



The Observer



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



**Building 99:
Enabling ALCC to C2
expeditionary operations**

In this Issue

The Observer

Serving the military, civilians
and family members of
ALCC HQ HD

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*Bldg 99 on Campbell Barracks,
Heidelberg, completed and
prepared for the opening
ceremony held on SEP 18.*

On the Back

*Soldiers conducting outpro-
cessing procedures prior to
departing for Steadfast JAN
2006.*

Commander's Message

With summer well behind us, I hope that everyone enjoyed his or her holiday period before entering the hectic training regimen of this fall. Looking ahead, the next two months will play an important role in our overall level of training and readiness as we continue to transform into a deployable land component command headquarters.

Since I last wrote, this headquarters has contributed immensely to the Alliance as a whole and to the NATO Response Force (NRF) in particular. Your support to STEADFAST JACKPOT provided a quality training exercise environment for the Eurocorps in its preparation for NRF-7. This excellent level of support continued during STEADFAST JAGUAR, the full operating capability exercise for the entire NRF. Operating in an austere environment and under difficult work conditions, you performed magnificently throughout. As a direct result of your labors, NATO now has a fully validated and exercised response force, yet another step along the path of NATO transformation.

Following on the heels of JAGUAR, we have also maintained our focus upon our headquarters' first priority of supporting the NRF by participating in BRILLIANT LEDGER, the validation exercise for NATO Rapid Deployable Corps -Turkey (NRDC-T) to fulfill its role in NRF-8. I am confident that we have built upon the experiences and skills gained during JACKPOT, JAGUAR, and BRILLIANT LEDGER through our own Commander's Conceptual Training II in Octo-



Gen. David D. McKiernan, Commander
Allied Land Component Command Heidelberg

ber. This internal exercise allowed us to hone our standing operating procedures and instructions before we travel to Istanbul for BOLD LYNX and STEADFAST JAW in November.

BOLD LYNX will enable us to refine further our deployment procedures and will also set the conditions for STEADFAST JAW. JAW will provide us with the opportunity to train fully the Forward Command Element (FCE), one of the two components of our Land Component Command concept. I would ask that you maximize these training opportunities to improve your existing skills and to learn new ones, as it is only through training that we will be fully ready to execute any assigned mission by the Alliance.

I look forward to working together with all of you in the coming months and honing our skills as a deployable land component command.

David D. McKiernan

CCT2- Another Step Towards FOC

By: Spec. Michael Potter

PIO Staff Writer

Allied Land Component Command Headquarters personnel held the Commanders Conceptional 2 training exercise in Heidelberg, Germany in the new NATO staff building on Campbell Barracks during the week of Oct 23-27.

The CCT2 exercise was the second of its type to be conducted by the headquarters over the past year. CCT2 was a preparatory exercise that sharpens the skills of the headquarters staff for the follow on Fully Operational Capability training exercise named Steadfast Jaw that was conducted in Istanbul, Turkey in November. An exercise like this provides the command and staff an opportunity to work as a team and develop their battle rhythm awareness for operations in a tactical environment.

One of the areas within the headquarters that was trained during CCT2 is the Joint Operations Centre. The JOC is the hub of information flow within the headquarters. According to Lt. Col. Paul Guelle, director, Joint Operations Centre, CCT2 has given us the opportunity to form the team as well as define and refine responses as a current operations cell. The JOC can be considered the heart beat of the synchronization of forces in the ALCC HQ.

CCT2s objectives were to synchronize the command team and ensure centres of the staff are proactively participating in quality cross talk and sharing of information in order to support the troops that are in action on the front lines of the battlefield. Other objectives established for the CCT2 exercise consisted of ensuring the battle staff maintained a common relevant operational picture, crisis planning, validate the commands SOIs and SOPs, and increase knowledge of lethal and non-lethal targeting. The teamwork within the cells contributed to the improved responses to real world scenario, said Sgt. Brad Gilbert, Intelligence soldier, Joint Intelligence Centre.

For others within the command, the general consensus among the leaders and soldiers was an overall improvement attained during this iteration of the staff exercise.



