



*HEADQUARTERS ALLIED FORCE  
COMMAND HEIDELBERG*

# **THE OBSERVER**

2010 EDITION 01



*SERVING HQ FC HEIDELBERG,  
CAMPBELL BARRACKS, HEIDELBERG, GERMANY*



# Editorial

## The Observer

Serving the military, civilians and family members of HQ FC 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 Summer Leave Period. In the timeframe since January, when we had published the last edition of the OBSERVER, many things had happened that affected all main elements of our NATO headquarters here in Heidelberg.

During a change-of-command ceremony in May, Lieutenant General Roland Kather from Germany handed over command to his successor, Lieutenant General John W. Morgan III from the United States of America. In July, as part of the new Peace Establishment of our Headquarters Allied Force Command Heidelberg, the staff welcomed the first representative from Hungary, the 21st NATO nation sending personnel to this headquarters.

In the light of the continuing ISAF engagement of about a quarter of our headquarters staff, the second personnel rotation for HQ ISAF finalized its pre-deployment training in June, while the Family Support Centre undertook activities

with the families and the dependants of the already deployed and yet to deploy staff. We have some of their activities documented in this edition of the OBSERVER.

Next to that, share with us what else happened in the headquarters.

To foster the visibility of the Headquarters in the media, we have additionally implemented a page on FACEBOOK, complementary to our more formal internet homepage ([www.nato.int/fchd](http://www.nato.int/fchd)). The FACEBOOK page will provide further information to interested audience in a different format, compared to our homepage. Everybody is encouraged to have a look at both the internet homepage as well as the FACEBOOK page - give us your comments/feedback for both of them.

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## Contents

Commander's Message.....	3	Visiting the River Rhine Valley.....	15
Command Sergeant Major's Message .....	4	Exercise Loyal Journey .....	16
Change of Command .....	6	Family Support Center .....	18
Flag Raising Ceremony for Hungary .....	9	Sports Day .....	19
WWT 2010.....	10	MRT/E Stavanger.....	21
BI-LCC CCC-10.....	12	Visits.....	23
Farewell for COS MG van Loon .....	14	Facebook.....	24

# Commander's Message

It has been a pleasure and a great honor to have been appointed Commander of Allied Force Command Heidelberg. I have been in command for only 3 months, yet I already recognize the outstanding work that this headquarters performs on a daily basis, and look forward to the numerous challenges that lie ahead. I would like to take this opportunity to present my command priorities and share some initial thoughts and observations.

However, before all, I would like to recognize the outstanding job done by my predecessor, Lieutenant General Kather, and all the remaining members of the headquarters in transforming the Allied Land Component Command to a "Force Command" capable of providing two DJSEs, while simultaneously providing the core staff of ISAF headquarters since 2010. Our headquarters has always enjoyed a strong reputation within NATO as a competent, ready organization, and will continue to do so, due in large part to the ongoing efforts of the men and women of the command.

My five priorities are:

- Deployment of staff capability to ISAF for the next 24 months and continued support of other NATO operations.
- Aggressive lessons identified and lessons learned practices.
- Implementation of the new Peacetime Establishment.
- Furthering the concept of "Land Advocacy" in the NATO Command and Force Structures.
- Framework tasks assigned to this Headquarters.

I would like to expand quickly on each of them.

While our Alliance, as well as our member nations, is focused on enhancing the deployability of the NATO Command Structure, FC Heidelberg is simultaneously committed to supporting International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghani-

stan with capable, well-trained staff teams. And once again, this summer, we have sent a new rotation to Kabul for six months – our second, of ultimately four deployment rotations that will culminate in early 2012. In 2010 we also deployed Joint Logistics Support Group (JLSG) personnel to Kosovo. To achieve that mission, I will personally ensure that FCHD has a well-resourced training plan for our ISAF deployers and that the commitment to their families, through the Family Center, is relentless.

Even if the quiet professionalism of FCHD personnel has been noted by the highest NATO command, it should not prevent us from trying to improve ourselves or share our experiences with other headquarters. That's why my second priority will be to put in place practices to collect, analyze and share all the Lessons Identified and the Lessons Learned from our operational deployments and NATO Response Force (NRF) preparation. From that perspective, 2011 will be particularly demanding with on-going ISAF deployment and NRF preparation for the 2012 cycle. Make no mistake, the objective is not only to do things better but also save resources, time and above all life!

