

NORTHERN STAR

MAGAZINE FOR HQ JFC BRUNSSUM - FEBRUARY 2017



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NATO
+
OTAN

UNIQUE HANGAR
COMPLEX BUILT IN
PÁPA, HUNGARY



NEW ACRONYMS ON
THE HORIZON



PROJECT "EXTEND
H-106" EDGES
CLOSER TO
COMPLETION



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ABOUT THE COVER

A U.S. Marine participates in a field training exercise during Exercise Iron Sword 16 in Rukla Training Area, Lithuania, Nov. 29, 2016.

Photo By: Sgt. Kirstin Merrimarahajara

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COLOPHON

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COMMAND GROUP CORNER

Composed by Major General Walter Ohm (DEU A)



NATO is enhancing its forward presence in the eastern part of the Alliance, with four multinational battle groups in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, on a rotational basis. These battle groups, led by the United Kingdom, Canada, Germany and the United States respectively, will be robust, multinational, combat-ready forces demonstrating the strength of the transatlantic bond, and making clear that an attack on one ally would be considered an attack on the whole Alliance. eFP enforces both deterrence and the Alliance's ability of successful - collective Defence!

SACEUR has tasked our Headquarters to take a leading role on the operational incorporation and integration of this capability. For my Directorate this means facilitating the efforts of troop contributing nations and host nations, resource-wise.

In order to better understand the current situation on the ground and to have necessary discussions with the relevant stakeholders, I have paid visits to Poland, Lithuania and Estonia. Latvia will follow very soon. Notwithstanding the fact that many open questions and challenges still exist, it is my clear assessment after these

visits that we are well on track. We must consider, on one hand, the challenges and, on the other hand, the tremendous support from the host nations and mission commitment demonstrated by the contributing nations. I've met solution-oriented officers and NCOs with very professional attitudes, who are well aware of both current opportunities and minor weaknesses. After seeing existing host nation capabilities and infrastructure I fully trust in their ability to enable eFP forces. Ultimately the effectiveness of NATO's collective strength, ability to deter and commitment to defence will be demonstrated.

But I'm also very much convinced, beyond combat forces, that eFP battle groups will come with very robust combat service support and logistics profiles, giving us full confidence to counter any threat effectively.

Of course there are other important military initiatives and activities ongoing as well which, taken together, increase our collective defence capability. But given that resources are always limited, a main challenge is to ensure the proper allocation, acquisition and efficient use of available assets. Host Nations may seek our advice and guidance. In that domain JFC Brunssum, together with the Multi National Corps North East (MNCNE), the soon to be stood up Multi National

Division North East (MNDNE) and the NATO Forward Integration Units (NFIUs), can make a significant difference utilizing the existing regional expertise to best effect. It is, in particular, up to my team to finalize our regional resources picture, to obtain a clear understanding of requirements and to support the overall coordination.

JFC Brunssum must continue to use the momentum of these current strong national commitments, further develop the eFP mission in the operational domain, understand priorities and translate them into necessary guidance.

This requires our full attention and effort. Working together, in close cooperation with all the other stakeholders within our headquarters and throughout the implementation area, we will make it!



VISITS AND ACTIVITIES

Prepared by Adj Leo Roos NLD A

Operational Liaison and Reconnaissance Team Annual Training Cycle Commences

This week Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFCBS) has started its annual Training Cycle for its Operational Liaison and Reconnaissance Team (OLRT) in order to maintain the necessary level of training and professionalism required as one of two assigned deployable Joint Task Force Headquarters in NATO. This means that JFC Brunssum must be ready to deploy a well-trained and educated fact finding team on short notice whenever necessary to gain, and then maintain, situational awareness and first assessment on any possible security crisis NATO might engage in.

Together with its sister Headquarter in Naples, JFC Brunssum is tasked to fulfil a wide range

of tasks allocated as a result of a renewed and improved NATO concept governing the enhanced NATO Response Force (eNRF). In terms of deployability this means starting with small teams sent to a mission area for particular purposes, but steadily increasing in numbers and responsibilities – up to a maximum of 800 personnel – to form a Joint Task Force Headquarters.

In response to the changing security environment, NATO has already evolved and adapted to meet many new challenges – world-wide as well as at the Alliances borders. Knowing enhanced training leads to enhanced readiness Brunssum's personnel include an expansive range of topics in their preparations. Amongst

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other issues these include mounting and deploying procedures, communications protocols and the refreshing of many basic soldiering skills.

The outcome is that JFC Brunssum maintains levels of high readiness that enable it to quickly react to any emerging security situation.

Moving Remembrance Tribute at Haelen

The Chief of Staff Joint Force Command Brunssum, Lieutenant General Janusz AD-AMCZAK, visited the Monument of Tolerance at Haelen, today, and paid tribute to those military personnel who lost their lives in the Leudal area during the period 1940-1945.

Also present were civil and military representatives from Belgium, the Czech Republic, Germany, The Netherlands and the United Kingdom plus Jewish victims from the Holocaust; all reflecting on the losses suffered and the sacrifices made. Moving speeches from the Mayor of Leudal, Mr Arno VERHOEVEN and New Zealand's Ambassador to the

Netherlands, Her Excellency Mrs Janet LOWE, preceded the laying of wreaths and observance of a minute's silence. The ceremony served as a poignant reminder of the sacrifices made by over 700 personnel, from 11 nations and that, in the true spirit of tolerance, the memorial commemorates the loss of Austrian and German lives during the same period.

The bronze monument consists of a half arch on an equilateral triangle which represents the Heavenly. The gulls represent freedom. The sword with the laurel-wreath and the clasped hands represent the battle fought and the fraternization beyond death. The foot of

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the monument is covered with boulders from the river Maas, one for each soldier killed in action. The eleven red beams in the pavement symbolize the eleven nations involved.

A Spitfire from the Department of Historic Flights of the Royal Dutch Air Force performed a fly-past during the ceremony.

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The 17th of November, exactly a week after the last release of Beaujolais nouveau wine, Joint Force Command Brunssum celebrated the event at the International Conference Centre. November is traditionally a month without happy social events, a month of remembrance, a month of cold, windy and rainy weather; with one exception - the French Beaujolais Nouveau reception!

Le beaujolais nouveau est arrivé!

All over the world French people are gathering together, inviting friends to taste the new wine. In Brunssum this event was also celebrated. More than 800 people, members of Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, former members, community members and their spouses, accepted an invitation from Brigadier General GOUDEAU to attend the Beaujolais Nouveau party. It is well known that even far abroad where soldiers are experiencing isolation and deprivation, French troops' know-how will always ensure wine is shipped on time!!

Guests were able to enjoy French cheeses and delicacies that were provided to accompany the new wine.

Members of Brunssum's French Staff Association joined forces with the French Spouses association, under the coordination of Colonel Michel, to demonstrate their outstanding ability to organize and manage this event. The end result was a hugely successful evening enhanced by the provision of background music and a band that performed traditional songs.

The Brunssum community is already looking forward to next year's release that will occur around the third Thursday of November. It is not too early to mark your calendars!

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Commander JFC Brunssum, General Salvatore Farina, participated in the inauguration ceremony of the Hungarian NATO Force Integration Unit (NFIU) on Friday 18 November; this is the latest NFIU to officially join the network of headquarters established along the Eastern flank of the area of responsibility of Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

The ceremony was also attended by the Hungarian Minister of Defence, Dr. Istvan Simicskó; NATO's Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Defence Investment, Mr. Enrest J. Herold; the Chief of Defence of Hungary, General Tibor Benkő; amongst other dignitaries. Commander JFC Brunssum is responsible for the implementation area that includes the NFIU in Hungary together with those established last year in Poland and the three Baltic

Commander JFC Brunssum Participates in Hungarian NFIU Inauguration Ceremony

States, as well as the one recently activated in Slovakia. General Farina, the highest ranking NATO military commander at the ceremony, commended the hard work of Hungarian officials and NFIU staff to establish this headquarters and get it operational on an accelerated timeline, providing a 'great achievement for NATO in such a short period'. He recognized the key role played by this headquarters with its 'mission to assist the host nation in enabling the quick reception and support of the Enhanced NATO Response Force (eNRF), including the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF), in order to bolster the Alliance's overall responsiveness.'

These headquarters are not only important facilitators bringing high readiness elements to the theatre, but they also have 'a significant role in acquiring and increasing situational awareness in the region by providing NATO with essential knowledge, acting as the Alliance's eyes and ears on the ground, sharing information with the host nation and higher headquarters.' With this in mind, the General said: 'it is critical that NFIUs establish and maintain strong, standing relationships with the host country and act on behalf of NATO

forces, already now, in peacetime'. He added: 'with its central, strategic location in Europe, on the crossroads of East and West, Hungary can provide essential support to the Alliance, in peace time, crisis and conflict'.

'NFIUs are smart, agile and joint military headquarters representing a multinational effort' and with this latest NFIU in Hungary we add more capability, expertise and enthusiasm into NATO's NFIU network', General Farina pointed out.

He concluded his remarks by welcoming the Commander of the Hungarian NFIU, Colonel Garas, and his multinational team into the 'operational family in support of the Alliance's security', wishing them good luck for the 'journey starting today in order to achieve great results, as per Hungary's tradition.'

