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NORTHERN STAR

Magazine for HQ JFC Brunssum – April 2014



- Nato: Hard or Soft Corps?
- Lt Gen Tieskens Departs JFC Brunssum
- King's Day
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COMMAND GROUP CORNER

Story by LtGen Richard G. Tieskens, Photos by Henk van der Velde, JFCBS Public Affairs Office



LtGen Richard G. Tieskens

It is often said that the quality of any team is only as good as the people in it. As I prepare to leave the headquarters, I look back on my short two year tour from which I have reflected mostly on the professionalism, cooperation and many accomplishments of our 'Brunssum Team'.

First and foremost, the loading of the staff has continued to be our focused on **operations**. As the out-of-theatre headquarters for the International Security Assistance Force – Afghanistan (ISAF), I believe that our wide-ranging support to this mission is often understated, even played down. In 2013 alone, 115 military and civilian personnel Brunssum deployed direct to HQ ISAF for 4 to 6 month tours, while an average of

10 more personnel deployed to theatre, at any one time, to provide expertise in a number of areas, such as engineering and force protection. Meanwhile, we have continued to oversee the redeployment from theatre of NATO equipment and personnel and assist the in-depth planning for the future mission. Still within the theme of operations, we have planned, assisted with or conducted an unprecedented schedule of training and exercises to ensure our full preparation and readiness for our current standby for the NATO Response Force. This has been achieved while supporting a number of exercises of other NATO entities.

What is more impressive is that our support to operations was managed at a time of major transition as part of **reform**

to the NATO Command Structure, not least our own organisational structures and working practices. A vivid memory for me was the efficient way in which hundreds of cardboard boxes were packed and stacked in the corridors to be re-located to newly refurbished offices. Divisions and branches alike re-located with businesslike efficiency to find telephones reconnected, directories amended and signs in the corridors all changed to plan. Immense credit should be paid for the way in which all personnel adapted to their new working environments and managed some critical manning shortages. Significantly, transition was achieved with no loss of operational output in the staff.

Another theme of my tour has been our continued evolution to becoming a fully **deployable** Joint Task Force Headquarters. While our deployability is not an end in itself, the challenges of generating, deploying and sustaining a deployable headquarters 'in the field' cannot be underestimated. Our deployment to Latvia last year, on Exercise Steadfast Jazz, was therefore a clear milestone in our progress to achieving Full Operating Capability. Here again, I was impressed by the way in which the staff just got on with the job with the same team approach to difficult and complex issues – another job well done.

From my new appointment in the Netherlands Ministry of the Interior, in Den Haag, I will continue to take an active interest in the work of JFC Brunssum. It has been a huge privilege for me to be the Chief of Staff in this headquarters. Among other things, I will certainly miss the international spirit of cooperation in the staff and the unique way in which personnel from all member and partner nations work together to a common purpose. I will also remember the sense of fun in both the workplace and in our community. This of course, includes the vital support and involvement of our families, who are all part of the Brunssum team approach.

Like me, be proud your achievements – military and civilian staff alike. In handing over my office to Major General Yakovleff, I leave in the knowledge that the 'Brunssum Team' is in good shape to meet new challenges - together. Keep up the excellent work, continue to get the most from your tours, and enjoy Dutch hospitality. I will not get the chance to see everyone in person before I depart but my sincere thanks and best wishes to you and your families.

Colophon

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About the Cover



The front cover depicts Commander JFC Brunssum conducting one of his regular staff addresses. General Domröse frequently interacts with his staff to ensure his intent is clear and provide the opportunity for questions to be addressed directly to him.

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Regional Command Southwest

Story and Photo by Cpl. Joshua Young

FOB ROBINSON, Afghanistan (Mar 4, 2014) — Marines with Security Force Assistance Advisor Team 2-215 visited Afghan National Army outposts near Forward Operating Base Robinson, Feb 24.



Colonel Abdul Hai Neshat, the Executive Officer of 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps, Afghan National Army, shows a Marine with Security Force Assistance Advisor Team 2-215 an outpost near Forward Operating Base Robinson, Feb 24, 2014. Neshat expressed his confidence in the ability of the 2nd Brigade to hold their positions and facilitate the upcoming Afghan presidential elections.

Colonel Abdul Hai Neshat, the Executive Officer of 2nd Brigade, 215th Corps, ANA, invited Colonel Christopher Douglas, the team leader of SFAAT 2-215, to visit the outposts and see the progress that was made in the recent operation, Oqab 144.

“It was pretty inspiring knowing what they had cleared and put in place as a result of Oqab 144, seeing that it’s still there and the ANA are still providing security with the police,” said Douglas, a Marine Corps reservist from Ballston Spa, N.Y. “It’s really positive. The bottom line here in Sangin, is that the ANA are still standing.”

The outposts, overlooking the Sangin Valley and Route 611, are vital to mission success in the region, said Neshat. During the operation, several bridges were put in place over the Nahr-e Saraj Canal. The bridges improve maneuverability for the Afghan Army and Police and are open for use by the local populace. They serve as a literal and metaphorical bridge between the ANA and the people. Before the bridges were in place, people

would have to walk several miles to cross a bridge put in place by coalition forces or risk going into the canal to cross.

“I showed them the areas where the operation was conducted,” Neshat said. “That was great. I think the enemy is no longer in those areas where they were influencing before. Right now, people are working. Sometimes the Taliban come to those areas, but have to escape back. They can’t stay. They don’t have their positions there now. The ANA is going to guard their position.”

Oqab 144 was conducted to clear the Sangin Valley of hostile threats in preparation for to the upcoming Afghan presidential elections. The desire of the brigade is to provide a safe voting environment for the citizens.

“We’re looking forward to how we’re going to support the elections and bring people to vote,” Neshat said. “The concern is to facilitate the people coming to these polls. The enemy wants to hurt people and hinder the election. We are planning to do more operations before the elections and

we have a security plan for it. Hopefully we will succeed.”

Douglas expressed his confidence in the ability of 2nd Brigade to effectively support the election process.

“They’ve been planning, coordinating and reaching out to all the other Afghan partners that have been established between the police and governance,” Douglas said. “I believe we’re going to see success in that area.”

Oqab 144 served as the first successful Afghan National Security Force operation in the Sangin Valley completed solely by Afghan forces with coalition forces in an advisory-only role.

“Afghans came up with their own solution and they’re solving the problems that arose,” said Maj. Scott Shadforth, the forward air controller for SFAAT 2-215. “They know what needs to get done here. They understand the geography, the culture, the ethnicity a lot better than we’ll ever be able to.”

AIRCOM Leadership Visits ISAF and Deployed Air Force Units

Story by Allied Air Command Public Affairs Office

From 9 to 12 March, General Frank Gorenc, Allied Air Command and US Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa Commander, and Lieutenant General Dominique de Longvilliers, Deputy Commander of Allied Air Command, traveled to Afghanistan to meet with senior NATO leadership. One aspect of the visit was to provide the Generals with first-hand awareness of needs and challenges facing NATO airmen and the Afghan air forces as the mission moves forward from the ISAF combat operation to the Resolute Support training mission.



Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Boland, 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron commander, talks to US Air Force General Frank Gorenc, NATO Allied Air Command and US Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa commander, and French Lieutenant General Dominique de Longvilliers, NATO Allied Air Command deputy commander, on their way to the MC-12W squadron at Bagram Airfield, 10 March 2014. Photo: US Air Force photo by Capt. Brian Wagner/Released

Upon their arrival at Kabul International Airport, General Gorenc and Lieutenant General de Longvilliers met with the Commander, Major General Olivier Taprest, for an office call during which they discussed transition-related air power issues. The Generals also met with junior enlisted airmen at ISAF Headquarters in Kabul to talk about their deployment. Office calls and briefings about transition issues ensued with ISAF leadership.

