



Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum Terry Fox Run – Thank You for Your Support

Commander HQ JFC Brunssum
Situational Awareness Trip to
Afghanistan - ISAF: remaining 'on
mission'

The NATO Triathlon Team Brunssum:
What a year!

Did you Know? - 11 November a day
of contrasts



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Editorial Staff

Col Martin Klein, DEU A
Chief Public Affairs Office

Maj Vanessa Hillman, US F
Coordination Officer
and acting Editor in chief

MSgt Jan Hecht, DEU A
Contributing Editor

Jaroslava Augustinova,
Contributing Editor

About the Cover



Photo by MSgt Jan Hecht, Organized by the Canadian Delegation of the NATO Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, this year's 'Terry Fox Run' was again conducted in the beautiful Brunssummerheide park trails.

Command Group Corner

It is difficult for me to comprehend that I have now been at HQ JFC Brunssum since February. Previously the Governor of the Netherlands Defence Academy, in Breda, time has moved quickly – too quickly. Even since I arrived, we have undertaken NRF standby, transitioned to a new manning structure, reviewed our main staffing processes, evolved our professional development and begun the process of changing to a deployable headquarters. Indeed, many of you will be deployed to Bydgoszcz, on Exercise Bold Dragon, when this edition is published, as evidence of our changing role. Other personnel will be preparing to take up post in ISAF next year.

What is clear is that we have moved from planning transition to living many of the changes. So far, I have been impressed how the Brunssum team has adapted to its new organisational structure, adopted some 'leaner' working procedures and kept focused during an increasing number of large-scale commitments. Our challenges will of course remain: undermanning, increased individual and collective training and greater pressure on personnel to do 'more with less'. For my part, I intend to work with the Command Group to prioritise our commitments wisely, ensure that direction is clearly understood and we manage our tasks as efficiently as we can. This will mean difficult decisions, but I simply look at these as 'challenges of the job', and I am pleased with progress to date. Most importantly, we have to ensure that our support to operations remains unaffected, not least in ISAF. I am also intent on making sure that those of you deploying to ISAF next year are prepared fully for your respective tours ahead and that you, and your families, receive every assistance from this headquarters while you are away.

Whilst good leadership and management are obviously important, I am the first to recognise that this is meaningless without highly professional and motivated personnel. Few people can boast that they work with a staff from over 30 member

and partner nations, with so much diversified experience and such a cosmopolitan outlook. I, again, include our families whose invaluable contribution can never be taken for granted. In fact, my wife, Marie-Jose, and I have met with many of family members here and recognise and praise the strong sense of community that we have seen, at first-hand, at Brunssum. This will become even more important as we continue to evolve our operational role in the future.

At this time of change, I would ask that we all reflect on the many advantages of being at Brunssum in interesting times, when our role has never been more relevant. Many thanks to all of you for working through many of the professional challenges we have experienced during the year. I cannot predict that the pressure will go down, but I do know that your professionalism, flexibility, positive approach – and even humour – will all be good personal tools for the challenges ahead. As I have said, time moves too fast, so also enjoy your time here in the Netherlands and get the most from the international environment. I view it as a privilege to serve at JFC Brunssum and look forward to continuing to work together, with all members of the headquarters, in our future roles and tasks.



Lieutenant General Richard G. Tieskens, Chief of Staff HQ JFC Brunssum

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Six Nations One Goal - Better NCO

Story by Cpl. Anthony Ward Jr 1 Marine Expeditionary Force (Fwd) Regional Command Southwest

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan - Non-commissioned officers (NCO) representing various services throughout NATO and ISAF gathered on Camp Leatherneck for the Coalition Non-commissioned Officer Symposium.



The symposium called for a combination of NCOs and staff NCOs to lead, discuss and demonstrate various skills and exchange information on how to better the NCO corps and enhance the responsibility the position brings.

The symposium called for a combination of NCOs and staff NCOs to lead, discuss and demonstrate various skills and exchange information on how to better the NCO corps and enhance the responsibility the position brings.

Six countries were represented throughout the symposium to include United States, Danish, Tongan, Afghan, Jordanian and Bahraini forces.

"The importance of the NCO is to know the rules and regulations of the military and be the embodiment of them and enforce them," said Staff Sgt. Kevin P. O'Reilly, an instructor.

"They provide a critical link between the junior Marines and the senior enlisted as well as the officers," said SSgt. Kyle K. Lammerding, an instructor. "They have a unique opportunity to be in a position to mould, train, lead and mentor those who are below them, with them and above them every single day."

The two-day symposium was lead by Lammerding, O'Reilly and a third Marine

Staff Sgt. Gabriel H. Torres. During the evolution, they touched on many subjects to include the background of each Armed Force represented, warrior ethos classes, enhanced marksmanship and included a first aid/combat lifesaver course.

"We were really excited that all six nations represented have participated and volunteered, everybody had a great attitude," said O'Reilly. "I think it's been a great success because everybody's participating and we're finding that all six nations involved share very similar views on the military."

"This is what the coalition NCO symposium is all about," said Lammerding. "That's to provide a platform for NCOs to mentor, strengthen and reinforce relationships and understandings amongst the coalition NCO force. Making everyone stronger because we're in this together, one team, one fight."

The NCOs in attendance did not hesitate to turn the words into action. They frequently asked questions and

sought out answers to further their knowledge of their fellow NCOs wearing a different uniform.

"I liked it, it dug into how everyone is from all around the world, but we all have similar beliefs on how to operate and do things," said Cpl.

William Blecha, a symposium attendant.

"Coming together in the beginning was a little awkward, everyone wasn't so talkative," said Blecha. "After a little while, we started opening up and saw that all of our views were virtually the same on leadership, tactics."

The symposium allowed for an exchange of ideas and thoughts by an important group of service members, the non-commissioned officers.

Bringing such a diverse group of countries together to discuss matters can do nothing but strengthen the leadership and abilities of the NCOs involved.

NATO Flagship Offers Medical Assistance to Somali People

Story and Photo by PAO HQ MC Northwood

The NATO flagship HNLMS Rotterdam was able to deliver medical assistance off the northeast coast of Somalia, while conducting its counter piracy mission in Operation Ocean Shield 3 September. Shortly after sunrise, Rotterdam anchored a few miles off the coast near the village of Bandar Murcayo and deployed a medical team and improvised facilities via landing craft.



Dutch medic from HNLMS Rotterdam working with Somali patients

As the craft approached the coastline, the villagers used small boats to reach the medical team aboard the landing craft, where they were able to receive basic medical examinations and assistance. The following day, the flagship moved to the coast off Xabo and provided similar medical assistance for the people there.

During the two-day operation, the medical team provided assistance to over 150 villagers. "During these medical visits we saw a lot of villagers with a variety of medical issues" said Surgeon Capt. Chris Bleeker, the anaesthetist on board the flagship who led the deployed medical team. "Some people were able to be treated fully; others were offered partial treatment within the facilities available. All the villagers were happy to receive medical attention, some for the first time ever, and all went back home smiling", said Capt. Bleeker.

The provision of this type of medical support is not an integral part of the Operation Ocean Shield Mandate, but is occasionally conducted when resources and the tactical situation permit. The NATO task force is in the region to conduct maritime operations off the Horn of Africa in to deter and disrupt pirate activities in conjunction with other nations and organisations. NATO and other deployed naval forces maintain international law on the High Seas, reduce threats to international shipping routes and assist in stabilizing the maritime environment in the region.

With the counter piracy effort increasingly effective and the number of pirate attacks low because of the current monsoon period, HNLMS Rotterdam has used this quiet time to go out and meet the local population at sea. "To further improve our effectiveness, we must seek ways to stop the pirates from going to sea in the first place," said Commodore Ben Bekkering,

Commander of NATO Task Force 508. "Our ships patrolled coastal waters, talking to dhows and skiffs and listening to the stories of the crews. This effort led to a meeting two weeks ago between a group of village elders from the region and myself on board Rotterdam. There, elders requested general support, to reassure the people and create an atmosphere where villagers stand up against the pirates and inform authorities of their activities. This medical assistance is an example of how the NATO ships can use their facilities to help the Somali people. Looking at all the faces on board the landing craft, we can leave knowing we have made a small difference to the lives of these villagers and have been able to put our skills to practical use. For us this is a small step, but for the mission this is considerable progress."

Allied Force Command Heidelberg Farewells Major General De Vos

Story by Capt. Tamara Gonzales, Photos by Staff Sgt. Dwight Chaney

“Major General Hubert De Vos is recognized for his dedication to the command and the community,” said Commander Allied Force Command Heidelberg, LTG John W. Morgan III, during a farewell ceremony held August 30th at Campbell Barracks, Heidelberg.