Nothing is more important than human resources especially in the context of implementing the new Peacetime Establishment. With 23 NATO nations and 3 Partner for Peace nations contributing to its manning, Allied Force Command Heidelberg is a real multinational headquarters with all the inherent benefits and challenges. Hence, we will keep striving for full manning support of our nations. I have already had the opportunity to advocate for this issue with senior Allied Land Force Commanders during the last Allied Chiefs of Army Staff Talks (ACAST) and I will continue to seize each and every opportunity to recall it.



Although our headquarters transformed to a deployable, joint command, we retained much of the "land centric" responsibilities of our former Land Component Command structure. Essentially, it is this headquarters' responsibility to act as the "Land Advocate" within the NATO Command Structure, to provide advice and expertise to our higher headquarters as well as the Graduated Readiness Force (Land) Corps headquarters of the NATO Force Structure. My fourth priority will be to ensure all land-related matters, particularly doctrine, receive their due attention within NATO. In the end, the objective is to ensure that the NATO Command Structure has all the necessary assets, to include standard doctrine and practices, to accomplish all possible missions.

Lastly, many of our frameworks tasks remain, such as Military Outreach and Cooperation. Given our other commitments, performing these duties poses a significant challenge and we will do so within our means and capabilities. My last priority will then be to ensure that they are perfectly conducted even if we have to prioritize them due to our limited resources.

Finally, we must not forget our beloved families who are so important in supporting us in our demanding job. I hope to see many of them during the next Family Fest on 14 September and to enjoy with all of you the fascinating cultural diversity of the Headquarters.

The year ahead poses many challenges for our headquarters. I have every confidence in our ability to meet these challenges. I look forward to working together with all of you in the coming months.

# Command Sergeant Major's Message

## "Time Flies...."



*HQFCHD Command Sergeant Major Camil Samson (CAN)*

By the time this latest edition of the Observer is published, I will be back in Canada. It is with mixed feelings that I am preparing to leave Heidelberg for what will be the last posting of my career. The past two years have provided the unique challenge of being the Command Sergeant Major at Force Command Heidelberg.

The past two years have seen this Headquarters transform from the former "G structure" to a more functional fully deployable DJSE structure. In addition to transforming to a new structure orientated to a standby NRF role, the Headquarters also had to prepare for the four successive deployments to ISAF over the next 24 months. The professionalism, dedication and can-do attitude that the personnel of the Headquarters showed, ensured that not only was the transformation successful, personnel deploying on rotation were trained to the best standard possible. These changes and challenges were overcome with huge efforts and sacrifices by all personnel in the HQ, and well done is due to all.

Reflecting back prior to my arrival in Heidelberg, I knew then that coming to the Alliance with more than 20 countries, not every country would have the same NCO structure and NCO Corps development program. I looked

forward to this challenge however never in my wildest dreams would I have expected how much of a difference there actually was. In the Officer Ranks of the NATO nations, regardless of the rank, the roles and responsibilities of a staff officer is relatively the same, including the actual rank structure. On the other hand, for the NCOs and the Senior NCO's in particular, the disparity is far reaching, and saddens me for many reasons. A simple glimpse of the NATO Army Grades/Rank Chart offers a large explanation for this. There appears to be holes in the NCO's Corps in some countries, while some other countries do not even have a full scale NCO Corps. Furthermore, even those countries that do have a full NCO Corps structure in place, the manner in which NCO's are employed and the lack of responsibility afforded to them, results in what I feel, is not allowing the NCO's to not only reach their full potential but to benefit from it. However, all hope is not lost. It is very encouraging to see all efforts are being made by the Command Senior Enlisted Leaders (CSEL) at the higher level within NATO, including JFC, ACO and ACT, to help develop a stronger NCO Corps throughout the Alliance. Efforts include various NCO Professional Development programs which will soon be online, as well as seminars and

conferences at different levels. The future looks bright for all NCO's of the Alliance.

