



- Slovak Armed Forces in Light of New Challenges
- Desiderius Erasmus Great Dutch Philosopher
- Trident Juncture Photography





MILITARY DISCOUNT CENTRE



WHY BUY A QUALITY CAR?

- 1) QUALITY CARS ARE DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED TO LAST MUCH LONGER
- 2) QUALITY CARS TRANSPORT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IN THE SAFEST ENVIRONMENT.
- 3) QUALITY CARS HAVE EXCEPTIONAL RESALE VALUES
- 4) QUALITY CARS ARE RELIABLE
- 5) QUALITY CARS ARE A PLEASURE TO OWN

WHY BUY BMW , VOLVO OR MERCEDES?

- 1) BMW ,VOLVO AND MERCEDES ARE YOUR QUALITY CARS
- 2) MASSIVE MILITARY DISCOUNTS (BUY QUALITY FOR THE PRICE OF AN AVERAGE CAR)
- 3) FREE HOME SHIPMENT TO THE U.S.A OR CANADA WHEN YOU RETURN HOME
- 4) FREE SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE FOR 3 YEARS (U.S. VOLVO MODELS)
- 5) FREE EUROPEAN BREAKDOWN/RECOVERY (INCL. HOTEL, FLIGHTS HOME, RENTAL CAR)
- 6) FREE 4 YEAR WARRANTY (3 YEAR EU MODELS)
- 7) FREE 12 YEAR ANTI CORROSION GUARANTEE
- 8) PURCHASE PRICE IN YOUR CURRENCY AND PROTECTED AGAINST PRICE INCREASES

WHY BUY FROM ROADCRAFT?

- 1) ROADCRAFT GUARANTEE YOU THE LOWEST PRICE
- 2) ROADCRAFT GUARANTEE THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SERVICE
- 3) ROADCRAFT DELIVER TO YOUR MILITARY BASE
- 4) ROADCRAFT HAVE OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE SELLING TO MILITARY/DIPLOMATS
- 5) ROADCRAFT PROVIDE 24/7 LIFETIME SUPPORT- UNIQUE IN CAR SALES
- 6) ROADCRAFT DO NOT BELIEVE IN PRESSURE SELLING.
WE VALUE AND RESPECT OUR CUSTOMERS!

**OVER 20%
SAVINGS OFF
TAX-FREE PRICES**



WWW.MILITARYTAXFREECARS.COM / CEO@MILITARYTAXFREECARS.COM
DIRECT LINES: 0031 646855537

COMMAND GROUP CORNER

Story by Lieutenant General Fernando Alejandre

“Individual valour means much, but it is collective valour and team spirit that makes the difference.”

Spanish Airborne Creed

I can hardly believe it is almost a year since I was first informed of my nomination to be the Deputy Commander at JFC Brunssum. I feel privileged to serve in such a prestigious headquarters and I am extremely grateful to my Nation for entrusting me with this opportunity. I am equally thankful to SACEUR for approving my appointment and, of course, to our Commander for accepting a Combat Engineer to be his deputy! Perhaps it was my previous Airborne experience that sealed the deal. I must also take this opportunity to publicly offer thanks to my predecessor, Air Marshal Graham Stacey, for his superb handover and for leaving a small detachment of his former staff to help me settle in. He has set the bar high and will be a tough act to follow.

I write after recently moving my family into the Brunssum area and having returned from a welcome Christmas break, which allowed some time to reflect on the recent past and to prepare for the challenges ahead. Looking back on my first few weeks in post I find that I have many reasons to be thankful that I join the Brunssum team at this point in time. Most importantly, I join a headquarters that is obviously at the top of its game having performed extremely well during the most demanding and ambitious NATO exercise in recent history. During Exercise TRIDENT JUNCTURE, I had the opportunity to witness first-hand the headquarters operating at high tempo while under close scrutiny; it was most impressive. I trust that you feel a justifiable sense of satisfaction in delivering a performance that reinforced JFCBS's excellent reputation within, and outside, NATO.

By way of introducing myself, I think you will find that I meet most of your preconceived ideas about Combat Engineers! I am robust and welcome open and honest discussion; for my part I will certainly be frank and to the point. Further, as an Airborne soldier, I like to focus on what really matters (up is up, and down is down); life is complicated enough already and I am committed to bringing clarity and simplicity wherever



Lieutenant General Fernando Alejandre

I can to help others get on and achieve their full potential. Although I have been an operator for most of my career to date, including as DCOS Ops in the Spanish Army, I also have an understanding of support and logistical issues, owing not least to my previous appointment as DCOS Resources in SHAPE. However, regardless of role, it is teamwork that I judge to be key to the success of any staff officer and to be the hallmark of the most effective organisations. For my part, I am proud to be a member of the Brunssum team and am committed to playing an active part in its collective success. I sincerely hope that you feel the same way, whatever role you have to play.

In the coming months I have four very straightforward goals:

First, I will of course remain fully engaged with the deployed Resolute Support headquarters and all aspects of operations in Afghanistan in order to provide timely and relevant support or advice as required. I have always paid great respect to our comrades deployed in a country that I do my utmost to understand.

Second, I am keen to engage personally with our North Eastern allies. While I may come from the south of Europe, I am committed to playing my part in preparing NATO to face all natures of threat, in whatever form they take and wherever they may appear. To that end, I look forward to the continued development of Multinational Corps North East (MNC-NE), which I visited before Christmas. We have an important role to play in setting the conditions for their success as they steer six NATO Force Integration Units (NFIUs) toward full operating capability. The Spring cluster of exercises for example, which are largely organised by the Brunssum team, will be an important opportunity for NATO to refine the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) deployment concept.

Third, in keeping with my overriding theme of the importance of team spirit, I intend to play my part in fostering the best possible network of ACO DCOMs. I encourage you to do the same with your colleagues in other NATO and national headquarters.

Fourth, as you read this article we will be just days away from welcoming our new commander, General Salvatore Farina, to the headquarters. I look forward to marking the event with a ceremony that not only offers a warm welcome to General Farina, but which also appropriately marks General Domröse's tremendous contribution to the headquarters and to NATO as a whole.

Whatever the year ahead has in store for us, I have every confidence that we shall rise to the challenge and I am very much looking forward to working with you and getting to know you better. To that end, I want you to be assured that my door is open to discuss your concerns. In the past I have found it reassuring to be able to seek guidance from my boss when I needed it. I want you to feel comfortable in doing the same.