Members of the Joint Operations Cell analyze information during the Commander's Conceptional Training 2 exercise in October 2006.

“We have progressed a lot further in comparison to last year, the general awareness of the battle rhythm, every sections use of the WISE page for accessibility of information, the improvement of the WISE, and preparedness of the headquarters through work ups for the exercise,” said CWO C. Tkacz, ALCC, Command Sergeant Major.

Not only did the ALCC train the Forward Element that would be in the theatre of operation, the reach back element was another dimension trained during this exercise. The main objective for the RBE was the coordination between itself and FCE.



LTG Karl-Heinz Lather, Deputy Commander, ALCC HQ HD, provides guidance to the headquarters staff to complete the shift handover brief during CCT2.

Throughout the transformation of NATO, units train a concept that a portion of the unit is the FCE in the theatre of operation and the RBE, which supports the FCE from home station. The RBE is able to support the FCE from the home station with the intent to support soldiers and staff on the ground with a more robust resource network.

Training and preparing the headquarters to meet its goal of becoming a fully operational ca-

pable headquarters in the ever changing terrain of modern combat, Brig. General Pavel Macko, SK, Deputy Chief of Staff for Support, said it is a critical requirement to be met.

With the completion of CCT2 the headquarters has reached another benchmark in the advance to becoming fully operational capable. The following exercise Steadfast Jaw served as the test bed of all the lessons learned during this years staff exercises. In the end, the Steadfast series of exercises provided the ALCC the opportunity to polish the staff processes, the inter-cell communication and coordination; the headquarters is moving closer to its ultimate goal of becoming FOC.



ALCC staff members discuss future operations during a battle staff meeting in order to recommend a course of action to the commander in the new HQ building on Campbell Barracks during CCT2.

Joint Flavour Links Component Commands in AOAD conference

By: LTC Ferruccio Bilotta, IT Army and CDT Stefan Debusschere, BE Army G3 OPS SPT AD-ASM

The annual conference of air defenders is a forum where representatives of NATO Land Air Defence Agencies gather to share experiences and knowledge, discuss problems and strengthen professional relationships.

Allied Land Component Command Headquarters Heidelberg conducted the Army Organic Air Defence (AOAD) Conference 2006 from June 19 - 23 at Campbell Barracks.

Despite the intense activities ongoing in NATO, twenty qualified representatives attended the AOAD Conference. The participation of Air and Land HQs gave this Conference a significant joint flavour, thus matching one of the priorities of the Alliance. Three new NATO member Nations, Estonia, Lithuania and Romania, sent representatives, showing their interest in improving the integration process.

Brigadier General Defawe, DCOS OPS, opened the Conference, thanking the audience, noting its joint character while underlining the importance of an Allied Command for Operations-wide participation disregarding the obsolete internal borderline between the Northern and Southern Region. BG Defawe then introduced the key topics of this year's agenda: the ongoing process of standardization of Air Defence and Air-space Management operational procedures at CC-Land and Corps level,

the NATO Response Force build-up experiences from an Air Defense perspective, the Theatre Missile Defense and the Air Defence/Airspace Management aspects in Peace Support Operations.

During the conference several interesting briefings covered these and other topics and were the trigger to start animated discussions showing the interest of each participant. It was a good stage to spread culture and exchange knowledge as well as to analyze in depth and from different points of view many aspects of the topics, making profit of the participants' experiences. A Syndicate work session completed the Conference and helped wrap-up the ideas and identifying focal points.

A cultural visit of the beautiful historical centre of Heidelberg and a social event took place to help strengthen the personal links among the participants.

At the end of the Conference Brigadier General Defawe thanked the participants for their active involvement, remarked the importance of a joint approach and a common understanding of the Air Defence topics.

All the participants expressed their appreciation for the Conference and for the warm hospitality they received at ALCC HQ Heidelberg

ALCC HQ, HD PIO Building Interoperability with non-NATO Partners

By: MAJ (US) Michael J. Indovina

In the past it was borders guards looking across the front lines at one another. Today we are sitting at the same table discussing ways to work together as we continue ALCC's commitment to our military cooperation activities with our non-NATO partners.