At Bagram Air Base the Generals were greeted by Brigadier General Patrick Malackowski, Commander of 455th Air Expeditionary Wing. They also visited the 4th Expeditionary Reconnaissance

Squadron for mission briefs and a MC-12 static aircraft display.

On Upon return to Kabul International Airport the Generals departed for Shindand Air Base for a tour of the 838th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group which provides training to the Afghan Air Forces. The Advisory Group is one of three out-stations of the NATO Air Training Command-Afghanistan. At Shindand, General Gorenc and Lieutenant-General de Longvilliers met with the Commander of Regional Command West (RC-W), Brigadier General Manlio Scopigno. RC-W is the ISAF regional command responsible for the province of Herat.

In conclusion of the visit, the Generals flew to Kandahar Airfield where they met the Commander of Regional Command South (RC-S), Major General Paul LaCamera. RC-S is the ISAF regional command for the province of Kandahar. At Kandahar Airfield the Generals had an opportunity to take a tour of the 451st Air Expeditionary Group and visit the NATO Role 3 Multinational Medical Unit.

“It was a very enlightening and informative trip. All of the leaders I engaged with are acutely aware of the challenges for the NATO mission and our airmen during this time of transition,” said General Gorenc. “The upcoming presidential elections on 5 April and the

handover of political power will impact our ability to sustain the progress made during the ISAF mission. The transition to RESOLUTE SUPPORT will continue to develop during the year. They have a very detailed plan for downsizing and they are looking at having this configuration in place and ready by the end of this year. NATO leadership are making sure that the lessons learned from ISAF will help meet SACEUR's vision of taking NATO from a deployed force to a ready force. We must ensure we capture the PhD level of air operations currently being conducted in Afghanistan and incorporate and maintain those capabilities into our future force structure."

More pictures can be found on the facebook page from PAO Allied Air Command.



Italian Air Force Brigadier General Manlio Scopigno, Commander of Regional Command-West (RC-W), and Slovenian Air Force Colonel Vilibald Polsak discussing with US Air Force General Frank Gorenc, NATO Allied Air Command and US Air Forces in Europe-Air Forces Africa commander at Shindand Air Base, 11 March 2014. Photo: Major Jonathan Carter, USFOR-A Det West

Steps Forward in Nato-Yemen Maritime Cooperation

Story by Cdr Ruben Rodriquez Staff Public Affairs Officer CTF508

GULFOFADEN—In the beginning of March a delegation from Yemen's Coast Guard and Navy, headed by Colonel Abdul-Hafed Al-Wali, paid a visit to the Commander of NATO's Counter-Piracy Task Force 508 (CTF-508), Rear Admiral (ESP N) Eugenio Diaz del Rio.

The meeting took place on board ESPS ALVARO DE BAZAN which is currently conducting counter piracy patrols in the Gulf of Aden. The delegation, composed of representatives from the Yemeni Coast Guard and Navy, was welcomed by Rear Admiral Diaz del Rio, Commander (ESP N) Jose E. Delgado, the ALVARO DE BAZAN's Commanding Officer, and the CTF508 Chief of Staff, Captain (GRC N) Dimitrios Nikolaidis.

The objective of this meeting was to discuss issues of mutual interest and to enhance cooperation to fight piracy at sea. During the meeting, both parties agreed to conduct mutual activities, including the hosting of Yemeni Coast Guard and Navy personnel on board NATO counter-piracy units in the near future.

There have several examples of NATO-



Rear Admiral Eugenio Diaz de Rio and Colonel Abdu-Hafed Al-Wali discuss cooperation on the fight against piracy.

Yemeni cooperation in the past few months. On February 27, NATO warship HNLMS EVERTSEN rescued 8 Yemeni seamen who were found in the water in the Gulf of Aden and then handed over to Yemen's Coast Guard. Last week, ESPS ALVARO DE BAZAN assisted a drifting dhow before a Yemeni patrol could tow her back to the nearest Yemeni port.

"This agreement is an important step forward in working together to improve the overall maritime security of the area," said Rear Admiral Diaz del Rio.

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 by taking a quick look at a few selected events.

February 2014



General Domröse visits Spanish Staff College in Madrid

On the 25th of February 2014 General Hans-Lothar Domröse visited the Spanish Staff College in Madrid, to brief on the role of his headquarters and the challenges it faces as it moves towards FOC (Full Operating Capability) in December 2015. He is pictured with Lieutenant General Alfonso de la Rosa Morena and Vice Admiral Luis Cayetano y Carrido. He also met Lieutenant General Juan Antonio Carrasco, the Spanish Chief of Joint Staff, to talk about Exercise Trident Juncture 2015.



General Domröse Visits German Army Training Command, Leipzig

In a visit to Leipzig 27 February General Hans-Lothar Domröse, Commander JFC Brunssum, addressed a mixed audience of circa 350 guests drawn from the political, cultural and military arenas in the area.

General Domröse's speech focused on the status of the ISAF mission in Afghanistan and planning for the post-ISAF mission – Resolute Support. With regard to the upcoming Afghan presidential elections, in April, the General stated that preparations were well advanced and ISAF was ready to provide logistical support. The General took time to emphasize that many reports tend to highlight ongoing problems in the country and fail to consider the tremendous advances that have been made. For example: in the round the security situation is improving; education provision has dramatically increased nation-wide; international airports are fully functional; and over 20 million mobile phones are active throughout the country allowing connectivity and information flow on a previously unimagined scale. The many positive developments are often overlooked but it is a truism that the security situation remains fragile however NATO remains committed to continuing support to Afghanistan by train, advice and assist after 2014.



ACO Gender Advisor Conference at JFC Brunssum

The second ACO Gender Advisor Conference took place 26-27 February at Joint Force Command Brunssum, chaired by the ACO Gender Advisor, Ms. Charlotte Isaksson, in continuation of the first conference held in 2013.

The Conference objective was to review progress and achievements with regard to the implementation of NATO's Gender Perspective policy (Bi-SC Directive 40-1 "Integrating UNSCR 1325 and Gender Perspective into the NATO Command Structure, August 2012"), inform on the current status of activities led by NATO HQ, provide discussion opportunities between Joint Force Command and Component Command Headquarters' Gender Advisors, and improve collaborative work within the Gender Advisor domain. The conference included participation from ACO, NATO HQ, Joint Force Command Naples (Italy), Joint Force Command Brunssum (The Netherlands), Maritime Command Northwood (UK), Land Command Izmir (Turkey) and the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (UK).

As Ms. Isaksson expressed: "some challenges still remain, however, we are definitely making good progress in implementing the principles of UNSCR 1325 into the NATO Force Structure and NATO Command Structure".



Air Marshal Graham Stacey Visits National Army Officer Academy, Kabul.

DCOM JFC Brunssum, Air Marshal Graham Stacey, visited the Afghan National Army Officer Academy on 23 Feb 14. Situated on the outskirts of Kabul and enclosed within a campus of some 70 sq km that also includes the National Military Academy, the ANA Officer Academy already has two Kandaks (battalions of circa 600 personnel) in training; the first will graduate later this year.



British Policy Makers Visit JFC Brunssum

A group of British policy makers visited JFC Brunssum Thursday 06 March. Inter alia Commander JFC Brunssum, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, briefed

his guests on the NATO Command Structure, relationships with allies and partners, the NATO Force Structure and the roles/responsibilities of his headquarters – the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan, the NATO Response Force and Regional Focus. The General also seized the opportunity to emphasize the importance of the 3 R's i.e. our ability to Respond enhances our Reputation which, in turn, underlines our Relevance.