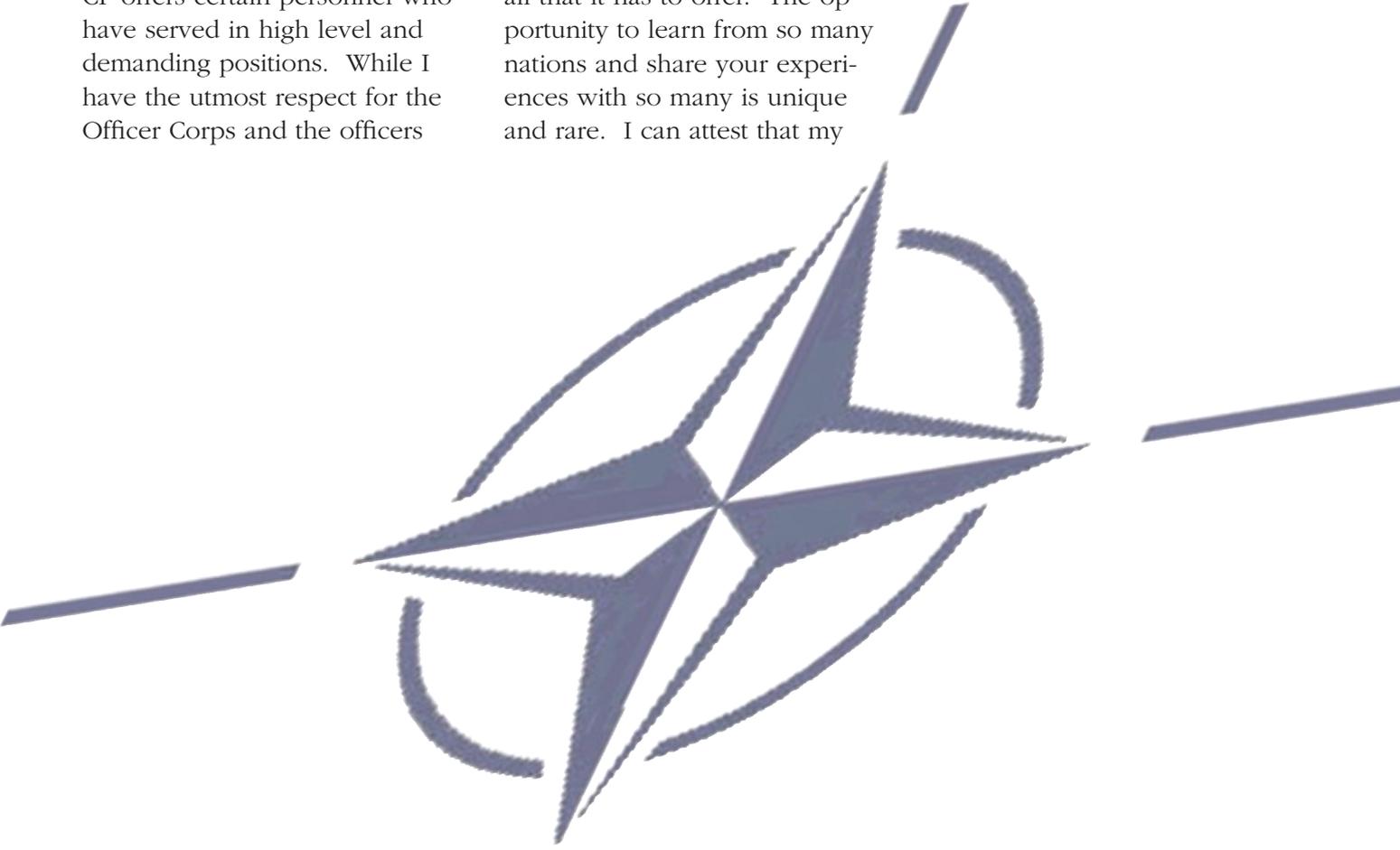
As some of you may have heard, upon my return to Canada, I will be promoted to Captain and essentially, leaving the NCO's Corps. I have served the past 33 years within a very strong and much respected NCO Corps of the Canadian Forces (CF), with the past 13 years alone as a Chief Warrant Officer, the highest rank in the NCO Corps of the CF. Commissioning from a CWO to a Captain is an option that the CF offers certain personnel who have served in high level and demanding positions. While I have the utmost respect for the Officer Corps and the officers

themselves, I do not look at this as promotion in the traditional sense of the word. While becoming an officer will certainly result in a change of orientation and new set of challenges, I see this change more as an opportunity to return back geographically to Canada and allow me to stage myself and my family for a well deserved retirement in about two years from now.

My few last words to you would be this. I urge you all to take advantage of the multinational nature of this Headquarters and all that it has to offer. The opportunity to learn from so many nations and share your experiences with so many is unique and rare. I can attest that my

experience here with NATO has been nothing but great. I wish all of you success in your future assignments, whether it be continuing at FC Heidelberg, going on deployment, or returning back to your home nation. It was a pleasure to meet every one of you. And as the past has proven and the future is yet to be seen, no goodbyes will be said, only see you later.

Camil Samson  
Command Sergeant Major





# Allied Force Command Heidelberg

## Change-of-Command

**On 5 May 2010, Lt. Gen. John W. Morgan III (USA) assumed command of Headquarters Allied Force Command Heidelberg (HQ FC Heidelberg) from Lt. Gen. Roland Kather (Germany) during a ceremony held at Campbell Barracks, Heidelberg.**

Gen. Egon Ramms, Commander of Allied Joint Force Command Brunssum, was the reviewing and presiding officer for the ceremony.