In Heidelberg, Germany, Public Information Officers from around Europe and the Middle East gathered to discuss how NATO operates public information activities on the battlefield and during peacetime. The workshop was held on Campbell Barracks from Oct 17 – 20th.

Participants attending the ALCC PIO Workshop came from Jordan, Russia, Ukraine, Azerbaijan Georgia and Moldova.



Dr. Micha Hoernle, Editor, Rhein-Neckar Zeitung newspaper in Heidelberg discusses the importance of building relationships with public information officers and provided an introduction of how his newspaper operates and organizes. The ALCC HQ; HD PIO Workshop attendees visited the local newspaper during its program in October 2006.



Members of NATO's ALCC HQ, HD, JFC Brunssum and non-NATO partner countries discuss function of Public Information during a recent PIO Workshop held in Heidelberg, Germany in October 2006.

“Our aim during the workshop was to introduce procedures, policies and techniques on how NATO conducts its public information program,” said LTC Hans Gemballa, Chief Public Information Officer, ALCC HQ; HQ. Additionally, the participants explained their respective countries perspective about public information.

Major General Carsten Svensson, ALCC HQ HD Chief of Staff, presented the importance of PI within military organizations and the relationship between the PIO and the command group.

Other areas covered were NATO PI doctrine, dealing with media, legal relationships related to media operations and freedom of information.

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ALCC STAFF SHARE KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE WHILE CERTIFYING NRDC-T FOR NRF8

By: MAJ Mike Indovina

“This is not just an exercise! As we begin Brilliant Ledger II 2006, we need to think about the long term capabilities of this operation”. Brigadier General (GE) Hartwig Tarnowski, deputy chief of staff for Support for the NATO Rapid Deployment Corps-Turkey explains. What you do and learn here in the upcoming weeks will make you successful in future operations, Tarnowski added, “what you will train on and practice here can save lives in future real world situations”.

Leaders and staff from the ALCC HQ, HD deployed to Istanbul area in September to assist in the certification of the NRDC-T during this recent exercise.



Insa Ponomarev, (centre), ALCC translator participates in a non governmental coordination meeting with the MISAF commander. Ponomarev simulates her role as an UNHCR Head of Mission leader voicing her concerns on why MISAF units can not provide support to her organization.

The mission the ALCC team was tasked to participate in was the Evaluation (EVAL) and Exercise control (EXCON) teams. The objective for the ALCC team was to assist in the validation and certification of the Turkish Corps. Areas that the deployed ALCC team participated were the Exercise Control and took a part in the Evaluation team.

The exercise control section helps develop scenarios for the training unit to react too. The reaction and planning of the unit helps train them in areas they may experience in future operations. This type of drill will provide leaders of NRDC-T to have a fair assessment of how they can operate as a staff and conduct combat and peace operations in the future they could face.

While the Exercise control team provides the means for the training unit to exercise their planning and command control functions, the ALCC participants in the evaluation team observes the action the training unit takes during their reaction to the scenarios presented to them by the EXCON. The EVAL team provides the commander a look form another person’s point of view. For example “an outsiders point of view.” This view helps one, the commander validate the unit activities to be certified for future operations and secondly, provide sustainment and improvement comments back to the staff and tactical units in areas they trained in.



Evaluation team member and ALCC operations branch officer, LTC (GE) Olaf Walther, tabulates and collects his notes to which are included into his daily evaluation report on acts taken by the training unit during Brilliant Ledger II 2006 near Istanbul, Turkey in Sept.

“It is very important to have someone from the outside look in during training events,” said Major (US) Scott Caldwell, G9 Civil Military Co-operation (CIMIC) Branch, ALCC. When you are conducting these command post exercises you are too close or ‘in the heat of the battle’ to the situation to see if all areas are being covered.

Evaluation teams were not just there to certify the unit, but had an opportunity to work with their counterparts and lend different techniques from their experiences to solve the scenario problems or inform the command group while assisting the commander in his decision making process.

During the exercise and certification exercise, EXCON personnel from ALCC also had an opportunity to role play. Some areas our team members replicated were non-governmental agencies, international organization leaders, role play media news re-

porters and higher command elements.

