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NORTHERN STAR

Magazine for HQ JFC Brunssum – April 2015



- Silver Arrow has grown into a large scale international military exercise
- Media, government representatives discuss journalism in Afghanistan
- Survival Course for NATO International Civilians
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COMMAND GROUP CORNER

By Major General Carmelo De Cicco

I am very pleased to have the chance of speaking through the pages of this Northern Star edition, because this gives me a great opportunity to present what the Support Directorate Division has been doing since my arrival in June 2014. Many great commanders from the past have underlined the importance of logistics and communications, but the most inspiring to me has always been Sun Tzu, who said that “the line between disorder and order lies in logistics”. Since I am deeply convinced that there is much truth in this quote, I have been putting every possible effort in order to contribute to a flawless planning and conduct of all tasks assigned to JFC Brunssum.

Starting with Resolute Support, the recent transformation of the mission has requested an increased commitment from the Support Directorate in several aspects. I begin mentioning the management of NATO Funded Infrastructures, because as NATO continues to hand over facilities and sites to GIRoA, all NATO property must be correctly accounted for in accordance with established protocols. Then, I recall other enduring tasks, such as managing the administration of hundreds of civilian workers, coordinating the NATO Air Bridge, funding Force Protection projects, contracting support activities for Headquarters and APODs, managing fuel supply and, last but not least, directing the redeployment and disposition of NATO Funded Equipment.

Other key matters for the Support Directorate are the Deployability Concept, the NRF and the preparation of EX Trident Juncture 15. Since these activities are strictly related, they are being approached in a holistic way. A clear understanding on how to deploy the JTF HQ is crucial and my team plays a pivotal role in this matter chairing the JFCBS Deployability Working Group. We are also deeply involved in the huge planning efforts to deploy, sustain and redeploy more than 25.000 NATO troops in the second semester to Spain, Portugal and Italy for EX TRJE15. In this regard, I also underline the important role my team is playing in order to allow the connection of all the required CIS equipment. The solutions will be tested, alongside other related issues, during the Exercise Steadfast Cobalt 15 (Poland, May – June 2015).

Equally important is the Support Divisions’ commitment to all the activities related to the Ukrainian crisis, starting with the Assurance Measures. In this context, my Directorate has been contributing to the NATO Forward Integration Teams, providing one Team Leader and several Subject Matter Experts. Thanks



Major General Carmelo De Cicco, Deputy Chief of Staff Support

to their initiative, the Alliance has significantly increased its knowledge on the logistics and transportation infrastructure of the eastern NATO countries; if NATO had to deploy forces to one of those countries, planners would have an accurate understanding of Host Nation capabilities and constraints.

Finally, with regard to achieving FOC by December 2015, I have to mention the big effort the Support Directorate has made to build a new and more effective Crisis Establishment for a JTF Headquarters, and then to activate the Joint Logistic Support Group Core Staff Element, as the majority of its positions are actually filled by the Support Divisions.

So, it has not been an easy job so far and there is still a lot to do. But with the professionals I have the honor of coordinating, nothing is too hard to be achieved.

Colophon

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For more information, call ext. 2687 or +31 (0)45 526 26 87. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions.

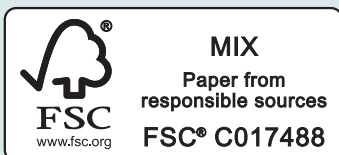
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About the Cover



On March 21 road march "Dragoon Ride" started in Latvia, going from Ainaži to Riga and stopping in Jelgavkrasti, Saulkrasti and Riga for community engagement events.

U.S. Army soldiers with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment on March 21 began a 1,100-mile convoy through six countries en route to their home station in Vilseck, Germany as they wrap up months of training with allies in Poland and the Baltics.

Photo courtesy of: M.Buholca

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RAMSTEIN AI NATO country leaders meet to hone response to future threats

Story by Jennifer H. Svan, Stars and Stripes

Ramstein Air Base, Germany — High-level NATO leaders met at Ramstein, on 9 and 10 March 2015, to consider the future of the alliance's ground forces in the wake of the conflict in Ukraine, events in the Middle East and Afghanistan.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization LANDCOM Corps Commanders' Conference drew more than 140 participants from nearly every country in the 28-member alliance, including NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe, Air Force General Philip Breedlove.

He and Army Lieutenant General John Nicholson Jr., the commander of NATO Allied Land Command, spoke of the broader security environment facing NATO post-Afghanistan and the challenges ground forces, in particular, must address to hone and ready a land component that could respond to an international crisis at a moment's notice.

"We are adapting to some of the most significant changes to the security environment here in Europe since the Cold War," Breedlove said, "and I am pleased to say that NATO is adapting as rapidly as its 21st Century challenges are also evolving."

Breedlove said NATO's land forces headquarters — established in 2012 at Izmir, Turkey, to ensure the interoperability of NATO ground forces — "is focused on matching our readiness to the environment" and working with nations on contingency planning "in support of NATO's readiness action force," as outlined at the pivotal NATO Wales Summit last fall. Interoperability has been a constant, if elusive, goal for the alliance since the early 1950s.

"This is significant, as this planning will reduce the go-to show time needed between alerting forces and getting them to the right place at the right time," Breedlove said.

At the Wales summit in September, allied leaders approved a response plan that addresses challenges posed by Russia and threats emanating from the Middle East and North Africa. Neither Nicholson nor Breedlove mentioned Ukraine or Russia. But in speaking about collective



Gen. Philip Breedlove, NATO Supreme Allied Commander Europe, left, looks on while Lt. Gen. John W. Nicholson, Jr., NATO Allied Land Command Commander, speaks Tuesday, March 10, 2015, at the NATO LANDCOM Corps Commanders' Conference at Ramstein Air Base, Germany. More than 140 participants from nearly all of the alliance's 28 member countries gathered to discuss the way ahead for NATO's ground forces amid a rapidly-changing security environment in Europe and elsewhere.

defense, Nicholson mentioned the threat of so-called hybrid warfare, which NATO officials have accused Russia of employing in Ukraine.

NATO's land forces would be one element of any collective defense measure, including if Article 5 were invoked. Article 5 is the cornerstone of the military alliance, which commits each member to consider an armed attack against one member state to be an armed attack against them all.

Nicholson said his command is focused "on our own ability to respond to the political guidance that we receive."

"If there was an Article 5 declaration with an attributable threat ... and then we were deployed to deal with that, then from a military perspective, we are looking at what we need to be able to do. For us, this is a very important topic because we spent the last decade in Afghanistan, where we were fighting counterinsurgency, but

as we look to the future, we're looking at the hybrid threat." Hybrid warfare is seen as conventional warfare that employs unidentified regular forces and insurgents, cyber-warfare and disinformation.

Insurgents in Afghanistan, while "very cunning and lethal," had a limited set of capabilities, Nicholson said in an interview with Stars and Stripes. "When you look at the hybrid threat, it could be anything, up to armored air and/or chemical; there's a full range of capabilities that we have to be prepared for."

In melding the alliance's diverse land forces on the scale of a potential Article 5 response, NATO faces a host of challenges, including "logistics, communications, integration with the air, with the maritime, with the special operations, and so on" Nicholson said. "The nature of the military challenge is different. That's what we're focused on."

