



The Sixth Bi-annual 3+1 Assessment Conference

- Chief Warrant Officer Joe Ramsay is the new CSM for JFC Brunssum
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His Excellency, Ambassador Homayoun Tandar, of the Afghan Embassy and Mission to the EU, signs the guest book on 21 August. The Ambassador visited Brunssum to address the participants of the 3+1 Assessment Conference.
Photo by Jaroslava Augustinova, Public Affairs Office

Command Group Corner

Towards a New Mindset

We are half way through the reform of the NATO Command Structure (NCS). As the "class of 2013" intake is bedding down and starting to experience the Brunssum way, we are implementing the new organisation with an increase in manpower that will gradually take us to the level of Full Operational Capability (FOC 2015). This year, our NRF certification exercise, Steadfast Jazz 2013, will be a landmark on our way to FOC, by putting to the test our Initial Operational Capability (IOC), most specifically in validating our capability to deploy an initial Joint HQ in theatre.

Deployability of this HQ is an important part of our new identity but it is not the end of the story. Deployability is more a vector for change than an end in itself.

Let me take an example from sports. Obviously, a good team starts with good players, who are exercised individually and then collectively to master the different skills required to prevail on the field. But we all know that superior teams develop more than collective competency. They develop tactical superiority, such as Ajax Amsterdam when its trainer of the time invented "total football" and dominated the field until he was copied. Eventually, beyond tactical proficiency, team spirit becomes the determining factor to prevail. We all have our own memories of a team that won out of sheer grit and drive, against supposedly unbeatable odds.

Thus we will use the deployability mindset to exercise our muscles, but in exercising our muscles, we will develop our brains and spirit, to make the difference between the good and the great.

In that respect, Steadfast Jazz 2013 will be instrumental. Beyond the novelty of the scenario, we must all realise how different it is in concept. Friction and the fog of war will be portrayed much more enthusiastically than what may have been habitual in routine, pre-scripted NATO exercises. By the time of the main event – specifically, the deployed phase in early November – we will operate

under conditions significantly different from those envisaged during the planning phase. This will put a premium on decision making by our Commander, who will be an active "player" and not a supervisor of the exercise. To support our Commander, all parts of the HQ and subordinate commands will need to raise their level of play. We will experience joint warfighting in its best form, as we develop and implement a truly strategic-operational decision in real time, seizing the initiative back from the opponent.

No doubt the individual member of the staff will feel energised by this exercise, because each one of us will come to understand how critical he or she is to the overall effort.

Our Commander expects this exercise to be more than a good drill: an eye-opener and the beginning of a new mindset, more attuned to modern warfare, based on free thinking and initiative more than process and procedures. This is the new mindset that we will develop in the years to come.

Expect the unexpected: Welcome to JFC Brunssum.



Major General Michel Yakovlev, Deputy Chief of Staff PLANS

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The Sixth Bi-annual 3+1 Assessment Conference

Story by Joint Assessment Division

The Sixth Bi-Annual 3+1 Operational Assessment Conference was held at JFC Brunssum, from 19 to 23 August 2013, and was hosted by the Assistant Chief of Staff Joint Assessment Division, Colonel Michael Uhrig. The 3+1 refers to the commands associated with the ISAF mission, the three NATO headquarters (ISAF, JFCBS, SHAPE) and the United States Central Command (CENTCOM).

The Conference was opened by Air Marshal Graham Stacey, Deputy Commander JFC Brunssum, who welcomed visitors from across Europe, ISAF, and the United States. He highlighted the many benefits of cross co-operation between the headquarters and nations whilst emphasizing the added value of face to face communication.

Assessment of a Military Mission provides a key feedback process in order to determine the effectiveness of operations and make recommendations for changes to military plans. Specifically, assessments provide critical updates on campaign progress; they serve to focus future planning and inform decision making. In 2010, NATO and CENTCOM recognized and identified the need for co-operation across the 3+1 assessment organizations. This cooperation has allowed major assessment actors to co-ordinate their respective activities such that NATO and US Campaign Assessments of the ISAF mission are de-conflicted and synchronized. Additionally, regular 3+1 conferences



have helped ensure that reach back assessment capabilities, in both NATO and the United States, are being efficiently utilized and coordinated to provide effective support for in-theatre assessment products which are used by politicians from all 28 NATO member

nations.

Organized on a rotational basis between ISAF, CENTCOM, and JFC Brunssum, this 6th Conference attracted over 50 participants from the breadth of the assessment community,



The 6th Conference attracted over 50 participants from the breadth of the assessment community, as well as affiliated entities, particularly from the US.

as well as affiliated entities, particularly from the US. These included the US Center of Army Analysis, the US Center of Naval Analysis, the Joint IED Defeat Organization, US Special Operations Command, and the US Army Training and Doctrine Command.

The conference opened with briefings from the four main organizations in order to ensure all participants were aware of latest developments and issues. Conference attendees then formed syndicate groups to look more deeply at specific areas of interest, with each

organization taking the lead in a specific topic. A highlight of the conference was the Keynote address by His Excellency, Ambassador Homayoun Tandar, of the Afghan Embassy and Mission to the EU, Belgium-Luxembourg, entitled "Transfer of Security to the AFG Security Forces."

Overall, the conference was a great success, with critical new assessment topics emerging following the transfer of responsibility for security in Afghanistan from ISAF to the ANSF. In addition, key elements were discussed such

as how operations such as ISAF and the Resolute Support Mission will be assessed in the future and new ways to streamline reporting requirements were identified, creating a more efficient and accurate process to support the NATO mission in Afghanistan.



Visiting Brunssum primarily to participate in an ISAF Campaign Assessment Conference, Ambassador Tandar took time to address the staff. In an insightful, thoughtful and highly informative speech, Ambassador Tandar thanked NATO for its commitment to his country and the highly positive impact that can be seen across the political, economic and security domains. The Ambassador said: 'We will never be able to thank you enough for the blood, toil and sweat ISAF contributing nations have expended in Afghanistan. I assure you it will not be wasted.'



General Hans Henning von Sandrart

*** 21 July 1933**

† 26 July 2013

*Commander in Chief, Allied Forces Central Europe
1 October 1987 - 27 September 1991*

***We are grieving...
Deepest Sympathy***

General Frank Gorenc is New Allied Air Commander

Story by HQ AIRCOM, Public Affairs Office



On Friday 2 Aug, General Frank Gorenc assumed command of Allied Air Command (AIRCOM) at Ramstein Air Base in the presence of numerous international representatives from military and civilian agencies.

"I would like to congratulate General Frank Gorenc as he commences his duties as the Commander of AIRCOM," said United States Air Force General Philip Breedlove, the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, on this occasion.

On Monday this week, the Deputy Commander of AIRCOM, French Lieutenant General Dominique de Longvilliers, welcomed General Gorenc on his first day at the headquarters. He did so together with HQ AIRCOM Chief of Staff, German Major General Erich Siegmann, and a 30-strong international honour guard.

In his new assignment, the General is facing varied and challenging responsibilities. These include NATO peacetime missions like Air Policing and Ballistic Missile Defence or transition to the new NATO Command

Structure, where his AIRCOM is in charge of all Allied Air aspects across NATO Europe.

However, Ramstein Air Base is not unknown to General Gorenc as he had been stationed here from August 2009 to March 2012 as the Commander of 3rd Air Force.

"To command is an honour and a privilege," said General Gorenc, "but to command here is simply a dream come true."