HQ FC Heidelberg is a multinational NATO Headquarters with an established strength of

about 450 military personnel and International Civilians from 20 NATO nations and 3 Partnership for Peace (PfP) nations. Currently, the Headquarters actively supports the ISAF mission in Afghanistan by the deployment of about a hundred of its military and civil





personnel in direct support of the ISAF HQ in Kabul – a significant effort lasting until 2012.

During the ceremony, the USA 529th Military Police Battalion's Salute Battery rendered the traditional "gunnery" honours from their canons to the commanders on the field, Gen. Egon Ramms, Lt. Gen. Roland Kather and Lt. Gen. John W. Morgan III. Following the salute battery's honours to them, General Egon Ramms, the reviewing officer of the ceremony, and both the outgoing and incoming commanders inspected the soldiers.

After the speeches of Lt. Gen. Roland Kather as outgoing commander and Gen. Egon Ramms as commander of the higher HQ, the authority of command was transferred.

While transferring the authority of command, CWO Camil Samson, the unit's Command Sergeant Major (CSM), as highest ranking non commissioned officer in the HQ presented the colours (flag of the HQ) to the commanders for a passing of command responsibility. The passing-on of the colours from the CSM to the outgoing commander, the outgoing commander presented his final responsibilities of the command to his higher HQ's commander. The higher HQ's Commander General Ramms then handed over the command responsibility to the incoming and now commander of the HQ.

This tradition extends back to the early ages of military protocols. The transfer of the command's colours is an emotional and respectful demonstration of respon-

sibility being passed between commanders.

Upon completion of the transfer of command, Lt. Gen. John W. Morgan III then took the podium and addressed the gathered troops of his HQ and the distinguished guests – for the first time as Commander Allied Force Command Heidelberg.

In his speech, Lt.Gen. John W. Morgan III confirmed that NATO's operations in Afghanistan were the number one priority and this command's number one job for the upcoming two years. The command would continue to build, train and deploy the best teams of tough, intelligent and dedicated soldiers in support of this mission.



The commander was looking forward to working with all his staff to build on the already great reputation of this command and to enhance the expeditionary capabilities of NATO. The men and women of the HQ, twenty NATO and three partner nations were symbolic of an enduring Alliance that has defended freedom and democracy for over sixty years. Lt.Gen. John W. Morgan III completed his remarks by thanking everybody for the warm welcome he had received in Heidelberg, thus making this day a memorable one for his family and himself.

Lt. Gen. John W. Morgan III previously served as the Chief of Staff, U.S. European Command, Stuttgart. Lt. Gen. Roland Kather will become the next German Military Representative to the Military Committee NATO and to the European Union Military Committee in Brussels.



*Lt. Gen. Roland Kather, the outgoing Commander, talking to one of the regional journalists about his term as Commander HQ FC Heidelberg.*



# Flag Raising Ceremony for Hungary

On 5 July 2010, the Hungarian National Flag was raised at Allied Force Command Heidelberg, thus increasing the number of NATO nations sending personnel to Headquarters Allied Force Command Heidelberg to 21.

A formal flag-raising ceremony was carried out at HQ FC Heidelberg to welcome the Republic of Hungary, the latest NATO nation committing personnel to this HQ. Under the eyes of BG Claudio Vercellotti, Director of Joint Logistics Support Group 2 and acting Commander at that time, and the first staff member from Hungary, the Hungarian

National Flag was raised for the first time in front of the HQ Building.

The Republic of Hungary is the first “further” nation sending staff to the HQ under the HQ’s new mission as a provider of trained and ready “Deployable Joint Staff Elements” (DJSE) to the Allied Joint Force Commands (JFC) Brunssum and Lisbon.

Headquarters Allied Force Command Heidelberg is a multinational NATO Headquarters with an established strength of about 450 military personnel and International Civilians from now 21 NATO nations and 3 Partnership for Peace (PfP) nations.



# WINTER WARFARE TRAINING 2010

## Füssen provides beautiful backdrop for team building event

By OR-5 Sherry Schmidtpeter, PAO

Traditionally, Headquarters Allied Force Command Heidelberg (HQ FC Heidelberg) holds a significant key team building event in the form of Winter Warfare Training. Normally held in the beginning of February, this year's event was held in mid January in order to accommodate all members of the HQ. With the deployment of the first of four six month rotations to HQ ISAF in Kabul to depart at the end of January, the event was conducted earlier to ensure the deploying members and their families would also have the opportunity to participate.

