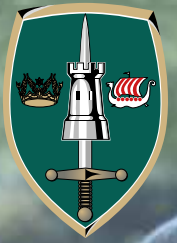


NORTHERN STAR

MAGAZINE FOR HQ JFC BRUNSSUM - SEPTEMBER 2016



www.jfcbs.nato.int www.facebook.com/jfcbs



JFC BRUNSSUM
CONDUCTS TRAINING
IN AZERBAIJAN

ON THE STARTING
LINE OF THE CZECH
ARMED FORCES
DEVELOPMENT
CONCEPT

NIJMEGEN 4-DAY
MARCHES

NATO
+
OTAN



WE FOCUS ON CARS.

The Volkswagen & Audi specialists in the Tri-Border region.



We are looking forward to your visit:



Marcel Oellers

(Head of Sales Volkswagen)

Sandra Zitzelsberger

(Center Manager)

Karl-Heinz Purrio

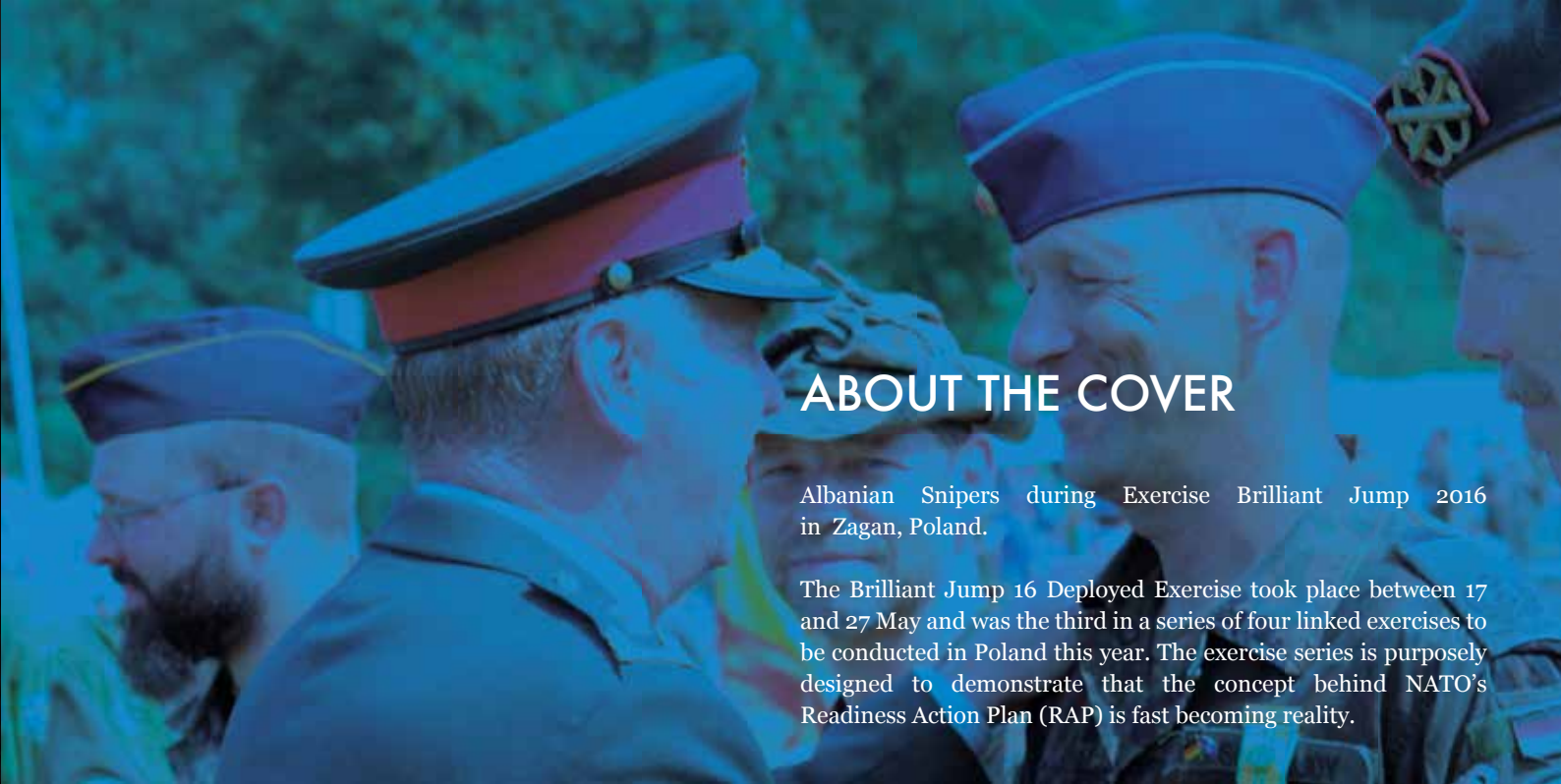
(Head of Sales Audi)



Audi Zentrum Aachen
Jacobs Automobile GmbH & Co. KG
Zweigniederlassung Geilenkirchen
Landstraße 48+50 - 52511 Geilenkirchen
Tel.: +49 (0)2451-98700

+++ www.jacobs-gruppe.de +++





ABOUT THE COVER

Albanian Snipers during Exercise Brilliant Jump 2016 in Zagan, Poland.

The Brilliant Jump 16 Deployed Exercise took place between 17 and 27 May and was the third in a series of four linked exercises to be conducted in Poland this year. The exercise series is purposely designed to demonstrate that the concept behind NATO's Readiness Action Plan (RAP) is fast becoming reality.

CONTENTS

3	ABOUT THE COVER	24	ONE OF US
5	COMMAND GROUP CORNER	26	DID YOU KNOW: GEOLOGY OF SOUTH-LIMBURG
6	VISITS AND ACTIVITIES	28	MOVIE SCHEDULE
10	JFC BRUNSSUM CONDUCTS TRAINING IN AZERBAIJAN	29	CIRCLE 100
16	AFNORTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL'S 48TH INTERNATIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY	30	BOOK REVIEW: COMMANDER IN CHIEF: FDR'S BATTLE WITH CHURCHILL, 1943 (FDR AT WAR)
23	JFCBS DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF (SUPPORT) NCO'S TEAM EFFORT FOR CHARITY		

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 F 1.21, 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, with the exceptions of January and August each year. It is generally available around the first Friday of each month it is produced.

For more information, call ext. 2687 or +31 (0)45 526 26 87. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions.