Eighteen personnel from ALCC, HQ HD participated in the validation exercise in and around Istanbul. The conditions and accommodations were held in a field environment. The NRDC-T Headquarters Support Group supplied all field support equipment needed to support the exercise.

This event also gave ALCC soldiers the opportunity to enhance relationships with other NATO partners and even rekindle friendship from previous NATO training events. For new NATO members it was also a learning experience on how NATO operates in a field environment.



ALCC members participating in Brilliant Ledger II 2006 were invited to an ice breaker cruise on the Bosphorus Straight in Istanbul. This gave team members from around NATO and the command group of NATO Rapid Deployment Corps–Turkey an opportunity to get to know one another and view the historic city of Istanbul prior to the start of the exercise.

New NATO Building Opens in Heidelberg

Story and photos by Spc. Matthis Chiroux, USAREUR Public Affairs



The completed ALCC building 99 brings new history and a modern design to the facade at Campbell Barracks military kasern. The building is foreshadowed by a piece of history, the Berlin Wall near the (US) V Corps Memorial park sharing history and the future endeavours.

HEIDELBERG, Germany – The Allied Land Component Command Headquarters Heidelberg, located on Campbell Barracks, has a new building to call home.

The new facility officially opened its doors Monday, Sept. 18, after construction director Bernd Muller presented the building keys to Gen. David D. McKiernan, ALCC HQ HD commander, during a ceremony in the building's main auditorium.

With more than 72,000 square feet of secure conference rooms and training facilities, the new building will enable ALCC HQ HD to fully train to command and control expeditionary operations.

“We have come a long way from our Cold War roots,” McKiernan said. “We no longer expect to command our forces from deep within a bunker. (This building) will provide us with a physical plant that suits the employable and expeditionary nature of our land component command headquarters.”



Representative and manager from the Staatliches Hochbauamt company hands the ceremonial key to General David McKiernan, Commander, ALCC HQ, HD during the Building 99 opening ceremony on Sep. 18th.

Several German officials, including Heidelberg's Lord Mayor, Beate Weber, and Bernd Wansel, Deputy Undersecretary for the Ministry of Defence, attended the ceremony.

"Germany, as a host nation for NATO installations, is very proud that a unique and significant building in Campbell Barracks will now be handed over formally," Wansel said.

Allied Land Component Command Headquarters Heidelberg is one of two NATO operational-level land component command headquarters. With more than 500 military and civilian personnel from 21 of NATO's member nations, the headquarters provides land forces expertise to NATO's Joint Forces Command Headquarters Brunssum in the Netherlands.



Family September

Fest er 2006



Officer Says He Found Site of York's Heroics in 1918

By **CRAIG S. SMITH**

THE NEW YORK INTERNATIONAL TIMES FRIDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2006

PARIS, Oct. 23 — An American military officer based in Germany says that he has located with some certainty the spot on which the World War I hero Sgt. Alvin C. York carried out his famous exploit in the Argonne forest of northeastern France.

On Oct. 8, 1918, Sergeant York, then a corporal, crept behind enemy lines with 16 other soldiers to attack German machine gunners who were holding up an American advance. They came under fire, and Sergeant York was credited with overcoming the superior force by using sharp shooting skills he had honed during turkey shoots and squirrel hunts in the Tennessee woods.

Competing camps of scholars and military historians have long debated the exact site of this legendary stand, which ended with the capture of 132 German soldiers and was immortalized in a 1941 film starring Gary Cooper. Until now, no one had found what seemed to be such striking material proof that the exploit might have taken place as described.

"We nailed it," said LTC Douglas Mastriano, an American military intelligence officer working for NATO, who has spent six years researching the Sergeant York story using American and German military archives.

The general area where the fight took place, near the village of Châtel-Chéhéry, is well known, but vague and conflicting battlefield accounts

made it impossible to say exactly where it occurred.

Most people involved in the hunt have agreed, however, that Sergeant York was the only one who emptied a sidearm in the narrow valley that day, and students of the issue have said that finding a concentration of empty Colt .45 cartridges would be the best proof of where he stood.