The aim of the Winter Warfare Training/Exercise is two fold. The first aim is to provide members of HQ FC Heidelberg, both military and civilian the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the conditions of an austere environment, in particular, an arctic environment. This training focused on basic survival techniques, and how to cope in arctic

conditions, including how to recognize and treat hypothermia, the use of an avalanche beacon, and how to search for someone who has been caught in an avalanche. Participants were able to practice the techniques of searching in a practical exercise by searching for a beacon, hidden by the instructors.

The second aim of the training is the team building aspect. The format and execution of the exercise provided a relaxed atmosphere where all members, military and civilian could interact socially with colleagues, fostering team spirit and cooperation. Once the military training was completed, members participated in Alpine events, such as downhill skiing and cross country skiing of their choosing. Of course, a key element to the success of the annual Winter Warfare Training is the inclusion of dependants. Dependants are invited to attend this event and participate

throughout, enhancing not only team building, but allowing family members to network and meet other family members. This was extremely important this year with the upcoming two years of deployments to ISAF.

The planning, preparation and execution of this event which started months prior in September, was completed by the Forward Support Element (FSE). From the arrival on the first day with the training during the day, and subsequent Icebreaker that evening, to the torch walk around a local lake on the last evening, HSG did an excellent job once again.

Held in the beautiful area of Füssen, South Germany, near the Germany-Austrian border, the location provided excellent conditions for both the military training aspect and the team building aspect of the exercise.



# BI-LCC Corps Commanders Conference I-10

2-4 February 2010

**Written by LTC Dippel, PAO**

**From 2 to 4 February 2010, Allied Land Component Command Headquarters Heidelberg (ALCC HQ HD) conducted the Bi-Land Component Command Corps Commanders Conference (Bi-LCC CCC) in Strasbourg, France.**

The Bi-LCC CCC is a semi-annual conference aimed at fostering informal links between the Land Component Commands in the NATO Command Structure (Heidelberg and Madrid) and the 9 HQs within the NATO Force Structure. The NATO Force Structure – supplementing the NATO Command Structure – encompasses national and multinational forces and their associated operational HQs, placed under the Alliance's disposal on a permanent or temporary basis under specified readiness criteria.

The conferences are co-chaired by the NATO Land Commanders from Heidelberg and Madrid, Lieutenant General Roland Kather and Lieutenant General Cayetano Miró Valls. The Strasbourg Conference was hosted by the Commanding General of the EUROCORPS, Lieutenant General

Lothar Domröse. This time, the hosts were able to welcome 20 Commanders or their representatives not only from all the Land HQs of the NATO Force Structure, but also from the NATO Commands in Brunssum and Naples, NATO's Joint Warfare Centre

in Stavanger, as well as the Acting Commanding General of the V (US) Corps, BG Ryan.

Topics under discussion in this high-profile group focused on NATO's ongoing transformation and the current status of the



*Farewell LT.Gen Cayetano Miró Valls COM FC HQ MD*



*Group Photo*

NATO's New Strategic Concept, and the future of land expertise and advocacy in a transformed NATO. A series of Guest Speakers – including from NATO HQ in Brussels and ISAF HQ – provided up-to-date background information, as a basis for lively discussions during the entire conference. The conference also provided an opportunity to debate future delineation of responsibilities in a changed NATO structure. The conference's social highlight was a reception at the historical city hall of Strasbourg, hosted by the Deputy Mayor of Strasbourg, Mr. Robert Herrmann. In his speech, he emphasized the city's continuous dedication to the European integration process, and expressed his delight that this multinational forum had chosen the city as the conference venue. At a traditional dinner at the Mai-

son Kammerzell, Lieutenant General Roland Kather bid farewell to his long-standing Co-Chair, Lieutenant General Cayetano Miró-Valls, who is about to retire in March 2010 after more than 40 years in service.

The next Bi-LCC CCC in the second half of the year will then be conducted by Heidelberg's sister Command from Madrid, then with Heidelberg as Co-Chair.



*Town Hall Reception*



# “From the bottom of my heart: Thank you!”

## Farewell Ceremony for the Chief of Staff ALCC HQ HD, Major General (NLD) Ton van Loon

**HEIDELBERG - On February 25, Lieutenant General (DEU) Roland Kather, Commander ALCC HQ HD, Germany, and the staff bid farewell to the HQ's Chief of Staff, Major General (NLD) Ton von Loon.**

Major General Ton van Loon was appointed as Chief of Staff ALCC HQ HD on August 24, 2007.

