



• **Belgian F-16s Augment NATO's Baltic Air Policing**

• **Resolute Support: A New Mission and a New Era**

• **JFCBS Joint Logistic Support Group Activation Ceremony**

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COMMAND GROUP CORNER

By Lieutenant General Janusz Adamczak

Since my arrival at Headquarters Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFCBS), I have noted that not one day has been the same. The span of tasks assigned to the staff have remained as diverse as ever with a number of high-level, high priority tasks assigned and delivered at short notice, against ever increasing operational tasking at the Joint Operational level.

Our planning, conduct and support of operations remain our primary focus. In the wake of Russian incursions into Eastern Ukraine, and the declarations of the Wales Summit, we have continued to provide immediate assurance to Allies and Partners. This has included key leader engagement, participation and assistance in national exercise programmes and building our network of cooperation in the northern region. Working with SHAPE, we have also been fully involved in the development of sustained assurance and longer-term measures, such as the Readiness Action Plan.

As the out of theatre headquarters, JFCBS has also continued to play a key role in the delivery of NATO's mission in Afghanistan, under the banner of RESOLUTE SUPPORT. The start of 2015 saw NATO's Afghanistan mission shift from enabling and supporting the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) to Train, Advise and Assist. Less than three months into the mission, exceptional progress has been made in delivering an effective Afghan National Security Force. We have also played an important role in the establishment of an effective NATO command and control structure in the country, the training and preparing personnel for deployment and in delivering a wide array of critical enabling support.

Operational and exercise planning has involved full participation of external augmentees. Most obviously, our preparations for Exercise TRIDENT JUNCTURE 2015 have been increased, in the lead up to NATO Response Force 2016. With the full support of Components, a recent Joint Operational Planning Group delivered viable Concept of Operations and an Operational Plan for the Command Post Exercise. In parallel, the Single Service Commands have continued to provide pivotal support, with the host nations, for the conduct of the Live Exercise phase.



Lieutenant General Janusz Adamczak, Chief of Staff JFCBS

Other sometimes less obvious projects in the headquarters have placed an equally heavy burden on staff time. With the full contribution of all staff Divisions, the Support Directorate recently completed a large piece of work to establish a 'dormant' Crisis Establishment for a Joint Task Force Headquarters, which will go a long way to increasing our deployability. Allied to this, the final piece of work to establish a Joint Logistic Staff Group is also underway. Similarly, the ACO Optimisation Programme has involved a wide cross-section of staff in scrutinising our existing outputs against our structure and processes. The implementation of agreed recommendations will require further work with SHAPE.

This coverage provides only limited exposure of the innumerable activities

ongoing at JFCBS and understates our full involvement in equally crucial operational assessment, intelligence, training, military cooperation, partnership, wider logistic and support activities, and the contribution of the Base Support Group. Like the Commander and Deputy Commander, before me, I would like to acknowledge the considerable achievements of the directorates, divisions and branches alike, in what has already been a busy period. This has been all the more commendable because we have often accomplished additional tasks with the same, or reduced, resources. It will inevitably remain a busy year ahead as we work, together, towards attainment of Full Operating Capability by 01 December 2015.

Colophon

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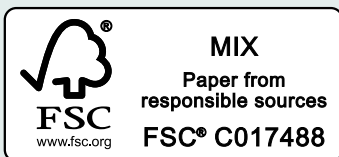
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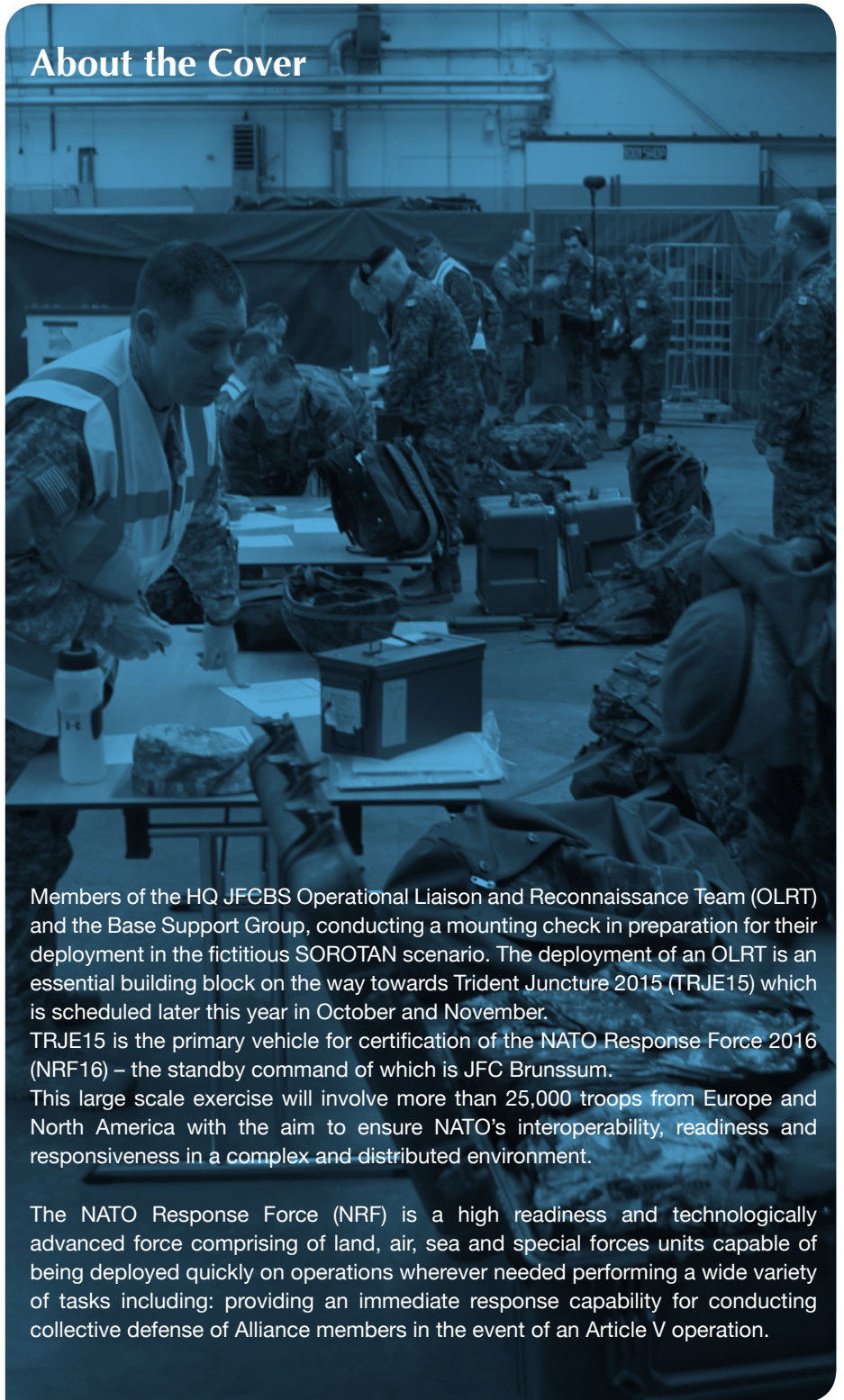
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About the Cover