UK Higher Command & Staff Course Visits JFC Brunssum

The Commandant UK Joint Services Command & Staff College, Rear Admiral James Morse, led a visit by the Higher Command & Staff Course

(HCSC) to JFC Brunssum, Wednesday 12 March. The aim of HCSC is 'to prepare selected officers and officials for higher command and staff appointments'. Commander JFC Brunssum, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, briefed visitors on the functions, responsibilities and priorities of his HQs with an emphasis on relationships with allies and partners, the Comprehensive Approach and the 3Rs mantra at the core of his staff's activities i.e. our ability to Respond, enhances our Reputation which, in turn, underlines our Relevance. His Deputy, Air Marshal Graham Stacey, provided a briefing on Joint Operations in NATO whilst further presentations were provided on ISAF, the NRF and Regional Focus. The briefing session concluded with a lively round table discussion. A maximum of 36 students attend HCSC at Brigadier, Colonel or equivalent rank. Of these, 26 come from the UK Armed Forces or are Senior Civil Servants within UK Defence. Four places are allocated to civilians from the wider UK security community and the remaining 6 places are offered to key international military partners.



Higher Command and Staff Course of the German Command and General Staff College in Hamburg visited the Joint Force Command in Brunssum

On the 20th of March 2014 the Higher Command

and Staff Course of the German Command and General Staff College in Hamburg visited the Joint Force Command in Brunssum. The purpose of the visit was to get an insight of JFCBS role, responsibilities, planning processes and current challenges in NATO structure. The group of 72 students – not only from Germany, but also from Canada, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America – and 10 mentors, headed by Rear Admiral Karsten Schneider, Deputy Commander German Command and General Staff College, was heartily welcomed by the Deputy Commander JFCBS, Air Marshal Graham Stacey. Air Marshal Stacey himself took the opportunity to brief the upcoming higher leaders in that course about the focus of our Command, which is in particular NRF, ISAF and also NATO's framework structure for cooperation with EU and UN. Emphasizing Brunssum's philosophy triad of Respond, Relevance and Reputation in all tasks this Headquarters is dealing with he also expressly underlined the joint structure and deployability of the new set up Joint Force Commands within NATO structure. NATO which needs cohesion, incorporates legitimacy and provides various opportunities. But to make the best of it also the personality of military leadership is key.



Bold Bonus 2014 in JFC Brunssum

From 10 to 14 March, Joint Force Command Brunssum conducted Battle Staff Training. This internal event was designed to ensure the HQs is prepared to conduct its NATO Response Force Standby Command role, should the NRF be activated anytime throughout 2014.

During Exercise Bold Bonus staff and equipment recall/deployment preparations and processes were rehearsed. The exercise scenario, Skolkan, is set in a fictional Northern European region where NATO is fictionally deployed to conduct a self defence operation. The Bold Bonus Exercise was the result of extensive planning and involved more than 500 personnel.



Norwegian Policy Makers Visited Joint Force Command Brunssum

A delegation of five Norwegian policy makers visited Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFCBS) Wednesday 19 March. During his welcome and opening remarks, the JFCBS Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Richard Tieskens, stressed the importance of sharing with our NATO-member visitors, information concerning operations and planning that JFCBS is deeply involved with, such as, Afghanistan operations, ISAF today and Resolute Support tomorrow. Brigadier Generals Grätrud and Sirel briefed the guests on the NATO Command Structure, relationships with allies and partners, the NATO Response Force and Regional Focus. Thereafter, a busy question and answer session, in which meaningful dialogue between the visitors and representatives from JFCBS took place, concluded the event.

During this half-day of meetings and presentations, the delegation of Members of Parliament, and representatives of young political movements, received a comprehensive overview of the JFCBS missions and roles, and were able to exchange with their guests on various topics.

April 2014

NATO: Hard or Soft Corps?

Story by Public Affairs Office Allied Land Command Izmir

2014 is a strategic tipping point for NATO. The December end of major combat operations in Afghanistan is being foreshadowed by the Russian invasion of Ukraine-Crimea. Ideally, at this pivotal moment NATO's September 2014 Wales summit should consider the strategic and operational future of the Alliance into the 2020s. To that end, I am attending high-level conferences in Washington, Britain and Paris to consider those issues and will act as rapporteur for one of those meetings. It is against that backdrop I have just attended and addressed the Corps Commanders' Meeting at Allied Land Command in Izmir, Turkey in support of Lt. General Hodges and his team. Are NATO corps ready for the coming challenges?



Professor Julian Lindley-French at the Corps Commanders' Meeting at Allied Land Command in Izmir, Turkey in support of Lt. General Hodges and his team.

The basics; NATO has nine so-called Graduated Readiness Force (Land) (GRF-L) corps. Along with maritime and air forces they are the beating operational heart of the fighting Alliance – NATO's hard corps. As such these forces are and will be the litmus test as to whether the world's most successful politico-military alliance is fit for twenty-first century purpose.

They will need to be fit as the balance of military power is fast shifting east. This week it was announced that China would increase its defence budget this year by a further 12.2% to \$131.57bn, which is probably some 15-20% below the actual

figure. The 'fruits' of Russia's massive military modernisation programme can be seen in Ukraine-Crimea in the body armour and equipment being displayed by the Special and Specialised Forces under General Anatoly Sidorov's command.

In other words, once the Afghan dust has cleared NATO leaders will finally have to face a painful fact; this is the beginning of a new and dangerous strategic age. No longer can the certification and effectiveness of Alliance forces be measured purely in terms of counter-terrorism or security force assistance.

The key test will be the ability of NATO forces to deter, mitigate and if needs be fight at the high-end of conflict. President Putin invaded Ukraine-Crimea because

he could. In all likelihood China will re-take Taiwan at some point by force if it can. Soft power and economic sanctions whilst important will not in and of themselves deter such military adventurism. Indeed, the only way for such military adventurism to be deterred will be for the Alliance to re-invent itself as a high-end force that is also effective across a broad conflict spectrum – both fighting force and partnership force.

And reinvent itself the Alliance must. First, this is one of those moments when NATO is looking at what is as close to a strategic blank sheet as it is possible to get. The end of major combat operations in Afghanistan will also mark the effective end of NATO's almost exclusive focus

on stabilisation and reconstruction since 1991. If the West together is to provide STRATEGIC stabilisation then the Alliance will once again have to become a hard alliance.

Second, for that to happen and given the economic backdrop in Europe the way NATO forces are generated and organised will need to be radically rethought. The Alliance will need to be at the very forefront of a new way of armies, air forces and navies working together across five strategic domains – air, sea, land, cyber and space. Connectivity and interoperability (both actual and intellectual) will be the critical component of forces that will not so much operate together but operate as one.

So, what is my assessment of NATO's corps? There were two NATOs on show in Izmir - hard corps and soft corps NATO. Some NATO nations get this and understand the need to re-generate Alliance deterrent credibility via a high-end force built on deployable strategic headquarters of which the corps are a key part. Other NATO nations reject this and continue to emphasise low-level peace support operations and security force assistance – a kind of strategic Telly Tubbies land. The trouble is that too many of Europe's political leaders are also attracted to this fool's paradise and all too keen to make the false economy of endless defence cuts. It is a kind of strategic appeasement.

Therefore, NATO leaders must consider two options urgently. The preferred option would be a reformed force re-established on corps that are themselves firmly established on a high-end warfighting capability. To that end a reform, experimentation, exercising and education development programme should ideally be put in place now to harmonise force concepts, structures, capabilities and doctrines. Another option is in effect what exists today – corps that are similar in name only, operating at very different levels of ambition and capability. At present several NATO nations seem profoundly opposed to the idea of high-end reform.

The high-end option would be defined purely in terms of twenty-first century military strategy with the focus on achieving a new balance between efficiency and effectiveness. This would see the number of corps reduced from the current nine to six with all corps able to provide deployed theatre command and thus rotate seamlessly through crises and conflicts.

If not hard corps NATO will be comprised of those Allied forces able and capable of taking on high-end military tasks. Soft corps NATO will be those forces only able to undertake the less challenging military tasks. Frankly, if that is to be NATO's reality then the Alliance should be structured thus and the dangerous

pretence ended hat unity of purpose and effort is anything but a fantasy.

