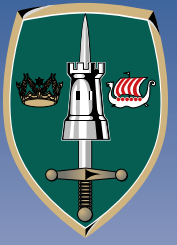


# NORTHERN STAR

MAGAZINE FOR HQ JFC BRUNSSUM - MARCH 2017



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**FIRST ENHANCED  
FORWARD PRESENCE  
BATTLEGROUP  
DEPLOYS TO  
LITHUANIA**

**NATO  
PARLIAMENTARY  
ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT  
VISITS JFC BRUNSSUM**

**HUNGARIAN DEFENCE  
FORCES COMMITTED  
TO NATO-LED  
CRISIS RESPONSE  
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## ABOUT THE COVER

Dutch F-16 belonging to 322 Squadron, Leeuwarden airbase, takes off for a Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) mission while on standby for the BENELUX air policing.

Photo by Kelyn Yeutukhovich

## CONTENTS

|    |                                                                                                   |    |                                                                     |
|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3  | ABOUT THE COVER                                                                                   | 18 | GERMANY CONTINUES AUGMENTING BALTIC AIR POLICING                    |
| 4  | COMMAND GROUP CORNER                                                                              | 20 | THE HUNGARIAN DEFENCE FORCES IN NATO-LED CRISIS RESPONSE OPERATIONS |
| 6  | VISITS AND ACTIVITIES                                                                             | 22 | HOW DOES IT FEEL TO COME BACK?                                      |
| 8  | COMMANDER JFC BRUNSSUM WELCOMES FIRST ENHANCED FORWARD PRESENCE BATTLEGROUP DEPLOYED TO LITHUANIA | 23 | JFC BRUNSSUM GOLF SOCIETY - CALLING ALL POTENTIAL GOLFERS           |
| 10 | THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY VISITS JFC BRUNSSUM                              | 24 | DUTCH SECURITY FORCES                                               |
| 12 | IMM - THE FORMULA ONE OF NATO-SKILLS                                                              | 25 | OUR VISION FOR A BETTER FUTURE                                      |
| 14 | SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES AT HIGH ALTITUDE                                                          | 26 | DID YOU KNOW                                                        |
| 16 | EXERCISE DYNAMIC MOVE 2017 BEGINS IN BELGIUM                                                      | 28 | ONE OF US                                                           |
|    |                                                                                                   | 30 | MOVIE SCHEDULE                                                      |
|    |                                                                                                   | 31 | CIRCLE 100                                                          |
|    |                                                                                                   | 32 | BOOK REVIEW                                                         |

## COLOPHON

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# COMMAND GROUP CORNER

Composed by: General Salvatore Farina, (ITA A)



**J**FC Brunssum Team,  
It is very true:  
time flies!

It seems like it was only yesterday, but in fact it was over a year ago when I took over command of JFC Brunssum, on a very typical Limburg day marked by black sky, cold, driving wind, snow and sleet. Even with the harsh weather, it was a wonderful day as we honoured the outgoing commander, General Domröse, and with the blessing of General Breedlove (SACEUR at that time) I was charged with the great privilege and enormous responsibility of being your commander. Indeed the burden has been even greater taking into account that it was the first time that the rotation between German and Italian commanders took place after many years of German leadership.

Two of my basic principles are my commitment to continuity and a proactive approach. By continuity, I am not referring to something that is inflexible and unchanging, but rather the unbroken and undisturbed execution of our mission. By taking a proactive approach and eliminating problems before they have a chance to appear, we can make things happen - instead of waiting for things to happen to us!

Despite the many responsibilities facing our headquarters, I felt

strengthened just knowing I could rely on such a dedicated and capable staff. Immediately after I assumed command, I was completely involved and ready to go. With so much going on around us, I quickly set my priorities and with the support of my staff, the way forward was set in motion. After only two weeks, I journeyed with Major General Smith (JFC Brunssum Deputy Chief of Staff Operations) to visit the Resolute Support (RS) Mission in Afghanistan, where we had an opportunity to get up to speed on the latest developments in theatre and share insight with General Nicholson. Within days of our return, we put the finishing touches to the Spring 2016 Periodic Mission Review and moved right into a refinement of our training and exercises for 2016.

The 2016 Brilliant series of exercises was designed to prove the concept of NATO's Readiness Action Plan as one of the most important deliverables resulting from the 2014 NATO Summit in Wales. Brilliant Jump 2016 demonstrated a prepared and capable Very High Readiness Joint Task Force and the NRDC Spain Corps Headquarters, deploying within a few days to Poland by air, sea and land, with critical support provided by Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC-NE) and the NATO Force Integration Units (NFIUs). For MNC-NE, exercise Brilliant Capability 2016 was an

opportunity to prove themselves as "operationally capable" of exercising command and control of the NFIUs and Operational Control of a VJTF 1\* HQ. The successful events and extremely positive results, combined with the full establishment of the NFIUs, completed the tasks directed from the Wales Summit that have been, in my opinion, a great achievement, especially considering the very short timeframe.

In early spring my leadership team and I completed several key leader engagements with authorities and commanders in the Baltics, Poland and Spain. The engagements were extremely valuable, not only for the conduct of assurance measures and their role in training and exercises, but also for the completion of our advance planning efforts. Additionally, I had the opportunity to engage with the Single Service Commands and our sister headquarters, Joint Force Command Naples, thereby reinforcing the relationships that will enable complete integration in a joint operational environment.

Even while we were completing our tasking from the Wales Summit, Warsaw was already on the horizon. We quickly refocussed our efforts and started our internal thinking in order to elaborate and advance new ideas and concepts to operationalize the decisions made at the political level and





to implement the strategic directives issued by SHAPE.

In the second part of 2016 we expanded our key leader engagement with political and military leaders across the implementation area, starting with our Finnish and Swedish partners and continuing with key NATO nations including Germany, UK, the Netherlands and Hungary. These personal interactions with military commanders and civilian authorities continue to help us build relationships over time so we can support each other both in peacetime and during times of crisis.

In August we once more visited the Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan, where I was able to increase my understanding and exchange information and views on the progress of the RS Mission with General Nicholson. At the Joint Operational level we completed our 3rd Northern Headquarters Conference in Bodo, Norway, where we stressed the importance of partnership, transparency and collective defence in the Northern flank of the Alliance. The Northern Family continues to get stronger and stronger.

Building on the decisions made during the Warsaw Summit, and in a clear demonstration of Alliance solidarity and determination, this headquarters began the challenging process to conceptualise and develop the implementation order for

the Enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) Battle Groups. A truly headquarters-wide effort, the intensive work brought together the Framework Nations, Troop Contributing Nations, Host Nations, Single Service Commands and SHAPE, and took most of our time from November all the way into February. As the year drew to a close, we completed a very successful visit by the North Atlantic Council on 28 November focussed on eFP, and turned over our role as the NATO Response Force Standby Command to JFC Naples. If that is not enough, I should mention our involvement in the development of our Graduated Response Plans, and of course we look forward to the coming months as we continue our preparations for Exercise Trident Javelin in November.

After one year I firmly believe that with our commitment to continuity and a proactive stance, the relevance and credibility of JFC Brunssum has been maintained. We find ourselves very deeply involved in a great number of endeavours that encompass the three core tasks of our Alliance, and I am sure that we will continue to do so.

With our focus on a balanced, determined and proportional non-escalatory approach, JFC Brunssum remains at the forefront of the Alliance's efforts to address the changing security environment that encompasses

everything from hybrid and cyber warfare to terrorist and radical threats, both within and beyond our borders. By incorporating strategic communications into all our operations and planning, we can contribute positively and directly in achieving the successful implementation of NATO political and military objectives.

All of you – my team – are very capable, responsive, flexible, and open-minded professionals who have supported me throughout my first year in command. Without your tremendous effort we would not have been able to accomplish such a demanding range of achievements. I am proud to be your commander and am grateful to lead such a proficient and dedicated team. I am also grateful to have had the opportunity to meet your families during our many social events, and I urge you to take care of your loved ones just as they take care of and support you.

Thank you for your efforts, and I am certain that throughout this next year we will achieve even more together!

