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NORTHERN STAR

Magazine for HQ JFC Brunssum – October 2013



Training Key to NATO's Future Says SACEUR

- Progress in Afghanistan
- Brunssum Steps up Preparations for Exercise Steadfast Jazz 2013
- The NATO Triathlon Team Brunssum Makes up a Positive Balance of the Season 2013
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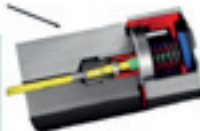
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Submissions to the Northern Star can be made to room F 1.12, Bldg. H 106 or e-mailed to pao@jfcbs.nato.int. Articles should be in Microsoft Word format and, whenever possible, should be no longer than 300 words. Photographs should be at least 9x6 centimetres and 300 dpi. The Northern Star is published monthly and is available around the second Friday of each month.

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

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About the Cover



General Philip Breedlove, Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), is greeted by General Hans-Lothar Domröse, Commander of Joint Force Command (JFC) Brunssum. SACEUR held his bi-annual Commanders Conference at JFC Brunssum, 17 – 18 September 2013.

Photo by Master Sergeant Jan Hecht, Public Affairs

Command Group Corner

The Director of Management is a new 1-star General/Flag Officer post introduced to Joint Force Command Brunssum as part of the 2012 NATO Command Structure review and new Peacetime Establishment implementation. I took up the positions as Director of Management (DOM) on 1 December last year and I am responsible for the management of staff workflow in the HQ and for providing the conduit between the Command Group and the staff whilst directing and co-ordinating day-to-day administrative and support functions to the HQ in support of the overall mission of Allied Command Operations.

My Directorate is a 174 man strong organisation manned by officers, NCOs, NATO civilians and Local Wage Rates employees. The DOM Directorate is split into 3 main teams: Business Information Management; the Base Support Group and the Protocol Branch. This means that you, in your daily work, will be in touch with the professionals from the DOM organisations all day long. You will meet them when you are entering the base; DOM staff maintains the buildings and keep the outdoor facilities in good shape.

When you are sitting behind your computer staffing taskers or using the conference facilities you can be sure that the DOM staffs are supporting you. Last but not least the Family Support Moral and Welfare Branch is responsible for providing support to you and your families when it comes to shopping, fitness, housing and entertainment.

If we are deploying to a mission as a Joint Task Force HQ the main bulk of the DOM staff will “stay behind” in order to run the base and to support the staff that are left behind in order to resume residual tasks. You can be sure that the DOM staff will look after your family whether you are deployed for a long or short period.

Some changes are foreseen on 1 January 2014. The new Garrison Support Arrangement foresees that some of our supporting functions will be provided by the Netherlands. They will take over the guarding of the base and also the maintenance of the buildings etc. For the individual staff member there will be no major change and the face of the support functions will still be the Base Support Group with its entire dedicated and professional staff.



Brigadier General, Torben Diken Møller,
Director of Management JFC Brunssum

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Educating Afghan Women: DoWA Promotes Women's Rights in Helmand

Story and photos by Sgt. Lia Adkins

In the early 1900's, King Amanullah encouraged Afghan women to be more westernized, shed their face-covering garments, get educated and work. But after Islamic fundamentalists came to power in the late 20th century, the Taliban fully denied women's rights to participate in social, economic, cultural and political life.



A group of Afghan women use sewing machines to make clothing at the Department of Women's Affairs office in Lashkar Gah, Helmand province, Afghanistan, July 24. The women attend vocational schools at the DoWA to learn skills that will help them earn an income and financially support their families.

Since U.S. military forces toppled the Taliban regime in 2001, women have fought to learn skills to sustain their families. Some have lost their lives during the struggle, including 100 girls who were killed in a grenade attack during their first day of school. However, there are still women who are standing up against the oppression and working to build a better future for women in Afghanistan.

Jamalia Niazi has dedicated her life to improving women's roles in Helmand province. She is the Department of Women's Affairs (DoWA) director in Helmand province, Afghanistan, and a member of the High Peace Council in Kabul.

Niazi is responsible for overseeing policy for the women in Helmand and enforcing the National Action Plan for the Women of Afghanistan (NAPWA),

as well as any Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) policy.

MoWA is responsible for implementing political and social policy to secure and expand women's legal rights, while NAPWA is the "main vehicle of government" for implementing its gender commitments in national and international policy instruments on women, according to the MoWA website.

Niazi was appointed as the DoWA director in 2012 and has devoted herself to running programs which educate women to help them gain employment. She runs vocational programs to teach women skills such as tailoring, embroidery and curtain making so women can financially support themselves and their families, said Sgt. Sarah Abdella, the Afghanistan Peace and Reintegration Program outreach liaison officer with Regional Command

(Southwest).

Niazi spends most of her days at the DoWA office in Lashkar Gah, writing new proposals for programs and supervising classes. Her sun-lit office is decorated in embroidered, pale green curtains she regularly boasts were sewn by the women attending the vocational classes.

But the office has no electricity, lights, or running water, so Niazi resorts to hand writing all her proposals. Niazi recently partnered with the U.S. Agency for International Development, Mercy Corps and the U.S. and Afghan governments for funding and resources. She has been able to collect more than 20 sewing machines for women attending the vocational program.

"We had 70 to 80 women from poor families work with us and we made more than 160 uniforms for girls going to school," said Niazi. "More than 150 women have benefited from the classes

and have earned an income.”

Women from 13 to more than 40 years old regularly attend the DoWA vocational sewing classes.

Niazi also holds peace shuras, and regularly makes herself available to any woman’s issues.

Working together, Niazi and Abdella have been very successful in Helmand province though it has not been without exertions. As recently as May, Niazi had to go into hiding after her driver was killed while on his way to morning prayers.

“Jamila (Niazi) has never been afraid to go against the grain, working at the only open girls’ school in Helmand during the Taliban regime,” said Abdella, a Rensselaerville, N.Y., native. Niazi is a certified teacher and taught regularly before eventually working as the principle for the girls’ school in Lashkar Gah for eight years.

“I had a lot of challenges,” said Niazi. “The main problem was locals did not want the women to come to school because foreign officials would visit and tour the school, and it did not sit well with the locals. So I told them not to come while the women were at school. I received a lot of warnings from the Taliban because of it.”

Abdella said Niazi has faced death

threats since the time she was principal of the Lashkar Gah girls’ school and continues to regularly receive threats to her life and that of her family.

But Niazi has not let threats deter her. The mother of seven is described as a kind, caring and determined woman.

“I have personally seen her stand up for other women in ways that one would not expect of a stereotypical Afghan woman,” said Abdella. “During one of our shuras, a young teenage girl approached Jamila with a problem. Her parents had been killed, and the uncle she was now living with would not let her continue her education. Jamila

asked for his phone number and called him on the spot to demand that he allow his niece to return to school and provide her with his support.”

Niazi said she is committed to expanding education and employment for women in Helmand province, as well as developing the female aspect of the peace program.

“I continue to do this kind of work because I am committed to the future of my country,” said Niazi. “I want to see women and girls have the opportunity to become educated and contribute to society.”



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Progress in Afghanistan

Story by Col Martin Klein, Public Affairs Advisor JFC Brunssum, Photos by ISAF PAO

Late in the evening (11 September 13) small arms fire rang out around the City of Kabul. But this time it wasn't an enemy attack of insurgents, or extremist networks focused on undermining security arrangements the Afghan government is slowly but surely establishing. Rather, it was celebratory fire that echoed across the country, following an historic sporting triumph. The Afghan national football team had just beaten India 2-1 to win the South Asian Football Federation Championship.



Commander JFC Brunssum accompanied by General John Lorimer, DCOM ISAF(middle) and Major General Jerry Martinez, DCOS Ops JFC Brunssum (right) meets with Commander 203rd Afghan National Army Corps, Major General Yaftali (foreground).

Over the next few days, in meetings with Afghan officials, this victory often became a topic of conversation as Commander JFC Brunssum, General Domröse, conducted his latest situational awareness trip. As the visit progressed it became clear this success on the sports field represented a focal point of national unity in a country torn by ethnic divisions and violence.

