



The Observer



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



The Observer

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

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Front Cover

On the Front: ALCC HQ HD and JFC Brunssum staff officers interact and hand out ISAF newsletters to Afghanistan locals during the recent Senior Leader Recce held in May 2007. The Senior Leaders Recce gave ALCC HQ HD leaders a first hand look at what and how they will support ISAF HQ in the upcoming deployment.



Back Cover

On the Back: Flag Bearers from ALCC HQ HD assemble for the change of command ceremony and honor their nations that are represented in the command here in Heidelberg, Germany.

Commander's Message

Since the last issue of *The Observer*, I have assumed Command of the Allied Land Component Command. As we bid farewell to General and Mrs. Carmen McKiernan, I, together with my wife Inge, would once again like to thank them for the endless hours and dedication to ALCC HD- Thank You. In leading this headquarters, I feel great pride and satisfaction in taking Command. The devotion of the soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, and civilians is illustrious.

As we all know, we have been selected by Joint Force Command Brunssum to support the stabilization process in Afghanistan. That entails a large majority of our forces to be deployed and an increase in training needed. First, we must select individuals to adequately fill vacant positions in ISAF X/2. Second, we must train in our soldier tasks. Third, we must collectively train to increase proficiency and build a cohesive team that is competent and culturally aware.

Along with training, you must prepare yourself and your family. They should know how to be self-sustaining. Just as important, make sure they understand points of contact for ALCC HD Family Support Center; ensure they know what help they can get from this and other community organizations. Nothing is more stressful in trying to solve a problem without a sponsor on ground- keep them informed and well versed on Heidelberg assets.

Allied Land Component Heidelberg is changing due to our support to ISAF X/2. Remember, we are in transition and continuity and collaboration is crucial for our continued success. With ISAF X/2 personnel being reallocated, roles in the remaining headquarters could strain, but not necessarily. Our success will become multiplied with teamwork. The headquarters will still remain the subject matter expert in land activities and we will continue to train organizations and uphold ALCC HD competency.



Lt. Gen. Karl-Heinz Lather, Commander Allied Land Component Command Heidelberg

We as the land component must demonstrate competence for land expertise and I feel we do. However, we must challenge ourselves to increase, maintain, and share ideas that make us a headquarters that can face any challenge. Training increases not only competence, but also most important confidence in decision-making. This will increase your support for the men and women in upcoming operations. Developing these attributes will make us a sought after source for training land forces for the future.

Summer is coming around the corner that means soldiers and families will be out in abundance. Be sure you stay safe by buckling up, watching your speed, and don't drink and drive. There is never a time to lose individuals- so do the right thing! Take time to enjoy and relax between training. Your contributions are essential to ALCC HD vigor and vivid future.

Thank you to all military personnel, civilians, and spouses for making our organization a supreme NATO force.

ALCC HD

Changes command to Lt. Gen. Lather

By: Maj. (USA) Michael J. Indovina; Deputy PIO ALCC HQ HD



Lt. Gen. (DEU) Karl-Heinz Lather assumes command of Allied Land Component Command Heidelberg from General (USA) David D. McKiernan during a ceremony today held at Campbell Barracks, Heidelberg.

General (DEU) Egon Ramms, Commander of Joint Forces Command Brunssum, was the reviewing and presiding officer for the ceremony.

ALCC HD consists of 20 NATO and Partnership for Peace nations within the command headquarters here. Currently the HQ has a supporting role in support of NATO's primary mission of ISAF. In the upcoming months ALCC HD will take a more active role and directly support ISAF HQ by deploying personnel to the front line headquarters.

Lt. Gen. Lather's first mission will be to prepare and deploy the officers and soldiers of the HQ in the upcoming months.

During the ceremony the USA 529th Military Police Battalion's Salute Battery rendered the traditional "gunnery" honors from their 105mm canons to the commanders on the field; Gen Ramms, Gen. McKiernan and Lt. Gen. Lather. Following the salute battery's honors to the Generals, the commanders from JFC Brunssum (Gen. Ramms) and the outgoing and incoming commanders inspected the soldiers

and subsequently transferred the authority from Gen. McKiernan to Lt. Gen. Lather.

While transferring the authority of command, the units command Sergeant Major (highest ranking non commissioned officer in the HQ) presents the colors (flag of the HQ) to the commanders for a passing of command responsibility. The passing-on of the colors from the CSM to the outgoing commander, the outgoing commander presents his final responsibilities of the command to his higher HQ's commander. The higher HQ Commander General Ramms then presents the command's responsibility to the incoming and now commander of the unit.

This tradition extends back to the early ages of military protocols. The transfer of the command's colors is an emotional and respectful demonstration of responsibility being passed between commanders.

Upon completion of the transfer of command, speeches were made by General Ramms and Lt. Gen. Lather.