General Farina



# VISITS AND ACTIVITIES

Prepared by: Adjutant Shirley Ham-ter Haar (NLD MP)

## JFC Brunssum HQ Enlargement

Brunssum, Netherlands - Thursday 19 January, all JFC Brunssum staff had the opportunity to have a look inside the new wing, which is currently under construction. Visitors saw for themselves that since the ground breaking ceremony on 14th March 2016 by the JFC Brunssum Chief of Staff (COS), Lieutenant General Adamczak, we are steadily approaching completion and hope to have everything up and running before the grand opening in the summer.

The project was created to meet the requirement for additional office space to cope with the uplift of personnel allocated to JFC

Brunssum in 2012. The work comprises construction of a new wing, providing 2,015 m<sup>2</sup> of office space, a new staff restaurant, a new VVIP entrance as well as renovation works in the existing building to enhance the entrance area and to realize sufficient un-classified conference facilities.

20 JAN 2017



## Chief of Italian Chaplains Visits JFC Brunssum

Brunssum, Netherlands – On Thursday 19 January the Italian Chief of Chaplains, Archbishop Santo Marciano', visited the Headquarters. Following an office call with the Commander JFC Brunssum, General Salvatore Farina, he met with the Italian delegation and representatives of the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control Force Command's E-3A Component (NAEW&CF E3-A Component) at Geilenkirchen (Germany) and the European Air Transport Command (EATC) based at Eindhoven (Netherlands), during his first trip to the Netherlands in this position.

The Archbishop celebrated Holy Mass for the Italian personnel and their families at the East Chapel.

His Excellency Marciano', during his address to the Italian delegation, emphasized the importance of dialogue and cooperation efforts made by NATO in these ever changing times, as well as the unique capability of the Alliance to pragmatically encourage member states to work together creating fruitful synergies.

20 JAN 2017



## Commander JFC Brunssum Participates in Slovakian NFIU Inauguration Ceremony

Brunssum, The Netherlands - Commander JFC Brunssum, General Salvatore Farina, took part in the inauguration ceremony of the Slovakian NATO Force Integration Unit (NFIU) in Bratislava on Tuesday 24 January; this is the eighth and last NFIU to officially join the network established along the Eastern flank of the Alliance.

dignitaries, by the Slovakian Minister of Defence (Mr Peter Gajdoš), NATO's Assistant Secretary General for Public Diplomacy (Ambassador Tacan Ildem), the Deputy Chairman of the NATO Military Committee (Lieutenant General Steven M Shepro) and the Slovakian Chief of Defence (General Milan Maxim).

The NFIU in Slovakia will achieve its full capability in June 2017 after a validation exercise.

24 JAN 2017



## 27 JAN 2017



Brunssum, Netherlands - On 23 January 2017, General Salvatore FARINA, Commander Joint Force Command Brunssum, addressed the Military Attachés of the NATO member

### General Farina Addresses Military Attachés at the Italian Embassy in Berlin

nations at the Italian Embassy in Germany during their annual conference in Berlin.

Invited to present an operational perspective on NATO's role in the new security environment, General Farina provided a broad picture of today's challenges and shared his view on how to foster stability and security. In a first part, he elaborated on the deterrence and defence posture and emphasized NATO's enhanced forward presence in Eastern Europe as further milestone to be realized in 2017. In the second half of his speech, General Farina addressed NATO's projecting stability efforts outside NATO's borders and its realization by

a 360 degree operational capability. Based on his headquarters' responsibility for enabling NATO's Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan, he specifically stressed the importance of a comprehensive joint combined multi-year approach.

## 30 JAN 2017



Brunssum, The Netherlands - Outcomes of NATO's previous exercises and missions, conceptual discussions and unparalleled scenario

### Exercise TRIDENT JAVELIN 2017 Academics Mark the Start of NRF 2018 Certification for JFC BRUNSSUM

setting – this was the content of the Exercise Trident Javelin 2017 (TRJN17) academic seminars conducted 23 - 27 January at JFC Brunssum.

TRJN17, scheduled for November 2017, will be an exercise showcasing NATO's determination and commitment to the collective defence of the Alliance. Based on an artificial scenario, JFC Brunssum and other participating NATO Headquarters in Europe, will combine their efforts to conduct a joint operation of a scale unmatched by any previous NATO exercise.

The purpose of TRJN17, conducted as Command-Post/Computer Assisted Exercise (CPX/CAX), is to train the NATO Command Structure and prepare it for future challenges. The autumn exercise represents the final step in the certification process for the command and control elements of the NATO Response Force (NRF) for 2018, where JFC Brunssum will be the Standby Command for the year.

## 15 FEB 2017



Brunssum, Netherlands - The JFC Fitness Centre hosted a Healthy Heart 5k Fun Run on 15

### Healthy Heart Run at JFC Brunssum

February to burn off the Valentine's Day sugary chocolates and extravagant dinners from the night before. Some couples made a date of the run, encouraging their spouse to keep up. One couple was even spotted holding hands during their final up-hill ascent towards the finish line. Gym staff were elated to don hearts on their clothes and welcome the runners, to include JFC Brunssum Commander, General Salvatore Farina.

The first placed man was Ashley Lawes, who came in at 20 minutes 43 seconds. The first placed woman was Helena Slaatmo at 24:42, who also took first woman's place in last November's Fun Run. The Fitness Centre is already planning the next running event, which is rumoured to be 10k. Keep training, runners!

# COMMANDER JFC BRUNSSUM WELCOMES FIRST ENHANCED FORWARD PRESENCE BATTLEGROUP DEPLOYED TO LITHUANIA

Composed by: JFC Brunssum Public Affairs Office

Photo by: Alfredas Pliadis, Lithuanian MOD



*General Salvatore Farina delivers his speech at the welcoming ceremony in Rukla, Lithuania*

**O**n 07 February General Salvatore Farina, Commander JFC Brunssum, welcomed the first troops of the NATO enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) battle group upon their deployment to Lithuania. In a ceremony hosted by the President of the Republic of Lithuania, Dalia Grybauskaitė - with the Minister of Defense of Germany, Ursula von der Leyen in attendance - eFP contingents from Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands participated in a formal welcome parade at the home of the Lithuanian Training Regiment 'Radvila' in Rukla. U.S. and Czech rotational troops, deployed for training purposes,

**and soldiers from different units of the Lithuanian Armed Forces joined the event.**

In her remarks the Lithuanian President emphasized how this battle-group represents 'the strongest security shield in our region arriving at the right time and place', and assured that 'Lithuania will provide a high standard of Host Nation support'.

The Minister of Defense of Germany, Ms von der Leyen, stated 'today we have come together as NATO partners to reassure our strong commitment to the future of Lithuania', which is now 'protected by the greatest military alliance of our times'.

The German-led multinational battlegroup is the first of four that comprise NATO's forward presence in the area to 'demonstrate the Alliance's readiness and resolve to deter and defend' - said General Farina - 'representing not just four battlegroups, but the whole of NATO in a unity of effort'. Contingents from Norway and Luxembourg - as well as Croatia and France in 2018 - will join the battlegroup at Rukla over the coming months, increasing the total number of troops deployed to approximately 1200; the size and composition of each battlegroup, however, will differ from country to country.



*The Minister of Defence of Germany, Ursula von der Leyen, during her welcoming remarks*

The other three multinational battlegroups will be deployed to Latvia, Estonia and Poland by the summer of this year in order to enhance allied presence in the eastern part of the Alliance, as agreed by NATO Heads of State and Governments at the Summit in Warsaw last year, in order to respond in a proportionate and measured way to the changed security environment.

In his speech General Farina underlined how the establishment of the first of these battlegroups marks a 'strengthening of the Alliance's military capacity' and, at the same time, demonstrates 'NATO's commitment

and resolve to defend the people of its member nations against any possible aggression' while 'avoiding provocation and preventing escalation'. This is also 'part of NATO's larger effort to adapt to the challenges we face', the General noted. By adopting 'a 360-degree approach to security' supported by the integration of all domains - 'land, air, maritime and special operations forces meld seamlessly together in support of NATO's efforts'.

