



CREVAL begins with two players on the same stage

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Members of the Allied Force Command Heidelberg Combat Readiness Evaluation (CREVAL) Team prepare computer work stations for the upcoming evaluation. The headquarters along with Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe and the Land Command Stand-Up Team prepare for the In Barracks Phase of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps' CREVAL.

Allied Force Command Heidelberg celebrates its last Family Fest



A view of the Allied Force Command Heidelberg Family Fest from atop a fire truck ladder during the event held at the International Security Kaserne, Sept. 5.

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Commander's Corner



October is an active period for Allied Force Command Heidelberg. We roll into this month having recently completed the "In Barracks" phase of the Combat Readiness Evaluation (CREVAL) of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps (ARRC). During this first phase of the CREVAL, it was rewarding to witness the ARRC's receptiveness to the constructive feedback of our evaluation team. We look forward to returning to St. Mawgan, England for the second phase of their evaluation. The ARRC's expected success will result in a validation of its combat readiness and ability to assume its NATO Response Force (NRF) mission.

The Bi- Force Command Corps Commander's Conference (Bi-FC CCC) in Solbiate, Italy is also conducted this month. The conference showcases an agenda addressing pertinent issues facing the NATO Force Structure and serves to "pass the torch" for future like-events to the Land Command (LANDCOM) Stand Up Team (SUT) from Izmir, Turkey.

Additionally, FC Heidelberg continues to provide outstanding feedback to the SUT as we transition our land expertise. We also have been working diligently with the LANDCOM's SUT to support the LANDCOM's activation ceremony scheduled for November 30th.

October remains an important and busy month for this headquarters. As FC Heidelberg continues to serve NATO with distinction, I remain privileged by the opportunity to serve alongside each of you.

Keep up the great work and thank you!

CREVAL begins with two players on the same stage



Col. Cesar Michael briefs members of the Allied Force Command Heidelberg and Allied Rapid Reaction Corps on Day 1 of the CREVAL, at Imjin Barracks.

In a small office at the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps headquarters in Imjin Barracks near Gloucester, England, after ten months of preparation, eager participants began the Combat Readiness Evaluation (CREVAL).

The In Barracks phase of CREVAL, was conducted Sept. 17 to 20. Senior leaders along with 22 evaluators from Allied Force Command Heidelberg, two monitors from the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, and five “student” evaluators from the Stand-Up Team for the future Land Command in Izmir, Turkey, converged on the headquarters of this venerable NATO unit. The CREVAL will help prepare the ARRC for NATO Response Force duty in 2013.

Maj. Neil Keery, a staff officer for the ARRC’s Legal Advisor or LEGAD, read his answer for a probing question from his unit’s standard operating procedure to Lt. Col. John McCabe, an Allied Force Command Heidelberg evaluator and fellow lawyer.

“The Legal Advisor is an integral member of targeting...during every stage of the process,” said Maj. Keery. Satisfied with the answer, Lt. Col. McCabe turned to the next Performance Measure (PM).

It is one example of about 690 PMs that must be checked for over 110 areas including operations, logistics, medical, administration, budget and more before the second phase of CREVAL in October. The In-Field Inspection that will happen during Exercise Noble Ledger, is an NRF scenario driven exercise that will bring more evaluators from Heidelberg to check hundreds of other areas.

The ARRC seemed ready and willing to begin the evaluation on Day 1. The mood in the LEGAD office was light in spite of the intrusive nature of the CREVAL. Earlier in the day, the ARRC’s leadership introduced themselves to their evaluators at a briefing and helped set the tone.

“When you hold a mirror up to an organization like this, it can be quite helpful,” said Lt. Gen. James Bucknall, the ARRC commander during opening remarks to an audience that filled an auditorium of one conference center here.

The Chief LEGAD said that preparing for the CREVAL meant that he had to look at his own procedures to make sure that his “ship was in order.” “I told a fellow staff officer that I was jealous of his dotted line,” said Col. James Stythe to Lt. Col. McCabe. His evaluator had noted that there was a non-traditional alignment in the ARRC’s organizational chart. A similar observation made three years earlier by a different evaluator and different LEGAD team had prevented the ARRC from achieving perfection, said Lt. Col. McCabe. Col. Stythe went on to explain how the ARRC meets the intent of the regulation in spite of a different organizational model.

