

NORTHERN STAR

MAGAZINE FOR HQ JFC BRUNSSUM - DECEMBER 2016 - January 2017



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60TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE HUNGARIAN
REVOLUTION AND
INDEPENDENCE WAR
IN 1956

NATO E-3A
COMPONENT FLIES
1000TH ASSURANCE
MEASURES MISSION

THE BUNDESWEHR
- ON OPERATIONS
WORLDWIDE

NATO
+
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ABOUT THE COVER

NATO Star at Castlegate Bunker.
Picture by Adj. Leo Roos (NLD A), JFC Brunssum, Public Affairs

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COLOPHON

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COMMAND GROUP CORNER

Composed By: General Salvatore Farina

When I wrote my last article for the Northern Star, I provided you with my first impression of JFC Brunssum. I was in my first 100 days of command and was already well settled into my seat. During those first months I saw as much as I could and met as many key players as possible. This allowed me to understand well the environment, the key leader's position and plans, and build upon JFC Brunssum's assigned mission.

I have now been at JFC Brunssum for nine months, and since arriving, my appreciation for the continued importance of the Headquarters has only grown. As demonstrated by our exceptionally high operational tempo, breadth of responsibilities, and increased tasking, it is clear to me that JFC Brunssum is at the forefront of NATO's efforts to address the changing security environment. We are prepared to implement the decisions made during Warsaw Summit, and we are ready to protect, defend and fight, wherever and whenever needed. NATO's essential mission is unchanged: to ensure that the Alliance remains an unparalleled community of freedom, peace, security, and shared values, including individual liberty, human rights, democracy, and the rule of law.

The current security environment across the globe poses broad and evolving strategic challenges for all of NATO. We are living in an age of unpredictability, and the international order is continually being challenged by new and emerging actors. From deterring Russian aggression in the

east to combating terrorist and radical threats from the south, east, and within, those supporting NATO and the European region are routinely confronted by complex and multifaceted challenges, to include the refugees problem as well as the overall instability of North Africa and Middle East region.

It is these security challenges that will continue to bolster JFC Brunssum's role on the international stage, and will keep us busy – very busy. It really is incredible how much is going on right now. As I write this, JFC Brunssum just completed hosting General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, along with military leaders from across the alliance for the two-day SACEUR's Commanders' Conference. It was a great opportunity for NATO's senior military commanders to discuss emerging challenges that face the Alliance. My hat's off to those who contributed to planning and organizing the extremely well executed event. Well done!

I had the opportunity to visit the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan twice, where I was updated on the latest developments in theater, given an opportunity to discuss the development of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF), exchanged information and views on the progress of NATO's RS Mission thus far in 2016, and shared some very good insight with General Nicholson's enlightening vision for 2017 and beyond. While there is much work to be done and more time needed to complete the mission, the continued international support to the RS mission is encouraging, and the development of the ANDSF sends a strong message to the insurgents as stated in the

Periodic Mission Review.

I also met and discussed with several political and military leaders across the region, including Chiefs of Defence, Permanent Representatives and Senior Military Representatives to NATO, as well as military commanders within both the NATO Command Structure and the NATO Force Structure. I participated in the 3rd NATO Force Integration Unit (NFIU) Conference in Vilnius, Lithuania, where all stakeholders had an opportunity to discuss the roles of the NFIUs within the guidelines of the Warsaw Summit. We also recently witnessed the opening of our newest NFIU in Hungary, which provides a visible, forward NATO presence in the east of SACEUR's Area of Responsibility. Additionally, in November, we conducted the 3rd Northern Headquarters Conference in Bodo, Norway, emphasizing the importance of partnership, transparency and collective defence in the Northern flank of the Alliance. The results were very concrete and the Northern Family is becoming stronger and stronger.

Within our Headquarters we continue to make great strides enacting the decisions of the Wales and Warsaw Summits. Since the Wales Summit in 2014, NATO has taken a range of steps to reinforce our collective defence, enhance our capabilities, and strengthen our resilience, and JFC Brunssum has played a critical role every step of the way. As part of the Readiness Action Plan we have worked diligently to enhance the capabilities of the NATO Response Force (NRF) in order to adapt and respond to emerging security challenges. We have contributed to efforts to create a new Very High Readiness Joint Task Force

(VJTF), able to begin deployment within two to three days. Additionally, we led the way to establish 6 of the 8 multinational NFIUs in the eastern part of the Alliance to assist in training of Alliance forces and in the reception of reinforcements when needed.

HQ MNC NE is another success. It provides a persistent and permanent presence in the northeast of SACEUR's AoR. As a three star HQs with a regional emphasis, HQ MNC NE delivers additional NATO capability and singular regional expertise to the Alliance. As such I envision HQ MNC NE to be the "NATO Regional Sentinel" in times of peace and prime force integrator at least in the first days of crisis. This is an important role alongside the responsibility to provide RSOM and facilitate the deployment of VJTF(L), with the support of NFIUs.

Building on the Warsaw decision to further strengthen the Alliance's deterrence and defence posture, JFC Brunssum has been working with Framework Nations and Host Nations to establish an Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. Part of the biggest reinforcement of Alliance collective defence in a generation, the eFP clearly demonstrates the solidarity, determination, and ability of the Alliance to provide an immediate response to any aggression. Additionally, JFC Brunssum has begun work on a functional assessment of the current NATO Command Structure to ensure the structure remains robust, agile and able to undertake all elements of effective command and control for simultaneous challenges across the full spectrum of missions.

In the planning domain, we continue to

refine the Resolute Support Operational Plan in order to ensure continued support and the appropriate command and control to the mission in Afghanistan. Additionally, our planners are busy developing and refining the Graduated Response Plans (GRPs). On the exercise front, we remain extremely busy, having recently completed Exercise Bold Bonus II and continuing our planning for Trident Javelin 17. During Bold Bonus, we focused on internal staff processes and the development of an essential comprehension of JFC Brunssum's area of responsibility, the GRP, and our role as a Static Headquarters. The knowledge and experience gained from Bold Bonus will also help prepare us for Exercise Trident Javelin 17, a complex multi-layer Command Post Exercise.

As you can see, there is a lot going on within our Headquarters. While it is important that we continue to accomplish the mission, we must not forget that the true power of JFC Brunssum is the devoted and talented people – military, civilian and contractors – that make up our team. In order for us to be successful, we rely upon our people – their professionalism, creativity, and innovation. That said, taking care of our personnel and their families is a top priority of mine. We must ensure our personnel have the resources and skills they need in order to do their job. I look to each of you to live by a set of core values, including courage, humility and integrity. Know yourself and continually seek self-improvement; focus your efforts on what is important; stay headed in the right direction to achieve success; take responsibility for your actions; and enjoy your work while working hard!

In addition to taking care of yourself and

your people, I ask that each one of you look after the best interests of your family. Talk to them and let them know what is going on in your life at work. Ensure they have the knowledge and resources they need in the event you are deployed for an extended period. Ease the stress in their lives, and give them the peace of mind they deserve. I invite all JFCBS key/top leaders to support the families of their subordinates as much as possible. It is important to balance professional commitments with the needs of individuals. Families should be fully integrated in the wider JFCBS community in order to reinforce our duty of care and to foster a sense of belonging that will be critical in the event of a crisis response, or deployment, when we ask the most of those closest to us.

