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NORTHERN STAR

Magazine for HQ JFC Brunssum – June 2013



Memorial Service in Brunssum

- General Breedlove Becomes the 17th SACEUR
- Planning the Response to Crisis
- Yet Another Step Forward for NRF 2014
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Submissions to the Northern Star can be made to room F 1.12, Bldg. H 106 or e-mailed to pao@jfcbs.nato.int. Articles should be in Microsoft Word format and, whenever possible, should be no longer than 300 words. Photographs should be at least 9x6 centimetres and 300 dpi. The Northern Star is published monthly and is available around the second Friday of each month.

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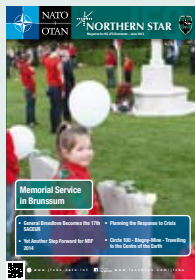
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About the Cover



The annual Memorial Service took place at the Brunssum War Cemetery on 4 May and was attended by hundreds of participants: children, veterans, scouts and numerous spectators.

Photo by Jaroslava Augustinova, Public Affairs Office

Command Group Corner

Since my arrival in JFCBS as DCOS Support in October 2012, this is my first appearance in the Command Group Corner. So far I have had the opportunity to work with the majority of you in various situations starting from Bold Dragon 2012. Paraphrasing Clausewitz, I have always been convinced that in our military life everything is simple but it does not necessarily mean that it is easy. Thus, as a personal imperative, the more we are simple the better!

According to the priorities given to us by our Commander, the DCOS Support "team" is coping with all the issues related to ISAF, NRF, Regional Focus and others. All these activities require a strong commitment from my staff and an inclusive approach to ensure the Support Organization fully sustains the operational requirement. A current good example is the CIS aspect of the NATO Response Force (NRF) Headquarters. Intensive preparation to become the NRF HQ has been Exercise Steadfast Cobalt which ran through much of May. Traditionally an exercise to validate the computer and communications networks expected to be in use if the NRF is activated, we were much more radical this year in applying the hard-won lessons of how we command and control our forces in Afghanistan. Focused on achieving comprehensive effect, Steadfast Cobalt demonstrated not only that we can now collaborate with all our component forces and share information seamlessly, but also how to share with our non-military "partners". It may seem obvious that we should engage comprehensively with these wider partners, but thanks to Steadfast Cobalt we now know we can operate as we should rather than (previously) as we could.

In the meantime the effort to support ISAF is continuing and during the last month of April, JFCBS hosted the 11th ISAF Senior Logistic Planning Conference (SLPC). We received 42 participants from 17 ISAF Troop Contributing Nations, together with representatives from CENTCOM, NSPA and DLA. They attended the two day event, sharing information on major logistic topics related to ISAF and the Post-2014 mission, concentrating on solutions to the major challenges of this very sensitive and challenging period. The SLPC has been very important in maintaining a clear picture of the situation on the ground in order to deliver the best possible logistic support for the soldiers

risking their lives daily in Afghanistan and to have a very useful look at the future. The well-being of our troops is our first priority and we strive to guarantee it despite the challenges of a very demanding theatre of operation, where the Lines of Communication are so hard to keep open and the weather conditions could have a more significant impact than in our countries.

Lastly, I would like to mention the importance of what we are doing to create a "Deployable Command". As well as the significant effort to create and standardize procedures, there is also the aspect of training the different echelons of the Joint Task Force Headquarters. I have been appointed as the Director of the Forward Coordination Element (FCE) and many of you have been appointed to the FCE staff. I know very well that our HQ is very busy and that you work often until late evening and sometimes during the weekends. Nevertheless, I would like to stress the importance of the training that you have already attended and the training you will be called to attend in the coming months in order to maintain and improve where necessary the individual skills and the general quality of the entire HQ; because, even though we speak about OLRT, FCE and ICE as separate blocks and even if we run a "single-block" training we do that as a whole! One single effort that will bring us well beyond the NRF 2014.



Major General Vincenzo Santo, Deputy Chief of Staff Support

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Hessian Mohammad, an Afghan National Army sergeant and welder, secures shelves in a detainee housing unit in the Afghan National Detention Facility-Parwan. Mohammad works in the ANDF-P Repairs and Utilities shop, which is responsible for facility maintenance and improvements. The shop made the transition from being U.S.-led to Afghan-led in March 2013. Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Katie D. Summerhill, department of defence

Afghan National Army Leads the Way Wielding Screw Guns and Welding Torches

Story by Sergeant Kathryn Summerhill

CAMP SABALU-HARRISON, Afghanistan - At the Afghan National Detention Facility-Parwan, the future is now in the hands of the Afghan National Army - not just in detainee care, but also in facility maintenance.

The ANA and U.S. forces at the ANDF-P put together a Repairs and Utilities shop or R and U, for short, to provide care for the facilities in which house detainees. Throughout the past year, the goal of the program has been to train as many ANA soldiers as possible and minimize U.S. assistance. The ability for the R and U program to sustain operations is of high importance to the ANA forces.

"I think it is the most important mission in the ANDF-P for the long-term survival of the facility," said U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Francis Arotin, a carpenter from Chardon, Ohio, deployed with Task Group Trident at the ANDF-P and who redeployed in early April 2013. "The [ANA] soldiers in R and U are the 'go-to' people for a lot of issues, and most things that

seem simple on the surface require a lot of effort to get accomplished."

While the U.S. R and U personnel served as the primary facility maintainers for the past few years, the torch now rests in the hands of the ANA, in the form of welding torches, hammers and screw guns. Though there was a learning curve at first for the ANA, the success is moving beyond the initial push by employing a "train-the-trainer" method.

"First I would make or repair something with their help, and then they would make or repair with my help, then they were on their own unless they asked for help," explained Arotin. "After our first crew stood up, we were able to use them to train the future groups while giving them enhanced training."

A difference between the U.S. and ANA armies is that Afghan soldiers don't enlist for a specific job; they enlist as basic soldiers. After four weeks of training, they are then tested individually to determine each soldier's literacy level. For Mohammad Salim, an ANA soldier and carpenter with the ANDF-P R and U, that test was his chance to be more than a basic soldier.

"Once they found out I could read and write they placed me in R and U," said Salim.

While growing up, Salim made the choice to go to school and learn the valuable skills of reading and writing, something that set him apart from his fellow soldiers. Salim knows that the time has come for the Afghans to manage the ANDF-P on

their own, so while there is much progress already accomplished, there is still more work to do.

"I am a carpenter, so if it is a carpentry job I can do it, but not all the stuff here. I need to learn other professions too," explained Salim.

The need for multifaceted ANA soldiers is something that the U.S. trainers recognize and consider a priority.

"Now the push is for cross-training to greatly expand our capabilities and help when they leave for [rest and relaxation] or when we have a spike of work in one of the trades," explained Arotin.

The R and U is a well-rounded and highly trained shop and will keep the facility running and capable of housing the detainees.

"If the ability to maintain a facility to a minimum standard is not obtainable, then the mission will fail due to poor working conditions, health issues, affected morale, etc.," emphasized U.S. Army Spc. Bobby Huff, Jr., an operator in R and U from Tallahassee, Fla., and deployed with the 160th Military Police Battalion.

Standing up a strong R and U shop at the ANDF-P not only benefits the facility,

it benefits the country of Afghanistan as well, said Salim.

"It's good that I am learning from the U.S. soldiers, and once I am done with the army, I can go out and start my own shop," said Salim, who plans on serving three years with the ANA, and then return home to use his acquired carpentry skills to provide for his family and improve the quality of life overall for his village. Other ANA soldiers feel that their duty doesn't just stop at the ANDF-P or their own village.

"I can take advantage of this shop and teach other soldiers who are serving my country," said Hussein, an ANA soldier and plumber at the ANDF-P who plans to serve in the army as long as he can.

The joint-force R and U shop built some integral parts of the ANDF-P, such as shelves welded into the new housing units to hold reading materials, retrofitted shower heads to prevent leakage, modifications to a building to facilitate phone calls home for detainees, and tables and chairs for classrooms in the detainee housing units. While all of these major projects are of note, something bigger was built in the R and U shop: a team.

"It was beneficial to work together as a team," said Huff. "Relationships of

positive natures create advancement in future endeavors. With the ANA in R and U, we have developed a trusted relationship that allows each to perform at their own pace or skill level."