Editorial Staff

Col Martin Klein, DEU A
Chief Public Affairs Office

Mr. Barry Mellor, GBR Civ
Deputy Chief Public Affairs (Civ) & Community
Relations, Advisor, Editor

Edwin Tromp, NLD A
Contributing Editor





MILITARY DISCOUNT CENTRE



WHY BUY A QUALITY CAR?

- 1) QUALITY CARS ARE DESIGNED AND MANUFACTURED TO LAST MUCH LONGER
- 2) QUALITY CARS TRANSPORT YOU AND YOUR FAMILY IN THE SAFEST ENVIRONMENT.
- 3) QUALITY CARS HAVE EXCEPTIONAL RESALE VALUES
- 4) QUALITY CARS ARE RELIABLE
- 5) QUALITY CARS ARE A PLEASURE TO OWN

WHY BUY BMW , VOLVO OR MERCEDES?

- 1) BMW ,VOLVO AND MERCEDES ARE YOUR QUALITY CARS
- 2) MASSIVE MILITARY DISCOUNTS (BUY QUALITY FOR THE PRICE OF AN AVERAGE CAR)
- 3) FREE HOME SHIPMENT TO THE U.S.A OR CANADA WHEN YOU RETURN HOME
- 4) FREE SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE FOR 3 YEARS (U.S. VOLVO MODELS)
- 5) FREE EUROPEAN BREAKDOWN/RECOVERY (INCL. HOTEL, FLIGHTS HOME, RENTAL CAR)
- 6) FREE 4 YEAR WARRANTY (3 YEAR EU MODELS)
- 7) FREE 12 YEAR ANTI CORROSION GUARANTEE
- 8) PURCHASE PRICE IN YOUR CURRENCY AND PROTECTED AGAINST PRICE INCREASES

WHY BUY FROM ROADCRAFT?

- 1) ROADCRAFT GUARANTEE YOU THE LOWEST PRICE
- 2) ROADCRAFT GUARANTEE THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF SERVICE
- 3) ROADCRAFT DELIVER TO YOUR MILITARY BASE
- 4) ROADCRAFT HAVE OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE SELLING TO MILITARY/DIPLOMATS
- 5) ROADCRAFT PROVIDE 24/7 LIFETIME SUPPORT- UNIQUE IN CAR SALES
- 6) ROADCRAFT DO NOT BELIEVE IN PRESSURE SELLING.
WE VALUE AND RESPECT OUR CUSTOMERS!

OVER 20%
SAVINGS OFF
TAX-FREE PRICES



WWW.MILITARYTAXFREECARS.COM / CEO@MILITARYTAXFREECARS.COM
DIRECT LINES: 0031 646855537

COMMAND GROUP CORNER

Composed By: Chief Warrant Officer Paul Francis



On 07 July I assumed the responsibilities of Command Senior Enlisted Leader (CSEL) from Chief Warrant Officer (CWO) Joe Ramsay to whom I am thankful for an excellent and comprehensive handover. I am sure his insight and guidance will serve me well for the next three years. Arriving on the brink of the summer holiday period has afforded me the luxury of easing into the job. I quickly learned that I have much to learn – not least what numbers to use when making phone calls. Throughout my handover and joining routine I have had the opportunity to meet and speak with many of you already. I look forward to meeting everyone else over the coming months.

It has been a long journey, both in terms of distance and challenges, to move from Alberta, Canada, to Brunssum, situated in the beautiful province of Limburg in the Netherlands. Within only a couple of months of arriving it is obvious that it was well worth it. My wife Tracey and I are truly appreciative of the opportunity to be here and I must admit much of that effort was led by Tracey who worked tirelessly to ensure our move progressed as smoothly as possible.

My first impression of JFC Brunssum (JFCBS) is of a very busy headquarters that is, in places, understaffed. The fact that a highly proactive working tempo is sustained speaks for the dedication, capability and professionalism of the military and civilian personnel that work in this headquarters. I often take it for granted to be a native English speaker in this environment. With that in mind I find it that much more

impressive that non-native speakers function at such high capacity. There is an invaluable strength in this multinational team who bring a breadth of experiences and views to the table. On numerous occasions I have benefited from the eagerness of those who are happy to share their knowledge. This summer sees a high number of military personnel departing and, inevitably, much knowledge is leaving with them. With many newcomers to the headquarters it is imperative that those remaining continue to share their knowledge and experiences so as to maintain the high work standard that has been previously achieved and enable new staff to add value as soon as possible.

In the coming months I will visit as many departments as possible. I want to hear about what you do, your challenges and your achievements. Through this I will be better situated to serve as your CSEL. One of my functions is to keep my finger on the pulse of the headquarters. As a Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) my instinct is to move to the point of friction and fix it. Through candid discussions we can work together to ensure this headquarters operates smoothly and effectively to achieve the mission. To accept anything less is not an option. To that end my door is always open to both NCOs and Officers. Working together, as one team, we will evolve in the pursuit of excellence in order to meet the demands of an ever changing environment and be better placed to overcome obstacles placed before us.

As the CSEL I take a particular interest in the development of the NCO Corps. The chance to work in a NATO headquarters is a unique opportunity that shouldn't be taken lightly. The potential for professional development

is immense and we should take every opportunity to capitalize on it. One of my goals is to see each NCO return to his/her Nation at the end of their time here with improved leadership skills, reaping the rewards of a robust professional development program and, as a consequence, greater self-confidence. As you grow older the one enduring lesson life teaches is that you are never too old to learn. I am interested to hear your ideas with regard to professional development and it is my intent to work with you to help you achieve your professional goals. In this, we will seek to leverage relevant training opportunities that contribute to making NCOs the backbone of any military organization - this will ultimately lead to a stronger JFCBS.

I encourage everyone to make physical training (PT) a part of their weekly routine. As much as I would like to see it a daily event I am not blind to the reality that in-trays are full and that PT isn't always possible. I am a firm believer PT is as beneficial for the mind as it is the body. Physical fitness is one of the corner stones of any military. When you find you have that "writer's block" go for a run and clear your mind. Most often you will find renewed inspiration.

Again, my door is always open. You might not get the answer you want but you will get an honest answer. I am truly honoured to be here as your CSEL. I look forward to the next three years of challenges, opportunities, camaraderie and serving this headquarters.



VISITS AND ACTIVITIES

Prepared by Adjutant Edwin Tromp

ACO Deputy Commanders Meet

The seven Deputy Commanders of the NATO Command Structure met at JFC Brunssum, 21 and 22 June, for the Fourth DCOM Cabal. The Cabal was first instigated more than a year ago and is an opportunity for senior members of the ACO headquarters to discuss issues of the moment. On this occasion, the Cabal looked forward to the Warsaw Summit and considered the future development of NATO's exercise programme.



