

NORTHERN STAR

MAGAZINE FOR HQ JFC BRUNSSUM - JULY 2017



SPECIAL EDITION – BRUNSSUM CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF NATO

BATTLEGROUP IN LATVIA MARKS COMPLETION OF ENHANCED FORWARD PRESENCE DEPLOYMENT

CERTIFIED: MULTINATIONAL CORPS NORTHEAST IS NOW A HIGH READINESS HQ

AN ALLIANCE OF 29: MONTENEGRO JOINS NATO





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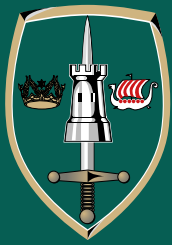
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NORTHERN STAR

MAGAZINE FOR HQ JFC BRUNSSUM

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EXCLUSIVELY WITH THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:



SPECIAL BOOKLET

ON JFC BRUNSSUM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY



ABOUT THE COVER

Brunssum, 31 May 2017 - Commander JFC Brunssum, General Salvatore Farina, and Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Curtis M. Scaparrotti, salute the flags during the 50th anniversary Parade in Lindeplein (photo credit: Davide Galli)

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50 YEARS, ONE MEMORABLE DAY

Wednesday May 31 2017, the day we celebrated 50 Years of NATO in Brunssum, was a unique day with many highlights: King Willem-Alexander who graciously consented to be our guest of honour; Ms Rose Gottemoeller the Deputy Secretary General of NATO who represented the Secretary General himself; Mrs Jeanine Hennis-Plasscheart the Minister of Defence of the Netherlands representing the Dutch Government; and then General Curtis M. Scaparrotti the Supreme Allied Commander Europe and General Petr Pavel the Chairman of the NATO Military Committee as the highest military representatives for the Alliance attending this event, along with many other guests.

Other special moments included the unveiling of a NATO-monument on the steps of the Lindeplein; and, throughout the afternoon and evening, an eclectic combination of activities that delivered a family focused event that will live long in the memories of those fortunate enough to have been there. So many highlights, so many moments to treasure.

But what made this day really special was the infectious sense of harmony and friendship that could be sensed everywhere.

So many nationalities, so many cultures, so many different languages – but the overriding sentiment was that, despite all our differences, we all share one world, one home and a common set of values. The atmosphere was one of joy, of happiness, and mutual respect that perfectly symbolises the strong bond that exists between the town and the personnel of JFC Brunssum.

We really had something to celebrate – 50 years of NATO in Brunssum. And celebrate we did. We did it by sharing. We created a glow that will remain with many of us for a long time to come.

We would both like to take this opportunity to thank all those who contributed to this co-hosted event making it a success. Sincere thanks to the planning committees, the unsung hero's behind the scenes whose enormous input often goes unnoticed, the emergency services without whom this type of event cannot be conducted, the nations who supported us by sending demonstration teams from their military forces, the large number of VIPs, the general public and the families who joined in our celebrations. Thank you all!

Finally, we also want to celebrate the uniqueness of this event with a special edition of the Northern Star, for all of you to treasure the memories of a memorable day. Enjoy!

General Salvatore Farina
Commander, JFC Brunssum



Luc Winants
Mayor of Brunssum

More Together!



SECRETARY GENERAL DECLARES DEPLOYMENT OF THE FOUR EFP BATTLEGROUPS COMPLETE



Story by JFC Brunssum Public Affairs Office

Adaži, Latvia - The welcome ceremony of the enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroup (eFP) deployed to Latvia on June 19 marks the successful completion of all eFP deployments to the Baltic States and Poland, as announced at the Warsaw summit eleven months ago.

The Canadian-led Battlegroup was officially welcomed by NATO Secretary General, Jens Stoltenberg, the President of the Republic of Latvia, Raimonds Vejonis, and the Ministers of Defense of Latvia and Canada, Raimonds Bergmanis and

Harjit Sajjan respectively, as well as the Chief of Defense of Latvia and the troop-contributing Nations - Albania, Canada, Italy, Poland, Slovenia and Spain - and many other dignitaries.

In his remarks the Secretary General underlined that these forces send a clear message: NATO stands as one. Altogether there are more than 4000 troops deployed; they are well trained and well equipped, and share a common purpose: to defend Allies from aggression.

