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NORTHERN STAR

Magazine for HQ JFC Brunssum – November 2013



## Other Ranks Association - Oktoberfest at the German Bar

- Guardians of Peace in Helmand
- Did You Know? - Leonardo Da Vinci the Genius
- Lancaster Bomber Service of Remembrance
- Circle 100: Glanerbrook Skate Rink Celebrates 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



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## About the Cover



*The Other Ranks Association monthly gathering was hosted in the recently re-opened Deutsche Bar in the form of a traditional Oktoberfest, 10 October.*  
Photo by MSgt Jan Hecht, PAO

# Command Group Corner

**When this edition of the Northern Star is published, the core of the headquarters will be deployed to as a Joint Task Force Headquarters in Riga on Exercise Steadfast Jazz. This certification exercise marks the end of a busy period in which prior Academics, Key Leader and Battle Staff Training, and Planning all come together as the headquarters prepares to take up the lead for the NATO Response Force next year.**

Even when this has been completed, we will continue to keep up the momentum by undertaking a full Rehearsal of Concept. In short, this will be a 'walk through, talk through' of our ability to respond to deploy as a headquarters, if necessary.

Our support to 'real world' events remains undiminished. Never more so than in our full support to the International Security Force – Afghanistan as this evolves into a new mission and the eyes of the World seek to evaluate NATO's success and the longer-term future of Afghanistan. As the mission down-sizes, it is inevitable that JFC Brunssum will have to be ready to adapt its working practices – and even take on work previously done in theatre – to add the true value that our Commander seeks to provide.

In the lead next year for the NATO Response Force, we must be ready to 'expect the unexpected'. World events will not provide us the luxury of extensive preparation time to react at a time when the operating environment has never been more complex. Our ability, therefore, to adapt our 'Joint' capability and respond to changing events has never been more relevant.

Our outreach through regional focus and partnership programmes will also continue at pace. This will take

in Key Leader Engagement, greater cooperation at the Operational Level and every opportunity to build relations, exert influence and work collaboratively with other headquarters and agencies.

I am under no illusion as to the weight of effort of the 'Brunssum Team' to get the headquarters ready for certification. Much of this preparation has been achieved whilst we remain undermanned, there has been a high turnover rate during the summer and we still adjust to our new organisational structures. This is not only testament to solid leadership and management, at all levels, but also the will of individuals to make a difference. As we continue to transition to Full Operational Capability, in all of our assigned functions and tasks, I believe that the headquarters remains in good shape for its 'real-world' commitments. Keep up the good work and know that your contribution is valued.



*Lieutenant General Richard G. Tieskens, Chief of Staff Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum*

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# Afghan National Police Headquarters Opens in Kabul's Urban District-15

Story and photo by Alicia Embrey

KABUL, Afghanistan – Maj. Hashem Kahn, commander of Afghanistan National Police (ANP) District-15, praised the district's new \$6 million ANP headquarters during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on 9 Oct. Kahn said that the new facility is a symbol of the Afghan people working to build a safer and stronger country.



Afghan National Police stand in formation for Maj. Hashem Kahn, commander of the ANP District-15.

**C**ol. Richard Heitkamp, commander of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Transatlantic Afghanistan District's (TAA) Kabul Area Office, said: "It is truly an honor because the facility was built by an Afghan construction firm to house Afghan police officers to protect the people of Afghanistan. We are working shoulder-to-shoulder to provide for the Afghan people. "The modern facility will house more than 200 men and women Afghan police officers, plus a criminal investigative unit. The three-year project was awarded to FCEC-United Infrastructure Projects, a local Afghan construction firm, in August 2010.

During the ceremony, Paul Holcomb, TAA area engineer, explained that many obstacles were overcome before construction could begin. "There were

real estate issues as well as security and supply logistical problems, but we persevered. Thanks to Maj. Hashem Kahn for providing security, and Ghulam Rasoul Tarsshi with FCEC for staying the course and personally working through the logistical issues, which insured the project was completed. This project represents the spirit of the Afghan people to fight through, persevere and overcome. As we celebrate today, we honor the great effort of the Afghan people. This project was built by an Afghan construction firm for the Afghan people, and we are proud of that effort."

The project consists of design, construction and site improvement for the facilities to support the Afghan National Police units in Kabul's ANP District-15. The new facility includes the headquarters building, a dining facility, separate barracks for men and

women, a perimeter wall with access control points, and basic electrical, water and wastewater infrastructure. Transatlantic Afghanistan District is the USACE primary organization for building military bases, police stations, roads, air strips and other infrastructure projects in Afghanistan to increase the country's stability, security and economy.

In addition to providing Afghan National Security Force facilities and quality of life infrastructure, the district's capacity development programme creates business opportunities, as evidenced by the Afghan-based construction firms receiving contract awards. The impact directly supports coalition counterinsurgency objectives while simultaneously increasing security and stability across Afghanistan.

# Guardians of Peace Graduate From Helmand's Elite Training Centre

Story and photo by Spc. Brandon Thomas

Helmand Province, Afghanistan – For three weeks, sons and fathers of Afghanistan left their friends and families to become Afghan Local Policemen safeguarding their communities.



*An Afghan Local Police instructor corrects ALP recruits on posture during weapons training.*

**F**ifteen recruits graduated from the Afghan Local Police (ALP) training programme 19 Sep at Helmand's elite police training centre in Lashkar Gah district. "Remember everything you have learned here," Lt. Col. Mohammed Obaidullah, a leader at the centre, said during the graduation ceremony. "Embrace your role as guardians of peace when you return to your villages."

The recruits benefit their people, local elders and the government by becoming police officers for their communities. "All of us here decided to join the ALP to bring security to our district," said Shayesta Guol, a recent ALP graduate. "We want to defeat the enemy and bring security to our villages."

