



- NATO Handover Kandahar Airfield
- Czech Gripen Successfully Pass Certification
- RAF Association Wings Appeal
- Svend Gilling: Longest Serving Member of NATO to Retire





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COMMAND GROUP CORNER

By Chief Warrant Officer Joe Ramsay, Command Senior Enlisted Leader at JFC Brunssum



Chief Warrant Officer Joe Ramsay, Command Senior Enlisted Leader at JFC Brunssum

The time since my arrival has passed extremely quickly. I knew that I had a lot to learn soon after I arrived. What I did not fully understand, was just how very busy the HQ was going to be for the next year. JFC Brunssum has been the Out of Theatre Operational HQ for ISAF since 2003 and has been doing an admirable job. However, the task is about to change from ISAF to Resolute Support (RS), with the focus of the Mission changing from an Operational Support/Training centric role to a high level advisory role with some training thrown in. This has included a huge draw down of personnel and equipment from Theatre and necessitated a heavy work load and planning remit for the HQ. However it seems the staff will be tested even further. Just as nothing ever goes exactly as planned, this will probably ring true for the plan for RS. Two key elements have had to be met to allow the HQ to assist in the implementation of the transition from ISAF to RS: one being the signing of the Bi-lateral Security Agreement (BSA) by the United States and Afghanistan; the other being

the signing of the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) between NATO and Afghanistan. The delay in signing these two documents has made a difficult job even harder and I pay tribute to the perseverance of everyone in sticking to the task.

While all of this was happening, JFC Brunssum has been on standby to Command the NATO Response Force (NRF) – should it be activated - with all that this entails. Again, the importance of this task was highlighted when NATO prepared its response options to the unfolding crisis in Ukraine. It fell upon the personnel in this HQ, to plan, prepare and implement NATO approved assurance measures.

On top of all of this, some personnel from the HQ completed operational and technical assistant tours for anything from a few weeks to six months in Afghanistan. We also have personnel providing instruction on Joint Mobile Training Teams (JMTT) as part of the Partnership for Peace (PfP) program. There are also activities conducted locally that necessitate our

support e.g. our host town of Brunssum's recent celebration of its 70th Anniversary of Liberation since WWII.

I am truly amazed at the **Flexibility, Determination/ Perseverance** of the personnel within the JFC Brunssum team. The Commander spoke of the three R's when I arrived here. He expected his Headquarters to be **Responsive, Relevant**, and sustain a solid **Reputation**. In my humble opinion you have done so. I am proud to be part of the Brunssum team; in this position I have the opportunity to see daily the effort put forth by all members of the team to get the job done. In some cases we are able to recognize this in individual awards of recognition, but not always. So, no matter what role you play in making this HQ **Responsive, Relevant** and in sustaining/improving its **Reputation**, I would like to pass on my thanks. Of course none of this would be possible without the fantastic support of our families; to whom I also pass on my gratitude.

All the very best!!

Colophon

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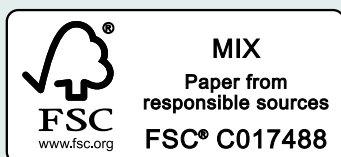
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About the Cover



Trident Joust 2014

400 members of the Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFC Brunssum) have been deployed to the Joint Force Training Centre (JFTC) Bydgoszcz, Poland to execute the Trident Joust 2014 (TRJT 2014) exercise, the main training event for this year's NATO Response Force (NRF) headquarters. The opening ceremony of the event was held on 14 October. TRJT 2014 is one of key milestones ahead of certification for NRF 2016. The NRF is at the core of NATO's Connected Forces Initiative (CFI), which is designed to maintain readiness and combat-effectiveness through expanded education and training.

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NATO Handover Kandahar Airfield

Story by Flight Lieutenant Peter Lisney, SO3 Media Ops, 83 Expeditionary Air Group. Photos by Cpl Morris, 83 Expeditionary Air Group

After eight years of running Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan, NATO has formally handed over control to the United States at an end of mission ceremony, on 14 October 2014.



Official handover ceremony at Kandahar Airfield

Once the busiest single runway military airfield in the world, at its peak Kandahar Airfield was home to 26,000 military personnel from 60 nations and saw 5,000 flights per week. During this time, NATO has also made possible the re-opening of the civilian airport and enabled the Afghan Air Force to start operations in the region.

With coalition combat operations due to cease by the end of this year, Kandahar Airfield will take on a new role as a base for Train Advise Assist Command – South (TAAC-S) and the US 451st Air Expeditionary Group. TAAC-S and the Air Expeditionary Group will be part of the new NATO mission to train, advise and assist the Afghan National Security Forces and adjacent Kandahar International Airport, with the US being the lead framework nation in Kandahar.

Initially under United Kingdom Royal Air Force command, the ninth and final NATO commander of Kandahar Airfield has been Brigadier General Michael Fantini of the US Air Force.

Reflecting on lessons learned during his period of command, General Fantini stated:

“NATO works and there are certainly challenges, but when we work through those challenges we actually become stronger from the different perspectives that each nation brings to the table. That’s the great conversation that needs to continue to occur and we need to continue to move forward with this coalition concept of how we provide security for those that don’t have that opportunity.”

Group Captain Ian Reynolds is a Royal Air Force logistics officer and has been the final Deputy Commander for Support at Kandahar Airfield. Talking about the future for Kandahar Airfield he said:

“The civilian airport is a major part of the future of this part of Afghanistan. The airport management have great vision for what it can bring. If you are going to develop business in southern Afghanistan, if you are going to have people coming to this part of the world, then the airport is absolutely critical. It is a jewel in the crown in the region because it is very well run.”

Since 2007, NATO has managed Kandahar Airfield (KAF) under the International Security Assistance Force

(ISAF) banner. Although initially KAF prominently based U.S. and Canadian Forces, many other Armed Forces (including British, Australian, Slovakian, and Romanian) have been based there. As the main airport in the southern region of Afghanistan, a variety of aircraft operations have originated from KAF.