NATO Air Policing

Story by HQ AIRCOM Public Affairs

One of the Alliance's key roles in peacetime is NATO Air Policing. Preserving the integrity of Alliance airspace is a collective task that requires that actions are taken by NATO against all violations and infringements using agreed Air Policing procedures.



Aircraft at handover of Baltic Air Policing - Photo courtesy of the German Air Force

NATO Air Policing involves the use of the Air Surveillance and Control System (ASACS), Air Command and Control (Air C2) and fighter interceptor aircraft, and is a collective defence task.

NATO air policing involves the continuous presence on the ground (24 hours a day, 365 days a year) of armed fighter interceptor aircraft, which are ready to react quickly to any unusual air activity, such as the presence of an unidentified aircraft approaching or infringing into Alliance airspace. In such a case, the aircraft are authorised to approach the unidentified aircraft in order to identify it, establish communication if possible, and take follow on actions if appropriate. NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) is responsible for the conduct of the NATO air policing mission.

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and take follow on actions if appropriate. NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) is responsible for the conduct of the NATO air policing mission.

Air Policing Evolution

The term air policing was first used by the British between the World Wars to describe their mission in Mesopotamia (now part of Iraq) where aircraft effectively replaced the more traditional army approach of "boots on the ground." This was the first time air power had been used for this [policing] task and it was deemed to be very successful. In the 1960s nations participating in the NATO military structure realized that individual air defence systems operating independently could not effectively protect NATO airspace. They started working together, therefore, to establish a structure to overcome this deficiency. Combining national assets supplemented as necessary by other NATO elements, an integrated air defence structure and system was organized. The resulting NATO integrated system has been, and remains, the cornerstone of Alliance solidarity and cohesion.

NATO Air policing – collective security for the Baltic States, Albania and Slovenia

NATO members without the means necessary to provide air policing of their territory (Albania, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Slovenia) are assisted by other NATO

members to preserve the integrity of their sovereign airspace in peacetime, and to ensure their collective security. This is an important peacetime task which demonstrates the collective political will and resolve of NATO nations.

The capability for the NATO air policing mission in the Baltic States was established by the deployment of NATO fighter aircraft to Šiauliai Air Base in Lithuania. The Baltic air policing mission, executed by NATO nations, started in April 2004 and has been executed continuously ever since. So far, 14 NATO nations have participated in this mission.

To ensure adequate air policing coverage of Slovenia and Albania, special arrangements were established in 2004 and 2009 respectively. Slovenia's airspace is covered by both Italy and Hungary. The Combined Air Operations Centre (CAOC) decides which Nation will be scrambled according to the location of the incident. Albania, meantime, is covered by both Italy and Greece. The Nations rotate this responsibility every 2 weeks.

The special NATO air policing missions take place in:

- Baltic States since 2004 (24/7) 14 involved countries (2013)
- Slovenia since 2004 (24/7) Italy
- Albania since 2009 (24/7) Italy/Greece

Exercise Ramstein Dust I 2015 - Live Mission Control after 750 km deployment

Story by HQ AIRCOM Public Affairs, Photos by Cynthia Vernat

NATO is continuing to develop deployable air surveillance and tactical air mission control capabilities with the “DARS”. This is the Deployable Air Control Centre, Recognised Air Picture Production Centre and Sensor Fusion Post. This capability currently includes 100 NATO Airmen from 16 Allied nations ready to deploy with their equipment on short notice.



Colonel Christof Heite, Director of the DARS, shows visiting Generals around the RAMSTEIN DUST I-15 area.



Inside one of the mobile DARS containers, visiting Generals look over the shoulders of the controllers.

From 4 to 30 March 2015, the DARS is deployed for Exercise RAMSTEIN DUST I 2015 to exercise and validate these operational tasks. In the early hours of 9 March 2015, some 100 DARS Airmen embarked on a 750-km move from the home base at Poggio Renatico in the north east of Italy almost all the way along the country's eastern coast to Gioia del Colle Air Base.

After setting-up and conducting integration testing, the DARS conducted both live and simulated control of various aircraft missions. The majority of training was supported by the Eurofighter Typhoon jets of 36th Stormo Fighter Squadron collocated at Gioia del Colle Air Base.

“RAMSTEIN DUST is a semiannual exercise during which the DARS deploys to a remote location,” says the DARS

Director, Colonel Christof Heite, German Air Force. “This allows our men and women to train in different environments with realistic mission scenarios. We gather valuable hands-on experience for future DARS deployments and have so far proven we are ready for such missions.”

On 16 March 2015, during the first day of live mission controls, the DARS staff demonstrated their capabilities to General Frank Gorenc, Commander of Allied Air Command at Ramstein, Germany.

“The DARS is an important capability for future NATO Air Operations,” said General Gorenc. “This unit provides forward and persistent air surveillance. It provides the critical communications link between our various weapons systems and higher headquarters. Most importantly, it provides our NATO Forces and our Joint Force Air

Component with situational awareness and the ability to command and control 24/7 NATO air operations from almost any location on very short notice.”

The Heads of State and Government, during the NATO Summit at Wales in September 2014, agreed to revitalize the NATO Response Force with an increased focus on readiness and responsiveness. Capabilities such as the DARS will complement this initiative and may become increasingly important during any deployment of the NATO Response Force. The DARS will continue to conduct live and simulated control of aircraft missions until the conclusion of RAMSTEIN DUST I 2015 during the last week of March. The lessons learned during this deployment are a major milestone along the unit's road to reaching Full Operational Capability.

NATO's Standing Naval Maritime Group 2 (SNMG2) Trains with the Turkish Navy in the Black Sea

Story by SNMG2 Public Affairs Officer, Lt Robyn Gerstenslager

NATO ships assigned to SNMG2 recently completed exercises in the Black Sea with ships from the Turkish Navy. SNMG2 is in the Black Sea to assure allies in the region of the Alliance's commitment to collective defence and to enhance NATO's maritime force interoperability.

Led by Rear Admiral Brad Williamson (USA N), SNMG2 is currently comprised of the flagship USS Vicksburg (CG 69), HMCS Fredericton (FFH 337), TCG Turgutreis (F 241), FGS Spessart (A 1442), ITS Aliseo (F 574) and ROS Regina Maria (F 222).



HMCS Fredericton (FFH 337) and TCG Turgutreis (F 241) during training in the Black Sea

SNMG2 units were joined by Commander, Turkish Destroyer Division Three, Captain Murat Sirzai, embarked aboard TCG Yavuz (F 240) and other Turkish units - TCG Fatih (F 242) and a Turkish submarine. During the multinational exercise the ships tested anti-air, anti-submarine and anti-surface warfare tactics and procedures, as well

as basic ship-handling maneuvers and communications drills.

"Opportunities to train with different units from our Allied nations only further enhance our ability as a ready maritime force," said SNMG2 Staff Planning Officer, Lieutenant Taner Erdem (TUR).

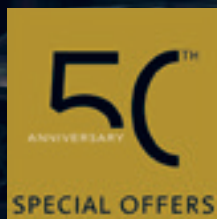
While in the Black Sea SNMG2 will also participate in exercises with the Bulgarian and Romanian navies before returning to the Mediterranean to resume patrols; contributing to maritime situational awareness in the region.

