armory, reconnaissance, airborne-landing, missile artillery, field artillery, air defense, engineer corps and logistics. During their studies at the Academy, cadets attend both civilian and military course of lectures. Civilian course of lectures are mainly focused on undergraduate and graduate education whereas military course of studies prepare cadets for the first duty of platoon commander.

Some of the civilian course of lectures attended by cadets are mathematics, chemistry, history, sociology, management, pedagogy, psychology, English, informational technology (IT), culture, finances, accountancy, international organizations, law and humanitarian law. After completing the first year of the studies, cadets are divided into branches according to their choice. In that part of their education they learn leadership, commanding, tactics, firing, reconnaissance, NBC protection training, air defense training, signal training, winter warfare, SERE (Survival, Evasion, Resistance and Escape) and TCCC (Tactical Combat Casualty Care). There are numerous possibilities for participation in additional training as diving training, martial arts, riding or mountain climbing. Every year cadets demonstrate their knowledge and skills during

boot camps that last between one and four weeks.

Ceremonial Cadet Ball

The main ceremony of the Academy is the Cadet Day. The date of November, 29 has been chosen in memory of the uprising against Russian authorities that had been initiated in 1830 by young officers from the Military Academy in Warsaw, also known as the Cadet Revolution. During celebration, cadets revive historical scenes in order to bring back memories of the heroes from that age. After the ceremony, Cadet Ball is held and cadets attend it in ceremonial uniforms. On August 15, the Day of the Polish Armed Forces, the Academy also participates with one company. Another very important ceremony is the oath taking and graduation ceremony. The latter is very formal and ceremonial, mainly because of the place it is held at – the main square in Wrocław. For all cadets graduation is the most important moment in their lives. That is the day on which the motto of the Academy, *per aspera ad astra*, becomes reality.

Medals for the best

Special medal is *wzorowy podchorąży*, the exemplary cadet that is awarded on the Cadet Day to cadets who achieve extraordinary results in training, classes and show the cadet's spirit in the best light. All Academy's cadets are obligated to respect the Cadet Code – *Kodeks Podchorążego*. The Code contains the following basic values: patriotism, humanism, respect and search for truth, human solidarity, ethics in education and research and tradition of the military education. The Wysoki Kamień Training Centre is situated at Szklarska Poreba and horse riding centre is situated in Krakow.

LESSONS AND TRAINING



CADETS are real PROS

OUR TRAINING PROGRAMS ROTC FOR CADETS ARE VERY SIMILAR, AND THE END RESULT IS A VERSATILE AND RESOURCEFUL OFFICER IN A COMPLEX AND CHAOTIC ENVIRONMENT WHO CAN QUICKLY ADAPT TO EVERY CHANGE

Text Cadet KRISTINA MILOŠ



For the fourth time American cadets paid a visit to the CDA's Cadet Battalion of the Officer School within the CULP program (Cultural Understanding and Language Proficiency). We talked with the Head LTC Michael Gibson about experiences, expectations and results of the visit.

[Can you tell us something more about the CULP program and its contribution to development and training of the American cadets?](#)

Purpose of the Program is to deepen the officers' general understanding of the cultural particularities, to develop knowledge of new languages and encourage the appreciation and understanding of other cultures. This is also an opportunity for American cadets, our future lieutenants, to undergo in-service training earmarked for reliable and professional leadership in joint,

interagency, intergovernmental and multinational environment during initial deployment outside the USA.

[What types of training have your cadets participated in Croatia this year and how many cadets took part in training?](#)

Our delegation consisted of 23 cadets and four members of the military personnel (three staff officers and one NCO). Our nine-day visit began with tours of Medvedgrad, Gradec, the Cathedral and other sights in Zagreb. We were also in Vukovar to visit the mass grave at Ovčara and hear the facts about the Homeland War. We also visited the barracks in Vinkovci, training area at Gašinci, Plitvice Lakes, barracks of the Special Forces Command in Delnice, facilities of the company HS Produkt in Karlovac, Knin Fortress, the cities of Opatija and Split. We also visited the Embassy

of the USA and were given a briefing about their role and support they provide to Croatia. We learned a lot about your culture, tradition, history, national heritage and your Armed Forces. After the tour, our cadets were divided in three groups in order to acquire military experience from your cadets and in various services. One group of eight cadets went to Gašinci to undergo military training and completed the course for infantry leaders together with 32 Croatian cadets. The second group of eight cadets was in Split and received training in the Croatian Navy. There they completed the course for combat swimmer with 13 Croatian and six Polish cadets. The third group of seven cadets went to Zadar where they underwent training in Croatian Air Force and Air Defense. They also received survival and escape training for pilots together with one Croatian cadet.

