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REVISTA ESPAÑOLA DE DEFENSA

30

YEARS
OF INTERNATIONAL
MISSIONS

INTERVIEW
Lieutenant General
Fernando López del Pozo,
Commander of the Operations
Command



UNITED NATIONS

Jean-Pierre Lacroix, UN Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations

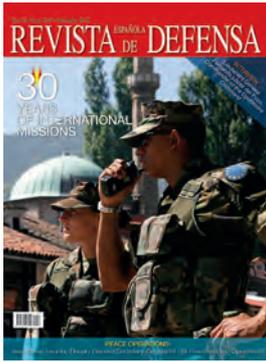


REVISTA ESPAÑOLA DE DEFENSA

We talk
about defence

NOW ALSO IN ENGLISH

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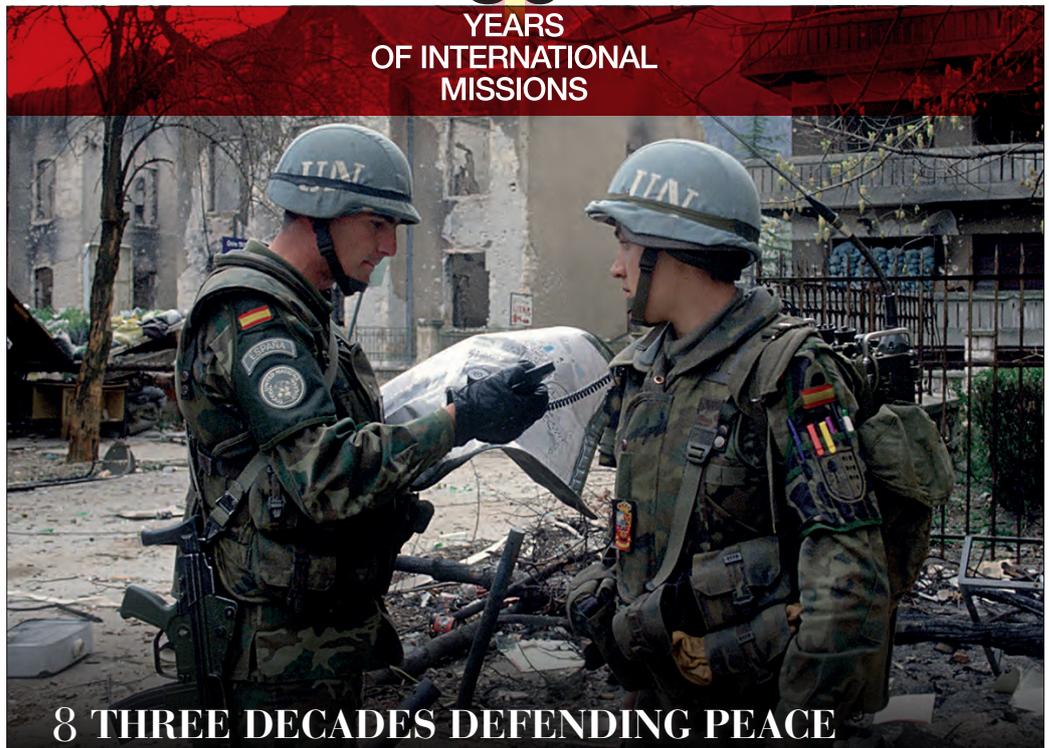
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Cover photo: Pepe Díaz

30
YEARS
OF INTERNATIONAL
MISSIONS



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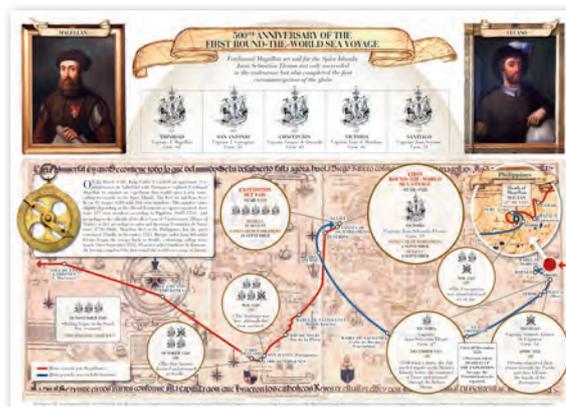
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PROTEGER



TU LIBERTAD

Hay muchas personas que defienden
la libertad que disfrutamos todos los días.



Nuestra misión, tu libertad.

International **SOLIDARITY**

2019 marks three decades since some Spanish officers participated, as observers, in the United Nations mission that verified the withdrawal of Cuban troops from the territory of Angola. This event put an end to a long isolation stage and initiated our participation in international operations. These have increased Spain's prestige among nations and have helped us contribute to the cause of peace. In addition, missions abroad have been an important modernizing tool for the Army, Air Force and Navy and a constant school for our servicemen and women, who have had to carry out tasks of increasing complexity in very demanding scenarios.

Since then, the attitude and effectiveness of our troops, along with their ability to interact with the population, have served as role models for the rest of the countries. Their capacity for social approach, together with their training, including learning local traditions and culture, enables them to soon gain the trust and appreciation of the populations where they are deployed.

It is also important to underscore the outstanding role of our servicewomen, with a crucial moral effect on the local female population, who with their image of professionalism and leadership convey courage, pride and hope in the future.

The great thing about this celebration is that Spain is still today an example of responsibility, with almost 3,000 troops serving in sixteen missions. Spain has become a relevant and influential country in the international arena and a reliable partner of organizations such as the United Nations, NATO or the European Union. Since threats can emerge thousands of miles away, our Armed Forces thus contribute to national security, which is essential for the Spanish society to continue to enjoy peace and well-being. We are facing a global challenge that we should confront jointly and severally with the international community as a whole.

This year, Spain's National Day commemorated this anniversary. Therefore, to mark 30 years since the first mission, there was a parade at the Paseo de la Castellana in Madrid on October 12. Guidons of several units which have participated in international operations marched in front of the King and Queen of Spain, as well as troops from Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania and Senegal. These are countries where Spain has troops deployed or with which it cooperates militarily. Even the slogan for that day, «Committed to peace», reflected the devotion to world security and stability that our Armed Forces share with the rest of the citizens.

RED (Revista Española de Defensa)

Three decades DEFENDING PEACE IN THE WORLD

IT has been 30 years since Spain, fully assuming its responsibility to the international community, and as a reflection of the solidarity of Spanish society, decided that its Armed Forces would participate in peacekeeping operations, thus contributing to peace, stability and security in the world.

Over these years, the Armed Forces have been the best exponent of our country's commitment to building a safer, fairer and freer world, making a steadfast commitment to an international order that guarantees human rights, sustainable development and the fundamental premise of peace among nations.

During these 30 years, Spain has participated in 83 international missions deployed around the world, playing an important role and contributing to the defence of peace. One hundred and eighty-six servicemen and women have lost their lives in these missions. We cannot express enough the gratitude felt by all of Spanish society to them and their families for their example and sacrifice.

We are firmly committed to building an increasingly effective international security system through our contribution to international alliances or multinational structures.

Our participation in NATO, as a reliable partner that makes high-quality contributions to the Alliance's missions, enables us to emphasize the need for this organisation to look also to its Southern flank when it comes to ensuring the collective security of its members.

Spain is also working on the construction of a Europe of defence, and is one of the promoters of the implementation of the Common Security and Defence Policy in actions such as the Dialogue Initiative or Joint Capabilities Development projects. This consolidates a European Defence Technological and Industrial Base, which also serves to promote research and technological innovation in our country.

Bilateral relations in the field of defence are also of particular importance. The promotion of mutual trust through dialogue, exchange of experience and cooperation is key to shared security.

As mentioned, we feel deeply proud of the performance of our Armed Forces, always flawless and inspiring during the thirty years Spain has been participating in international peace missions.

These missions are the best example of Spain's commitment to the organisations we belong to



Ricardo Pérez/MDE

Margarita Robles
Acting Minister
of Defence

and, above all, to peace and stability. Always in keeping with the law and the will of Parliament, our servicemen and women export the best values of our society with respect for cultural diversity and the dignity of all people. They protect the most vulnerable populations, create safe environments which leave room for policy, ensure the distribution of humanitarian assistance and guarantee the exercise of universal rights. And they do so with courage and generosity, giving their lives when necessary, and with the highest professional skills, as seen recently when they prevented a massacre at the Koulikoro base in Mali.

We are also aware that conflict resolution depends to a large extent on women's full involvement in mediation and peace processes. Therefore, our external action places special emphasis on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on «Women, Peace and Security» and on the UN Safe Schools initiative. In this respect, we are preparing our contingents accordingly and promoting the incorporation of women in deployments, as well as their inclusion in training missions of other countries.

It was back in January 1989 when the Armed Forces first participated in an overseas mission. Three Spanish military personnel arrived in Luanda (Angola) as observers of the United

Nations Verification Mission (UNAVEM) to supervise the withdrawal of Cuban troops.

Since then, Spain has deployed over 177,000 military personnel overseas, within the framework of missions led by international organisations such as the United Nations, NATO and the European Union.

The Spanish Armed Forces are currently participating in 15 overseas operations. Operation *Libre Hidalgo*, as part of the UN mission in Lebanon (UNIFIL), is the largest deployed mission with around 600 military personnel, although our armed forces are also participating in the following missions: *Althea*, EUTM CAR, EUTM *Somalia*, EUTM *Mali*, EUNAVFOR *Atalanta*, EUNAVFOR MED *Sophia*, UN Colombia, Air Force detachments in Dakar (*Marfil*) and Libreville (*Mamba*), *Resolute Support* (Afghanistan), *Inherent Resolve* (Iraq), SNMGs (Standing NATO Maritime Groups), NATO Support to Turkey and *Enhanced Forward Presence* in Latvia.

To all of them, our thanks and recognition. Although they are physically far from Spain, we feel them close in our hearts and are most proud for the important peacekeeping work they perform, keeping the Spanish flag flying high. ■

- Past operations
- Current operations

SPANISH PERSONNEL AROUND THE WORLD

Since the very first operations in Angola and Namibia, Spanish military personnel have participated in increasingly complex missions around the world.



1989

3 JANUARY

UNAVEM I, SPANISH PARTICIPATION IN PEACE OPERATIONS BEGINS

1 DECEMBER

ONUCA, FIRST MULTINATIONAL OPERATION



IN 30 years of overseas missions, 177,000 Spanish military personnel have intervened in over 80 operations on four continents under the auspices of the UN, NATO, the European Union or as part of multinational coalitions. Three decades of assistance and training, observation and surveillance, counter-terrorism, dissuasion and humanitarian aid show the strong commitment of our Armed Forces to peace and security in the world.

1989

- **Angola.** UNAVEM. UN observers (January 1989 – July 1991).
- **Namibia.** UNTAG. UN assistance in elections/independence (April 1989 – March 1990).
- **Central America.** ONUCA. UN observers in Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras (December 1989 – December 1991).

MILITARY UND THE WORLD

until the present day, the Armed Forces have taken on
ns in difficult environments

1991

26 APRIL



THE ARMY DEPLOYS 635
TROOPS IN IRAQ TO PROTECT
THE KURDISH POPULATION

1992

8 NOVEMBER



COMMENCEMENT OF
MÁLAGA GROUP'S
MISSION IN BOSNIA-
HERZEGOVINA



1990

- **Persian Gulf and Red Sea.** *Bravo* Group. Maritime embargo against Iraq following the invasion of Kuwait (August 1990 – July 1991).
- **Haiti.** UNAVEH. UN observers (October 1990 – January 1991).

1991

- **Iraqi Kurdistan.** *Provide Comfort*. International coalition to provide aid to refugees (April – June).
- **Angola.** UNAVEM II. UN post-conflict observers (May 1991 – December 1993).
- **Former Yugoslavia.** ECMMY/ECMM/EUMM. European Union observers (June 1991 – December 2007).

1992

- **El Salvador.** ONUSAL. UN observers (January 1992 – May 1995).
- **Adriatic Sea.** *Maritime Guard/Sharp Fence/Sharp Guard*. Naval blockade of the former Yugoslavia by NATO and the EU (July 1992 – January 1996).
- **Bosnia-Herzegovina.** *Alpha Bravo*. UNPROFOR. UN Protection Force (September 1992 – January 1996).
- **F.Y.R. Macedonia.** ECTF. European Union observers (October 1992 – April 1996).
- **North Atlantic and Mediterranean.** SNMG 1, SNMG 2 and SNMCMG2. Provision of vessels to Standing NATO Maritime Groups (ongoing).

1993

- **Mozambique.** ONUMOZ. UN post-conflict and

- Past operations
- Current operations

1994

29 NOVEMBER



ÍCARO DETACHMENT, FIRST
COMBAT ACTIONS BY THE
AIR FORCE

1995

12 OCTOBER



INAUGURATION OF PLAZA
DE ESPAÑA IN MOSTAR,
BOSNIA

1997

15 APRIL



HUMANITARIAN AID
MISSION IN
ALBANIA



Large contingents

THE Balkans, Afghanistan, Lebanon and Iraq have seen major deployments of Spanish troops, as part of large UN, NATO and European Union missions or multinational coalitions. This participation has developed simultaneously in several scenarios, providing large numbers of troops over long periods of time.

