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NORTHERN STAR

Magazine for HQ JFC Brunssum – May 2013



“A Real Wild Night” Charity Night 2013

- Operation IGNITION is Already in Full Swing
- Commander Presents Long Service Awards to NATO Civilians
- Circle 100 – War Museum Overloon
- IMM - Three Letters – Many Nations



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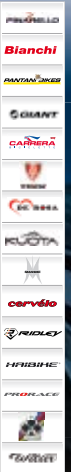
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To place an advertisement in the Northern Star, please call 't Swarte Schaap and ask for Rob Schaap, Sint Franciscusweg 36-3, 6417 BD Heerlen, The Netherlands, telephone: +31 (0)45 571 61 16, or e-mail: rob@tswarteschaap.nl.

Submissions to the Northern Star can be made to room F 1.12, Bldg. H 106 or e-mailed to pao@jfcbs.nato.int. Articles should be in Microsoft Word format and, whenever possible, should be no longer than 300 words. Photographs should be at least 9x6 centimetres and 300 dpi. The Northern Star is published monthly and is available around the second Friday of each month.

For more information, call ext. 3570 or +31 (0)45 526 35 70. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions.

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About the Cover



"A Real Wild Night" – was the theme of the annual charity party organised by the Charity Committee of the JFC Brunssum International Club. The party took place on 12 April at the International Conference Centre.

Photo by Karl-Ernst (Charly) Maurer

Command Group Corner

Many of you will be aware that I am due to leave JFCBS and the Netherlands in June this year. I will take with me many dear and pleasant memories from my time here, firstly as Director of Operations and under the new PE, as DCOS Operations. I believe that my replacement, Maj Gen Martinez, comes to this HQ at a busy time but one which will best show him the true quality of this Headquarters.

In my time here our work has not always been easy or smooth and we have been the catalyst for great change, mostly for the good, but I think we all understand that there much work to do to realize our goal of a capable Deployable Headquarters able to meet any tasking assigned. When I leave in June, we will be half way through this calendar year but only a small fraction through our training and only half way through our NRF certification. To cap it all, our certification exercise also delivers a significant LIVEX adding further complexity. We have to deliver all of this in an environment of low manning levels, augmentation to ISAF and settling into a new structure with all the frictions that are generated from a busy schedule. What I am certain of though, is that the command and staff of this HQ are able and willing to make it work, and work well.

I have seen in my two years an acceptance of our ability to achieve what at first is perceived to be unachievable. I take you back to Ex BOLD DRAGON last year when there was so much scepticism at the commencement of planning. Yet all the difficulties did not stop us proving the Deployability concept and delivering the exercise in real style. We planned, tested, adjusted and executed an exercise never

done before. You should keep this in mind during this training year when it seems that a task is insurmountable. Look for the route around the problem and find the solution from a different perspective. The Commander cannot do it without your effort and application...as we have proven in the past...make the work worthy of your effort as you strive for success.

The capacity of all of you is far larger than you may first believe. We have all experienced this first hand over the past two years and we should all be very proud of what we have achieved and how we have carried on. It has been an honour and privilege to serve with you and to be the Deputy Chief of Staff Operations. I will leave Brunssum knowing that the HQ is in far better shape than when we started this journey two years ago. I wish you all the best for the fight ahead, keep your heads up and remember the feeling of success when you think the next step is impossible. Good luck and God Speed!



Major General Joseph Reynes Jr, USA Air-Force, Deputy Chief of Staff Operations

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U.S. Consul General Meets with Farah Provincial Leadership

Story by LTJG Matthew STROU

The senior U.S. civilian representative in western Afghanistan, U.S. Consul General, Jillian Burns, met with Farah leadership here in April. The visit was hosted by Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Farah and afforded Burns the opportunity to meet with Farah Provincial Governor Mohammed Akram Khpalwak, the Farah Provincial Council and civilian and military members of the PRT.



U.S. Consul General Jillian Burns, talks with Hajji Bashir Khan, head of the Farah provincial council, during a meeting at the governor's compound in Farah City, April 11. The consul general and PRT leadership met with the Farah provincial council and other leaders to express condolences for the previous week's terrorist attack in Farah City and to review damage caused to government buildings.

Burns' primary reason for the visit was to express the U.S. government's condolences and provide support to Khpalwak and his leadership team; her arrival coming just one week after a terrorist attack in Farah city that claimed the lives of over 40 Farahi civilians and injured over 100 more. "Attacks on Afghan civilians are indicative of the true nature of the terrorists," said Burns. "It was important to visit the leadership of the province to share our deepest condolences after last week's attack and to encourage them to continue to do the good work that they are doing for the people of Farah."

A key event on Burns' visit was a dinner at Khpalwak's compound in Farah City with the PRT's civilian and military leadership. Afghan and American leaders shared a traditional Afghan meal with the governor and were able to talk about the governor's most pressing issues in an informal setting.

The following day the group met with the Farah Provincial Council, the province's only elected governing body. After meeting with the group at the Farah City government offices, provincial council members showed Burns and the PRT leadership the damages done to the government compound resulting from the previous weeks attack. "It was important for us to be here with the local leadership and to offer them the help and moral support that we're able to provide," said U.S. Navy Cmdr Louis McCray. "For us it's about being a good neighbor. When your neighbor is going through a difficult

time, you do what you can to help." During her visit, Burns was able to meet with the other senior level Farahi leaders, including the directors of women's affairs, education and the head of the Ulema council. Burns was impressed with the leadership's connection to the people and their desire to continue a decade's worth of progress in Farah. "Resiliency is the hallmark of the Afghan people," said Burns. "Despite a very trying time, I am confident that the leadership of the province will be able to rally the people to move forward in a positive way. The people here simply won't allow the progress of the past decade to be erased by terrorists." Farah province has made great strides

in the areas of security, governance and development in the past decade. Sectors such as education, commerce, women's affairs, public health and agriculture have seen significant improvement as the government has improved their capacity to provide timely and relevant services to the people of Farah. There are certainly many reasons for optimism in Farah post-transition. PRT Farah's mission is to train, advise, and assist Afghan government leaders at the municipal, district, and provincial levels in Farah province. Their civil-military team is comprised of members of the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID).



U.S. Army Spc. Thaxal Potter, security force team member for Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Farah, provides rooftop security during a meeting with the Farah provincial council at the governor's compound in Farah City

Transatlantic Opinion Leaders to Afghanistan Visit Regional Command West

Story by ISAF Public Affairs

The Transatlantic Opinion Leaders to Afghanistan (TOLA), a team of international consultants in the security, development and administration sectors from the ISAF troop contributing nations, visited the Regional Command West (RC-W), the Italian-led command for Western Afghanistan.



Transatlantic Opinion Leaders to Afghanistan - a team of international consultants in the security, development and administration sectors from the ISAF troop contributing nations - visited the Italian-led command for Western Afghanistan.

This group, through the analysis of the situation and results achieved by ISAF troops in Afghanistan, aims at strengthening the commitment of member states to fulfill the Lisbon Roadmap, including their support to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) even after the conclusion of the ISAF mission in 2014.

Upon their arrival at 'Camp Arena', the distinguished guests were welcomed by Colonel Bertolini, Deputy Commander of RC-W, and by Dr. Cazzaniga, from the NATO Senior Civilian Representative Office in the western region, who presented them an update about the region activities with focus on the transition process. Later on they met the Herat Governor, the representatives of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the ANSF leaders and the representatives of the RC- W most involved components in the field of reconstruction and transition, such as the Provincial Reconstruction Team - CIMIC Detachment and the

Female Engagement Team of the Military Advisory Team.

Representatives of the TOLA met Lieutenant General Marco Bertolini, Commander of the Italian Joint Force Headquarters, visiting the Italian contingent, who remarked how, thanks to our military commitment, "today, the

ANSF are able to cope with challenges that they were not able to cope with in the past". Before leaving for Kabul, the opinion leaders congratulated Brigadier General Ignazio Gamba, Commander of RC-W, on the objectives achieved by the international contingent in his area of responsibility.