Third AIRCOM Subordinate Unit Activated

Story by HQ AIRCOM, Public Affairs Office, Photos: courtesy DACCC, Poggio Renatico.

On 25 July 2013, the Deputy Commander of Allied Air Command (AIRCOM), Lieutenant General Dominique de Longvilliers, French Air Force, officiated the change of command at NATO's Deployable Air Command and Control Centre (DACCC) at Poggio Renatico, Italy.

During a brief ceremony at the DACCC, General de Longvilliers relieved Lieutenant General Mirco Zuliani, Italian Air Force, of his command and thanked him for his achievements. In his new assignment General Zuliani will still play a role in NATO since he has been appointed as the deputy of General Jean-Paul Palomeros, French Air Force, Commander of Allied Command Transformation headquartered at Norfolk, Virginia. As a symbolic act General de Longvilliers then handed over the unit flag to the incoming commander, Major General Roberto Nordio, Italian Air Force, and wished him well at the helm of the DACCC.

Besides the two Combined Air Operations Centres at Uedem, Germany, and Torrejon, Spain, the DACCC is the third subordinate command of NATO's single air command at Ramstein, Germany. While the CAOCs are hybrid units and consist of a Static Air Defence Centre for regular peacetime operations and a Deployable Air Operations Centre for crises, the DACCC is a deployable unit comprised of an air control centre and a sensor section



as well as a third Deployable Air Operations Centre. DACCC's mission is to prepare its staff for operational roles and conduct initial functional deployment-related training for AIRCOM personnel.

AIRCOM is responsible for all matters related to NATO air power such as Air and Missile Defence of Alliance member nations

during peacetime operations. It ensures the preservation of Alliance territorial integrity from Northern Norway to Southern Italy and from the Azores to Eastern Turkey, including every European NATO nation. In the event of a joint NATO operation, Allied Air Command – augmented by its subordinate units – will ensure operational command and control of Allied air forces.

SACEUR-LANDCOM is First Line of Defence for Retaining Jointness

Story by LtCol Angela Funaro, LANDCOM Public Affairs Office. Photo by Adj Edouard Bocquet, FRA Air Force

Izmir, Turkey – The Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) made his first visit to Allied Land Command (LANDCOM) Headquarters on Tuesday, 9 July 2013, since assuming command of NATO's Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe and U.S. European Command in May this year.



Lieutenant General Ben Hodges, Commander of Headquarters Allied Land Command, welcomes General Phil Breedlove, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, as he arrives at Cigli Air Base in Izmir, Turkey, on July 9, 2013.

General Philip M. Breedlove was happy to return to the NATO base that until recently served as headquarters to Air Command-Izmir when he was the commander of U.S. Air Force Europe (USAFE) and NATO's Air Component Command in Ramstein, Germany.

General Breedlove told the command group and staff that the most important reason for Allied Land Command's (LANDCOM) existence was to retain the level of cooperation, cohesiveness, tactics, techniques, procedures, competencies and capabilities that the Alliance has developed over the past 12 years where they have deployed together as part of the International Security Assistance Forces in Afghanistan. "I'm afraid that if we do nothing, it will all go away," he said. "LANDCOM is the lead ground element enabling the Alliance to perform joint operational functions such as fire support, intelligence, communications and sustainment."

SACEUR said he was challenging all of the NATO component commands – AIRCOM, LANDCOM and MARCOM – to move away from a single-service mindset and modify exercises, education and training to prepare the Graduated Response Forces (GRFs) to deploy and operate as part of a multi-service, multi-national, coalition. The LANDCOM commander, Lt. General Frederick "Ben" Hodges (USA-Army), agreed. "We're a nascent headquarters, giving us a sense of urgency. The world's not going to wait until we're [at] FOC [full

operational capability]."

Colonel Gordon Falconer (GBR-Army), LANDCOM's assistant Chief of Staff for Operations delivered the command briefing to the SACEUR and his travelling party and defined the headquarters' overarching purpose.

"LANDCOM exists so that if you're that Portuguese soldier operating in KFOR [Kosovo Force] or that Turkish soldier supporting RC [Regional Command]-North in Afghanistan, you are prepared." Hodges said despite LANDCOM's current manning challenges, he was extremely proud of the men and women in his command who have been working hard to get the headquarters operational while, at the same time, attending training and planning conferences to conduct evaluations and certification exercises for the GRFs for land (GRF-Ls).

"Fortunately we have a lot of great experience at this headquarters from within NATO," he said.

General Breedlove then reviewed the certification exercise (CERTEX) calendar and asked if LANDCOM or the GRF(L)s could manage only one evaluation for one corps per year. General Hodges replied that he didn't think NATO could afford to only plan one a year if the Level of Ambition was to be achieved.

"We need to create a training community or have a structure in place so that we can

conduct multiple exercises simultaneously, both virtually and live," said Hodges.

Colonel Falconer explained that in the future, a CERTEX needs scenario development that is focused beyond the NATO Response Force (NRF) level; and embraces collaboration with AIRCOM and MARCOM, augmentation and communication network protocol compatibility to facilitate effective command and control.

LANDCOM's Deputy Commander and lead for the CERTEX program, Lt. General Gordon Messenger (GBR-RM), expressed his desire to promote a change to current thinking within NATO so that commanders view LANDCOM evaluators as consultants rather than school headmasters seeking to pass or fail pupils.

"Constructive criticism is not bad. Our goal should be to understand what 21st-Century competency looks like so we can effectively link the strategic command level with the joint operational level," General Messenger said.

SACEUR reiterated that he would challenge each NATO component command to develop a training and certification program for 2015 and beyond to consolidate and condense resources; he also anticipates fewer exercises to be conducted. "We can't afford a hodge podge of exercises and training focused on the preparation of individual units," he said. "We need to plan exercises for two to three training audiences conducted simultaneously."

Headquarters Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum - Visits and Activities

Prepared by Jaroslava Augustinova

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

July 2013



29 July, Members of JFC Brunssum return from ISAF

A military aircraft, carrying 15 members of Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFCBS), landed at NATO Air Base Geilenkirchen, Monday 29 July 2013. These Brunssum personnel returned following four to seven month

deployments to Afghanistan in support of HQ ISAF. Upon arrival at the Headquarters, all returnees gathered at the JFCBS Mounting Support Centre, where they were greeted by their families, colleagues and the Deputy Commander JFC Brunssum, Air Marshal Graham Stacey, who welcomed them all and expressed his personal thanks for their extended support to the ISAF mission. Throughout 2013 JFCBS has steadily assumed additional responsibility in support of HQ ISAF. More than 100 Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum personnel, from 18 different nations, including NATO international civilian staff, will deploy this year.



15-16 August, Commander JFC Brunssum visits Ireland

General Hans-Lothar Domröse visited Ireland in order to bolster coordination and cooperation between Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum and Defense Forces Ireland. General Domröse met with Lieutenant General Donor

O'Boyle who has recently been appointed as Chief of Staff Defense Forces Ireland. During a briefing session General O'Boyle informed General Domröse and his delegation on a wide range of issues including Ireland's current and future support to NATO and EU operations. In addition, General O'Boyle commended JFCBS' efforts in support of the existing military partnership between JFCBS and Defense Forces Ireland. It was agreed that a video teleconference link will be established in order to share information of mutual interest.



21 August, Final Campaign Synchronization Meeting

Commander Joint Forces Command Brunssum, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, conducted the Final Campaign Synchronization Meeting for the NATO Response Force 2014.