Over the past year, LTC Mastriano, his wife, Rebecca, his son Josiah and his friends Kory O'Keefe, LTC Jeff Parmer and Gary Martin spent nearly 1,000 hours walking the battlefield with metal detectors.



Josiah and father (right in photo) Douglas Mastriano, ALCC family member and officer, mark the spot where Sgt York, WWI war hero, carried out his famous exploit in the Argonne forest of France.

On Oct. 14, Colonel Mastriano and Mr. O'Keefe found two .45 calibre rounds, one live and one that had been fired.

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Educational Trip for German NCO Corps

By HFw Thomas Korn, GE Army

The German NCO corps conducted an educational trip to Munich and Ingolstadt from 16th until 18th of October. The main focus was on the German forces engineers who have their school in Munich. After leaving Heidelberg at approximately 8:00 o'clock we arrived in the Bavarian capital on time for lunch in the "Pionierschule des Heeres", the German Army Engineer School.

After occupying our accommodation we left for a guided tour through downtown where we learned a lot about Munich's history.

Our guide said good-bye around 1600 hrs so we had time to discover

The next day's program started with a visit to the Bavarian Army Museum in Ingolstadt. They have a large exhibition on WW I. A very skilled guide led us through 36 rooms with many original items. The showcases displayed very impressively the development of this conflict and the madness of war. It took us about 3 hours to walk through the museum.

We then moved to the outpost of the engineer school in Ingolstadt. This installation instructs the German engineers in structural engineering. We were shown the possibilities the school offers in constructing buildings, bridges, field camps etc. As a



Guided tour at the Bavarian Army Museum

the city by our selves. We crossed the famous "Viktualienmarkt". This old market square was founded in 1807 by the Bavarian king Max Joseph 1st. The beer gardens located near by are known around the word so we took the chance to consume some typical Bavarian food and beer, even though temperatures around 5° Celsius were not perfect.



NCOs from the German Element of ALCC HQ, HD visit the German Engineer School and get an introduction to the Scorpion mine layer vehicle during the professional development trip.

highlight we were able to see the simulator for our minelayer vehicle "Scorpion".

(continued on page 22)

NATO (ALCC) and USAREUR's JMRC Team Up To Train Future ISAF Forces

By: SPC Jerry Wilson 7th Army JMRC/PAO

A major focus at the 7th Army Joint Multinational Training Command in Grafenwoehr continues to be partnership, as coalition partners gathered here recently to prepare for upcoming deployments to Southern Afghanistan.

Part of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's ongoing International Security Assistance Force mission, the training exercise – dubbed Regional Command South – “was designed to organize the next command structure to take over RCS in Afghanistan,” said Maj. Stacy Elliott, chief of international operations for Joint Multinational Command Training Centre.

JMCTC is a branch of JMRC that provides command staff training using a computer simulated training environment. JMCTC serves as the coor-

dinating office for all United States Army Europe simulations and provides joint training support for EU-COM and coalition partners. JMCTC also develops, maintains and administers the USAREUR Battle Command Training Centre.

RCS headquarters is built around the Netherlands 43rd Mechanized Infantry Brigade, but is augmented with NATO forces. Once the command structure reaches Afghanistan, it will be renamed as the 43rd Multinational Brigade.

Danish Air Force LTC Peter Rasmussen, ALCC's G7 training branch chief, who oversaw the exercise, noted that the brigade's uniqueness would be its truly multinational look. The brigade consists of Soldiers from almost 20 NATO nations, with its headquarters comprised of members from Netherlands, Canada and the United Kingdom.

“Our basic task for this training is to prepare units supporting the ISAF mission.” Rasmussen said. “We are teaching them respect of Afghan culture, customs, conduct and the Muslim religion. A huge part of our training here is related to living in Afghanistan.”

Besides cultural training, the staff undergo a series of possible scenarios to help the headquarters develop answers to potential obstacles.

According to Rasmussen, this partnership of U.S. and coalition



Soldiers of Partnership for Peace countries, OMLT training and NATO forces learn techniques on how to inspect vehicles to ensure the safety of military and local civilians is enforced while conducting military operations.

forces enhanced the exercise.

