



*ALLIED LAND COMPONENT COMMAND
(FORCE COMMAND DESIGNATED)
HEADQUARTERS HEIDELBERG*

THE OBSERVER

2009 EDITION 03

60th Anniversary of NATO



*SERVING FORCE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS HEIDELBERG
CAMPBELL BARRACKS, HEIDELBERG, GERMANY*

Editorial

The Observer

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

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Published three times each year, The Observer is an authorized, unofficial publication. Its aim is to inform headquarters personnel and their family members. Opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not reflect official policy.

Suggestions for articles, comments and contributions are welcome and should be directed to the editor.

The editor reserves the right to edit submissions.

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Dear readers,
This edition will hit the streets right after the Holiday Season, so at first a Happy New Year to all our audience.

In last edition's editorial we talked about using this magazine as a platform for the three main elements of a Force Command HQ, the HQ Staff, the DJSE 1 and the DJSE 2. With the imminent deployment of a significant amount of our HQ's DJSE personnel to HQ ISAF in Afghanistan and the requirement to sustain that effort over a period of two years, it became very clear to all in Public Affairs that we will use this magazine also as a means for a fourth main, if not essential element of the HQ: those who will have to stay behind – the spouses and families of our deployed people. For supporting those, the HQ has re-activated a success story from previous ISAF deployments – the Family Support Centre, and I recommend the short introductory article in this edition to you. Virtually living next door to them, we will stay in close contact with them in order to co-ordinate and

integrate our activities for our common customer – you.

Give us your feedback to make our product better. Send your ideas and comments to: pao@lahd.nato.int

Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Dippel
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Commander's Message

Happy New Year and Welcome to the winter edition of the OBSERVER magazine. The transition from the old to the New Year is often used to take stock of what has been achieved in the past and which challenges lie ahead of us. I am not about to change this tradition. As opposed to the traditional order, however, I deem it necessary to begin in reverse order with the most important test lying ahead of all of us – military and civilian members of the HQ and families alike – the upcoming ISAF deployment.

When we were tasked by SHAPE in mid-summer to prepare and deploy our DJSEs to become the nucleus of the restructured 4-star International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) HQ in Kabul, Afghanistan, and to sustain that effort for a period of two years, it was clear from the very beginning that any ISAF preparation effort would have to include the families of all Heidelberg personnel. Once again – for the third time for our HQ with regard to ISAF – you and your families are challenged with a prolonged period of separation from your loved ones. Holistic ISAF preparation and proper care of the soldiers and their families is therefore a top priority for us.

During DJSE 2's first rotation ISAF Mission Rehearsal Training in Stavanger, Norway, I was able to note that all the months of thorough training to develop an in-depth knowledge of Afghan culture and

the current situation in Afghanistan have paid off. The team is ready. Now the HQ will take into consideration the needs of spouses and families, too, since such a sustained period of deployment will pose numerous challenges to them. For their sake, I take pride in the re-activation of the multinational Family Support Centre. If we have learned anything from previous deployments, it is this: Community matters! As our soldiers and civilians deploy to Afghanistan as a multinational team – let's form a multinational team of families at home as well.

So, are we ready to deploy? Yes, we are! And we will show it by bidding farewell to the first rotation with a parade on 27 January.

In the meantime, our second DJSE – DJSE1 – has stood up and proved its high level of professionalism during exercise ARRCAD FUSION. The way ahead for them will be to continue to build their capacity in order to reach full operational capability in 2010 and take the ISAF mission from DJSE 2 in January 2011.

Talking about community: The Family Fest on 10 September, the reception at Schwetzingen Castle on 1 October and the annual Oktoberfest on 9 October each attracted large audiences, all served as early enablers for community team-building in anticipation of the upcoming deployments.



Let me conclude my review of 2009 with two issues regarding the Alliance. On 1 October, the HQ had the great honour to conduct a ceremonial parade to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of NATO. And on New Year's Eve, the NRF-13 standby period ended for our HQ without incident – indeed the best thing that can happen to NATO's dedicated "fire brigade".

As for the year 2010, there is hardly any indication that the HQ might become less engaged than in the previous year. The second ISAF rotation from DJSE 2 must be trained with the same professionalism as the first in preparation of its deployment to Afghanistan in late July, and DJSE 1 will have to follow DJSE 2's footsteps in proving the operational relevance of the DJSE concept in the NATO community, while the HQ Staff continues to act as a pivotal enabler for both the ISAF and the DJSE activities of the HQ.

Looking ahead towards the upcoming challenges, I would like to remind you again that community matters. Therefore, I am deeply convinced:

Together we can! Shaping the future together!

Command Sergeant Major's Message

Another one gone by



ALCC Command Sergeant Major
Camil, Samson (CAN)

As we prepare to wave goodbye to those leaving for Afghanistan in January, we have to wonder where the time has gone. Maybe this has something to do with how busy we've been working, sometimes in two or three jobs, to make sure that we cover all the angles to ensure that we meet the COM's intent and that we train and provide the best training to those deploying. There's one thing that I know though, the Officers and Non Commissioned officers were up to the task again during this very special year. We in fact, had to go through a major transformation of the HQ, multiple physical moves to reflect the new organisation, the re assignment of personal within the new structure, and as if it was not enough, we had to re aligned our training to face the challenging task to deploy more than 100 people to ISAF for four rotations during the next two years. Needless to say that it has been a challenging year with many successes.