"I am really happy to work with the Americans side-by-side," said Salim. "I am learning from their experience, and if we have any problem, they can help us." In building that team, Arotin said he learned a valuable lesson.

"People are people. The ANA soldiers are as diverse and as capable as the U.S. forces. The ANA have to overcome greater obstacles due to the environment they were raised in, but they strive to do their best."

And Hussein said he believes their best is what will keep the ANDF-P walls standing and strong.

"I feel very good to be part of the group doing an important job in the ANDF-P and soon, we would like to have all the responsibilities and run this place," said the ANA plumber.

With the troop drawdown on the horizon, soon the ANA hammer will be the only one around, and it will continue to build and maintain Afghanistan's future, keeping a strong and steady rhythm.



Mohammad Ibrahim, an Afghan National Army soldier and carpenter, discusses a project with Task Group Trident's U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Francis Arotin to build furnishings for detainee housing unit classrooms in the Afghan National Detention Facility-Parwan.

RSC-North Transitions First RLC to Afghan Control

Story by 16th Sustainment Brigade, courtesy story

BALKH PROVINCE, Afghanistan - The Afghan National Police (ANP) have taken over logistics functions in northern Afghanistan.



Balkh province Regional Logistics Centre warehouse. The Balkh RLC is the first to completely transition to Afghan control following a ceremony May 7. (U.S. Army courtesy photo)

The Regional Support Command-North Logistics Training Advisory Team, celebrated the transition of the local Regional Logistics Center in Balkh province to Afghanistan National Security Forces control during a short ceremony in May.

"It is a really great honor to be the first RLC in Afghanistan under complete Afghan control," said Lt. Col. Kherijani Abdullah, the RLC commander, during the ceremony. Up until now, coalition forces provided guidance and instruction on how to efficiently order and issue out supplies, conduct all vehicle maintenances, and how to properly document all necessary transactions.

Coalition forces and ANP staff joined together to sign over all necessary documents finalizing the turnover. Attendees included Brig. Gen. John Bullard, the deputy commander for coalition forces in Northern Afghanistan, Col. Ted Donnelly, the RSC-N commander, and several leaders with the 303rd ANP.

"Once again, the RSC-North team and our ANP partners have led the way for transition in Afghanistan," said Donnelly. "Lt. Col. Abdullah and his team deserve great credit for bringing RLC-Balkh to the point of self-sufficiency."

Like other RLCs throughout the country, the Balkh RLC is in charge of issuing out various classes of supply to include clothing and individual equipment, ammunition, major end items such as vehicles, and medical supplies. However, unlike other logistic centers, the Balkh RLC supports nine provinces throughout the North, more than any other RLC.

"The biggest obstacle in transitioning was that this particular RLC covers the most amount of space," said Army Capt. Scott J. Koritz, the senior ANP logistics advisor with RSC-N. "Some of the areas are hard to get supplies out to because they are so far from the major cities."

Despite the issues and obstacles the RLC faced during the transition, the ANP

organization is finally capable of managing all logistics operations on their own in the North.

"Their ability to order, receive, store and push supplies to the outlying units is what enables the provincial headquarters to concentrate on security measures for their region and not have to worry so much about being supplied," said Koritz.

On top of that, turning over the responsibility and control of local sites is a serious ordeal for all the advisers involved. "It makes us proud as advisers to inform them that it is their own security forces that are out there every day doing the mission," added Koritz. "The people of Afghanistan need to believe in this prior to coalition forces leaving Afghanistan."

"Our ultimate mission here is for our Afghan counterparts to be in control of their own supply," said Air Force Maj. Michael L. McLeod, the senior maintenance adviser with RSC-N. A mission, McLeod states, that is now complete.

First Flight of a French Mirage F1CR Jet in the Baltic Region

Story based on information provided by First Lieutenant Sabrina Duran, French Air Force, Public Affairs Officer of the French "Opération Baltic '13"

The fourteenth Baltic Region Training Event (BRTE XIV) took place on 16 and 17 April 2013 in the skies over the Baltic Region, Sweden and Poland to sharpen skills of aircrews and air controllers when responding to unexpected events in Alliance airspace.



French Mirage F1CR pilot and his wingman, by B. Vinot-Préfontaine / Armée de l'air.

For the first time two Mirage F1CR fighter aircraft from the operational detachment deployed to the Baltic States by the French Air Force took off from the Lithuanian Air Force Base at Šiauliai on 1 May 2013. For the French detachment this launch marked the operational start of their NATO Baltic Air Policing mission over the skies of the Baltic States.

On the following day, the French fighters already conducted their first familiarization flight when at 0945 a.m. the siren sounded

in the Wing Operation Centre at Šiauliai Air Base. The pilots – who are kept at a permanent operational readiness to respond to any unclear situations in the airspace – quickly got ready and were rushed off to their aircraft. The air crews entered the cockpits of the two Mirages F1CR and taxied to their take-off positions. They took off swiftly and got airborne for what is called a "Tango Scramble". The "T" designates a training mission and is intended to make the ground crews, the air crews and the command and control agencies familiar with these Air Policing procedures.

After three previous deployments in 2007, 2010 and 2011, France formally took over for the fourth time the mission in the Baltic region from Denmark on 30 April 2013.

This type of training deployment allows to validate the French military capability to get a so-called interceptor two-ship airborne and to maintain this capability 24/7.

The French Air Force is responsible for NATO's Baltic Air Policing providing security in the airspace above Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania with four Mirage F1CR fighter aircraft until the end of August. The jets are provided by the 2/33 Reconnaissance Squadron "Savoie" from Air Base 118 Mont de Marsan in France, while the almost 90 military personnel are deployed from air bases all over France.

NATO members without the means necessary to provide air policing of their territory are assisted by other NATO members to preserve the integrity of their sovereign airspace in peacetime, and to ensure their collective security. The capability for the NATO air policing mission in the Baltic States was established by the deployment of NATO fighter aircraft to Šiauliai Air Base in Lithuania. The Baltic air policing mission, executed by NATO nations, started in April 2004 and has been executed continuously ever since. So far, 14 NATO nations have participated in this mission.

Commander AIRCOM Leaves Ramstein to Become SACEUR

Story by HQ AIRCOM Public Affairs Office

On 3 May the staff of NATO's Air HQ bade farewell to the outgoing commander, General Philip M. Breedlove, US Air Force, during a traditional walk-out ceremony. General Breedlove expressed his special appreciation for his staff by shaking hands with every single staff member, though he had only been Commander AIRCOM for some ten months.

Air Force General Philip M. Breedlove arrived at NATO's single air command at Ramstein Air Base, Germany, in August 2012 to lead NATO's air forces and – with his national hat on – US Air Forces in Europe.

General Breedlove is now NATO's new Supreme Allied Commander Europe. He is the third US Air Force flag officer to lead the operations of all the Alliance forces. The General will be able to draw on the experiences from his many tours in Europe paired with the most up-to-date knowledge he gathered at the Allied Air Command.

The Deputy Commander AIRCOM, German Lieutenant General Friedrich Wilhelm Ploeger, will be the Acting Commander temporarily until a successor for General Breedlove takes command.



Outgoing Commander AIRCOM, General Breedlove, (left) receives the HQ wooden crest as a farewell gift from his deputy, Lieutenant General Friedrich Wilhelm Ploeger.



General Breedlove had a friendly handshake for everyone.

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Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum - Visits and Activities

Text and photos by MSgt Jan Hecht and Jaroslava Augustinova, HQ JFCBS PAO.

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

May 2013

19 April, Official visit to Poland and the Baltic States



General Domröse concluded his official visit to Poland and the Baltic States, Friday 19 April. The main thrust of visiting Poland and the Baltic States was to enhance cooperation

and coordination between JFC Brunssum and the military leadership of these nations. In addition, the Commander aimed to underpin efficient Contingency Planning by fostering mutual trust that would lead to the respective Commanders' reaching agreement in a timely fashion. Finally, General Domröse was keen to build the robust coordination mechanisms.

The Commander had fruitful discussions with the Minister of Defence of Estonia, the Minister of National Defence of Lithuania and the Chiefs of Defence of all four nations. In between he was briefed on important subjects by Poland's General Staff, the Estonian Defence Force Headquarters Staff, Latvia's Joint Headquarters and Lithuanian Representatives of the Lithuanian Armed Forces.