Could you briefly describe the training concept of American cadets in the USA and what are the similarities or differences as compared to the training concept of Croatian cadets?

Our training programs ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps) for cadets are very similar. Our cadets enroll in some of the faculties at universities of their choice and at the same time they are trained in basic military skills and develop capabilities for military leadership in order to acquire the officer's status. They have to take part in summer boot training camps that are similar to cadet's boot camps in Croatia and can voluntarily participate in other programs of summer training.

with pride and diligence in order to contribute to their armed forces and coordinate with NATO. They are aware their army has small numerical strength and that they have to operate in a joint, multinational environment. CULP program renders it available at Croatian Defense Academy and your cadets are better prepared for future operations.

What are the basic values and skills every cadet has to possess in order to become an excellent officer one day?

Our basic values are: loyalty, sense of duty, respect, unselfish service in the armed forces, honor, integrity and personal courage. Our cadets come from all parts and various cultures of the United States of America and world and

What should a future officer be like and what would be requested of him/her?

Future officer of the American Army should understand what the global environment is like and what its permanent threats are. Given that threats continuously change, an officer should be intelligent, flexible, and versatile. He/she has to be capable of thinking in a critical and creative manner, to solve any type of problem and lead his/her unit until solving a problem at ethical and moral level, for the benefit of those who are rendered assistance and the entire community.

What do you think about Croatia?

Your country is beautiful, but democracy is still in its infancy.

LTC Michael Gibson with ex Commandant of the Officer School LTC Ljubomir Udiljak



The end result is a versatile and resourceful officer in a complex and chaotic environment, who can quickly adapt to every change.

What are your impressions after end of the training with our cadets?