Commander Allied Force Command Heidelberg, LTG John W. Morgan III, says farewell to Maj. Gen. Hubert De Vos, the outgoing operations chief of staff, August 30th.

Maj. Gen. De Vos spent the past three years serving with the headquarters. He started his assignment by leading the headquarters' advance party in a deployment to Afghanistan in support of the International Security Assistance Force. During his deployment, he served as the Deputy Chief of Staff Resources in Headquarters ISAF.

In this position, he was responsible for the five functional branches of personnel, logistics, communication and information systems, engineer and medical along with commanding several organizations such as the Base Support Group and the Joint Coordinating Body. Most recently he served as Chief of Staff, Deployable Joint Staff Element 2, and finally, after internal reorganization to meet mission requirements, Maj. Gen. De Vos served as the Chief of Staff, Operations.

“He is a good leader who cares about his people, taking time to visit with them and always keeping his door open for them,” said Maj. Guido Laurent who volunteered to deploy in order to serve as Maj. Gen. De Vos' military aide in May 2010 and continued his duties when they returned. Since then, Maj. Gen. De Vos has played

a key role in synchronizing Allied Force Command Heidelberg's support to Operation Unified Protector, the NATO operation that supported the people of Libya, the Kosovo Force where NATO continues to provide forces to protect the population, and the successful execution of successive rotations of ISAF personnel.

Most recently, Maj. Gen. De Vos led the way as the Forward Element's Chief of Staff for the NATO Response Force, a capability that NATO maintains in order to deploy when required by the alliance for NATO military operations during which the headquarters earned its certification. It successfully executed exercise Steadfast Juncture 2011 including deploying members of the headquarters to Lithuania and exercising the Deployable Joint Staff Element.

“The key thing I would like to say about Major General De Vos is his way to develop a team and keep it that way,” said Allied Force Command Heidelberg Director of Staff Col. Mark Hodgson.

Maj. Gen. De Vos concluded the ceremony with personal thoughts. “To the entire staff, to each one of you without exception, my most sincere thanks for making these three years into one of the highlights of

my professional career. It has been a true honor and pleasure to have served with you here at Force Command Heidelberg,” said Maj. Gen. De Vos.



Maj. Gen. Hubert De Vos, Allied Force Command Heidelberg operations chief of staff, stands one last time in front of the headquarters' formation as he prepares to say farewell to the unit he has been a member of for the past three years.

Allied Air Forces and Forward Air Controllers Train in the Czech Republic during Exercise Ramstein Rover 2012 (RARO12)

Story by HQ AC Ramstein Public Affairs Office, Photos by all RARO12 JMIC

First aircraft arrive

Tuesday, 4 September 2012, 1040 local- a fourship of United States Air Force A-10 "Thunderbolt" fighters arrive in the airspace above the 22nd Air Base at Namest nad Oslevou in the south of the Czech Republic. It is the first time this type of aircraft lands at this Czech air base. The A-10 come in a formation, do a flyover and then break away one after the other to land at Namest. As they roll into their parking position another A-10 four-ship comes in to touch down.

With these eight air-to-ground fighter aircraft arriving, RARO12 finally gets going. As the engines are shut down, German Air Force Colonel (General Staff) MSc Harry H. Schnell, the RARO12 Exercise Director, and Colonel Miroslav Svoboda, senior Czech officer at RARO12, step up to welcome Lieutenant-Colonel Clinton Eichelberger, US Air Force, the detachment commander of the eight A-10s from 81st Fighter Wing based at Spangdahlem, Germany. The A-10 will fly Close Air Support or CAS missions to support soldiers on the ground during fictitious training scenarios of RARO12 based on the Allied operations in Afghanistan.

When five Turkish F-16s as well as a German Learjet on Friday and two German PC-9s and an L-39 fighter and an Mi-17 from Slovakia arrived Friday and Saturday, the flying assets partaking in RARO12 were complete at their temporary stationing base near the Moravian town of Namest nad Oslavu.

All assets in place

The Turkish F-16s flew in from Diyarbakir in the southeast of Turkey. The squadron is specialized in all types of Close Air Support or CAS mission, which are at the centre of RARO12. The German Learjet detachment is normally stationed at Hohn Air Base in the north of Germany and provided by a German contractor offering full motion



A US Air Force A-10 deploying flares above the Libava training area in the Czech Republic during Exercise Ramstein Rover 2012.



Royal Netherlands Marines' Forward Air Controllers at work at Boletice training area with a Czech Air Force Mi-17 helicopter in the background.

video capability and other equipment to support the FAC training. The Slovak Air Force L-39 fighter from Sliac Air Base in Slovakia is a light combat and training aircraft supports FAC missions just as the Slovak Air Force Mi-17M helicopter from Presov Air Base. The helicopter is specialized in transport and paratrooper

operations, CAS and Search and Rescue (SAR) as well as fire fighting and air reconnaissance missions. The two distinct red, blue and white German Pilatus PC-9 light aircraft provided by German Equipment Interior Services or E.I.S. aircraft contractor will be used for aerial target demonstration.

From 10 September on, RARO12 unfolded with an intense and challenging training programme for the FAC teams from 13 nations. These teams applied what they learned during the Pre-Deployment Training (held from 5 to 8 September) in various scenarios controlling the above aircraft at the Libava and Boletice training areas until 20 September.

RARO12 was an advanced training opportunity to exercise Close Air Support (CAS) and FAC capabilities and provided realistic pre-deployment training for FACs to be deployed to NATO's ISAF operation in Afghanistan. For NATO it is of critical importance to standardize and maintain this essential capability also for possible future missions.

A promising mid-term balance

The first week of the field training included some 300 flights of US A-10s, Turkish F-16s, German PC-9 and Learjet as well as Czech L-159, L-39, Mi-24 and Mi-17 and Slovak L-39 and Mi-17M supporting 530 FAC control runs on the ground at the five different training lanes. This clearly reflected the professionalism of pilots and FACs as well as maintainers from NATO and the host nation.



Colonel Miroslav Svoboda, senior Czech officer at RARO12, US Air Force Lieutenant-Colonel Clinton Eichelberger, the A-10 detachment commander and RARO12 Exercise Director, German Air Force Colonel (General Staff) MSc Harry H. Schnell checking plans for exercise Ramstein Rover 2012 at Apron S of Namest Air Base.

Until the end of RARO12 on 20 September, another 240 sorties were planned in support of an estimated 530 controls on the ground. This meant an ambitious programme and the exercise control staff were looking at providing similar results.

"I express my gratitude to all for their professionalism," said the RARO12 Exercise Director, Colonel (General

Staff) MSc Harry H. Schnell, "we have so far seen a remarkable enhancement of mutual understanding, paving the way for trustful cooperation between aircrews and FACs and laying the foundation for lasting friendship."

At the time the Northern Star went to print Exercise RARO12 was still ongoing



A USAF A-10 taxiing at Apron S after touching down at Namest Air Base in the Czech Republic.

Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum - Visits and Activities

Prepared by MSgt Jan Hecht, Photos by MSgt Jan Hecht, PAO JFCBS

Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command (HQ JFC) Brunssum major activities are depicted along six lines of effort within the Brunssum campaign plan. Each of these activities requires an ambitious level of constant attention and effort. Beside the Staff routine work we plan and conduct special activities like visits, trainings as well as social events on a regular basis. We would like to give you an overview about those activities by looking at a few selected events.

August 2012



23 – 24 August, HQ JFC Brunssum International Soccer Tournament

The German Delegation and our local German National Soccer Team hosted the annual HQ JFC Brunssum Soccer Tournament. The event on the Slag Heap Sports Complex was opened by

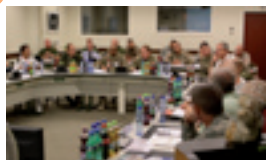
the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Richard G. Tieskens. During the two-day tournament more than 70 teams fought for the title in four different competitions. Find the results on page 22.



30 August, visit by UK policy makers

A group of eight senior policy makers, including a Member of UK Parliament, visited the HQs to learn more about HQ JFC Brunssum and, specifically, our role and views with regard to the International

Security Assistance Force mission in Afghanistan. Several briefings by HQ JFC Brunssum subject matter experts introduced the structure and missions of the headquarters, its role and responsibilities with regards to NATO's mission in Afghanistan as well as NATO Response Force. General Langheld and Major General Reynes answered a number of questions, mainly in relation to ISAF.



4 – 6 September, Medical Managing Steering Group

The Joint Medical Division HQ JFC Brunssum hosted the ISAF Multinational Medical Management Steering Group (MMSG) for ISAF Regional

Commands (RC). The main purpose of this MMSG was to coordinate medical support for ISAF RCs, with special focus on medical contributions and support during the transition process.