The aim was to confirm the synchronization of Campaign preparations between the Joint Operational and Tactical levels with regards to Force, Time and Space. General Domröse expressed his great confidence in an ongoing successful certification process. He said: "My expectation is that the NATO Response Force 2014 will be ready at the end of this year, being able to respond to the full-spectrum of potential missions."



23 August, The 33rd Soccer Tournament

Commander Joint Force Command Brunssum, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, warmly welcomed participants of the annual international Soccer Tournament, hosted by JFC Brunssum, and wished them every success during

the competition. This international 2-day sporting event is organized every year by the German Delegation and takes place on JFCBS Sport complex, commonly known as the Slag Heap – a name purposely chosen to remind us of the mining history that surrounds JFC Brunssum. The 33rd Soccer Tournament hosted teams in the following categories: Oldies, Youngsters and Ladies.

12 August, Commander JFC Brunssum in Poland

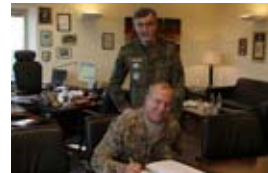
General Hans-Lothar Domröse visited Drawsko Ponskie Training Area in Poland in order to broaden his situational awareness of the training facilities available.

This is particularly important as Drawsko Ponskie will host a live exercise as part of the NRF 14 Certification Exercise (Steadfast Jazz 2013) in November and provide a live demonstration during the Distinguished Visitors Day. During his visit General Domröse and his delegation were escorted by Brigadier General Kochanowski of the Polish General Staff. Representatives of the Polish Land Forces Command and 12th Mechanized Division, together with the Commander 12th Mechanized Brigade were also in attendance. Highly professional briefings ensured General Domröse gained the knowledge he required about all exercise elements: the Live Land Exercise; Live Demonstration; Media Day; and Distinguished Visitors Day. During his orientation, by car and helicopter, General Domröse's theoretical appreciation of the facility was further endorsed by an appreciation of the physical aspects of the site.



18 August, Brigadier General Fantini pays visit to Brunssum

The incoming Commander of Kandahar Air Field, U.S. Air Force Brigadier General Michael Fantini visited Joint Forces Command Brunssum. Brigadier General Fantini will take command of the NATO air field this fall and will lead it through a pivotal time of transition to the Resolute Support Mission. The visit consisted of a series of round table briefings and discussions to help prepare the incoming commander for his complex mission



22 August, Visit of German Defence State Secretary

The Parliamentary State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry of Defence, Thomas Kossendey, visited JFC Brunssum. Commander JFC Brunssum, General Hans-Lothar Domröse, took the opportunity to discuss the current ISAF mission; the future NATO mission (Resolute Support) in Afghanistan; the status of preparations for Brunssum to assume command of the NATO Response Force in 2014; the new NATO Command structure; and his ongoing efforts to operationalise the recently introduced Regional Focus initiative.



September 2013

DCOS Support Professional Development Visit to the Battle of Hürtgen Forest

Story by Col Tim Wildish, photos by DCOS SPT office

Not far from Brunssum, a few kilometers south-east of Aachen, lies the Hürtgen Forest where more than 60,000 soldiers lost their lives in the post D Day battles of WWII. There are many lessons to be learned from these battles at the Strategic, Operational and Tactical levels. On 5th and 6th of June 2013, JFCBS Director of Support, Major General V. Santo, together with his staff, conducted two days of Professional Development in the area.

The glorious weather throughout the trip was in sharp contrast to that experienced by the soldiers on both sides during the series of fierce battles from 19 September to 16 December 1944. The Battle became the longest battle on German ground during WWII, and the longest single battle the U.S. Army has ever fought.

The visit started at the American Cemetery of Margraten viewing the large wall map depicting the battles. Col (retd) Werner Ludewig acted as the guide throughout and provided his expert knowledge and analysis of the campaign and battles fought in the Hürtgen Forest. This provided the context and sparked discussion during the tour.

The U.S. commanders' initial goal was to pin down German forces in the area to keep them from reinforcing the front lines further north in the Battle of Aachen, where the Allies were fighting a trench war between a network of fortified towns and villages connected with field fortifications, tank traps and minefields. The Americans' initial objectives were to take Schmidt and clear Monschau. In a second phase the Allies wanted to advance to the River Rur as part of Operation Queen. The Germans fiercely defended the area for two reasons: it served as a staging area for the Ardennes Offensive (what became the Battle of the Bulge) which was already in preparation, and the mountains commanded access to the Schwammenauel Dam at the head of the Rur Lake (Rurstausee) which, if opened, would flood low-lying areas downstream and deny any crossing of the river. The Allies only recognised this after several heavy setbacks, and the Germans were able to hold the region until they launched their last-ditch offensive on the Western Front into the Ardennes. Generalfeldmarshall Walter Model intended to bring the Allied thrust to a standstill. While he interfered less in the day-to-day movements of units than at Arnhem, he still kept himself fully informed on the situation, slowing the Allies' progress, inflicting heavy casualties and taking full advantage of the fortifications the Germans called the Westwall, better known to the



The Professional Development ranged from visiting allied and German Cemeteries to walking the resupply routes and viewing the forward bunkers on the Siegfried Line.

Allies as the Siegfried Line. A few days later, the Battle of the Bulge began, leaving the battle of Hürtgen Forest largely forgotten. The Americans suffered 33,000 casualties during the course of the battle, and the Germans suffered 28,000 casualties.

The Professional Development was full and varied, ranging from the somber experience of visiting allied and German Cemeteries to walking the resupply routes and viewing the forward bunkers on the Siegfried Line. It was particularly useful from a support perspective as logistics played such an important part in the battles. Major General Santo was keen to focus attention on the operational level of command and highlighted a number of key points for consideration by JFCBS Support staff. For example, he analyzed some of the 'support' decision making such as the prioritization of supplying fuel over ammunition depending on the prevailing conditions. The Kall trail, selected for movement and resupply, proved unsuitable, particularly in the harsh winter conditions

and the absence of commanders forward on the battlefield prevented the coordination required in such difficult conditions. There was something for everyone in the group; the logisticians could see the difficulties of distance and terrain; the Engineers studied the German obstacles and battlefield mobility; whilst the CIS group and medical officers could clearly appreciate the very difficult conditions their WWII counterparts were required to deal with.

The tour was brought to life by clear descriptions of the battles, visits to museums and walks through the dramatic landscape. This was a bloody, hard fought campaign which tested both sides to the limit. But ultimately the question rests at the operational level; Hürtgen was so costly that it has been called an Allied "defeat of the first magnitude", and whether it ever needed to be fought is a question which should endure as a lesson and warning as we look to the future: 'If a battle cannot be won, do not fight it' (Sun Tsu).



Soldiers of the Slovak Republic: Triumphs and Challenges

Prepared by MOD of the Slovak Republic

“The current international security environment requires continuous maintenance and the development of defence capabilities for the Armed Forces and wider defence system of the Slovak Republic,” said the Minister of Defence Martin Glváč on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic and the independent Slovakia. What were the Slovak Armed Forces like two decades ago? What are they like now? What they will be like in the future?



This year the Slovak Republic commemorates the 20th anniversary of the establishment of its Armed Forces. From the historical point of view this is a very short time. However, Slovakia has overcome many challenges in this period, proving its vitality, and has even become fully integrated in European and transatlantic security structures. This most important event of modern Slovak history is connected with the establishment of the Army of the Slovak Republic, the predecessor of today's Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic. Since the first moments of Slovakia's independence, the Army had been an important feature of its statehood.