In July 2007, the post of Commander, Kandahar Airfield (COMKAF) was created as a NATO appointment. Previous commanders have been:

- Air Commodore A.D. Stevenson (July 2007-February 2008)
- Air Commodore R.W. Judson (February 2008-September 2008)
- Acting Air Commodore A.D. Fryer (September 2008-July 2009)
- Air Commodore M.A.B. Brecht (July 2009-May 2010)
- Air Commodore G. Moulds (May 2010-November 2010)
- Brig Gen Jeffrey Kendall (November 2010-November 2011)
- Brig Gen Scott Dennis (November 2011-November 2012)
- Brig Gen John Dolan (November 2012-November 2013)
- Brig Gen Michael Fantini (November 2013-October 2014)

The 2009 surge in NATO operations in southern Afghanistan pushed the number of aircraft operations at the base from 1,700 to 5,000 flights a week, making KAF the busiest one-runway airport in the world. NATO also operates a major trauma hospital at the base, which treats battle casualties, including Afghan civilians and enemy forces.

By January 2012, Kandahar Airfield oversaw a population of roughly 26,000 personnel. The airport was slowly being expanded by the United States Army Corps of Engineers with new facilities added for the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), particularly the Afghan Air Force (AAF).

In 2013, the command relationship changed and COMKAF became NATO TACOM to RC(S). The COMKAF focus changed to running and developing the base to right-sizing the base for the RS mission. In 2014, when it became evident that COMKAF was not slated to be part of the RS mission, the focus

broadened for right-sizing the base to include closing down COMKAF HQ. While managing both major efforts, COMKAF continued running one of the world's most busy single-runway airfields without any degradation in operations. This brings us forward to today when we can deliver Kandahar Airfield to TAAC(S) ready for the RS mission and we can close down COMKAF after a successful transfer of all tasks and authorities.

Footnote: The United States has assumed the Kandahar Airfield command task as part of their 'Framework Nation' role that will enable NATO's Resolute Support mission to be established following the ISAF end of mission on 31 December 2014. The US command element is a US national contribution to the NATO Resolute Support Mission. Similar arrangements are in place for Germany to assume such a role at the airfield at Mazar-e-Sharif, Italy to do likewise at Herat, and Turkey to assume the same role at Kabul.



Coast Guards trained by NATO ship off the coast of Somalia

Story by Thorbjørn Hein, SPAO SNMG1, Photos by Mikkel Iversen, HDMS Esbern Snare



SOMALI BASIN- On October 12 and 13, Task Force 508 of NATO's counter-piracy Operation OCEAN SHIELD conducted training with Somali Coast Guard personnel. The training took place off the coast of the town of Hobyo, and marks the first time Somali maritime forces have been trained in their territorial waters.

On Monday afternoon, the Commanding Officer of HDMS ESBERN SNARE,

Commander Henrik Holck Rasmussen, handed out certificates of training to 15 happy Coast Guard personnel.

"The dedication and willingness to learn I have seen these two days has been outstanding," said Commander Rasmussen. "Through years of naval presence and cooperation, the international community has contained piracy in these waters. However, in the long run the best solution is for Somali authorities to be able to suppress the

maritime crime themselves. Today we have taken an important step in that direction."

The Coast Guard trainees, hailing from the Galmudug Region on Somalia's east coast, were trained in criminal investigation procedures, first aid, and motor engine maintenance and repair. There are a number of specialists in these fields on board ESBERN SNARE. "We could see that the pupils came with proficiency already obtained from training with other international units," said the manager of the two day course, Lieutenant Heino Kristensen. "We were able to build on this and heighten their skills."

The graduation ceremony on board ESBERN SNARE was honoured by being attended by several senior members of the local authorities, including the Vice Governor of Galmudug and the Vice Mayor of Hobyo.

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Czech Gripen Successfully Pass Certification

Story by HQ AIRCOM Public Affairs Office based on information from the Czech JAS-39 Gripen Contingent

Czech Air Force JAS-39 Gripen fighters underwent certification, on Tuesday, 14 October, qualifying them to officially conduct air surveillance and interception missions over Iceland on behalf of NATO. After training and orientation flights in the Icelandic airspace on 13 October, the pilots from Caslav Air Base in central Bohemia currently deployed to Keflavik airport, Iceland, underwent the certification serial conducted by NATO's Combined Air Operations Centre (CAOC) at Uedem, Germany.



A Czech JAS-39 Gripen taxiing at Keflavik airport, Iceland, ready to launch for an air surveillance and interception mission in Icelandic airspace.

Since 15 October, the Czech Air Force detachment has established a 24/7 readiness posture which will end in early December 2014. During this time the detachment will be tied into the NATO Integrated Air and Missile Defence System (NIAMDS) and protect Icelandic airspace with four JAS-39 Gripen fighters.

"Congratulations. The deployed force is ready!" said German Air Force Colonel Thomas Leibinger, head of the CAOC Uedem certification team. "Welcome to the group of NATO nations certified to execute this important mission of Alliance solidarity here in the north." Colonel Leibinger presented the certificate of certification to the Czech detachment and wished them safe flying in Iceland's airspace.

"This tremendous achievement is the result of the efforts of all of us," said Czech Air

Force Detachment Commander, Colonel Martin Nezbeda. "More importantly, it is due to the diligent long-term planning we did at our home base at Caslav."

The Gripen arrived in Iceland on Friday, 10 October, after a four and a half hour flight. They were accompanied and refueled by an Italian Air Force KC-767 tanker aircraft. Over the weekend all necessary preparations were conducted to meet existing requirements and standards for the performance of the operational mission.

The advance party arrived on 6 October. The ground crews preparing and servicing the fighters also play an important role. During the certification flights the Czech Air Force detachment demonstrated their excellent professional ability to ensure efficient and safe operation of the aircraft in challenging climatic conditions.

The Czech Air Force is currently conducting two 24/7 missions: They ensure Air Policing at home and they conduct Air Surveillance and Interception in Iceland. Back in 2009 and 2012 there were similar situations when, in addition to the home mission, they protected the Baltic airspace over Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

Since early 2008, following the withdrawal of US forces in 2006, NATO has maintained "airborne surveillance and interception capabilities to meet Iceland's peacetime preparedness needs". This peacetime mission conducted by CAOC Uedem, Germany, is a visible expression of NATO's commitment to Icelandic security.

Allied Land Command (LANDCOM) Conducts Third Land Command Conference (LC3)

Story and photos by PAO LANDCOM

October 15, 2014 - NATO-Allied Land Command (LANDCOM) began its third Land Command Conference (LC3), hosted by NATO Rapid Deployable Corps (NRDC) Greece, at their headquarters in Thessaloniki.