Following meetings with Minister Dr. Daoud Ali Najafi, Minister of Transport and Civilian Aviation, UNAMA and the Provincial Governor of Balkh Province, General Domröse commented that he was encouraged by the discussions. He said he had formed a lasting impression of Afghan willingness to assume responsibility and a determination to change things for the better; a desire to protect their own population and to improve the security situation across the whole of the country. In addition, it was evident that Minister Daoud Ali Najafi recognized that he himself has to develop a vision for future air space management, airport management, and a credible number of professional

airspace controllers.

Governance is not really a new concept to the Afghans but they have to re-embrace the skills that come with it. On the provincial and district levels, to a large extent, they can address the needs of their people via the use of Provincial Jirgas. These mechanisms can be supported by the newly created Regional Media Information Centers (RMICs) being established in each province.

In the RMICs approximately 70 Journalists, media experts and correspondents are radio broadcasting on a 24/7 basis and they are creating news reports that can be accessed by the Afghan population at www.bayanshamal. At the same time they are producing magazines and conducting press conferences.

During his visit General Domröse visited the RMIC at Mazar-e-Sharif and was impressed by professionalism, capability and outreach of this organization that is funded by Germany.

Major General Jerry Martinez, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations at JFC Brunssum,

said at the end of the visit in a well equipped radio studio: "I saw pride, good training and excellence."

Increasing signs of capable leadership are not only visible in the political domains of ministers and governors but can also be found amongst the military. General Domröse's talks with Commander 203rd ANA Corps (Major General Yaftali), Commander 209th ANA Corps (Major General Wesa), and the Commander of the Afghan Border Police (General Ahmadzai), served to deliver a common picture. They are all well trained, well motivated and in charge of forces that are capable of undertaking allocated tasks. Of course, in common with all military forces, they would benefit from more training, advice and assistance but they are capable now and will become increasingly professional over time.

General Domröse stated: "It was more than encouraging to hear Major General Yaftali (203rd Corps) explain how he had the initiative during the spring/summer fighting season that has just completed." Major



General Yaftali was upbeat as he said: “Our enemies had no chance to fight against the Afghan Army. We want to provide good service and protection to our people.” In his meetings with Afghan military leaders General Domröse congratulated them on their success, remarking that the transition of the lead for security from ISAF to the Afghans went particularly well.

“My clear impression at the end of my trip to Afghanistan is that the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) are making clear progress and can protect the Afghan people now. I have no doubt they are well prepared to meet the security challenge during the upcoming election period and the next fighting season”, General Domröse said.

In all meetings Commander JFC Brunssum stressed that after 2014 NATO remains committed to provide further training, advice and assistance to the ANSF.

Commander JFC Brunssum Staff Address and Awards

Story by Barry Mellor, Public Affairs Office, Photo by Charly Maurer

Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, addressed his staff Monday 09 September, setting out his priorities and longer term vision in the process.

In a vibrant address General Domröse emphasised his operational priorities are the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Mission in Afghanistan, planning for the post-ISAF Resolute Support Mission, the NATO Response Force and Regional Focus, in that order. Exercise Steadfast Jazz 2013 (to be held in November in Latvia and Poland) is extremely important as it will certify JFC Brunssum for its 2014 NRF Standby Command role. But the General expressed he sees the exercise marking the beginning of a much longer journey that will lead to a training roadmap for the next decade as the Alliance adjusts to emerging security threats.

Following his address General Domröse recognised the outstanding contribution of five staff members by presenting them his Commander’s Award.

Recipients were: Major Maassen, NLD Army; Mr Foldy, USA Civilian; Master Sergeant Hecht, DEU Army; Sergeant Chef Morel, FRA Army; and, Lt Col Russo, ITA Army.



Training Key to NATO's Future Says SACEUR

Story by Supreme HQ Allied Powers Europe, Public Affairs Office, Photo by Master Sergeant Jan Hecht, Public Affairs Office

Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Philip Breedlove and Commander Joint Force Command Brunssum, General Hans-Lothar Domröse spoke to over twenty international journalists regarding their priorities for the coming year, including the training of the NATO Response Force and Exercise Steadfast Jazz at JFC Brunssum, on 18 September.



General Philip Breedlove and General Hans-Lothar Domröse speak to international journalists.

General Breedlove indicated that his top priority as the commander of NATO's operational forces was the planning for NATO's post-ISAF engagement in Afghanistan, the Resolute Support Mission.

"I recognise that the Alliance is gradually reducing its presence on deployed operations, and that our efforts are starting to shift to a contingency posture," said General Breedlove. "Therefore, an enduring priority is ensuring NATO remains vigilant and prepared to meet future challenges and threats with agile, capable, and interoperable military forces," he said.

General Breedlove added that NATO has achieved an unprecedented level of cohesiveness among allies and partner forces in the past decade of combat operations and is operating as a seamless integrated team.

"We aim to maintain this level of cohesion

by intensifying our education, training and exercises in the air, land, sea and cyber domains," he said.

Several NATO Response Force exercises will be conducted during the second part of 2013 to keep the Alliance fit for the future. The Air exercise 'Brilliant Arrow' and a wide variety of Land-based exercises have already occurred in the last few months. Next week, NATO will exercise its naval forces during Exercise BRILLIANT MARINER. This training event will prepare Alliance maritime forces for the final stage of NATO Response Force training, Exercise STEADFAST JAZZ, which takes place in early November 2013.

During Steadfast Jazz, air, land, maritime and special forces components will all be exercised, as well as the headquarters staff from Joint Force Command Brunssum who will be expected to lead NATO joint operations next year. Almost every NATO member nation is involved together with a number of partners.

"Steadfast Jazz is the final preparation in certifying forces allocated to the NRF for 2014 and, specifically, my headquarters, Joint Force Command Brunssum for its potential command role, said General Hans-Lothar Domröse. "The NRF is a highly capable force but also a force that is evolving to the demands of modern warfare – cyber for example – and embraces the latest military capabilities Alliance members have developed in response to emerging threats," he said.

According to Major General Michael Yakovlev, Deputy Chief of Staff for Plans at JFC Brunssum, the NATO Response Force allows the Alliance to develop and maintain robust, mobile and deployable conventional forces to carry out Alliance's responsibilities and its expeditionary operations. "The overarching purpose of the NATO Response Force is to provide a rapid military response to an emerging crisis, whether for collective defence purposes or for other crisis response operations," he said.

Final Countdown

Story by LtCdr Grzegorz Lyko, Public Affairs Office

The final coordination conference to hone the preparations for Exercise Steadfast Jazz 2013, which was attended by more than 250 representatives of troop contributing nations, headquarters, agencies and units participating in the exercise, took place in Riga, Latvia 11-12 September.

The 2-day conference was designed to address remaining challenges concerning not only SFJZ13, but also the host nations support exercise 'Baltic Host 13' which is merged with SFJZ13.

"It is a great pleasure for Latvia to host this conference. Exercise Steadfast Jazz is playing a very important role in demonstrating the cooperation that exists between NATO member nations; it also provides transparency of Alliance capabilities and readiness. Further, the exercise is an essential event that can positively shape public perception of the Alliance in the Baltics and enhance credibility," said Mr Janis Garisons, the Undersecretary of State in the Latvian Ministry of Defense who opened the conference.

"It is important to recognize the huge amount of planning work that has been done up until today," stressed Brigadier General Indrek Sirel, JFC Brunssum's representative. "I'm sure that this exercise will meet the training expectations for NATO, our headquarters, member nations, soldiers, airmen, seamen, marines and civilians."

Exercise Steadfast Jazz 2013 will take place in early November in a number of Alliance nations including the Baltic States and Poland. The purpose of SFJZ13 is to train and test the NATO Response Force, a highly ready and technologically advanced multinational force made up of land, air, maritime and special forces components that the Alliance can deploy quickly wherever needed. The NATO Response Force is a key-component of NATO's defense capabilities.

The planning of exercise Steadfast Jazz 2013 started in the first half of 2012. Three coordination conferences were held to plan the exercise; these were conducted at JFC Brunssum, the Static War Headquarters Castlegate (Germany) and Riga. A



core team of planners with expertise covering the whole range military activities worked on daily basis planning the exercise starting, in March 2013, with academics. Since then two battle staff training serials were also conducted and, in May, JFC Brunssum trained crisis response planning within the exercise scenario.