“We have bonded so well with the Soldiers of JMRC,” he said. “They have met all of our needs to enable us to conduct this training.”

As their command staff trains at JMRC in Grafenwoehr, teams from nine other NATO countries took part in Operational Mentoring and Liaison Team training at the Joint Multinational Readiness Centre in Hohenfels. Sol-

diers from Norway, Germany, France, Italy, Belgium, Croatia, Czechoslovakia, Slovenia and Sweden participated in the exercise, along with Soldiers from the Afghan National Army.

“This is the second OMLT training we have done here at JMRC,” said Maj. Eric Timmerman operations officer/observer controller for the JMRC Timberwolves. “The goal is for us to take multinational units and give them the basics of collective task training that prepares them for their deployment to Afghanistan. OMLT is replacing the U.S. embedded training team concept with a multinational foundation of NATO partners.”

Such forces, Timmerman noted, come from different countries with diverse backgrounds and experiences. What JMRC does, he said, is give them a baseline of U.S. doctrine, which is also the baseline for teaching

the Afghan National Army.

“The good news for this rotation,” the major said, “is we are fortunate to have a platoon from ANA on the ground. They have been an incredible asset in every way to the training.”

According to Timmerman, the Afghan Soldiers have played a vital role in making the exercise more authentic. How? Before training began, they visited situational training exer-

OMLT STX Training Tasks

**Lane 1
COMBAT PATROL**

- Conduct Convoy Operations
- Defend Convoy Elements
- React to Ambush
- Patrolling Dismounted
- Patrolling Mounted
- Employ Fire Support

**Lane 2
URBAN OPERATIONS**

- Assault a Building
- Enter a Building / Clear a Room
- Establish Checkpoints and or Roadblocks
- Traffic Control Point Operations
- Secure and clear enemy ammunition caches
- Conduct movement, mounted and dismounted in urban terrain

**Lane 3
Cordon & Search**

- Enter a Building / Clear a Room
- Establish Checkpoints and or Roadblocks
- Establish an inner cordon
- Establish an outer cordon

**Lane 4
Platoon Attack**

- Conduct dismounted movement
- Conduct Mounted Movement
- Establish SRF
- Establish assault position
- Establish direct fire plan
- Conduct dismounted assault

**Lane 5
Base Defense**

- Establish Entry/Exit Control Point
- Set up Unit Defense
- Defend Unit Area
- Defend Against Level I Threats
- Maintain Base Camp Defense and Security

cise lanes; they examined role players and provided feedback; and they reviewed scenarios, making them more realistic and pertinent to operations in Afghanistan.

Additionally, the Afghan platoons broke into four squads and accompanied OMLT teams on exercise missions to providing even more field insight.

Both the command staff and OMLT forces will be deploying to Afghanistan following their respective training.

ALCC Training Teams Mentor Around the Globe

By: LTC (US) Scott Caldwell, G9 CIMIC

“Dobray Eutra!” has never been the normal greeting heard at the beginning of NATO training briefing during the last 60 years but at least six members of the ALCC Heidelberg staff did their best to incorporate this and other Russian phrases into their briefings during the conduct of the Headquarters’ first MTT to Russia earlier this month.

The team, headed by Col. Lech Zajda, G-Engineer Division Head, conducted training for the 15th Motorized Rifle Brigade based near the ancient Russian city of Samara during a 4 day visit as part of an Interoperability initiative between Russia and the Alliance.

Other team members included MAJ Phil DeVries, LTC Ferdinando Frigo and LTC Czeslaw Magda of the G5; CDT Patrick Maes, G6 and LTC Scott Caldwell from G9.

The team received a very warm welcome upon their arrival in Samara and spent their first day learning the history and culture of the Samaran region. The team was treated to a private tour of the Samara history and culture museum as well as an underground bunker complex and museum located in the centre of Samara that was built for Stalin during World War II.

The complex is more than 30 meters underground and features numerous levels with sufficient workspace for the complete Russian Army staff.

On the second and third days the team was taken to the home base of

the brigade where they presented instructional briefings on the Operational Planning Process, CIS and CIMIC.