Commander JFC Brunssum Visits Finnish Chief of Defence

Helsinki, 23 June - Commander JFC Brunssum conducted a visit to Finland during which he met with the Finnish Chief of Defence, General Lindberg, and representatives of the Defence and the Foreign Affairs Ministers.

Amongst other issues, General Farina discussed the current security situation in Finland with his Finnish counterparts. Discussions focused on the country's eastern borders, the high north and maritime issues in the Baltic Sea and Gulf of Finland.

General Lindberg, together with the Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Peter Stenlund, and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Defence, Mr. Jukka Juusti, also provided General Farina with an

overview of Finnish Armed Forces capability development initiatives and their extant contribution to NATO missions and operations. Efforts to coordinate and cooperate military activities amongst nations from Northern Europe were touched upon in this briefing. Turning to the political, views and expectations appertaining to the upcoming Warsaw Summit, in particular the likely impact on military structures, processes and activities, were also shared.

At the conclusion of the trip General Farina stated: 'This was an extremely helpful exchange of information. Finland continues to be a key partner for NATO and a great contributor to sustained peace and security in the Baltic region and Northern Europe.'



June 2016/July 2016

28 JUN 2016



Joint Force Commander Visits HQ AIRCOM

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany -- The Commander of Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, Italian Army General Salvatore Farina, visited Headquarters Allied Air Command (AIRCOM) here, 28 June. The visit marked his first trip to AIRCOM since he took command on 4 March. He was welcomed by the AIRCOM commander, General Frank Gorenc, and provided mission briefs on AIRCOM's key programmes, to include Ballistic Missile Defence, the Core Joint Force Air Component, and the 24/7 Air Policing mission.

"AIRCOM serves a key role in executing our NRF mission and ensuring the success of the air component for our Joint Forces at NATO," General Farina said. "While JFC Brunssum serves as the Joint Headquarters bridging between the NATO Command Structure and NATO Force Structure, I see AIRCOM as the foundation and the command and control epicenter for our Allied and Partner air forces executing NATO missions."

Based on an article by AIRCOM PAO

6 JUL 2016



Commander Landcom Visits JFC Brunssum

BRUNSSUM, The Netherlands - General Salvatore Farina, Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, welcomed Lieutenant General Darryl A. Williams, who recently assumed command of NATO Headquarters Allied Land Command in Izmir, Turkey, for his first visit to NATO's Operational Headquarters in The Netherlands.

In the wake of a number of detailed briefings both Commanders took the chance to exchange thoughts on command guidance and philosophy, focused on strengthening the cohesion of the Alliance through improved working cooperation between the

commands with the objective to foster readiness and adaptability of NATO-assigned forces.

Headquarters Allied Land Command is NATO's Single Service Command in the Land Domain. As such, it provides a land-oriented planning capability in support of Higher headquarters and the NATO Force Structure. When directed Landcom is able to provide the core of the headquarters element responsible for the conduct of land operations and the synchronization of land forces command and control in accordance with the Allied Level of Ambition.

VISITS AND ACTIVITIES

JFC Brunssum Conducts Ceremony for Change of Command Senior Enlisted Leader

The Commander of JFC Brunssum, General Salvatore Farina, presided over a ceremony today marking the change of responsibility for Command Senior Enlisted Leader (CSEL) from Canadian Army Chief Warrant Officer Joe Ramsay to Canadian Army Chief Warrant Officer Paul Francis. During the ceremony CWO Ramsay recalled to the audience how challenging the JFCBS mission was and he underlined the role and importance of the NCO community within the headquarters. He also paid a vibrant tribute to the work done by all the support elements and highlighted the successes reached by his fellow NCO peers.

General Farina spoke about the unique role and position of a Command Senior Enlisted Leader within NATO and highlighted all the personal successes met by CWO Ramsay during his three years as CSEL. General Farina also thanked CWO Ramsay "Chief" for his years of

serving NATO in Europe and wished him luck for his return to Canada and for his well-earned retirement along with his family.

Then General Farina warmly welcomed Chief Warrant Officer Francis to take up the gauntlet as the new CSEL for JFC Brunssum, wishing him as much success in the CSEL position as CWO Ramsay had over the past years. CWO Francis, previously Regimental Sergeant Major of the 3rd Battalion Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry, spoke about how honoured he was to get the position as CSEL and how happy he was to be here at JFC Brunssum.

The CSEL, a distinguished leadership position within the headquarters structure, is the top enlisted position with a purpose to lead the command's efforts on enlisted development, utilization and engagement.

7 JUL 2016



Commander MARCOM Visits JFC Brunssum

General Salvatore Farina, Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, welcomed Allied Maritime Command Commander Vice Admiral Clive Johnstone and a party of his senior staff members to Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum today.

After a number of detailed defence briefings, both Commanders took the chance to exchange thoughts on command guidance and philosophy. The generals focused their discussion on strengthening the cohesion of the Alliance through improved working cooperation between commands with the objective to foster readiness and adaptability of NATO-assigned forces. General FARINA highlighted in his welcome remarks that "mutual understanding and cooperation within NATO is the key to being more

effective and successful." During their fruitful exchanges, both commanders agreed that synchronization of headquarters activities and faster information sharing processes will accelerate adaptation and offer a wider range of practical solutions for NATO decision makers.

Allied Maritime Command (MARCOM) is one of the three single service command belonging to Allied Command Operations. It is the central command of all NATO maritime forces and the Commander MARCOM is the prime maritime advisor for the Alliance. MARCOM is responsible for planning and conducting all NATO maritime operations, this headquarters has also to ensure it is capable at all times of contributing to potential maritime operations.

13 JUL 2016



29 JUL 2016



Commander Joint Forces Command Brunssum Visits the Chief of Defence of the Netherlands

On Thursday 28 July the Commander JFC Brunssum, General Farina, paid a visit to General Tom Middendorp, Chief of Defence of the Netherlands.

After receiving a warm welcome in The Hague, General Farina thanked General Middendorp for hosting the Joint Forces Command Brunssum (JFCBS) Headquarters on Netherlands' soil.

During the office call, the Generals discussed several topics, starting with the importance of the JFCBS Headquarters for the Limburg region and its' economy. They also emphasized the landmark represented by next year's 50th anniversary of JFCBS Headquarters in Brunssum.