The Minister of Defence of Hungary, in his remarks, highlighted the multi-nationality of the headquarters staff and thanked the nations providing the international personnel as a sign of solidarity with Hungary. 'The establishment of the NFIU in Székesfehérvár' - the Minister said - 'is another important milestone in Hungary's history of NATO membership'.

VISITS AND ACTIVITIES

On behalf of the NATO Secretary General, Mr. Herold expressed his thanks to the Hungarian Government and people for their 'contribution to the Alliance's security', underlining the 'constructive role that Hungary plays in our Alliance'. The Hungarian NFIU is a 'step forward for the security of Hungary and NATO', and all 8 NFIUs together 'move NATO to greater strength and greater readiness', sending the clear message that 'no NATO ally stands alone: NATO is here in Szekesfehervar and ready to defend all Allies against any threat'.

After the 2014 Wales Summit, elements of the Readiness Action Plan were enacted, with the enhancement of the NATO Response Force and the conception of the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF), together with the planned establishment of 8 NATO Force Integration Units within the territories of NATO's eastern allies, as a clear and tangible sign of NATO's continuing commitment to defend all member states.

At the joint press conference following the ceremony, General Farina took the opportunity

to underline the Alliance's approach to security is to look at threats coming from any direction - East and West, North and South. He stated: 'NATO is demonstrating - and will continue in the years to come - to be a defensive Alliance with extensive capabilities that enable flexibility and adaptation, but also allow for the provision of assurance and deterrence, underlining the Alliance's resolve to defend and protect all allies whilst always avoiding provocation and escalation while being open for dialogue'.

JFC Brunssum conducts a CIMIC training mission in Ukraine

A team of personnel from Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum conducted a Mobile Training Team (MTT) visit to the Ukrainian National Defence University "Ivan Chernyakhovsky" at Kiev, Ukraine, between 21-24 Nov; the purpose of which was to educate Ukrainian officers about the Civil-Military Cooperation (CIMIC) contribution to the Operational Planning Process (OPP) and the products that CIMIC officers have to deliver during the different phases of operational planning.

In achieving the aims of the visit, the 5-person team, led by Commander Yasen KENAROV

from the Bulgarian Armed Forces, included one member from the CIMIC Centre of Excellence in The Hague and provided several lectures and training scenarios to the Ukrainian students. This is the ninth MTT/Expert Team Visit to Ukraine since 2014; each building on the success of previous visits and serving to assist the Ukrainian CIMIC Directorate plans to conduct training for future CIMIC Field Officers; setting the conditions to develop a Ukrainian Training and Education capability at the tactical level.

Ukraine is a valued partnership for peace

21 -24 NOV 2016



nation and contributor to NATO mission and exercise planning.

Lithuanian Armed Forces Day

On Thursday, the 24th of November 2016, the Lithuanian Senior National Representative Allied Headquarters Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFCBS), Brigadier General Almantas LEIKA, welcomed guests to the Commemoration of the 98th Anniversary of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Lithuania reception event.

Addressing the JFCBS Commander, General Salvatore FARINA, Deputy Chief of Staff (Support), Major General Walter OHM, and other distinguished guests, Brigadier LEIKA provided a précis of Lithuania's Armed Forces

history; from inception through major events affecting them and the challenges faced today.

General LEIKA concluded by emphasizing NATO's contribution to the development of the Lithuanian Armed Forces' capabilities and regional security.

The guests enjoyed sharing experiences of visits to Lithuania and engaging with its people.

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29 NOV 2016



As directed by SACEUR late 2016, JFC Brunssum is responsible for the overall coordination of the deployment and employment of the Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) within NATO.

Enhanced Forward Presence Table Top Exercise

The eFP concept reflects a decision made during the Defence Ministerials in February 2016. It is quite new and needs to be aligned with existing NATO concepts, structures and forces already in place. The complexity of eFP is being expressed by the necessary incorporation of nominated Battle Groups into numerous plans and, also, by considering the role of the NATO Force Integration Units (NFIU), the Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC-NE), the enhanced NATO Response Force (eNRF) and the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF).

We are obliged to carefully work on how to synchronize our efforts, achieve coherence and how best to utilize eFP as an amplifier for the effectiveness of NATO's deterrence and defence posture. The first TableTop Exercise (TTX) on eFP has delivered the initial steps to achieve the desired unity of effort, resulting in a decisive outcome supporting SACEUR's

Strategic Directive.

With SHAPE, eFP Host Nations, eFP Framework Nations and MNC-NE represented, a number of eFP vignettes led the audience through various presentations and discussion points.

As expected this first hands-on gathering with key players gave rise to many questions and revealed the 'grey areas'; it also underlined the need for robust coordination.

A range of topics were discussed. Among them were Readiness, Strategic Communications, Exercises and Training, Rules of Engagement, Logistics, Command & Control and CIS.

We look back on a valuable first day of synergistic work on eFP, which synchronized the efforts to be taken by all actors in the very near future.

29 NOV 2016



On 29th November 2016, the International Club held one of their two big fundraising event, the annual Craft Market and kicked

Craft Market 2016

of the Christmas season in the International Conference Center, which had been transformed into an beautiful market with delegates from UK, Canada, US, Latvia, Estonia, Spain, Italy, Scandinavia, Poland, Germany & France having decorated their stalls and selling an excellent selection of home-made craft items such as traditional Christmas decorations from their country, cakes, etc.

Several stalls also had a Raffle where you could win lovely filled baskets with national goodies and US raffled a X-Mas Tree, congratulations to the winners. To cater for the families, friends, colleagues and military personnel

that came along to support this fundraising event, The Crafty Café where selling food & cakes prepared by the different nations and they while enjoying their lunch the JFC Brass Band played seasonal music. All in all it was a great success; all profit from the event will go towards the charities nominated.

The next big event will be the Charity Night 31

VISITS AND ACTIVITIES

Deputy Commander JFC Brunssum visits Afghanistan

Command Brunssum (JFC Brunssum), Lieutenant General Fernando ALEJANDRE, visited Afghanistan during the period 29 Nov – 02 Dec, to discuss NATO's and JFC Brunssum's support to the Afghan Security Forces with Resolute Support (RS) Senior Leaders.

Whilst there, he visited Kabul and Camp Bastion where he engaged with the RS Deputy

Commander, Lieutenant General Sandy STORRIE, and the Deputy Advisor, Ministry of Interior (Afghanistan) Major General Martin SMITH, among others. Whilst at Camp Bastion, General ALEJANDRE discussed the concept of Advisory Packages with the Commander, Brigadier General SIMS.

29 NOV - 02 DEC 2016



Commander JFC Brunssum visits Stavanger in view of Trident Javelin 2017

On Wednesday 30 November 2016, General Salvatore Farina, Commander JFC Brunssum chaired the TRIDENT JAVELIN 2017 Training Audience Commanders' Conference in Stavanger. The conference was hosted by Major General Andrzej Reudowicz, Commander of the Joint Warfare Center.

The exercise TRIDENT JAVELIN 2017, a Command Post/ Computer Assisted Exercise without troops on the ground, will be the unique training event for NATO Command Structure Command and Control entities in November 2017 conducting a Major Joint Operation 'Plus' in a NATO Article 5 environment. At the same time, the exercise will provide the evaluation venue to certify command and control elements for the enhanced NATO Response Force 2018.

The conference was a milestone in preparing the exercise next year, as it set the scene to tailor the development of training inputs to the needs of all participants. Therefore, General Farina asked all attending Commanders during his opening remarks to "state and discuss the most important training requirements and issues in order to shape the scenario to best meet all of our needs."

The open and productive discussions during the conference fostered the alignment of all involved stakeholders and facilitated the development of effective and common solutions. Looking ahead in further considering the next planning steps, General Farina emphasized that "we will find the path as we strive to

30 NOV 2016



achieve a common goal." Elaborating on the strategic message sent by a NATO exercise of this dimension, he furthermore underlined that "our success directly reflects upon NATO's effectiveness and relevance in today's dynamic security environment."

General Farina expressed his thanks to all Commanders and participants for their attendance and the great contribution to the positive result of this crucial conference.

JFC Brunssum Sends Training Team to Armenia

Between 05 and 09 December a small team from Joint Force Command Brunssum conducted an Expert Team Visit (ETV) to Yerevan, Armenia. Amongst others, topics taught included the art of Information Operations (Info Ops) and Civilian Military Cooperation (CIMIC). This was the last of six programmed training visits to Armenia during 2016. The objective was to provide Armenian Staff Officers an introduction to these subjects, and their planning, in support of NATO operations, and to provide valuable training in preparation for future NATO exercises that nation might participate in.

The event was organised with the help of the Defence Policy Department of the Armenian Ministry of Defence - a department that incorporates international military cooperation.

Over the course of three days Brunssum staff, under the leadership of Lieutenant Commander Michelle Ward, provided a comprehensive

briefing package. Most of the final day was deliberately focused on practical exercises and case studies. This allowed the Armenian officers to practice what they had learnt - with some very impressive results.

05 DEC - 09 DEC 2016



This was a very enjoyable and successful ETV that further cemented the strong relationship that already exists between Joint Force Command Brunssum and our Armenian partners.