In closing, please allow me to take this opportunity to express my gratefulness for leading such a proficient team of Military and Civilians who are truly committed toward JFC Brunssum mission and for their daily support to myself. As we are approaching the season of giving and the New Year, please slow down and enjoy the simple things with your family and loved ones, rest and recharge your batteries to be ready to face the challenges that the New Year will bring. I will deliver soon my directive/guidance for 2017 and you will find objectives, lines of effort and priorities. But now is the time to enjoy the incoming Christmas season and I will be glad to meet with you and your family before the deserved break to celebrate Festivities and the New Year. I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and happiness today and throughout the New Year.

VISITS AND ACTIVITIES

Prepared by Adj Shirley Ham – ter Haar

October 2016 / November 2016

General Salvatore Farina attends 3rd NFIU Commanders' Conference

The 3rd NFIUs Commanders' conference, hosted by Major General Vitalijus Vaikschoras (Chief of Joint Staff of the Lithuanian Armed Forces) was conducted 19-20 October. The occasion served as an opportunity for all stakeholders to shape and discuss the future evolution of NATO Force Integration Units (NFIUs) within the guidelines of the Warsaw Summit.

'NATO is a defensive Alliance, not looking for escalation but still ready to defend and protect allies: their territories, citizens and common values', General Salvatore Farina, commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, stated at the conclusion of the conference when addressing the media. We monitor the situation on the Eastern flank – he continued – and we are ready and prepared to respond in an effective and proportionate way to any threat to the security of NATO Allies.'

When describing the situation on the Northeastern border with regard to NATO's presence, Commander JFC Brunssum said: the 'glass' is already half-full and more liquid is going to be added soon with the enhanced Forward Presence: the deployment of the battalion-sized battlegroups will start early next year

and will be completed by the first semester. These battlegroups are multinational and they are a concrete symbol of solidarity and cohesion, being 'one for all and all for one, as in the spirit of NATO'. He also pointed out that 'no NATO Ally is alone, the Alliance is already present in this region, demonstrating that cohesion and unity are rock-solid, as well as the determination to defend and protect all Allies, without generating escalations while always aiming at dialogue and prevention.'

From Wales to Warsaw many steps forward have been taken by NATO, and according to General Farina 'NFIUs are already well on track after about one year from their activation; the decisions made in Warsaw will require further adaptation and evolution even of our newest structures, such as the NFIUs themselves, which are unique and specifically organized to carry out tasks in the best possible way; they are not identical, but similar.'

The NFIUs in Poland and the three Baltic States have been active since September 2015. These are now being followed by the impending activation of their sister units in Hungary and Slovakia. Once these two

Latvian Permanent and Military Representatives to NATO Visit JFC Brunssum

The Permanent Representative of Latvia to NATO, Ambassador Indulis Bērziņš, accompanied by the Latvian Military Representative, Major General Juris Zeibārts and Deputy Military Representative, Colonel Didzis Nestro, were hosted by the Commander JFC Brunssum (JFCBS), General Salvatore Farina, 21 October. The intent was to discuss the implementation of Warsaw Summit decisions and for Major General Zeibārts to pay an initial call on the JFCBS commander as he assumed his position in July 2016. During the meeting General Farina summarised the status of post-Warsaw initiatives undertaken by his headquarters articulating what remains to be done to enhance the effectiveness of Assurance Measures activities throughout his Area of Responsibility.

A round table discussion, led by the JFC Brunssum

Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Janusz Adamczak, was included in the visit programme to provide a platform facilitating an exchange of views regarding the Assurance Measures and, in particular, the Alliance's plans to bolster its presence in north-eastern Europe. Beginning in early 2017, this enhanced forward presence (eFP) will comprise multinational forces provided by framework nations and other contributing Allies on a voluntary, sustainable, and rotational basis. Briefings prompted discussion on the details of eFP, Graduated Response Planning and the participation of the Latvian National Armed Forces in common exercises with JFC Brunssum. At the end of the meeting Ambassador Bērziņš expressed his conviction that JFC Brunssum is fully engaged in the implementation Warsaw Summit decisions. In his closing remarks he recognised that

19-20 OCT 2016



additional entities are activated six NFIUs will be in operation under the command of Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE), based in Szczecin, Poland.

"I would like to emphasize that security is a team effort" – Lieutenant General Manfred Hofmann, Commander MNC NE and chairman of the conference stressed. He added: "Together with the NFIUs, our forward enablers, we have officially become NATO's Regional Custodian of Security on the North-Eastern flank. We are ready to support the battalion-sized battlegroups in further enhancement of safety of the region in a legitimate and proportionate way."

21 OCT 2016



JFC Brunssum has been particularly proactive in the implementation of Assurance Measures and continues to be at the forefront of initiatives designed to sustain stability and security in north-eastern Europe.

21 OCT 2016



Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFCBS) was pleased to host a visit of Major General Bakhtiyar SYZDYKOV, Kazakhstan's Military Representative to NATO, 21 October.

Welcomed by General Salvatore FARINA, Commander JFC Brunssum, Major General SYZDYKOV was comprehensively briefed on the status of JFCBS

26 OCT 2016



Outreach in Action

missions by Major General van GRIENSVEN, JFCBS' Deputy Chief of Staff (Plans). The aims of this gathering were to enhance the established working relationship and ensure awareness on matters of mutual interest.

Briefings focused primarily on partnership and the four core missions of the headquarters: Resolute Support in Afghanistan for which JFCBS is the out-of-theatre supporting operational-level headquarters; NATO's Response Force (NRF) for which Brunssum is the standby headquarters should the NRF be activated until 31 December 2016; strategic communications-led Assurance Measures which aim to reassure our allies and deter potential adversaries in north-eastern Europe; and Regional Focus, an initiative that facilitates enhanced interaction and

situational awareness amongst JFCBS and appropriate NATO members, partners and other stakeholders e.g. International and Non-Governmental Organizations.

Major General SYZDYKOV expressed his country's appreciation for the support provided by JFCBS especially in the realm of training via the regular deployment of Military Training Teams to his nation. In this, he underlined the high standard of professionalism displayed by NATO subject matter experts sent to train and educate Kazak military personnel. In concluding his remarks he expressed his government's desire to extend the existing relationship in new ways stating: "I hope the cooperation will go on and would like to emphasize the good relations enjoyed by my country with NATO".

Republic of Korea Delegation Visits JFC Brunssum

A group from the Republic of Korea visited JFC Brunssum, as part of a larger trip embracing SHAPE and NATO HQs, over a 3-day period. The five Korean officers from their nation's Combined Defense Transformation Group - which is under the direct control of the Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff - visited with the goal of learning more about NATO processes and how the Alliance cooperates with other stakeholders in the context of a multi-national and multilateral security environment.

After receiving an overview of NATO operations, through the lenses of the political and strategic

levels via briefings received in Brussels and Mons, the Korean guests were provided the opportunity of a roundtable discussion - led by our Civil/Military Cooperation Branch - focusing on issues at the 'operational' level of command.

The Republic of Korea is one of NATO's 'Partners across the Globe'.

04 NOV 2016



Friday 04 November, Wing Commander Johnny Briggs RAF, Flight Sergeant Nicci Burdett and Corporal Tommo Thompson gave a series of presentations

The Importance of Remembrance

and talks to pupils of the Trevianum School (Sittard) on the topics of remembrance and role of the armed forces.

A total of 217 students attended a presentation articulating the significance of the poppy, remembrance days and the sacrifices that have been made, and continue to be made, to preserve freedom and peace. Following a video presentation including the Last Post at the Royal Albert Hall in 2015, it was time for the presenters to discuss their military jobs and lifestyles. During this session students were given the

opportunity to try on a respirator, chemical protection clothing, helmet and flack jacket. The event proved a great success.