The Brigade, which was created in 2004 with the primary mission to be Peace Keeping unit. The brigade’s interoperability program was created to assist the 15th MRB in improving their operational capabilities when they are required to work in a multi-national environment.

Colonel Zajda, ALCC G-Engineer, reiterated the primary focus for the MTT during his opening remarks. “We came here to achieve a common goal, not only to show how NATO works but to learn how you operate and to discuss how it is possible to cooperate with you. (15th MRB personnel)”

The audience for this training, 30 officers, consisted of the Brigade Commander and his staff along with the subordinate Battalion Commander’s and their respective staff. The training was well received by the members of the Brigade with some concrete discussions about the challenges of operating in a multi-national environment.

The ALCC team was also presented with a command briefing about the Brigade given by the Russian Commander, Colonel Sergei Kuzovlev, who currently has one of his Battalions deployed along the border between Russia and Georgia.

The team ended its visit with a formal



The ALCC's MTT from Heidelberg and Russian staff from the 15th MRB take a time out to participate in a group photo during a recent trip to Russia.

luncheon hosted by COL Kuzovlev. Some of the best discussions of the week took place during this event and the ALCC members were also introduced to traditional Russian vodka toasts.

The team was presented with many nice remembrances from the Brigade Commander and departed Russia with the feeling that they had represented both the ALCC Heidelberg HQ and NATO in a professional manner and established a strong co-operative foundation for future inter-operability events with the Russian Army.



Soldiers and leaders from Russian's 15th Motorized Rifle Brigade participate in a recent ALCC Mobile Training Team activity in Russia to discuss NATO inter-operability, CIS and CIMIC topics in mid October.

Around the Command: NCSA Sector Heidelberg

Who we are

In late 2004, together with the new NATO command structure a separate organization dedicated to providing computing and communication services was established. The North Atlantic Council had endorsed the following guidance: (not inclusive)

- All of NATO's fragmented CIS service provision elements will be integrated into one centralised organisation, separating 'customers' from 'suppliers'.
- The new organisation will be an agency. The Director NCSA should be accountable to the NATO Consultation Command and Control Board (NC3 Board) for executing the Agency's general policy decisions, directives and strategy, and for the provision of CIS services to all its customers.

Commanded by LT GEN Ulrich H.M. Wolf, NCSA comprises: (not inclusive)

- A Central Staff co-located at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE),
- Ten NCSA Sectors that support NATOS's ten major headquarters in Europe, North America, and Asia,
- Two deployable NATO Signal Battalions,
- The NATO Communication and Information Systems (CIS) School in Latina, Italy.

One of the aforementioned ten NCSA Sectors is Sector Heidelberg



(NCHD), commanded by Colonel Stephan Will. The sector consists of both military and civilian, from 10 different nations. The Sectors' principal task is to install, operate, maintain and support the communication and information systems of our primary customer, Allied Land Component Command Headquarters Heidelberg (ALCC HQ HD).

What we do

As with other NCSA Sectors, NCHD provides and supports the essential desktop services, which are needed for Command and Control, and Management Information Systems, such as Word Processing, Spreadsheets, Presentation, Web Browsing, on both the secure and unclassified networks. Plus of course

secure and unclassified E-mail. The Sector also operates functional and specialist software, such as intelligence, finance, and logistics systems.

Telephone services are also provided through NCHD. The Private Automated Branch Exchange (PABX), the HQ internal phone switch, provides voice communication connections for over 800 users. Both, analog and digital extension equipment can be used which allows access to all internal users and also all NATO members defence networks as well as the public phone services.

Another high visible service is the preparation and assistance for Video Telecommunications Conferences for mainly the key personnel of the ALCC HQ. This equipment allows all key leaders in NATO to have meetings with all other leaders and personnel located at the various NATO HQ's.

NCHD provides additional services making it unique in comparison to other Sectors. The Outlook Web Access for example, enables users to access their NATO mailbox when outside the Heidelberg foot print.

Within the overall NATO network architecture, sector Heidelberg serves also as a hub that assists other NATO communities.

Sector Heidelberg actively contributes to the evolution of ALCC HQ HD's Concept of Operation (CONOP). Under this CONOP the Sector provides a gateway for communications and data flow to both the Forward Command Element and

to its Reach Back Element at its fixed garrison location.