However, there is another challenge that NATO commanders from SACEUR down need to grip quickly. Experience of the past twelve years of operations has severely undermined the credibility of European multinational formations in general and the corps concept in particular. Multinational formations have been disaggregated to support nationally-led provincial reconstruction teams in Afghanistan, been broken up to support US headquarters, or remained by and large political fantasy (EU Battlegroups). Therefore, for Allied Land Command or indeed any other NATO command to generate all-important reform momentum the very case of such formations needs to be remade to political leaders – in terms of effectiveness AND efficiency.

My sense of the conference was of good people grappling with big issues and trying to back engineer grand strategic solutions via the military-strategic backdoor. They will only get so far. What they need is clear political guidance allied to a renewed requisite level of ambition that properly prepares NATO forces for the undoubted challenges ahead. Surely that is one lesson of President Putin's adventurism – if that is our politicians have the courage to see that.



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JFC Naples Team train NCOs from Jordan

Story and photos by JUSTIN J PHILLIPS, SMSGT, US Air Force JFC Naples NATO JMTT Coordinator



The JFC Naples Joint Mobile Training Team (JMTT) and their Jordan NCO Trainees.

The JFC Naples Joint Mobile Training Team (JMTT) recently completed a mission to Amman, Jordan (2-6 March 2014). During this mission they trained 30 Senior Non Commissioned Officers from the Jordanian Special Forces and members of their mechanized and infantry divisions. This was Naples' first mission of 2014—which directly supports one of the Joint Force Command's key tasks of engaging with partners. The main mission of the team is to travel to Non-NATO countries and introduce a different kind of training to their armed forces. The overall program is led by the JFC Naples Senior Enlisted Leader, German Army Command Sergeant Major, Manfred Jerabek.

The JMTT consisted of members from four countries and included the following personnel - Spanish Marine Sergeant Major Felix Donoso, US Air Force Senior Master Sergeant Justin Phillips, French Army Adjutant Stephane Hirschbihler, German Army Master Sergeant Torben Ritz and US Army Staff Sergeant Yuri Brown. The team travelled to Al Zarqa Base near Amman and facilitated classroom based leadership training. Training material covered various NCO development and leadership topics; including ethics, communication and counseling. The JMTT training material doesn't include any country specific doctrine and is a

based on the NATO School and Swiss NCO School leadership courses.

The ranking member on the mission, Sergeant Major Donoso, stated: "The mission to Jordan was a really great experience. We met some very experienced and professional SNCO's. The hospitality and professionalism we encountered in Jordan was truly amazing."

The team conducted the training session at the new NCO training facility at Al Zarqa base. The base is currently in the process of converting the school Commandant from an officer to Sergeant Major position. The JMTT helped bring this vision closer to reality as their class was the first to be officially

graduated by the Jordanian Sergeant Major of the Army.

The school Commandant stated, "These lessons provide our NCOs with a valuable multi-national perspective. We really appreciate the professional efforts put forth from this NATO team and we are looking forward to our future relations with NATO."

The team successfully delivered the training content, but more importantly they established relationships and shared ideas with other SNCOs from a valuable partner country. Overall, the Naples JMTT graduated 30 Jordanian SNCOs and fulfilled the motto of the JMTT program: "We train our own!"



All NATO-Soldiers and members of Police are cordially invited Accept the challenge: Run in the International Moenchengladbach military competition!

Story by Helmut Michelis

The 31st IMM will be a challenging full-day event again in the area south-west of Moenchengladbach on Saturday, 14th of June 2014. More than 40 teams from nine nations took part the year before and had a lot of fun. 16 tasks, located along a 12-km-marching route, will have to be tackled, and they include rafting, shooting, first aid, fire fighting and even an assault course. The champion's trophy is donated by the German Minister of Defence, Mrs. Ursula von der Leyen.



Team test at a check point

Intelligence, strength and fitness are tested in equal measure during the IMM, sponsored by the Bundeswehr's North Rhine Westphalia Land Command and organised by the German Reservists Association „Niederrhein“. The one-day competition is traditionally organised by Reservists with the aim of promoting and enhancing links between different NATO- and neutral forces.

The American Four-Star-General Philip M. Breedlove, NATO's C-i-C, eulogizes the reservists: "The IMM has earned, for more than three decades, a fantastic reputation as a platform of professionalism, sportsmanship and friendship. The contest continues to make an essential contribution to strengthening our alliance and

camaraderie." Addressing the organizers and the contestants, NATO's highest-ranking soldier wishes an exceeding experience "in a spirit of friendship".

„Though my Headquarters is now in Bielefeld, I continue to value this event and know that this will prove to be a testing but enjoyable course for all participants. This is a fantastic opportunity for you to display the determination and professionalism that unite us as NATO partners“, is what Major General John Henderson, the General Officer Commanding British Forces Germany, says in his welcome address for the brochure of invitation, which has just been sent to addresses all over Europe. "The Internationaler Mönchengladbacher Militärwettkampf will allow you to compete, measure

your technical capabilities, learn and improve. I hope you enjoy the experience and gain as much as those who have competed before you."

Cups are traditionally awarded for the first, second and third teams overall, the top non-German active and reserve teams, the top mixed teams (male/female), the top female teams, the top mixed NATO-Teams (from various nations) and the best team of every nation. Last date for registration is the 25th of June 2012.

For more information, join the web: www.imm-bundeswehr.de, ask Oberleutnant dR Stefan Thies, Tel.: 0049 2161 58520 or send an e-mail to:

moenchengladbach@reservistenverband.de

Joint Assessment on its way to 2020...

Story by Major Jan de Meyer (BE) JFCBS Joint Assessment Division

... was the topic of a Professional Development Day of the Joint Assessment Division (JAS Div) on the 27th of Jan 2014. JAS Div chose the nice surroundings of the city of Spa in Belgium, which is known as the pearl of the Ardennes, to hold this event. The venue was the "Parc Cascatelles" near the city centre where there is a vacation centre of the Belgian Defence. The participants were welcomed in the officers' mess of one of Belgium's most famous infantry battalions 12/13 Ligne. This venue formed the ideal back ground for this kind of event.



After a nice breakfast, an introductory brief was given about the many touristic possibilities in the vicinity of Spa. There is not only the Spa resort, the Casino, the many old buildings of Spa itself but you can also visit the Franchorchamps race circuit, the Blegny coal mine, the longest navigable underground river (the caves of Remouchamps), the waterfalls of Coo, the many monuments and museums related to the Second World War especially to the Battle of the Bulge 1944 and the beautiful nature of the "Hautes Fagnes", where you can go walking or, during winter time, skiing (langlauf).

After this introduction the Division was divided into three groups with each group looking at a specific topic. The first group covered the way Component

Commands and Corps should or could be trained in assessment progressing to 2020. Two aspects were considered. Firstly the policy, methods and level of ambition for the training were considered. Secondly it was considered what documentation was necessary for the training and, specifically, what documentation still needed to be developed.

The second group looked into how assessment should be positioned within the daily routine of NATO and beyond (in relation with the partners where NATO works with) covering also the comprehensive approach.

The last group was looking into the development of procedures to support future missions. This could be any kind of mission going from a single service to a joint operation, or from a short operation, as for example Mali, to an

enduring mission, such as Afghanistan, from a peace support operation to an Article V operation.

After an intensive day of brainstorming the results of the three working groups were brought together in a final meeting. These results will be finalized in a document which will be the guide for the JAS Div towards 2020.

After a hard day of working the JAS Div took the occasion to taste the famous "Belgian cuisine" in the Officers' Mess. This dinner was highly appreciated by all the participants. In his closing remarks the ACOS thanked the manager of the vacation centre and her team for the warm welcome, the appreciated hospitality and the high standard of the service. For the JAS Div it was not only a fruitful working day but also a good team building event.



