



**Civilians who wear the
Blue Uniforms -
NLD MOD Guard Force
at JFC Brunssum**

**Strategic Communication as ISAF's
Primary Maneuver Force**

**The Italian Armed Forces:
Perspectives and Commitments**

Something is happening in Club 13

**Circle 100 – A Marvellous World of
Colourful Bricks**



www.jfcbs.nato.int



Find us on
Facebook

www.facebook.com/jfcbs

The address for good food, entertainment,
and the right services.

Your address for lunches & dinners!

Rimbungerweg 52 - 6445 PA BRUNSSUM

0031 (0)455646300

www.golfbrunssummerheide.nl

hotel@golfbrunssummerheide.nl



You're more than welcome.

BRASSERIE: **PRO**

ERFAHRUNG NUTZEN. SICHER UMZIEHEN.

SEIT 1949 FÜR



SIE IM EINSATZ

Rahmenvertragspartner des BMVG und AA weltweit.



ITO Bremen
ITO Berlin
ITO Frankfurt
ITO Hamburg
ITO Koblenz
ITO Köln
ITO München
ITO Potsdam
ITO Ramstein
ITO Alamosordo / USA
ITO El Paso / USA
ITO Phoenix / USA
ITO Washington D.C. / USA
ITO Wichita Falls / USA
ITO Basel / Schweiz

Tel: +49 (0)2623-9293597
Mobil: +49 (0)172-4295667
Mail: koblenz@ito-movers.de

www.ito-movers.de

Unser bekannter Service gilt für jeden Standort. Überlassen
Sie nichts dem Zufall und lassen Sie Ihren Wohnortwechsel
von einem kompetenten Fachteam durchführen!

Qualitätsumzüge national / international

Wir sind **keine** Agentur!
Beratung, Durchführung und
Betreuung **direkt** durch Ihren
BMV-Rahmenvertragspartner

Schlüsselfertige Ausführung
durch eigene geschulte Mitarbeiter,
flächendeckend in ganz Europa.

Komplette Montage aller
Möbelsysteme einschl. EBK etc.



zum Nulltarif

EU: 00800 - 8 82 82 82 0

D: 0800 - 8 82 82 82

Nur diese Nummern ohne
weitere Vorwahl

mosebach@mosebach.de
www.mosebach.de

Wenn Sie Wert auf Qualität legen, rufen Sie uns an !

...für Sie aktiv !

Ingeborg Richter

Agentur für
Internationale Möbeltransporte

Seit
25
Jahren



**Ihr Partner für den Umzug
kompetent und zuverlässig**

Auslandsagentur der Rahmenvertragsspedition Helmerl GmbH, München

Colophon

The NORTHERN STAR is a publication, published with the assistance of 't Swarte Schaap, in co-operation with and at no cost to HQ JFC Brunssum. Opinions herein do not necessarily reflect official NATO or HQ JFC Brunssum policy. The appearance of advertisements, including inserts, does not constitute endorsement by NATO or HQ JFC Brunssum of the products or services offered. Deadline for articles, advertisements and photographs is on the Monday at close of business prior to the week of publication.

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

Submissions to the Northern Star can be made to room I 1.11, 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.

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

About the Cover



Photo by MSgt Jan Hecht
A routine check conducted by civilian guards at the Akkerstraat Gate of the compound of Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum.

JFCBS Contributing to ISAF Redeployment Planning

By Major General Hans-Erich Antoni, HQ JFCBS DCOS SPT

Dear JFCBS staff members, today I would like to inform you about the 2012 main effort in my area of responsibility, which is resourcing the ISAF mission in Afghanistan and especially the upcoming Redeployment Activities.

The last two years have seen some dramatic changes in Afghanistan and the ISAF mission as the Afghans have taken on greater responsibility for their own security through the Transition Phase of the operation. As ISAF and Afghan capabilities have continued to mature, politicians and military planners started focusing on the next stage, which is the Redeployment of ISAF forces. Several major Troop Contributing Nations (TCNs) had already begun redeploying their major combat forces in favour of

smaller numbers of trainers and the USA began planning for its "Surge Recovery" to be complete by September 2012.

In early 2012, after receiving initial guidance from SHAPE, JFCBS formed a Redeployment Integrated Planning Team (IPT) under the Resources Director 1 and led by the Logistics Resources Branch 2. This team was assigned two main planning tasks: to provide operational-level guidance to the overall ISAF mission redeployment plan; and to plan the drawdown and redeployment of ISAF owned equipment, infrastructure and personnel – in effect, act as the "Troop Contributing Nation (TCN)" for all NATO assets.

The IPT comprises both permanent and on call members. The permanent > Article will continue on page 4



Major General Hans-Erich Antoni, DCOS Support

Contents

- | | |
|---|--|
| 4 Strategic Communication as ISAF's Primary Maneuver Force – Speech of General John R Allen | 14 NCIA Transition Ceremony: CIS Logistics Depot and Sector Brunssum |
| 7 Belgium Takes Command of NATO Mine Counter Measures Group | 15 40 Years of Satellite Ground Terminal F02, Euskirchen |
| 8 Forward Support Element Conducts Handover/Takeover Ceremony | 17 Nijmegen Four-Day March Celebrates its 96th Anniversary |
| 9 New Allied Air Commander Arrives at his NATO Headquarters in Ramstein | 18 Something is happening in Club 13 |
| 10 Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum - Visits and Activities | 19 One of us |
| 11 The Italian Armed Forces: Perspectives and Commitments | 20 Mission: Filling the Happiness Gaps |
| | 21 Family Support, Moral and Welfare Programs and Events for HQ JFC Brunssum Personnel |
| | 22 Civilians who wear the Blue Uniforms |
| | 24 Did you know? 'PRINSJESDAG' |
| | 25 Circle 100 – A Marvellous World of Colourful Bricks |

> Continuation of Command group corner Article

membership of the Team includes all Branches within the Resources Directorate, while on-call membership includes (in no particular order) Operations, Plans, Intelligence, Legal, Political Advisor and Assessments Branches. While there is a heavy support flavour to Redeployment activities, it is clear that all sections of the HQ have been and will need to continue to be engaged in this phase of the operation.

There are a wide variety of tasks and activities for which JFCBS has been planning and developing policies (and will continue to do so). These include, but are not limited to:

- Budgeting for NATO redeployment activities
- For NATO owned equipment, medical facilities and infrastructure:
 - o Accounting
 - o Writing-off through sale, disposal or destruction
 - o Transferring to the new mission
 - o Redeploying (equipment only)
- Redeploying or transferring to the new mission NATO civilian positions; reviewing the future status of NATO contractors and Local Civilian Hires
- Monitoring CJSOR and CE adjustments with an eye to redeployment activities

Once NATO HQ has provided the guidance for the Alliance's future engagement in Afghanistan post-2014, and the military plans are developed to take the ISAF mission to 2014, JFCBS

can begin planning in earnest the future of all the NATO owned equipment and infrastructure currently in theatre.

JFCBS also plays an important role in actively monitoring Redeployment activities on behalf of the Commander (COM), with an eye to warning the various levels of the NATO Command Structure of any developing issues that could seriously impact this phase of the operation. This monitoring involves close coordination with the ISAF Redeployment Fusion Cell (part of the ISAF CJ4 branch) and with SHAPE as they interface with the TCNs. The JFCBS Redeployment IPT meets monthly to synthesize all the information JFCBS receives from a variety of reports (the Monthly ISAF Redeployment Report, logistics reports, engineering reports etc.) to create a holistic picture of the redeployment situation. Once the information is collected, JFCBS publishes its own monthly Redeployment Report, and provides a number of regular update briefings to both the Resources Director 1 and visiting NATO and ISAF leadership.

Early estimates and planning indicate that the next two years will be extremely busy for both NATO and the TCNs in terms of their redeployment activities, ensuring the necessity for us to remain heavily engaged in this very important issue!

1 New functional name is DCOS SPT

2 New functional name is J4

Strategic Communication as ISAF's Primary Maneuver Force

General John R Allen, Commander International Security Assistants Force underlined the importance of NATO Strategic Communications in support of the ISAF-mission in his speech at the 5th Annual SHAPE Strategic Communication Conference in Izmir, Turkey in July 2012. The following is the speech of General John R Allen.

Izmir, 19 June 2012.

Thank you for that kind introduction. It's a privilege and an honor to be here this afternoon. I am particularly pleased to speak to this audience about Strategic Communications and to meet with professionals from so many of our alliance nations, who for so many years to come will rely on strategic communication. Today, I'd like to speak with you about Strategic Communications in the context of ISAF and the Campaign in Afghanistan.

Before I begin, I'd like to formally thank SHAPE's Chief of Strategic Communications, Mark Laity, and his team for bringing this conference together and this august group of speakers at this terrific event, and in particular, Dr. Steve Corman, a real expert in the field of narrative. Thank you for traveling such a long way. And, thank you all, for being here to advance the evolution of NATO Strategic Communications in support of operations

and missions.

Let me tell you why I thought it was important enough to leave the combat zone to speak with you today. This is a critical moment in the campaign. This is a vital moment for NATO to succeed. Our strategic communication must reach multiple audiences — audiences in Afghanistan, throughout the region, and in capitals in our alliance and around the world.

Your work is of great importance to our success in Afghanistan. It's an area that affects the campaign on a daily basis. As I say at ISAF Headquarters, I view Strategic Communication as my most responsive maneuver element. Information must be treated in the same vein as a component of combined arms, indeed as a weapon. To think of it otherwise sells short the capability and the potential impact. It requires aggressiveness, speed, and agility to put information in the hands of the people and to effectively counteract, in our case in Afghanistan, the virulent and nearly pervasive and demoralizing propaganda of the enemy.



General John R Allen, Commander International Security Assistants Force



US soldier distributing information material

Informing audiences with accuracy, precision, and speed is an important part of our campaign and our mission in Afghanistan. As we move forward, as our numbers diminish, Strategic Communication and other non-kinetic fires are going to take on an even greater role.

We are entering a Strategic Moment in our campaign, and the Afghan people are living in a pivotal year of their history. Going into the Chicago NATO Summit last month, many were looking toward a 2014 horizon when the UN mandate for ISAF ends and the Afghan National Security Forces will be fully in the lead for security. The Summit in Chicago adjusted all of our sights from 2014 out to 2024. At that Summit, fifty nations sent three unmistakable messages to the world:

- To the Afghan people: we are committed to your future,
- To the Region: the International Community will not abandon Afghanistan as we did in the post-Soviet era; and
- To the Taliban: you cannot wait us out.

That message combined with the growing capability of the Afghan National Security Forces is sending a powerful signal to the insurgency. Throughout history, insurgencies have seldom been defeated by foreign forces. Indeed, they have been beaten ultimately by indigenous national forces. In the long run, in this campaign, our goals will not only be achieved but will also be secured by Afghan forces. So transition, then, in the concept of Lisbon Transition, is the linchpin of our strategy, not merely the “way out.”