With the start of this New Year, it is time to reflect on the past and make resolutions for the future. I think we have had a very successful year but I also think the future will be even more challenging. I sincerely hope that for the family of the deployed members that the time for the next six months (or one year for others) will seem to go by as fast as the year 2009 has. We are already

looking forward to the safe return of our friends and comrades in July or at the end of 2010.

Remember that every job whether deployed or in the residual Headquarters is important and that your contribution to the Mission is very much appreciated by the Command Group that counts on you to get the next Rotation to ISAF ready with the best possible training and for you all to serve as mentors for the Newcomers.

I urge you all to make full use of "YOUR" Family Support Centre that was set up to serve and support you at all times, not only during the times of crisis.

I would like to particularly thank the Non Commissioned Officers for their outstanding contribution to their Headquarters, again a job well done.

Finally, I wish you all the best for this New Year and especially a lot a quality time with your loved ones.

Camil Samson
CWO, CAN Army



From left to right:
Mr Josef Nawrat, Mrs Insa Ponomarev, Mrs Claudia Pradel
and Cdt Eric De Vilder, the Chief of the FSC

The Family Support Centre

Dear spouses, partners and families,

As you certainly know, the Headquarters will open a Family Support Centre (FSC) at Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg. Our mission is to help and strengthen the families of Headquarters Heidelberg Staff, and in particular those families with deployed spouses or partners.

Once again your partner is leaving for quite a long time and you will have to take over a lot of responsibility in the family. It will not always be easy, but never forget that “you are not alone!”

Who are we?

Our team consists of four people. The chief of the Family Support Centre (Cdt Eric De Vilder, Belgian Army), and three civil-

ians: an Administrative Assistant (Mrs Claudia Pradel), a Privileges Assistant (Mr Josef Nawrat) and a Senior Translator (Mrs Insa Ponomarev).

What can we do for you?

Basically, we are open for any questions you might have, and we will do our best to help you solve any problems that may arise in connection with your spouse’s deployment. As a practical example, let’s assume you just received your annual utilities statement from your landlord and you have some concerns about it. Mr Nawrat will then be able to look into it from a legal point of view and give you some advice. Or you may want to find a doctor who speaks Polish. Mrs Pradel will figure it out for you and

make the necessary calls. Or let’s assume you have to write a reply to a letter written in German.

Our translator, Mrs Ponomarev, will be happy to assist you with that. All the civilians in our Family Support Centre are German citizens and will be able to support you in dealing with German authorities.

How can you contact us?

We will be located in Campbell Barracks, Building 31M. To make sure we can give you our undivided attention, the best thing is to give us a call before you plan to visit us so we can make an appointment.

Family Fest 2009

José Rodriguez, PAO Photographer



The annual Force Command HQ HD Family Fest was held on 10 September 2009. All the participant nations didn't hold anything back in putting their best displays for the participants. A combination of food, traditional artifacts, rides for kids and plenty of souvenirs were in hand for those who participate in this once a year event. Since the COM was delayed due to a longer-than-expected TDY return trip, the festival was opened by the headquarters Chief of Staff, Major General Ton van Loon. The Chief of Staff spoke about the importance of camaraderie and unit cohesion in these times for the NATO missions in the world.

Participants didn't waste any time in lining up to taste what countries offered in their well elaborated kiosks. Countries like Lithuania which has only two representatives in the headquarters had a great display with food and souvenirs with information about their country. People gathered more than once to taste Lithuania's great food in particular their cheeses and sausages. Canada once again had their famous "Moose Milk" which its

recipe is so well guarded that nobody outside of Canada can emulate; or so they say. Netherlands had their well known croquettes and raw herring which was one this year's favorites. Belgium attracted more young people to their booth due to their famous French fries and fried sausages. Italy had one of the most popular booths this year mainly to their roasted pig and souvenirs in the form of Italian food like olive oil, pastas, and sausage links. The United States of America offered their traditional BBQ with burgers and hot dogs which attracted a large crowd. Turkey went "beyond the call of duty" when they offered so many different sweets and food; not for the faint of heart or a slim waist. Greece most definitely increased their future tourism by giving souvenirs about the best places to visit along with their exquisite food. France had a wide variety of premium wines and cheeses, more that once people stopped by their booth. Norway displayed the food of the great Vikings; with people getting caught more than once licking their fingers. The children were entertained by pony rides, car rides, face painting and plenty of

games. The atmosphere was one of relaxation with a family oriented theme.

The event requires a grant amount of planning and execution to make it a success. The event logistics were provided by the Morale and Welfare section. There were buses to transport participants from designated pick up points to the fest and back; the bus system was available through out the duration of the event. Soldiers, family members and other participant of this year event were treated to a great afternoon which continued to the late evening for those who dare to stay "until the end". The music was provided by a band from Netherlands which played themes that complemented the atmosphere. Towards the evening everybody fit the old adage of "a full belly is a happy being". All the represented countries had their best game face to show a little bit of their heritage thus opening a window of appreciation and understanding that diversity is the strength of NATO.