Colophon

The NORTHERN STAR is a publication, published with the assistance of 't Swarte Schaap, in co-operation with and at no cost to HQ JFC Brunssum. Opinions herein do not necessarily reflect official NATO or HQ JFC Brunssum policy. The appearance of advertisements, including inserts, does not constitute endorsement by NATO or HQ JFC Brunssum of the products or services offered. Deadline for articles, advertisements and photographs is on the Monday at close of business prior to the week of publication.

To place an advertisement in the Northern Star, please call 't Swarte Schaap and ask for Rob Schaap, Sint Franciscusweg 36-3, 6417 BD Heerlen, The Netherlands, telephone: +31 (0)45 571 61 16, or e-mail: rob@tswarteschaap.nl.

Submissions to the Northern Star can be made to room F 1.21, Bldg. H 106 or e-mailed to pao@jfcbs.nato.int. Articles should be in Microsoft Word format and, whenever possible, should be no longer than 300 words. Photographs should be at least 9x6 centimetres and 300 dpi. The Northern Star is published monthly and is available around the first Friday of each month.

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

Editorial Staff

Col Martin Klein, DEU A
Chief Public Affairs Office

Mr. Barry Mellor, GBR Civ
Deputy Chief Public Affairs (Civ) &
Community Relations, Advisor, Editor

Edwin Tromp, NLD A
Contributing Editor

Henk van der Velde, NLD N
Contributing Editor



About the Cover

A Tornado of the Italian Air Force taxiing at Trapani Air Base, Italy. Multiple Air assets were based here for Exercise Trident Juncture 2015 NATO's biggest exercise in over a decade. Photo by: Christian Timmig

Contents

- | | | | |
|---|---|----|--|
| 3 | COMMAND GROUP CORNER | 11 | Movie Schedule |
| 4 | About the cover | 12 | Self-Defense Seminar at AFNORTH |
| 5 | Assumption of Command Ceremony at Deployable Air Command and Control Centre (DACCC) | 14 | Trident Juncture Photography |
| 6 | Visits and Activities | 16 | One of Us |
| 8 | Slovak Armed Forces in Light of New Challenges | 18 | Did you know? |
| | | 20 | Obituary Mrs. Rose Wehrens –Verstappen |
| | | 21 | Circle 100 |
| | | 22 | Book Review |

Assumption of Command Ceremony at Deployable Air Command and Control Centre (DACCC)

Story by Public Affairs Allied Air Command, Photos by Maresciallo Annunziata, Italian Air Force

Poggio Renatico, Italy, 19 January 2016 - General Frank Gorenc, Commander of Allied Air Command at Ramstein Air Base, today officiated the ceremony inaugurating Major General Andreas F. Kraak, Royal Netherlands Air Force, as the Commander of NATO's DACCC. It is renamed "Ramstein Alloy" in 2016.



The honour formation with flags of NATO Allies represented at the DACCC before the Assumption of Command Ceremony.

Major General Kraak has been an F-16 fighter pilot for over 30 years with a total of more than 2,500 hours. He has been squadron commander, base commander and was Chief of the Planning Cell at CAOC Vicenza during operations in Kosovo in 1999. After several staff functions in various commands he was promoted to his current rank and was appointed to as the DACCC Commander with effect from 1 January 2016 confirmed by the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe.

"The DAOC and DARS need to be fully ready and trained at any time, the DACCC needs to be able to forward deploy trained elements of the JFAC and the DACCC is the department head for JFAC training. Whatever happens:

the mission will always prevail!" said Major General Kraak during the ceremony.

The DACCC is composed of the Deployable Air Operations Centre (DAOC), the Deployable Air Control Center, Recognized Air Picture Production Center and Sensor Fusion Post (DARS) and, when activated, the Deployable Sensor Section (DSS) all located at Poggio Renatico. The DACCC enables forward deployment of Joint Force Air Component (JFAC). As the department head for JFAC Training the DACCC conducts initial functional JFAC training for personnel from Allied Air Command and – within means and capabilities – from the NATO Force Structure, NATO Nations, and National JFACs.

The DACCC prepares its subunits for world-wide operational deployment.



The assumption of command moment: Commander of Allied Air Command, General Frank Gorenc, USA Air Force, proudly presents the DACCC flag to the incoming Commander, Major General Frank Kraak, Royal Netherlands Air Force.



Reviewing the honour formation (from right to left): Commander of Allied Air Command, General Frank Gorenc, Major General Frank Kraak, and Parade Commander Colonel Alberto Allodi.

The next upcoming event for NATO's deployable Air Command and Control entity will be the deployment of the DARS under exercise Ramstein Dust I-2016 scheduled for June this year. This type of exercises focuses on the deployable air mission control and surveillance capability essential for delivery of ready and responsive air power to NATO operations.

Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum - Visits and Activities

Prepared by Adjutant Edwin Tromp, photos by PAO JFCBS

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

December 2015



Brunssum Commander Addresses his Staff

8 DEC 2015

General Hans-Lothar Domröse, Commander JFC Brunssum, took the opportunity to address his staff before the Christmas break sets in. With an eye to progress and achievement over the past

year the General was keen to thank his people for their dedication and professionalism as, amongst other things, they: achieved Full Operational Capability in the current Allied Command Operations organizational structure; planned and conducted the largest NATO exercise in over a decade (Trident Juncture); achieved certification for the standby command role for the NATO Response Force 2016; continue to implement an array of Assurance Measures as a result of Russia's actions in Ukraine; continue to provide support to the Alliance's Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan; and increasingly turn Readiness Action Plan deliverables into operational reality.



Second Northern Headquarters' Conference

17 DEC 2015

The second Northern Headquarters' Conference was conducted 16 Dec at Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast, Szczecin, Poland.

In his opening remarks General Hans-Lothar Domröse, Commander JFC Brunssum, emphasized the importance of partnership and transparency in the Northeastern flank of Alliance territory, identifying collective defence as a common interest for all stakeholders. He also stated that decisions taken during the Wales Summit (Newport 2014) have culminated in a number of important tasks such as: Persistent Presence; an increased exercise and training tempo; and a new role for Multinational Corps Northeast (MNCNE) such that the Corps is the main stakeholder, as well as first responder, to any crisis in the region. Moreover, the significance of NATO Force Integration Units (NFIUs) within the NATO Force structure was highlighted. The NFIUs not only provide an essential link between the host nations and NATO but are a flagbearer of Alliance commitment to Article V of the Washington Treaty



Latvian Ambassador to NATO Visits JFC Brunssum

12 JAN 16

The Latvian Permanent Representative to NATO (Ambassador Indulis Berzins) accompanied by his country's Military Representative (Major General Andis Dilans) conducted

a visit to the Headquarters today. Commander JFC Brunssum, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, welcomed the distinguished visitors, then provided a summary of the geo-political security situation in northern Europe and the status of tasks his headquarters is dealing with.