In his speech Kather commended van Loon as “a man of great operational experience” who brought with him “a wealth of first-hand experience, a whole network, precious on-the-ground knowledge that this Headquarters would profit from enormously

throughout your tenure.” On March 1, 2010 the ALCC HQ HD will implement a new interim working structure and thus transforming into a Headquarters Allied Force Command Heidelberg (HQ FC HD).

With regards to the future structure as a Headquarters Allied Force Command, van Loon did “pioneer work” and was “instru-

mental in making the certification of the Deployable Joint Staff Element (DJSE) 2 happen and played a key role in the certification of the Headquarters for NRF 13”, Kather said. He added that the outcome of the restructuring was for real already: “Our first DJSE has deployed to Afghanistan.”

Van Loon underlined the importance of the transformation and the work the HQ had undertaken in the past. This has not so much been a physical transformation but a cultural change. “That is your achievement”, he addressed the soldiers. He ended his speech with the words: “Always remember that we are here for the soldiers.”

After a short break back in the Netherlands, Ton van Loon was promoted to Lieutenant General in April 2010 and took over command of the I DEU/NLD Corps in Münster, Germany.





# Visiting the River Rhine Valley

A Day-Trip to German History for the Families of deployed and non-deployed HQ Personnel

By LTC Dippel, PAO

**On 8 May 2010, the Wine Club of the headquarters, in co-operation with the Family Support Centre, conducted a one-day trip with spouses and families of both deployed and non-deployed HQ personnel to the “Upper Middle Rhine Valley”, a declared UNESCO World Heritage Site.**

The trip would provide an insight into the nature and the cultural landscape along this part of the Rhine and the unique variety and beauty found in the Loreley Valley landscape.

Around 30 participants left Campbell Barracks by bus at 08.30 hrs, heading for the first destination of the tour, the former **Cistercian Monastery Eberbach** in the *Rheingau*.

The visit at the Monastery, guided by Mrs Roncarati, lasted about one hour and gave the feeling to travel along the centuries.

The vineyards of Eberbach Monastery were, at 300 hectares, the largest in medieval Europe. Most of them are now the property of the state of Hesse. Of the 200 hectares which are under cultivation,

three-quarters are planted with Riesling, but Chardonnay, Pinot blanc, Pinot gris, Pinot noir and Dornfelder are also grown. After considerable structural work Eberbach serves, inter alia, as a venue of international importance for cultural events, displays and as a film location, as for instance for the interior scenes in the movie “The Name of the Rose” (1985). With effect from 1 January 1998, the Land of Hesse transferred the entire Monastery complex into the ownership of a publicly owned charitable foundation, “*Stiftung Kloster Eberbach*”. Before moving on, the participants at the tour took the opportunity to have a tasty lunch, based on “*spargel*” (*asparagus*), at the “Kloster Eberbach Restaurant”.

Moving on, a KD ferry was waiting at **Rüdesheim** for a unique river cruise along the Rhine. After 2 hours, having reached **St.Goarshausen**, the group proceeded to the famous **Niederwald-Denkmal**.

The monument was built to commemorate the foundation of the German Empire after the

end of the Franco-Prussian war (1870/1871). The first stone was laid on September 16, 1877, by emperor Wilhelm I and the total cost of the work is estimated at one million gold marks.

Since the tour was organized by the wine club, part of the trip itinerary was also an organized visit including a “*wein probe*” to the Weingut Koenigler, one of the most important vineyards in the area, located at **Eltville**.

To properly conclude the day, the group had a delicious dinner at the Weingut Koenigler Restaurant, located in the same building in which in 1467 a man named “Gutenberg” (Johannes Gensfleisch the real name), the inventor of movable letters printing, printed one of the first books ever which were no longer handwritten.

Around 23.00 hrs, the group arrived well back in Campbell Barracks, with the feeling to have spent a very nice day and the clear will to get involved in further events organized by the Wine Club, also in co-operation with the Family Support Centre.



# Exercise Loyal Journey enhances interoperability

By OR-5 Sherry Schmidtpeter, PAO

A key to the DJSE concept is the ability to work with a JFC Main Headquarters as part of a “seamless HQ” and battle staff training is an important event in developing this ability.

Held concurrently at Joint Force Command Lisbon and Allied Force Command Heidelberg from 19 to 23 April 10, Exercise LOYAL JOURNEY was the first opportunity for Deployable Joint Staff Element One (DJSE 1) Heidelberg to train as a Forward Element.