The Minister of Defense of Latvia emphasised that, less than one year after the decision taken at the Warsaw Summit, we

welcomed troops from six NATO countries on the ground, shoulder to shoulder with Latvian soldiers - 'together we will defend our people, our country and our values', he said.

Commander JFC Brunssum, General Salvatore Farina, also participated in this milestone event - along with Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Sir James Everard, Commander Multinational Corps Northeast, Lieutenant General Manfred Hofmann, and other NATO officials - and had the opportunity to congratulate the battlegroup commander, Lieutenant Colonel Wade Rutland, for

The welcome ceremony in Latvia for the deployment of the fourth and last battlegroup of NATO's enhanced Forward Presence marks the completion of the strengthening of the Alliance's Eastern flank



the successful deployment of the fourth eFP unit to the Eastern flank of the Alliance: 'Today, with the troops under your command deployed to Latvia, NATO adds a new, significant capability to its enhanced deterrence and defense posture on the Eastern flank of the Alliance, thus providing a balanced and proportionate response measure in times of crisis', the General said.

After the ceremony, which included a parade and some reflective moments, a static display allowed the participants to meet and greet the troops on the ground. The almost 1100 man-strong Battlegroup will be training and operating with the

Latvian Land Force Infantry Brigade and be based at Camp Adazi.

At the 2016 NATO Summit in Warsaw the Heads of States and Governments of NATO Nations agreed to deploy multinational Battlegroups to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland in the framework of an enhanced Forward Presence of the Alliance in order to strengthen its collective deterrence and defence posture in the region.

During his visit to Latvia General Farina also met with the Chief of the Latvian National Defense Forces, Major General Leonids Kalnins.

Above: Soldiers, carrying the flags of the six nations contributing to the eFP battlegroup, and from the host nation, Latvia, salute the authorities during the welcome ceremony.

Opposite page, clockwise from top left: NATO Secretary General addresses the audience; Troops from Canada, framework nation, marching;

Family photo of authorities attending the ceremony with the NATO flag and the seven national ensigns.



MULTINATIONAL CORPS NORTH-EAST CERTIFIED AS HIGH READINESS FORCES HEADQUARTERS

Story by JFC Brunssum Public Affairs Office

Szczecin, Poland - On 14 June Multinational Corps North-East (MNC NE) was certified as a NATO High Readiness Forces Headquarters and Land Component Command.

This milestone was achieved after the Combat Readiness Evaluation carried out during Exercise Saber Strike 2017, led by US Army Lieutenant General Darryl Williams, Commander LANDCOM. The positive outcomes of these demanding tactical tests were presented to the Commander JFC Brunssum during a distinguished visitors' day hosted by Headquarters MNC NE and attended by high ranking officials from the Corps' framework nations including: the Chief of Defense of Poland (Lieutenant General Leszek Surawsky); the Deputy Chief of Defense of Denmark (Lieutenant General Per Ludvigsen); and the Deputy Chief of the German Army (Lieutenant General Carsten Jacobsen); together with representatives from SHAPE and other Allied commands.

With this certification MNC NE, under the Command of Lieutenant General Manfred Hofmann, was accorded full responsibility for land operations on the eastern flank of the Alliance. This translates to a military task that incorporates a permanent readiness to react to crisis situations and sustained preparedness to deploy promptly to a conflict area in the region.

The Corps' new capability will be employed promptly in the next few days as it assumes command and control over Allied units participating in Exercise Saber Strike 2017. This includes command and control of enhanced Forward Presence Battlegroups established in Lithuania, Estonia and Poland.

This is another step in the adaptation process of the Alliance in order to cope with the challenges of a changed security environment.



During the US-led exercise Saber Strike 17 Visitors Day in Szczecin the Corps successfully completed the Combat Readiness Evaluation, adding new capabilities to NATO



Above: Commander JFC Brunssum, General Salvatore Farina, salutes Commander Multinational Corps Northeast, Lieutenant General Manfred Hoffman, after the Corps has been officially certified as a NATO High Readiness Headquarters;

Left: Family photo during the Distinguished Visitors' Day of exercise Saber Strike 2017 in Szczecin;

Right: as part of a static display a board illustrates deployable elements of the Corps.