JFC Brunssum Monitors NATO Evaluation Programme in Finland

10 DEC 2015

The Operational Capabilities Concept Evaluation and Feedback Programme (OCC E&F), led by Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), was launched in 1999. Amongst other things it stipulates: "We (NATO Heads of State and Government) intend to provide our Partners with increased opportunities to enhance their contributions to NATO-led operations, and to help modernize their defences in keeping with NATO's own evolving operational roles and capabilities, including through enhancement of the Operational Capabilities Concept".



Iceland Director Security and Defence Department calls into JFC Brunssum

11 JAN 16

Mister Arnor Sigurjonsson (Iceland Director of Security and Defence Department) accompanied by a delegation led by Mr Fridrik Jonsson (Iceland's Military Representative to NATO) visited Joint Force Command Brunssum in order to familiarise themselves with the Headquarters' mission, role, tasks and challenges.



JFC Brunssum Commander Visits Afghanistan

12 JAN 16

The Commander Joint Force Command Brunssum, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, paid a Situational Awareness visit to NATO's Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan during the period 07-09 January.



The trip included scheduled stops at the RS Headquarters in Kabul and a number of RS Train Assist Advise Command locations in Northern and Southern Afghanistan – areas which have been recently in the public focus -, each of which resulted in frank and open discussions concerning the training, sustainment and resource status of the Afghan National Security and Defence Forces. General Domröse stated: "To build up the ANSDF from scratch has been a huge challenge, to sustain them is even more challenging and will require resources and commitment from the international community in the following years."

Visit by Finnish Head of Mission to NATO - Ambassador Piriitta Aunmaa

14 JAN 16

Her Excellency Ambassador Piriitta Aunmaa (Finnish Head of Mission to NATO), accompanied by Lieutenant General Markku Nikkilä (Military Representative of Finland to the EU and NATO) and Major General Eero Pyötsiä (Deputy Chief of Staff of the Finnish Defence Command), called into JFC Brunssum. Warmly hosted by Commander JFC Brunssum, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, briefings were provided on the status of NATO's Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan, the NATO Response Force 2016 for which JFC Brunssum is the Standby Command HQs; and the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force which was agreed at the Wales Summit.



We focus on cars.

The Volkswagen & Audi specialists in the Tri-Border region.



Your Jacobs cars sales team looks forward to your visit:

f.l.t.r. Achim Kafferlein, Alfred Deffur, Martin Deffur, Gerd Caron, Andreas Nolte, Lothar Herfs, Marcel Oellers, Michael Wittwer, Carsten Schaps, Markus Weber, Michael Marx



Audi Zentrum Aachen
Jacobs Automobile GmbH & Co. KG, Zwnl. Geilenkirchen DE
Landstraße 48+50, 52511 Geilenkirchen DE
Tel. +49 (0)2451-98700, www.jacobs-automobile.com

+++ www.jacobs-gruppe.de +++

graphic design

magazines

web services

support



't Swarte Schaap
media & more



Is your website getting old?

Brand new websites at brand new prices

Contact Rob and get a free offer

t' Swarte Schaap
Sint Franciscusweg 36-3
6417BD Heerle
+31 (0)45-571 61 16
info@tswarteschaap.nl
www.tswarteschaap.nl

Haus Hamacher

Restaurant und Café

Brand new: Best German cuisine
by Oma's Original recipes!

Delicious, large portions
and healthy!

we are there for you 7 days a week!

Tel: 0049-2454-1414 www.Haus-Hamacher.de

52538 Gangelt
Am Freibad 10

MEEÛS®

Concessionaire for JFC HQ Brunssum for the past 30 years!

For all your insurance needs

Opening hours: Monday-Wednesday 9.30-12.30 and 13.30-16.30

Location: Building H-604 (next to the JFC Library),

JFC HQ Brunssum, extension 2492

T +31 (0)45 526 24 92 E jfc@meeus.com W jfc.meeus.com

Serving the NATO Community



**38
YEARS**

New cat-place where your cat can move freely. Roomy outside place, playgrounds,
central heated. Grooming salon, also D-I-Y washsalon for pets.

ANIMAL HOTEL ABDISSENBOSCH

The address where your pets feels at home

DAYCARE

Opening hours: Mo-Sa 08.00-12.00 and 16.00-19.00
Sundays and holidays closed for bringing in or picking-up.

Vogelzankweg 230 • NL-6374 AH Landgraaf • Tel +31 (0)45 531 72 17
www.dierenhotelabdissenbosch.nl (also in English)

Slovak Armed Forces in Light of New Challenges

Story by Maj Štefan ZEMANOVIČ

In today's exceptionally dynamic security situation, the lack of resources in Defence is now intensely being debated. As the developments in our neighbourhood convince us day by day, the readiness and ability to respond to unexpected situational developments are one of the main reasons why armed forces are sustained in one form or another by nearly all countries.



Air defence unit

A decade ago the Slovak Armed Forces set out on a journey of professionalization, as had been conceptualized in long-term defence reforms. One of the inevitable culminations of those reforms was Slovakia's entry into the North Atlantic Alliance, the guarantor of collective defence. Inevitably, membership in the community of countries providing mutual security guarantees brings

with it, obligations. Among them is the engagement in international crisis management operations. On the surface, in light of the shortfall of resources under discussion, this engagement may be viewed as purposeless spending or even a waste of funding, however it carries a profound military-political message.

The involvement of our servicemen and women in NATO-led operations

serves as a piece of evidence that the reforms launched in favour of armed forces have been set and conducted in the right direction. On the one hand, it is true that we are lagging behind with modernization programmes but, on the other hand, the competence of our soldiers and units is up to standard. Having been trained for specific missions, they are able to conduct missions in an absolutely reliable and



Airpower

concentrated manner, one which is comparable with our coalition partners.

Moreover, with each deployment of our troops on operations abroad, we gain more space to upgrade their skills. While using this space, we need to capitalize on what is vital to our own development, whether that is in the field of military training or modernization of armaments, personal equipment and clothing, with the latter protecting the lives of soldiers engaged in fighting. In this context, the debate on defence expenditure should be perceived along with the enhancement of interoperability.