Working Group on Deterrence

On 09 and 10 November JFC Brunssum hosted a Working Group on Deterrence, chaired by SHAPE, at Castlegate, Germany. The Working Group consisted of subject matter experts drawn from NATO HQs and NATO member nations.

The objective was to ensure that the level of operational expertise and procedures in Allied Command Operations (ACO) is maintained at a high standard. This includes ensuring deterrence policies are reflected in relevant ACO Directives and Manuals.



Brunssum Annual Remembrance Ceremony

The annual Remembrance Service was conducted at the Brunssum Commonwealth War Graves Cemetery 11 November with the Reverend (Wing Commander) Ashley Mitchell presiding. An excellent turnout comprised, amongst others, serving military and civilian personnel from JFC Brunssum, the Brunssum Mayor's office, veteran's associations, local schools and local people. The service constituted a moving tribute to those who paid the ultimate sacrifice so that we might live in peace today.

Wreaths were laid by:
Alderman Frank Joosten – Representative of Gemeente Brunssum
Mrs Anne-Mie Koopmans – Foundation War Cemetery Brunssum
Major General van Griensven – Senior Dutch Officer JFC Brunssum
Air Commodore Huggett – Senior British Officer JFC Brunssum
Colonel McBride – UK Senior National Representative JFC Brunssum
Commander Wiseman – Senior Royal Navy Officer JFC Brunssum
Lieutenant Colonel Holbrook – Senior British

Army Officer JFC Brunssum
Group Captain Cummins – Senior Royal Air Force Officer JFC Brunssum
Squadron Leader (Rtd.) Thomson – Royal Air Force Association
Mr Stollman – COM De Mijnstreek (Former Marines Association)
Mr Snackers – VOMARNS (Committee Former Marines)
And representatives of Veteranen Brunssum, Wareham British Legion, Eldershoe and students of Broekland College.

Historical Information.
Brunssum was liberated in September 1944 by American forces; they were, shortly afterwards, joined by the British 43rd (Wessex) Division, who made their headquarters in the town and, in turn, were succeeded by the 52nd (Lowland) Division.

The first burials in the cemetery were made by an Advanced Dressing Station and a Casualty Clearing Station that were based at Merkelbeek in November 1944 when the 43rd Division were



engaged in clearing a triangle of land between the Rivers Roer and Maas. Later, other fatalities were brought to Brunssum for burial. These included 50 men who were killed while clearing

mines on the German border at the beginning of January 1945. Operations in the Geilenkirchen sector account for a significant element of the soldiers buried here. There are 328 British soldiers buried in this cemetery, of which one remains unidentified.

13 NOV 2016



Sunday 13 November the annual Act of Remembrance was conducted in St Peter's Church, Sittard, and later at the Commonwealth War Cemetery, Ophoven. The service was jointly led by Priest Frans Bronneberg (St Peter's Church), Diaken Roger Fleischeuer (Sittard War Cemetery), Reverend Francis Noordanus (Angli- caans Pastor/Chaplain, Trinity Church, Eindhoven)

A Service for Remembrance Day

and Dominee Joachim Stegink (Sittard Minister, United Church in the Netherlands). This occasion marked the 70th commemoration in Sittard since the end of WWII and the 49th year that the Sittard War Graves Committee, the Mayor and community of Sittard have joined with members of JFC Brunssum to pay their respects to the fallen.

In the Commonwealth War Cemetery the graves, apart from a few dating from November 1944, are nearly all from January and February 1945. Of the 239 graves six remain unidentified. Most soldiers buried here were members of Scottish regiments belonging to the 52nd (Lowland) Division, who were engaged in battle in the local area from the 18th to 24th January, 1945. Their objective was to clear an area to the West of the River Roer. The Sittard War Graves Committee invites relatives of fallen soldiers from the United Kingdom to attend

these ceremonies and has done so since 1946. This year Sandy & Irene Grieve and Kevin Toner accompanied by his partner, Dianne, were special guests of the Committee. The climax of a beautiful, well supported and memorable service was the laying of wreaths at the cemetery. Amongst others, wreaths were laid by the Mayor of Sittard, JFC Brunssum, the Sittard War Graves Committee, the British Contingent at JFC Brunssum and the Royal Air Force Association. A touching gesture was the individual laying of a red rose on the grave of each and every soldier.

16 NOV 2016



FC Brunssum Fitness Center sponsored an Autumn 5Km Fun Run Wednesday 16 November. The event

JFC Brunssum Autumn Fun Run

was deliberately organized over the lunch period to allow participants to sneak away from desks in order to stretch their legs in the fresh but invigorating air. Approximately 41 runners braved rainy conditions and cheered each other on.

The first placed man - Pabb Alvarez, who finished in 19 minutes 15 seconds - and first placed woman - Helena Slaatmo who finished in 23 minutes 47 seconds - each received a voucher for a free massage from the Fintess Center's licenced sports masseur,

Henk Goblet. Also, Kevin Konings, personal trainer and instructor at the Gym, rewarded some lucky runners with vouchers for free personal training sessions with him.

76TH ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF BRITAIN MARKED IN STYLE

Composed By: Wing Commander (OF-4) Tim Monk. Photo By: Sergeant (OR-6) Vicky Sharpin



“The gratitude of every home in our Island, in our Empire, and indeed throughout the world, except in the abodes of the guilty, goes out to the British airmen who, undaunted by odds, unwearied in their constant challenge and mortal danger, are turning the tide of the World War by their prowess and by their devotion. Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few.” Winston Churchill

The 76th Anniversary of the Battle of Britain was marked by the British Contingent at JFCBS on 24 September. Representatives

from many of the Nations who sent pilots to fight alongside their British counterparts in the summer of 1940 were present. The JFCBS Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Janusz Adamczak, from the Polish Armed Forces, was the guest of honour.

Guests gathered at the Schinvelder Hoeve Country House on a beautiful late summer evening which commenced with a Spitfire flypast from the RNLAf Historic Flight. The pilot, Air Commodore (Retired) Chris Lorraine, reinforced the Anglo-Dutch connection as he has served in both the RAF and RNLAf as did the Mk9 Spitfire he flew, a veteran of the D-Day campaign over Normandy. Following the flypast, Air Commo-

dore Andrew Huggett, Senior British Officer at Brunssum took the salute at a sunset ceremony performed by Royal Air Force NCOs under the direction of Warrant Officer Tony McCabe.

Officers and guests from all 3 services, accompanied by Polish, Slovak, French, Belgian, American and Canadian colleagues then enjoyed a traditional guest night dinner. This featured vignettes telling the story of the Battle from the perspective of different participants and was accompanied by period music. The event concluded with the Toast to “The Few”, a fitting tribute to the sacrifice of our forebears.

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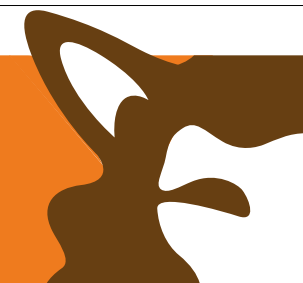
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60TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HUNGARIAN REVOLUTION AND INDEPENDENCE WAR IN 1956

Composed by: Lieutenant Colonel Jozsef Csoz (HUN F)



Following Stalin's death in 1953 the Soviet block started to moderately lessen the established environment of terror. Mátyás Rákosi, Hungary's leader, resigned after having been criticized by Moscow, but he stayed in the background.

Afterward Imre Nagy became the leader and embarked upon a series of reforms that increased living standards and lessened the burdens of farmers. In parallel a review of the cases of those illegally condemned started. People felt instinctively that with Imre Nagy a positive change in the politics had begun.