General Ramms said, "This ceremony marks another successful tradition from one ALCC commander to its successor in a time when the command will take on NATO's highest priority mission by deploying its soldiers to ISAF to mark its part into



The sights and sounds of ALCC HQ HD's change of command ceremony held on April 5, 2007. Honors from the canons, speeches from the commanders and soldiers and the NATO nation flags cover the parade field for this special occasion.

the Allied Command Structure." Ramms added and thanked General McKiernan for the huge impact he had made on the ALCC, his friendship, enthusiastic leadership and training program that culminated in the command becoming Fully Operational Capable during exercise Steadfast Jaw in Turkey this past November. General Ramms concluded by welcoming Lt. Gen. Lather as the new commander of ALCC and elaborated on his qualifications for command and for his past duty position as the deputy commander of ALCC that makes him more than qualified to carry on the most seamless of change of commands.

As the new commander Lt. Gen. Lather took the podium and spoke to his headquarters. Lt. Gen. Lather emphasized the importance of what he addressed as the "Heidelberg Spirit", meaning the deep commitment of all HQ personnel in fulfilling the tasks given to the Command. In addressing the HQ spirit, he especially focused on the imminent deployment of a "vast majority of those soldiers standing in the formation in front of us" to the ISAF mission in Afghanistan.

Lt. Gen. Lather pledged his commitment to the alliance and to the soldiers that they will continue to receive realistic

training and the supplies needed to be mission – success during their upcoming deployment.

He acknowledged the commitment of the 20 nations and the Partnership for Peace nation in ALCC as a symbol of the alliance's ultimate capabilities and strengths.

Lt. Gen. Lather completed his remarks by thanking all the friends, neighbors and fellow colleagues for making this day a memorable one for his family and himself.

Lt. Gen. Lather's previous duty assignment was the Deputy Commander, ALCC HQ Heidelberg.

General McKiernan, will continue to command United States Army Europe in Heidelberg, Germany.



International Exchange: G-ENG's get a lesson in Force Protection and C-IED measures

By Maj. (DEU) Hubertus Lammersen, G ENG SO OPS



While visiting the German Army Engineer School, a Mine instructor explains different mines and fuses, especially those found in Afghanistan.

On the midst of the headquarters deploying to ISAF X/2, the ALCC HQ HD G-Engineers participated in additional instructions on mine threat awareness and consequence management while visiting the German Army Engineer School in Bavaria during a recent professional development exercise.

The purposes of this exercise was to increase the knowledge and experience level of the international

staff of the G-ENG Division and at the same time foster the mutual cooperation and division's team spirit. The exercise was intended to focus in particular on engineer related Force Protection and C-IED measures.

While attending the German Army Engineer School with its focus being the Mine Documentation and Training Centre [DIAZ], Constructional Engineer-

ing Support Centre [BUZ] and Euro NATO Training Engineer Centre [ENTAC] our team was provided with a guided tour in Mine Documentation Training Centre. Of special interest during the tour was the Afghanistan related mine threat and its consequences for forces abroad. A very intense and interesting insight was given in this topic. We learned about the good cooperation between NATO partners concerning the exchange of mine data information.

This presentation was followed by an introduction in constructional engineering matters with the focus on bridge assessment and classification procedures. As the day was ending, the last briefing of the day was an introduction to the EURO NATO Training Engineer Centre with special presentations by the Engineer School's Liaison Officers from Canada, France and the United Kingdom. In accordance with the motto of ENTEC "Interoperability is a question of attitude" we actually promoted engineer interoperability.

Following the professional discussion at the DIAZ and the BUZ, the exercise was then heading to the German Federal Armed Forces Technical Centre for Protective and Special Technologies (WTD 52) with focus on analysis of explosion loads and its effects on infrastructure and military targets.

Located close to the Austrian border, the Technical Centre WTD 52 is well known for its achievements in developing new, cutting edge protection technologies. It offers a unique infrastructure for testing and simulating the performance of military equipment. Direct support to current operations abroad like ISAF and KFOR is also part of their business.

After a quick introduction, we began with a guided tour through the entire installation. Most exciting was the cable car tour which led us from 600m ground level up to the mountain test plateau at 1800 m ground level. The facility manager led us to the unique underground testing area, where detonation, blast wave propagation and its effects on buildings and vehicles are simulated and tested.

All tour members were deeply impressed of the effects shown and learned during these two days. This exercise was definitely successful and an excellent study venture that absolutely met our intentions. We did not only have a pleasant change from daily business but increased the knowledge and fostered team spirit among our Division.

JFC Brunssum tables CIS mutual interests

Submitted by: G6 ALCC HQ HD



Participants attending the G6 Conference gather for a group photo held in Heidelberg, Germany.

The Communications Information Systems Conference was held in Heidelberg in early February 2007 hosted by ALCC HQ HD and lead by Joint Forces Command Brunssum.

A two day conference that began with an icebreaker session in an effort to build a team and ensure the team knew all participating in the conference, as well as, knowing the people the CIS communities work with throughout the command.

Following the icebreaker on the second day of the conference, Brig. Gen. (SVK) Pavel Macko, Deputy Chief of Staff for Support, ALCC HQ HD, provided opening comments that welcomed the team of CIS professionals and challenged them to ensure professional discussion about supporting the NATO commands was their number one priority.

Through out the day, CIS professionals presented and discuss CIS issues of mutual interest chaired by Col. (POL) Boguslaw Jaworski, J6- JFCBS. The agenda Jaworski managed at the conference comprised of topics dealing with information on CIS support for Deployed Forces, coverage of the results from the RIGA summit as well as NATO Reaction Forces, analysis of CIS challenges, NATO Satellite communications; Information security concerns and the cooperation with NATO's CIS Services Agency (NCSA).