Interoperability, smart defence and

pooling & sharing concepts are becoming the key to the further functioning of collective defence, especially in light of today's security situation. The dynamics of conflicts in our neighbourhood do not afford much time and space to small armed forces for an effective response to different types of threats. Even this challenge is projected into basic concept documents and hence into the changing structures of the SVK Armed Forces. The realignment of organizational structures while shifting the core to combat forces capable of rapid deployment, provides assurances that a country's territory will be defended until allied forces are deployed. This requires that the

readiness to respond to similar needs of allied nations be maintained.

At this point we should again refer to the need to deploy troops on international crisis management operations in close synergy with other partner countries, despite the increased demands on resources which such deployments tend to generate. Another added effect is that our Armed Forces will, thanks to this alliance, acquire the hallmarks of self-confidence and highly valued professionalism. This, too, is one of the reasons why we should continue with transformation and deployment of troops.



Firepower and mobility of tanks has a sustained place in the armed forces

2014 marked a truly breakthrough year for the SVK Armed Forces for several reasons. First, the process of generating new forces at the tactical level was commenced after a decade-long realignment of structures, and the forces are now capable of responding to the newly emerged situation. Second, having been postponed for an extended period, modernization projects were successfully re-launched. Third, comprehensive training programmes were intensified in all areas, while capitalizing on the expertise gained from operational deployments of our troops alongside coalition partners. In this respect, lessons learned from operations will be instrumental in revitalizing training activities in the mid-term and will be projected into the concept plans for the combat use of specific military services and branches. The main battle tank capability, amongst others, has re-established itself as an indispensable component of the Armed Forces. Today there is no replacement for its mobility

and firepower in the armaments inventory of Army units.

The SVK Armed Forces is among the minor partners of the NATO Alliance. Yet the significance of our contribution under the overall collective defence concept cannot be judged in absolute numbers. The Slovak Republic is NATO's lead nation for explosive ordnance disposal. Over the past years, this area has gained in importance not only in terms of conducting military operations but also in terms of having a humanitarian impact on the restoration of war-destroyed regions.

Afghanistan and Iraq are not the only countries to be haunted by this silent killer. Indeed, the explosive remnants of war in the form of unexploded ordnance pose a threat to people even in Europe. Our role as an integrator of the Allies' activities in developing technologies and techniques for explosive ordnance detection and disposal was thoroughly put to the test in war-torn Afghanistan.



Demanding work with Afghan soldiers

Even this is a contribution of the "little big country" below the High Tatra Mountains to collective defence.

Specializing in one area only is, of course, not the way how to ensure the ability to respond to all the threats that we may encounter in the near future. A balanced generation of small, professional and well-trained armed forces is most probably the right way to make the best of limited resources and be ready to execute the tasks generated by the new security environment in Central Europe.



FAMILY SUPPORT MORALE & WELFARE

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



05 FEB 2016 FRI

THE CHOICE

Benjamin Walker
Maggie Grace

-- min

1900



12 FEB 2016 FRI

KUNG FU PANDA 3

Jack Black
Angelina Jolie

100 min

1400



06 FEB 2016 SAT

ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS:
THE ROAD CHIP

Jason Lee
Justin Long
86 min

1600



12 FEB 2016 FRI

HOW TO BE SINGLE

Dakota Johnson
Rebel Wilson

-- min

1900



06 FEB 2016 SAT

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE AND
ZOMBIES

Lily James
Sam Riley

108 min

1900



13 FEB 2016 SAT

DEADPOOL

Ryan Reynolds
Morena Baccarin

106 min

1600



13 FEB 2016 SAT

ZOOLANDER 2

Ben Stiller
Owen Wilson

100 min

1900



Lt. Col. Dave DeAtley Demonstrates Defensive Technique

Self-Defense Seminar at AFNORTH

Story by Katrin Galeano

Prior to the winter break, students at AFNORTH International School had the opportunity to learn self-defense skills.

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Dave DeAtley returned to the school to teach girls from the German section how to defend themselves in real-world situations.

In order to demonstrate techniques and teach hands-on, he brought along two martial arts professionals: his son Ryan and USAG Benelux-Schinnen Military Police Specialist Jennifer Bermodes. After a warm up consisting of self-defense moves, Lt. Col. DeAtley taught his class different techniques on how to free themselves from chokes, grabs and holds. The 5th-7th graders also learned how to gain distance from

an attacker and ultimately have the upper hand. These techniques were first demonstrated by the professionals and then repeated by the students. What first appeared to be fun moves that made some giggle, later became serious as the girls quickly found out how they can defend themselves in dangerous real-world situations. They learned that they are their first line of defense. Gaining the skills needed to protect themselves in various situations as Level 4 U.S. Army Combatives Instructor Lt. Col. DeAtley taught his students, they became more confident and gained reassurance. These students learned basic skills

this past October, when their coach volunteered to teach the first self-defense seminar at the school for the first time. Because of the success, he returned and is not only sharing his skill sets with the German section, but throughout the international community.



Anna & Max (twins, 2 years old) are looking for an AU PAIR
from middle of April till December 2016



- ▶ We have a big house with a large garden and a good bus service to BONN
- ▶ You have your own room with an ensuite bathroom
- ▶ 250 € per month, every Saturday at free disposal (additional concessions possible)
- ▶ No washing, no cleaning, no shopping tasks.
- ▶ We are living 10 Km far away from BONN and 25 Km from COLOGNE
- ▶ We have two lovely dogs

Contact

LtCol Nikolas Kleffel, Protocol
+31 45526 3526
Mobile:
+ 31 651084060
& +49 1714837625

Trident Juncture Photography

Story by Michał Zieliński

Army photography is a passion which is a natural consequence of my work. As a journalist, I dealt with politics and armed conflicts, where I could observe soldiers during exercise or in battle.



Operator from Polish Oddział Specjalny Żandarmerii Wojskowej (Special Forces of Military Police) during the Trident Juncture exercise in Zaragoza

Over the last few years, I was documenting not only different formations exercising on training grounds, but also conflicts in the Middle East and Ukraine.