60th Anniversary

North Atlantic Treaty Organization

By LTC Thomas Dippel, PAO

For the citizens of many countries, reaching the age of 60 implies to be finally eligible for a pension and an honourable retirement. But NATO is definitely not ready yet for any sort of retirement. NATO has overcome numerous challenges imposed on it during the cold war period, and contrary to what many had expected, the end of that period did not mean it was no longer needed. Rather, the nature of the challenges emerging in the early 1990s made it clearer than ever that they could only be met within a multinational, an international context. NATO has since then proven to be an indispensable part of the international security environment and the challenges ahead are more difficult and complex than anything else experienced before. So, even at 60+, there will be no window of opportunity for NATO to retire.

On 1 Oct 09, the Commander of ALCC (FC des.) HQ HD, LTG Kather, presided over the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of NATO in a Parade Ceremony held at Campbell Barracks, Heidelberg. The music for the ceremony was provided by the German Heeresmusikkorps 12 from Veitshöchheim and the USAREUR band.

The Commander had the opportunity to welcome the Chief of Staff SHAPE, General Karl-Heinz Lather, and the Lord Mayor of Heidelberg, Dr. Eckart Würzner, as guests of honour. At the beginning of the parade, they entered the parade square on a traditional M3 Half Track, a model originally designed in the U.S. in the early 1940s and also used in the Bundeswehr until 1972.

In his address, Dr. Eckart Würzner stressed the key importance of the organisation, which has been the guarantor of the collective security of its members, the people throughout Europe, and especially in Germany, for 60 years now. NATO has been a part of Heidelberg and the region for a long time. The Headquarters' existence has contributed to and enriched the international atmosphere of the town in the past, and should continue to do so in the future.

General Karl-Heinz Lather focused his address on the future of NATO. According to him, the ongoing development of the new Strategic Concept will engage the Allies in a major intellectual debate about all aspects of NATO and will hopefully lead to the establishment of a new strategic consensus within





the Alliance – a strategic consensus that corresponds to the evolving security environment. General Lather expressed his conviction that NATO would be able to successfully adapt to and shape the security environment of the 21st century.

The parade continued with an invocation by Chaplain Johnson of the U.S. Army. Following that, the US-AEUR band played the NATO hymn to honour all NATO nations, and

the 2nd Striker Combat Regt from Vilseck fired a 17 gun salute for “an organization created to protect people and promote democracy”. The German Band then played the German national anthem to honour the host nation.

The marching off of the colors and the march pass of the parade troops signalled the conclusion of the ceremony, which formally ended when LTG Kather and

the reviewing party left the parade field.

After the parade the audience had the opportunity to visit an accompanying exhibition entitled “60 YEARS OF NATO”. The exhibition took place in front of and inside Building 31M and displayed “veteran” military vehicles as well as various military uniforms and kits from NATO nations over the course of time.

...the beginning...

On 6 July 1948, the preliminary talks, which led to the North Atlantic Treaty, began in Washington between the State Department and the Ambassadors of Canada and of the Brussels Treaty Powers. It was agreed from the start that any treaty for common defence, linking countries from both sides of the Atlantic, should be within the framework of the United Nations Charter. The talks ended on 9 September, 1948, with a report to governments recommending, inter alia, that the

proposed treaty should:

- promote peace and security;
- express determination of the Parties to resist aggression;
- define the area in which it should operate;
- be based on self-help and mutual assistance;
- be more than military: that is, promote the stability and wellbeing of people in the North Atlantic area.

On 4 April, 1949, the North Atlantic Treaty was signed in Washington by

the Foreign Ministers of Belgium, Canada, Denmark, France, Iceland, Italy, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America.

It was ratified by the parliaments of the member countries within five months. Later, Greece and Turkey were invited to join the Alliance, to which they formally acceded on 18 February, 1952.

60 years later, NATO now comprises 28 member countries.



60th Anniversary of NATO

Exhibition Activities

The ceremonial parade at Heidelberg on 1 Oct 09 due to the 60th Anniversary of NATO was accompanied by an exhibition entitled "60 YEARS OF NATO". At the exhibition various "veteran" military vehicles as well as military uniforms and kits from NATO nations over the course of time were displayed. Find below a sample of the vehicles on display.



APZ EBR 75

MANUFACTURER	Panhard
CREW	4 Commander, Gunner, Driver, Rear Driver/Radio Operator
WEIGHT	13,5t
PRIMARY ARMAMENT	75 mm gun L/48
SECONDARY ARMAMENT	3 MG 7,5 mm
ENGINE	12-cylinder-otto-engine 12H 6000 Panhard 200 hp 6000 ccm
SPEED	105 km/h
OPERATIONAL RANGE	650 km (street)

M3 Half truck

MANUFACTURER	White, International Harvester (M3E2/M5)
CREW	3 + 10
WEIGHT	9.3 t
ARMOUR	6 to 12 mm
PRIMARY ARMAMENT	1 x 0,5 in (12,7 mm) M2 MG Various Versions with different armament
SECONDARY ARMAMENT	2 x 0,3 in (7,62 mm) M 1919A4 MG
ENGINE	6 cylinder petrol White 160 AX with 109,6 kW 147 hp (110 kW)
OPERATIONAL RANGE	282 km