Trainers provided recruits living

quarters, food, uniforms and rifles throughout the programme. Recruits learned basic marksmanship, first aid, ethics, rule of law and human rights. "Before the course, I had never touched a weapon," said Guol. "But now I have become comfortable with the equipment and how to use it safely. We also learned combat techniques and how to solve problems with confidence, especially when dealing with people."

More and more villages are sending recruits to the training centre as they realize that local police will empower village/district elders to provide for peoples' safety. More than 185 recruits have graduated from the training centre since May. ALP promotes close coordination amongst Afghan National Security Forces, Coalition Forces, village elders, district and

provincial officials by strengthening the link between local and national governance.

The programme operates independently from U.S. coalition forces and is under the control and supervision of the Ministry of Interior with local accountability to communities. Afghan National Police instructors are proud of the programme they've developed. Instructors hope the recruits distinguish themselves due to the creative and innovative training approach.

"My family feels good about my decision to join the ALP," said Guol. "I am a professional now, and am proud to work for my village and district. I am serving my country. Whether it is by ALP, uniformed police, or national police, together we will bring security to our country."

# Royal Chelsea Pensioners: Window to the Past, Beacon for the Future

Story by LTC Angela Funaro, HQ LANDCOM Public Affairs Office

LONDON – Commander of NATO’s Allied Land Command, Lt. Gen. Frederick Hodges, never imagined how moved he would be after his first visit to the Royal Hospital in Chelsea (RHC) and a personal encounter with a particularly inspiring Chelsea Pensioner.



*Figure Court of Royal Hospital Chelsea.*

**S**o how exactly did he find himself in the middle of the most beautiful 62 acres off the River Thames in the heart of London on an uncharacteristically warm, sunny morning in October? Retired British Army Col. Michael O'Dwyer suggested to U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Frederick “Ben” Hodges that he check out this unique, historic place the next time one of his official trips returned him to the United Kingdom. The General’s guide for the day was a British Army 38-year veteran named Bill “Paddy” Fox, one of about 300 Chelsea Pensioners living and working at the RHC. Paddy knows his routine and probably every inch of the RHC grounds down pat. His voluminous memory is a testament to the hospital’s ethos that “staying active enhances the quality of one’s personal life.”

Inspired by Les Invalides in Paris, King Charles, II, established the RHC during his reign over three centuries ago to house and care for British Soldiers who were “too old or broken,” a covenant that the Crown has kept with its Army veterans to this day. The inventory of

historic buildings, monuments, works of art, and collectibles that date back as far as the RHC’s founding in 1682 mesmerizes, but even more impressive is the camaraderie between the residents and staff and their deep connections to their history and community today. Although the RHC is open to the public, occupancy is reserved solely for selected members of the British Army to spend their retirement. But the administrators and Army veterans are not blind to the worthiness of outreach projects with other military charities benefiting the other services as well as local schools.

“I do not think we [the U.S.] have anything that compares to this place,” exclaimed Hodges, as he toured the Great Hall, the dining hall where the Duke of Wellington was once laid in state. The closest equivalent the U.S. has are the Armed Forces Retirement Homes (one in Gulfport, Mississippi, and the other in Washington, D.C.), where retired enlisted service members from all military branches, provided they have qualified for retirement (at least 20 years of service), are cared for but they are not required to don a uniform or

perform duties that are a condition for residency as at the RHC

Being a bachelor or widower with no dependents, over the age of 65, and an honorable record of service in the British Army’s enlisted ranks long enough to receive a pension is how Paddy and the other Pensioners qualify for the good life at the RHC. Officers are also eligible provided they served a minimum of 12 years in the enlisted ranks prior to receipt of their commission. While the RHC has had two female out-Pensioners on its rolls (both sustained wounds in battle during their service in the 1700s and are buried there), no women ever qualified to be a Chelsea Pensioner until 2007. The first one, 91-year-old Dorothy Hughes, enlisted in the Women’s Royal Army Corps and was stationed in Egypt during World War II. Hughes was admitted in 2009, having retired after 22 years as a Warrant Officer 2nd Class. Six women presently reside at the RHC, the youngest being a retired psychiatric nurse who served in the Queen Alexandra’s Royal Nursing Corps.

# Strengthened Task Force 508 Meets New Challenges

Story and photos by HQ MARCOM Public Affairs Office

Operation Ocean Shield (OOS) was reinforced with two ships: The Royal Danish Navy HDMS ESBERN SNARE and Ukrainian Navy UPS HETMAN SAGAIACHNY.



Commander Task Force 508, Commodore Amundsen (third from the left) made a first visit to the newcomers.

**N**ATO's Counter-Piracy Task Force 508 Commander, Commodore Henning Amundsen, made a first visit to the newcomers, welcoming their commanders and crews to Operation OCEAN SHIELD.

The common efforts made by the naval forces and the shipping industry have dramatically reduced the pirates ability to operate. It's been over a year since the last successful attack, but new challenges will present themselves for the task force in the upcoming period.

"The situation in Somalia has not been solved yet. This is why we need

to stay resilient, keep our guard up, and continue to cooperate, ensuring safety for our seafarers," Commodore Amundsen said. "We expect higher activity off the coast of Somalia in the upcoming months, both from local fishery and illegal criminal activity. It will be easier for pirates to hide, as they can use the higher density of traffic as cover.

The Commodore has high, but realistic expectations from the experienced ships. Addressing the commander and crew on HDMS Esbern Snare, the Commodore said: "Drawing on your previous counter piracy experience, I expect you to quickly settle in and

deliver added value to our force. I am confident in your efforts and skills to contribute in solving our upcoming tasks and challenges."

CTF 508 Staff and UPS Hetman Sagaidachny personnel met on board the Ukrainian ship. Commodore Amundsen said: "As the Force Commander, it is an honour for me to welcome you to Operation OCEAN SHIELD. You have already shown flexibility in solving tasks and issues, a flexibility that is needed to address unpredictable situations and challenges. My staff and I are looking forward to working with you in our common goal to counter piracy".