During Exercise Trident Juncture 2015 (TJ15) I was one of two winners of a NATO Photographic Contest and visited the training area as part of my prize. The days I spent in Zaragoza not only gave me the opportunity to take interesting shots, but also allowed me to observe

the cooperation of allied forces during various scenarios, and was the first time I've worked with Spanish infantry and soldiers from the Baltic nations. Exercise training serials undertaken by the VII Artillery Group from "Galicia" Brigade provided frames which were appreciated by both Spanish soldiers and the Polish military press. Moreover, I had the chance to work in NATO Media Information Center – an experience very different from my normal freelancer routine. At the end of my time in Zaragoza I decided to fly to Portugal

where the main elements of JWK Polish Special Forces were based.

It may appear easy to take good shots in such places, but this kind of photography requires an experienced eye and the right equipment. Photographic work at the scene where troops are stationed is based on specific rules. Everyone has his own job to do and the presence of a photojournalist is often considered distracting. Photographers are used to being the center of attention, but this time it is different - resourcefulness and



VII Artillery Group from “Galicia” Light Infantry Brigade providing artillery fire. Spanish soldiers had a lead role at Zaragoza training areas.



Polish SOF Jednostka Wojskowa Komandosów breaching into enemy hideout. One of two pictures that won NATO TJ15 Photo Contest.

humility are highly recommended. In practice, it means that you must adjust to army rules, and you have only one chance to take most of your frames. Your work is also frequently hampered by challenging weather conditions and lack of light. “Shooting” in fog, rain,

dust or at night is not uncommon and presents significant levels of difficulty. The solution is well selected camera equipment and lots of experience. Last but not least, interpersonal skills are more than useful. If you find a common language with your companions,

soldiers will no longer treat you as an intruder. On the contrary, for a moment you become part of their lives. Over time you’ll build mutual respect and they will watch your back. It gives as much satisfaction as another great shot, I guarantee.

One of Us

Major Vasile-Cosmin GROZA

Country	: Romania
Capital	: Bucharest
Location	: South-Eastern Europe
Land Boundaries	: 3,149.9 km
Coastline	: 193.5 km
Population	: 19,511,000
Area	: Total 238,391 km ² , Water 7,160 km ²

Climate:

Because of its position on the southeastern portion of the European continent, Romania has a climate that is transitional between temperate and continental. Climatic conditions are somewhat modified by the country's varied relief. The Carpathians serve as a barrier to Atlantic air masses, restricting their oceanic influences to the west and center of the country, where they make for milder winters and heavier rainfall. The mountains also block the continental influences of the vast plain to the north in Ukraine, which bring frosty winters and less rain to the south and southeast. In the extreme southeast, Mediterranean influences offer a milder, maritime climate. The average annual temperature is 11 °C in the south and 8 °C in the north. In Bucharest, the temperature ranges from -29 °C in January to 29 °C in July, with average temperatures of -3 °C in January and 23 °C in July. Rainfall, although adequate throughout the country, decreases from west to east and from mountains to plains. Some mountainous areas receive more than 1,010 mm of precipitation each year. Annual precipitation averages about 635 mm in central Transylvania, 521 mm at Iași in Moldavia, and only 381 mm at Constanța on the Black Sea.

Economy:

GDP	: \$199.04 billion (nominal, 2014)
GDP per Capita	: \$19,712 (PPP, 2014 est.)
GDP per sector	: agriculture: 12.1%; industry: 35.7; services: 52.2% (2014 est.)

Budget:

Revenues	: \$63.85 billion (2014 est.)
Expenses	: \$67.58 billion (2014 est.)
Currency	: Leu (Leu or RON)

Main Industries : electric machinery and equipment, textiles and footwear, light machinery and auto assembly, mining, timber, construction materials, metallurgy, chemicals, food processing, petroleum refining

Exports : \$62.13 billion (2014 est.)
Export goods : machinery and equipment, metals and metal products, textiles and footwear, chemicals, agricultural products, minerals and fuels
Main Export partners: Germany 19.6%, Italy 10.9%, France 6.9%, Hungary 5.2%, Turkey 4.6%, United Kingdom 4.2% (2014 est.)

Imports : \$69.27 billion (2014 est.)
Import goods : machinery and equipment, chemicals, fuels and minerals, textile and products, agricultural products
Main Import partners: Germany 19.2%, Italy 10.9%, Hungary 7.9%, France 5.7%, Poland 4.7% (2014 est.)

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

I arrived in July 2013 and I am currently serving as a Spectrum Manager. This is my first international experience and first time in the Netherlands.

Tell us about your Military Career.

I started my military career by joining the Military High School when I was 15 years old. After four years I moved to the Land Forces Academy for another four years. After graduation I received my first officer rank, Second Lieutenant. Since then I'm a CIS officer.

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

The Spectrum Management Office is part of J6 but is closely linked to SIGINT/J2 and EW/J3. Our primary job is to provide friendly forces in the operational environment with effective and efficient use of the Radio Frequency Spectrum (RFS).

We have to follow the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) rules and regulations regarding RFS usage and that demands much complexity and coordination with all RFS users from civilian and military organizations. Our primary partners are the National Radio Frequency Agencies (NARFA), which manage the military use of RFS in their respective countries. We should not forget the radio spectrum is a scarce resource under the sovereign control of nations.

Use of the RFS is limited by interference. The risk of interference between the different military, governmental, non-governmental and/or civil radio systems operated within the Area Of Responsibility (AOR) is high. In fact this can cause severe interruptions concerning communications, resulting in damage or loss of equipment or even human life in the worst case.

I had the great opportunity to develop my skills during different NATO exercises but my favorite one was "TRIDENT JUNCTURE 15", last year in Zaragoza, Spain. Talking about exercises, for a Spectrum Manager, there is nothing like a LIVEX, with real "customers" on the ground and of course with real interferences.

My job is not a "high visibility" one; it becomes transparent only when RFS problems occur.

What do you like in your job?

My assignment to JFC HQ Brunssum represents a great opportunity for my military career. Being a Spectrum Manager is a very challenging and complex job but I have the chance to meet extraordinary people from different organizations drawn from hugely diverse backgrounds.

What do you do outside of work?

I am living in the Netherlands with my family and we are trying experience as much as we can whilst we can; everything from the quaint villages of Limburg Province to great cities like Amsterdam, Rotterdam or Eindhoven. We didn't know too much about the Netherlands before coming here but now we love this country, especially Limburg. We would like to come back one day.