10 September, visit by Vice Chief of Staff SHAPE

Lieutenant General Philippe Stoltz visited NATO HQ JFC Brunssum. After being welcomed by the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Richard Tieskens, the

Vice Chief of Staff Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe received briefings on HQ JFC Brunssum's role and responsibilities in support of the ISAF mission. A summary of current high-level ISAF issues including an update on ISAF transition, as well as the planning for redeployment and the mission Post 2014 were briefed.



19 September, Professional Development Session, The role of the World Food Program

Ms. Sheila Grudem from the UN World Food Programme visited HQ JFC Brunssum as a guest

briefing. Ms. Grudem, who is a humanitarian practitioner with 18 years of progressive management experience, currently heads the World Food Programme's Humanitarian Policy and Transition Service. Her expertise ranges from refugee and human rights issues, food and nutrition security to policy development and negotiations/diplomacy. Her excellent lecture promoted a lively discussion.

28 August, Media Day 2012

Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum hosted 19 journalists from international and military media who participated in a HQ JFC Brunssum Media Day. Since General



Langheld recently returned from a situational awareness trip to Afghanistan, he shared with media representatives his personal experience and impressions. He mentioned not only many current successful developments but also challenges the 50 ISAF nations regularly face.

3 September, visit by General John R Allen

The Commander International Security Assistance Force, General John R Allen, accompanied by the Deputy Chief of Staff Operations



ISAF, Major General Sean B MacFarland visited HQ JFC Brunssum. Commander ISAF thanked the Brunssum staff for their sustained hard work. "We in Kabul deeply appreciate the tremendous support from this headquarters that we benefit from every day across all of the ISAF command", he said.

5 September, Professional Development Session, lecture by Professor Greg Kennedy

The event was centred on the rising importance of the maritime environment and the use of maritime power. Professor



Kennedy, professor of Strategic Foreign Policy at the Defence Studies Department of King's College London, discussed the increasing importance of naval power to secure sea lanes of communication and trade. Professor Kennedy highlighted the opening up of the high north and the potential dangers to the global economy posed by threats to shipping, including piracy off East and West Africa.

12 September, opening ceremony Club13

With a ribbon-cutting ceremony Major General Hans Erich Antoni, DCOS Support, re-opened Club 13 as a combined mess for all Brunssum ID card holders.



On behalf of the Chief of Staff, Major General Antoni thanked the mess committee and the people who supported the project for the work done.

In a test phase the new mess will be open every Wednesday starting. The new mess invites Brunssum ID card holders to enjoy coffee, cake, light snacks (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) or to meet colleagues for a social beer (from 4 p.m.) after work. If customer attendance remains sufficiently high, the mess may be incorporated into a new staff building west of Miner's Rest.

September 2012

Commander HQ JFC Brunssum Situational Awareness Trip to Afghanistan

General Langheld makes frequent Situational Awareness Trips to ISAF in order to gain first-hand knowledge of the mission as it is being conducted on the ground, to foster personal relationships with key players (both military and civilian) and to identify areas where his command can further assist. His overarching objective is to ensure sustained and effective out-of-Theatre support to the ISAF mission. The Commander's latest visit to Afghanistan focused on the progress of security transition from ISAF to the Afghans. During this trip he was accompanied by Sebastian Schulte, a Jane's Defence Weekly (JDW) Correspondent. Mr Schulte's report, recently published in Jane's Defence Weekly, is printed below for your information.

ISAF: remaining 'on mission'

Story by Sebastian Schulte, correspondent Jane's Defence Weekly

Despite a spike in the number of 'green on blue' attacks on coalition personnel in Afghanistan last month, ISAF officials in Kabul remain very much 'on mission'. Sebastian Schulte reports.



Gen Langheld, commander of NATO's Joint Force Command (Brunssum) in Kabul, has expressed confidence in ISAF's ability to build up Afghan security by the end of 2014, but has cautioned that "there will be no total withdrawal. NATO has fully committed to a follow-up mission". Photo by JDW ISAF: 1454278

During a visit to Afghanistan by IHS Jane's in late August, officials interviewed at International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) headquarters in Kabul remained cautiously optimistic regarding the overall security situation, their view based on an assessment of the situation on the ground over the past 16 months.

While the frequency of attacks and incidents is still significant and security for the population remains fragile, the main reason for ISAF's optimism is the overall development of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), comprising the military and police forces. The number of ANSF personnel has increased from some

194,000 in 2009 to almost 337,000 in August 2012.

The ultimate goal, of which ISAF officials are confident, is to reach a final ANSF total of 352,000 by October.

Beyond the rise in numbers, however, it is the increase in the overall quality of the NATO trained ANSF that causes ISAF to be optimistic. Currently, 50 per cent of all operations on the ground are Afghan led, along with 30 per cent of all special forces operations. While this heightened degree of autonomy has led to increased ANSF casualties, ISAF officials qualify this as being as a direct result of the ANSF taking over responsibility for confronting the enemy. "Both the quality and quantity of EIAs [enemy-initiated attacks] have

decreased in the past 16 months," said General Wolf-Dieter Langheld, commander of NATO's Joint Force Command (Brunssum) in Kabul. "We've seen complex and co-ordinated attacks involving several hundred enemy fighters with mortar support in the past. Those times are over; now it's mostly hit-and-run tactics on a very small scale."

However, the improvised explosive device (IED) remains the main cause of Afghan and ISAF casualties, despite the progress made in this field. "The Afghans have the equipment, training and the will to conduct operations," said Gen Langheld. "What we've seen is that where ISAF has returned responsibilities the ANSF have

successfully taken the initiative. I am confident that we will reach our aim to build up Afghan security by the end of 2014 as the ANSF reach their final overall personnel numbers soon and the training and mentoring programme schedules are on track. "There is still a lot to be done and NATO support will continue post-2014," the general continued. "We see that this fact has not sunk in yet, both with ISAF nations and the Afghans themselves, so let me be clear: there will be no total withdrawal. NATO has fully committed to a follow up mission, which will include a significant presence and possibly assistance to combat operations."

ISAF officials admit that some aspects of Afghan capability are not as advanced as they could be and require continuous ISAF support. While on schedule and making progress, the Afghan special forces and Afghan Air Force (AAF), for example, still have a long way to go. The main reason for this is the challenge posed by the sophistication of their work and equipment; it simply takes that much longer to train special forces and pilots. However, because progress is continuous ISAF expects Afghan special forces to start operating independently with support from advisors by late 2014 and the AAF to do the same from 2016 onward.

Operational force

On 16 July the ANA Special Operations Command (ANASOC) became operational, comprising about 10,000 special forces personnel and including a special mission air wing, while the AAF is planned to consist of 145 fixed- and rotary-wing airframes by 2016. Currently, there are 116 pilots serving in operational flying units with another 105 pilots being trained, mainly in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and the United States.

Logistics, maintenance and NCO leadership have been identified as the main areas in which the ANSF in general lack competence. The challenges of logistics and maintenance beyond combat and security skills are self-explanatory in a country that has a literacy rate of 28 per cent. There is also a certain Afghan mentality of disregarding risk, with Afghan troops ignoring basic orders and procedures designed to reduce risk and casualties. This behaviour is also reflected in the kinds of injuries ANSF casualties have sustained in the past, a significant portion of which are in the head and chest area, which should be protected. "Afghan National Police prefer to ride with 10 people on a single Ford pick-up truck, not wearing their body armour and helmets, instead of small teams of three

to four in their protected Humvees.

It's both a mentality issue and a lack of NCO leadership," an ISAF official told IHS Jane's in Kabul.

Indeed, the new buzzword in Kabul is 'Afghan Good', referring to the degree of sophistication needed by the ANSF to provide a working level of security for the Afghan people. The term acknowledges that cultural issues and the low literacy levels in Afghan society preclude the near-term establishment of Afghan security forces on a NATO standard.

'Afghan Good' also implies that the ANSF provide security with a system on their own terms. This is not yet the case, as the ANSF rely on foreign aid not just for their training but for their entire logistics train as well. Indeed, one could make the case that too much financial and material help serves as an operational narcotic for the ANSF, as vehicles and munitions magically appear.

However, commanders on the ground have reported that the Afghans have shown initiative where the umbilical cord of foreign support has been cut. Ultimately, 'Afghan Good' also implies an acceptance of higher numbers of ANSF casualties if it means they are doing things their way.

