



NORTHERN STAR

MAGAZINE FOR HQ JFC BRUNSSUM - JULY 2018

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**ALLIES TRAINING
TOGETHER IN EXERCISES
SABER STRIKE AND
BALTOPS**

THIS MONTH'S FOCUS: JFC BRUNSSUM'S TOP 3 TASKS

- NRF 2018: THE JOINT LOGISTIC SUPPORT GROUP
- AFGHANISTAN: COMMANDER VISITS RESOLUTE SUPPORT
- EFP: ONE YEAR OF NATO TROOPS IN LATVIA



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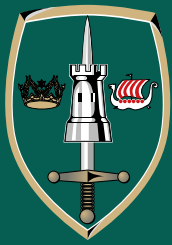
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MAGAZINE FOR HQ JFC BRUNSSUM

CONTENTS JULY 2018

2. EDITORIAL
3. COMMAND GROUP CORNER
4. 100 DAYS IN COMMAND
6. THE OUT-OF-THEATRE COMMANDER VISITS RESOLUTE SUPPORT
8. THE JOINT LOGISTIC SUPPORT GROUP
10. ONE YEAR ON: NATO'S ENHANCED FORWARD PRESENCE
BATTLE GROUP LATVIA – STRONGER, FASTER, BETTER
12. ALLIES EXERCISE IN SABER STRIKE, THUNDER STORM
14. BALTIC OPERATIONS 2018
16. F-35: 5TH GENERATION AIRCRAFT
18. FIFTH NORTHERN HEADQUARTERS CONFERENCE IN TALLINN, ESTONIA
20. ADAPTING NATO TO AN UNPREDICTABLE AND FAST-CHANGING WORLD
22. PARTNERSHIP
24. RAF100 CELEBRATIONS
26. VISITS AND ACTIVITIES
28. #WEAREJFCBS



ABOUT THE COVER

RIX (Latvia), June 2018 - F-16 Fighting Falcons assigned to the 120th Fighter Squadron, Colorado Air National Guard refuels with a KC-135, Stratotanker assigned to the 107th Fighter Squadron, Selfridge, Mich., Michigan Air National Guard, while training through different air to air combat exercise scenarios above the Baltic Sea during Saber Strike 18. (Photos: Staff Sgt. Bobbie Reynolds – 140th Wing Public Affairs)

COLOPHON

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EDITORIAL

MAY/JUNE ISSUE HIGHLIGHTS

Changes and farewells

Dear readers,

As you may have noticed the Northern Star has now become a bimonthly magazine; this is in order to make the effort more sustainable for the editorial staff.

This issue features an interview with General Marchiò after his first 100 days as our Commander and focuses on JFC Brunssum's main tasks: the NATO Response Force 2018, the Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan, the enhanced Forward Presence in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland, and Regional Focus / Partnership.

More highlights:

- June's long-standing multinational Exercises Saber Strike and Baltic Operations tested forces from the USA and many other NATO member and partner nations.
- Our prestigious collaboration with the 'NATO Review' delivers an article following one year of enhanced Forward Presence, now that the battlegroup in Latvia has marked its first anniversary.

- Several Community related and VIP visits to the Headquarters.
- #WeAreJFCBS concludes the magazine with an interview with a Croatian officer from our J35 Branch.

To conclude, I take this opportunity to convey my personal farewell to you all: my tour at JFC Brunssum has come to an end after three wonderful years and I am handing over the chief editor role of the Northern Star to my successor, Captain Aouatef Zimrani (FRA Army). It has been my honour and privilege to be in charge of this magazine and I hope it continues to build upon the highly successful baseline that has been established.

Now, for the final time, let me invite you to read this edition of the Northern Star!

*Davide Galli, Lieutenant Commander (ITA Navy)
Chief Editor of the Northern Star*



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COMMAND GROUP CORNER

LOGISTICS: A COMPLEX AND DEMANDING ISSUE

After a very successful implementation of the eFP Battlegroups in the Baltic States and Poland, deterrence and the ability to defend has been improved significantly. To underline the resolve of the Alliance, SACEUR (Supreme Allied Commander Europe) asked for Enablement of his Area of Responsibility (AOR). Keeping in mind what the former President of the United States and General Dwight D. Eisenhower said - "You will not find it difficult to prove that battles, campaigns, and even wars have been won or lost primarily because of logistics."- our Headquarters strongly supports the Enablement of SACEUR's AOR, knowing that this will set the conditions for a successful protection of all NATO-Nations.

Enablement of SACEUR's AOR is crucial to assure the Alliance ability to project and sustain combat power across and from the AOR and thus all NATO-Nations in Europe. But it is simply more than just military logistics. It is a complex, demanding and long-term issue, with contributions from many stakeholders like national entities, commercial service providers and of course the military, on a variety of different tasks. The projection and sustainment of forces requires a well prepared physical environment, a wide portfolio of enabling capabilities and complex, well developed processes.

From my perspective it requires a continuous progression in the legal frameworks and the physical support capabilities across the nations to underpin rapid mobility and a constant sustainment flow. Furthermore the interoperability of the communication networks across all stakeholders and the alignment of national military equipment and inventories are decisive pre-conditions for a successful Enablement of SACEUR's AOR.

Additionally it is an indispensable necessity to control and coordinate all the activities in the rear area of operations.

NATO therefore is establishing the Joint Support and Enabling Command (JSEC) which will be set up in Ulm/Germany. After its implementation, it will have the functionality of a Joint Headquarters, capable of conducting multi-domain support functions to enable Joint Force Commands. With a potential area of responsibility from Greenland, across Europe to the border of Africa and its manifold roles it will be one of the future key actors HQ JFC Brunssum has to deal with. It will be a great opportunity for the JFC's and especially for us here in Brunssum, to have an active role in supporting the JSEC throughout its set up. The chance to bring in all our knowledge, but also address our requirements, will lead to a win-win situation for all actors.



My directorate - DCOS Support - has executed already a series of table top exercises, to fix our requirements, with main emphasis to provide our support to the development of the enablement plan. We will proactively continue in the future.

This requires all our efforts and full attention. Working stronger together, in close cooperation with all the other stakeholders within our headquarters and throughout the implementation area, we will help to enable SACEUR's AOR!

*Major General Walter Ohm
Deputy Chief of Staff for Support
Allied JFC Brunssum*



Q&A WITH GEN RICCARDO MARCHIÒ

100 DAYS IN COMMAND



INTERVIEW BY LCDR JEREMY PARKER
FIRST PUBLISHED ON JFCBS WEBSITE ON 1 JUNE 2018

Sir, we last spoke during Exercise Brilliant Joust 18, during a particularly intense period of activity for the headquarters. You have now passed 100 days in command of JFC Brunsum and we would like to take this opportunity to ask for your assessment of where we currently stand with regard to NRF, the exercise program, eFP and other issues facing the HQ.

Firstly, our followers are aware that you have undertaken a very intensive program of visits and meetings with, amongst others: the enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) Battlegroups; Multinational Division North-East; Multinational Corps North-East; and the Defence Chiefs of those nations on our Eastern flank. What is your impression of the readiness and the evolving command and control (C2) structures of these critical NATO elements?

As you should be aware, the eFP Battlegroups have become a key part of the deter-

rence and defence posture of the Alliance along NATO's north-eastern flank. All four battlegroups are fully operational and the Multinational Division North-East has an initial operating capability that is moving rapidly to full operational capability. The pace of this deployment and the rapid integration of their unique C2 relationships have been remarkable. What are truly impressive are the close links that the Battlegroups have established with the host nations as well as the strong links between contributing nations within each battlegroup.

General, you have also visited a number of exercises that JFC Brunsum personnel have been involved in. Given the significant commitment that this HQ has to NRF and supporting its own exercise program, could you please explain the value and relevance of some of these additional tasks?

Firstly, as you can see in the Resolute Support Mission (RS) and during Operation Unified Protector (Libya), etc., NATO usually doesn't work alone, but with part-

ners. As an example, members of this HQ recently took part in Exercise VIKING 18 in Sweden. This was a huge multinational and inter-agency exercise testing crisis response operations. Although it was organised by the Swedish military, it also included a NATO component, an EU component and multiple governmental and non-governmental organisations, thus giving us a different perspective on the comprehensive approach. By participating in such exercises we are better able to take advantage of opportunities to train alongside [non-NATO nations] OR [NATO partners] as well as to take advantages of opportunities to gain external training benefit that will have real-world rewards. Participating in non-NATO exercises such as these, in addition to our own NATO exercises and 'in-house' exercises, etc, are the best way to identify our capability shortfalls and improve our internal processes and overall readiness.