Since 1992, 46,000 members of our Armed Forces have participated in successive operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina; today five troops remain in EUFOR Althea. Another 22,000 troops participated in Kosovo from 1999 to 2009, contributing to the restoration of peace in the former Serbian province. In Afghanistan 29,000 members of the military personnel and the Guardia Civil were deployed from 2002 to 2014. The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (FINUL), deployed to the south of the country in 2006 to supervise the ceasefire between the Israeli army and the Lebanese militias of Hezbollah, has had up to 28,000 Spanish members among its ranks up to now. Presence in Iraq continues, where the Army has trained over 44,000 Iraqi military personnel and police officers since 2014.

electoral process observers
(March 1993 – October 1994).

- **Bosnia-Herzegovina.** EUAM. Assistance to the European Union administration in Mostar (April 1993 – April 1996).

1994

- **Rwanda.** UNAMIR. UN assistance mission (April – October).
- **Bosnia-Herzegovina.** OHR. Assistance to the Office of the High Representative of the EU (April 1994 – July 1999).
- **Guatemala.** MINUGUA. UN Verification Mission (August 1994 – December 2002).
- **Bosnia-Herzegovina.** *Deny Flight*. NATO operation for the air blockade decreed by the UN (November 1994 – January 1996).

1995

- **Chechnya.** OSCE observers (April 1995 – March 1997).
- **Bosnia-Herzegovina.** IFOR. NATO Implementation Force for the peace agreements (December 1995 – December 1996).

1996

- **Bosnia-Herzegovina.** SFOR. NATO Stabilisation Force (December 1996 – December 2004).

1998

5 NOVEMBER

AID TO THE POPULATION
IN CENTRAL AMERICA IN
THE WAKE OF HURRICANE
MITCH

1999

12 JUNE

FIRST CONTINGENT OF
INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
FORCE FOR KOSOVO (KFOR)
DEPLOYED



1997

- **Albania.** *Alba.* Multinational force to provide humanitarian aid to the population (March – August).
- **Moldavia.** OSCE observers (March 1997 – September 1999).
- **Nagorno-Karabakh.** OSCE observers (September 1997 – August 2004).

1998

- **Georgia.** OSCE observers (January 1998 – December 2002).
- **Kosovo.** OSCE observers (January 1998 – March 1999).
- **Central America.** *Alpha-Charlie.* Humanitarian aid in the wake of Hurricane Mitch (November 1998 – January 1999).

1999

- **Former Yugoslavia.** *Allied Force.* NATO air operation (March – June).
- **Albania.** *Alpha-Romeo.* NATO mission to provide aid to refugees (April– June).
- **Kosovo.** KFOR. NATO multinational force (June 1999 – September 2009).
- **Western Sahara.** MINURSO. UN observers (August).

Humanitarian aid

THE Armed Forces have alleviated serious situations caused by movements of refugees, earthquakes, fires, floods, hurricanes, etc. Spain took part in Provide Comfort (1991) in defence of the Kurdish people; provided aid to the victims of Hurricane Mitch in Central America (1998); managed a Kosovo-Albanian refugee camp in Albania (1999); and helped the victims of the earthquake in Turkey (1999) and the tropical rains in Mozambique (2000).

Our military personnel also took part in 'Respuesta Solidaria I' (2005) in the wake of the tsunami which devastated South East Asia, and 'Respuesta Solidaria II' (2005-2006) after the earthquake in Pakistan. The latter, led by the Spanish headquarters in Bétera, was the first humanitarian aid mission in NATO's history. In the present decade, the Military Emergency Unit (UME) has taken action in catastrophes such as the earthquakes in Haiti, Nepal, Ecuador and Mexico and the forest fires in Chile, Greece and Portugal. Air Force transport aircraft have also taken to the skies on numerous occasions to help nations beset by war, catastrophe, drought, famine, etc.

- Past operations
- Current operations



Security sentinels

ONE thousand Spanish military personnel have acted as observers in peace processes. The first participants carried out their tasks in UN missions in Central America: ONUCA (1989-1991), which provided support to the peace process in the region and intervened in the voluntary demobilisation of the Nicaraguan Contras; ONUVEH in Haiti (1990); ONUSAL in El Salvador (1991-1995); and MINUGUA in Guatemala (1995-2003). Spanish military personnel are currently supervising the peace process between the Government of Colombia and the FARC Guerrillas.

Spanish observers have participated in various operations in Africa: UNAVEM, to verify the withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola; MINURSO, in the Western Sahara; and other operations in Burundi, Chad, D.R. Congo, Eritrea and Ethiopia, Guinea, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, the Republic of Sudan, etc. In Asia observers intervened in EU AMM, a European Union mission in Indonesia, while in Europe, various observers collaborated with the UN and the EU in the development of the new institutions of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, and Kosovo, and with the OSCE in countries of the former USRR (Chechnya, Georgia, Moldavia and Nagorno-Karabakh).

- **Turkey.** *Tango-Tango.* Humanitarian aid after the earthquake (August – October).
- **F.Y.R. Macedonia.** *Essential Harvest/Amber Fox/Allied Harmony/Concordia.* NATO and European Union missions (September 1999 – December 2003).

2000

- **Mozambique.** *India-Mike.* Humanitarian aid after the floods (March – April).
- **Eritrea.** UNMEE. UN observers (September 2000 – July 2008).

2001

- **Afghanistan and Indian Ocean.** *Enduring Freedom.* International coalition against terrorism in the wake of the September 11 attacks (October 2001 – July 2004).
- **Mediterranean.** *Active Endeavour.* NATO counter-terrorism maritime surveillance (October 2001 – November 2016).
- **D.R. Congo.** MONUC. UN observers (November 2001 – 2013).

2002

- **Afghanistan.** ISAF. NATO multinational security assistance force (January 2002 – December 2014).

2005



12 JUNE

SPAIN LEADS THE FIRST NATO HUMANITARIAN MISSION AFTER THE PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE

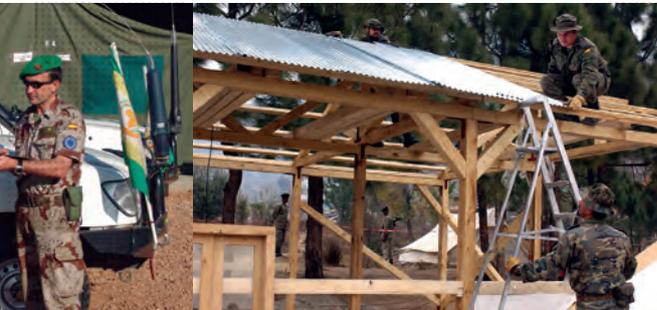
16 AUGUST

17 SOLDIERS PERISH WHEN A COUGAR HELICOPTER GOES DOWN IN AFGHANISTAN

2006

15 SEPTEMBER

THE FIRST BLUE HELMETS ARRIVE IN LEBANON



2003

■ **Iraq.** *Iraqi Freedom (Sierra Juliet)*. Humanitarian aid and stabilisation and reconstruction forces following the overthrow of Saddam Hussein (April 2003 – May 2004).

2004

■ **Burundi.** ONUB. UN observers (July 2004 – July 2005).

■ **Haiti.** MINUSTAH. UN stabilisation mission for elections (October 2004 – March 2006).

■ **Bosnia-Herzegovina.** EUFOR *Althea*. European Union military advisors (December 2004 – ongoing).

2005

■ **Indonesia.** *Respuesta Solidaria I*. Humanitarian aid in the wake of the tsunami (January – March).

■ **Sudan.** UNMIS/AMIS. UN, EU and African Union observers in Darfur (April 2005 – December 2007).

■ **Indonesia.** EU AMM. European Union observers (April 2005 – September 2006).

■ **Pakistan.** *Respuesta Solidaria II*. NATO humanitarian aid after the earthquake (October 2005 – January 2006).

Heroes for peace

THE tragedy behind the work of military personnel and the Guardia Civil in overseas missions is that 186 people have died in such missions, for various reasons and in different circumstances. On the list of fatalities, which includes three nationalised Spanish interpreters and losses incurred in international crossings, there are two women, Idioa Rodríguez and Ni-yireth Pineda, who died in Afghanistan in 2007 and 2011, respectively.

The worst accidents occurred on 26 May 2003, when 62 soldiers returning to Spain following a mission in Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan lost their lives when the *Yak-42* aircraft they were travelling in crashed in Trebisonda (Turkey) and on 16 August 2005 when 17 army members died when the Cougar helicopter transporting them went down near Herat (Afghanistan).

Seven members of the National Intelligence Centre (CNI) were killed by insurgents on 29 November 2003 in Iraq; while six troops lost their lives on 24 June 2007 when the armoured tank in which they were travelling was hit by a bomb in Lebanon.

- Past operations
- Current operations



2006

- **D.R. Congo.** EUFOR. European Union assistance in post-conflict elections (June – December).
- **Baltic countries.** NATO air policing in various time-periods (August 2006 – September 2019).
- **Lebanon.** FINUL. UN Provisional Force (September 2006 – ongoing).

2007

- **Chad and the Central African Republic.** MINURCAT/EUFOR. UN humanitarian mission and EU military assistance (September 2007 – June 2009).
- **Guinea-Bissau.** EUSSR. European Union military assistance (December 2007 – 2010).

2008

- **D.R. Congo.** EUSEC. European Union assistance for security reform (June 2008 – 2012).
- **Somali Coast.** 'Centinela Índico'. Counter-piracy maritime patrol aircraft (September 2008 – January 2009).

2009

- **Indian Ocean.** Operation *Atalanta*. European Union counter-piracy air and naval force (January 2009 – ongoing).

- **Indian Ocean.** *Ocean Shield*. NATO vessels for the protection of maritime traffic in the in the Gulf of Aden and in the Somali Basin (August 2009 – December 2016).

2010

- **Haiti.** *Hispaniola*. Humanitarian aid for earthquake victims (January – May).
- **Uganda and Somalia.** EUTM *Somalia*. European Union training mission (February 2010 – ongoing).

2011

- **Libya.** *Unified Protector*. NATO operation to protect the population (March – October).

2012

- **Horn of Africa.** EUCAP *Nestor*. European Union civilian capacity-building mission in countries in the region (July 2012 – February 2016).

2013

- **Senegal.** *Alpha Mike*. *Marfil* aerial detachment to support France in its operations in the Sahel (26 January – ongoing).
- **Mali.** EUTM *Mali*. European Union training mission (1 April – ongoing).

16 JULY



2016

SPANISH SOLDIERS
FROM EUROCORPS IN
THE CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC

2017

19 JUNE

FIRST OVERSEAS
ARMoured
DEPLOYMENT
IN LATVIA

2019

29 MARCH

SPAIN AT THE HELM
OF OPERATION
ATALANTA



2014

- **Central African Republic.** EUFOR RCA/EUMAM RCA/EUTM RCA. European Union training mission (April 2014 – ongoing).
- **Gabon.** *Alpha Charlie.* *Mamba* aerial detachment to support operations in the Central African Republic (March 2014 – ongoing).

Cooperative security

IN recent years Spain has helped train the forces of various African countries. These so-called Cooperative Security missions are part of the Defence Diplomacy Plan: a set of activities, based mainly on dialogue and cooperation, performed by the Ministry of Defence on a bilateral level with Allied and Partner countries. Up to now these missions have been carried out in Cape Verde, Senegal, Mauritania and Tunisia. The activities involve ground combat, maritime surveillance and security, search and rescue, defence of air bases, cyber defence, counter-terrorism, special operations, health-care training, etc.

2015

- **Afghanistan.** *Resolute Support.* NATO-led train, advise and assist mission for Afghan forces (January 2015 – ongoing).
- **Iraq.** *Inherent Resolve* (Operation *Alpha India*). Training of Iraqi forces within international coalition and NATO framework (January 2015 – ongoing).
- **Turkey.** *Active Fence* (Operation *Alpha Tango*). *Patriot* anti-ballistic missile detachment from Syria (January 2015 – ongoing).
- **Central Mediterranean.** Operation *Sophia*. European Union air and naval forces in the fight against human trafficking (June 2015 – ongoing).

2016

- **Mediterranean.** *Sea Guardian.* NATO maritime security (October 2016 – ongoing).
- **Colombia.** UN observers (November 2016 – ongoing).

2017

- **Latvia.** *Enhanced Forward Presence.* NATO's enhanced forward presence in Northern Europe (June 2017 – ongoing).

Víctor Hernández/Santiago F. del Vado

3 DE OCTUBRE DE 2019

30 AÑOS EN MISIONES DE PAZ

La mujer como agente de transformación



Margarita Robles (centre), flanked, from left to right, by J. Rodríguez, A. Diabaté, P. Bernal and A. Cebada.

HOMAGE at the Ministry of Defence

The chiefs of the first peace missions and experts in the role of women in peace processes intervened to pay homage to our Armed Forces

«**O**UR Armed Forces are courageous, generous, heroic and capable of giving their own lives without asking for anything in return, and all because they have values and convictions». Thus spoke the acting Minister for Defence, Margarita Robles, during the event that took place on October 3rd last at the Ministry of

Defence headquarters, where homage was paid to the Spanish military personnel who have taken part in international missions. The Minister particularly underlined the role of women as agents for change in peace processes.