Attendees who participated were from: JFC Brunssum, ALCC HQ HD and NCHD participants, and other service members of our sister component commands: Maritime - Northwood, England and Air - Ramstein, Germany.

Preparing for ISAF – The Road to Kabul!

Submitted by ALCC Mounting Team Office

In late February 2007, Allied Joint Forces Command Brunssum requested ALCC HQ HD to conduct a thorough mission analysis in order to determine the availability of manning the core staff element for HQ ISAF X/2.

After a thorough mission analysis by ALCC HQ staff, Heidelberg's manning, capabilities, expertise and operational readiness best placed us for this mission. Shortly after receiving the analysis, ALCC HQ was nominated and SHAPE approved our HQ for the mission.

Following the approval process, Allied Joint Forces Command Brunssum tasked ALCC HQ HD again to review and fill as many of the numerous positions needed to support the ISAF HQ Standing Headquarters' posts. In all, our HQ met the challenge by identifying approximately 200 posts to be filled from the HQ crisis establishment, better known as the CE.

Upon getting the go ahead for this mission, a mounting team was established in order to provide planning guidance to the staff and begin planning, coordinating, monitoring and the execution of ALCC's ISAF X/2 deployment activities and at the same time be the section that serves as the focal point for all related issues.

The HQ established the mounting team on March 1st under the leadership of the Brig. Gen. (SVK) Pavel Macko, Deputy Chief of Staff for Support. The Mounting team was broken into several elements/ phased activities which included: a fact finding team; senior leader recons, a Liaison team that would be forward deployed prior to the main body arrival, and design a situation center that at one point would transition and take over operational control of the execution of the deployment.

Once established the first action for the mounting team was to coordinate for the deployment of a fact-finding team. The objective for this team was to travel to Kabul in order to work out the details and arrangements of the ALCC HQ HD deployment to ISAF X/2.

During a week long period in mid-March 2007, members quickly gathered and deployed for the first of two reconnaissance activities to the ISAF HQ in Kabul, Afghanistan with the primary tasks; to include: determine / verify training and exercise requirements for deploying personnel; determine pre-deployment requirements; verify CE billets and manning for SHQ and critical free post lists for ISAF Rotation X/2; identify intentions of the ISAF COM/HQ for potential structural changes/adjustments of the ISAF HQ; assess the risk factors for „cross-walking“ manning, i.e. where our PE does not match ISAF HQ CE; answer all related requests for information; and identify Transition of Authority criteria for deploying soldiers.

Upon returning to Heidelberg, the team efforts were deemed highly successful and provided the command with a wealth of information to begin the formulation of a focused, relevant training program and information to refine the manning effort.

The second recce, the Senior Leader Reconnaissance, was implemented for our HQ's senior officers in key ISAF X/2 positions. The SLR key tasks included: an informational tour to provide a greater understanding of the training requirements in Functional Area(s) Training; obtain key mission specific information; familiarize leaders with the operational environment; and introduce senior leaders to current and ongoing projects/ improvements/ leaders/ initiatives of the ISAF X/1 HQ. Led by Col. (USA) Patrick McNiece, HQ's G2, the information gained allowed for further refinement of the Headquarters' preparations. Both reces provided feedback directly to the G7 Division, who was/is tasked with the responsibility to design, provide, coordinated and execute the ISAF X/2 train-up.

Col. (USA) Steven Kestner's G7 team designed an intensive and multi-faceted training plan that includes several major events. Typically done with months of preparation for a normal timed deployment, this training plan was planned into a con-

densed 3-month period. All of the events build upon each other and will culminate with an exercise to be conducted at the Joint Warfare Center in Stavanger, Norway in early July.

With the training plan approved, the ball got rolling with each member nation being responsible to ensure all their personnel received the required individual deployment training. This action cleared the way for a progressive move forward from individual task to functional area and services training and culminating with collective training events.

Functional Area Training and Functional Services Training combined with Mission Support Training focus on knowledge of procedures, processes and services to operate within assigned functions within the ISAF HQ in Kabul. To include having a working knowledge of the systems with which individuals will operate during the ISAF X/2 mission.

After the FAT and FST events, the collective training events include the Battle Staff Training session and then lead to the participation in the Mission Readiness Exercise. The BST is designed to ensure the cross-functional readiness of the deploying personnel in order to be prepared to produce rapid and accurate staff work in support of the assigned ISAF mission. To validate the skills of our HQ, an exercise control element is made up of Subject Matter Experts from the stay-behind HQ element. Personnel from around the NATO Command Structure will use a series of vignettes developed at the JWC to stimulate the training audience (ALCC's deploying staff).

The graduation exercise for the HQ will be the Mission Rehearsal Exercise (MRE). The MRE's primary training audience will be to train the deploying

personnel that will work in the ISAF CJOC and CJ2 sections. Storyboards will be used to train on ISAF HQ core processes and staff responsibilities while working within the constraints of operational considerations like ROE and national caveats.

With this intense training plan, you can be assured our soldiers deploying from this HQ are trained and ready to accomplish their mission successfully with its main objective to enable the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to govern effectively throughout the whole country.