An advertisement for NATO Newcomers featuring a magazine spread. The top left has the "NATO Newcomers" logo. The magazine text includes "Beauty is nothing without brain.", "Mercedes-Benz Intelligent Drive - test drive now!", "A Class Sedan", and "16.594,-€*". The bottom section has a teal background with the text "Advertise now in our 2015 Newcomers' Guide!". At the bottom, there is a white silhouette of a person with arms raised, and contact information: "facebook.com/natoneewcomers", "www.natoneewcomers.com", and "t Swarte Schaap communicatie & grafisch projectmanagement".

An advertisement for NATO Newcomers featuring a laptop screen. The top left has the "NATO Newcomers" logo. The laptop screen shows a website with the "NATO Newcomers" logo and a photo of a woman. Below the screen, there is an orange banner with the text "Visit us online at www.natoneewcomers.com". At the bottom, there is an orange silhouette of a person with arms raised, and contact information: "facebook.com/natoneewcomers", "www.natoneewcomers.com", and "t Swarte Schaap communicatie & grafisch projectmanagement".

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Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum - Visits and Activities

Prepared by Adjutant Edwin Tromp, photos by PAO JFCBS

Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum major activities are depicted along five lines of effort within the Brunssum Campaign Plan. Each of these activities requires an ambitious level of attention and effort. Beside routine staff work we plan and conduct special activities in the form of visits and training, as well as, social events on a regular basis. We would like to provide you an overview of those activities.

February 2015



Comprehensive Crisis Planning "For Exercise" Underway at JFC Brunssum

On the 9th and 10th February 2015 JFC Brunssum hosted an IO/NGO/GO consultation event related to the Crisis Response Planning for Exercise TRIDENT JUNCTURE 2015.

Seven of the sixteen NAC approved civil organizations for this major exercise participated in a serial that proved to be a milestone in the implementation of an Inter-Agency approach in military planning.



General Domröse met With Brigadier General Tiganik, the Estonian Deputy Chief of Defense and the US Detachment Leadership during his visit to Estonia

On 16th February, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFCBS), met with the Estonian Deputy Chief of Defence, Brigadier General Arthur Tiganik, plus senior members of the US detachment to Estonia, during a one-day visit to the country. The JFCBS-led Exercise TRIDENT JUNCTURE 2015 (TRJE15) and security challenges facing the Baltic States were among the topics discussed.



Deputy Commander JFC Brunssum Air Marshal Stacey Visits George Marshall Centre

Deputy Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, Air Marshal Graham Stacey, attended the graduation ceremony of the Program on Security Sector Capacity Building, at the George C. Marshall European Centre for Security Studies, in Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Germany, 12 February; whilst there he gave a speech on global security, stability and prosperity.



COM JFC Brunssum Visits Resolute Support in Afghanistan

08 – 11 February, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, Commander JFC Brunssum, conducted his first situational awareness trip to the Alliance's new Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan, in his capacity as NATO's out-of-theatre operational-level commander. JFC Brunssum acts as a supporting command for this mission inter alia providing a range of pre-deployment training, contracting, manning, financial and planning support such that the Resolute Support HQs, in Kabul, can concentrate on day-to-day activities.



Joint Force Command Brunssum NATO Forward Integration Team Visits Slovakia and Hungary

A team of representatives from Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFCBS) visited Slovakia (16 February) and Hungary (17-19 February). The visit to Slovakia was a continuation of strategic and operational level coordination already established between the Slovak Armed Forces and NATO, primarily focused on planning activities and future cooperation between the Alliance and Host Nation.



US Ambassador to The Netherlands, H.E. Mr Timothy Broas, Calls into JFC Brunssum

24 February, His Excellency Mr Timothy Broas visited JFC Brunssum to pay an initial call on the Commander, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, and acquaint himself with the role and responsibilities of the Headquarters.

Following discussion of the evolving European security landscape a range of issues were discussed in greater detail. Amongst others these included: the importance of partnerships; the comprehensive approach; the status and role of NATO's Forward Integration Units; and the critical importance of effective strategic communications.



Biannual Multinational Medical Management Meeting hosted by JFC Brunssum

The Multinational Medical Management Steering Group (MMMSG) is a biannual meeting which was previously dedicated to medical issues appertaining to the International Security Assistance Force mission (ISAF), in Afghanistan. During the last MMMSG, held 06-09 October 2014, the decision was taken to extend the scope of discussion to include other NATO operations.

This year JFC Brunssum's Medical Division has the honor to organize and host the MMMSG 2-5 March. 24 participants from 9 nations, representing 10 organizations, are in attendance.



Visit of Norwegian Policy Makers

06 March, orchestrated by the US Mission to NATO, a group of Norwegian policy makers called into JFC Brunssum. Hosted by the Deputy Commander, Air Marshal Graham Stacey, visitors were briefed on the roles and responsibilities of the Headquarters.

Discussion in a deliberately interactive session, as might be anticipated, largely centred on security issues relating to the High North, Ukraine and Russia. In this context actions to adjust the posture of NATO's Response Force, agreed at the recent Wales Summit, together with evolving activities associated with the implementation of the Readiness Action Plan, were touched upon.



Visit of Italian Centre for Advanced Defence Studies

12 March, more than 50 staff and students from the Italian Centre for Advanced Defence Studies, located in Rome, visited JFC Brunssum as part of a busy tour of northern European military headquarters' and security-focused organisations. In his welcoming remarks, Air Marshal Graham Stacey, Deputy Commander JFC Brunssum, stated he was delighted it had been possible for such a distinguished group to include Brunssum in its programme. He invited visitors to question the briefers as, 'we think we know what we are doing and that we are doing it right, but it is always good to be challenged'. Looking to the seniority of the course, Colonels / Brigadier Generals and equivalent, he advised, 'the transition from senior management to very senior management is being comfortable with ambiguity.'



General Domröse Visits United States

Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, travelled to the United States of America last week to meet with the Supreme Allied Commander Transformation in Norfolk, Virginia, and a number of high-level military leaders in the Pentagon. General Domröse and General Jean-Paul Paloméros, the Supreme Allied Commander Transformation, discussed a wide range of operational-level training and exercising topics. Both headquarters' have significant roles in Resolute Support pre-deployment training and NATO Response Force Exercises – significantly to include the upcoming NATO Exercise Trident Juncture, which will be one of the largest NATO exercises in recent history.



UK Higher Command & Staff Course Calls into JFC Brunssum

11 March, Air Marshal Graham Stacey, Deputy Commander JFC Brunssum, hosted more than 40 course members and staff participating in the UK's Higher Command & Staff Course (HCSC).

The HCSC is one of many courses conducted by the UK Defence Academy. Its aim is to prepare selected officers and officials for higher command and staff appointments. The UK recognises that the enhancement of an agile mind, able to analyse and conceptualize complex security-related issues in order to discharge command effectively, is of great importance in an increasingly unstable world.



UK Policy Makers Briefed at JFC Brunssum

13 March, facilitated by the US Mission to NATO, a group of UK Policy Makers visited JFC Brunssum. Hosted by Group Captain Anthony Beasant, the UK Senior National Representative, amongst other issues the distinguished visitors were briefed on: the nature and objectives of Resolute Support (Afghanistan); the importance of Partnerships; and the high-visibility NRF16 certification exercise – Trident Juncture – that will be conducted in Italy, Portugal and Spain towards the end of the year.