Members of the HQ JFCBS Operational Liaison and Reconnaissance Team (OLRT) and the Base Support Group, conducting a mounting check in preparation for their deployment in the fictitious SOROTAN scenario. The deployment of an OLRT is an essential building block on the way towards Trident Juncture 2015 (TRJE15) which is scheduled later this year in October and November.

TRJE15 is the primary vehicle for certification of the NATO Response Force 2016 (NRF16) – the standby command of which is JFC Brunssum.

This large scale exercise will involve more than 25,000 troops from Europe and North America with the aim to ensure NATO's interoperability, readiness and responsiveness in a complex and distributed environment.

The NATO Response Force (NRF) is a high readiness and technologically advanced force comprising of land, air, sea and special forces units capable of being deployed quickly on operations wherever needed performing a wide variety of tasks including: providing an immediate response capability for conducting collective defense of Alliance members in the event of an Article V operation.

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NATO Air Chiefs' Symposium 2015

Story by HQ AIRCOM Public Affairs Office, Photos by Cynthia Vernat, HQ AIRCOM PAO



Air Chiefs from all NATO nations gathered at Allied Air Command on Ramstein Air Base on 5 February for the NATO Air Chiefs' Symposium 2015. The senior leaders focused their discussions on the implementation of airpower-related matters which emerged from the NATO Summit in Wales. The primary theme was the Very-High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) and airpower's role in guaranteeing the success of NATO's Spearhead force.

For crisis response, AIRCOM is trained and equipped to provide operational command and control for Allied Air Forces contributing to the common defence of NATO Nations. This capability known as the Joint Force Air Component will be stood up at Ramstein by HQ AIRCOM, augmented by personnel from subordinated units and Nations and led by NATO's primary air advisor, General Frank Gorenc.



General Frank Gorenc, Commander of Allied Air Command, (centre at top of table) leading discussions of NATO Air Chiefs on 5 February 2015.

Belgian F-16s Augment NATO's Baltic Air Policing

Story by HQ AIRCOM Public Affairs Office, Photos by Belgian Air Force EAPM



The four Belgian Air Force F-16s sitting on a ramp at Malbork Air Base, Poland, from where they are currently supporting the NATO Baltic Air Policing mission.

Since 8 January 2015, the Belgian Detachment “Enhanced Air Policing Mission” (EAPM 15-01) has been augmenting NATO’s mission, policing the skies over Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

“The Belgian Air Force EAPM 15-01 detachment here at 22nd Tactical Base at Malbork, Poland, consists of four F-16 fighters and 53 personnel deployed for four consecutive periods of two months,” said Senior Captain Aviator Simon Gerard, the Belgian Detachment Commander.

Fifty pilots, technical crew and admin support will stay at this base, while liaison officers will also be detached to the Polish Capital, Warsaw, and Karmelava in Lithuania, for coordination and integration. “The aim of this mission is to secure the airspace over the Baltic States,” Gerard added. “The Belgian Detachment will be on alert with two F-16s ready to intervene

wherever needed. Additionally, our jets will train together with the Polish MiG-29 fighters. This represents a formidable training opportunity for our Air Force and illustrates the close cooperation between our two Nations.”

On 9 January, the Belgian Detachment EAPM 15-01 was welcomed at Malbork Air Force Base during an opening ceremony in the presence of the commander of the 1st Wing of the Polish Tactical Air Force, Brigadier General Tadeusz Mikutel.

During the first four months of 2015 this 37th rotation of NATO’s Baltic Air Policing mission is led by Italy flying Eurofighters deployed to Siauliai Air Base, Lithuania, and augmented there by Polish MiG-29 fighters. Besides Belgium, Spain is another augmenting nation that has four Eurofighter jets temporarily stationed at Ämari Air Base, Estonia.

NATO’s Baltic Air Policing began in 2004 with the accession of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania to the Alliance. Since then, 16 NATO Allies have – on a rotational basis – assured the safety and integrity of the Baltic airspace.

In May 2014, NATO increased the number of Allied fighter aircraft conducting Baltic Air Policing in line with extensive assurance measures. The Alliance takes its responsibility to ensure safety and integrity of NATO members’ airspace very seriously – when an aircraft flies close to or enters this airspace without prior coordination or planning, both commercial and military air traffic could be placed in danger. NATO jets routinely identify, intercept, and escort such planes as a precautionary measure.



Two Belgian F-16s raring to go as they are waiting at the end of the runway at Malbork Air Base, Poland, to launch for a training flight for NATO’s Baltic Air Policing mission.

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Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum - Visits and Activities

Prepared by Adjutant Edwin Tromp, photos by PAO JFCBS

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

January 2015



Exercise Trident Juncture 2015 Academics

12 – 16 January JFC Brunssum hosted a demanding and informative training program designed to establish the conceptual baseline underpinning TRJE15 participation. Amongst other topics the complicated crisis response scenario was briefed whilst, in particular, the opportunity was taken to: discuss lessons learned from previous exercises/missions; remind of the impact of a comprehensive approach; highlight the criticality of a sound legal framework; and debate the importance of strategic communications.