The members of the previous leadership however feared for their privileges and that they would be held accountable for their unjust deeds. Therefore, as a result of pressure from Rákosi and Moscow, Imre Nagy was removed from his post and excluded from the party. The new political leader - Ernő Gerő (a former second in command of

Rákosi) - didn't want any reforms, but more and more demanded radical changes.

The Revolution:

The tension reached its peak in October 1956. On the evening of 22nd October 1956 students of the University of Technology in Budapest started to demonstrate and articulated their demands in 16 points (including withdrawal of the Soviet troops from Hungary, free elections, liberty of speech and press, abolishment of surrendering of goods, Imre Nagy to be appointed to prime minister, removal of the Stalin statue).

On 23rd October 1956 hundreds of thousands demonstrated on the streets: they went to the Parliament and demanded Imre Nagy to deliver a speech. After his calming speech the mass on Kossuth Square broke up. But by that time other demonstrations started in several other parts of the city. The hated Stalin statue was toppled on Heroes' Square.

The headquarters of the Hungarian Radio

became the focal point of the events. Soon the shooting had started and by night-time the freedom fighters seized control of the Radio building and some other important parts of Budapest.

On the eve of 23rd-24th October Imre Nagy was appointed prime minister. Soviet tanks appeared on the streets of the city trying to bring down the revolution. On 25th October 1956, in Kossuth Square, the Russians started to shoot on the peacefully demonstrating people. The demonstrators tried to seek refuge in the ministry of agriculture building but they weren't allowed in. Around 800 died on that day in that is referred to as "Bloody Thursday".

After the massacre on Kossuth Square the revolution was unstoppable. Imre Nagy announced that a multi-party system was to replace the communist single-party dictatorship. The government declared its intent to withdraw from the Warsaw Pact in order to be a neutral state. The freedom fighters unified their forces in National Guard units, confiscated weapons and ammunition from

the disbanded State Security Police and from the army, and liberated the political prisoners. Smaller units of the Hungarian Army joined the freedom fighters, others handed over arms and guns. After an initial fight the Soviet troops withdrew from Budapest by the 28th October.

By the beginning of November the Soviet leadership realized that the West would not provide help for the new Hungarian democracy, and ordered a joint invasion army led by Marshall Konyev, commanding more than 2000 armored vehicles and hundreds of thousands of mechanized infantry to oppress the revolution. Hungary appealed for UN assistance to counter the Soviet invasion, but only received verbal help.

The emotional speech PM Nagy gave on national radio on November 4th, 1956, informed his people that Soviet forces had entered Budapest to put down the revolt.

"At dawn today, Soviet forces began an attack on our capital, obviously with the aim of toppling the legal, democratic Hungar-

ian government. Our troops are fighting. The government is in place. I am making this fact known to our people and the whole world."

The Hungarian National Guard fought bravely but without any hope against the overwhelming Soviet force. In the unequal fight thousands of Hungarian fighters died and hundreds of Soviet armored vehicles were destroyed on the streets of Budapest. The last resistance ended on 11th November.

Retaliation and Consequences:

The retaliation soon began; the surviving participants were executed (hundreds) or sentenced to forced labor or long term imprisonment (tens of thousands). Hundreds of thousands fled the country fearing for retaliation and emigrated to Western Europe, the USA, Canada and Australia, Hungarian communities that still exist today (the generation of 56ers).

The political leaders Imre Nagy (PM), Pál Maléter (MoD) and Miklós Gimes were ar-

rested and executed on 16th June 1958 and buried in the prison courtyard. Later their bodies were moved to an unmarked grave in a faraway part of the Municipal Cemetery of Budapest (the famous No. 301 slot). In the following years of communism it was strictly forbidden to speak about the '56 revolution.

After their rehabilitation the remains were exhumed and reburied with a proper funeral on 16th June 1989 with the participation of hundreds of thousands people. This was considered to be the key event for the political changes in 1989. Finally, the Hungarian Republic was proclaimed on 23rd October 1989 (same day) from the same balcony that Imre Nagy delivered his speech 33 years before, indicating that the new democracy was based on the legacy of '56.

On that day each year all Hungarians commemorate the national heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice in the hope of establishing freedom and democracy.

JOINT FORCE COMMAND BRUNSSUM HOSTS SACEUR'S COMMANDERS' CONFERENCE

Composed by: Lieutenant Colonel Johan van der Spoel (NLD A)



Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year!



't Swarte Schaap
media & more

Joint Force Command Brunssum Hosts SACEUR's Commanders' Conference

JFC Brunssum provided the venue for the SACEUR's Commanders' Conference 3rd and 4th November 2016. SACEUR routinely gathers the leadership of the NATO Command Structure Headquarters to discuss NATO's current and future challenges and provide direction and guidance to his subordinate commanders. The conference is held two times a year, in spring and autumn, and rotates amongst different NATO headquarters.

Joining SACEUR and COM JFC Brunssum (host), participants of this year's second conference comprised: DSACEUR; the Chiefs of Staff ACT and SHAPE; the Vice Chief of Staff SHAPE; and the commanders of JFC Naples, AIRCOM, LANDCOM,

MARCOM, NSHQ, SFN, NCISG, NAEW&C and ACCI. The list of attendees was completed by the Political Advisors and the Senior Enlisted Leaders of the respective headquarters.

Once COM JFC Brunssum had welcomed the delegates, SACEUR set the baseline for discussions during his opening remarks. He particularly elaborated on NATO's path from the Wales to Warsaw Summits by shifting from assurance to deterrence and provided his perspective with regard to NATO's 'keys to effectiveness' while following this posture.

SACEUR's vision and priorities were followed by briefings and intense discussions about a range of topics including: command and control; the coordination process between different European stakeholders; NATO's training and exercise program;

and 'cyber' as a domain of increased significance in today's security environment.

The second conference day comprised a closed round table for the commanders to specifically discuss some issues in greater detail. The Political Advisors and Senior Enlisted Leaders adopted a similar posture by gathering separately in a parallel format.

The conference's primary objective was to provide a platform to synchronize the thinking of the Alliance's military leadership vis-a-vis current security challenges and NATO's response to emerging threats. But, concurrently, it was also about people and solidifying inter-personal relationships. Both aims were achieved.

THE BUNDESWEHR - ON OPERATIONS WORLDWIDE

Composed by: Colonel Klaus Buecklein (DEU F)



Peacekeeping and peace-securing measures outside the Federal Republic of Germany have been part of the Bundeswehr’s mission spectrum since 1990. It all began with “Operation Südflanke” (Southern Flank), a mission of naval mine countermeasures forces in the Mediterranean Sea and the Persian Gulf during and after the Second Gulf War, from 16 August 1990 until 13 September 1991. The deployment of Surface-to-Air Missile Wing 2 in Diyarbakir, Turkey, followed from 30 January 1991 to 17 March 1991 within the framework of Operation “Desert Storm”. In 1992, the political decision was made to send medical personnel to Phnom Penh to establish a field hospital within the framework of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia. Further operations of the extended Bundeswehr mission spectrum were Operation “Sharp Guard” from 1992-1996 in the Adreatic and the deployment of the German Composite Force in Somalia from March 1993 to March 1994.

Preconditions for the Deployment of German Soldiers

In 1994, the highest German court, i.e. the Federal Constitutional Court (Bundesverfassungsgericht) finally bindingly clarified that Bundeswehr operations are constitutionally permissible in conformity with Article 24 (2) of the German basic law (i.e. exclusively within the framework of NATO or UN mandates). Additionally, this verdict includes the condition that deployments of armed German military forces abroad always require the approval of parliament.