As the ANSF take the lead in more and more areas, we have eroded a fundamental aspect of the enemy’s narrative – the enemy’s strategic narrative – they are

no longer fighting foreign forces. They are fighting fellow Afghans, increasingly capable and credible AFG forces, and that is a very powerful strategic leverage for us to employ.

As a result of these factors, we are seeing a sea change in the insurgency.

We are hearing a sense of despondency among the insurgents

- as they understand the international community will stand with the people of Afghanistan in the long term, which means for them another decade of war.
- as they face increasingly capable Afghan National Security Forces, and
- as they see that the Afghan people are rejecting the violence and intimidation of the insurgents.

Let me tell you this point is becoming very interesting, as we’re hearing increasing numbers of Afghans rising up against the brutality of the Taliban. I met with a leader just last night who has asked for help to throw off the yoke of the Taliban.

But none of us harbor illusions. We know that we face long-term challenges as well. We know the Taliban remain a resilient and determined enemy, and that many of them will try to regain lost ground this summer, through assassination, intimidation, high-profile attacks, and the emplacement of IEDs. Just last night, the casualties continued to roll in. Afghanistan will continue to face domestic challenges and challenges from the region.

Throughout these opportunities and in the face of these challenges, strategic communications will be increasingly – indeed vitally – important. One of my four campaign priorities has been to remain innovative, agile, flexible and responsive. This attitude is particularly important for Strategic Communicators and to commanders.

In the aggregate, our tactical actions will enable us to prevail; however, a single incident – what I call a meteor strike – can significantly erode, or even imperil the success that so many have sacrificed to achieve. The enemy will seek to exploit every error and every piece of misinformation available.

Each perceived injustice and instance of disrespect toward the Afghan people puts another arrow in the quiver of the enemy. He will use every incident he can to chip away at our moral credibility in the eyes of the Afghan people and even in the eyes of our own nations. He will wield disinformation to separate the people from their government and to attack the very cohesion of this great Coalition.

This campaign is as much about a battle of the narrative as it is about defeating the enemy on the battlefield. To me the applicable elements of strategic communication come down four principles of immediacy, proximity, voice, and composition.

When I speak about immediacy, what I mean is that we’ve got to get out there fast – with something – but always the truth. We are engaged in a competition, a competition of speed of information. We know in battle speed of thought and speed of action are often decisive. It is so in competing narratives. Thus, we must be first with the truth; first in action to follow-up; and unrelenting in accurate communication with the Afghan people, to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, to the media, and our chain of command. Sometimes, the only answer we have is “I don’t know yet,” but initial lack of information does not mean we cede the information battle space to the enemy.

Immediacy must be complemented by proximity. The message must emanate



General Wolf Langheld focused on the progress of the ISAF transition process during the HQ JFCBS Media Day 2012.

from where it is most impactful, where it would be most meaningful.

The next is “voice.” Central to the credibility of the message is who’s deploying the message. In the strategy of maneuvering information, the “who” is just as important as the when and where. They must be considered a system and inextricably linked. The most important narrative will fall well short of the target if the message is late, emanates from the wrong place, and the voice deploying that message isn’t someone with credibility for that issue or possessing the gravitas to make the case.

This leads us to the final of the four principles: composition. The content of each message must be formulated, carefully crafted, for each audience. Time must be spent on each of the audiences – how they are related and how they are interested.

There are often competing audiences, with competing interests. For every stakeholder – whether an Afghan farmer or a head of state – the message requires its own blend of immediacy, proximity, voice, and composition, but they must be related.

Strategic Communication, thus, is about more than the individual messages and their immediate impact – it is also about the long-term Strategic Conversation to which they contribute. When I took command one year ago, the process of Transition had just begun – Transition in the context of Lisbon Transition. The Strategic Conversation was about building the necessary capabilities for the ANSF to assume security responsibility for the first Tranche of Transition or 25 percent of the population and working towards subsequent four Tranches, each phase of

transition. The goal of full transition by the end of 2014 was a distant mark on the horizon when we began to build this narrative.

Today the conversation has changed to focus on enabling governance and long-term partnerships – shifting to a “normal” security cooperation relationship with a sovereign Afghanistan that is secured by Afghan forces and continuing to strengthen the institutions of governance. The dialogue now is about a Decade of Transformation. We now look toward a not so distant horizon of 2024, when a stable Afghan partner contributes to the stability and the prosperity of the region. This is a powerful message with multiple components, all of which bear in some manner, each upon another.

Strategic Communication must be integrated with every effort of our campaign in Afghanistan from strategic right down to the tactical and wherever else we’ll find ourselves in the future for strategic communication in peace, crisis, or war. This is why I have my Deputy Chief of Staff for Strategic Communication, Brigadier General Steph Twitty, constantly by my side. By the way, he’ll be fielding all the questions today. I have such confidence in him.

Strategic Communication includes activities and messages of immediate impact, but it also links those messages together to contribute to and form a coherent whole, that greater operational and strategic conversation. Whether it is a small shura of tribal elders, an international press conference, or a rapid Tweet, it is all a part of the strategic conversation. To that end, we need to employ all of the appropriate munitions and weapons systems in our strategic communications arsenal to achieve the

desired “combined arms” effects.

So my challenge to you is to be the ultimate team – collaborating across our many disciplines and military cultures to create opportunities to inform audiences in a time, place, setting, and manner of our choosing. We should set the tempo. We should set the speed. We should set the control. If we do this, our coordinated, coherent message will achieve our objectives. If we don’t, we truly risk information fratricide. In Afghanistan that equals lives, and it could even equal the campaign.

I’m in my twelfth month of command. I cannot tell you how many times, as opportunity presented itself, or as crisis emerged – and Steph remembers late nights – when I asked the question to my staff: “Who will own the narrative?” If we think of strategic communications as a maneuver arm in the context of combined arms, where our actions are guided and informed by immediacy, proximity, voice and composition, we will own the narrative. We will own the narrative that gives Afghans hope. We will own the narrative that reassures the region of long term stability. We will own the narrative that reinforces the cohesion of this remarkable NATO-led coalition, and we will own the narrative that denies this malignant enemy any advantage today and in the future.

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of addressing you this afternoon. And, thank all of you for your efforts in informing various key audiences of the campaign, our vision, and what ISAF and our Afghan partners are doing. With this our goal, with confidence in our campaign, supported by coherent strategic communication, we will prevail. Thank you very much.

13 hours of golf raises £1250

Story and Photo by PAO HQ MC Northwood

Petty Officer 1st Class, Gilles LeBlanc, of the Royal Canadian Navy and currently stationed at NATO's Northwood Headquarters, played 72 holes of continuous golf at Moor Park Golf Club on Friday, 1st June 2012, raising £1,250 for two local charities, the Lynda Jackson MacMillan Centre at Mount Vernon Hospital and Peace Children's Centre in Watford.

He started at 5am and completed his 4th round at 5.45pm taking only a 15 minute break between each round, to shower, have a change of clothes and something to eat. Friends and family joined him on each round, providing morale support and caddying for him.

PO1 LeBlanc said "On the day, the sun was shining and the Moor Park Golf Club staff were fantastic all day. They provided me with a Power Buggy for my support people and for me to ride for speed of play and/or safety. Sue Hordyj, a representative from the Lynda Jackson MacMillan Cancer Centre, came over to greet me just before my last round and wished me well. There were several times throughout the rounds that my body was aching but deep down in my mind I told myself keep going as this is for a great cause. I kept thinking of the suffering patients have to go through during their sickness or treatment. That made me dig down deeper and keep pushing on. I want to thank all my friends, family and co-workers for their generosity in helping me raise £1,250 which has taken me over my original goal of £1,000."

Next year PO1 LeBlanc is planning to play 72 holes of golf in one day to help raise even more funds for both charities. It will be his last summer in the UK before returning to his native Canada

NATO has been a fundraising partner for two local charities, the Lynda Jackson Macmillan Centre at Mount Vernon Hospital and the Peace Children's Centre in Watford for a number of years.

If you would like to contribute to PO1 LeBlanc's fundraising effort, you still can by sending a donation via PayPal to: 72holesofgolf@gmail.com



Petty Officer 1st Class, Gilles LeBlanc, of the Royal Canadian Navy currently stationed at NATO's Northwood Headquarters.

Belgium Takes Command of NATO Mine Counter Measures Group

Story and Photos by HQ MC Northwood



Commander Yvo Jaenen (Belgium, left) accepted Command of SNMCMG1 from his Norwegian colleague, Commander Erik Hansen (Norway).

Belgium took command of the permanently established NATO Mine Countermeasures group 1 (SNMCMG1). The Change of Command ceremony took place on the Naval Base in Zeebrugge. Commander Yvo Jaenen (Belgium) accepted Command of SNMCMG1 from his Norwegian colleague, Commander Erik Hansen (Norway).

On taking over the Group, Cdr Jaenen said "I am lucky that the Belgian / Netherlands (ABNL) headquarters offered to fill the capability and command in 2012 with a bi-national Belgian-Netherlands staff and a Belgian flagship. When one realizes that a similar capability had already been provided for the whole of 2011, this demonstrates the importance ABNL attaches to the Mine Counter Measures Group. I am convinced of the high training standards and professionalism shown by the ships in the Group and know that we will be ready for any assigned task."

His outgoing counterpart, Cdr Hansen said, "I take this opportunity to express my sincere admiration for the units and their crews, provided by the contributing nations. It is obvious that nations provide some of their best units to sail with the group"

The command and logistic support vessel A960 BNS Godetia will be the Group's flagship, departing from her home port of Zeebrugge on the 6th of August. SNMCMG1 will operate in the North Sea, the Baltic Sea, and the northwestern part of the Atlantic Ocean. Besides the BNS Godetia, the Force will consist of minehunters from Belgium, Norway, The Netherlands, Germany and Estonia.

As part of the group's programme, they will take part in the "Joint Warrior" exercise as well as conduct Historical Ordnance Disposal operations.

The Group will make port visits to Den Helder, Ghent, Frederikshaven, Oslo, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Le Havre, Cork, St. Malo and London.

Forward Support Element Conducts Handover/Takeover Ceremony

Story by Maj. Peter Mientu, Photos by Staff Sgt. Dwight Chaney, FC Heidelberg PA office

The International Support Kaserne, home of Allied Force Command Heidelberg's Forward Support Element was filled with all NATO contributing country flags making a worthy backdrop for its handover/takeover ceremony



Allied Force Command Heidelberg's Assistant Chief of Staff Support, Brig. Gen. Salvatore Alboré, presides over the headquarters' Forward Support Element handover/takeover ceremony held August 2nd at Heidelberg's International Support Kaserne.