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JFC Brunssum Conducts Routine NRF Training

As part of Exercise BOLD BONUS 14-1 Readiness/Mounting exercise, JFC Brunssum has conducted a training of Operational Liaison and Reconnaissance Teams (OLRT) from 10 to 12 March 2014.

Story by Major Marian VARGA and Major Martine Balland, JFC Brunssum, J3, Photos by Edwin Tromp JFCBS Public Affairs Office J3 division, supported by BSG, J7 TREN and J5, was in the lead. The training audience comprised mainly of JFCBS personnel nominated by their divisions, but also members from JFTC Bydgoszcz and four Component Commands took part in this exercise, bringing a significant and appreciated added value.



OLRT

B OLD BONUS 14-1 Readiness/Mounting exercise proved instrumental to maintain and enhance both, the awareness of tasks and the engagement skills of these very high-readiness staff personnel who would be the first on the ground in case of NRF recall.

More than fifty JFCBS OLRT members gathered early on Monday the 10th of March, a little bleary eyed, in Amsterdam Conference Room to hear BG ROUSSEL's opening remarks for the activation of the OLRT, during the first phase of Ex BOLD BONUS 14-1. He expressed that the current international situation offered an interesting perspective for the NRF training. This was a training event that provided those involved an opportunity to sharpen their skills and to get a full understanding of what may be required of them if the call to deploy came.

The mission of the OLRT is to deploy to any potential Joint Operation Area (JOA) to support the Joint Operational Planning Group (JOPG) with the information vital for the planning process. The OLRT is the "eyes and ears" of the Commander on the ground and must be prepared to facilitate the deployment of Forward Coordination Element, the next step in getting the full Joint Task Force into theatre. The OLRT members need to be able to engage Host Nation (HN) authorities and liaise with all relevant partners in the JOA, including International Organizations and Non Governmental Organizations, as well as feed information back to the headquarters.

The first step in deploying the OLRT was the check-in and mounting a function driven by the Base Support Group. This started with a comprehensive pre-deployment briefing on the OLRT's activities in the JOA. In a real deployment, this would be the last direction and guidance for the

OLRT team before arriving in a potentially non-permissive environment. External briefers were also present to deliver information and advice on practical techniques for improving negotiation skills and familiarization with the engagement process.

Personnel ready with all required personal equipment, including weapons and ammunition were checked in the Brunssum warehouse later in the day. The inspection identified some gaps that need to be addressed and solved in close coordination with nations without delay. Beside the control check point in the warehouse, the OLTR assembled its deployable package, including vehicles with all OLRT Kit and CIS equipment that was already loaded, while half part of it remained on the ground to demonstrate the capability the OLRT for benefit of the whole HQ. The OLRT readied itself with personal kit checks, including weapons

and ammunition, and organized the team display of equipment and vehicles. This gave the remainder of the HQ an opportunity to review the kit and capability of the OLRT.

On Tuesday, the OLRT deployed with its vehicles to the bunker at Castlegate, built up the OLRT Site, and immediately carried out engagements based on information requests from the Headquarter. The aim was to get familiar with the equipment, train internal OLRT processes and prepare and conduct engagements under the supervision of role players (external, J7 and J5). On the first evening, OLRT members gathered together to share their findings and concerns; a great opportunity for team building around a few glasses of German beer.

Integration with the FCE was achieved on Wednesday which gave another opportunity to practice the last element of the OLRT mission.

Training as we would fight gave all team members great insight into the kit, what was expected of them and how they would interact with external agencies and liaise back to the HQ. In all, it was a very fruitful event with a lot of lessons learned and a confirmation that the overarching doctrine was effective when put to the test. A great success for all involved.



OLRT

Joint Force Command Brunssum Hosts NRF14 Legal Conference

Story by Wing Commander Allan Steele, JFCBS Legal Office, Photo by CPO Henk van der Velde, JFCBS Public Affairs Office

The JFC Brunssum Legal Office hosted the NATO Response Force (NRF) 14 Legal Conference between 24 and 25 March in the HQ. This Brunssum initiative was aimed at fostering a collaborative and proactive NRF legal element within NATO's wider legal community. Participants were many and varied and included lawyers from SHAPE, JWC, NCIA, ACT SEE, JLSG, Allied Command Counterintelligence, NRF component commands and the Royal Netherlands Military Academy.

The lawyers discussed a range of topical issues to include the applicability of the law of armed conflict to cyber operations, targeting processes and lessons drawn from the recent Exercise Steadfast Jazz. It was not all work and no play – the lawyers managed to get together in the International Conference Centre where they enjoyed a social event.

Wg Cdr Allan Steele of JFC Legal Office was under no doubt that the conference had the desired effect: "This was about people; solidifying inter-personal relationships and debating issues of legal significance in a specialist forum to synchronize our thinking. Both ends were achieved through open discussion,



Air Marshal Graham Stacey (Deputy Commander JFCBS) during his opening remarks at the NRF14 Legal Conference

facilitated by our excellent staff. This is fully in line with the goals set by the HQ's Chief LEGAD, Colonel Nooijen, on his arrival at Brunssum. Events like these can only serve to make us more effective in advising our respective clients throughout the NRF community – in our case, that is our Commander."

The conference was opened and closed

by Deputy Commander Air Marshal Graham Stacey, who emphasized the vital importance of sound and proactive legal advice at all levels in the NATO force structure. Given the Legal Office's desire to continue to make a positive difference in the NATO legal community, there is already talk of a follow up conference with the hope that this may become a regular feature of business in Brunssum.

Dutch Medals and Veterans Pin presented in Roermond

Story by Cap Leon van Hugten, JFCBS Public Affairs Office, Photos by Guus Ruysbroek JFCBS Protocol



Deputy Commander JFC Brunssum, Air Marshal Graham Stacey, and Captain Burgers

In a ceremony at Roermond, Thursday 27 February, the highest NATO medal - the NATO Meritorious Service Medal - was presented to Captain Caroline Burgers, NLD-F. Air Marshal Graham Stacey, Deputy Commander JFC Brunssum, presented the medal and remarked upon Captain Burgers' outstanding contribution whilst serving in ISAF as a Gender Advisor. Lieutenant General Richard Tieskens,

Chief of Staff JFC Brunssum, awarded Sergeant First Class Stolp NLD-A with the "Combat Badge" for operating under enemy fire in Afghanistan. National gold medals were presented to Warrant Officers Bär and Grissen for long service in the Netherlands Army.

All Dutch active service members present received the "Veteran's Pin". This decoration formally recognises the active

service of Dutch military personnel on missions and accords them the status of 'veteran'. Until recently this status was only granted to retired military personnel.

The ceremony took place at the National Indië Monument in Roermond, the Netherlands.

Special guests included the Governor of Limburg and the Mayor of Roermond.



LtGen Richard G. Tieskens, Warrant Officer Bahr and Warrant Officer



Sergeant First Class Stolp

AFNORTH International School students meet Hans Dietrich Genscher

Story by Mr. R. Bindels, Ass. Director Afnorth International School

On Friday 7 February, AFNORTH students involved in political simulations received an invitation to attend a meet and greet with Hans Dietrich Genscher, former German Minister for Foreign Affairs and Mr. Dries van Agt, former Prime Minister of the Netherlands.



Former NLD Prime Minister Dries van Agt

The opportunity was offered through the Euriade organization which annually hands out the Martin Buber Award. This Award is given to personalities who have used true dialogue, listening skills, intelligence, strength, perseverance and loyalty throughout their careers and have, as such, distinguished themselves. Mr. Genscher, as well as previous recipients, have all been in important and influential roles on a global stage.