06 DEC 2016



The Commander Joint Force Command Brunssum, General Salvatore Farina, traveled to London 06 December to meet with the UK Chief of Defence Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach, and the Vice Chief of Defence Staff, General Sir Gordon Messenger.

General Farina also had the opportunity to meet with Vice Admiral Clive Johnstone, Commander of Allied Maritime Command, Major General Stuart Skeates, Commander, UK Joint Expeditionary Force, Rear Admiral Alex J. Burton, Commander UK Maritime Forces, and Air Vice-Marshal Gary Waterfall, Chief of Staff (Operations), Permanent Joint Force HQ.

General Farina's visit to the UK comes during a

General Farina Visits the UK

period of global unpredictability and increased strategic challenges for NATO, and was a great opportunity for the senior leaders to share their thoughts on the UK's role in supporting NATO's mission to promote security and stability. One of the main topics of discussion was the 2016 Warsaw Summit decision to establish a NATO forward presence in the eastern and southeastern parts of Alliance territory. Enhanced forward presence represents a significant commitment by Allies, and the UK's contribution as a framework nation for the multinational presence in Estonia is essential to strengthening NATO's deterrence and defence posture.

General Farina expressed his appreciation to Air Chief Marshal Peach for the UK's contribution to NATO, and specifically to JFC Brunssum, stating: "the quantity and quality of the men and women that the UK provides to JFC Brunssum has consistently been very high."

Additional topics of discussion included the UK's role in the Enhanced NRF, exercise planning and execution, the continued support to

the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan, and the role of the NATO Force Structure from an operational commander's perspective. Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach expressed his appreciation to General Farina for his role as JFC Commander, and pledged his full support to the JFC Brunssum mission.

On 7 December, General Farina participated in Exercise ARRCAD NELSON 2016, an annual conceptual study seminar held at Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC) in Innsworth, UK. During the seminar, the audience was presented with a range of views from senior leaders on rebuilding ARRC's warfighting capability as a corps. General Farina provided his perspective as a Joint Operational Commander on the role of the NATO Force Structure in the framework of enhanced forward presence and graduated response. General Farina stressed the importance of the ARRC to NATO, stating that "the NATO Force Structure is paramount to NATO's deterrence mission, from peacetime through crisis and in conflict."

07 DEC 2016



On the 07 December 2016 the inaugural DCOS Support Directorate Santa Fun Run took place within the grounds of JFC Brunssum. Raising money for a good cause and, of course,

JFC Brunssum Christmas Fun Run

the promise of a free Santa Hat, was enough to convince 55 keen and enthusiastic runners to complete a distance of approximately 4.5 KM.

The event was organised by the DCOS Spt Sports, Social & Charity Committee, but was the brainchild of Corporal Berney who was also the driving force. The event was designed to raise funds for a Bench that will be situated in a memorial garden. This will be a place for individuals to sit, reflect and remember our fallen friends and colleagues.

All participants completed the course in under

30 minutes despite some challenging inclines. An overall total of 135.10 Euros was raised for this worthwhile and deserving cause, with the bench planned to be unveiled in March 2017.

A special thanks needs to be given to our First Responder, Sergeant McConnell, and her team of marshals and volunteers, without whom the event could not have taken place. Until next year...

09 DEC 2016



Commander JFC Brunssum Christmas Staff Address

General Salvatore Farina, Commander JFC Brunssum, seized the opportunity to address his staff prior to the Christmas break, Thursday 08 December. In a thoughtful and compassionate speech the Commander ex-

pressed his appreciation for the hard work and dedication of his personnel, and the steadfast support of their families, throughout a period of increasing tempo and continued change.

VISITS AND ACTIVITIES

Focussing on the headquarters itself the General said: 'It is clear to me the 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 the Warsaw Summit, and we are ready to protect, defend and fight – wherever and whenever needed. And, since I took command in March this year, my appreciation about the

role and relevance of the Headquarters continues to increase daily.'

On completion the Commander presented commendations to: Lieutenant Colonel Jozsef Csősz, Flight Sergeant Ian Hammond, Major Miroslav Kovacik, Major Rune Kvam, Lieutenant Colonel Patrick Macnamara, Master Sergeant Miroslav Makara, Captain Fabio Mara-

goni, Mr Klaus Nielsen, Ms Kathleen Smith, Major Josef Spurny, Lieutenant Commander Owen Tudor, Lieutenant Colonel Piervincenzo Vinci, and Lieutenant Colonel Guido Ziegler. Captain Karoly Vegh and Lieutenant Colonel Christian Ritzer were unable to be present and will receive their awards at a later date.

Annual JFC Christmas Market

On Thursday 08 December, following General Farina's warm opening remarks wishing all personnel and their families a happy and enjoyable Christmas break, the annual JFC Brunssum Christmas Market opened its doors.

Convened at JFC Brunssum's International Conference Centre the 2016 edition of the Christmas Market offered guests a huge variety

of national food and drink specialties - all accompanied by excellent music in a festive atmosphere. It was clear to see this extraordinary event becomes more and more popular each year. The Christmas Market has become a central element to community life at the headquarters and is the result of good planning and broad participation. Many thanks to all who helped carry on this tradition this year.

09 DEC 2016



JFC Brunssum Forward Elements Exercise their Deployability

High Readiness Elements of JFC Brunssum deployed under the lead of Major General Ohm to the German Logistics Training School at Bremen in northern Germany 12-15 December. The Forward Coordination Element (FCE) deployed by air on a German C160 via RNLA F Eindhoven to Nordholz Sea-Airbase, while the Operational Liaison Reconnaissance Team (OLRT) deployed in tactical vehicles by road.

After executing a number of training serials at Bremen and redeploying to JFC Brunssum the whole training was deemed a success. Moreover, the training was of particular value to the newer staff officers and NCOs at JFC Brunssum to practice, test and adjust for their new deployment roles. As an interesting footnote, Nordholz Sea-Airbase has seen many military manoeuvres over the years, not least being the home for 40 Zeppelin Airships 102 years ago.

12 DEC – 15 DEC 2016



13 DEC 2017



The NATO Response Force Commanders' Conference marks the conclusion of an intense 2016 for Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFC Brunssum). The conference, attended by NATO Response Force (NRF) Commanders for 2016 and 2017 was held on Tuesday, 13 December, at JFC Brunssum.

NATO Response Force Commanders Meet at JFC Brunssum

Chaired by General Salvatore Farina, Commander JFC Brunssum, the conference was deliberately scheduled at the conclusion of the 2016 NRF cycle to discuss lessons learned throughout the past year and establish close links between next year's NRF Commanders.

The conference proved the perfect opportunity to confront some persistent challenges facing the Alliance - in particular, the joint initiative for deterrence and collective defence and their correlation with the NRF. During discussion attention inevitably focused on the 'Enhanced Forward Presence' and 'Tailored Forward Presence', initiatives designed to enhance allied security on both the north-east and south-east

flanks of member nations' territory.

During his intervention General Farina remarked how the NRF is employed throughout a 360 degree spectrum, prepared for both Article V (Collective Defence) missions and Crisis Response Operations (CROs). With regard to the latter activity the General added that this task has gained a significant interest for NATO in the south where the Alliance is about to establish a 'Hub for the South' centred on Joint Force Command Naples.

For 2017, standby command responsibility for the NRF, will be held by JFC Naples.

16 JAN 2017



Lieutenant General Alexander Storrie CBE, the Resolute Support Mission (RSM) Deputy Commander, visited JFC Brunssum today to discuss mission progress and challenges. Hosted by Commander JFC Brunssum, General Salvatore Farina, a range of topics were touched upon primarily designed to improve ways in which JFC Brunssum, the out-of-theatre operational-level supporting command for RSM, might improve/sustain its supporting function.

Background: Following the completion of the mission of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) at the end of 2014, a new, follow-on, NATO-led mission called Resolute Support was launched on 1 January 2015 to provide further training, advice and assistance for the Afghan security forces and institu-

Resolute Support Deputy Commander Visits JFC Brunssum

tions. At the NATO Summit in Warsaw, Allied leaders decided to extend the presence of RSM beyond 2016.

Some 13,000 personnel from NATO member states and partner countries are deployed in support of RSM. The mission operates with one central hub (in Kabul/Bagram) and four spokes in Mazar-e Sharif, Herat, Kandahar and Laghman.

Key functions include:

- Supporting planning, programming and budgeting;
- Assuring transparency, accountability and oversight;
- Supporting the adherence to the principles of rule of law and good governance;
- Supporting the establishment and sustenance of such processes as force generation, recruiting, training, managing and development of personnel.

In December 2015, at the foreign ministers' meeting of NATO Allies and their RSM partners, it was agreed to sustain the RSM presence, including in the regions of Afghanistan, during 2016. Six months later, in May

2016, they agreed to sustain the RSM presence beyond 2016.

The legal framework for RSM is provided by a Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), which was signed in Kabul on 30 September 2014 by the Afghan President and NATO's Senior Civilian Representative to Afghanistan, and later ratified by the Afghan Parliament on 27 November 2014. The SOFA defines the terms and conditions under which NATO forces will be deployed in Afghanistan as part of RSM, as well as the activities that they are set to carry out under this agreement.