Lt. Col. Georg Annen returned his unit to the Assistant Chief of Staff Support, Brig. Gen. Salvatore Alboré, who then presented the unit to Lt. Col. Guenther Tischner. Before this time, Tischner had served as the unit's Real Life Support branch head.

"I cannot avoid mentioning that I have recognized that Lieutenant Colonel Georg Annen has distinguished himself in the performance of outstanding service and dedication to the Force Command Heidelberg and the alliance as a whole," said Alboré as he presided over the ceremony. "From my perspective the Forward Support Element of the Force Command Heidelberg Headquarters is a unique organization in NATO," Annen said. If we would have our own flag 'Team-spirit', the 'do approach' and 'make it happen' would have been placed on our banner," said Annen addressing his FSE team, visibly emotional and proud.

Annen took over as the FSE commander in October 2009. He was responsible for all matters concerning the real life support of Allied Force Command Heidelberg. Previously, he was assigned to other NATO positions in Heidelberg since 2007. Annen's most challenging times were the missions abroad. During his assignment at the headquarters, he served twice with the Headquarters International Security Assistance Force in Kabul, Afghanistan. His first deployment was in 2008 as the

staff officer for logistical plan assessment and later he deployed in 2010 as the ISAF deputy base commander. Annen was responsible for preparing all real life support regarding Steadfast Juncture exercises. Additionally, he was responsible for the development of the basic Deployable Joint Staff Element concept for the FSE.

Without his teams' performance no exercise member would have been in the cold Lithuanian environment without a warm place to sleep or clean water to drink. The FSE played an active role in supporting social events such as Family Fests and Spring Formals as well as the 2009 and 2011 NATO Response Force certification exercises. Each of these events served as memorable moments with the headquarters history both in training and building esprit de corps. "The FSE, with its approximately 110 soldiers, was and is the basis of every Allied Force Command Heidelberg mission," said Annen.

For Annen's success and dedication, the commander, Allied Force Command Heidelberg, LTG John W. Morgan III presented him with the Meritorious Service Medal in 2011. Annen will leave the headquarters soon to take over a new position in the German Armed Forces Logistic Command. As the new FSE commander and continuing Real Life Support Branch head, Lt. Col. Tischner knows the unit

very well as he served a long time as its executive officer. In front of him will be a big challenge as the headquarters will close in 2013. He will be responsible as the FSE becomes the nucleus of the Headquarters Closure Party for all real life support issues during this phase.

Guests of the ceremony included LTG Morgan, the headquarters chief of staff Maj. Gen. Richard Rossmanith, Chief Warrant Officer Major Mark Saulnier who was the command sergeant major, as well as several other members of the headquarters. "Guenther, good luck and much success in leading the FSE," said Annen as a final remark.



Lt. Col. Guenther Tischner stands ready to take over as the Allied Force Command Heidelberg Forward Support Element commander.

New Allied Air Commander Arrives at his NATO Headquarters in Ramstein

Story by HQ AC Ramstein Public Affairs Office

After receiving the flag of Allied Air Command Ramstein (AC Ramstein) from NATO's Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Sir Richard Shirreff during a change of command ceremony on 31 July, General Philip M. Breedlove, arrived at the NATO compound on Ramstein Air Base early in the morning of 3 August.



General Philip M. Breedlove, accepting the Allied Air Command Ramstein flag from Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Sir Richard Shirreff on 31 July 2012 with General Norton A. Schwartz, Chief of Staff of the Air Force (left), and outgoing Commander Allied Air Command Ramstein, General Mark A. Welsh (right), looking on. Photo USAFE PA

General Breedlove started his first day at the Alliance's air headquarters by meeting his deputy commander, German three-star Friedrich Wilhelm Ploeger, and other senior leaders. In the HQ's main briefing room he was then welcomed by the NATO headquarters staff during a commander's call.

"I am excited about being back out here in Germany," said General Breedlove for whom this assignment is the fifth tour to the country, "and I am looking forward to meeting the representatives of all Allies. It is just great to be back to the operational level and to be part of NATO again."

Later in the day, General Breedlove had office calls with his fellow senior leaders. During a walk around of the NATO command building 313 he had a chance to meet some of his staff and to get first impressions of his new Allied work environment. After a lunch at the International Dining Facility he wrapped up his first day at NATO and by meeting with all Senior National Representatives at Headquarters AC Ramstein.

Since entering the Air Force in 1977 as a distinguished graduate of Georgia Tech's ROTC program, General Breedlove has been assigned to numerous operational, command and staff positions, and has completed nine overseas tours, including two remote tours. Prior to his current assignment, he was the Vice Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force at Washington, D.C.

In addition to his NATO "hat" General Breedlove also serves as Commander United States Air Forces in Europe at Ramstein Air Base and Director of the multinational Joint Air Power Competence Centre at Kalkar, Germany.

General Breedlove took the helm at NATO's Air Command currently responsible for the airspace north of the Alps from General Mark A. Welsh III, who moved on to become the Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force.



At his NATO desk – General Philip M. Breedlove arrives at Allied Air Command Ramstein, Germany.

Photo: AOO Boer, PAO HQ AC Ramstein.

Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum - Visits and Activities

Prepared by MSgt Jan Hecht, photos by 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.

July 2012

5 July, senior journalists receive latest information on Afghanistan mission



Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum in close cooperation with the United States Mission to NATO, hosted a group of senior editors and

journalists from Russia, Germany, Poland, France, Slovak Republic and Bulgaria.

The journalists, who will be heading to Afghanistan received briefings from the Public Affairs Office, the Political Advisor's Office and the Joint Operations Centre.

10 July, Czech military personnel awarded



Major General Cestmir Tesarik, the Czech National Military Representative to Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) visited the Czech military community at Headquarters Allied Joint Force

Command Brunssum. The General met with the Czech military personnel who will be leaving soon. He used this opportunity to thank them for successful service at HQ JFCBS over the last 3 years. In a short ceremony the General decorated nine members of the Czech military community with the bronze and two members with the silver Medal For Service Abroad. The medal is awarded by the Minister of Defence for outstanding performance of duty abroad.

26 – 27 July, HQ JFCBS runs Key Leader Training for Regional Command West, ISAF



The Headquarters organised a two-day key leader training for a group of Italian military members deploying to RC West.

The aim of the event was to prepare the key leaders for their forthcoming mission as a part of ISAF RC West. Subject matter experts briefed the participants on many ISAF related issues such as training, planning, logistics or budget & contracting process. Medical issues, civil-military cooperation support to ISAF, Strategic Communication, legal overview and political overview were also included.

20 July, French Community celebrates Bastille Day



The French National Delegation celebrated Bastille Day with a dinner and dance at the HQ JFCBS International Conference Centre. In his opening speech, Major General Jacques Cazamea

underlined the historical background of the French National Day and later on awarded NCO Adjudant Chef Etienne Morin with the Gold National Defence Medal. During a delicious dinner all participants had a chance to taste typical French food and drinks such as frogs' legs, snails, champagne and wine.

5 - 11 July, Parade Brunssum 2012

Hundreds of dancers and musicians from five different world continents were invited for one week to the Music and Dance Festival in Brunssum. Every day the international groups gave dance shows and workshops to many visitors.



Our Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum supported this event with two evening shows and some materials for a youth camp that was organized parallel to the festival. The town of Brunssum very much appreciated our positive posture to this event that is only organized every four years.

24 – 25 July, HQ JFCBS hosts logistics specialists

Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum hosted the preparation meeting for the Senior Logistic Planning Conference (SLPC).



Assistant Chief of Staff J-4 Logistic Branch Brigadier General Asle Johan Kjelsberg welcomed in his opening speech 39 participants from 11 troop contributing nations as well as representatives of SHAPE, HQ ISAF, ISAF Joint Command, US Central Command and NATO Support Agency. The main aim of the six working sessions scheduled for the two-day event was to develop an agenda and to determine objectives, timelines and required deliveries for the upcoming 10th SLPC which will take place here in September.

17 – 26 July, Military Advisory Team Training Event

More than 70 participants from five troop contributing nations attended the Above Kandak Military Advisory Team Training Event organised at the NATO



Joint Force Training Centre ,Bydgoszcz, Poland. The NATO Above Kandak Military Advisory Training event is organised three times a year as a part of the ISAF Predeployment Training (ISAF PDT) for Advisory Teams. ISAF PDT is built up in three phases : National training, NATO training and In Theatre training. The NATO training consists of academic sessions and briefings, case studies, vignette play and exercises.

In order to make the training event as realistic as possible, military members from Italy, Spain, Poland, Portugal and Finland, who are deploying to RC-West and RC-Capitol, were trained together with Afghan officers from Afghan National Security Forces (Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police).

Our Headquarters is responsible for scheduling and conducting all NATO funded Military Advisory Team Training and Police Advisory Team Training events.

August 2012

The Italian Armed Forces: Perspectives and Commitments

Story by Major Paolo Zedda, J3 , Photos by Italian MOD

The framework for Italian Defence perspective and commitments is characterized by a high fluidity of many key factors. This fluidity translates, in essence, into a force undergoing many changes.



PSYOPS interaction with Afghans in RC-West, ISAF mission



Counter Piracy Boarding, operation Ocean Shield

The first of these factors is delineated by the balance of global political and economic change, with the already evident rise of “new powers” in the global arena. The Euro-Atlantic area remains relatively quiet, but it is surrounded by often unstable regional contexts, likely to cause various kinds of risks for the countries of NATO and European Union. Moreover, the U.S., on the one hand are restricted by their armed forces scaling and, secondly, place a greater emphasis on the Asia and Pacific areas. Thus it becomes inevitable a burden sharing balance between the two sides of the Atlantic, and consequently the strengthening of European military capabilities. The second factor that contributes to global instability is an increasing level of threat faced by the exchange and access to vital resources in order to meet the Nations needs in terms of social and economic development. International terrorism, albeit reduced in its operational capabilities in the recent past, remains a potent threat, because it can inflict enormous destruction or loss, even with limited resources.

The third factor which contributes to instability is the speed of global security affairs. We are not witnessing a slow and predictable stage of evolution within the security scenario, but a phase of rapid transformation, in some ways revolutionary. This requires an adaptation of decision-making and rapid implementation of measures to ensure the operational effectiveness of Armed Forces. This analysis of the geo-strategy is fully supported in both the Atlantic and European domains. Consequently from this framework descends the number of commitments that the Italian Armed Forces have taken and follows the requirement of a national military system which is:

- sustainable over time and compatible with available resources, which is expected due to a steady reduction in quota economic factor;
- interoperable, integrated and consistent with the evolution of the tools of our most important allies in Europe and Atlantic, a force which is fully professional, operationally efficient, having from a distance projectable and sustainable capability and technologically advanced. Given these requirements, there is a

strong imbalance between the costs associated with the military and civilian personnel and resources available to ensure effectiveness of the military and its progressive modernization. It is essential, therefore, to strive towards a rebalance between expenditure of staff salaries, the military operational capability and investments. To achieve this goal, with the same resources available, it is necessary to decrease gradually the staff. In parallel to the staff decreasing, it is also necessary to reduce as quickly as possible the Armed Forces organizational structures, particularly in components not directly related to operations. It is also crucial to quickly reduce the infrastructure that is no longer necessary, because of this streamlined military structure.