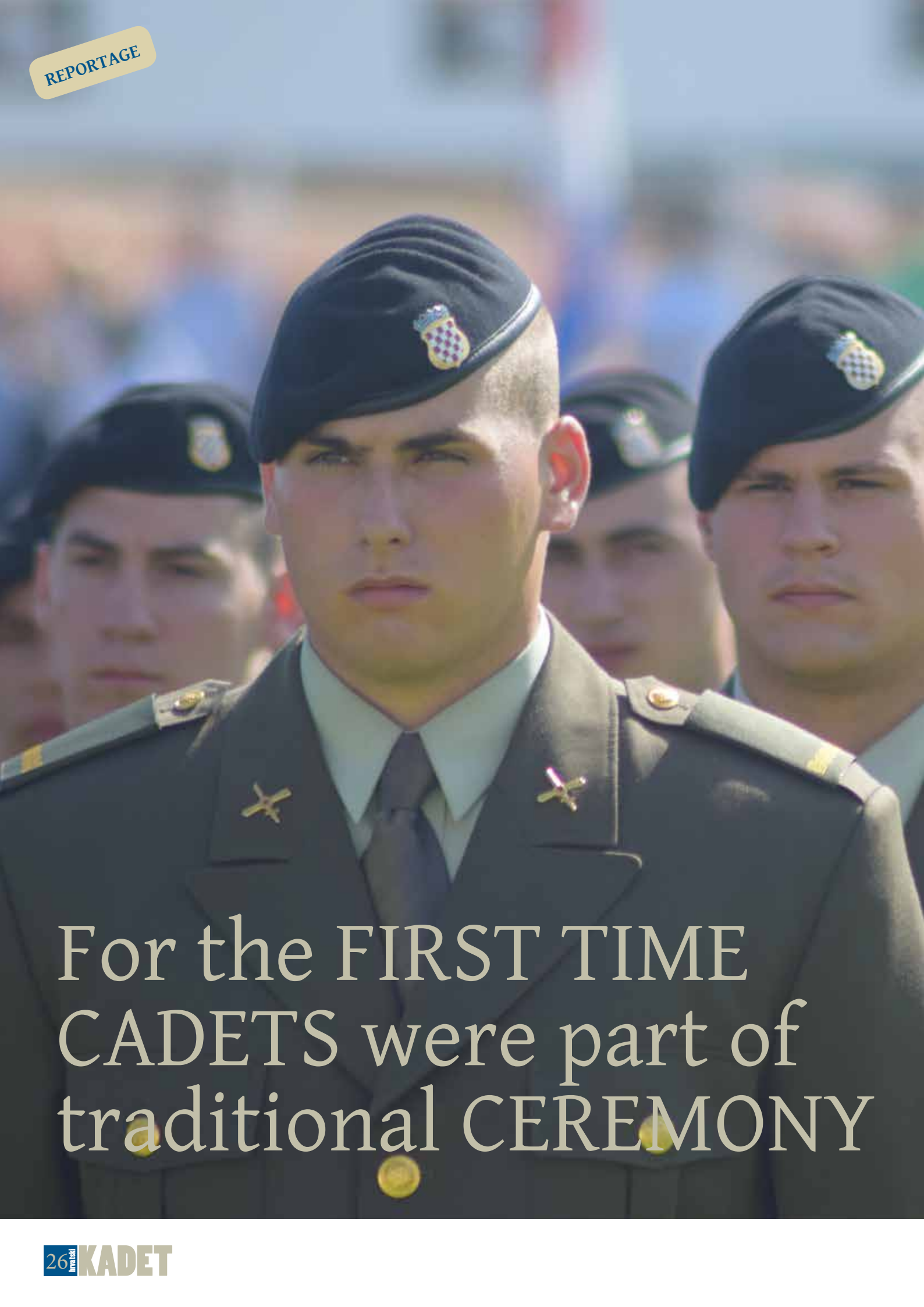
I was impressed by professionalism and motivation of the Croatian cadets, staff officers and NCOs. All of them carry out their activities

sometimes we see big differences in their convictions and values. We encourage these values in every soldier and every officer. We expect from our officers to be a model, to take initiative, to be hard working, to do right things, to take care about our soldiers and their families and behave themselves in conformity with our values. Once they have achieved it, they become excellent and successful officers.

Therefore, the economy is still developing but the society has been making progress on daily basis. I have seen considerable achievements and I hope your country is on the way of a big economic success.

Do you plan to visit us soon again?

I would like to come again and I would bring my family along to visit Zagreb, Vukovar, Plitvice Lakes and the Adriatic coast.



For the FIRST TIME
CADETS were part of
traditional CEREMONY



IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO DESCRIBE THE HONOR OF STANDING EXACTLY AT THE PLACE WHERE THE FIRST CROATIAN MALE AND FEMALE SOLDIERS TOOK OATH 25 YEARS AGO TO THEIR HOMELAND BEFORE THE EX PRESIDENT DR FRANJO TUĐMAN.

Text Cadet KRISTINA MILOŠ
Photo Cadet LUKA TRBARA

After many marching, practice and preparations that day finally arrived: the Day of the Armed Forces and Day of the Croatian Army. The historical act of establishment of the National Guard Corps on the stadium of the Football Club Zagreb in Kranjčevićeva Street is celebrated every year and this year the Cadet Battalion also had the honor to take part in this event. The task seemed simple: everybody was given the order to come as one to our lining-up place and listen to the address of the Commander-in-Chief of the CAF, President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarović and all high-ranking officials who lent solemnity to the central ceremony. However, it was clear that this task was much more than that. It could be seen on the faces of each of us.