A new Dimension - the KFOR Mission in Kosovo

In 1999, for the first time in history, the Bundeswehr, or the German Air Force, participated with 500 sorties in a heavily disputed operation in terms of constitutional legitimacy, international law and domestic policy i.e. the Kosovo war. Subsequently, German armed forces took part in the KFOR mission to protect the population and the relief organizations operating in the country. This operation was based on UN Resolution 1244 from the very beginning.

AFGHANISTAN – German Soldiers have been there since 2002

In 2002, Germany started its commitment in Afghanistan, i.e. its participation in the “International Security Assistance Force” (ISAF). The Bundeswehr was part of this mission with, at times, up to 5350 soldiers from all areas and even today, it still supports the follow-up mission “RESOLUTE SUPPORT” with up to 950 soldiers.

Bundeswehr Operations in 2016

Currently, approximately 3500 soldiers are on operations on behalf of the Federal Republic of Germany and that in 13 countries/regions around the world . They fulfill their mission in numerous operations, each of which is based on a German Bundestag mandate.

Operation	Area of Operation	Operational Strength
RESOLUTE SUPPORT	Afghanistan	965
KFOR	Kosovo	540
MINUSMA	Senegal, Mali	540
EUNAVFOR MED Operation Sophia	Mediterranean Sea	304
EUNAVFOR Somalia ATALANTA	Horn of Africa	97
Anti-IS mission	Middle East	456
EUTM Mali	Mali	127
Operation Inherent Resolve Training Support in Iraq	Northern Iraq	133
UNIFIL	Lebanon	129
UNMISS	South Sudan	15
EUTM SOM	Somalia	11
UNAMID	Sudan	4
MINURSO	Western Sahara	3
STRATAIRMEDEVAC	Germany	41
UNAMA	Afghanistan	1



THIRD NORTHERN HEADQUARTERS CONFERENCE TAKES PLACE IN NORWAY

Story by JFC Brunssum Public Affairs Office



Bodo, Norway - The third Northern Headquarters' Conference was conducted during the period 08-09 November, at the Norwegian Joint Headquarters, Bodo, Norway. As a security forum for operational-level headquarters within the Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFCBS) Area of Responsibility (AOR) in the north-eastern part of the Alliance, the forum enables Commanders from NATO and Partner Nations to discuss areas of common regional interest and to raise NATO's profile within, and on the periphery, of Alliance territories.

In his opening remarks General Salvatore FARINA, Commander JFC Brunssum, emphasized the opportunity to discuss operational challenges and find practical solutions focusing on our area of responsibility "where we are working closely together". He thanked Lieutenant General Rune JAKOBSEN, Commander of the Norwegian Joint Headquarters, for his hospitality and articulated appreciation for the close link to our partners from Finland & Sweden, "who have a significant contribution to make to security in the strategically-important northern region."

With the outcomes of the Warsaw Summit fresh in everyone's minds, this year's event

was an ideal platform to discuss selected outcomes affecting the AOR, to focus on NATO's High North and parts of the long term Adaptation Measures of the Readiness Action Plan e.g. the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF), NATO Force Integration Units (NFIU) and the establishment of an enhanced forward presence in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in early 2017. General FARINA underlined the important role of the Multi National Corps North-East, Stettin, Poland as the permanent Land HQ that guarantees expertise, situational-comprehensive and land competence in the area where the eFP will be implemented.



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NATO E-3A COMPONENT FLIES 1000TH ASSURANCE MEASURES MISSION

Composed by: Maureen Geraets-Head, GK Public Affairs Office



On October 5, 2016, the HQ NATO Airborne Warning and Control Force GK E-3A Component flew its 1000th mission in support of Assurance Measures (AM) put in place as a result of Russian military activity in eastern Ukraine.

NATO AWACS, tail number LX-N-90444, took off from NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen with a multinational crew on board and returned several hours later.

“As part of NATO’s Assurance Measures the NATO E-3A Component has conducted over 1000 missions in the eastern

airspace of the alliance,” said Brigadier General Karsten Stoye, E-3A Component Commander. “As a unique military tool we have sent a very strong signal of NATO’s presence and reliability, especially to Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Romania. Despite future missions in the south in support of ‘Counter-ISIL’ activities we will be a consistent partner for these countries. We will go on with our surveillance flights and we will be present frequently!”

Air Commodore Ian Teakle, HQ NAEW&C Force GK Deputy Commander/Chief of Staff, emphasized, “1000 AM sorties

since 14 March 2014 is a magnificent achievement. Although this is only one of a number of measures introduced by the Alliance, the AWACS contribution is arguably the most consistent of all the measures. It is a public and visible demonstration of NATO’s resolve, cohesion and commitment to deterrence and collective defence. I congratulate the E-3A Component on this impressive accomplishment.”

Colonel René Moerland, Deputy HQ NAEW&C Force GK E-3A Component Commander, who flew on the first AM mission March 14, 2014, said, “I still remember that first Assurance Measures

mission very well. In a way it looked a bit like our normal NATO Integrated Air and Missile Defence System (NATINAMDS) missions we regularly fly at the NATO borders, but the political and military setting of these new missions was, of course, completely different. There was definitely excitement amongst the crew and a strong determination to make this first one a success. And it was! We had to work around some issues but this mission was flown according to the tasking providing surveillance, weapons control and electronic support over Romania and across its borders, for example into the Black Sea. This mission was the first of many more to come. I am still proud that I could

be part of that first crew who performed this first mission so well. Congratulations to all E-3A Component members for achieving the 1000th Assurance Measures mission”.

Historical AM background

On March 10, 2014, the North Atlantic Council, in response to the situation in the Ukraine and Crimea, implemented a range of measures to demonstrate Alliance resolve. One of the measures was given to the NAEW&C Force, which was tasked to conduct surveillance missions in the airspace of the eastern NATO countries. Initially the AWACS orbits were

concentrated over Poland and Romania, but later orbits in Turkey and the Baltic States were introduced.

The first AWACS AM flight was flown from NATO Airbase Geilenkirchen on March 14, 2014 and AM missions have been flown on an almost daily basis since. AM missions are flown by the Mixed Force comprising the multinational E-3A Component, the British E-3D Component, the French E-3F Force and the Turkish E-7T Force. The Mixed Force achieved the 1000th AM sortie milestone on Feb 11, 2016.

ODD FELLOWS CLUB “THE FIVE STARS” IN MAASTRICHT

Story by Norman Andrews, Grand Warden Odd Fellows Netherlands and Belgium.



The Odd Fellows Grand Lodge of the Netherlands and Belgium has established a thriving Odd Fellows Club in the heart of Maastricht. More often than not, regular contact with those who share a common interest will result in meaningful friendships. Research has shown that people in mid to later years who have a wide circle of friends tend to be happier, healthier and live longer.

The mixed gender Five Stars Odd Fellows club in Maastricht meets once every two weeks on a Monday. Doors open at 19.30 and the meeting starts around

20.00 hours. The meeting normally has a duration of one hour. Hereafter we have a brief debate on the topics presented during the meeting and then socialize with drinks and chats at the bar.

Those who are acquainted or know the background of the Odd Fellows are, together with anyone wishing to experience what Odd Fellowship is all about, very welcome to visit our club as a guest; this without any obligation.

At present we have three mixed Odd Fellow clubs and in total 90 Lodges in the Netherlands, of which one is in Antwerp, Belgium.