The event was conducted in accordance with LANDCOM's task to achieve Full Operational Capability (FOC). Representatives from every level of the NATO land forces team, including the leadership of each of the nine Graduated Readiness Forces Land (GRFL) Headquarters' attended the meeting. Also in attendance was SACEUR, General Philip Breedlove. The focus was to come together to provide perspective, identify solutions to challenges, and provide constructive feedback on progress and future initiatives. The more detailed goal was to outline the numerous milestones and challenges LANDCOM and the GRFLs face in order to engage in a review of thoughts and ideas at every level to identify the best ways to confront them.

Visiting leaders began by expressing condolences to the Greek Army for their loss of soldiers in a recent training incident. "This is a terrible loss, not only for their families, but also their loved-ones and team mates. I personally regret the loss of those three soldiers," said Lieutenant General Ben Hodges, LANDCOM Commander. General Breedlove added: "The entire NATO family has them in our prayers."

As NATO's Land Forces Commander, Lieutenant General Hodges served as the facilitator of the event. He thanked the Greek military leadership for providing and supporting the conference and explained, "we are here for three reasons: first, to examine the threats facing our Alliance as a result of the illegal annexation of Crimea, broader threats posed by Russia and the security challenge posed by ISIL; second, to build on the unity, solidarity and commitment to the core principles of the Alliance, enshrined in the Washington Charter, that were reinforced at the Welsh Summit; and finally, to ensure that land forces of the Alliance,

together with Air, Special Forces, and Maritime forces made available to NATO are able to work in a coordinated way." Over the course of the three-day event, multiple topics were presented by military, political and academic speakers drawn from NATO and PfP nations. Topics included 'Lessons Learned from the Ukrainian Crisis,' 'Interoperability,' 'Logistics in a Multinational-Joint Environment,' and 'Force Generation'.

Lieutenant General Ilias Leontaris, Commander NRDC-Greece, stated, "Our headquarters is a 'Tool' and a 'Pool.' It is a tool to identify training and improvement possibilities for our forces and a pool to draw talent and experienced personnel for our Army's missions. This is also a great opportunity to reduce the budget [armed forces] for the participation of our personnel in NATO and, at the same time, maximize the benefits that common training among all NATO members can bring to our officers and NCOs."

SACEUR concluded, "As you know we are adapting to changes here in Europe. This is an historic time for the Alliance and I am proud to say that NATO is rapidly adjusting, as the pace of change is, in itself, challenging. It's been truly heartening to see our Alliance demonstrating its commitment to the people whilst, at the same time, taking steps to evolve so as to confront the emerging threats posed by the fluid security environment that surrounds us. The members of NATO have shown the unity and resolves that this rapidly changing environment calls for. I've had excellent discussions with our commanders for the past three days as we discuss and develop the advice of our political leaders and am looking forward to implementing their decisions."

Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum - Visits and Activities

Prepared by Adjutant Edwin Tromp, photos by PAO JFCBS

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

September 2014



NATO Parliamentary Assembly Visit JFC Brunssum

JFC Brunssum hosted the NATO Parliamentary Assembly Tuesday 16 September. Visitors were briefed on the role and responsibilities of the Headquarters. Topics

included Afghanistan, the NATO Response Force, Regional Focus and the evolving nature of the Alliance exercise programme such that NATO members' and partners' military forces increasingly embrace the spirit of the Connected Forces Initiative



European Seminar Welcomed by JFC Brunssum

On 23 September, the German Armed Forces organize a 'European Seminar' that brings influential people together, from all walks of life and

a number of different European countries, for a week's security related tour and briefings. This year JFC Brunssum was delighted to be one of the host venues.



Partnership for Peace Program Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Wednesday 24 September, JFC Brunssum hosted a ceremony to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of NATO's

Partnership for Peace (PfP) program. Following welcoming remarks by Commander JFC Brunssum, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, and Mr Luc Winants, Mayor of Brunssum, three excellent guest speakers addressed a specially invited audience.

JFC Brunssum was honored that and Mr Hakan Malmqvist, Swedish Ambassador to NATO; Dr Jamie Shea, Deputy Assistant Secretary General, NATO Emerging Security Challenges Division; and Major General Cetinkaya, Deputy Chief of Staff, Military Partnership Division, SHAPE; could find time in hectic schedules to participate in this event.



UK Stabilization Unit Deputy Head Provides Lecture to JFC Brunssum Staff

Friday 26 September Mr Mark White, Deputy Head of the United Kingdom's Stabilization Unit, visited JFC Brunssum to brief personnel on the role and

responsibilities of his team. His Unit seeks to coordinate the actions of disparate UK Governmental actors, working in fragile/unstable and/or post conflict environments, such that different national security tools are utilized in such a way that they each work towards the achievement of their own and each other's departmental objectives i.e. the outcome is greater than the sum of the parts.

The UK Stabilization Unit is a cross governmental centre of excellence for Conflict, Stabilization, Security and Justice.



Brunssum Honor the Fallen at 70th Anniversary of WWII Liberation Ceremonies

As part of a huge range of activities designed to celebrate the 70th anniversary of Brunssum's liberation in World War Two, on 14 September 1944, remembrance services

were held at the St Gregorius Church, Municipal Cemetery, and British War Cemetery, on the evening of Friday 19 September. In addition, a statue of an American GI was unveiled in Dorpsstraat as a permanent reminder of the town's gratitude to their liberators – the US 2nd Armored Division (Hell on Wheels).



Indian Policy Makers Call Into JFC Brunssum

Tuesday 23 September a group of Indian policy makers visited JFC Brunssum. General Hans-Lothar Domröse, Commander JFC Brunssum, welcomed his guests and briefly

summarized current and emerging security threats confronting the Alliance. The General strongly underlined that NATO remains unerringly committed to Collective Defence, Crisis Management and Cooperative Security; with shared values, adherence to the rule of law and the application of ethical, legitimate, proportionate and appropriate military response at its core.



NATO AWACS Conduct Last Operational Sortie in Support of ISAF

25 September, a ceremony was held at Geilenkirchen Air Base to mark the end of NATO E-3A (AWACS) support to the International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF) mission, in Afghanistan. General

Hans-Lothar Domröse, Commander JFC Brunssum & the Out-of-Theatre Commander of the ISAF mission; Major General Jochen Both, the NATO Airborne Early Warning & Control Force Commander; Major General Andrew M. Mueller, Commander NAEW&CF E-3A Component; Mr Thomas Fiedler, Mayor of Geilenkirchen; and, Mr Luc Winants, Mayor of Brunssum; were in attendance.