With majority of the HQ deploying, the Mounting team focused a lot of effort on the predeployment activities, but it did not forget about the responsibilities of the stay back personnel and its families here in Heidelberg. In addition to the training tasks, the team developed an international Family Support Center. This FSC's mission will be to be available for families and take care of its deployed soldiers families. Just one more step the ALCC is taking to care for the militaries most important assets.

Finally, as the mounting team personnel deploy, the Situation Center will then take over operational control of the deployment from Campbell Barracks while providing situational awareness to the Command Group. And as this seemed to be neat and complete, this was a major military operation that took many long hours and many dedicated personnel to ensure our team is ready to support NATO's primary mission. The mounting team reduced months of preparation for military actions and completed the predeployment activities in a very short timeframe, ALCC took on yesterday's challenge for today's reality...a trained and ready force!



Additional photos on page 12/13

NO CHALLENGE TOO GREAT

By: Lt. Col. (USA) Scott Connors, Chief Deep Operations & Targeting

When the Rapid Reaction Corps-France asked the HQ if it was up to the challenge to support their FOC exercise "Citadel Challenge" May 8-22 in Mourmelon le Grande, the answer was absolutely yes!

Today, France contributes talented and professional organizations to NATO as the Alliance begins to formulate what NATO should look like and what types of missions are in the best interest of the Alliance. As these questions are asked, answered and tested, ALCC HQ Heidelberg is in the "thick of it!" ALCC HQ HD has been heavily involved in the training and preparation of the NATO Response Force for the last year and a half. Training focused on Land Component and Joint Operations processes with the EUROCORPS from Strasbourg, France and NRDC-Turkey from Istanbul. The HQ provided Subject Matter Expertise, consultation in specialty areas, and augmentation for exercises.

In 1966, then President Charles de Gaulle removed France from the NATO integrated command structure based on France's nuclear defense policy. France continued to contribute troops in training and operations, but only under French command. This made the chain of command involving French troops very difficult at times.

Now, in the 21st century, NATO is changing its focus and France is focusing on training their Corps-sized units to participate as one of the NRF forces available to the NATO force structure. The RRC-France conducted its Fully Operational Capable exercise in May 2007.

Corps and NRF level exercises are difficult at best to organize and execute. They take quite a bit of support from multiple levels of organization. Citadel Challenge 07 required over 3,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen to accomplish. ALCC HQ HD provided the Higher Control for the RRC-France while the EUROCORPS acted as the Exercise

Control. Heidelberg's experience with HICON operations proved extremely valuable.

60 members of the ALCC HQ HD under command of Brig. Gen. Andre Defawe, DCOS-Operations loaded two buses on March 8 enroute to Mourmelon le Grande, France to be the HICON for this exercise. The small group of staff officers and assistants represented the entire General Staff normally found in a Land Component-level headquarters (approximately 200+ personnel.) Every functional area was represented from operations to planning and logistics. The mission of the HICON was to represent the upper level headquarters during operations. This becomes complicated when a hasty decision has the ability to unravel a specific desired event designed to meet an essential training objective. It is a highly coordinated operation.

The HICON contributed to Citadel Challenge's success by professionally replicating the Joint Operations Center, which maintained accurate situational awareness and coordination for operations under the watchful eye of Col. Bryan Foy, Chief, G-3 Division. Careful coordination between targeting, logistics, intelligence and planning ensured absolute operational success.

On the afternoon of March 22, the HICON completed its mission and boarded buses bound for Heidelberg after bidding farewell to the training audience with whom the camaraderie of conducting operations developed.

With the mission and exercise complete, the HICON personnel put this exercise behind as it prepares for its next mission... ISAF!

ALCC HQ HD continues lead support to COLW 07 / COLR 07

By: Lt. Col. (DEU) Hans Gemballa, Chief PIO ALCC HQ HD

The continued efforts of nations to become part of NATO, the Partnership for Peace program continues to cultivate and increase stability, diminish threats to peace and build strengthened security relationships between individual partner countries and NATO, as well as among partner countries.

An example of this continued progress in the PFP program is exercise Cooperative Longbow 07/ Cooperative Lancer 07 (COLW 07/ COLR 07). The exercise will take place in Tirana, Albania during October 2007. The Albanian leadership/ nation is just one of a few countries that have committed to becoming part of NATO in the upcoming years.

Allied Land Component Command headquarters Heidelberg will take the lead for this years exercise by acting as the overall Officer Conducting Exercise / Officer Scheduling Exercise. Although at one point in the initial planning cycle and

during our HQ's mission analysis of all our HQ missions explored the possibility of having to hand over OCE/OSE responsibilities to a different NATO Forces Command(S) because of new requirements in support of military operations in ISAF X and XI.

Recently JFC Brunssum has asked ALCC HQ HD to provide a significant number of personnel from our HQ to support ISAF X. After careful analysis and planning, ALCC was and is able to conduct multiple operations on different fronts. Although we will be deploying approximately 200 soldiers and civilians to ISAF X, our commander has decided that we can

continue to accomplish the ISAF mission requirements tasked to our HQ and devote the remaining elements of our HQ to another priority mission for NATO.