We've spoken of eFP and you've mentioned RS. We can also see that there is an initiative to evolve command structure elements throughout ACO (NATO Command Structure



Adaptation – NCS A). What does this mean for the NATO Response Force (NRF) and this HQ?

I would like to begin by stating that we (NATO) are in a process of adaptation, i.e. re-evaluation, modernisation and improvement. We are doing this in response to a changed security situation that requires NATO to make its Command Structure (NCS) more capable of moving forces rapidly across NATO territory to address emerging threats. This is in support of our overall purpose, which will always remain the same - the preservation of peace through deterrence, and be ready to defend.

The NRF has already been enhanced by the VJTF (Very High Readiness Joint Task Force), giving it a spearhead that is able to deploy at very short notice. The NRF will remain NATO's crisis response force and we will continue to rotate the C2 responsibility with our sister JFC, in Naples. For 2018, JFC Brunssum will assume command and control of the NRF wherever it deploys, if it is activated. This means we must all remain flexible and agile - we have practiced reach-back during exercises and will continue to exercise the deployable capabilities of appropriate elements within the HQ. We will continue to explore options to establish the most optimal way of operating.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind your readers that, because the threat is changing, NATO Command Structure Adaptation is establishing and strengthening capabilities whilst, at the same time, enhancing support to domains such as information and cyber. There are a lot of changes happening in NATO, it is an exciting time for us and we, as JFC Brunssum, are truly at the leading edge of this adaptation.

You were cautiously optimistic regarding your initial impressions of your new command? Now that you have been here for 100 days, do you have any further comment?

As I said before, I am not here to give anyone an easy ride. I have high expectations and expect high standards from my staff. Many changes are underway in both the HQ and in NATO as a whole. This is an intensive period for the Resolute Support mission, eFP and NRF – all require our dedicated professional focus. The second half of the year will continue at the same intensity and we must continue to give our best efforts. The headquarters is working well, but we can always make minor course corrections to optimise our contribution. And, as we have just discussed, NATO Command

Structure Adaptation will help us better respond to fresh and emerging threats – we must continue to support this effort and remain prepared for anything and everything.

To conclude General, do you have anything else that you would like to touch upon at the moment?

I would like to thank the headquarters staff for their hard work and innovation. It is their impressive efforts that give this headquarters its well-deserved reputation for high standards of professionalism. And, personally, I see this frequently as I walk around headquarters' offices and as I read reports prepared by the staff and attend well-prepared briefings. As we approach the summer I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to relax, maybe watch a little football and come back prepared to continue the hard work that I have seen so far. Everyone's contribution is critical – only then can we be 'stronger together.'



THE OUT-OF-THEATRE COMMANDER VISITS RESOLUTE SUPPORT



STORY BY JFCBS PAO

Brunssum, the Netherlands – General Riccardo Marchiò, Commander Joint Force Command Brunssum, concluded his second situational awareness trip to NATO's Resolute Support mission (RSM), in Afghanistan, 10 – 15 June.

This time General Marchiò focused his visit on the Train, Advise and Assist Commands West and North (TAAC-West, TAAC-North). Attending the Relief in Place ceremony of the Italian Task Force in Herat

Commander JFC Brunssum stressed, in a short speech, that NATO and its partners remain fully committed to the mission with the intent that Afghanistan never again becomes a safe haven for terrorism. This ties directly to the main message of the recent Defence Ministerial Meeting, in Brussels, where Secretary General Stoltenberg expressed his confidence that NATO will agree to extend funding to the Afghan Security Forces to 2024 at next month's Summit.

Note: As Commander of the out-of-theatre operational command for RSM General Marchiò ensures JFC Brunssum fulfils its task to prepare, empower and assist those deployed to the mission so as to enable them to concentrate on their daily tasks and responsibilities. For example, amongst other things, JFC Brunssum runs the RSM budget, oversees pre-deployment key leader training and contributes to mission-related plans.



THE JOINT LOGISTIC SUPPORT GROUP



STORY BY

COL WOLFGANG LANKOW JFCBS J4 - JLSG

Should any global incident deteriorate to the point where it is considered necessary to activate the NATO Response Force (NRF), the provision of joint logistic support is essential to enabling the mission objectives. Therefore, a Joint Task Force (JTF) will almost certainly be supported by a Joint Logistic Support Group (JLSG), a multinational, deployable HQ optimised to suit the requirements of the mission.

To enable the JLSG to reach full operating capability (FOC), it will require sufficient manpower, fused with a blend of specialist skills, in order to execute its role within the Joint Operational Area (JOA). At FOC, the JLSG will discharge its functions with a composition of 113 personnel; 25 Core Staff Element with additional augmentation of 88 personnel sourced from across the NATO Alliance, with skills and experience to manage and execute deployed logistic support; this will also include specialist legal and contractual support augmentation. In addition, and to allow the JLSG to achieve its purpose when deployed, it will require enabling

logistic units inserted into theatre from Troop Contributing Nations. Therefore, it is highly likely that when required, the JLSG will discharge operational and logistic control over a significantly large number of personnel.

Once deployed into the JOA, the JLSG will need to plan, coordinate and execute two key processes. Firstly, the management of the Reception, Staging and Onward Movement (RSOM) of deployed national forces – a process which uses Land, Maritime and Air assets to move personnel, vehicles and equipment from arrival at a Sea or Airport of Debarkation to a location as determined by the mission plan. Secondly, the JLSG will have to provide a consistent flow of sustainment to ensure that the deployed forces receive sufficient quantities of provisions, equipment, fuel and ammunition; the JLSG's maintenance of a continuous sustainment flow is integral to meeting the mission objectives. The opposite - Rearward Movement, Staging and Dispatch (RMSD) will typically signify the conclusion of the JLSG responsibilities

in theatre as the Joint Task Force withdraws forces elements from the Theatre of Operations.

To fulfill these broad responsibilities, the JLSG has to maintain a comprehensive overview of logistic activity in theatre, as this information is essential for the JTF HQ to form an assessment of the logistical operational situation. As the logistics situation in theatre develops, a perpetual plans/orders process will be conducted by the JLSG, in tandem with subordinate National Support Elements (NSE – nations that coordinate the control and movement of forces, materials and supplies from main logistic installations in theatre), with Component Command peers, and with our higher JTF HQ. Throughout the operation, the JLSG will maintain a consistent level of sustainment to the forces, in close cooperation with NSEs, Host Nations and the Contractor Integrator (for NATO our contractual arrangements are conducted by the NATO Support & Procurement Agency), using the Joint Support Chain for distribution of supplies and services into

The role of the JLSG in support of the NATO Response Force in case of its activation.



theatre; the JLSG will always seek to exploit efficiencies within the logistics footprint at all times.

The JLSG will also synchronize and coordinate the logistics flow into and within theatre, tailored to the requirements of the mission. The JLSG is also represented with Host Nation and CIMIC specialist advisors, who will identify opportunities to utilize local Host Nation support to benefit deployed forces, coordinating cross-functional solutions provided by all governmental, civilian and military stakeholders. For the execution of theatre logistic coordination, the full range of military engineering support will be scoped to enable freedom of movement, provision of real life support, development of core infrastructure, and protection of the environment. Additionally, the JLSG holds specific medical responsibilities, where the JLSG medical expert will advise on a variety of areas such as strategic medical evacuation of patients, mass casualty scenario advice, medical-in-transit-lift (for the rapid movement of patients out of theatre), and the coordination of theatre medical assets and supplies.

Based on the specifics of the operation, and the powers delegated to the JLSG Commander, the organic spectrum of responsibilities within the JLSG could be expanded to include additional specialist advisors from intelligence, force protection (MP, CBRN and Cyber), environmental or geographical support areas. The JLSG adopts a 'train as we fight' mentality using a variety of mechanisms to provide a competent, flexible and professional JLSG for the JTF Commander to utilize. With a significant augmentation component within the JLSG operating model, it is essential that a continuous training programme is maintained. The JLSG regularly facilitates training using a bi-annual academics programme, as well as deploying to support joint operational exercises (TRIDENT JAVELIN, BRILLIANT JOUST) in order to train and integrate both the Core Staff Element and augmentees.