General Domröse Addresses his Staff

Friday 26 September, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, Commander JFC Brunssum, took the opportunity to address his staff following the annual summer rotation of

personnel. With an ever faster changing security environment quickly evolving around us the General emphasized his 'Intent', outlined his priorities, and discussed his view of the way in which emerging security challenges should be confronted.



Exercise Anakonda is Back, Even Bigger and more Multinational.

Exercise Anakonda is back and for 2014 is bigger and more multinational than ever. This Polish-led exercise, held every two years since 2006, kicked off 24 September with an

opening ceremony in Warsaw, Poland. Approximately 12,500 troops from Canada, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Poland, the United Kingdom and the United States are exercising joint defence in multiple locations across Poland through 3 October. Along with expanded participation by several Allied nations, Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum also participated by sending a 12-member NATO Exercise Integration Team (NEIT) to Warsaw to observe and gather lessons learned that will benefit future exercises and Assurance Measures in the region.

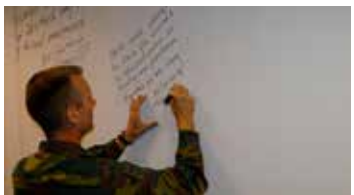
The team leader for the NEIT, Brigadier General Torben Møller, the Director of Management at JFC Brunssum, was also designated as the Exercise Anakonda Deputy Commander



Joint Force Command Brunssum Team Attend Operation Atlantic Resolve Rotation Ceremony

On Wednesday, 8th October, the NATO Forward Integration Team (NFIT) from Allied Joint Force Command

Brunssum (JFC Brunssum), the Netherlands, participated in the rotation ceremony of US forces contributing to Operation Atlantic Resolve. The ceremony was conducted at the Estonian military training area, Tapa.



NFIT Mission Ongoing in Estonia

The NATO Forward Integration Team (NFIT), sent by Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFCBS), assembled in Estonia on Monday, October 13th. The JFCBS

NFIT was sent to assess Estonia's facilities and capabilities which could be made available for future NATO activities and operations, and identify opportunities for future multinational training events.

The team from JFCBS, led by Colonel Hans Houf (BEL), met with the Chief of Staff of the Estonian Defense Forces Headquarters, Captain (Navy) Igor Schvede. "We are lucky and glad to be part of NATO. That increases general confidence in the Estonian public", Captain Schvede told the JFCBS NFIT. "The NFIT mission is quite broad, however, our main purpose is to enhance the exchange of information between EST, as a host nation, and NATO command and force elements," said Colonel HOUF.



JFCBS NFIT Team Leader Meets Major General Riho Terras, Estonian Chief of Defence

On October 20th, 2014, the team leader of the NATO Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFCBS) NATO Forward Integration Team

(NFIT), Colonel Hans Houf, met with Major General Riho Terras, the Estonian Chief of Defence.



JFC Brunssum Conducts Partnership for Peace Enhanced Observer Program

Ten officers from five Partnership for Peace (PfP) nations and 1 Mediterranean Dialogue nation are participating in an Enhanced Observer Program overseen by

JFC Brunssum. The program, consisting of three elements, commenced 23 Sep and will conclude 22 Oct. Inter alia, Phase I included an introduction to NATO's operational planning process; Phase II embraced the academic preparation for Exercise Trident Joust 2014 alongside JFC Brunssum staff; and Phase III is designed to include the interactive observation of candidates in the exercise itself.



DCOM JFCBS at Future Mission Network Seminar 1-2 Oct 14, Vilnius

On behalf of Supreme Allied Command Transformation (SACT), the Federated Mission Networking (FMN) Implementation Seminar took place in Vilnius, Lithuania, on 1 and 2 Oct 14. The Seminar was attended by 33 nations and over 190 attendees. Deputy Commander JFC Brunssum – Air Marshal Graham Stacey - was the senior attendee and gave a keynote speech at the seminar dinner.



JFC Brunssum's NATO Forward Integration Team in Estonia Visit Ämari Airbase

On October 15th, Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum's (JFCBS) NATO Forward Integration Team (NFIT) met with "der Mölderianer", the 74th Tactical Squadron of the German Air Force, contributing to the Baltic Air Policing (BAP) mission from Ämari airbase, Estonia.

After a welcome address by Colonel Jaak TARIEN, Chief of the Estonian Air Force, and a comprehensive presentation on the missions of the Estonian Air Force, it was stressed that Ämari Airbase is one of Estonia's investments in regional defense and, at the same time, a clear display of the application of the principles of smart defense. The JFCBS NFIT also had the opportunity to visit one of the deployed German Eurofighter aircraft.



Chiefs of Defence meet in Bydgoszcz

Bydgoszcz, 21st October – Future NATO exercises, the NATO Readiness Action Plan and operational and tactical linkages were a few of the topics discussed during today's meeting of the Baltic region Chiefs

of Defence with the Commander Joint Force Command (JFC) Brunssum. The event took place at the Joint Forces Training Centre (JFTC) Bydgoszcz, Poland during exercise Trident Joust 2014.

November 2014

Royal Air Forces Association Wings Appeal

Story by Cpl Zoe Fowler, Photos by CPO Henk van der Velde, PAO JFC Brunssum



A variety of cakes were baked and sold during the cake sale.

The Royal Air Forces Association Liaison Committee at Joint Force Command Brunssum recently organized a mixture of events in support of the annual RAFA Wings Appeal. Throughout September collection tins, together with trays of pin badges and wristbands, were placed in various locations around the HQs. Pin badges, in particular those depicting historic aircraft, proved very popular amongst our international colleagues.

A cake sale was hosted at the UK Support Unit on Friday 19th September 2014. Cakes, provided through the generosity of the UK community and supported by ingredient donations from Tetley and Douwe Egberts were again, a massive hit with HQs personnel. Trays of cakes disappeared at a rapid rate and a long queue formed before the sale had even started.

The event concluded with a raffle. An iPad Mini was the star prize, thanks to a monetary contribution from RAFA Club, Limburg. Other prizes included wine,

goody bags, aftershave, vouchers and chocolates, kindly donated by RAFA's Amsterdam Branch, B&S Store at JFC Brunssum, Lola's Cupcakes and the UK Community. Ticket sales topped 400 thanks to the persuasive efforts of committee members and the lure of the star prize, giving the fund a significant boost. The draw itself was carried out by Group Captain Sean O'Connor,

the Senior RAF Officer at Brunssum, and Flight Lieutenant Mike Shaw, the RAFA Liaison Officer. In all, the events raised just over 1000 Euros – a fantastic achievement given that this is a multinational and tri-service unit, with only circa 70 RAF personnel, is alive and kicking in NATO. The next challenge is to make next year's event even bigger and better ...