APZ Ferret

CREW	2
WEIGHT	3,7 t
PRIMARY ARMAMENT	7,62 mm machine gun or Brown ing Cal. 30 MG
SECONDARY ARMAMENT	-
ENGINE	Rolls Royce B60 6-cylinder petrol 130 hp (97 kW)
SPEED	93 km/h
POWER/WEIGHT	35,1 PS/t
OPERATIONAL RANGE	306 km

PzH M 109

MANUFACTURER	Cleveland Army Tank Plant, BAE Systems
CREW	6
WEIGHT	23,5 t (27 t)
PRIMARY ARMAMENT	155 mm Howitzer (effective range: 18,000 m/Rate of fire: 4 round/min)
SECONDARY ARMAMENT	machine gun 6 x smoke grenade launcher
ENGINE	8V7IT Turbo-Diesel 440 PS (324 kW)
SPEED	56 km/h
OPERATIONAL RANGE	~ 350 km



DAY OF GERMAN UNITY

Ceremony at Schwetzingen Castle

By LTC Thomas Dippel, PAO

On 1 Oct, Allied Land Component Command (Force Command Designated) Headquarters Heidelberg carried out a Parade to mark the 60th Anniversary of NATO. Very close to that date was another important event, at least for the German community of the HQ: the Day of German Unity on 3 Oct. This year, the HQ decided to combine both events, and so the annual ceremony was held in the evening of 1 Oct at Schwetzingen Castle.

The ceremony comprised a short reception, followed by a speech by the Commander ALCC (FC Designated) HD, Lieutenant General Roland Kather, on the occasion of the Day of German

Unity and in celebration of 60 years of NATO. The act was concluded by a Serenade.

In general terms, a “serenade” is a musical performance in someone’s honour, usually performed in the evening and outside the house. Therefore, after the reception at Schwetzingen Castle had finished, the guests gathered outside in the castle garden to listen to the Serenade.

The Serenade was performed by the German Heeresmusik-korps 12 from Veitshöchheim which had already demonstrated its masterful skills during the Parade earlier the same day. Their programme for the evening comprised traditional military

music from the 18th century, such as the “Preußischer Präsentiermarsch”, and the 19th century, such as “Amazing Grace”, and onwards. In a sense, the serenade took the guests on an enchanting musical ride through the centuries. The last piece was “Lili Marleen”, a favourite among soldiers in the 1940s.

This year, it was NATO’s big day. Next year, the Germans will be able to mark another anniversary: The 20th Anniversary of the Day of German Unity.

The German community is looking forward to celebrating it together with their friends from the Allied community.



The reviewing Party during the Serenade.



Impressions from the Serenade

COM ALCC (FC designated)
HQ HD addressing the audience

Musikkorps during the concluding serenade





Oktoberfest 2009

by MSgt Armbrust Manfred (MWA)

With the Oktoberfest on 9 October 2009, Force Command Headquarters Heidelberg had the pleasure to host the first event in the newly renovated Königssaal at Heidelberg Castle. Planning had started as early as November 2008, when MWA made a reservation with the Heidelberg Castle Administration, following COM approval of the Oktoberfest at Königssaal and Fasskeller. At the time, the Königssaal was still under renovation. The event marked a new step for Force Command Headquarters Heidelberg, away from the more formal “Autumn Ball” towards a relaxed, traditional Oktoberfest for all ranks, with lots of food, beer and good fun.

MWA/FSE was responsible for sending invitations and the overall organization of the event.

Guests included 300 family members, soldiers and friends of Force Command Headquarters Heidelberg. The official part started at 2000hrs in the Fasskeller, where General Kather tapped the keg to kick off the evening, using the traditional phrase “O zapft is!” (Bavarian for “It’s tapped!”).

The music was provided by the German “Luftwaffenmusikkorps 2” from Karlsruhe, with the sup-

port of a civilian lead singer, Ms. Boess.

The atmosphere at the castle was great, and the excellent traditional Bavarian buffet served by the castle’s catering service was to everyone’s liking. Many flag officers attended the event. At midnight, General Van Loon celebrated his birthday, with cheers and birthday wishes from staff and family alike.

A lot of participants had dressed up in traditional Bavarian clothing. The air was full of laughter, and the dance floor was occupied all evening. The shuttle service provided by the Transportation Branch was superb, and the help from the Sponsors made this a very memorable evening. Donations greatly helped to reduce the cost.

The event allowed all ranks to mingle and celebrate together, thus enhancing the HQ’s team spirit for future military operations.

As the festival approached its end, everyone felt a sense of family. It’s great to be a part of the NATO community in Heidelberg!





Oktoberfest



2009





DJSE 1 DEPLOYS ON MAIDEN EXERCISE

By Sherry Maclean, DJSE 1

After standing up in July 2009, the Deployable Joint Staff Element One (DJSE 1) successfully deployed on its maiden exercise in support of Headquarters Allied Rapid Reaction Corps. Over the past few months, DJSE 1 has awakened as new personnel moved into their new positions, and began the sometimes arduous task of learning their roles and responsibilities. All the hard work and effort put forth by the members of the newly formed team came together in full force, during DJSE 1's first exercise - ARRCAD FUSION 09 held in Sennelager, Germany from 2 – 12 November 2009.