Overall, to successfully support an NRF operation, the JLSG will be significantly involved in the preparatory planning process from the outset, and will be capable of executing the required RSOM/RMSD process and 3rd line logistic sustainment operations until all Joint Force elements and materiel have been redeployed to their nations.



NRF – RESPONSE TO QUERY (WSJ JULIAN BARNES)

To provide a dynamic and capable all forcedomainNRFrequiresAlliancencations to provide various force capabilities that make up such a responsive force. NATO uses a combination of force generation activities including long term planning processes. These long term plans can look out, depending upon requirement, anything up to 10 years.

SHAPE provides those planning functions that identifies what nations are able to offer in tandem with capabilities, formations, training cycles and indeed operational requirements.

As you indicate a Joint Force Command is the controlling HQ although both JFCs are able to lead the NRF. Then the breakdown of all the types of HQs and components are indeed championed by an Alliance nation. As expected there are all Force Domains represented with Component Commands – Land, Air, Maritime, Logistics and others.

A further consideration is that although the length of duty is one calendar year, if you are looking at for example LAND and the Brigade HQ, there is always a 'Stand-Up, Stand-By and Stand-Down' function. So when asking nations you should consider this too. You mentioned staggering. This is not quite the process because in any given year there is the training cycle which provides training, evaluation, and if you like certification. Therefore it is a live and fluid process which in good military fashion provides smooth transitions without any loss of capability.

You could reach out to either JFC but perhaps JFCNP would be best suited if

you needed a much further breakdown, although you may be directed to nations in some instances depending upon how 'tactical' you wish to be. Both JFCs are on stand-by as a lead JFC HQ but there remains a split of NRF responsibilities. So for example JFCNP in 2018 is in charge of conducting and overseeing NRF prep, but the supported JFC (JFCBS) conducts the stand by exercises. This rotates each year. You may have been on Ex NOBLE JUMP last year in Romania where the ARRC executed the Land Component Command function with multi-national brigade participation. Ex TRIDENT JUNCTURE 18 will be a great opportunity this year.

Timeliness. No change to our current NATO Fact Sheets in that the VJTF can take up to 2 to 3 days in location. You will be keenly aware of the significant deterrence effect the NRF demonstrates and can provide, so I know you are aware of the 'NATO's warnings and Indicators' process which ensures that the VJTF and force compositions are rapidly inserted into Alliance territory, with follow on NRF forces of size or composition as required.

I hope this assists. I have copied in JFC Naples for further current detailed NRF questions but I would urge you to watch out for Ex BRILLIANT JUMP ALERTERX next month. This shows JFCBS's involvement in the NRF composition ie training for 2019. This ALERTERX exercise demonstrates a growing tension scenario where forces are then activated, mobilised, and prepared for deployment etc. As from previous years I know you are aware of the two types of JUMP exercise – ALERTERX and DEPLOYEX.



ONE YEAR ON: NATO'S ENHANCED FORWARD PRESENCE BATTLE GROUP LATVIA – STRONGER, FASTER, BETTER



STORY BY CAPT MATT ZALOT, TASK FORCE LATVIA PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER

It's been just over a year since NATO's enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group Latvia was stood up at June 19, 2017. During that time, the Battle Group, with over 1100 soldiers from eight different nations, has improved the interoperability between Allied forces significantly while supporting NATO's deterrence mandate.

Based at Camp Ādaži, Latvia, the multinational Battle Group is fully integrated with the Latvian Land Forces Mechanized Infantry Brigade, and continues to refine its skills and interoperability through training, exercises, and outreach activities in the Baltics.

The Battle Group originally comprised troops from Canada, Albania, Italy, Poland, Slovenia and Spain. Slovakia has been involved since November 2017, with the deployment of two staff officers. In mid-June 2018, the Battle Group welcomed the Czech contingent, which brings with them 120 mm mortars, which increases the Battle Group's indirect fire capabilities. The main body of the Slovakian contingent arrived in early July.

Recent training highlights include Exercise CLAYMORE FORGED, a combined-arms training event (March); Exercise CLAYMORE SOARING, an air mobility training opportunity featuring American aviation in the Meza Mackevici training area in Southeast Latvia (March-April); Exercise CLAYMORE KNOCKING, urban operations training that took place at Camp Ādaži (April); and Exercise SABER STRIKE, an international exercise spanning the Baltics and Poland, involving approximately 18,000 troops (June).

"We've been doing this for over a year now in Latvia and we've been learning and training every day. The original six nations of the Battle Group will all soon be on their third rotation, and they've taken lessons learned home with them as well," said Lieutenant-Colonel Sean French, the Battle Group's Commanding Officer. "It's a privilege to be in Latvia. We're fully integrated into the Latvian Land Forces Mechanized Infantry Brigade and we're getting stronger, faster, and better integrated with every single rotation."

With lessons learned come the opportunities to share both tactics and culture within the diverse makeup of the eFP BG LVA. In addition to military taskings, the Battle Group has taken its commitment to the people of Latvia to heart and has conducted a variety of outreach tasks across the country. The intent of these endeavors is to build understanding and a sense of community between the Battle Group and the civilian population. Projects included vehicle and equipment displays, volunteer work, and donations to local organizations – by doing this the soldiers of the eFP BG LVA become active participants in their adopted communities.

"Our diversity just makes us stronger and better at our mission here," said Lieutenant-Colonel French. "With Lieutenant-Colonel Steve MacBeth assuming command of this Battle Group, I'm anticipating seeing even tighter integration and increased capacity to respond quickly and decisively to any threat that may come."



ALLIES EXERCISE IN SABER STRIKE, THUNDER STORM



STORY BY SHAPE PAO

PHOTOS BY U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Pabrade Training Area, Lithuania - Exercise SABRE STRIKE, a US-led exercise, where NATO nations have combined with US Forces in large-scale reinforcement is drawing to a close. The German-led battlegroup has also participated in Exercise THUNDER STORM, the Lithuanian Home-Defence exercise with approximately 3,000 personnel.

Exercise THUNDER STORM is an annual defence exercise which practises alert, mobilisation and deployment to defensive positions. NATO enhanced Forward Presence nations have supported both exercises with the Iron Wolf Brigade providing the main forces for THUNDER STORM.

“Extensive Planning has taken place for some time, in order to prepare and provide

valuable training on this joint field exercise where we have practiced all forms of defensive and offensive action” said Colonel Mindaugas Steponavicius Lithuanian Army ‘Iron Wolf’ Brigade Commander.

“We are well trained and ready to defend ourselves. This is vital for effective deterrence and I am very confident in our collective capabilities.”

Although an annual Lithuanian Defence exercise, this year’s interaction with HQ Multi-National Corps North East has provided demanding training opportunities for both the headquarters and the eFP BG. Battle Group Lithuania is made up of 8 nations from Belgium, Croatia, France, Germany, Iceland, Lithuania, Netherlands and Norway. France’s 40 Artillery Regiment provided air defense for the eFP

BG formation.

“This is a great opportunity for my personnel to take part in a NATO exercise where we have trained and operated with many different nations” said Lieutenant Martial, a troop commander with the field artillery battery. “We have been able to test our own procedures and also have sight of other national capabilities. I am very pleased with our level of standardisation and interoperability”

Although 40 Artillery Regiment will return to Suippes, France, the French contribution to the German-led BG consists of a combined arms battle group of field artillery, armour and infantry and will rotate early in the beginning of the summer.



June 3-15 **Exercise 2018 Saber Strike**

Is a long-standing U.S. Army Europe-led exercise in it's eighth year. This cooperative training event is designed to enhance **#Readiness** and **#Interoperability** with allies and regional partners.



4 Host countries: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland

19 Participating allied and partner nations

18,000 Overall participants across four countries

Integration of **#NATO** forces from Multinational Corps and Division - Northeast

Bridge Crossings



Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) Battlegroups stationed in Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland



Suwalki Gap



Border crossing between Poland & Lithuania

2nd Cavalry Regiment will convoy from Vilseck, Germany with



950+

Strykers and support vehicles participating in exercise activities along the way.



12th Combat Aviation & 1st Air Cavalry Brigades

60+

UH/HH-60 Blackhawks, CH-47 Chinooks and AH-64 Apaches will participate providing close air support and **#AirAssault** operations.