During the twenty years of their existence, the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic have undergone a complex

transformation process. They have become more interoperable and, together with allies, able to face new security threats of the present. Service in the army was made fully professional; a corps of non-commissioned officers was created; and a new system of training was implemented. Immediately upon its creation, the Slovak Republic clearly defined that the traditional understanding of security in the limited form of its own territorial defence was history. “We have created completely voluntary professional Armed Forces, capable of adequately responding to a wide range of potential threats. Robust static structures are no longer typical for Armed Forces of the 21st century; instead, it is the ability to cooperate effectively in multinational operations and to respond in a flexible manner to modern-day security challenges,” said the Minister of Defence of the Slo-

vak Republic Martin Glváč. Although, in 1993, Slovakia was part of no multinational defence-political structure, since the first day of its existence the Army of the Slovak Republic participated in international peace operations. After the division of the former Czechoslovak Republic, Slovak soldiers continued to serve in established missions abroad (UNPROFOR in the Balkans, observation missions in Africa), which were originally embraced under the banner of the former federal state. Soon, they started to strengthen their participation in such missions. It was the engineer battalion deployed in the 90's, in the missions of UNPROFOR and UNTAES, in the territory of the former Yugoslavia that contributed significantly to the creation of a professional reputation and international prestige that has become associated with today's Armed

Forces of the Slovak Republic. In turn, this has led to a justified self-confidence within the populace of the young Slovak Republic. Participation in missions and operations in the Golan Heights, Cyprus, Eritrea, Timor-Leste, Lebanon, Iraq, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Afghanistan and other countries followed. Today, the Armed Forces are a respected contributor to the common efforts of the allies in the international crisis management arena. To date, more than 16000 Slovak soldiers have participated in 32 operations as part of international crisis management efforts. Most have been deployed to Afghanistan where 220 currently serve.

Within NATO, Slovakia is the lead nation in the area of Explosive Ordnance

The accession of the Slovak Republic to the North Atlantic Treaty in 2004 was one of the most important strategic priorities of the Armed Forces since their establishment. Membership of NATO enabled the country to reduce its army; however, at the same time came an obligation to ensure the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic became fully compatible with the NATO standards. In the sky, Slovak Armed Forces continuously ensure the protection of airspace within the NATO NATINADS air defence system. The fact that Slovakia is a reliable partner to coalition members was underlined by its highly successful organisation of the largest logistics exercise of NATO has conducted throughout the last decade. Exercise Capable Logistics 2013 took place in Slovakia in

defence capabilities and modernise the Armed Forces are to bear fruit. The current condition of equipment of the army is insufficient; much is worn-out. The army reached this point gradually over time, as its share of funds earmarked for modernisation becoming smaller and smaller every year since 2007 - down to the dramatic 7% in 2011. Confronted by this stark reality the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic was forced to embark upon a strategic evaluation of its defence requirements/needs. "The development modernisation plan, set until 2024, should be moved forward by the department in this area. Gradually, we will try to earmark 20% of our budget for modernisation of the army," confirmed the Minister Martin Glváč. Unfortunately, sad moments are part of



Disposal (EOD), which is best proved by the successes of our specialists in Afghanistan. Out of theatre, the Alliance's Accreditation Committee highly commended the readiness of the EOD Centre of Excellence. This centre, having fulfilled all necessary requirements, became the first institution of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation to be established in the territory of Slovakia.

We cannot ignore the fact that the Armed Forces, the department of the Ministry of Defence of the Slovak Republic, as well as the people of Slovakia are proudly represented by members of the Military Sports Centre - Dukla Banská Bystrica. Sportsmen trained here are amongst the most successful sportsmen of the Slovak Republic. They won 19 (8 gold) medals at Olympic Games. Military sportsmen gained also nearly 80 world champion titles.

June this year, in the Military District of the Lešť Military Training Area and at the Sliač airfield. It was attended by approximately 1,700 Armed Forces personnel from 35 NATO member countries and partner states.

"The strength, vitality and courage to seek new solutions in the operation of each organisation are best demonstrated when more unknown phenomena than usual occur in the environment where it works," stated the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, Lieutenant General Peter Vojtek.

At present the Slovak Army is facing a lack of funds, in particular for development and modernisation. The impacts of the economic crisis on public resources necessitates a robust creative approach if plans to develop new de-

life for members of the Armed Forces. We commemorate with respect the 55 Slovak citizens in the army who have died while performing their service duties abroad. "A man is the most precious value we have in our Armed Forces, because the power of decision-making and performance of service duties rests with the man, the soldier - the professional. Therefore, we will focus our attempts on a continuous responsible and best formation of capabilities of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic as possible and on an efficient facing the security challenges of the present," added the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic, Lieutenant General Vojtek.

J2 Division Visits Operation Market Garden Battlefields

Story by LtCol Sascha Verheyen, J2

Within the scope of the HQ's Professional Development Programme, J2 Division visited the battlefields in and around Eindhoven and Nijmegen on 26 June 2013. This second battlefield tour completed a detailed review of the Market Garden Operation (J2 commenced this project with a visit to Arnhem in 2011).



Nick Kelso, a History & Philosophy graduate from Lancaster University and guide for the day, welcomed us at “Joe’s Bridge” where XXX Corps started their long drive up Hell’s Highway, to tell the fascinating, heroic but ultimately sad story of the Operation Market Garden.

At the Drop and Landing Zones of the 82nd and 101st US Airborne Divisions, Nick explained why this operation was planned in its own special way. With the strategic plan in the back of our minds, we soon understood why the fighting on

the Son and Grave bridges developed as it did during WWII. On our way to Nijmegen we visited the Bevrijdingsmuseum in Groesbeek which provides visitors an excellent overview of all battle aspects.

Standing on the Nijmegen bridge, Nick added context to history by tracing squad level movements and by providing insight to the leaders’ decision making process by sketching their relationships to the spearhead tank-crews.



Chief Warrant Officer Joe Ramsay is the New CSM for JFC

Brunssum

Prepared by MSgt Jan Hecht

The Commander NATO Allied Joint Force Command (JFC) Brunssum, General Hans Lothar Domröse, transferred the responsibility of the Command Sergeant Major (CSM) from Chief Warrant Officer David Preeper to Chief Warrant Officer Joe Ramsay, during a ceremony held at JFC Brunssum's Alliance Theatre Monday 29 July.



General Hans Lothar Domröse transferred the responsibility of the Command Sergeant Major from Chief Warrant Officer David Preeper (middle) to Chief Warrant Officer Joe Ramsay (left).

Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) David Preeper, who served for three years as the Command Sergeant Major of JFC Brunssum, will retire after 36 years military service.

"Dave, this has been an extremely successful three years for you," General Domröse said in his remarks. "We shared many values and our vision of a highly motivated team at a NATO headquarters."

"Your enduring legacy will definitely be the creation and empowerment of the Joint Mobile Training Team, through which you have single-handedly spearheaded NCO training across NATO".

In his farewell speech CWO Dave Preeper thanked the Brunssum staff and praised the professional and dedicated team.

"The past 3 years has been a combined team effort, which includes our Officers, Non-Commission Officers, junior ranks and civilians. This great team has – and continues to be –

an integrated machine that works together in the spirit of 'many nations, one mission'. At Brunssum it's all about leveraging the differing cultures, experiences and attitudes that lead to coordinated actions that, in turn, create an environment that fosters an inclusive culture."

