



# The OBSERVER

Serving Allied Land Component Command Headquarters Heidelberg  
Campbell Barracks, Heidelberg, Germany  
Winter 2004/2005



**2005**

## The Observer

Serving the military and family members of CC-Land HQ HD

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General events during 2004

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## Commander's Message

To all members of the  
CC-Land HQ Heidelberg Family,

Katie and I welcome you all to the New  
Year, one filled with great promise!

This issue of The Observer certainly gives  
you a glimpse of a headquarters in mo-  
tion. Our Fall has been busy, and for all of  
the right reasons.

In October, we conducted Exercise  
Capable Warrior 2004, strengthening the  
capabilities of our own headquarters, and  
that of the primary training audience,  
Multinational Corps Northeast and the  
French Rapid Response Corps. Particular  
thanks go to those members of the staff  
and HSG who made the exercise happen  
in Karup, Denmark, after external con-  
straints forced a change to our originally  
planned location. While we are only in the  
first stages to achieve a true operational  
warfighting capability as a headquarters,  
we have made a start, and will build on  
this together during 2005.

Other headquarters initiatives are al-  
so on track. Land Integration and Part-  
nership for Peace events are being  
planned and held in accordance with NA-  
TO guidance, and our staff is cooperating  
fully with Allied Land Component Com-  
mand HQ Madrid for a unified approach to  
such vital areas as how to train and certify  
the NATO Response Force, and how to  
achieve a future Full Operational Capabili-  
ty as a Land Component Command. I  
cannot overstate the importance of these  
two initiatives: they will require our entire  
staff to focus and harness its best efforts  
in order to be successfully accomplished.

We undertake those challenges at the  
same time that we have personnel tem-  
porarily deployed as augmentees on our  
NATO missions in Iraq and to Afghanistan.  
While we wish they were with the head-  
quarters and their families, they serve in



vital roles on behalf of the Alliance, and  
we look forward to the experience that  
they will bring back to Heidelberg. They  
will also redeploy to find we now have  
three more nations represented here in  
Heidelberg, from Estonia, Latvia and Ro-  
mania. Welcome to all of those personnel,  
and to their families, and indeed, to all of  
the newest members of the headquarters.

Finally, Katie and I thank all who con-  
ducted and attended the Autumn Ball and  
German National reception. Both events  
represented important contributions to the  
calendar, and allowed us to further our ac-  
quaintances. They are also indicative of  
the energy and ingenuity we bring to the  
table on an every- day basis here, and on  
that basis 2005 will no doubt be every bit  
as successful as 2004 was for CC-Land  
HQ Heidelberg.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "B. B. Bell". The signature is fluid and cursive.

B. B. BELL  
General, U.S. Army  
Commander

# Exercise Capable Warrior '04 in Review

By LTC Conners, USA Army, Maj Verbauwhede,  
BEL Army, LTC Cuthbert, USA Army

The exercise CAPABLE WARRIOR 2004 (CW04) took place October 21st thru the 28th on a small airfield near the city of Karup, Denmark. The purpose of the exercise was to validate the Intermediate Operations Capability (IOC) for the Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC-NE) with the assistance of the 1st French Corps [1(FR) CA]. The two primary factors, which determined the success of this exercise, were the training unit (MNC-NE) and the "HICON" or Higher Control (Allied Land Component Command Headquarters, Heidelberg). The HICON responsibilities were to provide guidance, direction and resources to ensure that the commander's training objectives were accomplished.

The "HICON" was a well-oiled machine commanded by the CC-Land DCOS-Support (Deputy Chief of Staff, Support), Brigadier General Macko from Slovakia, and supervised by the Chief G3, Colonel Ooms from the Royal Netherlands Army, and the incoming Chief G4, Colonel Pelikan from the Czech Republic Army, who acted as the Chief G3 night shift. This experienced group of professionals impressively collected, built and solidified an effective team...HICON Staff!

The "HICON" staff represented the countries of Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Great Britain, Hungary, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, and The United States. Approximately 100 soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines from these 13 different countries worked diligently together, from setting up the camp through ensuring the last piece of equipment was properly accounted for. Although there were many difficult tasks to accomplish, the dedicated men and women from CC-Land HQ HD were more than ready to work together and ensure this tremendously important training event was a success.



*LTC Milot, Chief Operations briefs visitors during CW04.*



*LTG Lather, DCOM CC-Land HQ HD briefs the exercise participants during the exercise.*

CAPABLE WARRIOR 2004 was indeed a success. It effectively exercised the MNC-NE's ability to plan, coordinate and conduct operations across a broad spectrum of skills from full combat (using a computer simulation) to the beginnings of Peace Support Operations. It also gave them valuable lessons on how to better organize their staff and continue preparing for the next NATO exercise or tasking. The Corps and the 1(FR) CA accomplished the overall mission of stabilizing a country that had requested NATO support through the United Nations. Overall, it was a multi-national experience in professionalism, dedication and camaraderie!