The United Nations Security Council welcomed RSM with the unanimous adoption on 12 December 2014 of Resolution 2189, which underscores the importance of continued international support for the stability of Afghanistan.

Beyond the training, advice and assistance mission, Allies and partner countries are committed to the broader international community's support for the long-term financial sustainment of the Afghan security forces until the end of 2020.



HELLENIC ARMED FORCES IN PEACE SUPPORT ACTIVITIES

Composed By: Colonel Athanasios Pegiadis (GRC A)-



Greece, as a full member of NATO, the EU, OSCE, and other International and Regional initiatives, participates in Peace Support Activities, giving particular emphasis on those occurring in regions of immediate national interest, such as the Balkans and the broader area of the Middle East, as well as Greece's area of strategic interest including the Eastern Mediterranean, the Transcaucasia, and other areas. Greece's participation to Peace Support Activities is dependent on international developments and on the degree by which those developments affect Greek national interests.

Greece firmly supports the notion that the UN have the major and primary role for safekeeping global peace and security and for mediating the peaceful resolution of disputes, based on the principles of inter-

national law and through the contribution of competent international bodies.

From 1945 to 1990, the United Nations had always had, with rare exceptions, the exclusive and direct responsibility and authority over peace support operations. In order to deal with all regional conflicts and crises, the UN developed an extensive network of International Observers and light military units with limited responsibilities over conflict prevention or resolution. Until the early 80s Greece's contribution was limited to small numbers of observers and company-level military units, with some rare exceptions e.g. the Korean War.

In the late 80s the international environment was unstable and fragile. Consequently the need for the UN to act decisively increased, while other regional organizations such as the EU, OSCE, and NATO, emerged as significant and, sometimes, crucial sup-

porters of international stability. The end of the Cold War, despite hopes and aspirations did not, in itself, resolve instability challenges on a global scale. The deployment of unarmed observers to various parts of the world where conflicts were taking place, where local conflicting parties had no intention to seek peaceful resolution, resulted in the creation and development, by the UN, NATO and EU, of the doctrine for Imposing Peace. The objective being to persuade or force conflicting parties to settle their differences peacefully.

Hellenic participation in Peace Support Activities is subject to certain fundamental conditions. These include: the existence of a Resolution or a Mandate of the UN; a clear definition of the chain of command; agreement upon the size of the force to be deployed to the area of operations; and, the establishment of clear Rules of Engagement.



Greece participates in Peace Support Activities by offering personnel, units and/or assets from all three domains of the Armed Forces, in support of UN activities, as authorized by Security Council Resolutions. This is a clear declaration of Greece's respect of international law and order.

Operations that Greece participates in follow:

- EU Operation "EUNAVFOR ATALANTA" participating from the beginning until today in support of international counter-piracy efforts in the open waters off the coast of Somalia (the horn of Africa).
- UN Operation UNIFIL – beyond Lebanese territorial waters to intercept the smugglers of armament and war material to Lebanon.
- EU Operation "EUFOR ALTHEA" – in

Bosnia-Herzegovina to create deterrence and support compliance with the DAYTON peace agreement.

- Operation Kosovo Force (KFOR) ("Deterrent Presence" and "Air Policing For Albania") - within the framework of the implementation of Operation "Joint Guardian" to support the build-up of peace and stability in the Balkans.
- Resolute Support Mission (RSM) – to assist the Afghan government in the reconstruction, development and stabilization of Afghanistan by offering humanitarian aid and building infrastructure.
- NATO Operation Active Endeavour - in support of the international counter-terrorism campaign in the Mediterranean Sea by contributing to Standing NATO Maritime Group 2 (SNMG 2) with assets and infrastructure (frigates, gunboats,

submarines, transport aircraft, Crete naval base).

- EU Operation "EUTM MALI" – in support of training the armed forces of Mali under the framework of the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP).

Participation of the Hellenic Armed Forces in Peace Support Operations, particularly in the last 20 years, has proved their ability for fast and efficient adaptation to new operational requirements and challenges. Carrying the Greek flag to distant countries is the best evidence of the Greek people's steadfast support to the ideals of justice, peace and respect for human life.



REMEMBRANCE OF A BATTLE OF THE “EIGHTY YEARS WAR”

Composed By: Lieutenant General Fernando Alejandro (ESP A)



If you visit the Rijkswijk Museum in Amsterdam you will learn from some of the engravings on the walls about a “miracle” that happened on the island of Bommel (north of ‘s-Hertogenbosch) in December 1585, during the ‘Eighty Years War’.

The “miracle” prevented one of the Spanish Infantry Tercios (Regiment sized Units) from being decimated by the so called “rebels” that encircled them, with forces far superior in number in the vicinity of a little village called Empel.

As is well known, King Phillip II of Spain was the son of Emperor Charles (born in Ghent) and member of the House of Habsburg, and so he was the King of most of Germany and all the Low Countries. Indeed, it was Philip himself who, in 1566, was forced to send Spanish troops to fight the rebels that stormed his Royal Palace in Brussels.

The King instructed the Duke of Alba to “go to my dear territories in Flanders and restore order” and so the old General sailed to Genoa and, from there, using what at that time was called the “Spanish Road”, walked through Spanish territories in northern Italy, and through those in eastern France, to arrive in Brussels in 1568 with four elite Regiments, the so called Tercios, totaling approximately ten thousand Spanish infantry soldiers.

Seventeen years later, in the summer of 1585, one of the Duke’s successors as Governor of the Low Countries, Don Alejandro Farnesio, expelled the rebels from Antwerpen first and then sent his Army north to Den Bosch (known in Spanish as Bolduque) with the intent of crossing the river Maas and then, to take the coast north of Rotterdam and attack the Dutch Navy. Don Francisco Arias de Bobadilla, commander of his own Tercio reinforced by those of Iñiguez and Mondragón, was the spearhead of that Army under the command of the Count of Mansfeld.

At the end of November, from his Command Post at Den Bosch, the Count of Mansfeld ordered Bobadilla to cross the river and to occupy the island of Bommel, breaking the rebel line of defense located in that sector on the northern banks of the River Maas.

Upstream of the river there were some dykes under rebel control with more than one hundred rebel ships guarding them. When the rebel commander, Philip of Hohenlohe (known in Spain as Admiral Holak), found that the Spaniards were on the island, he broke the dykes leaving the Spanish infantry in small pockets on high ground completely isolated, unable to get reinforcements and surrounded by a large number of rebel troops embarked with plenty of artillery at their disposal.

Having being isolated for a number of days and unable to receive support from Den Bosch, almost 1500 Spanish infantrymen in the area close to Empel on the southern



bank of the river were preparing their final blow against forces far superior in number.

On December 6th, Bobadilla ordered the occupation of mounds around Empel with three Infantry Companies commanded by Captain Villoslada, Captain Valencia and Captain Hernáñgomez. That same morning reserve forces lead by Juan del Águila and his Tercio tried to reach Empel but the flooded fields impeded their advance and they were forced to retreat to Den Bosch.

It was then when Bobadilla, on December 7th, had ordered the necessary trenches to be dug in preparation for a one-sided battle that the rebel commander sent him a proposal for surrender. Bobadilla replied "Spaniards, Excellency, prefer death to dishonor; we can talk about capitulation after we are dead". Then he gathered his Captains and stated: "Pray to God and make sure your men are ready for martyrdom".

It was shortly after this that, in his own

trench a soldier found a buried piece of wood with an engraving of the Immaculate Virgin Mary, Mother of God. Upon the news, Bobadilla ordered the image to be taken in procession to the church of Empel witnessing how soldier's prayers had boosted their morale.

On the next morning, December 8th, around 2 a.m., temperatures dropped well below zero, freezing the surrounding water except in the middle of the river. Running over the ice in their famous attack formation, Captain Cristóbal de Lechuga and 40 of his men attacked by surprise a position occupied by the rebels causing panic among the ranks of Dutch troops, who tried to reach the river in their boats. The panic rose as the Dutch boats and men found themselves trapped by the ice and dangerously exposed to the Spanish who dominated higher ground. Only a few dozen rebel ships escaped. Most of the galleys, trapped in the ice, were attacked by the Tercios causing Hohenlohe to famously state "... it seems that God is

Spanish..."

In commemoration of this event the poet wrote:

"And at the feet of the Immaculate Mother, sea frozen, sword triumphed and her beloved Infantry was saved." Every year your Spanish colleagues at JFC Brunssum (see pictures) with the help of their friends at Eindhoven, Geilenkirchen, Brussels, Mons, and even Strasbourg, commemorate and celebrate this 'miracle' with a religious service, some military songs and a day of military comradeship. Most recently, on 4th of December 2016, we also presented a painting to the Church of Empel.



UNIQUE HANGAR COMPLEX BUILT IN PÁPA, HUNGARY

Composed By: Péter Snoj (HUN C)



The final piece the hangar complex of the Heavy Airlift Wing (HAW), stationed at Pápa Air Base, Hungary, was inaugurated in a ceremony held on 17 November 2016. Ordinarily this might be a routine event but this facility is unique.

