

## **Commander's Corner**

April gave us an opportunity to re-energize with much of the headquarters able to take some time off and get balanced.

We are continuing to prepare our Combat Readiness Evaluation (CREVAL) evaluators. This effort will pay significant dividends as we prepare for two of our greatest missions. Specifically, we will certify the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps and we will transition responsibility for land competency to the Land Command in Izmir this year.

These two events are opportunities where our command can contribute in a meaningful way to the alliance now and for years to come. This is why those nominated to serve on the team must be the best of the best.

While we're talking about the best of the best, I'd like to congratulate our Command Sergeant Major, Chief Warrant Officer Mark Saulnier and our noncommissioned officers on their staff ride to Normandy. They built esprit de corps, teamwork, and professional knowledge on one of Europe's most significant battlefields while studying the accomplishments of one great alliance. Thanks to everyone that supported their venture. Well done!

This opportunity and their experience, the relationships they built will sustain each for the duration of his or her career and possibly a lifetime. Ultimately their experience will better our alliance today.

The main event for the command in May is the Allied Chiefs of Army Staff Talks in Albania. We will discuss the NATO Command Structure requirements for Nations to support the NATO Force Structure so that it reaches necessary capabilities to achieve the Alliance level of ambition and maximizes training opportunities. We are fortunate to have the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander, Europe as a distinguished guest to address ACO Transformation with the assembled key leaders.

I know that a lot of effort has gone into the preparation for this conference and we will take full advantage in order to accomplish this command's objectives.

The command should use the time we have in order to improve our posture for transition and ultimately closure of the headquarters. May's training venues should result in lessons learned which help others long after Force Command Heidelberg closes.

Ensure you take advantage of the time you have in this beautiful region before the closure of the headquarters in 2013. In particular I look forward to seeing everyone at the Force Command Heidelberg Spring Ball on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

Thank you for all your great work!



Commander Allied Force Command Heidelberg, Lt. Gen. John Morgan III, stands with Albanian Col. Sokrat Prifti, officer of primary responsibility for the Allied Chief of Army Staff Talks, April 18th. The two visited in preparation for the upcoming conference scheduled for May.

## **Noncommissioned Officers conduct Staff Ride to Normandy**



Force Command Headquarters Heidelberg Noncommissioned Officers lay a wreath in front of the memorial at the German Cemetery, Apr. 17<sup>th</sup>.

### **CONTENTS :**

<b>NCOs Staff Ride .....</b>	<b>2/3</b>
<b>OLRT Training .....</b>	<b>4/5</b>
<b>Brig. Gen. Beulen Farewell Ceremony .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Headquarters' Closure Update / Dutch Queen 's Day Celebration .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Belgian Charity Concert .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Training Events/ Calendar .....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>FSC Corner / Privileges / German regulations .....</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>NATO Spouse Club Corner / Calendar .....</b>	<b>11/12</b>

# Commitment And Memory



FCHD NCOs at Omaha Beach during their Professional Development Exercise at Normandy, France, Apr. 18<sup>th</sup>.

Force Command Heidelberg (FCHD) Noncommissioned Officers conducted their Professional Development Exercise to Normandy (France) Apr. 16<sup>th</sup> to the

## Disclosure

Serving the military, civilians and family members of Headquarters Allied Force Command Heidelberg

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20<sup>th</sup> in order to study the multinational aspects of the D-Day landings (June 1944) at the operational and tactical level.

Following the Commander's staff ride in September 2011 to Operation Overlord beaches and sites, the decision was made to conduct the same for the NCO community in FCHD. This has been identified as a necessity and essential to team building. Conducted under the guidance of the Commander Sergeant Major (CSM), Chief Warrant Officer Mark Saulnier (CAN), and led by the Adjudant-chef Fabien Le Camus (FRA). This exercise was open to all NCOs in FCHD, NCHD, a few B-grade civilians and National Support Element personnel in Heidelberg. The aim of the CSM was to "develop briefing skill, practice and improve English language skills, gain historical background on Operation Overlord, and seek cohesiveness, fellowship and respect."

Ground knowledge and intelligence are essentials when you want to conduct a military operation.

Therefore, one of the objectives of this exercise for Le Camus was to "improve NCOs understanding of tactical and operational requirements for conducting combat operations". During the week, all the NCOs and civilians went on different



Omaha Beach and its sand traps

sites: Pointe du Hoc, Ste-Mère-Eglise, Juno and Omaha beaches, Merville and Longue Gun Battery, etc. Those locations had their own advantages and disadvantages due to the landscape and tactical importance during the phases of Operation Overlord. For example Pointe du Hoc was a strategic location for the German gun battery. It provided to them a wide edge of sight and fire. The Normandy coast's landscape presented the Allied force difficulties such as cliffs and tides.