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DISCLOSURE :

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

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CREVAL begins with two players on the same stage



Maj. Neil Keery, Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, Lt. Col. John McCabe from the Allied Force Command Heidelberg and Col. James N. Stythe from the ARRC review performance measures during the CREVAL on Day 1.



LTG Morgan discusses the results of the ARRC's CREVAL on Sept. 17 at a close out meeting with evaluators and monitors.

**"If you want to learn to swim
you have to jump in the ocean"**

As the evaluation continued, it was clear that the evaluator and the evaluated were comfortable with each other. They had met at an unrelated conference months earlier and had been in communication by phone and email. Lt. Col. McCabe had an opportunity to review the ARRC's procedures in advance and wasn't surprised by what his fellow lawyers said and what he read.

This synergy was forethought for leaders in Allied Force Command Heidelberg.

In an interview after he addressed the ARRC at its opening brief, Col. Cesar Michael, Allied Force Command Heidelberg's CREVAL Coordinator, said that he was satisfied with the start of the evaluation. "The ARRC and Allied Force Command Heidelberg are playing two roles on the same stage like in a theater," he said referring to the collaborative approach he'd observed and coached since taking the responsibility one year ago.

"The ARRC noticed that we took preparation seriously and that inspired them to focus because they knew that our evaluators were relevant and credible. In my opinion we have been very transparent, very humble and there is mutual respect which is essential," Col. Michael said.

Col. Michael has been involved in previous CREVALs but considers the cooperation that had been achieved a possible model for future CREVALs after the Allied Force Command has deactivated and when the Land Command takes responsibility.

In one of the CREVAL team's offices, members of the Stand-Up Team for Land Command logged-in to their computers and were eager to do their part. Five officers made the trip from Izmir after doing their own preparation for the mission they'll soon execute alone.

"If you want to learn to swim you have to jump in the ocean," said Col. Gurkan Yergun, the Stand-Up Team for Land Command's assistant Chief of Staff, G-7. "This CREVAL is our left seat, right seat ride," Col. Yergun said, using a military term



Col. Gurkan Yurgan and Col. Kemal Geyik, student evaluators from the Stand-Up Team, Land Command and Maj. Mustafa Gungor, from the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps, accompany Combat Readiness Evaluation Team members to the ARRC headquarters Sept. 17, Day 1 of the CREVAL.

incoming units' personnel say to describe the overlapping train-up with departing forces in battle.

Having completed a day of evaluation on schedule Col. Michael, Col. Yergun, Lt. Col. McCabe and the rest of the evaluation team met with LTG John W. Morgan III the CREVAL Team Leader and Allied Force Command Heidelberg commander. LTG Morgan studied results from the LEGAD inspection among others and asked Lt. Col. McCabe to qualify his assessment of the ARRC's lawyers. After a satisfactory response, the commander gave his guidance.

"This is the kind of closure I'm looking for, situational awareness for areas we are looking at. You want to make sure that there is cross-talk so that we are value added to the ARRC, especially in the operational phase," LTG Morgan said referring to October's exercise. "It's the coaching, teaching, and mentoring process where we will be value added," LTG Morgan said.

Photos and article by Lt. Col. Randy Martin,
Allied Force Command Heidelberg PAO

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Allied Force Command Heidelberg farewells Maj. Gen. De Vos



Commander Allied Force Command Heidelberg, LTG John W. Morgan III, says farewell to Maj. Gen. Hubert De Vos, the outgoing operations chief of staff, August 30th.

“Major General Hubert De Vos is recognized for his dedication to the command and the community,” said Commander Allied Force Command Heidelberg, LTG John W. Morgan III, during a farewell ceremony held August 30th at Campbell Barracks, Heidelberg.