Operation IGNITION is Already in Full Swing

Story by Captain Jean-François Lambert

Only a couple days after Task Force Iceland arrived in Keflavik for Operation IGNITION, everything is already in place to begin the Airborne Surveillance and Interception Capabilities to meet Iceland's Peacetime Preparedness Needs – a NATO operation conducted to ensure a safe air environment in Iceland.



A CF-18 sits in front of an Icelandic hangar during OP Ignition.

Already 160 Canadian Forces members are working in a 24 hour cycle to ensure that our CF-188 Hornet's meet NATO's standard of "quick reaction alert" (QRA). The commander of Task Force Iceland, Lieutenant-Colonel Darcy Molstad, arrived late on 18 March along with the fighter aircraft from 425 Tactical Fighter Squadron, based at 3 Wing Bagotville, Quebec. To the surprise of many, it was with Saguenay cheese curds in hand that he exited his Hornet. This personal touch will allow him to share a French Canadian tradition (poutine) with the local community.

During the month of March, Iceland presents many difficulties for both Royal Canadian Air Force pilots and the ground crew. With winds frequently above 70km/h and temperatures constantly hovering around freezing, takeoffs and landings require all the dexterity and expertise of the pilots and meticulous preparation from the ground crew. Fortunately, we work in partnership with the Icelandic Coast Guard that ensures that we are provided with all relevant information necessary for mission success. They also provide their expertise in working in coastal regions and aerial search and rescue. Because Iceland does not have armed forces, it's

the Coast Guard that is responsible for protecting the country's maritime and aerial approaches. Since the operation just began, a lot of the action is still to come and we hope there will be plenty of opportunities to learn more about the country of Vikings, volcanoes and great glaciers.

Operation IGNITION

Operation IGNITION is Canada's periodic participation in the NATO – Airborne Surveillance and Interception Capabilities to Meet Iceland's Peacetime Preparedness Needs mission. This is an operation conducted to monitor Iceland's airspace and enforce security if required. While it contributes to NATO regional security efforts and Canada's bilateral relations with Iceland, Op IGNITION also contributes to the security of Canadian airspace by monitoring and controlling air traffic in the northeastern approaches to North America.

Mission context: Air surveillance and interception

Iceland is the only NATO nation that does not maintain its own standing armed forces. At the request of the Icelandic government, NATO allies periodically deploy fighter aircraft to Keflavik to

provide air defence coverage. The mission intent is to provide periodic presence of NATO air defence assets in and around the Icelandic area and also ensure allies are familiar with the operating area and environment. The first deployment of the peacetime preparedness mission took place in May 2008.

The mission encompasses radar surveillance and identification of transiting aircraft. Fighter aircraft may be employed to assist in identification, and to escort aircraft if required. In times of crisis or conflict, Iceland will implement a plan in which the United States assumes responsibility for the island nation's defence.

The CF-188 Hornets of Task Force Iceland provide an air surveillance and interception capability operating at the standard of NATO "quick reaction alert" or QRA. When declared, this capability functions 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The skills required for Op IGNITION were mastered through decades of NORAD operations in defence of Canada and North America, and three significant international combat missions.

NATO Air Forces Hone Skills in Baltics

Story by Public Affairs Office AIRCOM Ramstein

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



Swedish Air Force JAS-39 Gripen flying alongside a Lithuanian C-27J transport aircraft that simulated loss of radio communications in Swedish airspace during a previous Baltic Region Training Event in 2012, when Sweden, a member of NATO's Partnership for Peace programme, participated for the second time in a Baltic Region Training Event.

During the first day, a Lithuanian C-27J transport aircraft took off from Šiauliai, Lithuania, and flew into Swedish airspace heading for Finland and started to fly a triangular pattern indicating that it had lost its radio communications. Sweden launched a two-aircraft patrol called Quick Reaction Alert (Intercept) or QRA (I) that was tasked to approach the C-27J and that subsequently escorted it towards Baltic airspace. The C-27J was then handed over to two Danish F-16s from the NATO QRA (I) tasked with the Baltic Air Policing mission. On the return flight all three aircraft conducted a low approach at Kaunas airfield in the early afternoon before returning to Šiauliai airbase.

On day two a similar lost communications scenario took place with a Polish C-295M transport aircraft, which the Danish F-16s met in Baltic

airspace. The C-295M was escorted back to the Polish border, where it was handed over to Polish MiG-29 fighters and accompanied back to Krakow, Poland. Following this one Danish F-16 simulated an air emergency, a weapons jettison and a crew ejection in the area of Rukla Range, Lithuania.

The scenario in BRTE XIV allowed aircrews to practice Air Policing skills and techniques. It also offered air controllers in the various civilian and military Air C2 centres an opportunity to cooperate and liaise with one another.

“Three BRTEs are planned and organised each year by Headquarters Allied Air Command (HQ AIRCOM) at Ramstein, Germany, and the Combined Air Operations Centre at Uedem, Germany. The fact that we have been conducting this series for almost five years now – together with the Baltic Air Policing that started in 2004 – reflects

NATO's continued commitment to the Baltic States at the north-eastern flank of the Alliance,” said Squadron Leader Antony Jackson, GBR Air Force, the project officer for the BRTE series at HQ AIRCOM.

In the new NATO Command Structure, HQ AIRCOM is the Alliance single air command responsible for all Air Power issues across the entire NATO airspace from the Northern Norway to Southern Italy and from the Azores to Eastern Turkey. In addition to the Air Policing mission throughout this area of responsibility, AIRCOM is also in charge of NATO's Ballistic Missile Defence. HQ AIRCOM is currently providing operational control for the Allied real-world deployment at its south-eastern flank, in Turkey, protecting the NATO member with PATRIOT systems against the potential missile threat posed by Syria.

US Senate Confirms AIRCOM as New SACEUR

Story by Public Affairs Office AIRCOM Ramstein, Photo: Archive, HQ AIRCOM PAO, Christian Timmig

On 18 April 2013, General Philip M. Breedlove, US Air Force, Commander of Allied Air Command, located at Ramstein was confirmed by United States Senate to be NATO's new Supreme Allied Commander Europe, the senior commander of the Alliance's military structure.

General Breedlove's nomination had been endorsed by ambassadors from the 28 NATO allies on 28 March. The general will take over his new NATO tasks from Admiral James Stavridis, US Navy, at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe at Mons, Belgium.

General Breedlove will leave his post at Ramstein, where he is also the Commander of US Air Forces in Europe and Air Forces Africa in mid-May. In his new assignment he will also be the Commander of US Forces in Europe.

NATO's top military commander has traditionally been a US general officer. General Breedlove is the third US Air Force officer in that position after General Lauris Norstad (1956-1962) and General Joseph W. Ralston.



Admiral James Stavridis, outgoing SACEUR, meeting General Philip Breedlove, incoming SACEUR at Headquarters Allied Air Command at Ramstein in February this year.

“Air Day” for JFCBS Commander at Ramstein

Story by HQ AIRCOM Public Affairs Office

On 24 April 2013, the Commander of Joint Forces Command Brunssum (JFCBS), the Netherlands, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, German Army, arrived at Headquarters Allied Air Command (AIRCOM) at Ramstein Air Base for an official visit.

With an international honour guard in the background, designated Supreme Allied Commander and outgoing AIRCOM Commander, US Air Force General Philip M. Breedlove welcomed General Domröse at the steps to the HQ together with the Deputy AIRCOM Commander, German Lieutenant General Ploeger. During an office call the Generals and JFCBS Political Advisor, Mr. Maarten de Sitter, discussed current command issues.

Subsequently, AIRCOM specialist staff provided a series of executive briefings for General Domröse among others on the Alliance's command structure, NATO Missile Defence and Air Policing. These briefings demonstrated to the joint commander from Brunssum the command and control relationships, tasks and procedures of NATO's single air command.

General Breedlove, who will leave “his” command at Ramstein next month to assume the tasks of the Supreme Allied Commander Europe for ACO, was pleased to meet with General Domröse, who arrived in his post in December 2012, to brief his army colleague on issues specific to air power.

