



The Observer

*Serving Allied Land Component Command Headquarters Heidelberg
Campbell Barracks, Heidelberg, Germany
Summer 2005*



Commander's Message

Welcome to the Summer 2005 edition of *The Observer*.



This edition showcases only a portion of the great achievements and incredible volume of activity that CC-Land HQ Heidelberg's Soldiers, Civilians and Families have accomplished over the last few months.

Today, our Headquarters Family has grown to include twenty-one nations. The raising of the flags from Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey underscores that in a time of dynamic transnational threats and challenges, nations are willing to work together toward a common goal. It is also a clear indication that more of the NATO member nations see the importance

and validity of our Headquarters and its dedicated mission.

Training and certification of the NATO Response Force and the achievement of a full Operational Capability as a Land Component Command are our two important missions in the near future. While our Headquarters still has much to do in order to achieve complete mission capability in all aspects, we are well on our way to success in these areas. In the meantime, while the main part of the Staff has undertaken those challenges, we successfully executed a number of important conferences, such as the first Allied Bi-Land Component Command Corps Commanders Conference and the Joint Forces Command Brunssum Commanders Conference. We have successfully integrated members of the new NATO member nations in our Headquarters, and we actively participated in different exercises and Partnership for Peace events.

The exercise BOLD LYNX at the end of October will be of great importance to us on our way to Full Operational Capability as an agile, lean, modular and deployable organization capable of commanding the full spectrum of operations. Nevertheless, other activities in the fall in support of NATO's Response Force, training and certification of NATO Force Structure

entities, and real-world operational needs will stretch the manpower of our headquarters. Successful execution of all these activities will make us a value-added asset to the NATO Command Structure.

Beyond our daily work requirements, the Headquarters Family also devotes time to strengthen our coherence, and to socialize and enjoy ourselves. Besides the Neckar Riverboat Tour and the Sports Day, several national receptions were held, to include those hosted by the Netherlands, the French and American contingents.

Our annual Family Fest on September 7 will be another event that allows us as a Family to meet in an informal environment and to share each other's company so that we can get to know one and other better. That's the strength of this Alliance.

As we experience the peacetime routine in Heidelberg and enjoy the summer holiday period, we should not forget that a number of our Headquarters members are deployed as augmentees on the ISAF missions in Afghanistan and on the NATO mission in support of the African Union Mission in Sudan. On behalf of the Headquarters, Katie and I want

to extend our sincere support and warmest wishes to those deployed service members and their Families. We look forward to our service members safe return.

Finally, Katie and I also hope you take advantage of the summer leave period by spending time with your families and friends. We trust that everyone will take the appropriate precautions to ensure a safe and enjoyable summer holiday so that you are available and ready for the upcoming activities in the fall.

“As we experience the peacetime routine in Heidelberg and enjoy the summer holiday period, we should not forget that a number of our Headquarters members are deployed.”

You are all vital members of the CC-Land HQ Heidelberg Family!



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

The Observer

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

Gen. B. B. Bell
Commander

Lt. Col. Hans-Joachim
Gemballa
Ch, Public Information Officer

Maj. Cynthia F. Teramae
Ch, Media Operations and
Editor

Adjt. Jan Van Meensel
Administrative Supervisor

Sgt. Dale A. Worley
Command Photographer and
Layout Editor

Sgt. Nanetta Harris
PIO Production Specialist

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Suggestions for articles, comments and contributions are welcome and should be directed to the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit submissions.

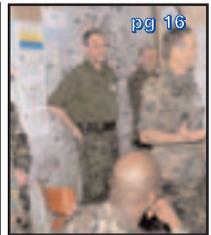
Public Information Office
Postfach 102620
D-69016 Heidelberg
(Bldg 8, Campbell Barracks)
Phone: 06221 398472
Fax: 06221 398349
Email:
teramae@lahd.nato.int

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ABT Print und Medien GmbH
Bruchsaler Straße 5
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Gen. B. B. Bell farewells CSM Clark and welcomes CSM Tkacz to CC-Land HQ HD.