Taking advantage of a training opportunity, our Deployable Joint Staff Element was not deployed as its original main concept, but as the base of a higher

operational Headquarters. During ARRCAD FUSION, the different DJSE cells provided key capabilities to a simulated 4 Star Headquarters. The Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) and Situation Cell (SITCELL) were tasked with replicating Ops Directorate, as part of High Control (HICON), while Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG) simulated the Resource Directorate. As for the Theatre Engagement Cell (TEC), their chairs were reversed in that their role was to play the Host Nation Authority at all the various levels, along with other involved nations as part of the exercise Grey Cell. Here they worked alongside contracted civilians playing the roles in which they normally would interact with in a real life environment, such as the Red Cross and the UN Special Envoy, played by

former NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson. This role reversal allowed TEC personnel to be the counterparts that they would normally have to deal with on an operation. By reversing their roles, a better understanding of the relationship and negotiating techniques was gained by the TEC personnel.

ARRCAD FUSION 09 aimed to step beyond civil-military coordination in the contemporary operating environment, and develop new ways of integrated assessment, planning, execution and monitoring between all key civilian actors and the military as part of a comprehensive approach, enabling coherent crisis management. Held in the fictional landscape of Cerasia that encompasses the Horn of Africa, the exercise transplanted the

complexities of real life conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq. With the upcoming two year mission in ISAF in which FCHQ (designated) will provide the base of a 4 star headquarters, ARRCADE FUSION provided an appropriate and valuable training scenario. Additionally, as the ARRC is to deploy to ISAF in 2011 as the base of the 3-Star IJC Headquarters, the exercise provided an opportunity for both DJSE 1 and ARRC to work together prior to going in theatre, enabling both

to begin building their working relationship.

During the exercise, LTG Kather, COM FC (designated) HQ HD, visited the exercise and took the opportunity to speak to each of the personnel from Heidelberg to discuss each of their respective roles and functions during the exercise. ARRCADE FUSION 09 provided DJSE 1 the opportunity to show its outstanding flexibility in adapting into the role of a higher command headquarters while at the same

time, providing realistic training in preparation of the upcoming ISAF missions. In addition, the different roles played by each of the cells allowed personnel to obtain a greater understanding the complexities of working in such an environment. As the first exercise of DJSE 1 came to a close and personnel returned to Heidelberg, it was evident that DJSE 1 gained immensely from the experience and its first steps were strong, confident and in the right direction.





Crawl, walk, run – three steps to ISAF

By Götz Haffke, LTC DEU A, DJSE 2 CPAO

Stavanger, Norway, some 500km away from the Norwegian capital Oslo in the county of Rogaland and known as the oil capital of

Norway, was the place where the last chapter in the training book of Deployable Staff Element 2 (DJSE 2) unfolded. Here approxi-

mately 60 soldiers went through the Mission Rehearsal Training Exercise (MRE) at the Joint Warfare Centre (JWC).





The challenge for the Training Audience (TA) was “to start from crawling, to walking to running in an ISAF environment” within 11 days, as the Chief trainer, COL Sevin, told us. To establish a realistic scenario on the one hand and to simultaneously train, educate and mentor staff and senior leaders, JWC invited more than 50 personnel from ISAF HQ and ISAF Joint Command (IJC) plus civilian experts from all numerous organizations to support the training. In addition, the staff of Multinational Corps Northeast (MNC NE), Szczecin (Poland), also sent more than 100 soldiers to Stavanger to be trained and to mirror the situation in Kabul.

Thus, apart from the natural setting of Kabul, situated at an altitude of more than 1,800 meters above sea level and the Hindu Kush Mountains in the background, the working environment was very realistic.

Good military tradition means getting the word and the intent from the “boss” before you start an operation. Therefore, COMISAF, General Stanley McChrystal, spoke to the TA via VTC right on the first day. He explained again the core of the NATO Counter Insurgency (COIN) strategy recently put in place by ISAF. “It’s all about the people of Afghanistan,” was the key message repeated again and again in his statement. This was also reiterated by members of his and the IJC staff.

After nearly a week of Mission Specific Training (MST), during which procedures and processes were briefed, the two Headquarters went into real exercise mode and split to structure themselves just like they will at ISAF HQ and IJC.

St. Nicholas’ Day on Sunday 6 December was not celebrated in traditional continental European

fashion, filling boots with candy. Instead, Exercise Control (EXCON) opened its box of incidents and events and dumped them into the mailboxes of the different HQs, bringing ISAF reality to the training audience. The injects were taken from real data in Afghanistan from a few weeks before. While some of the TA might have thought that they already achieved the stage of “walking” after the first week, this amount of reality pushed them back to “swimming” within minutes. But just as in the evolution of mankind, man adapts and matures very quickly, and so the training audience and “Team Heidelberg” crawled, walked and finally ran over the finishing line.

Now we are ready, trained, highly motivated and convinced that we will add value to the ISAF Headquarters. We look forward to our departure on 27 January 2010.

OCC E&F

One of the responsibilities for the Training and exercise sustainment branch, TREX (former G7) is OCC E&F. The OCC cell is manned by partner officers. Since 2006 there has been one officer from Sweden. From August 2009 there are three officers from Sweden, Austria and Finland.