Cliffs of Arromanches Les Bains.

(Cont. pg. 3)

# *Commitment And Memory*



Adj. Chef Catherine Sorin (FRA), far right, briefs her colleagues at Ste-Mère-Eglise, Apr. 17<sup>th</sup>.

NCOs were asked to take an active part in this staff ride by developing briefing skills and improving their English. NCOs served as briefers on every location. No guides were requested so the group relied on the personal commitment of participants. Each shared their knowledge during all the week. Adjudant Chef Catherine Sorin (FRA) was one of the briefers at Ste-Mère-Eglise. She realized that the Staff ride give her a better historical knowledge. "During my preparation for my speech, I noticed that I did not have a good background about this subject. I took a lot of pleasure in my personal research. For a non-native English speaker like me, it was a real challenge to talk in English but I really enjoyed trying it."



Master Sgt. Marcus Kulisch (GER) briefs his NCOs colleagues at Pointe du Hoc the Apr. 17th



Chief Warrant Officer Mark Saulnier (CAN) and Sergeant Major John Gregory (USA) lay a wreath at the memorial of the American Cemetery, Apr. 18th.

Another aim of the staff ride was to foster teamwork and cooperation between international NCO's community. During the exercise, two wreath-laying ceremonies were organized by the FCHD NCOs. The purpose was to let the NCOs be aware of the commitments and the sacrifice of those young soldiers on both

sides. One took place at the German Cemetery of La Cambe the Apr. 17th, and on the next day, at the American Cemetery of Colleville-sur-Mer.

Each participant had a unique and personal experience that they will remember forever. A German and a Belgian NCO each found the grave of one of their relatives. OR-7 Manon Trudel (CAN) said of her experience "it was very impressive for me, being in uniform, in a parade formation in a wartime cemetery. At one cemetery there was an audience of young students from Germany. At the US cemetery there were tourists from all around the world. It means a lot for me and I noticed it was very impressive for the people also. It was definitely the right thing to do. It will be a memory for the rest of my life."

Article by Adj. Aurélie Auzas (FRA)  
Photos by Staff Sgt. Guus Ruijsbroek (NLD)  
and Adj. Aurélie Auzas (FRA)

## Hunting Lizard: FCHD is training its OLRT team and support elements



The OLRT is briefed by the MSC Chief before loading the cars, Apr. 25<sup>th</sup>.

FCHD conducted an exercise Apr. 23-26 in order to test the process to deploy the Operational Liaison and Reconnaissance Team (OLRT) within the 2-day time window. Exercise "Hunting Lizard" aimed at not only gathering the OLRT team, but also tested the newly created Mounting Operating Center (MOC) and trained the organization how to prepare and load the 8 Land Rovers and trailers that the OLRT is supposed to use when deployed. Finally, the OLRT would bring these cars to an airport of embarkation and load them on a cargo plane.

As it was the first time the MOC was activated, and in order to prepare their headquarters to take over this mission after the closure of FCHD, observers from Joint Force Command Brunssum and Joint Force Command Naples attended the exercise.

So on Monday morning after an initial presentation of the planning for the week by the Officer of Primary Responsibility Lt. Col. Andreas Hofmann, Exercise Di-

rector Brig. Gen. Leo Beulen reminded everybody that the aim here was neither to validate nor to certify anything but simply to test procedures in order to set the conditions for JFCBS and JFCNP to be able to hand over this mission next year.

"As it is a training session, please try!" he said, "don't be afraid to make mistakes, but take the lessons learned". He added



Equipment inventory check

"MOC is a new tool. How it works, how deep it's involved in the preparation and planning is to be determined this week."

Within a generic training scenario, FCHD was tasked by JFCBS as ordered by the North

Atlantic Council to deploy the whole OLRT team, with all its equipments to prepare an upcoming NATO operation in a fictional country. OLRT Leader Col. Stephen Ryan and MOC director Col Włodzimierz Pszenny agreed that for FCHD the most important part to try was to physically gather the team with all luggage and equipment to load the cars prepared by the Mounting Support Center (MSC), then to find the best way to use the MOC in the staff process in order to ease the deployment of the OLRT.

The actual mission in theater, which is to liaise with different bodies (host nation government, embassies, UN representatives, etc.) has already been trained several times during previous exercises. With regards to this Col Kristian Sorensen who has already been deployed twice with the OLRT said "all objectives were fulfilled, they are ready to go".