CC-LAND HQ HD VISITS RUSSIAN BRIGADE

by Col. Steve Kestner, U.S. Army
G7, Division Head

by Lt. Col. Geert Vanlinthout, BEL Army
CG, Commander's Initiative Group

by Lt. Col. Frank Lissner, DAN Army
G5, Military Cooperation Branch Chief

Photos by Col. Miroslav Zizka, CZE Army
J5, JFC Brunssum, Cooperation Branch Chief



Members of CC-Land HQ HD visited several places of interest during their visit to Russia to include Red Square to see the Kremlin, Lenin's Mausoleum and the Cathedral of Vasily the Blessed.

On 8 May 2005, The President of the United States of America was given a seat of honour in Red Square, Moscow. The international media captured this moment as President Bush, sitting alongside President Putin, viewed the 60th Anniversary celebration of the end of what Russians referred to as the Great Patriotic War. It was a historic moment. Two leaders of superpowers, which had been former adversaries, now united in a common struggle in the Global War on Terror. We shared the same sense of drama just a few weeks prior as members of the Allied Land Component Command Headquarters Heidelberg set foot for the first time on Russian soil. From April 16- 21 2005,

a team of three Heidelberg based officers assisted a SHAPE-led NATO team on an exploratory visit to Russia. The purpose of the visit, as part of the NATO - Russia interoperability framework program, was to gain an understanding of the 15th Motorized Rifle Brigade (MRB) and to exchange information regarding possible training and educational activities for interoperability development. The 15th MRB Brigade will be the first 'regular' Russian military unit ready to accomplish multinational peacemaking and peacekeeping tasks in member states of the Community of Independent States, and other designated countries in the world.

Some people who had already visited Russia, told us that travelling with Aeroflot is always an adventure. The aircraft was a modern European made Airbus, our flight was on time, the in-flight service was perfect and our entire consignment of luggage arrived in Moscow with us. In addition, the hotel where we stayed was also of a 'western' standard. After our first meeting with the NATO Team on Sunday morning, we took the Russian Metro to discover some of the cultural attractions within Moscow; in particular, Red Square, with the Kremlin, Lenin's Mausoleum and the Cathedral of Vasily the Blessed. During the evening we had an informal meeting with our Team leader, Major General Williams (UK-Army), Director NATO Military Liaison Mission (MLM) Moscow, in his house. And what a house - from his roof we had the most beautiful view of Moscow, even if it was slightly obscured by the rain.

The following morning the NATO Team, accompanied by members of the NATO MLM-Moscow, participated in a meeting at the Russian Ministry of Defence. General-Lieutenant Valerij Evnevich, Land Forces Deputy Commander for Peace Keeping Forces, provided background infor-

“This Brigade was selected for the NATO - Russia interoperability framework program because Russian Land Forces Commands' objective is to make it interoperable with NATO forces”

mation on the 15th MRB, and outlined the Russian objectives for the exploratory seminar with NATO. This Brigade was selected for the NATO - Russia interoperability framework program because Russian Land Forces Commands' objective is to

make it interoperable with NATO forces. Following this three-hour meeting, the NATO Team, escorted by the Land Forces DCOM and selected staff, flew to Samara. This time the aircraft was of Russian origin - a Tupolev. The hotel was of the same "western" standard and price as in Moscow.

Today, the Samara Region is one of Russia's industrial pillars, specialising in engineering, in particular, car, aircraft and rocket motor manufacturing, and is also well known in Europe for its female basketball team. Samara City is situated west of the Ural Mountains on the Volga River. During the Second World War, Samara - at that time named Kuibyshev - became the capital of the Home Front. In late 1941, the main government offices and foreign embassies moved to the city.

On 19 April 2005, our Russian escort took us to Roschenskyj, a military town a few kilometers from Samara. The town was built near the military installations as a housing area for troops withdrawn from East Germany.

Indeed, the German Government sponsored this construction from 1993 to 1994. Today this area is the home base of the 15 MRB. The brief-

keeping operations. Here we viewed a variety of their equipment such as BTR 70s, trucks, various weapon systems, and CIS.