1st Armored Brigade Combat Team

45+

M1 Abrams Tanks and M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles arrive into the Port of Antwerp as part of **#AtlanticResolve** and move directly into the exercise in Poland.



#SaberStrike

www.eur.army.mil/SaberStrike

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Infographic by: Joshua L. Wick/ U.S. Army/RELEASED



BALTIC OPERATIONS 2018



STORY BY JFC BRUNSSUM PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PHOTOS: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Klaipeda, Lithuania – On 4 June the Deputy Commander JFC Brunssum, Lieutenant General Juan Campins, took part in the Distinguished Visitors' Day for Exercise BALTOPS 2018 together with representatives from NATO and participating Nations.

The 46th iteration of exercise BALTOPS started in the Baltic Sea on June 1st and is scheduled to last until 15 June. Air, maritime, and amphibious assets from NATO Allies and Partners are involved in the live training event that is planned as part of this

serial. Participating naval units will/have already set sail from Klaipeda, Lithuania. On completion of the exercise naval units will pay a port visit to Kiel, Germany.

The exercise features live-fire training, anti-surface and anti-submarine warfare, mine warfare, air defence, and joint personnel recovery from the sea. A total of 43 maritime units, 60 aircraft, and a combined amphibious landing force will participate in the drills. Naval Striking and Support Forces NATO (STRIKFORNATO) are in con-

trol of the exercise.

Guests attending the visitors' day were hosted onboard USS Mount Whitney – STRIKFORNATO's and US 6th fleet's flagship - where they were briefed on the exercise and from where they could witness a naval demonstration.

Initiated in 1972, BALTOPS continues to play a significant role in enhancing cooperation between NATO Allies and Partners in the Baltic Sea.

BALTOPS plays a significant role in enhancing cooperation between NATO Allies and Partners in the Baltic Sea.



F-35: 5TH GENERATION AIRCRAFT



BY LTCOL WERNER HARTWIG (DEU)

SECTION HEAD A3-OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS - ALLIED AIR COMMAND

The first Short Take-Off/Nautical Landing version of the F-35, or F-35B, assembled outside the United States rolled out of the Final Assembly and Check Out facility at CAMERI, Italy, on May 5, 2017. In the same year, on Nov 3, 2017 Norway welcomed its first three F-35 Joint Strike Fighters to Orland Air Base. These are highly newsworthy events in the world of

combat aviation because 5th Generation aircraft, herein called Modern Aircraft, take multi

role aircraft versatility, performance and survivability to the next level. As the F35s unfold their mission roles, they offer an unparalleled step change in NATO's ability to dominate the air domain in support of its collective defence mission and deterrence posture.

As NATO's only air-domain headquarters Allied Air Command's primary operational role is the force employment of NATO forces assigned to it in peacetime. With the introduction of Modern Aircraft into NATO nations and the pending offer of Modern Aircraft for force employment, it is incumbent upon Allied Air Command to assess the impact of the developing tactics, techniques and procedures as they relate to

the integration of Modern Aircraft into, for example, European civil airspace. Allied Air Command must also assess the implication of Modern Aircraft on NATO training and exercises, as well as on concepts of operations for peacetime, crisis and conflict. Except for NATO-specific tactics, techniques

In addition to the training requirements, Allied Air Command has analysed the following key areas of its responsibilities and tasks that will be impacted by Modern Aircraft integration.

Air Policing : Super cruise capability and/or higher maximum speeds than currently observed will influence Air Policing procedures and techniques. Greater areas can be covered by fewer assets. Endurance and range are expected to increase, possibly reducing the number of assets required to cover a certain area of responsibility. The time from scramble to on-station will be reduced, which will likely impact the Readiness States, or reaction times, and could offer the ability to reduce the number of required Quick Reaction Alert locations. The faster cruising and maximum speeds of Modern Aircraft,

complementary to increased range,

could lead to a reassessment of optimal Quick Reaction Alert locations based on tactical and economic considerations. Fewer locations, while maintaining equal strength and coverage, may result in reduced overall expenses for individual nations. With their enhanced identification capabilities, Modern Aircraft used in an Air Policing role might lead to a review of identification definitions and criteria, given that advanced sensors are able to identify objects with a higher fidelity and at a much longer range than that of the human eye, and regardless of environmental constraints. The definition and implementation of Visual Identification might be adapted accordingly, so the entire identification process within the air-domain's Command and Control chain stands to benefit from these enhanced capabilities. Scrambles are part of the training requirements of NATO's Integrated Air and Missile Defense System with a focus on the Air Policing Command and Control system. Currently, nations typically use the same assets for both Quick Reaction Alert duties and as target aircraft to train Quick Reaction Alert aircrews. The use of Modern Aircraft assets in anything but the most-advanced target-emulation role is an inefficient use of such high-capability resources and is of limited training

Modern Aircraft Integration into NATO Air Operations.

value for experienced Modern Aircraft aircrews. As such, it is anticipated that these nations with Modern Aircraft on Quick Reaction Alert will turn to alternative, cheaper target-emulation solutions, such as legacy or contracted aircraft.

Command and Control Connectivity: A challenging area for all military operations is to keep up with developments in the field of modern Command and Control connectivity and interoperability. Modern Aircraft will be able to contribute to and provide unprecedented battlespace awareness. In order to take maximum advantage of the Modern Aircraft contribution to modern battlespace-management capabilities, Allied Air Command needs to ensure the technical capabilities exist to communicate and exchange information with all integrated platforms. These will include, but are not limited to, both technical and procedural developments within Tactical Data Link networks. Systems are being developed that allow Modern Aircraft to connect digitally to, and exchange data with, 4th Generation Aircraft and other platforms when operating in highly contested threat areas. These systems will operate through the existing Tactical Data Link platforms and will be able to connect with Modern Aircraft. This new “communications gateway” will have to be equipped with multi-level security features. Improved battlespace awareness through data sharing will provide a real time Common Tactical Picture and Common Operational Picture. As the overall air-domain Command and Control entity, Allied Air Command will require the capability to initiate, manage, update, and have real-time access to modern Tactical Data Link networks. This will provide the real-time ability to update Air Task Orders, communications frequencies, and

airspace, as well as providing the capability for real-time prosecution of Time Sensitive Targets and conduct of the Dynamic Targeting process.

Airspace: Increased Modern Aircraft sensor and weapon ranges will require larger training airspace. Given peacetime airspace assignment is a national responsibility, within the heavily congested European airspace (by both civil and military users), it will be a challenge to make available large, dedicated military training areas that are required to adequately train the very long Beyond Visual Range-capable air assets. The Single European Sky concept and development provides an option to become part

of the solution. Early Allied Air Command involvement to anticipate Modern Aircraft airspace requirements is important, providing a strong supporting function to national efforts to secure adequate airspace for NATO training. Within the context of assigning airspace as military training areas, special attention will be required with respect to restrictions, such as supersonic flight, chaff/flare expenditure and threat emitters. Furthermore, airspace management within a joint network environment will necessitate a dynamic approach involving all joint stakeholders.

Exercises: Modern Aircraft participation in NATO exercises is forthcoming. National participation with Modern Aircraft in NATO exercises offers excellent mutual training with an opportunity to gain experience and capture lessons identified on Modern Aircraft integration across the NATO air enterprise. Defining exercise scenarios to benefit Modern Aircraft aircrew training requirements will be based on offered capabilities and concept of operations. Allied Air Command is already exploring options to adapt its exercises to accommodate Modern Aircraft training requirements from an Air Command and Control perspective. In its primary force employment role as the NATO Command Structure's Joint Force Air Component, Allied Air Command will be responsible for training assigned personnel in efficiently planning and tasking Modern Aircraft assets to permit their effective Air Command and Control. It is expected that, at least initially, Modern Aircraft coordination will be enabled by experienced Modern Aircraft liaison personnel providing expert guidance to ensure smooth integration into NATO's training environment.