During the event, which was moderated by the acting Minister for Defence, the chiefs of the first missions participated: Lieutenant General of

the Air Force (reserve) Pedro Bernal, who was chief of the second contingent of our air detachment at the United Nations Transition Assistance Group in Namibia (UNTAG), and Brigadier General of the Army (retired) José Rodríguez, who was chief of the observers sent to the UN Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM).

Contributions were also heard from Alicia Cebada, Chief of Staff of the Presidency of the Council of State, and Lieutenant Colonel Aminata Diabaté, Chief of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights at the General Staff of the Mali Armed Forces, on women's contribution to the Peace Corps (see following pages).

The event ended with a colloquium where experts and attendees shared their experiences of their overseas missions.

NAMIBIA

Bernal and Rodríguez recalled both missions, which were coordinated at the end of the 80s in order to find a solution to the military conflict involving

«Our Armed Forces are capable of giving their lives without asking for anything in return», stated the Defence Minister

Angola, Cuba, Namibia and South Africa. The missions were related, as South Africa requested the full withdrawal of the Cuban troops from Angola before granting independence to its neighbouring Namibia.

UNTAG started on April 1st 1989 and ended on the day of independence, March 21st 1990, when the Namibian flag replaced the South African flag in Windhoek, the capital of the new State. UNAVEM took place between January 1989 and October 1991 and continued with UNAVEM II until February 1995, to verify the effectiveness of the ceasefire. Pedro Bernal, who later became the director of the Centre for Higher

National Defence Studies (CESEDEN), explained that the task of the second Spanish contingent in Namibia was to «perfect and refine» the work carried out by the previous contingent, led by Lieutenant Colonel Luis Ferrús. The latter's command coincided with the holding of elections, which entailed a great number of flights on his part. «We had to set up an operations centre —he recalled—, where we gathered all the in-service personnel to keep in permanent touch with the aircraft, which were frantically flying all over the country. We also had to solve engine problems; they were losing power and we discovered that the reason was airborne dust».

The Air Force Lieutenant General listed some of the characteristics of our contribution to UNTAG: «fluid and effective» interaction with military personnel from other countries; integration into a UN structure; and a «first class» relationship with the civilian population, as well as with the South Africans who were providing us with airborne support. He said that the Spanish contingent gave an image of «ability, professionalism, promptness, etc., and that this was expressly conveyed by most of the contingents and by the United Nations' Secretary-General himself, Javier Pérez de Cuéllar».

ANGOLA

José Rodríguez underlined the «strong bonds» that were forged among the 70 military members of the ten UNAVEM participating nations. «We learned a great deal from one another. We came from different cultures, languages and continents but our prejudices soon disappeared. We all wanted to give the best of ourselves for peace to avoid the suffering of many people». He said that he subsequently found this mutual understanding within multinational teams in other UN missions in Guatemala (MINUGUA) and in Kosovo (MINUK),

where he was the advisor to the UN Special Representative.

The Army General said that the guerrilla had not taken part in the agreement between Angola, Cuba and South Africa; therefore they declared «hostile force» toward UNAVEM. «Nobody could believe that we would be able to control all that territory, but we gained credibility from the parties, including from the guerrilla». «A mission's success —José Rodríguez concluded— is based on achieving everybody's trust and, to that end, neutrality and impartiality are a must».

S.F.V.

Photos: Pepe Díaz



■ **JOSÉ RODRÍGUEZ**

«We wanted to give the best of ourselves for peace to avoid the suffering of many people»



■ **PEDRO BERNAL**

«The Spanish contingent in Namibia offered an image of professionalism and ability»

Women as PEACE AGENTS

Two ladies, a Lieutenant Colonel from Mali and the Head of the Office of the Presidency of the Council of State, talk about women in conflict areas



A Spanish military during an encounter with a group of Afghans women to learn more about their needs.

«I had to teach our soldiers that child and adult rapes are no war trophies. That a woman's body is not a revenge tool. It was not easy». Lieutenant Colonel Aminata Diabaté from Mali has worked with the servicemen of her country to put an end to these practices, often used in armed clashes in her country. «They believed that if the other party won the war it was due to the fact that they had raped 20 women in a week and that to rape a ten-year old girl was an important achievement. We had to reverse that way of thinking». These behaviours, she added, have fostered the people and, in particular women, to distrust the troops. «They do not feel protected by the State. Women are wounded, they do not trust men. We need to approach them and carefully listen to what they have to say because they find it difficult to express what has happened to them».

The audience that attended the Seminar on *50 years of peace missions. Women as transformation agents* at the Ministry of Defence, remained in complete silence listening to the calm voice of this servicewoman who has been for more than 30 years, and almost always surrounded by men, struggling for the recognition of the importance of the role of women in peacekeeping. «We cannot talk of development without long-term stability, and we cannot think of a long-term stability without taking into account the role of women», she stated.

Besides Lieutenant Colonel Diabaté, Ms. Alicia Cebada —Head of the Office of the Presidency of the Council of State— also participated in the Seminar. She talked about the United Nations' Women, Peace and Security Agenda now that it is approaching its 20th anniversary.

It was launched with Security Council resolution 1325 and, in her opinion, «it has done little to transform the reality of women in situations of conflict. It is no longer an exciting project; feminist groups consider it greatly discredited, and the consensus with which it was founded have been broken», she stated.



The doctors wanted to carry out medical check-ups of the population, but they refused. «We have never seen them around here and we don't need them», they said. «We need this woman, referring to me, who has come here to help us». That is why, the presence of women in the Armed Forces is absolutely essential, the Lieutenant Colonel pointed out. «It builds confidence among female population and it gives democratic legitimation to the States».

Lieutenant Colonel Diabaté also asked for a greater female presence in peace processes. «We need to include the communities in these peace processes and we cannot do this without women. Their involvement in peace-building is clearly a must», she insisted.

She took this opportunity to thank the Spanish troops in Mali for their work. «Your soldiers have managed to avoid terrorist acts», she said.

PEACE AND SECURITY

Alicia Cebada is Project Coordinator in the Women for Africa Foundation. She is in touch with many organizations in this continent and many have expressed their disappointment in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. «There seem to be many words, many statements, many action plans, but very few deeds». During her speech, she recalled that women still participate very little in peace processes. Only 8 per cent are negotiators, 2 per cent are mediators, and 5 per cent are signatories.

Ms. Cebada noted that some permanent members of the Security Council question the document. The last resolution, number 2467, was adopted last April without unanimity. Those countries that abstained, she explained, «conduct a robust defence of the central role of the State, they oppose attempts to expand the mandates of the Secretary-General's special representative for sexual violence in conflict,

Ms. Pramila Patten, or to create mechanisms to document that violence».

In her opinion, the Women, Peace and Security Agenda is at stake. However «a Security Council resolution does not allow us to ignore the rest of the documents that recognize the fundamental rights of the female population». Nevertheless, women in conflict areas «remain unheard in negotiation processes, they continue to be raped and there is no justice for them». The Agenda, she pointed out, «tries to build social conditions to guarantee the self-respect of all women. This is the straight path to peace».

Elena Tarilonte
Photos: Pepe Díaz



ALICIA CEBADA

«Women remain unheard in negotiation processes»

■ **AMINATA DIABATÉ**
«The presence of women in the Armed Forces legitimizes States»

CONFIDENCE-BUILDING

Among other experiences, Lieutenant Colonel Diabaté shared those gained during the months she spent in the forest with her Army Chief of Staff developing supply programs for isolated populations.

«One day we arrived at a village and when the people heard the car engines, the men hid while the women carefully looked out the windows», she recalls. She got out of the car and they gradually got closer. «They asked me if I was a woman and when I said yes, they started to touch me to see for themselves that I was not lying. They told me that the children had never seen a vehicle before, which convinced me that there was a total absence of the State in that area».

Only 8 per cent of the negotiators, 2 per cent of the mediators, and 5 per cent of the signatories participating in peace processes are women

Lieutenant General Fernando López del Pozo,
Commander of the Operations Command

«WE ARE AMBASSADORS OF SPAIN»

He emphasises that international missions
set operations as Spanish Armed Forces
highest priority

SINCE May 2007, Lieutenant General Fernando López del Pozo held the position of Commander of the Operations Command (MOPS in Spanish), a body from the Defence Staff (EMAD in Spanish) focused on planning, management and monitoring of overseas missions. He also considers that our Armed Forces' participation into these missions «is fundamental to let Spain convey the image of a democratic, developed country willing to export to the rest of countries its way of living and understanding the world». «In this sense —he underlines— we are ambassadors».

—How have these missions influenced the evolution of our Armed Forces during the last thirty years?

—Mainly because they have driven operations to focus, to the centre of what constitutes the main objective for the Armies and the Navy. They have been a determining factor for their evolution and have promoted transformations in personnel, material...

—Why are the experiences lived by soldiers deployed abroad so appreciated?

—Because they imply a confrontation with reality. That is to say, because what was earlier done in 1989 regarding training and instruction, it is done in a real-life scenario. And that applies to the whole range of operations, including those of humanitarian aid, which also involves military affairs: of force projection, provision, language skills... It is not the same an operation than an exercise, nor the adrenaline levels generated in each of them.

*«Spanish
soldiers provide
prominent
human quality
when working
abroad»*

—What do the Spanish contingents provide?

—Above all, prominent human quality, making us highly appreciated in the operations. It is legendary the empathy shown by ours soldiers, and many true anecdotes are told on this aspect. For example, in Bosnia-Herzegovina, when at the beginning of the 1990s, UNPROFOR from United Nations was deployed, Spaniards were practically the only ones that shared a coffee and an open and sincere talk, and even a *rakia*, the local liquor, with citizens of the three ethnic backgrounds —Serbians, Croatians and Bosnians—, making easier the mission.

—You have been based in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iraq and Lebanon. What are the lessons you have learnt from those missions?

—In the mission of Bosnia-Herzegovina, where I was Commander in 1996, I learnt that troops must be deployed with a strong and precise command. I also took part in the first Atlantic Alliance contingent, with



The Operations Command conducts its work «from a clear spirit of service» to the deployed soldiers, as stated by its Commander, Lieutenant General Fernando López del Pozo.

IFOR, which replaced UNPROFOR. Said Force had a more limited command, making it unable to face certain obstructions from fighting forces, situation that did not occur with NATO.

In Iraq, where I was Chief of Staff of the *Plus Ultra* Multinational Brigade in 2003, led by Spain, I learnt the need to obtain a result from any operation, even if it is limited and after a long time. We arrived with a favourable situation, but our withdrawing generated certain

opposition from the population because the mission was not able to fulfil the expectations created.

In the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (FINUL), as a Commander of the Sector East and of the Spanish Brigade BRILIB XIX in 2013, I realised how valuable the military diplomacy is, that already exists, although it seems like a contradiction. You can be soldier and diplomat at the same time. Being very tactful and having the ability to empathize, is needed to making the forces in conflict able to negotiate and to reach agreements.

—Is it difficult to simultaneously follow the sixteen current operations, involving 2,775 soldiers and civil guards?

—It is not easy, but the Operations Command was created for that purpose fifteen years ago. We count with the necessary means, and, especially, with a dedicated and enthusiastic personnel.

—How is this work executed?

—From a clear spirit of service to all those soldiers based outside our borders. They are the main actors and we help them to successfully fulfil their mission. We deliver them the operations plan, being alert for their correct interpretation and for assuring that the international organization leading the operation does not give them orders contrary to what Spain has previously decided.

—Is the same method valid for all the missions?

—No, individual monitoring should be done. Each mission is different, although some of them seem very similar. All of them include operations, logistics, intelligence, personnel, public communication... They require a direct contact between the MOPS soldiers and the operations ones, and between me and the chiefs of contingents, with whom I try to maintain direct communication every week. I try to make them feel supported



MUSEO DEL EJÉRCITO



El Museo del Ejército está instalado en dos edificios, el histórico Alcázar y el de nueva planta, unidos por los restos hallados en las excavaciones arqueológicas realizadas para la ampliación.

El Alcázar está destinado a la Exposición Permanente, albergando el nuevo edificio las dependencias administrativas, las salas de Exposiciones Temporales, el auditorio, el archivo, la biblioteca, los talleres de restauración y almacenes, entre otras.

En más de 8.000 m² se distribuye la Exposición Permanente, con 8 salas de discurso histórico y 13 salas temáticas.

2.100 m² de restos arqueológicos que representan las épocas romana, árabe, medieval (Trastámara) y Carlos V.

HORARIO DE VISITAS

Abierto todos los días de 10.00 a 17.00 horas. Permanecerá cerrado todos los lunes (festivos incluidos), y los días 1 y 6 de enero, 1 de mayo, 24, 25 y 31 de diciembre

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and inform me on the course of the mission in order to personally get to know and react before the difficulties arise.

—Are the citizens aware of the risks and threats against our security from such remote areas?

—I think that they are not aware to its fullest, although its perception is improving. The Armed Forces takes part in a scheme to avoid the risks and threats to be materialised into an action against us, and, to be effective, this should be done even further from the national territory. In the last years, soldiers have increased their openness to media, since it is clear that to inform is the only way in which the citizen would know what is happening out there.