The discussion also covered the outcomes of the recent Warsaw Summit, NATO's way ahead on the current and future lines of effort, and significant

implications and commitments required both by JFCBS Headquarters and the Netherlands Armed Forces in the near future.

In particular, General Farina gave General Middendorp an operational insight on the four battalion-size units to be based in the Baltic States and Poland as part of the Alliance's enhanced Forward Presence starting next year, as announced by the Secretary General.

On completion of the office call, Air Commodore Jan Willem Westerbeek briefed General Farina on the current operational deployments of the Netherlands Armed Forces.



JFC BRUNSSUM CONDUCTS TRAINING IN AZERBAIJAN

Composed By: Lt Col Paul van Harten



In the last week of June 2016 a small party of four officers from JFC Brunssum visited Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan . Only one week earlier Baku was the host for the formula 1 racing and this was still visible in down-town Baku. The Mobile Training Team visit was part of a broader programme designed to develop knowledge within the Armed forces of our Partner for Peace nation , Azerbaijan. Lieutenant Colonel Schröter

(Germany), Lieutenant Colonel Dewey(United States), Lieutenant van Harten (the Netherlands) and Lieutenant Colonel Jahic (Bosnia Herzegovina), made up the Joint Force Command team.

NATO's Strategic Concept sets out the policy underpinning partnerships with countries and organisations. In striving to

achieve the objectives of this policy the Alliance has developed a number of partnership policies, programmes, tools and initiatives to support cooperation with partner countries. Cooperation at the bilateral level between NATO and individual partners is guided and framed by bilateral instruments such as the Individual Partnership and Cooperation Programme. To assist partners in the achievement of their goals, NATO created a single Partnership Cooperation Menu, as a repository of activities, parent participation proposed by NATO, Allies and Partners that is approved by the North Atlantic Council.

After introductory briefings about NATO's structure and procedures, the majority of effort focussed on Strategic Communications and Public Affairs within NATO. Fellow officers of the Azerbaijan MoD were highly motivated by these briefings and this was reflected by numerous questions and

remarks. One of the evenings was marked by a dinner where, in a social environment, further experiences were exchanged and connections were made.

On the last day, the participants were presented with a certificate that reflected their participation and the JFC Brunssum team received many thanks for their efforts.

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



- FOR ALL EUROPEAN, US, CANADIAN & UK NATIONALITIES SERVING NATO
 - LEADING TAX-FREE MILITARY AND DIPLOMATIC VOLVO SUPPLIER
 - GUARANTEED LOWEST PRICE
 - ALL PAYMENTS DIRECT TO THE VOLVO FACTORY IN GOTHENBURG, SWEDEN
 - HOME SHIPMENT PROGRAM INCLUDED*
 - US, CANADIAN AND EUROPEAN SPECS SERVICE & MAINTENANCE
 - BODY AND PAINT SHOP
 - VOLVO DEALER SINCE 1965
- *ONLY U.S. & CANADIAN SPECS



Auto Kallen | Rijksweg Zuid 320 - Geleen | The Netherlands
Tel +31 (0)46 - 423 86 86 | Contact: r.vossen@autokallen.nl

www.autokallen.nl

graphic design

magazines

web services

support



't Swarte Schaap
media & more

**YOUR ADVERTISEMENT
COULD BE HERE!**

info@tswarteschaap.nl
www.tswarteschaap.nl

Haus Hamacher
Restaurant und Café

Attention!

From the 1st until the 3rd of October
Large Bayern buffet with real Bayern beer!

All-you-can-eat for only €16,90 p. p.

Reservation recommended.

Have you already reserved for your company,
club- or family Christmas party?

we are there for you 7 days a week!

Tel: 0049-2454-1414 www.Haus-Hamacher.de

52538 Gangelt
Am Freibad 10

Did you know?
You're allowed to make your own
temporary lodgings reservations – **without**
going through the housing office!

whether PCSing in or out...

The Inn Places

is **your** home away from home!

View photos & reviews online at:

- facebook.com/theinnplaces
- theinnplaces.com

Find out what makes
the Inn Places
so much more than
just a guesthouse.



email: reservations@theinnplaces.com
phone: + 49 - 2454 - 7326



- fully furnished • pet friendly
- complimentary rental car • free WiFi
- airport transport available • just 1 km from JFC Brunssum, 2 km from AFNORTH School
- Government Travel Card accepted
- close to Brunssum shopping & restaurants
- cable TV • free laundry facilities
- crib, toys, games • welcome gift
- gated parking • outdoor terrace
- free weekly maid service • ... & more!

ON THE STARTING LINE OF THE CZECH ARMED FORCES DEVELOPMENT CONCEPT

Composed By: Colonel Jan Šulc, Public Affairs Section, General Staff Czech Armed Forces





After years of the heavily impacting economic crisis, where the Czech Republic (just like other countries around the world) was subject to a progressive decline of defence spending in response to recent developments in the global security environment, the negative trend began to reverse in 2015. The ruling coalition has committed to a progressive growth of defence appropriations for the Ministry of Defence, to a ceiling of 1.4 % GDP by 2020, with the prospect of reaching the NATO recommended 2% benchmark in the future. In 2016 the Czech Ministry of Defence has been allocated a budget

totalling CZK 47.8 billion, and CZK 52 and 57 billion in the next two years.

This situation allows the Czech Armed Forces to launch the Czech Armed Forces Development Concept as authorised by the Government in November 2015. The Concept accentuates a well-balanced development of land, air and special forces, recruitment and training of service personnel, and renewal and augmentation of ammunition and materiel stocks.

In the domain of Land Forces, the key focus is on modernisation projects involving the introduction of new command, control and communications wheeled armoured vehicles into the inventory; replacement

of BMP-2 vehicles with a new advanced tracked vehicle platform compatible with NATO standards; strengthening artillery capabilities; and progressive replacement of transportation vehicles and equipment. In general, emphasis is on the completion of projects already underway that include the introduction of advanced personal weapons, including the CZ-805 BREN assault rifle, pistols and machine guns that mirror NATO standard calibres.

The Air Force will primarily focus on the continuation of its key program involving the lease of JAS-39 Gripen fighters, and the acquisition of multirole helicopters to replace the existing Russian origin Mi-24/35 attack helicopters. Replacement of radar





technology is also absolutely essential. The air defence posture will be augmented with additional RBS-70NG systems.

The Special Forces Support Centre, whose mission is to expand the Special Forces capabilities with a combat support unit and strengthen the information and psychological warfare operations, was established earlier this year in the Special Forces structure.