Coordinated by the NATO Airlift Management Program Office (NAMPO), the project started in 2015 after a three-year planning process. Construction progressed on schedule, thus allowing Heavy Airlift Wing personnel to occupy office spaces, as well as supply, maintenance and interim cargo facilities, in a timely manner. The project, totaling around HUF 9.5 billion, has been completed, and the newly inaugurated hangar is now a unique structure, not only in Europe, but in the world.

Speaking at the ceremony, Heavy Airlift Wing Commander, Colonel Trevor W. Nitz, informed that the hangar is one of a kind. There is no other C-17 specifically-built hangar in the world that has the capabilities embraced by this hangar. The hangar enables HAW personnel to do year-round maintenance irrespective of weather con-

ditions. It also has the ability to act as a wash rack so that aircraft and engines can be washed inside; other activities such as painting and fuel cell maintenance can also be undertaken. It is the ability to conduct these four functions in one facility that makes the hangar unique. Even on US air bases, where the C-17s have – in the past – flown for the annual Home Station Checks, one will find separate facilities enabling the conduct of these functions.

“The facility is optimized for the tasks we want to do carry out in order to keep the aircraft serviceable. Everybody is close together, we have offices arranged in such a way that people who have to work together are close together in one office. The biggest benefit from the financial perspective is that from now on we don’t have to fly the planes annually to the United States for essential maintenance, because we can do that here in Pápa. That is a big efficiency improvement for the program that the nations will benefit from”, said Wiek Noldus, the program manager at the NATO Airlift Management Program Office.

In his speech, NATO’s Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Defence Investment,

Ernest J. Herold, emphasized that the newly inaugurated complex is extremely important in that it helps improve Alliance response to emerging security threats to NATO member countries. He added that, in accordance with current plans, the Strategic Airlift Capability (SAC) will continue operating at Pápa Air Base, in Hungary, until at least 2038.

The ceremony was also attended by Dr. László Firicz, the host nation’s Administrative State Secretary at the Ministry of Defence and Hungary’s Deputy Chief of Defence, Lieutenant General Dr. Zoltán Orosz.



Photos by the author



NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL VISITS JFC BRUNSSUM

Composed By: Andries Bosma (NLD C)



On Monday 28 November 2016, the North Atlantic Council (NAC), chaired by NATO Deputy Secretary General Rose Gottemoeller, visited the Allied Joint Force Command in Brunssum (Netherlands), as part of a combined visit to include the nearby NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Force Headquarters, located in Geilenkirchen (Germany).

General Salvatore Farina, Commander JFC Brunssum, provided the members of NATO's principal political decision-making body with an overview of the Headquarters' core missions and priorities and answered questions on relevant topics. In particular, the discussion focused on the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, Defence and Deterrence and enhanced Forward Presence.

JFC Brunssum is a key asset in leading the Alliance's missions and operations and represents a hub of expertise at the operational level within the Allied Command Operations (ACO), which has strategic responsibility over all of the NATO-led missions, operations, and activities.

Currently providing 'out-of-theatre' command and control to the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan, General Farina underlined how "we need to achieve our objectives step by step in or-

der to improve the Afghans' capabilities", having in mind that this "won't be a quick process because the situation is complex and continuously evolving, but we should remain consistent and lead the insurgents to stop thinking they could ever win, and therefore consider a rapprochement with the Afghan authorities."

With regards to Defence and Deterrence, General Farina stated that his staff and himself are committed to providing the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) with "the most possible options and tools to choose in order to deter any aggressive stance effectively" and allow NATO to be flexible.

JFC Brunssum is one of the two standby Joint Force commands, ready to be nominated by SACEUR to command and control NATO operations. It contributes to the rotation of the enhanced NATO Response Force (NRF) – which includes the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) – as a deployable Joint Task Force Headquarters.

General Farina continued, saying that at Brunssum "we are looking at threats from a 360 degrees perspective, and we should maintain this posture with respect to the North and the East, as well as to the Southern flank, which is currently dealing with a wide range of risks and threats."

He added that he believes JFC Brunssum to be "the best place to address the jointness of deterrence, which is the result of a

combination of all components and commands – land, maritime and air."

The topic of NATO's enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) was highlighted as further confirmation of NATO's solidarity and determination to defend its territory against any possible aggression, with the deployment of four robust multinational battalions to the eastern part of Alliance territory in early 2017 as a response to the changed security environment. For General Farina the concept of eFP is based on the defensive nature of the battlegroups: "we don't want to escalate, therefore we need to control and coordinate daily throughout the whole chain of command, until the last man on the field" and in this process "political control is paramount."

JFC Brunssum also plays a key role in connecting the Alliance's command structure with national headquarters in Allied countries. Its leadership has been crucial for the integration of the Alliance's Multinational Corps Northeast in Poland and of the NATO Force Integration Units in Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

On completion of the visit the Deputy Secretary General, Rose Gottemoeller, thanked commander JFC Brunssum for the rich discussions



STRONG RELATIONSHIPS: INFORMATION SHARING AND COORDINATION IN SUPPORT OF THE ALLIANCE

Composed By: Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Camp, NATO Force Integration Unit, Lithuania (USA A)



Russian employment of hybrid warfare in the Crimean Peninsula signaled a major shift in the threat to NATO's eastern flank nations. For the first time in over twenty years, the Alliance found itself facing the problem of establishing a credible deterrent against aggression from the east, a problem complicated by reduction of available forces, lack of infrastructure and agreements to facilitate their deployment, and restrictions to their employment created by the very nature of hybrid warfare itself. Mitigation of these challenges requires NATO forces and their host nation counterparts be agile and interoperable, able to prevent the use of overt military force to culminate a hybrid campaign. In this regard, meaningful information sharing and coordination between allies is essential to maintain a credible deterrent against violation of the sovereignty of a NATO member state and further escalation of a hybrid conflict.

Before any discussion of a deterrent to hy-

brid warfare, it is important to first consider the Russian perspective. Hybrid warfare, as described by Andrew Korybko, is conceptualized by Russian strategists as a western effort, directed against Russian allies and interests. In contrast, the Russian concept which best fits the NATO definition of hybrid warfare is "non-linear warfare", as embodied in the Gerasimov Doctrine. Gen. Valery Gerasimov's concept was published in 2013, immediately prior to intervention in Crimea. In short, Gerasimov envisions employment of all elements of national power in an ongoing, globally integrated design to achieve a desired national end state, particularly in the "near abroad" - those nations which share political, ethnic, social, or strategic ties with Russia. Perhaps most importantly, Gerasimov notes the importance of a population susceptible to Russian influence to allow conditions to be set for infiltration, covert intervention and, subsequently, overt Russian intervention to culminate a hybrid campaign in a targeted nation.

The ongoing nature of non-linear warfare necessitates that Russian efforts to set conditions for intervention in the near

abroad using diplomatic, information, and economic means - indeed, all elements of national power short of overt military force - are already underway. It is particularly important to note Russian efforts to set conditions prior to overt intervention take place in peacetime and may be difficult, at best, to identify and counter. These manifest themselves as internal security and stability concerns for the targeted nation, often not of military concern. Overt Russian military intervention in the targeted nation can take place immediately when required conditions are met and may be highly opportunistic in nature.

The Gerasimov Doctrine also draws heavily upon Russian observations of U.S. and NATO operations since 1990. In a potential conflict, Russia will no longer allow NATO the advantage of time, present NATO with easy decisions, allow NATO to build up overwhelming forces or, if the conflict escalates, allow NATO to fight without losses. Russian efforts - as previously discussed, already ongoing - seek to drive a wedge between the targeted nation and neighbors, between the targeted nation and NATO, and between members of the Alliance.





Prior to and during intervention in a targeted nation, Russia will almost certainly seek to delay Alliance decision making and commitment and, if necessary, to delay or prevent build-up and deployment of NATO deterrence forces or reinforcements. Although the latter brings with it a significant risk of NATO Article 5 escalation, Russia's potential anti-access / area-denial capabilities are virtually unquestioned, particularly in the Baltic States. When combined with the difficulty of identifying a hybrid threat, likely Russian actions leave only a very narrow time frame for the targeted nation and NATO to identify and respond to a hybrid threat.

The initial NATO response to the emerging requirement to deter and counter hybrid warfare emerged from the 2014 Wales Summit and was refined at the 2016 Warsaw Summit. The NATO Readiness Action Plan (RAP) and supporting assurance and adaptation measures acknowledge significant changes to the European security environment and NATO force posture over the past twenty years. NATO forward deployed forces and member nation military forces as a whole, are significantly reduced.

The NATO response is further complicated by a need to avoid escalation due to Russian concerns regarding permanent NATO presence in eastern flank nations. These changes make permanent deployment of a permanent deterrence force above battalion strength in each eastern flank nation a near impossibility.

The resulting RAP deterrent consists of a permanently established NATO Force Integration Unit in each eastern flank nation to coordinate deployment of NATO deterrence forces or reinforcements; a rotational enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) battalion in each eastern flank nation, integrated with national defense forces, to provide a permanent deterrent; and a reinforced brigade-size Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF), sourced on a rotational basis from NATO member nations and ready to deploy on short notice, usually under Article 4 of the NATO treaty, to a threatened NATO member nation or region. The NFIUs, eFPs, and VJTF are intended to provide a flexible and scalable deterrent within the constraints and limitations noted previously.