—Are the Armed Forces better known by their overseas operations or by the internal permanent surveillance of spaces of sovereignty missions?

—For the first ones. In essence, it is good that they do not perceive our action in the permanent missions because that means that we are doing well. Regularly, we communicate by videoconference with the command of Ground Operations, of Maritime Surveillance and Security, and of Air Defence and Operations, which work 24 hours per day, 7 days per week on monitoring these areas, knowing the environment, detecting non-authorized flights, variations in maritime traffic and immigrants flow...



—In 2016, MOPS have moved from calle de Vitruvio, in the heart of Madrid, to Retamares Military Base, in Pozuelo de Alarcón. What are the advantages of such change?

—First of all, we count with more space, that is essential due to the increasing number of operations lead by MOPS; secondly, we breathe much better being in touch with nature. This building is new; also the Joint

Operations Centre is equipped with modern and fully updated means of communication... I think that we have gained a lot.

—You frequently visit the different theatre operations. Which moments do you particularly remember?

—Those from the trips during which I have accompanied State authorities, such as the King, the Prime Minister, the Defence Minister or JEMAD. That is because in those situations, I am in the background, so I can see the situation with greater perspective.

Said authorities have stated their affection for the troops. The deployed soldiers placed beyond our frontiers value it a lot, since their work requires a sacrifice, and they need to know that from Spain such work is recognised and acknowledged.

—How is the future of the overseas missions foreseen?

—Currently, we have operations that are clearly oriented to deterrence, another ones of counterterrorism

and third ones that try to train and advise the armies of several countries, to allow them to provide the required stability and security to the civilian population.

I do not think that these three blocks would change. The international situation will continue asking for it and Spain will maintain its contribution.

Santiago F. del Vado
Photos: Pepe Díaz

«It improves citizen perception about how risks in remote areas can affect their security», points the Commander of MOPS

30

YEARS
OF INTERNATIONAL
MISSIONS



CURRENT OPERATIONS

November 2019

SPANISH Armed Forces take part in 15 foreign missions with 2,985 soldiers and civil guards deployed in four continents. They are present under the flag of the European Union at Mali, Somalia, the Central African Republic, Bosnia-Herzegovina, the coast of Somalia and the Mediterranean. In Senegal and Gabon, there are two detachments providing air support to the French mission in the Sahel region.

Within NATO, Spain takes part in a Multinational Battalion in Latvia; in Afghanistan, we contribute to the mission *Resolute Support*, and in Turkey, we have a *Patriot* battery. In the Mediterranean Sea and in the North Atlantic, a frigate and a countermeasure vessels are integrated into the allied Permanent Naval Forces. Regarding fight against *Daesh*, we contribute to the training of the Iraqi security forces. Spain also contributes to NATO with a wide contingent of blue helmets in Lebanon and a group of observers in Colombia.

Troops in the missions from the different organisms and coalitions



1.000



570



615



545



105



150

(Approximate figures, subject to operational adjustments)



EUFOR ALTHEA BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA (EU)

- **Objective:** Giving advice to the country's Armed Forces to contribute to its development.
From December 2004
- **Forces:** At the headquarters of EUFOR in Sarajevo.
5 soldiers



UN MISSION IN COLOMBIA

- **Objective:** Monitoring of the peace process between the Government and FARC.
From 2016
- **Forces:** Unarmed international observers.
5 soldiers

Atlantic Ocean



COOPERATIVE SECURITY

- **Objective:** Collaboration with African countries.
- Tunisia, Mauritania, Senegal and Cape Verde.
150 soldiers



AIR SUPPORT TO MALI (from Senegal)

- **Objective:** Air transport in the operations conducted by France and EU at Sahel region.
From January 2013
- **Forces:** *Marfil* Air Detachment at the French Air Base in Dakar. *C-130 Hercules* aircraft.
60 soldiers

MAURITANIA
SENEGAL
Dakar Koulikoro
Bamako



EUTM MALI (EU)

- **Objective:** Training of the Nation's Army
From January 2013
- **Forces:** Instructors and protection force in Bamako and Koulikoro.
200 soldiers



SNMG/SNMCMG (NATO)

- Objective: First response to crisis situations naval units.
- From 11th September 2001
- Forces: Ships integrated into the NATO permanent groupings.
- 435 soldiers



ENHANCED FORWARD PRESENCE (NATO)

- Objective: Enhanced forward presence throughout North-Western Europe.
- From 2017
- Forces: Spanish troops take part in a multinational battalion in Latvia.
- 350 soldiers.



INHERENT RESOLVE (INTERNATIONAL COALITION)

- Objective: Training the Iraq Army to defeat *Daesh*.
- From January 2015
- Forces: Instructors and protection force in Besmayah and special operations troop in Baghdad and Taji.
- 545 soldiers



ACTIVE FENCE (NATO)

- Objective: Protect the Turkish population against the threat of ballistic missiles from Syria.
- From January 2015
- Forces: A *Patriot* anti-aircraft missile battery deployed on the southern border of Turkey.
- 150 soldiers



RESOLUTE SUPPORT (NATO)

- Objective: Training and advice to the Afghan security forces.
- From January 2015
- Troops from special operations and personnel in the headquarters of the mission in Kabul.
- 65 soldiers

LATVIA

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

TURKEY

IRAQ

Kabul
AFGHANISTAN

Mediterranean Sea

LEBANON



FINUL- LIBRE HIDALGO (UN)

- Objective: Surveillance of the cessation of hostilities in Lebanon.
- From September 2006
- Forces: Blue helmets at *Miguel de Cervantes* Military Base, in Marjayoun.
- 610 soldiers

TUNISIA



EUNAVFOR MED SOPHIA (EU)

- Objective: Fight against trafficking of human beings in the Mediterranean.
- From June 2015
- Forces: A maritime surveillance aircraft.
- 45 soldiers



EUTM RCA (EU)

- Objective: Training of the Central African Armed Forces.
- From 2016
- Forces: Provided by HQ Eurocorps.
- 5 soldiers

DJIBOUTI

SOMALIA
Mogadiscio



EUTM SOMALIA (EU)

- Objective: Training of the Somali Army.
- From February 2010
- Forces: Instructors at the military centre *Jazeera* (Mogadiscio).
- 20 soldiers



EUNAVFOR ATALANTA (EU)

- Objective: Fight against Somali piracy in the Indian ocean.
- From January 2009
- Forces: A ship deployed in the Indian ocean, and *Orion* detachment in Djibouti, with a maritime surveillance aircraft.
- 295 soldiers



AIR SUPPORT TO CAR (from Gabon)

- Objective: Transport flight to the Central African Republic in support of the operations of France and EU.
- From December 2013
- Forces: *Mamba* Air Detachment in Libreville (Gabon).
- C-295* aircraft.
- 45 soldiers

Bangui
CENTRAL AFRICAN
REPUBLIC

Libreville
GABON

Indian Ocean

In Lebanon, Spanish soldiers gave lessons to scholars with the support of the Instituto Cervantes in Beirut.



The Spanish language as an INSTRUMENT OF PEACE

Through the Cervantes programme, the Spanish Armed Forces have taught our language and have spread the Spanish culture towards the population of countries in conflict

IT happened in Bosnia, in 1999. The Balkan war was over, but security was not yet a reality in the streets, where many children spent most of the time. The Parachute Brigade *Almogávares VI*, therein deployed, was wondering which would be the best way to help them to forget a conflict that was still alive in their memories. They came to the conclusion that, to do so, first of all it was necessary to communicate with them, so they started teaching Spanish. This is how the *Cervantes* programme was born, one of the cultural activities more distinguished within the overseas military groupings, that is still perfor-

med in Lebanon. In there, since 2006, our soldiers have given lessons to 6,500 persons from 20 different towns and in more than 30 schools. «It is one of the activities we carried out for enabling people to realise we are there for helping them. The word help is fundamental in the missions», as the Colonel Juan Bustamante, from the Operations Command Staff stated. «Through such magnificent tool as is the Spanish language, and with so many people delighted with freely learning it, we achieve a population more prone to support us, to defend us from those that may be against us» added. «For us, it is an instrument that, without

being military, is of military use; it has a great impact on our security».

The programme was consolidated in 2010, by means of signing a collaboration agreement between the Minister of Defence and the Instituto *Cervantes*. This document was renewed at the beginning of the year, and it also contemplates teaching our language to foreign soldiers in Spain, as well as other teaching activities related with the diffusion of the Spanish language and culture. «The Spanish language is an instrument of peace and coexistence», according to the Acting Minister of

Defence Margarita Robles, the last 10th July during the presentation of the balance sheet for the Cervantes programme, taking place at the headquarters of the Instituto in Madrid, and counting with the presence of its Director, Luis García Montero. «Our Armed Forces —added Robles—, are very involved with the citizenship. Languages cannot be a reason for fighting, but rather, they should serve for enriching».

The Minister invited the persons in charge of the Instituto to visit Lebanon «for sharing the spirit of sacrifice and heroism of our soldiers» and to see on the ground «the significance of the Spanish language».

TEACHER TRAINING

In Lebanon, where in these moments the Brigade *Rey Alfonso XIII* of the Spanish Legion is deployed, soldiers from the operation *Libre Hidalgo* are the ones that voluntarily give Spanish lessons. Currently, they are 25 and they count with the Instituto *Cervantes* help. In the previous phase of each deployment, teachers from the centre «teach how to teach» to soldiers that later will be teachers. «After, with great faith, a lot of heart, a great desire and all the empathy possible, they serve as teachers to a completely receptive public», explains the Colonel Bustamante.

Cooperation between the Armed Forces deployed in Lebanon and the delegation from the Instituto *Cervantes* is permanent. In fact, their teachers are moved to the south of the country, where the Spanish *Miguel de Cervantes* base is located, in order to supervise the exam that students should pass to obtain the Diploma in Spanish as a Foreign Language and to maintain contact with the military teachers to answer to any of their queries.

The first centre where the Spanish lessons were taught in Lebanon was *Sagrada Corazón*, in the city of Marjayoun, and from there, they were expanded to Kleea, Dermine, Wazani, Bourj el Moulok... up to 20 different towns. Learning levels range from initial to advanced, where students get ready for the exam to obtain said accreditation certificate from

the Instituto *Cervantes*. Thanks to this program, many Lebanese have found a job, therefore assuring their future. In fact, some of them who worked there as translators for the Spanish contingent learnt our language thanks to it. One of them, Katia, admitted some years ago in these same pages that «it was the best experience of her life» and that she still remembered each of her teachers. Also, Natalie, who decided to go to the south of Lebanon «with these new soldiers

from the other side of the Mediterranean Sea in order to help preserve the peace in there after a violent and terrible war». «Although not all, the majority of those who assist to Spanish lessons are children coming from a conflict period, from a dramatic situation where they have seen people dying around them. For them, it is really important to sense the care and proximity of someone that only wants to teach», explains Colonel Bustamante. «In fact, —he adds—,



A Spanish soldier gave lessons to children in the institute of Qala i Naw (Afghanistan). Below, some adults receiving Spanish lessons in Lebanon, in 2010.



The Cervantes programme in Lebanon

FOR years, the Instituto Cervantes has been working with the Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces. Said cooperation has been fundamental within the *Cervantes* programme, whose aim is to teach Spanish language in those non-Spanish speaking countries where Spain has UN detachments, as in Lebanon.

At the *Miguel de Cervantes* Military Base, Spanish volunteer soldiers gave free Spanish lessons to the civilian population, after being instructed to do that by the Instituto Cervantes, by means of teacher training workshops. Twice a year, the Instituto and the Armed Forces agree to move a detachment to the *Miguel de Cervantes* Military Base, and work is conducted to make the volunteer soldiers acquire teaching techniques and tools which allow, through Spanish language and culture lessons, to get close to a local population which positively view this initiative.

From 2006, more than 6,000 Spanish students who have gone through this programme, and more than 800 soldiers, have combined this teaching task with their military professional work, by implementing the programme in more than 20 towns in the south of Lebanon, and by teaching in 31 different centres: schools, social centres, town halls, cultural centres...

Lessons where elder people are mixed with children, groups that one day are large and another day have few people, adults that take interest in them, some of them as a leisure activity and others, by professional purposes —some of them get to even work as interpreters at the base—. In this way, soldiers get to convey the Spanish language and culture and get close to the Lebanon population.

I would like to highlight intercultural approach through the language lessons. Such approach should be valued very positively, so as the population does. The

Cervantes programme serves as a key to let our soldiers enter localities where there exists certain hostility towards blue helmets and military presence of other countries.

And by means of this approach, ties have been established and the troops, whose mission is to preserve peace, are well received. As a consequence, they can do their surveillance work and monitor the agreements signed by conflicting parties.

On the other hand, it is also of great interest the cooperation for teaching Spanish to foreign soldiers, which has been executed in person within the courses given by the Ministry of Defence or through digital media. Our courses are being launched in Cape Verde, Senegal and Mauritania.



Luis García Montero
Director of the
Instituto Cervantes

The Instituto Cervantes is a State institution. We have signed very different agreements with several agencies from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the European Union and Cooperation, in order to conduct pedagogical missions in the sub-Saharan Africa, or to introduce several delegations of foreign diplomats into the Spanish culture.