The Czech Armed Forces personnel strength also progressively increases. The Czech Armed Forces 2025 objective force strength was set at 24,260 military professionals and 3,720 defence civilians. The amended defence legislation that entered into force in the middle of 2015 has paved the way for the Czech Armed Forces to be able to rely on a 5,000 strong active reserve component by 2025. The active reserve force will be evenly distributed to cover the

needs of both territorial and combat forces.

The Czech Armed Forces plans to continue its current operations. The Czech contribution to the NATO's Resolute Support Mission in Afghanistan will be kept very much in the same scope and similar size. The other key contingents will involve forces deployed for the European Union Training Mission in Mali and the contingent with a CASA C-295M aircraft assigned to the



MFO operation in the Sinai. Less sizeable contingents in other operations will also be maintained.

The Czech Armed Forces Air Advisory Team has recently deployed in Iraq with the mission to train Iraqi Air Force ground and flight personnel on L-159 ALCA aircraft supplied from the Czech Republic to Iraq as part of the multinational effort to fight Daesh. The Czech JAS-39 Gripen fighters

were also detached to provide air policing coverage for Iceland earlier this year. The overall mandate proposed for foreign operations in the next year is very similar to the 2015 plan and authorises the deployment of over 470 military personnel.

The Czech Armed Forces also remains involved in NATO, EU and UN high readiness and standby forces. In 2016, roughly 815 Czech men and women in uniform,

including a special operations task force, have been assigned to eNRF and VJTF. The Czech Armed Forces also largely participated in the development of the European Union Battle Group (EU BG) built on the basis of contributions by V4 countries (950 personnel), and is also involved in the German-led EU BG (250 personnel). The plan for 2017 also envisages the assignment of more than 1,000 military professionals for high readiness forces.

AFNORTH INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL'S 48TH INTERNATIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY

Composed By: Bea Bennett and Dr Uwe Bettscheider, AIS





Masters of Ceremonies students, Leonie Immel and Wyatt Gardner, welcomed distinguished guests, parents and teachers to a ceremony and reception in honour of the AFNORTH International School's most outstanding secondary students. The criteria for selecting the award-winning students are built and composed in a way, that it is not enough just to be a high-performer in

the academic field. The degree of personal involvement in what they are doing, and the amount of extracurricular activities is also important, as well as a sustained demonstration of self-discipline and self-direction. Furthermore, social engagement and contributions to the international community are also valued as the capability to be a leader.

One important part of the mission of AIS

is to foster internationalism and to try to ensure that the students and the international community in Brunssum benefit from the advantages and varied possibilities of international diversity. For this reason, only students who have contributed to the international goals of AIS can obtain the school's highest awards.

The ceremony began with JROTC cadets' presentation of colours. During the ceremony, attendees enjoyed several wonder-



ful musical performances given by the AIS Choir, the AIS Middle School Choir and by Sophia and Verena Essrich.

Shaina Le, Linni Alver, and Celina Haupt were recognized for their voluntary service outside school hours to the student body, the school in general and the community. The “Student Service Awards” were presented by Dr Mary Zimmerman-Bayer (US Section Head), Mr Erich Remisch (Canadian Section Head) and Kathrin Langbein (Teacher of the German Section).

Music teacher, Mr Jon Hodge, presented

the award for excellence in music to Harleigh Pinaula. Amber Le was awarded for her dedication and excellence in visual art by US Section Head - Dr Mary Zimmerman-Bayer. Mr Brian Quinn presented the Fine Arts Awards for visual art to Lillith Schmidl for the Canadian Section.

As the “Governmental Simulations” are a very important part of the international activities at AFNORTH International School, Mr Bindels, our committed Director of the Government Simulation programs, used this opportunity to present student certificates for participation in these international events.

nal events.

The award presented to the top female and top male athlete in memory of David Newell, who died in an accident while his father was Head of the British Section of AIS, was awarded to Trent Weldon and Şinem Bütün by Col Foster, JFC HQ Brunssum.

The Commander of the Canadian Delegation JFC HQ Brunssum – Col William Foster; the Commander of the German Delegation in the Netherlands – Col Klaus Bücklein; Colonel Matthew Smith, from the NATO Airborne Early Warning and Control



Force E3A Component; and AIS Director -Dr Uwe Bettscheider; presented "The Director's Awards" to Amelie Essrich, Sophia Essrich, Benjamin Helwig and Joshua Kenyon. These young people were recognized for their academic excellence and significant contributions to their national sections and the school in general.

The Commander Base Support Group JFC HQ Brunssum – Col Edwin Altena - presented the European Council of International Schools Award to Sophia Essrich in public recognition as the student who best exemplified the principles of good international

citizenship.

The "Jean Elder Award", named after one of our teachers who was instrumental in the founding of our Model International Parliament (MIP), now called the Model European Parliament (MEP), was given to a student who has demonstrated outstanding performance in the government simulation programs. The Award was presented by Major General Walter Ohm, Deputy Chief of staff Support, Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, to Logan Harless.

The most prestigious school award is as

old as NATO's presence in Brunssum. It was initiated by General Johann Graf von Kielmansegg who was the first CINCENT in 1967. The Graf von Kielmansegg award is presented for distinguished contributions to the international goals of AFNORTH International School. This year we recognized Alberto Loken. The award was presented by Lieutenant General Fernando Alejandro, Deputy Commander Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum.

Congratulations to all the above mentioned students and special thanks to their teachers and parents for supporting them.



NIJMEGEN 4-DAY MARCHES

Composed By: Capt Linda Schrader





Nijmegen, The Netherlands - From 19th to 22nd July, twenty-two members of the Allied International Marching Team (AIMT) from JFC Brunssum participated in the 100th 'Nijmeegse Vierdaagse', an event often referred to as the greatest walking event in the world which, this year, incorporated more than 46,000 participants.