Upcoming Activities

One is the occupation of building 99 by the customer HQ. The Sector is actively working with ALCC HQ's staff to ensure this move goes smoothly with minimum loss of productivity. The second activity will be to support the Command's involvement in the major NATO Exercise, STEADFAST JAW. With the 2nd Signal Battalion bringing the support at the distance end in ISTANBUL. Sector Heidelberg will take care of all CIS activity at the home base.

Service provision from one source is a best practice objective. NCHD will therefore in future not just operate and maintain all CIS installations, the plan is also to track and account for all CIS property of the customer's command. Which will result in the owner of the equipment focusing on his core business?

*Our aim is to align with those
of the supported command
and
satisfy our customer
while enjoying our work!
We are NCSA-Heidelberg!*

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One master message that was communicated throughout the workshop was building relationships with the media during non-crisis events. The result of building these relationships can assist military commands during a time of crisis and an understanding of military functions. This message was also echoed when visiting a local Heidelberg newspaper during the workshop.

“We have to know one another, and not just build a relationship over the phone,” said Dr. Micha Hoernle, Editor, Rhein-Neckar Zeitung newspaper.

As a result we learned that most of the non-NATO member’s public information programs are similar in nature and are moving their programs towards a NATO model.

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We then drove back to our accommodation to change in civilian dress. The evening held another highlight: dinner at the world’s famous brewery “Hacker Pschorr” in the centre of the city.

They returned the next weekend and found more evidence: 19 empty .45 cartridges scattered over a 10-foot-wide area at the base of a hill, along with German and American rifle rounds. Many of the German rounds had not been fired. They found more .45 slugs 20 yards away near the remains of a German trench together with hundreds of German rifle and machine gun cartridges, many of them live rounds, and bits of gun belts and debris consistent with soldiers surrendering.

The material fits closely with Sergeant York’s account, in which he described firing his rifle toward machine gunners on a hill before pulling out his Colt .45 to pick off seven German soldiers who charged him with fixed bayonets. LTC Mastriano had the casings examined by a ballistics expert, who confirmed that they all had come from the same gun. “I honestly never thought that we would recover the .45s and was stunned when we dug them up,” Colonel Mastriano said this week from his home in Heidelberg, Germany. “The find means that the search for the York spot is over.”

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After some well-tasting appetizers, Knuckle of pork, smoked pork chops, Sauerkraut and Bavarian beer were served. It was delicious! The meal was rounded with a dessert and the evening ended at about 22:00 hours.

Our last program point was a visit at he Dachau Concentration Camp Memorial. This camp was established in 1933 by the Nazi regime. It was supposed to become a model camp for the other camps. Equipped with Audio guides we walked through the site for 2 hours. The crimes committed here are unbelievable and left many of us remained speechless.

We left Dachau at 11:00 hours and arrived in our garrison at about 16:00 hours.

Honours



Ms. Insa Ponomarev, ALCC civilian employee and command translator, receives recognition from the ALCC Commander General David McKiernan for her dedicated service and devotion to duty while providing expert linguistic support to the new building project management team.



Sgt. Major Mogens Fredrikson, Leader of the Danish Support Element, is awarded his 25 year service medal. The medal was awarded on Sep 26. Each year on the Old Kings birthday, Christian the 10th, (Sep 26), eligible soldiers are presented the medal for their continued service in the Danish Army.



Newcomers from throughout the ALCC HQ were introduced to the command and staff during a recent Newcomers Briefing to enable the soldiers and leaders in getting to know their new command.



Brigadier General Andre Defawe, Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations, is presented the NATO Meritorious Service Medal by General James L. Jones, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, for exceptional service with NATO. BG Defawe was awarded this prestigious medal for his leadership in a past NATO military support mission to an African Union Peacekeeping mission in Africa.



< Lt. Col. Erk Wechselberg, former Chief Protocol, is fare welled at a recent BBQ hosted by the ALCC DOS, Col. Dave D. Marshall at a recent team building outing. Wechselberg was presented a plaque at this farewell.