General Domröse Discusses NATO Operational Level Challenges

General Hans-Lothar Domröse, Commander JFC Brunssum, gave an overview on NATO's challenges from an operational point of view during a speech held at the German Artillery School in Idar-Oberstein on the 20th of January, 2015. Talking to the German training center for Joint Fire Support, the General highlighted the importance of the artillery which is playing a decisive role nowadays, also in the recent Ukrainian conflict.



NATO Chiefs of Defence discuss the Readiness Action Plan, the Resolute Support Mission and Partnerships

23 January. Over the course of the two day session, the Chiefs of Defence provided clear military advice ahead of next month's Defence Ministers meeting. They discussed the Readiness Action Plan and the future of the Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan. They also discussed continued and strengthened cooperation with partners and Strategic Military guidance for 2015.



Resolute Support Deputy Senior Civilian Representative Visits JFC Brunssum

20 January, Dr John Manza, the Resolute Support Deputy SCR, undertook visits to NATO HQs, SHAPE and JFC Brunssum over the past week to conduct discussions focused on NATO's Enduring Partnership with Afghanistan. This Enduring Partnership will continue beyond the horizon of Resolute Support itself with the sustained objective to continually improve security and security institutions within Afghanistan.



Slovakian Policymakers Briefed at JFC Brunssum

21st January, a number of Slovakian policymakers visited JFC Brunssum. Air Marshal Graham Stacey, on behalf of General Hans-Lothar Domröse, Commander JFC Brunssum, welcomed the distinguished visitors.



JFC Brunssum Commander Meets Polish Chief of Defence

27 January, General Hans-Lothar Domröse met with the Polish Chief of Defence, Lieutenant General Mieczysław Gocul, in Warsaw before heading to the NATO Joint Force Training Center in Brydgoszcz. The generals, who have met frequently in recent months continued their discussions on a range of defence-related topics that included upcoming NATO exercises, Assurance Measures and recent developments associated with NATO's declared intent to stand up a Very High Readiness Joint Task Force



Commander JFC Brunssum Visits Resolute Support Training at NATO's Joint Force Training Centre

28 January, General Hans-Lothar Domröse visited the NATO Joint Force Training Center in Byrdgoszcz, Poland, to observe the first Resolute Support Training event in 2015. Whilst there he addressed more than 200 participants and staff from 27 NATO and partner nations participating in pre-deployment training for the new Resolute Support mission, in Afghanistan. This non-combat mission began on 1st January this year. It is designed to help the Afghan government to effectively provide for its national security in a sustainable manner.



Joint Force Command Brunssum NFIT visits Poland

A NATO Forward Integration Team (NFIT) visited Poland from 26-31 Jan. as part of continued support for exercises, Assurance Measures and NRF planning in countries along the Eastern border of the NATO Alliance. Led by Brigadier General Torben Dixen Møller, JFCBS Director of Management, the team of 12 subject matter experts in areas ranging from logistics to legal affairs to exercise planning visited multiple military headquarters and military training facilities to gain greater situational awareness and assess a range of host nation military capabilities and support infrastructure. From Krakow in Southern Poland to Multinational Corps Northeast in Szczecin, the NFIT met with Polish military leaders and subject matter experts at various levels to share information and collaborate on future military operations in the region.



Exercise Trident Juncture 2015 Preparation Tempo Increases

Sunday 08 February JFC Brunssum deployed an OLRT to the Joint Warfare Centre (JWC) in Stavanger, Norway. This is a training exercise where OLRT members will spend a week immersed in the fictitious crisis scenario being used for Exercise Trident Juncture 2015 (TRJE15). Exercise information gathered will be fed into the TRJE15 planning process underway at JFC Brunssum and help shape exercise plans.



United Kingdom Permanent Representative to NATO Visits JFC Brunssum

30 January, the United Kingdom's Permanent Representative to NATO, Sir Adam Thomson KCMG, visited JFC Brunssum. Hosted by the Deputy Commander, Air Marshal Graham Stacey CB MBE, Sir Adam was briefed upon the roles and responsibilities of the headquarters. In a lively conceptual discussion NATO's Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan, the NATO Response Force, Regional Focus and a number of evolving issues were touched upon.



Defence Ministers Agree to Strengthen NATO's Defences - Establish Spearhead Force

NATO Defence Ministers took important decisions on Thursday (5 February 2015) to strengthen the Alliance's collective defence. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said the decisions would "ensure that we have the right forces, in the right place, at the right time."

Ministers approved plans in the light of the changing security environment to the east and south of the Alliance's borders. The NATO Response Force will be enhanced. The Defence Ministers agreed on the size and scope of a new very high readiness force or Spearhead Force.

Commanders' Conceptual Discussion

Article by Maj G P Abbott RM, JFCBS, J5. Photos by WO Edwin Tromp, PAO JFCBS



The participants to the Commanders' Conceptual Discussion, under the lead of JFCBS Commander General Hans-Lothar Domröse.

Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFCBS) will take responsibility for the NATO Response Force (NRF) in 2016. The response force elements will then be formed by the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps (Spain), the UK Maritime Command, the Italian Joint Force Air Component Command, the US Special Operations Component Command Europe, the Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear Battalion (Poland), the Multinational Civil Military Cooperation Group and the Combined Joint Psychological Operations Task Force (Germany). Preparations for NRF 2016 started already in 2014 however; the NRF Component Commanders came together for Ex BRILLIANT VISION, 12 – 13 Jan 2015 at JFCBS as the first official programmed event, on flag officer level, in the preparation process. Ex BRILLIANT VISION took the form of a Commanders Conceptual Discussion (CCD) chaired by Commander JFCBS, General Domröse.

The CCD was also host to Commanders from the Canadian Joint Headquarters and the Multinational Headquarters Ulm (Germany) who will be participating in Ex TRIDENT JUNCTURE 15 (TRJE-15), the highly visible NATO exercise which is the mechanism for certification for the NRF 2016.

The discussion allowed all participants the opportunity to analyse key issues faced by NRF 2016 and, moreover, NATO in general with regard to recent developments and associated challenges in modern warfare.