Force employment: Improved and new capabilities will lead to re-assessment of how NATO plans to employ its air assets. Depending on the threat and the environment, stealth characteristics and shared-sensor capabilities could mean that different numbers may be required to achieve the same effects, as 4th Generation Aircraft and Modern Aircraft, working in mutual support, will be regarded as Force Multipliers. One force employment consideration is that the high cost and limited numbers of Modern Aircraft may cause them to be considered by nations as High Value Assets. Therefore, the Risk Level determination

process will likely be scrutinized by nations as closely as ever. The good news regarding risk, however, is that fewer assets may be required to achieve the same effects,

and the improved capabilities of Modern Aircraft in a high-threat environment will increase asset and aircrew survivability.

Red Air resources: The replacement of older fighter aircraft by 4th/5th Generation Aircraft will create a challenge with regard to so called Red Air resources. The term refers to aircraft flown in simulated opponent roles for training under combat conditions. With less tactical training value for aircrew flying as Red Air, nations will be more reluctant to offer their Modern Aircraft for this kind of support during international exercises. A dedicated Red Air flying unit, multi-national, NATO or commercial, could be the most efficient and affordable solution to close this gap of Red Air resources. Even though the decision on standing up such a unit is a national and/or commercial decision, Allied Air Command involvement in the concept of operations, contracting, planning, tasking and execution will

likely be essential for NATO. Multinational concepts like the C-130s on Pápa airbase, a NATO unit like the Airborne Early Warning and Control Force in Geilenkirchen or the contracting of Electronic Warfare support services for NATO all provide existing, positive examples of similar arrangements.

Conclusion

With Modern Aircraft transitioning from concept to reality, these highly capable air-combat platforms are on the very verge of being operationally capable within a NATO context. It is doubtful that the next NATO operation involving air-combat assets will not include Modern Aircraft. As the most-likely entity for NATO to be tasked to provide the Air Command and Control of these assets, Allied Air Command is leaning forward and dealing with the Modern Aircraft integration challenge in a highly proactive manner. Within the constraints of the complexities and challenges normally associated with the introduction of new technologies and capabilities, Allied Air Command's lead role is being supported greatly by a host of either outstanding, interested agencies, such as the European Air Group or the Joint Air Power Competence Centre. As these new, highly capable air assets become operational within NATO nations, Allied Air Command is committed to leading the integration of Modern Aircraft into the NATO air domain in preparation for the force employment in whatever role or mission they may be assigned.



FIFTH NORTHERN HEADQUARTERS CONFERENCE IN TALLINN, ESTONIA



STORY BY JFCBS PAO

Brunssum, the Netherlands – From 22 to 24 May, the fifth Northern Headquarters Conference took place in Tallinn, Estonia. The conference was held at flag level and was chaired by the Commander of JFC Brunssum, General Riccardo Marchiò.

The Northern Headquarters Conference is organised once a year and aims to discuss issues of common regional interest with Northern Allies and Partners on the operational level. This year the focus was on “Deterrence”. The NATO member states agreed at the Warsaw Summit in 2016 to invest more in collective defence and to renew NATO’s deterrence approach. Rather than aiming to create a new plan for deterrence, the conference was held for the sharing of information and experience and to increase situational awareness.

The conference was used as a platform to discuss additional options on the operational level to demonstrate NATO’s credibility, presence and actions in the Northern Region of Alliance territory.

The Commander of JFC Brunssum thanked the Estonian Chief of Defence for hosting this event and stressed the value of having such a conference: “This meeting helps to set the best conditions for a common understanding and for future tasks inside our Northern Family”, he said.



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ADAPTING NATO TO AN UNPREDICTABLE AND FAST-CHANGING WORLD



What changes does NATO need to embrace to be able to meet the security and defence challenges of the 21st century?

Leaders and thinkers from across the Euro-Atlantic community spent over a year considering the state of NATO and collective defence, as part of the GLOBSEC NATO Adaptation Initiative. Through a series of reports analysing shifting twenty-first century strategic, military, defence-industrial and technological changes, they offered food for thought on how the Alliance needs to further adapt to meet the challenges of a century in which the very idea of security and defence will be radically changed.

Fifty years ago NATO adopted two important changes to its defence and deterrence posture. Flexible Response moved the Alliance away from the automatic and mutual assured destruction implicit in Massive Retaliation to a more layered and nuanced form of defence. The December 1967 Harmel Report established the twin-tracks of sound defence and dialogue and the principles of European security which endured for much of the ensuing years. Not anymore.

NATO is at a crucial decision point. With new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Computing fast entering the defence domain, the role, function, method and structure of the Alliance must undergo radical change if collective deterrence and defence is to remain credible.

Yes, the Alliance has adapted well in response to the watershed events of 2014, rebuilding deterrence against threats from the East, increasing its engagement with the Middle East, and forging a closer partnership with the European Union – and it is already taking steps in some of the other areas set out in the recommendations below. However, as the Alliance approaches its seventieth birthday in April 2019, NATO risks falling behind the pace of political change and technological developments that could alter the character of warfare, the structure of international relations and the role of the Alliance itself.

New strategic realities

Adaptation will only succeed if the Alliance confronts new geostrategic and transatlantic realities, including the need to deter a revisionist, militarily advanced Russia, while also projecting stability to NATO's South, and dealing with threats posed by states such as North Korea. To establish equitable burden-sharing between the United States and its Allies, the Defence Investment Pledge made at the 2014 NATO Summit in Wales (Allied leaders agreed to halt the decline in defence expenditure and aim to move towards spending 2% of Gross Domestic Product on defence and 20% of national defence budgets on major equipment and related research and development within a decade) must also be honoured in

full and new money spent well.

Flexible Response 2.0

NATO's deterrence and defence posture must be strengthened if the Alliance is to prevent conflict and deter aggression. Enhancing the readiness and responsiveness of NATO conventional forces must be the Alliance's overarching priority. NATO's nuclear posture and strategy must also be modernised if the growing gap between the conventional and nuclear deterrents lowers the threshold for nuclear use.

Warfighting ethos

Along with powerful, agile and resilient conventional forces, Allies need to adopt a warfighting ethos as core Alliance doctrine. NATO must re-establish the capacity for the swift generation of force mass and manoeuvre if NATO is to meet the force-on-force challenge. NATO should promote integrated deterrence, building on reforms to the NATO Command Structure, as well as undertake more systematic contingency planning, to ensure effective command and control across the conflict spectrum.

Military ambition

NATO must at least be able to command simultaneously operations in a large-scale state-to-state conflict (a Major Joint Operation-Plus) and undertake a sustained strategic stabilisation campaign to NATO's South.



NATO's crisis management mechanisms are still far too complicated. NATO's role in the defence of the global commons must also be enhanced with multi-domain forces able to operate to effect across air, sea, land, space, cyber, knowledge and information. NATO must train and think as it plans to fight. Impediments to battle-critical information-sharing must also be removed.

Counter-terrorism

The terrorist threat to the Euro-Atlantic Area will increase. NATO's Counter-Terrorism Policy Guidelines and NATO's support for the Global Coalition Against Daesh are vital. NATO must also contribute more to preventing terrorist attacks on its members, including home-grown plots. While this is primarily a national and EU responsibility, with law enforcement and interior ministries in the lead, NATO's newly upgraded Joint Intelligence and Security Division, with its secure communications links to Allied capitals, could become a clearing-house for exchanging classified terrorist threat information.

Defence and dialogue

NATO must engage with Russia and Ukraine on the basis of principle: A new political strategy is needed for NATO to better engage with Russia. Dialogue must go hand-in-hand with defence with the goal of managing competition and reducing risks until fundamental differences that prevent a return to cooperation with Russia are resolved. At the same time, the Alliance must help Ukraine, Georgia, and other Eastern European neighbours to defend themselves and continue to promote the Euro-Atlantic integration of the Western Balkans. The Open Door policy, and the possibility of future membership, must also be upheld.

A broad security agenda

The enduring mission in Afghanistan is a reminder that the security of the Alliance does not stop at its borders. NATO needs a broader security role to reinforce the engagement of the Alliance across the Middle East, North Africa and beyond. Defence capacity-building to NATO's South will be an important contribution to peace and security, working closely with regional security institutions, such as the African Union and the Arab League, as well as with individual partner nations.

Smart NATO

If the Alliance is to both protect people and project influence and power, NATO

should better integrate the many centres of excellence into a network of excellence, and establish new centres to address new challenges. A bespoke Hyper War Centre of Excellence would help generate an urgently needed coherent approach to future war, including work on Artificial Intelligence and expanded NATO cyber defence within its defence and deterrence measures. Such a Centre would necessarily need to train

and educate NATO's civilian and military leadership, and include staff courses for the North Atlantic Council, NATO staff and member nation civilians.