The Italian Armed Forces contribution to international organizations

NATO Commitments

The main missions of the Alliance, currently underway, which saw the participation of Italian contingents, are:

- **International Security Assistance Force - Afghanistan** to assist the Afghan government in maintaining security, fostering the development of structures and extend control over the country; additionally Italy contributes with Police Forces under EU mandate (see EU commitments);
- **NATO Training Mission in Iraq**, which provided assistance and support through equipment and technical support, training of Iraqi Security Force (ISF) was closed on December 31 us. NATO, however, is planning a transition cell that jumps to long-term partnership.

conduct military operations for crisis management, Countries Members have identified a capability preparation path through the Headline Goal (HLG) 2010. The EU Battle Groups have already reached Full Operational Capability (FOC), establishing pre-established organic units, with high readiness and adequate air and sea support, with the capability to fulfil the missions and assigned tasks. In this regard, Italy, during the Initial Operational Capability (IOC), made available a Battle Group (BG) on a national basis in 2005, and another one based on "Spanish Italian Amphibious Force" in 2006. Following the FOC

Maritime Capacity Building aimed at developing institutional and operational capability of Somalia and Regional Countries (Kenya, Tanzania, Seychelles, and Djibouti). Italy participates actively in the assessment and decision making phases, offering contributions in terms of personnel. Italy is also actively engaged in improving the ability to plan and conduct (P & C) military and civilian missions. In that perspective, it has had early engagement, following the decision to activate, as an supporting element for planning and conducting operations in the Horn of Africa, the



Strike fighters patrolling in Afghanistan



Carabinieri in Kosovo

- **Joint Enterprise - Kosovo** Force for testing and implementation of the Military Technical Agreement in anticipation of the signing of a Peace Settlement;
- **Active Endeavour:** To ensure the presence of NATO in the Mediterranean, and the protection of merchant shipping through the Strait of Gibraltar;
- **Ocean Shield** (counter piracy): To contribute to the efforts of the international community in countering piracy in the Horn of Africa in synergy with equivalent EU mission.

In addition to Alliance Operations, Italian Armed Forces provide assets / forces made available for the "**NATO Response Force**". Italy participates actively in this Force ensuring a joint level of contribution, land, sea, air and military police quantitatively and qualitatively among the highest in the Alliance

EU commitments

In order to give the EU the ability to

declaration, a BG has been at readiness based on an "Multinational Land Force" in the second half of 2007, a BG on SIAF basis in 2009, and a BG on "national framework" with the participation of Turkey and Romania in 2010. For the year 2012, Italy provides a BG MLF. Currently main operations underway as follows:

- **ALTHEA** in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Italy contributes to the mission in 2012 with a training component;
- **European Union Police Mission** in Bosnia and Herzegovina;
- **European Police** in Afghanistan;
- **European Union Border Assistance Mission** in Rafah (Palestine);
- **European Union Training Mission** in Uganda (within which, however, there is a slight reduction of the national participation);
- **EUNAVFOR SOMALIA** (Counter-Piracy Mission) activities conducted in the Gulf of Aden and the Somali Basin (Western Indian Ocean) which Italy offers support in 2012;
- **EUMAR Horn of Africa:** in 2012 we started the mission of the Regional

Operations Centre of the European Union Military Staff. This initiative is the first step in a process that, progressively and inclusively, leads to an effective improvement of the capabilities of EU P & C. As an ultimate objective, this will realize a Standing P & C capacity in Brussels.

UN Commitments

Italy contributes forces, on standby commitment, from its Army, Navy and Air force to UN peacekeeping forces. Following the Resolution No. 1701/2006 of the UN Security Council, has maintained the Italian participation in the UNIFIL mission in Lebanon, which, in 2012, under renewed leadership assigned to Italy. It 'was decided that Italy would participate to the United Nations mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), a mission that will help maintain peace and security conditions, the rise of the state and the socio-economic and institutional Local. In addition, Italy has acceded to the request of the United Nations to make available some observers, already

in service in UNTSO mission to use them in the mission UNSMIS, Syria.

Multinational Commitments

In a more general framework, Italy is fully participating in several major multinational entities, the main ones being:

- **European Maritime Force** – Air-Naval Multinational Force, configured to carry out missions such as Crisis Response Operations. Supporting Nations are Italy, France, Spain and Portugal, and this Force can work within the various international organizations

mission as well. The MLF was used in Kosovo (from November 2003 to May 2004 and from November 2005 to May 2006) within NATO. Furthermore, MLF Brigade has been used in ISAF (Regional Command- West, Herat) from September 2008 to February 2009 and October 2010 to April 2011. Finally, this Brigade has been made available (July-December 2007) under the “EU Battlegroup”, and is currently scheduled to be available for the second half of 2012. The next operational use in 2013 is expected back in the Afghan operations theatre;

- **European Gendarmerie Force** – Military Police Task Force which brings together Italy, France, Portugal, Spain, Holland, with Romania and Turkey having observer status. With its HQ in Vicenza, it will be used to plan and manage any oversea operations with military police tasks, coordinating and cooperating with local or international police units, and in cooperation with civilian agencies, in line with what has been done for the Carabinieri MSU (Multinational Specialized Unit). Italy has made available, as well as Unit of the Carabinieri, the



UNIFIL parade

(UN, EU, NATO, OSCE), shaping its configuration to assigned missions. Due to the events of 11 September 2001, it has been committed in the Mediterranean Sea, in support of NATO Operation Joint Endeavour, and within Indian Ocean, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Finally it was employed as a Command Unit of “Maritime Task Force” in UNIFIL operation (Lebanon). At this moment, and throughout 2012, it is engaged in EU-led counter-piracy “ATALANTA” Operation;

- **Multinational Land Force** – Multinational Land Force at Brigade level, which involves Italy, Hungary, Slovenia, and additionally Austria and Croatia as “observers”. This unit, based on the “framework” of Alpine Brigade “Julia”, is capable of conducting operations in support of peace missions, within the “Petersberg tasks” framework (humanitarian and rescue tasks, peacekeeping missions and crisis management), and combat

- **Spanish Italian Amphibious Force** – Spanish-Italian Amphibious Force, which represents a key component of the European Amphibious Initiative is available for UN, EU, NATO and OSCE in order to perform a wide range of missions (with specific reference to Peace Support Operations). The Amphibious Force was made available several times in the rotations of the NATO Response Force as part of the “EU Battlegroup”. It is currently on standby for NRF, and it is scheduled as EU BG in the second half of 2014;
- **Multinational Peace Force South Eastern Europe** – An initiative (which includes a participation of Italy, Albania, FYROM, Bulgaria, Greece, Turkey and Romania) based on a multinational light infantry brigade (SEEBRIG) available for UN-led operations, EU, NATO and OSCE. Italy participates with an infantry regiment and an engineer unit; SEEBRIG Command has established the “Kabul Multinational Brigade” (KMNb) HQ;

Permanent Headquarters in Vicenza. EUROGENDFOR was used from late 2007 to October 2010, for the first time, as part of EUFOR “Althea” within the Integrated Police Unit and in Haiti in May 2010. Currently, EUROGENDFOR is employed in Afghanistan within NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan.

- **European Air Group** – a body established by seven countries (France, Great Britain, Italy, Germany, Holland, Spain, Belgium), sharing conceptual and doctrinal issues, in particular dealing with interoperability development and cooperation among Nations in the fields for all AIR aspects.

In conclusion, given Italian commitments to the Alliance and other International Organizations on one hand, and rebalancing personnel and infrastructures expenditures to the other hand, Italy will shape a new flexible military able to fulfil current tasks and potential upcoming challenges.

NATO-RUSSIA Council - Medical Seminar in St Petersburg

Story by Col Jacques Cahuzac, Joint Medical Division

For many years, The North Atlantic Alliance has developed a dialog with Partner for Peace (PfP) countries and Russia. The NATO-Russia Council was established to continue dialog for better knowledge and comprehension for all participants. The military medical community is also involved in this comprehensive approach through annual medical seminars, held alternatively by NATO and the Russian Federation.

This year Russia hosted the conference in the Russian Medical Military Academy in Saint Petersburg, from 20 to 23 June, 2012.

The first day was dedicated to a tactical medical demonstration, Rubzeh 2012, where the Russian medical service shows the various tactical medical facilities, as Role 1, 2 and 3 capacities. The two remaining days were used to exchange ideas and concepts.

The International Military Staff has tasked SHAPE Medical Directorate to develop a generic presentation of CBRN medical concepts. Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum (HQ JFCBS) Medical Division was asked to present "The Challenge of Combat Casualties Care in Modern Operations" to the Academic Director and Professors of



The NATO delegation was lead by NATO HQ International Military Staff from Brussels with representatives from Logistics and Medical Branches and reinforced by SHAPE and HQ JFCBS medical staff officers.

the Russian Medical Military Academy in Saint Petersburg and representatives from Russian Military Surgeon's Office in Moscow, Russia.

The HQ JFCBS presentation underlined this challenge relies on three key words: Continuum of Care. Col Jacques Cahuzac, HQ JFCBS Joint Medical Division illustrated the purpose with pictures of NATO troop contributing nations Medical Treatment Facilities Role 1, 2, and 3 in

Kabul International Airport, and stressed the key factor of STRATEVAC capacities to move patients out of theatre, using multi-national coordination and cooperation.

This presentation and this seminar was the occasion for the military medical communities from NATO and Russia to educate their mutual scientific and medical interest, for better care to combat casualties.

NCIA Transition Ceremony: CIS Logistics Depot and Sector Brunssum

Story by OR-5 Tor André Egeland, NCIA CLD, Photo by OR-8 André Vrijens, NCIA sector Brunssum

As part of a broader NATO reform, the new NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA) was officially established July 1, 2012. The new NCIA is a result of the merger of the NATO Consultation, Command and Control Agency (NC3A), the NATO ACCS Management Agency (NACMA), the NATO Communication and Information System Service Agency (NCSA) and the ALTBMD Programme and elements of the NATO HQ.

The Agency is led by General Manager Koen Gijsbers. The NCI Agency has its own slogan, "Connecting Forces", meaning it is NATO's IT (Information Technology) and C4ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Computers, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance) provider, including cyber and missile defense.