The secondary aim of the forum was to set the conditions for the approaching assessment and certification of JFCBS for the role of NRF 2016 stand by command. To this end the NRF Component Commands, key command personalities from JFCBS and those intimately involved in the assessment and certification process from the Joint Warfare Centre and SHAPE were in attendance and expressed their views on the preparation and management of

the NRF. Greater granularity was added from the perspective of LANDCOM, MARCOM and AIRCOM, along with the views of senior mentors.

Staff Officer Preparation for exercise TRJE15 started concurrently and in coordination with the CCD, as the headquarters coordinated the delivery of an academics package and key leader training to the JFCBS and Component's staff. The physical evaluation and certification of NRF 2016 will commence with the first phase of Ex TRJE15, from 26 January to 27 February, when the Joint Operations Planning Group will undergo the Crisis Response Planning (CRP).



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Resolute Support: A New Mission and a New Era

Story by Resolute Support Media Operations, Photos Courtesy of Resolute Support Media Operations

A proud ceremony occurred at Headquarters, International Security Assistance Force in Kabul on December 28, 2014. With the lowering of the ISAF flag and the casing of the colors, the 13 year ISAF mission in Afghanistan came to an historic end.



Police Advisors look on as Afghan National Police trainees conduct small arms skills training.

A proud ceremony occurred at Headquarters, International Security Assistance Force in Kabul on December 28, 2014. With the lowering of the ISAF flag and the casing of the colors, the 13 year ISAF mission in Afghanistan came to an historic end.

The event, resplendent with the flags of Coalition nations, marked the end of ISAF, but it also marked a beginning -- the beginning of Resolute Support.

Gen. John F. Campbell, commander of Coalition forces in Afghanistan, emphasized in his speech that this transition to the new Resolute Support mission was a significant moment.

"Today marks an end of an era and the beginning of a new one," Gen. Campbell said, with the raising of the new RS colors.

"As we look to the future, we can see that Afghanistan and our Coalition are at a critical turning point. We are presented with an unprecedented strategic opportunity to break the cycle of misery and lay the foundation for an enduring peace. Our new Resolute Support mission reflects NATO's continued investment in Afghanistan's future. Our commitment to Afghanistan endures," he said.

The beginning of Resolute Support officially and formally recognizes the Afghan National Security Forces' growing capabilities and their assumption of full security responsibility for the future of Afghanistan.

RS will focus on training, advising, and assisting ANSF and Institutions at the operational, ministerial and institutional levels. The mission, which consists of

more than 12,500 troops, focuses on building ANSF sustainability. 28 NATO allies and 14 partner nations will contribute to the mission in different ways.

Gen. Hans-Lothar Domrose, Joint Force Command Brunssum commander, also attended the ceremony. "Now is the time to write the next chapter in our story," he told the audience, referring to the beginning of Resolute Support.

The Resolute Support story is one that is driven by four "Lines of Effort:" (1) the completion of Afghan National Security Forces development, (2) supporting Afghan transition, (3) ensuring the security of Resolute Support forces, and (4) positioning Resolute Support forces to complete the mission.

These lines of effort will build on the

achievements of the ISAF mission.

RS will focus on eight specific areas of concentration or “essential functions” to effectively train, advise, and assist the Afghan Security Forces. Those eight functions are:

- 1: Multi-year Budgeting and Execution of Programs
- 2: Transparency, Accountability, and Oversight (prevent corruption)
- 3: Civilian Governance of the ASI (ANSF as servants of the people)
- 4: Force Generation (recruit, train, and equip the force)
- 5: Sustainment (supply and maintenance)
- 6: Strategy and Policy Planning, Resourcing, and Execution (plan, resource campaigns)
- 7: Intelligence
- 8: Strategic Communication

Inteqal – the Dari and Pashtu word for “transition” – is the process through which the lead responsibility for security in Afghanistan gradually transitioned from the NATO-led forces to the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces. Launched in 2011, the inteqal process was completed with the ISAF-RS transition ceremony. This target was set at the 2010 NATO Summit in Lisbon and confirmed by Allied leaders at the Chicago Summit in May 2012. RS supports the further development of Afghan National Defense and Security Forces in a smaller, non-combat, NATO-led mission.

One of the lasting legacies of ISAF and its Afghan partners is national security, the foundation of which was laid with the establishment of a 350,000-strong security force. This force is now fully responsible for security in Afghanistan. During the

course of the 2014 fighting season, ANSF prevented the Taliban from disrupting national elections, allowing more than seven million Afghans to exercise their right to vote. This led to the establishment of the Afghan National Unity Government, which marked the first peaceful democratic transition of power in Afghan history.

The ISAF security mission was essential to Afghan reconstruction. Working together, Coalition and ANSF created the stability that enabled Afghanistan to blossom.

Major improvements have occurred in Afghanistan since 2001, when the Taliban ruled and the country was embroiled in civil war. Advanced medical care, infrastructure improvement, freedom of the press, gender equality, stable governance, transportation, universal education, and the creation of reliable power sources were made possible with the security provided by ISAF and ANSF.

Basic measurements of progress across all major sectors of society have shown improvement: life expectancy is rising; mobile communication technology is expanding; an independent media corps is flourishing; and school enrollment is up from one to well over seven million children in the past decade with one third being females. This was inconceivable 13 years ago.

Mohammad Hanif Atmar, Afghanistan’s National Security Advisor, attended the ISAF-RS transition ceremony and acknowledged the difficult task at hand.

“This is a formidable challenge for any modern army and police force,” he said.

On behalf of President Ashraf Ghani and

the Afghan people, Mr. Atmar expressed his gratitude for the Coalition’s effort and sacrifices.

“We will never forget your sons and daughters who have died on our soil. They are now our sons and daughters. Afghan and Coalition personnel have spilled their blood to ensure a brighter future for our country and to bring peace to the world . . . We need your help to build the systems necessary to ensure the long-term sustainability of our forces,” he said.