The Alliance's new command structure

HQ AIRCOM Ramstein  Northern Star 8



General Philip M. Breedlove welcomes General Hans-Lothar Domröse

means that in Allied Command Operations (ACO) with its Headquarters SHAPE in Mons, Belgium, the two Joint Force Commands at Brunssum, the Netherlands, and Naples, Italy, are formally at the same level as the service commands Air Command at Ramstein, Germany, Maritime Command at Northwood, United Kingdom, and Land Command at Izmir, Turkey. The Joint Force Commands each have their regional focus within the areas north and south of the Alps, respectively, while the three single service commands' areas of responsibility extend across the entire ACO from Northern Norway to Southern Italy and the Azores to Eastern Turkey.

In Turkey, HQ AIRCOM is currently providing operational control for the Allied real-world deployment at its south-eastern flank, protecting the NATO member with PATRIOT systems deployed by Germany, the Netherlands and the United States against the potential missile threat posed by Syria.

During this “Air day” at Ramstein, General Domröse appreciated the opportunity to receive an update from General Breedlove and his staff; he returned to Brunssum in the afternoon the same day.

Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum - Visits and Activities

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

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

April 2013



4 April, Commander, JFC Brunssum hosts United Nations human rights expert Professor Kees Flinterman

On the day of the 64th anniversary of the signing of the North Atlantic Treaty creating NATO, General Hans-

Lothar Domröse was honored to host Professor Kees Flinterman for a lecture on the principle of "Responsibility to Protect" (R2P) in international conflict prevention. Flinterman, an internationally acclaimed expert on R2P, is member and rapporteur on the United Nations Human Rights Commission. A teacher, practitioner and champion of human rights for his whole adult life, he has served as Chair of the Netherlands delegation to the UN Human Rights Commission and Commission on the Status of Women.

A widely-published author on the United Nations system of human rights, foreign policy and public international law, he has served on numerous UN fact-finding missions to South Africa, Israel and the Occupied Territories, China, Rwanda and Burundi, to name but a few.



9 April, Commander Presents Long Service Awards to NATO Civilians

The Brunssum Civilian Staff Association held its Annual Long Service Awards Ceremony for NATO Civilians at the Headquarters' Club 13. General

Hans-Lothar Domröse, Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, presented the awards. Mr René Maes, Mr Karl Maurer, Mr William Pickwell, Mr Marcel Plagge, Mr Hubert Spronck, Mr Paulus Theuns and Mrs Ilonia Visschers received awards for 30 years of dedicated and loyal service. Awards for 25 years of service were presented to Mr Rudolf Coffa and Mr Reinhard Trojand. Mr De Kok (15 years), Mr Gilling / Mr Kunisch / Mr Mooren (25 years), Mr Keulers and Mr Spronck (30 years) were unable to attend. Separate arrangements are underway to acknowledge their contributions.



10 April, visit by Romanian Policy Makers

This party, comprising eight senior policy makers, visited Brunssum to learn more of the HQs' role and responsibilities, with a particular focus on the International Security

Assistance Force (ISAF). Briefings by JFC Brunssum subject matter experts articulated the structure and missions of the headquarters, encompassed NATO's mission in Afghanistan, the NATO Response Force and northern Regional Focus/Outreach.

Challenges related to the ISAF transition process drew questions whilst a lively discussion ensued on the subject of post 2014 requirements.

Romania has contributed to the ISAF mission since 24 July 2003. Currently more than 1500 Romanian troops are deployed to Afghanistan with presence in the Regional Command Capital and the Regional Command South.

10 April, visit by General Werner Freers

During his visit, Chief of Staff (COS) Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), met with the Commander JFC Brunssum, General Hans-Lothar Domröse; Deputy Commander, Air Marshall Graham Stacey; Chief of Staff JFC Brunssum, Lieutenant General Richard G. Tieskens; and Headquarters' key staff to receive an overview of the Headquarters' role, functions and missions as captured in the JFC Brunssum Campaign Plan.

Inter alia, ongoing NATO Response Force 2014 preparation, current high-level ISAF issues including an update on ISAF transition, as well as the status of ISAF redeployment planning and the post 2014 mission in Afghanistan, were discussed. Broader discussions included JFC Brunssum's perspective on deployability and the working relationships between Brunssum and the Single Service Commands: LANDCOM Izmir, AIRCOM Ramstein, and MARCOM Northwood.



9 April / 18 April, visit by CZE Deputy CHOD/Students of CZE General Staff Course

The First Deputy of the Czech CHOD visited JFC Brunssum. Major General Miroslav Zizka had the opportunity to meet the Commander, Gen. Hans-Lothar Domröse, and other JFCBS senior leaders. Topics such as Czech support to ISAF and the new Post 2014 mission, JFCBS's responsibilities in specific with regard to the Baltic Engagement Framework and Regional Focus were on the agenda.

One week later, seven students of the General Staff Course from the University of Defence in Brno, Czech Republic, visited JFC Brunssum to learn more about the role, planning process and challenges of 4-star NATO Headquarters. The students received several interesting briefings, including an update on the ISAF situation, planning for the exercise Steadfast Jazz 13 and the main objectives and programmes of Military Partnership activities.



11 April, Commander JFC Brunssum Addresses the Staff

Having completed 100 days in command, General Domröse used his second staff address of the year to convey his Commanders' Intent and outline JFC Brunssum's priorities for the period 2013 – 2016.

Focusing on Operations in Afghanistan (International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the post-2014 mission) General Domröse stated: "ISAF remains my top priority. For the Alliance, mission success in Afghanistan is of vital importance. This priority mission is evolving as the security lead transitions, ISAF prepares to redeploy and the foundation for an entirely different but enduring mission in Afghanistan post-ISAF is laid."

At the end of the address the Commander presented Commanders' Commendations to five JFC Brunssum staff for their outstanding contributions. The Commanders' Commendation is reserved for those who exhibit exceptional service, above and beyond the norm, over time.



May 2013

Polish Armed Forces

Prepared by LTCDR (OF-3) Grzegorz Lyko POL N, Public Affairs

The Constitution gives the Minister of National Defence the right to realize the President's entitles to the supremacy over the Armed Forces during peace time. The Chief of the General Staff and the commanders of different kinds of armed forces are submitted directly to the Minister of the National Defence.

General Staff

Since 1990 the General Staff (SGWP) has been pursuing the fundamental goal of interoperability and compatibility with the NATO structures. The focal point has been integration of staffs and troops contributed to the Alliance, as well

tasks assigned by the MoND or derived from acts and other legal regulations. The General Staff of the Polish Armed Forces is responsible for organizing and preparing the command authority and command post of the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

tactical units as well as mechanized, armored, air-mobile, artillery and engineering units and other specialized support and security units all function as part of Land Forces.



as standardization and unification of materiel. The main tasks of the General Staff have largely been determined by modernization guidelines.

The General Staff participates in the setting of the armed forces development concept and planning of this development. It directs complex mobilization planning and strategic-operational positioning and use of armed forces and keeps combat and mobilization readiness in the armed forces. SGWP directs military training, sets goals, directions and tasks of this training, directs programming and planning of combat and tactical training; directs sports activities in the armed forces. It's important that it directs military education as the Minister's of National Defence (MoND) proxy and directs material and financial programming and planning in the armed forces, s other

Land Forces

Land Forces, in line with the requirements of contemporary and future battle fields, are equipped and prepared to perform the most important operational and tactical tasks in all combat conditions, first and foremost to carry out combat operations in cooperation with other branches of the armed forces while using the most advanced technology on the network-centric battlefield. With a high level of firepower, maneuverability, mobility and resistance to enemy strikes, they constitute the central core of the Polish Armed Forces.

Land Forces Command is responsible for preparing and training soldiers to perform the tasks of the Polish Armed Forces during peacetime and in the face of external threats to the security of the state. Command and

Navy

The Polish Navy is the branch of the Armed forces intended for defending the country's sea borders, the protection of shipping and Polish marine interests as well as defending the coast line. Furthermore, the Polish Navy supports the Border Guard in protecting the country's sea borders and the Polish economic zone, takes part in life-saving operations in Polish waters as well as saving flight crews (Search and Rescue).