OCC E&F PROGRAMME - BACKGROUND

At the 1999 Washington Summit, Heads of State and Government endorsed the report on the Enhanced and More Operational Partnership (EMOP) and the development of an Operational Capabilities Concept (OCC) as a new element of the Partnership for Peace (PfP) Programme. The OCC seeks to reinforce PfP's operational capabilities, to improve the interoperability of Partner forces, and the Alliance's ability to put together tailored force packages to mount and sustain NATO-led non Article 5 Crisis Response Operations (CRO) along the lines of SFOR and KFOR.

The OCC refocuses existing PfP tools and introduces a range of new mechanisms (elements) in support of these objectives. The four pillars of OCC are as follows:

- Pool of Forces and Capabilities
- Evaluation and Feedback Mechanisms
- Peacetime working Relationship and Liaison Arrangements (Education, training, Mission)
- Enabling Mechanisms (SOFA, HNS, Airspace, Transit and Legal Arrangements)

COMPONENTS OF THE OCC E&F PROGRAMME

The components of the Operational Capabilities Concept Evaluation and Feedback (OCC E&F) Programme include designated NATO and Partner staff at SHAPE, Joint Force Commands (JFCs) and Component Commands (CCs) levels to manage and execute the programme, and a variety of assessment vehicles, such as PWP activities including PfP exercises, national and bi or multilateral "in

the spirit of PfP" exercises and training activities, expert visits, or event reports. The Programme also offers Advisory Visits to help Partners to prepare their forces for successful evaluations and thus avoid wasting of resources. NATO and Partners officers/NCOs will execute the evaluations. The OCC aim is to prepare partners to operate with the Alliance in future NATO-led Operations. The OCC E&F programme supports this aim by providing a staged approach for forces declared in the OCC PoF to follow, with advice, supervision and, evaluation and feedback provided by OCC E&F experts within the NATO Command Structure (NCS). OCC E&F is not a training programme, it is the evaluation and feedback of forces that have been, or are still being trained. Nevertheless, being part of the OCC E&F programme inevitably means undertaking considerable training. The OCC E&F Programme is meant to verify the levels of interoperability achieved by Partner units declared into the OCC Pool of Forces. NATO/Partner forces should be better able to operate together, in the fields of Peace Support Operations, Humanitarian Aid and Search and rescue. The focus of the OCC E&F Programme will be at the NATO - Partner interface across the range of forces and capabilities.

*From left to right:
LTC Werner E. Kröss, Austria,
and Major (GS) Harri Paldanius,
Finland*





Born in 1963 in Tyrol/Austria.

After graduation from secondary school enlistment in the Austrian Armed Forces and in 1986 graduation from Theresian Military Academy as an infantry officer. First assignments as platoon leader and trainings officer in Vorarlberg, the most western province of Austria. For about 12 years company commander of different companies and S 3 of a HQ Battalion/Infantry Brigade. After leaving the army in the year 2000 for about 3 years head of office of the municipality of Egg/Bregenzerwald. In 2003 reentry and assignment as officer for CBRN-Defense and Disaster Management in the Regional Military Command of Vorarlberg. Since 1st of July 2009 SO OCC ALCC HQ Heidelberg.

Main missions abroad:

- 1993/1994 company commander 1st Coy/AUSBATT/UNDOF on the Golan Heights in Syria.
- 1996/1997 company commander of the HQ Coy/AUSCON/UNFICYP and camp commander in Famagusta Cyprus.
- 1999 member of the Austrian search and rescue team in Yalova/Turkey after the August earthquake.
- 2005 commander of the Austrian administration assistance team in Phuket/Thailand responsible for disaster victim identification after the Tsunami. Training as a military mountain guide and member of a search

and rescue helicopter team. Master's Degree in "Environmental Threats and Disaster Management".

Studies of economics with focus on business administration. Married to Margit, 4 children aged 21 to 12 years (Sabrina, Tanja, Martin, Johannes).

AUSTRIA

The Republic of Austria lies in Central Europe. The territory covers 83,972 square kilometers (32,383 sq mi). Austria's terrain is highly mountainous due to the presence of the Eastern Alps, only 32% of the country is below 500 meters (1,640 ft), and its highest point is 3,797 meters (12,457 ft). The majority of the population speaks German, which is the country's official language. The currency is the Euro. Austria is a parliamentary representative democracy consisting of nine federal states. The capital is Vienna.

Austria has been a member of the United Nations since 1955 and joined the European Union and the NATO Partnership for Peace in 1995. After starting with an Austrian Liaison Office in Brussels since August 1997 Austria has an official representation to NATO the "Mission of Austria to NATO", consisting of a diplomatic and a military element.

Austria is taking part in UN, EU and NATO led missions. The largest contingents are in Kosovo (KFOR), on the Golan Heights (UNDOF), in Chad (MINURCAT - until December 2009) and in Bosnia-Herzegovina (EUFOR Al-

thea). Smaller contributions are in Afghanistan (ISAF) and in different UN observer missions around the world.