# Belgian F-16 Fighters Ensure NATO's Baltic Air Policing

Story by HQ AIRCOM Public Affairs Office, photo: courtesy Belgian BAP QRA

On 3 September 2013, in the presence of numerous military and civilian authorities, the French Air Force detachment ensuring NATO's Air Policing in the skies above Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania transferred the mission to the Belgian Air Force. This Ceremony took place in the Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) area of Šiauliai Air Base – the “home base” of Belgian F-16 fighter aircraft for the next four months.

**T**he Belgian F-16s are no strangers in the Baltic Region. In 2004, as the first NATO member, Belgium accepted its responsibility to provide assets to NATO for four months to ensure the Air Policing mission and then, in 2006, Belgian F-16s undertook this Allied task for the second time.

To assure the security and integrity of the Baltic airspace the Belgian Air Force maintains two F-16s on permanent stand-by ready to take off within 15 minutes. A team of seven specialists is deployed to the base to cover this task 24/7.

In total 35 technicians and support personnel work at Šiauliai airbase to ensure maintenance and repair of the jets keeping them operational at all times. During the first three weeks of the deployment the F-16s conducted more than one of the so-called ‘scrambles’ per day.

The pilots flew 75 hours in the Baltic skies. During these flights the Belgian pilots monitor the airspace and help develop the skills of the Estonian, Latvian and Lithuanian fighter controllers on the ground. Two experienced Belgian fighter controllers are deployed to the Control & Reporting Centre (CRC) at Karmelava, Lithuania. At the CRC, the staff closely monitor the airspace and in case of any unclear situation in the air they launch the Belgian F-16s. “Our NATO BAP detachment has integrated exceptionally well within this international framework,” says Senior-Captain Kris ‘DJ’ Hulpiau, the Belgian Detachment Commander, “we are keeping up our good reputation as a skilled and alert NATO partner.”



*Belgian technicians receive one of their F-16s after landing at Šiauliai Air Base for the NATO Baltic Air Policing Mission from September to December 2013.*

On 5 September, the BAP detachment was honoured by the visit of the Belgian Minister of Defense, Pieter de Crem, and the Lithuanian Vice-Minister of National Defence, Marijus Velička, who were accompanied by high-ranking civilian and military representatives from both countries. During their visit, the guests were given an overview of the infrastructure investments and future projects; they visited the Belgian detachment and the QRA area. The visit concluded with a demonstration of the live action during a training scramble as the aircrew dashed to their jets and were airborne in seven minutes!

“Three weeks into the QRA mission we can already look back on some achievements by our detachment,” says Senior-Captain ‘DJ’ Hulpiau, “because of maintenance works on the main runway, the Barrier Team installed ‘aircraft arresting gear’, carefully fitting cables across the parallel runway to stop jets in an emergency. The Movement and Control Cell as well as the Fly Away Kit (FAK) Manager checked and marked incoming spare parts and other material delivered by air or road transport and stored it in the correct shelters. During the first week of the deployment the technicians were busy making arrangements with their French colleagues to conduct the

handover of containers and establish their own equipment. All facilities were taken over so we could start our operation. At the same time we accomplished first training and familiarization flights as well as the fine-tuning of operational and technical details of our Air Policing mission.”

In the meantime real-world challenges occurred in the form of poor weather due to fog. Consequently, F-16 pilots had to divert to Riga International Airport in Latvia, before returning to their temporary “home base” at Šiauliai.

Currently the Belgian F-16 detachment is preparing for the Baltic Region Training Event (BRTE) XVI on 8 and 9 October. This special Air Policing training event is scheduled by Headquarters Allied Air Command at Ramstein, Germany, and Belgium will deploy another four F-16s to Lithuania to accommodate it. The F-16s will be joined by a NATO and a French Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft, Estonian and Lithuanian aircraft as well as F-18 fighters from Partnership for Peace (PfP) member Finland. The event underlines the international aspects of air policing and allows participants to train cooperation amongst regional air forces.

## AIRCOM Commander's Conference



General Frank Gorenc, Commander Allied Air Command, chaired the AIRCOM Commander's Conference at Ramstein. This was the first time he had all his Air Commanders at one table since his Assumption of Command on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 2013. Day One included discussions with several national Joint Force Air Component Commanders and Directors while Day Two focused on the NATO Command Structure.

Photo: Christian Timmig, HQ AIRCOM PAO

# JFC Brunssum Hosts Ambassador Grabar

Story and photo by Public Affairs Office

**A**mbassador Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic, Assistant Secretary General and Head of the Public Diplomacy Division at NATO HQs, visited JFC Brunssum, 03 Oct. Ambassador Grabar oversees NATO's Strategic Communications, Press and Media activities.

Warmly welcomed by General Hans-Lothar Domröse, Commander JFC Brunssum, Ambassador Kolinda Grabar used the opportunity to familiarize herself with the role and responsibilities of Joint Force Command Brunssum.

After an office call with the Commander, the focus of briefings and follow-on discussions centered on JFC Brunssum's primary tasks with regard to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, the post-ISAF mission (Resolute Support), the NATO Response Force (NRF), and Regional Focus.



## Visit of Military Representatives and International Military Staff to JFC Brunssum

Story and photo by Public Affairs Office

**M**onday 21 Oct the Director General of the International Military Staff (DGIMS) and the Military Representatives to NATO (MILREPs) visited JFC Brunssum to apprise themselves of the challenges confronting an operational-level headquarters.

Commander JFC Brunssum, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, warmly welcomed his visitors and seized the opportunity to discuss progress/planning vis-a-vis the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission in Afghanistan, the post-ISAF mission (Resolute Support), the NATO Response Force (NRF), and Regional Focus.

Inter alia General Domröse emphasised that current missions were progressing smoothly within the new command structure (implemented with effect 1st Dec 12); the NATO Response Force (NRF) very much remains a vehicle for Alliance transformation; the Connected Forces Initiative (CFI) should always be considered when planning/executing NRF activities, whether they be real-world or training evolutions, as the two concepts are mutually supporting;



and that Regional Focus provides a 'hub for cooperation' representing a platform for opportunity as it enables JFC Commanders to act as an 'honest broker' bringing stakeholders together. The General concluded his remarks by stating that, for the JFCs, the ability to respond to crises was paramount

as this underlined our relevance and maintained/enhanced our reputation. 'If we cannot respond we have wasted tax payers money', he said.