The international community continues to pledge support and financial commitment to help foster an Afghan Decade of Transformation. These efforts will be undertaken with the leadership of President Ashraf Ghani and Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah. Both leaders have reinforced their pledges for transparency and accountability.

Resolute Support is just the beginning of the Afghan Decade of Transformation. In the words of Gen. Campbell, “Resolute Support will serve as the bedrock of our enduring partnership with Afghanistan.”

As the ceremony concluded, General Campbell gave his final thoughts on the progress made by Afghan and international partners: “Together, we have lifted the Afghan people out of the darkness of despair and given them hope for the future. We’re very proud of our relationship - a relationship built on trust, friendship, and shared interests. That trust and a common vision for a stable, secure, and unified Afghanistan fills me with confidence that we’ll continue to be successful. The road before us remains challenging, but we will triumph.”



Two members of the Ministerial Engagement Team conduct an advisory session with counterparts in the Communications department of the Afghan Ministry of Interior.

The Netherlands Takes Command of NATO Mine Counter-Measures Group

Story and Pictures by: Allied Maritime Command Public Affairs Office.

SNMCMG1 has been commanded from the flagship LNS JOTVINGIS since August 2014. Upon completion of the change of command ceremony, the new flagship of SNMCMG1 will be FGS DONAU, an ELBE-class German tender. The mine hunters assigned include BNS LOBELIA (Belgium), HMS PEMBROKE (UK), and FGS AUERBACH (Germany). HNLMS WILLEMSTAD (Netherlands) was also present for the ceremony and will join the Group next month. In the coming months, these ships will be joined by Polish and Norwegian mine hunters.



Commander Giedrius Premeneckas , the departing COMSNMCMG1.

“SNMCMG1 has been a critical asset for the Alliance in the past year, playing a major role in providing maritime situational awareness, and in providing assurance to Allies of NATO’s commitment to collective defence,” said Commodore Minderhoud. “We are very proud of the outstanding job Commander Premeneckas and his team have done these past six months in rising to every challenge, and we

look forward to continued great work under Dutch command, as SNMCMG1 will continue to play an important role in sustained assurance measures in 2015.”

Commander Premeneckas took command of the Group on August 7 during a port visit to Klaipeda, Lithuania. This deployment marked the first time that one of the Baltic States commanded one of NATO’s four

Standing Naval Forces.

During his time in command, the Group participated in a number of large-scale multinational exercises, including the Finnish Navy-led NORTHERN COASTS 2014 and the Royal Navy-led joint forces exercise JOINT WARRIOR 2014. The Group’s ships also put their specialized skills and equipment to use conducting historic ordnance disposal operations off the French



MARCOM's Deputy Chief of Staff Operations, Commodore Arian Minderhout, oversees the handover from Lithuania to the Netherlands.

coast, clearing mines dating back to World War I and II in an effort to make the waters safer for all who use them.

"I am grateful to the Commanding Officers and crews, staff personnel of SNMCMG1 for their professionalism and dedication serving under my command," said Commander Premeneckas. "All our achievements surely have to be credited to their exceptional team work, and I would feel privileged having a chance to serve with them in the future."

The Group also visited numerous ports in the Baltic, demonstrating Alliance commitment to collective defense with visits to Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania, and strengthening partnerships with a

visit to Finland.

Now under Dutch command, the Group will continue to play an integral role in the Alliance Maritime Strategy in 2015 as it deploys in support of sustained assurance measures, taking on similar challenges to those faced by its predecessors.

"Mine countermeasures is a very difficult type of warfare," said Commander Bergen Henegouwen. "Having good international relationships on all levels contributes to our common knowledge and experience. This is essential for our future capabilities in keeping the waters safe for all mariners."



Commander Peter A.J. Bergen Henegouwen addresses the guests after assuming command of SNMCMG1

NORFOLK, Va. - NATO AWACS took part in a live, scenario-driven tactical exercise with the U.S. Navy from Jan. 16 to Jan. 28, 2015.

Story and photos by SSGT R. Longoria, Public Affairs NATO E-3A Component, Geilenkirchen

For 12 days, two aircraft and more than 70 personnel from the E-3A Component participated in the Composite Training Unit Exercise, commonly referred to as COMPTUEX 2015, to improve maritime integration by conducting various maritime missions with units from the U.S. Navy, Air Force, Army and Marine Corps.



A Navy liaison officer from the E-3A Component works with a tactical director aboard a NATO AWACS during a mission for COMPTUEX.

“This exercise has provided the Component with valuable insight into U.S. naval operations beginning with the mission planning process through execution and debrief,” said Maj. Marie Quick, the deployment commander. “The component aircrew members supporting this exercise have received real-world training they would not otherwise obtain at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen during a maritime simulation where it is sometimes difficult to simulate numerous external agencies.”

Operating out of Naval Air Station Norfolk, Virginia, component aircrew members executed several naval missions off the eastern coast of the U.S. to include surface search control, maritime air control, sector

air defense control and maritime strike.

“Any exercise where the component can train with any military from any country only enhances the capabilities of the E-3A,” Maj. Quick explained. “By participating in the COMPTUEX, the E-3A aircrews have learned how to coordinate missions with the U.S. Navy and execute operations to support their fleet. The experience gained here better prepares the E-3A for any future operations with the U.S. Navy.”

In addition to the experience gained by the aircrew, the component was also able to attain more training for the flight deck during COMPTUEX. The flight deck accomplished more pattern work after completing a sortie as well as other qualifications that are more difficult to

achieve at the main operating base. One specific maneuver the pilots practiced was retrograding, which is turning the jet away from an enemy aircraft and descending quickly to create extra distance from the threat.

“Some of this training is difficult to conduct in Europe because of the restricted air space,” explained Maj. Gunther Drews, pilot. “By completing this training here, the component had an added benefit of reducing the amount of noise created at Geilenkirchen.”

Of course, the whole exercise was dependent on the work done behind the scenes. Maintenance personnel and crew chiefs worked continuously to ensure the component was able to meet exercise and

mission requirements.

“The daily flying schedule was an added burden but we concentrated our efforts to ensure Ops always had one jet ready to fly and another on standby,” said Chief Master Sgt. Rudi Slot, the deployed logistics officer.