"We started with exchanging generic information and requirements concerning the exercise to create a common situational awareness and, afterwards, we will split into separate syndicates that went more into detail" said Lieutenant Colonel Ruud Middelhoven, the officer responsible for

SFJZ13 preparations. "I still have a few points on my way ahead agenda, however I truly believe that in November we will have one the best and most noteworthy exercises in the recent history of the Alliance," he added.

The Steadfast series of exercises are part of NATO's efforts to maintain connected and interoperable forces at a high-level of readiness. To date, 17 exercises have been held in the series, with elements hosted in 14 different countries. The goal is to make sure that NRF troops are ready to deal with any situation in any environment.

Brunssum Steps Up Preparations for Exercise Steadfast Jazz 2013

Story by LtCdr Grzegorz Lyko, Public Affairs Office, Photo by MSgt Jan Hecht

A 10-day intensive Battle Staff Training (BST) was held in Brunssum in mid September. The BST was the final step in preparation for the upcoming Exercise Steadfast Jazz 2013 (SFJZ13) that will certify JFC Brunssum for NATO Response Force 2014.

BST was an important building block on the road to SFJZ13. The serial aimed to train Headquarters' staff in the practicalities of transition from first deployment to the Initial Command Element (ICE) and Joint Task Force Headquarters (JTFHQ) phase of a mission, integrating augmentees, and practicing the Headquarters' decision making process at the same time.

The JFC Brunssum staff were not training on their own. The training was supported by the Joint Warfare Centre and NRF 2014 Component Commands, especially the Joint Logistic Support Group. The training started with two days of academics during which the BST training audience had the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the complicated exercise scenario. After this theory session the active part started. JFC Brunssum, with the support of augmentees, evolved into a JTFHQ. Everything was played just as it will be in November during SFJZ13. The aim was to create a harmonious team that is ready for certification challenges.



NATO's Single Air Headquarters Conducted Two Major Air Exercises

Story by Allied Air Command Ramstein, Public Affairs Office

The exercise schedule for Headquarters Allied Air Command (AIRCOM) has been busy recently. Two different teams conducted major live-fly exercises for NATO air forces – one in Norway and one in the Czech Republic.



During exercise Brilliant Arrow 2013, Norwegian F-16 fighters taxi to their take-off position. Picture by Manfred Reudenbach, BAW13 JMIC.

From 25 August to 5 September 2013, the exercise Brilliant Arrow 2013 (BAW13) took place in the central region of Norway involving some 50 military aircraft and some 800 exercise participants from nine NATO nations.

The exercise was centered around Ørland Main Air Station (MAS) where most participants were deployed to work together during two weeks. In addition to Norway, nine other NATO members – France, Germany, Greece, Italy and the Netherlands (both countries did not deploy assets to Ørland), Poland, Portugal, Turkey and the United Kingdom – have made their personnel and material available for the exercise.

Forty fighter aircraft, two airborne early warning platforms, three transport aircraft, four helicopters as well as other support aircraft trained along the lines of challenging and realistic scenarios that also involved air defence units on the ground.

During nine flying days, two waves of aircraft operated in Norwegian airspace above ground and sea out of Ørland MAS each day.

BAW13 was conducted to prepare allied air forces and hone their skills in orchestrating air operations. This capability may be needed when the involved units are activated under the NATO Response Force (NRF). The participating units and HQ AIRCOM will be on standby for 2014 ready to be

stood up for a potential NRF mission. “The force integration required for BAW13 has been a challenging but rewarding aspect of the exercise,” said BAW13 Exercise Director, Colonel Frank Gerards, Royal Netherlands Air Force, who is branch head at HQ AIRCOM’s Operations Division. “BAW13 has been a classic example of the final outcome being greater than the sum of the individual parts. Most visibly this can be seen with the aircrew planning, flying and debriefing large missions. However, none of this would be achievable without the superb integration of the national and host nation maintenance, logistic and information technology support personnel. For HQ AIRCOM, BAW 13 has been the biggest opportunity to

act in its new role as NATO's single air command thus far."

Overlapping with BAW13 was RARO13, which began on 2 September in the Czech Republic and concluded on 20 September 2013. This third edition of NATO's Ramstein Rover (RARO) exercise series for Forward Air Controllers (FACs) and associated elements was conducted in the Czech Republic for the second time.

Organised by HQ AIRCOM in coordination with the Czech Air Force, RARO13 involved some 30 fighter and support aircraft as well as FACs on the ground from 20 NATO nations. The exercise began with a classroom academic training and followed by the full-spectrum of day and night live-fly practical CAS training. RARO13 exercise participants will be taught how to effectively employ airpower in support of own ground forces while mitigating risks to civilians and their property. This

capability is not only needed for NATO's current mission in Afghanistan, which is winding down at the end of 2014, but also for any possible future deployment indicating the future way of the Alliance from deployment to preparedness.

About 550 Czech Host Nation support personnel assisted the 450 exercise participants who were given challenging real-world scenarios to improve their skills in the cooperation of air and land forces.

"NATO was very pleased with the invitation by the Czech Republic to again conduct this indispensable major exercise at 22nd Air Base Namest nad Oslavou," said the RARO13 Exercise Director from HQ AIRCOM, German Air Force Colonel (GS) MSc Harry H. Schnell. "We again achieved extraordinary results here and met our ambitious training goals thanks to excellent conditions, professional trainers and a state-of-the-art training

environment for FACs."

The Exercise Director and several from his 20-strong team from AIRCOM were identical to last year's staff. This ensured a well-proven command and control setup that allowed an even more intensive and efficient training outcome. "Having conducted RARO in the Czech Republic for the second time showed that the Czech Host Nation is successfully up to the major challenge of staging such a demanding exercise," Colonel Schnell added. RARO13 provided a measurable increase in proficiency, standardization and interoperability for FACs from NATO's. Now that the exercise facilitating staffs for BAW13 and RARO13 have redeployed to Ramstein, the whole HQ is preparing for its participation in the upcoming exercise Steadfast Jazz that will take place in early November – this time inside the HQ building in the Palatinate.



French ground handlers pulling a power generator up to a parked French Mirage 2000D parked at Oerland Main Air Station, Norway.
Picture by Robert Gericke, BAW13 JMIC.

The Spanish Armed Forces Proud to Serve, Ready to Serve!

Prepared by Jose Rufas, ESP Delegation

...“Under fortune or misfortune, the Military is just a religion of honest men”...
Pedro Calderon de la Barca, ‘Para vencer a amor, querer vencerlo’, ‘Biblioteca de Autores Castellanos’ vol. XII, 1654



Some of the military equipment most recently acquired by Spanish Ministry of Defence: (left to right, up to down) F100 Alvaro de Bazan Class Frigate, European Fighter Aircraft E F 2000, HUSKY 2G Vehicle Mounted Mine Detector, EC665-HAD TIGER Attack Helicopter.

Structure of Spanish Armed Forces

The Spanish Armed Forces are currently designed as a body that integrates the Army, the Navy and the Air Force, along with the Royal Guard and the Military Emergency Unit.

The Constitution of the Spanish Kingdom assigned the Armed Forces with the mission of guaranteeing the sovereignty and independence of Spain, defending its territorial integrity and all the values and rights enshrined in our Constitution. They have not only that mission but also help to maintain the security and defence of Spain, and its allies, along with the sustainment of peace, global stability and progress, within the framework of international law.

His Royal Majesty, the King of Spain, has the honor of being the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

The Prime Minister, meanwhile, is responsible for determining the defence policy and establishing its objectives, for managing crisis situations and for the strategic management of military operations. He also has authority to order, coordinate and direct the actions of the Armed Forces and to decide on their employment.

The Minister of Defence, implements

and executes the defence policy. While the Chief of Defence (who directly reports to the Minister) exercises both command of the operational structure of the Armed Forces and strategic management of operations.

From the gender perspective, the Spanish Armed Forces incorporate 23% female personnel.

The Spanish Army is one of the oldest active armies in the world; it is composed of about 100,000 members, as follows:

- The Army Headquarters, which includes the 1st “Inmemorial del Rey” Infantry Regiment, the CIS (Communication & Information Systems) Command and the Military Culture and History Institute too,
- The Army Force, so the proper Land Military Units (High Readiness Land HQ, Land Force, Canary Islands Command & Operational Logistic Force) and
- The Support Force, as the combination of organisations responsible for direction, management and control of human, material and financial assets assigned to the Army.