NCI Agency has its Headquarters in Brussels, Belgium, but also has 30 other locations worldwide.

To mark the inauguration of the new Agency, a transition ceremony was held in the JFC Brunssum Alliance Theatre on July 2, 2012. All staff from the CIS Logistics Depot and NCSA Sector Brunssum participated.



After the ceremony, all personnel gathered in front of the main entrance of the NCIA Brunssum building for a photograph.

Mr. Koen Gijsbers, addressed the NCIA staff via a global webcast and his speech was followed by the NCIA Introduction video, presented by Lieutenant Colonel Lisa Harvey, member of working group three - Human Recourses, explaining the main focuses and challenges the new Agency faces.

The ceremony was finalized in the theatre, with the retirement of the old NCSA flag and the rising of the new NCIA flag. Finally, a combined reception was held July 3, 2012 for the NCIA Transition ceremony and the NCSA Director's Award Ceremony.

40 Years of Satellite Ground Terminal F02, Euskirchen

Story and photos by Satellite Terminal F02 Euskirchen



The equipment in F02 is used to communicate with mobile satellite terminals via a geostationary satellite situated 36000km above the equator

Not many HQ JFCBS personnel have been to F02 in Euskirchen and some may not even know of our existence – even though we are part of NATO Communications and Information Agency (NCIA) Sector Brunssum – but most have probably used it to communicate to various operational theatres. Currently we hold links to ISAF and Operation Ocean Shield which provide essential voice and data traffic. Until recently we also had a link to NATO Training Mission – Iraq, and before that there were Implementation Force and Stabilization Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

What is F02?

It is one of the original NATO Satellite Ground Stations (SGT) built in 1972 during the height of the cold war. The 12 original SGT were built close to centres of government, in our case Bonn in Germany, and manned by soldiers of the local nation. At F02 the soldiers have long been chosen from the German Air Force. The earlier manning level of 22 technicians has recently been reduced to 17 and there are 2 civilians, an A3 engineer and a

domestic help. Most technicians are shift workers and ensure F02 is manned 24/7 – we can respond immediately to any problems that may occur. The remaining member of the team is Marco – a large cat whose speciality is disappearing into the under floor cable ducts to hunt the mice hiding there.

Where is F02?

You may have seen the white radome as you drive past Euskirchen on the A1 motorway (this radome protects the antenna from the effects of the Eifel weather). The location is within a German barracks situated between the foothills of the Eifel and the city of Cologne, surrounded by fields and an ideal place for acquiring any satellite visible above the horizon. It is also close to the medieval town of Bad Münstereifel, which is always worth a visit – but don't park inside the city walls too long as the gates are still closed every night!

What is the equipment at F02?

The equipment in F02 after 40 years of service is a mixture of old and new. The 13 meter diameter antenna is one of the few original parts, originally designed to track

non-geostationary (fast-moving) satellites and therefore with impressive capabilities and statistics – just the 8 motors and 4 gearboxes to move it weigh together 4 tons, and the entire reflector surface is a perfect parabola to within 1mm of error (whatever the temperature). The newest items include frequency generation equipment installed last month and a high-speed router planned later in the year as part of NATO's Border Middle East replacement project. These upgrades ensure that we can provide reliable service for many more years, if so required. The rest of the equipment can be divided into various areas: communications; power; air conditioning; monitoring and control; antenna tracking. The shift technicians must be able to fault-find every piece of equipment.

What does F02 do?

The equipment in F02 is used to communicate with mobile satellite terminals via a geostationary satellite situated 36000km above the equator. Until a few years ago NATO owned and operated its own fleet (constellation) of satellites. Now we have a contract with an international consortium to provide

the necessary bandwidth from a mixture of British, French and Italian military satellites. The mobile satellite terminals are anywhere there is a requirement for communications and reliability cannot otherwise be guaranteed – war zones, operational environments, at sea, exercise areas. In most of these situations there is simply no other way of passing information – the local infrastructure is outdated, damaged or liable to interruptions, or there is nothing at all as in the middle of the Indian Ocean. As part of the need to establish communication links to many different national units all members of F02 (apart from Marco) are required to speak English as this is the common language used within NATO at all satellite terminals, static and mobile, and both control centres.

40-year celebration

F02 was built in 1972 and to mark the 40th Anniversary there was a celebration. It was attended by NCIA director General Herrmann, NCIA Sector Brunssum Commander Colonel Krätzig, HQ JFC Brunssum German National Support Element commander Colonel Dr Sarholz, Euskirchen Garrison was represented by Colonel Lenerz, and from Euskirchen Mr Uwe Friedl, the Mayor. The station commander, Captain Webels, opened the formal part of the ceremony by inviting General Herrmann to speak.



Former F02 Colleagues during the 40th Anniversary celebration.

The general welcomed everybody and spoke about the history and the future of NCIA. He was followed by Colonel Krätzig who spoke about the history of F02 and the many changes it had undergone in the 40 years of its existence. Mr Friedl gave a speech about the links between F02 and the city of Euskirchen and the hope that the station would remain for a further 40 years, a view echoed by the station personnel. Finally,

the parade finished with Captain Webels thanking everyone for attending and inviting all to the official reception. During the reception the senior dignitaries were given a tour of the station by Captain Webels and Mr Rick Griffiths, the station engineer.

Thanks to everybody who participated, we all had a very good time, as can be seen on the photographs.

Advertorial

Hotel **** Golf-Residentie-Brunssummerheide & BRASSERIE PRO



Golf-Residentie-Brunssummerheide is centrally located between the rolling hills of the South-Limburgse landscape and a unique nature reserve Brunssummerheide bordering the vast Woods at Schinveld.

A paradise for nature lovers and tranquility seekers. In this environment, one finds many possibilities for sporty relaxation, hiking, biking, trimming, horse riding etc.

Golf-Residentie-Brunssummerheide boasts 44 luxury room/apartments and suites. Each apartment has a living/sitting room with minibar, air-conditioning, telephone and 2 TVs, kitchen, spacious double bedroom, bathroom with bath and/or shower and a separate toilet, and a balcony or private terrace. Some apartments include two bedrooms and therefore very suitable for families with children. Several rooms are equipped with a luxury sofa bed. The hotel also has a

beautiful bridal suite.

The prestigious spacious furnished penthouse next to the living room extra lounge, two bedrooms, a complete kitchen and 100 m2 terrace around with really spacious but love views over the Brunssummerheide and the golf courses.

The complex also includes a full 27-hole champions course, a challenging compact course (par-3/4), a 9-hole par-3 accessible to job and a (partial covered) practice facility.

Hotel-Golf-Residentie
Brunssummerheide

Rimburgerweg 52
6445 PA Brunssum
The Netherlands
Phone: 0031-(0)45-5646300
Fax.: 0031-(0)45-5646399
hotel@golfbrunssummerheide.nl
www.golfbrunssummerheide.nl

Nijmegen Four-Day March Celebrates its 96th Anniversary

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

Twenty four members of the Allied International Marching Team (AIMT) from Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum participated in the 96th Four Day March from 17-20 July 2012 in Nijmegen, The Netherlands.



Thousands of spectators cheered the team to the final finish in the centre of Nijmegen.

Known as the longest march in the world and self-proclaimed “The Walk of the World”, the event is open for both military and civilian personnel. This year our team consisted of 24 marchers from eight nations (Belgium, Canada, England, Estonia, France, Germany, Netherlands and the United States) and was led by team captain, Sergeant First Class Eric Pernot.

The military marchers were required to wear their uniform, carry a minimum of 10 kilograms (not including water and food) and march 40 kilometres for four consecutive days to successfully complete the challenge. The AIMT preparation started in February with weekly training, several weekend marches leading up to the Nijmegen event and included events in one day battle tours at

Goronne (Belgium), Blankenberge (Belgium), Wellingborough (Great Britain), Chantonnay (France), Diekirch (Luxembourg) and Viborg (Denmark).

The 96th Nijmegen march started with 41,472 registered marchers, including over 5,500 military marchers from 32 countries.

40,313 of them finished the first day, 39,405 the second day and 38,470 the third very long and rainy day. Finally 38,144 marchers successfully completed the event among them 22 participants coming from our International Marching Team Brunssum.

LtCol Mike Lamb, Family Support, Morale & Welfare Branch, proudly presented the Nijmegen medals to each of the AIMT finishers.

They were treated to a final 5 kilometer march over the Via Gladiola as thousands of spectators cheered them to the final finish in the centre of Nijmegen.

As the team entered the final part of the gruelling four days they enthusiastically responded to the crowd with a resounding rendition of their favourite cadences from the four-day march.

Many fond memories were formed, from the crowd of Dutch citizens who lined the streets each day providing cheers of the support and encouragement to the final Via Gladiola celebrating the six months of training, hard work, sweat, pain, and blisters.

Some of the team members have participated in several Nijmegen marches, for others it was their first experience. However, the AIMT came together as a team and represented the NATO community most proudly. Each member leaves with an incredible sense of pride and accomplishment knowing that only a team effort could produce such individual success. Congratulations to AIMT, the NATO community salutes you.

Something is happening in Club 13

Story by Cdr Christoph Karich, Tiger Team 3, Photo by MSgt Jan Hecht, JFCBS PA office

In January 2012 Commander Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum (HQ JFCBS) established three working groups called Tiger Teams to improve work and climate in our Headquarters. Beside two other teams our Tiger Team 3 dealt with cohesion and morale. We quickly found out that a mess was missing here on this base to allow for some social interaction of the staff. The results of a questionnaire that we sent out in April verified this thesis. So the idea was born to resurrect Club 13 as a mess for all Officers, Noncommissioned Officers, civilians as well as all Brunssum ID card holders.

In May Tiger Team 3 proposed this project to the Commander and in July Chief of Staff HQ JFCBS approved its implementation.

After the first meeting, which was held to elect a mess committee, we met for a first "Painting and Cleaning session" in the party-proven club which indeed needed some cleaning.

Together with the infrastructure experts from Base Support Group, we developed a three-phased approach: First, we can use the rooms of Club 13 as an interim solution until late 2013 or early 2014, when the whole top floor of Building 201 will be turned into office spaces, according to the long term infrastructure plans.

Second, if the test proves successful, the mess would move to the ground floor of the building, where the Travel Office used to be. With limited investments a mess could be established there, possibly with a small patio / terrace between the road and the pavement.

Finally, when the attendance of customer remains sufficiently high, a room for a new mess can be part of a new staff building west of Miner's Rest.

Despite the summer holiday period, work has continued to re-establish the new mess. The mess committee has elected an (almost) full slate of officers, a mess



constitution has been written, and the opening date has been set for September 12 at 5:15 p.m. (see advertisement for more detail).