It is important to remember the forces organized under the RAP are, above all, a deterrent to aggression. They cannot be expected to defeat a conventional invasion of an eastern flank nation. Even assuming the entirety of the VJTF were deployed to a single Baltic State, the combination of national defence forces, eFP, and VJTF would be challenged to do little more than delay a full-scale offensive carried out from Russia's Western Military District. Their true value lies in the threat of Article 5 escalation they present. Although small enough to avoid a reasonable perception of western aggression, they are nonetheless large enough to present Russian planners with significant risk. A conventional invasion of an eastern flank nation - or even limited overt intervention to culminate a hybrid campaign - must contend with the presence of NATO forces. By removing the option of overt intervention from the Russian planning menu, RAP forces can provide the threatened nation with time to contend with the internal security and stability concerns of a hybrid threat.



NEW ACRONYMS ON THE HORIZON

Composed By: Lieutenant Commander Piotr Wojtas (POL N)



All those who ever laid eyes on any military document know it rarely needs any classification to be a “secret”. It simply is too complicated to read because of all the acronyms that appear inside. Sometime you may even say there are not enough plain words to make heads and tails out of the content. This year the “acronym business” will bloom even more to introduce us to some new entities and exercises. So while NFIUs (called also “Ni-fews”, “Nephews”, or simply “those small logistical units in Poland and Three-Bee’s”) are

synchronized quite well into our daily business by now, some new tongue-twisters are already visible on NATO’s acronyms horizon.

2017 will be yet another step in NATO’s adaptation to new and emerging threats; eFP and MND-NE will be known as the brightest shining stars on that stage in the North Eastern part of the Alliance.

The easiest way to explain the role of eFP is to realize that “NATO is Capability”, and enhanced Forward Presence is a representation of that capability in Eastern Europe. This visual representation of the decision taken

by the Heads of States during 2016 NATO Summit in Poland comprises over 4 000 soldiers. By mid-2017 battalions from Germany, Canada, the United Kingdom and United States, accompanied by soldiers from other contributing nations, will settle in Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia and Poland forming, in each of those countries, robust multinational Battle Groups under the NATO flag. The deployment of a German advance party on 23 January 2017 marked the beginning of the whole process, and the other Battle Groups will gradually follow.

Further down the NATO timeline we



will also see another “Forward Presence” activity – this time it will be “tailored Forward Presence” (tFP) which will apply appropriate measures, tailored to the Black Sea region, and including the Romanian initiative to establish a multinational framework brigade to help improve integrated training of Allied units under Multinational Division South-east (MND SE). This project will contribute to the Alliance’s strengthened deterrence, defence posture and situational awareness; by doing so it will provide a strong signal of support to regional security.

All in all, both the Enhanced For-

ward Presence and Tailored Forward Presence will see the permanent deployment of soldiers and their (also heavy) equipment into the Eastern part of Europe which will concomitantly send a strong solidarity signal and legitimize NATO’s determination to safeguard its territorial integrity.

The Warsaw Summit also gave us Multinational Division North-East (MND-NE) – the headquarters that will be a high readiness multinational entity responsible for coordination of all eFP activity in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. The Polish Division 16th Pomeranian Mechanized Division, located in Elblag, has al-

ready commenced preparations for its upgrade with numerous countries contributing to the overall effort. Current plans for development and functionality of this Divisional Headquarters assumes it will be fit to take over synchronization of the eFP effort on the tactical level and will be also one of the elements in the NATO Force Structure.

Throughout the coming months we will see how well these new structures (and acronyms) will blend into the overall picture of NATO’s constant adaptation.





THE FRENCH ARMED FORCES CONTRIBUTION TO EUROPEAN DEFENCE

Composed By: Brigadier General Claude Goudeau (FRA A)

You might be surprised to learn that, on a daily basis, 30,000+ members of the French Armed Forces participate in more than 25 operations in France, overseas French territories and other parts of the world as directed by the French Government.

Today 80% of conflict areas are located less than six hours flying time from Paris. The impact of this geo-strategic fact is that the French Armed Forces are often deployed out of area and are not only employed to defend the French heartland. However, they are always utilized in the 'national interest'. For example, by contributing to the neu-

tralization of terrorist networks, they are not only contributing to the protection of French compatriots, but to the broader defence of the European continent.

Which reasons preside over this operational deployment of French troops?

Two main reasons led to the current operational deployment of the French Armed Forces: on the one hand, radical Islamic terrorism hits indistinctively, including in the heart of western countries, as illustrated by the recent terror attacks in Europe and in the US; on the other hand, a few countries reinstated themselves as 'big powers' relying on a force ratio and 'fait accompli' strat-

egy with the objective of increasing their influence through political and security domains. This development promotes a major risk of world destabilization that France cannot ignore or underestimate.

In order to successfully tackle such threats, France needs to put together three factors: means, will and commitment. In other words, it is a question of being able to act, of wanting to act, and of acting.

- "To be able to" means to cover the whole spectrum of military capabilities, to face every kind of threat. To achieve this, France must raise its defence budget to 2% of its GDP – a long-

standing agreement of all NATO member nations that was recommitted to at the Alliance's 2014 Summit in Wales.

- 'To want' requires a political will, shared and supplemented by all national institutions. Military action is only a part of the answer to crisis; it is necessary but not wholly sufficient. Only a comprehensive approach can bring the underlying causes of violence to an end.

- 'To act' against the multiplicity of crisis is illustrated by the unprecedented level of deployment of the French Armed Forces, overseas as well as on French soil.

What are the current operational commitments of the French Armed Forces?

Overseas Operations

In the Levant, the French Armed Forces contribute to the fight against Da'esh, alongside local forces supported by the international coalition. In the frame of its Operation DAMAN, France contributes to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). In the same way, through its Operation CHAMMAL, France is an important contributor to Operation INHERENT RESOLVE (OIR). In OIR France has deployed an airborne component that is conducting air strike and reconnaissance missions, and a field artillery component (Wagram Task Force) that is providing fire support for the protection of the Qayyarah-West airbase, as well as conducting operations to secure the Sharqat region. Additionally, France provides training to the Iraqi Security Forces.

In Sahel, Operation BARKHANE, backed by the United Nations Multi-dimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) and by the European Union Training Mission (EUTM), aims to prevent terrorist groups affiliated to Al Qaida from operating in the region and from recreating their lairs.

In the Gulf of Guinea, a French naval detachment, incorporating an air mobile capability, is responsible for:

- Supporting ongoing operations in the region;
- Contributing to any relief missions for the local populace and/or the evacuation of nationals;
- Participating in bilateral coop-

eration activities with regional countries.

In that same perspective, France must contribute to deter any aggression against its territory or against its NATO and EU partners. This objective is achieved through French participation in the NATO Baltic Air Policing mission in Lithuania, in the frame of SACEUR's Assurance Measures that are being undertaken in Eastern Europe following Russia's illegal occupation of the Crimea. For the same reason, starting in 2017, France will take part in the Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) initiative in Estonia, as agreed during the Warsaw Summit, in July 2016.

Troops contributing to defence agreements

Against the backdrop of its defence agreements with different countries, France has troops deployed permanently to:

- Three Forward Operational Bases (FOBs) comprising 650 troops in the United Arab Emirates, 1450 in Djibouti, and 900 in the Ivory Coast. These FOBs are supporting security-related activities along both African coasts, as well as providing pools of forces for rapid deployment in case of crisis;

- Two Operational Cooperation Centres comprising 350 troops in Senegal and 350 in Gabon, designed to support the African States in the reinforcement of their security, hence contributing to the projection of stability in the region.

Troops contributing to national sovereignty

These troops are responsible for protecting national territory overseas. They do this by defending the national sovereignty of French territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone by supporting the legal activities of the French administration in French overseas territories. In parallel they often implement projects that encourage bilateral military cooperation. These units comprise more than 7,000 troops organized along three 'theatres' as follows:

- The Caribbean Theatre is a strategic stakeholder due to the pres-

ence of a Space Centre in French Guyana and the robust international illegal trafficking networks in the region. The deployed French Armed Forces comprise 1,000 troops in the Caribbean (FAA) and 2,100 in Guyana (FAG);

- The Pacific Ocean Theatre is a regional cooperation space in which France plays a political and military role through its presence in New Caledonia, in the Polynesian archipelago, and Wallis-and-Futuna. The deployed French Armed Forces comprise 1,450 troops in New Caledonia (FANC) and 900 in French Polynesia (FAPF);

- In the Indian Ocean Theatre, with La Reunion and the Mayotte Islands, as well as the French Southern and Antarctic Lands, there are strategic maritime and economic zones. The forces deployed are primarily dedicated to security and freedom of navigation, to the fight against piracy, and against human trafficking. The French Armed Forces operating in this theatre comprise 1,600 troops (FAZSOI).

Operation SENTINELLE (SENTINEL)

Operation SENTINELLE is the commitment of joint forces in support of the local law enforcement forces (police and gendarmerie) to increase the protection of the French people and the security of the most sensitive sites in Paris, in the provinces, and overseas.