We have also signed some agreements with the Minister of Interior. For example, for training volunteers to teach Spanish to prison population who do not know our language. This kind of teaching serves to make the penitentiary system, as required by the Constitution, a way of re-joining society.

These agreements of different characteristics help us to develop our work as a State Institution on behalf of the Spanish society. One of the proudest we are about, and which is more useful for Spanish democracy, cultural diplomacy and for Spanish presence in the world is the one we develop with the Minister of Defence.

For all this, we are glad to feel part of this project and to feel useful as well.

*In Lebanon,
lessons have been
taught to 6,500
persons from 20
different towns*

although the activities in their school are over, we continue teaching them, to give continuity to an activity that for them has nothing to do with suffering, but instead, give them joy».

FROM BOSNIA

The success obtained by the *Cervantes* programme in Bosnia led to the Parachute Brigade, who started it, to set it up in Kosovo in the year 2000. Courses lasted for one month and they were taught in schools from the Spanish area of responsibility, among them Istok, Rakos, Banja, Djurakovak and Suvo Grlo. The commitment with the mission executed by our soldiers limited to 35 the number of students in each centre, and for the realization of this extra task, they counted with the support of the Psychological Support Team of the contingent, which gave them psycho-pedagogical advices.

Five years later, the programme arrived to Afghanistan, where the soldiers taught our language and culture in the Qala i Naw institute. The consecutive detachments also collaborate with the Spanish Department from the University of Kabul, where, before beginning the lessons, classrooms had to be prepared in order to repair the impacts caused by artillery. Building, electricity, painting, glassware, plumbing tasks... made with their own hands and paid by themselves.

That year, in Iraq, also within the *Cervantes* programme, teaching was conducted in the public libraries of Diwaniya and Nayaf. Such initiative was part of the *Averroes* project, aiming at maintaining the cultural exchange between Spain and Iraq, as well as increasing knowledge and confidence among Spanish troops.



In Afghanistan, the *Cervantes* programme started in 2005 and our soldiers also collaborated with the University of Kabul.

Gabon was another country where our soldiers gave Spanish lessons to the population, particularly in the institute *Djuoué* of Libreville. The *Mamba* air detachment relied on, for performing this task, the collaboration of the Spanish Embassy in that country.

Currently, the *Cervantes* programme is only based in Lebanon. However, in other missions, our soldiers taught Spanish lessons individually to comrades from other countries. For example, in Latvia, they do it with about ten soldiers from other mission contingents at the Adazi Base.

The *Cervantes* «has a human element in which we are totally involved», adds Colonel Bustamante. «Teaching lessons to children in Lebanon, Kosovo, anywhere, and not losing our soul, not moving us into tears, is difficult». He was himself in Eritrea and attended some schools to make some donations. «I thought that it would be a mere administrative task, something conventional, and when arriving there, you found whole families with posters in your language and singing your songs. I felt a knot in my throat and I could not talk for a few minutes».

Elena Tarilonte
Photos: Pepe Díaz



In Kosovo, the classrooms were limited to 35 student per centre. Below, students from the institute *Djuoué*, from Librevilla (Gabon), together with soldiers from *Mamba* detachment.



Operation Atalanta under the COMMAND OF ROTA



The new EU Spanish Operational Headquarters leads the fight against piracy in the Indian Ocean



THE European aeronaval operation which contributes to eradicating piracy off the coast of Somalia and the Gulf of Aden, is already under the command of the Rota Naval Base in Cádiz. On March 29th last, Vice admiral Antonio Martorell, the first commander of the new Spanish Operational Headquarters (ES-OHQ), received the European Union blue flag from British general Charlie Stickland, commander of the previous command centre for Operation *Atalanta* in Northwood (United Kingdom).

The handover ceremony was presided by Defence Chief of Staff (JEMAD), Fernando Alejandro, accompanied by Pedro Serrano, European Deputy Secretary General for Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) and Crisis Response, and Chairman of the European Union Military Committee, General Claudio Graziano. Also in attendance were Navy Chief of Staff (AJEMA), Teodoro López Calderón, and Director General for Defence Policy, Elena Gómez Castro, among other civilian and military authorities.

Operation *Atalanta* was launched in 2008 to contribute to the deterrence, prevention and repression of piracy and armed robbery off the Somali coast. The operation also protects vessels of the World Food Programme (WFP) and the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM) and guarantees the security of vulnerable maritime traffic. Spain is the only country that has steadily participated in the operation since it was launched, with at least one maritime patrol vessel and aircraft on a permanent basis. It has also commanded the force on nine occasions.

During the change of command ceremony, both commanders made speeches in which they praised the positive results obtained in the past ten years. Vice admiral Martorell stressed the relationship of «understanding and mutual trust» held from the outset with General Stickland, which ensured that the handover was carried out on the best of terms. In addition, both Pedro Serrano and General Graziano underlined that Operation *Atalanta* has been

a success case within the CSDP. They thanked Northwood for doing such a good job and expressed their trust that the ES-OHQ will keep up the good work.

The event was closed by the JEMAD, who expressed the importance of Rota being home to such a strategically important OHQ in command of European Union operations. «As Spaniards we can feel proud», said General Alejandro. He also indicated that the operation «remains unchanged» after the relocation of the Headquarters. «Ensuring freedom in the Horn of Africa's waters has a direct impact on the economic activity and political stability of the region, as well as on the global economy», added the JEMAD. He assured that, from now on, the operation's main objective is to «maintain the level of professionalism of all those who have participated from Northwood or from the various vessels, aircraft and detachments» deployed on the Somali coast.

A few days later, on April 3rd, the Minister for Defence paid a visit to the base in Cádiz to gain first-hand knowledge of the functioning and facilities of the new OHQ. Margarita Robles said that the centre is «vital» for the projection of both Spain and its Armed Forces who are, she underlined, «strongly committed» to the European Union. «The fact that the Headquarters are located here in Rota is proof that these Armed Forces project an excellent image and are an example to the world», assured the Minister.

JOINT PROPOSAL

As a result of *Brexit* and the UK's exit from the European Union, the command of Operation *Atalanta* was forced to relocate from Northwood to another country. The Spanish proposal to host the OHQ was submitted in November 2017, together with the French proposal, which offered the base in Brest to relocate the Maritime Security Centre for the Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), also previously located in Northwood. In order to take operational command, the Rota Headquarters had to undergo prior certification as an EU OHQ. After the *Milex* exercise that took place in the Bay of Cádiz in April 2018, the EU authorities



Marco Romero/NDI

Margarita Robles, Minister for Defence, visited the new *Atalanta* OHQ at the Rota Naval Base on April 3rd.

certified Rota as an EU OHQ. Rota thus became the fifth EU operational headquarters, joining Paris (France), Potsdam (Germany), Larissa (Greece) and Rome (Italy).

Finally, on July 30th, the Council of the European Union officially approved the relocation, while extending the mandate of the operation until December 31st 2020, with an 11,777 million euro budget.

From the time that the relocation decision was taken, contacts began between the former headquarters in Northwood and the initial group created to set up the Rota headquarters. Following the first coordination meetings, a schedule of activities was drawn up, enabling the transition to take place seamlessly. On October 1, Major General Antonio Planells Palau replaced Vice admiral Martorell at the head of the OHQ.

The new operational headquarters include 100

military personnel of 19 different nationalities, of which 40 per 100 are Spanish. Seventy-seven of these military personnel will serve permanently at the facilities in Rota, while approximately another 10 will serve at the MSCHOA in Brest and the rest will serve in various strategic locations of the Operations Theatre. In addition, four civilians —diplomats—, one of whom is Spanish, work at this OHQ as



The OHQ receives and coordinates all information on the location of vessels off the Somali coast.

political and legal advisors. Broadly speaking, their mission is to develop a general plan for the operation and to set the targets and priorities for the vessels and aircraft deployed in the Gulf of Aden and in the North and East Somali basins, taking into account the strategic guidelines set by Brussels and by the Operation's commander.

FORCES DEPLOYED

Currently, the operation has two ships: the Italian Navy frigate *Antonio Marcellia* and the Spanish *Victoria*. In addition, the European contingent has two maritime patrol aircraft, one German and one Spanish. Currently, the management of the operation in the area of operations corresponds to a multinational General Staff headed by an Italian admiral aboard *Antonio Marcellia*. However, the frigate *Victoria* will assume the flagship functions of the operation from next December.

These vessels are equipped with embarked helicopters and special operations units, tasked with conducting searches of suspicious vessels and friendly visits to fishing boats on high sea to gather information. The operation also includes two maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft provided by Spain (the *Orion* detachment, equipped with a *P5* aircraft and 55 Air Force members) and, alternatively, by Germany and Luxembourg, all of which are based in Djibouti.

On occasion, some countries with which the European Union has signed agreements join the Force; for example South Korea. Coordination also takes place with other naval units deployed in the area to fight against piracy, such as the CTF-151 Combined Task Force, a multinational coalition led by the United States, and also Russian, Chinese and Indian vessels operating independently in the area.

One of the tasks assigned to Operation *Atalanta* is the protection of the World Food Programme's vessels carrying aid to Somalia. In the past month alone it has managed to guarantee the



Vice admiral Martorell and General Stickland after the passing of the flag, making the change of command effective.

delivery of over 1.8 million tonnes of food at African ports. Apart from the maritime patrol vessels and aircraft, the operation includes the so-called Autonomous Vessel Protection Detachments (AVPD), military forces embarked on the vessels chartered by the programme, ready to provide armed response in the event of being attacked.

A DECADE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

The situation has changed a lot since the start of the operation. The worst period was from 2009 to 2011, when pirates hijacked up to 46 vessels and held around 700 people hostage. Over these ten years approximately 170 suspects of acts of piracy were arrested, of whom about two-thirds were convicted. Some unsuccessful hijacking attempts took place in subsequent years and 2017 saw an increase in events; six incidents and two successful hijackings by the pirates. Despite the fact that their chances of success are dimi-

nishing, piracy has still not been eradicated in the Horn of Africa. The international community's aim is to make local authorities capable, in the medium term, of controlling such criminal activity. To this end, there are a number of initiatives, including EUTM Somalia, the European Union's mission tasked with advising and training the Somali army. Spain provides 15 soldiers, most of them in Mogadishu. In 2018 more than 500 Somali soldiers were trained thanks to European sup-

Spain is the only country that has contributed to the operation since it began

port. The aim is for them to start assuming the security tasks carried out by the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM), which comprises 20,000 soldiers fighting against the *Al Shabaab* jihadist group with US support.

However, things move slowly in Somalia and the problems posed by terrorism and domestic political problems are exacerbated by drought and starvation. The rain shortage has intensified the problem and currently more than half of the population (6.2 million) survive thanks to international aid.

The passage of the UN vessels transporting basic necessities is controlled on a 24-hour basis by the Rota OHQ. To reduce the risk of attacks, the deployed forces are informed of the movements of these vessels and hundreds of merchant vessels sailing through the Aden Gulf, an obligatory passage of the main commercial routes between Asia and Europe.

Victor Hernández/Photos:Pepe Díaz

Jean Pierre Lacroix, UN Under-Secretary-General for
Peacekeeping Operations

«Peace is, above all,
A COLLECTIVE
ALLIANCE»

Current challenges are considered to require a «holistic and complete» approach for security matters

JEAN Pierre Lacroix (Paris, 59 years old) is sure that UN operations are the most useful means that the international community has in order to protect people's lives and to assure their right to live in peace, but «these operations require some adjustments in our work methodology and improvements in our efficacy». This diplomat, with more than 25 years of experience, most of them in the field of multilateral organizations, estimates that the way to comply with these objectives is to work jointly in order to find long-lasting solutions to solve conflicts, more mobility and to provide contingents with better equipment, as well as a greater involvement of women in missions. In his recent visit to Madrid, in which he was invited as guest of honour for the Spanish national celebrations, Lacroix claimed that «Spain represents a key partner in peacekeeping».

—Peacekeeping operations begun in 1948, in a strategic overview very different from the current one. Have they been adequately adapted to the needs of a world experiencing important changes?

—In the last 70 years, UN peacekeeping has been one of the main means of the international community to guide countries into peace in the midst of the hard way of conflict. It is evident that peacekeeping missions have an important impact on people of those countries in which we operate, and that our contribution is large, but if we want to remain efficient and comply with our goals, all the concerned parties, including Member States, regional organizations, host nations and associations must provide support. From the beginning of the new millennium, peacekeeping operations have not only experienced a growth in number, but have become even more complicated. Beyond the observation of the cessa-

«Peacekeeping operations need the support of all of us to remain efficient»

tion of hostilities, current multidimensional operations have as a goal to facilitate political processes by fostering national dialogue and reconciliation; to collaborate in the disarmament; demobilisation and reintegration of combatants; to support elections; to protect and enhance human rights and to help countries to restore the rule of law. For these purposes, the UN Peacekeeping Department continues to adapt itself through better-equipped and qualified personnel, in order for its operations to be more adequate and able to respond to current challenges.

—Which is the most complicated mission that is being currently performed?

—In Mali, the security situation is still one of our major challenges, with the actual risk of the terrorism being spread across the whole region, in the middle of the increasing communal violence at the heart of the country. Peacekeeping implementation is progressing, but it is too slow.