A recent visit to Russia resulted in a first step on a long road to interoperability between NATO units and the 15th Motorized Rifle Brigade.

ing room was well equipped with modern audiovisual material. On the wall there were different pictures of the Yalta Agreement with the leaders of the 'big three' during World War II.

Sixty years after the end of the war, soldiers from the 'big three' were shaking hands together. Our arrival was also regarded as a Russian media event, with many journalists and cameramen present. After the media left the room, we received a briefing on the structure and capabilities of the brigade - all in Russian, but fortunately an English translator had been requested from Moscow. After the briefing we went to visit the training area, where soldiers were instructed on the operational aspects of peace-

keeping operations. Here we viewed a variety of their equipment such as BTR 70s, trucks, various weapon systems, and CIS.

At the end, we had the opportunity of visiting classrooms and single-soldier accommodations. The relatively young leadership (the Commander was 37 years old and his deputy 31) hosted a dinner that evening,

and between the meal courses, there was time

to discuss their experiences in Chechnya and Georgia.

The entire visit was conducted with remarkable openness and transparent dialogue, not only from the Brigade Cadre, but also from members of the Land Forces HQ, which is responsible for the training and tasking of this Brigade. This visit was the first step on a 'very long road' to interoperability between the 15th MRB and NATO Land units. This might not be the last visit by members from CC-Land HQ Heidelberg to the Russian 15th MRB, as the interoperability programme develops.

NATO Allies support Combined Joint Task Force - 76

by Maj. Cynthia F. Teramae, U.S. Army
Chief, Media Operations



Gen. B. B. Bell, Commander Allied Land Component Command Headquarters Heidelberg, talks with members of NATO's International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) at their headquarters during a recent visit to Afghanistan.

Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan -- Since March 2002, Polish Engineers have been contributing to the mission of creating peace and stability in Afghanistan. Today, Polish engineers based at Bagram Airfield, continue that mission while assigned as a part of Combined Task Force Coyote, under CJTF-76.

In April 2005, Gen. B. B. Bell, who is dual-hatted as Commander Allied Land Component Command Headquarters Heidelberg and Commander U.S. Army Europe, and Lt. Gen. Edward Pietrzyk, Commander in Chief of the Polish Land Forces got to see first hand the good work of the engineers when they visited

Combined Joint Task Force 76, led by U.S. Army Europe's Southern European Task Force.

Currently about 100 service members are assigned to the Polish Engineer contingent bringing with them time tested experience to conduct one of the most dangerous jobs on the base - mine clearing and disposal.

The Polish Engineers have been serving on a six-month rotational deployment conducting mine clearance operations and construction work to improve the air base.

The Russians built Bagram Airfield in the 1970s. At the time, they were training the Afghanistan Army. When they invaded Afghanistan in 1979, the airfield became a stronghold for the Russians and they mined the area. Today, Afghanistan is considered one of the most heavily mined countries in the world.

"War has been over in our country for 60 years," said Pietrzyk. "But still to this day we will find over 150,000 mines or munitions left over from previous wars.

At this time in Poland, there are about 33 EOD teams who are working there to clear mines. So we have a lot of experience to bring here to Afghanistan."

It is just this expertise that makes the Polish Engineers a unique and needed asset to the mission.

"Unlike their U.S. counterparts who are not trained in mine disposal, the Polish Engineers bring a unique expertise with them," said Col. Nancy Wetherill, commander CTF Coyote. "They are trained to identify and then remove mines to an approved disposal area for detonation, which has the added value of protecting the environment."

In addition to mine clearance and disposal, the Polish Engineers are also engaged in construction work at the air base. They have upgraded and expanded the airfield, provided new roads and base camp upgrades, and new construction.

"If we did not have the Polish contingent here providing their expertise, we would not be able to continue the mission," said Wetherill.

The mission is also an important one for the Polish Army as well. It has provided an opportunity to increase their professionalism and to participate in a major coalition operation.