4 May, Memorial Service in Brunssum



Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum attended the Memorial Service in Brunssum.

4 May is an important day in the Netherlands. On that day the Dutch remember their military

and civilian victims of World War II and all missions and operations post WWII, such as Korea, New Guinea, Lebanon, Sinai, Bosnia and Afghanistan.

14 May, Commander bids farewell to deploying staff



Commander HQ JFC Brunssum bade farewell to 15 personnel deploying in support of HQ ISAF for periods of four to six months at the JFCBS Mounting Support Centre.

In an informal departure ceremony, with families present, General Domröse reminded deploying personnel of the importance of the mission and progress already achieved in Afghanistan. The Commander underlined the importance of the daily work of everyone deployed to the ISAF headquarters.

The 15 service personnel who departed Brunssum today comprise the second JFCBS contingent of 2013. Throughout 2013 JFC Brunssum has assumed significant additional responsibility in support of Headquarters ISAF, in Kabul.

16 May, Polish politicians visit Brunssum

JFC Brunssum hosted a group of Polish Members of Parliament. The party, comprising seven senior policy makers accompanied by support staff, were welcomed by the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Richard G. Tieskens and the Polish acting Senior



National Representative, Colonel Dariusz Skrodzki. In a series of briefings JFC Brunssum subject matter experts articulated the structure and missions of the headquarters, including the NATO Response Force and northern Regional Focus/Outreach.

Turning to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) visitors received a situational update on current ISAF developments. Challenges related to the transition process and the subject of a post 2014 mission in Afghanistan were discussed in presence of the Deputy Commander, Air Marshall Graham Stacey at length.

Poland has contributed to the ISAF mission since March 2002. Currently 1800 Polish troops are deployed to Afghanistan with a main presence in Regional Command East, with particular responsibility for the GHAZNI Province.

21 May, Exercising the Modern Way

Steadfast Cobalt 2013 (SFCT13), a Communications and Information Systems (CIS) exercise, was conducted by JFC Brunssum and other forces earmarked for NRF 2014 in Walcz, Poland. This is the most important CIS exercise across NATO this year.



SFCT13 ran from 9 to 21 May. On Wednesday, 15 May, SFCT13 was observed by Distinguished Visitors from NATO's Command Structure: VIPs from SHAPE, the NATO Force Structure and Polish authorities attended. DV Day was hosted by the JFCBS Deputy Commander, Air Marshal Graham Stacey.

21 May, Swedish Head of Mission visits JFC Brunssum

Ambassador Veronika Wand-Danielsson, accompanied by Sweden's Military Representative to the European Union and NATO - Major General Engelbreksten - visited Allied Joint Force Command (JFC) Brunssum.

The guests met the Commander JFC Brunssum (General Hans-Lothar Domröse), Deputy Commander (Air Marshal Graham Stacey), Chief of Staff (Lieutenant General Richard G. Tieskens) and Mr. Maarten de Sitter (Political Advisor).

In the context of NATO's Regional Focus initiative a strong relationship between JFC Brunssum and Swedish military authorities is of particular importance.

During office calls, briefings and follow-on discussions the focus was on future cooperation, the new NATO command structure and ISAF post-2014 planning. In 2014 Sweden will host and organize Exercise VIKING (specifically designed with a focus on the Comprehensive Approach), to which HQ JFC Brunssum will deploy staff.



23 May, Military Representatives pay visit to JFC Brunssum

Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum hosted Military Representatives (MilReps) from seven NATO nations.

Personally invited by General Domröse, MilReps from Poland, the United Kingdom, Norway, Italy, France, Canada and Portugal used the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the role and responsibilities of Joint Force Command Brunssum. The visit comprised briefings and a round table discussion at the headquarters and was concluded with dinner at the Commanders' residence.



June 2013

Transformation of the Romanian Armed Forces – a Direct Answer to Emerging Challenges

Story by LTC Laurentiu Emerik-ARSENESCU, Strategic Planning Directorate, Romanian General Staff

Over the past 20 years, the Romanian Military System has gone through an important conceptual and structural transformation, determined by the development of the constantly changing security environment, as well as by the accession of our country to NATO and the EU.

The transformation was intended to ensure the capabilities needed to promote and protect national interests against current and future threats so that Romania can be able to fulfil its commitments to NATO, the EU and other international security and defense organizations. This triggered doctrinal and organizational changes, along with significant adjustments in the force structure and connected areas, such as capabilities, intelligence, training and education, acquisitions, personnel management, budgeting and planning.

The restructuring process was essentially called for by the overarching need for social and military reform, and by the differences between the oversized structure of the military system (over 300,000 people) and the poor socio-economical potential to support it, as well as by limitations imposed by international treaties, in terms of downsizing and reduction of armaments (the Vienna Document and the Paris Treaty). There were some major milestones in the transformation process, such as the signing of the Partnership for Peace (26th January, 2004) and of the Strategic Partnership with the United States of America (11th July, 1997), the adoption of the Membership Action Plan/ MAP planning system, starting in 1999. They all marked the beginning of the process of harmonizing the measures taken and activities developed by the Romanian Armed Forces and NATO.

Thus, by 2025, the transformation process will consist of the following stages:

- First stage - the Basic Reorganization Process - (2005-2007) was completed. The next short-term objectives of the transformation process were accomplished: restructuring and



reorganization of the management system at the strategic and operational levels, initiating the process of making the NATO and EU designated forces operational as established in the force planning processes of the two organizations; creating an all volunteer force, etc.

- The second stage of the transformation deals with the Operational Integration into NATO and the EU (2008-2015). At this point, we are going to meet the medium-term goals of transformation, which consist of: continuing making the NATO and EU designated forces operational, continuing the acquisition

of new equipment, implementing the major procurement programs and re-organizing the military educational system according to the concept established, increasing participation in NRF and the contribution to the EU's defense capabilities.

- The third stage, the Full Technical Integration into NATO and the European Union (2016/2025) will enable the fulfilment of the long-term transformation objectives. The efforts and the financial and human resources will converge to meet the assumed capabilities included into Capability Targets. The participation in the NATO and EU missions and operations together with the further upgrading and equipping of the forces as well as the interoperability with other EU and NATO armed forces are some of the long-term transformation objectives. In this context, the basic aim of the transformation process is to adjust the Romanian Armed Forces structure to the current and future security environment evolution in order to be able to fulfil our national commitments to the Alliance, according to NATO's transformation roadmap. The final goal is to enable the Romanian Armed forces to take part in the wide range of missions carried out by the Alliance and European Union.

He aspects and activities are detailed into an Implementation Plan in accordance with the Transformation Strategy guidelines. This is developed by the General Staff and is subject to regular updating based on the new challenges including those referred to in the NATO Transformation Strategy.

procurement programs;

- Fulfil the interoperability requirements;
- Adopt the new C2 structure;
- Adapt national processes to the NATO and EU capability-based defense planning system.

In compliance with the commitments deriving from international treaties, agreements and memoranda Romania signed, contingents of different sizes from all Services – Army, Air and Naval Forces – are part of multinational coalitions authorized to carry out peace support, humanitarian assistance and coalition operations under UN, NATO, OSCE and EU aegis. Practically, during the first two stages of the transformation's process, the Romanian Armed Forces have been participating in all major NATO, EU or coalition-led operations worldwide, in the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Over the last 20 years, almost 30,000 Romanian troops took part in different operations and missions beyond national borders, acquiring valuable professional experience, that proves highly useful in the Romanian Armed Forces' process of transformation and where achieving interoperability with NATO and EU member countries' armed forces. Thus, in 2010 the Romanian troops contribution to the theater of operations from Afghanistan was augmented from 1,021 to 1,700. Now, around 1700 Romanian military are still deployed abroad, taking part in various NATO, EU, UN and OSCE-led missions. According to the transformation process, the next step for us, in the medium and long term, will be to develop activities aimed at adopting and implementing

of the information superiority, expeditionary forces, joint manoeuvring, integrated logistics, a closer civil-military cooperation, and establishment of network-based capabilities.

A bespoke process is also needed to develop specific capabilities within the unique package of the Romanian Armed Forces, designated to accomplish the entire range of missions, in order to better coordinate the effort. This process will set the necessary framework to develop all the structures, thus, generating the capabilities dedicated to NATO, EU processes and initiatives, as well as to the national purposes.