# Retrograde Process Saves Lives, Money

By Claudette Roulo, American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11, 2013 – As the December 2014 Afghanistan drawdown deadline edges closer, thousands of service members and civilians at bases around Afghanistan are preparing tens of thousands of vehicles and containers filled with equipment and supplies for an intricate journey.



*Pallets of equipment and materiel await processing at the retrograde facility at Regional Command South in Kandahar, Afghanistan, May 14, 2013. Photo By Glenn Fawcett.*

That journey -- whether it ends at a depot in the United States, or with a return to the field, sale to a foreign partner, or demilitarization -- could include transportation by air, ground or sea, or even a combination of the three. And the work won't end until the last containers and vehicles arrive at their destinations.

"Determining the final disposition of the more than 24,000 pieces of rolling stock and 20,000 containers in Afghanistan is the job of the unsung heroes of the Centcom Materiel Recovery Element", said Army Brigadier General Duane A. Gamble, the Deputy Commander of 1st Theatre Sustainment Command, based at Fort Bragg, N.C. The command is responsible for supplying and moving troops throughout Afghanistan.

"The fact that the CMRE exists speaks to the major difference between the drawdowns in Iraq and Afghanistan", Gamble said. When the drawdown in Iraq happened, theatre-supplied materiel -- equipment and vehicles that stay in theatre and are transferred from outgoing units to incoming units -- could be sent to Kuwait and sorted

through there.

"Kuwait was our 'catcher's mitt' in Iraq", Gamble said.

With no precedent for need for an Army recovery unit, the task fell to the newly established CMRE and the 401st Army Field Support Brigade. They established central retrograde sorting facilities at Kandahar and Bagram Air Fields and began picking through the masses of equipment and vehicles arriving daily from across Afghanistan.

"In April, that work was shifted to the forward operating bases when seven joint field teams started performing the cost-benefit analysis of moving retrograde materiel", Gamble said.

Each team consists of a military forward retrograde element and a Defense Logistics Agency hub-based disposal operations team. The teams move from base to base opening and sorting through containers and rolling stock.

As recently as this spring, there were thousands of containers waiting to be processed at the sort yards in Kandahar and Bagram but the advent of the joint sorting teams helped eliminate that

backlog.

"We hit a tilting point in about July where we were retro sorting and demilitarizing and shipping back to the United States more from our forward locations than we were from [Bagram] and [Kandahar]," BGen Gamble explained.

Reducing the number of convoys moving retrograde equipment to and from centralized facilities, this setup saves time and money but, more importantly, it saves lives.

"It keeps soldiers off the road, it keeps us from spending money on host-nation trucking to move stuff only to sort it out later and find out that maybe it wasn't worth that much money to begin with," the General added.

The retrograde process is saving lives in another way, too. Every piece of equipment is screened to determine if it's needed by another unit -- either in theatre or elsewhere -- and in the case of the MaxxPro Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected models with survivability upgrades, "that is absolutely getting turned around to another unit that

doesn't have the best and the latest," the General said. The upgraded vehicles save lives, he said. "I've seen it. I've been here two months and we had four soldiers in this command hit an IED in one of those things and they all walked away."

Most of this equipment will leave Afghanistan via 'multi-modal' by air, to various sea ports for movement back to the U.S. The actual volume will vary from month to month based on the

using the most economical routes to move retrograding equipment.

In its route planning, Transcom must balance cost with external factors like the political climate and the effect of holidays on the availability of labor with internal security conditions and with the need to "keep most routes warm," Gamble emphasised.

However, very little of this movement is ever via direct air, the General noted. What little retrograde equipment does

limiting ... we don't have a lot of small armored vehicles". The route isn't as fast as the Pakistan Ground Line of Communication (GLOC), but it will serve containerized equipment very well.

The Pakistan GLOC is the cheapest route, said the senior defense official, but it is subject to unforeseen closure. Pakistan closed it for several months in 2011 and Afghanistan closed it briefly again earlier this year. After the Pakistan GLOC reopened, it quickly became the



*Service members sort wires and other decommissioned hardware into bins for shredding or salvage at the retrograde facility at Regional Command South in Kandahar, Afghanistan, May 14, 2013. Photo By Glenn Fawcett.*

sizes of the units rotating in and out of theatre.

In contrast, equipment and materiel that is being retrograded is being moved out of theatre over various land routes or flown to a multi-modal site. From there it will move by sea back to depots in the U.S. to be prepared for redistribution and reuse. The routes are directed by U.S. Transportation Command, but the destinations are determined by the type of equipment being retrograded.

That means, for the Army, vehicles are sent to a 'hard iron' depot like Anniston Army Depot in Alabama, while replacement parts or supplies are sent to supply depots like Sierra Army Depot in California, which processes conventional ammunition. The same holds true for the other services, the General noted. The Air Force and Marine Corps send their equipment to their own depots.

With the total cost of the retrograde estimated to be between \$5 and \$7 billion, according to a senior defense official, there's particular emphasis on

arrive in the U.S. via direct air is usually "opportunistic air," he said. By pre-staging retrograde equipment at airfields, the military is able to take advantage of available cargo slots on transport aircraft.

In normal circumstances, "the amount of retrograde that goes back direct air to the United States ... is so small it's not even worth mentioning, so when we say air for retrograde, we're talking multi-modal almost exclusively," Gamble said.

The Northern Distribution Network presents several challenges. The network transits several countries with restrictions on the types of equipment that may enter or be visible. So cargo sent via the NDN must be containerized.

General Gamble explained: "We just finished a trial run with some armored vehicles, but they had to be containerized, so that limits it -- if you have to put it inside a container to transit the countries, that's quite

dominant route for retrograde, General Gamble said.