# THE PRESIDENT OF THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY VISITS JFC BRUNSSUM

Composed by: Colonel R Lanni, (ITA A)

Photo by: Adjutant Shirley Ham-ter Haar (NLD MP)



**A** meeting, aimed at strengthening relations between the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (NPA) and the operational level of the military arm of the Alliance, took place on 9 February 2017 at JFC Brunssum, between the President of the NPA, the Italian Mr Paolo Alli, and General Salvatore Farina, Commander JFC Brunssum.

Mr Alli was keen to gain a deeper knowledge of NATO's operational structure, in his new position as President of a body comprising 257 members drawn from the national Parliaments of the 28 Allies. This objective was fulfilled by the Commander, who provided a comprehensive overview of the activities led by the Headquarters in Brunssum as well as its current and future responsibilities.

General Farina emphasized the top priorities for JFC Brunssum, starting with the Resolute Support mission in Afghanistan which, since 2015, with the endor-

sement of the International Community, provides the Afghan Defence and Security Forces as well as Institutions with training, assistance and advice. The General underlined how 'the process in Afghanistan is not a rapid one', since the situation in the country is 'complex, fragile and continuously evolving'.

With regard to defence and deterrence tasks, the Commander highlighted the commitment of his staff in providing the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) with the highest number of options and tools for him to use in order to 'deter any potentially aggressive posture', according to NATO's inherent flexibility and adaptation. General Farina also said that the JFC monitors the operational picture from a 360-degree perspective and 'will keep this mindset while focusing on the north-eastern flank of the Alliance, without disregarding the southern one, which nowadays carries a broad spectrum of risks and potential threats'.

JFC Brunssum in 2016 was the Headquarters responsible for the command and control of the NATO Response Force (NRF) – the force capable of responding rapidly to crisis anywhere across the globe – maintaining its readiness to deploy in case of activation following a decision by the North Atlantic Council (NAC). In 2016 the NRF had its troops increased to 40.000 and could count for the first time on its new high readiness component, the Very High Readiness Joint Task Force (VJTF): these measures were part of the "Readiness Action Plan" (RAP) agreed in 2014.

Currently ongoing is the deployment phase of NATO's enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) on the north-eastern flank of alliance territory, with four multinational battlegroups being established in the Baltic States and Poland. On the 7<sup>th</sup> of February General Farina welcomed the first battlegroup established in Lithuania in an official ceremony hosted by the Lithuanian President.



The other three battlegroups will be deployed in Estonia, Latvia and Poland by the summer of this year, as agreed by Allies at the 2016 summit in Warsaw, in order to respond to the changed security situation in the region.

These measures, together with the others included in the RAP, increase the Alliance's response capabilities in order to protect and defend its Allies.

The President of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly appreciated the update on the operational situation and commended the Commander for the important tasks and responsibilities carried out by JFC Brunssum within the Alliance. Mr Alli finally emphasized how visits by parliamentary members allow the political level to have direct awareness of the operational-military level contribution, and praised General Farina in particular for his balanced approach, at 360-degrees, aiming at security while promoting dialogue.



# IMM – THE FORMULA ONE OF NATO-SKILLS

The Bundeswehr invites you to a challenging NATO competition at Moenchengladbach in July 2017.



**B**y joining the famous International Military Skills Competition (IMM) in Moenchengladbach you will meet like-minded people; specifically, you will be able test your military skills and abilities; and may go home with medals and prizes. The oldest longest-running international military skills contest in Europe is scheduled to take place this year on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2017. Be part of it!

Three letters, many nations - the IMM has one important aim: the promotion of international contacts within the framework of NATO. Two of its side-effects have been the founding of a British-American family and a Greek marriage in Belgian territory. 'The IMM also provides an opportunity to develop relationships and, in the heat of competition, you will forge new friendships with fellow NATO Service members', stated SACEUR, (General Curtis M. Scaparrotti). These rela-

tionships are vital to the Alliance. Unity is our center of gravity and the IMM exemplifies our solidarity.

The organizers call it the Formula One of NATO-skills: intelligence, strength and fitness are tested in equal measure during the IMM. Twelve tasks, negotiated along a 12-km-marching route, have to be tackled. They include rafting, shooting, first aid, general military knowledge, an infantry course with tasks that might be met on operations, and even an assault course. A total of 120 starters from seven nations participated in the last year's IMM, which was organized by the German Army's Landeskommando NRW and the Lower Rhine section of the Reservists' Association. Participants from as far afield as Portsmouth (UK), Paris (France), Rome (Italy) and a host of other locations compete for the much-desired champion's trophy, donated by the German

Minister of Defense, Mrs. Ursula von der Leyen.

In 2013 and 2014 JFCBS personnel from five NATO countries gave a strong performance and won a number of prizes. Last year a team of four German reservists from Marbach in the state of Hessen, and two teams from Denmark (taking positions 2 and 3), were the top competitors. Cups are traditionally awarded to the first, second and third teams overall, the top non-German active and reserve teams, the top mixed teams (male/female), the top female teams, the top mixed NATO-Teams (from various nations) and the best team of every nation.

Last date for registration is 19<sup>th</sup> June 2017. For more information visit the IMM website at: [www.imm-bundeswehr.de](http://www.imm-bundeswehr.de) Or ask: Oberleutnant dR Stefan Thies, Tel.: 0049 2161 58520 or send an e-mail to: [moenchengladbach@reservistenverband.de](mailto:moenchengladbach@reservistenverband.de).





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# SHARED RESPONSIBILITIES AT HIGH ALTITUDE

Composed by: Lieutenant Colonel Paul van Harten, (NLD F)

Photo by: Kelyn Yeutukhovich



**I**n 2015 the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg signed an agreement with the intention to regulate joint air defense operations carried out in their airspace.

The agreement was signed by the Ministers of Defense of the Netherlands and Belgium, and Luxembourg's Dutch Ambassador. The document, which ratifies that the signing countries will rotate their air policing duties, is a follow-up to a letter of intent signed by the countries in October 2013.

The memorandum may be treated as a precedent by other European Union Member States whose air forces, as a consequence of ever shrinking defense budgets, lack some (basic) ca-

pabilities, including the ability to protect the sovereignty of their airspace around the clock.

However, this is nothing new in Europe, where air arms are trying to embrace the "pooling and sharing" concept to save some money and where NATO has carried out regional Air Policing missions, including the one in the Baltic (BAP), for quite some time now.

The fighter forces of Belgium and the Netherlands will defend the countries by providing proper QRA (Quick Reaction Alert) capabilities. Obviously, not only will the defensive operations cover the issue of military threats, but they will also be dealing with renegade aircraft. This means that a new scheme of air policing is to be imple-

mented next year which is intended to take every situation into account.

A distinction should be made between NATO obligations and tasks at the national level. NATO is responsible whenever a possible military threat appears, while national authorities focus on a possible terrorist threat. The QRA fighters are initially subordinate to NATO. After taking off, due to an alert of an unidentified aircraft, and positive identification of a hostile aircraft, NATO remains responsible. To be specific, NATO's CAOC (Combined Air Operations Centre) in Uedem, Germany, coordinates these operations.

Occasionally, Russian long-distance bombers fly over the North Sea. This is a military matter and thus, a NATO





*F-35 – Future air asset for Benelux Air Policing*

issue. It is a so-called international Air Space, meaning that the Russian airplanes have the right to be there. Shooting down of Russian aircraft is not on the agenda because they always remain in international airspace. Nevertheless, such actions by the Russians are not desirable because most likely there is no flight-plan submitted and it is unknown where they are heading. Moreover, they usually have no transponders (electronic identification) enabled, causing it not to follow by air traffic controllers. Keeping civilian aircraft away, which is the so-called de-confliction, would be possible if these airplanes were monitored by NATO fighter aircraft which could pass on the airplanes' positions and headings.

In Luxembourg the situation is rath-

er different. The country has no jet fighter force; hence help from the neighbors is required to provide air policing.