*From L to R: CC-Land HQ HD COS MG Svensson, CSM Cameron and DCOS Spt, BG Macko in Karup during CW04.*



*Sgt1 Nico de Vries from G1 was promoted to SGM during the exercise at a ceremony held in Karup.*

## NATO Expands Training Mission in Iraq

By Maj Cynthia F. Teramae,  
Director Public Information  
NTM-I

BAGHDAD -- NATO has entered the second phase of a four-phase training mission in Iraq with the establishment of its new headquarters building in the International Zone. The move by NATO demonstrates the Alliance's commitment to the independence, territorial integrity and democracy of the new Republic of Iraq.

After the Iraqi Interim Government requested training assistance, NATO support was approved by the North Atlantic Council in June at the Istanbul Summit. NATO sent an

advance party in August to pave the way for the initiation of the mission. The Iraqi training mission is NATO's second out-of-area mission after the deployment of NATO forces to Afghanistan in August 2003. That mission is ongoing and has seen much success since its inception.

The NATO Training Mission Iraq, or NTM-I, will focus on providing training and advice to the Iraqi Ministry of Defense and the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) middle to senior-level leaders as well as the coordination of equipment assistance for ISF. Additionally, in this second phase of the training mission, members of NTM-I will assist the Iraqi Ministry of Defense in the establishment of an Iraq-led Training, Education and Doctrine Centre (TEDC) near Baghdad.



*Members from the NATO training mission at work in the new HQ.*

"We are taking a graduated approach to establishing this mission," said Norwegian Navy Capt. Ketil Olsen, Chief of Plans for the NTM-I. "We want to ensure

that the Alliance has the ability to increase in personnel strength in concert with the availability of resources. Presently we are establishing the in-country infrastructure that will be the foundation of our training and mentoring leading up to the establishment of the Iraqi Training Education and Doctrine Centre."

Once the mission is in full swing, about 300 NATO personnel will support it. Currently, about 90 members from ten NATO countries are supporting the mission. NTM-I is a sister training mission to the Multi National Security Training Command under the leadership of U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David Petraeus. He is dual-hatted as the commander for both training missions and reports up the NATO command structure. However, the two missions remain separate and distinct operations. "We adopted the dual-hatted command for force protection reasons and to ensure the two commands maintain a coherence and unity of effort," said Olsen.



*Members from the NATO training mission at work in the new HQ.*

Over the past several months, members of the first phase of the NTM-I have been working in close coordination with the Ministry of Defense and ISF to create a training plan based on Iraqi military requirements. Training and mentoring have already begun with the input provided from the Iraqi Ministry of Defense. During this phase, the first out-of-country training was coordinated and conducted at the Joint Warfare Centre, Stavanger, Norway. The out-of-country training, under the direction of the Supreme Allied Command for Transformation (SACT) at Norfolk, Virginia, will be provided by NATO training and education facilities and several centers of Alliance and non-Alliance members. SACT has also established the NATO Training and Equipment Coordination Group (NTECG) in Brussels, Belgium to facilitate the nations donation of military equipment to the Iraqi Security Forces.



*The new NATO training HQ*

"We are look forward to a strong working relationship with our Iraqi military hosts," said Olsen. "We are here at the request of their government to train, advise, and assist in equipment procurement. All this will be done in close coordination with the Ministry of Defense. In the end, the desired end state is the fully functioning and self-sustaining Iraqi security structures responsible to the democratically formed Government of Iraq."

# CC-Land HQ HD train PfP Countries

*By LTC Gerhard Schröter, USA Army, G7 Ex*

Joint Command North East (JCNE) and CC-Land HQ Heidelberg conducted a NATO/PfP Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Terminology Workshop at the Ausbildungs- und Erholungsheim in Reichenau an der Rax, Austria from 06 to 10 September 2004. The workshop consisted of 28 students from seven PfP nations (Austria, Estonia, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Poland, and Switzerland). Colonel H. J. Gerber from JCNE led the overall workshop, while CC-Land HQ Heidelberg provided the briefing and syndicate leaders. The workshop is part of the NATO Partnership Work Program (PWP), which is a component of NATO's PfP program. The PWP is designed to prepare PfP countries for participation in NATO exercises and subsequently real-world NATO Crisis Response Operations (CRO). One segment of PWP focuses on introducing and familiarizing Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs) from Partnership for Peace (PfP) Countries on the NATO structure, staff procedures in a NATO headquarters and an overview of an NCO's role inside a headquarters. This program was previously

administered by JCNE and is now in the process of transitioning to CC-Land HQ Heidelberg, due to JCNE's deactivation. The students composed the following article as the final event for the workshop.