Silver Arrow has grown into a large scale international military exercise

Story by by Captain Sandra Brāle, NAF Special Operations Unit, Photos by Gatis Dieziņš, Republic of Latvia Recruitment and Youth Guard Centre.

International military exercise Silver Arrow 2014 took place from 29 September to 6 October, 2014, at the Latvian National Armed Forces (NAF) Camp Adaži range and its surroundings. Yet only a little less than a year and a half ago, the NAF Land Forces Infantry Brigade Commander, Colonel Martinš Liberts, expressed his satisfaction with the excellent professional collaboration between the Brigade and the Zemessardze (Latvian National Guard) at the national level military exercise Silver Arrow 2013.



The active phase of the exercise began with an attack on Ādaži Airfield and its subsequent recovery under friendly force control.

Taking into account the complex geopolitical situation and huge interest from allies and partners to engage and develop cooperation between armed forces in conventional warfare, the long standing national level NAF Land Forces Infantry Brigade and the Zemessardze military exercise had developed in 2014 into an internationally recognized military exercise that was attended by over 2100 soldiers from Latvia, USA, Greece, Estonia, United Kingdom and Norway.

The importance of the exercise was confirmed by the significant involvement

of Member States' military equipment – the United States provided impressive air support with Apache, Blackhawks and Chinook helicopters. The exercise was also attended by soldiers from the Norwegian Telemark Battalion's 3rd mechanized infantry company with their CV90 infantry fighting vehicles and the Estonian Defence Forces' soldiers with SISU armoured vehicles.

Latvia did not just host, it was also the leading state in 2014's largest international military exercise in the Baltic region. Thus the responsibility and challenge in ensuring that the accuracy of the exercise equals to the one known

in a Swiss clock mechanism was twice as high. As usual, soldiers from participating states in this year's exercise improved their skills in classical / conventional warfare.

"We started the planning process for this exercise in autumn 2013, immediately after we had finished the previous exercise. However, the current geopolitical situation brought considerable adjustments in exercise planning and procedure. A number of countries expressed their willingness to participate in this exercise to show their solidarity with the Latvian nation and demonstrate a commitment to carry

out certain military activities enhancing security in the Baltic region. This is why the military exercise Silver Arrow 2014 had soldiers from Latvia alongside a battalion from the United Kingdom, two companies from the United States, as well as a company from Estonia and Norway,” said Colonel Liberts.

Colonel Liberts also pointed out that the complexity of the exercise has experienced a rapid increase, as it was implementing plans and scenarios designed by the training command and control headquarters at NAF Camp Ādaži during the Allied Joint Force Command (JFC) Brunssum-led NATO Command

and Control Exercise Steadfast Jazz 2013. The same scenario was played in the Danish division staff level exercise Yellow Knight, thus Silver Arrow provided us with a unique experience to use the same scenario at various levels of command that are applied in a multinational environment at a battalion level tactical field exercise. An additional challenge for the Infantry Brigade Headquarters was to integrate all participating armed forces units’ learning objectives in a common scenario.” 350 soldiers from the British Army Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment 2nd Battalion participated in Silver Arrow 2014, which was the largest number of British soldiers that had ever participated

in an international military exercise in Latvia. British soldiers carried out their training tasks being a part of international battalions. During the exercise a British company was integrated in a battalion from the NAF Land Forces Infantry Brigade while a Latvian company from the NAF Land Forces Infantry Brigade was integrated in a British battalion.

Colonel Hamish Cormack, Commander of 2nd Battalion Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment, pointed out that this was his first time in Latvia and that he had been given an extremely warm welcome. “Since the United Kingdom decided to participate in the exercise Silver Arrow 2014, we were



Soldiers from the US 173rd Infantry Brigade landing from a Chinook helicopter.

also involved in the exercise planning process. A lot of work has been invested to organize this ambitious international exercise which had the largest number of British soldiers ever participating in an exercise conducted in Latvia,” said Colonel Cormack.

“As the Norwegian soldiers had already arrived in Latvia, it was only logical for them to participate in Silver Arrow where we improved our cooperation in collective defence,” said Major Otto Løvland, the Norwegian military representative in Latvia. “During this exercise the Norwegian Telemark Battalion together with the Estonian Defence Forces’

soldiers and troops from the US 173 Infantry Brigade were playing the role of an enemy force against the battalions from the Latvian and the British armed forces. We participated in offensive and then defensive operations.”

“I am pleased that Latvia is able to provide host nation support alongside the necessary organization and command of such a large scale military exercise. Silver Arrow has grown from the national to international level where allies demonstrate their involvement in strengthening regional security, as agreed at the NATO 2014 Summit in Wales,” said the Republic of Latvia

Minister of Defence Raimonds Vējonis in an exercise opening speech. “Such an exercise is one of the best ways to prove to the world that we share common values and are ready to defend them.”

“The most important thing about this exercise is the chance it provides to improve cooperation and a willingness to work together to develop a professional and unified team. I wish foreign soldiers a successful exercise, to improve interoperability and to explore Riga which is another opportunity for better understanding and promotion of mutual trust,” said the Latvian CHOD, Lieutenant General Raimonds Graube.

The active phase of exercise Silver Arrow began on the morning of 3 October 2014 with an attack on Ādaži Airfield with its subsequent recovery by the friendly force. An enemy that was played by the soldiers from the US 173 Infantry Brigade company, which at that time was deployed in Estonia, took control of the airfield by landing from the US Black Hawk helicopters. The airfield was guarded by the NAF Land Forces Infantry Brigade 2nd Infantry Battalion soldiers who due to strength superiority were forced to retreat and request the

assistance from NATO forces that were represented by soldiers from the US 173 Infantry Brigade company that were deployed for training to NAF Camp Ādaži since April 2014. Both the enemy and friendly forces were delivered to Ādaži Airfield with Blackhawk helicopters. "This operational task reflected a situation where a conditional enemy had taken a critical infrastructure – Ādaži Airfield - in the host country's rear which, according to the exercise scenario, was the airport that was envisaged for the incoming NATO forces. Since the enemy had got hold of the airfield, the host country had

requested NATO forces that had already been deployed in the country, to provide assistance in getting the airfield back in to the hands of a friendly force so it could be used for friendly forces landing etc.," said the training director of Silver Arrow, Lieutenant Colonel Kaspars Pudāns.

The Chairman of Ādaži Parish Council, Mr Māris Sprindžuks, had come to observe the exercise. "Ādaži residents are already accustomed to extensive training, flying of military aircraft as well as shooting exercises that regularly take place in NAF Camp Ādaži range. Of



Decisive battles took place during the exercise's visitors and press day.

course, there are people who understand military training requirements and others who are not happy with the noise. Today we saw that military exercise takes place within the municipal territory, which is an even more alarming experience for our residents but we live in a time when the Ukrainian crisis has changed the security situation; to my understanding it is much better to have this type of a situation to be played in a military exercise rather than in reality," noted Mr Sprindžuks. "Such exercises do not happen every day and the municipality can cope with this. This just proves once again that we live in troubled times; still we have allies that we should be prepared to observe

more, even outside the range."