"It will take a lot of hard work and personal dedication from our HQ staff and other NATO personnel augmenting the exercise while we conduct direct support operations to the ISAF mission," said Col. (USA) James Kestner, Chief G7 Training and Exercises. "But the COOPEX series' are a very important instrument to the development of NATO and its

commitment to the democratic principles that underpin the Alliance itself."

As a major step towards the conduct of exercises COLW 07/ COLR 07, ALCC conducted the Main Planning Conference last month. Aim of the conference was to achieve the necessary progress in setting the frame for

a successful conduct of the exercises in fall this year.

This years exercise will be to improve interoperability for crisis response and humanitarian assistance operations. Commanders and staffs of NATO and partner nations will form a Multinational Brigade Headquarters and train the procedures required to conduct such operations at a tactical level. The procedural part of the training will lead into a live exercise, which will train light infantry skills across a variety of peace support operations settings.

Expected participation in this exercise is about 1100 personnel.



Brig. Gen. Spatim Spahiu, Albanian Army Exercise Cooperative Longbow/Lancer 07 addresses planning conference staff during his opening remarks from the Main Planning Conference held in Tirana, Albania in April 2007



Yesterday's Challenge, Today's Reality

ALCC Trained and Ready for ISAF



In April 2007, ALCC HQ HD was official tasked to deploy to ISAF. The photos above show the activities our national element soldiers and NATO civilians have participated in during their Individual Readiness Training. These military tasks are some of the requirements to be accomplished leading us in our "Road to Kabul."



Despite the common use of SATNAV systems it is still essential to be able to use a compass and map. Mr. Stuart Smith takes his turn at leading the group during an orienteering exercise and briefs Ms. Tatjana Camo, Mr. Carsten Straetz and Mr. Ferenc Hodsagi (JFC Naples) on the route they will take.

Civilians get dirty too

By: Stuart Smith, (GBR), NATO civilian

Just about anyone who has deployed on a NATO operation will have noticed that in addition to seeing 57 varieties of combat uniforms there is the occasional NATO civilian performing their role within the HQ.

NATO civilians are as integral and essential to the running of deployed HQs as they are to our peacetime HQs, but that is not what was intended when NATO was founded. Back then it was assumed that civilians would stay in their peacetime locations if the military deployed. NATO's mission to Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1996 changed that and NATO civilians have routinely been deployed on operations ever since.

The requirement to deploy NATO civilians surprised the NATO organization and it has been trying to catch up ever since. There are policies, legal, contractual, insurance, equipment and training issues to be considered when you decide to deploy personnel who had been employed on the basis that they would not be deployed.

Slowly but surely NATO is catching up and the first NATO Civilian Pre-deployment Course was supported by the Czech Army at the Military Academy Vyškov from April 11-18. Three ALCC HQ HD personnel attended the course: Ms Tatjana Camo, Mr Carsten Straetz and Mr Stuart Smith. In total there were 22 people attending the course

from ACO, ACT and NAMSA. The Czech Army sponsors this course because they have been conducting this type of training for the past 11 years and have considerable experience in providing this training to civilians preparing for action in hostile areas. They have also provided training of this type to Czech diplomats and journalists preparing for journeys into this environment.

The training was organised into a five day course that is separated into three day instruction sessions and then followed by two days of field exercise scenarios. The training was kept as practical as possible. The topics covered included:

- First aid
- Mine awareness
- CBRN
- Radio procedures
- Orientation and navigation
- Psychological aspects of missions
- Negotiation and mediation
- International law, human rights law
- Cultural awareness with a specific emphasis on religious issues

The field training put many of these topics into realistic practices. Such as trying to negotiate passage through a roadblock or evacuating personnel from a vehicle that has entered a minefield. The last phase of the training consisted of a scenario that consisted of being ambushed, taken hostage, rescued and then being escorted out of a dangerous area to a pick up point by a BMP armoured vehicle. Once these tasks had been completed the participants were then flown out on a Hip helicopter to safety.

For anyone who has not been in the military the training was intensive.

Obviously, the training did not prepare the civilians to perform a military role but sometimes being a team player means knowing just enough that you don't get in the way of your own team.

The course provided that level of knowledge and that should make our civilian staff feel more confident that they are prepared for the challenges in an operational environment and it should also reassure the military to know that in a crisis their civilian colleagues won't be the hindrance that they feared.



Accidentally driving into a minefield is a real possibility in most theatres of operations and here Mr. Carsten Straetz clears a path to safety along the wheel tracks of the vehicle as the rest of the occupants prepare the team's personal equipment and safety equipment to evacuate the vehicle.

COM ALCC

Conducts First Corps Commanders Conference

By: Lt. Col. (DEU) Martin Hassmann; DOS Staff officer

Only one week after assuming Command of Allied Land Component Headquarters Heidelberg, Lt. Gen. Karl-Heinz Lather chaired his first Corps Commanders Conference from April 12-13 in Muenster, Germany.

1st GE/NL Corps had offered to provide the venue for the event, which aims at strengthening the ties between headquarters belonging to NATO Command Structure (NCS) and those of the NATO

develop their relationships, and to gain current information on ongoing NATO missions.