(Cont. pg. 5)

# Hunting Lizard: FCHD is training its OLRT team and support elements



OLRT members joined the MSC team in International Support Kaserne, and loaded their allocated cars, Apr. 25<sup>th</sup>.

On Tuesday, both the OLRT and the MOC attended a VTC with the higher echelon in order to receive the Requests For Information that were shared between the OLRT members to be answered in theater. After noon, OLRT members joined the MSC team in International Support Kaserne, and loaded their allocated cars.



OLRT members load their equipments

The operation, which sounds pretty easy for any soldier preparing his material before being deployed somewhere, took more time than expected, as most of the OLRT equipment was new for the majority of the team. Only the core OLRT team was already trained, and the others had to open all boxes to check the equipment and figure out where to load it – in the car or in the trailer. But even the rain was not

able to stop the team, and finally everything was packed in an hour and a half.

That done, everybody went back to Campbell Barracks to continue to process with the mission analysis, in order to be ready to deploy on Thursday morning.

While OLRT was preparing its mission, MOC realized that it needs to adjust its own structure, and will have to tailor it in close coordination with the kind of mission - the kind of OLRT – that FCHD will receive. Basically, the major lesson learned is that the bigger the OLRT team is, the less it needs operational support from the MOC, as it has the ability to cope with the whole range of its mission.

The After Action dialogue lasted a couple of hours within the OLRT team, to share and agree about the comments and lessons that need to be captured. This dialogue was fruitful and provided a lot of organizational and real life issues to address in case of real deployment. Even though there were a lot of comments, none of them led to a no-go decision regarding the deployment capability.

Finally, this exercise served as a masterpiece in the transforma-

tion process for JFC Brunssum and JFC Naples as it gives these HQs a lot of valuable lessons identified to prepare themselves to hand over the mission next year.

The most important might be to figure out how to do the same, next year, knowing that they don't have a body such the MSC to support their potential deployment. Col Frederic Verdon, one of the JFCBS's observers acknowledged it: "what I've witnessed here is that this MSC is key to the success of the deployment process. We have one year to find a solution."

Article by Maj . Cyrille Zimmer

Photos by Staff Sgt. Dwight Chaney



Simulated ration boxes are loaded in the cars

# ***Brig. Gen. Beulen Says Goodbye To Comrades, Headquarters***



Commander Allied Force Command Heidelberg, Lt. Gen. John W. Morgan III, says farewell to Brig. Gen. Leo Beulen, who served as the headquarters director of the Joint Coordination Center and was deployed to the International Assistance Security Force-Afghanistan as the assistant chief of staff J3 operations.

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, Allied Force Command Heidelberg conducted a farewell ceremony in honor of Brig. Gen. Leo Beulen, who is taking a new position as Director, Operations in the Netherlands Defense Staff.

Brig. Gen. Beulen arrived in October 2009 and served as Director of the Joint Coordination Center, and was deployed to Headquarters ISAF, Kabul, as Assistant Chief of Staff J3 Operations for one year.

Lt. Gen. John W. Morgan III, said that due to Brig. Gen. Beulen's numerous command and key staff positions he was definitely the kind of leader we needed. "You have been a valued leader who served with honor and distinction throughout your tenure in Heidelberg. Thank you."

Brig. Gen. Beulen said that Heidelberg was and is a busy headquarters. "There are still a lot of preparations for exercises and conferences to do but I'm absolutely confident that you all

will do a great job in getting that done. You're a great team, able to deal with every challenge you face."

Article by Maj. Cyrille Zimmer  
Photos by Staff Sgt. Dwight Chaney



Brig. Gen. Leo Beulen shakes hands with Lt. Col. Bernard Garrido as Beulen prepares to finish his time with Allied Force Command Heidelberg, April 20<sup>th</sup>.

# *Headquarters' Closure Update*



Allied Force Command Heidelberg deactivates on April 1<sup>st</sup> of 2013. This is a separate activity from the inactivation of Campbell and Patton Barracks scheduled for Sept. 30, 2013. Our deactivation is linked to the overall transformation of NATO. Transformation requires the transfer of Land competencies from two Force Command Headquarters (Heidelberg and Madrid) to the new Land Command, which will be in Izmir Turkey.

Transition and closure is at the top of priorities for the commander. Both will require much effort in the coming months and will likely touch every person assigned to the headquarters and, for those with families, their loved ones as well.

In our continuing effort to keep you informed about the progress toward the closure of our headquarters, we met with the Headquarters Closure Coordinator, Lt. Col. Hajo Klose.

"The news is that we now have

Allied Command Operations guidance for closing the headquarters," Klose said. "We are assessing the guidance in order to adapt to the closure plan."