Colonel Liberts presented Mr Anatoly Perekriostov, the Director of Ādaži Airfield, with a certificate of appreciation. "It is crucial that the NAF Land Forces Infantry Brigade and participants of such military exercises work closely with the Ādaži municipality and local residents, and are able to conduct training, not only within the NAF Camp Ādaži range, but also outside of it. Thank you for the opportunity to use Ādaži Airfield for this tactical exercise, your support is very important for us," said Colonel Liberts.

Mr Perekriostov stressed that soldiers

were gladly welcomed to Ādaži Airfield and that he sees no difficulties for such a cooperation. "This is one of the few Latvian private airfields that regularly collaborate with NAF, military helicopters have landed here during search and rescue operations; the airfield has suitable surface for aircraft landing. We are pleased that we can help because national security is very important for us," said Mr Perekriostov. In the late afternoon of 3 October 2014 the friendly forces – soldiers and guardsmen from the Zemessardze 1st district - joined the NAF Land Forces Infantry Brigade and British soldiers, thus creating three battalions who advanced to defensive

positions.

The first battles involving a company from the Zemessardze began in the afternoon of October 3 at the positions along the river. While the Zemessardze company delayed the enemy, the Zemessardze battalion took up a hasty defence positions. In the morning of October 4 it stood against the Estonian Scouts Battalion that had an integrated Norwegian company. Enemy forces were armed with CV90 infantry fighting vehicles and SISU armoured vehicles.

In the afternoon of October 4 friendly

forces took a counterattack with close air support provided by the Šiauliai (Lithuania) based F-16 fighter jets that were called in by forward air controllers from the Combat Support Battalion.

While many Latvian citizens during the night from 4 to 5 October 2014 were busy waiting for results of the Saeima (Parliament) elections, the most ambitious night operation ever was taking place at NAF Camp Ādaži range. Soldiers who participated in the active phase of the exercise had been given the opportunity to cast a vote a couple of days before

October 4. "We expect that every Latvian soldier and guardsman who participate in this exercise will be able to participate in the Saeima elections; they should have made their selection even before loading a weapon", Colonel Liberts noted before the exercise had begun.

On October 5, during the exercise's visitors and press day, spectators had a chance to observe a battle where an attack was played out by integrated Latvian and British forces, the defence was carried out by integrated Norwegian and Estonian forces while



Military Police soldiers during the exercise improved their skills and techniques in crowd control.

the US soldiers carried out amphibious operations. Latvian forces were provided with close air support from Blackhawk helicopters and CF-188 fighter aircraft. The US amphibious units arrived on the battlefield with Chinook helicopters.

At the closing ceremony Colonel Liberts said that all participants of the exercise were well motivated – the Latvian professionals, the foreign soldiers and the guardsmen, "force integration is possible when working together." This was the largest international field exercise so far organized and led by the Latvian NAF Land Forces Infantry Brigade. The scenario specifically

chosen for this exercise provided that the light infantry units played by the British and the Latvian soldiers, and guardsmen were fighting the mechanized units – the Estonian Scouts Battalion with SISU armoured vehicles and the Norwegian Telemark Battalion with CV90 infantry fighting vehicles. "We learned to face the superior force, and I am convinced that by training together, we can do it. By an easy victory we do not learn – we learn from difficulties. The training intensity was huge – for the first time we had integration of such a large fire power combined with troops which was clearly one of the largest international exercises in the Baltic region in 2014. During this

exercise a large scale air landing and support operation, using helicopters, was also conducted. Combat ammunition was not used during this exercise, however, with US armed forces' support Silver Arrow was technically equipped to simulate real warfare, therefore we had an opportunity to include casualty and equipment-loss vignettes, thus providing each soldier with a sense of a real life event."

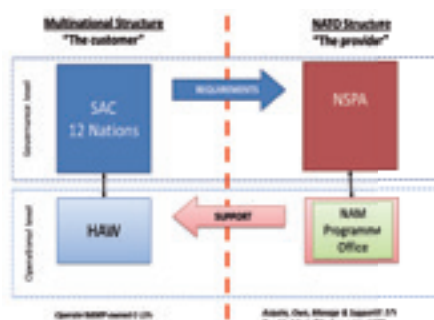
Strategic Airlift Capability Or 'Tango for Two' Orchestrated by Twelve

Story by: Dobromir Tashev, NSPA-NAM PO, CIS Operations Officer and picture by Tamas Fekete, member of SAC Team



Boeing C-17 Globemaster III long-range cargo jets

The Hungarian Air Base at Papa, Hungary, inter alia delivering Strategic Airlift Capability (SAC) to NATO, has been my work-place since 2010 and what a work-place it is. The SAC initiative combines the effort of twelve countries to jointly operate a fleet of three C-17 cargo aircraft in support of NATO, the UN, other international organizations and national requirements for strategic airlift. SAC aircraft are operated based on the requests of the participating programme nations to fulfill their airlift needs for national defense, training, EU / NATO / UN commitments and humanitarian relief efforts. For me SAC is best represented by the following slide, which is a simplified version of the official presentation formally describing the SAC initiative.



Heavy Airlift Wing (HAW) is the operational military unit tasked to undertake the missions and other support activities associated with SAC. The on-site NATO Airlift Management Programme Office (NAM), part of the NATO Support Agency (NSPA), has been established to ensure all HAW requirements are met, thus enabling SAC nation mission execution.

However, this somewhat idealistic view from the 'top' in reality is the daily work of me and my colleagues. Our work is best described by the phrase 'Tango for Two', orchestrated by twelve. Everything within SAC is based on the flying hours which total 3,165 per year for the fleet. This gives rise to a lifespan for each aircraft of circa 30 years. The flying hour is also the main cost driver for the initiative as cost sharing is done in accordance with the number of hours each SAC nation has determined it needs.

Bored already!? Actually there is much more behind the high level picture of SAC above...such as: the host nation, the numerous contractors and the local community. Fundamentally however, this initiative constitutes an excellent example of smart defence in action. Every day HAW and NAM dance a tango at many levels, starting from the combined offices where NATO civilians

work with military personal next to each other, collaboratively supporting the same functions. This tango goes all way to senior management who, critically, work on the ultimate goal of flying a mission after mission in a safe and efficient way. The SAC nations set the 'music' for both NAM and HAW to perform their functions.

So far SAC has successfully supported:

- Resolute Support (RSM, 2015–)
- ISAF in Afghanistan (2009 –14)
- NATO operations in Libya (2011)
- UN approved operations in Mali (2013) and the Central African Republic (2014)
- Earthquake relief in Haiti (2010)
- Flood relief in Pakistan (2010)
- Logistics support to the 2014 MH17 crash investigation, Ukraine (2014)

All of this is done by the people in the picture.

SAC started its work in 2009 and was first resource sharing initiative of its kind. Today, five and a half years later, SAC is still unique place but mainly because of its people and spirit. Every work day presents you with a unique challenge. This is where the "Team, Vision, Future" logo in our corridors comes from.

Survival Course for NATO International Civilians

Story and pictures by Michal Voska, Public Affairs MOD Czech Republic

In October 2014, another group of NATO civilians participated in the civilian pre-deployment course at Vyskov, Czech Republic



Instructors from Training Command – Military Academy in Vyškov - train NATO civilian employees who are going to be deployed to high-risk areas. This special course puts an emphasis on coping with potentially dangerous situations as well as possible natural disasters. Those who have undergone the course are ready to face threats and to provide first aid to themselves and their colleagues.