Dutch Lt. Gen. Tony van Diepenbrugge, Commander 1st GE/NL Corps, opened the session with an in briefing on current issues concerning the Corps, which is based in Muenster, Germany. His corps is mostly filled with German and Dutch soldiers, but the HQ also offers up to 60 other slots of its PE for other NATO and EU military personnel



General Officers from around NATO gather together for the traditional group photo during the Corps Commanders Conference held in Muenster, Germany.

Force Structure (NFS).

Lt. Gen. Lather could welcome representatives from 16 organizations from both the NATO command and force structures, who were present for the conference.

The tight programme included a number of briefings and discussions intended to further

and thus can call itself a true Multinational Corps.

The follow-on sessions during the conference covered issues about: Jointness in Training and basic considerations with regard to the decision Process during operations in a multicultural environment.

In addition a highlighted session discussed

among the attendees was an update on the so-called Roles & Responsibility issue. This topic, referring to the interaction between NCS and NFS stemmed from a mutual Heidelberg/ Madrid initiative aiming at defining clear conditions for cooperation between organizations from NCS and NFS. As there is no formal system of subordinations between the two sides during normal peacetime operations, it is of crucial importance to establish rules and procedures should the need arise during hostile or combat operations.

As a contribution to a current view on NATO operations former ISAF commander, General David D. Richards, gave a comprehensive overview of observations during his time as Commander of NATO's primary operation. General Richards also provided information and lessons learned to the

commander's that will assist them in preparing their units or HQs for future operations involved in ISAF.

The CCC was a professional event executed perfectly. Not only did this event provide professional development opportunities at the senior officer level, but it provided a setting for commanders to get to know one another and develop a better understanding of how one another works and thinks. In combat or exercise environments when many different styles come together, sometimes it can be difficult to understand how one nation does things different from another, so bringing commanders together to discuss important issues on how to work together in a more relaxed event is vital to accomplishing successful interoperable among one another.



Lt. Col. (DEU) Wolfgang Wahling (standing) from the ALCC HQ HD Corps Commander's Conference support element directs the execution and makes adjustments during the conference to ensure all aspects of the event was executed in a professional manner.

POW and U.S. Olympian visits ALCC

By: Maj. (USA) Michael Indovina, Deputy PIO ALCC HQ HD



Following the professional development session, Tech. Sgt (USAF) Matthew Doyle, Allied Land Component Command HQ Heidelberg, gets an original 1936 Olympic Program signed by Mr. Louis Zamperini, a former U.S. Air Corps captain, prisoner of war and 1936 U.S. Olympian.

On today's battlefield the front lines are not as well defined as they used to be. In the conflicts we are currently fighting in Afghanistan and in Iraq, asymmetric warfare is the constant.

No matter if you are a Sailor, Soldier, Airman or Marine; the enemy can be anywhere and everywhere. So when conducting your operations you must remember you are a soldier first and you have orders to follow and most importantly you must preserve your dignity and the honor of your nation.

Louis Zamperini, a former U.S. Air Corps captain, prisoner of war and U.S. Olympian provided insight and encouragement to a group of soldiers and civilians attending a professional development session held at the Allied Land Component Command Headquarters – Heidelberg April 27.



The professional development session hosted by the Intelligence Section (G2) and the Heidelberg Military Community.

"I felt this would be a great opportunity for our staff to learn what it takes to be ready for anything in a combat environment," said Lt. Col (USA) Douglas Mastriano, G2 staff officer. "Having a man of his character visit our headquarters as we ready for an upcoming deployment can inspire and uplift the morale of our team."

Zamperini shared his wealth of experiences that range from holding running records to surviving 47 days in the open sea.

His story began in Torrance, Calif. When he discovered that he had the potential to be a world-class runner. Through hard work and training, Zamperini won race after race - securing several records that lasted for 15 years in the mile. His ability earned him a place on the U.S. Olympic team in 1936.

Although he did not capture a medal, Zamperini astounded the crowd with an incredible last lap kick. This was so impressive that he was one of only three U.S. athletes congratulated by Adolf Hitler.

Zamperini set his sights on the 1940 Tokyo Olympics, which were cancelled due to the outbreak of World War II.

He entered the military and served as a B-24 bombardier. His unit conducted a series of daring, yet successful, raids

in the Pacific Theater of Operations. Unfortunately, while on a rescue mission, Zamperini's heavy bomber lost engine power and crashed into the sea.

Only three of the 12 crew survived. Zamperini and two others endured what seemed like end-

less days at sea, making it through vicious Pacific storms, strafing from Japanese aircraft and man-eating sharks. One of the crew men eventually died, leaving just Zamperini and the plane's pilot alive. They survived by eating shark livers and an occasional bird.

On the 47th day at sea, Zamperini and the pilot were captured by the Japanese and were sent to prisoner of war camp. Zamperini was singled out for brutal treatment, surviving two years of beatings.

Zamperini provided a piece of advice to today's ALCC soldier:

"If you are in a position as a POW and asked to make statement to the world about your mission or government, you must remember you are a still a soldier and you have orders that will not embarrass you or your nation. One question you will need to ask yourself when in this awful situation, 'can you live with yourself the rest of your life with the statement you present to the world?'"