The Spanish Air Force was created on April 10th 1910 inside the Military Engineers Corps, from which it was separated in 1913. Its 27,000 members are distributed among:

Air Force Headquarters (CGEA).
Battle Air Command (MACOM).
General Air Command (MAGEN).
Canary Islands' Air Command (MACAN).
Personnel Command (MAPER).
Logistics Support Command (MALOG).
The Spanish Navy is considered one of the oldest naval forces in the world (created late 15th Century). It is composed of 25,000 members mainly distributed among the naval bases located in Rota, El Ferrol, San Fernando and Cartagena.

Nowadays, the Spanish Armed Forces are under transformation in order to optimize efforts: reduction of manning, concentration of units in the minimum number of facilities, update of directives



and processes, and improvement of force capacities with the use of advanced technologies.

International commitment...

With regards to security and collective defence, the Kingdom of Spain, as a nation fully committed to peace, security and international law, places its Armed Forces at the service of these goals and thus helps fulfill them in different areas. Spain is firmly committed to the United Nations, which is exemplified in operations under a UN mandate involving the Spanish Armed Forces in the last twenty years. The Spanish Armed Forces, which are fully integrated in the military structure of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), exemplify Spain's commitment as a faithful ally to the organisation, through collaboration and active participation in both defence and collective security. As an active member of the European Union, Spain is a staunch participant to the European Common Security and

Defence Policy (CSDP) and a member of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Spain is also one of the main driving forces of the 5+5 Defence Initiative, which brings together ten neighboring countries (Algeria, Libya, Morocco, Mauritania & Tunisia from Northern Africa; France, Italy, Malta, Portugal & Spain from Southern Europe) with a view to developing multilateral cooperation in order to strengthen mutual understanding and confidence in the Western Mediterranean. The NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Spain Headquarters (NRDC-ESP HQ) was created in 2001 in Betera, Valencia. The Headquarters is now undertaking the process of accreditation as a Joint Task Force for NATO in 2014, being expected to be also accredited as NRF (NATO Response Force) HQ during 2015.

... and Multinational involvement

Since both the humanitarian support to Morocco, due to an earthquake in 1960,

and the participation of a military medical unit in the Vietnam War (1966-1971), the Spanish Armed Forces have been totally involved in multinational efforts all around the world. But the real starting point regarding Spanish Armed Forces in Peace Operations took place in 1988, when a UN mission (UNAVEM) was deployed to Angola to supervise the withdrawal of Cuban forces supporting the government. From 1998 to today, Spain has been sending soldiers in support of operations carried out by multinational organisations, covering all continents except for Oceania with the involvement of more than 145,000 members of the Military.

“PLUS ULTRA”

(“Further Beyond”, Spanish Armed Forces motto)

As of today, Spanish Armed Forces are involved in the following Peace Operations:

OPERATION/UNDER	WHERE	FROM	DEPLOYED PERSONNEL
ISAF / NATO	Afghanistan	January 2002	1.068
EUFOR ALTHEA / EU	Bosnia & Herzegovina	December 2004	11
FPNUL / UN	Lebanon	September 2006	1.100
EUSSR / EU	Guinea-Bissau	December 2007	2
EUSEC / EU	Congo D R	January 2009	1
Atalanta / EU	Indian Ocean	January 2009	300
EUTM Somalia / EU	Uganda/Somalia	February 2010	38
EUCAP NESTOR / UN	Djibouti	July 2012	2
Mali Support / EU	Mali/Senegal	January 2013	54
EUTM Mali/ EU	Mali	February 2013	24



The Biggest March in the World – We Made It!

Story by Eric Pernot, Photos by Allied International Marching Team

“This is the wake up song, 1,2...!” It was 3 o’clock in the morning when we were woken up by this broadcast sounding over the loudspeakers on “Camp Heumensoord”; the camp that houses over 5000 military marchers during their participation in the ‘4daagse’ (a 4 day march around Nijmegen walking 40 km a day with 10 kg back pack).



The Team.

The period between February and July is seen as the training season in which every participant is requested to have at least a minimum training distance of 300 km under their belt in order to qualify for the Nijmegen March.

The team takes part in multiple international marches throughout Europe amongst which Diekirch (LUX) is one of the qualifying marches. This two- day march is over a distance of 40 km each day and includes many hills! The Viborg (DNK) march increases our marching distances to 45 km, again over two consecutive days. If the (healthy) body and its brain work together and decent training is successfully undertaken these events can be completed by all. This is only a short summary as other training weekends are also held in Belgium, France, Great-Britain

and Switzerland.

However, the most important one is the 4-day march at Nijmegen. 32 marchers from the Allied International Marching Team (AIMT) of HQ JFC Brunssum, split into two marching groups, with high morale and excellent motivation started out on an early morning in July.

After getting up and having breakfast we were waiting impatiently, together with more than 45 teams of Small Contingents looking forward to finally start marching. Larger Contingents from The Netherlands , Great-Britain, Germany and a number of other countries also lined up at the start. Finally we got the signal to start moving. Proudly we left the camp accompanied by a military orchestra, saluting the high ranking officers who showed us their appreciation.

The first day normally is the easiest,

however not for those struggling early with blisters at this early stage! Participation was huge - 45000 marchers from 64 different nations. Yes, we can truly say this is the biggest march of it's kind in the world! The first 20 km went by easily enough and even after 30 km we felt good. But after 40 km you can feel every ache and pain so we were happy to see that some of the rules had changed. Until last year the civilians reached the finish at 40 km but military teams had to perform an extra 5 km to get back to camp Heumensoord. This year, for the first time ever, military teams also finished at the 40 km mark. After a hot day we awarded ourselves with a nice cold beer in the beer tent. Done! First day, but...still three to go.

Second day, again we wake up with the same delightful tunes in the early morning, but getting up is not that easy any more; stiff muscles and, for some, blisters on

top. We sang more and more marching songs to distract everyone from the pain in our feet and, increasingly, throughout our bodies. Don't think about the condition of your body! Don't think about having to march another 30-20 km, in total more than 80 km performed during these 2 days. The whole team got scared because of the very warm weather but the advantage was that we were granted less than 40 km on day 2 as we did some extra on day 1. Both teams arrived at a reasonable hour and were able to relax and prepare for day 3.

Day three: the day of the seven hills and some team members struggling with their blisters and, now, sunburn on top! The support team was taking care of the flags and got some food, so time for a short rest before the ceremony starts at the Canadian Cemetery from WW2 in Groesbeek. With the laying down of a wreath and observance of a silent minute of remembrance we bring honor to the fallen soldiers. Thereafter, we left the cemetery and continued the march and, after a total of more than 40 km, we passed the Heumensoord gate: Two big boots with an enormous helmet on top. Only one more day left.

Last day. Almost done... but still another 40 clicks to go! Apart from that it was 2 o'clock when we woke up and, unsurprisingly, nobody was on the road that early. It needed a long break for the first civvies to catch up with us resulting in the street becoming crowded again. After a while we saw the towers of the church of Cuijk. We knew it wasn't far any more and morale noticeably picked up. All the spectators in Cuijk were supporting us and we marched over a military pontoon bridge made by Dutch engineers. A quick break at the military rest area became more spectacular when an AWACS flew by to show its respect to the E-3A Component marching team and, of course, to all the participants. Then we commenced to march the last 9 km.

Still a long way to go but after having marched over 150 km we continued joking saying it is 'a piece of cake'!

Arriving at Place Charlemagne, the military finish, we loudly sang "...we are Brunssum, mighty mighty NATO ... !" and surprised the spectators while passing by. All of our 32 marchers succeeded and proudly took

a well deserved rest!

At Charlemagne Brigadier General Vermeij honored our participants, surrounded by their family members, the support team and 2 pipers, and handed each one the well deserved medal.

And if you think this is the end of this march ... you are mistaken. This was not really the end! After we were awarded, we lined up without backpacks but with all NATO Flags and, with an escort of two Pipers we, our very proud team members, showed our medal on our breast and continued for the last 5 km during the big Flag parade along the St. Annastraat which is for one day only called the 'Via Gladiola'. Because of all the festivities this was the best and easiest part of the entire march!! Brigadier General Vermeij was so proud of our team that he, once again, showed his respect to all of us during the salute in the centre of Nijmegen when the team marched by. At that stage we knew that this would lead us to the final finish line and we all could proudly say: "WE MADE IT!"