In a test phase the new mess will be open once a week starting at 10 a.m. for coffee and snacks. It will stay open for the duration of the day in this configuration, and at approximately 4 p.m. it will convert

to a bar/pub.

Of course the new mess will also continue to be the place for the monthly Other Ranks Association meetings or possible other events.

Special activities like a darts tournament, a Karaoke evening or a joint watching of major TV events (e.g. Eurocup, Super Bowl) will be scheduled.

So, if you ask yourself "Where has all the fun gone in this HQ?", please support the mess project and, once it is reopened, attend the mess, invite your colleagues for an after work beer or to celebrate your promotion or birthday there. Make it happen!

E-MAIL: 730725@gmail.com



The results of the 150 feedbacks of the questionnaire were the following: 90% of the staff want a mess on base. The great majority want a combined OF / OR / civ mess. The demand was to open the new mess over lunch hours as well as after work. 90% of the staff that replied agreed to pay a small mess fee (a willingness that we do not intend to test at this time!).

Country: Republic of Italy
Population: 60,800,000
Capital: Rome
Head of State: President Giorgio Napolitano
Area total: 301,388 km²
Legislative branch: Bicameral Parliament consisting of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies

Climate: The climate is highly diverse and can be far from the stereotypical Mediterranean climate, depending on location. Most of the inland northern regions of Italy, for example Piedmont, Lombardy and Emilia-Romagna, have a continental climate often classified as humid subtropical. The coastal areas of Liguria and most of the peninsula south of Florence generally fit the Mediterranean stereotype.

Economy: According to both the IMF and the World Bank Italy is the seventh-largest world economy, based on nominal GDP comparisons, and the world's 10th ranking economy in purchasing power parity GDP comparisons during the same year. Italy belongs to the Group of Eight (G8) industrialized nations. The Italian life standard is equal to the other central European countries.

Defence: The Italian Republic President is the Chief of the Armed Forces. The total number of military personnel is approximately 187,000 active personnel plus 111,000 gendarmerie (Carabinieri). Italy has the seventh highest military expenditure in the world. The Italian armed Forces are divided in four branches: Army, (Esercito Italiano), Air Force (Aeronautica Italiana), Navy (Marina Militare) and Gendarmerie (Carabinieri).

History: Italy united in 1861, has significantly contributed to the cultural and social development of the entire Mediterranean area. Many cultures and civilizations have existed there since prehistoric times. Culturally and linguistically, the origins of Italian history can be traced back to the 9th century BC, when earliest accounts date the presence of Italic Groups in modern central Italy. Linguistically they are divided into Oscans, Umbrians and Latins. Later the Latin culture became dominant, as Rome emerged as the dominant city around 350 BC. Other pre-Roman civilizations include Magna Graecia in Southern Italy and the earlier Etruscan civilization, which flourished between 900 and 100 BC in the Centre North. After the Roman Republic and Empire dominated this part of the world for many centuries, came an Italy whose people would make immeasurable contributions. Some of these contributions led to the development of European philosophy, science, and art during the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. In the late-19th and early 20th century, when Italy was a Kingdom, the country built a colonial empire, colonizing parts of Africa and countries along the Mediterranean sea. As it is well known, under the Fascist Regime, from 1922 to 1943, Italy was an ally of Germany and Japan in World War II. The years 1950s and 1960s in Italy were a period of rapid modernization and economic growth succeeding the consequences of World War II, and ever since, Italy has been one of the founding nations of several organizations, such as the European Economic Community, which later became the European Union, the United Nations, NATO, UNESCO, the G7, which afterward became the G8, the G20, and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.



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

I arrived in the Netherlands in July 2009, and started working in the former Joint Plans Branch, now J5 Admin Team.

Tell us about your military career?

I joined the Italian Air Force in 1983 and started a one-year training, initially in Caserta at the Military School for Air Force NCOs and then in Rome for the "on the job training". My first assignment was in Rome at the Italian Air Staff Training Department. In 1987, in the rank of OR6, I was assigned to the Exercise and Tactical Evaluation Department. Meanwhile I started attending several Professional Development courses. In 1994, in the rank of OR7, I experienced my first NATO tour at the NATO School Oberammergau in Germany where I was assigned as NCO In Charge of Security. In 1998 I was assigned to the "Operation Directorate" of the Italian Air Staff where I worked firstly in the current OPS section and later as P.A. of the Director until 2009 when I joined HQ JFC Brunssum.

Do you have any experience with other international missions?

I spent one NATO tour at the NATO School in Oberammergau, I took part in several joint international exercises and related working groups, as well as a tour at the International Coalition Center in Tampa, Florida in support of Enduring Freedom and ISAF Operations in 2004.

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

My job within the J5 Admin Team has always proved to be very interesting, challenging and it has never been boring or routine. It is a challenge to face and struggle with many different issues, that you are required to prioritize and deal with in a timely and effective way. J5 team is a dynamic team of the finest planners due mostly to the direction and inspiration of our J5's Team Leadership. Nevertheless it is very important for the admin team to understand the different cultural, professional and personal backgrounds of everybody and help them to meet NATO administrative standards! No day is the same in J5 and always demanding in countless ways, but thoroughly enjoyable at the same time. I have been truly privileged to work with this team.

Is your family here with you?

Yes my lovely wife Marisa and my daughters Ileana (15) and Ludmilla (9) have moved with me to Maastricht, where suitable international schools are available. We like it, and we enjoy its multicultural nature.

What are your hobbies?

My hobbies include traveling with my family, playing volleyball, any kind of outdoor activity and I love reading.

What do you like in your job?

I appreciate the social and multicultural aspect of the present assignment. I have the opportunity to meet people from different countries and consequently learn new ways of doing things. I'm gaining great experiences and acquiring a wider view of the world. This is definitely a unique opportunity given for a limited time, that all of us should enjoy.

Can you shortly describe your country?

Italy is the heart of the Mediterranean geographic area. It is composed of a long peninsula (known as the boot) and two main islands (Sicily and Sardinia). The territory includes Alps, Apennines, plains and a beautiful long coast line. Italy is known for its gastronomy, and for its monument richness inherited from the Roman Empire and Renaissance. Our culture is very strong and variegated and has deep roots in the past, when Italy was composed by several small states. Reunification of the Italian peninsula as a kingdom happened in 1861. Its past makes Italy an amazing country with no equals.

Your future plans?

I am close to the end of my tour. Right now my plan is to go back to Rome, where I will move with my family at the beginning of September 2012. I will join part of a team I worked with in the past and for the first time my job will not belong to the realms of operations.

The Ultimate Warrior serves in Brunssum

Story and Photo by 1SG William Howell, US Army, AFNORTH BN



An Allied Forces North (AFNORTH) Battalion Soldier took first place at the AFNORTH Battalion's Ultimate Warrior Competition held on April 24-27 in Budel, The Netherlands.

Staff Sergeant Lorenzo Graham, assigned to ALPHA Company working at CIS Log Brunssum, competed against nine soldiers from AFNORTH to earn the title of Battalion Ultimate Warrior.

Having this title he participated at Brigade level during US NATO Brigade's Ultimate Warrior Competition May 30 - June 10, 2012 in Grafenwoehr, Germany. SSG Graham competed against 15 other soldiers and again took first place and was named NATO Brigade non-commissioned officer of the Year.

The Ultimate Warrior Competition is an event that challenges the soldiers with rigorous physical fitness, Army knowledge, weapons qualification, a board interview, essay writing, several warrior tasks and squad level battle drills.



Staff Sergeant Lorenzo Graham earned the title NATO Brigade non-commissioned officer of the Year



Mission: Filling the Happiness Gaps

Story by Lt Col Mike Lamb, FSMW

I was asked recently to come up with a Mission Statement for our newly re-named organization, the Family Support, Morale & Welfare Branch (FSMW), and "Filling the Happiness Gaps" for the JFCBS community was the simple (perhaps too glib) declaration that I wanted to use. My team wisely talked me out of it, and we came up with something that sounded more appropriate for this august NATO headquarters. Still, I like the sound of it and the diverse way that it can be applied, so I intend to make it our unofficial motto.

My friend Cdr Christoph Karich is leading such a gap-filling effort as he and his band of merrymakers attempt to bring Club 13 back to the forefront of the JFCBS social scene. Please read his article found in this magazine, and join us each and every Wednesday (grand opening 12 September at 5:15 p.m.), for a coffee, a light lunch or for

an after work beer with office mates. We'll have music, darts, billiards, (did I mention beer?), and stimulating conversation in abundance.

As we transition back to a status as a deployable headquarters, we find that another gap that needs to be filled is the support of families who are left behind when the NATO member deploys. Perhaps nothing can undermine the effectiveness of a warrior faster than the anxiety generated by unsatisfactory living conditions for the loved ones on the home front. Whether the spouse of a deployed member needs help with utility companies, landlords, childcare, or just needs a way to relax with peers after a stressful day of managing a household alone, this community will need to unite to support the families of deployed members in their time of need. Our branch will actively participate in bridging this gap, but it will also require the joint effort of each of the host nations and a team of committed volunteers. If you are interested

in contributing to this endeavour, please contact me...I can put you to work! What other gaps in happiness do you see? We're willing and able to try just about anything as long as it's ethical and doesn't cost inordinate amounts of money. Hopefully you are a regular consumer of the weekly Lambgram* and are taking advantage of some of the wonderful recreational opportunities we have available in this community. Many people have already responded to the Lambgram with ideas, suggestions and criticisms, and I encourage you to do the same. Help me find the gaps so that together we can make this assignment at Brunssum the one you're talking about as the highlight of your military career.