"I have loved every bit of it and I have no regrets. I have stood on the shoulders of giants. It has been a real honour and privilege to have been the Command Sergeant Major of such fine warriors and great Commanders."

General Domröse thanked the outgoing CSM and welcomed CWO Joe Ramsay. "Welcome in Brunssum Joe and welcome to the NATO family. You are well prepared to serve as a Command Sergeant Major at a NATO headquarters as you were deployed on multiple overseas operations including Cyprus, Bosnia, Kosovo and of course Afghanistan. I'm looking forward to working with you."

"It is an honour to be selected for this position. I look forward to working with the Brunssum Team. If the professionalism and eagerness to help that I've experienced in the past two

weeks, from both the military and civilian members, is any indication, I will have a rewarding and satisfying 3 years as part of the team." – the new CSM, CWO Joe Ramsay, said in his speech.

Born in Cobalt, Ontario, Canada, Chief Warrant Officer Joe Ramsay joined the Canadian Forces in July 1979.

CWO Ramsay has deployed on multiple overseas operations to include Cyprus in 1988 as a Crew Commander, Cambodia in 1993 as part of the United Nations Transitional Authority, Bosnia Op PALLADIUM Roto 1 in 1997 as Company Quartermaster for B Company, Kosovo in 1999 as the Reconnaissance Squadron Quartermaster, Bosnia in 2002 as Sergeant-Major B Squadron, and Afghanistan Op ARCHER Roto 1 in 2006 as the National Command Element Sergeant Major.

Before joining Brunssum he was the Sergeant-Major of the Combat Manoeuvre Training Centre in Wainwright, Alberta, Canada.

Photographic Archive Project Completes!

By Jaroslava Augustinova, Public Affairs Office

In August 2013 the JFC Brunssum Public Affairs Office finalized a huge project designed to ensure a historic photographic record of headquarters' activities is preserved for future generations. Against strict selection criteria, established by the NATO Archives, photographs for subsequent digitization were selected. Literally hundreds of thousands of negatives were reviewed in this process over the six-month period the project was active.

Thousands of old black and white negatives of various formats, together with a huge number of colored 35mm negative strips, were reviewed. Thank goodness our predecessors had meticulously maintained the details of their work in a number of logbooks. Even though it was impossible to match every photograph to a logbook entry the vast majority were traced and linked to a particular event/function/ceremony. The next phase was to apply the selection criteria set by the NATO Archives. Following an initial sift a more detailed check was made to assess quality, composition, focus and uniqueness, to justify long-term preservation. Finally, those photographs chosen for digitization were carefully stored together with a description and date of the event they depicted. A new inventory capturing all required metadata was created: from the mountain of negatives confronting us at the beginning only 1753 were earmarked for preservation.

This historic photographic record maps the journey of our headquarters from its



Mr. Barry Mellor, Section Head Community Relations and Internal Communication handing over one of the log books to Mr. Nicholas Nguyen from the NATO Archives.

establishment in Fontainebleau, France, in August 1953. It captures senior staff, official visits, ceremonies, social, cultural and sporting events as well as exercises and aerial pictures. On 27 August this photographic archive was handed over to the NATO Archives for digitization

and preservation. From now on JFC Brunssum will maintain its own digitized photographic record capturing events over the past three years. As each New Year starts the oldest record will be passed to the NATO Archives for their review and preservation of the historic record.

NO.	W.O. #	REQUESTED BY (RANK, NAME, ORGANIZATION)	SUBJECT	PHOTOGRAPHER	# OF NEG.	# OF PRINTS
41		RAF W/C. Cooper Aerial Clinic	RAF Aerial Clinic	Col. Koon Hobson	3	
42		Wg/Cdr Cooper	Church Service in Queen	Col. Ken	1	
43		Reported stuff	Report # 39C	—	—	
44		Miss Barber	Report # 14 C+E	—	—	
45		Maj. Wilder	Report	—	—	
46		SAC COZENS	REPORT WO 25	—	—	
47		SGT JORDAN GROUP PIC MED. CONFERENCE	GROUP PIC OF MED. CONFERENCE	McLemans	3	
48		P.O. Maj. Wilder	Health Planning Bureau	Molman	3	
49		P.O. Maj. Wilder	Radio Relay Film	Behallman	20	
50		P.O. Maj. Wilder	Health Planning Bureau	Behallman	4	

A number of old logbooks contain the details of JFCBS photographic work.

During this archiving project preparations for the 60th Anniversary of our Headquarters was initiated. Inter alia a special edition of the Northern Star magazine was prepared and produced to mark this milestone. This booklet, embracing a range of historical and contemporary events throughout the life of JFC Brunssum, was presented to participants at the 60th Anniversary Ceremony in the International Conference Centre on 02 September. Photographs included in the booklet were selected from the archive and digitized by the 't Swarte Schaap publishing company in Heerlen. For the future, once all selected negatives are digitized, the best will be included in a unique publication planned for 2017, when JFC Brunssum and the town of Brunssum will collaborate to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of a NATO Headquarters hosted by Brunssum.

Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General Sir Richard Shirreff, Pays Visit to JFC Brunssum

Prepared by Public Affairs Office

On Tuesday 6 August DSACEUR, General Sir Richard Shirreff KCB CBE, visited JFC Brunssum. Following office calls with the Commander and Deputy Commander, Sir Richard was briefed on the priorities of JFC Brunssum – a topic that generated much discussion over lunch with the Commander and other senior JFC Brunssum staff.

Briefings and discussions focused on the ongoing responsibilities of the HQ with regard to the ISAF mission; notably on redeployment and its associated challenges. The post-ISAF mission in Afghanistan, Resolute Support, and the role of JFC Brunssum in its evolution, was another central discussion theme. It was emphasized that the coordination mechanism embracing ISAF and SHAPE was working well.

The obligations and tasks of JFC Brunssum in view of the upcoming NATO Response Force (NRF) exercise Steadfast Jazz 13 (SFJZ 13) was another topic and, in that context JFC Brunssum Command Group views on the development of the NRF were presented. A lively debate ensued as ideas for further improving the NRF were tabled.

Also included in General Shirreff's programme was a visit to the JFC Brunssum Joint Operations Centre (JOC) where he participated in a VTC with the Norwegian operational HQ in Bodø. This exchange was conducted in context of Allied Command Operations' recently endorsed



General Hans-Lothar Domröse welcoming DSACEUR to the Headquarters.

Regional Focus initiative which Brunssum and its sister HQ, in Naples, are developing. Vice Admiral Haakon Bruun-Hansen briefed DSACEUR from Bodø on developments in the High North and, inter alia, touched upon the effects of climate change.

On parting DSACEUR expressed his appreciation for the work of JFC Brunssum and the good cooperation with SHAPE.

Bastille Day

Story by French NSE, photo by Jaroslava Augustinova

The 14th of July 1789 is a milestone in the history of France as it was the day the prison of Bastille was stormed during the Revolution. Today, this event symbolizes the end of the monarchy and beginning of the modern republic. The date is deemed of such significance it has become the French national day.

This year, Bastille Day has been celebrated in the JFC Brunssum International Conference Center, on 11 July 2013.

The evening started with the presentation of four medals by Major General Yakovlev. After the National anthem, the Marseillaise, guests could taste typical French culinary delights such as: frogs' legs, snails, seafood and macaroons. Champagne, Alsace and Bordeaux filled up the glasses and the good atmosphere was further enhanced by the participation of musicians and dancers, without forgetting the DJ.