Thus, the transformation will be, in the first place, a direct answer to emerging challenges, and secondly, a catalyst to the modernization of the forces and a contributor to their reform and reorganization, and thirdly, the leading element to better force generation and engagement process.

The transformation of the Romanian Armed Forces is not a goal in itself, but a continuous process, and a proper answer to the evolution of the security environment, to the NATO and EU transformation and to the Romanian commitments at the international level. This process also requires substantial resources and effort.

The future will not necessarily belong to the state-of-the-art technologies but rather to those forces rapidly reacting to major changes, able to quickly and efficiently adapt to the requirements



Aiming to achieve the medium-term transformation goals, at this level Romania will continue to:

- Make the forces operational
- Develop/implement the major

a coherent and viable programme at national level, to incorporate the concepts developed and implemented by NATO and the EU. In this respect, following the validation and implementation of these concepts, we will concentrate on an efficient force engagement, achievement

imposed by the constantly changing security environment.

General Breedlove Becomes the 17th SACEUR

Story by Allied Command Operations Public Affairs Office and JFC Brunssum Public Affairs Office

General Philip M. Breedlove became NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), assuming command of Allied Command Operations from outgoing SACEUR, Admiral James Stavridis, 13 May 2013.



General Breedlove accompanied by General Domröse, during the Honour Guards Ceremony.

The change of command, presided over by NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, marks only the third time in NATO history that an Air Force General assumes the post since the position was established in 1951 when General Dwight D. Eisenhower became the first SACEUR.

Upon welcoming General Breedlove to assume his responsibilities at a critical time, Mr. Fogh Rasmussen noted, "You will quickly realise that the local community is very proud of its association with SHAPE. And I would like to thank Belgium and the people of Mons, for the hospitality and friendship they provide to all the NATO staff who work here".

General Breedlove is the seventeenth American officer to hold the prestigious post.

"As I take command today, I am humbled by the great company I am joining, intrigued by the challenges we will face together, and inspired by the recent achievements of soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines from across this incredible Alliance," said General Breedlove.

"Within the borders of our Alliance we enjoy unprecedented levels of stability, but beyond our frontiers there is uncertainty and insecurity," he continued. "As SACEUR my first and enduring priority will be to ensure that NATO remains vigilant and prepared to meet the challenges and threats of the

future with agile, capable, and interoperable military forces."

"My wife Cindy and I look forward to serving alongside the men and women of NATO, enjoying life and culture in Belgium, and establishing lasting friendships with

colleagues from all of our Allies, partners, and friends," he said.

Only two weeks after assuming command of ACO, General Philip Breedlove visited JFC Brunssum for the first time in his new



assignment.

After a warm welcome by the Honour Guard representing all nations at the headquarters, SACEUR met with the Commander JFC Brunssum, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, and the Headquarters' key staff to receive an overview of key tasks being worked by the members at Brunssum.

Among these key tasks, General Domröse highlighted the NATO Operations in Afghanistan, the NATO Response Force (NRF) and Regional Focus as his priorities.

During a walk through the headquarters General Breedlove met face-to-face with Brunssum staff members. He gained a first-hand impression of the professionalism and competency of staff officers, non commissioned officers and civilians working at Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum. General Breedlove used the opportunity to deliver his vision on the developments in Afghanistan and the way ahead for ACO.

"We have to ensure that the great progress we achieved continues as we hand over security responsibility to Afghan National Security Forces," he said.

"Over the time ISAF has been in Afghanistan great relationships have been developed between, not just NATO countries, but partner countries all over the world. It is

imperative this cohesion among the nations to continues," General Breedlove said.

SACEUR is responsible for the overall direction and conduct of military operations for NATO. The position is normally held by

a United States Flag or General officer, who also serves as Commander U.S. European Command. His command is exercised from Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) near Mons, Belgium.



General Philip Breedlove, NATO's Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) shakes hands with JFC Brunssum staff after honour guard ceremony on May 24, 2013. Photo by Sgt Peter Buitenhuis RNLAf

OLRT Deployed to ESTONIA

Story by Inci Kucukaksoy, JWC PAO, edited by LtCol Audrey Prins, JFCBS PAO, Photos by PAO Joint Warfare Centre

25-person Operational Liaison and Reconnaissance Team (OLRT) led by NATO's Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFC Brunssum), together with some of its subordinate Component Commands for NATO Response Force (NRF) 2014, supported a Crisis Response Planning from 11 to 15 May at the Joint Warfare Centre (JWC) in preparation for STEADFAST JAZZ 13 (SFJZ 13), which is scheduled for this November.

A 25-person Operational Liaison and Reconnaissance Team (OLRT) led by NATO's Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFC Brunssum), together with some of its subordinate Component Commands for NATO Response Force (NRF) 2014, supported the Crisis Response Planning from 11 to 15 May at the Joint Warfare Centre (JWC), Stavanger Norway, in preparation for STEADFAST JAZZ 13 (SFJZ 13), which is scheduled for this November.

Based on SKOLKAN, a fictitious exercise scenario specifically developed by the Joint Warfare Centre to train the NRF, the Centre was, for a week, transformed into the Estonian Ministry of Defence to provide the appropriate setting for the OLRT. Estonia was indeed the "theatre of operations" for the Team because the fictitious world of SKOLKAN is set

in the Nordic Region with the aim to defend this Baltic Ally against an outside aggressor, Bothnia. Once in Estonia, which had also liaison teams from Latvia, Lithuania and Poland present

as well, the OLRT quickly settled into the exercise scenario and started to liaise with different stakeholders (real role players from the Baltic States and Poland).



The OLRT was led by Brigadier General Eddy Staes (middle), Assistant Chief of Staff J3 at JFC Brunssum.



Under the command of Belgium Brigadier General Eddy Staes, Assistant Chief of Staff J3 at JFC Brunssum, the simulated mission of the OLRT was to provide its in theatre findings and up-to-date information to the Joint Force Commander's Joint Operational Planning Group (JOPG) in order to support their Crisis Response Planning.

The OLRT is a team of specialists who deploy to a possible theatre of operations through NATO, in order to gain a comprehensive understanding and build the operational picture of that environment, establish relationships with host-nation authorities and accurately assess facts and figures. The OLRT's work is critical to the success of a future operation, which can also be a humanitarian relief effort and therefore an urgent issue. Simply put, it operates as the "eyes and ears" of the Joint Force Commander during the plan development phase.

In February the first training A for the OLRT was conducted with the aim to provide general understanding to the role and based on academics. During the academic phase OLRT members developed their competencies on

engagement and negotiation techniques. In April part B took place and was focussed on practical training, during which the competencies acquired by the OLRT members were challenged through an outstanding role-playing activity based on the new SKOLKAN Scenario.

The OLRT significantly contributes to the development of an effective Operational Plan (OPLAN) for the standing Joint Force Headquarters and conducts a detailed study of the mission and tasks that NRF forces might have to undertake.

The SFJZ 13 will be hosted by four NATO Nations -- Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland -- and will involve Strategic, Joint Operational and Tactical headquarters as well as Land, Air and Maritime forces from many other nations.

Quoting Brigadier General Staes: "The OLRT is, in fact, a supporting entity for the JOPG at JFC Brunssum. We contribute to their operational planning through our fact-finding mission. The NATO Operational Planning process may cover a wide range of missions, including routine training events and exercises as well as an immediate response to an attack conducted on NATO territory. Planning is everything. In this event,

the JOPG is working on an operational plan based on direction and guidance from SACEUR to our Joint Force Commander. The initial plan should aim at de-escalating the crisis situation in the Baltic region, which is based on the fictitious SKOLKAN scenario. To make a prudent military planning for potential future operations, you need a lot of extremely current information, and that is exactly what we are training during this deployment of all OLRT members in (simulated) ESTONIA.

The OLRT is capable of deploying on a notice to move of 48 hours. There is a pressure and urgency to obtain currency (up-to-date data) in theatre for the success of the planning process in developing a concept of operations. "Because it is all very quick, we need to have the best people in that team, people who hold a wide range of expertise and share a common understanding of what needs to be done," Brigadier General Staes added.