By September this year, 70% of all retrograde equipment was moved out of the country over land; 98-99% of that movement was via the Pakistan GLOC. For October, approximately 60% of all retrograde equipment will be moved out of the country by land.

General Gamble explained: "When the ground is working, or it's not interrupted by holidays, we take advantage of the ground and we minimize the air. When the ground isn't as attractive because of unforeseen closure or holidays, then we tilt the other direction".

"It's this flexibility that keeps us very confident we can continue the retrograde mission no matter what Mother Nature throws at us, no matter what the holiday seasons throw at us," the General said.

# The Activation of the Land Component Command Operational Centre for Steadfast Jazz 2013

Story and photo by HQ Rapid Reaction Corps – France



**T**he HQ RRC-FR Operational Centre has been activated in the framework of SFJZ13 since Sep 25<sup>th</sup> in order to monitor the real deployment in Poland.

The Joint Operational Centre - JOC

- mission so far is to monitor and coordinate the situation in Drawsko, Poland on a daily basis, through situation reports, with the Real Life Support team deployed there. Twice a week they are having video liaisons (VTC system), which also allow them

to test the documentation exchange technical procedures. The matters that are currently discussed are related to the real deployment, its infrastructures and security implementations and the relationships with the Polish authorities.

The hand over from the JOC and take over of the HBOC (Home Base Operational Centre) will be made on Oct 15<sup>th</sup> in the HQ RRC-FR Operational Centre in Lille, and from there both will keep daily connections in order to maintain the HBOC situational awareness, and to make it react if necessary, especially through the conduct of deployment and redeployment operations.



## Lancaster Bomber R5701 Service of Remembrance

Story by Barry Mellor, Public Affairs Office

**O**n Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October a service of remembrance was held at the crash site of Lancaster Bomber R5701, of 97 Squadron Royal Air Force, which crashed in Brunssum on 5<sup>th</sup> October 1942.

Lancaster R5701 took off from RAF Woodhall Spa at 19.11 hours 5<sup>th</sup> October 1942 for a bombing raid on Aachen. Her crew was experienced, having flown numerous missions over the preceding year. The least experienced crew member had flown 21 missions, whilst the pilot had 35 to his name. All, apart from the wireless operator, had flown at least 16 missions with their pilot.

The night of 5<sup>th</sup> October 1942 saw very poor weather conditions, with thunderstorms and heavy icing. Heavy flak and night fighters were an added hazard over the Netherlands. R5701 and her crew never made it home, but came down in the Leeuwstuk neighborhood of Brunssum at approximately 22.45 hours, the exact cause of the crash never being established. None of the crew



members, six of whom were British and one Australian, survived the crash. Family members, representatives of the Brunssum Mayor's office, local people, our UK Support Unit and members of JFC Brunssum paid tribute to:

|                 |                      |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| Flying Officer: | Neville Briant DFC   |
| Flying Officer: | Leslie Dorward DFC   |
|                 | RAAF                 |
| Flying Officer: | Kenneth Harrison DFM |
| Sergeant:       | John Dawson          |
| Sergeant:       | Augustus Desmond     |
| Sergeant:       | Kenneth MacKay DFM   |
| Sergeant:       | Albert Musgrave      |



The crew are buried in the Jonkerbos military cemetery in Nijmegen. However, a monument has been erected in Brunssum at Platanendreef, on the corner with Eikenlaan. This monument bears the title 'Verstoorde Huisraad' (household furniture in disarray). It was designed in 1994 by the Maastricht-based artist, Marco Juriën, and consists of three elements: two inverted chairs stacked on top of each other; a table on three 'wobbly' legs; and a propeller. The objects are made from bronze. A stone representation of an aircraft wing symbolizes the impact of the crash.

# Germany Celebrates Reunification

Story by German Delegation, photo by MSgt Jan Hecht, Public Affairs Office

The German National Delegation commemorated the 23<sup>rd</sup> anniversary of German Reunification with a reception at the International Conference Centre.



In his opening speech, Colonel Dr. Sarholz, head of the German Delegation, highlighted the importance of the German Unification Day as one of the most significant historical milestones of European history post 1945. Following his speech, Colonel Dr. Sarholz opened

the buffet. All guests enjoyed a delicious dinner with traditional German food from the four main regions; north, west, south and east of Germany.

German reunification was the process conducted in 1990 during which the German Democratic Republic joined the

Federal Republic of Germany and when Berlin reunited to become one city again. The end of the reunification process is officially referred to as 'Germany Unity' celebrated on October 3<sup>rd</sup> each year.

## ORA Oktoberfest at the German Bar

Story by German Delegation, photo by MSgt Jan Hecht, Public Affairs Office

On 10<sup>th</sup> October the re-opened Deutsche Bar was in the JFC HQ community centre of interest.



This time the monthly Other Ranks Association (ORA) gathering was hosted by the Deutsche Bar in the form of a traditional Oktoberfest with lots of German beer and typical Bavarian-style food.

OR-9 Verport, ORA Chairman, gladly

welcomed about 120 guests at the nicely decorated German Bar. The community took this opportunity to bid farewell to OR-9 Bernd Naß, SNCO DEU, who could not be present in person.

After dancing, talking and having tons of fun the last guests departed very late

that Thursday.

By presenting a Bavarian beer mug to the SNCO of the French Delegation the next ORA gathering on 28<sup>th</sup> November hosted by the Dutch and French Delegations was brought to everyone's mind.



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# Sinterklaas Is Coming to Holland

Prepared by CAPT Albert Van Dam, COS Office

For all the newcomers, let me explain a seasonal and precious Dutch tradition 'Sinterklaas' (Saint Nicholas), who is allegedly related to Santa Clause. You will not only know when you and your kids can expect some present and candies from him, but also why.