Group Captain Sean O'Connor and Flight Lieutenant Mike Shaw execute the raffle draw.

The 6th International NATO and Partnership for Peace Non Commissioned Officer Camp – Split, Croatia

Story by Staff Sergeant (SSG / OR6) Denny Horton, U.S. Army



The 6th International NATO and Partnership for Peace (PfP) Non Commissioned Officer (NCO) Camp was held in Split-Croatia, from 31 August to 8 September 2014, and was hosted by Croatian Armed Forces (CAF), Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Petek.

The main purpose of this camp was to strengthen and build relationships, promote professional development, and share experiences amongst NATO and PfP NCOs. The CAF taught us much about their beautiful country, capabilities and assets. They hosted representatives from several nations and NATO organisations including Joint Force Commands (JFC) Naples and Brunssum, with the latter represented by myself, SSG Denny Horton from the finance branch.

We were hosted at the Lora Naval Base. Activities included lectures, workshops, visits, outdoor activities and guest speakers. Lectures focused on CAF capabilities and were given by senior Croatian NCOs. Participants also presented briefings about their own NCO

Corps. Guest speakers included the Afghanistan Ground Forces CSM and the JFC Brunssum Command Senior Enlisted Leader (CSEL), CSM Joe Ramsay. There were many challenging maritime outdoor activities including: basic seamanship skills, rowing, search and rescue techniques, rafting and sailing. There was also live-fire training with the Croatian Army, where we could shoot with the new VHS-K automatic rifle, the old AK47 and the HS pistol. Official visits were conducted to the Croatian Navy Flotilla (Split), the Guards Motorized Brigade (Knin), and Zadar Air Force Base (Zadar AFB). At Zadar AFB, we saw the Croatian Aerobatic Display Team, Krila Oluje, which means Wings of Storm. In the evenings we had free time which we used to tour the many beautiful areas of Split.

In closing, I would like to thank the Croatian Armed Forces for a very professional, well organized, and meaningful camp, that strengthened relationships and generated substantial mutual respect, while providing a 'once in a lifetime' experience in an unforgettable environment. All of this was possible due to the professionalism, energy, and knowledge of the staff of the 6th International NATO and PfP NCO Camp.



Svend Gilling: Longest Serving Member of NATO to Retire

Written by Sergeant Major Libbie A. Adams, U.S. Army, NCIA Sector Brunssum



Svend Gilling

When Svend Gilling joined the Danish Air Force in August 1967, he never realized he would become the longest serving person to fill military and, subsequently, NATO civilian PE positions within the Alliance on a continuous basis. Now at the end of his career, Svend will have served NATO for 45 years and 8 months upon his retirement. He has worked in a myriad of positions since starting work with NATO in February 1969, and has experienced first-hand the significant evolution and advancement of NATO communications and technology since his early days working within Allied Command Europe (ACE).

Gilling joined the Danish Air Force, on a six year contract as an apprentice, working towards an electronic engineer qualification. At that time, the Danish Air Force Electronic Engineer Apprenticeship was widely regarded the best such program in Denmark; successful completion leading to the award of a highly respected formal civilian qualification as an electrical engineer. Back in the 1960s, to justify the civilian qualification, this program even taught the apprentices to work on the recently introduced Phase Alternating Line (PAL) color television.

In February 1969, Svend was selected to serve in his first NATO PE position. He worked on the ACE High system, which dates back to 1956, and was decommissioned in the late 1980s. As he describes it, "the system was like a satellite system without the satellite." ACE High was built to be the back-bone of NATO's communications system, stretching from northern Norway to eastern Turkey, using an

Ultra High Frequency (UHF) Tropospheric Forward Scatter radio system - utilizing the Fresnel effect in the troposphere one-and-a-half kilometers above the earth's surface. The system could shoot a one Gigahertz (GHz) signal over a 400 kilometer distance. This provided long-range communication services for both telephonic and telegraphic services for NATO. There were 82 stations, located in nine different NATO countries. This allowed the Alliance to overcome the differing cross-border connections that existed between various NATO nations.

In 1969, Gilling attended a four-and-a-half month course at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) Centralized Training Facility (SCTF) at an Air Force base in Latina, Italy where, from 1983 to 1987, he became a military instructor in the then renamed NATO Communications School (NCS Latina). In 1987, Gilling decided to end his contract with the Danish Air Force and pursue a career path as a NATO civilian. Having successfully applied for his boss's post he became an Instructor Team leader supervising military instructors at NCS Latina.

In 1999, Gilling took up a position as a Satellite Station Engineer in Denmark. He served there until 2005, when the station was closed. In 2005, he moved to a new post created in the Alternate Control Center (ACC) at Northwood, England, as a SATCOM controller; in 2010, when the ACC moved to Brunssum, the Netherlands, so did Gilling. He has served in the Brunssum ACC until his retirement.

Svend commented that his favorite assignment was Northwood because, as a young technician, he could always call the Control Centre (in those days in AFNORTH,



Mrs. Dorte Gilling, Mr. Svend Gilling and Mr. Chris Romney (Chief Operations centre, NCIA SHAPE, Mons, Belgium)

Oslo) and know he would receive the best qualified assistance with his problems. Later, when he worked at Northwood, he became one of the professionals he had admired so much as a young technician. He stated during his interview: "This (Northwood) is also where I got the big picture of things."

Svend Gilling leaves behind a legacy within the NATO communications arena, not to mention some very big shoes to fill. He bequeaths his legacy through the NATO members he taught and the communications he enabled, but takes with him a plethora of knowledge. Words cannot properly express the Agency's gratitude for the contributions, impact and wisdom he brought to the NATO Communications Information Agency. He will long be remembered for the vast contributions he made to our organization. Thank you Svend Gilling for all you have done! Svend and his wife, Dorte, will reside in their new home in Denmark. He looks forward to spending quality time with his wife, and family.