Like many of the other decisions in NATO, the ACO Detailed Implementation Plan requires agreement by the member nations. That plan will answer questions for members of NATO commands, especially in regard to dates and timelines, when it is published. Decisions affecting personnel movements are always left to individual nations but the plan is clear in that it recognizes a need for a substantial closure party.

The Closure Party will be extremely important. The team will be formed from the personnel of the current headquarters. It will be here after most every other person in the headquarters has left for his or her next assignment. It will report directly to the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe. Its mission; return the eight buildings we occupy to the US Army Garrison, and return the ISK to Germany.

"The Chief of Staff Transformation has approved a list with sixty functional positions on the Closure Party but there are no names on the list yet," said Klose. "The composition of the team is getting a lot of attention right now outside and inside the headquarters."

Try to imagine the buildings we have now but without any of the furniture and the 960 computers, 130 printers, and 704 telephones transferred or otherwise disposed. The duration of the Closure Party mission will likely be several months. It will shrink from sixty people as tasks are accomplished but there are factors which we don't control, said Klose while sweeping his hand across a large matrix he uses to plan.

We asked Klose if there was any news about the inactivation of other services in the Heidelberg area and he said that there were no new developments. He repeated a caution against rumors and said nothing has changed.

The Herald Post, published Thursdays, the garrison website: <http://www.bw.eur.army.mil>, and Town Halls remain the best sources of information about services affected by the inactivation of Patton Barracks and PHV.

Check back for more information and we'll keep it coming. Remember to visit our Facebook page and the command's homepage for more information.

FCHD PAO Staff

## *Dutch Queen's Day Celebration*



Brig. Gen. Leo Beulen welcoming Col. Igor Arvay, Apr. 26<sup>th</sup>.



On April 26, The Dutch community hosted its annual national reception at the Casablanca room, at 4:00p.m.

The Dutch celebrate Koninginnedag (Queen's Day), a national holiday to commemorate the birthday of the country's (former) Queen. It is by far the most widely celebrated holiday in the Netherlands. Amsterdam is stuffed to the gills on April 30, welcoming up to two million party-going visitors.

# *Belgian Charity Concert*



The Belgian military community of Heidelberg and the NATO Headquarters want to say thank you to the city of Heidelberg and the German community for all the beautiful years they have spent here. Therefore Maj. Gen. Hubert De Vos will organize a charity concert on **Jun. 14<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 pm** at the Kongresshaus Stadthalle Heidelberg.

The Royal Symphonic Bands of the Belgian Guides will perform together with Soprano Mrs. Eva Lebherz-Valentin classical works from Brahms, Hindemith, Tsjaikovski, Ravel, Linette , and many others.

**Costs for civilians** are dependent upon the seat location with

prices at 25 Euros, 18 Euros or 12 Euros. Civilians are to pay at the ticket booth prior to entry or by Zigarren Grimm in Heidelberg – Sofienstraße 11.

**Costs for Allied Force Command service members and their guests** are also based on seat location with prices at 15 Euros, 10 Euros and 5 Euros as these tickets are partially sponsored by the Morale Welfare Association.

You can buy your tickets from Staff Sgt. Monique Dethal at ISK, just give a call for an appointment : phone 5943

**The concert hall's address** is Neckarstaden 24, 69114 Heidelberg

Parking lots are located at the following addresses:

Parking Number 8, Engelblock, Untere Neckarstrasse 44, 69117 Heidelberg

Parking Number 6, Kraus, Untere Neckarstrasse 2, 69117 Heidelberg

Please join us for a very special evening and enjoy a highly famous Symphonic band together with all your family and friends.

## *Brunssum Chief of Staff visit the Headquarters Heidelberg*



Joint Force Command-Brunssum Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Richard Tieskens, presents Maj. Gen. Hubert De Vos, with the book "Eight Shows! The Military Genre in the Nineteenth Century," during a recent visit to Heidelberg, April 4th. The visit served as an introduction of Force Command Heidelberg to Lt. Gen. Tieskens as he assumes his new position.