Our peacekeeping mission, MINUSMA, plays a key role and, through our good offices and mediation efforts, we are bringing together



Hélène Gicquel

«Spain is a key partner in peacekeeping operations; its contributions, both financial and of exceptional and highly qualified troops are fundamental for us».

all the opposing parties to make them able to continue the dialogue and find joint solutions. The mission military personnel helps to create spaces to develop political solutions, to facilitate the reinstatement of the State's authority, and to protect civilians.

—Africa has been the scene of several mission, is it still the UN main focus?

—Most of our 98.000 troops, soldiers and civilians are deployed to Africa. One of our larger missions is based in the Democratic Republic of Congo, the so-called United Nations Organization

Stabilization Mission (MONUSCO in French). This country is immersed in an important juncture. For the first time, it has achieved a pacific political transition by means of democratic elections, enabling us to continue with our support efforts to the new Government, which is committed to address the security challenges. Throughout the years, MONUSCO has developed an integrated approach in order to protect civilians, focused on prevention, reduction and resolution of conflicts, combined with warning networks at community level and physical protection. However, as we have always highlighted, only durable political solutions and regional cooperation may be able to put an end to insecurity. Once the situation has improved, MONUSCO will continue playing an important role in the transition, so its departure from the country is performed in a gradual and responsible way. To make this happen, it is fundamental that the institutions of governance and security are strengthened. At Southern Sudan, during an unprecedented movement, the UNMISS mission opened the door of their facilities throughout the country, by saving the life of thousands of civilians that were fleeing from violence and death; 200.000 persons are still protected at our Bases in there. The current events in this country have been encouraging, due to a transitional government which is committed to establish peace and recover the economy.

I would also like to highlight the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur, UNAMID, which is supporting the peace process through the negotiation of peace treaties with armed groups, whilst still protecting the civilians in those areas where combats arise.

The mission continues working in a coordinated manner with the African Union, the Sudanese government and other actors regarding planning of the next phase. Currently, we are considering how to adjust our presence to better support the authorities and to obtain a long-term consolidation of peace throughout the region.

—UN counts on troops in Lebanon. What is the situation in this area of continuing instability?

—The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (FINUL) plays a key role in the promotion of security and stability in the south of the country, by actively cooperating with the Lebanese Armed Forces to strengthen its presence and capacity. In the current setting, throughout all the region, the situation is unstable. FINUL, with its more than 11.000 troops, is carrying out a huge work, including personnel from Spain, of extremely value. They are still performing an important preventive role in a huge sensitive area by facilitating interaction between Lebanon and Israeli Armed Forces ones, preventing the escalation of incidents and working to strengthen the institutions.

—The United Nations reform is still a pending issue. How would that affect to the Peacekeeping Department?

—The current challenges and deficiencies of the organization require adjustments in our working method, as well as improvements in our effectiveness, including a reduction of the fragmentation and assurance of an integrated approach in our work. Dealing with political and security issues with a holistic and integral approach is currently producing dividends: we have achieved an improvement of our working methods, making them more strategic and more integrated.

—What is the Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) initiative about, which has been presented by António Guterres?

—The General Secretary is personally committed to perform the United Nations reform through this initiative. The A4P main goal is to address the concerns and challenges over peacekeeping, including, among others, slowly or changing political processes, dangerous contexts or major threats. To do that, we should jointly work and keep progressing in achievements that are actually a reality, as durable political solutions and a lasting peace, a better performance and security of our troops, more mobility, as well as an increased participation of women in peacekeeping through the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. However, we need to do more. We need a change in the collective mentality, and regarding



this, there is still a lot to do. The continued support provided by our partners, particularly Spain, in providing highly qualified troops and financial support, is essential to continue with our work.

By means of the A4P initiative, the General Secretary also issued a call to Member States, the Security Council, host countries, countries providing contingents and police forces, regional partners and financial contributors in renewing our collective commitment and encouraging them to be mutually committed to establish a peace operations design that is adapted to future conditions. Peacekeeping is, above all, a collective alliance, and it is imperative that all of us work together to achieve our objectives. As I said before and I repeat now, we are now having some progresses in certain areas, but there is still a lot to do, and the persons we are serving for deserve our total commitment.

—How can the UN contributions cuts announced by some countries affect this?

—The UN peacekeeping not only provides solutions, but also dividends. We managed to implement certain measures to produce savings and efficiencies and to maximize our effectiveness within the existent limitation of resources. It is important that our allies, including Member States and other partners, are aware that peace operations need the adequate resources to fulfil the difficult and dangerous assigned tasks.

Today, the Peacekeeping Department is composed of more than 98,000 troops deployed around the world and counts with an annual budget of 6,5 billion dollars, amount lower to the 0.5 per 100 of the world military expense. To serve as a comparison and example, only the 2018 annual budget of the New York City Police Department was of 5,6 billion dollars.



Lacroix greeting a group of Ghana blue helmets integrated into the United Nations Mission in Lebanon.

UN Photo/Pascal Gonniz

peace processes, peacekeeping with a gender perspective and a great number of women involved in military and civilian peace forces at all levels.

We are sure that a peacekeeping force with more women would be more effective. Within a two-year period, we have achieved substantial progresses, since there was an increase from 7 to 15 regarding the percentage of Staff women officers and military observers. We have recently appointed three General women, including one Force Commander and two Deputy Force Commanders. But there is still a lot of work to do regarding the contingents, where the progress is slow.

At the same time, we are closely working with women leaders and organizations to increase the commitment and their contribution to peace and political solutions in their autonomous regions and countries. For example, in Mali, MINUSMA has created societies with local and national women leaders and several women organizations. In the Central African Republic, with the support of MINUSCA, the former combatants were among the first women involved in the peace process, by integrating key priorities for women in the final agreement. We are also working with Member States to obtain the quotas set for 2028 regarding the number of women who preserve peace. In 2019, we have achieved some of the established goals.

The objectives set in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda are an important challenge for all the countries that provide contingent and police forces, but we believe that, with support from Member States, we can handle them. Improving women's representation in peacekeeping is a priority.

—What is the impact that the Safe Schools initiative has in peace operations?

—The Safe Schools Declaration is essential for protecting our children, teachers and schools against the worst

conflict effects. Our missions in Mali, Sudan, South Sudan, Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo have an explicit mandate to protect children: our Assessors for Child Protection, together with our uniformed components, conduct a great work regarding the interaction executed with the Armed Forces and the rebel groups to spread this Declaration, to raise awareness about their content and implementation and thus finish off and prevent assaults against children, teachers and educational facilities.

Likewise, we contribute to collect and verify data about attacks on facilities, victims and the use of military schools and university during an armed conflict, by contributing to provide accountability for perpetrators and to facilitate assistance to victims.

For example, in 2015, our mission in the Central African Republic issued a directive with the aim of avoiding the use of schools and universities by the Force and Police and minimizing the impact that the armed conflict has on children security and education. This is a practice that I hope is repeated in other missions. We have the duty to persistently reaffirm that educational facilities, representing the hopes and ambitions of several generations of children and of the whole society, are safe places.

—Spain has been taking part in peace operation for 30 years. How is this contribution valued?

—Currently, Spain has troops deployed in large and complex operations, including Lebanon, Central African Republic and Mali. Spain is a key partner in peacekeeping operations; its contributions, both financial and military —that I may to say are exceptional and highly qualified— are fundamental for us. I appreciate the support of Spain throughout these years and its forces' sacrifice for obtaining peace.

Rosa Ruiz

«We are sure that a peacekeeping force with more women would be more effective»

[international]

Learning WITHOUT FEAR

The Third International Conference on Safe Schools, held in Palma de Mallorca, brought together representatives from over 90 countries and leaders of the main humanitarian organisations



Pepe Diaz

The particular defencelessness of girls was highlighted and it was advised to combine the Peace and Women Agenda with the Safe Schools initiative.

THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SAFE SCHOOLS

Palma de Mallorca, SPAIN
27 - 29 May 2019



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Queen Letizia with a group of young participants during the closing ceremony of the conference.

THE international community wants to prevent, or at least alleviate, the dramatic reality that has led to over 21,000 girls and boys and their teachers being attacked in the past five years. In countries like Afghanistan, Mali, Nigeria and Syria, just going to school means risking life and limb and the right to learn without fear is a distant dream. Protecting these children is complex but humanitarian aid mechanisms are making progress. In the Third International Conference on Safe Schools, organised by Spain in collaboration with Argentina, Norway and the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA) held in Palma de Mallorca on 28 and 29 May, the acting Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, Josep Borrell, announced that Spain will be leading the civilian and military personnel training of countries that are part of the Safe Schools Declaration.

Three more countries (Guatemala, Nicaragua and Gambia) announced their intention to endorse this Declaration and to adopt the Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict; therefore 90 States are now committed to preventing teachers and students from becoming military targets. Queen

Letizia of Spain, who brought the conference to a close, summed up the objectives of the meeting: «All girls and boys should be able to go to school in peace, they should have a school to go to, this school should have resources and, above all, it should have teachers; this should be a basic premise for Society as a whole, for institutions, for everyone».

Aware of the need for all those involved in the defence of education to speak out, join forces and face challenges from a practical and operative standpoint, the Spanish government organised the Palma de Mallorca meeting, as part of its firm commitment to humanitarian awareness, through the ministries and bodies involved in its external action. Conceived as a political instrument to lay foundations

Spain is implementing a Safe Schools training programme

and establish a common strategy, the Conference managed to bring together over 300 people, including ministers, political managers and military personnel from almost one hundred countries (including some countries with educational systems affected by conflict or insecurity) and high-level management from the most significant international organisations involved in the protection of children and gender equality. Other authorities present included the acting Minister for Defence, Margarita Robles; the acting head of government of the Balearic Islands, Francina Armengol; the High Commissioner for the 2030 Agenda, Cristina Gallach; the Secretary-General of Defence Policy, Admiral Juan Francisco Martínez Núñez; the Director-General of Defence Policy, Elena Gómez Castro; and the executive directors of UNICEF, Henrietta H. Fore, and Save The Children, Helle Thorning-Schmidt. «We need to be capable of finding common values, because even in war there are rules to be followed», stated Josep Borrell at the inauguration.

KEEPING GIRLS AND BOYS SAFE

In the final conclusions and commitments, in addition to the noteworthy accession of Guatemala, Nicaragua and Gambia to the Safe Schools Declara-

tion, significant advances were made, such as the discovery of the existing relationship between the Safe Schools initiative and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, the 2030 Agenda and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The need to generate synergies among these different agendas in order to make progress was also acknowledged. The Children and Conflict and Education in Emergencies Agendas have been placed at the highest level in international politics and calls are being made for them to become a priority for all States. Norway announced the creation of a Focal Point Network to strengthen and facilitate cooperation in this area.

The initiative presented by Spain consists of implementing a cooperation and training programme for civilian and military personnel responsible for defence with a view to preventing attacks on schools and universities in armed conflict. It will focus on the application of the Guidelines for Preventing Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict and their incorporation into regulatory and operational frameworks. Other countries also expressed their intention to design similar national plans.

The programme, which will be developed in liaison with the Ministry of Defence and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), will comprise an internship in Madrid of approximately one week for civil servants from those States that have endorsed the Safe Schools Declaration and are undergoing a war or a situation of terrorist threat. When choosing candidates, States included in the framework of Spanish cooperation activities will be given priority. Under the envisa-



Admiral Martínez Núñez, Secretary-General of Defence Policy, insisted on the need to achieve safe schools and workshops.

ged plan, the initiative will include 15 countries and will probably be made up of two representatives from each country: one military and one civilian.

The working sessions focused on three specific issues: firstly, identifying the impact on girls and boys of attacks on education and the use of educational facilities for military purposes while

In the past five years there have been 12,700 attacks on schools

at the same time establishing, from a gender perspective, measures to address the specific needs of girls. Secondly, the preventive role of monitoring, reporting and establishing mechanisms to hold the perpetrators of attacks against students, teachers and schools accountable was analysed.

The third panel —which involved practical exercises—, addressed measures that could enable the implementation of the Guidelines to protect education from attacks.

During this final panel, the Secretary-General of the Defence Policy stated that «sometimes international peacekeepers have the well-intentioned idea that we can —by ourselves— bring peace to any part of the world, and that is a mistake. Peace is impossible if it does not come from within, if it does not achieve a solution designed by and for the local population, sustainable with local resources and acceptable to all parties».

Admiral Martínez Núñez indicated that, unfortunately, in war torn countries, military presence tends to remind children of the conflict and therefore the work of the international forces should focus on «contributing toward providing a very safe environment, which entails multiple, although less visible, actions.

Actions range from distance monitoring to the creation of *bubbles of security*, through the deployment of military forces on the periphery and police on the inside».

DENOUNCE AND PROPOSE

The Conference also analysed the latest report presented by the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attacks entitled Education under Attack 2018 which highlights the fact that indiscriminate and deliberate attacks on schools and universities, students and personnel (both in educational institutions and on the way to and from them) have increased considerably in the past five years. The figures are devastating: 12,700

attacks were recorded in educational institutions in 70 countries between 2013 and 2017. In 28 cases, the schools were a direct target of the attacks and the children were forced to become soldiers, abducted or subjected to sexual abuse.