MONTENEGRO JOINS NATO

Flag-raising ceremony at HQ JFC Brunssum for the 29th member's accession to the Alliance



Story by NATO Press and Media

The flag of Montenegro was raised at NATO Headquarters on Wednesday (7 June 2017) in a special ceremony to mark the country's accession to NATO. Flag raising ceremonies were also held simultaneously at Allied Command Operations (SHAPE) in Mons and Allied Command Transformation in Norfolk, Virginia. Montenegro became the 29th member of the Alliance on Monday (5 June 2017) when it deposited its instrument of accession to the North Atlantic Treaty with the US State Department in Washington DC

Standing alongside President Filip Vujanović of Montenegro, Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said, "We value Montenegro, and recognise the unique contribution you make to the Alliance." The Secretary General also commended Montenegro's commitment to Euro-Atlantic integration and congratulated the Montenegrin government and people for their achievements in the 11 years since the country regained independence. Allied foreign ministers signed Montenegro's Accession Protocol in May 2016, after which all 28 national parliaments voted to ratify its membership. Montenegro's accession represents NATO's first enlargement since 1 April 2009, when Albania and Croatia joined the Alliance



Top left and above: Brunssum - the flag of Montenegro is raised on one of the masts in front of the new main entrance of the Headquarters during an official ceremony on 7 June. Left: HQ service members report to Commander and Deputy Commander JFC Brunssum after raising the flag



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HEADQUARTERS ALLIED JOINT FORCE



Story by JFC Brunssum Public Affairs Office

Introduction

The aftermath of World War II saw much of Europe devastated in a way that is now difficult to envision. Approximately 36.5 million Europeans died in the conflict, 19 million of them civilians. European states needed confidence in their security thus military cooperation, and the security it would bring, would have to develop in parallel with economic and political progress.

The North Atlantic Treaty was signed on 4 April, 1949, by Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom and the United States. Subsequently, other countries joined the Alliance: Greece and Turkey on 18 February 1952; and the Federal Republic of Germany on 06 May 1955. Since then membership has grown to 29 as (in date order) Spain, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Albania, Croatia and Montenegro have joined.

On 02 April 1953, Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) was activated together with operational headquarters for the Northern, Central and Southern Regions. Allied Forces Central Europe (AFCENT) was established on 20 August 1953, at Fontainebleau.

France Withdraws From NATO Military Structure

On 10 March 1966 President de Gaulle announced his governments' intention of withdrawing from NATO's centralised military structure although France would remain a member of the Atlantic Alliance. On 29 March the French government declared that Allied facilities were to be out of France by 01 April 1967. Planning began immediately upon a fully-integrated AFCENT Headquarters, excluding French participation, but located outside France.

In the Netherlands, vast reserves of natural gas had been discovered in the north, at Groningen. The South Limburg coalfield was no longer economic and the Dutch decided to close the mines. The government embarked on an ambitious redevelopment programme for South Limburg to alleviate the economic and social impact of the mine closures and, as part of this programme, HQ AFCENT was offered the site of the old Hendrik Mine as its new location.

COMMAND BRUNSSUM - EVOLUTION

Brunssum HQs Inaugurated

The move of the Headquarters to South Limburg was completed on time during the period January to March 1967 and on 01 June the official inauguration ceremony took place at Brunssum in the presence of the Dutch Minister of Defence, the Governor of Limburg, SACEUR and many other distinguished guests. The Headquarters complex was named after Field Marshal Hendrik van Nassau-Ouwerkerk, an officer who served with distinction during the reign of William III of Orange.

The NATO Airborne Early Warning & Control System Programme Management Agency (NAPMA) opened at the Brunssum site on 24 August 1979 and this, coupled with development of US storage sites, the planned deployment of cruise missiles and the noise generated by AWACS aircraft flying from Geilenkirchen Airbase, just across the border in Germany, strained relations with some sections of the local population and led to protests against the militarisation of the Province.

Clearance of old buildings on the site continued. The pithead tower and the water tower not only hindered the redevelopment programme, they were becoming very dilapidated and would soon need expensive repair work to make them safe. It was decided to demolish them, but first, a new 80m high communications tower was built (in 1987) to carry the communications antennae which were mounted on the pithead tower.

The demolition contract was let to the Dutch firm of van Vliet for about 1 million Dutch guilders. The water tower came down very quickly. However, the pithead tower was a different proposition. The structure, which had been erected with no thought of its eventual removal, was 62m high and consisted of 6 000 tonnes of reinforced concrete with up to 400 kgs of reinforcement steel per cubic metre.

The contractor brought the largest mobile crane in Europe onto the site, a Japanese machine. The Hitachi KE 1000 crawler weighed 230 tonnes and incorporated a jib that, fully extended, could reach 120m.