The Workshop took place in the Rothschild Castle, which is embedded in a wonderful 18-acres-park overlooking the picturesque village of Reichenau an der Rax. The Rothschild Castle was built for Freiherr von Rothschild between 1884 and 1890. He originally intended to use the castle as his Summer Residence. In 1900, the non-profit foundation Rothschild came into existence in order to give support to retired and war-wounded Austrian officers. Nowadays it is used as a conference and training center for the Austrian Army. The participants were provided not only with the appropriate workshop facilities, such as conference rooms and presentation equipment, but also spoiled with delicious Austrian food and drinks that enhanced the students' working spirits even more.



*All the Members who participated in the PfP workshop*

**Course arrangement.** As the participants of the NATO PfP NCO Terminology Workshop we were informed through our respective Ministry of Defense (MODs) and received a detailed information packet about the course goals along with the invitation letters. We arrived in Reichenau an der Rax on the 5th of September. The first impression was the beautiful castle and the nice grounds. The in-processing went very smoothly and we were accommodated in an excellent old-fashioned castle. Colonel Gerber, the Workshop Director, personally met and greeted everyone upon their arrival at the castle.

The next morning, the whole group of students was greeted and briefed about the course arrangements. The information we received from the instructor team during in-processing and the first briefing were very detailed and informative. The briefs familiarized us with the course expectations and how to properly organize ourselves so as to actively participate in the workshop. Although the personal introduction on the first day was not the easiest part of the course, in conjunction with the ice-breaker party, this allowed us to create a family-like atmosphere and become comfortable with our varying English proficiency levels. The course arrangement and its organization were quite innovative for most of us and let us absorb a lot of useful information. Administrative announcements, linguistic sessions, briefings, and syndicate work were the components of our daily routine and ensured everyone gained from the course. Teamwork, small group interactions, rotating



*From Left: NCO from Poland trains an NCO from Lithuania, NCOs from Kazakhstan on a break and a syndicate group at work.*

roles and brainstorming were the aspects of active participation for everyone attending the workshop. The components of the course structure, apart from academics, made sure everyone was challenged with numerous tasks. For instance, an oral presentation delivered in English was for most of the students the first ever challenge of that kind. Daily schedules ensured we had enough time for social activities as well as the opportunity to experience excellent host nation hospitality. One of the highlights was definitely the visit to the world's oldest military academy situated in the Wiener Neustadt and also, not to be forgotten, the formal Austrian evening.

The participants were pleased to enjoy the presence of Brigadier General H. Walther, who was the host of the evening, Major General H. D. Mammen, the deputy commander of Joint Command Northeast and the course director, Colonel Gerber.

**Closing.** The team of consistently helpful instructors and administrative staff made our life and learning process both fun and educational. All the mentioned factors created the best conditions to achieve the course goals, which was highly appreciated by all the participants. Because of all these positive experiences we take with us we strongly recommend such a workshop to all other NCOs. Much more could be added to this article, so to keep the long story short, all of the students want to show their appreciation for the perfect organization, competence and friendliness of the workshop team with a thank you in their native languages:

*Thank you*

<i>Danke</i>	-	<i>Austria, Germany</i>
<i>Tak</i>	-	<i>Denmark</i>
<i>Aitäh</i>	-	<i>Estonia</i>
<i>Aciu</i>	-	<i>Lithuania</i>
<i>Rahmet</i>	-	<i>Kazakhstan</i>
<i>Merci</i>	-	<i>Switzerland</i>
<i>Dziękuję</i>	-	<i>Poland</i>



*Flags of the participating nations.*

The PfP NCO Terminology Workshop Class, Reichenau, Austria, 10 Sep 04.

*Note: The following personnel supported the workshop:*

*CC-Land HQ Heidelberg: LTC Schröter (Linguist), MAJ Staffe (CC-Land HQ HD OPR), SFC Breazeale (Briefer/Syndicate Leader), GSgt Calvin (Briefer/Syndicate Leader), HFW Korn (Briefer/Syndicate Leader).*

*Joint Command Northeast: WO II Suhr (OPR JCNE/Admin Support), WO II Herth (Syndicate Leader/Admin Support).*

*A special thank you to the Austrian Army and the staff of the Ausbildungs- und Erholungsheim Reichenau / Rax for hosting the workshop.*

## Past and Present in Berlin

*By Thomas Korn, HFW, DEU Army,  
G3 Battle NCO*

The German NSE visited Berlin from the 24-26th November as part of the political education trip to learn its history. Of special significance was a tour of the famed East German secret service “*Ministerium für Staatssicherheit*” or STASI.