Major (GS) Harri Paldanius, Finland

I am Harri Paldanius and I was born in Southern part of Finland, in Helsinki region, in August 1968. I am married with Tiina and we have one daughter and a 5 months old dog. We live at the moment south of Heidelberg. I did my National service in 1988 – 89 and have stayed with the Army since then. I graduated from the National Defence College 1995 as armor officer with the training for Russian MBTs (T-55M and T-72M1). After my graduation I worked in the Reserve Officer School in various positions, mainly training the mechanized infantry platoon leaders for the Army reserve. I was deployed in Kosovo (KFOR) in the FINBN/MNB (C) from August 2001 to October 2002. In 2003 I entered to the General Staff Officer Course in the National Defence College and graduated 2005 and was appointed to General Staff. Since that I have worked in a Mechanized Brigade and in Army Command Finland as SO (INF) G7.

Finland

Finland is a Republic that is located in North-Eastern part of Europe. We have land borders with Sweden, Norway and Russia (1262 km, this is also the eastern border of EU). The Finnish territory is 338,000 square kilometres (1,160 km north to south, 540

km west to east) of which 10% is water and 69% forest. We have 187,888 lakes, 5,100 rapids and 179,584 islands, which is Europe's largest archipelago, including the semi-autonomous province of Åland. Finland has 5.3 million inhabitants, 15.7 inhabitants per square kilometre, and two official languages Finnish and Swedish. Some important historical milestones:

- 1155: The first crusade to Finland by the Swedes. Finland becomes part of the Swedish realm
- 1809: Finland is handed over to Russia by Sweden and becomes an autonomous Grand Duchy under the Russian emperor
- 1917: Finland's declaration of independence on December 6.
- 1918: Civil War
- 1919: The present constitution is adopted and Finland becomes a republic.
- 1939-40: The Soviet Union attacks Finland, which leads to the Winter War (105 days of Glory).
- 1941-44: Fighting between Finnish and Soviet Forces resumes in the Continuation War. Some territory is ceded to the Soviet Union but Finland is never occupied and preserves its independence and sovereignty.
- 1955: Finland joins the United Nations.
- 1995: Finland becomes a member of the European Union.

Finland's cooperation with NATO

Finland joined in the Partnership for Peace (PfP) in 1994 and

the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) in 1997. Since the Finland has contributed to NATO led operations in Balkans and Afghanistan. Finland was the first non-NATO nation to resume lead nation responsibilities of a Multinational NATO Brigade in a NATO operation (KFOR). Finland has also been an active member in the OCC programme. We had the first non-NATO air unit that passed the NATO TACEVAL evaluation in September 2009.

Crisis management in the Balkans and Afghanistan

- Finland participates at present in two NATO-led crisis management operations, in KFOR in Kosovo and ISAF in Afghanistan.
- The Finnish Forces in Kosovo currently consists of some 400 soldiers. The Finnish troops have been in theatre since 1999. Finland is presently the lead nation in Multinational Task Force Center, (MNTF(C)).
- The Finnish Forces in ISAF currently consists of some 120 Finnish soldiers. Finland has contributed to Isaf since the end of 2001. Since March 2006 Finland has been part of a Swedish led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Mazar-i-Sharif in northern Afghanistan.



Major Jonas Frohlund, Sweden

My name is Jonas Frohlund and I was born in the southern part of Sweden in 1968. I am married to Anna and have three children. I have my family with me in Germany and will stay here for three years.

My military background is from infantry where I made normal carrier. Due to defense reductions in Sweden in the end of the -90th I had to change branch and now days I'm Engineer.

The last years I have been working in exercise planning and specially in evaluation and lessons learned. My mission experiences are from SFOR in Bosnia and UNMOGIP in Pakistan and India.

Sweden

officially the Kingdom of Sweden, is a Nordic country in Northern Europe. Sweden has land borders with Norway to the west and Finland to the northeast and it is connected to Denmark by the Öresund Bridge in the south. At 450,295 km², Sweden is the third largest country in the European Union in terms of area, and it has a total population of about 9.3 million. Sweden has a low population density of 21 inhabitants per square kilometer (54 / sq mi), but with a considerably higher density in the southern half of the country. Sweden's capital is Stockholm, which is also the largest city in the country (population of 1.3 million in the urban area and with 2 million in the metropolitan area). The

second and third largest cities are Gothenburg and Malmö.

Sweden is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system of government and a highly developed economy.

Sweden emerged as an independent and unified country during the Middle Ages. In the 17th century the country expanded its territories to form the Swedish empire. Most of the conquered territories outside the Scandinavian Peninsula were lost during the 18th and 19th centuries. The eastern half of Sweden, present-day Finland, was lost to Russia in 1809. The last war in which Sweden was directly involved was in 1814, when Sweden by military means forced Norway into a personal union with Sweden, a union which lasted until 1905. Since then, Sweden has been at peace, adopting a non-aligned foreign policy in peacetime and neutrality in wartime.

Sweden's cooperation with NATO

Sweden's cooperation with NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) is based on our participation in the Partnership for Peace (Pfp) and the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) including the participation in NATO-led crisis management operations in Kosovo and Afghanistan, cooperation between EU and NATO with regard to EU-led crisis management operations, and the cooperation in the field of civil emergency planning.

Sweden has cooperated with NATO in the framework of the Partnership for Peace (Pfp) since 1994. By participating in Pfp,

Sweden wishes to contribute to the construction of a Euro-Atlantic structure for a safer and more secure Europe. Pfp is also an important for Sweden's participation in international crisis management. Cooperation with NATO also includes the Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council which forms the political framework for Pfp cooperation.