Another challenge to ISAF in bringing security to Afghanistan is the spike in 'green-on-blue' incidents, or insider attacks, in which uniformed Afghan security personnel attack their ISAF partners and mentors. While the phenomenon itself is not new and has been around for some years now, the numbers have never been as high as they are as now, with ISAF reporting 34 such attacks resulting in 45 ISAF fatalities in 2012 up to early

September. ISAF has identified two reasons that lead to such incidents: infiltration by insurgent groups; and personal grievances, for example due to cultural misunderstandings. General John R Allen, the ISAF commander, has specified that about "25 per cent [of green-on-blue incidents] we do believe are about infiltration, impersonation and coercion, while the overwhelming rest appears to be about disagreements, animosity or particular grievances". ISAF is investing a lot of effort into investigating and understanding each individual case of these insider attacks, the general noted on 23 August. "Conflict resolution in Afghanistan is too often done through violence," one ISAF official told IHS Jane's. "It is not well known, but the Afghans suffer nearly as many casualties from insider attacks as we do. This is an Afghan problem and the Afghans have been very clear to us that they intend to solve it themselves," he said.

For ISAF, it is not about green on blue; it is about green and blue.

Indeed, General Sher Mohammad Karimi, the Afghan Chief of Defence Staff, said on 22 August of green-on-blue incidents: "It's a challenge for ISAF, but it's our, the Afghan army's, problem. And we will do everything necessary to solve this problem."

While ISAF has increased its overall security for deployed troops focusing on partnering and mentoring units, the



The Afghan Local Police were hailed in 2011 as an ISAF success story, but training of these units by US special forces personnel was suspended in August to facilitate more intensive vetting following the recent spike in 'green-on-blue' attacks. Photo by JDW ISAF: 1438366

Afghan security forces have started to implement a programme that puts an emphasis on detecting possible threats early on. The measures taken include more intensive screening, most obviously of new recruits but also of ANSF personnel returned from leave, especially those returning from areas close to or in Pakistan.

ISAF officials admit that the number of insider attacks is a serious challenge to the coalition's effort to increase security in Afghanistan. While the casualties suffered are not enough to compromise ISAF and ANSF capabilities or Afghan recruitment numbers, a greater threat is posed to morale and

the building of trust between the ANSF personnel and their coalition partners. However, ISAF officials have pointed out that the green-on-blue incidents show a linear correlation to the overall increase

in ANSF numbers and the increased sophistication of the partnering and mentoring programme. While in 2011 there were 21 green-on-blue incidents with 270,000 ANSF and 132,000 ISAF personnel in Afghanistan, this year's 34 incidents occurred with 337,000 ANSF and 129,500 ISAF personnel now in theatre.

"We take the insider threat very seriously, but the incident numbers are a direct result of increased ANSF numbers and our increased commitment with those," noted the ISAF official.

"Let's also not forget that less than 40 out of well over 337,000 ANSF personnel have turned on us [this year]."

According to Gen Allen and Gen Langheld, people should not forget about the tens of thousands of Afghan security personnel working in a strong partnership with ISAF for a stable and secure Afghanistan. For ISAF, it is not about green on blue; it is about green

and blue. That said, in light of the recent surge in green-on-blue attacks it has emerged that on 22 August the US suspended its training and mentoring programmes of the Afghan Local Police (ALP) and Afghan special forces under the supervision of US personnel. While the training of Afghan special forces has since resumed, the suspension of the ALP will last for at least two months. The suspension, which puts

about 1,000 Afghan trainees in limbo, is supposed to allow a revetting of recruits and current personnel. According to an ISAF spokesman, the training and mentoring of Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police forces continues as normal.

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Commander ISAF visits Brunssum

Story and Photo by MSgt Jan Hecht, PAO

The Commander International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), General John Allen USMC, accompanied by the Deputy Chief of Staff Operations ISAF, Major General Sean MacFarland, visited Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum 3 September.

During his first visit to the Headquarters, General Allen took the opportunity to deliver his thoughts and analysis on the ISAF mission to Brunssum leadership and staff. With regard to the transition process the General said: "I can tell you unequivocally three things. First, we remain on-track to ensure that Afghanistan will no longer be a safe haven for Al Qaida and will no longer be terrorized by the Taliban. Second, as a coalition, the largest in recent history, we are well along in our progress to meet our 2010 Lisbon Summit commitments to transition security lead to the Afghan national security forces by December, 2014. And third, our troops know the difference that they're making every day, and the enemy feels that difference every day. Security conditions remain very good in areas that have transitioned thus far, from Kabul in the east to Herat in the west, from Mazar-e-Sharif in the north, to Lashkar Gah in the south and, later this year, Afghan security forces are expected to assume the security lead for two-thirds or possibly more of the Afghan population."

Commander ISAF thanked the Brunssum staff for their sustained hard work. "We in Kabul deeply appreciate



General Allen took the opportunity to deliver his thoughts and analysis on the ISAF mission to Brunssum leadership and staff.

the tremendous support from this headquarters that we feel every day across all of the ISAF command. My personal thanks to all of you."

HQ JFC Brunssum provides out-of-Theatre leadership and assistance, at the operational level, to ISAF. Amongst other things Brunssum staffs, monitors and coordinates out-of-Theatre operational support such as: logistic management and coordination; manning issues; CJSOR evolution; urgent engineering requirements; planning; and pre-deployment training

of designated ISAF Headquarters' staffs to enable their smooth transition into mission appointments.

"The strength of the relationship between our headquarters in Brunssum and the ISAF Headquarters in Kabul is of crucial importance," Commander HQ JFC Brunssum, General Wolf Langheld said. "Our staff's are completely integrated and synchronised as we seek to deliver ISAF mission success." Currently, HQ JFC Brunssum is focusing on the transition process in Afghanistan and subsequent mission post 2014.

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Brunssum hosted ISAF Multinational Medical Management Steering Group

Story by CAPT(N) Douglas Welch, JMED, HQ JFCBS, Photo by MSgt Jan Hecht, PAO

Brigadier General Kjelsberg, Assistant Chief Of Staff J4 (Logistics) welcomed the 34 conference participants, including 17 delegates from ISAF troop contributing nations, the Medical Advisors from HQ ISAF, ISAF Joint Command and several regional commands to the ISAF Multinational Medical Management Steering Group (MMMSG) for ISAF Regional Commands (RC) from 4 to 6 September 2012.

The main purpose of this MMMSG was to coordinate medical support for ISAF RCs, with special focus on the medical contributions and support during the transition process, as well as other issues affecting ISAF's medical support. Allied Command Operation Medical Directorate has tasked HQ JFCBS CJMED to assume the responsibility for the organization of biannual MMMSG conference for every RC.

The plenary discussions were chaired by the HQ JFCBS Medical Advisor (MEDAD) Colonel Dvorak, together with the MEDAD HQ ISAF, Brigadier General Parker, and the ISAF Joint Command (IJC) MEDAD/USFOR-A Command Surgeon, Brigadier General Coots.

Active discussions took place, mainly related how to maintain the currently high level and standard of medical support to ISAF and coalition forces during the transition process. Of particular interest are the changes in the ISAF footprint during the transition as well as the ongoing



The plenary discussions were chaired by the HQ JFCBS Medical Advisor (MEDAD) Colonel Dvorak, together with the MEDAD HQ ISAF, Brigadier General Parker, and the ISAF Joint Command (IJC) MEDAD/USFOR-A Command Surgeon, Brigadier General Coots.

operational requirements.

During the regional syndicates, which were chaired by representatives of the respective regional medical lead nation, more detailed exchanges about specific questions such as future manning and structures of Medical Treatment Facility (MTF) and other multinational medical support solutions in the RCs took place. Last but not least the conference offered

the opportunity for bilateral discussions between national representatives. These discussions and the mutual exchange of information were pursued during a 'No Host dinner' on the second evening.

USA Central Command (CENTCOM) has offered to host the next MMMSG in spring 2013; the DEU Bundeswehr Operational Command will be the host in autumn 2013.

The Importance of the Maritime Environment

Story by Lt (N) Sarah Thompson, HQ JFCBS Public Affairs Office; Photo by MSgt Jan Hecht, PAO

The HQ JFC Brunssum continues in its quest to make sure they leave NATO with a greater understanding of its role in the world, and of the developments that could affect NATO's future, with the HQ professional development program. The latest event in the series was centred on the rising importance of the maritime environment and the use of maritime power.

Professor Greg Kennedy, professor of Strategic Foreign Policy at the Defence Studies Department of King's College London, discussed the increasing importance of naval power to secure sea lanes of communication and trade. Professor Kennedy highlighted the opening up of the high north and the potential dangers to the global economy posed by any threat to shipping, including piracy of East and West Africa.

Profssor Kennedy has instructed at both the Royal Military College of Canada and the UK Joint Service Command and Staff College in Shrivenham, publishing extensively on maritime defence,



disarmament, military education and diplomacy and intelligence. Professor Kennedy is also the director of the Corbett Centre, a maritime think tank

based in London, aiming to develop and promote the understanding and analysis of maritime policy and strategy.

BRILLIANT BONUS 2012 – Becoming a Joint Task Force HQ

Story by Cdr C.Grün, DEU N, J7 TREX; Photo by MSgt Jan Hecht, PAO

For four days in September, Headquarters Joint Force Command Brunssum staff carried out battle staff training - the event was called BRILLIANT BONUS 2012.