**If you are not receiving the Lambgram and you are a member of Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum team, your life has a gap. Send me a note immediately at michael.lamb@jfcbs.nato.int and I will correct this grave injustice.*



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

FSMW FACILITIES HOURS OF OPERATIONS

ARTS AND CRAFTS CENTER (Bldg 607)/045-526-2454

MON, FRI & SAT: CLOSED
TUES & THUR: 1000-1700
WED: 1000-2100
SUN: 1300-1700

CAR CRAFT CENTER (Bldg 402)/045-526-3173

MON-WED: 0800-1700
THUR: 0800-2000
FRI-SAT: 0800-1700

GYM/FITNESS CENTER(Bldg 405)/ 045-526-3170

MON-THUR: 0600-2000
FRI: 0600-1500
SAT: 0900-1300
SUN: CLOSED

BARBER AND BEAUTY SHOP(Bldg 604)/ 045-526-2957

MON-FRI: 0830-1700

ALLIANCE RESTAURANT (Bldg 201)/045-526-3188

LUNCH: MON-FRI 1200-1400

LIBRARY(Bldg 604)/045-526-2669

MON: CLOSED
TUES-WED: 1100-2000
THUR-FRI: 1100-1800
SAT-SUN: 1200-1600

SWIMMING POOL (Bldg 605)/045-526-3172

LAP SWIM:

0630-0900
1200-1400

PUBLIC SWIM:

TUE-WED: 1500-1630
THUR-FRI: 1500-1830
SAT-SUN: 1200-1600

B&S CENTRAL STORE (Bldg 604)/045-526-2915

MON-FRI: 1000-1800
SAT: 1000-1500

MINER'S RESTAURANT (Bldg 106) / 045-526-2291

MON-THUR: 0730-1530
FRI: 0730-1430

JFC BRUNSSUM ALLIANCE THEATER

Movie Schedule

Sat. 15 Sep / 16:00

TYLER PERRY'S

MADEA'S WITNESS

PROTECTION

Tyler Perry

Eugene Levy

Sat. 22 Sep / 19:00

ABRAHAM

LINCOLN: VAMPIRE

HUNTER

Benjamin Walker

Dominic Cooper

Sat. 15 Sep / 19:00

SAVAGES

Taylor Kitsch

Blake Lively

Sat. 29 Sep / 16:00

THE DARK KNIGHT

RISES

Christian Bale

Anne Hathaway

Sat. 22 Sep / 16:00

KATY PERRY: PART OF

ME

Katy Perry

Sat. 29 Sep / 19:00

THE WATCH

Ben Stiller

Vince Vaughn

Open to all NATO ID Holders & Family Members:

- > Run, Walk or Bicycle
- > 5, 10 & 20 km Routes

International Conference Centre (ICC):

- > 1100 Registration at ICC
- > 1150 Welcome Address
- > 1200 Start

working together to outrun cancer

All proceeds go to the DUTCH CANCER SOCIETY

Annual Canadian & Brunssum Community

TERRY FOX RUN

Tuesday, September 18th, 2012

Please join us on Tuesday, September 18 and partake in the 32nd annual Terry Fox Run right here at JFC Brunssum. Registration starts at 1100hrs at the ICC for the 5, 10 or 20km courses that can be run, walked or biked. There is no cost, but donations are strongly encouraged. The attached flyer contains more valuable information, and I encourage you to learn more about Terry Fox and his quest to defeat cancer by reading more at <http://www.terryfox.org/>

Parent's Night Out

For Children Infant - 5th Grade

Enjoy a night out while CYSS take care of your children

WHEN:	HOURS OF CARE:	SIGN-UP DEADLINE
September 7th	6:30 - 11:30 P.M.	September 5th
October 5th	6:30 - 11:30 P.M.	October 3rd
November 2nd	6:30 - 11:30 P.M.	October 31st

OPEN TO ALL US AND NATO ID CARDHOLDERS. Light dinner will be served. Children must be registered with CYSS. Care is \$20 per child, each additional sibling \$18. AFC benefits can be used. Care is located at JFC Brunssum BLDG H-501. To sign-up contact Parent Central Services, +31 (0) 45-526-3121 or stop by JFC BLDG H-505 to make your reservations.

Fees are non-refundable.

Need at least 9 children enrolled to offer the event. If less than 9, we will notify of cancellation by COB Thursday.

Civilians who wear the Blue Uniforms

Story by Jaroslava Augustinova, Photos by MSgt Jan Hecht, JFCBS PA office

I was very happy that CPT John Marechal, the Head of the Security Section (Directorate of Management/Base Support Group/Security&Emergency Services Branch) found time to meet me in his very busy agenda. And more so because he is going to retire soon after 37 years of service. I recently visited him in his office to learn more about the NLD MOD Guard Force or, in other words, about the Dutch men and women in the blue uniforms whom are the first we meet when entering the base every morning, and the last we see when we leave the base in the evening for home. Regardless of the heavy rain or snow, strong wind or summer heat, they always have a friendly smile on their faces, something that I really admire.

The one thing that we know about them is that they check our ID at the gate. But they do much more than this. CPT Marechal explains to me the tasks and responsibilities of his staff, each of whom is on duty 24/7, 365 days per year: „All my subordinates -supervisors, senior guards and guards, are civilians contracted by the Dutch Ministry of Defence. It is most interesting to note that our guards are the only civilian Guard Force throughout the Netherlands who are allowed to carry weapons.“

That's why all of them participate in a very demanding training which teaches the guards a variety of military and police techniques and procedures for their role at Brunssum. In addition, each of them has to undergo a security screening to fit them for their duties.

The main responsibility of the guards is to maintain order, security and discipline. We all see them patrolling outside and



CAPT Marechal's military carrier started in 1975. During 37 years in uniform, he worked as a security guard, investigator, staff officer or deputy brigade commander. He was stationed on the national border for several years. He has been responsible for the NLD MOD Guard Force at JFC Brunssum since 2008. He has several times served his country abroad (Poland, Angola, Kirgizstan and Afghanistan).

inside HQ JFCBS premises, providing visitors' passes, checking cars and drivers' documents, walking in the corridors during the night in order to check that the offices are locked and that no classified documents have been left unsecured...

“People working at the headquarters will be interested to know that they can reach the guards 24/7 in order to get assistance, if required. You can visit the Desk Supervisor (building H313) or call number 045-526 2616”, “ says CPT Marechal. So, when you or your family get involved

in any kind of incident, somebody breaks into your house or you need any advice or help, the guards really can become your „guarding angels“. They are able to support you immediately in any situation and will take all appropriate measures on your behalf; for example, arranging for local police to visit you to give assistance. You can also contact them if you have knowledge of a criminal offence.

When I asked CPT Marechal what was the biggest challenge that he faced as head of the NLD MOD Guard Force, he doesn't need to think twice and responded at once :

„It was not easy to implement our present system which replaced that based on the work of the International Military Police. The system we have now is based on the NLD MOD Guard Force. One of the challenges was the fact that the number of the International Military Police members was higher than the number of today's Dutch guards. So we had to take over the whole spectrum of tasks and responsibilities with fewer personnel to achieve this. But what I have always liked is the direct contact and working with all the people in our international community.“

Now you know what our NLD MOD Guard Force does. Let them know your appreciation next time you see one by saying „Thank you“.



City Hotel***

First House in Town – Three Star Hotel

- > Exclusive single, double & triple rooms with shower/WC, minibar
- > Suites equipped with modern appliances such as kitchenette, microwave, coffee machine, DVD-player, balcony
- > Apartments for families full equipped with modern appliances, two bedrooms, living room, kitchen, microwave, coffee machine, bathroom/WC, DVD-player or video recorder
- > Appliances for complete hotel: WLAN Access Points, Color TV, SKYSAT-Europe, ASTRA, EU-TELSAT, Pentagon Channel, Premiere Pay-TV direct dial phone, washers & driers, Saunas
- > Large buffet breakfast in our bistro Café Fleur daily opened from 7 am to 12 pm



City Hotel***

Theodor-Heuss-Ring 15
52511 Geilenkirchen
Germany
fon +49 (0)2451 627-0
fax +49 (0)2451 627300
email office@cityhotel-geilenkirchen.de
URL www.cityhotel-geilenkirchen.de

Café, Restaurant & Partyservice

Haus Hamacher

52538 Gangelt Am Freibad 10

1st of October:

original Bavarian specialties and Paulaner Oktoberfest beer out of the barrel

3th of October until the 7th of October

Big Alpenbuffet

all you can eat for € 14,90 pp

The 4th of October and the 5th of October at 16:30:

HAPPY DAY for € 9,90 pp

Reservation strongly recommended

Tel: 02454/1414 Fax: 02454/939301

www.Haus-Hamacher.de



www.trianonborgopio.com

RELIVE ROME'S HISTORY



The Trianon Borgo Pio Residence in the **heart** of the Eternal City welcomes you!

+ CONVENIENCE

+ POSITION

+ FREEDOM

+ STRUCTURE



**Come, Look, Discover.
Your local Audi specialists.**

Jacobs automobile sales team looks forward to your visit: (l. to r.) Achim Käfferlein, Martin Deffur, Michael Wittwer, Gerd Caron, Lothar Herfs, Marcel Oellers, Markus Weber, Alfred Deffur, Michael Marx.

Our offer (including financing)

Audi A1 1.2 Attraction gasoline

68 kW engine, 5-speed gearbox, brilliant black paint finish, alloy wheels, manual air conditioning system, Chorus radio, side -and head airbags, middle armrest, electrically adjustable exterior mirrors, start-stop system, central locking system with remote control, etc.

Initial payment: € 2,990.00

Duration of agreement: 36 months

Effective rent per year: 3.9 %

Mileage per year: 10,000 km

Balloon payment: € 11.550,-

Monthly payment: € 169,00

* An offer from Audi Bank

Fuel consumption in liters/100 km: in urban areas 6,2; in rural areas 4,4; combined 5,1
CO2 emissions, combined: 118 g/km



We also sell tax free!

Zweigstelle Audi Zentrum Aachen
Jacobs automobile GmbH & Co. KG

JACOBS
automobile

An Fürthenrode 58-60 • Geilenkirchen
Phone: +49 (0)2451 - 987011
info@jacobs-automobile.com
www.jacobs-automobile.com

A member of the Jacobs group of companies

MEEÛS®

Concessionaire for JFC HQ Brunssum for the past 30 years!

For all your insurance needs

Opening hours: Monday-Friday 9.30-12.30 and 13.30-16.30

Location: Building H-604 (next to the JFC Library),

JFC HQ Brunssum, extension 2492

T +31 (0)45 526 24 92 E jfc@meeus.com W jfc.meeus.com

Serving the NATO Community

**35
YEARS**

ANIMAL HOTEL ABDISSENBOSCH

The address where your pets feels at home

DAYCARE



New cat-place where your cat can move freely.
Roomy outside place, playgrounds, central heated.
Grooming salon, also D-I-Y washsalon for pets.

Opening hours: Mo-Sa 08.00-12.00 and 16.00-19.00
Sundays and holidays closed for bringing in or picking-up.

Vogelzankweg 230 • NL-6374 AH Landgraaf • Tel +31 (0)45 531 72 17
www.dierenhotelabdissebosch.nl (also in English)

Prepared by LtCol Jan van Helvert, JFCBS PA office



Every year the third Tuesday of September is Budget Day in The Netherlands. So, this year Budget Day is on Tuesday 18 September. Budget Day is the official inauguration of a new work year of the 'Staten Generaal' (both the Senate and House of Parliament). On this day the Queen rides in the Golden Carriage from her Palace Noordeinde to the Parliament Buildings in The Hague. In the Knights Hall, the Queen reads the so called 'troonrede' in which the government outlines their policy for the upcoming year.