We began in the western part of the city with its famous sights such as the *Schloss Charlottenburg*, *Sieges- säule*, *Humbold University* and well-known *Checkpoint Charlie*. We ended up at the most recognized symbol of the city, the *Brandenburger Tor*. This area still holds the memories of the 28 year long partition of Germany into East and the West.

We visited the Soviet Army prison, Berlin-Hohenschönhausen, which was later used by the STASI. An ex-inmate of the prison was our guide.

She was jailed for visiting the embassies of West Germany and the United States while on vacation in Hungary for immigration information. An insider view of the injustice and discrimination that prevailed in Eastern Germany during this era made this visit very interesting.

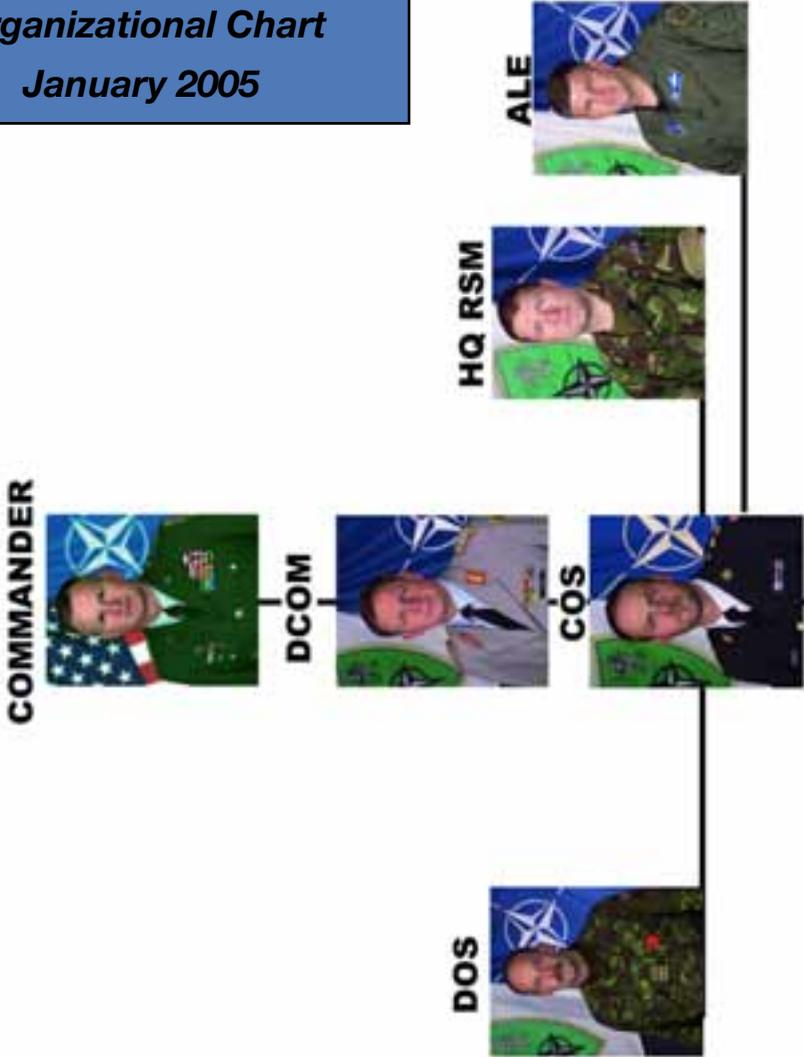


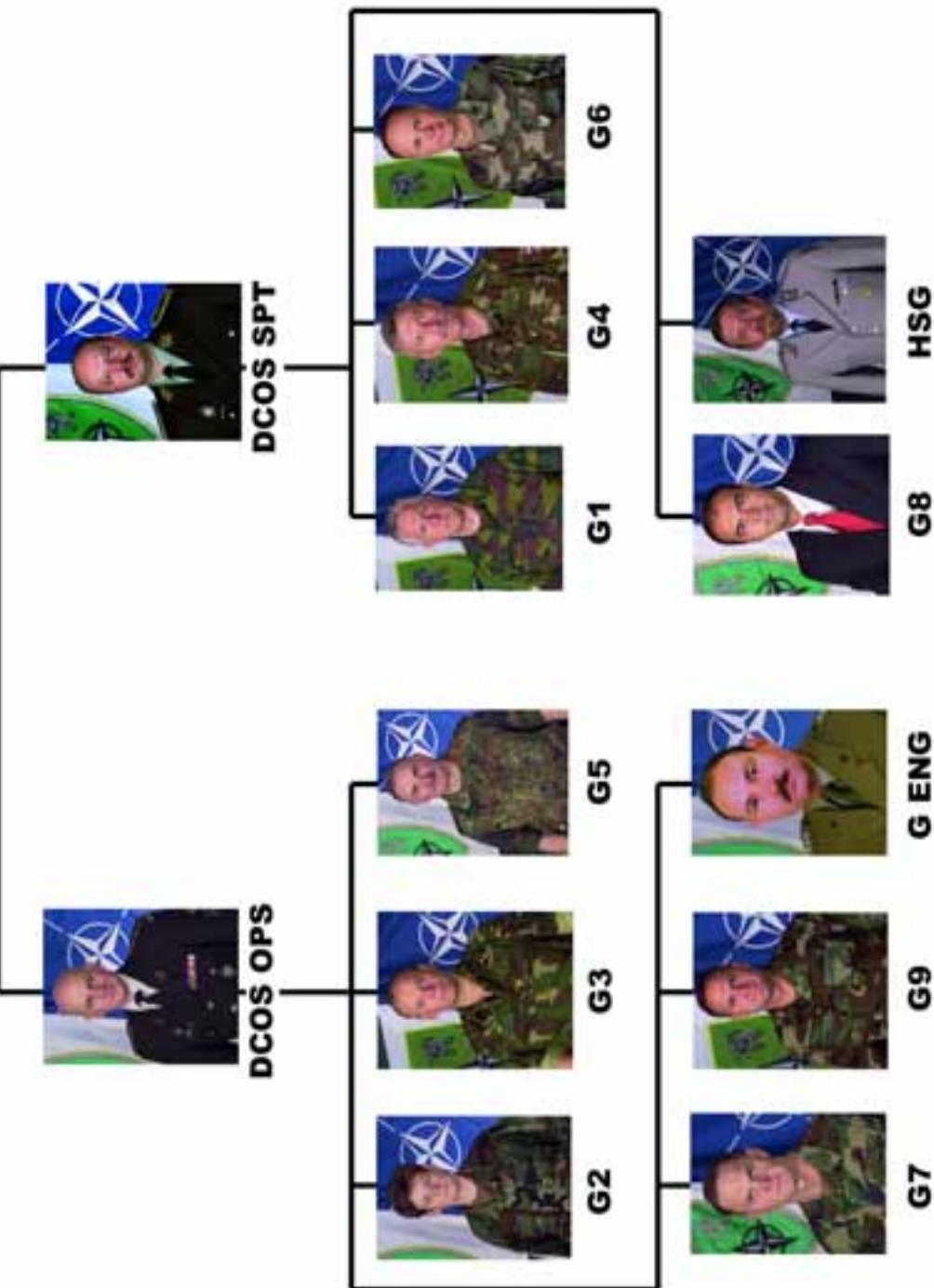
*Some of the equipment used by the STASI on display.*

The former headquarters of the STASI at Normannenstrasse, hosted the famous “spy machine” and its illegal methods. Our guide, who was a former prisoner, gave us a detailed view inside an organization that counted about 90.000 official and 170.000 unofficial members. We saw espionage equipment, STASI memorabilia, and Erich Mielke’s office. Erich Mielke was in charge of the organization for more then 25 years. Discussions with witnesses provided us with a good insight of the repressive character of the East German system.

We were fortunate to sit in on a parliamentary session at the *Reichstagsgebäude* (Parliament) Our chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, Secretary of Defence Peter Struck, and the remaining members of Parliament were able to provide us with a vivid picture of our government at work.

**CC-Land HQ HD  
Organizational Chart  
January 2005**





## The French Military Mission

*By LTC Marc Thuriot,  
Deputy Commander FMM*

Brigadier General René FAURE took over command of the French Military Mission (FMM) in Heidelberg on August 1, 2004. He arrived directly from the Joint Military Command in Paris, where he had worked on nuclear defence matters. Prior to that, having spent the first part of his military career in the Artillery, Brigadier General René FAURE also had a multinational tour of duty in Geneva and New York, with the United Nations disarmament arena. He followed the NATO Defence College course in Roma in 2002.

As Chief FMM, Brigadier General René FAURE is leading the 5 persons strong Military Mission both accredited to CC-Land HQ Heidelberg, and to USAREUR HQ.

The FMM Heidelberg has been in existence since 1966, when France decided to withdraw from the NATO military integrated structure, while remaining in all political and politico-military bodies of the Alliance.