Our club in Maastricht is shared with

the Freemasons and is situated at Heggenstraat 16a. This location is only a three minute walk away from the Vrijthof (city center).

For more information, or if you wish to attend one of our meetings, please contact:

Norman Andrews; telephone number: 0513-464592 or mail to : gobr@oddfellows.nl

If you wish to find out more please visit our Facebook page at: Odd Fellows Club Maastricht ‘5 Sterren’

Webpage: www.oddfellows.nl

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36TH INTERNATIONAL SMALL-PITCH SOCCER TOURNAMENT HELD AT JFC BRUNSSUM

Story by Master Sergeant Markus Grettern (DEU F)

2016 Tournament Report

The 36th International Small-Pitch Soccer Tournament annually conducted at JFC Brunssum took place on 25th and 26th August 2016; this year, under the patronage of Commander JFC Brunssum, General Salvatore Farina. Within the course of this two-day tournament, organized by the German National Team Soccer (GNT), more than 60 teams competed at the “Slag Heap” sports grounds of JFC Brunssum. On the first (bright sunny) day, General Farina opened the tournament and provided the starting signal for the 13th Delegations’ Cup. He expressed his wish for a fair competition without injuries.

Delegations’ Cup

Twelve teams competed with the common goal to win the Delegations’ Cup. Playing in two groups, the two first places were determined by means of the “everyone plays everyone” model. In this phase already, attractive soccer was played by all teams. In group A, it became clear pretty fast that three teams would be the potential semi-final candidates i.e. 1st DEU/NLD Corps, FschJgRgt (Paratroop Regt) 31 and Einsatzführungsbereich (TACCG) 2. In

the end 1st DEU/NLD Corps, followed by FschJgRgt (Paratroop Regt) 31, emerged as the candidates for the two semi-final matches. Group B turned out to be somewhat more balanced. 3./LogBtl (LogBn) 161 came out on top with 11 points, while HQ LANDCOM positioned itself as the second in the group with 8 points, just ahead of Debeka Eschweiler (also 8 points) on goal difference. Positions 4 and 5 lagged behind by 1 and 2 points, respectively.

Hence, in the semifinals, 1st DEU/NLD Corps had to play HQ LANDCOM, while FschJgRgt (Paratroop Regt) 31 played 3./LogBtl (LogBn) 161. Two thrilling matches finally ended with both Group A teams, who had both won their matches 1:0, playing each other in the final. Having played a hard but very fair match, which was decided in a 9m penalty shoot-out, 1st DEU/NLD Corps emerged as the winners of the 13th Delegations’ Cup. The match for third place was also decided by a 9m penalty shoot-out. It was the 3./LogBtl (LogBn) 161 team who won in the end.

Ladies’ Cup

After the Delegations’ Cup final, the 15th Ladies’ Cup followed right away. The 6

participating teams were welcomed by the Head of the German Delegation in the Netherlands and, in the same way as their male counterparts, matches were played following the “everyone plays everyone” model. The teams proved to be quite balanced but in the end, after 15 exciting matches, it was the team of the Brunssum Allstars who won the cup - followed by Rhenania Richerich and Ladysniper.

After the Delegations’ Cup and Ladies’ Cup award ceremonies, guests had the possibility to join the Welcome Party in the party tent, where all present enjoyed themselves and celebrated their positions, accompanied by good music.

The next morning, the second day of the tournament started with fantastic weather. After a good breakfast the 36th Commander’s Cup (Youngsters - Oldies) was opened by Lieutenant General Fernando Alejandro, JFC Brunssum’s Deputy Commander.

Both the Youngsters’ and the Oldies’ Cups commenced with preliminary rounds consisting of 4 groups. Besides the fact that all teams wanted to have fun in the first place, of course, they all had aspirations to be the group winners, too; still, all matches were played in a spirit of mutual respect.

Oldies’ Cup

21 Teams competed at the Oldies’ Cup to win the coveted trophy. While the group A matches were quite balanced, it became clear quite fast in the other groups which teams showed particular ambitions to be successful. The first 4 teams of the group phase qualified for the subsequent round of sixteen matches. UniBw/Lkdo (Bw University/LC) Hamburg, BAPersBw (FedOffcBwPersManagement), Team 383 Oldies and SDBw Oldies (BwEnlistedPersOffc) won their quarter finals. Both semifinals ended 1:0. In the final, BAPersBw played Team 383 Oldies. After a highly competitive match full of thrilling goalscoring opportunities, Team 383 Oldies finally won the Oldies’ Cup. In the small final, the SDBw Oldies team prevailed over UniBw/LKdo Hamburg.

Youngsters’ Cup

Just like at the Oldies’ Cup, 21 teams started the competition for the trophy. The “U30” (below 30) teams played their first round matches simultaneously with the “Ü30” (over 30) teams’ first round.

No team particularly excelled in the first round, but the ‘round of 16’ matches

afterwards were all the more thrilling. Each of the remaining teams still had the chance to win the trophy. Accordingly, all matches ended pretty close with, primarily, only one goal difference or after a penalty shoot-out. The ElokaBtl (EW bn) 932 team was the only one showing a clear 4:0 victory. Looking at these results, exciting matches were to be expected for the quarterfinals. Still, unexpectedly, 2 teams were able to clearly prevail over their opponents, while the other two matches were much tighter. In the end, 4 teams made it through the quarterfinals and hence faced each other in the semi-final matches: Youngster 1./FJgRgt (MP Regt) 2, SanRgt 1 - Teile Berlin (MedRegt 1 - Berlin components), PzGrenBrig 41 – St/FmKp (mechanized infantry Bde - HQ & signal coy) and ElokaBtl (EW bn) 932. While the SanRgt 1 - Teile Berlin team won 3:0 against Youngster 1./FJgRgt 2, ElokaBtl 932 had to fight much harder. However, they finally won 4:3 against PzGrenBrig 41 - St/FmKp. Like this, the candidates for the final were determined: SanRgt 1 – Teile Berlin vs ElokaBtl 932. The high-quality match was enthralling and in the end, SanRgt 1 - Teile Berlin made it and took the coveted trophy with them to the capital of Germany. PzGrenBrig 41 - St/FmKp won the match for 3rd place by 5:2.

Apart from the sportive aspect of the world’s biggest small-pitch soccer tournament, the GNT once again highlighted the tournament’s benefit to the public. In the past, the GNT already supported projects by the Dutch host nation as well as people or comrades in need with this tournament. This year, the GNT was glad to be able to donate 500.00 € to Basissport Limburg (a sports institution for disabled people) as well as to the Bundeswehr Sports School’s group responsible for sports therapy for the treatment of deployment-related health issues and to little Johanna Sokoll (Rett’s syndrome). The German National Team is proud of being able to give such support thanks to the proceeds of the tournament and also promises to keep on supporting such projects in the future!

The German National Team thanks all participating teams for the fair competitions as well as all sponsors while looking forward to the 37th International Small-Pitch Soccer Tournament next year on 24th and 25th August (with hopefully similarly good weather conditions).

CHRISTMAS 1944 IN 'DE SCHARK' SAINT PIETER MOUNTAIN

Composed By: Ed Frieser (NLD C)

Source: Article Ed Frieser 2005, and Maj. Richard Komurek 2015; Book Snow & Steel: The Battle of the Bulge, 1944-1945; several websites such as <http://www.shak1944.org/nl/>; <http://www.wo2actueel.nl/>; <http://www.4en5mei.nl/>

A rectified story

In 2005 I wrote an article in the Northern Star and, more recently, in 2015 Major Richard Komurek of the JFC Brunssum Public Affairs Office repeated the story. A story that has remained topical for decades describing how, 72 years ago in 1944, some 200 US soldiers supposedly of the 117th, 119th and 120th Regiments, 30th Infantry Division 'Old Hickory', part of the XIX US Corps, attended a Holy Mass on Christmas Eve in the cave 'De Schark'. 'De Schark' was a marl stone quarry of the Saint Pieter Mountain near Maastricht.