## The History of Saint Nicholas

In 280AD, Saint Nicholas was the Bishop of Myra, now situated in Patara in modern day Anatolia, in Turkey. He performed many good deeds, was a friend to the poor and helpless and, upon his death, myths soon spread about him all around the world. It is widely believed he was able to calm the raging seas, rescue desperate sailors, help the poor, and save children. He also had a reputation for secret gift-giving, such as putting coins in the shoes of those who left them out for him. He became the patron saint of children, sailors and students.

## Arrival of Sinterklaas

Sinterklaas normally resides in Spain, but every year around mid November he comes to the Netherlands. He travels by steamboat, one of the many boats packed with gifts and candy. During this annual visit, Sinterklaas is accompanied by his trusted white horse 'Amerigo' and his helpers known as "Zwarte Pieten". It is believed that 'De Sint' (the Saint) rides

his horse across the rooftops at night and that Zwarte Piet enters houses through the chimney - explaining his black face and hands - to deliver gifts. The "Sinterklaas" arrival is broadcasted on national Dutch TV. While parading through the city his helpers throw candy and small ginger bread-like cookies (pepernoten).

This year the Sinterklaas steamboat will arrive in the harbour of Groningen on Saturday the 16th of November, around 12:30 hrs.

## Pakjesavond

Although "Sinterklaas" arrives in November, the actual "pakjesavond" (evening of gifts) takes place on the evening of 5th December. When Sinterklaas and Zwarte Piet are in the country, kids will leave their shoes near the fireplace or chimney overnight (instead of hanging stockings), hoping for small gifts. Traditionally the shoes are filled with carrots and some hay for Amerigo. The bigger and more expensive gifts are saved for Pakjesavond and are - by tradition - creatively wrapped

as surprises. They usually come with a Sinterklaas poem. Adults usually make fun of each other in these poems. Poems pop up everywhere in the Netherlands: in the press, at school, at work and even in both Houses of Parliament.

## Naughty or Nice

The story goes that - dependent on their behaviour - kids are either in Sinterklaas's "golden book" (the nice-list) or in his "black book" (the naughty-list). The naughtiest children will be taken back to Spain but, of course, that story is told with a winking eye. Do not forget to put your shoe next to the chimney or the fireplace and if you do not have any, close to the central heating. Otherwise Sinterklaas and Zwarte Piet could quietly pass you by.

## 6<sup>th</sup> December

Early in the morning of 6<sup>th</sup> December, when he has visited everyone, Sinterklaas leaves and goes back silently to Spain, to come back next year. Who knows, will he also visit HQ JFCBS??? I am sure he will!

# The International Club Starts an Active Season

Story and photo by the International Club

**O**n Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> September, the International Club launched its 2013-2014 season with its first Coffee Morning. Everyone had the opportunity to meet old friends, make new ones, enjoy fresh coffee with delicious treats, win a few prizes and register for activities offered by the Club – these range from an introduction to Dutch culture, to English or Spanish conversation, and from tennis to creating lamps, ceramics, jewellery, cards... Last but not least, guests were invited to vote for the next Charity Night theme! This big party - to be held on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014 - will embrace an EIGHTIES theme.

The main objectives of the International Club are engendering friendship and good relations between the different JFC HQ nations and respecting and learning more about other nations' cultures. Throughout the year there are activity groups, short trips, social events such as "coffee mornings" and a big event in the spring

season called Charity Night. The Club also aims to raise money for deserving charities from the International Community.

Registration is open to all NATO ID cardholders (membership fee is 10 Euros, Coffee Morning entrance is 3 Euros for Club members and 7 Euros for guests). To join the club, or learn more about its activities, have a look at the JFC Brunssum website, contact your NSE, or National Delegate, or just call in at the next Coffee Morning,

or send an email to JFCBIC@yahoo.com. A Facebook group called "JFC Brunssum International Club" is also open to the International Club members.

Other events before the Christmas Break include a Coffee Morning on December 3<sup>rd</sup> (hosted by Scandinavia and Estonia), a tour of decorated homes in December and a Craft Market on November 26<sup>th</sup>. Events usually take place at the International Conference Centre.



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# Terry Fox Run at AIS

Story by Stéphanie Rondeau and Erie ten Doesschate, photos by Erie ten Doesschate.

AFNORTH International School held its Terry Fox Run 2013 on 27<sup>th</sup> September. More than 800 children from the Elementary and High School as well as parents, staff and other guests from outside the school, participated in this annual non-competitive charity event to raise money for cancer research.



Once everyone got moving, they were able to cool down with 700 bottles of water generously donated to the event by the B&S store of JFC Brunssum. At the conclusion of the event, runners and walkers alike were able to replenish their vitamins with a delicious apple provided by the Fordeverein der Deutschen Abteilung. Together with beautiful weather conditions the event was a great success. The school's Terry Fox Run Committee received more than 7000 Euros in donations.



**Country:** born in Peru, immigrated to the US when I was 17 (1994) and became a citizen in 1996.

**Population:** 350 million (3rd largest in the world)

**Language:** English

**Capital:** Washington DC

**Head of State:** President Barack Obama

**Secretary of Defence:** Hon Chuck Hagel

**Area:** 9,826,675 km<sup>2</sup>

**Climate:** all sorts

**Economy:** \$15.685 trillion GDP

**Budget:** over 3 trillion USD

**Currency:** US dollar

**Industries:** service, agriculture, tourism, manufactures, heavy industry

**Agriculture:** corn, sugar, wheat

**Export:** culture, vehicles, software

**Defence:** expenditure is 4.9% of GDP

|               |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|
| Marine Corps, | 235, 000 personnel  |
| Navy,         | 429, 636 personnel  |
| Air Force     | 404, 254 personnel  |
| Army          | 1,105,301 personnel |

**History:** independence in 1775, became world power after WWII

### About the photo:

Since 1775, the Marine Corps has become the United State's force in readiness, deployable at a minute's notice in air, land and sea. The Marine Corps have steadily implemented higher standards to improve our force, an example of this is the implementation of our Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP) since 2001. I had the privilege of attaining my Black Belt certification earlier this year, training alongside the Marines I commanded in Japan. This type of training has proven very effective for any assigned mission whether is combat operations or humanitarian assistance, in any climate and place.