The worst places in the world to study are Syria, Yemen, Egypt, Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, followed closely by Afghanistan (which has lost 2,000 educational institutions in the past two years); Mali, where 28,580 minors cannot exercise their right to education; and Ukraine, where attacks on schools have quadrupled in 2019.

Of particular relevance is the case of Nigeria, where the Jihadist militia, *Boko Haram*, has kidnapped, raped and killed hundreds of girls just because they went to school, imposing its reign of terror to the point of eradicating girls' schools in the north of the country. In Mosul, 90 per 100 of students had to leave school during the *Daesh* occupation.

Also in this period, armed forces and groups used educational facilities for military purposes such as bases, barracks, firing positions, arsenal or detention centres in at least 29 countries. This situation, apart from putting children's lives at risk, means that schools become synonymous with fear, leading many parents to avoid sending their children to school when there is a risk of violence.

This fear increases considerably in many countries where girls are concerned. In this regard, the UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, in the 2017 report on Women, Peace and Security, stated that girls living in a country affected by conflict are 2.5 times more likely not to attend school than those living in other countries.

The Palma Conference tried to put names and faces, not only on the politicians and NGO leaders, but also on these children and their teachers, to listen to them and to allow their voices to be heard so that those capable of taking action to avoid this happening can at least see how horrific the situation is. Muzoon Almelleh is a teenager who fled Syria leaving behind her entire life; all she wanted to take with her was her school bag and her books because she knew it was the only way to keep living: «I didn't want to stop learning».

Rosa Ruiz



Hélène Giriquel

A teacher tries to teach in the ruins of what was once a school, now destroyed, in Pakistani Kashmir, close to the border with India.

Safe Schools Declaration

Countries commit to comply with Guidelines that aim to prevent attacks and defend the right to education

THE Safe Schools Declaration has not yet been incorporated into international law; however it does represent a clear political commitment to protect children and their teachers. It also lays the foundations for the development of future legislation. It was prepared through a consultative process led by Norway and Argentina together with the Global Coalition to Protect Education from Attack (GCPEA), a body created in 2010 by the most significant organisations dedicated to childhood and education in emergency and conflict situations. From the outset it was clear that the entire international community had to be called upon and, in particular, countries suffering from such situations had to be involved while an end had to be put to the impunity of those responsible. With this aim in mind, Norway organised the First International Conference on Safe Schools in May 2015 and invited all States to endorse the Declaration (the second conference was held in Argentina in 2017). Simultaneously, Guidelines for Protecting Schools and Universities from Military Use during Armed Conflict were drawn up, which are adopted by States upon endorsement of the Declaration and which cover areas from the collection of data on attacks and assistance and reparations for victims to ensuring the continuity of education in war zones and designing conflict-aware educational programmes. It was decided to hold other meetings on a regular basis —such as the Conferences— so that States could share experiences and lessons learned while addressing the implementation of specific measures. As well as the 90 countries that have already adopted the guidelines, support has been received from the highest levels of the UN and the Guidelines are an unquestionable part of its 2030 Agenda. The implementation of the Guidelines is facilitated by resolutions such as Resolution 1998 (2011), which consider that the perpetrators of attacks against educational institutions can be brought to justice, and Resolutions 2143 (2014) and 2427 (2018), which call for specific measures to protect education from attacks and pave the way for the Safe Schools Declaration.

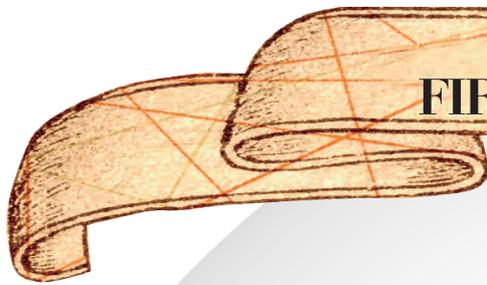
The Spanish government has been part of the Safe Schools Declaration and its Guidelines from the outset (May 2015) and is one of its main advocates. At the same time, it has fostered progress in this area on the various agendas for the protection of civilians —the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the Children and Armed Conflict Agenda— and has promoted emblematic resolutions in the UN Security Council and General Assembly such as Resolutions 2242 (2015), 2286 (2016) and 2331 (2016).



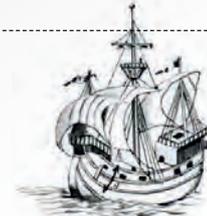
MAGELLAN

500TH ANNIVERSARY FIRST ROUND-THE-WORLD

Ferdinand Magellan set sail with
Juan Sebastián Elcano
in the endeavour but a
circumnavigation



TRINIDAD
Captain: F. Magellan
Crew: 62



SAN ANTONIO
Captain: J. Cartagena
Crew: 56



CONCEPCIÓN
Captain: Gaspar Quesada
Crew: 50



ON 22 March 1518, King Carlos I reached an agreement (*Capitulaciones*) in Valladolid with Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan to organise an expedition that would open a new route, sailing westwards, to the Spice Islands. The fleet set sail from Seville on 10 August 1519 with 239 crew members. Magellan died in the Philippines, but the quest continued. Finally, in December 1521, Basque sailor Juan Sebastián Elcano began the voyage back to Seville, continuing sailing westwards. On 6 September 1522, 18 men reached Sanlúcar de Barrameda, having completed the first round-the-world sea voyage in history.

**EXPEDITION
SET SAIL
YEAR 1519**



**SEVILLA
10 AUGUST
SANLÚCAR DE BARRAMEDA
20 SEPTEMBER**

**ISLA DE LOS
LADRONES
(I. Marianas)**



28 NOVEMBER 1520
• Sailing began in the South Sea, renamed.
“THE PACIFIC OCEAN”

**ISLA DE LOS
TIBURONES**



MAY 1520
• The *Santiago* was lost, although the crew survived.



OCTOBER 1520
• The *San Antonio* deserted and returned to Seville.

CABO DE SEADADO **SAN JULIÁN**
CABO DE VÍRGO

Estrecho de Magallanes

- Route followed by Magellan.
- Route followed after his death.

Reproduced from the original in the Museum of the "Propaganda" in Rome, lent by His Holiness POPE LEO XIII, by W. Origg, London. 1988

ESARY OF THE WORLD SEA VOYAGE

ail for the Spice Islands.
o not only succeeded
lso completed the first
on of the globe



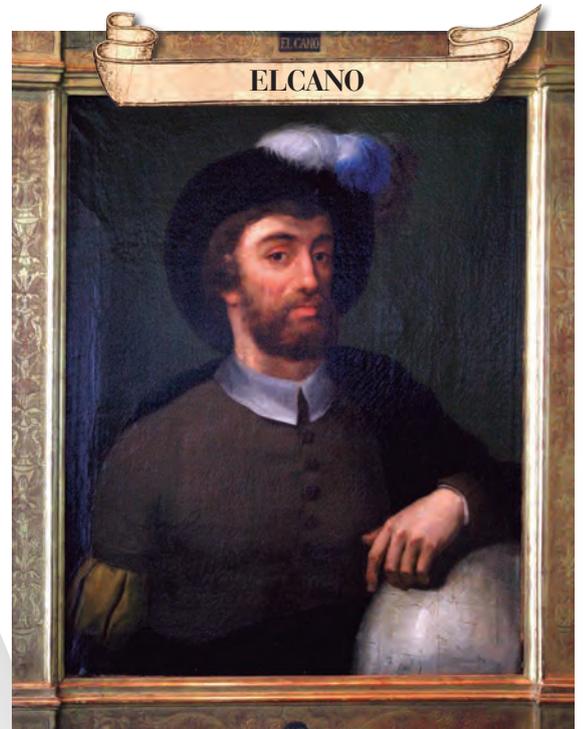
CONCEPCIÓN
Captain: Martín de Quesada
Crew: 44



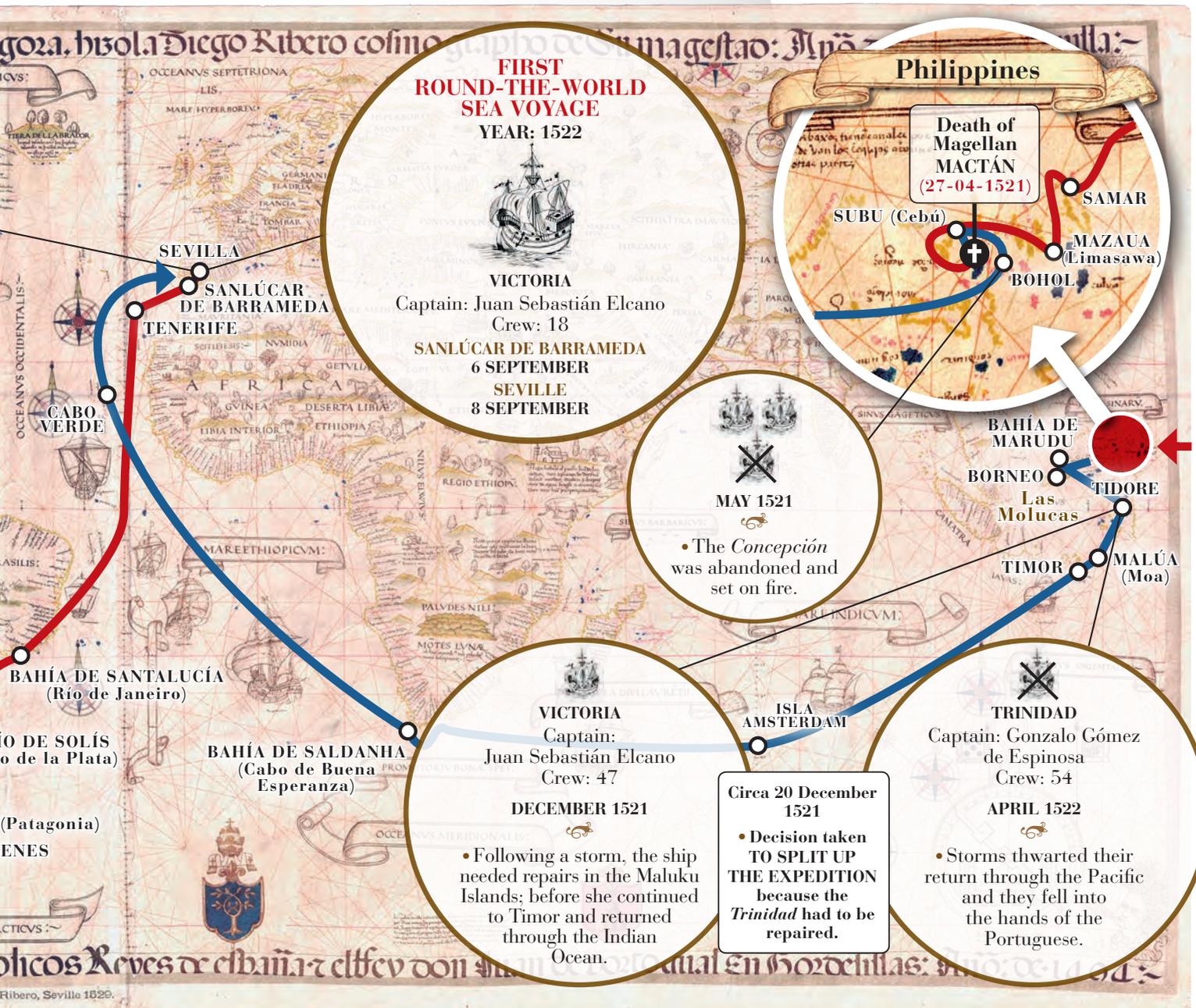
VICTORIA
Captain: Luis de Mendoza
Crew: 45



SANTIAGO
Captain: Juan Serrano
Crew: 32



ELCANO



NATO CELEBRATES ITS 70TH ANNIVERSARY

in full adaptation to a new strategic environment

2019, which is now drawing to a close, marked the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Washington Treaty. 2019 thus saw NATO celebrate its 70th anniversary. Seventy years of success stories in the defence of freedom and democracy. Seventy years in which together—as Allies—we have learned to define the idea that unites us: collective defence. Because we cannot forget that without cohesion there is no solidarity, without solidarity there is no collective defence, and without collective defence there is no NATO at all.

But what have we been defending collectively for the past seventy years? And what do we intend to defend in the future?

Over the past seventy years we have been defending our national borders. Obviously; that is what we have done. But we have also defended other borders that are just as important: alongside territorial borders, we have defended borders of freedom. The fact is that in the past seventy years the Alliance has defended the values and principles that define us as free societies, and that is no mean feat.

The values and principles that the Alliance has defended and continues to defend—freedom, democracy, respect for human rights and the rule of law—are the same values and principles, as recalled by his Majesty the King of Spain at the North Atlantic Council on November 21st 2018, that inspired the 1776 Declaration of Independence of the United States, the 1789 Declaration of the Rights of Man and the Citizen, and the 1812 Spanish Constitution. Although these values may go back a long way, they are still every



**Miguel
Fernández-
Palacios Martínez,**
Ambassador
Permanent
Representative of
Spain in the North
Atlantic Council

bit as valid, and inspire the Charter of the United Nations, the Treaties of the European Union and also the current Spanish Constitution. They are the values that define our present and project us into the future as societies of free citizens; citizens who wish to live in peace, because only in a framework of peace and stability can we fully exercise our rights and freedoms in order to achieve prosperous societies.