When World War II ended, Zamperini left Japan with a deep hatred of his former enemies. However, his life took a turn after attending a Billy Graham Christian church service in Los Angeles. He decided to serve God and cast off his hatred. He returned to Japan to meet with and forgive his former enemies, many of whom were convicted war criminals.

Although 90 years old, Zamperini still skis and runs, and travels around the world to share the Good News of hope and life that transcends all time.

It will be a challenging time ALCC will endure in the upcoming months and year. Zamperini's courage, thoughts and advice are appreciative and relevant in a time when words speak louder than actions at times and individual soldier exploits by the enemy can win or lose a public support or even a war for a nation.

Editor's note: Lt. Col. (USA) Douglas Mastriano also contributed to the content of this article.

Canada

Canada: Iroquois word meaning "Village" or "Settlement"

Discovery: AD 1000 Leif Erickson (Viking) discovered Newfoundland

1497 Jean Cabot landed in Newfoundland

1535 Jacques Cartier discovered mainland Canada

Capital: Ottawa

Official Languages: English, French

Population: 32,919,200

Area: 9,984,670 km²

(2nd largest in World)

3.5 people per km²

NATO Relationship: Founding Partner Country

ALCC HQ HD Participation: 7 Officers/5 NCOs/no civilians

1 NCO in CAN NSE

Motto: A Mari Usque Ad Mare

"From Sea to Sea"



Canada is a federal constitutional monarchy with parliamentary democracy, comprising ten provinces and three territories. A technologically advanced and industrialized nation, Canada maintains a diversified economy that is heavily reliant upon its abundant natural resources and trade. Inhabited first by aboriginal peoples, Canada was founded in 1867 as a union of British North America colonies. It gained constitutional sovereignty from the United Kingdom in 1982, maintaining Queen Elizabeth II as Head of State. Canada is a vast multi-cultural nation that spans six time zones. It has two official sports: "Ice Hockey" in the winter and the Aboriginal sport of "Lacrosse" in the summer.

NATO Forces to Combat IED Hazards at JMRC

By: Seth Robson. Stars and Stripes; "Used with permission by Stars and Stripes 2007"

HOHENFELS, Germany – U.S. soldiers here are passing on counter-IEDs skills to NATO allies keen to find out what Americans have learned from shedding blood on the roads of Iraq and Afghanistan.

On April 20th, 40 students from 12 NATO countries stood on the roofs of two concrete block buildings and watched soldiers from 1st Battalion 4th Infantry Regiment react to various types of IEDs (improvised explosive devices) during a mission inside The Box training area.

Lt. Col. Rodney Butler, a U.S. officer serving with NATO's Allied Land Component Command in Heidelberg, said the NATO troops are learning how Americans conduct counter-IED training so they can run similar events for their own personnel.

Since the NATO counter-IED courses started last summer more than 150 foreign personnel have taken part, he said.

The training is important for NATO countries since NATO recently took over command of coalition forces in Afghanistan, he said.

"The (NATO) nations look at us because we have been in the fight longer than some of them especially with our experience in Iraq they are very interested in how we prepare our soldiers for that environment," Butler said.

Over 10 days the NATO troops learn about the operational environment in Afghanistan and the latest IED tricks employed by enemy forces. They learn how to develop a situational training exercise and incorporate counter-IED training in it, he said.

Capt. Dan Young, an engineer company trainer with the Joint Multinational Readiness Center (JMRC) at Hohenfels, said the 1-4 soldiers on show for the NATO troops were told to establish a traffic control point (TCP) on a road in the training area and interdict IEDs and IED making material.

"We designed three events. One was a single IED that they had coming to set up the TCP. Then they were hit by a vehicle borne IED at the TCP," he said,

adding that the last attack would involve a roadside IED and a complex ambush as the soldiers convoyed back to base.

Moments later the 1-4 troops arrived in Humvees, the roadside IED detonated and insurgent role-players attacked while the NATO troops watched.

Young said the NATO personnel also saw the systems JMRC uses to replicate the noise and smoke of IEDs.

"If they see pieces they can incorporate in their countries they can take those ideas home with them," he said.

One of the NATO soldiers learning about IEDs was Lt. Col. Manuel Gauthier, of the French Army's Land Command.

The engineer and Explosive Ordinance Disposal officer said the French are keen to develop their capacity for search and counter-IED missions because there is a big IED threat to French troops in Afghanistan and a smaller IED threat to French troops in Lebanon.

"We are here to receive lessons learned from the U.S. Army in order to develop our own training courses for the French Army," he said.

Lt. Col. Mehmet Colpen, of the Turkish Army said the training showed him how difficult it is to do live simulations of IEDs.

"It is very realistic but things can go wrong. Your simmunition might not work and the people might not react as they should," he said.

Turkey conducts counter-IED training to prepare troops for deployment to Afghanistan, he said, but added that the U.S. training is more sophisticated.

"The realistic side of it is much better. We usually use military simmunition as IEDs but they are using pressure gas and some new equipment. And they use civilian actors whereas we just use soldiers," he said.

The 12 NATO nations participating in the training include: Lithuania, Turkey, Poland, France, Czech Republic, Norway, Latvia, Netherlands, Romania, Spain, Canada, Estonia.