For this special occasion, French military personnel and their partners organized a lively



CSM Dave Prepper together with the honoured French comrades OR9 Patrick BENEZETH, OR9 Jean-François WAROUX and OR9 Dominique BOUASY.

French Cancan. The music of Brittany and Paris could also be heard with the bombarde

and the accordion instruments. France streamed on the breeze that night.

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NATO Teams from Brunssum Step up to the Challenge in the 30th International Mönchengladbach Military Competition

Story by Helmut Michelis, Rheinische Post

Two teams from Joint Force Command Brunssum (JFCBS) joined 40 others, drawn from nine NATO nations, in the 30th International Mönchengladbach Military Competition (IMM), 29 June. The eight JFCBS personnel from five NATO countries gave a strong performance.



During the awards ceremony German Brigadier General, Peter Gorgels, presented trophies to the Brunssum team – a team comprising participants from Estonia, France, Germany and Slovenia. The team achieved excellent results finishing in second place in the active soldiers international category and first in the NATO team category. The second Brunssum team (Lee Morrissey, Wayne Smart, Brian Tod and Sean Holmes, all from Canada), achieved a highly creditable sixth position in the category of active soldiers international. The overall winner was, once again, a four-man team of active Bundeswehr soldiers from Munich.

The Brunssum teams enjoyed particularly good results in shooting, uniform recognition and rafting. A total of 16 tasks, located along a 12-km-marching route, had to be tackled and included first aid, fire fighting and an assault course. The breadth of tasks further challenged competitors in navigation and general military knowledge. Tasks ranged from those which might be met on operations e.g. grenade throwing and

intelligence gathering to strength and fitness challenges. The event was sponsored by the Bundeswehr's North Rhine Westphalia Land Command and organized by the German Reservists' Association, section 'Niederrhein'.

This one-day competition is traditionally organized by Reservists with the aim of promoting and enhancing links between different NATO and neutral forces. Unfortunately, the British Headquarters at Rheindahlen was not available to host the competition due to its closure. The organizers therefore started the competition at a youth centre in Mönchengladbach-Hehn, and this worked out well. British Forces, however, were still involved. They had two stands set up in Ayrshire Barracks: a quick tire changing section and a test where assistance was to be provided to a vehicle that had been stopped by suspicious local militia.

For more information visit the IMM website at: www.imm-bundeswehr.de

Next Year Again!

By Nace Pavlin Zakovsek, Captain of the JFCBS international team

What is IMM? A long time ago the Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu said that running is a part of a military strategy and from my point of view that is what the IMM is all about. The competition challenges soldiers' physical fitness and overall military knowledge.

JFC Brunssum participated with two teams – Canadian and international. It was the second year running that our international team has participated in this annual international competition and we were really "international"! Our "GPS system" called Indrek Ojasoo (EST) did an outstanding job with reconnaissance, comedian Sven Wien (GER) was always there for a moral support whilst sniper Jeremy Zwiers (FRA) was amazing at shooting. I, Nace Pavlin Zakovsek (SLO) was, as team Captain, responsible for putting this awesome team together. Unfortunately Neil Corles (GBR) was not able to attend this year's event (he was on duty) and therefore had to be replaced. The second team was composed of Canadians who did a great job as well. Because all of us really enjoyed this well organized event, we promised each other we will do it again next year!

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Sports Hall & Squash Courts: Boosting a wide range of sporting activities and equipment including, indoor soccer, badminton, squash, volleyball and basketball our spacious sports hall and squash courts accommodates most indoor sports with weekly sporting clubs activities aimed at all standards of players and sporting participants. Visit the fitness centre to pick up an up to date sports clubs schedule. The Sports hall and squash courts are available for booking or are used on a first come, first served basis.

Family Training Room: Patrons with young children have access to a family training room fitted with children's play area, TV and DVD player. Parents are able to work out using cardio equipment and light free weights in this area whilst being able to supervise their youngsters.

Group Classes: Group exercise is great fun and a fantastic way to stay motivated and meet new people whilst working out. Check out the fitness centre's impressive timetable for a feast of studio classes including: Pilates, Circuit training, Spinning, Body Attack, Zumba and Cardio Boxing. No matter what level of fitness you are, there is a class for you. Visit the fitness centre to pick up an up to date class schedule

Solarium & Sauna: Topping up that tan or getting your body ready for that bikini, our sun bed room offers the latest tanning technology in a relaxing, calming, home-from-home atmosphere. Relax and unwind in the warmth of our single sex saunas, great for increasing your circulation and detoxifying your skin.

Shower & Locker Rooms: Our single sex shower and locker rooms provide patrons with a clean and relaxed environment in which to change, shower and secure valuables whilst utilizing the facility. Lockers are available for daily use or for long term hire (contact the fitness centre for more information).

Swimming Pool: Located next to the library our modern, heated indoor swimming pool and toddler pool accommodates a wide range of swimming activities including; lap, delegation, parent with toddler and public swimming sessions. Aqua aerobics, aquacise and children's swimming classes are also provided (please visit the fitness centre or swimming pool to pick up an up to date swimming pool schedule). A popular large inflatable toy session takes place every Saturday providing a fun family activity whatever the weather. The complex also boasts a solarium and sauna facility allowing patron to unwind and relax after a hard swim or whilst the kids are in lessons. The pool and its facilities are available for hire, be it a kids party, a swimming based event or even a private sauna session, please contact the pool on Ext 3172 for more information

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who understand the demands of full-time work and military life.

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to help students complete coursework incorporated into a busy lifestyle.

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German Section of AFNORTH International School Organizes BBQ

Story by German Section AFNORTH International School



In the week before the new school year the German Section traditionally invite their international colleagues to a German Barbeque and light entertainment.

A wide variety of salads, all home-made, German Bratwurst and drinks, sponsored by the BS store, were offered. Many thanks to everyone who helped to make this event so

special, particularly to Daniela Karper, the BS Central Store Manager.

It's Back!

Deutsche Bar – German Bar - Deutsche Bar – German Bar

Story by German NSE

For many years the German Bar had been a popular place to go for an unforgettable breakfast or lunch-time breaks. Now, after an interruption of nearly one year, the Deutsche Bar has re-opened its doors.

The new management, LTC Sobotta and SFC Enders, decided to start the Deutsche Bar all over again.

SFC Klingenhagen, who is now managing the Deutsche Bar, together with the new management have developed a new concept. Hence, the Deutsche Bar will offer a daily breakfast with open-faced rolls and coffee from 09:00 till 09:45 hrs.

During lunch-time this offer will be expanded to include typical German snacks such as self-made hamburgers, tasty Bavarian meatloaf, or just Vienna sausages.

As a weekly highlight, usually on Wednesday, the Deutsche Bar also plans to offer a hot luncheon.

Since our staff is limited, we cannot offer the formerly well-known variety of meals, and the popular Friday breakfast buffet also had to be cut back. Under the new concept we plan to invite for the Friday breakfast buffet once a month. Although the German Bar has to tighten the belt a little, there will certainly be no restrictions as to the good quality and unique hospitality.



Any changes to the opening hours due to special events or official business of the German Delegation will be published in due time.

From now on you can find information related to the German Bar such as special offers, important dates, and much more, at our newly established Facebook page. Staff and management of the Deutsche Bar are looking forward to receiving your feedback and recommendations via Facebook. So, please check our site at German Bar Brunssum.

The Deutsche Bar is back, and we are looking forward to welcome you!