The situation is also interesting equipment-wise, since the Royal Netherlands Air Force is looking forward to replace its F-16s with F-35s, due to arrive between 2019 and 2024. The Belgians are going to replace their F-16s, as well. In Belgium the Raffaele is a viable candidate; though the joint air policing operations may lead to different choices (including the F-35).

However, we can't help but notice that the joint air-policing initiative is probably aimed at bolstering the Benelux capabilities to deter potential Russian intruders, who have not

only been active in the Baltic area so far, but also within the airspace of the UK, often skirting even the Dutch airspace.



# EXERCISE DYNAMIC MOVE 2017 BEGINS IN BELGIUM

Composed by: MARCOM Public Affairs Office



**E**xercise Dynamic Move 2017 (DME17), an annual two-week Allied Maritime Command (MARCOM) tactical-level Mine Counter Measure (MCM) exercise, began Monday (30 January 2017) with more than 150 participants representing 15 countries, including Partnership for Peace (PFP) countries Finland and Sweden.

The Belgium-Netherlands Naval Mine Warfare School EGUERMIN annually hosts this exercise and is supported by the co-located NATO Naval Mine Warfare Center of Excellence in the execution of DME17. The exercise began under the

name of Dynamic Move in 2011, although it has run for decades under other names.

DME17 aims to enhance participants' ability to conduct mine counter measure operations in support of littoral operations, to include communicating threat information to maritime traffic and civil authorities. Inclusion of NATO and non-NATO nations lends to enhanced learning and mutual understanding amongst partner nations.

"Conducting mine warfare training better prepares NATO and partner nations to provide a safe and secure environment for civilian shipping," said Lieutenant Commander Jeremiah Petersen (USA), a NATO Shipping Centre staff officer.

Additionally, the exercise prepares Standing NATO Mine Counter Measure Groups (SNMCMG) for NATO Response Force (NRF) certification and constitutes an element of the training period for SNMCMGs. The current Standing NATO Mine Counter Measure Group 1 staff are participating in DME17 and working alongside the incoming SNMCMG1 commander and members of his staff, allowing for information exchange between the incumbent and incoming command staffs and sharing of current operational experience.

"We have 15 nations here playing together," said Peter Van Mierlo (NLD), Staff Officer (Operational Analysis). "That increases your interoperability while practicing





NATO tactics and techniques, and there is no other equivalent [training in NATO].”

EGUERMIN’s Naval Mine Warfare Gaming System (NMWGS) has been used in Dynamic Move since 2015. NMWGS creates an interactive scenario in a naval mine counter measure environment and allows players to receive immediate feedback.

“NMWGS is unique because it is the only war gaming system that simulates naval mine warfare in the world,” said Lieutenant Commander Filip Clauwaert (BEL), Head of Simulators for EGUERMIN and the exercise logistics coordinator. “It simulates the interaction between mines and ships underway at sea, the environment, and

their equipment which is used to look for and destroy mines.”

From the start, participants are split into three task groups, each training separately in parallel scenarios. During phase one of the exercise, participants plan and issue their operational objectives and prepare for phase two. During phase two, they plan and execute naval mine counter-measure operations in a scenario-based environment.

This year exercise planners have allocated time for daily discussions between previous SNMCMG commanders and exercise participants to analyse the day’s events and make adjustments to improve the next day’s performance.

“By conducting in-stride reconstruction and analysis of all events and incorporating a daily debriefing by senior naval officers we are accelerating the lessons learned process and boosting command and control readiness,” said Van Mierlo.

“For MARCOM this is an important exercise where the mine counter measure community in NATO gather and learn to operate together,” said Captain Svein Erik Kvalvaag (NOR), DME17 Exercise Director. “The training audience is not training only mine counter measures but also force protection, logistic coordination, naval coordination and guidance of shipping.”





# GERMANY CONTINUES AUGMENTING BALTIC AIR POLICING

Composed by: AIRCOM Public Affairs Office

**G**ermany is now the third nation to conduct a back-to-back deployment at Amari Air Base, following an internal ceremony on Thursday, 05 January 2017.

Instead of handing over the mission to another Ally, the Tactical Air Wing 74 from Neuburg, in the south of Germany, passed the baton to Tactical Air Wing 71, from Wittmund, in the north. In late August 2016, five German Eurofighter Typhoon jets together with their pilots, maintainers, civilian and military support staff, arrived at the Estonian Air Base to take over the mission from the Royal Air Force.

Things go differently when nations hand over internally – from one wing to

another. Instead of preparing and loading containers with materiel to be redeployed, extensive lists are produced of the equipment to be handed over; all in all more than 32,000 individual items, including the same Eurofighter jets.

While typically Allied detachments stay in place for four months, the Germans are the third NATO nation to execute an extended tour, actually a double detachment. In early 2015, Italy had been lead nation and, subsequently, the augmenting nation at Šiauliai, Lithuania for eight months. Meantime, Belgium augmented the mission for almost seven months at Malbork, Poland – the base had been activated temporarily to host NATO detachments assuring Allied nations after Russia's illegitimate occupation of Crimea.

“Our detachment has been able to draw on the lessons learned during previous deployments in 2014 and 2015 to execute a flawless job on behalf of NATO in the Baltic skies,” said outgoing detachment commander, Lieutenant Colonel Johannes Durand. “We have maintained the required level of operational readiness throughout a challenging Estonian winter. We have clearly confirmed our Air Force's flawless reputation in this important NATO mission,” he added.

NATO's Baltic Air Policing mission, which operates out of both Lithuania and Estonia, illustrates the ability of the Alliance to share and pool existing capabilities. It started in April 2004 and has been executed continuously ever since. So far, 17 NATO nations have participated in this demonstration of Allied solidarity and resolve.





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# THE HUNGARIAN DEFENCE FORCES IN NATO-LED CRISIS RESPONSE OPERATIONS

Composed by: Lieutenant Colonel Jozsef CSOSZ, HUN F

Courtesy of contributions by: Major General (Ret.) János Isaszegi, PhD, hon. university professor



**H**ungary became a member of NATO in 1999. Our membership in the Alliance set new tasks for the Hungarian Defence Forces (HDF). As a result, Hungary gradually adopted a professional army composed of volunteers and contracted personnel. Since 2004, only professional and contracted soldiers serve in the HDF. Currently nearly 1,000 soldiers of the HDF are serving in UN-, OSCE-, NATO-, or EU-led missions, or in international peace support, crisis management, and counter-terrorist operations in the countries of Europe, Africa, and Asia.

## Major NATO-led crisis response operations with Hungarian participation

Yugoslavia's disintegration in the 1990s and the conflict that followed meant a new task for the newly transformed HDF, as the southern borders of the country needed increased defence. The end of the Balkan conflict brought a new form of mission for the HDF: the Hungarian troops participated in NATO's IFOR mission. The success of this operation led to increasing participation of the HDF in peace-making and peacekeeping missions carried out in multinational coalitions.

**IFOR, Bosnia and Herzegovina (20<sup>th</sup> December 1995 – 20<sup>th</sup> December 1996); later in SFOR (20<sup>th</sup> December 1996 – 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2004).** – The multinational Implementation Force (IFOR) was the first

mission in which Hungary, as a prospective NATO member state, took part under NATO command and control. The Hungarian Engineer Contingent of SFOR accomplished its mission in May 2002 and was replaced by an HDF Military Police Contingent, deployed to Camp Butmir, in Sarajevo.

## KFOR (Kosovo, June 1999 – to date).

– Since 1999 the Hungarian contingent has changed its structure and locations (Pristina, Pec, Prizren, etc.) and has been participating in the Kosovo mission.

## AFOR, Albania, (27<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1999).

– A 35-strong HDF Public Health and Epidemiology Surveillance and Analysis Group was deployed with responsibilities including disinfection, control of drinking water and food supplies, epidemiological prevention, and various laboratory tests.

## ISAF - HDF PRT, Baghlan Province, Afghanistan (15<sup>th</sup> September 2006 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013).