That is precisely why, in an increasingly unpredictable and insecure environment, NATO is an extremely important tool to stand united in defence of our values. United to defend a peace that has allowed us to build an international society in the past seventy years in which world wars have been confined to history books.

There was only a 21-year time span between the end of the First World War in 1918 and the beginning of the Second World War in 1939. That in the past seventy years the world has not been plunged into a global nuclear conflict with unimaginable consequences has a lot to do with the signing of the Washington Treaty on April 4th 1949 and the founding of the North Atlantic Alliance. To deny this would be to deny reality.

Today, seventy years later, the Alliance continues to be the primary political and military tool for the security and defence of the Western world in general and Europe in particular.

But what role has Spain played in the Alliance since its accession in 1982? Spain's first words at the North Atlantic Council were spoken by the then Spanish Minister for Foreign Affairs, José Pedro Pérez-Llorca. Minister Pérez-Llorca said on that occasion



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that our country was making a bid, through membership, «above all and first and foremost, for the defence of freedom, pluralist democracy and human rights».

In the same vein, Prime Minister Leopoldo Calvo-Sotelo, said on June 10th of that same year at NATO's Bonn Summit that «Spain will be a loyal and active member of the Alliance and will bring to it the full drive of a people that has just regained its freedom and wants to maintain it in the peace and justice of the international arena».

These words are as relevant today as they were in 1982. These are exactly the same values Spain made a bid for in 1982, the same values that we support today: values that define a modern society committed to freedom.

Spain is undoubtedly stronger and more secure thanks to our NATO membership. There can be no question about it. And the Spanish people are well aware of this, as shown by the results of the study published just one year ago by the Spanish think tank

Real Instituto Elcano, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Spanish Constitution, to verify the strength of Spain's commitment to NATO. According to this study, 75 per 100 of Spaniards are in favour of remaining in NATO, a good example of the Spanish people's sense of belonging to an international community of democratic values and shared security.

There is no doubt that the men and women of the Spanish Armed Forces have demonstrated in recent decades, and continue to demonstrate today, that their permanent commitment and skills make Spain an engaged, serious and reliable Ally.

*We have defended
not only ours
borders, but also
our freedoms and
values*

Ever since we joined NATO, wherever the Alliance has deployed its forces, Spanish soldiers have been involved. We have participated or are currently participating in almost every Allied operation, mission or activity.

Spain has taken a step forward whenever our presence has been required in NATO's defensive missions such as the Enhanced

Forward Presence (EFP) and the Baltic Air Policing in the Eastern European Allied countries. We are committed to Afghanistan's stability, to the security of the Turkish air space and to the future of Iraq. We sail the waters of the Mediterranean and the Atlantic. We are committed to an Alliance that looks increasingly to the South where we are aware that prevention and joint work with our partners from the southern shores of the Mediterranean are essential requirements for shared stability. In short, we can say that Spain counts in NATO and NATO can count on Spain.

However, we cannot forget that, on its 70th anniversary, NATO is facing a complex strategic environment that combines quite different adversaries: some are old adversaries that are back; others are new such as hybrid and cyber threats or the challenge to understand China's growing geostrategic influence. I shall now go through them briefly.

First of all, on Russia. The illegal annexation of Crimea by Russia marked a turning point as far as NATO is concerned and the 2014 Wales Summit provided the stage for this tipping point.

After many years in which NATO had focused on crisis management and had reduced its deterrence and defence posture, the Wales Summit represented a shift towards the East, a recognition once again of an adversary and the beginning of the reinforcement of

The great challenge is to make young people understand how necessary NATO is

the Allied deterrence and defence posture. Measures began to be taken to reassure the Eastern Allies and to strengthen cooperation with the more exposed partners, essentially Ukraine and Georgia.

At the same time, and well aware of the need to keep dialogue open with the Russian authorities and to send balanced messages, NATO decided to continue in its bid —despite the annexation of Crimea—

for a constant and, as far as possible, productive dialogue with Russia. Such an approach —which Spain fully supports— is nothing but a combination of a reinforced deterrence and defence posture and a permanent offer of dialogue, primarily through the NATO-Russia Council.

The Warsaw 2016 and Brussels 2018 Summits made it possible for this double approach to be reaffirmed and for the adoption of measures aimed at the strengthening the military posture to be continued.

Perhaps the best example of these measures are the Enhanced Forward Presence (EFP), to which we contribute with 350 soldiers in Latvia, and Baltic Air Policing, to which we also contribute through the deployment of a contingent of jet-fighters on a rotating basis.

Secondly, I must talk about international terrorism. For NATO, terrorism represents a first order threat. And it is mainly since the emergence



of ISIS/DAESH that the Alliance became aware of this and started to work on the development of an Action Plan against Terrorism, adopted in May 2017.

Where the fight against terrorism is concerned, NATO has always approached its contribution as a complementary effort to the tasks and remits of other international organizations competent in this regard, and complying with International Law and the United Nations Charter, taking as a starting point that the Allies maintain their own full competencies and responsibilities in the fight against terrorism.

Spain considers that cooperating with the European Union and other international organizations, such as the United Nations or the African Union, is essential for our security, and that doing so, especially with our strategic neighbours in order to project stability, is the best guarantee for our own security.

Also regarding the terrorist threat, reference should be made to the threats emanating from the South following the proclamation of the Islamic Caliphate in 2014.

NATO has adapted to this new threat by resorting to two complementary concepts: deterrence and defence while projecting stability and, closely connected to the latter, the fight against terrorism. The fact that the Brussels Summit in July 2018 had a clear southern component, with the endorsement of the Package for the South, was a key step, and highlighted that NATO is an Atlantic and European organization but also a Mediterranean one.

Thirdly, I would like to mention cyber threats. The frontline in a hypothetical conflict in the coming years will pass right through



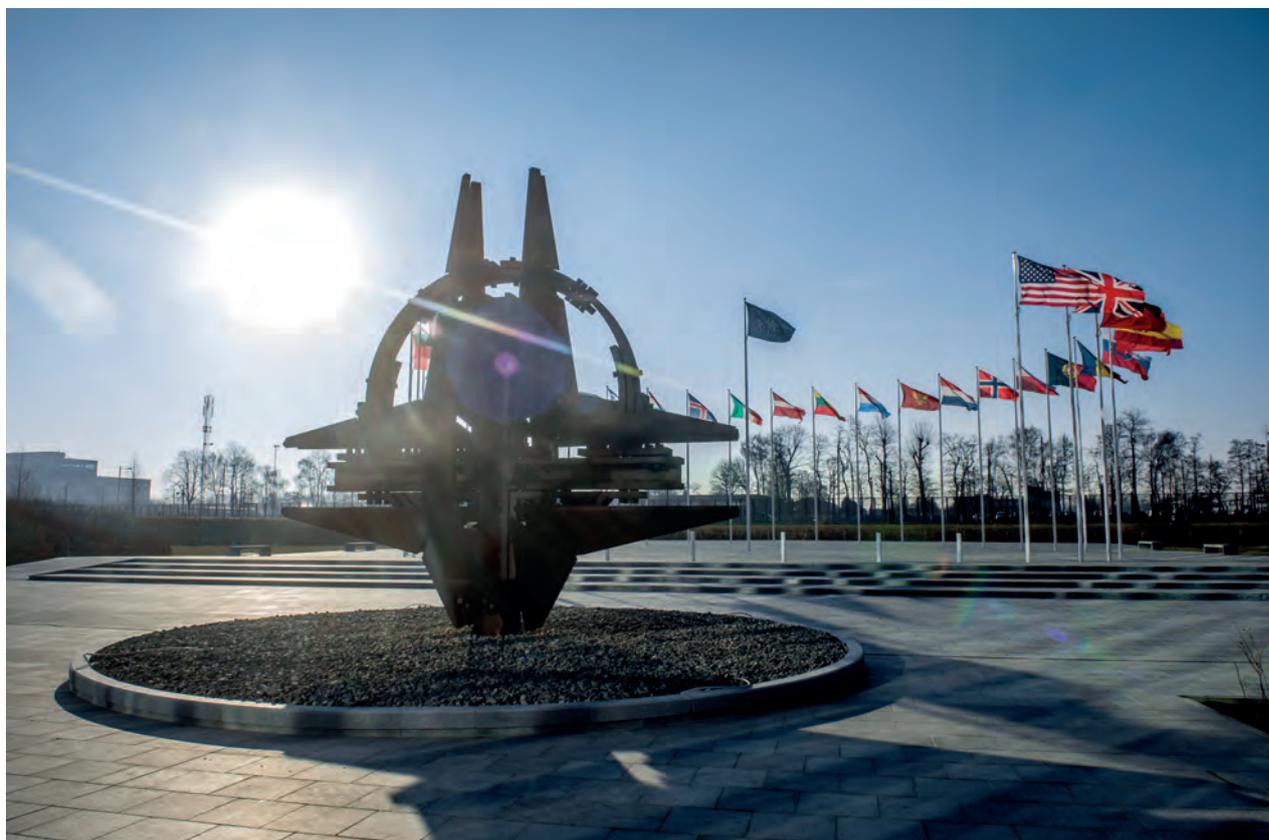
NATO

our own living rooms. Anonymous citizens may become our adversaries' number one target. 5G technology, the Internet of Things, Artificial Intelligence and quantic computing will bring great benefits for humanity, but also great risks if we do not know how to face them.

NATO is fully aware of this challenge and the threat it poses. Good proof of this is the fact that, following the acknowledgement at the Wales Summit in September 2014 that a cyberattack could lead to the invocation of Article 5 of the Washington Treaty, as well as the declaration of cyberspace as an independent Operational Domain —alongside land, sea and air— at the Warsaw Summit held in July 2016, the Allies committed, at the latter, to substantially improve national cyber defence policies and capabilities, while at the same time enhancing resilience in this area, giving rise to the so-called Cyber Defence Pledge.

In the coming years, we will get used to hearing the term resilience. Resilience in cyberspace is the ability to resist cybernetic attacks and, when these cause harm, to withstand and recover rapidly without impact or with limited impact. Let us get used to this term.

Fourthly, I would like to talk, briefly, about a question that is very much tied to the former: hybrid warfare. Undoubtedly, this is one of the most worrying aspects for NATO and for the military and civilian authorities of the Allies. Hybrid warfare combines conventional and non-conventional scopes, making use of cyberattacks and misinformation. As it affects, and in many cases is based on, new technologies, it is difficult to control and may have an impact on our daily lives.



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We have fully entered the grey zone, the theatre of operations of the 21st century, marked by actions that, though significantly altering peace, do not cross the thresholds that would allow or require an armed response.

Cyberattacks, propaganda campaigns, sabotage, undercover or clandestine operations, organised riots; all of the former are actions designed by our adversaries to create a climate of misinformation and confusion to destabilise and weaken our position.

NATO's response in this field has been swift and the Alliance is already working on measures to help those countries that may fall prey to hybrid attacks and request assistance.

The official declaration of NATO's Brussels Summit affirms that a hybrid attack of sufficient intensity could justify invoking Article 5 of the Washington Treaty. However, in the management of this particular conflict—in which it is difficult to define the degree of intensity and who is behind it—the national authorities of each Ally must continue to play an essential and irreplaceable role.

Lastly, we must mention China: is the new China that wants to play at being a leading international actor a threat, a challenge or an opportunity?

Our Heads of State and Government who recently met in London had to speak about China. Until now, China had been considered an actor outside NATO's area of responsibility. However, it is clear that in a global world the non-stop rise of China has implications in the field of security for the West and therefore for NATO.

For the Alliance, China offers obvious opportunities for cooperation in many fields but it also represents a challenge, and even a threat in some security aspects, mainly those linked to the new 5G networks.

I would like to end with a final reflection. Probably NATO's greatest challenge on its 70th anniversary is not Russia, China, or the fight against international terrorism: the greatest challenge is the perception that the citizens of the Allied nations—and particularly young people—have regarding the need for the Alliance to exist at all. Seventy years, or rather seventy-four, without a world war, with ups and downs but without a world war, have allowed unparalleled economic and social growth on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean, but these years have also made younger generations forget that NATO was an essential tool to avoid a global nuclear conflict. We cannot work efficiently against old and new threats if our societies do not consider them as such. This, and nothing else, is the great challenge that the Alliance is facing today on its 70th anniversary. ■

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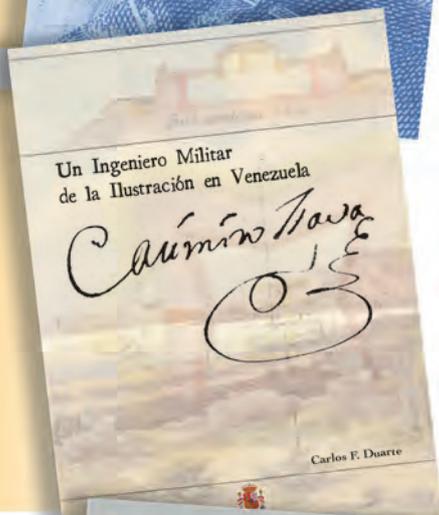
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