Operating out of Naval Air Station Norfolk, Virginia, component aircrew members executed several naval missions off the eastern coast of the U.S. to include surface search control, maritime air control, sector air defense control and maritime strike.

“Any exercise where the component can train with any military from any country only enhances the capabilities of the E-3A,” Maj. Quick explained. “By participating in the COMPTUEX, the E-3A aircrews have learned how to coordinate missions with the U.S. Navy and execute operations to support their fleet. The experience gained here better prepares the E-3A for any future operations with the U.S. Navy.”

In addition to the experience gained by the aircrew, the component was also able to attain more training for the flight deck during COMPTUEX. The flight deck accomplished more pattern work after completing a sortie as well as other qualifications that are more difficult to achieve at the main operating base. One specific maneuver the pilots practiced

was retrograding, which is turning the jet away from an enemy aircraft and descending quickly to create extra distance from the threat.

“Some of this training is difficult to conduct in Europe because of the restricted air space,” explained Maj. Gunther Drews, pilot. “By completing this training here, the component had an added benefit of reducing the amount of noise created at Geilenkirchen.”

Of course, the whole exercise was dependent on the work done behind the scenes. Maintenance personnel and crew chiefs worked continuously to ensure the component was able to meet exercise and mission requirements.

“The daily flying schedule was an added burden but we concentrated our efforts

to ensure Ops always had one jet ready to fly and another on standby,” said Chief Master Sgt. Rudi Slot, the deployed logistics officer.

Another key to the component’s overall success at COMPTUEX was the liaison officers (LNOs). Three U.S. Navy officers from the component translated navy terms and procedures to the component’s Air Force personnel. Also, the component had an Air Force member on board the USS Theodore Roosevelt to ensure the U.S. Navy employed the E-3A in the “best way possible” to support the maritime mission.

“These officers have expertly demonstrated the most effective way to conduct missions with the U.S. Navy,” Maj. Quick said. “Without our LNOs, the E-3A missions would not have gone as smoothly as they did throughout the COMPTUEX.”

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/153466/nato-awacs-integrates-with-us-navy-improves-maritime-capabilities#.VNyrzUJrbDI>



Factsheet

The survival course for NATO civilian employees began in 2007 on the initiative of NATO Command International Staff and on its requirement for national support in the domain of preparing international civilian personnel for deployment in operations and missions approved by the NATO Council. The course is run for one week, four times per year; each course consists of a maximum forty students.





FAMILY SUPPORT MORALE & WELFARE

WHEN YOU WORK, WE WORK
WHEN YOU PLAY, WE WORK HARDER



03 APR 2015 FRI

SPARE PARTS

George Lopez
Jamie Lee Curtis

115 min

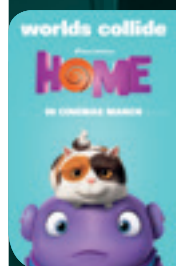
1900



17 APR 2015 FRI

ROB LAKE MAGIC SHOW

1900



04 APR 2015 SAT

HOME

Jim Parsons
Rihanna
Steve Martin

93 min

1600



18 APR 2015 SAT

PAUL BLART: MALL COP 2

Kevin James
Raini Rodriguez

94 min

1600



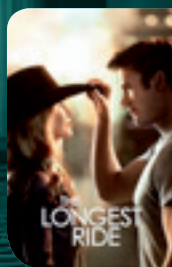
04 APR 2015 SAT

SEVENTH SON

Jeff Bridges
Julianne Moore

102 min

1900



18 APR 2015 SAT

THE LONGEST RIDE

Britt Robertson
Scott Eastwood

107 min

1900



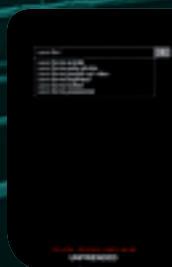
10 APR 2015 FRI

FURIOUS 7

Vin Diesel
Paul Walker

140 min

1900



24 APR 2015 FRI

UNFRIENDED

Shelly Hennig
Renee Olstead

82 min

1900



11 APR 2015 SAT

CINDERELLA

Lily James
Helena Bonham Carter

105 min

1600



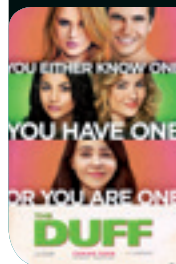
25 APR 2015 SAT

FURIOUS 7

Vin Diesel
Paul Walker

140 min

1600



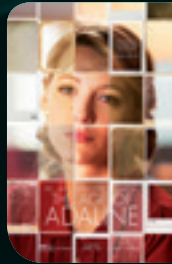
11 APR 2015 SAT

THE DUFF

Mae Whitman
Bella Thorne

101 min

1900



25 APR 2015 SAT

THE AGE OF ADALINE

Blake Lively
Harrison Ford

110 min

1900

Christmas Toys for Children Suffering from Leukaemia

Story by WO Karol Geppert, OR-9 POL F, J4, DCOS Spt

The Non Commissioned Officers (NCOs) of the Support Directorate at JFC Brunssum decided to throw their efforts behind a seriously worthwhile cause in time for Christmas: they collected soft toys for Polish children suffering from Leukemia. Warrant Officer Karol Geppert (Polish Air Force), Warrant Officer Erwin Reynders (Belgian Army) and Warrant Officer Stephen Alford (British Army) co-ordinated the efforts and donations from military, civilians and families alike. Personnel at JFC Brunssum, AFNORTH School and NATO Communications Information Agency elements situated on the Brunssum site all contributed.



Delighted recipients of the soft toys.

Nearly 400 soft toys were delivered to the Oncology Centre at Poznan Hospital, Poland.

emotionally moved the children and their families had been, in the face of such overwhelming generosity.

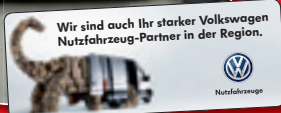
help our little warriors forget about their illnesses for a while". She continued, "we are grateful for all you have done, please accept our warmest heartfelt thanks".

Dorota Raczkiwicz, chair of the Anna Wierska Foundation, explained how

"Your donation allowed us to establish a happy Christmas atmosphere and

Autos stehen bei uns im Mittelpunkt.

Die Volkswagen & Audi Spezialisten in Ihrer Region.



Ihr Jacobs automobile Verkaufs-Team freut sich auf Ihren Besuch:

v.l.n.r. Achim Käfferlein, Alfred Deffur, Martin Deffur, Gerd Caron, Andreas Nolte, Lothar Herfs, Marcel Oellers, Michael Wittwer, Carsten Schaps, Markus Weber, Michael Marx



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Jacobs Automobile GmbH & Co. KG, ZwnL Geilenkirchen
Landstraße 48+50, 52511 Geilenkirchen
Tel. 02451-98700, www.jacobs-automobile.com

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NATO
Newcomers

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Country: Italy
Capital: Rome
Location: Southern Europe
Land Boundaries: 1,932 km
Coastline: 7,600 km
Population: 60,782,668
 (2013 Estimate)
Area: Total 301,338 km²,
 water 2.4%

Climate:

Thanks to the great longitudinal extension of the peninsula and the mostly mountainous internal conformation, the climate of Italy is highly diverse. In most of the inland northern and central regions, the climate ranges from humid subtropical to humid continental and oceanic. In particular, the climate of the Po valley geographical region is mostly continental, with harsh winters and hot summers. The coastal areas of Liguria, Tuscany and most of the South generally fit the Mediterranean climate stereotype (Köppen climate classification Csa). Conditions on peninsular coastal areas can be very different from the interior's higher ground and valleys, particularly during the winter months when the higher altitudes tend to be cold, wet, and often snowy. The coastal regions have mild winters and warm and generally dry summers, although lowland valleys can be quite hot in summer. Average winter temperatures vary from 0 °C (32 °F) on the Alps to 12 °C (54 °F) in Sicily, like so the average summer temperatures range from 20 °C (68 °F) to over 30 °C (86 °F).