Did you
know



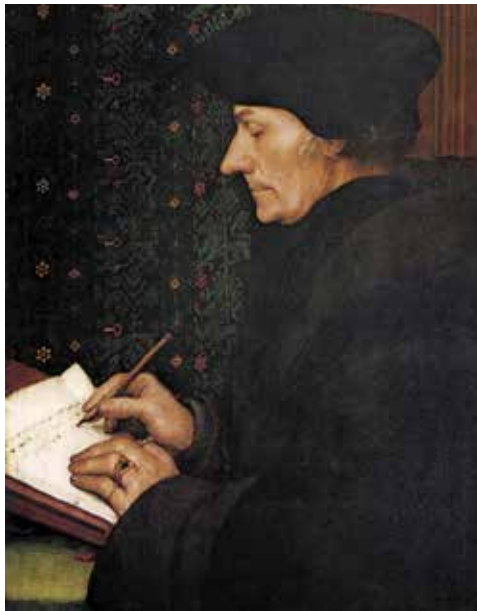
Desiderius Erasmus Great Dutch Philosopher

500 years of philosophic thought and still actual

Composed by Ed Frieser.

Sources: Royal Dutch Library, Rotterdam City Library, Erasmus Centre for Early Modern Studies, RefoRC, Right Things.com, Museum Gouda, Wikipedia.

“Our schedules are so cluttered that we really haven’t time for much of anything in depth...”. Would you believe that these words are 500 years old? It was found in correspondence between the renowned Dutch philosopher Erasmus and a friend of his. He encouraged his friend with six wisdoms: Be regular at your work, keep a journal, remember that life is short, study Plato and Seneca, love your wife and disregard the world’s opinion - wisdoms that could still be applied today.



Erasmus von Rotterdam - Hans Holbein



Erasmus Grave in the major Church of Basel



Erasmus drawing by Hans Holbein in the edition of the Praise of Folly of 1515

Introduction

A short introduction to Erasmus (1466-1536) is almost impossible. Erasmus can best be described as Christian humanist, critical towards the Catholic Church, philologist of classical texts and the Bible, pacifist, publisher of critical texts and philosopher. His works are so vast and diverse that none of the descriptions are all embracing. A portrait written by Alfred Dürer in 1526 stated: “It is from his works that one understands him better”. Erasmus is considered the most renowned Dutch philosopher ever and above all a true European. In 2004 he even reached fifth place at the election of Greatest Dutchman. In the year 1516, two crucial texts for the cultural history of the West saw the light: Thomas More’s *Utopia* and Desiderius Erasmus’s *Novum Instrumentum*, a good reason to further dwell on Erasmus.

His life

Desiderius Erasmus was born in 1466, 1467

or 1469, as Geert Geerts in the vicinity of the St. Laurenschurch in Rotterdam and baptised as Erasmus. He was the illegitimate son of a priest in Gouda and his housekeeper. His mother went to Rotterdam most likely to hide her pregnancy, where she delivered the baby. Erasmus stayed several years in Rotterdam. He then returned to Gouda where he went to the Parish school of Pieter Winckel between 1473 and 1476. As of 1478 he lived in the city of Deventer and followed lessons at the school ‘de Broeders des Gemenen Levens’, a Latin school influenced by humanism. Initially he was taught the typical medieval education with a relatively large amount of Latin. But in 1483 the humanist, Alexander Hegius, became the Rector of this school and introduced Greek to the renewed school curriculum. A language until then only taught at the Universities of Leuven and Cologne as a specialisation. Erasmus received here his first lessons in Greek. He met and heard Rudolf Agricola who Erasmus considered his great inspirer for the rest of his life. When

his mother died of the black plague he fled Deventer in 1484 and continued studying at the Latin school of ‘s Hertogenbosch. His father also died in that same year. Under pressure of his guardian parents he entered the monastery Steyn near Gouda (regular Augustine Canons). On 24 April 1492 he was consecrated as a priest, which tied him more to spiritual life but offered also the opportunity to study. In 1495 Bishop Van Bergen gave Erasmus special permission to study theology at the Paris University. After having been in England in 1499, where he met Thomas More, he returned to Paris and wrote his first book *Adagia* in 1500. This collection of 800 proverbs became the first bestseller in the early history of book printing. In 1505 he travelled again to England, staying until 1506 when he departed for Italy for a period of three years. In Turin he received a Doctorate in Theology. Erasmus returned to England in 1509 and taught Greek in Cambridge in 1512. His famous *Moriae Encomium* or *Praise of Folly*, a satire on European society, was

published in 1511. From England he travelled via Leuven, Strasbourg and Mainz to Basel in Switzerland. Erasmus was very impressed by the work of the Swiss printer Johannes Froben who very much liked his first book *Adagia*. His two great philological works the bi-lingual edition of the New Testament and his edition of the letters of church father Hiëronimus were written in Basel. Upon his return to the Netherlands he was appointed counsellor of Emperor Charles V and stayed in the Netherlands between 1516 and 1521. Erasmus suffered a lot from the idea that he was an illegitimate child. But thanks to a dispensation from the Pope in 1517 he was relieved from this social status as illegitimate child. In the meantime he lived in places like Antwerp, Bruges, Leuven, Mechelen and Anderlecht, but started to suffer from a protracted illness. During this period in the southern part of the Netherlands he founded the Leuven Collegium Trilingue. This college contributed to the distribution of Erasmus' thoughts about the study of classical languages. The last years of his life were spent in Freiburg im Breisgau Germany. In 1535 he returned to Basel in Switzerland where Desiderius Erasmus died on 12 July 1536. His grave can be found in the major church of Basel, the Basler Münster.

His thoughts

Two incentives determine the thought of Erasmus: Liberty of people and peace. In the monastery of Gouda he wrote his *Declamatio* (speech practice) and *De contempu mundi*, a sincere plea for life inside a monastery. Though he rejected the pernickety rules and restrictions that blocked his open mind and liberty. In 1495 he wrote a second early work, *Liber Antibarborum*, describing the relationship between profane literature and Christian piety. It proved his great knowledge of the antique humanist literature. About freedom he wrote in 1516 for the young Spanish king, the later Emperor Charles V, the *Institutio* (Mirror of the Monarch) Education of a Christian Monarch. This publication states that people are free and that therefore a Christian should not rule tyrannically over other Christians and treats them like slaves. One year later he wrote *Querela pacis*, the complaint of peace, in which he opposes nationalism. Erasmus took Christianity very seriously, but rejected dogmas and intolerance. He preferred common sense to sagacity which was reason for others to consider him a misbeliever. He is also considered as the pioneer of Reformation. However, he never entered the Protestant church. Erasmus' pleas though have laid the basis for the principle of tolerance of the later 16th Century Coornhert and William of Orange, including freedom of science and ideas. But individual freedom was not part of his thought.