The first 'Four Days Marches' took place in 1909. Participants could start from 15 different places in the Netherlands. They had to walk 140km in four days; 35km per day. The marches were organised by the Nederlandse Bond voor Lichamelijke Opvoeding

(NBvLO) [Dutch League for Physical Education], which was founded in 1908. Of the 306 male participants, ten were civilians. This year our team marched 40 kilometres per day for four consecutive days while wearing standard combat clothing and carrying a military backpack weighing at least 10 kilograms. The week was characterised by temperatures that are unusually high for the region, and on the Wednesday, more than 2,000 marchers were forced to quit as the thermometer rose to 37 degrees Celsius. Although some participants had to withdraw because of the extreme weather conditions, the majority pushed on, singing their marching songs as they walked to take their minds off the pain! The international character of the AIMT was diverse but

even though there were so many different nationalities on the team, a 'Band of Brothers' camaraderie was absolutely evident. One of our marchers encountered a fellow teammate who was not sure he could make it through the last day and said, "We started as a team, and we will finish as a team ... even if it takes us until tomorrow". The same supporting attitude could be detected by the Dutch spectators along the route. One of the AIMT members also encountered heartfelt respect for the military from an elderly lady along the march. The AIMT groups of years past have developed some customs and traditions and this year the team followed abided by them. There were certain locations where the team usually rested, for example a speci-





fic pub, so the proprietor would immediately recognize the AIMT members. Another team spirit example was the 11 o'clock morning "Tea", which was highly inspiring for everybody.

Along the way thousands of spectators applauded, supported the marchers, and sprinkled them with cold water. However, on the last morning all the marchers were sprinkled in a completely different way. Thunderstorms lasting for several

hours soaked all 46,000 walkers but, luckily, by mid-day the sun broke through. All AIMT members successfully completed the 160-kilometre march and were awarded the 4-Day Marches Cross by DCOS PLANS, Major General J.F.A.M van Griensven. The general also praised Major Petre Luca from Romania, because he joined the team only a few days before the march and completed it without doing any training. Then the AIMT, equipped with all the NATO national flags, marched on a five-kilometre victory parade

along the Via Gladiola. The pride and emotion of the different team members, who carried their national colours within AIMT, was palpable. In downtown Nijmegen, His Majesty King Willem Alexander of the Netherlands also applauded all the marchers which made the event an unforgettable moment for all who participated.

JFCBS DEPUTY CHIEF OF STAFF (SUPPORT) NCO'S TEAM EFFORT FOR CHARITY

Composed By: Sergeant (Sgt) Rui Silva, PRT Army



Sgt Guthrie GBR RAF and some of the Committee members at the BBQ.

Being a part of NATO there are two things that Guide us, the mission and the values. The mission: to do your job the best you can in order to reach the desired outcome. The values: the core values, the humanity, the ability to love, to have compassion, to be creative and to have kindness. This time the focus was on values as a fund raiser for charity, coupled with a social summer BBQ. Once we got the charity event to plan, all non-commissioned officers (NCOs) in the Deputy Chief of Staff for Support (DCOS Spt) Directorate started thinking about what could we do, in which way everyone could contribute and which organization we should donate to. Lots of questions that needed to be answered. We had a couple of meetings and we decided that we would donate to 2 good causes: the Mediclowns association,

a Belgium charity that brings a smile to children with medical needs (including children with cancer), and also to plant a memorial tree at Brunssum in memory of Mrs Gail Martinez, who was caught up in the Brussels Airport bomb in March 2016. This would all be organised around a summer BBQ.

The question was how to do it? We decided to follow 3 different courses of action (COAs): a BBQ sale, a sponsored static cycle for the duration of the BBQ event by Sgt Alec Guthrie, GBR RAF, and to sell Mediclowns merchandise at the HQ entrance.

Overall it was great success, and thanks must go to all JFCBS personnel that bought or donated money to these noble causes, we raised almost €1000: €759,20 was presented to Medi-clowns on 7th July 2016, and the rest was used for the memorial tree and to allow for a suitable reception

for the unveiling. It is just left to say thank you to all the NCOs in DCOS SPT for the truly international team effort in support of these causes, and a special thanks to the staff that 'helped people part with their cash' whilst Sgt Alec Guthrie was cycling: Major Elizabeth Obrecht, Sergeant Becky Beattie and Mrs Susan Wouters.



ONE OF US

COLONEL (G.S) JOUNI LAARI



Scan the qr-code for
more interesting
information about
Finland





Since when have you been working with JFCBS? And what position do you have?

I have been working at JFCBS Headquarters as a staff officer and Deputy Branch Head within the J5 Division since 1st August 2014.

Tell us about your career.

As is the requirement for all men in Finland, I was called up as a conscript in February 1981 and was subsequently assigned to the oldest regiment in the Finnish Army, the Uusimaa Dragoon Regiment. During the one year conscript service I attended both the NCO School, and the Reserve Officer School, and eventually became qualified as a forward observer in the light infantry. Following my conscript service from 1982 to 1985 I enrolled as an officer cadet in the Cadet School (now part of the Finnish National Defence University), and received my commission in 1985 as a regular service Lieutenant in the Army. After several years serving in the Armoured Brigade, I was selected for the general staff officer course which I attended from 1993-1995, passing the general staff officer exam in 1995. Subsequently, I have served at various national headquarters, including the Armoured Brigade, the Army Command, and the Joint Staff. My foreign postings include Nordic Combined Helicopter Program Office, Stockholm Sweden, 1998-1999; CJ3 Plans HQ ISAF, Kabul Afghanistan, 2004-2005; G3 Plans HQ EURO-CORPS, Strasbourg France, 2003-2005; CCJ5 U.S.CENTRAL COMMAND, Tampa Florida USA, 2008-2011; and finally J5 HQ JFCBS, 2014-2016. My last national post prior entering HQ JFCBS was Chief International Branch (Policy) of J5 Defence Command Finland (a.k.a. the Joint Staff) from 2011 to 2014. My end of tour in HQ JFCBS was 31 August 2016, and I will retire at the end of 2016 (mandatory retirement at the age of 55). Summarising nearly 36 years of service: a strange combination of an infantry officer, an operational planner, and a strategic analyst.

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

The J5 world is truly tumultuous, and that's the way I like it. In 2014, J5 was assigned the responsibility for coordinating both the Readiness Action Plan, and Regional Focus and that's where my focus has been most of the time. Since both are among the Commander's priorities, the work has been intense, but at the same time interesting and rewarding. It has been a true privilege to follow so closely how smoothly and rapidly an Alliance of 28 nations has been able to transform itself in only two years. This is a truly remarkable achievement, and showcases the professionalism and commitment of all the people who made this possible.

Otherwise, it has been a bit challenging for an officer from Non-NATO Nation to serve within a Headquarters of the NATO Command Structure. This is totally acceptable and natural, since Finland is not a member of the Alliance. I have however been welcomed here in Brunssum warmly and I am really grateful for the reception I have received from both the Command Group, and the entire JFCBS staff.

What are your Hobbies?