25 gun salutes

It is impossible to describe the honor of standing exactly at the place where the first Croatian male and female soldiers took oath 25 years ago to their homeland and Croatian citizens before the ex President Dr Franjo Tuđman. They made a firm commitment to defend it against the aggressor and to fight so that new generations could have Our Beautiful



Homeland. In that way they laid foundations, not only of the modern Croatian army but also of the democratic Republic of Croatia we live in nowadays. The ceremony began with symbolic firing of 25 gun salutes of the members of the GMTBR's Artillery-Missile Battalion from the Sporting

Recreational Centre Jarun, and the stadium was overflowed by three MIG-21 jet fighters in honor of the war veterans and victims of the Homeland War. Then the President gave a sign for the beginning of the ceremony. At that moment, 16 echelons entered the stadium and lined-up, the last

of which was the echelon of 80 cadets led by Commandant of the Cadet Battalion, Major Tomislav Kasumović.

Investment in knowledge

In her speech, the President of the Republic of Croatia emphasized that the time of establishing the



Photographs taken at the Tactical-Technical Assembly of weapons, combat and non-combat equipment traditionally held at Jarun Lake in Zagreb.



Photo by TOMISLAV BRANDT

CAF was unique and important for the creation of the internationally recognized and sovereign Republic of Croatia as many of the attendees had the privilege and honor to testify to its creation. The Commander-in-Chief also said that Croatian army has developed into a respectable military force

missions, not only because of soldier's knowledge and skills but also because of human virtues. Nowadays, the CAF is highly thought of in our society and trusted by Croatian people, and I will continue to contribute with my work that confidence and reputation are not only preserved

CAF General Mirko Šundov, who congratulated on the anniversary of establishment of the Armed Forces. "Members of the Armed Forces, people, are our greatest value, and therefore in the future we will continue to invest in their knowledge, capabilities and skills. A long-term goal is to have

Text of the oath taken by members of the National Guards Corps

"I solemnly swear that I will faithfully and honorably fulfill the duties that are required of me, member of the Croatian National Guard Corps and that I will conscientiously and responsibly obey all official orders and commands. I swear that I will, even with the sacrifice of my own life, protect and defend my homeland Croatia, its sovereignty, territorial integrity and all its citizens."

in a very short time. "Croatia is a member of the EU and NATO and a highly appreciated subject on the international scene. Croatian soldier is exceptionally highly appreciated in all international

but built-up", are the words our President said in closing of her speech. Speakers at the ceremony were also Prime Minister Tihomir Orešković, Defense Minister Josip Buljević and Chief of Staff of the

a trained and equipped soldier, imbued with patriotism and a victorious spirit, motivated as were the Croatian veterans from the Homeland War", General Šundov said.

First PROFESSIONALS with a 25-year contract

THEY ACHIEVED VELOCITY IN MOVEMENT OF THEIR FORCES BECAUSE THEY CARRIED ALL OF THEIR EQUIPMENT AND ARMS BY THEMSELVES AND WALKED MORE THAN 50 KILOMETERS PER DAY

Text Cadets TIN HASANPAŠIĆ I NIKOLA TABAIN

Ancient Rome was fascinating in every way and it goes without saying that it has changed the mankind thoroughly. Roman advancement in architecture, irrigation systems, sewerage, as well as legal system was far ahead of its time but to us, most important were Roman soldiers. Why were Roman soldiers so much superior when compared to other military organization of that period? The beginning of golden age of Roman military is linked with Gaius Marius, statesman and general who widely opened the military to the citizens for the purpose of the wars with North African Kingdom of Numidia.