Economy:

GDP : \$2.066 trillion
 (2014 Estimate)
GDP per Capita : \$34,455
GDP per sector : agriculture: 1.8%;
 industry: 25%;
 services: 73% (2010 est.)

Budget:

Revenues : \$956.6 billion (2012 est.)
Expenses : \$1.014 trillion (2012 est.)
Currency : Euro (€)

Main Industries: tourism, communications, machinery, steel, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, food processing, textiles, motor vehicles, home appliances, clothing, fashion

Exports:

\$483 billion (2013 est.)
 engineering products, textiles and clothing, production machinery, motor vehicles, transport equipment, chemicals; food, beverages and tobacco; minerals, and nonferrous metals

Imports:

\$470 billion (2012 est.)
 engineering products, chemicals, transport equipment, energy products, minerals and nonferrous metals, textiles and clothing; food, beverages, and tobacco



When did you arrive in the Netherlands and which position have you taken?

My wife and I arrived in The Netherlands in August 2012 and I had the pleasure to join the great Manpower team within the J1 Division. After 1 year a beautiful child named Leonardo, who was born in Sittard (NL), joined our family.

Tell us about your Military Career.

I joined the Italian Air Force straight out of school at the age of 18. After attending the Military school in Caserta I took my qualification as Air Space Controller in Brescia. My first assignment saw me posted to 53rd wing Cameri (home of the F-104 Starfighter aircraft) as air space controller with the GBAD system (SPADA). After being present at the Air Force transition to the new weapon system (Panavia PA-200 Tornado aircraft) I have been moved, for operational purpose, to 3rd wing Villafranca di Verona where I joined the 703rd GBAD Squadron which was also tasked to support the NRF concept. Shortly after my posting I have been assigned to the Missile System School where I was responsible for teaching militaries about the retrofit Missile System. In the meanwhile of my operative career I have also gained a good experience in administrative roles due to the fact that I had also been employed in dual-task as Staff Administrator. For the latter reason in July 2008 I have been moved to Milan where I was blessed with an excellent job opportunity and with great work environment in Human Resources and Legal Advisory. In July 2012 with great pleasure I received the notification letter telling me that I would have been assigned to JFCBS.

What do you like in your job?

The Air Force offered me valuable career opportunities with different jobs. All of the jobs allowed me to extend my skill sets and horizon because I worked with excellent seasoned professionals since I enlisted in 1991. From August 2012 I have been working in NATO where I have gained experience in a multinational environment, adding further skills and knowledge to my cultural baggage. Working in an International environment is very challenging and augmentative and I love facing new experiences and tackling with new kind of problems because I find it very stimulating and bracing. I have been working for almost three years in the J1 Division as Staff assistant (Manpower) and during this period I have been full involved in developing, implementing and reviewing manpower organisational and force structure crisis establishments. With the transition phase from ISAF to RS missions, I had to tackle with a huge amount of workload always being focused on providing the best analysis in order to keep the most efficient and cost-effective structures for mission accomplishment. I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the J1 team for their helpful and fruitful support and professional relationship.

What are your hobbies?

During my spare time I like practicing different sport activities like running, basketball and squash. My wife and I also love a lot travelling all around the world, not only for sightseeing, but also to meet new people and to discover different customs and traditions coming from different cultural heritage. Finally, one of the things we love the most during our leisure time is to share beautiful moments in company with old and new friends, spending time telling facts and stories that our daily life set aside.

Did you
know



The Militaire Willems Orde - MWO

Dutch Highest Honour for Bravery, Leadership and Loyalty

Composed and written by Ed Frieser

Sources: Websites of the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Justice and Wikipedia

Exactly 200 years ago on 30 April 1815 the first Dutch King, HM King Willem I, as one of his first acts, established a Code to honour soldiers, who served the Kingdom of the Netherlands and performed excellent and exceptional acts of Bravery, Leadership and Loyalty in battle.



HM King Willem Alexander Knights Major Gijs Tuijnman as Knight Militaire Willems Orde 4th Class. Photo Dutch Ministry of Defense

It is known as the Dutch 'Militaire Willems Orde', MWO, or Military Williams Order. And comparable for instance to the French National Order of the Legion d'Honneur (1802), the British Victoria Cross (1856), the US Congressional Medal of Honour (1863), and the German Ehrenkreuz der Bundeswehr für Tapferkeit (Cross of Honour for Valour, 2008). As a side note, in the Public Affairs Office, HFW Jan Hecht, GEA, who not so long ago worked as the Supporting Editor of

this Magazine, served in Kunduz, and was also bestowed on 4 May 2010, the German Ehrenkreuz der Bundeswehr für Tapferkeit.

MWO

Here is some background on the oldest and highest military honour in the Netherlands bestowed rarely on exceptional achievements. HM Queen Wilhelmina supplemented the Code in 1940 as stated in article 2 of this Code, that in exceptional cases, also civilians may receive this Dutch MWO Award.

Civilians like those who acted in the resistance during WWII. The very first bestowal of this highest military award was for Prince of Orange-Nassau, later HM King William II, commanding the Dutch Forces courageously during the battle of Quatre Bras and Waterloo in 1815.

MWO Awardees

Since 1815 over 6000 persons received the Dutch MWO Award. Today only 4 living Knights are bearer of the MWO: Maj. Marco Kroon (44)

RNLA, and Maj. Gijs P. Tuinman (35, born in Heerlen) RNLA, and also Major Kenneth George Mayhew (1917) UKA, and Lt. Edward Simons Fulmer (1919) USAAF. The most recent person who has been officially awarded the MWO was Maj. Gijs Tuinman. Maj Tuinman was praised and awarded for his



courageous behaviour and leadership in Afghanistan. He received the MWO on 4 December 2014 for his exceptional role in many operations in Afghanistan leading his soldiers in Uruzgan as Commander of a Commando unit, Taskforce 55, moreover for rescuing the badly wounded commando Cpl Kevin van de Rijdt, on 6 September 2009 in Deh Rawod, Afghanistan. Unfortunately Cpl Kevin van de Rijdt did not survive.

Chancellery

The MWO Order has been subdivided into four categories: Knight Grand Cross, Commander, Knight 3rd Class, and Knight 4th Class. The first two are rarely issued. For example the late HRH Princess Wilhelmina received the Grand Cross and the late HRH Prince Bernhard received the Commander's Award. Today, the Dutch King, HM King Willem Alexander, is Master of the Order and knights the recipient of the MWO. Prime responsible Minister for the Chancellery of Dutch Orders is the Minister of Interior and Kingdom Relationships. But together with the Minister of Defence they execute the responsibilities for the Chapter of the Military Willems Order. However, for other Honours of Bravery the Defence Minister is responsible. The



HRH King Willem II, first recipient Militaire Willems Orde as Knight Grand Cross. (1815)

Chancellery of the Military Willems Order is an independent organisation and by law its led by the Chancellor of Dutch Orders.