Luther's Reformation

Erasmus' knowledge of the Greek language convinced him that the translation of the New Testament (the second portion of the Bible) was incorrect and he decided to translate the six Greek transcripts of the New Testament and have it printed. This caused enormous criticism from leading intellectuals, the Roman Catholic University of Leuven and some of his close friends. The language of the Church, after all, was Latin and not Greek. By doing so he undermined the authority of the Church in those days. The Church accused him that he had laid the egg of heresy. But, as he responded, he rather hatched something else. After all he did not like the fragmentation of the Church. The opponents of Reformation blamed Erasmus for paving the way for

Luther since the translation laid the basis for Luther's Reformation. Luther made use of the edited and published Greek texts of the New Testament (and not the late fourth-Century Latin translation of the Bible, The Vulgate) to translate the Bible into German thereby avoiding direct criticism of the Church on his translation. In 1517 Maarten Luther issued the Protestant Reformation in his 95 theses and pinned these on the door of the Wittenberg church in Germany. Although Erasmus in principal sympathised with Luther he objected Luther's courses of action. He thought Maarten Luther ran too quickly from stack and that one should try to keep solidarity in Church by paying more attention to what Christians shared rather than what divided them. Initially Erasmus didn't want to challenge Luther and rather stood aside from the Reform discussion. But finally in 1524 he started a written debate with Luther by publishing his *De libero arbitrio diatribe sive collation*, confrontation of the freedom of choice. And time after time Erasmus pled tolerance between the different opinions, but unsuccessfully as it turned out.

Praise of Folly

Five Centuries have passed since, in 1511, *Moriae Encomium* or *Praise of Folly* was first published. In this bestseller, Erasmus famously satirized contemporary European society and many of its representatives with great subtlety. *Praise of Folly* is a satire describing all the contemporary ecclesiastical abuses in which book Erasmus let the allegorical Folly say things that he himself was not allowed to say. Since people do not change essentially, this book is

surprisingly modern. He wrote it in 1509 more or less to pass the time he had to spend in bed due to illness, and of course he wrote it in Latin, the scholar's, not the common man's, language. There are 61 quotations from *Praise of Folly* that are still applicable to today's society. Here are some of these quotations: ... Speech is the truest mirror of the mind; One of the most refined pleasures is to value most highly whatever is most foreign; Deception and disguise are the very things that hold people's attention; Nothing is more foolish than misplaced wisdom; Wisdom makes men weak and apprehensive, and that is why you generally see wise men living in poverty and hunger, whereas fools are rolling in money; Fools alone speak the plain, unvarnished truth; The human mind is so constituted that it is far more taken with appearances than reality; Nothing is really enjoyable without someone to share it with; etc. etc... *Praise of Folly* has been translated many times in Dutch, English, French, German, Russian, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek, Hebrew, Esperanto, and so on. Erasmus dedicated this book to his friend, the English intellectual and politician Thomas More. Playfully, as Erasmus himself writes, for his friend by no means wore the mark of folly. The original Latin title of the book, *Moriae encomium*, is meant to hint at Thomas's last name. It might well be translated as *Praise of More*. A very learned allusion, since this Latin is actually Greek written in the Latin alphabet. The learned More certainly appreciated it. The subtlety with which this book has been composed has until today not been equalled.

Museum Gouda

In 2016 Museum Gouda puts the life and ideas of Erasmus in the spotlight with the exhibition 'Erasmus, ik wijk voor niemand' (I will not give way to anyone) from 6th of February until 26th of June. Erasmus travelled throughout Europe and developed and sharpened his views through varying contacts, so the visitor to this exhibition will go with him on a similar journey through his mind; from Gouda in 1466 to Basel in 1536, from Europe in the 16th Century to Europe in the 21st Century.

Address

Museum Gouda
Achter de Kerk 14
2801 JX Gouda
Oosthaven 9

Contact

T 0182 331 000
F 0182 331 019
info@museumgouda.nl
www.museumgouda.nl

Rotterdam City Library

All works of Erasmus can be seen in the Erasmuszaal of the Rotterdam City Library, one of the largest Erasmus collections in the world. Over a hundred books from the 15th and 16th Centuries, of which about 90 are first edition works.

Address

Centrale Bibliotheek Rotterdam
Hoogstraat 110
rotterdam
rotterdam.nl
3011 PV Rotterdam
Open only by appointment;
Tuesday-Friday 1000-1700 hrs.

Contact

T 010-2816100 / 6188
klantenservice@bibliotheek.
or erasmuszaal@bibliotheek.
www.bibliotheek.rotterdam.nl

Obituary Mrs. Rose Wehrens – Verstappen



Canada November 30, 1959 - Susteren,
January 9, 2016

It is with deep sadness that AFNORTH International School announces the passing of Mrs. Rose Wehrens-Verstappen, secretary to the Director since 1993.

We shall remember Rose as a dedicated, positive and warm colleague. Her smiles, professionalism and knowledge of the school's history will be dearly missed.

Please join us in sharing our deepest condolences with her husband Peter Wehrens, her daughter Julianne and her husband Kyle, grandchildren and family.



AFNORTH
International School



The Baugnez 44 Historical Centre traces the last great deployments and battles at the time of the German offensive in 1944

As you may know already there was a lot of active fighting towards the end of World War II in this area. Many artifacts, tanks and discarded vehicles were collected afterwards and have found their way into museums.

One of the more modern museums that are interesting to visit is in Malmedy. It was founded in order to perpetuate the memory of the Battle of the Bulge (in the Ardennes). The Baugnez 44 Historical Center traces the last great deployments and battles at the time of the German

offensive in 1944.

Authentic material, vehicles, photographs and films from that time fill the air with the spirit of the events, plunging you into the heart of the battles. You can view 15 reconstructed scenes of the soldiers' daily life. Two scenes are unique in Belgium, and these scenes are equipped with a sound and light system so that the visitor is projected right into in the middle of the turmoil in the winter of 1944. The Baugnez 44 Historical Center has an exceptional collection of items,

of which several elements are unique in the world. A multilingual audio-guide is at your disposal. It is very much worth the visit.