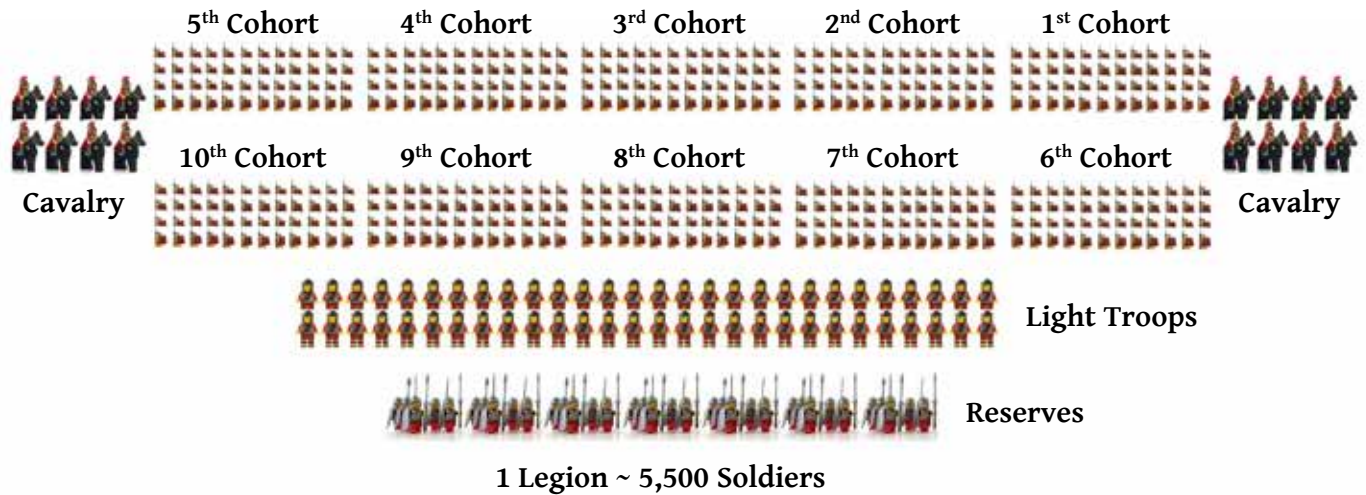
Regular salary

Not only the military could be served by every Roman citizen, the state equipped soldiers and paid regular salaries. They enlisted in a legion for twenty-five years of service, thus we may say that it was the first professional military. The reforms were initiated in 107 BC and the type of battle and personal armament was taken over from Iberian warriors. Legion was the foundation of Roman military power of the late Republic and Empire, and sometimes it consisted of up to 6000 members. It was composed mostly of legionaries. They were specialized not only for fighting but for other tasks as well (building, engineering, and police activities). These heavy infantrymen were the backbone of Roman expansion. Eight legionaries make contubernia, equivalent to today's squad. These eight soldiers are brothers of arm and share the same tent during campaign and share the same room in the barracks. Ten contubernias were organized in a century that had its commander - a centurion, an officer leading 80 legionaries in a battle and handled administrative work of his unit. Ten cohorts and ancillary troops that were composed of non-Romans made a legion. A legion had a



Jim Powers 2005

The Roman legion



Legend



1 Century = 80 Soldiers

1 Cohort = 6 Centuries

commanding staff- a council of six tribunes and legatus legionis who commanded over a legion.

Marius' Mules

Romans were masters of offensive warfare. Their biggest advantage was cohesive formations of great maneuvers possibilities. They were fast and mobile because they carried their equipment and arms by themselves and in that way they unburdened the logistic unit. In order to be able to carry all that they took a wooden cross on which they hanged equipment, armor and tools for digging trenches and setting up tents. That is why they were nicknamed Marius' Mules. They would walk 50 kilometers in a day. Every night a legion would make a camp.

Practical sandals

When going to the battle, a legionary carried only battle equipment: main weapons were a short sword for stabbing (gladius) and a long spear, or javelin (pilum) for throwing, a rectangular shield (scutum) and a knife pugio. He wore armor - lorica hamata, helmet

(cassis), oval helmets with movable shield for the cheeks. A legionary always wore caligae that resembled modern sandals which enabled fast movement during the battle. Before hand-to-hand combat, in order to "melt down" the enemy, they threw pilum. They regularly used closed formations. At the century there was a rotation system: at the centurion command first and last rows of formation were changed which enabled longer and more successful battle.

Top camps

Roman legion was a siege enabled unit. Its siege engineers constructed siege devices, such as balists, onagers, catapults and siege towers on the spot or they would erect walls around the besieged city, as was the case with Caesar's siege of Alesia. Campaigns and



siege could be so long lasting that legionaries had top camps. They would build camps at key points. They had two main roads and well located facilities, much elaborated defense against floods and channels. In such a way a legion would avoid sanitary problems that are frequent during longer sieges. Together with the legionaries, their families would travel with them. The settlements grew around such camps which later developed into towns. A retired legionary would receive a grant of land in one of the provinces. The legionaries left trace in the history and were an inspiration to later military units. With their professionalism, honor, warrior skills left mark on the Old World and paved the way to today's military service.