Later research, however, undertaken by US Air Force Officer John Gouverne, revealed in 2012 that according to US Army sources the Old Hickory Division had already left for the Ardennes on the 17th of December. (In the book Snow & Steel, the Battle of

the Bulge, 1944-1945, page 395, it reads clearly that General William H. Simpson (Commander Ninth Army) identified the German attacks in the Ardennes as a major offence and offered what help he could, sending not only the 7th Armoured, but the 30th Infantry (Old Hickory) and 2nd Armoured Divisions (Hell on Wheels) as well. Within ten days, Simpson's Ninth Army had committed seven of its Divisions to battle in the Ardennes). In those days the headquarters of the Ninth Army was located in Maastricht with a staff of 3000 men. But these were administrative staff and not combat troops. According to USAF Lieutenant Colonel Gouverne it is certain though that soldiers of the 127th AAA (Anti Aircraft Artillery Group) were present during this Mass in 1944. But the story became dramatic when it was reported that of all those present only 55 survived however, today, there is reasonable doubt whether this is true. Hence this story has to

be rectified, although it remains noteworthy as Christmas approaches.

Casting our minds back to 1944 Maastricht had been liberated for four months from Nazi-German occupation by soldiers from XIX US Corps, "Tomahawk", who were charged with the liberation of South-Limburg. The operation took place together with the 113th Cavalry Group "Red Horse" and the 2nd Armoured Division "Hell on Wheels". In total some 30,000 soldiers were involved. On Christmas Eve in 1944 200 soldiers of 127th AAA Unit and, most likely, staff members of the Ninth Army Headquarters were invited to the galleries of the marl caves where Brothers (of the Immaculate Conception) of the Beyart Monastery had built an altar and prepared a Holy Mass. Father (Lieutenant Colonel) Boleslaus Dobrzynski from New York led the mass. A part of the marl-stone was flattened and decorated by Corporal Salvatore Barravecchia who created a

charcoal painting depicting a scene at the front. He added a few hopeful lines saying 'may the battle soon cease and peace rule over the world and you all return to your families safe'. Soldiers wrote their names on the wall and most of these names can still be read today e.g. James P. Morry, John Hughes, Dan Sullivan, Allan English and John Gregor from Cleveland, Victor Hogan and Roy Mills.

Immediately following the Holy Mass 800 soldiers were ordered to leave for the Ardennes where the situation had deteriorated. There they participated in what has become known as 'the Battle of the Bulge'. In 1980 the Maastricht ex-Commando veteran Charles Smitshuysen organized, together with the Brothers of the Beyart Monastery, another Holy Mass to commemorate the US soldiers. It then became an annual Christmas tradition. In 1981 a special relief was unveiled by

the then Maastricht Mayor Baeten to commemorate these soldiers. A year later some 250 veterans returned to Maastricht. On this occasion a wall plaque was unveiled by Brigadier General Kastenmeyer, who served at the former Headquarters AFCENT in Brunssum. In 1985 a sculpture was unveiled by HRH the late Prince Bernhard, father of HRH Princess Beatrix, the previous Queen of the Netherlands. More recently, in December 2014, as Major Komurek reported in the February 2015 edition of this magazine, a Christmas Mass was dedicated to commemorate the 70th Anniversary of this historic event. Robert Wisler, one of the surviving soldiers, accompanied by 25 members of the Wisler family, attended the Holy Christmas Mass. On that occasion Father (Lieutenant Colonel) Jerzy Rzasowski, from Joint Force Command Brunssum, who also happened to be an American priest of Polish descent just like Lieutenant Colonel Boleslaus

Dobrzynski in 1944, led the ceremony.

"While I've forgotten a lot of things over the years, I will always remember the hospitality that you, the people of Maastricht, showed me in December, 1944. I am grateful to be able to be here with you. Thank you for all your efforts through the years to commemorate this Christmas Mass of 1944 that was so important to us back then and to keep alive the memory of those who served during the war. May it remind future generations of the sacrifices made by generations past and inspire them to work even harder for peace" said Robert Wisler. Hence, the words of Corporal Salvatore Barravecchia are still applicable "... may peace rule on earth, and that you all return to your families safe ... ". Especially during Christmas, let's not forget these brave men that liberated South-Limburg in the period September to December 1944.

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LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOHN HEYNEN (NLD F)

Photo by Adj. Shirley Ham-ter Haar (NLD MP),
JFC Brunssum, Public Affairs Office



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

I returned to the Netherlands in November 2013 to take the position of Section Head Meteorological and Oceanography, a section which is part of the Joint Operations Centre but not located in the JOC (Joint Operation Centre).

Tell us about your military career.

Finishing High School in 1978 and bored of going to school I joined the Air Force. Initially, I started as a military contractor for 6 years. My military training started in 1979 which turned out to be one of the most severe winters the Netherlands had seen in decades. After my initial meteorological training as a weather forecaster I was posted to the former Air Base Twenthe in the east of the Netherlands. Being in the Royal Netherlands Air Force for almost thirty 38 years I have had many postings and different jobs but always in the functional area of Meteorology. The jobs I particularly liked the most were teaching meteorology and commanding the Air Force Meteorological Group.

Do you have any experience with other international missions?

My first international experience was in 1981 where one of our NF-5 squadrons had a rotation with an American Squadron at Hahn Airbase, now Frankfurt –Hahn Airport. Following this experience I volunteered to become a Tactical Evaluation evaluator. Two or three times a year I would evaluate Airbases, including their assets, in accordance with SHAPE standards. Since Meteorology is a world-wide science and service I was lucky to participate in several International Civil Aviation Organisation meetings, training serials and congresses. My first deployment took place in the late nineties. As a forecaster I supported the UK Mobile Met Unit in Split (Croatia) during the Implementation Force Mission over the Balkans. Two years later IFOR was transformed into a Stabilisation Force and I was deployed to the SFOR HQ in Sarajevo, Bosnia Herzegovina. My most demanding mission was working for the European Monitoring Mission, monitoring the social-political-economic-humanitarian situation in order to advise the European Commission on their policy in that region. My mis-

sion started in the South-East part of Kosovo followed by a post on the other side of the border, in Serbia, in the Presevo Valley on the edge of Kosovo and FYROM.

Prior to my posting to JFC Brunssum I spent two and a half years working at Allied Command Transformation, in Norfolk, Virginia, USA, as a Subject Matter Expert in Meteorology. During this period I was involved in concept and capability development for NATO's meteorological support. Besides writing Bi-strategic policy, requirements etc. I frequently visited NATO partner HQ's and Nations to attend meetings. As secretary of the Military Committee's Military Meteorological Working Group we tried to bring ideas, Nations and resources together to improve the meteorological support to NATO Operations. Not only plans and policy were coordinated but also Tactical Decision Aids, software to enhance the capabilities of sensors and weapon systems, were discussed, improved and exchanged between Nations and the NATO Force Structure.

Tell us about your job and what kind of challenges you face.