Another key to the component’s overall success at COMPTUEX was the liaison

officers (LNOs). Three U.S. Navy officers from the component translated navy terms and procedures to the component’s Air Force personnel. Also, the component had an Air Force member on board the USS Theodore Roosevelt to ensure the U.S. Navy employed the E-3A in the “best way possible” to support the maritime mission.

“These officers have expertly demonstrated the most effective way to conduct missions with the U.S. Navy,” Maj. Quick said.

“Without our LNOs, the E-3A missions would not have gone as smoothly as they did throughout the COMPTUEX.”

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/153466/nato-awacs-integrates-with-us-navy-improves-maritime-capabilities#.VNyrzUJrbDI>



An image taken from the flight deck of an E-3A while orbiting off the coast of Florida during a mission for COMPTUEX.



E-3A Component personnel launched a NATO AWACS at Norfolk, Va., for the start of COMPTUEX 2015. This live, scenario-driven exercise gives the component an opportunity to conduct effective maritime integration with the U.S. Navy and Air Force.

JFCBS Joint Logistic Support Group Activation Ceremony

Story by: JFCBS JLSG HQ Core Staff Element, Photo by: CPO Henk van der Velde, JFCBS PAO

A short but meaningful ribbon cutting ceremony on 2 February 2015 hosted by Lieutenant General Adamczak, Chief of Staff, Joint Force Command Brunssum, formally activated JFCBS' Joint Logistic Support Group Headquarters Core Staff Element (JLSG HQ CSE). After a year of planning to prepare for this moment, the activation is an important milestone that will lead to the certification of the JLSG HQ for NRF 2016.



LTGEN Janusz Adamczak, Chief of Staff JFC Brunssum, cuts the ribbon at the ceremonial activation of the JFCBS JLSG.

A short but meaningful ribbon cutting ceremony on 2 February 2015 hosted by Lieutenant General Adamczak, Chief of Staff, Joint Force Command Brunssum, formally activated JFCBS' Joint Logistic Support Group Headquarters Core Staff Element (JLSG HQ CSE). After a year of planning to prepare for this moment, the activation is an important milestone that will lead to the certification of the JLSG HQ for NRF 2016.

The Joint Logistic Support Group is a deployed, executive, theatre level

logistic organization responsible to the Joint Force Commander for the planning, coordination, and execution of logistic support. As such, the JLSG is the fundamental approach by which NATO delivers multinational logistics support for operations.

The JLSG model will also be applied for the 'Enhanced' NRF which is looking for increased readiness and responsiveness. Although the Very high readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF) is an independent body that primarily relies on embedded enablers and Host Nation Support, a JLSG Joint Logistic Reconnaissance Team (JLRT) could be tasked to set the

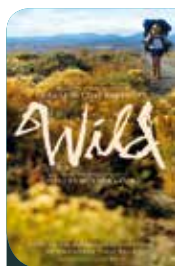
conditions for the deployment of the follow-on forces and the sustainment of the joint operation.

Assistant Chief of Staff (Support), Brigadier General Laureys, will command the JLSG over the coming months through an extensive training program until certification in October 2015. Highlights of this program include an academics session in June and the participation in the Trident Juncture 2015 (TRJE15) Battle Staff Training in September. The culmination of the training program will see the JLSG deploy to Beja, Portugal, during the CPX phase of TRJE 15 to receive its certification.



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06 MAR 2015 FRI

WILD

Reese Witherspoon
Laura Dern

115 min

1900



20 MAR 2015 FRI

THE DIVERGENT SERIES:
INSURGENT

Shailene Woodley
Miles Teller

119 min

1900



07 MAR 2015 SAT

SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS
MOVIE: SPONGE OUT OF WATER

Antonio Banderas
Tom Kenny

100 min

1600



21 MAR 2015 SAT

INTO THE WOODS

Johnny Depp
Meryl Streep

124 min

1600



07 MAR 2015 SAT

CHAPPIE

Sharlto Copley
Hugh Jackman

120 min

1900



21 MAR 2015 SAT

MORTDECAI

Johnny Depp
Oliver Platt

107 min

1900



13 MAR 2015 FRI

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Vince Vaughn
Tom Wilkinson

--- min

1900



27 MAR 2015 FRI

BIG EYES

Amy Adams
Christoph Waltz

103 min

1900



14 MAR 2015 SAT

CINDERELLA

Lily James
Helena Bonham Carter

105 min

1600



28 MAR 2015 SAT

HOME

Jim Parsons
Rihanna
Steve Martin

93 min

1600



14 MAR 2015 SAT

RUN ALL NIGHT

Liam Neeson
Genesis Rodriguez

--- min

1900



28 MAR 2015 SAT

GET HARD

Will Ferrell
Kevin Hart

--- min

1900

Brunssum International Art Event.

May 30 and 31, 2015, the 5th iteration of the Brunssum International Art Event (BIAE) will take place. The BIAE is an annual event for all ages. In the exquisitely beautiful surroundings of the Schutterspark participants amuse the visitors with their show. In 2015 we want to pay more attention to the artists, craftsmen and music; and, for the first time, a historical village will be constructed. BIAE slowly begins to gain more recognition across the region. This is clear to see as steadily increasing numbers of artists and visitors make their way to the event each year.

For children there is plenty of entertainment and short workshops in which they can participate.

The event will take place at the Heidestraat 20 6443 VZ Brunssum.

Do you want to take part?

Closing date: May 1, 2015

Cost: €40,00 / weekend

(entry fee includes a covered market stall).

As soon we receive your payment you can expect an email confirming your participation.

For more information see our website at: www.biae.eu

Do you want to visit the BIAE?

We are a low-threshold event and charge no entrance fee.

We hope that we can welcome you.