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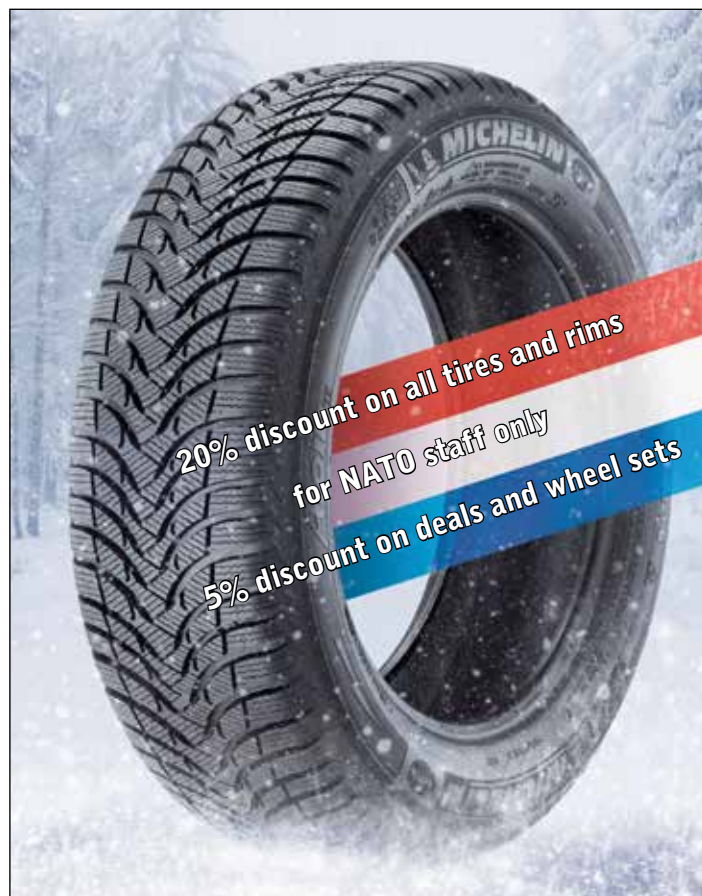
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2. Ontmoetingscentrum Limburgse Veteranen "Het Eldershoes" in Heerlen
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AFNORTH International School

2014 Terry Fox Run Campaign

Story by Brian Abdallah, Photo by OR-6 Guus Ruijsbroek, JFC Brunssum, Protocol



"Terry Fox Run Committee members, sponsors and school administration presenting the 3700 Euros donation to Marianna van Haren and Marlies Decker of the Dutch Cancer Society."

The Terry Fox Run fundraising campaign for 2014 was very successful as a total of 3700 Euros was raised for cancer research. The campaign would not have been a success without the generous support of our community. All funds were donated to the Dutch Cancer Society.

Perfect autumn weather greeted the enthusiastic participants from International Year 1 (pre-kindergarten) to High School, plus family and extended members of the AFNORTH community. Mr. Guest got everyone moving before the run with an energetic warm-up. The run opened with an official ribbon cutting ceremony by the

school administration, representing the Canadian, German, United States and British national sections. The master of ceremonies, Mr. Dalkowski, kept the participants motivated with his frequent announcements. During the run, those taking part were able to cool down with the help of 700 bottles of water generously donated to the event by the B&S store at JFC Brunssum. At the conclusion of the event, runners and walkers alike were able to replenish their spent energy with a delicious apple provided by the American Elementary Parent/Teacher Association. Thank-you to everyone who contributed to making the Terry Fox Run another great success!

The Terry Fox Run Committee would like to express our sincerest gratitude for the generous contributions made by our community.

Thank you,
Sincerely,
Brian Abdallah, Chairman
The Terry Fox Run Committee

470th Air Base Squadron

Airman & Family Readiness Center

Story by Autumn Lombardi



Picture provided by Staff Sergeant Andrew Caber, 470th ABS

Under a sky of soft blue, in sunny spring-like weather the members of the 470th Air Base Squadron participated in a morale-boosting Squadron Sports Day. The event began with a camaraderie run in formation complete with various cadence calls. The run fostered a sense of togetherness and got the day off on (your left...your left) right foot!

"During the squadron run, we were all in the same step, on the same path and going to the same place, so our camaraderie

naturally shines through," said Technical Sergeant Christian Navarro, 470th Air Base Squadron, event coordinator.

Members from the entire unit took part in various sporting events. "The goal of our Squadron Sports Day is to get everyone out of the office, enjoying themselves and to build relationships that ultimately help us better perform the mission," said TSgt Navarro. The rest of the day was filled with basketball, volleyball, racquetball, ultimate Frisbee, football, and kickball. After the sporting events the group gathered for a Bar-B-Que. After the participants had their fill of hamburgers and hot dogs it was time for dessert – pie in the face that is. The booster club had a very fun and successful fundraising event with the pie in the face contest.

The Squadron Sports Day concluded with a coin design contest. The squadron members voted on their favorite design and the winning entry went to Mr. Ed Carter, 470th Air Base Squadron, and community readiness consultant.

Lieutenant Colonel Brady Vaira, 470th ABS Commander said that "our overall goal was to enhance squadron morale with sporting events in a competitive, yet fun-focused environment." Lt Col Vaira added, "We had a wonderful day filled with esprit de corps, friendly competition, and at the end of the day, the Mighty Bison had a chance to get to know each other a little bit better."



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WHEN YOU PLAY, WE WORK HARDER



07 NOV 2014 FRI

INTERSTELLAR

Matthew McConaughey
Anne Hathaway

169 min

1900



21 NOV 2014 FRI

THE HUNGER GAMES: MOCKINGJAY PT1

Jennifer Lawrence
Julianne Moore

119 min

1900



08 NOV 2014 SAT

BIG HERO 6

Scott Adsit
Ryan Potter

93 min

1600



22 NOV 2014 SAT

THE BOXTROLLS

Isaac Hempstead Wright
Ben Kingsley

97 min

1600



08 NOV 2014 SAT

THE IDENTICAL

Blake Rayne
Ray Liotta

107 min

1900



22 NOV 2014 SAT

MAZE RUNNER

Dylan O'Brien
Kaya Scodelario

113 min

1900



14 NOV 2014 FRI

A WALK AMONG THE TOMBSTONES

Liam Neeson
Boyd Holbrook

114 min

1900



28 NOV 2014 FRI

HORRIBLE BOSSES 2

Jason Bateman
Charlie Day

108 min

1900



15 NOV 2014 SAT

DUMB AND DUMBER TO

Jim Carrey
Jeff Daniels

110 min

1600



29 NOV 2014 SAT

THE PENGUINS OF MADAGASCAR

John DiMaggio
Tom McGrath

--- min

1600



15 NOV 2014 SAT

THIS IS WHERE I LEAVE YOU

Jason Bateman
Tina Fey

103 min

1900



29 NOV 2014 SAT

THE EQUALIZER

Denzel Washington
Chloë Grace Moretz

131 min

1900

Country	: Germany
Capital	: Berlin
Location	: Western Europe
Land Boundaries	: 3,694 km
Coastline	: 2,389 km
Population	:
Area	:

Location : Germany is in Western and Central Europe, with Denmark bordering to the north, Poland and the Czech Republic to the east, Austria and Switzerland to the south, France and Luxembourg to the southwest, and Belgium and the Netherlands to the northwest. It lies mostly between latitudes 47° and 55° N (the tip of Sylt is just north of 55°), and longitudes 5° and 16° E. The territory covers 357,021 km² (137,847 sq mi), consisting of 349,223 km² (134,836 sq mi) of land and 7,798 km² (3,011 sq mi) of water. It is the seventh largest country by area in Europe and the 62nd largest in the world. Elevation ranges from the mountains of the Alps (highest point: the Zugspitze at 2,962 metres or 9,718 feet) in the south to the shores of the North Sea (Nordsee) in the northwest and the Baltic Sea (Ostsee) in the northeast. The forested uplands of central Germany and the lowlands of northern Germany (lowest point: Wilstermarsch at 3.54 metres or 11.6 feet below sea level) are traversed by such major rivers as the Rhine, Danube and Elbe. Glaciers are found in the Alpine region, but are experiencing deglaciation. Significant natural resources are iron ore, coal, potash, timber, lignite, uranium, copper, natural gas, salt, nickel, arable land and water

Economy:

GDP	: \$3.876 trillion (2014 estimate)
GDP per Capita	: \$41,248
GDP per sector	: agriculture: 0.8%, industry: 28%, services: 71.2% (2012 est.)

Budget:

Revenues	: \$1.511 trillion (2012 est.)
Expenses	: \$1.507 trillion (2012 est.)
Currency	: Euro (€)

Main Industries :iron and steel, coal, cement, mineral fuels, chemicals, plastics, production machinery, vehicles, trains, machine tools, electronics, food and beverages, shipbuilding, space and aircraft, optical and medical apparatus, pharmaceuticals, textiles, agriculture

Exports	: \$1.492 trillion (2012 est.)
Export goods	: motor vehicles, machinery, chemicals, computer and electronic products, electrical equipment, pharmaceuticals, metals, transport equipment, foodstuffs, textiles, rubber and plastic products
Main Export partners	: France 10.2%, United Kingdom 7.0%, Netherlands 6.9%, United States 6.3%, Austria 5.6%, Italy 5.4%, China 5.1%, Switzerland 4.7%, (2012 est.)
Exports	: \$1.276 trillion (2012 est.)
Imports	: \$1.276 trillion (2012 est.)
Import goods	: machinery, data processing equipment, vehicles, chemicals, oil and gas, metals, electric equipment, pharmaceuticals, foodstuffs, agricultural products
Main Import partners	: Netherlands 14.0%, France 7.5%, China 6.7%, Belgium 6.4%, Italy 5.5%, United Kingdom 4.9%, Austria 4.4%, Russia 4.4%, (2012 est.)



When did you arrive in the Netherlands and which position have you taken?
I arrived in November 2013 to work as Head of Protocol.

Tell us about your Military Career?

I joined the German Air Force in 1982. After completing my flying training in California, USA, I flew the Phantom F-4F fighter at Neuburg/Donau and later, after converting to the Tornado at Cottesmore, GBR, I was posted to the Fighterbomber Wing at Memmingen. Both wings are in Bavaria. In 1996 I was assigned at Squadron Commander of 1st Sq FBW 34 "Allgäu". Altogether, I have more than 2350 flying hours in fast jets. In 1998 I attended the Joint Services Command and Staff College at Bracknell, GBR. From 1999 to 2001 I was appointed as Branch Head Air C2 at Airnorth Ramstein. From there I moved to the USA again where I served as an exchange officer to Air Combat Command, Langley AFB, Virginia, in the tactics and weaponizing branch from September 2001 to summer 2004. After that I had several appointments at MOD Berlin: first as a Protocol Officer for three years; then Deputy Head of Protocol for another three years; followed by another 3.5 years at the Attaché Branch (which I led as acting branch head).

Do you have any experience with other international missions?

My whole military career has been shaped by international missions – SFOR for example – and others as well as international relationships based on my area of responsibility while working abroad, in protocol or in the attaché environment.

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

Protocol is commonly described as a set of international courtesy rules. It specifies the proper and generally accepted behaviour in matters of state and diplomacy. HQ JFC Protocol includes responsibility for organizing the manner in which NATO is represented at official celebrations and days of remembrance; the correct and appropriate form for official visits, talks and negotiations; public appearances in the format of Distinguished Visitor Days during exercises or similar occasions; and specific details such as the correct form of address for guests, the seating of guests at talks or the table, the appropriate motorcade and transport plan. Additionally timing, management and execution of a wider variety of Command Group activities fall under the JFC Brunssum protocol area of responsibility at home or abroad. HQ JFC Brunssum protocol is the service provider to the Command Group in all representative matters and activities. It carries out this task by preparing, organizing, managing and executing official visits and events at any place and time. Thus, my people are the most important resource for a successful mission. As Branch Head I am responsible for my co-workers in all aspects of life and consider this my biggest challenge.

Is your family here with you?

My wife, Birgit, is living with her daughter (18) and her son (20) in our house in Germany. My son (24) lives and works in Berlin, my daughter (22) studies in Heidelberg.

What are your hobbies?

In my leisure time I like to do sports like cycling and gym work-outs. I also enjoy reading and, on weekends, I like to cook. Whenever it fits in our schedule my wife and I like to travel as much as possible.

What do you like in your job?

I like to organise events as well as to communicate in an international environment. Protocol is the right place to do so. Protocol is managing timed projects. You never know what challenges you will face the next day, which makes the job so interesting and flexibility is always necessary. Subsequently you get to know a lot of interesting people in person. Finally, you always get a result at the end of a program. I truly enjoy being a protocol expert.

Your future plans?

Looking back over my last ten years I was working protocol or attaché business. I want to stay in this environment either as chief of protocol in Germany or as an attaché at a German embassy.