The body responsible for the functioning of the Polish Navy is the Naval Command, which is headquartered in Gdynia. Separate units of the Polish Navy are able to take part in allied operations outside of Poland.

Air Force

The Air Force is a branch of the armed forces intended mainly to defend the

country's airspace. They operate as part of the national air defence system, which is integrated with the alliance system and appropriate European civil and military systems. The Air Force, which uses the latest flight, missile and radar equipment, is comprised of: Flight units, Air-defence units and Radio-technical units.

The Air Force serves both at home and abroad, including participation in the defence of the airspace of the Baltic states as part of the Air Policing mission. Pilots of transport aircraft such as the CASA-295M supply Polish soldiers in Afghanistan. On the other hand, the pilots of helicopters and aircraft of the special air transport unit carry VIPs



within the country and beyond (e.g. to the USA and South America).

Special Units

Special Forces are a branch of the Armed Forces intended to carry out operations in conditions and situations when the use of conventional forces is not possible or is not desired for political, military, operational or technical reasons. Special Forces carry out their tasks using specialists, equipment, combat techniques and operating procedures not being in standard use in other branches of the Armed Forces. Special Forces are independent units made up of soldiers chosen after a multi-level selection process, trained in the use of non-conventional combat techniques, equipped and prepared to operate in small groups in high-risk environments in all terrains and climates. Due to the tasks that they carry out, only people with exceptional

indomitability, fortitude and above-average physical and psychological resilience can become Special Forces soldiers.

Military Service

Soldiers serve in the military voluntarily either on active service (permanent, contract or candidate) or as part of the National Reserve Forces. Only professional soldiers serve in the Polish Armed Forces. Total strength of PAF is about 100.000.

The professional personnel of the Polish Armed Forces are divided into the officer corps, non-commissioned officers and the ranks. Professional soldiers can serve in the military on a permanent basis (for an unspecified



period of time) or on a contract basis (for a specified period of time). Entering military service takes place voluntarily.

The rules for entering military service as well as the basic entitlements and duties, remuneration, public activity of professional soldiers and the rules for terminating military service are set out in the Professional Soldiers' Military Service Act of 11 September 2003 (Journal of Laws 2008, No 141, item 892 as amended).

National Reserve Forces

On the basis of an amendment to the law on common national defence duty, on 1 January 2010 Ministry of National Defence of the Republic of Poland started creating National Reserve Forces. On 1 July 2010 recruitment to National Reserve Forces started.

National Reserve Forces consist of

volunteers: reserve soldiers who have served as conscripts and former professional soldiers - that is people who have military training. It is also planned to conduct training for candidates who were not conscripted into the armed forces because they were students or who were already not comprised by this duty.

Missions

Polish Armed Forces have been participating in international missions since 1953. Over 84,000 soldiers and military personnel have participated in over 71 operations. Currently, involvement in international military operations constitutes, alongside national defence, the main element of the national security strategy. Modern

operations are complex matters that have to take into account the significance and effect of various political, military, economic and social factors. To an increasing extent, international operations are a reaction to internal conflicts within states and to situations in which human rights are violated on a mass scale.

Currently Poland is participating in 14 international operations carried out under the auspices of the UN, NATO and the EU. About 3500 soldiers and military personnel are participating in them.

Source:
<http://www.mon.gov.pl/en/index/>

Commander Addresses his Staff

Story by Barry Mellor, photo by MSgt Jan Hecht, Public Affairs

11th April the Commander JFC Brunssum, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, addressed the HQs after 100 days in command.



General Hans-Lothar Domröse together with recipients of the commanders' commendations and their Family members.

In a passionate speech the General said he did not envisage a requirement for major change and acknowledged the tremendous effort underway amongst the staff, with sustained reduced manning, in order to:

- continue to provide highly professional out-of-theatre support to ISAF as that mission enters its final 20 months;
- make appropriate preparation for the post-ISAF mission from 1st January 2015;
- prepare for Brunssum's NRF 14 certification exercise [Steadfast Jazz] in November this year;
- and, amongst a host of other initiatives, operationalize recently introduced deployability and regional focus concepts.

Commander restated that mission success was of vital importance to the Alliance and that the key milestones of Transition Tranche 5 and Presidential Elections draw near. Of the two, Transition Tranche 5 is the closest as it should be achieved by mid- 2013 and, once complete, will see Afghan National Security Forces assuming the security lead across the whole of Afghanistan. This will allow ISAF to draw down, redeploy and lay the foundations for an entirely different post-ISAF mission with emphasis on the provision of training, advice and assistance – most importantly an enduring but non-combat mission. The exact size and scope of this follow-on mission will become clear as we move into the final year of ISAF.

Upon completion of his remarks General Domröse took the opportunity to present Certificates of Commendation to:

- Lieutenant Colonel Jack Bone
- Adjutant Jerome Dreumont
- Master Sergeant Paul Schmidtper
- Mr Micha Berix
- Mrs Barbara Fiedler van Someren

(Mrs van Someren could not attend on the day; separate arrangements will be made to present her award).

The General emphasised current staff focus dovetails nicely with SACEUR's personal direction to him that clearly informs his priorities are ISAF, the post-ISAF mission, NRF and Regional Focus, in that order. He went on to endorse the Brunssum Campaign Plan stating that it succinctly captures HQs objectives together with his personal vision and values. Importantly, the Plan is firmly nested within SACEUR's Intent and direction. General Domröse emphasised he had recently modified his own Intent and priorities for JFC Brunssum for the period 2013 – 2016, and this was also part of the Campaign Plan. 'I expect each and every one of you to become completely familiar with this latest update of the Plan as well as my Intent', the General said. With particular reference to ISAF the



JFC Brunssum Commander visits E-3A Component

Story by Public Affairs Office E-3A Component

NATO AIR BASE GEILENKIRCHEN, Germany - General Hans-Lothar Domröse, Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, visited the E-3A Component April 3, 2013.

During a four-hour programme the General received briefs, visited an E-3A Sentry and made a stop at Hangar 1. He was also given a tour of the mission and flight simulator to include a 'flight'. During his visit General Domröse met with Major General Andrew Mueller, the E-3A Component Commander, Colonel René Moerland, Deputy Commander, and the component's wing commanders for lunch.



General Hans-Lothar Domröse (centre) received an in-depth explanation about the E-3A mission capabilities from Major General Andrew Mueller, (right), before taking a journey on the E-3A Component's flight simulator during a tour of NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, April 3 2013.

Commander Presents Long Service Awards to NATO Civilians

Story by Barry Mellor, Chairman Civilian Staff Association

The Brunssum Civilian Staff Association (BCSA) held its Annual Long Service Awards Ceremony for NATO Civilians at the Headquarters' Club 13. General Hans-Lothar Domröse, Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, presented the awards.

In his remarks General Domröse stressed the importance of the 'Team': "From my perspective the NATO Alliance is manned by 'one team'. At every level this 'team' is made up of an integrated military and civilian staff. One is no more important than the other. Each group brings a valuable perspective that is often unique because of the different training and experience of the individual. Bring these aspects together and you have the broad mix of skills increasingly necessary to confront today's emerging security threats."

Mr René Maes, Mr Karl Maurer, Mr William Pickwell, Mr Marcel Plagge, Mr Hubert Spronck, Mr Paulus Theuns and Mrs Ilonia Visschers received awards for 30 years of dedicated and loyal service. Awards for 25 years of service were presented to Mr Rudolf Coffa and Mr Reinhard Trojand



Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum presents the awards.

Mr De Kok (15 years), Mr Gilling / Mr Kunisch / Mr Mooren (25 years), Mr Keulers and Mr Spronck (30 years) were unable to attend. Separate arrangements are underway to acknowledge their contributions.

At the end of the ceremony Mr William Pickwell thanked the Commander on behalf of all recipients. He

especially thanked the families for their tremendous support throughout the years. Looking to the role of NATO Civilians he stated: "NATO Civilians have always been an important part of the organisation. Providing many skills not often found in the military, and bringing much needed continuity, their contribution is a significant one."

Can You Believe Working on a Sunday?