Finished successfully: 39,396 participants



32 marchers from the Allied International Marching Team (AIMT) of HQ JFC Brunssum. They all 'made it'.

The NATO Triathlon Team Brunssum (NTTB) Makes up a Positive Balance of the Triathlon Season 2013

Story by Major Sascha Verheyen, Chairman NTTB

As the rain smashes against my window and temperatures are dropping significantly, it is time to realize that the triathlon season has finally come to an end for 2013. No more races to book. No more chances to make use of the good off-season form to set performance benchmarks for the next year. It is time to do quite the opposite - settle back and plan for the next season, or, as I do now, to review what our team achieved over the last 12 months.



Master Sergeant Jan Hecht participating in the International Military Challenge for long-distance Triathlon in Glücksburg.

We kicked off the season with a constitutional meeting in September 2012 where all Team members demonstrated their willingness to regulate individual race objectives so as to best support the club's goals. We agreed to provide a service to the tri-border community by putting the 3rd Try-a-Triathlon on our agenda. Actually this was the primary

budget line in the clubs funding for 2013. And, because all our members were there to make it happen, it was a great success, and reflected the exceptional spirit that exists amongst us.

Looking back, the 2013 season was distinctly positive as most of our members either maintained or improved their triathlon performances. Knowing that a

triathlon is a full-year-venture this is already an honorable achievement. And for all our newcomers, here is what they achieved. Remember the names!

Master Sergeant Jan Hecht from PAO turned out to be our fastest long distance triathlete for the second year in a row. He finished 1st in his age group in the tough race of "the Ostseeman", near Flensburg,



The most exciting moment – around 1000 athletes starting their race.

with a finishing time of 11:04 hrs, although he was not entirely satisfied! That is why he is going back next year to make amends. He also did tremendously well during the local half-Ironman race in Indeland, near Aldenhoven. In a time of 4:40 hrs he finished 9th in his age group in this highly regarded race.

Master Sergeant Oliver Klingenhagen, from the German Delegation, successfully completed the world famous Roth Triathlon again. Finishing in sub 12, he once again was happy with the result. Beforehand he prepared by completing the Bonn Triathlon

which, shortly before taking place, was adjusted to a “10k run - 90k bike – 5k run” Duathlon. We Triathletes know how to adapt quickly, even if the masters change the race structure at short notice.

Lieutenant Colonel Hunot, from J3, takes the award from last year’s winner - Sergeant Brian Hagan - as the 2014 “busy bee”. Finishing numerous runs and triathlon-like-events he conducted the Cologne Half-Ironman in less than 6 hrs. Albeit this was only the preparation for his season’s peak in the 111 (1k swim – 100k bike – 10k run) Bilzen Triathlon in Belgium.

Master Sergeant Alexander Schlesier and Master Sergeant Thomas Brungs, from the Castlegate detachment, both conducted their first Half-Ironman distance. In times of 5:13 hrs and 5:25 hrs respectively they both performed remarkably well. I wonder whether they have some high-tech training area down in the bunker somewhere.....

Other members were not that lucky this year. Sgt Hagan, from BIM, is still recovering from a severe knee injury. Master Sergeant Markus Voelp and Sergeant Sven Wien, the COM’s chefs, could not train regularly enough to participate in races. And finally Kelvin Jordan, our GBR PTI and manager of the gym, stepped into the triathlete’s world by signing up for next year’s Luxembourg Half-Ironman. He does not know yet what joy is to come!

Once again I am proud to be part of this team. Although effusive eulogies are fairly common if it comes down to say thank you, but in this case, it is worth every “dpi” in this article. Thanks for your spirit, contribution and dedication throughout this season. Hope you all enjoy a good winter and get over your aches and pains. If you want to see your name in this article next year, do not hesitate to contact one of our members. They will be happy to introduce you to our club.

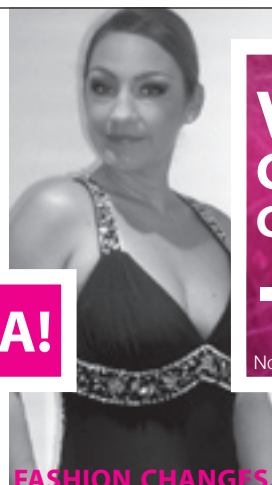


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33rd International Soccer Tournament at Brunssum

Story by Major Andreas Koes, NCIA and Chairman GNT, Photo by Public Affairs Office and GNT

On 22 and 23 August 2013, HQ Allied JFC Brunssum had the honour to welcome a total of 55 teams to its sports fields for the 33rd International 6-a-side Soccer Tournament organized by the German Delegation and the German National Soccer Team (GNT).



Alemannia Aachen, winner of the 12th Ladies Cup.

This year the weatherman clearly was on our side and favoured Brunssum so that it was under bright and sunny skies when the Head of the German Delegation, Colonel Dr. Sarholz, opened the 12th Ladies' Cup exactly at 18:15 hours on 22 August.

12th Ladies' Cup

Ten teams – including last year's winners, the ladies from "Alemannia Aachen" – competed for the champions' cup. Under this year's rules, with three groups, fewer matches took place at the same time, and so the spectators could watch more of them in full length.

Unsurprisingly the Alemannia ladies demonstrated their strength from the very beginning and their first place in Group B was a walkover. The ladies of the "Devils Angels Geilenkirchen" (winners in Group A) as well as the team "Concordia Haaren" – enrolled at the last minute – also turned out to be very strong. Together with the ladies from "Rot-Weiss Merl" these teams went into the semi-finals. "Alemannia Aachen" defeated "Concordia Haaren" with a very comfortable 5:0 scoreline, thus demonstrating their intent to defend the title. In the second semi-final against the tactically and technically strong ladies from Geilenkirchen, "Rot-Weiss Merl" had to go through to the penalty shoot-out to finally prevail.

Repeating their great performance in the "petite final" the "Devils Angels GK" won the

match 3:0 and rewarded themselves with the third place.

The result of the final reflects the exciting course of the match between "Alemannia Aachen" and "Rot-Weiss Merl". With experience and some luck the Aachen ladies could defend their early lead until the final whistle thus winning the 12th Ladies' Cup. Congratulations to "Alemannia Aachen" for this successful title defence!

During the subsequent award ceremony, the President of the GNT, Andreas Koes, and the Head of the German Delegation jointly presented the awards to the much acclaimed winning teams.

DJ Carsten Wandelt, our entertainer of many years, who again provided the musical background for the "Welcome and Winner Party", prepared the audience for the late-night live event by promising them a barrel of good mood and quite an earful of music.

And that's what they got: "Almklausl" really initiated a big blast and encouraged everyone to let their hair down and enjoy tons of fun in the beer tent until early in the morning.

Next morning, after a night much too short for quite a few participants, exactly at 09:00 hours, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, Commander JFC Brunssum, started the 33rd Commander's Cup.

33rd Commander's Cup

Throughout the day the 21 teams competing for the Oldie Cup and 24 Youngster teams played lively and sometimes very close matches under bright skies.

After exciting quarter- and semi-finals this day's first final, for the Youngsters' Cup, saw Team BOELCKE (Fighter Bomber Wing 31, Nörvenich) and the team of the Field Hospital Regiment 31 from Berlin confronting each other. In their semi-finals they had defeated the teams of the EUROKORPS and the Signal Battalion 801. After ten nerve-wracking minutes in a technically strong match Team BOELCKE secured the win of the 33rd Youngsters' Cup. For the team of the Sig Bn 801 this defeat was devastating, because with seven wins in seven matches in the previous rounds, they had clearly demonstrated their ambitions to take this year's Cup.

In the following final of the 33rd Oldies' Cup the team of the EW Bn 932, from Frankenberg

Cup Winner List

12th Ladies' Cup
Alemannia Aachen

33rd Youngsters' Cup
Team BOELCKE

33rd Oldies' Cup
EW Bn 932



General Hans-Lothar Domröse kicks off the Commanders' Cup 2013.

at the Eder River, prevailed and took the Champion's title. After having had a hard time in 2012, the EW Bn could again take the Cup home to Frankenberg.