At JFC Brunssum the METOC section which, besides a section head is comprised of three Meteorological Experts and one Technician, is responsible for a broad range of products. During deployments and exercises our section is the single source for meteorological and oceanographic information, guidance and forecasts. Not only do we advise our Commander on weather developments and their impact on operations. Our section is also responsible to coordinate and synchronize the METOC support, at and for, our Joint Task Force Subordinate Commands. It is with pleasure and pride I look back to Trident Juncture last year. Although artificial, pre-scripted weather was used during the CPX, throughout the second part of TRJE 15 (the LIVEX) the different training audiences at more than 10 different geographical locations were reliant upon our weather assessments and briefings coming from the JTF HQ, at Zaragoza, Spain. Since meteorological and oceanographic conditions set the conditions for possible operations, windows of opportunity etcetera the section is involved in all CPOE's, JOPG's and OPLAN's. Based on historical (climatological) data planners can fine tune their plans, allocate the required assets and improve the rate of success for operations. Our section makes a weather forecast for the Brunssum area on a daily basis. This is accessible on the Intranet at JOC-METOC.

Technology continually improves and makes sensors and systems less weather dependant on one hand, on the other today's technology gives more accurate meteorological parameters which are needed to optimise the use of capabilities. Climate change is one of the other challenges becoming more and more important in the military domain. Climate zones with drought and rain will move in the coming years due to the change of the general pressure distribution, this means desertification in new areas and flooding in other areas. Climate change also will cause more extreme weather phenomena; extreme wind speeds, more intense precipitation, longer periods with droughts, more intensive tropical cyclones and tornados. Migration of people will be the result in order to find a more hospitable environment. The rise of seawater temperature will have its influence on the geopolitical situation. Improving accessibility of the Arctic Ocean will make new shipping routes possible avoiding the Indian Ocean and the Suez Channel.

What does your future hold?

Less than three months before my retirement I look back with satisfaction, pride and a bit of melancholy. There are things I really will not miss; bureaucracy, occasional childish behaviour, military panic, and jokes about the weather. Things I really will miss are: camaraderie, professionalism, dedication and military humour. On the other hand "it is better to miss than that you never have had it". At the moment my wife is setting up a restaurant/brasserie in Geleen. For now, she foresees me as Section Head Dishwashing Department, just me myself and I. If I cannot stand the heat, I will get out of the kitchen and play the drums or hit a ball at the golf course.





FAMILY SUPPORT MORALE & WELFARE

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



02 DEC
2016 FRI
1900

RULES DON'T APPLY

Alec Baldwin 126 min
Warren Beatty



03 DEC
2016 SAT
1600

MOANA

Dwayne Johnson 104 min
Auli'i Cravalho



03 DEC
2016 SAT
1900

ALLIED

Brad Pitt 124 min
Marion Cotillard



04 DEC
2016 SUN
1500

THE BIRTH OF A NATION

Nate Parker 110 min
Armie Hammer



09 DEC
2016 FRI
1900

MAN DOWN

Shia LaBeouf 92 min
Jai Courtney



10 DEC
2016 SAT
1600

MOANA

Dwayne Johnson 104 min
Auli'i Cravalho



10 DEC
2016 SAT
1900

OFFICE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Jennifer Aniston
Jason Bateman



16 DEC
2016 FRI
1900

ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY

Felicity Jones 133 min
Diego Luna



17 DEC
2016 SAT
1300

MOANA

Dwayne Johnson 104 min
Auli'i Cravalho



17 DEC
2016 SAT
1600

COLLATERAL BEAUTY

Will Smith 94 min
Edward Norton



17 DEC
2016 SAT
1900

ROGUE ONE: A STAR WARS STORY

Felicity Jones 133 min
Diego Luna



23 DEC
2016 FRI
1900

ASSASSIN'S CREED

Michael Fassbender
Marion Cotillard

24 DEC
2016 SAT
1900

Closed

30,31 DEC
2016

Closed

CLOSED

CLOSED



The Opera Zuid singers want to make opera more accessible, by letting people hear and experience that opera is for everyone. It is played and sung by young people of this generation, artists with passion for theatre!

During the past years, Opera Zuid has mainly focused on offering opportunities to young (Dutch) opera talent.

An intense cooperation is formed, because the opera company's young artists meet each other during every production.

Along with guest performers, a diverse and powerful opera theatre is created. Opera Zuid is the first step to international stages for the members of the company.

Their new production is the famous Le Nozze di

Figaro and it is performed on a stage with a unique decor - like a doll's house. Circle 100 readers can win tickets for this opera in the Sittard theatre.





WIN TICKETS

- We have 6 tickets to give away for Opera Zuid!
- In order to win the tickets, please answer the following question:
What kind of decor is used in Le Nozze di Figaro?
Fill in this coupon and send it to PAO, or send an e-mail to
pao@jfcbs.nato.int, before 10 december 19.30u.
- For NATO ID card holders only
- The winners will be announced in the next edition of the Northern Star

Answer: Division:

Full name: Extension:



Winners

Lasergame & Glowgolf

The Northern Star congratulates the lucky winners of the last contest.

Tickets won for Lasergame:
Franck Sicot (J2)
Marian Janssen (LEGAD)

Tickets won for Glow Golf:
Angela Smeeth (AFNORTH INT. SCHOOL)
Eric Lox (J4)

FILM REVIEW FANTASTIC BEASTS AND WHERE TO FIND THEM



What Is Fantastic Beasts And Where To Find Them About?

J.K. Rowling has flipped the script in more ways than one with *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*, not only in focusing a story on one of the more random characters teased but not actually seen in the Harry Potter universe thus far, but also setting the story across the pond, in New York City, in the 1920s. We know that *Fantastic Beasts* will take place in 1926, and that Newt Scamander (Eddie Redmayne) is the central character.

The young magizoologist finds himself in New York City during his travels. He was only supposed to be there for a day, however when his magical case of titular beasts goes missing, and some of them escape, Newt has to stay behind to deal with the situation. The set-up for this story involves No-Maj (that's U.S. for Muggle) cha-

acter Jacob (Dan Fogler), whose path crosses with Newt's. We also know that Katherine Waterston's Tina and Alison Sudol's Queenie (Tina's sister) factor into this budding foursome. And we'll get into more details about the cast in a bit. In addition to featuring some beasts that have yet to be seen on screen in the previous Harry Potter movies, we're also expecting to learn more details about magical culture in the United States. Some of those details have already begun to emerge in anticipation of *Fantastic Beasts*, including the name of the U.S. version of the Ministry of Magic -- the Magical Congress Of The United States Of America (MACUSA) -- and the name of the wizarding school where North American witches and wizards get their magical education. That would be Ilvermorny. Even more details about U.S. magical history and culture have emerged, courtesy of new writings over at Pottermore.

MONEY IS FOR HAVING FUN

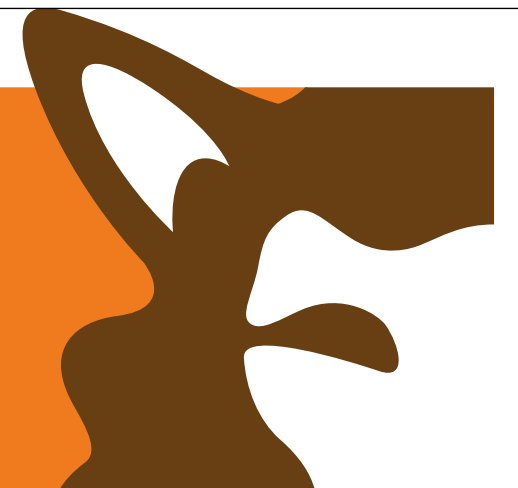


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¹ the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

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