– The HDF Provincial Reconstruction Team (HDF PRT) was one of the most significant contributions of the Hungarian Defence Forces to the ISAF mission. It involved the operation of an independent Hungarian camp, and the assistance to a province of the size of a quarter of Hungary with the task of peace building and improving the living standards of the people. The multifaceted activities of the Hungarian troops based in Camp Pannonia, Pol-e Khomri, speak for themselves: they built roads and bridges, drilled wells, organised the schooling of young boys

and girls, assisted with the creation of a better life for the Afghan people, including women and children, developed medical services, and worked on the establishment of security. With their service in Afghanistan our soldiers earned the respect of the people of the country, of our allies, and not only did they improve the good reputation of Hungary, but they also gained combat experience. For six and a half years, the HDF participated in nearly 1,000 projects, contributed to the development of the province, and to the improvement of the living standards of the population there.

## NATO Training Implementation Mission in Iraq (NTIM-I), July 2004 – December 2011).

– In the Training Mission in Iraq the HDF participated with 18 staff officers and training personnel.

## NATO Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan (Jan 2015 - to date).

– Since January 2015 the HDF have participated in the NATO mission in Afghanistan with approximately 130 troops comprising: a special operations contingent, training officers, national support element, and staff officers.

Seventeen years after our joining the Alliance, having participated in several NATO-led multinational crisis management missions, the HDF have significantly different and improved capabilities as well as a reinforced and steadfast commitment to the maintenance of international peace and security, and the active promotion of our shared values within NATO.





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# HOW DOES IT FEEL TO COME BACK?

Composed by: Pauline Klein, former AFNORTH International School Student



**R**arely does chance play a role in such a way that it can change one's life. For me, it was the luck of being put into AFNORTH School that changed who I am and who I will be.

During my two years as a student in the Canadian Section at AFNORTH International School I learned to cherish the enriching international community it offered me: from the interesting perspectives I heard in classroom discussion to volunteering in French classes for younger students. These experiences helped me to develop my passion for working with children.

The first lesson I learned as a student teacher is that the student's trust must be earned. During my first teaching experiences a student came up to me and remarked "I am suspicious of you!" I was baffled by how quickly the roles reversed from being an observing student-teacher to being the one observed by my students.

After some research I came across Stenden University with its unique Bachelor programme of *International Teacher's Education for Primary Schools* and began my studies in September of 2016. Stenden University is located in Meppel, a small town in the North of the Netherlands, and has attracted 92 first year students beginning their four-year path to becoming teachers in International Schools. Soon I learned that after only six weeks of lectures I would get to step into the shoes of the student teacher for the first time. My excitement was already significant but exponentially increased when I learnt that I would spend four weeks in two Kindergarten classes of the American Section at AFNORTH International School.

But how was it to be back and this time in the seat at the other side of the desk, as a student teacher? During these four weeks I learned so much more than planting knowledge in the young learners. I carefully built up relationships with the stu-

dents so that I could hear what they were saying when they were not talking; so that I would know when to give challenge and when to give guidance. I began to cherish student growth; to see each student as the unique individual they are. With the wonderful help from my mentor teachers, Mrs Geilen-Rosenberg and Mrs LeRoy, I grew in confidence and my ability to reflect on teaching in depth improved. I learned not be afraid of the risks in striving for improvement.

But most of all, it was the students that taught me my most valuable lesson as a trainee teacher: To be myself in the classroom. On my last day the student that decided to observe me in the very beginning came up to me and told me with a smile: "I'm not really suspicious of you anymore. I like you here."

And after such a response how could I not want to become a teacher? It was an incredible first experience as a student teacher and wonderful to be back.



# JFC BRUNSSUM GOLF SOCIETY - CALLING ALL POTENTIAL GOLFERS

Composed by: WO Gareth Whiffen (GBR F)



**D**id you know that JFC Brunssum has a thriving Golf Society that is open to all NATO personnel and their dependants? A webpage, with lots of information can be found at: <https://sites.google.com/site/jfcgolf/home>. The Society has local membership of the Brunsummerheide Golf Club that provides unrestricted access and unlimited play on all 5 courses (Full = Red, Blue & Yellow 9 hole courses), Par 3 and Green Course. Full/Limited memberships are negotiated at an excellent rate (e.g. 2017 local annual membership is Euro 1100 but the JFC Brunssum Society Annual Fee is Euro 650) and can be paid over two instalments of Euro 325 on 1 Mar & 1 Jun 17.

An annual competition programme held at the Brunsummerheide GC

begins on 7 Apr and runs through to 22 Oct 17. The focus is on having an enjoyable time in a relaxed environment, socialising and making new friends. The JFC Brunssum Golf Society runs two competitions each month in different formats (e.g. stableford, medal, greensomes, four ball, better ball, etc.) and uses the USGA handicap system. Moreover, every Saturday morning at 0830 on the Red Course 1<sup>st</sup> Tee, players of all standards are actively encouraged to participate in a round of golf. In the summer the society will also target a time/date during the week to encourage members to play more golf.

As part of the golf calendar, away-days are also arranged for all members and this presents a great opportunity to play challenging courses across North West Europe (e.g. Germany, France, Belgium, Netherlands etc.).

One of the highlights of the golfing

calendar is the Ramstein UK Inter-Station and UK v US Ryder Cup Competitions which are both held at Ramstein Air Base, Woodlawn Golf Course and this year the event will take place 19 – 20 May. Please note again that the focus is on enjoyment and having some fun whilst playing golf and this opportunity is open to all standards/handicaps. It is an aspiration to enter 2 x 4 player teams for this event and, subject to interest, it will be strictly managed on a first come, first served basis. If you have any interest in joining the JFC Brunssum Golf Society or would like more information about playing golf in the Netherlands, please visit the JFC Brunssum Golf Society webpage and/or do not hesitate to contact Gareth Whiffen, President, JFC Brunssum Golf Society on 045 526 2506/email EJSU-Brunssum-Head-NSE at your convenience.

# DUTCH SECURITY FORCES, TOGETHER WITH JFC BRUNSSUM AND AFNORTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL, CONDUCT TABLE-TOP EXERCISES BASED ON UPDATED INTERVENTION PROTOCOL.

Composed by: Major Mark Helgers (NLD MP)

Photo by: Adutant Shirley Ham-ter Haar (NLD MP)



**O**n 13 and 20 February JFC Brunssum hosted two ‘police-blue’ table top exercises during which the recently updated intervention protocol for the AF-NORTH International School (AIS) was tested and evaluated before final approval.

The AIS is a private school on JFC Brunssum property. This signifies a joint responsibility for security shared between the School, JFC Brunssum and the Host Nation. Intervention in case of serious incidents is a responsibility of the Host Nation - both MOD guards and the police forces. As JFC Brunssum and the AIS are on military premises the primarily responsible police organisation is

the Royal Marechaussee. The Dutch National Police however, also has jurisdiction and is therefore allowed and required to intervene if needed. To meet this responsibility Royal Marechaussee and national police crisis-response experts, together with specialists from the Host Nation MOD Guard Force and JFC Brunssum’s Security and Emergency Services Branch (SES), have evaluated the updated intervention protocol for the AIS.

During the recent table top exercises the Director and Vice-Director of the School, Duty- and Dispatch Officers as well as intervention experts and trainers from the national police, Royal Marechaussee and the Host Nation MOD Guard Force worked jointly with the JFC Brunssum SES Branch

to handle various incidents. Special attention was given to the rapid identification of, and response, to an incident and on coordination between the various parties.

The results of the exercises were positive and used for further fine-tuning the intervention protocol. Based on feedback from the participants, Royal Marechaussee and national police crisis-response experts are planning further exercises.

# OUR VISION FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Composed by: Erich Remisch and Dr. Uwe Bettscheider



**T**his year both JFC Brunssum HQ and AFNORTH International School will celebrate their fiftieth anniversary. The world we live in and daily life has changed significantly in the last 50 years. It's no wonder that students ask questions like: "How will we live in 50 years' time? How will the world look like when the school is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary? These questions formed the basis to dedicate the school's traditional culture day this year to these topics, and to ask the next generation what their visions for a better future are.

We have learned over the last 50 years that the influence of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics were crucial for our development and it will be crucial for our future. We need to create a better

world with a generation of thinkers, doers, and problem solvers. We need rational people who can understand the world and the culture they live in, who can adapt to the latest technology and who can engineer or creatively design new solutions to solve problems together.