Maj. Gen. De Vos spent the past three years serving with the headquarters. He started his assignment by leading the headquarters’ advance party in a deployment to Afghanistan in support of the International Security Assistance Force. During his deployment, he served as the Deputy Chief of Staff Resources in Headquarters ISAF. In this position, he was responsible for the five functional branches of personnel, logistics, communication and information systems, engineer and medical along with commanding several organizations such as the Base Support Group and the Joint Coordinating Body. Most recently he served as Chief of Staff, Deployable Joint Staff Element 2, and finally, after internal reorganization to meet mission requirements, Maj. Gen. De Vos served as the Chief of Staff, Operations.

“He is a good leader who cares about his people, taking time to visit with them and always keeping his door open for them,” said Maj. Guido Laurent who volunteered to deploy in order to serve as Maj. Gen. De Vos’ military aide in May 2010 and continued his duties when they returned.

Since then, Maj. Gen. De Vos has played a key role in synchronizing Allied Force Command Heidelberg’s support to Operation Unified Protector, the NATO operation that supported the people of Libya, the Kosovo Force where NATO continues to provide forces to protect the population, and the successful execution of successive rotations of ISAF personnel.

Most recently, Maj. Gen. De Vos led the way as the Forward Element’s Chief of Staff for the NATO Response Force, a capability that NATO maintains in order to deploy when required by the alliance for NATO military operations during which the headquarters earned its certification. It successfully executed exercise Steadfast Juncture 2011 including deploying members of the headquarters to Lithuania and exercising the Deployable Joint Staff Element.



Maj. Gen. Hubert De Vos, Allied Force Command Heidelberg operations chief of staff, stands one last time in front of the headquarters’ formation as he prepares to say farewell to the unit he has been a member of for the past three years.

“ It has been a true honor and pleasure to have served with you here at Force Command Heidelberg ”

“The key thing I would like to say about Major General De Vos is his way to develop a team and keep it that way,” said Allied Force Command Heidelberg Director of Staff Col. Mark Hodgson.

Maj. Gen. De Vos concluded the ceremony with personal thoughts. “To the entire staff, to each one of you without exception, my most sincere thanks for making these three years into one of the highlights of my professional career. It has been a true honor and pleasure to have served with you here at Force Command Heidelberg,” said Maj. Gen. De Vos.

Article by Capt. Tamara Gonzales
Photos by Staff Sgt. Dwight Chaney

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Professional Development Training



Adjutant-chef Fabien Le Camus presents his first non-commissioned officer professional development training as the headquarters Senior Enlisted Leader at Campbell Barracks, August 29th. The training included the Supreme Allied Command Europe's NATO NCO strategy and guidelines, the transition from Force Command Heidelberg to Land Command-Izmir and the NATO headquarters in Brussels. Upcoming training will focus on Turkey, the host nation for NATO's land command, and NATO's standardization agency and policy.



ADC Fabien LeCamus,
FCHD Senior Enlisted Leader

Professional development training, obligatory for officers and non-commissioned officers (NCO), is aimed at the enhancement of overall professional military knowledge. NCOs require a working knowledge of NATO organizations, operations, standards and leadership principles. It is the senior enlisted leader's responsibility to make sure NCOs take part in military related academics and briefings which will enhance their military knowledge.

Since the Lisbon Summit in November 2010, where NATO's future course was chartered, the Alliance is going through an unprecedented transformation. Therefore my intent is to keep the NCOs of Force Command Heidelberg updated on "what's going on in NATO", through a monthly cycle of professional development sessions. NCOs will actively take part in these briefings just as they did successfully during our Staff ride in Normandy, thus developing their knowledge, along with their briefing and language skills. Briefing is not just a matter of speaking or reading talking notes. It requires the use of templates, the development of an agenda, and it includes key assumptions and

an overall assessment.

The end-state objective, highlighted by the NATO NCO guidelines, is to have NCOs prepared to face the challenges of operating in a multinational environment and contribute to the development and maintenance of a positive team spirit.

The first session covered three aspects: The NATO NCO Bi-SC strategy and recommended guidelines, the new NATO command structure, and the new NATO HQ in Brussels.

During the second session we learned about the importance of standardization in our multinational Alliance. Our colleague from Turkey, P.KD.BCVS Yetim, then provided a global overview of Turkey, the host nation for NATO's future Land Command, and Izmir its future hometown. This professional development session was then followed by a team building event in the Bowling Center in PHV.