Crisis management in the Balkans and Afghanistan

Sweden participates at present in two NATO-led crisis management operations, in KFOR (Kosovo Force) in Kosovo and ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) in Afghanistan.

The Swedish Forces in ISAF currently consists of some 430 Swedish men and women. Sweden has contributed to Isaf since the end of 2001. The Swedish contribution was initially an intelligence unit and subsequently a CIMIC (Civil Military Cooperation) unit. Sweden has also provided personnel for Isaf HQ in Kabul since the start.

Since March 2006 Sweden has been in command of a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Mazar-i-Sharif in northern Afghanistan. The Swedish led PRT includes personnel from Sweden and Finland.

The Swedish Forces in Kosovo currently consists of some 250 Swedish men and women. Their contribution includes a rifle company "Bravo Company", a "National Support Element" (NSE), military police, Liaison Monitoring Teams and intelligence units.



Major General von Loon, just having been awarded with the Bundeswehr "Cross of Honour" in GOLD



Lieutenant General Kather, COM ALCC HQ HD, ready for the toast on behalf of the HQ members and their spouses and families.



A light buffet for the de-light of the people

X-Mas Address

The annual X-Mas address of Lieutenant General Kather, COM ALCC HQ HD, took place at Campbell Barracks on 15 Dec 09.

The COM took the opportunity to give a resume about the current year activities of the HQ. DJSE was a major issue in 2009, spanning from the successful NRF certification for DJSE 2 in May, followed by the on 31 Dec ending NRF Stand-By period of the HQ, and the mounting of the second DJSE in Jul, but was eventu-

ally overcome by the reception of a new task from SHAPE to deploy about 100 specialists of all areas to HQ ISAF and sustain that effort for a period of 24 month. Since then the organisation and facilitation of a thorough pre-deployment training for the first personnel to go became priority "one" within the HQ. Those efforts culminated in a successful Mission Rehearsal Exercise in Norway in early December. Christmas time provided the opportunity to

pause for a while - together with the family.

Major General Ton van Loon was awarded with the Bundeswehr "Cross of Honour" in GOLD for this dedicated work in making the DJSE concept a reality, and for his long-term outstanding activities in integrating multinational environments into one.

The COM also recognised the efforts of dedicated HQ members during the year.

NCSA Sector Heidelberg Change of Command Ceremony

During an official Change of Command ceremony at Campbell Barracks on 10 Dec 2009, the command of NCSA Sector HD was handed over from Col Hanisch to Col Saremba. The Director of the NATO CIS Services Agency (NCSA), Lieutenant General Herrmann, acted as the presiding officer at the ceremony.

Col Hanisch, the outgoing Commander, had led the Sector for almost three years commencing in January 2007. From a CIS perspective, his Sector accompanied the entire transformation process of our HQ from an Allied Land Component Command to a Force Command via implementation of the DJSE concept. With his new appointment as ACOS G6 & SNO at

the Multinational Corps Northeast in Szczecin/Poland, Col Hanisch will return a bit closer to his current home in Northeastern Germany.

Col Saremba's previous assignment was with the Joint Warfare Centre in Stavanger/Norway, acting as Deputy Division Head and Chief C4 Event Support Branch. Numerous events, or rather challenges, lie ahead of the incoming Commander. In addition to the fact that NATO's

ongoing transformation will also affect the structure of the NCSA, thus necessitating the transformation of the Sector into a Squadron, the beginning ISAF deployment phase of and the continued build-up of the second DJSE in our HQ will require continuous and increased CIS support.

We wish both Commanders all the best and "Viel Soldatenglück"!

From left to right: Col Hanisch hands in the guidon to LTG Herrmann (Director NCSA)



From left to right: LTG Herrmann (Director NCSA), hands over the guidon to COL Saremba



Appreciations & Commendations

At the occasion of the annual X-Mas address on 15 December, several further members of our Headquarters received recognition from the Commander Allied Land Component Command (Force Command designated) HQ Heidelberg, Lieutenant General Kather, for their dedicated service and devotion to duty and outstanding performance.



Sergeant Peter Stano (SVK) (left) receives a commendation award from Lieutenant General Kather, Commander of NATO Headquarters, Heidelberg



Sergeant David Bryson (USA)



Hauptfeldwebel Manfred Armbrust (DEU)



Lieutenant Colonel Jelle De Jong (NLD)



Lieutenant Colonel Gabriel Kerekes (SVK)



Ms Chantal Schmit (LUX)



Sergeant Major Corald Toonen (NLD)

REMEMBRANCE DAY

2009

VOLKSTRAUERTAG (GERMAN: NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING) IS A PUBLIC HOLIDAY IN GERMANY. IT IS OBSERVED TWO SUNDAYS BEFORE THE FIRST OF ADVENT, AND COMMEMORATES THOSE WHO DIED IN WAR AND THE VICTIMS OF VIOLENT OPPRESSION.

GENERAL HAM, COMMANDER OF US ARMY EUROPE AND LIEUTENANT GENERAL KATHER, COMMANDER OF NATO FORCE COMMAND HEADQUARTERS, HEIDELBERG PAY THEIR RESPECTS DURING THIS YEAR'S CEREMONY ON 15 NOVEMBER.