Over the past year, a permanent DJSE training area in Heidelberg was completed, and Exercise LOYAL JOURNEY also became the first exercise to utilize this new training area as part of a joint headquarters. With the exercise having been modeled from a NRF-15 scenario based in Cerasia, it was designed to enhance the interoperability between JFC Lisbon and DJSE1. Specific training objectives of the exercise were:

- operate forward as part of a seamless JHQ;
- provide situational awareness, theatre engagement, joint staff coordination, planning and analysis to JFC;
- establish and maintain key operational and logistical functions as part of a JFC HQ;
- receive, process and action operational level information and link strategic and tactical events;
- participate in key JFC battle rhythm events and provide input as required.

Although the exercise duration lasted only five days, the planning and preparation started much sooner. Personnel from Heidelberg travelled to Lisbon for a week in mid March for the MEL/MIL scripting workshop, and later, Key Leaders Training took place in April prior to the kick off of Exercise LOYAL JOURNEY.

The integration of the Joint Commander along with his personal

staff and critical advisors was a key component of the training. Many hours were dedicated in preparation of the exercise, and as the start date of the exercise neared, everything appeared to be in place and ready to go. No one could have predicted the unexpected eruption and, consequently, the fallout of ash from the Eyjafjallajokull volcano in Iceland which resulted in airlines cancelling thousands of flights as European airspace was shut down and would continue to be so, even after the start of the exercise.

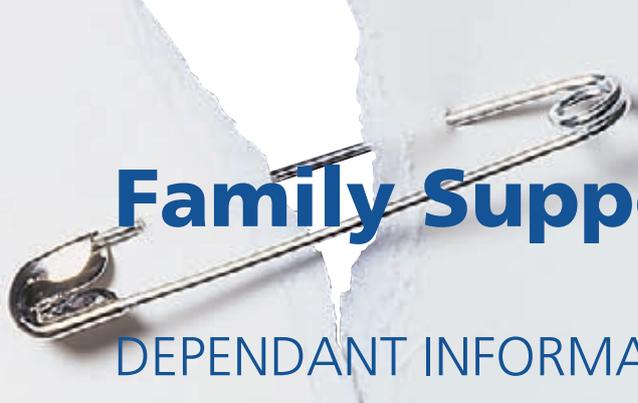
Exercise participants from Lisbon were not deterred and managed to make alternate travel arrangements and arrived at the exercise only 24 hours later than originally planned. With the arrival of the Lisbon personnel, which included the Deputy Commander JFC, Lieutenant General Manuel Mestre, who acted as the COM NIMFOR, the exercise met all training objectives.



Ethnic cleansing, famine, drought, piracy, including refugees on an enormous scale in the midst of a border dispute between countries in the area of operations, this being the backdrop of the exercise, provided a fictional but realistic scenario for exercise participants. Throughout the week, as



the exercise progressed, lessons were learned, training objectives were met, and most importantly, personnel from JFC Lisbon and DJSE1 had the opportunity to work together enhancing the relationship between headquarters. With the completion of this critical DJSE training event, DJSE1 will now shift its focus towards preparing for deployment to ISAF in 2011.



# Family Support Centre Activities

## DEPENDANT INFORMATION BRIEFING FOR ISAF ROTATION

On 8 June 2010, the Family Support Centre hosted an Information Briefing for all soldiers and their dependant families of ISAF Rotations 1A and 1B. The briefing focused on family matters with regards to deployment and on distant relationships.

Held in the Family Support Centre, located at Building 31M, in Campbell Barracks, soldiers, civilians and their families, partners and friends, had the opportunity to take advantage to listen to key note speakers on how to best prepare for the time before, during, and after deployment.

The first keynote speaker Mrs. Anja Hagen, a licensed Psychologist with her own private practice in Heidelberg, is a specialized

psychotherapist for family care focusing on children and adolescents. Her extensive knowledge and broad experience provided insight on how to prepare your children for the upcoming deployments and redeployment.

The second key note speaker from the Catholic University of Eichstätt, Dr Peter Wendl, is a licensed Theologist for Singles, Couples as well as a Family Therapist who has conducted seminars for more than 500 couples, speaking on the subject of distance relationships as well as on temporary separations during deployments. His lively and practical lecture has been very inspiring and he managed to pull in the audience to the point where they were initiated to

reflect on their own situation. Dr. Wendl was able to create a relaxed atmosphere where people were not afraid to share their experiences or to ask questions.