In SEA and in the Cetina RIVER as FISH in water

WE WERE ISSUED WITH MANY ITEMS OF EQUIPMENT: ABC DIVING EQUIPMENT, RUBBER MACHINE GUN, BACKPACK OF 45 AND 25 LITRES, HYDROPACK, RAIN CAPE, SPRING SAFETY HOOK, KNIFE, HAND LAMP, GLOWSTICKS

Text Cadet LUCIJA SAFUNDŽIĆ
Photographs taken by course participants



The summer of this year ended again somewhat earlier for some cadets.

In late August, the most daring cadets departed towards St. Nikola barracks in Split to undergo a two-week Combatant Diver Course that was conducted for the third consecutive year. Twenty-eight participants attended the Course, of whom 20 cadets of the 11th, 12th and 13th generation and eight members from friendly countries. Cadets from other military academies have already taken part in the Course. This year, in addition to cadets from Hungary, Poland and the Slovak Republic two officers also participated. Given that the Course was run at international level, the working language was English. The specific quality of this Course was participation of all three services of the CAF.

Night practice

We arrived to the barracks in Split in the afternoon hours. We were greeted by our cadets from the 5th company. Cadets from other military academies, eight of them arrived afterwards. Immediately after the arrival we were issued with many pieces of equipment: NBC diving equipment, rubber gun, backpack of 45 and 25 l, hydro pack, cape, spring safety hook, knife, hand lamp, glow sticks. The equipment was new and of high quality. Some of us saw some parts of the gear for the first time. We were all very excited and could hardly wait to use it. After we received all pieces of equipment, LTC Kasumović gave an introductory presentation on the entire plan and program. The course was designed to comprise whole day activities and night exercises. We were divided into three teams that would enable successful running of the Course. Team Commanders were among



Preparations for swimming with full equipment are thorough, and consist of numerous exercises

us and they rotated every day and we carried out all tasks in such formation. After preparations for the following big day and beginning of the Combatant Diver Course, we had a good night's rest.

Swallowing sea water

We woke up very early the next day. Already at six o'clock we were on the race-track and had physical training to warm up our bodies for the activities awaiting us on that day. Then we had breakfast, took all personal equipment and went to the hangar that was our starting point every day. In addition to personal equipment that we stored

in the hangar, our equipment was also there: rubber inflated boats, oars, kayaks. Our instructors firstly tested our swimming capabilities and then we were allowed to swim 50 m in two styles: 25 m breaststroke and 25 m crawl. Then we had to master basic tasks at sea. We put rubber boots on and fins on them, diving goggles on heads and snorkels in our mouths. Of course, we all wore uniforms. We went to the pier and then we had to do the following: to stand at the very edge of the pier, to fasten with hand our diving goggles and snorkels, step forward with one leg



Holders of the badge of combatant diver must embark on a kayak quickly and skillfully – also from water

out, step forward with the other leg and - jump! We found ourselves in water in the blink of an eye and had to use our arms to withstand the impact of getting into the sea water. Cadets who did not do it right, swallowed a lot of salty water. It was time for diving and we did it by holding our breaths. We had the opportunity to practice breath-hold diving technique in the swimming pool at Poljud. There we improved our swimming techniques; we learned to take off our uniforms as quickly as possible while in water. The best parts there were jumps into the water. Firstly, we jumped several times from the height of 5 meters. When we all mastered the technique of correct jumping – to look straight ahead and to position the body like

a needle – we jumped from even greater heights. The next height was 7, 5 m that was immediately followed by a jump from 10 meters. Although cadets were a bit afraid at the beginning, they felt a surge of adrenalin. After the first jump, we wanted to jump again. We were given a new chance for jumps in the second week when we made jumps from a ship. The



height was not so great but we were given another assignment: we had to jump from a raft in which our personal equipment was put.