The crane hoisted a 20 tonne crawler tractor and other machinery on to the tower and demolition commenced using concrete breakers and hydraulic cutting attachments. The crane was used to remove large pieces of debris and to reposition smaller machines as the tower came down. Flame-cutting equipment and a swinging weight were also used. Bulk explosives could not be used because of the restricted nature of the site. However, once the main structure was down, borehole charges were used to fracture the main supporting legs.

In 2000, the deactivation of Headquarters, Allied Forces Northern Europe (AFNORTH) in Kolsås, Norway led to the re-designation of AFCENT as Regional Headquarters, Allied Forces Northern Europe (RHQ AFNORTH). The headquarters operated as RHQ AFNORTH until 2004, when it was renamed Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum to add flexibility to the military command structure by removing regional restrictions.

NATO Adapts to Emerging Threats

Looking back, a primary driver for Alliance change throughout the nineties and early 21st Century can be traced back to the fall of the Berlin Wall, in 1989, and subsequent collapse of the Soviet Union, in December 1991. These hugely significant world events were followed a decade later, in 2001, by the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington (9/11). The unprecedented attacks upon the United States forced NATO to carefully re-examine its ongoing utility and ability to react to evolving modern security threats. Eventually this resulted in the publication of the Alliance's current Strategic Concept (Active Engagement, Modern Defence) that was adopted by Heads of State and Government at the NATO Summit in Lisbon, 19-20 November 2010. Possibly the broadest Strategic Concept ever its introduction has maintained and, in many areas, increased, the momentum behind the Alliance's desire to continually reform.

Another factor that has influenced the NATO Command Structure is enlargement. The Alliance's door remains open to any European country in a position to undertake the commitments and obligations of membership, and contribute to security in the Euro-Atlantic area. Since 1949, NATO's membership has increased from 12 to 29 countries.

JFC Brunssum – Current Mission and Tasks

Today, the responsibilities of JFC Brunssum continue to evolve but include: command of an enhanced NATO Response Force; Operational Control of the Alliance's Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan; oversight of NATO's enhanced Forward Presence initiative in northern Europe; and a remit to deploy, on order, to command and control joint forces at the operational level.

The NATO Response Force (NRF), announced at the Prague Summit in November 2002, signalled a huge conceptual change to Alliance thinking and General James Jones, then NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe, made the following statement at the time:





NATO Moves In - March 1967.

“... NATO will no longer have the large, massed units that were necessary for the Cold War, but will have agile and capable forces at Graduated Readiness levels that will better prepare the Alliance to meet any threat that it is likely to face in this 21st Century.”

The NRF concept was approved by Ministers of Defence, in June 2003, in Brussels.

The NRF is a highly ready and technologically advanced, multinational force made up of land, air, maritime and Special Operations Forces (SOF) components that the Alliance can deploy quickly, wherever needed. In addition to its operational role, the NRF can be used for greater cooperation in education and training, increased exercises and better use of technology.

NATO allies decided to enhance the NRF in 2014 by creating a ‘spearhead force’ within it, known as the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF). This enhanced NRF is one of the measures of the Readiness Action Plan (RAP), which aims to respond to the changes in the security environment and strengthen the Alliance’s collective defence. Overall command of the NRF belongs to the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) but operational command rotates annually between the two Joint Force Commands (Brunssum and Naples). The decision to deploy the NRF is taken by the North Atlantic Council, NATO’s highest political decision-making body.

Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan (RSM). Following the completion of the mission of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) at the end of 2014, a new, follow-on, NATO-led mission called Resolute Support was launched on 1 January 2015 to provide further training, advice and assistance for the Afghan security forces and institutions. At the NATO Summit in Warsaw, Allied leaders decided to extend the presence of RSM beyond 2016. Some 13,000 personnel from NATO member states and partner countries are deployed in support of RSM. The mission operates with one central hub (in Kabul/Bagram) and four spokes in Mazar-e Sharif, Herat, Kandahar and Laghman.

The detailed operation plan for Resolute Support was approved by NATO foreign ministers at the end of June 2014.

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

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

JFC Brunssum is the out-of-theatre operational command for NATO’s RSM. In this context the headquarters directs and supports the activities in-theatre and, inter alia, by providing pre-deployment training, budget oversight, contract management and playing a significant role in the assessment process, enables those deployed to concentrate on their training, assisting and advisory role to the Afghan security forces.

Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP). The purpose of NATO is to be a provider of deterrence based on a combination of Conventional, Nuclear, Forward Presence, Training and an effective and responsive Command and Control structure. With this in mind and as a consequence of recent security-related events in northern Europe it was confirmed at NATO’s Warsaw Summit (2016) that 4 framework nations would deploy battalion sized battle groups to selected member nations on the Alliance’s eastern flank. This commenced in early 2017 and by June the following were fully operational: a Canadian-led Battle Group in Latvia; a German-led Battle Group in Lithuania; a British-led Battle Group in Estonia; and an American-led Battle Group in Poland. Many allies are contributing to these forces which will periodically rotate but sustain a forward presence for the foreseeable future.

The role of the Battle Groups is to deter and contribute to defence against threats emerging from any direction across the full mission spectrum from large to regional and local threats. This initiative is one small part of a package of initiatives NATO is undertaking that represents the biggest reinforcement of Alliance collective defence since the end of the Cold War. Together, they are a clear demonstration of NATO’s transatlantic unity and resolve; they send

a clear message of Alliance solidarity to any potential aggressor. eFP Battle Groups deployed to northern European member nations are under operational control of JFC Brunssum.

Looking Ahead – A Long Lasting Relationship that Continues to Evolve and Strengthen

There is no doubt NATO will continue to evolve. To remain an international security actor on the world stage it has to as the only constant is change. The NATO Headquarters now located at Brunssum has a long and proud history that stretches back over six decades to its earliest days at Fontainebleau. Alongside measures to continually strengthen NATO so that the Alliance is best prepared to protect member nations, every effort will be taken to ensure the relationship between JFC Brunssum and the local community continues to deepen.

In 2007 General Ramms and Mayor Brocken unveiled a remembrance stone in Vijverpark, downtown Brunssum, to mark 40 years of a NATO HQs hosted by the town of Brunssum. 01 June 2017¹ the 50th anniversary of a NATO HQs, located at Brunssum, was reached and, to many of us, this was a highly significant milestone. This was marked by a military parade, not behind the wire of a military headquarters, but in the heart of Brunssum where it was open to the general public. Furthermore, in recognition of the significance of this moment, HRH Willem Alexander (King of the Netherlands), Ms Rose Gottemoeller (NATO Deputy Secretary General) and General Curtis M. Scaparrotti (SACEUR) were in attendance. As part of the programme Mr Theo Bovens (Governor of Limburg) unveiled a sculpture on the Lindeplein that reflects the strong bond of friendship and mutual respect that exists between the host town, host province and host nation with NATO.

No-one can categorically predict how long NATO will have a presence at Brunssum although, for now, no challenge to its continued presence is visible.

¹ The anniversary was celebrated 31 May 2017 due to the availability of VVIPs.



Queen Beatrix Visits AFCEM in 1983 - Hosted by General Dr Ferdinand von Senger und Etterlin.

Hendrik Mine Site Before Pithead and Water Towers were Demolished.



VISITS AND ACTIVITIES



28 May 2017

Margraten Memorial Ceremony

Brunssum, Netherlands — On a warm and sunny afternoon the American Battle Monuments Commission, the Superintendent and staff of the Netherlands American Cemetery (Margraten), accompanied by a host of local and regional officials gathered to pay tribute to soldiers laid to rest in the Margraten Cemetery who fought for the freedom we enjoy today.

The King was represented by Major General J. A. van der Louw (Adjutant General to His Majesty the King and Chief of the Military Household), the Honorable Ronald Plasterk (Minister of Interior of the Netherlands) represented the government of the Netherlands, whilst Th. J. F. M. Bovens (King's Commissioner, Province of Limburg) represented the local government of Limburg; military dignitaries, including General Curtis M. Scaparrotti (Supreme Allied Commander Europe) and Lieutenant General Janusz Adamczak (Chief of Staff JFC Brunssum) were also in attendance.

A number of moving tributes were made that served to remind those attending that freedom comes at a price, sometimes the highest price i.e. the laying down of one's life for others.



6 June 2017

New Deputy Commander Arrives

Brunssum, Netherlands - Lieutenant General Juan Campins arrives at Joint Force Command Brunssum to assume his new appointment as the Deputy Commander.