"The mission is measured in several ways," said Pietrzyk. "It is measured by the value of the experience the engineers gain while conducting their mission, and it is measured in the experience of how our troops work together in a coalition."

Poland also has service members assigned to the International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF), which are headquartered in Kabul. Poland will be part of a multi-national force that will take over the ISAF mission in 2007.



Lt. Gen. Edward Pietrzyk, Commander in Chief Polish Land Forces, and Brig. Gen. John Sterling, Deputy Commanding General Support, Combined Joint Task Force - 76 examine munitions and weapons recovered by the Polish Engineer contingent assigned as part of CTF Coyote under CJTF-76.

CC LAND HQ HD NCOS VISIT ITALY

by Adjuc. Ummenover, French Army

Administrative Assistant

by Bronius Basalykas Lithuania Army

DOS SW SA

On June 5, 2005 the NCOs of CC Land HQ Heidelberg departed for Italy as part of a Professional Development (PD) program focusing on the battles and invasion of Italy during WW II. Any event of this magnitude takes a lot of work and we would particularly like to thank all those who made the PD such a success especially Obermaat Reise from the Transport School of the Italian Army and Lt. Col. Fontana from the Italian Defense Force.

Forty five NCOs left the HQ by bus for the train station and boarded the train for Rome. After a day and evening of train travel from Heidelberg to Milan and then on to Rome, we arrived safely (albeit a bit tired) on June 6. After a quick breakfast we drove to Saint Angelo's Castle in the vicinity of Rome where Adjuc. Ummenover gave an historic based briefing on the challenges facing military commanders in defense of the castle, the city, its role and strategic value during military operations against attacking forces, and the role of the bastion of the Aurelian Walls in conjunction with the fortifications. The group then traveled to Vatican City and Saint Peter's Dome.



Staff Sergeant Krieger explains the Monte Cassino area and how it affected the Polish assault.

The next morning, we had an early departure for Citta Militaire Cecignola. There Sierzant Drygowsky gave a briefing, and then we explored the technology displayed at the military vehicle museum and its impact during WW I and II with the main focus on the offensive and defensive forces during the Anzio landing and the Battle of Monte Cassino. In conjunction with the briefing we also had a museum tour.

June 8 began early with a walk around the Piana delle Orme ending at the museum where we received a series of briefings by StFw Wolf and his team on the British Flyover Positions in conjunction with a museum walk-thru of the Anzio Hall, Monte Cassino Hall, and El Alamein Hall.



Vitalijus Beconis discusses the casualties of each nation during the landing on Anzio Beach during World War II.

The Battle-field terrain walk was directed by the NCOs of various NS-Es who gave their national perspective of the events.

We were fortunate to have with us an eye witness of Anzio Alfredo Rinaldi. He shared his memories with us and showed us the locations of the 3rd beachhead. He patiently answered all our questions and suggested we visit the Anzio Beachhead Museum. We agreed and he gave us a wonderful personal tour. Mr. Rinaldi was called "Anzio Joe" by the U.S. troops of WW II who had adopted the young boy during the invasion.

Then it was off to the Zona Militare Anzio in Nettuno. We participated in a battlefield terrain walk beginning at the beachhead through to the final objective, culminating with a display of military arts and facts at the museum with a focus on influences of terrain and weather, coordination of offensive and defensive forces,

as well as air, sea and ground forces and ultimately the factors leading to allied victory. That evening we dined at the Casale Corte Rosso in Latina. This restaurant was open only for us that evening and the hosts treated us with various Italian dishes native to the region.

An early departure on June 9 for Monte Cassino in the pouring rain was our next adventure. This was a very exciting and yet sad day for the NCOs. We started with a visit to the Polish War Cemetery followed by a visit to the Abbey at Monte Cassino.

Just after lunch we went to the Cassino War Museum for a tour. We then drove to the Liri Valley and visited the Commonwealth War Cemetery and the German War Cemeteries followed by some personal time in the hotel where most of us collected our thoughts before dinner. The impact of so many young soldier's graves at the Cemeteries and the enormous challenges presented at the battlefields was a grim reminder of the horror and the military acumen that was the second World War.