For all those who enjoy our breakfast and lunch at the Deutsche Bar and want more of it, we have a nice EXTRA: Once a month, from 16:15 hrs to 17:15 hrs the German Bar will be open for a "Close-Of-Business Beer".

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Country: The Slovak Republic

Population: 5.4 million

Capital: Bratislava

Head of State: resident Ivan Gašparovič (since 2004)

Area: 49,035 square kilometers

Climate: The Slovak Republic lies between the temperate and continental climate zones with relatively warm summers and cold, cloudy and humid winters.

Budget: Revenues \$31.39 billion, Expenditures: \$35.85 billion (2012 est.)

Currency: Euro (€)

Industries: Although Slovakia's GDP comes mainly from the tertiary (services) sector, the industrial sector also plays an important role within its economy. The main industry sectors are car manufacturing and electrical engineering. Since 2007, Slovakia has been the world's largest producer of cars per capita. There are currently three automobile assembly plants: Volkswagen's in Bratislava, PSA Peugeot Citroen's in Trnava and Kia Motors' Žilina Plant.

Agriculture: The primary agricultural products are sugar beets, potatoes, wheat, barley, fruit, forest products, corn, pigs, cattle, poultry, and sheep. Grapes for wine production are grown in some hilly areas, and tobacco is cultivated in valleys. Animal products and oils represent over 80 percent of all agricultural receipts.

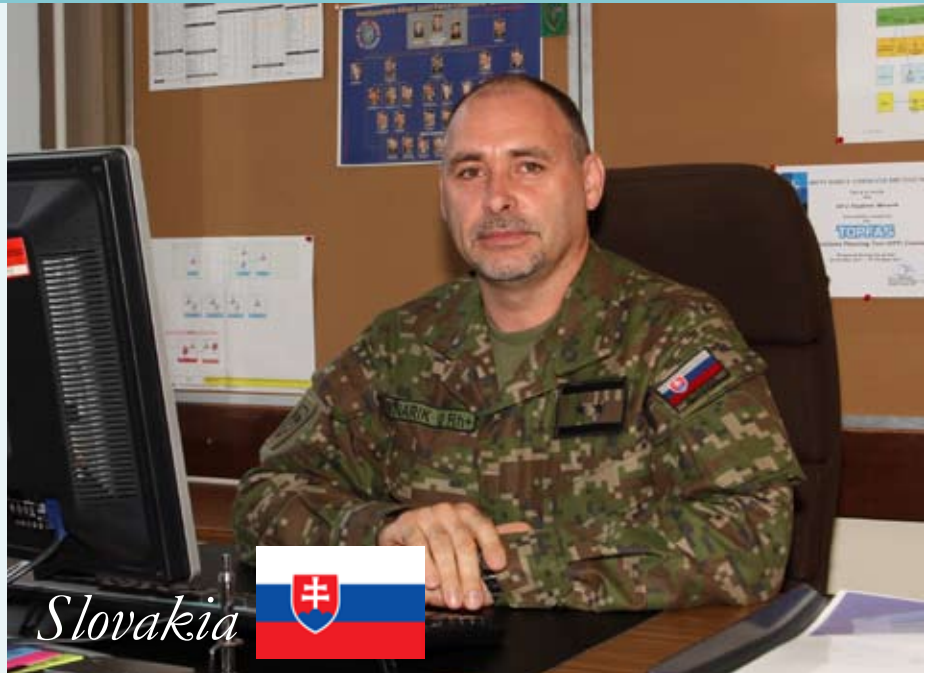
Export: Main export goods: Machinery and electrical equipment, vehicles, base metals and metal products, chemicals, minerals and plastics.

Main export partners: Germany, Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Austria, France, Italy, United Kingdom

Defence: The Armed Forces of the Slovak Republic number 14,000 uniformed personnel. Slovakia joined NATO in March 2004. From 2006 the Armed Forces transformed from an army based on conscription into a fully professional organization.

History:

The Slavs arrived in the territory of present day Slovakia in the 5th and 6th centuries during the migration period. In 1918, closely related Czechs and Slovaks formed a common state Czechoslovakia, which existed until its peaceful dissolution into the Czech Republic and Slovakia on 1 January 1993. Slovakia joined the European Union in 2004 and the Eurozone on 1 January 2009.



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

I arrived in the Netherlands in August 2011 and took over the position of Staff Officer - Land Planner within the ISAF Team of J5 Division (Joint Plans Branch at that time).

Tell us about your military career.

I joined the army in 1988, after 4 years of military high school, and was commissioned after graduation from the Military University in 1992. My background is armored, and as a "tanker" I had various command and staff assignments up to brigade level. In 2002, I was posted to Land Forces Command where my planner career began. My last assignment, prior to my NATO posting at JFC Brunssum, was 4 years as Chief Plans of Operations Division of Land Forces HQ.

Do you have any experience with other international missions?

In 2006 I was deployed to HQ KFOR, working mostly with reserves. In 2012 I was sent to CJ5 of HQ ISAF as the JFCBS J5 LNO.

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

Within a few months of induction training I was trained on a tool to help planners called TOPFAS (Tool for Operational Planning Functional Area Service). Soon thereafter I picked up the "part-time" job of TOPFAS OPT (Operational Planning Tool) instructor. Recently, the challenge of balancing my J5 duties and my TOPFAS duties increased exponentially with the departure of the TOPFAS manager and co-instructor. I have now become the TOPFAS manager and sole OPT instructor whilst still performing my J5 duties.

Is your family here with you?

Yes, my wife Ivana and two daughters, Linda and Laura, moved here with me. After a year in Brunssum, the family has grown a bit; our son, Alex, was born in Maastricht.

What are your hobbies?

My hobbies are cycling and skiing, but I also enjoy recreational volleyball. Recently, my new hobby is babysitting of our son - he also enjoys cycling trips from the comfortable seat in front of me.

What do you like in your job?

Some might say that planners have an easy job; just coming up with the plan and having no responsibility for execution. On the other hand, it is pretty hard to make a plan when there isn't firm ground under your feet. That is why I like to work within a dynamic and inspiring team of the finest planners in NATO. And, as every day is a school day, even as a teacher of TOPFAS OPT I am still learning about the Art of Planning.

Can you shortly describe your country?

Slovakia is a landlocked country located in the heart of Central Europe. Slovakia features interesting natural landscapes, mountains, deep caves, medieval castles and ski resorts.

Your future plans?

At this moment I do not have visibility of where I will be posted at the end of my tour in summer 2014, but as a military man, I will go wherever my army needs me.

Did you know? Operation Market Garden 2014 Commemoration

Story by Ed Frieser

Large scale preparations are underway.

Recently a group of headquarters' staff went to visit the battle grounds of Operation Market Garden near Arnhem and Nijmegen. An operation that took place between 17 - 25 September 1944. This edition of the Northern Star comes out on 13 September and thus gave me reason to dwell on this immense drama. Market Garden was an operation that resulted in the delay of the liberation of the Western part of the Netherlands. I would like to draw your special attention to this large scale military operation and the commemorations that will take place in September 2014, exactly 70 years after the events of the Second World War took place.