The strong guys from the Federal Office of Bundeswehr Personnel Management competing for the Oldies' Cup with a newly formed team could not defend their 2012 title.

Immediately prior to the Youngsters' and Oldies' Cup Award Ceremonies the charitable character of the GNT Tournament was demonstrated:

In addition to a donation for the Bundeswehr Welfare Association (Aktion Sorgenkind) we could, for the first time, hand over a donation to the Kerkrade section of Basissport Limburg. This is an organization of volunteers devoting

their time to sports with disabled persons. Since the 2012 Disabled Sports Fest (sport en ontmoetingsdag) in Heerlen was the last one, we here see an opportunity to further support para sports and simultaneously demonstrate the integration of GNT and the Joint Force Command into this region of the Netherlands. We also could help a former soldier's family whose daughter suffers from Rett Syndrome. Treatment for which includes

dolphin therapy and this will be supported by our donation. A very nice and big-hearted gesture came from the combined team of the Land Command and Bundeswehr University Hamburg: they decided to round the GNT donation of 333 Euro up to 400 Euro.

As every year, the German National Team again enjoyed making this contribution to further cooperation and togetherness.

Donation Overview

€1.111,00	Bundeswehr Welfare Association
€ 777,00	Project "Angriff auf die Seele" (Soul under attack)
€ 400,00	"Dolphin Aid" for a dolphin therapy for Johanna Sokoll



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–Michael Sedovic, Bachelor of Science in Aeronautics with Minors in Management and Aviation Safety

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Future 'NATO Leaders' Receive New Child, Youth and School Services Centre

Story by Jennifer Aldridge, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Europe District Public Affairs, Photos by MSgt Jan Hecht

Brunssum - Local children sent bubbles skyward, marking the official opening of the combined Child, Youth and School Services Centre with military leaders and community representatives during a ribbon-cutting ceremony.



Lieutenant General Richard G. Tieskens, the Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum Chief of Staff expressed gratitude to the U.S. for opening enrollment to all alliance countries.

"We are developing the next generation of NATO leaders here in this facility," said Lieutenant General Richard G. Tieskens, the Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum Chief of Staff.

The new CYSS Centre is the first of its kind in Europe. The facility joins traditionally separate child development and youth centres, under one roof, to accommodate newborns through to 18-year-olds.

"This facility offers a wide range of quality programmes to help NATO families meet their parental challenges and maintain mission readiness," General Tieskens said. "It also increases care space in almost every area and age group to include: day care, school age services and teen programmes, including sports."

With 207 total spaces — 102 in the Child Development Centre, 45 in the School Age Services Centre and 60 in the Youth Centre — the facility currently has no waiting list for enrollment. In the past, small, dated facilities meant

child care space was at a premium in this community, said Jamie Ruffini, chief of U.S. Army Garrison Benelux CYSS.

"This building allows us to offer additional spaces, for which there is a huge need here," Ruffini said. "With our youngest children, we were able to standardize the groups and classrooms — we have an additional infant room, which was really needed. Now, we can also offer the Strong Beginnings Programme, our prekindergarten programme, built on the tenets of schools in the U.S."

Similar to bases throughout Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg, facilities here date back to the 1960's when the installation was originally built. Previously, the old centres were located in buildings not designed or intended for child care.

"[The facilities] were modified and [CYSS] made do with what we had to offer the programmes we needed to," Ruffini said. "This is an amazing opportunity to offer a brand new facility, built specifically for the services we provide. This makes everything really great for the children, but also for the staff — it makes their jobs a

lot easier because of how [the facility] is designed."

In many families today, including those in the military, both parents work outside the home. When General Tieskens was raising his family that was not the case — his wife took care of their four children, he said. "Until 20 or 30 years ago, it was not the habit for both parents to have jobs, but now it is," the General said. He went on to say: "From personal experience, I can tell you how important it is to have people looking after your children. I didn't have the privilege of such a fantastic facility like this in our backyard. The facility enables parents to access safe, healthy and professional child care."

In addition to serving the U.S. military community, the centre is open to all NATO members as it is located on a NATO installation. This provides children a unique opportunity to interact with one another and learn valuable cultural and language differences.

"Here, there are people from everywhere," said Jessica Reath, the U.S. Army Corps

of Engineers Europe District project engineer. "I think that is really awesome for the kids. They get to meet all these kids from all over the place, learn their customs and cultures, and words from their languages. I would have loved that as a child myself."

During the ceremony, General Tieskens expressed gratitude to the U.S. for opening enrollment to all alliance countries. "It is encouraging to see the well-timed construction of this facility as it will give our community increased capabilities and peace of mind," he stated.

Soldiers, students and staff were eager to check out the new, state-of-the-art centre upon its completion.

"From the first time they walked into the building, the children, as well as their parents, had an amazing reaction to what they saw," Ruffini said. "They love how the building is designed."

The facility is fully loaded with a computer lab and homework centre to finish schoolwork; a music room to jam in; activity rooms, outdoor play areas and a basketball court; a demonstration kitchen for cooking; a raised platform for performances; large atriums and a high-tech video surveillance system for safety. Parking is also a vast improvement for parents.

In addition, as an engineer, Col. D. Peter Helmlinger, USACE Europe District commander, spoke of the hidden "green" features to an audience of future



environmental stewards.

"The project was designed to save over 70,000 gallons of water per year through the installation of low-flow, water-efficient fixtures. Outside views are provided in 90 percent of the classrooms, connecting the staff and students with natural surroundings and light. And 80 percent of construction waste was diverted from the landfill and recycled," Helmlinger said.

This facility is on track to be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design Silver certifiable by the U.S. Green Building Council. It will be only the second newly constructed building in the Netherlands to

gain this distinction.

While the sustainably designed, one-stop-shop CYSS center may be an impressive structure, it's the education taking place inside the facility that deserves the most attention and praise, General Tieskens said.

"I am told there are 18 different NATO nations registered at this facility. Just like their parents, the children are learning what it means to live and work in a multinational environment. They are learning we can achieve more when we work together," he added. "What a perfect compliment for Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum."

Barefoot Through Brunssum

Story and Photo by German Section AFNORTH International School

After a wonderful American breakfast at the cafeteria, the German teachers and their Canadian counterparts left the school to spend a morning in the "Blotevoetenpark".



The barefoot park opened in 2008 and covers an area of 10 hectares. The trail across the park has a length of 4000 meters where you walk on different surfaces. The centerpiece of Blote Voetenpark is a beautiful fairytale like

pond where you can dip your feet into the water. You can cross this pond via an obstacle course. A Celtic wood with labyrinth, an Elf-village, a Roman stone path and a tree spirit path turn the walk into a great experience.

Though it was Friday the 13th everyone passed the many different obstacles unharmed. It was a lot of fun and everybody thoroughly enjoyed this little adventure.

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Searching For The Past

Story by Peter Groothoff, Australia

My Grandfather, Ir. JWC (Johann) op den Kamp, was Chief Engineer at State Mine Hendrik for over 25 years. In 1948 he celebrated his Silver Jubilee and a Memorial Seat with large stone Statue was erected in the grounds of the mine, in his honor. A time capsule was also placed at the foot of the seat by my mother, Gertie op den Kamp. Upon his death in 1950, Ir. JWC op den Kamp was buried in the grounds of the mine.



The Memorial seat at the unveiling.



The bronze statue that now stands in the Town Hall.

As I planned to visit the Netherlands, I started to make enquiries regarding the present location of the seat, grave, statue and time capsule. After a few months communicating back and forth with various people, I was put in contact with Mr Fons Castermans, employee of Brunssum municipality (gemeente), who provided the present whereabouts of both the grave and stone Statue.

Unfortunately, the Memorial Seat was demolished after the closure of the Mine but the Statue was saved and placed in storage for some years. A gentleman named Jaap Trip decided that the Statue should be placed in the Botanical Gardens (Heemtuin 'In de Struiken') at Nicolaas Maesstraat 2. My wife, son & myself, visited the stone Statue now in the gardens. At the time of our visit there were several mostly, elderly volunteers working in the gardens. We engaged in conversation relating to the

Statue, with the fortunate assistance of a young man present who was able to act as an interpreter, and they were very excited to meet with us and hear our story. The Statue had been damaged in the past but we were pleased to see it is on display for others to enjoy.