Although the trip had been wonderful and very informative it was also a sobering experience for the professional soldiers who are the NCOs of the Headquarters.



ALLIED COMPONENT



The annual Allied Land Component Heidelberg Sports Day was held at Barracks sports field.

Member of the Headquarters participated throughout the day to include soccer, volleyball, basketball, and the popular tug of war.

Though it was a close competition, the HSG team with G2/7 shadowing

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ent Command Headquarters
June 14 at the Patton

s engaged each other in competi-
de a five kilometer run in Offer-
ball, horseshoes and the ever

etition, the overall winner was the
them to place second.



ARMY ORGANIC AIR DEFENCE CONFERENCE 2005

by Lt. Col. Ferruccio Bilotta, ITA Army
G3 AD ASM

CC-Land HQ Heidelberg conducted the Army Organic Air Defence (AOAD) Conference from June 20-23 2005 at Campbell Barracks.

This annual conference is to be a forum where representatives of NATO Land and Air relevant Air Defence Agencies gather to share experiences and knowledge, update information about technological and procedural items, discuss problems, improve mutual acquaintance and strengthen professional links.

in a Land dominated environment and underlined the importance of an ACO-wide participation disregarding obsolete "boundaries" within NATO.

He then introduced the key topics of this year's agenda: integration of Land Component Air Defence into NATINAD (NATO Integrated Air Defence System), standardization of criteria for evaluation and certification of the AOAD component in the NRF, current capabilities and procedures for TMD (Theater Missile Defence).

In the first part of the conference



Members of the Army Organic Air Defense Conference gather for a group photo. Participants shared experiences, knowledge, new technology and strengthened mutual relationships during the conference.

This year for the first time, several participants were representing HQs of the Southern Region of NATO, from Turkey to Spain.

Col. Arie Ooms, G3 Division Head, opened the conference on behalf of DCOS OPS. He thanked the 25 participants, remarked on the joint character of the conference notable by the presence of many Airmen

the audience was given several briefings focusing on these three topics and some others as well.

Valuable question and answer sessions and discussions followed each briefing, testifying the deep interest of the participants.

(continued on page 17, Army Air Defense Conf.)

RICHTFEST MARKS NEW NATO HEADQUARTERS

by Maj. Cynthia F. Teramae, U.S. Army
Chief, Media Operations

After ten months of construction, the Top-Raising ceremony, known locally as a Richtfest, for the Allied Land Component Command Headquarters, Heidelberg building is a first milestone on the way to creating a state-of-the-art NATO headquarters in Heidelberg.

"Today, we are here to thank the craftsman for building this state-of-the-art facility, which will be the heart of our Allied Land Component Command Headquarters," said Gen. B. B. Bell, Commander, Allied Land Component Command Headquarters, Heidelberg.

"This great city will continue to host the NATO's Allied Land Component Command Headquarters into the future. The transformed headquarters, represented by this magnificent structure, will feature an agile, lean, rapidly deployable joint forward command post element, with a robust reach back capability to the main operational command post, which will be housed in this superb structure," said Bell.

More than 23,600 m² of overall surface area will be created in a three-phase plan, which is the largest current structural engineering project of Staatliches Hochbauamt.



Gen. B. B. Bell briefs guests during the Richtfest and explains the progress of the building.

Phase one includes construction of the new headquarters building, which will house a joint operations center, conference rooms, and a number of administrative areas. The new building is scheduled to be completed in the fall of 2006.

During phases two and three, NATO buildings at Campbell Barracks will also be renovated and modified, including the currently existing headquarters building. By 2010, all construction projects are expected to be completed.

The total cost of the new NATO funded building will amount to approximately 15 million Euro. After the building is completed, three existing buildings located at Campbell Barracks will be renovated and modified for an additional cost of 15 million Euro.

These figures are testimony to the value NATO attaches to its continued presence in Heidelberg.