The vital NATO-EU Strategic Partnership

The European Union will become an increasingly important foreign and security actor and partner of NATO, with the NATO-EU strategic partnership increasingly important for the management of transatlantic relations. For many Europeans, the EU Common Security and Defence Policy will be a, if not the vehicle for defence policy. The European Defence Agency will also be the mechanism of choice for the development of military capabilities for many Europeans. Therefore, NATO and the European Union must overcome current barriers to foster a more substantial and mutually beneficial partnership and reinforce practical cooperation. A NATO-EU summit at heads of state and government level should be held at least once a year.

NATO's wider strategic partnerships

NATO must also create a world-wide network of strategic partnerships and institutions. Indeed, at a time of globalised security NATO needs to better forge functional political, civilian and military partnerships across the world. The creation of consultative councils with states such as Australia, China, India, Japan, and South Korea would be an important indicator of such ambition.

Equipping and affording NATO

NATO must innovate as an alliance and streamline the delivery of new technology and equipment. On average it takes 16 years from conception of military capability to operational effect, which is far too long. Capability fielding timelines must be shortened and commanders given a greater say in requirements development. NATO should promote a common standard for shared assessment, harmonised requirements and common specifications, and expand the use

of common funding, and conduct an Alliance-wide platform and systems audit as part of a Future Requirements Framework.

Partnerships with defence industry – old and new

NATO must gain a far better understanding of the impact of new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Quantum Com-

puting together with their defence applications. Many of the companies driving new technologies are not defence giants, nor are many of them defence-focused. Such companies will need to be sure that if they invest limited people and resources on NATO projects, their existence will not be threatened by sclerotic acquisition practices.

NATO and the future of war

NATO needs a future war strategy that fully integrates hybrid warfare, cyber war, counter-terrorism and hyper war, and the continuum between them. Critically, NATO must leverage the impact of new technologies on the security space and battlespace. NATO must better grip and exploit new information technologies, and systematically trawl newly-available artificial intelligence-powered capacities to exploit big data. To that end, NATO should consider creating an agency similar in mission to that of the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.

Next steps?

NATO leaders should commission a strategy review, which might be embodied in a new Strategic Concept. NATO needs a forward-looking strategy that sets out how the Alliance will meet the challenges of an unpredictable and fast-changing world.

Julian Lindley-French is Senior Fellow at the Institute of Statecraft in London, a Distinguished Visiting Research Fellow at the National Defense University in Washington, and Fellow of the Canadian Global Affairs Institute. He was Lead Writer for the Steering Committee of the GLOBSEC NATO Adaptation Initiative.

The final report of the NATO Adaptation Initiative and a collection of supporting papers were presented to the NATO Deputy Secretary General in November 2017.

What is published in NATO Review does not necessarily represent the official position or policy of member governments, or of NATO.





NATO MEDICAL EXPERTS VISIT ARMENIA

From 11 to 15 June a team from JFC Brunssum, supported by the NATO Medical Centre of Excellence (COE) in Budapest, conducted an Expert Team Visit (ETV) to Armenia, on the subject of Military Medicine. Over 3 days the team, comprising Lieutenant Commander Michelle Ward from JFC Brunssum's Military Partnership Branch, Lieutenant Colonel Jahara Bvgari from the HQs' Medical Branch, and Navy Captain Jack Taylor from the COE, provided a range of briefings in the Military Hospital, and Military Medical Training Centre, both in the Armenian capital city of Yerevan. Topics included the NATO's Medical Planning Process, Medical Treatment Facilities, and Pre-Hospital Trauma Life Support. The event was very well received by an unusually large audience of both military and civilian medical professionals. Four further ETVs to Armenia are scheduled to take place later this year.



JFC BRUNSSUM CONDUCTS A GENERAL NATO OVERVIEW ETV TO BELARUS

A team of personnel from Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum Military Partnership Branch conducted an Expert Team Visit (ETV) to the Military Sports Committee at Minsk, Belarus, between 10 Apr – 12 Apr 2018; the purpose of which was to brief on the General NATO Overview.

The delegation, consisting of Commander Yassen Kenarov, Lieutenant-Colonel Patrick Janssen, Major Joakim Larsen and Lieutenant-Commander Michelle Ward conducted a series of briefings oriented on NATO Command and Force Structure, NATO current missions and operations, NATO Operational and Exercise Planning Processes, NATO Logistics Principles and Interoperability, NATO STRATCOM, Public affairs in NATO, Gender perspective in Military Operations and Civil and Military Cooperation, for the benefit of 17 officers from the Belarussian Armed Forces.



MOBILE TRAINING TEAM IN UZBEKISTAN

From 28 May to 01 June a team from JFC Brunssum conducted a Joint Mobile Training Team (JMTT) serial in Uzbekistan, on the subject of Non Commissioned Officer (NCO) Leadership in NATO.

The team, led by Lieutenant Commander Michelle Ward of the headquarters' Military Partnership Branch, comprised Master Warrant Officer Peter Dunwoody, Senior Chief Petty Officer Jerome Claudon, Sergeant Fabian Boettcher and Sergeant Mike Chan. The event was held at the Uzbek Armed Forces Training Centre in Tashkent.

Over 4 days a range of briefings were given, primarily focusing on the curriculums of NCO training establishments of Alliance nations, and the personal experiences of international NCOs.

The event was very well received by an audience of training officers who had travelled from the Uzbek NCO Training College, in Samarkand. Two further training events in Uzbekistan are scheduled to be conducted by JFC Brunssum by the end of 2018.



JFC BRUNSSUM MILITARY PARTNERSHIP WITH IRISH DEFENCE FORCE'S

The JFC Brunssum J9 Military Partnership (MILPART) Operational Capabilities Concept Evaluation and Feedback (OCC E&F) Program Office conducted a NATO Self-Evaluation Level 1 (SEL1) event with the Irish Defence Force's 1st Armoured Cavalry Squadron (1ACS) in Cork, Ireland between 25 – 30 Mar 2018. The JFCBS OCC Program Office served as the lead NCS HQ OCC E&F entity represented by LTC Dai CHO (USA-F) and LTC Jean-Valery RODAK (FRA-A).

The OCC E&F is a NATO Bi-SC MILPART initiative formalized in 1999 at the Washington Summit by NATO's Heads of State and Government. The program's aim is to improve the interoperability and operational capabilities of partner units in order to enhance the operational relationship between the Alliance and partners contributing to NATO-led operations and to the NATO Response Force (NRF).

As the newest OCC E&F Partner in 2016, Ireland had declared the 1ACS to the NATO Pool of Forces (PoFs). Since then, the Irish Defence Force has worked diligently to develop its OCC E&F Program and establish certified cadre of OCC E&F Evaluators. The SEL1 event represented a significant milestone for the Irish Defence Force as the Irish OCC E&F team planned, organized and executed its first interoperability self-evaluation on the 1ACS, in accordance with NATO requirements and standards, and demonstrated its program development and progress. The SEL1 event was further supported with on-site NATO OCC E&F expertise through NATO Monitors and external partner personnel.

The next event for the 1ACS will be the NATO Evaluation Level 1 (NEL1), planned for October 2018 in Cork, where the evaluation process will move to the next phase. Unlike the SEL1, the NEL1 will be organized, conducted and lead by NATO OCC personnel with direct contributions from both Irish and Partner Nations' OCC certified evaluators.



JFC BRUNSSUM EXPERT TEAM VISIT TO UKRAINE

From 21 to 25 May a team of four JFCBS personnel conducted an Expert Team Visit (ETV) to Ukraine, where they delivered lectures on the subjects of Military Legal Advice (LEGAD), Strategic Communications (STRATCOM) and Public Affairs (PA).

The team was led by Captain Pol Rakower of the JFC Brunssum Military Partnership Branch and comprised: Colonel Bart Haverman (LEGAD); Lieutenant Commander Jerry Parker (PA); and Major Justin Koper (STRATCOM). The ETV was conducted at the National Defence University in Ukraine's Capital City of Kyiv, commencing Tuesday, 22 May, with introductory briefings on NATO.