## *Training Events*

<i>DATE</i>	<i>EVENTS</i>
<b>03-07 MAY</b>	<b>Steadfast Joist EXCON Training</b>
<b>08-10 MAY</b>	<b>Allied Chief of Army Staff Talks / Land Commanders' Conference</b>
<b>15-16 MAY</b>	<b>NRF Functional Area Staff Training (Hero Lynx)</b>
<b>21-24 MAY</b>	<b>Focused Functional Training</b>
<b>24 MAY</b>	<b>Spring Ball</b>

## *National Holidays*

<b>1 MAY</b>	<b>Maifeiertag</b>
<b>17 MAY</b>	<b>Ascension Day</b>
<b>28 MAY</b>	<b>Whit Monday</b>

# *Privileges*

**Mannheim Exchange Facilities:**  
Hours of operation are:

**Main Exchange** – 11 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Tuesday-Sunday, closed Mondays.

**Burger King** – 7 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Monday-Friday for drive through  
service and 7 a.m.-6 p.m. for

dining room service, 10:30 a.m.-  
7 p.m. Saturday and closed Sun-  
days.

**Anthony's Pizza** – 4-6 p.m.  
Monday-Friday and closed Sat-  
urdays and Sundays.

**Popeyes and Taco Bell** – 11  
a.m.-6 p.m. Tuesday-Sunday

and closed Mondays.

**Shopette** – 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Mon-  
day-Friday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Satur-  
day and 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Sunday.

## *Laws, German Regulations / Local activities*

### **Disposable Alcohol Tester in France**

In every motor vehicle in France, it is mandatory to carry a disposable alcohol tester starting July 1st. Per information from the German Automobile Club ADAC, this rule also applies to tourists. After an adjustment period until Oct. 31st, violators will receive a penalty payment of EUR 11.00. The disposable alcohol test will cost approximately EUR 1.50 and will be available in pharmacies, petrol stations, and nightclubs. This requirement stems from the fact that a lot of accidents in France are caused

by the influence of alcohol. Motorists should be encouraged to check themselves before they start the engine. However, it is not mandatory to do the alcohol test, just to carry it in the vehicle.

### **Surrounding Area Activities**

The Maimarkt or May Fair in Mannheim is one of Germany's largest and oldest attractions. More than 1,400 vendors will fill the fairground near Mannheim's SAP Arena offering a variety of unique goods like consumer goods, handicraft and agriculture with prefabricated houses and

building shows. Visitors can also try food and drinks from all over the world and enjoy amusement park rides and other novelties. The fair is open daily 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. from Apr. 28th through May 8th. Tickets can be bought in advance from now on until Apr. 27th at a cheaper rate. For more information visit:

<http://www.maimarkt.de/index.php?id=184&L=0%2Fpm%2Ftypo3conf%2Fext%2Fpmkslimbox%2Fres%2Fstyles%2Ffileadmin%2Ftemplates%2Fdefault%2Findex.php%3Fid%3D853>

## *Family Support Center Brunch Picture*



Allied Force Command Heidelberg fam-  
ily support service members gather for  
brunch and to enjoy comraderie and  
fellowship at 31 M, Apr. 25<sup>th</sup>.

## *Wine Taste in Mussbach*



Women from the NATO Spouses Club pause for a quick photo during their visit to a winery at Mussbach an der Weinstrasse, March 22.

Thirty-three ladies of the NATO Spouses Club went on a discovery trip to Mussbach an der Weinstrasse, March 22.

From the first moment, the ambience was active with loud applause and lively conversation while pretzels and water were distributed on the bus.

Upon arrival at the wine cellar, the women divided into two groups - one with an English-speaking and the other with a

German-speaking guide.

The German-speaking guide was a man of many words. His explanation of the whole process of wine making, the how, what, where and when in the creation of wine, included a lot of jokes and anecdotes.

After the visit to the wine cellar, the women visited the restaurant to taste a selection of local wines including white, red and one rosé wine. This was followed

by a light lunch.

They also had a chance to buy the wine that they tasted as well.

On the way back, it was much calmer on the bus.

Article by Jo Boonen from Belgium

## *NATO Spouse Club Bunco*



Women from the NATO Spouses Club gather for the Bunco evening and to enjoy comraderie and fellowship at 31 M, Apr. 19<sup>th</sup>.

## **NATO Spouse Club Upcoming Events**

DATE	EVENTS
8 MAY	<b>Social Dance + Belgian Beer tasting for Spouses and partners 19.00Hrs at 31 Middle (Campbell Barracks)</b>
10 MAY	<b>Social Dance + Belgian Beer tasting for Spouses and partners 19.00Hrs at 31 Middle (Campbell Barracks)</b>
22 MAY	<b>Mini golf in Waldorf + Lunch: 10.30Hrs</b>
12 JUN	<b>Boat trip Neckar + Lunch</b>

You can participate in each activity as a member or guest.

Costs for each of our activities: €10 for members and €16 for guests.

If you want to participate in one of our activities you can send me an E-mail,  
so I can send you an invitation with more details.

Hedwig Huybrechts  
President of the NATO Spouses Club  
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