*United States of America*



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

I arrived in NLD on July 2nd 2013; since then I am the Staff Officer (Land) in the Joint Operations Centre (JOC).

### Tell us about your military career.

In September 2004, I was deployed to Iraq and assigned as a Military Training Team Commander under the newly formed Iraqi Security Forces, Multi National Coalition, Iraq. Upon return from Iraq in April 2005, I took up the post of Operations Officer for the Marine Expeditionary Unit Service Support Group 31, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit Special Operations Capable. During this period, I deployed as the Detachment Commander in Jolo island, southern Philippines in support of Operation Enduring Freedom Philippines.

From 2009-2010 I was then posted as a Foreign Area Officer to the US Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia where travelled extensively throughout the nation and Southeast Asia. In the summer of 2010 I assumed command of Combat Logistics Company 36 in Iwakuni, Japan, and had the honor of commanding this unit as the first unit to respond to the tsunami of northern Japan in March 2011 as part of the humanitarian effort During Operation Tomodachi.

### Do you have any experience with other international missions?

Yes, I was a Military Training Team commander in Iraq where I worked extensively with Ukrainian forces. Also, I was the J-4 officer for NATO Training Mission Iraq. While in Indonesia, I worked closely with several NGOs as well as Indonesian authorities.

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

I monitor and track ANSF land operations as well as those in nations within our NATO watchlist to include the Middle East, the horn of Africa and Saharan/Sahel Africa.

### Is your family here with you?

Yes, my wife Danielle, daughter Maricela (2 years old), and a son Sebastián (3 months).

### What are your hobbies?

My family and I are very active, we do not have a TV and we are constantly travelling and enjoying the outdoors. I personally love backpacking, snowboarding, surfing, playing the guitar and reading.....NO TV!

### What do you like in your job?

I love the international camaraderie! I enjoy having the ability to relate to so many service members from so many nations on a daily basis and establish long lasting partnerships and friendships. I also enjoy putting to use my Foreign Area Officer capabilities as I analyze and brief operations and their assessments. In addition, being surrounded by so many representatives from so many nations provides me with the opportunity to practice my languages and improve them (Spanish, English, German, Indonesian and Malay).

### Can you shortly describe your country?

Big, diverse, gorgeous canyons, luscious forests and beautiful blue seas.

### Your future plans?

Hopefully keep publishing on alternative ways to deter extreme poverty and resulting insurgencies, and travel as much as possible. My daughter and I are learning Dutch; I hope to pass the Department of Defence Dutch language test next year. I plan to eat as much cheese and enjoy the local culture as much as possible!



Story by Ed Frieser

**W**ho doesn't know of Leonardo Da Vinci? He was the son, born out of wedlock, to a notary and peasant woman, Catherina. Supposedly born, in Vinci, Republic of Florence, presently Italy, on 15 April 1452. Well known for his famous paintings and drawings such as the Mona Lisa, the Last Supper and the Vitruvian Man. He is widely considered to be one of the greatest painters of all time and, perhaps, the most diversely talented person ever to have lived, also revered for his technological ingenuity. He was a painter, sculptor, architect, musician, mathematician, engineer, philosopher, inventor, anatomist, geologist, cartographer, botanist, and writer. In short a genius.

## Exhibition

A stunning travelling exhibition 'Da Vinci - The Genius' is presently on display in Rotterdam, a most comprehensive exhibition on Leonardo that is touring the world. It is now on display until 6 January in the historic post office at the Coolsingel in Rotterdam. See [www.davincithegenius.nl/?lang=en](http://www.davincithegenius.nl/?lang=en) Suitable for all ages, this amazing exhibition provides a fascinating insight into, not only the mind of a genius, but also the fundamental scientific and artistic principles that he discovered. 'Da Vinci - The Genius' is an inspiration for the whole family. With the assistance of Il Genio di Leonardo da Vinci Museo (Italy) and Pascal Cotte of Lumiere Technology (France) this exhibition brings to life the works of Leonardo. Working from Leonardo's codices, Italian artisans have faithfully crafted interactive and life-size machine inventions. These works include the first concepts of a car, bicycle, helicopter, glider, parachute, diving apparatus, submarine, and military tank. Over 200 fascinating works and designs can be experienced as Da Vinci conceptualized and created them. Up to 70 full size replicas and among these his flying machine, diving equipment, a tank, catapult and bicycle are just a few that are on display. But the exhibition also includes a thorough analysis of the iconic painting, the Mona Lisa.

## Military engineering

Leonardo Da Vinci was multit talented. During his lifetime Leonardo was highly valued as a military engineer. He designed many military weapons, including giant



*A replica of Da Vinci's battle tank, shock and awe in the 15th Century? (photo Mike Bink) © Trustees of the British Museum.*



*Da Vinci's explanation in reverse handwriting. © Trustees of the British Museum.*

crossbows, a multi barreled machine gun, siege towers, cluster bombs, a precursor to the modern-day tank and even a mechanical robot soldier. Most of his designs and creations of military "instruments of war" were created while serving Ludovico Sforza, Duke of Milan (1494-1499), who had to defend the city of Milan from invasion by the French King Charles VIII, in November 1494. In a letter to Ludovico, Leonardo claimed to be able to create all sorts of machines both for the protection of the city and for siege. In the end, Ludovico defeated the French at the Battle of Fornovo in 1495, making use of weapons made from 80 tons of bronze originally intended for Leonardo da Vinci's equestrian statue of the duke.