The day started with a select group of students taking part in a one hour session of discussion and debate. Even though the AFNORTH students had not attended the “Youth in Dialogue” week earlier in November, their experience in political simulation conferences enabled them to ask several good questions that were welcomed by Mr. Genscher as well as Mr. van Agt. The respect and admiration for Mr. Genscher and Mr. van Agt as top-level political figures with enormous experience and diplomatic expertise grew by the minute. Even though Mr. Genscher, a man who has made world history, was talking with a group of youngsters from a different generation, he captivated his audience. Through his words and answers flowed

wisdom which was felt by all present in the room. Mr. van Agt even continued his discussion with the AFNORTH students in the lobby and was willing to join them for a photograph.

In the evening, the students were allowed to witness the actual official award programme. Here they were able to listen to speeches from Mr. van Agt and Mr. Hans Kinkel, the successor and friend of Mr. Genscher. The audience was again

captured by the words of the recipient of the Martin Buber Plaque, Mr. Hans Dietrich Genscher, and followed with a standing ovation. The students were impressed by all the events and impressions of the day. They experienced the positive results of practicing debate, public speaking and discussion at school. After this wonderful experience, AIS has made the decision to join the Euriade conference of Youth in Dialogue, so that more of our students will be able to have a similar great experience.



Mr. Hans Dietrich Genscher and Mr. Dries van Agt



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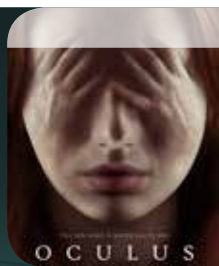
04 APR 2014 FRI

SABOTAGE

Arnold Schwarzenegger
Sam Worthington

109 min

1900 hrs



18 APR 2014 FRI

OCULUS

Katee Sackhoff
Karen Gillan

105 min

1900 hrs



05 APR 2014 SAT

MUPPETS MOST WANTED

Ricky Gervais
Tina Fey

112 min

1600 hrs



19 APR 2014 SAT

RIO 2

Anne Hathaway
Rodrigo Santoro

101 min

1600 hrs



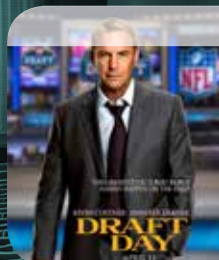
05 APR 2014 SAT

NOAH

Russell Crowe
Jennifer Connelly

138 min

1900 hrs



19 APR 2014 SAT

DRAFT DAY

Kevin Costner
Jennifer Garner

120 min

1900 hrs



11 APR 2014 FRI

3 DAYS TO KILL

Amber Heard
Kevin Costner

117 min

1900 hrs



25 APR 2014 FRI

TRANSCENDENCE

Johnny Depp
Rebecca Hall

1900 hrs



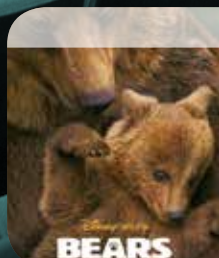
12 APR 2014 SAT

CAPTAIN AMERICA: THE WINTER SOLDIER

Chris Evans
Scarlett Johansson

136 min

1600 hrs



26 APR 2014 SAT

BEARS

NARRATED BY: John C. Reilly

1600 hrs



12 APR 2014 SAT

STALINGRAD

Mariya Smolnikova
Yanina Studilina

131 min

1900 hrs



26 APR 2014 SAT

HEAVEN IS FOR REAL

Greg Kinnear
Kelly Reilly

100 min

1900 hrs

Country: United States of America

Location: The United States is a country in the Northern Hemisphere, Western Hemisphere, and the Eastern Hemisphere. It consists of forty-eight contiguous states in North America, Alaska, a peninsula which forms the northwestern most part of North America, and Hawaii, an archipelago in the Pacific Ocean. There are several United States territories in the Pacific and Caribbean. The term "United States", when used in the geographical sense, means the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Virgin Islands of the United States.[1] The country shares land borders with Canada and Mexico and maritime (water) borders with Russia, Cuba, and the Bahamas in addition to Canada and Mexico

Land Boundaries: 12,034 km

Coast Line: 20,083 km

Population: 317.8 million

Capital: Washington D.C.

President: Barack Obama

Climate: The Climate of the United States varies due to its positioning of states in latitude, and range of geographic features. West of the 100th meridian, much of the US is semi-arid to desert in the far southwestern US. To the east of the 100th meridian, the climate is humid continental in the northern areas (locations above 40 north latitude), to humid temperate in the central and Atlantic coast regions, to humid subtropical in the Gulf and south Atlantic regions. The southern tip of Florida is tropical. Much of the Rocky Mountains, the Sierra Nevada, and the Cascade Range are alpine. The climate along the coast of California is Mediterranean, while the upper West coast areas in coastal Oregon and Washington are cool temperate oceanic. The state of Alaska—on the northwestern corner of the North American continent—is largely subarctic, with an oceanic climate in its southern edge and a polar climate in the north. The archipelago state of Hawaii, in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, is tropical

Economy:

GDP: \$17.4 trillion
GDP per Growth: 2.5 %
GDP per CAPITA: \$54,609
GDP per Sector Agriculture: 1.2%
 Industry: 19 %
 Services: 80 %

Budget

Revenues: \$2.774 trillion
Expenses: \$3.454 trillion

Currency: US Dollar (\$)

Industries: Highly diversified, world-leading, high-technology innovator, largest industrial output in world; petroleum, steel, motor vehicles, aerospace, telecommunications, chemicals, electronics, food processing, consumer goods, lumber, mining

Agriculture: Agriculture is a major industry in the United States, and the country is a net exporter of food. As of the last census of agriculture in 2007, there were 2.2 million farms, covering an area of 922 million acres (3,730,000 km²), an average of 418 acres (1.69 km²) per farm. Although agricultural activity occurs in most states, it is particularly concentrated in the vast expanse of flat, arable land known as the Great Plains, which encompasses the central region of the nation.

Exports: \$1.56 trillion

Capital goods, 28%; industrial supplies and materials (except oil fuels), 25%; consumer goods (except automotive), 12%; automotive vehicles and components, 9.4%; food and beverages, 8.6%; fuel oil and petroleum products, 7.6%; aircraft and components, 6%; other, 4%.

Import: \$2.30 trillion

Consumer goods (except automotive), 23%; capital goods (except computing), 19%; industrial supplies (except crude oil), 18%; crude oil, 14%; automotive vehicles and components, 13%; computers and accessories, 5.4%; food, feed, and beverages, 4.8%; other, 3%.



When did you Arrive to the Netherlands and which position have you taken?

My family and I arrived in the Netherlands in January 2013 to work with a great group of NATO Allies in the J3 Effects & Influence Branch.

Tell us about your military career.

The Army offered me valuable career opportunities with different jobs. All of the jobs allowed me to extend my skill sets and horizons because I worked with excellent soldiers and NCOs since I enlisted in 1999. I extend my gratitude and thanks to all that I have served with and especially my wife and children for supporting me in my career.

My initial job was as an Aircraft Crash Rescue Firefighter with the South Dakota National Guard. I attended college full time and was awarded a scholarship through the Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) and commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Armor Branch. After several deployments throughout the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) AOR, I transitioned into the Intelligence realm and worked from the tactical to the strategic level on numerous missions in support of CENTCOM. I was honored to be a crew member for several years on Joint Surveillance Target Attack Radar System (JSTARS) and flew over 500 hours in combat sorties in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. Eventually, I applied to work a functional area and was accepted into the Information Operations world in 2009. Again, I was blessed with an excellent job opportunity and with great work environments in Information Operations. Prior to my arrival at JFCBS, I was a student at Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, where I received a master's degree in Joint Information Operations.

What was your thesis about at Naval Postgraduate School?

The focus of my thesis at NPS was the use of social network analysis to exploit the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in Colombia and their operations utilizing semi-submersibles to transport cocaine. The study was both quantitative and qualitative and provided strategic options for kinetic, non-kinetic, and a combination of both for commanders to use to disrupt or destroy the network.

What is social network analysis?