"EUROPEAN CHALLENGE 05"

By Lt. Col. Marek Mielnik, Polish Army

G3, Section Head Special Operations

For the first time, the German Federal Armed Forces conducted an exercise involving a large number of EU/NATO nations. The scenario was "Low Intensity" or Non-Article V in NATO terms. It entailed separating conflicting parties, evacuating EU citizens from a conflicted region far abroad and conducting peacekeeping operations.

The goal of the Land Component Command (LCC) was best summarized by their exercise commander, Maj. Gen. Wolf-Dieter Löser*, in a mock interview with the exercise newspaper "ABC news" he referred to the exercise scenario and said "We will stabilize the situation.

The population of AMBERLAND and BEACHLAND hold their future in their own hands. I am confident that they will achieve something good for their future.

With the help of the population, we will be able to convince the ones who did not recognize this.

If we succeed in this, I see a good chance for AMBERLAND and BEACHLAND in the future to live together in peace." This exercise took the Force Headquarter (FHQ) from the II GE/US Corps in Ulm nearly one year to plan. The main goal of this exercise was to check and improve the capabilities of the joint and combined staffs, involving participants from 15 nations.

Handling the potential problems of organizing the staff structure and coordinating actions in accordance with the European Security and Defence Policy was a hard job at the first, but it is now a new step in development and improvement of the status and future for EU forces.

Representatives from various

German Federal Armed Forces branches and EU Staff Colleges populated Component Commands within the exercise command structure.



Maj. Gen. Carsten Svensson, Chief of Staff, CC-Land HQ HD and members of CC-Land HQ HD participate in a briefing during Exercise European Challenge 05 which involved participants from 15 nations.

The Land Component Command was no exception. The LCC acted as a DISTAFF/ HICON/ response cell with the main aim to contribute to the Force Headquarter's (FHQ) - the acting Joint Force Command (JFC) and the Operational Planning Process by providing land expertise and command and control for the lower command, the German Division Airmobile Operations (DLO).

Acting as a "double-hatted" HQ was a huge challenge for every one of us. Less experienced officers got the possibility to increase their knowledge and share it with others. Participants from the new NATO countries had an opportunity to experience the professionalism, determination and synergy that NATO brings to an exercise.

They also witnessed an excellent lessons learned process and therefore can also increase their national staff capabilities.

Last but not least many thanks to everybody who was involved with Real Life Support. It was really a great job.

In summary, in quoting Brig. Gen. Defawe, Dep. Chief of Staff, Operations for CC-Land HQ HD, in his "First Impression Report Ex EUROPEAN CHALLENGE 2005", "The II (GE/US) Corps should be commended in its successful transformation to a Joint Force Headquarters. The LCC is proud to have contributed to the valuable joint and combined exercise that was conducted during EC 05. This exercise contributed much to the training of operational art at all levels."

(continued from page 14, Army Air Defense Conf.)

In the second part of the conference, the audience was split into three groups. Each group conducted syndicate work focusing on the key topics and presented briefings summarizing the results. Command and control integration, interoperability and standardization are challenges that Army Organic Air Defence has been facing every day so far, but now the changes in the structure and policy of NATO, its enlargement with new members, and the new range of missions urge for fast and common solutions.

At the end of the conference, Col. Ooms gave closing remarks and recommended carrying on in-depth analysis of some issues still open, like AD messaging, and underlined the importance of the participation of the seven new NATO members Nations to next year's conference, in order to improve the Land Integration process from an AD perspective. All the participants expressed their appreciation for the conference, and for the warm hospitality they received at CC-Land HQ Heidelberg.

JFC-Brunssum Conference

Allied Land Component Command Headquarters Heidelberg hosted the third Joint Forces Command Brunssum Commander's Conference July 5 and 6, 2005 held in Heidelberg, Germany. The conference, chaired by Commander, Joint Forces Brunssum, Gen. Gerhard W. Back, provided a forum for the participants to present and discuss issues of mutual interest.

On the evening of July 5, Gen. Bell hosted the annual U.S. reception at the Keyes Building. With a western motif and a mechanical bull, a pleasant evening was enjoyed by all and was a highlight of the Commander's Conference.



During the U.S. reception, participants enjoyed a western-style show.