Objective

The mastermind behind the operation was British Field Marshal Bernard L. Montgomery. Although US General Dwight D. "Ike" Eisenhower wanted a broader frontal thrust into Nazi Germany, he reluctantly accepted the plan of Field Marshal Montgomery. The intention was to bypass the Siegfried Line by hooking around its northern end, thus allowing the Allies to cross the River Rhine and trap the German Fifteenth Army between Arnhem and the shores of the IJsselmeer (Lake IJssel). Consequently, bridges over the rivers Meuse, Waal and Rhine, near Nijmegen and Arnhem, had to be taken swiftly. The 1st British Airborne Division, commanded by General Roy Urquhart, was supposed to be dropped near Arnhem and capture the bridge crossing the Rhine, stay in place for 48 hours and keep the bridge until reinforcements arrived from the south, with support of the Polish 1st Independent Paratroops Brigade, commanded by Brigadier General Stanislaw Sosabovski. However, unexpectedly strong German resistance in Arnhem meant that only a small force of some 740 men were able to reach the northern end of the bridge; these were commanded by Lt Colonel John Frost. John Frost's force continued to hold their position for about four days, twice as long as it was originally foreseen to be held by 10,000 men. Frost soon learned that there was no hope that the 1st Airborne Division would relieve them and that XXX Corps had been stopped to the south, in front of Nijmegen bridge. For the men who were stranded at the Arnhem bridge reinforcements came too late. Things went terribly wrong and a tragedy developed. The bridge is now called the John Frost bridge.

A Bridge Too Far

The events and analysis of Operation Market Garden can be found in many documents, also on the World Wide Web. But fact is, that in an attempt to rapidly take the bridges across the rivers Waal and Rhine near Arnhem, Field Marshal Montgomery literally went a bridge too far. His troops were caught in an area near



Arnhem where a bridge crosses the Rhine. The events of this controversial operation formed the base for the movie "A Bridge Too Far" directed by Richard Attenborough and starring well known actors like Anthony Hopkins, Ryan O'Neal, Sean Connery, Gene Hackman, Michael Cain, Liv Ullmann and many others. Perhaps a good reason at this time to go to our Library and see if the film is still available.

Commemoration 2014

A special working group has been set up to organise a large scale commemoration in 2014, similar to one held in 1994 to mark the 50th Anniversary. If you would like to keep track of the activities please consult the website <http://omg2014.allunited.nl> And, as we can read already on the website: "...the thread for Operation Market Garden relates to three main components; Driving route South on Sunday, September 14th, 2014, driving route Emergency on 20 September 2014, and the establishment of a base camp in Veghel from 12 - 21 September, 2014. Around these components, several additional activities will take place where municipalities, public and participants, are involved. There will be commemorations, educational programs, veterans, parachute jumps, amphibian actions, demonstrations etc. etc. etc. A great program with the necessary preparatory work that accompanies it and that will be shaped in the near future..." Like in 1994 at the

50th Anniversary approximately 1 million people are expected to visit this event. This year you can visit the commemorations around Arnhem and the Memorial Service at Groesbeek and pay your respects to the thousands of Allied as well as German soldiers who died at Arnhem. A visit to the renovated Airborne Museum Hartenstein will give you a memorable insight in the events of September 1944. Therefore an early tip off might be good to forewarn you of this unique commemoration in 2014.

Some facts

Market Garden remains the largest airborne operation in history, delivering over 34,600 men of the 101st, 82nd and 1st Airborne Divisions supported by the Polish Brigade. 14,589 troops were landed by glider and 20,011 by parachute. Gliders also brought in 1,736 vehicles and 263 artillery pieces. 3,342 tons of ammunition and other supplies were brought by glider and parachute drop.



Place to visit: Family Park Mondo Verde in Landgraaf
Distance: 10 kilometers
Further Information: www.365mondoverde.nl

Enjoy Never Ending Season in Mondo Verde!

Story by Mondo Verde and Jaroslava Augustinova, photos by Mondo Verde

Summer is almost gone, pictures from trips and holidays are comfortably sitting in photo albums, children have gone back to their classrooms, and parents are working again. But it doesn't mean you have to wait for another great adventure till next summer! Do you know that very close to our headquarters you can find a beautiful exotic place to enjoy your time with friends and/or families?

Park Mondo Verde, in Landgraaf, deserves its reputation as the ultimate family destination. If you love the Floriade, then a visit to the 250,000 m2 area of Mondo

Verde surely will inspire you! The park is permanently accessible; you are welcome 365 days a year.

The team at Mondo Verde specializes in high-profile family and theme parties such as weddings, Halloween parties, Christmas parties and (New Year's) shorts. Of course children also celebrate the funniest, craziest children's parties around.

Anything is possible, such striking party venues as in this versatile park are nowhere else to be found!

The park is also a popular destination

for school trips, because Mondo Verde perfectly provides a variety of educational opportunities in the field of culture, flora and fauna. And teachers who do not want to lead the educational element during a visit themselves, can hire a professional guide.

With exciting attractions, beautiful gardens, majestic buildings and countless animals (including lions, crocodiles, hundreds of striking bird species and many more), Mondo Verde provides the ideal environment for all generations to enjoy themselves.





Win Tickets for Mondo Verde

- We have 5x2 tickets
- In order to win the tickets, please answer the following question:
- **How big is the area you can visit in Mondo Verde?**
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- The winners will be announced in the next edition of the Northern Star

Answer:

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Winners Fun Valley

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

Tickets won by:

Grzegorz Jurczuk, J7

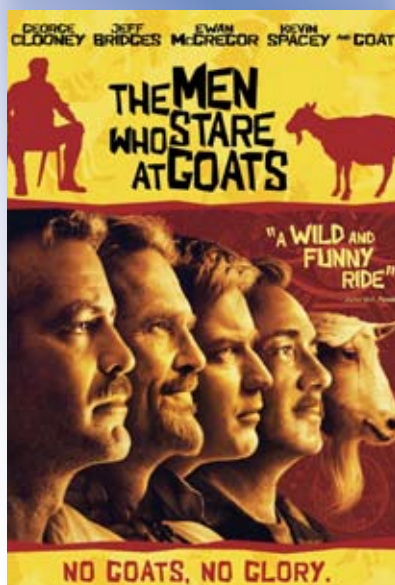
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Michael Lynen, German NALS

Darko Juric, J2

Nace Pavlin Zakovsek, NCIA

Film Review



The Men Who Stare at Goats

Prepared by Jaroslava Augustinova

Grant Heslov's directorial debut, a war comedy sprinkled with humor - *The Men Who Stare at Goats* - was inspired by British journalist Jon Ronson's non-fiction bestseller about the U.S. Army's New Age movement. The book is essentially an investigative, eye-opening and hilarious exploration of the government's attempts to harness paranormal capabilities to combat its enemies.

Ewan McGregor stars as Bob Wilton, a heartbroken journalist who is trying to lose himself in the romance of war after his marriage fails. He is in search of his next big story and wants to prove to his ex-wife that he can cut it as a war reporter. Whilst waiting in his hotel for a chance to slip across the border into Iraq, he meets special forces agent Lyn Cassady (George Clooney), a self-convinced former psychic spy who reveals the existence of a secret, experimental U.S. military unit that employs paranormal powers

in missions. These "Jedi warriors" are able to read the enemy's thoughts, pass through solid walls, and even kill a goat simply by staring at it. It turns out Lyn spent decades as part of this New Earth Army - a platoon of men, led by the program's founder Bill Django (Jeff Bridges), who has gone missing. According to Cassady, the New Earth Army is changing the way wars are fought. He gives the skeptical reporter more than he bargained for and Bob, intrigued by his new acquaintance's stories, impulsively decides to accompany him on the search for Bill Django.

The movie is available in the JFCBS Library.

Director : Grant Heslov

Screenplay : Peter Straughan

Stars: George Clooney, Ewan McGregor, Jeff Bridges

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