Social network analysis (SNA) looks at relationships between actors or organizations and identifies (mathematically) how the overall network is connected. It generally consists of nodes (being an individual) and shows the ties that connect them such as friendship, kinship, or money. Easy visualization of the network is displayed using a network diagram through different software packages. The use of metrics to measure density, size, and clustering coefficients are some of the initial steps at looking at stacked networks otherwise known as the network topography. Centrality measures are also used which help identify the most important actors in a network. One way that many people understand this is through the six degrees of separation theory, which is that everyone is connected in the world through six steps or less.

What are your hobbies?

I grew up around the ocean and love to go fishing and surfing. Surfing is a passion of mine. I know I am far from the ocean with my current location, so my family and I try to make trips to the coastal areas to go surfing when we can. We also plan family trips to surf destinations where we hope for good waves!

Where are some of the best waves you have surfed?

I admit, I have not traveled the world and I have never surfed in Hawaii or any other exotic Polynesian areas, but I have caught some great swells in Baja, Mexico. My favorite place though is in San Clemente, CA, at a spot called Lower Trestles. While I am in Europe I really would like to surf in France and Portugal.

Your future plans?

I would like to become a General Officer. So, I am not planning on leaving the military anytime soon! For now, I am working hard to someday achieve that goal. This assignment is my first with NATO; I look forward to continuing to work for NATO and will accept any follow-on assignments that NATO offers me.

Did you know? King's Day

Story by Or-9 Edwin Tromp, JFCBS Public Affairs Office



King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima



"Koekhappen"

King's, Queen's and Princess Day's are national holidays in the Kingdom of the Netherlands to honour the head of state. In all parts of the Kingdom, for most employees this is a holiday that is celebrated with various festivities, including free markets and the wearing of orange clothing. Traditionally the King also conducts a ceremonial visit to one or more municipalities of the country. 2013 was the last year in which the holiday was celebrated on April 30 - was known as the Queens Day. As the Queen stepped down and the Netherlands now has a King, from 2014 onwards, Kings Day will be held each year on April 27, the birthday of King Willem-Alexander.

Date

Starting in the reign of Queen Wilhelmina 'Queen's Day' was celebrated on August 31, her birthday. When Juliana took office, Queen's Day moved to her birthday - April 30. Queen Beatrix chose, when she was crowned, not to adjust the public holiday and thus, not in keeping

with the actions of her mother and grandmother, did not install a national holiday on her birthday, January 31. By Royal Decree, on January 30 2013, it was decided that the anniversary of the King would be celebrated on April 27, with an exception related to Sundays, and that this day would be called King's Day from 2014 onwards. If the holiday fell on a Sunday it would moved one day. Since 1980, when Queen's Day fell on a Sunday (e.g. in 2006), celebrations took place one day earlier, on the Saturday. This rule will also apply under King Willem Alexander; in 2014 April 27 falls on a Sunday, and therefore the first King's Day will be celebrated on Saturday, April 26, 2014.

History

In the 19th Century, "Waterloodag" (June 18), was for many years the national holiday. By the end of the Century the faint memory of the battle and celebratory day went more or less unnoticed. Even before the "real Queen's Day" on August 31, 1885, the first "Princess Day" was organized to celebrate the

fifth anniversary of the young princess Wilhelmina. The initiative was taken by the editor of a local newspaper with the aim to emphasize national unity. This first edition took place in the city of Utrecht. The initiator was J. W. R. Gerlach of the Utrecht Provincial and Municipal paper. The main activity at the first Princess Day took place in Utrecht Oranjepark. At least a year earlier the city of Utrecht staged activities in celebration of the birthday of Princess Wilhelmina, but these were not yet under the name Princess Day. After the death of King William III in November 1890, Princess Day - in 1891- was followed by the celebration of Queens's Day. This day developed into a holiday for children. On her eighteenth birthday, August 31, 1898, Wilhelmina was the reigning monarch. Her inauguration took place on 6 September. Until 1948, when Queen Wilhelmina abdicated the throne, the Queen's birthday was celebrated on August 31 each year. Until the Second World War May 1st, Labour Day, was the Queen's competitor. The Socialists, Social Democrats and Communists, celebrated May 1st with big parades and festivities. That day had a

political character. In the highly divided political environment appertaining to the Netherlands, followers of the anti Monarchy party (SDAP) didn't celebrate Queen's Day and the civil parties didn't celebrate Labour Day. What could be national holidays became days where

normally enjoyed at the end of April, was not suitable for large-scale outdoor events. Queen Beatrix also changed the shape of the Queen's Day. On January 28, 2013, the announcement was made that Queen Beatrix's abdication and the inauguration of Willem-Alexander

Queens Day celebrations, accompanied by members of the royal family.

It has now become tradition that, on King's Day, citizens need no permit to peddle on the streets. This flexible policy has led to a proliferation of



Former Queen Beatrix announcing Her Abdication

the disharmony of the Netherlands was emphasized. Only after World War II, when the Social Democrats had reconciled themselves with the monarchy, Queen's Day became a festival for all Dutch people. Labour Day declined into oblivion.

After Queen Juliana succeeded her mother (Wilhelmina) in 1948, as of 1949 the Queen celebrated Queen's Day on her birthday, April 30. While Queen Wilhelmina and her family were not present at the festivities, Queen Juliana received a floral tribute at Soestdijk Palace annually. From the fifties this event was followed via television. While Queen's Day was an ordinary day in the post war years, over time more and more people were given a holiday, so much so, that eventually April 30 became a national holiday.

Queen Beatrix decided to maintain that day in acceptance of her term as head of state and inauguration as Queen of the Netherlands, and to honour her mother these days. A practical consideration was that on her own birthday (January 31) the weather, in contrast to that

would take place on April 30, 2013. It would be the last time Queen's Day was celebrated and the last time the national holiday was held on April 30.

King's Day is listed in the National Inventory Intangible Cultural Heritage on September 2013.

Celebration and festivities

At the time of Queen Juliana a parade was held on April 30. The entire royal family stood on the steps of Soestdijk Palace. Many Dutch and overseas citizens walked along the mile-long parade and gave gifts, especially flowers. In the morning schoolchildren went in procession to the town hall to deliver the mayor a serenade of patriotic songs concluding with the national anthem. Then, in many towns and cities, traditional children's games were organized such as sack races and koekhappen. In many places these two elements still take place every year. The day concluded with a traditional Chinese lantern parade. In many places celebrations for older children and adults were organized such as performances by pop and jazz bands. Between 1981 and 2012 Queen Beatrix regularly attended

flea markets. In practice, security concerns made the marketing of, for example, food and drink, still sometimes restricted by a mayor. In many locations extensive outdoor celebrations take place. Amsterdam is known for its large flea market and attracts more than a half million visitors annually. As well as Amsterdam citizens there are many thousands of visitors from across the country and a large number of foreign visitors. For many tourists, King's Day is one of the most important events of the year in Amsterdam.

As King's Day is a national holiday, sn as King's Night. In The Hague, this night is called King's Nach (without a 't'); in Apeldoorn and its environs this evening is called Prince's Night. On the eve of King's Day an awards ceremony is conducted where several thousand Dutch (and a small number of foreigners) receive a royal honour.

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Royal Theater

Marlène Dietrich was here!

Prepared by: Buro Marcel van der Heyden / Photography: Philip Driessen

At the end of World War II, the American liberators moved into one of the most beautiful movie theaters in the Netherlands. In the Royal Theater opposite the railway station in Heerlen, the soldiers slept at night amongst the plush velvet; prisoners of war were heard during the day in the changing rooms; evenings brought big star entertainment—not the least of these being singer Marlène Dietrich and comedian Bob Hope.

Movie theaters like the Royal Theater in Heerlen are no longer being built. They are now mostly multiplexes that often appear at the edge of town—large boxes with plenty of parking and many auditoriums equipped with the latest features: perfect sound coming at you from all sides, three-dimensional imaging, giant screens and even moving chairs. They're great, but they're pretty much all the same.