All NCOs in FCHD are urged to attend these briefings. NCIA and NSEs are welcome.

Allied Force Command Heidelberg celebrates its last Family Fest



LTG Morgan welcomes the headquarters' service members and their families to their last annual Family Fest held at the International Security Kaserne, Sept. 5. (Photo by Capt. Tamara Gonzales)

“This is the last Family Fest for Allied Force Command Heidelberg and a great opportunity to recognize all the wonderful work done by this headquarters”

“This is the last Family Fest for Allied Force Command Heidelberg and a great opportunity to recognize all the wonderful work done by this headquarters,” said LTG John W. Morgan III, the commanding general as he opened the event. “We recognize your families and their contributions to this headquarters. Let’s enjoy Family Fest 2012.”

Hundreds of Allied Force Command Heidelberg service members, their families, and guests of the command took part in the annual event, enjoyed each other’s company and experienced the variety of culture in the organization at the International Security Kaserne in Heidelberg, Sept. 5.

Volunteer representatives welcomed guests to tents from Belgium Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, and the United States. There was also a booth from the NATO Spouses Club.

“All the nations of this headquarters were engaged and represented their countries in the best way,” said Commandant Eric De Vilder, the chief of the Family Support Center and staff officer Morale and Welfare Activities. He oversaw the preparations and execution of the event.



Maj. Roman Kolecki, Warrant Officer Blazek Wszedyrowny, and Maj. Mariusz Hasiuk all from the Polish Army decorate their nation's tent before the start of Allied Force Command Heidelberg's Family Fest Sept. 5th on NATO's International Support Kaserne in Heidelberg. (Photo by Lt. Col. Randy Martin)

Each nation featured fine and typical examples of their country’s food and beverage. The French tent served a variety of meats, cheeses, wine and Champaign. The Scandinavian tent, which was an example of a tent shared by more than one nation offered appetizers, drinks and regional candy. The Czech tent provided homemade, traditional foods including meats, breads and treats.

“It is amazing that we’re here and our families can meet and get to know each other,” said Lt. Col. Joseph Podoba from the Czech Republic. “We can try different country’s food and drinks and learn about their countries and culture,” Podoba said.

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Royal Canadian Air Force Maj. Mike Grover offers Daria Krawczak, the daughter of Polish Army Lt. Col. Jan Krawczak (far right) a street hockey stick and chance to play at the Canadian exhibit Sept. 5th during Allied Force Command Heidelberg's Family Fest on NATO's International Support Kaserne in Heidelberg. (Photo by Lt. Col. Randy Martin)

Allied Force Command Heidelberg celebrates its last Family Fest



Lyric Wickline plays on a bungee trampoline, one of many kid activities available at Allied Force Command Heidelberg's annual Family Fest held Sept. 5. The fest brings together service members and their families from various NATO countries in a spirit of food, drink and camaraderie. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Dwight Chaney)

Other nations offered an interactive exhibit to highlight aspects of their culture like sports, geography, and national leadership. Visitors often left with souvenirs or certificates to keep for memory. The U.S. tent offered barbeque and side dishes while visitors learned about American history. Adults and children alike had an opportunity to throw a football through a hanging car tire, a unique experience for many.

A well-advertised lottery at the Italian tent benefited a local charity for children and rewarded winning participants with gift baskets from local donors. The Italian tent also featured different types of pasta with freshly sliced parmesan cheese from a cheese wheel.

There were activities for the kids including a climbing tower/bouncing castle, a rodeo duck, a bungee trampoline, a clown show, and pony rides.

Throughout the event, a band called "The Providers" consisting of members from the headquarters provided live music. Supporters of the event even got involved in the fun. The Heidelberg Army Airfield Fire and Emergency Services, for example, offered participants a lift in their fire truck ladder high above and overlooking the festivities.

"It is so fun to see every nation here," said Manuela Van Sambecck

from the Netherlands, a member of the NATO Spouses Club. "Everyone is in such a good mood and enjoying the wonderful food."

"This was a common effort of the Family Support Center, the Forward Support Element, and the NATO Spouses Club and the nations to accomplish the mission in the best way," Commandant De Vilder said. "Pride was our business."