Military Distinctions

Among the military it is a good tradition to show military distinctions on their uniforms. This works two ways, it demonstrates that someone has committed him- or her self altruistically and honourably and that should have a stimulating effect on others to act similarly. In the past it was done for King and Country, at present also for Governments and the International Legal Order. Veterans are the perfect example to experience how they served their country. As Dutch Chief of Defence General Tom Middendorp recently stated at a Veterans Day:

".... All veterans have a story how it is to serve your country, to sustain hardships, and how it is to risk your life. Stories about courageousness and comradeship, unconditional loyalty and trust in each other. Those are stories about being prepared to stand for someone, and for a better world...".

The Dutch Military Willems Order represents all this since it stands for Bravery, Leadership and Loyalty.

Brunssum International Art Event

May 30 and 31, 2015, the 5th iteration of the Brunssum International Art Event (BIAE) will take place. The BIAE is an annual event for all ages. In the exquisitely beautiful surroundings of the Schutterspark participants amuse the visitors with their show. In 2015 we want to pay more attention to the artists, craftsmen and music; and, for the first time, a historical village will be constructed. BIAE slowly begins to gain more recognition across the region. This is clear to see as steadily increasing numbers of artists and visitors make their way to the event each year.

For children there is plenty of entertainment and short workshops in which they can participate.

The event will take place at the Heidestraat 20 6443 VZ Brunssum.

Do you want to take part?

Closing date: May 1, 2015

Cost: €40,00 / weekend

(entry fee includes a covered market stall).

As soon we receive your payment you can expect an email confirming your participation.

For more information see our website at: www.biae.eu

Do you want to visit the BIAE?

We are a low-threshold event and charge no entrance fee.

We hope that we can welcome you.

On behalf of the organization,

Jos Conjour
Secretary
jos@biae.eu





Alfa Brewery

The sparkling taste of Alfa Edel Pils, Beer that is next to perfection

The purest spring water, biologically grown hop and the own Alfa yeast culture provide the Alfa Edel Pils with its own character: sparkling and full of taste with a subtle bouquet. The beer will have 6 weeks to ripe. The fermentation process is not forced in any way. The personal attention and care make the Alfa Edel Pils a special beer. Partly because of these facts, Alfa remained a successful, independent and pure Limburg family brewery amongst the large Dutch breweries.

The taste of our distinctive Beers

In several respects Alfa Beer is unique in the Netherlands. For instance, only Alfa Brewery is allowed to mention on the label that her beer is brewed with 100% spring water originating from her own certified spring. And also the use of only natural raw materials makes Alfa Beer really special. Alfa Beers are

brewed for four generations in an artisan and authentic manner according to the family tradition of the Family Meens. All Alfa Beers undergo a longer lager time as a result of which the beer can ripe calmly and in a natural way. Partly because of this the Beers get their own specific character and the recognisable Alfa taste

Visit our brewery with tasting room and spring-house

The programme of approximately 2.5 hours

- Reception with coffee/tea and Limburg vlaai (pie) in our tasting room.
- Latest movie with historical images about the Alfa Brewery and the current preparation process of the Alfa Beer can be seen on a 7 metres wide screen in the cinema near the museum.
- Brief overview of the history of the brewery with a visit to the Alfa Spring.
- Tour of several departments with explanation about the brewing process.

- Tasting of our Alfa Beers with savoury snacks.
- Nice gift on departure.

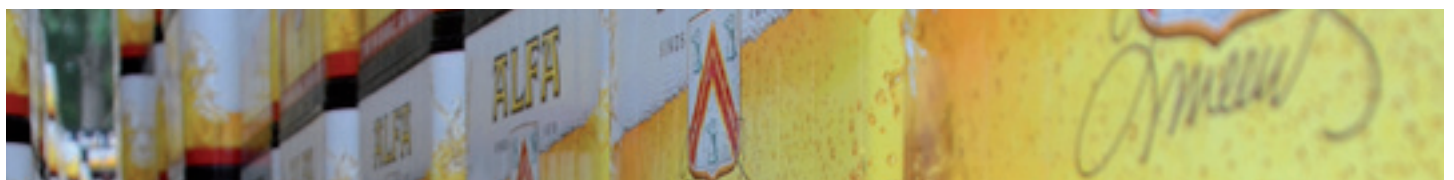
You are more than welcome The **Brewery** visit is accessible for deprived people with the exception of the tour in the brewery. We hope to see you soon at our beautiful location Thull, in the heart of Limburg. **It is necessary to make a reservation**

Make your reservation here online www.alfabier.nl/reserveer

Of course it is also possible to make a reservation by telephone at (046) 44 32 888. Costs per person € 9.75

Alfa Brewery

Thull 15-19
6365 AC Schinnen
+31(0)46 44 32 888
info@alfabier.nl
www.alfabier.nl





Win Tickets for Alfa Brewery

- We have 3 x 2 tickets for the Alfa Brewery.
- In order to win the tickets, please answer the following question:
- **Quiz Question: For how many Years has Alfa beer been brewed?**
Fill in this coupon and send it to PAO, or send an e-mail to pao@jfcbs.nato.int, before before 20 April 2015
- For NATO ID card holders only
- The winners will be announced in the next edition of the Northern Star

Answer:

Division:

Full name:

Extension:



Book Review



The Barefoot Lawyer : From self-taught lawyer to global activist

Review by Priscilla Kipp

You don't have to be an expert on Chinese proverbs to discern what might happen when an egg meets a stone, but you will understand much more about modern China and its struggling people when you meet this fearless egg: Chen Guangcheng, the narrator of the riveting memoir *The Barefoot Lawyer: A Blind Man's Fight for Justice and Freedom in China*. Born in 1971, blind since infancy, growing up in dire poverty, Chen learns to escape all his constraints. Barred from the village school and its force-fed propaganda, Chen instead learns from his father that the folktales and myths of his homeland carry a message: As surely as empires will rise, corruption will bring them down. Justice must find its way.

In the bestselling tradition of American Chen Soon becomes a "barefoot lawyer," self-taught and fighting for rights for the disabled, including himself, rights which exist in Chinese law but not reality. He learns the wisdom of using media to bring victims' struggles to worldwide attention as he exposes the brutal violence that

enforces the government's one-child policy. The perils of his activism will eventually wreak havoc on anyone who befriends him, endangering their lives as well as his own.

Imprisoned for more than four years on false charges and in failing health, Chen is forced to endure house arrest. He can go nowhere, speak to no one and receive no medical treatment, surrounded by forces hoping he will die. Instead, in 2012, Chen miraculously escapes and flees—despite a broken foot—to the American embassy in Beijing. After a series of diplomatic firestorms, in themselves a gripping tale, Chen finds safety in America. Only broken promises and more troubles, however, befall his extended family left behind.

This is a story that will go on. As a presidential election year nears and foreign policies are scrutinized, Chen, as outspoken as ever in Washington, D.C., will no doubt see to that.

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¹ the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

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