At the time of his Jubilee Ir JWC op den Kamp was presented with a large bronze Statue of a miner as a gift from the people of Brunssum. This bronze Statue has been on display in the Town hall for many years and remains there today though many may not realize its' significance. The miner who posed for this statue was Hubert Leonard Haambeuken or Haambeukern.

During my arduous investigation, I was also put in contact with Mr. Barry Mellor, Section Head Community Relations for NATO Headquarters JFC Brunssum, now on the former Mine Hendrik site.

Upon meeting Barry we were given a very warm welcome followed by a tour of unrestricted areas at the base, an informative talk regarding NATO's work around the world followed by a wonderful lunch.

Barry then accompanied us to the Municipal Cemetery, Brunssum and after a short search we located the grave in its' present site.

Without the assistance of both Fons and Barry my search could have had a disappointing end but I am pleased to say it was very rewarding for myself and family and we sincerely thank both of these gentlemen. Having only seen the Statues from family photographs, it was very gratifying to see them for real.

To date the time capsule has not been located but perhaps one day it will be found and the contents revealed.

Did you know? 200 Years Kingdom of the Netherlands

Story by Ed Frieser

Extensive celebrations between 2013 and 2015

You have arrived in the Netherlands in time to witness a historic event. In the years 1813 – 1815 the foundations for the Dutch constitutional monarchy were laid, encompassing a Constitution, a Senate and a House of Representatives that, in the Netherlands are called the First and Second Chamber. In 1815, at the Congress of Vienna, it was decided to combine the Northern and Southern (presently Belgium) territory to establish a strong buffer zone to block possible French expansion into the north whilst, at the same time, founding the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. In 1831 Belgium became an independent State. Since those times the Kingdom of the Netherlands has evolved to its present form, becoming a well-respected democratic European nation in the process.

On 17 November 1813, following the defeat of Napoleon at Leipzig in October 1813, a proclamation was issued stating that the House of Orange would return to Dutch territory. The Prince of Orange-Nassau, Willem Frederik, was requested to return to the Netherlands. He was the son of Stadhouder Willem V, who was expelled in 1795 and, since then, had been residing in England. On 30 November 2013 the Prince arrived at the beach of Scheveningen. This event will be commemorated in a public performance in Scheveningen on 30 November, exactly 200 years after the arrival of Prince Willem Frederik. On 2 December 1813 the Prince was crowned in Amsterdam and became the first Dutch King - Willem I. From that moment on the Kingdom of the Netherlands was established.

Celebrations

Thus, the Kingdom of the Netherlands celebrates its 200th Anniversary during 2013. October has been declared a “Dutch Historic Month”. Historic websites have been set up around special themes. And a special book has been issued called “The Soul of Orange”. This book can be purchased in bookshops and will only cost €2.95.

You can also pick up a free “Historic Month” magazine, which will be distributed in October at some 1000 locations across the Netherlands. A special National Committee has been set up to prepare 6 national celebrations. At the same time



King Willem I in his coronation robes. Willem proclaimed the Netherlands a Kingdom on 16 March 1815 at the urging of the powers gathered at the Congress of Vienna.

leaving sufficient opportunity for locally organized festivities. As stated, the first activity will be the public performance at Scheveningen, with the arrival of Prince Willem Frederik at the beach of Scheveningen on 30 November. In the

evening there will be an official gathering and festivity in de Ridderzaal, or the Knights Hall, in the historic centre of The Hague. But 5 additional celebrations have been scheduled between November 2013 and November 2015.



The Kingdom of the Netherlands in 1815.



The landing of Prince Willem Frederik at Scheveningen in 1813.

Vienna Congress, that took place from 8 September 1814 - 9 June 1815. In addition to this international congress the very famous Maastricht "Preuvenemint", or Food and Tasting Festival, will take place during 4 days at the Vrijthof Square in the centre of Maastricht around the central theme '200 years of Monarchy'. Then, on 18 April 2015, in Zwolle, in the north of the Netherlands, Sports and Music Games will recall that in the Netherlands the world's largest density of Clubs and Societies exists, largely run by numerous volunteers. Finally on 26 September 2015, in Amsterdam, a spectacular "evening parade of achievements" will take place, looking back at two years full of celebrations.

Additional activities

On behalf of the National Committee 20 articles will be written by 20 historians. This package will be presented in the Knights Hall on 30 November. Also a composition will be made for four different orchestras and carillon, which will be played throughout the country during these two years, also in a musical contest. On 30 November it will be played for the first time. The winner of this contest is invited to play the composition at the final festivities in Amsterdam. At this stage it is not yet completely clear what will be organised at the local level, but celebrating the Kingdom's 200th Anniversary already promises to be an exciting period in the Netherlands.

Programme

On 29 March 2014, within the context of Constitutional Rights, Democracy and Law, The Hague will open its constitutional houses to the public, located on the specially designed "The Hague Constitution Route". Again, a series of historic performances will be played to re-enact the constitutional debates. These will include a debating session for students in the House of

Common or "Tweede Kamer". From 19 - 25 May 2014 the National Committee has scheduled a celebration at St Maarten, in the Caribbean, that will include a Kingdom's Junior Parliament debating contest. On 30 August 2014 an International Congress will take place in Maastricht. The theme will be: the Netherlands in the world and

Europe, exactly 200 years after the

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Country: Kingdom of Spain
Population: 46.7 million (2013)
Capital: Madrid

Head of State: President of the Government of the Kingdom of Spain, Mr. Mariano Rajoy

Area: 505.992 km²

Climate: The Mediterranean climate, characterized by dry and warm summers, is dominant in the peninsula, although the relative predominance of oceanic and semiarid climate in some areas. Average maximum temperature about 30°C and minimum about 8°C

Economy: \$1.434 trillion (PPP, 2012)

Budget: revenues \$491.2 billion, expenditures \$634.6 billion (2012)

Currency: Euro (EUR)

Industries: Spain is one of the world's leading countries in the development and production of renewable energy. Industry makes up 26% of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), while the largest part of the national GDP comes from the service sector 71.3%.

Agriculture: The agricultural sector contributes 2.7% of national GDP.

Export/import: \$285,547.94 million / \$347,222.78 million (2012)

Defence: 155,000 active members distributed among Army, Navy, Air Force, Royal Guard and Military Emergency Unit (2012). Budget \$7963.53 million (0.59 % GDP). 23% personnel are women.

History: After being part of the Roman Empire (Hispania), Visigoth Kingdom and Muslim Al-Andalus, the first stages of the Spanish Kingdom are dated from 1469, when the two main Kingdoms (Castilla & Aragon) were joined. The conquest of America and the Spanish Empire made Spain to be one of the most powerful nations between 16th and 18th centuries. Nowadays, Kingdom of Spain is fully involved in the European Union and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.



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

I arrived in the Netherlands in August 2011 and was originally posted as Plans Specialist Section Head in the former Joint Plans Branch (JPB). Additionally, I was also responsible for Military Cooperation activities. From July 2012, I was the Military Partnership (MILPART) Branch Head in J9 Division. Currently, I am the INFO OPS Section Head in the E&I Branch J3 Division.

Tell us about your military career.

I joined the Spanish Army Military Academy in 1975. I was promoted to Artillery Lieutenant in 1980 and to Colonel in 2008. I have performed more than 34 years of duty. During this long and at the same time short period, I had the opportunity to work in a Launch Rocket Regiment. I attended the General Staff Course, and have worked as a member of the Army General Staff. I consider myself a privileged Spanish Army Officer as I have enjoyed postings to SHAPE, ESP NRDC HQ, FC HD, FC MD and currently, this headquarters, JFC BS.

Do you have any experience with other international missions?

I have participated in the UNPF Mission in the former Yugoslavia, in Darfur (SUDAN) in the African Union Mission (AMIS) and in ISAF HQ (AFG).