Article by Capt. Tamara Gonzales
Photos by PAO Staff

The PROVIDERS



A band consisting of members from Allied Force Command Heidelberg provided live music during the headquarters' last annual Family Fest held at the International Security Kaserne, Sept. 5

"Pride was
our business."



Allied Force Command Heidelberg service members won various Italian food-basket prizes during the Italian Lottery conducted during the headquarters' Family Fest. Money from the lottery was donated to "Das Waldpiraten," a local camp for children with cancer. (Photo by Capt. Tamara Gonzales)

Training Calendar

DATE	EVENTS
04-12 OCT	ARRC CREVAL, Phase II
07-19 OCT	Citadel Guibert 12
22-26 OCT	G7 Conference
16-30 OCT	Bold Dragon
23-25 OCT	Bi-FC CCC II
23-25 OCT	LC SUT Visit

FSC Calendar

DATE
17 OCT



Wednesday, 17 October 2012

09:30 – 11:30
Campbell Bks, 31M

Registration required NLT 11 October 2012
Contact: FCHD.FSC@FCHD.nato.int

NSC Calendar

DATE	EVENTS
01 OCT	Speyer guided tour and lunch; members-10 Euros, non members-16 Euros
25 OCT	BUNCO game at 31 Middle 1900 hrs. A fast paced dice game, snacks and prizes members-10 Euros, non members-16 Euros

Closure Corner

Results from Garrison Closure Town Hall Meeting can be found at:

<http://www.bw.eur.army.mil/news/personnel.htm>

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.

Italian Lottery supports “Die Waldpiraten” Camp



The Allied Force Command Heidelberg Italian Community donates 3,400 Euros to “Die Waldpiraten” Camp, a camp for children with cancer. The Italian Community raised the funds during the headquarters’ annual Family Fest.

Every year Headquarters Allied Force Command Heidelberg celebrates its Family Fest. This is to thank families and friends for their support as well as to enjoy an afternoon together with all our Nations’ members. Every Nation offers a selection of food from their home and presents themselves with information packages often inspiring a possible holiday stay.

Last year we thought about how to attract more people to our event simultaneously supporting charitable organizations who care for others. So we thought about a lottery with prizes offered by several Italian sponsors. I am happy to say that we achieved a lot: 2.300 Euros were donated to the University Children’s Hospital at Heidelberg. This specific hospital program takes care of healthy children of parents who have children with cancer or other serious illnesses. This provides parents with the opportunity to take care of their sick ones.

This year the Italian Community celebrated our last Family Fest with the aim of increasing the amount of money to be donated. The charity we selected was “Die Waldpiraten” Camp (“The Pirates of the Forest”), a member of the German Childhood Cancer Foundation, based on Paul Newman’s “The Hole in the Wall Gang Camp” near Hartford, Connecticut (USA) and “The Barretstown Camp” (IRL).

Since “The Pirates of the Forest” is a unique camp in Germany, cancer patients from all over the country older than nine years of age get an eight to nine-day break from their routine by joining and team building with others in activities such as wall climbing, archery, swimming, canoeing, horseback riding, pottery, wood making and much more.

More than 50 prizes from well known Italian factories (DIVELLA, De Cecco, Lavazza, Monini, Ferrari, Carpenè Malvolti, Distilleria Marzadro, Cantine Paolo Leo) and Italian restaurants



A part of the Allied Force Command Heidelberg Italian Community pauses for a picture during the headquarters’ annual Family Fest held at the International Security Kaserne, Sept. 5.

ants around Heidelberg (La Cantina, Vecchia Bari and Bella Italia) attracted the attention of our guests at the Family Fest and we achieved our goal: on September 7th together with members of the Italian Community and the Headquarters I handed over a check for over 3.400 Euros to Mrs Gabriele Geib, the executive secretary of “Die Waldpiraten” Camp.

On behalf of the Italian Community, I want to thank everyone who contributed to the success of our fund raiser. I assure you that the recipients of our gift were over enjoyed. I am filled with pride for our organization and will always remember the good will of its members.

Editorial by Brig. Gen. Salvatore Alboré
Photo by Staff Sgt. Dwight Chaney