In the light of this insight the school widened the culture day this year to a "Culture and STEAM"- day. Students of all ages and staff of all sections prepared, with great commitment, a variety of ambitious projects (about 60 projects!) and presented them on February 16<sup>th</sup>; a day that fuelled the learning energy of AFNORTH students and staff.

Impressions from AFNORTH International School students:

"I think the best part about STEAM day was working together to make a great day for all the viewers. All the

hard work it took to prepare was really worth it because everyone was happy." Jennifer

"It was a great day because everyone participated and we all learned something and all of the exhibits and presentations were really good. Yesterday was worth it!" Soul, who presented on DNA.

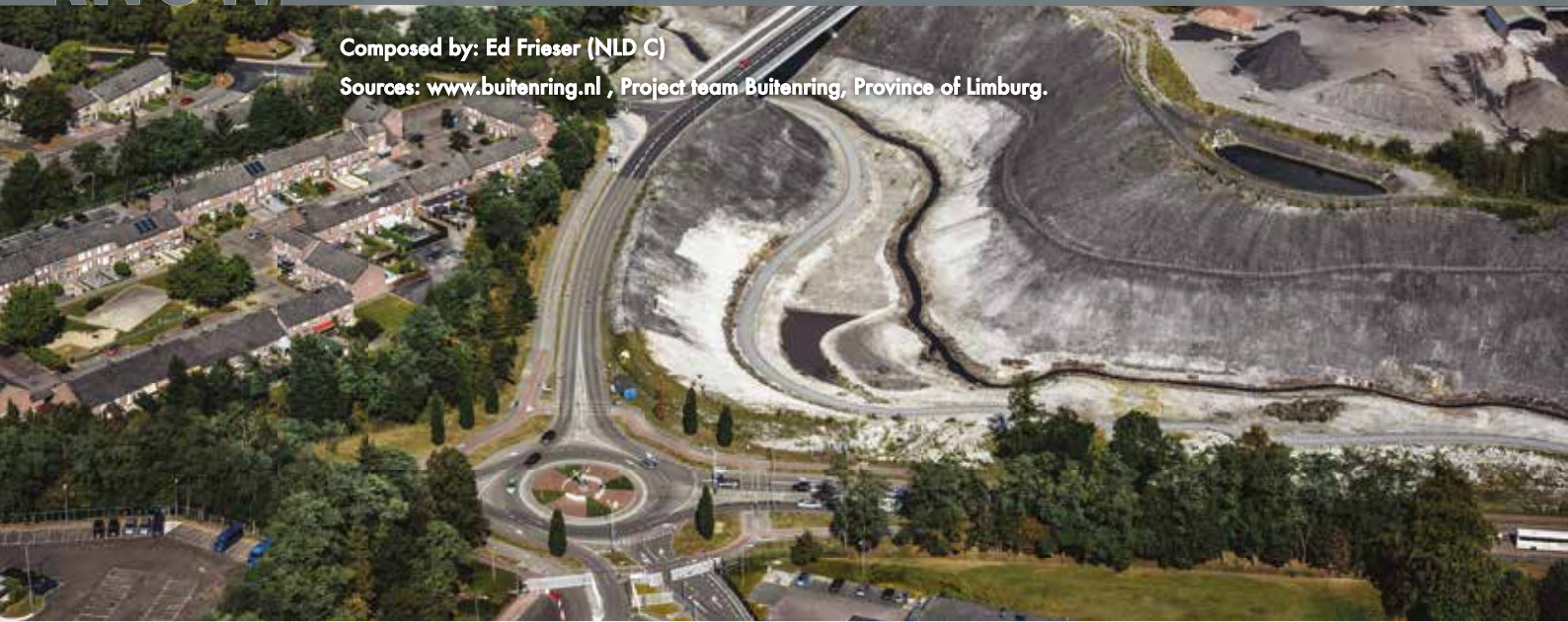
"I think it was a great day and it proved to everyone that if you work hard you can learn something you didn't know about. I liked it because it showed creativity in others and it was fun!" Ara, who researched and presented about magnets and their role in the future.



# THE PARKSTAD LIMBURG 'BUITENRING' RING ROAD PROVIDES EASY INTERNATIONAL ACCESS.

Composed by: Ed Frieser (NLD C)

Sources: [www.buitenring.nl](http://www.buitenring.nl) , Project team Buitenring, Province of Limburg.



**U**ndoubtedly you must have noticed all the infrastructural and road construction works going on in the Parkstad Limburg area, in particular in and around the Brunssum . What are they doing? An update should help you in understanding this large-scale project.

Parkstad is a highly fractured built up area. Not easy to navigate in. Therefore the Parkstad Buitenring or Parkstad Ring road is a new road system that provides easy access to the Parkstad Limburg region. It is a new road that many welcome to overcome poor air quality and noise hindrance near their homes. Because the ring road should relieve the daily traffic jams in built up areas and also provide easy connectivity for industry and businesses. The project will make the fractured Parkstad area better laid-out and attractive to comfortably live and work in. Lots of nature and recreational- and touristic services will be available and within easy reach. Also close to the headquarters, an immense ground displacement has taken

place to allow the Rode Beek or 'Red Brook' that comes from the Brunssum heath to stream in open air and not as before underneath a huge hill of mining debris. Thus allowing nature to further develop and as a consequence enhance flora and fauna near Brunssum. The many cyclists will be able to make use of new cycle roads and enjoy the beautiful nature that surrounds us.

## The Project

Parkstad Limburg and the cities of Brunssum, Heerlen, Kerkrade, Landgraaf, Nuth, Onderbanken, Schinnen in close conjunction with the Limburg Provincial Government and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Environment co-financed the project. The discussions already started in the seventies and finally came to a definite plan in the first decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Total costs of the project amount to some € 450 million. But what does the road look like and what can be expected for the coming year(s)? The 'Buitenring' project will not only include the construction of a ring road, but also many infrastructural

re-constructions. The ring road has a length of 26 kilometres with new connections at the A76 near Nuth. This new 'Turbo Roundabout' near Nuth has only been previously constructed once near Rotterdam. Once completed it will be the gateway to Parkstad. The ring road will have two lanes into both directions with a max speed of 100 km's / hour. Near preserved natural areas such as the Brunssum Heath and the Geleen brook valley the maximum speed will be 80 km's per hour. Additionally, some 14 km's of secondary roads will have to be adjusted and become part of the Ring road; 12 km's secondary roads will have to be newly built, 39 special constructions like bridges, tunnels and viaducts etc.; 25 noise protective screens, 120 fauna tunnels and 2 large Eco-ducts, at Brunssum heath and Teverener heath. The Brunssum heath Eco-duct will be some 50 metres wide. The construction of the ring road will result in much better connectivity to national and international road systems with a positive effect on traffic safety and the accessibility of Parkstad. The regional roads N298, N299 and N300 will be improved and result in a fine



dense road-system with many good connections to the present inner ring road. However it is also a project that many dispute, because of the implications for existing nature, environment and property. Despite all the challenges, the project has come into the final phase and is clearly visible at many locations around Parkstad.

## Special construction works

Part of the project is several special construction works. Such as the connection to 'Avantis' the first German-Dutch business park located directly on the border between Aachen and Heerlen. This special connection is co-financed with money from the European Fund for Regional Development within the framework of the European Innovation Programme South-Netherlands (OP-South). Furthermore, in Brunssum you will find the Nature-2000 area, the Brunssum Heath. Nitrogen emission restrictions have been taken to reduce the influence of the ring road traffic on this nature preserved area. Hence the speed limit at this point that will be 80 km's per hour to reduce Nitrogen emission. To also link the presently fractured nature areas, a large Eco-duct of 50 meters wide that can be used by a variety of faunae will be built. In this way the Brunssum heath, the Brandenburg nature preserved area in the north and the Teverener heath will be inter-linked and allow animals like badgers and deer, but also smaller animals like martens, reptiles, and amphibians, to safely migrate between these different ecological systems. This sub-project should be completed in the course of 2017.