Gen. B. B. Bell welcomes Lt. Col. Henk Snijder to the U.S. National reception held the first day of the conference.



Seated in the first row are from left to right Lt. Gen. Horst E. Martin, Gen. B. B. Bell, Gen. Gerhard W. Back, and Adm. Sir Jonathon Band. Standing in the second row from left to right are Lt. Gen. Remco P. F. Seijn and Lt. Gen. David L. Judd.

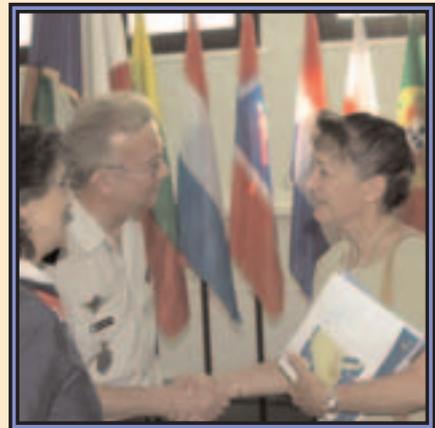
National Receptions

Netherlands



The Dutch National Element held its annual reception June 23, 2005. The Casablanca Room was decorated for the event reflecting the charm of this country. Local food and wine were served at this festive event.

France



The French Military Mission held its annual reception on July 14 in celebration of Fete National hosted by Brig. Gen. Rene Faure, commander FMM.

Belgians Remember

by Lt. Col. Geert Vanlinthout, Belgian Army
CG, Commanders' Initiative Group

On Thursday April 7 2005, the Belgian Support Element to Allied Land Component Command Headquarters, Heidelberg organized a military ceremony at Patton Barracks to remember the 226 Belgian soldiers, who were killed during military peace support operations since 1945. On April 7, 1994 ten Belgian paratroopers were killed in Kigali, Rwanda while deployed in support of the U. N. mission. In 1998 the Belgian Govern-

ment declared April 7 as a national remembrance day. Be aware that such missions always contain risks."

ment declared April 7 as a national remembrance day. During the parade four Belgian service members assigned to Allied Land Component Command Headquarters Heidelberg were also awarded for their services in the Belgian Army. Lt. Col. Ferber, Operations and Plans Head, G-Engineers, was decorated with the Officer's Cross of the Order of the Crown. Commandant



A solemn ceremony marks April 7 in remembrance of 226 Belgian service members who gave their lives in military peace support operations since 1945.

ment declared April 7 as a national remembrance day.

Colonel Van de Velde, G1 Division Head and Belgian National Senior, said in his speech: "Especially we, as members of a deployable headquarters, must remember this day. As in the past, this headquarters remains NATO's Headquarters of choice for deployment.

Troupin, Commander of the

Belgian Support Unit, was decorated with the Military Cross first Class. Adjutant-Major Oosterlinck, Staff Assistant Section Combat Engineer, and Adjutant-Major Bergen, Staff Assistant G6 Plans, were awarded with the Knight's Cross of the Order of Leopold II.

Civilians Enhance the Headquarters

by Adjt. Kristine VanHende, Belgian Army
G1 SA MilPers

Ever wonder why or how civilians become part of the workforce in a military headquarters? The "why" is easy. NATO civilians bring into the headquarters specific experience and expertise. They also provide a stabilizing influence and bring much needed continuity to any headquarters with a transient military workforce.

The "how" part is the responsibility of G1, more precisely of the Civilian Personnel Office of CC-Land HQ Heidelberg - also known as the "CPO." The Civilian Personnel Office is responsible for the Administration and Management of all the NATO International Civilians (NIC) and Local Wage Rate employees, as well as Temporary civilians and NATO Civilian Consultants of the CC-Land HQ and NCSA Sector Heidelberg.

With the approval of the new NATO Command Structure and the supporting Peace-time Establishments (PE), the number of NATO International Civilian posts in Heidelberg has increased to a total of 39, with 27 in CC-Land HQ HD, and 12 in the NCSA Sector Heidelberg. As a result, G1 and the Civilian Personnel Section have been working almost non-stop since the approval of End State PE (ESPE).