Saving drowning persons

Persons were firstly thrown in water and then we jumped. Those jumps had to be made at much greater speed. That was a preparation for jumps from helicopter. In the first week of the Course we learned basic techniques of overcoming water obstacles by using solely personal equipment. Firstly we were taught how to make a raft of good quality in which our uniforms and boots would be kept so that we could change in dry uniforms and use our equipment after swimming in sea or in the river. When we built



Final exercise: embarkation into a helicopter and firing exercise at Red Earth Training Area

a raft for the first time, we needed a lot of time and those rafts were not so effective: some cadets ended up with wet uniforms. However, all that is part of the exercise and cadets learn from mistakes. By end of the Course we were all able to construct a raft. We rowed as well, firstly in rubber inflated boats in teams and then we paddled in kayaks in binomials. We did not have any problems with rubber inflated boats, we learned the technique quickly, rowed quickly accompanied following the rhythm of the commander and steersman. Paddling in kayaks was another story. We barely entered the water when several kayaks capsized. However, hours and hours of rowing, day and night, enabled us to row safely, without so many overturning. We also had the opportunity to try out

our rowing capabilities on the Cetina River by rowing upstream. We rowed for a long time on that day. We also rescued one another and practiced saving drowning persons in various manners in different situations.

Silver and gold

We were not only in sea, we underwent training on land as well. We practiced the tactics of securing the coastal area. Firing from HS pistols and VHS rifles were also organized within the Course. The specificity of the Combatant Diver Course lies in the joint administration by three services of the Croatian Armed Forces: the Army, the Navy, Air Force and Air Defense, Special Forces Command and Support Command, and the CDA was the main authority of the entire training.

Through training on land, at sea and in air we had a unique opportunity to work with members of all three services. On the last day of the Course we experienced the first flight by helicopter. This year's Combatant Diver Course will also be remembered by conferment of badges at end of the Course. All of us who completed it are entitled to wearing a metal numbered badge of the combatant diver as a sign of successful completion of the Course. The badges are divided into two categories: golden, that was conferred only to cadets who demonstrated to be excellent in firing exercises and other cadets were conferred silver badges. This Course was a unique international experience and in addition to gaining new knowledge and skills, it has also built new friendships.

Alpine CLIMBING & EXTREME conditions

CADETS HAVE MASTERED THE BASICS OF TERRAIN ORIENTATION: HOW TO FIND WATER, LIGHT A FIRE, BUILD A SHELTER IN THE SNOW. IN THE SITEX EXERCISE THE CADETS HAD TO MAKE OUT A PLAN AND CONDUCT A TACTICAL OPERATION OF RECONNAISSANCE AND PASSING THROUGH DANGEROUS AREA. PATROL BASE WAS ESTABLISHED AND THEY SLEPT IN THE OPEN.

Text Cadet EUGEN PRANJIC
Photo MSG KREŠIMIR MASLAĆ

Winter camp is the peak of a cadet's academic year. The 3rd and 5th Cadet Company with a total of 36 cadets participated at the Delnice Camp in Gorski kotar. They were trained by instructors of Special Forces commands and of our Cadet Battalion. The most demanding part of camp activities were alpine climbing and survival in extreme conditions which included descending by rope along a vertical tower. During the training of Infantry Weapons with the Task of Shooting - "POZG", the cadets got familiar with infantry weapons used by the members of Special Forces Command ("ZSS"). At the Kovačevo Shooting Range instinctive shooting from VHS D-1 and HS-9 was conducted as well as topo walking. The cadets have mastered the basics of terrain orientation. The peak of the camp activities was SITEX. The cadets had to make out a plan by themselves and conduct a tactical operation of reconnaissance and passing through the dangerous area. They had to establish patrol base and sleep in the open bivouac. Master Sergeant Krešimir Maslać emphasizes the fact that the cadets have presented by themselves all camp activities, among other things, a tactical situation in the final exercise of SITEX. It is easier and faster to master things through the practical training. It was a great pleasure to observe the high professionalism of the Special Forces Command instructors. These instructors praised the high motivation and team work of the cadets but they paid attention to the apparent lack of a "dry training", training from collective tasks in which skills of joint activities are developed and not only the individual ones. This was the last camp of such kind since the following generation of cadets will be educated through military-study programs and due to various training activities and time-tables, the winter camp is made of four parts instead of two.