I am very interested in military history, and hence I am also a keen reader and a real book lover. My retirement plan is to finally finish my PhD in history which I have been doing for fun as my hobby. I have been neglecting my studies far too long due to the pace of my career and the associated professional workload. As my working life is now coming to a close, it is time to concentrate on my passion for military history and finish that degree!

What do you like in your job?

I have been blessed to serve over the years with so many different professional soldiers from so many various nations. It is remarkable to see how soldiers from various nations with different cultural backgrounds are all actually alike and seem to be made from the same mould: they are in most cases modest, deeply civilized, human, and broadly observant of life, with surprisingly few prejudices. And most of all, they all are professionals. They are my true brothers and sisters.



GEOLOGY OF SOUTH-LIMBURG

Composed By: Ed Frieser

Sources: websites of geologievannederland.nl, kennislink.nl, Wikipedia, Internet Gemeentegids Brunssum.



A fractured area with through faults, ridge faults and tectonic activities

Usually I write about subjects that are unique for the Netherlands and its history. This time I will focus on something that makes South-Limburg different from the rest of the Netherlands; tectonic stress and movements alongside through faults and ridge faults created the South Limburg landscape. Underground formations came close to the surface and rivers eroded the Limburg province.

It is an accepted theory that continents came into being due to breaking up of the lithosphere or earth crust into tectonic plates that drifted away from each other or collide into each other creating enormous stress where these plates meet. Earthquakes, volcanic activity, mountain building, tsunamis, and oceanic trench formation along these plate boundaries are the consequence. Also in the Netherlands tectonic movements affect the earth crust. Reasons for this are twofold: widening of the Atlantic Ocean, because America and Europe are drifting apart and the collision of Africa and Europe that formed the Alps and Pyrenees.

South Limburg geology

What does that mean for Limburg? The entire North Sea basin on which the Netherlands was formed, is an area that still slowly but gradually drops. At the same time lifting the eastern part of the Netherlands. It makes the western part of the Netherlands the deepest point in Europe. Water from higher areas in Europe therefore automatically flows into the Netherlands. Leaving enormous layers of sediment. The Dutch earth crust however is not one big piece but it is fractured. Tectonic movement results in moving the earth crust upwards or downwards at the fracture boundaries. Especially in the Provinces of Limburg, Brabant and Gelderland in the south and east of the Netherlands these tectonic movements sometimes push old earth formations to the surface. But where through faults sink natural riverbeds are formed. Hence the Meuse- and Rhine Riverbeds where formed. Since the late Miocene period some 6 million years ago due to the sinking of the North Sea basin and rising of the eastern part of the Netherlands, the riverbeds of Meuse and Rhine have also shifted westwards. While South-Limburg is rising it results in the river

Meuse and smaller rivers like the Geul, to cut deep into the limestone underground. So the erosion of these rivers created deep valleys. South-Limburg should therefore rather be considered a valley landscape than a hilly landscape. This can be seen clearly when driving over the Margraten Plateau, between Maastricht, Valkenburg, Margraten and Vaals.

Tectonics in Limburg

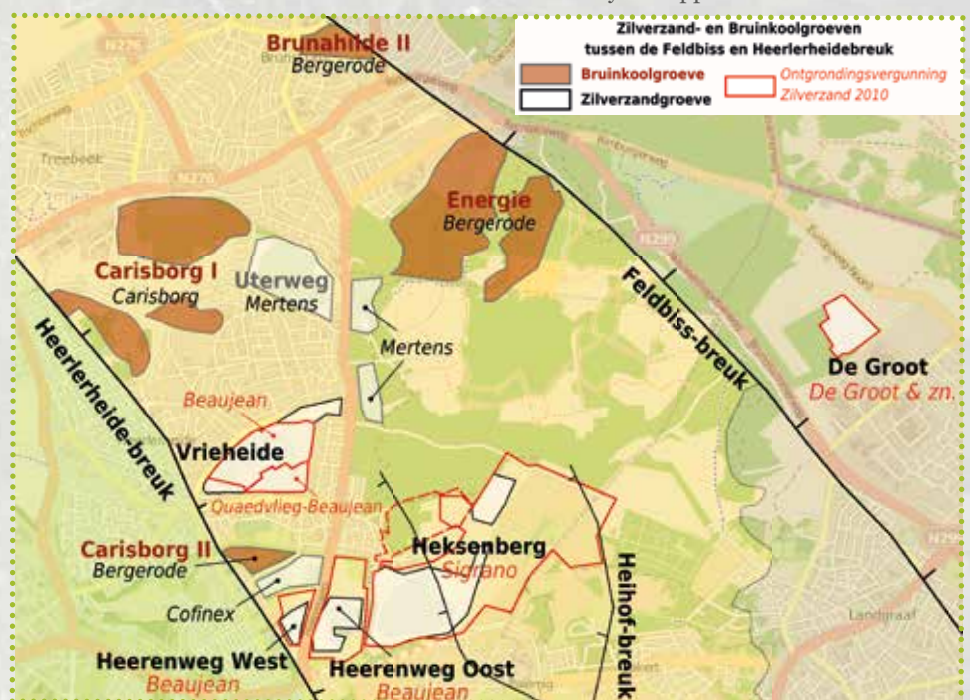
When thinking of tectonics and earthquakes, one would rather think of places like Chile, Nepal in the Himalaya, North Africa, Indonesia and California USA. But South-Limburg? Not really. Still earthquakes have hit the Netherlands and South-Limburg in particular. The last heavy earthquake that hit Limburg was in 1992 with its epicentre some 15 km's deep near Roermond and had strength 5.8 on the Richter scale. In the western part of the country it was hardly noticeable due to the thick layers of sediment, which functioned as shock absorber. However in Limburg it resulted in substantial damage in the city of Roermond and its vicinity. Also Brunssum was shaking. The headquarters' former baseball field near the location of



the present Child Development Centre was cleaved and a meters long fracture appeared in the terrain. And that was not the last time South-Limburg trembled. Several times South-Limburg trembled and shook, such as in Voerendaal (2001) and Heerlen (2002) and it was not considered the result of former mining activities. Two large fractures are potentially cause of earthquakes in the Netherlands: The so-called ‘Peelrand’ fracture and ‘Feldbiss’ fracture and in between them the ‘Roerdal slenk’ or Roerdal through fault. The Feldbiss fracture runs from Germany via Aachen to South Limburg and passes Brunssum via the east edge of the Brunssum heath, the Brunsummerweg and Rimburgerweg, the JFC headquarters’ main entrance down to Sittard, Eindhoven, Breda and then all the way to the North Sea south of Rotterdam. This Feldbiss fracture lies pretty close to the surface in South-Limburg but runs deeper to the west. It is striking that this fracture is so close to the surface and still can be seen as a slope in the field between Brunssum and Merkelbeek where the Merkelbeekerbeek or Brook of Merkelbeek runs via this fracture. Near Sittard the Feldbiss fracture can be seen as a slope in the field even up to 7 meters.