The aim of this training event was to maintain the proficiency of the headquarters' staff against the background of the new Joint Task Force Headquarters Concept. During a series of lectures and syndicate work, the concept and a wide range of newly developed Standing Operating Procedures were introduced to the staff. Familiarization with the principles of deployability and understanding its implications for staff organization and working procedures were the key training objectives during this event and addressed all staff members.

Throughout the training, questions were raised and discussions occurred in plenary and during syndicate work so that all staff members were able to contribute to the training and to make it a success. This enabled thinking on deployability and its practicalities to develop. On the last day of BRILLIANT BONUS 2012, the Base Support Group prepared and demonstrated the Mounting Support Centre, and practised mounting procedures with the support of the



The Base Support Group prepared and demonstrated the Mounting Support Centre and practised mounting procedures.

Operational Liaison and Reconnaissance Team (OLRT) and the Forward Coordination Element (FCE). BRILLIANT BONUS 2012 was an important first step on JFC HQ Brunssum's way towards becoming a deployable Joint Task Force Headquarters. The next step will be Exercise BOLD DRAGON 2012, which is scheduled to take place 15 – 30 October 2012 simultaneously in Brunssum and in Bydgoszcz (Poland). During this exercise, the headquarters will deploy its

separate components in sequence to the Joint Force Training Centre in Bydgoszcz, gradually building up the Headquarters in a notional theatre of operations and further developing understanding of the challenges of deployment. Within BRILLIANT BONUS, HQ JFC Brunssum has started its journey towards being able to deliver a Deployable Joint Task Force Headquarters.

Deep Insights during Media Day 2012

Story by Cptn Florian Ramsboth, PAO HQ JFCBS, Photo by MSgt Jan Hecht



The JFCBS Media Day was covered by all major news wires, cited more than a hundred times by other media outlets.

Commander Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum (HQ JFCBS) hosted 19 journalists from international and military media at the HQ JFCBS Media Day, 28 August.

General Wolf Langheld, who recently returned from one of his frequent situational awareness trips to Afghanistan, took this opportunity to provide first-hand information to media representatives with regard to the status of NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) mission. The General also explained that, in addition to providing

leadership and assistance to ISAF, HQ JFCBS is the "on-call" NATO Response Force (NRF) Standby Command for the duration of 2012.

In a far reaching discussion focused on ISAF, General Langheld particularly commented upon the process of transition; a process NATO and the Government of Afghanistan agreed to implement at the Lisbon Summit, in November 2010. "Responsibility for security throughout Afghanistan will gradually be transferred to Afghan National Security Forces. As that process continues there will be a change in the balance between ISAF forces leading combat missions and the advising,

training and supporting of Afghan forces", he said. Drawing from his own experience the General was at pains to point out that the ANSF were improving, both in terms of quality and quantity but also said the West must be realistic with regard to its expectations and many challenges, such as the proliferation of insider threats, still need to be overcome.

Following General Langheld, Major General Joseph Reynes, Director of Operations, provided deeper insight to the ISAF mission and the ongoing security transition period. During a lively question and answer session he explained to journalists the importance of the mission and outlined the significant progress made over recent years. In a second briefing he articulated the Alliances NRF concept and explained Brunssum's standby command role.

The last briefing, by Lieutenant Colonel Colin Richardson (a subject matter expert from the Support Directorate) brought our media guests up to date with regard to the logistic aspects of ISAF redeployment. This was followed by open discussion. Journalists used this rare opportunity to ask further questions and promote additional discussion.

The JFCBS Media Day was covered by all major news wires, cited more than a hundred times by other media outlets, and gave General Langheld and his staff the opportunity to inform the public about NATO's largest ever mission and the HQ's 2012 NRF involvement.

'Knokke Heist 2012'

– A Legacy of Commemoration

Story by Sergeant First Class Eric Pernot, NCIA sector Brunssum, Photos by AIMT

Thousands of kilometres from Canada on a distant Northern European Estuary, Canadian Forces marchers and colleagues are honoured. Canadian Flags are draped from the balconies of small European homes distinctly marking the 35km route and warm smiles are on display from locals, many of whom still today remember the day they were liberated from the Axis forces. Bagpipe melodies echo through the narrow, building-lined streets and over the alarmingly flat countryside where wreaths sway from the cool breeze in commemoration of those who fought so feverously for freedom.



Over sixty-seven years ago the community of Knokke-Heist, on the Dutch border near the North Sea coast of Belgium, was surrounded by the occupying forces. In 1944, Operation SWITCHBACK ordered the recapture of the Belgian East Coast, Zeeland, the Isle of Walcheren and Zuid-Beveland by Allied Forces, where more than 6 000 Canadian soldiers became casualties. The picturesque European countryside was transformed into a thick quagmire of mud accompanied by torrential rains, making mobility and survivability extremely challenging. In early November following five years

of intense battle between Forces, the entire region was liberated by Canadian and Polish soldiers. And locals have not forgotten.

Knokke Heist is an annual celebration of one of the more significant events in Canadian history: The Liberation of the Scheldt Estuary by the First Canadian Army in the fall of 1944. Although relatively unheard of by fellow Canadians, this popular autumn event draws thousands of outdoor enthusiasts and local figureheads to the region in order to relive the thrill of freedom's return. The main activities over the course of the four day event are several solemn commemoration ceremonies, a visit to two stunning

battlefield museums and a culminating day-long march through the towns of the Netherlands and northern Belgium. The 68th Knokke Heist Liberation march will take place from 2-5 November 2012, with a 30 military member contingent representing the Canadian Forces. The event will also be host to teachers, students and family of the Tri-border community to follow the footsteps of our forefathers and relive the Canadian military history of the region.

For more information, see the following links or contact the Knokke Heist 2012 D/OPR, Major Daniel J. Kucherhan.

www.canadamuseum.be
www.forfreedommuseum.be

The NATO Triathlon Team Brunssum: What a year!

Story by Cptn Sascha Verheyen, J2; Photos by Jan Hecht, personal archive

As the autumn sends his first cold and wet heralds across the expanse of our HQ, it occurs to me that our Triathlon Season has also, unfortunately, come to an end. So time for me to settle back and to take a look to what our members achieved over the last 12 months, worldwide! And I can promise you, I have so many stories to tell that I do not know where to start first.



Even experienced triathletes can feel nervous about the washing machine- experience that is the swim start.

There is, for example Jan Hecht, of the PA office. Jan again completed the Challenge Roth Ironman Distance in an excellent time of 10:55 hrs; finishing 229th in his age-group – an outstanding achievement in this extremely well cast and world famous race. Congratulations again to you Jan, this currently makes of you the fastest long distance triathlete in our Team.

Furthermore, the club can always count on Oliver Klingenhagen, DEU NSU. Oliver contributed in an extraordinary

way to provide support to our club in means of trainers, nutrition and administration to other public sports associations. Although struggling with multiple training setbacks, he again managed to prepare himself well for Roth. Knowing that he would be paying from some point during the race for lack of training, he nevertheless dared to go to the starting line to face the challenge: real bravery if you ask me. I was told he was looking totally bushed at an early stage of the marathon, but guess what,

he took the pain and never gave up. Respect!

A real cosmopolite among us is Brian Hagan, DOM. Whenever you are looking for a guide to lead you through cities like London, Prague, Helsinki, Zurich, Wiesbaden or Cologne, just ask Brian. He visited these cities to complete 1 Half-Marathon, 3 Marathons, 1 Half-Ironman and even 2 Ironmen. I have no clue how he did all this in one year. Brian, I hope Lance is not your best Friend and your boss does not read this article because he might have some questions as well. Joke! Brian finished two Ironmen in under 12 hrs which proves his extraordinary ability to handle the triathlon king distance. Brian I wish you a good recovery, you need it; you deserve it!

Also our French connection went to encounter the specific challenges offered by a triathlon. Eduard Gallot, HQSO, started training only a year ago and succeeded in finishing the half-Ironman distance in Cologne in September this year. Great performance Eddy, especially since I know that you had to deal with cramps at a very early stage of the competition - a problem you never faced before as you told me. Knowing this, your performance gets even more spectacular as you hold on to the creed of Triathlon: never give up! Ever heard of somebody who never did a triathlon before and decided to do a



MSgt Jan Hecht during the Challenge Roth Ironman distance.

full Ironman distance to start with, not even having his own race bike? No. You think it is not possible.

You correctly assess this is crazy. Well go to the gym and meet Willy Thomaseau, Gym Manager. Considering his advancing age, he decided not to waste any more time, so he started training a year ago to prepare for the Ironman in Cologne. It was the toughest thing he did so far in his entire life he told me. Can you imagine that this Adonis, who gives circuit training classes by turning the gym into a hall-of-pain had to crawl into his bed afterwards. I wish I could have seen this; to see him suffer only once like I always do during his classes. Willy, you are crazy!