Did you know? A Modern Sistine Chapel in the Centre of Rotterdam

By Ed Frieser - Data from several websites - Photo's by Rick Ligthelm

In this edition I would like to inform you about a more recent subject: The “Markthal” or Market Hall, situated in the original centre of Rotterdam. A unique supersized psychedelic marketplace, which construction started by the end of 2009. A new urban typology, a hybrid of market and housing. It took five years to build the Market Hall and cost €175 Million. Dutch Queen Maxima officially opened the building on 1 October 2014. It is expected to attract 4,5 to 7 million visitors each year.



The ‘Markthal’ is the first covered food market of the Netherlands, drawing inspiration from food markets in Stockholm, Barcelona and Valencia. It is a combination of food, leisure, living and parking and measures 117 meters and a width of 71 meters, the size of a large football pitch. The building is designed with an open character. The open sides had to be closed to prevent rain and cold from entering, but kept as transparent as possible by opting for a single glazed cable net façade. Comparable to a tennis racket, pre-stressed steel cables create a suspended net in-between, which the glass panes are hung. Markthal's cable net façade is the largest of its kind in Europe and flexible to withstand heavy storms.

Food Market

Visitors will be able to shop, eat, enjoy a drink on the terrace, live and park their car, all underneath the tall arch of 40 meters height. The roof of the market hall is an arch accommodating 228 apartments; and this combination of market hall and housing makes it even more special. The ‘Markthal’ includes 100 fresh market produce stalls, food related retail units, preparation and cooling space, a supermarket, and 1.200 parking spaces. They will offer a diverse range of products: from fresh fish to game,

from cappuccino to cheese, from Chinese to Dutch, from ice cream to local produce, from bargains to exclusive slow food. The ground and first floor accommodate 20 retail units, restaurants and cafés. All shops are food-related and include a crockery- and a wine shop. A supermarket is located on the 1st underground level allowing the shoppers to complete their shopping under one roof. ‘The World of Taste’, a centre for education, information and innovation in the field of healthy eating will open on 1st January 2015. During the day it serves as a central market hall, but in the evening the hall becomes an enormous, covered, well lit public space.

Cornucopia

What makes it even more special is that the roof of this enormous Market Hall shows a gigantic art tableau that was created by Dutch artists Arno Coenen and Iris Roskam. The decorated ceiling of 11,000 m² is as large as the size of two football fields. It is titled ‘Cornucopia’ or Horn of Plenty and shows oversized images of market produce which can be bought at the market, while the flowers and insects refer to the work of Dutch still life masters from the 17th century. Looking up you will see gigantic fishes, fruits vegetables, and mushrooms. You will experience it as if you are an insect; the feeling and astonishment that will prompt you to believe you are Alice

in Wonderland.

As author Oliver Wainwright describes it: “A four-story high raspberry tumbles past a tree-sized floret of broccoli, while gigantic prawns plummet towards a pile of mega-mange tout. In Rotterdam's new market hall, you'd be forgiven for thinking you'd slipped down a rabbit hole into Wonderland, where a panorama of supersized fruit and veg rains down across



the ceiling. It's a Sistine chapel of fresh produce. As if this wasn't trippy enough, you then notice bedroom windows peeping out from a lemon, and someone doing the washing up inside the stone of an avocado. It turns out the majestic vaulted ceiling of this new temple to food is also inhabited – it's an apartment block of 230 flats, bent double over the food hall in hallucinogenic wonder.” How well described, and being in the Netherlands an absolute must to see.

Also see <http://www.mvrdv.nl/projects/markethall/gallery.html>



I WAS 20 IN 14

An emotionally charged tour with poignant displays and large-format snapshots of everyday life on and behind the frontline. Lots of authentic exhibits from public and private collections from all over the world. Original sounds and pictures take visitors through the defining moments of the «Great War».

In the prologue the pre-war belle époque era, the festive, carefree and nonchalant ambience was suddenly interrupted by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo.

The exhibition is split in 7 themes, as if you were there:

1. military chiefs
2. soldiers
3. doctors
4. civilians
5. artists
6. members of the resistance
7. the victors

In the epilogue, the immediate post-war period is dominated by reconstructive surgery of disfigured soldiers known as the 'broken faces' and the rise of the new world order.

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Immersion

Walk through an ultra-realistic 30-metre long trench with striking sound and light effects.

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Winners Jenever Museum

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

Tickets won by:

Sheena Pedersen	NAPMA
Tara Sarik	JFCBS/BSG
David Smeeth	NCIA Sector
	Brunssum

Book Review



Masters of the Air by Donald L. Miller

The riveting history of the American Eighth Air Force in World War Two, the story of the young men who flew the bombers that helped bring Nazi Germany to its knees, brilliantly told by historian Donald Miller and soon to be a major HBO series.

Masters of the Air is the deeply personal story of the American bomber boys in World War II who brought the war to Hitler's doorstep. With the narrative power of fiction, Donald Miller takes you on a harrowing ride through the fire-filled skies over Berlin, Hanover, and Dresden and describes the terrible cost of bombing for the German people.

Fighting at 25,000 feet in thin, freezing air that no warriors had ever encountered before, bomber crews battled new kinds of assaults on body and mind. Air combat was deadly but intermittent: periods of inactivity and anxiety were followed by short bursts of fire and fear. Unlike infantrymen, bomber boys slept on clean sheets, drank beer in local pubs, and danced to the swing music of Glenn Miller's Air Force band, which toured US air bases in England. But they had a much greater chance of dying than ground soldiers.

The bomber crews were an elite group of warriors who were a microcosm of America—white America, anyway. The actor Jimmy Stewart was a bomber boy, and so was the "King of Hollywood," Clark Gable. And the air war was filmed by Oscar-winning director William Wyler and covered by reporters like Andy Rooney and Walter Cronkite, all of whom flew combat missions with the men. The Anglo-American bombing campaign against Nazi Germany was the longest military campaign of World War II, a war within a war. Until Allied soldiers crossed into Germany in the final months of the war, it was the only battle fought inside the German homeland.

Masters of the Air is a story of life in wartime England and in the German prison camps, where tens of thousands of airmen spent part of the war. It ends with a vivid description of the grisly hunger marches captured airmen were forced to make near the end of the war through the country their bombs destroyed.

Drawn from recent interviews, oral histories, and American, British, German, and other archives, Masters of the Air is an authoritative, deeply moving account of the world's first and only bomber war.



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For more information please contact Ed Frieser, Director of Communications and PR via ed.frieser@eaters.nl See also our website: www.eaters.nl



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

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