The Feldbiss fracture splits Brunssum into two parts. The north-eastern part situated in the Roode Beek Bekken or Red Brook basin and the south-western part in the Doenrade Plateau. Fortunately the Feldbiss fracture didn’t move since the last but one Ice Age some 200,000 years ago. However the ‘Peelrand’ fracture is still active.

Tectonic processes are still continuing, almost unnoticeable. This continues to have an impact on the Netherlands’ and Limburg landscape in particular. However since the Netherlands is not situated at the boundary of a tectonic plate a disaster with the magnitude of a San Andreas Fault will most likely not appear.





FAMILY SUPPORT MORALE & WELFARE

WHEN YOU WORK, WE WORK
WHEN YOU PLAY, WE WORK HARDER

MOVIE SCHEDULE



09 SEP
2016 FRI
1900

WHEN THE BOUGH BREAKS

Morris Chestnut
Regina Hall



10 SEP
2016 SAT
1600

THE WILD LIFE

Ron Allen
George Babbit 90 min



10 SEP
2016 SAT
1900

SULLY

Tom Hanks
Aaron Eckhart



16 SEP
2016 FRI
1900

BRIDGET JONES'S BABY

Renée Zellweger
Colin Firth



17 SEP
2016 SAT
1600

THE WILD LIFE

Ron Allen
George Babbit 90 min



17 SEP
2016 SAT
1900

SNOWDEN

Joseph Gordon-Levitt
Shailene Woodley 138 min



23 SEP
2016 FRI
1900

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

Denzel Washington
Chris Pratt 132 min



24 SEP
2016 SAT
1600

STORKS

Andy Samberg
Kelsey Grammer



24 SEP
2016 SAT
1900

BRIDGET JONES'S BABY

Renée Zellweger
Colin Firth



30 SEP
2016 FRI
1900

DEEPWATER HORIZON

Mark Wahlberg
Kurt Russell 99 min

INTERNATIONAAL VOCAAL KLASSIEK MUZIEKFESTIVAL

Vocallis
 FESTIVAL *Zangkunst op topniveau*

FESTIVAL VOCALLIS BRINGS LEADING VOCALISTS TO THE AREA.

For the 5th year running renowned singers and instrumentalists will be performing in this high quality music festival. This year's edition will be held from November 6th to 13. Besides the concerts with internationally acclaimed singers and musicians Festival Vocallis leaves room for young talent in the field of (classical) singing. Vocallis also organizes the Vocallis Academy with special public master classes and workshops by professional musicians, talent concerts and the annual presentation of the Vocallis Song Prize to the most promising

young musicians. This year the famous baritone Dietrich Henschel will be opening the festival with a Dutch première of Wenn ich sein Antlitz sehe, his view on Schubert's last great work Schwanengesang.

Apart from seriously classical vocal music there is also a concert that links classic to pop by Vocal Chord. They will be presenting their new theatre show Magical on Monday November 7th. These singers can and will not accept the difference between classical and pop music; good music being good music! They present a wonderful mix of music varying between You'll never walk alone, She and Nessum dorma. A concert

for everyone who loves music!

There is also a great concert for kids that combines puppetwork with classical singing making it possible for children to experience classical music in a relaxed atmosphere.

More information can be found on www.festivalvocallis.nl (in Dutch – but with a good program overview that is clear enough to understand!).

Northern Star is giving away 6 tickets for the Vocal Chord concert that will be held in Wittem (near Maastricht) and 4 tickets for the children's concert in Maastricht.





Win Tickets for

FESTIVAL VOCALLIS

- We have 6 tickets for the Vocal Chord concert that will be held in Wittem (near Maastricht) and 4 tickets for the children's concert in Maastricht.
- In order to win the tickets, please answer the following question:
- Quiz Question: How old is the Festival?

Fill in this coupon and send it to PAO, or send an e-mail to pao@jfcbs.nato.int, before 19 September 2016. Please mention the preferred concert.

- 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

WOODSTOCK

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

Tickets won by:

Ian P Mullaney FS (OR7) GBR AF
Marion Mullaney JFC HQ Brunssum



BOOK REVIEW

COMMANDER IN CHIEF: FDR'S BATTLE WITH CHURCHILL, 1943 (FDR AT WAR)

Nigel Hamilton's *Mantle of Command*, long-listed for the National Book Award, drew on years of archival research and interviews to portray FDR in a tight close up, as he determined Allied strategy in the crucial initial phases of World War II.

Commander in Chief reveals the astonishing sequel — suppressed by Winston Churchill in his memoirs — of Roosevelt's battles with Churchill to maintain that strategy. Roosevelt knew that the Allies should take Sicily but avoid a wider battle in southern Europe, building experience but saving strength to invade France in early 1944. Churchill

seemed to agree at Casablanca — only to undermine his own generals and the Allied command, testing Roosevelt's patience to the limit. Churchill was afraid of the invasion planned for Normandy, and pushed instead for disastrous fighting in Italy, thereby almost losing the war for the Allies. In a dramatic showdown, FDR finally set the ultimate course for victory by making the ultimate threat. *Commander in Chief* shows FDR in top form at a crucial time in the modern history of the West.

More than just golf!



Golf-Residentie Brunssummerheide

**GOLF COURSES - GOLF SCHOOL
HOTEL - RESTAURANT - AUDITORIUM**

-  Restaurant / Brasserie
-  Baptism, Communion, Wedding-, and Birthday Celebrations
-  Coffee Tables
-  Hotel - Conference Room

**For any
given
event!**

Visit our website www.golfhotelzuidlimburg.nl
and / or make an appointment with our
reception **045-5646300**

Rimburgerweg 52 - 6445 PA Brunssum



Animal Hotel Abdissenbosch
The address where your pets feels at home

**39
Years**

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.dierenhotelabdissenbosch.nl (also in English)



graphic design

magazines

web services

support



't Swarte Schaap
media & more



Is your website getting old?

Brand new websites at brand new prices

Contact Rob and get a free offer

't Swarte Schaap
Sint Franciscusweg 36-3
6417BD Heerlen
+31 (0)45-571 61 16
info@tswarteschaa.nl
www.tswarteschaa.nl



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

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

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