Helping the ones who count: Soldiers and Families

By: Maj. (EST) Martin Avameri, G1 staff officer and Chief, FSC

Deploying to a foreign country thousand of miles away and helping to stabilize a war torn country. It is even harder when you have a family back home that worries for your safety and would rather have you home helping sustain the homestead.

Family; be it wife and kids and/or your parents, brothers and sisters! The family is the foundational building block of what we are all about. Your family is where you experience a strong bond and have learned or you teach the values we/you are working for.

to the command. With the primary objective to support the families of personnel deployed to ISAF X/2 HQ, Afghanistan.

Within the FSC charter its function will be to: provide regular information on current developments of the ISAF X/2 mission; assist families in urgent personal matters; provide communications tools to families and soldiers down range, i.e. internet and telephone services; provide regular information meetings with families, produce a FSC handbook and web page that provides checklists,

ALCC HQ HD Family Support Center

Opens: July 19, 2007

Hours of operation: Monday through Friday;
10.00- 18.00 hrs.

Location: Campbell Barracks Hubner Building,
Building 31 Middle 2nd floor (upstairs from the food court)

Contact Info: During duty hours: 0 6221 – 398 5812
After duty: 0 6221 – 398 5333
Fax: 0 6221 – 398 5813

E-mail: lahdfamilycentre@lahd.nato.int

Not only is your family important to you, but also it is important to ALLC HQ HD! When word came about of our HQ deploying to ISAF, one of the commander's top priorities was to establish the Family Support Center.

Although various nations have their own national support organisational elements supporting the families of deployed personnel, the commander felt that there was need to establish a common FSC as the central point of contact for all members of ALLC HQ HEIDELBERG and their families.

Under the commander's guidance the G1 branch was charged with the establishment and execution of the FSC. On July 19, the ALLC International Family Support Center will open its doors

information and advice on dealing with deployments; and be a support organization that can facilitate and assist stay back families while assuring the soldiers in harms way their families are being cared for.

Again, the FSC is a support organisation, which is available for families of deployed personnel are in need of active assistance. We all know that it matters very much to our deployed colleagues to know that their loved ones at home are not forgotten and that they find support as and when they need it. We, the FSC team at ALLC HQ HD, contribute to turning "family support" into practice.

Stay active and Come and try us out!

Honours



Chief Warrant Officer Camille Tkacz (CAN); ALCC HQ Command Sgt. Maj., was awarded the US Army's Meritorious Service Medal for her outstanding service to the ALCC HQ soldiers and leaders and to the former Commander ALCC HQ HD, General David McKiernan.



OSiFw (DEU) Schmittberger Werner, Central Registry NCOIC, retired from the German Army and from ALCC HQ HD this past May. Werner reviews a photo album from his military career that was presented to him during a recent retirement ceremony. Werner was part of ALCC from April 2005- June 2007



Lt. Col. (USA) Edward Mead, was awarded by the Majesty the King of Belgium to confer the National Medal of Merit in recognition for exceptional services to the Belgian Army.



During a recent retirement and recognition ceremony, Lt Col. (DEU) Wolfgang Dahlheim, G4, and his wife were farewelled and thanked for their dedicated leadership and efforts by leading the NATO Wine club here in the ALCC HQ HD.

CSM's Corner

Soldiers and your families are the centrepiece of everything we do

You have been prepared, as an Officer, NCO or Civilian, to go to ISAF by your nation. As you are now involved in the preparation phase and functional area training; being lead by our G7, by participating in all this training that has been identified for your safe return home from the mission which will continue through the beginning of July. You have been given the tools to succeed, now it is time for you to remember the center piece of your support, your family.

Provide them the tools to succeed as well...prepare as a family?

The single soldier sometimes thinks that he/she just has to get on the plane and deploy – Not true! Your parents and siblings are worrying about you as well. You need to spend the time to review the Family Support Centre information with them and assure them that you have been prepared well by your nation and your headquarters to do your job in ISAF and return safely. Do not be one of the soldiers who ignore this aspect of preparation.

The married soldiers sometime also forget to involve the extended family in their deployment preparations. And even in some cases, the documentation and booklets prepared for the families are often found in a garbage can outside the room of the pre deployment briefings. For soldiers with multiple deployments the tendency is to assume that their families will cope as always. Not true! The most important aspect of the pre-deployment phase is communications amongst one another: Veteran or first time deployer.

Make sure they have the critical information needed to perform their day-to-day personal and financial activities and know who to call if they need assistance.

Your family has to be involved in the pre-deployment phase of your deployment as well.



Chief Warrant Officer C. V. Tkacz, MMM CD; Command Sergeant Major, Allied Land Component Command

They are experiencing the anticipation of loss, the increase in family stress, changes in their ability to cope, distancing, and detachment. All of these are normal reactions to your deployment but you need to talk about these reactions as a couple and family. We have prepared many booklets for your families. Use them!

Please do not take this deployment and your families' reactions lightly. History shows that these deployments are hard on your family. Sometimes harder than on the soldier. While you will be focussed on your mission your family will be focussed on family life but inevitably affected by the events in Afghanistan and being shown to them nightly in the news.

Prepare your family just as your nations and we have prepared you militarily. It is their mission just as much as it is yours!