Like its sister missions in Ramstein, Northwood, Brunssum, Naples, Mons or Brussels, FMM Heidelberg mission is to facilitate the operational cooperation between NATO and French Headquarters and forces involved in defence of the Alliance's memberstates.

In the early nineties, due to the military commitment of French forces in NATO-led operations in former Yugoslavia, France temporarily deployed VNCs into the NATO military structure to enhance the interoperability of its forces with those of the Alliance. In 1995, France resumed its seat in the NATO Defense Ministers Council, as well as in the Military Committee, and in the NATO Defence College.

In 2002, fully supporting the NRF concept, and willing to participate,



*Members of the French Military Mission raise the French flag at CC-Land HQ HD.*

in its implementation, France decided to offer 110 personnel to the PE of the NATO HQs, focusing on the strategic and operational levels, while reducing its VNCs contribution. However, this move - to be implemented between 2004 and 2006 - will only bring the French participation into the integrated military structure up to 1% of the PE of the total strength of the NATO HQs. So far, France has no plan to amalgamate further into the NATO integrated military structure, even if it is today one of the largest contributing nations to the NATO budget, and the number of soldiers deployed in NATO-led operations (Bosnia, Kosovo, Afghanistan).



*A group photo of all the French soldiers assigned to the HQ's of the NATO led ISAF mission in Kabul, Afghanistan.*

Due to these evolutions, when you visit a NATO Headquarters, you will find either French staff working as an autonomous Military Mission like we are in Heidelberg, or within the staff, registered with the PE to work on NRF issues, or as VNCs for the planning of operations involving French troops. If you want to learn more about our mission, or just practice your French, feel free to pay a visit anytime... no appointment needed, and coffee is always available.



*A French soldier on patrol as part of a NATO deployment.*

This past September marked the first ever NCO Staff Ride undertaken by CC-Land HQ Heidelberg. This event was the culmination of many months of preparation and planning, primarily by ADC Alain Gervaise, Sergeant Major of the French Military Mission and the HQ SGM, WO1 Donald Cameron. You might ask what the purpose was of such an ambitious and, by all accounts, highly successful venture. Well, there are actually several reasons why; not the least of which is to foster esprit-de-corps, develop teamwork and cooperation between international NCO staff and to expose our NCOs to different military cultures, history and establishments. These fundamentals of leadership and camaraderie were met through a dynamic and well-prepared schedule of events and visits to military installations in southern France.

It all started off with a bus and subsequent train ride from our headquarters to La Ciotat, Marseilles, where we were accommodated in French Foreign Legion (FFL) military barracks on 20 Sep 04. Early the following morning we mustered all hands on deck for a brisk run towards the beautiful Marseilles waterfront where we halted to do some calisthenics on the sandy beach and, for the very brave, an eye-opening swim in the Mediterranean waters

## CC-Land HQ HD NCOs visit France

*By Mick O'Brien, CW02 CAN Navy  
G5, Staff Assistant*

of the harbor. This run was led by a member of the Foreign Legion, an expatriot from the USA, who took pity on the mostly 'older' NATO NCOs and returned us safely to our barracks.

That morning we departed for Carpiagne where we visited 1-11 RC - CIABC, a French Army Leclerc Main Battle Tank Regiment. We were welcomed by Capitaine Janodet who provided us with an informative brief on the history of the Regiment and the capabilities of the Leclerc MBT. On completion of the brief a demonstration of the Leclerc simulator was given where a number of our group had the opportunity to try out their tank driving skills, much to the amusement of our



*All the participants of the NCO Professional Development course.*

guide who politely declined to recruit anyone. Then it was off to the tank maintenance and storage area where we received an up close and personal look at this lethal and modern MBT. The Leclerc tank is not simply a tank within the classic meaning of the term, but rather a weapon system. As a tank incorporating the most recent technologies, it reaches a level of excellence on each traditional armored quality: mobility, protection and firepower. The tank includes a gun with an automatic loading system which fires at ranges of more than 3000 meters. With a maximum speed of 71km/h and a range of 550km, the Leclerc Tank is truly an impressive machine.

After thanking our host for a very interesting and informative visit, we departed for Aubagne and a visit to the French Foreign Legion Headquarters. Upon arrival, the group was greeted by Sergeant Major Jorand, the HQ SGM. An imposing and distinguished soldier, SGM Jorand personified the quintessential example of what one might associate with being the senior NCO in a Regiment. We were then hosted in the NCO's mess for an afternoon coffee prior to our scheduled lunch. During this time we were entertained by listening to the colorful stories told by veteran Legionnaires whose exploits are often legendary. After completing our wonderfully prepared and delightful lunch, served with the famous (infamous?) Legionnaire wine, which as directed by the FFL SGM, was to be "drank, not tasted", the group was ushered to a conference room to be briefed on the history, customs and past battles. Of particular note was the dynamic mix of the various nations that make up the Legion, consisting of soldiers from over 150 countries. During this brief we were visited and welcomed by the overall Commandant of the French Foreign Legion, BG Dary.