## The designs

Leonardo's designs and explanations were drawn in ink and brown wash, and typically for Leonardo, in reversed writing, that it needs to be read in a mirror! How weird. For instance the chariot with scythes on all sides, where he wrote in reverse: "When

this travels through your men, you will wish to raise the shafts of the scythes so that you will not injure anyone on your side." But perhaps one of the most famous of Da Vinci's projects, was a 15th century battle tank. His idea of reaping panic and destruction among enemy troops was envisioned in this tortoise-shaped vehicle, reinforced with metal plates, and ringed with cannons. In a job application to the Duke of Milan, Da Vinci had boasted: "I can make armoured cars, safe and unassailable, which will enter the close ranks of the enemy with their artillery, and no company of soldiers is so great that they will not break through them. And behind these the infantry will be able to follow quite unharmed and without any opposition."

Ironically, Leonardo da Vinci died 2 May 1519 at Amboise, France, where his remains were laid to rest in the same castle where his former opponent King Charles VIII was born and where Leonardo lived for the last three years of his life.



The Eaters play at the Glanerbrook Sports complex in Geleen.

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## Glanerbrook Skate Rink Celebrates 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

*Ice hockey team has roots in HQ AFCENT*

Story By Ed Frieser, photos by Lex Eckhardt and Jan Hofstede

**S**ome 15 km from our headquarters, an ice rink and indoor ice skating hall are available during the upcoming winter season. The Glanerbrook ice rink in Geleen. The 2012 Dutch National Champion ice hockey team 'The Eaters' playing in the Highest Dutch / Belgian Professional Ice Hockey League also has its home in Geleen. The history of this ice hockey team dates back to 24 October 1968, one week following the official Geleen Glanerbrook skate rink opening. Hence its 45th Anniversary. This nicely coincides with our headquarters' 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

### AFCENT Canadian Influence

In the mid-sixties Canada always used to send local amateur clubs as Canada's representative to World Championship Ice Hockey tournaments. One of those teams was the Trail Smokers or The Smokies, as they are locally known, from the city of Trail in British Columbia, one hour from the US border. They became World Champions in 1961 in Grenoble, France, having been World Champions once previously, in 1939. They were the last Canadian World Champions. It was because of their influence that the new club in Geleen was named after the Trail Smokers, the only team to win two World Championship titles, hence their name - the 'Smoke Eaters'. And if you watch this video on the Internet you will understand why these AFCENT players picked this name: <http://www.trailhistory.com/hdic-smokies/>

In the early years of the Geleen Smoke Eaters many players were Canadian military from our former headquarters AFCENT, in Brunssum. Our Canadian AFCENT military playing in this local Geleen ice hockey club made the team one of the strongest in the Netherlands.

### National Competition

The Dutch national Ice Hockey Federation was very pleased with the Canadian AFCENT players and decided, in 1969, to consider the AFCENT players as Dutch players. In the seventies, largely thanks to the Canadian Coaches, the team was very successful and won a number of national and international cups. Gradually, however, the team lost the AFCENT players and limited sponsorship made it difficult to continue the successes of the early seventies. But finally, after many lean years, the Eaters managed to win the Dutch National Cup once again, in 2010, and the National Championship in 2012 where a memorable final match against HYS The Hague resulted in a 7-1 victory! The relationship with our headquarters, however, may be reason for you to visit this skating rink and the Eaters during one or more of their matches. After all the Captain of the Eaters and National Team ice hockey player, Lars van Sloun, playing with number 9, also comes from Brunssum. So come on, put those ice skates on and enjoy ice hockey at the Glanerbrook ice rink, a typical sport for the upcoming winter season.





## Win Tickets for The Eaters

- We have 5x2 tickets
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Answer:

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Angela Smeeth, AFNORTH International School

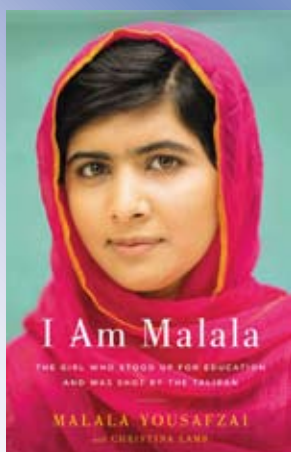
Veerle Dandoy, J7

Stephanie Macocco, PAO

Anke Gieseler-Jabczynski, BWVSt Kerkrade

Petra Naatz, Command Group

## Book Review



### I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban

*By Malala Yousafzai*

*with Christina Lamb*

*Prepared by : Jaroslava Augustinova*

**Malala has been a campaigner for girls' rights to education since she was 11, when she began blogging for the BBC about life in Pakistan under Taliban rule. Her courage is enormous. The story will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.**

When the Taliban took control of the Swat Valley in Pakistan, Malala refused to be silenced and fought for her rights. On 9 October 2012, she was shot in the head and neck in an assassination attempt by Taliban gunmen while returning home on a school bus. In the days immediately following the attack, she remained unconscious and in critical condition, but later her condition improved enough for her to be sent to hospital in England, for intensive rehabilitation. A group of 50 Islamic clerics in Pakistan issued a fatwa against those who tried to kill her, but the Taliban reiterated its intent to kill Yousafzai and her father.

Malala's miraculous recovery has taken her on an extraordinary journey from a remote valley in northern Pakistan to the halls of the United Nations in New York. At sixteen, she has become a

global symbol of peaceful protest. She was awarded the Sakharov Prize for Freedom of Thought by the European Parliament and became the youngest nominee ever for the Nobel Peace Prize.

"I come from a country which was created at midnight. When I almost died it was just after midday. One year ago I left my home for school and never returned. I was shot by a Taliban bullet and was flown out of Pakistan unconscious. Some people say I will never return home but I believe firmly in my heart that I will. To be torn from the country that you love is not something to wish on anyone. Now, every morning when I open my eyes, I long to see my old room full of my things, my clothes all over the floor and my school prizes on the shelves. Instead I am in a country which is five hours behind my beloved homeland Pakistan and my home in the Swat Valley. But my country is centuries behind this one."

*Rather I receive your bullet-riddled body with honor  
Than news of your cowardice on the battlefield  
(Traditional Pashto couplet)*

# International activities Maastricht region



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