AIS Students Meet the Mayor

Story by AFNORTH International School, Photos by AIS

The children of International Year 6 (IY6 classes under Mr. Brown, Ms. Altizer, Ms Jurkowski and Ms. Gehrman) had a special visit to the Brunssum town hall.



The Mayor and his team welcome the children to the town hall.

As part of their learning experiences they had been looking into local politics. How cities and towns are organized; how they operate; and who is responsible for making a city or town function.

To find out more and to be able to speak to some of the key figures, the children asked if they could visit the Brunssum Town Hall. The Mayor and his team welcomed this request and invited the children to the Town Hall. The mayor, Mr. L. Winants, freed his calendar so as to meet the children in the official council room. This made quite an impression on the children. They enjoyed their VIP treatment, speaking into the microphones as they were asking questions, their treats and information bags together with the opportunity to speak to the mayor and council members present. The experience was educational and enjoyable for all involved.

Some personal observations:

Hailey Johns - 'I will never wash my right hand again because of this trip. This is because this is the hand I used to shake the Mayor's hand. When we went there, the Mayor told us about his life, his job and his childhood. We found out he had only been Mayor for a few months. We also got to ask questions afterward, if they were not already answered in his speech. My question was if he had to work on weekends. His answer was YES. Can you believe working on a Sunday when you could be home having a sundae? Unbelievable! After that the second group went in and we went to look at the shops. There were a lot of clothes shops we all noticed. There were also lots of restaurants. Some of them looked so good they made my mouth water. After we started walking back to the Town Hall and the two groups met up. We started walking back. We all had a wonderful time.'

Sophie Mueller - 'Last Friday, April 19th, our class went on a field trip. We went to the Brunssum Town Hall. At the Town Hall we got to shake the mayor's hand. Then the mayor told us about his life and job. After that we got to ask questions about the mayor and his job (if he didn't already answered them). We got great service at the Town Hall my friend Hailey and I said "great service". Then the next group went in and we got to walk around the Centrum and we had to tally all of the stores and other places we saw. Then we got a little present from the mayor. The present was a bag, a little fake passport, a compass, and a little color pencil case. Then we all walked back to AFNorth and went to lunch. I had a fun time meeting the mayor and I think everybody else did too. We had a fun time!

Zachariah Quarles - 'This report is on my class's visit to THE BRUNSSUM TOWN HALL!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Well first the whole IY6 got

to sit in the Counselors' seats and it was AWESOME!!!!!! We also got one snack and one drink each. I got a sugared waffle and an apple and peach drink, they were good. Also, when it was the other half of the IY6's turn to go in we went outside to hunt for things. Agnes and I were buddies on the hunt. Then we went back inside the Town Hall to get our gifts from the people there. When we were inside the TOWN HALL we got to talk to two real Counselors and the Mayor!!!!!!!!!!!! Plus we took a big picture with Queen Beatrix and the Mayor and the Counselors. What I liked the most was getting to see the Mayor because this was my first time in the Netherlands so it was so exiting!!!!!!!!!!!! Plus the gifts they gave us were a passport in Dutch, a compass, a ruler and a few colored pencils in a wooden a box. It was a wonderful field trip about the British history. That is the story/report about our field trip to the Brunssum Town Hall!!!!



The Mayor Mr. L. Winants talks to the children.

General Goes Back to School

Story by Uwe Bettscheider, International Director, AFNORTH International School



General Domröse answers questions.

From a weather perspective, it was one of the better days recently (you won't believe it but we actually saw the sun on this glorious Spring day) when a very important visitor arrived at AFNORTH International School. General Hans-Lothar Domröse, Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, honoured us together with his wife, Mrs Christina Domröse (herself a certified teacher), with a visit.

What happens if you go to school? Yes, you have to take into account that you will get lectured. That was not different

this time. So the visit started with a presentation to provide the General and his wife with an overview on the history and the complicated structure of AFNORTH International School. In the following discussion, General Domröse raised some issues related to the current needs of JFC Brunssum personnel regarding the school.

Provided with this background, a tour was conducted throughout the building to give General Domröse an impression of AIS' rich international educational environment. He visited different international classes, and

talked with students and teachers alike. His questions showed his great interest in the work of the students and teachers of AFNORTH International School. German elementary students enriched this tour with some lovely songs, especially prepared for him and his wife. Afterwards they presented him with a drawing for his office.

At two o'clock the General's school day was over. When he got into his waiting car and drove away, he left behind a number of impressed students and staff members.

A Real Wild Night

Story by Nathalie Lhermenier, Publicity coordinator for the JFC Brunssum International Club, photos by Karl-Ernst (Charly) Maurer

The other day, on Friday 12th April, if you walked through the International Conference Centre, in Brunssum, you could make strange encounters... What was there? Oh, a zebra! and then a panther !!! And suddenly you found yourself facing a spider!!! Help!! And then, with a view to recovering from so many emotions, you just strolled towards the Bar, and what were you offered? A "Jungle Juice", a "Safari Coke" or a "Tropical Tea"! What was that?

This was "just" the annual party organised by the Charity Committee of the JFC Brunssum International Club. The party theme - "A Real

Wild Night" - was based on animals, and guests were so imaginative with their costumes!! The full spectrum of creation was there with wild beasts alongside more gentle ones. Wall decorations were creative and impressive. They included a gigantic fresco, a panoramic view of savanna, and many animal "shadowgraphs". You could really believe you were on a safari trip!

Music, provided by the STREETLIFE Band, entertained all these living creatures, keeping everybody wide awake until early morning. To cater for the hunger that wild animals inevitably bring several countries kindly served their national specialties. Booths to sit,



Proceeds from Charity Night will be donated to:

SSOP, Denmark – An active project that provides support to injured soldiers e.g. rehabilitation in special clinics, installation of wheelchair ramps, financial support to the injured and to families of soldiers that never returned home.

LOSEV, Foundation for children with leukemia, Turkey – Provides healthcare services to children with leukemia or chronic blood disorders.

Sihtasutus Carolin Illenzeeri Fond, Estonia – Supports children of fallen or seriously injured soldiers with education expenses and recreational activities.

AIDS-Hilfe Rhein-Sieg, Germany – Since it is known that every HIV infection damages health, this charity conducts primary prevention. Within this field they send counselors to schools and youth institutions. They also coach parents to enable them to speak freely with their children about sex. If a common language is found it is much easier for young people to find out how to protect themselves.

Associazione Nicolo' Valenti Onlus, Italy – Provides biologist/biotechnologist scholarships for research into Non-Alcoholic fatty liver diseases.

Rescue Children with Cancer, Poland – Provides care-oriented support such as rehabilitation, comfortable hospitalization stays...for about 500 children...funds will go towards a new building at the Clinique which will be named "The Cape of Hope".

Vis De Joie, France – Aims to establish activity holidays for young disabled adults.

Nowzad Dogs, United Kingdom – Nowzad is a charity set up to relieve the suffering of animals, predominantly stray and abandoned dogs, cats and donkeys in need of care and attention in the town of Now Zad in the Helmand Province, Afghanistan. It provides and maintains rescue facilities for the care and treatment of these animals.

HAIMA CC, Czech Republic – Helps children with hematopoietic diseases and cancer treatment at the Clinic of Pediatric Hematology and Oncology, in Prague.

Canadian Hero Fund, Canada – Supports Canadian military personnel and their families. Primary objective is to provide post-secondary scholarships to children and spouses of fallen Canadian Soldiers.

Operation Home front, USA – Provides emergency and moral assistance to wounded soldiers and families left behind e.g. financial, counseling and rehabilitation.

And finally, a local Dutch Charity will receive 1000 Euros. This year we will support the Ronald McDonald House, Valkenburg.

drink, eat and relax, were decorated with great taste, matching the party theme.

For those seeking a little excitement and adrenalin rush, the Casino was open to satisfy their needs. Customers kept on winning and having fun!!

Other party attractions included a huge Raffle and Silent Auction. So many beautiful prizes could be won, from food or drink baskets, luxury outfits to vouchers. It was really worth taking part!

But the event was not just about having fun. All proceeds - around 20 000 Euros this year - will be donated to deserving charities, carefully chosen by the International Club charity committee.