## Tunnels and consequence for JFC Brunssum

Rimburgerweg that passes by the headquarters will cross the ring road through a tunnel. The present N299 that runs from the roundabout opposite the Rembrandtstraat (adjacent to the JFC swimming pool / tennis courts) to the ring road will be removed and restructured as a nature area. The Golf terrain will be accessible from Brunssum and Landgraaf however the road near the Golf hotel will be closed for transit traffic. This has been planned in such a way to avoid cut-through traffic and reduce the emission of Nitrogen.

Between the Nieuwenhagerweg and the Rimburgerweg a horse riders, pedestrians' and mountain bikers' tunnel is in use. This tunnel will be extended but temporarily closed until April 2017. However, the horse tunnel will be open and can still available for use throughout the construction period. The connection to the Brunssum heath will be open by mid-May 2017. When the ring road is ready, traffic will be able to reach the Heikop of the Brunssum Heath near Nieuwenhagen only from Landgraaf via the Toeristenweg running parallel to the ring road. From Brunssum the Heikop will not be accessible anymore for motorized traffic to protect the Brunssum Heath. Only slower traffic coming from Brunssum, such as bikers and pedestrians, will be able to reach the Heikop. Employees, visitors to and from the headquarters, will now have a very convenient connection to the A76 via this new ring road.

## Plans 2017

In Nuth the reconstruction of the Randweg passing Hoensbroek will continue. The N298 will be reconstructed and new roundabouts and viaducts will be completed to make the connections to the A76 possible. The 'Turbo' roundabouts construction however will only start end 2018 beginning 2019 and should be completed by 2021. The construction works in Brunssum reach their final phase by placing noise protective screens near the flats at the Henri Dunantstreet in Brunssum North. Mid-2017 the large Eco-duct will be finalized and plantation will complete the arrangements. The viaduct will be constructed over the Rimburgerweg, which will be the link between the Kranenpool industrial area, where the NATO Industrial Site is located, and the reconstructed N299. In Landgraaf the N299 reconstruction as a ring road will continue to be completed. Noise screens will be placed near the Knieberglaan, Hoogstraat and the Apollolaan. Following the carnival week, second week in March, reconstruction works will start at the Hoogstraat. Finally, in Kerkrade, a part of the Hamstraat will be reconstructed as a ring road. Prior to the start the parallel road next to the Hamstraat will be constructed to make the Gracht housing area and Industrial Zone 'Willem Sophia' accessible. In conclusion, the Parkstad Buitenring is a massive undertaking with enormous implications. However, politicians and project management teams do everything within their capabilities to make it a success. Once completed, in 2018, the ring road will be a huge infrastructural improvement to this area and might even make new initiatives such as the Grand Canyon Amusement Park possible.



# ONE OF US

ADJUDANT CHEF JEAN-CHRISTOPHE  
SAILLOUR, (FRA A)



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## WHEN DID YOU ARRIVE IN THE NETHERLANDS AND WHICH POSITION HAVE YOU TAKEN?

I arrived in the Netherlands in July 2013 to fill the position of "staff assistant supply" at the supply & warehouse base support group.

## TELL US ABOUT YOUR MILITARY CAREER.

After two years of study in the history department of the University of Bretagne occidentale, I joined the French Army in 1992. I started in the Signal School after my graduation. Subsequently I was posted to the "Hades" Nuclear Force at the 53<sup>rd</sup> Signal Regiment. I stayed seven years in this unit with various functions (radio operator, inmarsat group leader, crypto custodian, radio relay Platoon Leader). In 2000 I was posted to Normandy to help create a new signal regiment; in 2002 the French Army's human resources branch decided to change my military trade to "maintenance & logistics". In 2006 I was posted to French Guyana as the Communication and Information Systems (CIS) materiel accounting manager for all units in French Guyana. In 2008 I returned to France as Company Sergeant in a signal unit supporting the land force command HQs in Lille. 2010 I joined the maintenance division of the French land force command where I was in charge of signal equipment and associated software for the direct support of 80 regiments who were under our supervision.

## DO YOU HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL MISSIONS?

My international experience started in 1997 with my first mission SFOR<sup>1</sup>, where I served for five months on Igman Mount (deployed personnel comprised seven French signallers, 3 Italian signallers, and a German mountain infantry platoon of circa 15 soldiers for force protection). In my 25 years of service I've done lots of missions that have all been in international environments e.g. Multinational Task Force South East HQs at Mostar, Bosnia, attached to SFOR; European Union Force in Bosnia; Kosovo Force (KFOR) – once attached to the Hellenic Battalion & once attached to the Danish Battalion; United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL); and finally last in Senegal, where I was in the Logistic Operations team on Ouakam airbase in charge of the deployment of materiel and personnel to: the French 'Serval' operation

in Mali, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), and the European Union Training Mission (EUTM) in Mali, where I was working with four German C-160 aircraft, one Danish C-130, and one Spanish C-130. If you can speak English... in the French Army you can apply for interesting mission!

## TELL US ABOUT YOUR JOB AND WHAT KIND OF CHALLENGES YOU HAVE TO FACE.

In the warehouse I am in charge of the stocks of furniture, preparation of the expendables delivery and management of the Human Resources Branch protective equipment for the deployment of the NATO civilians. This means I need to plan the order of furniture, the renewal of branch equipment in the HQs, and the deliveries to customers.

The warehouse team has a central role in enabling the deployment of the HQs. Amongst other things we do this by checking luggage and freight and despatching it to the airport.

The biggest challenge I have to face is completing all my allocated tasks with a very small team.

## IS YOUR FAMILY HERE WITH YOU?

My family (my wife Alexandra, my sons Liam and Hayden) are here in the Netherlands, my daughter Ifa is studying chartered certified accountancy in France.

## WHAT ARE YOUR HOBBIES?

I like reading and travelling around the world, spending time with my family, kite-surfing when the sea is warmer than here and I support Toulon Rugby Club. What do you like in your job?

In common with a number of other national armies my first job is that of soldier; my second job is that of a supply/logistics technician. I like to work in a multinational environment as you learn how the other nations work ...you can share your experience and take the best from them... you learn by mixing with people from other cultures and backgrounds.

<sup>1</sup> The Stabilization Force (SFOR) was a NATO-led multinational peacekeeping force deployed to Bosnia and Herzegovina after the Bosnian war. Although SFOR was led by NATO, several non-NATO countries contributed troops.





# FAMILY SUPPORT MORALE & WELFARE

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

GET OUT

03 MAR  
2017 FRI  
1900

## GET OUT

Allison Williams  
Lakeith Stanfield

103 min



04 MAR  
2017 SAT  
1600

## ROCK DOG

Luke Wilson  
Eddie Izzard

80 min



04 MAR  
2017 SAT  
1900

## COLLIDE

Nicholas Hoult  
Felicity Jones

99 min



10 MAR  
2017 FRI  
1900

## LOGAN

Hugh Jackman  
Patrick Stewart

135 min



11 MAR  
2017 SAT  
1600

## ROCK DOG

Luke Wilson  
Eddie Izzard

80 min



11 MAR  
2017 SAT  
1900

## THE SHACK

Sam Worthington  
Octavia Spencer

132 min



17 MAR  
2017 FRI  
1900

## KONG: SKULL ISLAND

Tom Hiddleston  
Corey Hawkins

120 min



18 MAR  
2017 SAT  
1600

## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Dan Stevens  
Emma Watson

129 min



18 MAR  
2017 SAT  
1900

## LOGAN

Hugh Jackman  
Patrick Stewart

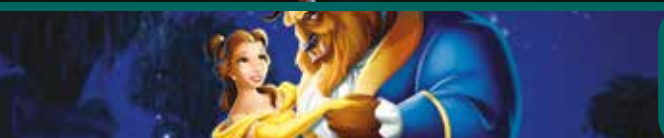
135 min



24 MAR  
2017 FRI  
1900

## POWER RANGERS

Elizabeth Banks  
Bryan Cranston



25 MAR  
2017 SAT  
1600

## BEAUTY AND THE BEAST

Dan Stevens  
Emma Watson

129 min



25 MAR  
2017 SAT  
1900

## CHIPS

Michael Peña  
Dax Shepard

100 min



31 MAR  
2017 FRI  
1900

## LIFE

Rebecca Ferguson  
Jake Gyllenhaal



# WORLD PREMIERE: TASCHEN EXHIBITION IN MAASTRICHT

**I**n 2016 Benedikt Taschen received the Photographic Publishing Award from The Royal Photographic Society for “his outstanding achievement in the field of photographic publishing”.