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

For most of my time in this HQs I have been responsible for MILPART issues. This was very challenging work due to the fact that I dealt mainly with Non-NATO Nations and actively participated in the execution of the programmes of work agreed between NATO and the countries this HQs is responsible for: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Ireland, Finland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. Moreover, I have had the pleasure to work in the MILPART Branch in a very close cooperation with Officers from Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sweden, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine, under the partnership Staff Element (PSE) Programme. The professional and personal experience I have gained is really unique. Due to the new NATO Command Structure (NCS), Spain has increased the number of posts in JFCBS, from 12 to 35 in 2014; this is almost a 200% increase. As Spanish Senior National Representative (SNR), I am also responsible for the ESP Contingent in our HQ and depending on ESP CHoD for national-NATO matters.

Is your family here with you?

Only my wife, Angeles, and myself are living here in Brunssum. Our daughters, 30 and 27, are in Spain; they visit us during holiday times.

What are your hobbies?

Reading, cooking, and travelling in leisure time. I also like dogs very much.

What do you like in your job?

Work in a multinational environment is the most added value in my job. Working in NATO provides me this opportunity and allows me to work together with Officers and NCOs with different nationalities, behaviour and culture. This is what I like the most from my job and this will be my "take away" when I finish my tour of duty in Brunssum.

Your future plans?

Once I finish my tour in Brunssum, in August 2014 after 35 years of duty in the Spanish Army, I will be in a Reserve status before being retired. I am really looking forward to be in contact again with my old friends and relatives.



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Place to visit: Museum Abteiberg – Moenchengladbach / Germany

Distance: 60 kilometers

Further Information: www.museum-abteiberg.de

Museum Abteiberg - an Excellent Museum of Contemporary Art

Story prepared by MSgt Jan Hecht, photos courtesy of Museum Abteiberg

The days are already short and it's cold and wet outside. No doubt it's time now to do things we haven't done during the short, but surprisingly hot, summer. I think it's the perfect period of the year to visit a museum – but where to go? Let's visit the Museum Abteiberg in Mönchengladbach, Germany.

Mönchengladbach is a city in North-Rhine Westphalia located half-way between Düsseldorf and Brunssum. Some of you may know the Rheindahlen Military Complex, home to the headquarters of the British Armed Forces in Germany, just outside Mönchengladbach.

In the historic centre of the city, there is the Museum Abteiberg. This museum of contemporary art is hosted, itself, within a masterpiece of architecture. The building, designed by the Austrian architect, Hans Hollein, was built into the face of a prominent hillside adjacent to a cathedral and a baroque abbey.

Hollein took account of both the location's historical skyline, enhanced by the abbey, and the steeply sloping site of the abbey garden. He deployed various spatial composites in such a way that visitors can explore them from top to bottom, as a single seamless entity. He thus created an architectural structure whose interior arrangement and external appearance reveal an abundance of ideas, diversity and surprises: an appearance that, in terms of beauty, functionality and originality, easily holds its own alongside the world's most famous museum buildings. After the opening of the museum in 1982 Hans Hollein was awarded 1985 with the renowned Pritzker Prize.

The Abteiberg's Sculpture Garden was

opened in 1982 and extended in 2002, as part of the programme planned for the decentralized "EUROGA 2002 plus" garden show. This event proved a major stroke of luck for Mönchengladbach, not least because the museum's Sculpture Garden could be enriched, with support from the North-Rhine Westphalian government, by a number of works, including pieces by Larry Bell, Dan Peterman, Franz West, Jorge Pardo and Stefan Kern. This finally gave the Museum Abteiberg an exterior dimension that had always been planned but never implemented, embedding the museum in the urban location of the Abteiberg, directly adjacent to Mönchengladbach's Alter Markt.

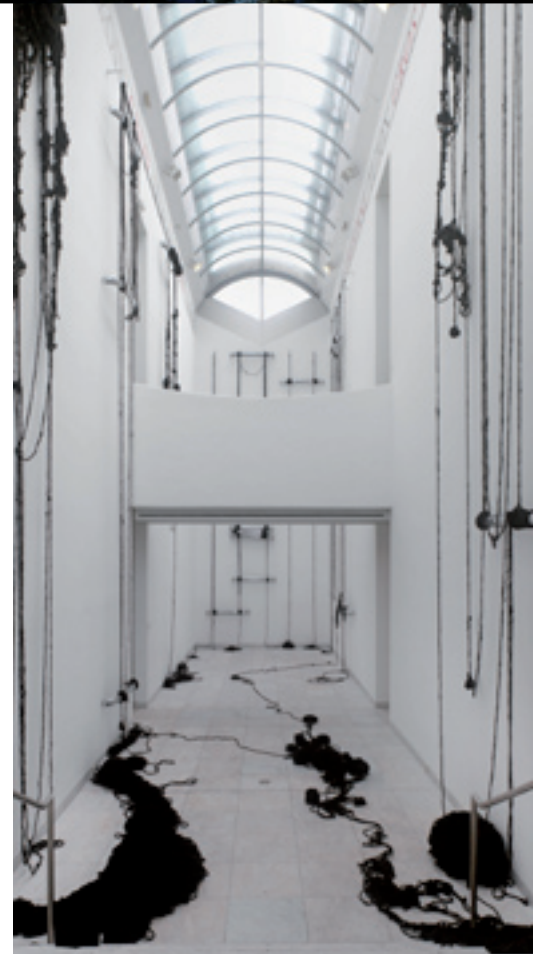
After being closed for one year for a general reconstruction program, Museum Abteiberg celebrated its reopening on November 04, 2007 with a completely new presentation of its collection.

The museum has areas for permanent collections and for temporary exhibitions and offers a wide variety of modern and absolute contemporary art from Expressionism, Constructivism, Zero, and Pop Art via Minimal and Conceptual Art up to the most actual tendencies and media in the international art of 21st Century.

All necessary information about actual exhibitions and events, as well as the artists and genres of the collection are available at the museum's brilliant website.

The well presented exhibits, the Sculpture Garden and the unique architecture of the building make Museum Abteiberg not only a destination for art experts.

So don't hesitate, answer our contest question and plan your trip to Mönchengladbach.





Win Tickets for Museum Abteiberg

- We have 5x2 tickets
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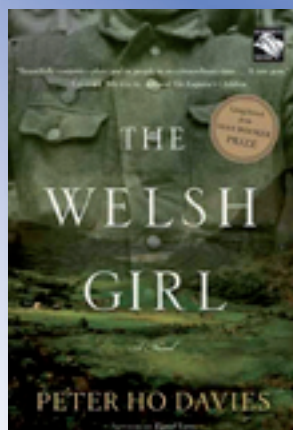
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Christian Haupt, NCIA

Book Review



The Welsh Girl

Peter Ho Davies

Prepared by MSgt Jan Hecht

Following two widely praised short-story collections, *Equal Love* and *The Ugliest House in the World*, Peter Ho Davies's first novel, *The Welsh Girl*, deserves to be equally well received.

It carefully examines two great themes, dislocation and cowardice, through the stories of a WWII POW camp built by the British in the remote mountains of northern Wales and Esther, the 17-year-old Welsh girl at the heart of the story. The POW camp, filled with Germans, is yet another national insult, as far as the Welsh are concerned, only one of many instances of prejudice between and among the novel's characters: Welshman against Brit and vice versa, Brits and Welshmen against Germans, Germans against Jews. Some of these enmities are age-old antagonisms; others are newly-minted political killing machines.

Davies introduces a Welsh concept—*cynefin*—for which there is no English equivalent. It means a certain knowledge and sense of place that is passed down the matrilineal line in a flock of sheep. They always know where they belong and never leave their own

turf. It is a perfect metaphor for much of what takes place in this carefully plotted story, and for the displacement felt by many of the characters. Esther longs to escape her village, yet is devoted to the flock and to her father. She meets Colin, an English soldier, in the pub where she works. He is a rough sort and things end very badly between them.

Another theme visited again and again is the concept of cowardice. Is it cowardly to save one's life and the lives of others by surrendering to the enemy? Is death the price that must be paid to be considered brave? The German POWs debate this endlessly, especially Karsten, an intelligent, sensitive soldier who did surrender himself and his men when it was clear that all was lost. When he and Esther find one another under impossible circumstances, Davies renders their relationship perfectly: it is star-crossed, but desperately important to both of them, setting them both "free" in the truest sense of the word. *The Welsh Girl* is a beautifully told story of love, war, and the accommodations we make in the midst of both.



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