He was welcomed by the Commander, General Salvatore Farina, and senior members of the headquarters staff. In his arrival address, Lieutenant General Campins commented that he looked forward to working with such a high calibre team and highlighted the central role of the headquarters in many current NATO initiatives. Lieutenant General Campins arrives from Madrid where he was the Deputy Chief of Army Staff.

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8 June 2017

Swedish Ambassador to NATO and Chief of Swedish Joint Command Visit JFC Brunssum

Brunssum, Netherlands - On June 9th the Swedish Ambassador to NATO, the Honorable Hakan Malmqvist, and Vice Admiral Jan Thornqvist, Chief of the Swedish Joint Command, visited Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFCBS). Commander JFCBS, General Salvatore Farina, inaugurated a busy programme for his guests by welcoming them and expressing his appreciation of the Swedish contribution to NATO's Resolute Support mission, in Afghanistan.

Mr. Hakan Malmqvist expressed Sweden's determination to maintain and further develop Swedish Partnership activities with NATO.

Both parties agreed on the importance of regular meetings that promote information exchange and the sustainment of a transparent relationship.

May / June 2017

8 June 2017

Italian Republic Day

The Italian Delegation at JFC Brunssum celebrated the 'Festa della Repubblica' (Republic Day) together with many guests of the various nationalities working in the Headquarters. The recurrence - officially celebrated on 2nd June, date which marks the anniversary of the 1946 referendum in which Italians chose the new institutional form of the State - was celebrated with a number of activities attended by the Commander, General Salvatore Farina. During the evening event, hosted at the International Conference Centre, guests were shown a presentation about Italy's tradition, history and culture, followed by a welcome speech by the Commander and the commendation of a service member with the NATO Meritorious Medal, before enjoying the gastronomic part of the event, with Italian food specialties for all participants.



9 June 2017

Commander JFC Brunssum Summer Staff Address & Commendations Ceremony

Brunssum, Netherlands – Reflecting upon activities conducted over recent months General Salvatore Farina thanked his personnel for their motivation and dedication. A clear milestone event, conducted 31 May, was the unique anniversary programme where the Headquarters demonstrated its utility and high regard with which it values linkages to the local community and an unwavering desire to sustain such links. Looking to the future, the General encouraged his staff to recharge over the forthcoming summer leave period as the busy working tempo will increase as we approach the latter half of the year; especially as the NRF certification exercise, Trident Javelin 2017, will be conducted in November. Other missions will also keep JFC Brunssum busy over the coming months: Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan, requiring sustained engagement from its Out-Of-Theatre-Headquarters; on NATO's Eastern flank the Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) initiative is on a good path but will continue to necessitate coordination and thoughtful planning from Brunssum. The General also emphasized the importance of the Joint Operational Level networks to encourage trust and assist Headquarters interoperability. "More together!", the Commander stated as he concluded his staff address underlining, that only a well-trained synchronized staff is able to cope with all these various challenges at the same time. On completion of his address General Farina awarded Commanders' Commendations to personnel from the Headquarters in recognition of exceptional performance.



15-16 June 2017

Commander visits eFP battlegroups in Lithuania and Poland

Rukla, Lithuania - General Farina paid a visit to the largest training event in Lithuania this year – Exercise Iron Wolf 2017, after meeting the Lithuanian Chief of Defense - Lieutenant General Žukas. On this day, Commander JFC Brunssum, together with the Lithuanian Iron Wolf Brigade Commander – Colonel Steponavičius - and the commander of the German-led eFP Battle Group in Lithuania - Lieutenant Colonel Huber – witnessed a live demonstration of military capability and interoperability of the two units. General Farina commended the commander of the Battle Group and his troops for having done so much in so little time to enhance NATO's effective capability to deter and defend against any threat.

The German-led eFP battlegroup was the first of four to arrive in Eastern Europe. Since their arrival in Lithuania, as of the beginning of the year, soldiers have been conducting training and exercises to enhance their mutual understanding and interoperability with the Lithuanian Iron Wolf Brigade. The next day, 16 June, Commander JFC Brunssum visited the US-led eFP battlegroup in Orzysz, Poland, to meet its commander and the troops training together with the Polish 15th Mechanized Brigade.





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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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“Today we celebrate the anniversary of NATO Headquarters.
We do so in the presence of all 28 Nations, represented by the flags
proudly displayed here on our Lindeplein.

A display that perfectly illustrates the close ties that exist
between the Brunssum and the NATO communities.”

(Luc Winants, Mayor of Brunssum)