

# International Military Police Day in Kosovo

*By Major Douglas L. Gifford*

The Multinational Task Force–East (MNTF-E) Provost Marshal’s Office hosted an International Military Police Day at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, on 16 January 2009. More than sixty military police from Austria, Belgium, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Morocco, the Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Slovenia, Switzerland, Sweden, Turkey, and the United States participated in the event, with representatives from every multinational task force in Kosovo in attendance. This was the first of several events planned to enhance relations and cooperation among coalition forces in Kosovo.

The highlight of International Military Police Day was a shooting competition using the Camp Bondsteel Small Arms Virtual Trainer. The competition consisted of the following events:

- Military Police Qualification Table.
- Pop-Up Military Police Qualification Table.
- Marathon.
- Quick Fire 1.
- Quick Fire 2.

The events were designed to test shooting speed and accuracy under multiple scenarios. Forty-eight participants competed in the events; the Soldier with the highest combined score for all events was declared the winner. First Sergeant Josefin Jarlheden of Sweden was the overall winner with 621 points, followed by Specialist Clayton Schoneboom of the United States with 620 points and Corporal Adriano Currenti of Italy with 604 points. The highest possible score was 650 points.



**Winners of the event (left to right): First Sergeant Josefin Jarlheden of Sweden, Specialist Clayton Schoneboom of the United States, and Corporal Adriano Currenti of Italy.**

In addition to the shooting competition, Soldiers also had the opportunity to participate in a military working dog (MWD) exhibition conducted by the MNTF-E MWD Section.

Throughout the day, attendees mingled freely with fellow military police from other countries. At noon, they gathered for a luncheon at the South Town Dining Facility. According to Sergeant First Class Jeff Wolfgeher of the MNTF-E Provost Marshal’s Office, “[The International Military Police Day] was a great chance to teach and learn from other nationalities.”

As for the shooting skills of the international military police, Wolfgeher said, "They scored very well shooting on a course they were not familiar with. For example, the Swedish [military police] and the Italian Carabinieri came in first and third place." Sergeant First Class Wolfgeher himself had the highest score on the military police pop-up qualification table.

The Kosovo Forces (KFOR) Provost Marshal, Lieutenant Colonel Arend te Velde of the Royal Netherlands Marechaussee, developed the concept of the International Military Police Day. "The military police in KFOR are trying to raise their professional standard. The goal they are trying to reach is an even more flexible organization which can support the commanders within KFOR in the best way possible. This event is an excellent way to build teamwork and cooperation within the military police throughout KFOR," said te Velde.

The lead planner for the event (Sergeant First Class William Schumaker of the MNTF-E Provost Marshal's Office) added, "Everyone enjoyed meeting people from other countries with similar skills and experiences. By the end of the day, people were exchanging patches and e-mail addresses."

With regard to how the International Military Police Day met his expectations, Lieutenant Colonel te Velde said, "The day showed that it was possible that people could get in contact with each other. They met and talked about their work and typical national assets. People also made agreements on how to inform or help each other when needed. These are precisely the elements that are needed in a good working organization, and this day was a perfect first step to achieve this." Te Velde also said that he hopes the International Military Police Day will become an annual event in Kosovo.



**Military Police compete in a 9-millimeter shooting competition inside the Small Arms Virtual Trainer at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo.**



**Lieutenant Colonel Arend te Velde, KFOR Provost Marshal, addresses military police personnel at International Military Police Day.**

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