And last but not least we have a real world class athlete inside our HQ. Charles Pennington, JOC Watch, managed to qualify for this year's World Championship for the Half Ironman distance in Las Vegas, US. Although an amateur, he was competing during his race with professional athletes which proves his outstanding Triathlon Quality. He ended an outstandingly credible 2nd in his Age Group: Vice World Champion!!! Charly, on behalf of the Triathlon Club: UNBELIEVABLE, Congratulations to our Chairman! You should have gotten the P5 from Cervelo!

Just in case you are still reading, which is good, I think, I can reassure you that not everybody inside our club does the



Members of NATO Triathlon Team Brunssum after the Heinsberg Triathlon in June this year.

long distances. Myself for example - I did 7 triathlons this year, but most of them were fairly short. And although we are preparing for different distances to perform in different races throughout Europe we have one thing on common: the pure passion for triathlon!

Preparations for 2013 move on and I invite you to join our meeting on 2 Nov at 0900 hrs in the Fontainebleau CR. Everybody is welcome as we are constantly looking for sportsmen who are interested to join our triathlon club. We will discuss topics like membership, goals for 2013 and we will have to elect

another Chairman, since Charles is going to leave the HQ unfortunately. But be aware, Triathlon can be very addictive. Last Monday night, I ended up calculating different angles and possible improvements on my bike setup until my wife stood up, put out the light, went to bed again,.... at 2:30 am Tuesday morning!.....psst.....never give up!

Greetings,

Sascha Verheyen

29th International Moenchengladbach Military Competition

Story and Photo by MSgt Jan Hecht, PAO

Three teams from Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum set off to Moenchengladbach for the 29th International Moenchengladbach Military Competition (IMM) September 8, 2012.

Forty-six teams coming from Germany, the United Kingdom, Greece, Canada, USA, Luxembourg and The Netherlands participated in the event. Intelligence, strength and fitness were tested in equal measure throughout the IMM. The Competition comprised a wide range of tasks including shooting, marching, navigation and general military knowledge. The goal of the competition was to finish a 17 kilometres march as fast as possible and obtain a maximum number of points during the 18 challenges from first aid to racing inflatable boats.

Team NATO Brunssum led by Team Captain MCpl Nace Pavlin Zakovsek (Slovenia, NCIA/SSG/Tech Support) consisted of four different nations, MSgt Indrek Ojasoo (Estonia, HQSO), Sgt Sven Wien (Germany, CG) and Cpl Neil Corless (United Kingdom, NCIA/SSG/Tech Support). "Although we had not the chance to train together, we all were highly motivated, optimistic and we all looked forward to the challenge ahead" the team leader stated.

"For each task our team had to



Team NATO Brunssum led by Team Captain MCpl Nace Pavlin Zakovsek (Slovenia, NCIA/SSG/Tech Support) consisted of four different nations.

demonstrate physical prowess, mental readiness and quickly recover when given the opportunity. During the competition it was obvious to see the advantage of having a multinational team with each individual member adding distinctive values and skill sets. However, it was the spirit and camaraderie of the four members of Team NATO Brunssum that really made the difference."

After an outstanding performance the team finished as the second international team over the line and came 12th overall. This terrific display

meant that the "NATO Brunssum" team won the title as the best NATO team.

Joint Force Command Brunssum Team 2 - overall ranked 21st and 4th international team

Joint Force Command Brunssum Team 3 - overall ranked 44th, 9th in international team and 3rd female team

Congratulations to all our teams!

Country: Hungary
Population: 10 million
Capital: Budapest
Head of State: Dr. János Áder
Area: 93, 000 sq km
Climate: Continental (with hot summers and mildly cold snowy winters). Average high temperature in the summer is 23 °C to 28 °C and average low temperature in the winter it is -3 °C to -7 °C.
Economy: GDP 190 billion USD (2010 est)
Budget: revenues: 54, 8 billion USD (2009 est), expenses: 59, 86 billion USD (2009 est)
Currency: Hungarian Forint (HUF), 278 HUF = 1 EUR (Aug 2012)
Industry: The main sectors of Hungarian industry are heavy industry (mining, metallurgy, machine and steel production), energy production, mechanical engineering, chemicals, food industry and automobile production. The industry is leaning mainly on processing industry and (including construction) accounted for 29,32% of GDP in 2008. Due to the sparse energy and raw material resources, Hungary is forced to import most of these materials to satisfy the demands of the industry. Following the transition to market economy, the industry underwent restructuring and remarkable modernization. The leading industry is machinery, followed by chemical industry (plastic production, pharmaceuticals), while mining, metallurgy and textile industry seemed to be losing importance in the past two decades. In spite of the significant drop in the last decade, food industry is still giving up to 14% of total industrial production and amounts to 7-8% of the country's exports. Nearly 50% of energy consumption is dependent on imported energy sources. Gas and oil are transported through pipelines from Russia forming 72% of the energy structure, while nuclear power produced by the nuclear power station of Paks accounts for 12%.
Export: Main goods are machinery and equipment, other manufactures, food products, raw materials, fuels and electricity. Main export partners are Germany, Italy, Romania, Austria, Taiwan, Slovakia, France, UK (2008 est)
Defence: Army (Infantry Brigades and Spec Battalions), Air Force (Fixed and Rotary wing units and Air Defence), Combat Support and Combat Support-Service units.
History: The Hungarian tribe was coming from Levedia (East) to Carpatian Basin during the "big migration" in 9 C AD. The official state (Hungarian Kingdom) was founded by King István I (Saint)(998-1038). His successors (Árpád- house) were in the rule cc 300 years. After the Árpád- house period the Kingdom had Kings from different European dynasties, like Anjou, Luxembourg, Jagello. The last four centuries until the end of WW I, when the Kingdom was fallen Hungary was characterized by Habsburgh dominance. Our history is seed to be "stormy" due to many revolutions, liberation wars, active and passive resistance against colonialism, like (after WW II) the revolution in 1956 against SU. The last significant event was the establishing the parliamentary democracy and multy-party system in 1989.



Hungary

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

I arrived 18 June 2011 and I have taken a post in the ISAF Training Section in the Exercise Planning Branch.

Tell us about your military career?

I joined the Hungarian Army in 1976 as a student of the Military Technical College and graduated as Lieutenant in 1980. I held different assignments at the Air-Defense (AD) Regiment Technical-Logistic Staff until I joined the AD Commander University. After my graduation in 1991 I served in AD Brigade Staff, and later, as Commander of a separate AD Battalion. Due to national military reform and restructuring I was transferred to the Air Force Headquarters and, from there, to the Defense Staff. I had some assignments as a Staff Officer and I was Deputy Branch Head in the Force Planning Directorate throughout the last four years.

Do you have any experience with other international missions?

Yes I have. I was deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom, actually to Multinational Division Central-South in Iraq, as Deputy Chief of G-6 in 2004. Two years later, in 2006, I was deployed to Iraq again, this time to the NATO Training Mission-Iraq, as Chief of Infrastructure.

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

My job is to organize and support ISAF pre-deployment training. It was a real challenge for me to become familiar with the NATO training process, the administrative policies and the training community as, over the past 10 years, I wasn't too close to this area. However, I like this job. It is very interesting and every training event brings new experiences.

Is your family here with you?

My family is not here with me but my wife and our children visit me very often.

What are your hobbies?

I like history, especially military history. Therefore, I like to read historical books and journals. I also like sport. I used to play basketball but, over time, it has become a little bit dangerous because of my age. So now I prefer to restrict myself to playing tennis, fitness workouts and swimming.

What do you like in your job?

Working in an international environment is always interesting. To organize and support pre-deployment training for people coming from different nations, with a different cultural background, is a real challenge. Our team here is excellent.

Can you shortly describe your country?

Hungary is a small country in the middle (heart) of Europe. Most of the Hungarian people like humor and can make a joke at any time. Hungarians are very proud of national traditions and also open for new challenges.

Your future plans?

I am scheduled to return to Hungary in July 2014. I expect to be posted to the training area of Hungary's Defence Force where I will be able to put my JFCBS experience to good use.

Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum Terry Fox Run

– Thank You for Your Support

Story by LtCol Doris Gobeil, POLAD Office, Photos by Jaroslava Augustinova, PAO

In 12 September 2012, the 7th Annual Brunssum Community Terry Fox Run was held with outstanding success. As per the tradition, every year in September, Terry Fox's dream and legacy is carried out not only in Canada but on the international stage.



Organized by the Canadian Delegation of the NATO Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, this year's event was again conducted in the beautiful Brunssummerheide park trails.