On behalf of the organization,

Jos Conjour
Secretary
jos@biae.eu



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**YOUR ADVERTISEMENT
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Country: Hungary
Capital: Budapest
Location: Central Eastern Europe
Land Boundaries: 2.106 KM
Coastline: -
Population: 10,513,209
 (2012 Estimate)

Area: Total 93.030 km2,
 water 0.74%

Climate:

Hungary has a continental climate,[87] with hot summers with low overall humidity levels but frequent rainshowers and mildly cold snowy winters. Average annual temperature is 9.7 °C (49.5 °F). Temperature extremes are about 41.9 °C (107.4 °F) on 20 July 2007 at Kiskunhalas in the summer and -35 °C (-31.0 °F) on 16 February 1940 Miskolc-Görömbölytapolca in the winter. Average high temperature in the summer is 23 to 28 °C (73 to 82 °F) and average low temperature in the winter is -3 to -7 °C (27 to 19 °F). The average yearly rainfall is approximately 600 mm (23.6 in). A small, southern region of the country near Pécs enjoys a reputation for a Mediterranean climate, but in reality it is only slightly warmer than the rest of the country and still receives snow during the winter. Hungary is ranked sixth in an environmental protection index by GW/CAN.

Economy:

GDP: \$224.5 billion
 (2012 estimate)
GDP per Capita: \$22,878
GDP per sector: agriculture: 4.5%; industry: 27.2%; services: 68.3% (2012 est.)

Budget:

Revenues: \$62.24 billion (2013)
Expenses: \$66.01 billion (2013)
Currency: Hungarian forint (HUF)

Main Industries: mining, metallurgy, construction materials, processed foods, textiles, chemicals (especially pharmaceuticals), motor vehicles

Exports:

\$93.01 billion (2013)
 machinery and equipment 53.5%, other manufactures 31.2%, food products 8.7%, fuels and electricity 3.9%, raw materials 3.4% (2012)

Imports:

\$89.51 billion (2013)
 machinery and equipment 45.4%, other manufactures 34.3%, fuels and electricity 12.6%, food products 5.3%, raw materials 2.5% (2012)



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

I arrived in October 2013, and I am currently serving as a Legal Advisor. Actually, it is not the first time for me in The Netherlands; in 2004 I already spent ten months studying international law at the University of Groningen. So, I really enjoy this return to Holland.

Tell us about your Military Career.

My military career is not comparable to that of the majority of officers. Having finished my postgraduate law studies, I first joined the Hungarian Defence Forces as a civilian (public servant) legal advisor, specialized in international legal matters. After five years, I joined the army as an officer and continued my legal career.

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

The Office of the Legal Advisor is closely linked to the Command Group; our primary task is to provide legal advice to our leaders at the HQ. However, this job is wider than that, we are really embedded into the staff and work together with all the Branches and Offices.

Being a legal advisor in the armed forces is indeed a unique challenge. It is a process of continuous learning and struggle for understanding.

The military profession is very complex and sophisticated, with its own specific aims, rules and priorities – just like law is. For me as a legal advisor, I first need to understand the mindset and aims of the officers I work with and then find the correct and relevant legal advice for their work.

This is sometimes demanding and requires flexibility, but I have to say that I really enjoy learning from others and then being able to provide them my legal thoughts. I hope that in the end it is a mutually beneficial partnership.

I understand that legal advisors are sometimes seen as the “guys who love saying no”; but when we are able to communicate to each other in a constructive manner, I believe that this stereotype can be overcome.

What do you like in your job?

I could start with the usual type of answer i.e. that the international environment and working with people are fascinating, but beyond that, as a legal advisor (I think it comes with this profession) I like being challenged and I have to admit, I also like the complexity of the mindset this HQ requires from its staff.

What do you do outside of work?

I try to spend as much time as possible with my family (my wife and two daughters) who have accompanied me. Holland is a beautiful country; we would like to visit most of its regions, to gather the best possible good memories from this period of our lives.



Late Rembrandt van Rijn

A unique exhibition of late Rembrandt works in the Rijksmuseum

Composed by Ed Frieser

Sources: Wikipedia, mystudios.com and the Rijksmuseum Press Office, Photos: Courtesy Rijksmuseum Amsterdam

The Dutch Golden Age, following 80 years of successful rebellion against the Spanish rulers and generally spanning the 17th Century, has produced many famous Dutch painters. Names such as Johannes Vermeer, Frans Hals, Paulus Potter, Jan Steen, Jacob and Salomon van Ruisdael, and Adriaen van Ostade, just to mention a few, are nowadays on the wish list of many art collectors throughout the world. There is however one Dutch painter that is probably the most striking and renowned painter in the world of that era: Rembrandt Harmenszoon van Rijn.

Rembrandt's life

Rembrandt van Rijn was born on July 15, 1606 as the ninth child and son of a miller in Leiden not far from Amsterdam.

As a boy he attended Latin school and was enrolled at the University of Leiden, but his passion for painting soon apprenticed him to a Leiden history painter, Jacob van Swanenburgh with whom he spent three years. Following several apprenticeships with Pieter Lastman and Jacob Pynas, and supposedly also with Joris van Schooten, Rembrandt started his own workshop. It was the Dutch statesman Constantijn Huygens (father of the Dutch mathematician and physicist Christiaan Huygens) who discovered Rembrandt in 1629. He procured for Rembrandt important commissions from the court of The Hague. As a result of this connection, Prince Frederik Hendrik of Orange-Nassau continued to purchase paintings from Rembrandt until 1646. Moving permanently to Amsterdam in late 1631, Rembrandt established his studio in the art dealer Hendrick van Uylenburgh's premises. Their joint business venture capitalized on the growing market for portraits and history paintings by Dutch artists. Rembrandt immediately became the most prominent painter of portraits, introducing greater subtlety, presence and animation to the genre, as well as innovative group portraits. Many students



De Staalmeesters, Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

came to the van Uylenburgh "academy" to be trained in Rembrandt's manner of painting. In 1634, Rembrandt married Saskia van Uylenburgh niece of Hendrick van Uylenburgh. They were married in the local church of St. Annaparochie, Province of Friesland. Saskia came from a good family. Her father had been a lawyer and the burgemeester (mayor) of Leeuwarden. In 1639 Rembrandt was able to purchase a grand house on the Sint-Antonis 'Breestraat' (Broadway) which also served as his studio. Nowadays the Rembrandt House Museum. Today the Amsterdam Breestraat is known as the Jodenbreestraat.