"Every functional area is represented, from Legal to Public Affairs to Real Life Support, from engineers to medical and force protection experts. We organized into three clusters: operations

and planning, support, and finally the component command cluster. The Component Commands were indeed integrated in the joint level OLRT in order to answer early questions from the tactical level, which influences the joint level. In this OLRT we had representatives from the components provided by the French Rapid Reaction Corps, the Italian Maritime Component and the NATO Air Command Ramstein, providing the JFAC.”

“Based on our daily reports and our detailed post meeting minutes, the JOPG can further build possible courses of action, which will be presented to the Joint Force Commander soon. Following his decision on the preferred course of action, the Commander will then provide guidance to develop the Concept of Operations (CONOPS) at the operational-level. Once Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR)

has approved the CONOPS, a detailed Operational Plan (OPLAN) in complete format with all necessary annexes will be produced and presented for approval to the North Atlantic Council.”

“Unlike the CERASIA scenario, which focused on Crisis Response Operations outside of NATO’s borders, SKOLKAN takes place in the Nordic Region and is focused on both Article IV, which relates to consultation, and Article V Collective Defence Operations.

“For a long time, NATO has not focused on Article IV leading to complex Article V collective defence operations, therefore it is high time to do so but with a Comprehensive Approach where the military is an important contributor but certainly not the only contributor. In this scenario we seek to contribute with military means to de-escalation of the crisis in a peaceful way.”

Focusing on upcoming challenges, Brigadier General Staes concluded: “We met with the delegations, civil and military actors, from four Nations here in Stavanger. Our deliberations will provide outstanding preparation for Exercise SFJZ 13 in November. We all need to study SKOLKAN in depth to improve cooperation and contemplation of high-security risks before they emerge as crises.”

The next stop will be for all members of HQ JFCBS to study the operational plan in all its details to find the seams and gaps and to improve the plan, in close coordination with the component commands

Let’s do this in the Battle Staff Training in June 13. Good luck!

BGen Staes, E.



The Brunssum Team

Planning the Response to Crisis

Story by LtCdr Grzegorz Lyko, Public Affairs Office

Over 140 planners, staff officers and senior matter experts participated in Crisis Response Planning (CRP) exercise held in JFC Brunssum.



JOPG morning update brief at Amsterdam conference room.

The exercise started in the last days of April and lasted until 24th of May. It was one of the milestones of the ongoing NATO Response Force 2014 (NRF 14) certification process. The setting, ground rules and CRP process was jointly prepared by JFC Brunssum J5 Plans and Policy Branch and the Joint Warfare Centre (Stavanger, Norway).

The main actor of the exercise was the Joint Operational Planning Group (JOPG). The focal task of the team, led by Col Stefan Muransky (CZE), was to prepare a CONOPS (Concept of Operation) as a pre-condition for an operational plan. The JOPG synchronized planning activity with subordinate and superior headquarters, and developed improved synergy

in the plans development process. Additionally, the planning activities were coordinated with liaison officers from nations involved in the exercise scenario – Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland.

The exercise itself had a few milestones. In the first few days the strategic part of the planning process was exercised. JFC Brunssum JOPG activities were driven by SHAPE counterparts' products. Afterwards the operational phase started. In this part all eyes were turned to JFC Brunssum. JOPG developed a concept of operations and finally set the ground rules for developing the operational plan. Additionally it provided direction and guidance for the single service commands to develop lower level planning products. To help build the operational picture of the

environment, the Operational Liaison and Reconnaissance Team (OLRT) was deployed to theatre. The OLRT was led by BG Eddy Staes and consisted of 25 members.

"It was all possible because of a great teamwork." – said JOPG leader, Col Stefan Muransky. "The JFC Brunssum family was reinforced by liaison officers from all components and also host nations. Every day we're taking advantage of having them here to develop a comprehensive, valid and complete product." – he added.

Although the exercise lasted almost the whole month, ***it had a challenging timeline. "It may seem that we had a lot of time for developing our products, but actually it was the other***

way around. We very often had to stay until late night hours to incorporate all amendments and prepare the products meeting our professional pride.” – admitted Colonel Muransky. – **“We are aware that the tempo was often very high, but we remembered that it’s likely that in real life we would work even faster. The old maxim – Train as you fight – is also accurate for the planning process.”**

It was one of the biggest planning exercises in last few years in Brunssum. **“This was my second JOPG since I joined JFCBS. A multinational team of over 140 planners isn’t easy to handle. We divided the JOPG personnel into three teams – blue, red and green. Subject matter experts from the Joint Warfare Centre and liaison officers helped us on a daily basis. The contribution from single service commands was also highly valuable. Everybody was proactive and I think that’s the key to the final success.”** – concluded our JOPG leader.

“There were some ‘FIRSTS’ during the CRP” - Colonel Muransky said to SACEUR during his visit to the JOPG - **“The new Scenario, the new ‘COPD’, the new interaction with SHAPE/CCOMC and TOPFAS, which was fully used from the beginning of the CRP.”**

The certification process of NRF 2014 has begun and it will find its finale in November with the exercise Steadfast Jazz 2013.

The Joint Operational Planning Group (JOPG) is a cross-functional working group led by J5 of DCOS PLANS. Its primary function is the production of Operational Plans (OPLAN) and their related documents that are required to successfully conduct an operation at the operational level. In accomplishing this, the JOPG conducts operations planning and long-range analysis in support of the Commander. The JOPG may also be required to provide comments and inputs to existing plans originated by external higher headquarters, single service commands or other subordinate formations during their revision cycles.

The JOPG synchronizes activities and creates synergy in the plans development process, ensuring the coordination and integration of all activities associated with the development of plans, policy and orders. The JOPG composition includes planners, subject matters experts, embedded planners from subordinate commands and liaison officers representing all the required functional areas and disciplines.



Interview with
Assistant Chief of Staff
J5 Plans and Policy,
Brigadier-General
Michael P.
Jorgensen

It was a difficult month for JFCBS planners. Are you satisfied with the final product?
 As ACOS J5 Plans and Policy, and nominally the NRF 2014 Coordinator, I am indeed satisfied with the final product. We will always seek improvement, but I am confident it reflects sound, thorough and highly collaborative planning – a product that fully reflects the latest version of the Comprehensive Operational Planning Directive (COPD V2) and fully exploiting our Tool for Operational Planning and Functional Analysis (TOPFAS).

What is the most important outcome of the exercise?
 The exercise has produced the nucleus of an OPLAN that will provide the foundation for the rest of the NRF preparation period leading directly to certification of NRF 14. In the process, I sense that we have formed a highly confident and skilled team of planners who are ready to take on any operational-level planning challenge.

NRF 2014 certification is ongoing. What will be the most challenging part of this process?
 From a planning perspective, we have a good challenge ahead of us as we initiate planning for the Branches and Sequels flowing from our operational framework and Concept of Operations. For the rest of the Headquarters, I submit that Exercise Steadfast Jazz 2013



Briefing by a team member of the red team.

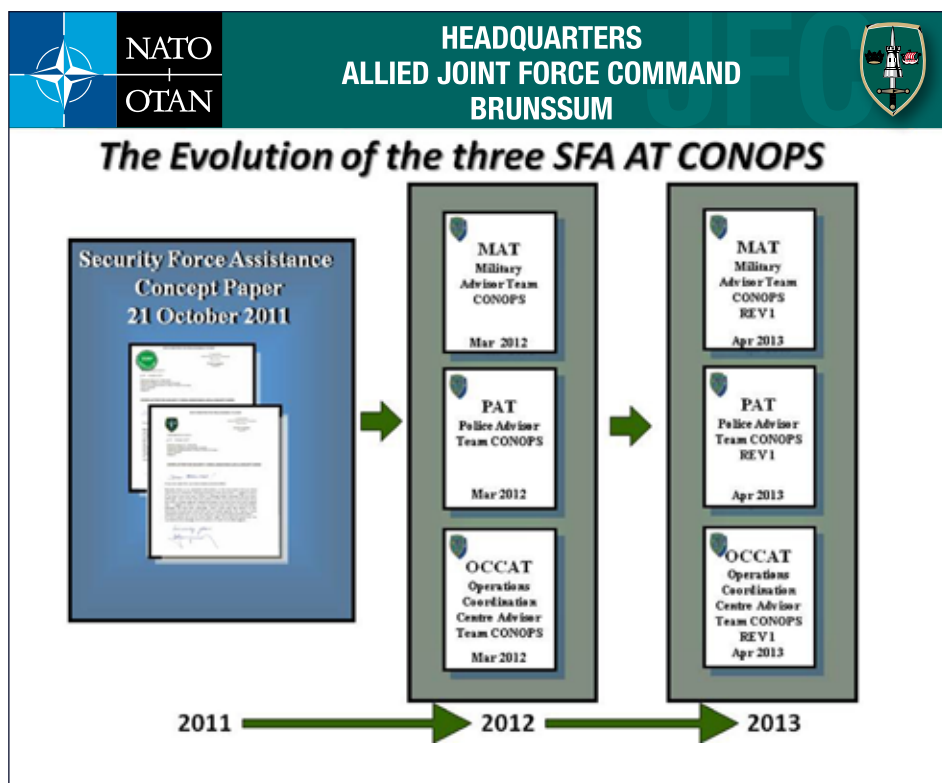
The SFA Concept of Operations - How JFC Brunssum Supports the ISAF Mission