For the first time an exhibition about the TASCHEN phenomenon has been set up in a museum. It is oriented around the library of one of the world's greatest TASCHEN collectors. Through his eyes we view the boldness, vision and variety of TASCHEN's program across art, photography, sports, history, nature, society, and eroticism. Presenting Art and Collector's editions, original photographs, bestsellers and objects from the TASCHEN archive the visitor experiences the thematic diversity and artistic quality of the publishing house, as well as their roster of leading creative collaborators, including Helmut Newton, Sebastião Salgado and Annie Leibovitz.

The exhibition also features a number of tailor-made bookstands, considered part of a Gesamtkunstwerk in TASCHEN's Art and Collector's Editions and conceived by top designers such as Philippe Starck and Marc Newson. An XXX room (adult content) will showcase some of TASCHEN's more explicit titles, regarded as controversial by some, but an integral part of the editorial list. The exhibition ends with a “please touch room” where visitors can browse the books themselves.

‘A Passion For TASCHEN’ a collector's view can be viewed until August 27<sup>th</sup>, 2017. The museum is on the Vrijthof square in the centre of Maastricht. You can park your car right underneath the Vrijthof, just follow the signs.

A visit to the exhibition is easily combined with a shopping spree (that's what Maastricht is famous for) as well as some good food in one of

the nearby restaurants. There is also a nice brasserie/grand café located in the museum where you can have a great lunch.

The museum is open from 10 - 17.30 hours from Tuesday - Sunday. Closed on Monday.

**BENEDIKT TASCHEN** (born 10 February 1961), is a famous German publisher and contemporary art collector. He is the founder and managing director of the publishing house TASCHEN, one of the most successful international publishers, with illustrated publications on a range of themes including art, architecture, design, film, photography, pop culture, and lifestyle.

# WIN TICKETS FOR

## TASCHEN exhibition

- We have 6 tickets for TASCHEN exhibition in Maastricht!
- In order to win the tickets, please answer the following question:  
What is the name of the restaurant/Grand Café in the museum?  
Fill in this coupon and send it to PAO, or send an e-mail to  
pao@jfcbs.nato.int, before 17 March 2017.
- For NATO ID card holders only
- The winners will be announced in the next edition of the Northern Star

Answer:

Division:

Full name:

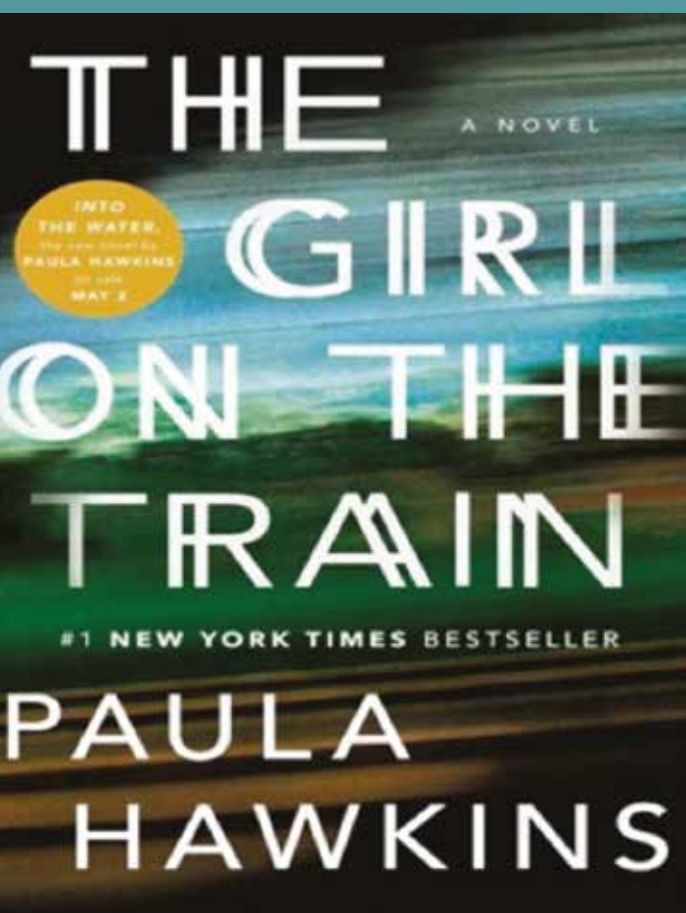
Extension:

# Winners

## Terracotta

Jesus Lanza (Col Esp) OPS J3 E&I  
Christelle Wolffer (OR-9 Fr A) J4  
LOGFAS

## BOOK REVIEW THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN



**The debut psychological thriller that will forever change the way you look at other people's lives.**

### EVERY DAY THE SAME

Rachel takes the same commuter train every morning and night. Every day she rattles down the track, flashes past a stretch of cozy suburban homes, and stops at the signal that allows her to daily watch the same couple breakfasting on their deck. She's even started to feel like she knows them. Jess and Jason, she calls them. Their life—as she sees it—is perfect. Not unlike the life she recently lost.

### UNTIL TODAY

And then she sees something shocking. It's only a minute until the train moves on, but it's enough. Now everything's changed. Unable to keep it to herself, Rachel goes to the police. But is she really as unreliable as they say? Soon she is deeply entangled not only in the investigation but in the lives of everyone involved. Has she done more harm than good?

## ERRATA

Whilst the editorial staff make every effort to ensure the facts represented in this magazine are correct, on occasion a mistake is made. This is taken very seriously and, once identified, mistakes are corrected. In the February 2017 edition of the Northern Star the 'North Atlantic Council Visits JFC Brunssum' article that appeared on page 19 was mistakenly attributed to Mr Andries Bosma (NLD C). This was an error as the JFC Brunssum Public Affairs Office should have been credited for the article. Apologies to Mr Bosma. The digital version on the JFC Brunssum website has been corrected.

# Fitland XL Sittard

## *Always welcome!*

### 5 SPECIAL OFFERS FOR ID CARD HOLDERS



#### **50% discount at the wellness resort (spa)**

Daytime entrance normally € 31,<sup>50</sup> for € **15,<sup>75</sup>**

Evening entrance (18:00 to 22:30) € 19,<sup>95</sup> for € **9,<sup>95</sup>**

[www.wellnesssittard.nl](http://www.wellnesssittard.nl) | till 15th of December 2017

#### **25 minute facial treatment**

normally € 36,<sup>50</sup> for € **25,<sup>00</sup>**

[www.sanavisiebeauty.nl](http://www.sanavisiebeauty.nl) | till 31st of March 2017



#### **1 hour bowling for free**

[www.fitlandbowlen.nl](http://www.fitlandbowlen.nl) | till 31st of March 2017

#### **Hotel Special**

1 x overnight stay | 1 x breakfast | 1 x entrance ticket wellness area (spa)

Normally € 119,<sup>00</sup> for € **95,<sup>00</sup>**

[www.fitlandhotelsittard.nl](http://www.fitlandhotelsittard.nl) | till 31st of December 2017



#### **Enjoy endlessly**

Normal dinner price of € 32,<sup>50</sup> reduced to € 28,<sup>50</sup>

[www.restaurantmedals.nl](http://www.restaurantmedals.nl) | till 31st of March 2017

#### **Fitland XL Sittard**

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+31 (0)46 - 870 00 90 | [hotelsittard@fitland.nl](mailto:hotelsittard@fitland.nl)





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 CONTAINERS | POWER, WATER & SUPPLIES | CATERING | AVIATION | CONSTRUCTION | COMMUNICATION

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

<sup>1</sup> the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Turkey recognizes the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

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