The next treat in store for us was the chance to visit one of the most highly treasured and important historical museums in the Legion. We were transported back in time to the earliest days of the Legion's existence where we were educated on past battles and the transition from the days of its early austere beginnings to it's present modern and highly technical military capabilities. We learned of the famous 'White Kepi', first worn in 1939. This headdress was designed to protect against the hot African sun during operations on that Continent. It would be remiss if a brief description of the most famous battle fought by the Legionnaires was not mentioned; which occurred in Mexico on 30 April 1836 at a place call 'Camerone Hacienda'. During this battle three officers and 62 Legionnaires resisted 2,000 Mexicans. After a day of heroic fighting the last five survivors fixed bayonets and charged, with the outcome not in the Legionnaire's favor!

The Legion has also served with honor in numerous other campaigns such as Tonkin, Sudan, Dahomey, Madagascar and Morocco. These were just a few of the Legion's exploits since its inception on March 10, 1831. The overall hospitality shown by the Legionnaires to our group was superb, a memorable experience we will not soon forget.

The following day the NCOs set off for a visit to EUROCOPTER, Europe's premier helicopter assembly plant. After a short introduction and brief on EUROCOPTER's line of commercial and military helicopters, we were given a rare and much appreciated tour of several models of helicopters in various stages of assembly. Most impressive was the military line of helicopters. The EC 120, EC 635, NH 90 and EC 725 all were designed with military applications in mind. But the one aircraft that held all of our attention was of course, the TIGER Combat Attack Helicopter. A formidable weapons platform, the multi-role TIGER is capable of 275 kms/h and able to carry a wide variety of munitions. All of the mentioned helicopters are in use by more than 40 Armed Forces worldwide with EUROCOPTER being the world's leading manufacturer of helicopters.

That afternoon it was off to Toulon to conduct a battlefield orientation and history lesson on the liberation of that area by the Allies in Aug 1944. The first stop involved taking a cable car to a remote and almost inaccessible hill top fortification what was held by the Germans prior to the invasion. It is now the site of the 'Mont Faron's Museum' which houses various artifacts and exhibits that describe the chronological events that transpired during the invasion. 'OPERATION DRAGOON', as the invasion was called, took place between Toulon and Cannes and was executed on 15 Aug, 1944. Originally called 'ANVIL', the name was changed by Winston Churchill, who claimed to having been "dragooned" into accepting it. From the hilltop, approximately 15 kms from the



*The LAFAYETTE--one of France's newest warship.*

shoreline, one could easily see the difficult and precarious route the Allies would face in attacking the fortress. Although today the view is spectacular and peaceful, overlooking all of Toulon, one can appreciate the tactical advantage the Germans had over the allies in the defence of the harbour and surrounding areas. Nonetheless,

the Allies were successful in the assault and Toulon was liberated by 18 Aug. Both sides in this conflict fought bravely, with the hilltop museum and memorial remaining a stark reminder of an all too important event that contributed to the end of WWII.

Following a much-needed rest by the NATO contingent, the next day proved equally interesting. A visit to Toulon's waterfront and the immediate boarding of a tour boat for a scenic tour of the harbour and its various docks and jetties where French Naval vessels were abundant. We viewed aircraft carriers such as the 'CHARLES de GAULLE' along with various frigates, destroyers, submarines and lesser ships. A visit to the French Navy's Toulon museum was also an interesting stop. We were received by the museum's curator and given a private tour of the facilities. We were shown models of French 17th and 18th century sailing warships, every detail intricately crafted to give an exact replica for use in designing full sized vessels. Paintings of war ships locked in battle adorned the walls, while various naval paraphernalia such as torpedoes with cut-out sections to view the internal workings, are located throughout the museum.

Certainly the highlight of the day was a visit to one of France's newest warships, the LA FAYETTE. We were again treated to a privileged and rare guided tour of this futuristic stealth frigate. The LAFAYETTE's main role is surface-to-surface and surface-to-air warfighting. With her sleek hull configuration, designed to deflect and minimize its radar signature, the vessel can become virtually invisible to enemy detection. She carries a wide variety of weapons systems including guided missiles, naval gun support and self-defence weaponry. The LA FAYETTE is crewed by approximately 150 personnel, with a large percentage being female sailors.