Over the three days a wide range of briefings were given on topics including the Law of Armed Conflict, STRATCOM Frameworks and Social Media. A large part of the course included interactive practical sessions to practice techniques and test procedures. The ETV was well received by the Ukrainian Military whose feedback and whose own experiences of operations were of great value to the ETV team. The Ukrainian military displayed a considerably high proficiency and awareness of key issues.

The NATO team were also able to take a short tour of beautiful Kyiv's cultural and historical sites.



RAF100 CELEBRATIONS



STORY BY WO SIMON MARSH

Regular readers of the Northern Star will be aware that 1 April 2018 saw the Royal Air Force (RAF) celebrate its 100th birthday. To mark the occasion, the RAF has undertaken a variety of events to commemorate its history, celebrate the current work of the RAF and look forward to inspire the next generation. From a local perspective, the RAF contingents at Brunssum and Geilenkirchen organised a joint gathering on Thursday 19 April which featured the Royal Netherlands Air Force (RNLAF) orchestra, military wives choir, museum exhibits and static aircraft displays from the E-3D and Harvard.

NATO airbase Geilenkirchen provided a

fitting location to celebrate the RAF's centenary year as the airfield was constructed by the British. After opening as RAF Geilenkirchen in March 1953, it was home to a series of RAF fighter squadrons for 15 years. In 1968, the base was handed over to the Luftwaffe who based a surface-to-surface missile wing on the site. Thereafter, it transitioned to its current role in 1980 to become the home of the NATO AWACS.

The centenary event was only made possible by the generosity and help provided by a variety of organisations and individuals. A big thank you is extended to the military wives choir for their performance, the RN-

LAF for providing the orchestra and Harvard aircraft, 8 Squadron RAF Waddington for the E-3D and Mr Rod Hawkins from the RAF Laarbruch museum for loaning memorabilia. Additional thanks must be made to the organising committee for putting this event together, Mrs Wenda Berentsen and Mrs Andrea Pearn who made the wonderful celebration cakes that were ceremonially cut by Flying Officer Alexander Allsebrook and Warrant Officer Gareth Whiffen who represented the RAF's youngest and oldest members of the military community. The evening was a fitting celebration of the 100th anniversary of RAF.



THE MILITARY WIVES CHOIRS FOUNDATION



The Military Wives Choirs Foundation (MWC) was founded in 2012 after a TV programme in which our first patron Gareth Malone set up choirs whilst UK Armed Forces were deployed in Afghanistan. Inspired by the benefits that a choir could bring to military wives during a deployment, more and more choirs began to set up at military bases across the UK.

I met with Claire Wilkinson, Choir Lead of the Military Wives Choir Brunssum, to find out more about the people and how it began:

“One of my first questions when posted is, ‘Is there a Choir?’. This is because of my

previous involvement with other choirs. This passion started when I first had young children. I found, like many others, that choir night was time for myself and a break from the daily routine. It’s a time when I feel I can actually be me.

Shortly after arriving in Brunssum, I asked around and, although people were interested in there being a choir, there wasn’t one. After going to perform in New York with the MWC, and having met so many people from the network, I realised that the only thing for it was to start one! I really missed the weekly singing, laughter and social side and wanted to give other people the

opportunity to experience it.

Since our first meeting in August 2016, we have gone from strength to strength, even performing in the Vijverpark for the 50th Anniversary celebrations of NATO Brunssum. We have also just recorded an album, ‘Remember’, with other MWC from across the world. This is being released later this year to commemorate the centenary of the end of World War One. Let me know if you would like one!

People can come and join us for a trial night, of course. There’s always cake! Just email us: brunssum@militarywiveschoirs.org”.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AFNORTH JUNIOR ROTC CORPS OF CADETS!

They underwent an AF JROTC Headquarters inspection just before the Easter break and did exceptionally well. The cadets reviewed all the regulations, prepared a Mission Briefing, practice their Drill and ran comprehensive checklists to ensure complete success. The Corps was ready... and the inspector found no discrepancies or procedural “findings”. This resulted in a grade of “Exceeds Standards”, the highest evaluation attainable.

Led by senior cadets Sabrina Durrell and

Melany Macauley – the Corps earned top marks in all their graded measurements. The entire cadet Corps performed exceptionally well in all aspects of the inspection, and took great pride in accomplishing their individual and unit goals. Not only did they achieve the highest inspection grade possible, the unit was designated as a “Distinguished Unit, With Merit”. Only the top 1 percent of all Junior ROTC units achieve this annual recognition.

Their instructors, Col (Ret) Ray Robi-

doux and SMSgt (Ret) Dennis Parise created a dynamic and supportive learning environment along with an outstanding community outreach program. They also provided exceptional mentorship and leadership in administering their JROTC program. The AFNORTH High School cadet citizenship program is making a significant impact on the school, the cadets and the community.

Again, congratulations to each and every cadet on a job well done!



VISITS AND ACTIVITIES

HQ Activities in April - June 2018



APRIL 16-26, 2018

Brunssum supported Exercise VIKING 18

Brunssum recently supported Exercise VIKING 18, conducted by Sweden, one of our key partners. The exercise took place from 16 to 26 April 2018 at sites in Brazil, Bulgaria, Finland, Ireland, Serbia and Sweden. VIKING 18 was organised by a planning team from the Swedish Armed Forces and the Folke Bernadotte Academy. The event included over 2500 participants from 61 countries and 80 organizations, with representation of UN agencies, the EU, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and a variety of other international and non-governmental organisations. The training audience took part in roles in NATO, UN and EU missions in a well-developed scenario using the geography of Scandinavia in a developing world setting.



APRIL 16, 2018

Visit of Russian Experts to JFC Brunssum

Brunssum, the Netherlands - At the request of NATO Headquarters JFC Brunssum hosted a group of 'Russian Experts' Friday 13 April to promote dialogue and transparency. The visiting group were briefed on the roles and responsibilities of JFC Brunssum and how the work undertaken at the base is politically-directed and framed within a political context.

The visiting group comprised:

Mr A Konkov – Lecturer, Moscow State University;
Mr V Koziulin – Member of Executive Board, PIR Centre, Moscow;
Mr R Larionov – Centre for Political Technologies, Moscow;
Mr K Martynov – Editor, Politics Section, Novaya Gazeta, Moscow;
Mr Ofitserov-Belskii – Lecturer, Higher School of Economic, Perm;
Dr M Suchkov – Russian International Affairs Council, Moscow.

The visitors were accompanied by Ms E Smolokurova, Principal Assistant, NATO Information Office, Moscow.



MAY 5, 2018

Netherlands National Memorial Service in Brunssum

Brunssum, the Netherlands – Friday 04 May the annual Dutch Remembrance Day service was conducted in Brunssum. Shortly prior to the ecumenical service at the St. Gregorius Church attendees were delighted to witness a Lancaster Bomber, from the Royal Air Force's 'Historic Flight', as it conducted an impressive fly-past.

On completion of a moving and well attended church service, attendees formed a parade behind the JFC Brunssum Flag Party and proceeded to the Brunssum Cemetery. On arrival, two minutes of silence was observed in respect of those buried in the cemetery who paid the ultimate price so that we can live in peace today. Following this the Acting Mayor of Brunssum, Mr Gerd Leers, made a short speech in both Dutch and English.



MAY 18, 2018

Chief of Defence of Finland visits JFC Brunssum

Brunssum, the Netherlands – Yesterday, Thursday May 17th, the Chief of Defence of Finland, General Jarmo Lindberg, paid a visit to Joint Force Command Brunssum.

Welcomed by JFCBS Commander, General Riccardo Marchiò, General Lindberg received a number of briefings on a variety of topics outlining JFC Brunssum's responsibilities and priorities, touching the current priorities of the Headquarter: NATO's Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan; the enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) initiative in North-Eastern Europe; NATO's Response Force where JFC Brunssum is the standby command for 2018.

Also the adaptation of the NATO Command Structure and NATO's Exercise programme were part of the challenging briefing sessions. With a particular focus on the Baltic Sea Region, the need for sustained partnership, interoperability and synchronization was emphasised.



JUNE 2018

AFNORTH International School celebrates student Achievement.

The first week of June is the moment that AFNORTH International School recognizes and celebrates the achievements of some of its most distinguished students. The International Award Ceremony is one of the high lights of the school year.