Story by MSgt Paul Schmidtpeter

In January 2012, General John R. Allen US Marine Corps (COMISAF 2011-2013) made the following statement: "Security Force Assistance (SFA) is the single most important change that the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) will implement in more than ten years of the campaign—it reflects a fundamental milestone in the campaign and change in relationship with the Afghan National Security Force (ANSF)"

JFC Brunssum (JFCBS) has an important role in implementing SFA in Afghanistan and providing support to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Headquarters with the development of the SFA Concept of Operations (CONOPS).

On the 18th October 2011, Commander ISAF published an SFA Concept Paper, developed in close collaboration with JFC Brunssum. Since then, ISAF's role has changed from leading operations and conducting Counterinsurgency (COIN) operations to the SFA approach, enabling the Afghan National Security Forces to conduct independent operations, promoting transition of security responsibility to the ANSF, who will increasingly own the battle space in Afghanistan. Meaning, ANSF units plan and execute operations, be they military or police operations, with ISAF advising and assisting the ANSF unit to finally become independent and autonomous. The basic tools to accomplish this task for ISAF are Advisor Teams (ATs). ISAF is using ATs to advise and assist the ANSF to enable them to take the security lead for their respective Area of Responsibility (AOR). There are three types of ATs operating with the Military, the Police and the Operations Coordination Centres: Military Advisor Team (MAT), Police Advisor Team (PAT) and Operations Coordination Centre Advisor Team (OCCAT). ATs are a contribution from NATO and the International Community supporting



the ISAF mission, with units taking on the role of ATs.

Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers in Europe (SHAPE) tasked JFCBS to develop and write the Security Force Assistance Advisor Team Concept of Operations (SFA AT CONOPS), which were released to all the Troop Contributing Nations (TCN) on the 27th March 2012. Since then, JFCBS has been in the lead to write and revise the three SFA AT CONOPS (MAT, PAT and OCCAT) in close collaboration with ISAF, SHAPE, NATO HQ, Troop Contributing Nations (TCN), the European Police (EUPOL) and other key stakeholders.

In October 2012, SHAPE tasked JFCBS to revise the three SFA AT CONOPS and to release the revised version in the first quarter of 2013. In order to include the very important topic of the current Insider Threat (IT) in Afghanistan to the three SFA AT CONOPS, the COMISAF Advisory and Assistance Team (CAAT) was tasked by COMISAF to organize a Security Force Assistance and Insider Threat Training and Doctrine Workshop (SFA IT WS) in Qatar. DCOS OPS JFCBS suggested changing the location of

the workshop to Brunssum so that all key stakeholders could participate. With the JFCBS J35 "Bulldog Team" in the lead to make this great event happen, the SFA IT WS was planned and executed 30 January - 06 February 2013 in Brunssum. Over 80 Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) representing more than 25 Headquarters throughout NATO and the International Community participated in the workshop. Through excellent cooperation and collaboration, key deliverables were achieved in all areas and final drafts of all three SFA AT CONOPS were completed and sent on 7 Feb 2013 to the key stakeholders for staffing and final approval. After receiving minor changes from ISAF and other key stakeholders, the final three SFA AT CONOPS were approved by HQ ISAF on the 18 March 2013 and signed by COM JFCBS on the 09 April 2013.

We, the Staff of JFC Brunssum, will continue to support the ISAF mission as a Priority 1 in order to help our Comrades and "Brothers in Arms" in Afghanistan make a difference.

Dutch Community Hosts Queen's Day Reception

Story by Capt Albert van Dam, COS office, photo by MSgt Jan Hecht

The annual Queen's Day Reception took place on the evening of 25 April at the International Conference Centre. This was jointly hosted by the Dutch communities at Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum together with the NATO Airborne and Early Warning Force Element-3A Component, at Geilenkirchen.

The event was attended by over 500 invited guests from across the local and International Communities. The formal part of the evening was rounded off by speeches and a toast to Queen Beatrix by Lieutenant General Richard Tieskens and Colonel René Moerland. In keeping with tradition, the venue was 'turned orange' as hosts and guests alike marked the abdication of Queen Beatrix in favour of her son, Crown Prince Willem-Alexander, who became King on 30 April.

Once formalities concluded, guests enjoyed generous Dutch hospitality that included an extensive Indonesian buffet and other traditional foods to the sound of the dance orchestra Amici and DJ Freddy. The organising committee would like to thank the members of Twenty4one and the extensive number of volunteers for their invaluable support which helped to make this a memorable and enjoyable evening.



Celebration of the Polish Constitution Day

Story by Public Affairs Office, photo by Jaroslava Augustinova

The Polish community in JFC Brunssum hosted a Special Concert in the Alliance Theatre to celebrate the Polish Constitution Day. It was performed by The Representative Artistic Ensemble of The Polish Armed Forces.

The show was opened by a speech of the Polish acting Senior National Representative colonel Dariusz Skrodzki. The concert was divided in two parts. First was a unique journey through time composed of patriotic songs like "Warszawianka roku 1831", "Marsz Marsz Polonia" czy "Marsz Pierwszej Brygady". These songs took the audience through the most important events of the Polish history from signing the Constitution of 3rd May, through partitions and winning independence in 1918, to 2nd World War.

The second part of the concert was pure entertainment. The orchestra and the soloists performed several songs and compositions from all over the world like "I Could Have Danced All Night" from "My Fair Lady", "Magic Bullets" composed by Johan Strauss and "Unforgettable" composed by Nat King Cole. The concert was followed by a reception at the International Conference Centre.

The Polish constitution of May 3, 1791



is considered one of the most important achievements in the history of Poland, despite being in effect for only a year, until the Russo-Polish War of 1792. Historian Norman Davies calls it "the first constitution of its type in Europe"; other scholars also refer to it as the world's second oldest constitution. The Representative Artistic Ensemble of

the Polish Armed Forces is the biggest artistic institution of its kind in Poland. Its main goal is the cultivation of Polish national and military traditions through variety of artistic expressions: music, dance, song and speech.

Memorial Service in Brunssum

Story by Ed Frieser, Photo by Jaroslava Augustinova, Public Affairs Office

Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, attends Memorial Service in Brunssum, 4 May.



A veteran greeted by guests of the memorial service.

4 May is an important day in the Netherlands. On that day the Dutch remember their military and civilian victims of World War II and all missions and operations post WWII, such as Korea, New Guinea, Lebanon, Sinai, Bosnia and Afghanistan. Simultaneously with representatives of the State of Israel, Mr. and Mrs. H. and I. Aldewereld, General Domröse laid a wreath. A firm handshake symbolised friendship and peace.

Prior to this, the Mayor of Brunssum - Mr. L. Winants - laid a wreath simultaneously with the Mayor of Brunssums' German twin city Alsdorf, Mr. A. Sonders.

Precisely at 8 p.m two minutes of silence were observed.

Wreaths were also laid at the adjacent United Kingdom War Cemetery in honour of the 328 British soldiers and airmen, who died in this area during World War II,

and were laid to rest in Brunssum.

General Domröse took the initiative to pay his respects to these soldiers when he marched away from the officials, faced the monument, saluted and shook hands with the British Senior Officer present (Group Captain A. Knowles), when individuals were invited to lay flowers.

This impressive event was attended by hundreds of participants: children, veterans, scouts and numerous spectators.

Toby Hogson from the UK section at the International School in Brunssum cited the poem 'In Flanders Field' from John McCrae.