International Club registration is open to all NATO ID cardholders. Events and activities are held throughout the year. Next events include a Boat Trip along River Maas on 23rd May, Coffee Mornings on 28th May and 11th June. On 28th May, Cheques will be distributed to the selected charities, an event not to be missed!



NATO Triathlon Team Brunssum Joined the Open House on GK Airbase

Story by Major Sascha Verheyen, Chairman NTTB, Photo by MSgt Jan Hecht

Master Sergeant Danny Forbes (USAF) from GK Airbase invited the JFCBS and the E3A community to the old elementary school gym to meet the clubs of both entities, 18 April. And, of course, our Triathlon Team responded.

For the Triathlon Club this event was a great opportunity to present ourselves to the community. It did not take long to convince Oliver Klingenhagen and Jan Hecht to grab their most beautiful Triathlon accessories and to set up a real eye catcher in the middle of the gym. People were very impressed as they saw a real time trial bike for the first time in combination with fancy magazines, special running shoes, wetsuits and books about nutrition.

Our Triathlon Club informed a wide audience, once again, about the upcoming 3rd Try-a-Triathlon event on the 2nd of June in GK Airbase. Registration is already underway and there seems to be a lot of interest this time. Distances are fairly short as you can see in the box.



NTTB Chairman Sascha Verheyen and Oliver Klingenhagen present the Triathlon Club during the 'Open House' event on GK Airbase.

- Kids Distance: 50m Swim; 2 km Bike and 400m Run
- Try-a-Triathlon: 250m Swim; 10 km Bike and 2500m Run
- Sprint Distance: 500m Swim; 20 km Bike and 5000m Run

Feel free to register or get more information from Major Sascha Verheyen (Ext. 2919) or via email: Sascha.Verheyen@jfcbs.nato.int

IMM - Three Letters – Many Nations

Story by Helmut Michelis, Colonel (r), Head of competition

30 years of IMM: 20 nations have been hosted in Moenchengladbach



The International Moenchengladbach Military Skills Competition (IMM), organized by Lower Rhine Section of the Reservists' Organization, has been existing for three decades despite all the global political changes.

In 2012 ten nations participated, which included a first-time visit to the Lower Rhine area for competitors from Luxembourg and Slovenia. The organizers rejoiced at that new record which underlined their aim: the promotion of international contacts within the framework of NATO. One of its side-effects has been the founding of a British-American family and a Greek marriage in Belgian territory. In 2012 the IMM was simultaneously the state championship contest for reservists from North-Rhine-Westfalia.

In 1984 a small group of reservists from Moenchengladbach, which was led by Helmut Michelis, today's chairman of the district, came up with the concept of this event, which is to foster the bonds between peoples. For the first IMM 10-15 teams were expected, but after the organizers' unusual promotional tour of all the barracks, which were much more numerous in the Lower Rhine area in those days, 32 teams from six nations showed up. The first exclusively female team (four women soldiers from the 16th UK-Signal Regiment at Krefeld) to ever partake in such a competition was a real scoop for the media – even the ZDF television showed an unusually long report in its main news program.

At his home the German Minister of

Defence, Dr Manfred Wörner, saw that report and invited organizers and winners to the 'Hardthöhe' (location of the ministry), and the contact to him was to continue for many years. Further invitations followed when he became NATO's Secretary General. His early death in 1994 affected the IMM-organizers deeply.

The highlight of the 10th IMM was a day open to the public, which was celebrated at Moenchengladbach Airport and saw 12.000 visitors. In 2008 the 25th anniversary was a "joint venture" together with the NATO Musical Festival, highlighted by the obstacle course within Borussia Moenchengladbach's football stadium and the common lining-up with the military bands for the final fireworks, which enthused 18.000 spectators.

The organizers' balance sheet reveals exactly 5544 participants in 1386 teams from 20 nations and the total of people who have somehow been involved in the IMM over these 30 years – organizers, civilian supporter groups, guests and spectators included - is well above 55.000 with several Ministers of Defense, NATO Secretaries General and Commanders-in-Chief writing welcome addresses and sponsoring trophies.

The IMM is a sovereign event of Germany and over the years responsibility has changed four times, the regional command of North Rhine-Westfalia at Düsseldorf being in charge now.

The anniversary competition will take place on Saturday, 29 June 13 – but for the first time

outside a military compound since the NATO headquarters at Rheindahlen will be closed by then. However, the IMM-organizers trust in people voting with their feet: as long as active soldiers and reservists want to attend the competition at Moenchengladbach, the organizers want the contest to continue. And hardly had the brochures of invitation been sent around Europe when four teams from Yorkshire already signed up.

Visit IMM website:
www.imm-bundeswehr.de



One of us Colonel Marek Gladysz

Country: Poland

President : Bronislaw KOMOROWSKI
Prime Minister: Donald TUSK
Minister of Defence: Tomasz SIEMONIAK
Chief of Defence:
General Mieczyslaw CIENIUCH

DEMOGRAPHICS

Size: 312 679 sq km (70th in the world)
Population: 38 538 447 (34th in the world)
Language: Polish
GDP: \$ 513.8 billion
GDP per capita: \$ 13 540

RESOURCES

Defence Expenditure: \$ 9 074 million in 2012 , \$ 9 591 million in 2013 (increase, no budget cuts)
Defence Expenditure in GDP: 1.95%

NATO in Poland

Multinational Corps Northeast in Szczecin
Joint Force Training Center in Bydgoszcz
3rd Signal Battalion in Bydgoszcz

MIL / SEC FORCES OVERVIEW

Polished Armed Forces: around 100 000 troops
Land Forces: 45 870
Air Forces: 16 547
Navy: 8 063
rest (SF, MP, C2 etc.): 29 520

TRAINING ENGAGEMENTS -

Main upcoming events:

SFJZ13: November 2013
(hosts the LIVEX part)
SFC13: May 2013
COBRA: November 2013
BALTOPS13: June 2013

CONTRIBUTION TO NATO OPERATIONS

ISAF

Polish Military Contingent (12th rotation): about 1 800 troops (part of RC-E) in Ghazni and Vulcan (also HQ ISAF, IJC and NTM-A)
KIA: 36

SNMCMG1 (Standing NATO Mine-Countermeasures Group One)

Polish officer Cdr P.Sikora commands SNMCMG1 in 2013. The command ship is Polish vessel ORP "Kontradm. X. Czernicki"

KFOR

Polish Military Contingent (27th rotation)- about 220 troops(part of Multinational Battle Group East)

Baltic Air Policing

On the 31st of August 2012 4th rotation of Polish Military Contingent "Orlik" was finished - Polish AF contributed in this mission in 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2012.

Operation Active Endeavour

Polish Navy participates in OAE since 2005 (submarines, missile frigate, MCM command ship) - last time in 2011



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

After coming to Brunssum in January 2011 I took over the responsibilities of J6 Branch Head. Right now we transferred into J6 Division, but my responsibilities stayed the same. I'm currently ACOS J6.

Tell us about your military career.

My military career started in 1982 when I joined Army College. After finishing this school I went through full command chain career from platoon commander through company commander and chief of staff of a battalion to a battalion commander. In the meantime I studied at the Military University of Technology in Warsaw, Warsaw University of Technology and National Defense University in Warsaw. Just before coming to Brunssum, in 2010 I became the chief of communications training in Polish Land Forces Command.

Do you have any experience with other international missions?

"In 2003 I was in Enduring Freedom, in 2006 I served in Multinational Division Central South in Iraq, a year later I was sent to Afghanistan and in 2008 I was in Kongo."

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

You can say that J6 has always a very tough job. In case of ever exercise or operation everybody expect from us, that we'll deliver a good product. Being in charge of a division responsible for supporting any CIS issue in the full spectrum of JFCBS activities is a challenge itself.

I have to admit that the most challenging part of this job is the support for ISAF. As JFCBS J6 we are the budget holder for the second largest NATO budget in ISAF, which is in this year 136 million euro.

Of course you can't forget about the recent transfer of JFCBS into a new structure. It's difficult to imagine how challenging it was for J6. It's not only about changing posts, it's also connected to a different telecommunication system etc.