Operation SENTINELLE has been maintained at its highest force level (as authorized by the French Government) with 10,000 soldiers actively participating, including 3,000 as a reserve force. Reactive, adaptable and dynamic, it can respond to the needs expressed by the national authorities through formal requisitions. Dynamic patrols allow an optimization of the use of armed forces enabling the coverage of larger surveillance areas and a more reactive response than would normally be available.

All these simultaneous operational activities create a temporary overstretching feeling that the ongoing adjustment of the French Armed Forces to their increased manning, as decided by the French Government, will help to mitigate.



DUTCH NATIONAL RESERVE CORPS COMPANY AT THE JFC BRUNSSUM SITE

Composed by: Company Sergeant Major (OR-7) Rick van Bakel (NLD A)



As part of the Royal Dutch Army (RDA) the National Reserve Corps (Natres) protects and secures the territory of the Netherlands. Our Corps consists of approximately 3,000 reservists. The tasks of the National Reserve Corps comprise:

- Guarding and protection of vital buildings and important locations in the Netherlands;
- Military assistance to disaster relief;
- Military assistance to the maintenance of public order and safety;
- Supporting National Reserve Corps brigades during large-scale exercises;
- Providing assistance to military convoys in the Netherlands;
- Supporting military units during departure or return from deployments;
- Providing military assistance during major events;
- Ceremonial activities.

Also our reservists are frequently individually deployed (on a voluntary base) for:

- Duties on army missions abroad;
- Temporary duties in the Netherlands to replace regular army personnel who are sent on missions;

- Special projects based on a combination of military and civil expertise.

The National Reserve Corps comprises 3 battalions: 10 Bn/43 Mech Bde Havelte; 20 Bn/11 AASLT Bde Schaarsbergen; and 30 Bn/13 Lt Bde Oirschot. The units of 30 Bn are regionally located: 'A' Coy at Naval Barracks Vlissingen; 'B' Coy at RDA Barracks Breda; 'C' Coy and Bn Staff at RDA Barracks Oirschot; 'E' Coy at RDA Barracks Vredepeel; and 'D' Coy as of 1 January 2014 stationed at the site of JFC HQ Brunssum.

Probably you've seen us before without knowing. For example the armed support at the main gate that we have provided since September 2016 and which we will continue to provide until relieved at the end of March 2017.

At full strength our Company counts 152 infantrymen and woman, all volunteers, who contribute to the security in their region. In daily life most of them have a civilian job or are students. During the working week (evenings) and at weekends (Saturdays) a training and exercise program is conducted. The result is that our highly motivated men and woman are

professionally trained to do their jobs and, if they wish, have the opportunity to make a career of the military as a commissioned officer, NCO or specialist. Education and training take place on the base (JFC HQ and the NATO Industrial Complex), the region and the shooting ranges and education centers of the Royal Dutch Army.

Our Company is housed in the former CDC building H-501 and consists of 4 Platoons led by Lieutenants (OF-1) and is commanded by a Captain (OF-2).

Although not directly connected to NATO we have received a very hearty welcome at JFC Brunssum where we closely work with several Branches. Of course, our men and woman all live in the Province of Limburg and are familiar with JFC Brunssum over many years and that inevitably results in a special bond. If you need our help or would like to visit us please call 2410 or 0031-613952074.

8TH CROATIAN INTERNATIONAL SENIOR NCO LEADERSHIP COURSE

Composed By: Master Sergeant Adriano Grosso (DEU A)



The annual International Senior Non Commissioned Officers (SNCOs) - Leadership Summer Camp took place in Croatia for the 8th time from 1st to 10th September 2016. However, this time it was transferred from the previous venue in Split to the beautiful island of Mali Losinje; without doubt, one of the most beautiful places in the country. The military base itself - called 'Kovcanje' - is located in a lovely cove which was great for a daily swim.

Having settled into our apartments, the first event was the evening ice-breaker. Thanks to our friendly Croatian hosts and their delicious food and drink, the very warm atmosphere literally melted any kind of restraint. First acquaintances completed successfully, a perfect foundation was laid.

After some administrative issues were dealt with there were some short presentations from our special guests. A US Army General, Command Sergeant Majors (CSMs) and Command Senior Enlisted Leaders (CSELs) from all participating countries and HQs had been invited as mentors and asked to give short briefings about their experiences and leadership insight.

I was slightly surprised but also reassured to see that, despite coming from a variety of NATO country's with vastly different experiences, all the students agreed on the professional and personal qualities required of an NCO. As the various challenges, lessons and activities evolved, the international team of NCOs, the 'backbone' of any Army, strengthened among this multicultural band. We were regularly finding optimized solutions for the given tasks. We learnt a lot about communications, both in lessons and in practice i.e. how our words can be misunderstood or mean

different things to different cultures. We learned the importance of reading between the lines, observing body language, and understanding the significance of what had not been said, etc.

We had great hosts, saw amazing countryside, interacted with open minded people and enjoyed the exciting history of our host nation. Our hosts honoured us by presenting our course certificates on top of the biggest Croatian castle, and symbol of Croatian liberation, in Knin - I felt very proud to be a part of the NCO corps.

I can without a doubt recommend these courses. They enlarge your personal horizon and, especially with regard to multinational military surroundings, they help the participant become a more professional NCO and a better international comrade.



PROJECT "EXTEND H-106" EDGES CLOSER TO COMPLETION

Composed By: Andries Bosma (NLD C)



Thursday 19 January 2017, all JFC Brunssum staff had the opportunity to have a look inside the new wing, which is currently under construction. Visitors saw for themselves that we are steadily approaching completion and hope to have everything up and running before the grand opening planned for 31st May 2017.

The project was created to meet the requirement for additional office space to cope with the additional Peace Establishment (PE) positions allocated to us in 2012 and to enhance the HQ entrance. Both objectives were amalgamated into one project to save costs and to reduce impact on JFC Brunssum operations. The project includes the construction of a new wing, providing 2,015 m² of office space, a new staff restaurant, a new VIP

entrance as well as renovation works in the existing building to enhance the entrance area and to realize sufficient unclassified conference facilities.

Before the ground breaking ceremony on 14th March 2016 by JFC Brunssum Chief of Staff (COS), Lieutenant General Adamczak, the contractor rerouted cables and lines and excavated the construction pit to the appropriate depth, carrying away over 250 trucks of soil. At the ground breaking ceremony COS drilled one of the 134 piles into the ground. Afterwards the contractor poured 350 m³ concrete to construct the foundation beams, using 33,125 kg of reinforcing steel for added strength.

In between those beams the technical lines and cables were installed and a concrete floor has been laid above. Meanwhile demolition works started

in the existing part of the building, including the old main entrance and Miners restaurant. All activities were separated from NATO daily operations by temporary closed walls.

The new construction continued very quickly by installing 45 prefabricated concrete walls from 9 tons to 16 tons, 118 prefabricated columns of 2.3 tons a piece, and 66 steel beams with a weight of 4.5 tons each. These materials were assembled using cranes of 50 to 400 ton capacity. As we progressed we were sometimes surprised by the construction of existing parts of the building which forced us to adapt. Thus, on occasion, we had to adjust our plans for the steel construction of the adjustments to the original building and this led to delays because the long delivery times for construction steel.





In August 2016 the road around the new wing was reconstructed and contractor continued with further landscaping works in front and around the site. The HQ is going to be represented to the outside world (when viewed from Akkerstraat) by a new configuration of flag poles that incorporates sufficient space to add new member states' flags.

Adjustments to the original building are also well underway. First, the new conference area is constructed; this will be followed by changes to the entrance area where a new guard post, in a better position, will soon be completed. The existing building has been connected to the new wing by 3 bridges, a corridor, and a canopy over the route to the main entrance.

Before and during the period of construction several Working Groups

(WGs) have been established to discuss best use of the new wing. Amongst other things we sat together to discuss: technical details, security, safety, CIS installations, furniture, design details, landscaping, etc.

With the building reaching completion in two months from now, we were happy to organize a moment with the contractor to invite all JFC Brunssum staff for a tour of the new facility in order to gain a first impression. We hope that all interested had a chance to take this opportunity, because safety doesn't allow access as long as construction is ongoing. Currently we expect the contractor to conduct a technical hand over of the new wing at the beginning of March and complete the renovation works in the existing building in the middle of May. We need some time prior to the opening on 31st of May to install electrical con-

nectivity and to provide furniture.

From the summer of this year we will have suitably equipped and sized working areas for all staff in the JFC Brunssum PE; this will be supplemented by additional office space reserved for augmented staff during operations, exercises, and training serials. The HQ façade will then be modernised at no extra costs and the restaurant will be constructed / refurbished to modern standards. The conference facilities also be modernised to facilitate the hosting of non-classified conferences with external participants and / or the media. The new facility should significantly enhance JFC Brunssum's ability to conduct its tasking.



WINTER IN HOLLAND – HOW THE “ELFSTEDENTOCHT” FEVER AFFECTS EVERY DUTCHMAN.

Composed By: Ed Frieser (NLD C)



Winter has arrived in the Netherlands. And, when one is stationed in The Netherlands, one of the first thoughts that might cross your mind is a winter scene with Dutchmen skating on frozen canals - as depicted in classical Dutch paintings. Now where does this image come from? Is it only because of the classic Dutch painters that created these typical Dutch winter sceneries?