The National Memorial Service took place in Amsterdam at the Dam Square national monument. It was the first time that His Majesty King Willem-Alexander and Queen Maxima of the Netherlands laid a wreath in their new capacity.





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SUMMER READING PROGRAM

The Summer Reading Program "Have Book will travel" will be held for all U.S. and NATO ID card holders between the ages of 3 and 18 years old beginning 25 June through 18 August 2013.

Children interested in this program should register at the library starting 25 June. Children will check out and read books from the JFC HQ Brunssum Library and receive a variety of prizes for the number of book they read. Pre-school children may earn prizes by having books read aloud to them. There will be a drawing for an tablet for children ages 12 to 18 years old who complete the program. For more information call 0031-45-526-2669 or 0031-45-526-2469.

The JFC HQ Brunssum Library is open to all U.S. and NATO ID card hold-ers in the Tri-Border Community.

Our location is next to B&S Central Store. building 604.

JFC BRUNSSUM ALLIANCE THEATER

Movie Schedule

Sat. 15 June / 16:00

THE HOST

Saorise Ronan
Jake Abel

Sat. 22 June / 19:00

DEAD MAN DOWN

Colin Farrell
Noomi Rapace

Sat. 15 June / 19:00

OLYMPUS HAS FALLEN

Gerard Butler
Aaron Eckhart

Sat. 29 June / 16:00

THE CROODS

Nicolas Cage
Cloris Leachman

Sat. 22 June / 16:00

42

Chadwick Boseman
Harrison Ford

Sat. 29 June / 19:00

OBLIVION

Tom Cruise
Morgan Freeman

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Did you know? Peace Palace in The Hague Celebrates 100 Year Anniversary

Story by Ed Frieser

Worldwide Symbol of Peace and Justice

The Peace Palace in The Hague will celebrate its 100th Anniversary this year. On 28 August 1913 the Peace Palace was officially opened by the then Dutch Queen Wilhelmina after six years of construction. It became a worldwide symbol of Peace and Justice. The Peace Palace fitted perfectly with the dream of world peace as cherished by the First Hague Peace Conference. After its completion, it was hailed as a true dream palace for world peace, "just as powerful and grand as the idea of world peace itself", to quote a Dutch writer of the time. However, one year after the festive opening of the Peace Palace in 1913, the First World War broke out.

its Purpose

The Peace Palace is the seat of a number of important legal institutions: The International Court of Justice (the principal judicial organ of the United Nations), the Permanent Court of Arbitration (to facilitate arbitration and other forms of dispute resolution between states), the Peace Palace Library, as well as The Hague Academy of International Law, which attracts law students from all over the world every summer. The Palace, the premises on which it stands and the Library are the property of the Carnegie Foundation, host of these institutions. The Carnegie Foundation opens the Peace Palace to international conferences on law, the environment, diplomatic relations, public/private international partnerships, human rights, and migration, etc. to foster the peace ideal and is part of the international philanthropic network of Carnegie Institutions. For more info on the Carnegie Institutions see: <http://www.vredespaleis.nl/index.php?pid=112>

The Carnegie Foundation

With the sale of his steel empire in 1901, Andrew Carnegie became an immensely wealthy man. From then on he conducted what he called "the business of benevolence." He felt it was time to give away his fortune by making use of the principles of "scientific philanthropy," as outlined in his book, 'The Gospel of Wealth'. Carnegie proceeded to give away \$350 million during the next 18 years. Andrew Carnegie financed most of the construction of the Peace Palace with a gift of \$1.5 million, on condition that it would not only house the Permanent Court of Arbitration but also a legal library that would meet the highest possible standards. In 1904, a special foundation was set up to manage the funds and the preparations of the construction. Nowadays, the Carnegie Foundation receives financial support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands but remains the owner and manager of the grounds and buildings, including the Peace Palace Library.

Donation

In 1916, in the midst of the terrors of the First World War, Johan Wateler, a banker in The Hague, decided to put his considerable capital at the service of the cause of peace. His estate went to the Carnegie Foundation, so that every year with the accrued interest a peace prize would reach out to a person or



institution (alternating from the Netherlands and abroad) who deployed for peace. After his death, on 22 July 1927, it appeared that he had left his assets to the Dutch State, to fund the International Peace Prize. The Dutch State though, found it more appropriate to let the Carnegie Foundation decide on who would be eligible to receive the Peace Prize and passed the legacy of Mr Wateler to the Carnegie Foundation. The first International Wateler Peace Prize of 25,000 Dutch Guilders was issued in 1931.

UNSG Ban Ki-moon

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has congratulated the city of The Hague and the Government of The Netherlands on the 100-year anniversary of the Peace Palace in a video message aired during The Hague's New Year's reception, on 2 January. SG Ban Ki-moon stressed: "I am pleased to convey my congratulations on the 100th anniversary of the Peace Palace - the home of the International Court of Justice, the principal judicial organ of the United Nations. The Hague is recognized globally as the home of international justice and accountability. The United Nations greatly appreciates the hospitality offered by the Government of the Netherlands, and the City of The Hague, to the many courts and tribunals established by or with the assistance of the United Nations. These bodies, and the many other organizations working in The Hague, play a central role in the peaceful resolution of international disputes. They are integral to realizing the promise of the UN Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I commend The Hague's strong commitment

to their work. As we mark the centennial of the Peace Palace, let us pledge to work even harder to build a future where all members of the human family can enjoy their inalienable rights to freedom, justice and peace." On 28 August 13 UN Secretary General, Ban Ki-moon, will come to The Hague to join the celebrations.

Celebrations

The Hague will celebrate this anniversary extensively in conjunction with the Foreign Affairs Ministry, and The Carnegie Foundation. Many festivities and activities are scheduled around this milestone. Students from secondary schools in The Hague will perform the musical 'Peace of Me' together with the art centre 'het Koorenhuis', the "National Stage" the "Dutch Don't Dance Division", and the "Royal Theatre". On 21 September International Peace Day will be celebrated. A large concert with top international artists will take place in the Peace Palace gardens. The concert will be hosted by the famous British actor Jude Law. Also on 21 September a "Peace Run" will take place around the Palace.

The Hague

After New York, The Hague became the second city of the United Nations. Today more than 160 International Institutions and organizations have their seat in The Hague. Although the Peace Palace is not open for public, there is a possibility to visit the Peace Palace and its courtrooms by joining a guided tour. The address is: Peace Palace, Carnegieplein 2, 2517 KJ, The Hague.

Country: Romania is a country located at the intersection of Central and Southeastern Europe, bordering on the Black Sea. Romania shares a border with Hungary and Serbia to the west, Ukraine and Moldova to the northeast and east, and Bulgaria to the south. At 238,400 square kilometres (92,000 sq mi), Romania is the eighth largest country of the European Union by area, and has the seventh largest population of the European Union with more than 19 million people. Its capital and biggest city is Bucharest, the 11th largest city in the EU.

The Constitution of Romania is based on the Constitution of France's Fifth Republic and was approved in a national referendum on 8 December 1991. A plebiscite held in October 2003 approved 79 amendments to the Constitution, bringing it into conformity with European Union legislation. The country is governed on the basis of multi-party democratic system and of the segregation of the legislative, executive and judicial powers.

Romania is a semi-presidential republic where executive functions are held by both government and the president. The president is elected by popular vote for a maximum of two terms, and since the amendments in 2003, each term lasts five years. He appoints the prime minister, who in turn appoints the Council of Ministers (based at Victoria Palace). The legislative branch of the government, collectively known as the Parliament (residing at the Palace of the Parliament), consists of two chambers – the Senate with 140 members, and the Chamber of Deputies with 346 members.

Owing to its distance from the open sea and position on the southeastern portion of the European continent, Romania has a climate that is temperate and continental, with four distinct seasons. The average annual temperature is 11 °C (52 °F) in the south and 8 °C (46 °F) in the north. The official currency in Romania is (since 1867) leu (Romanian leu). The name (homonymous with the name of animal lion) comes from Löwentaler (which had the figure of a lion on the reverse), silver coin circulated in the Netherlands from the sixteenth century, then became the currency of assessment. With a GDP according to CIA's World Factbook of around \$274,1 billion in 2012 and a GDP per capita (PPP) of \$14,284 for the year 2012, Romania is an upper-middle income country economy and has been part of the European Union since 1 January 2007.