If you decide to go to Malmedy be sure to also drop into the town itself. It has some very nice restaurants if you decide to make a day of it. Malmedy is also a great place to start off on a hike. Check at the tourist information office in the old cloisters at the Malmundarium. More tips and ideas in the Malmedy area can be found on Charlzz.com.



Win Tickets for The Bagniez 44 Historical Center

- We have 4 x 1 tickets for the Bagniez 44 Historical Center.
- In order to win the tickets, please answer the following question:
- **Quiz Question: Who are the guest curators that selected the works for this exhibition?**

Fill in this coupon and send it to PAO, or send an e-mail to pao@jfcbs.nato.int, before February 15, 2016.

- For NATO ID card holders only
- The winners will be announced in the next edition of the Northern Star

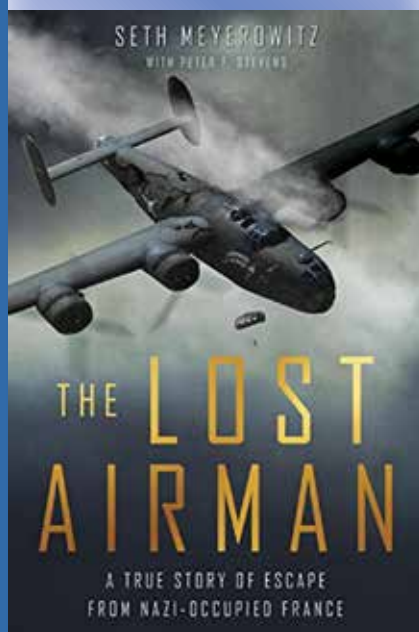
Answer:

Division:

Full name:

Extension:

Book Review



THE LOST AIRMAN
(A TRUE STORY OF ESCAPE FROM
NAZI-OCCUPIED FRANCE)

Seth Meyerowitz

For fans of *Unbroken*, the remarkable, untold story of World War II American Air Force turret-gunner Staff Sergeant Arthur Meyerowitz, who was shot down over Nazi-occupied France and evaded Gestapo pursuers for more than six months before escaping to freedom.

Bronx-born top turret-gunner Arthur Meyerowitz was on his second mission when he was shot down in 1943. He was one of only two men on the B-24 Liberator known as "Harmful Lil Armful" who escaped death or immediate capture on the ground.

After fleeing the wreck, Arthur knocked on the door of an isolated farmhouse, whose owners hastily took him in. Fortunately, his hosts not only despised the Nazis but had a tight connection to the French resistance group Morhange and its founder, Marcel

Taillandier. Arthur and Taillandier formed an improbable bond as the resistance leader arranged for Arthur's transfers among safe houses in southern France, shielding him from the Gestapo.

Based on recently declassified material, exclusive personal interviews, and extensive research into the French Resistance, *The Lost Airman* tells the tense and riveting story of Arthur's trying months in Toulouse—masquerading as a deaf mute and working with a downed British pilot to evade the Nazis—and of his hair-raising journey to freedom involving a perilous trek over the Pyrenees and a voyage aboard a fishing boat with U-boats lurking below and Luftwaffe fighters looming above. With photographs and maps included, this is a never-before-told true story of endurance, perseverance, and escape during World War II.

OFFICIAL VOLVO MILITARY/DIPLOMAT SALES AGENT

NATO AIRBASE GEILENKIRCHEN, U.S. ARMY GARRISON SCHINNEN & JFC BRUNSSUM



- FOR ALL EUROPEAN, US, CANADIAN & UK NATIONALITIES SERVING NATO
- LEADING TAX-FREE MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC VOLVO SUPPLIER
- GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICE
- ALL PAYMENTS DIRECT TO THE VOLVO FACTORY IN GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN
- HOME SHIPMENT PROGRAM INCLUDED*
- US, CANADIAN AND EUROPEAN SPECS SERVICE & MAINTENANCE
- BODY AND PAINT SHOP
- VOLVO DEALER SINCE 1965

*ONLY U.S. & CANADIAN SPECS



Auto Kallen | Rijksweg Zuid 320 - Geleen | The Netherlands
Tel +31 (0)46 - 423 86 86 | Contact: r.vossen@autokallen.nl

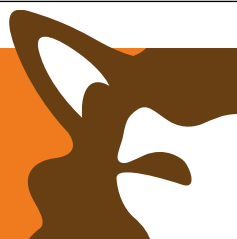
www.autokallen.nl

graphic design

magazines

web services

support



't Swarte Schaap
media & more

**YOUR ADVERTISEMENT
COULD BE HERE!**

info@tswarteschaap.nl
www.tswarteschaap.nl

The **right partner** for all **facility services**

- Cleaning maintenance
- Window cleaning
- Facade cleaning
- Graffiti removal
- Industrial cleaning
- Construction completions
- Deep cleaning (sanitary)
- Carpet cleaning
- Greening
- Sanitation
- Project upholstery
- Emergencies



call toll free 0800 4004010 www.caredienstengroep.nl

IND. RESTAURANT

Original Indian Cuisine · www.tasteofindia.tv



Our Introductory Offer: **3-course Menu**

- Papadam and Salad
- one Chicken, one Lamb dish with Basmati rice and original Tandoori Naan (bread)
- Dessert (specialty of the house)

20,90 € (34,90 € p.2P.)

Also order all dishes for take-away.

In der Fumme 18 · Selfkant-Tüddern · Fon: 0 24 56 - 508 72 82 · Opening hours: all 7 days from 16 to 22 hrs



Ecolog international provides tailor-made logistical and service solutions to armed forces and organizations in crisis regions worldwide.

As a specialist for mobile infrastructure services we concentrate on innovative, environment-friendly technologies, exceptional reliability and individualized solutions.

Our success and the trust of our long term clients justify our approach.

Outstanding quality, first-class service and flexibility are our trademarks.



LOGISTICS | PORTABLE TOILETS | LAUNDRY | CLEANING | FUEL | WASTE MANAGEMENT | SUPPLY AND SERVICING OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT
CONTAINERS | POWER, WATER & SUPPLIES | CATERING | AVIATION | CONSTRUCTION | COMMUNICATION

ISO 9001:2008 | ISO 14001:2009 | OHSAS 18001:2007

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

Ecolog International Deutschland GmbH

In der Steele 14
D-40599 Düsseldorf
Germany

Phone : + 49 (0) 211 688 750 0
Fax : + 49 (0) 211 688 750 199
info@ecolog-international.com
www.ecolog-international.com