The year was 1980 when Terry Fox began his "Marathon of Hope" to raise money and awareness to find a cure for cancer. His wish was that the fight continues once he was gone; it has been 32 years now, it has gone international and generated over 550M\$ in money raised for cancer research.

Organized by the Canadian Delegation of the NATO Allied Joint Force Command Headquarters Brunssum, this year's event was again conducted in the beautiful Brunssummerheide park trails. A 5 km and a 10 km trail were marked to guide our "athletes" for either walking / running over 5 and 10 km, and biking over 10 and 20 km. Participation was outstandingly international with 15 nations represented in our largest group ever from the NATO community in Brunssum, and surroundings, to enjoy the outdoor activity. So, at 12 o'clock on a cool cloudy day, 125 participants took to the trails for a great day to enjoy the outdoor adventure which was a good break from work. Even better, money raised for cancer research will easily surpass last year's success. This money will, as per

The Terry Fox Foundation regulations, stay in the Netherlands and go towards a cancer research project with the Dutch Cancer Society. We are very proud to be part of the Terry Fox Foundation's effort to support cancer research internationally. The organizers would like to thank all the volunteers for their dedication and support. A special acknowledgement goes to the Natuurmonumenten for allowing us to use the Brunssummerheide park trails again this year. As well, for their uncompromised support, thank you to the Royal Marechaussee, the Military Police, the International Conference Center, the Northern Star and CFN Radio. We cannot go without mentioning the unconditional support from our sponsor Meeûs Insurance and to our newest sponsor the B&S Central Store. Finally, and most important, to all of you who came to walk, run and bike, and contribute to support this worthy cause, thank you very much, well done, you made it possible. It was fun and we certainly hope to see you again next year, sometime in September 2013. We will try for an even larger participation again. Stay alert for the announcement next summer. "Merci"





Family Support, Moral and Welfare Programs and Events for HQ JFC Brunssum Personnel

Installation Access Pass for USAG BENELUX - SCHINNEN

WHO: JFC Brunssum (NATO Blue Card Holders) personnel will be allowed to receive an Installation Access Pass for USAG Benelux - Schinnen that will allow access to the following. 1 Fitness Center 2. Bowling Center 3. MWR Events 4. Food Court

HOW: Following the below steps will guide you in receiving an Installation Pass for USAG Benelux - Schinnen

1. Fill Out AE FORM 190-16A

- Blank form with instructions can be obtained from the following web site: <http://www.hqusaar.army.mil/opm/iacs/AppiSamples.HTML>
- You can also receive a blank form at the USAG Benelux - Schinnen PMO

2. Once you have filled out the form, take the form to your designated sponsor for signature.

- If your delegation does not have a sponsor, the American Delegation may sign off as your sponsor.

3. The Final Step to obtaining an Installation Access Pass .

- You must come to the USAG Benelux Schinnen PMO (BLDG. 2) and bring the following.

- The completed and signed AE Form 190-16A
- Your national military ID and NATO ID card (drivers licenses will not work as a valid ID). Family members must bring their passports.
- You will then receive your Installation access card (you will have your photo and finger prints taken digitally).
- Sponsor must escort you to the Schinnen IACS office OR the sponsor may email the your name and Passport number to the IACS office to inform them of the approximate time and exact date you plan to come for the Installation Access Pass .

Your Installation Access Pass is good for one year. It must be renewed yearly. It is your responsibility to return the Installation Access Pass to the USAG Schinnen PMO. This pass is good for only you; it does not include sign in privileges. Children under the age under 14 are allowed access to USAG Schinnen when accompanied with their parents or sponsor.

Information numbers

- USAG Benelux - Schinnen PMO IACS Office
 - DSN 360-1580 or 360-1580
- CIV 046-443-7736 or 046-443-7158
 - Email : ben.dols.ln@mail.mil or
 - schinnendesiacs@eur.army.mil

JFC BRUNSSUM ALLIANCE THEATER

Movie Schedule

☐	Sat. 13 Oct / 16:00	Sat. 27 Oct / 13:00
☐	ICE AGE:	BRAVE
☐	CONTINENTAL	Kelly Macdonald
☐	DRIFT	Billy Connolly
☐	Ray Romano	
☐	John Leguizamo	
☐	Sat. 13 Oct / 19:00	Sat. 27 Oct / 16:00
☐	THE BOURNE	THE AMAZING
☐	LEGACY	SPIDERMAN
☐	Jeremy Renner	Andrew Garfield
☐	Rachel Weisz	Emma Stone
☐	Sat. 20 Oct / 16:00	Sat. 27 Oct / 19:00
☐	THE CAMPAIGN	THE DARK KNIGHT
☐	Will Ferrell	RISES
☐	Zach Galifianakis	Christian Bale
☐	Sat. 20 Oct / 19:00	Anne Hathaway
☐	THE WATCH	
☐	Ben Stiller	
☐	Vince Vaughn	



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JFC BRUNSSUM LANGUAGE PROGRAM

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Dutch 2	6-8 pm
Spanish 1	6-8 pm
Wednesdays	
French 1 (due to enrollment)	10-12 am
English intermediate	6-8 pm
French 1	6-8 pm
French 2	6-8 pm
Spanish 2	6-8 pm
Thursdays	
Dutch 1	6-8 pm

Start courses: week 39 (24 - 27 Sept)

Registration: at JFC Library: 4, 5, and 11, 12 September, from 5-7 pm
6 and 13 September, from 4-6 pm

Books can be purchased at registration (Only cash payment possible)

GNT Soccer Tournament 2012

Story by German National Team, Photo by MSgt Jan Hecht

For the 32nd International Soccer Tournament, organized by the German Delegation and German National Soccer Team on 23 and 24 August 2012, JFC Brunssum had the pleasure to welcome 75 teams at the Allied HQ JFC Brunssum sports fields. Under sunny skies the Chief of Staff, Lieutenant General Richard G. Tieskens, opened the tournament and insisted on kicking off the Delegations' Cup exactly at 12 a.m.

For this year's 10th Delegations' Cup eleven teams competed. We witnessed a notably fair competition for the places leading to the finals.

After closely contested preliminary rounds, the teams of the Oplnfo Bn 950 in Koblenz, Germany, and the GE/FR AAvn TIGER Training Center from LeLuc, France, reached the final. Both teams wanted the Cup, therefore a fascinating and exciting game unfolded. At the end the Oplnfo Bn 950 team deservedly defeated their opponents 2:0.

The Chief of Staff presented the winners' trophy to our friends from the Oplnfo Bn 950 later that afternoon.

By 17:45 the opening of the 11th Ladies' Cup was due. The head of the German Delegation, Colonel Dr. Sarholz, welcomed the soccer ladies of 14 teams.

The dominating teams were the Brunssum Allstars, RKVV Heksenberg I, Alemannia Aachen and a team from the German Air Force Barracks in Köln-Wahn.

Those four teams made it to the semifinals where, to the surprise of many fans, Team Heksenberg defeated the Brunssum Allstars to play Alemannia Aachen in the final after they had outscored the team from Köln-Wahn.

In that suspense-packed game none of the teams could come out on top, so the decision had to be found in a white-knuckle penalty shootout. At the end Alemannia was the lucky team and defeated Team Heksenberg 3:2.

After the award ceremony by Dirk Kuzella, President of the GNT, the long-awaited "Welcome Party" started with live music spreading good cheer among the guests. After a night which was far too short, the Head of the German Delegation kicked off the 32nd Commander's Cup, at 9:00 a.m. the next day.

Throughout the day 50 teams fighting in two competitions enjoyed great weather and provided absorbing and exciting games.

The final of the Youngsters' Cup saw the teams of the Bundeswehr Personnel Office and the German CIS Bn 801 contesting victory. Although dominating the game, the German CIS Bn 801 team could not score more than one goal and had to settle for a draw.

The tie lasted until the final whistle, so we saw another shoot-out in a final; on this occasion the Personnel Office team kept their nerves in check and won 2:1.



The team of GE/FR AAvn TIGER Training Center from LeLuc, France is the winner of the 32th Oldies' Cup.

In the final for the Oldies' Cup the teams of the GE/FR AAvn TIGER Training Center and our very special friends from HQ MNC Northeast stationed in Stettin (Szczecin), Poland, were the contestants.

At the end of the regular playing time the score in this very eventful match was 0:0, so we had to determine the winner by yet another penalty shoot-out.

Although the HQ MNC team had brought the tournament's best goalkeeper, they could not fend off the defeat; so the GE/FR TIGER team came out on top and deservedly won 4:3, after having lost a final the day before.

The Tournament also featured a raffle with a very nice quad bike as first prize, and thereafter, on the occasion of the presentation of the donation, everyone got a feeling for the social welfare purpose of this event.