Budget Day is associated with the necessary rituals. The queen takes a ride in the Golden Carriage through The Hague, all ladies present in the Knights hall during the Queens speech wear striking hats, which are discussed later in the media, and the Minister of Finance carries a mysterious briefcase which bears the inscription "Third Tuesday in September." In this suitcase the Budget document is saved. The content of this Budget document is officially kept secret, although parts of it usually leak out.

Later that day the Minister of Finance presents the state budget to the chairman of the lower House. He does this on behalf of the government. In the state budget, the government indicates how much money is available for the various plans and where the money for

the implementation of the plans comes from. After the Minister of Finance has explained the Governments policy, the House will start a debate with the Government for several days.

Traditionally it was determined in the Constitution on what day Budget day falls. In the first half of the nineteenth century the first session of the Staten Generaal was initially on the first Monday in November, and later on the third Monday in October. In 1848 a one-year budget was introduced and at the same time the House wanted more time to discuss the government's budget proposal. Therefore, the annual session of parliament was extended by one month and the opening date advanced to September. Monday was not an ideal day for a large number of MPs who lived in distant parts of the country because it was difficult to arrive in time in The Hague on Monday. To avoid that MP's travel on Sunday (Sunday rest) the constitution was changed in 1887 and replaced the Monday by a Tuesday.

The Golden Carriage

The Golden Carriage was given to Queen Wilhelmina in 1898 by the population of Amsterdam. In 1903 the Golden Carriage was first used for Budget Day. Since then Budget Day and the Golden Carriage go together. At exactly one o'clock the Queen, accompanied by members of the Royal House, leaves Palace Noordeinde.

Along the route the Queen passes successively the monument for Queen Wilhelmina, Palace Kneuterdijk, Hotel des Indes, Palace Lange Voorhout, and Prince Maurits house. The parade enters the inner square of the Parliament Buildings through the Grenadiers Gate. At the Knights Hall the Queen and her entourage step out of the Golden Carriage.

The Golden Carriage is built of Javanese teak and partly covered with gold leaf. The four wheels of the carriage symbolize the sun. On the cornice of the carriage are the crests of the then 11 provinces of The Netherlands and the crest of the city of Amsterdam illustrated. Only as the Queen uses the carriage it is drawn by eight horses.



In the Knights Hall, the Queen reads the so called 'troonrede' in which the government outlines their policy for the upcoming year.

Where: Duisburg, Germany
Place to visit: LEGOLAND Discovery Centre
Distance: 100 km
Opening dates: Open all year round
Opening hours: Monday to Friday (besides public holidays and vacations in NRW) 11 a.m. – 6 p.m. (last entrance 4:30 p.m.) Saturday, Sunday and various public holidays and vacations in NRW: 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. (last entrance 5 p.m.)
More information: www.legolanddiscoverycentre.de/duisburg



A Marvellous World of Colourful Bricks

Story by MSgt Jan Hecht and LEGOLAND Discovery Centre Duisburg, Photos by LEGOLAND Discovery Centre

Many of us know the small plastic bricks which can be assembled and connected in many ways, to construct such objects as vehicles, buildings, and even working robots. You've probably visited one of the big Legoland parks in Germany, Denmark, England or the United States. A small brother of these parks is located in Duisburg, Germany sharp within our Circle 100 area.

Looking for a nice fun family day out we go to the border of our 'Area of Interest' this time.

The German highways A46 and A57 lead you directly to Duisburg. An old Warehouse, which belongs to the inland harbour of Duisburg, hosts the LEGOLAND Discovery Centre.

If you survived the journey without speed limit, you can start your trip through the interactive LEGOLAND world of colour, creativity and fun.

Many attractions such as the LEGO Factory, the Dragon Quest, the Pirates Splash Battle or the Village waiting for you and ensure a good and entertaining time for both adults and children. Let's have a more detailed look to a few of them.

A must do is to go into the 4D cinema. For your visit here you have to bear the following tip (nobody told me!) in mind. Don't choose the wettest seat! Be sure you will enjoy and never forget the short movie.

Join Professor Brick-a-Brack (Master of the LEGO Factory) and see how the

famous little bricks are made – you'll even get your own special LEGO brick to take home!

The Master Model builder will provide you some tips to build your own models from thousands of LEGO bricks. If the work is done you can take them to the test centre and try them out! Will you be able to build the fastest LEGO car, and will your LEGO tower be able to survive the shaking earthquake?

Journey through the lost jungle city, explore the ruins and solve its hidden mystery as you tackle the quiz trail. Then ride the Fire Dragon and meet the knights and maidens in the royal court of a magnificent medieval castle. Look out for the dragon!

Step onboard the Pirate Ship for some swash-buckling LEGO fun! Will you win the pirate splash battle, or will you be made to walk the plank?

To learn more about the attractions or to plan your trip to the centre you should go to its nice website -

www.LEGOLANDDiscoveryCentre.de/Duisburg. When you visit the discovery centre, you should buy your tickets online in advance. You can save a lot of money here.

The easiest (and the cheapest) way to get tickets is to answer our contest question. As usual we offer 5 times 2 free tickets.

The LEGOLAND Discovery Centre will move to Oberhausen, which is further away, in spring next year. So don't hesitate to start your trip to Duisburg.

Have fun!





Win Family Tickets for LEGOLAND Discovery Centre Duisburg

- We have 5x Tickets
- In order to win the tickets, please answer the following question:
- **What is the name of the master of the LEGOLAND factory?**
- Fill in this coupon and send it to PAO, or send an e-mail to pao@jfcbs.nato.int, before 29 September 2012
- For NATO ID card holders only
- The winners will be announced in the next edition of the Northern Star

Answer:

Division:

Full name:

Extension:



Winners

From the ROCCA Sport & Adventure center

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

Tickets won by:

Caroline Jobson, UK delegation

Petr Vana, ACCI

Eugenijus Masiulis, JOC

Indrek Ojasoo, HQSO

Raf Ruiters, CPB

Book Review



HQ JFCBS Newcomers Guide

On this page, you are used to read a book review. This time we would like to introduce a special book: small but practical booklet called HQ JFCBS Newcomers Guide.

The new edition 2012 recently arrived and you can find it on many places on the base (corridors, restaurants, library etc.). We believe not just newcomers and their families can find useful information inside the guide. Chapters about amenities, life in the headquarters, medical services, domestic accommodation, international schools, laws of the Netherlands and many other can be found very useful. Important telephone numbers, emergency card and map are included. You can read also the electronic flipping pages on HQ JFCBS website by using a link: <http://www.jfcbs.nato.int/jfcbrunssum-community/page151302840.aspx>

We would like to use this opportunity to apologise for a mistake on the page no. 2 "Using the Telephone". In the paragraph Calling HQ JFCBS (from any other areas in the Netherlands) there is digit 5 missing. The correct number to dial is 045-526 + extension.

If you have missed some important information which you would like to see in the next edition of the Newcomers Guide, please, let us know when sending your suggestions to Public Affairs Office (jaroslava.augustinova@jfcbs.nato.int or jan.hecht@jfcbs.nato.int). Thank you for your cooperation. Together we can make it better!





Your Move, Our Care

GSM Leo: 06-30532380
GSM Raymond: 06-14761248

www.parkstadmovingcompany.nl

info@parkstadmovingcompany.nl

- * Professional removals
- * Evacuation of homes
- * Make ready delivery
- * Small transport






VOLVO

DIPLOMATIC MILITARY

30 YEARS MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC SALES

GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICES AND HIGHEST SERVICE

www.natocarsales.com

ceo@volvotaxfreecars.com ceo@natocarsales.com 24/7 direct line: 0031 613035141



www.absbeckersenmulder.nl
Beckers en Mulder Landgraaf

CAR DAMAGE?!

WE HAVE THE **TAX FREE** SOLUTION!

ABS TEMPORARY CAR **ABS** CAR REPAIR SERVICE

Protect yourself from unexpected repair bills with our
ABS CAR REPAIR INSURANCE

3273 Landgraaf +31.(0)45.531 16 79



't Swarte Schaap
communicatie & grafisch projectmanagement

We are a creative and enthusiastic design agency in Heerlen, only 20 minutes from JFC HQ Brunssum.

We can take care of all your demands for the design and production of (business) cards and other stationary materials, posters and flyers.

Big creativity, small prices!

For more information, call Rob Schaap at +31 (0)45 571 61 16.

English spoken

Man spricht Deutsch

Sint Franciscusweg 36-3 | 6417 BD Heerlen | www.tswarteschaap.nl

Walkingfun starts at...



HENDRIKS landgraaf

SHOEFASHION & WALKINGSPORTS



Walkingtrousers

- Waterresistant
- Fastdrying



Walkingcoats

- Waterproof
- Breathing
- Windproof



Walkingshoes

- Waterproof
- Breathing
- Robust



Accessories

- Anything a walker needs



Shoes For Active



...simply more



...simply more



...simply more





Free parking in front

Heerlenseweg 34 - 6371 HS Landgraaf
T 045 - 531 3001 - www.hendrikslandgraaf.nl

FOLLOW THE VOLVO S60





THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN PLAYING IT SAFE. NAUGHTY VOLVOS NOW AT VOLVO AUTO KALLEN.

OFFICIAL VOLVO MILITARY SALES AGENT FOR NATO
AIRBASE GEILENKIRCHEN, JFC HQ BRUNSSUM &
U.S. ARMY GARRISON SCHINNEN

- Custom build your New Volvo
- Volvo Factory Warranty
- Home Shipment program included
- Specials on Military Sales
- US and Canadian Specs
- European Specs
- Diplomat Sales
- Service and Maintenance

Just 15 km from Geilenkirchen, 8 km from Brunssum and 2 km from Schinnen!

Rijksweg Zuid 320 6161 BZ Geleen The Netherlands (Nearby McDonalds)
+31 (0)46 4238686
www.autokallen.nl
r.vossen@autokallen.nl (contact Mr. Roger Vossen)



NEW VOLVO V60





Ecolog international provides tailor-made logistical and service solutions to armed forces and organizations in crisis regions worldwide.

As a specialist for mobile infrastructure services we concentrate on innovative, environment-friendly technologies, exceptional reliability and individualized solutions.

Our success and the trust of our long term clients justify our approach.

Outstanding quality, first-class service and flexibility are our trademarks.



LOGISTICS | PORTABLE TOILETS | LAUNDRY | CLEANING | FUEL | WASTE MANAGEMENT | SUPPLY AND SERVICING OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT
CONTAINERS | POWER, WATER & SUPPLIES | CATERING | AVIATION | CONSTRUCTION | COMMUNICATION

ISO 9001:2008 | ISO 14001:2009 | OHSAS 18001:2007

Ecolog International Deutschland GmbH

In der Steele 14
D-40599 Düsseldorf
Germany

Phone : + 49 (0) 211 688 750 0
Fax : + 49 (0) 211 688 750 199
info@ecolog-international.com
www.ecolog-international.com