Accept of ISAF we are right now focused on our main J6 training event of the year, which is exercise Steadfast Cobalt 13. In the name of our Commander, who is OCE for the exercise, I'm Steadfast Cobalt 13 director and I'm responsible for every aspect of this exercise.

What are your hobbies?

I'm a very active person. If you ask about my hobbies I should start with paragliding, sailing and swimming. I also play tennis and like to listen to good music.

What do you like in your job?

Very often you can hear that working in multinational environment is somehow different from national duties. I have to concur and admit that I enjoy doing it very much. If you look at organization, unique type of tasks and challenges it gives you a thrill of excitement to be part of this international community.

Additionally I'm Polish Senior National Representative. It brings of course more responsibilities. However to represent Polish Armed Forces not only in Brunssum but very often also in other parts of the Netherlands is an enormous honor.

Your future plans?

Unfortunately I'll leave this headquarters in the end of July 2013. I'm going back to Poland and looking forward to my new assignment which is the chief of J6 in the Operational Command of the Polish Armed Forces.

The First JFC Brunssum "Family Support Mid Term Day"

Story by Harry Verpoort, International Housing / Family Support Office

As part of an ongoing programme to promote networking and interaction amongst the families of deployed staff we, the family support group of JFCBS, organised a trip to "Snowworld" in Landgraaf. Initially coming together at 1130, at the ICC, to enjoy a coffee with traditional "Limburgse Vla", attendees were provided a good explanation from our PT Instructor, OR-6 Kelvin Jordan, of what they could expect. After this we all got into the bus for the trip – many thanks to Bernd, of the German Delegation, for providing transportation.

At "Snowworld" we had a super day; Kelvin arranged everything perfectly. We had ski lessons, free ski time, enjoyed the outdoor roller coaster and park. And, of course, we did not ignore the opportunity for "Apfelstrudell" and more coffee. Overall, this was a perfect day for the families to enjoy and share their experiences.

A typical comment came from Sue Sharp who said: "The kids and I had a fantastic time - we are now all flaked out on the sofa totally exhausted -in a good way tho'!"

Word soon spread around ISAF HQs (Kabul) that the Brunssum families had been treated to a good day. OF-4 Wolfgang Heilmann sent a nice note that confirmed that the aim of the day had been realized: "My family and



I really appreciate what you are doing for us. This makes the time during deployment much, much easier."

Though volunteers from the British, German and US delegations all chipped in to ensure the day went off smoothly, the efforts of OR-6 Kelvin Jordan, whom most of us know as the always chipper taskmaster at the JFCBS Fitness Centre, and his new bride, Fiona, were particularly noteworthy. "In the span of about 15 minutes I watched him console a weeping child, hold the staff at Snowworld accountable (pleasantly but firmly) to promises they'd made for our group, and snap tight the ski boots on half a dozen youngsters" said Family

Support Chief, OR-9 Harry Verpoort, as he brushed away a tear. "All day he quickly and cheerfully solved problems, charmed mothers & children, and managed to keep us all on schedule and safe. This gave me a warm feeling."

The outdoor facilities at the park, especially the roller coaster, allowed non-skiers to also enjoy the day. "I've never seen a facility quite like it; it will be tough to top this day," continued Harry Verpoort. Soon the next group of deployers will rotate out of Brunssum in support of the ISAF mission. Hopefully these warriors can have peace of mind during their absence that their families will be well cared for while they are away.



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Directed By Lauren Marinelli White

May 23, 24, 31 & June 1 @1900
May 26 @1400
JFC Brunssum
Alliance Theater
Adults 8 Euro, Children 5 Euro

JFC BRUNSSUM ALLIANCE THEATER Movie Schedule

Sat. 11 May / 16:00
**OZ THE GREAT AND
POWERFUL**
James Franco
Michelle Williams

Sat. 25 May / 13:00
**ESCAPE FROM PLANET
EARTH**
Brendan Fraser
Jessica Alba

Sat. 11 May / 19:00
SNITCH
Dwayne Johnson
Susan Sarandon

Sat. 25 May / 16:00
ADMISSION
Tina Fey
Paul Rudd

Sat. 18 May / 16:00
**THE INCREDIBLE BURT
WONDERSTONE**
Steve Carell
Jim Carrey

Sat. 25 May / 19:00
21 & OVER
Miles Teller
Justin Chon

Sat. 18 May / 19:00
THE CALL
Halle Berry
Abigail Breslin

WELCOME ABOARD THE END OF THE YEAR BOAT TRIP

The International Club would like to invite you
to come along for a 3 hour cruise along river
Maas, departing from Maastricht, with a meal
on board!!

Royal Class Lunch

Creamy mushroom soup served at the table, followed
by a buffet: Warm veal stew, cooked ham, roast beef,
pork fillet with Provencal herbs, season pate, Norwegian
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Did you
know



Napoleon's Russia Campaign -Dutch Pontooniers saved Napoleon at Berezina

Story by Ed Frieser



Just over two hundred years ago in 1812 the Battle of Berezina took place from 26 to 29 November 1812. Napoleon, retreating after the invasion of Russia, had to cross the Berezina River. The Russian armies, led by Generals Mikhail Kutuzov, Peter Wittgenstein and Admiral Pavel Chichagov, tried to capture him. Improvised bridges built by the Dutch allowed Napoleon to safely retreat. Interestingly, one of my ancestors took part in this campaign.

The great great great grandfather of the writer, Sgt Maj Ary Schröder, survived together with 6 pontooniers from an original group of 200 Dutch. This year Dutch-Russian relations are commemorated; this gave me the impetus to publish this article.

History

On 25 July 1807 the Treaty of Tilsit was settled between France, Prussia and Russia. The Treaty was an agreement to conduct a Continental Blockade of England to deny trade with that country. But it caused great damage to Russia's economy. Czar Alexander 1 could not comply with the Treaty terms and restored his country's trade with England in 1811. Napoleon then decided to invade Russia to force the terms of the Treaty upon Czar Alexander.

Grand Armée

Napoleon started to mobilise the largest army ever witnessed in European military history. Allied armies joined the French, with some 400,000 soldiers. On 28 May

the "Grand Armée" in the meantime had grown to some 691,500 soldiers. One third were French troops and two thirds were comprised of Germans, Portugese, Croats, Swiss, Welsh, Austrian, Dutch, Poles, Danes, Mecklenburgers, Holsteiners etc. etc. Almost 20 nationalities. The Army assembled at Kovno near the Russian border. On 24 June 1812 Napoleon crossed the border over the River Memel.

Russian response

Russian troops refused to engage Napoleon when they realised the size of his forces. The Russians retreated instead making sure all possible supplies were burned and water sources poisoned causing illness among Napoleon's troops. Finally, on 7 September, the Russians were able to set up a defence near Borodino,

some 120 km's west of Moscow to face Napoleon's army. With 67,000 French and Russian soldiers killed on one day this became one of the bloodiest battles of the Napoleonic wars. The Russians were unable to mobilise more troops and were forced to retreat, opening the road to Moscow.

When Napoleon reached Moscow after 82 days over a distance of 800 kilometres, the Russians had mobilised an army of some 900,000 soldiers under Command of General Kutuzov. By that time Napoleon had already lost half of his force without being able to mount a decisive blow to the Russians. Governor Fjodor Rostopshin gave the order to burn Moscow upon the

now that he had to cross the River Berezina. General Chichagov had already assembled his troops on the west bank.

The French troops were encircled and trapped. Then Napoleon introduced a plan to deceive the Russians - he used info ops and pretended he wanted to cross the River Berezina some 17 km's southbound. Under Command of General Aubry his troops began to construct a bridge near Ucholodi as part of a deception plan. It worked, General Chichagov was misled and marched off into the direction of Ucholodi. Napoleon was also fortunate that General Wittgenstein did not want to put his troops under Chichagov's command and refused to follow the orders

once and then had to seek the heat of the camp fires to recover .." General Eblé told them: "Faith of the army is now in your hands!... General Chichagov discovered he was misled. He returned too late to avoid the crossing of the bridges near Studienka. On 28 November Napoleon escaped via this bridge.