After visiting the French Naval base in Toulon our Staff Ride was complete. The next day found the NCOs from CC-Land HQ Heidelberg on their way back to Heidelberg. Of all the benefits that came from this team building exercise, the one which was invaluable was the spirit of cooperation and friendships that were fostered among the NCOs who participated in the Staff Ride. This camaraderie will continue in our day-to-day activities in our workplace, improving NCO relationships thus benefiting the headquarters as a whole. Professional development is the Commander's and RSM's top priority when it comes to NCOs in this headquarters, and the PD programme being proposed for 2005 will be challenging, worthwhile and certainly welcomed.

# MISCELLANEOUS

Students from the Belgian Defence College visited CC-Land HQ HD as part of their graduation requirement. Students received a briefing about NATO and CC-Land HQ HD from different sections.



Students from the Baltic Defence College are welcomed by the Commander CC-Land HQ HD.



On 14 November 2004 German soldiers and their American colleagues from 411th BSB collected donations for the German War Graves Commission in the barracks and US shops in Heidelberg. More than 400 euro and dollars were raised. All donations are very much appreciated!

# Farewells and Awards



Col Reinhart Ostermeyer (center), G7 Division Chief and Senior German National Officer retired from active duty after serving 35 years in the German Army.



CC-Land HQ HD recipients of the yearly award by the Commander.



Sgt Ladyka, staff assistant of the DOS, is pinned on his new rank as a Warrant Officer by DCOM, LTG Lather. WO Ladyka also recieved the Canadian NATO service Medal.

## CC-Land HQ Autumn Ball



*By Eric De Vilder,  
Cdt, BEL Army*

On 20 November 2004, the Autumn Ball took place in the spectacular King's Hall of Heidelberg Castle. A large number of guests gathered for an impressive night of entertainment, dancing and celebration in beautiful and historic surroundings. After a reception in the Castle's "Faßkeller", featuring the popular USAREUR Quintet and SBF Big Band, the guests made their way to the remarkable King's Hall where the Commander welcomed them to the event. A delicious 3-course-meal followed, featuring the "Crispy Heidelberg Duck", a traditional Heidelberg dish prepared by the catering firm Schönmehl. Spirits were high, and in between courses, the festive mood was even further

elevated by toasts to the Heads of State and outstanding performances by the USAREUR Rhine River Ramblers, "Freddy the Piper", and again the SBF Big Band. After dinner, the guests took to the dance floor to dance the night away. All in all, it was a wonderful event.



## 2004 German Annual Reception

*By LTC Helmut Wetzels, DEU Army, CPIO*

The northern "Zirkelbau" or quarter-circle building of the Schwetzingen Palace was a most appropriate venue for the reception hosted by the German soldiers at CC-Land HQ Heidelberg to mark the Day of German Unity.

Early in October 2004, numerous international civilian and military guests joined the Germans in celebrating this event, which is so important for the Federal Republic of Germany.



*LTG Lather, DCOM addresses the guests during the reception.*

"There is no doubt in my mind that without the support of President Bush, the unification of Germany may never have been achieved, despite all other efforts, especially those of my fellow countrymen from the east, the people from Hungary and President Gorbatschow of the then Soviet Union", emphasized Lieutenant General Karl-Heinz Lather, the Deputy Commander of CC-Land Heidelberg in his address.

He added: "Let us celebrate together!



*LTG Lather, Mrs Lather and COL Ostermeyer and Mrs Ostermeyer greet invited guests.*

This unique event in the history of Germany in the 20th century was brought about because we could rely so firmly on our allies and friends in Europe and across the Atlantic. It is appropriate then that those allies and friends are represented and are among us for this evening."



*LTG Lather and Mrs Lather greet guests during the reception.*

After the reception Air Force Band 2 from Karlsruhe performed a solemn serenade under the baton of Captain Heidler in the adjacent palace garden. Illuminated by fire bowls and torches, the circular garden was a perfect setting for the ceremony, which ended with the German national anthem.

**LA  
MULTIANI!!!**

**2005**

**BOLDOG ÚJ  
ÉVET!!!**

**FELICE  
ANO  
NOUVO!!**

**LAMIGU  
JUANO  
GADU!!!**

**HÄÄD UUT  
AASTAT!!!**

**TASTNY  
NOVY  
ROK!!!**

**GUTES  
NEUES  
JAHR!!!**

**GODT  
NYTT AR!!!**

**HAPPY  
NEW YEAR!!!**

**GELUKKIG  
NIEUW  
JAAR!!!**

**GODT  
NYTAR!!!**

**LINKSMU  
NAJU  
METU!!!**

**GELUKKIG  
NIEUW-  
JAAR!!!**

**BONNE  
ANNÉE!!!**