Average winter temperatures in The Netherlands range from 2 degrees Celsius (36 degrees Fahrenheit) in January to 20 degrees Celsius (68 degrees Fahrenheit) in July. The Netherlands has a moderate climate with mild winters and summers due to its proximity to the sea. Still, this Dutch winter image exists and encourages you believe that skates are the second Dutch mode of transport in addition to the bicycle. But it is only during a few weeks you might experience these wintry conditions. Just long enough to freeze the canals with an ice pack sufficiently strong to carry the weight of thousands of skating-lovers. The Dutch are certainly eager to experience good cold and severe winters, with pea soup, hot chocolate milk and a Dutch

brandy to keep them warm. But winters in The Netherlands can still be severe enough.

In 2011 temperatures dropped to minus 20 degrees Celsius! But, importantly, not long enough to create an ice pack of 15 centimetres - that is the necessary depth to carry the weight of 16,000 skaters participating in the well known 11 cities skating tour or “Elfstedentocht” in the province of Friesland; skating the frozen Frisian lakes and canals with a finish at the “Bonkevaart” near Leeuwarden, after 200 km’s! A monster tour prepared, when conditions allow, by the Royal Society “De Friesche Elf Steden” founded 15 January 1909. However, since 1909 the “Mother of all skate tours” only took place 15 times - six in the month of January, eight in February and one in December! The last time it was held was in 1997. Will we have one this year? This is a question many Dutchmen, suffering from the Elfstedentocht-fever that starts as soon as frost is apparent, are asking themselves.

Is that the reason for this winter image? Perhaps - reinforced by the Dutch performing so well in speed skating competitions such as the recent 2017 European All-round Speed Skating Championships at

Thialf, Heerenveen in Friesland. Or is it the thousands of spectators in orange cheering and singing for each skater, Dutch or not, pictures of which are televised live and worldwide. It is one big fest. Or is it perhaps the high tech research and development from the University of Delft that designed and developed a super skin suit. Or the very sophisticated clap skate or “Klapschaats” developed at the University of Amsterdam generating a torrent of world records and now in use by all international professional speed skaters. Whatever the reasons might be, the Netherlands is associated with winter and skating, preferably on frozen canals.

If this year is not one of those long cold winters allowing you to skate on the canals, you can always go to one of the many outdoor skating rinks in The Netherlands. The nearest one being the Glanerbrook rink in Geleen. Give it a try and use one of those sophisticated Dutch “Klapschaatsen”. But if you do not fancy stepping on the ice with skates, you can always try the well known Dutch pea soup, brandy, warm chocolate milk topped off with lots of cream and stay warm inside near the open fire looking at Dutch winter paintings or maybe even the 16th edition of the “Elfstedentocht”! Who knows...

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WHEN DID YOU ARRIVE IN THE NETHERLANDS AND WHICH POSITION HAVE YOU TAKEN?

I arrived in the Netherlands in the summer of 2014 taking up the position of a staff officer in the HQs' Joint Engineering Branch with primary responsibility focused on the counter-mobility and mines domain.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR MILITARY CAREER.

My military career started in 1996 when I joined the Military Academy as a conscript in the rank of Private. During my 5-year studies of military engineering I came through the different NCOs ranks and graduated in 2001. At this time I was promoted to my first officer rank, Second Lieutenant. Since then, I have served in the Military Engineering Battalion of the Slovak Armed Forces. During this period I worked my way up from a Platoon Leader to Battalion HQ's Operations Branch Head; then I joined JFC Brunssum.

DO YOU HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS?

My first experience of a mission was gained in IRAQI FREEDOM (IRAQ) in 2006. I carried out tasks within a Joint Engineering Division as a staff officer responsible for Explosive Ordnance Disposal/Engineering Operations within the area of responsibility allocated to Multinational Division Central South. In 2010 I took up a position as an operational officer within the Dutch Provincial Reconstruction Team in NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan. Although this mission was not that much related to engineering, it helped me to better comprehend the operational environment not only from military perspective but civilian as well.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR JOB AND WHAT KIND OF CHALLENGES YOU HAVE TO FACE?

The Engineer Operations Branch is responsible for synchronizing engineer efforts and advising on the appropriate use of subordinate engineer units. My role within this construct is to provide counter mobility expertise and advice on the use of natural

obstacles, use of mines, and use of man-made obstacles, including the synchronization of these assets into the all-arms defensive plan. This is my everyday challenge that requires continuity of learning and a continual struggle for situational understanding. Besides that I belong to the team of engineers who are involved in NATO Response Force (NRF) coordination focusing on the preparation/execution of exercises and monitoring of the Alliance's Crisis Response System - both from a Military Engineering perspective.

IS YOUR FAMILY HERE WITH YOU?

My family arrived in the Netherlands in 2014 with me. We are living in the calm suburb of Maastricht. Both my daughters attend the United World College Maastricht and I am very grateful they have withstood the challenge of attending an international school. Furthermore, the school system in Slovakia requires children to study specific Slovak subjects and, at the end of each school year, they get tested. So synchronization of both studies, especially at the beginning, was our top family priority.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES?

I have very limited time for hobbies over the week. Upon my arrival home from work I usually accompany my kids during their swimming lessons where I also train little swimmers in Maastricht - so swimming seems to be my favorite hobby. Skiing, climbing, reading books or watching good movies belongs to my favorite activities too.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE IN YOUR JOB?

I like working with people from different nations and cultures. This enriches me and helps me to approach challenges I am confronted by from different perspectives. Furthermore, the team spirit, respect and friendship amongst all JFCBS engineers is so impressive that each of us is motivated to give our best performance.



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Britt Robertson 120 min
John Ortiz



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1900

GOLD

Matthew McConaughey 121 min
Edgar Ramirez



10 FEB
2017 FRI
1900

FIFTY SHADES DARKER

Dakota Johnson 115 min
Jamie Dornan



11 FEB
2017 SAT
1600

THE SPACE BETWEEN US

Gary Oldman 121 min
Asa Butterfield



11 FEB
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RINGS

Matilda Lutz 121 min
Alex Roe



17 FEB
2017 FRI
1900

THE GREAT WALL

Matt Damon 103 min
Jing Tian



18 FEB
2017 SAT
1600

THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE

Seth Grahame-Smith 104 min
Chris McKenna



18 FEB
2017 SAT
1900

JOHN WICK: CHAPTER 2

Keanu Reeves
Common



24 FEB
2017 FRI
1900

FIST FIGHT

Ice Cube 91 min
Charlie Day



25 FEB
2017 SAT
1600

THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE

Seth Grahame-Smith 104 min
Chris McKenna



25 FEB
2017 SAT
1900

A CURE FOR WELLNESS

Dane DeHaan 146 min
Mia Goth

TERRACOTTA.

One of the highlights in the area at the moment is the brand new exhibition in the Guillemins station in Liège “Terracotta”. It provides us with an insight into the history of the Chinese empire with the famous statuettes of soldiers in terracotta.

In 1974 thousands of figurines in terracotta were discovered in the tomb of an illustrious Chinese emperor of the third century BC. The news about this Terracotta army travelled quickly around the world. The name Terracotta refers to this army composed of some 8000 statuettes who were once the last protectors of an emperor passed over to eternity: Qin Shi Huang Di. The reign of this emperor lasted only 15 years, making it the shortest reign of all the Chinese dynasties, but it is none the less one of the most famous. Besides this army of 8000 terracotta figurines, he was also the emperor that was responsible for the construction of

the famous Chinese wall.

The Terracotta exhibition invites you to discover the hundreds of figurines and also the history of this ancient China, nicknamed “the empire of the middle”. The exhibition is based on these statuettes discovered in the tomb in the emperor, but it goes much further as the history of each of the characters is shown through their weapons, armour, many video clips and explanatory texts. Statuettes of remarkable quality

The statuettes that you will be able to admire during this exhibition are reproductions. The original statuettes simply can not be moved as they need to be preserved for history in hereditary purposes! But they are of a very high quality. They were reproduced identically in a Chinese workshop specially designed for this purpose and have received the stamp of the Chinese government, which certifies their quality and conformity,

The 8000 statuettes were found by chance by Chinese farmers in 1974, the figurines had deteriorated and only debris remained. During the discovery, it was a vast puzzle, each statuette being able to contain between 80 and 300 pieces of debris. Today 1,800 of them have been restored and excavation work is still going on.

If you would like to visit the exhibition the best thing to do is go by train as it is actually inside the station. In Maastricht there is a special ticket machine for Belgium so that you can get a cheap ticket. Combine your trip with some of those great Belgian beers - your train ticket allows you to change trains and exit at Palais - right in the centre of Liège.

Check the website terracotta-liege.be for opening times and prices. The exhibition is also just a short walk away from the new museum of Modern Art in Liège Le Boverie.



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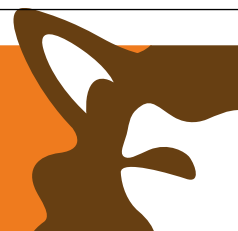
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