Throwback

In 1642, Saskia, in ill health following the birth and death of three children, died, leaving Rembrandt with their sole child, a son called Titus. During Saskia's

Open

Daily from 9 am – 5 pm

Ticket sales

Tickets will be on sale from 1 November 2014 at rijksmuseum.nl/late-rembrandt. Tickets give access to a specific time slot. It is recommended to buy your tickets early.

Price

Up to the age of 18: free of charge

Friends of the Rijksmuseum: free of charge

Exhibition surcharge with the museum card: € 7.50

Rijksmuseum admission fee: € 17.50

illness, Geertje Dircx was hired as nurse and caretaker for Titus. By the late 1640s, declining portrait commissions and disastrous speculative investments created financial strain on the artist.

Following the bitter end to his relationship with Geertje Dircx, Hendrickje Stoffels entered Rembrandt's household in 1647 and became his lifelong companion. The

His paintings

Religion has always been a central theme in Rembrandt's paintings. His mother was Roman Catholic, and his father belonged to the Dutch Reformed Church. The religiously fraught period in which he lived makes his faith a matter of interest. Returning to powerful religious subjects in his later years, Rembrandt created works of great psychological complexity

and worked including the Rembrandt House Museum (Rembrandthuis) and the Westerkerk where he was buried.

Ten themes

The exhibition is divided into ten themes: The late self-portraits, Observation of everyday life, Artistic rivalry, Artistic conventions, Experimental technique, Light, Intimacy, Contemplation, Inner conflict and Reconciliation. The paintings The Family Portrait (Herzog Anton Ulrich-museum, Braunschweig), the Self-Portrait as Zeuxis Laughing (Wallraf-Richartz Museum-Fondation Corboud, Cologne), Portrait of Jan Six (Six Collection, Amsterdam) and Jacob Wrestling with the Angel (Gemäldegalerie, Staatliche Museen zu Berlin) can only be seen in Amsterdam.

"...An exhibition of a lifetime will reveal to a new generation the mastery of Rembrandt, who is the greatest figure in Dutch art of the Golden Age and perhaps the most famous of all Dutchmen.... And for the first time in over twenty years, the Rijksmuseum (in Amsterdam) will again be organizing a Rembrandt exhibition, giving every generation the chance to renew its acquaintance with the great Master of the Golden Age...."

thus stated Wim Pijbes, General Director of the Rijksmuseum



couple was unable to marry because of the financial settlement linked to the will of Rembrandt's deceased wife Saskia, but they remained together until Hendrickje's death in 1663. It was also a period fraught with personal difficulties, including insolvency and the sale of his house and collections in a series of auctions in 1657 and 1658. Rembrandt took up residence in a far smaller house on the Rozengracht in the Jordaan area of Amsterdam, an area that was home to many artists. In order to protect his earnings, Rembrandt became the employee of a company run by Hendrickje and Titus instituted to sell his drawings, prints and paintings. Rembrandt's son died in 1668 and was buried in the Westerkerk (West Church) in Amsterdam. Rembrandt not long after died as a pauper man on October 4, 1669, and was buried in Amsterdam's Westerkerk next to his son Titus and his companion Hendrickje.

and monumentality. His paintings capture light as no one else did before. Light-dark contrasts became more and more characteristic towards the end of his life.

Rijksmuseum Exhibition 'Late Rembrandt' 12 February – 17 May 2015

With 40 paintings, 20 drawings and 30 prints, Late Rembrandt presents a comprehensive overview of the artist's work between approximately 1652 and his death in 1669. In collaboration with the National Gallery of London, the artworks in the exhibition are on loan from leading international museums and private collections, many of which have been brought together for the first time. To coincide with Late Rembrandt, a series of events, including a walking tour and a boat trip will be organized across Amsterdam to the landmarks where Rembrandt lived



Self Portrait with Two Circles by Rembrandt (1661), Kenwood House, London, UK.

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- **Bar** (from Belgian beers to Champagne - there will be a range of drinks available for a great price - If you buy your vouchers in advance with your ticket you'll even get a 1 Euro discount!!)
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- Get your tickets now -

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Fill in this coupon and send it to PAO, or send an e-mail to pao@jfcbs.nato.int, before before 16 March 2015

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

Answer:

Division:

Full name:

Extension:



Winners

MOSAQUA Subtropical swimming paradise

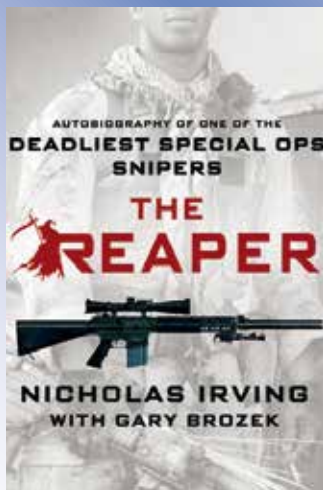
The Northern Star congratulates the lucky winner of the last contest.

Tickets won by:

Joe Sabajo JFCBS/DOM

Rick Galeano JFCBS/OPS/J3

Book Review



The Reaper: Autobiography of One of the Deadliest Special Ops Snipers

By Nicholas Irving

Groundbreaking, thrilling and revealing, **The Reaper** is the astonishing memoir of Special Operations Direct Action Sniper Nicholas Irving, the 3rd Ranger Battalion's deadliest sniper with 33 confirmed kills, though his remarkable career total, including probables, is unknown.

In the bestselling tradition of American Sniper and Shooter, Irving shares the true story of his extraordinary career, including his deployment to Afghanistan in the summer of 2009, when he set another record, this time for enemy kills on a single deployment. His teammates and chain of command labeled him "The Reaper," and his actions on the battlefield became

the stuff of legend, culminating in an extraordinary face-off against an enemy sniper known simply as The Chechnian.

Irving's astonishing first-person account of his development into an expert assassin offers a fascinating and extremely rare view of special operations combat missions through the eyes of a Ranger sniper during the Global War on Terrorism. From the brotherhood and sacrifice of teammates in battle to the cold reality of taking a life to protect another, no other book dives so deep inside the life of a sniper on point



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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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