"The number of NATO International Civilian posts in Heidelberg has increased to a total of 39."

In order to support the functional divisions and to support the HQ's efforts to achieve Initial Operating Capability on schedule, G1 together with the CPO have developed a very ambitious schedule and is working aggressively to fill 18 vacant posts in the headquarters and the NCSA Sector. The target is to complete the selection of candidates to all vacant posts by mid-July 2005, and reach 100% fill rate of all NIC PE posts by 31 December 2005.

If you are interested in learning more about the CPO, how it supports the staff, or opportunities within NATO to work as a NATO International Civilian then please contact the CC-Land HQ CPO office. We are here to support you!



Ms. Insa Ponomarev, one of the newest members of the CC-Land HQ HD family, provides command translation services.

Neckar Riverboat Cruise 2005

*by ADJT Kristine Van Hende, BEL Army
G1 SA MilPers*



The HQ flag is flown on board the Alt Heidelberg.

On Saturday, May 28, 2005 more than 200 HQ personnel and family members gathered on board the "Alt Heidelberg" for the long-awaited Riverboat Tour. At 8:00 p.m. the anchor was lifted and we commenced our two-hour trip to Neckarsteinach to watch the castle illumination.

On behalf of the Commander, Allied Land Component Command Heidelberg, Deputy Commander, Lt. Gen. Karl-Heinz Lather officially welcomed the guests on board.



Members of the headquarters enjoy the warm weather and sights of the Neckarsteinach.

Shortly after, the buffet was opened, and as the sun began to set and the air cooled off slightly, people wandered around on the three decks enjoying the delicious food and drinks, chatting, listening to live music, and admiring the view over the beautiful Neckar valley.

Along the way, explanations on the most interesting sights were given, and a crowd of people gathered on the sundeck to watch when we passed through the two historic sluices in Heidelberg and Neckargemünd.

At nightfall, we reached Neckarsteinach and watched the illumination of the four castles. The fireworks were magnificent and evoked lots of admiring "Ahs" and "Ohs" from the crowd. Shortly before midnight, we were back at Heidelberg Town Hall, where the boat docked and buses were waiting to take the guests back to Campbell Barracks. Everyone agreed that the evening was a great success - and we are already looking forward to the next Riverboat Tour!



Castle ruins are among the many sights along the Neckarsteinach.

HONOURS



Seven Canadian service members assigned to Allied Land Component Command Headquarters, Heidelberg were awarded the Canadian General Campaign Star (GCS) April 4. The award was presented to all Canadian Forces members who served in Afghanistan in the theatre of operations supporting the NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). This is the first time since World War II that the

Canadian General Campaign Star was awarded.

Receiving the award are: · Lt. Col. Richard Milot, Lt. Col. Jeremy Mansfield, Maj. Robert Knight, Lt. Col. Yung Jin Hou, ·Master Warrant Officer Andre St-Jean, ·Chief Petty Officer 2 Shannon O'Brien, and Corporal John Thomson. Officiating is Col. D. D. Marshall, Director of Staff, and Brig. Gen. Mac Donald, Director of Staff SHAPE.



On behalf of the Danish government and its Monarch, Maj. Gen. Jan B. Andersen presents the The Order of the Dannebrog (Commander Second Order Class) to Maj. Gen. Carsten Svensson. This award is acquired through distinguished service and actions. The motto of the Order of Dannebrog is Gud og Kongen (God and Country.)



Gen. B. B. Bell speaks of the accomplishments and actions CSM Clark undertook during his tenure as the Sergeant Major for the Allied Land Component Command Headquarters. CSM Clark departed for his new assignment at Fort Bragg, NC.



Gen. B. B. Bell welcomes CSM Tkacz in her new role as the Headquarters CSM. During the ceremony, Gen. Bell officially handed over the pace stick to CSM Tkacz appointing her as the new CSM, CC-Land HQ HD. CSM Tkacz hails from Canada and has served in the Canadian Forces for 32 years.