Besides celebrating our students, AFNORTH International School also looks upon this ceremony as a great opportunity to promote and cherish the relationship with JFC HQ Brunssum. Throughout the history of the school various Commanders of the Brunssum Base have been presenting the highest award, The Graf von Kiemannsegg Award, to the most outstanding student. This year General Riccardo Marchiò and Ms Marchio generously made time in their busy schedule to continue this tradition.

Other honoured guests from JFC HQ who presented awards were Major General Carl Alex, Brigadier General Guiliano van der Voet, Group Captain Matt Radnall, Colonel Anne Marie Fenton and Colonel Walter Taylor. AFNORTH International School is proud of their student body and would like to thank all who have contributed to the success of this year's International Award Ceremony.



JUNE 1, 2018

Visit to Spanish Chief of Defence and NRF18 Special Operations Component Command

Madrid, Spain - Commander JFC Brunssum, General Riccardo Marchiò, made an official visit to Spain, 31 May. Whilst in country he met with the Spanish Chief of Defence (General Fernando Alejandre, a former Deputy Commander JFC Brunssum) and paid a visit to the NATO Response Force (NRF) 2018 Special Operations Component Command (SOCC), that is provided by Spain.

In his meeting with General Alejandre the JFC Brunssum Commander covered a wide range of issues impacting southern Europe and the Alliance as a whole but also seized the opportunity to pay tribute to Spain's enduring commitment to NATO's major lines of effort.

At the SOCC General Marchiò met with Major General Jaime Iñiguez, Commander of the unit, and was briefed on the structure and activities of that organization. The NRF 2018 SOCC is provided, for the first time, by the Spanish Joint Special Operations Command (MCOE, in accordance with its Spanish acronym) with Spain as the framework nation. The SOCC staff consists of personnel from 10 nations; its task organization includes 9 Special Operations Task Groups (SOTG) from 6 different nations. The SOCC is one of the pillars - together with the air, land and sea - of the NRF, established by the Alliance in 2002 as a high readiness force.



JUNE 4, 2018

Commander MARCOM Visits JFC Brunssum

Brunssum, the Netherlands - General Riccardo Marchiò, Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, welcomed Vice Admiral Clive Johnstone (Allied Maritime Command (MARCOM) Commander) to JFC Brunssum Friday 1st June in order to exchange thoughts on command guidance and philosophy.

The Commanders focused their discussion on strengthening the cohesion of the Alliance through improved intra-command cooperation with the objective to further promote the readiness and adaptability of NATO-assigned forces.



JUNE 8, 2018

General Riccardo Marchiò Addresses his Staff

Brunssum, the Netherlands – As the summer leave period is fast approaching General Riccardo Marchiò, Commander JFC Brunssum, took the opportunity to address his staff today.

On this occasion he complemented the staff for their sustained professional execution of the headquarters' missions/tasks and made the following statement: "We have focused on refining and developing our Lines of Effort to execute our tasks as an operational headquarters. We have taken a series of steps forward towards deterrence and deliberate planning revisions. We are working to improve and evolve our enhanced Forward Presence direction and guidance. You have taken my Commander's Intent and through the initiative of each and every one of you, we are improving across every function and every mission. You have earned my trust."

The Commander also took the time to outline his thoughts with regard to the ongoing Command Structure Adaptation (NCSA) initiative and how it is likely to impact JFC Brunssum.

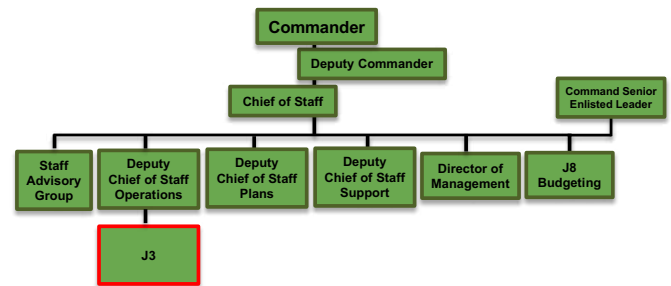
To conclude, the Commander recognised the outstanding efforts of 14 staff members, both military and civilian, by awarding them his Commander's Commendation.

#WEAREJFCBS

#WEARENATO



NAME: **ZLATKO SUDIC**
 RANK: **MAJOR**
 SERVICE: **ARMY**
 NATION: **CROATIA**
 OFFICE: **OPS-J3-J35 SYNCHRONIZATION
& EXECUTION BRANCH**



J3-J35 Synchronization & Execution Branch

coordinates and synchronises the execution and adjustments of the operations between the JFC HQ, assigned components and other actors in theatre or in preparation of a specific operation, including NRF if required.

When did you arrive in Brynssum and what is your job at the headquarters?

I arrived in September 2016 and I am serving as a Staff Officer in OPS-J3-J35 Synchronization & Execution Branch.

Tell us about your military career?

My military career started in early 90s, more than 25 years ago during Croatian Homeland War when I was enlisted as a member of very famous 1st professional guardian brigade "Tigers". After that I was serving in reconnaissance units and Special Forces as and NCO Instructor and Special Forces Training Section head which was most exciting period of my military life so far because we were dealing with all Special Forces skills and training (parachuting, airborne, reconnaissance, commando..) which was at that time back bone and main engine for modern Croatian Armed Forces development and real game changer. Finally before I became an Officer my last NCO position was 1st guardian brigade "Tigers" brigade Command Sergeant Major (CSM) which was top and at the same time end of my approximately 10 years long NCO career. In 2002 I was applied and selected for the Officer school. After I got promoted in OF-1 my military career started from the very beginning, from platoon leader position and it developed over the years from Battalion, Brigade, Army HQ and before coming here I was working as a Staff Officer in Croatian Armed Forces General Staff for a six years which helps me to adapt and understand Joint Level environment. My civilian expertise is related to Crisis management which is "luckily" in line with military and overall security challenges we are facing now days. I deployed in Kashmir (India and Pakistan) as a UN military observer, training and security Officer for 15 months, after that I deployed in Afghanistan twice as a part of ISAF Forces. As all Officers do I graduated on Basic, Advance Officer Schools and Command Staff College including great number of different Trainings and Courses.

Tell us about your job and what kind of challenges you have to face?

My job at JFCBS is very interesting and very demanding at the same time. As a part of Synchronization and Execution Branch my every day job is about coordination, synchronization of execution and adjustment of operations between JFCBS, assigned components

and other actors in theatre or in preparation of a specific operation. We are on daily basis dealing with overall management and coordination. My job is to support planning, execution and ongoing efforts with functional expertise and advice. As a very good example of all above mentioned we can mention last two exercises "Trident Javelin 17" and "Brilliant Joust 18" in which we exercised planning, preparation, execution and assessment, performing Joint coordination and Joint interaction with all assigned players. Personally, I found both exercises quite challenging and my major finding is that interaction with people, communication and coordination are key to success. During this period, especially during "Brilliant Joust 18" in deployed environment I learned to be more open minded and more cooperative in this diverse multinational Joint level HQ. Regardless my previous experience, adaptation to the HQ battle rhythm and processes, way of thinking and full spectrum approach was one of biggest challenges I faced in this HQ, but with proper approach and attitude there is solution for any possible challenge. As a Croatian Officer working in this environment I learned and gain lot for the future regarding military portion of the job, I learned a lot about people and more about myself, which will for sure help me to improve.

Is your family here with you?

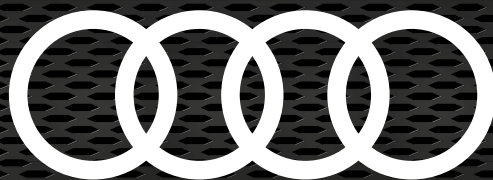
Yes, I am more than happy to confirm that my family is here with me, my wife Renata, my two daughters Tena and Sara and my son Jakov. We are leaving in beautiful city of Maastricht and they are strongest and greatest support possible and I am very happy to have them here.

What are your hobbies?

Life in the JFCBS is quite busy and Family obligations after that are quite time consuming, but there is always time for relaxation and having a good time. Long relaxing walking and traveling are very high on the list when we fit all our schedules together. Cooking is one of my longest lasting hobbies and I am using especially weekend time trying to cook something delicious. Playing with kids is one of the high priority occupations for me and when weather allows it we are trying to spend all time possible outside the house doing many interesting stuff. Beside that if any time left I am enjoying exploring and reading about historical and nature related stuff.

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We are looking forward to your visit!

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

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