In addition to the donations to national organizations and the support for our years-long partner project, the Disabled Sports Fest in Heerlen being held for the 34th time this year, we could once again help – in a non-bureaucratic way – a youngster living in our region.

Timothy de Koning, a boy of 12 from Heerlen, was presented a special cup symbolizing the orthotic device he will receive soon in cooperation with Hanssen Footcare.

It was a great pleasure for the German National Team to make this contribution to facilitate enhanced social interaction.

The Winners are:

Delegations' Cup

German PSYOPS / Oplnfo Bn 950

Ladies' Cup

Alemannia Aachen

Youngsters' Cup

Bundeswehr Personnel Office

Oldies' Cup

GE/FR AAvn TIGER Training Center

Donation Overview:

1000 € for the Bundeswehr Welfare Association

750 € for the project "Angriff auf die Seele" (Soul under attack)

500 € as a contribution to the costs for an orthotic device for Timothy de Koning

750 € for the 34th Disabled Sports Fest (sport en ontmoetingsdag) in Heerlen

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Did you know? 11 November a day of contrasts

Story by Ed Frieser, Photo by: Tom Haartsen. collection from the Frans Hals Museum, Haarlem.

Next month contains an important date. 11 November is a widely respected day of reflection but, strange as it might seem, is also the day that marks the beginning of a joyful period. Traditionally, 11 November is commemorated in many cities around the globe, including also South Limburg, to mark the end of World War I, a war often referred to as the “Great War”. Germany and the Allies agreed to a cease fighting and signed a cease fire or armistice on this day.



The Men of U.S. 64th Regiment, 7th Infantry Division, celebrate the news of the Armistice, November 11, 1918.

Officially this “Great War” ended with the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 28 June 1919, in the Palace of Versailles, France. Although other hostilities continued around the globe, at precisely 11.00 on the 11th of November the armistice on the Western Front commenced. The armistice was signed in a railway carriage in Compiègne and brought an end to the terrible war in the trenches of West-Flanders. A copy of this railway carriage is still there as a silent monument to a war that was responsible for millions of victims and, in Flanders alone, generated 400,000 casualties, often amongst the youngest soldiers. At the Flanders battlefield, particularly on 11th November, many visitors take a moment to reflect and invariably conclude that such a tragedy should never happen again. Today 11 November is officially commemorated as Armistice Day, or as the British often call it, “Poppy Day”. In the US it is called Veterans Day. In Belgium it is a national holiday - not only to remember the victims of WWI but also those of other armed conflicts, including World War II. A two minutes moment of silence is observed at 11:00 a.m. local time as a sign of respect. In Sittard and Brunssum a commemoration is also organized by the British Community at JFC HQ Brunssum in conjunction with local foundations; this ceremony is conducted at British War Cemeteries.

But it is, perhaps, somewhat strange that that day, St Maarten's Day, also celebrates the beginning of the Carnival Season. What a contrast. But it is a fact that cannot be denied. Children may come to your house, with their handmade lanterns, singing and asking for candy. Local carnival societies from that moment on will start preparing the Carnival celebrations and parades for 2013; and the Carnival's Councils of Eleven (Raad van Elf) will be elected shortly thereafter. You may wonder why this happens on the 11th day of the 11th month. Although little consensus exists about its origin, there are several (international) theories. Without going into too much detail, suffice to say that stories are often associated with the change of the season, Christianity, and heathen rituals. The number 11, however, is also considered a fools number. But in the Catholic Church the 11th was an important mark on the churches' calendar for three reasons. First, it was the Feast of St Maarten; second, the day to mark the Three Kings fasting period; and, third, it was the day when rents and court cases were settled i.e. the day on which the official business year ended.

As is often the case life and death, joy and sadness, go hand in hand. Let's not forget and at the same time let's celebrate. 11 November is such a Day of Contrasts.



The officials that signed the armistice of Compiègne. The armistice was signed by Marshall Foch, the Allied Commander-in-Chief, and Matthias Erzberger, representative for Germany. Photo by the Bundesarchiv



Place to visit: Carnival Museum Cologne
 Distance: 92 kilometres
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 Thursday: 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.
 Friday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
 Saturday and Sunday: 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

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 further information: www.koelnerkarnevalsmuseum.de

The Carnival Museum of Cologne - An Experience with a Difference

Story by MSgt Jan Hecht, PAO, Photos by Carnival Museum Cologne

As is described in a separate article in this magazine the carnival season begins on 11 November at 11:11 a.m. each year. The so called “Fifth Season” lasts till Ash Wednesday but there is a chance to experience the magic of carnival throughout the whole year.

When our friend Ed Frieser told me, he would write a story about the start of the carnival season for the ‘Did you Know?’ column (page 24), I was wondering if it would be possible to find something related to this crazy, but for the region, imperative time. Finally, I discovered the carnival museum in Cologne, Germany. Germans may instinctively say, “Where else?” because Cologne is somehow the capital of Carnival in Germany - although the inhabitants of Düsseldorf or Mainz might have a different view. Nevertheless this beautiful city hosts the largest carnival museum in Germany. The museum opened its gates in 2005 and just one year later was awarded a “Location of Ideas and Innovations Award”. This unique collection has its roots in the archive of the Cologne Carnival Celebration Committee from 1823 and has been continuously maintained, and extended, since 1960. The exhibition boasts a wide variety of exhibits telling the vibrant and joyful story of carnival in Europe. How carnival has been celebrated and influenced through the ages. Why, and how, it became the event we know today. Dark moments that, on occasion, have this accompanied this bright and happy festival. Whatever your interest, you will find all the answers there.

Carnival is all about fun and, whilst the museum provides many historic facts and figures, it invites you to enjoy a carnival-related journey through time. Experience the colourful history of carnival, from antiquity through the baroque era to modern times. Marvel at the collection of costumes, of medals from Cologne’s carnival clubs or listen to typical carnival music in “kölsch”, the dialect spoken in Cologne.

As a special event the museum offers guided adventure-tours for adults in April, May and September. The tour leads through the Carnival museum and the remarkable halls where the famous Rose-Monday-Floats are built.

The Rose-Monday-Parade is the highlight of the German carnival season. It is famed for satirical procession floats. On this day over a million of carnival revellers take to the streets of Cologne to enjoy one of the largest street festivals in Europe.

If you are looking for a different experience and something that you might not expect when you think of German culture, plan a trip to the carnival museum of Cologne. Maybe it will entice you to celebrate the upcoming carnival in the streets of Cologne with thousands of other people in their carnival ‘disguise’.

By the way, the typical greeting during the festival is ‘Kölle Alaaf!’ a phrase which can be translated as “Cologne above all!” With this in mind, I send you a happy Alaaf!





Win Family Tickets for The Carnival Museum of Cologne

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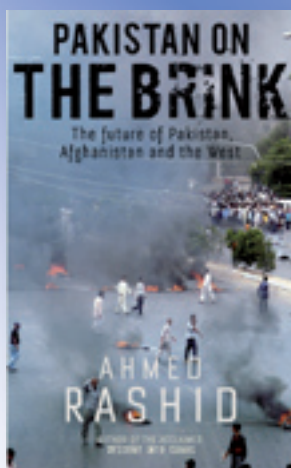
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Book Review



Pakistan on the Brink: The future of America, Pakistan, and Afghanistan

by Ahmed Rashid

Prepared by Jaroslava Augustinova

Ahmed Rashid, Pakistan's premier journalist and analyst, brings in his new book (following the bestsellers Taliban and Descent into Chaos) a collection of essays on the future of his troubled homeland and its neighbour, Afghanistan.

„Pakistan on the Brink depicts a nation with a severe socioeconomic crisis, and with political leadership that has neither the courage nor the will to carry out essential reforms and is building the fastest-growing nuclear arsenal on the globe. The U.S.-Pakistan relationship is in a state of virtual meltdown, Rashid rightly contends, with both sides to blame...Rashid argues that there is a complex syndicate of jihadi terrorists operating today in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Al-Qaeda gets the most attention in the United States, but it is a relatively small organization in a much larger network. Lashkar-i-Taiba, the militant Islamist terror

group, has a much bigger and very overt presence in Pakistan...Rashid does a great job of describing how the Pakistani army and the ISI (Inter-Services Intelligence) helped build this Frankenstein's monster over the past four decades. As he notes, the obsession of Pakistani generals with India has been the driving force behind this creation..." says Bruce Riedel, a South Asia expert and a former career CIA officer, who has advised four U.S. presidents on Middle East and South Asian issues.

Readers of Rashid's previous books know he possesses a sophisticated understanding of the tense region. His words are unusual for a Pakistani author, his vision is unrelentingly bleak, and his conclusions are sometimes devastating. That's why the book evoked controversial opinions. The sharpest criticism has come from Pakistan.



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