Conclusion

The Russian army, led by General Kutuzov, attacked the rear of the French Army in a snow blizzard on 28 November. The Dutch 123rd and 124th Infantry Regiments and the 14th Regiment Cuirassiers defended the east bridge head for two days. Two thirds of the Dutch infantry soldiers were killed



arrival of Napoleon's troops. These fires continued between 14 and 18 September. Napoleon stayed 5 weeks in Moscow. Subsequently, the lack of food and risk of a Russian counter attack, made Napoleon decide to retreat. In Moscow Napoleon lost another 15,500 men. The troops of Kutuzov and the Cossacks used partisan tactics to gradually weaken the forces of their enemy.

Berezina

Finally, severely affected by massive losses, the remainder of the French Army reached the east bank of the Berezina River, on 21 November. Napoleon, however, had ordered all 60 boats of the army bridging train to be burned along with much other equipment to create more speed and to free-up the horses. A questionable decision

of General Kutuzov to cross the Berezina. In the meantime, General Jean-Baptiste Eblé had arrived at the Berezina River. He commanded some 400 engineers of which 200 were Dutch pontooniers. On 25 November Dutch engineer Captain George Diederich Benthien and Sgt Major Ary Schröder secretly started to prepare the construction of two bridges near Studienka, using wooden beams taken from houses in the direct vicinity. In the morning of 26 November the Dutch began the construction of a bridge with a length of 100m. Standing in the ice cold river men were dragged by the strong current and died due to the ice cold temperatures. As Captain Benthien wrote: "...the men who left the water were completely numb and stiff of coldness, and although they were encouraged with an additional fifty francs, most of them could only enter the water

or wounded. The Russian attack caused panic and the French troops stumbled over each other.

Many were trampled in the total chaos that ensued. On the morning of 29 November General Eblé ordered Benthien to destroy the bridge. Captain Benthien, Sergeant-Major Schröder and six of the 200 Dutch pontooniers survived. They marched back via Vilnius in wintery conditions, enduring temperatures as low as -37.5 degrees Celsius, to Prussia. Only 30,000 of the Grande Armée of 691,500 men returned home, thanks to the courageous 200 Dutch pontooniers and infantry.

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Further information: www.oorlogsmuseum.nl

War belongs in the museum - War Museum Overloon

Prepared by MSgt Jan Hecht, Public Affairs, Text and Photos by War Museum Overloon

‘War belongs in the museum’ is the slogan of the Dutch National War and Resistance Museum; one of the two theme museums in Oorlogsmuseum.

In The National War and Resistance Museum, the history of the Second World War is presented. Here, you will see how it came to be that, in a period of five years, more than fifty million people lost their lives but also how the oppressed population managed to cope with restrictions and shortages in a resourceful way. Attention is given to the resistance in those days, but also to the persecution. Finally the museum informs about the liberation, with special attention to the Battle at Overloon.

What happened here?

In September 1944, Montgomery devised the Market Garden attack plan. The combination of airborne landings at Arnhem and clearing a narrow corridor through the southern Netherlands was supposed to facilitate the further advance to Berlin. The plan was only half successful. The allied troops wanted to widen and reinforce their corridor. However, the German opponent tried to cut the Allies off. They came to blows on 30 September near Overloon. German Panther tanks and American Sherman tanks fired upon each other continuously. About a week later, British troops joined the battle as well. Eventually, it took almost three weeks before Overloon, and Venray further south, were liberated. The Battle at Overloon is known as the heaviest tank battle ever on Dutch soil. In the museum you will still find several vehicles from that battle, such as a German Panther tank, and British and American tanks and guns.

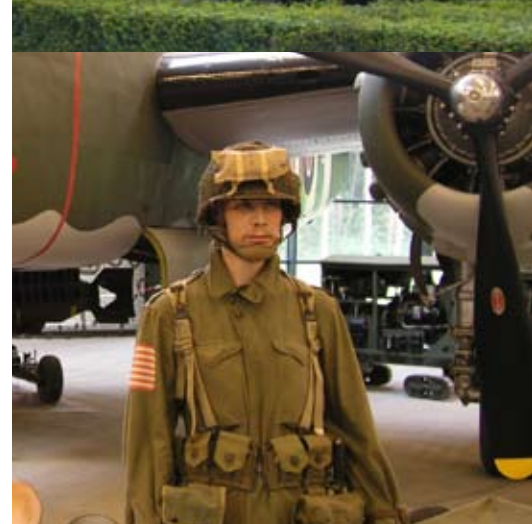
In a space of over 10,000 square meters The Marshall Museum offers more than 150 historical vehicles, vessels and aircraft, which provide an excellent overview of the military efforts during the Second World War. You will find layouts that provide you with a picture of the invasion in Normandy on D-Day, and also of the Battle at Arnhem and the Battle in the Ardennes.

Also central in the Marshall Museum is the Red Ball Highway. This was the name of the American logistical system used to supply the front-line troops during their advance into France. The materiel on display is in top condition and as good as new. No surprise, since almost all vehicles have been dismantled and reassembled, and made roadworthy again!

The Park occupies more than 14 hectares and is open to the general public during daytime hours. It offers peace and space, and the freedom to think about the efforts that had to be made for liberty.

In 1944, the biggest tank battle in Dutch history took place here at Overloon, which is why a museum was established on this battlefield after the war. The tanks, guns and other vehicles that had been left behind were together in this park. On the same soil where the infantry fought - man to man...

The collection had been kept outdoors for many years when the decision was made to relocate it indoors. In so doing, the artifacts will be better preserved. Thus, future generations will also be able to see how the Battle for Overloon was fought.





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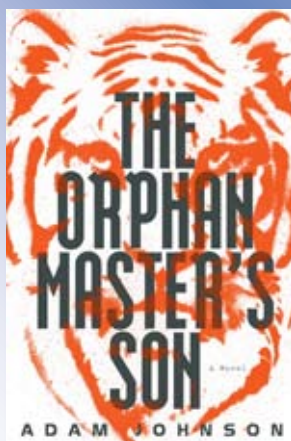
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Book Review



Adam Johnson

The Orphan Master's Son

Prepared by Jaroslava Augustinova

The 2013 Pulitzer Prizes were announced on April 15 by the Pulitzer Prize Board for work during the 2012 calendar year. The novel *The Orphan Master's Son* by Adam Johnson was awarded in the category of fiction. The committee described the book as "an exquisitely crafted novel that carries the reader on an adventuresome journey into the depths of totalitarian North Korea and into the most intimate spaces of the human heart."

Some say the book recalls George Orwell's "1984" in which the humanity of people survives despite the torturers and liars who rule their lives. In Johnson's novel, people are regimented and terrorized, but they remain loving human beings. The author tells story of Pak Jun Do, who is raised in a work camp for orphans after his beautiful mother is kidnapped and taken to Pyongyang. Jun Do is recruited as a tunnel fighter, reassigned to a unit that kidnaps Japanese citizens, and taught English, which leads to a job monitoring foreign radio and then to a diplomatic mission to Texas. When that trip ends in disaster, he is sent to a labor camp.

When Adam Johnson visited North Korea, he was fascinated. Because it is against the law to speak to foreigners, all of his interactions in

North Korea occurred through the filter of an appointed tour guide. Nothing spontaneous can ever happen. Johnson says that *The Orphan Master's Son* is a love story, a sort of North Korean Casablanca. There's a lot of direction of human relationships from the government. You may marry for love but if that person falls out of favor, she/he may be taken away and replaced by someone else by your housing block administrator or the local party. People just come and go. They appear and disappear. What do North Koreans make of the propaganda? Do they believe it? "My suspicion is that people in North Korea know that everything is a lie, but that they have no idea what the truth is," concludes the author.

Johnson Adams is a writer and associate professor in creative writing at Stanford University, who has been named "one of the nations' most influential and imaginative college professors" by *Playboy Magazine*. Adams also wrote the short-story collection *Emporium* and the novel *Parasites Like Us*, which won a California Book Award in 2003.

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