"We have to rely primarily on service and atmosphere," says Royal director Laurens van Bergen, who runs the cinema with his wife. In the early twentieth century, the first movie appeared at the fair as a small attraction. The Van Bergen family was a family of showmen. The traveling cinema of great-grandfather Laurentius was a success. His sons and heirs Alexander, Max and Mathieu felt even more of the magic of the silver screen than of the fair. They built a movie theater in Roermond and had their eye on a large theater they wanted to acquire in Heerlen, a village that the booming coalmining industry was swiftly turning into a city. When that was "hijacked" by a German party, they decided to build a cinema on their own.

The brothers commissioned none other than architect Frits Peutz, the man who helped build some of Heerlen's most prominent and remarkable buildings, including the Glass Palace (Schunck), the Town Hall (Raadhuis) and the Theatre Heerlen (Stadsschouwburg). Construction of the Royal started in 1937 and lasted exactly one hundred days. From the first film—Mother Song—in January 1938, the name of the movie theater was established. No one could miss the striking building, directly opposite the railway station in Heerlen. All the miners were initially reluctant, and actually found the red plush velvet a bit too fancy. Even so, the Heerleners looked

at the building with astonished eyes. Europe was deep in crisis, but this city was building a modern department store like Schunck and a modern movie theater.

Which movie theater other than the Royal can boast that it has its own biography? "Royal 1938—2008: The Fascinating History of Heerlen's finest movie theater" is Ivo Senden's book that chronicles the history of the cinema.

The book, for example, discusses how the Van Bergen sons refused to become disheartened by the German occupiers during the war. Even a fire bomb that came straight through the roof failed to discourage them from showing movies. They also played chamber music, which was forbidden, and paid huge fines for refusing to show Nazi propaganda films. Meanwhile, the opposition used the basement of the theater to secretly stash weapons and sometimes hid Allied pilots in the changing rooms. During the war, they even more brazenly allowed two of the pilots they were hiding to watch a film while dressed up in civilian clothes.

And that was while the Austrian Nazi Seyss-Inquart made a speech in the swastika-decorated theater in 1942. As Chancellor and as a frontman for Adolf Hitler, Seyss-Inquart played a major role in the annexation of Austria by the German Reich. After the war, he was sentenced to death in the Nuremberg Trials.

After the liberation, the theater was used as a temporary American base until August 1945. It was transformed into a so-called Rest Center, a place where American soldiers from the front lines were able to enjoy a few days of rest and relaxation. By night, the theater was used for the interrogation of prisoners of war. During the day and in the evenings, great shows were put on by famous entertainers such as Marlène Dietrich and Bob Hope. "It was common at that time for actors and entertainers to travel to different theaters in the slipstream of the big boys of the film industry," said proprietor Laurens van Bergen.

After the war, the Van Bergen brothers opened many cinemas. In 1958, the Royal was substantially rebuilt, and the changing rooms were replaced by a second screen. In 1986, a

third screen with 75 seats was built and was named Maxim as a tribute to Max Bergen.

In 2009, it seemed that Heerlen would lose the Royal Theatre. The property is listed as a historical landmark, which brings with it many limitations when it comes to renovating. The municipality of Heerlen took responsibility and decided to buy the property. After more than seventy years, the Van Bergens were suddenly no longer the owners.

While plenty of new movie theaters have been built in recent years, running a theater is not an easy business, as Laurens van Bergen experienced firsthand. The competition is fierce, and Hollywood determines what is played at all cinemas to a large extent. "Actually, the differences between the cinemas not very big," says Van Bergen. "No one can afford to not have the best image or sound quality." In February 2009, the Royal was one of the first cinemas in this area to show 3D movies. Van Bergen says he wants to distinguish the theater most of all by its service. Film is, in his view, a night out and not a drive-through experience. "You see it in America. It is full of ultramodern movie theaters but also has old theaters with lots of atmosphere. These have been refurbished in recent years to achieve that atmosphere."

To this end, the Royal has also tried to build a bond with moviegoers. In cooperation with local newspapers in 2010, he devised a plan to show classic movies again on the big screen. The public was able to nominate which films would be played, for example Doctor Zhivago, Jaws, 2001: A Space Odyssey, Labyrinth, Once Upon a Time in the West, The Dark Crystal, Rio Bravo or Dances with Wolves.

In particular, opera lovers are increasingly enjoying the ambience and grandeur of the Royal. Each year, the cinema shows a series of live concerts from the London Opera House. This shows Van Bergen what the atmosphere in a movie theater can do. "When guests step out of the theater, they sometimes have to look twice to realize that they haven't stepped outside in London but rather in Heerlen."



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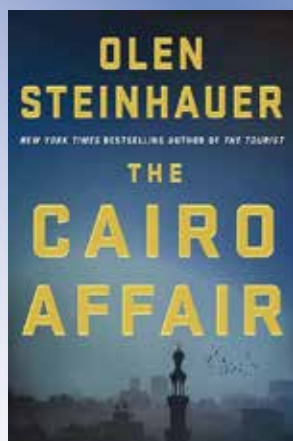
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Book Review



The Cairo affair

By Olen Steinhauer

Like luxury watchmaker Franck Muller, Olen Steinhauer is the espionage "Master of Complications."

The Cairo Affair is an elegant, elaborate clockwork of mystery and deception that should draw readers in and keep them on tenterhooks as they try to figure out what is really making it all tick. It opens in the bowels of CIA headquarters during the Arab Spring. A Libyan-American analyst thinks he sees his previously rejected secret plan to overthrow Gadhafi going operational. But why and how? And who's behind it? Then in a restaurant in Budapest, American diplomat Emmett Kohl is gunned down by a hit man in front of wife, Sophie, just seconds after informing her that he knows all about her affair with a CIA agent last year when they were stationed in Cairo. What can the connection be?

In the thick of Arab revolutions, the action toggles from the streets of Cairo to the Libyan Desert to Budapest. Then back in time to 1991, when Emmett and Sophie honeymooned in wartime Yugoslavia. There they met Zora, the mysterious Serbian spymistress, who now has her tentacles around everyone. Steinhauer seduces with the web of falsehoods that the characters spin, in their desperate attempts to stay alive. Nothing is as it seems. "Who trusts anyone these days?" asks the Cairo CIA bureau chief. "Don't take it personally. In a situation like this, everything should be examined, and if you're missing some crucial piece of information, it's best to assume you don't know anything." This is also good advice for the reader. It is how this writer

keeps us turning the pages. Steinhauer is often compared to John le Carré. But the comparison does not adequately serve either author. (Is there an homage to le Carré here? No fan of the master could forget his first post-cold-war novel *The Night Manager*—a doomed affair set in Cairo, with a woman named Sophie. Can this possibly be a coincidence?) Le Carré's books are driven by insoluble moral quandaries. What's more, with his breathtaking insight and economy, le Carré draws his characters from the inside out, making us feel the awful weight of their existential burdens. Steinhauer does make references to the inner lives of his characters, but to this reader they remain superficial—like tweets about their emotions sent from an iPhone. What Steinhauer's writing delivers is adrenalin.

The Cairo Affair is the Olympics of Deception. Steinhauer's characters are gold medalists of lying. Watching them deceive one another and themselves is riveting. Whose lies will finally be at the bottom of this dizzying clockwork of interconnected deceptions? By the time you reach the end of the book and find out, you will be exhausted and satisfied with the journey. But you will see that the novel is like a Franck Muller watch, a construct of beauty—but metallic and cold. No matter. One marvels at the intricacy of its imagination and the elegance of its maker's craftsmanship. Agent: Stephanie Cabot, Gernert Company. (Mar.) Glenn Kaplan is the author of *Poison Pill* and *Evil, Inc.*, a New York Times bestseller (both Tor/Forge).



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