After the communist regime was overthrown in late 1989, the country experienced a decade of economic instability and decline, led in part by an obsolete industrial base and a lack of structural reform. From 2000 onwards, however, the Romanian economy was transformed into one of relative macroeconomic stability, characterised by high growth, low unemployment and declining inflation. In 2006, according to the Romanian Statistics Office, GDP growth in real terms was recorded at 7.7%, one of the highest rates in Europe.

The Romanian Armed Forces consist of Land, Air, and Naval Forces, and are led by a Commander-in-chief who is managed by the Ministry of Defense. The president is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces during wartime.

From 2015, Romania will host Europe's first NATO anti-missile shield.

Of the 90,000 men and women that comprise the Armed Forces, approximately 15,000 are civilians and 75,000 are military personnel – 45,800 for land, 13,250 for air, 6,800 for naval forces, and 8,800 in other fields. The total defence spending in 2007 accounted for 2.05% of total national GDP, or approximately US\$2.9 billion (39th in the world), and a total of about 11 billion were spent between 2006 and 2011 for modernization and acquisition of new equipment.



When did you arrive to the Netherlands and which position have you taken?
I arrived in the Netherlands on the 1st of August 2011 as a Staff Assistant in the J4 Air Operations in the Cargo Office.

Tell us about your military career.

I started my military career in 1998 as a cadet in the Romanian Air Force School and graduated in 2001 as a weapons specialist. My first appointment was in M.Kogalniceanu Air Base where I had the chance, for one year, to work as a weapons technician for MIG-29 jet fighters. After that I was stationed in the 95th Air Base in Bacau where I served as a maintenance technician for the MIG-21 and IAR 330 Puma helicopters.

Do you have any experience with other international missions?

This is my first mission abroad, but I had the opportunity to be a member of Romanian teams in several international exercises.

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

My job here in the HQ is very demanding for me and my colleagues; we all know that our troops in Afghanistan are depending on us to have all the materials and equipment that they need, and especially when they need it. Everything starts with the cargo requests from our customers, then the booking procedure begins for the type of aircraft we agree is suitable for the freight we have to ship, and it ends when all the cargo is delivered to its destination. It might seem easy but we have to deal with a lot of issues every flight: customs papers, dangerous goods declarations, invoices, landing requirements and many more.

Is your family here with you?

Yes, my wife and son, who has just celebrated his first birthday.

What are your hobbies?

When I arrived here, I joined a Darts team and we are playing in a local league here in South Limburg. I also play guitar and love football.

What do you like in your job?

It is challenging, I have great colleagues, and almost every day I'm learning something new.

Can you shortly describe your country?

Romania is a very beautiful country with a lot to offer: sea side, mountains, a very rich and tasty culinary tradition, but for the moment we are learning to understand democracy after 45 years of communism and, in my opinion, it will take a few years more to change what was broken in our mentality.

Your future plans?

For the moment I still have one more year to go here in Brunssum and I cannot make plans until I will find out what position I will have after this. Now I just enjoy working in this multicultural environment and learn as many things as I can.

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Place to visit: Blegny Mine, Belgium

Distance: 49 km

Further information: www.blegnymine.be

Blegny-Mine – Travelling to the Centre of the Earth

Story by MSgt Jan Hecht, Public Affairs Office, Photos by Blegny Mine

As we all know, Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum is located on the former Hendrik State mine site. The last miners left the complex when the first NATO employees entered in 1966. The Limburg region has a long tradition of coal mining. At its peak, in the mid-sixties, mining was at the heart of the economy in Limburg and the adjacent region of Liège, in Belgium. Only 60 kilometres from our Headquarters, Blegny-Mine offers a unique opportunity to learn more about the hard work of a miner and to discover the process of coal extraction.

Located between Liège and Maastricht, Blegny-Mine is one of four authentic coal mines in Europe with underground galleries accessible for visitors through the original shaft. Since July 2012 Blegny-Mine, together with three other major mining sites in Wallonia, have been recognised by UNESCO as World Heritage sites.

Let us briefly look to the history of the mine. At Blegny, coal delivery started in the 16th Century under impulse of the Monks of Val-Dieu who were owners of the coal area. The first permission for coal extraction was given to Gaspar Corbesier, in 1799. This marked the beginning of industrial coal production in this area. In 1887 the activities stopped for 30 years before the new founded "Company Argenteau" took over. The production grew rapidly and reached a high note of 84,000 tons in 1931 in comparison to 10,000 tons before the first closure.

During World War Two large parts of 'Pit 1' and the coal-washing building of the mine were destroyed. Coal continued to be extracted using 'Pit Mary' but consequently with a lower rate of production. After the war the

reconstructed mine increased its annual production to 232,000 tons and employed around 700 miners.

In the middle of the 1970's the Belgian government decided to stop coal production. The mines in the Liège region were closed one by one. The story could have ended in March 1980 when the last mine closed its doors but the provincial authorities thought differently. Governor Gilbert Mottard decided to preserve a testimony to the coal miners in the area of Liège. Pit 1, the washing and sorting area of Blegny-Mine, was opened to the public. Two months after the exploitation stopped the first visitor groups arrived and entered the pit.

The numbers of visitor steadily increased from 50,000 to 100,000 a year. As of today more than 3 million people have visited Blegny to experience the fascination of the mine.

A tour through the mine starts with a short movie. After this, the so called mining cage of Pit 1, a rather fast elevator, brings the professionally equipped visitors to levels of 30 and 60 metres. Original tools and equipment ensure an exciting trip through the mine. Miners who guide the tour tell interesting stories about the hard work, the camaraderie and the danger a miner had to cope with.

Back in the daylight the visitors can walk through the museum, enjoy the cafeteria or the restaurant and even a beautiful playground that is waiting for the kids.

So don't hesitate to discover the history of our host region and plan your trip to Blegny-Mine. As usual we are offering free tickets in our Circle 100 contest.





Win Tickets for Blegny-Mine

- We have 5x2 tickets
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- **How many people visited Belegny-Mine till now?**
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- For NATO ID card holders only
- The winners will be announced in the next edition of the Northern Star

Answer:

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Winners War Museum Overloon

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

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Audrey Prins, SAG PAO

Bastiaan de Haan, BSG Cen.Reg

Movie Review



Mao's Last Dancer

Director: Bruce Beresford

prepared by Jaroslava Augustinova

This touching drama is based on the autobiography by Li Cunxin. The movie recounts Li's journey from a young village boy to a world-famous professional dancer.

In 1972, 11-year-old Li Cunxin is living with his poor parents and six brothers in a small rural village in Shandong province, where he is destined to work in the fields as a laborer. Li's life changes when a delegation from Madame Mao's Beijing Dance Academy arrives at Li's commune school to find suitable children to study ballet and serve in Chairman Mao's revolution. After passing physical examinations he is taken to Beijing. Life at the school is difficult; many of the instructors are harsh and unforgiving. Li struggles, failing to excel as he tries to cope with his homesickness. There is no freedom within the rigid schedule, where he must balance hours and hours of dance classes along with academic classes. One of the teachers takes the boy under his wing and grooms him into one of the school's star pupils. The teacher also differs from others because of his devotion to classical ballet, considered too Western to be taught at the school. Years later Li is chosen to travel to the United States as part of a cultural exchange program, invited by Ben

Stevenson, the artistic director of the Houston Ballet Company. In Houston, Li begins to question the Chinese Communist Party principles upon which he has been raised. Under the tutelage of Ben, Li impresses his peers and is given a key role in a televised production of *Die Fledermaus*. His performance is a triumph. Li falls for an attractive young American dancer, Elizabeth, and makes the decision to leave his old life behind and pursue a life of personal and creative freedom in America. When China's government asks Li to return home, Li and Elizabeth rush their marriage so that he can remain in the United States indefinitely, thus avoiding a defection which may have consequences for his family. When visiting the Chinese Consulate to announce his decision, the resident Chinese diplomat forcibly detains Li in an attempt to change his mind. When Li continues to refuse to go willingly, the Party agrees to allow him to stay, but declares he can never return to the land of his birth. Five years later, as a famous dancer, he has a great surprise: the Chinese government allowed his parents to come to America. They arrive to watch him in *The Nutcracker*. The movie is available in JFCBS Library.

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