The knowledge and experience of these two speakers was evident throughout their presentations and the question and answer period. Attendees were able to gain valuable information and tools to use in the upcoming deployments and redeployments. This Information Briefing also gave the attendees the opportunity to meet other spouses and families affected by the upcoming deployment and to spend time creating new friendships and bonds that will be beneficial to those who will remain behind.



## ZOO

Saturday, 19 June 2010 was a very special day for the dependant families of our deployed personnel.

By invitation of the Lord Mayor of Heidelberg, Dr. Würzner, the Family Support Centre organized a family day trip to the Heidelberg Zoo. The Lord Mayor officially welcomed all 65 participants followed by a thank you speech by our Commander, Lieutenant-General Morgan III. After a short introduction by Director of

Zoo, Dr. Klaus Wünnemann, on what the Heidelberg Zoo had to offer, the families started on their "expedition". The Zoo kindly offered a guided tour in English and German by two specialized rangers who did an outstanding job guiding all participants throughout an exciting and adventurous tour. Among visiting many interesting animals, two highlights definitely were Ujan, the whistling monkey and the famous several decades old giant tortoise.

The end of the Zoo visit was rounded up by fellowship time with delicious coffee and cake where all participants had the opportunity to mingle and enjoy a wonderful and exciting escape



# SPORTS DAY 2010 & FAMILY SUPPORT CENTRE MID TERM EVENT

By OR-5 Sherry Schmidtpeter, PAO

On 09 Jun 10, Headquarters Allied Force Command Heidelberg (HQ FC Heidelberg), held it's annual Sports Day at Patton Barracks. However this year, it was expanded to a joint event to include a Family Support Centre (FSC) ISAF Mid-Term Event for dependants.

In the past, the sports day consisted of a day of various sports for members of the HQ, both military and civilian. This year however, with the deployment of approximately one quarter of the staff as part of the first personnel rotation to HQ ISAF in Kabul, the sports day was com-

bined with a mid-term event for the dependants of the deployed personnel. Personnel of HQ FC Heidelberg spent the morning and early afternoon playing various sports, including soccer, volleyball, horseshoes and tug of war competition. Dependants were invited in the afternoon to a barbeque, including games, an inflatable play castle and face painting for the kids.

The Forward Support Element (FSE) was responsible for the preparation of the different events and the set-up of the area, while the Food and Services Branch was responsible for the

barbeque and also ensured that water and other beverages were provided to the participants in the sporting events. At the beginning of the day, it was evident it would be one of the hotter days that Heidelberg had seen, and it was imperative that steps were taken to ensure no one was overcome by dehydration.

Major General Richard Rossmannith, Chief of Staff of Deployable Joint Staff Element 1 (DJSE 1), kicked off the sports day at 0930 hrs with words of encouragement and well wishes for all the participants. As the morning and early afternoon passed, the





various teams worked hard at playing their respective sports. When on a break in between games of their particular sport, participants took advantage to watch the other sports teams in action. Of course, the last sport activity was the coveted Tug of War competition. This battle of strength attracted a large crowd of spectators, cheering on their respective branches for bragging rights of winning the competition. The competitions were fierce and while all those who participated worked hard to win, the main

goal of Esprit de Corps and fun was never forgotten.

At the end of the sports competition, Brigadier General Grabowski was on hand to present the awards to the top three teams in each competition. While NCSA seemed to dominate the overall sports day, winning several places, all participants no matter where they placed, were winners. After the presentation of the sports awards, BG Grabowski presented the dependent children with a t-shirt,

hat and medal for participating in the events that had been arranged for them.

With the completion of the awards ceremony for both the sports participants and the dependants, it was time for the barbeque. FSE Food and Services Branch had worked hard to provide delicious food and refreshing drinks for everyone. The barbeque served as a great closing to overall great day.

# HQ FC Heidelberg personnel from the second ISAF rotation 2010 passes final milestone in its ISAF pre-deployment training

By LTC Dippel, PAO

In the timeframe 12-25 June 2010, the second staff rotation from Headquarters Allied Force Command Heidelberg (HQ FC Heidelberg) proved its mission-readiness by successfully participating in the ISAF Training Event 10-01 at the Joint Warfare Centre (JWC) at Stavanger/Norway. In doing so, the second staff rotation also passed the last training milestone prior to actual deployment.

The ISAF Training Event (TE) 10-01, also known as "Mission Rehearsal Training/Evaluation (MRT/E)", brought together for the first time all personnel from the different NATO and National HQ as well as Individual Augmentees (IA), earmarked to deploy to ISAF as part of the next rotation in order to man the two ISAF headquarters, HQ ISAF at Kabul and the HQ ISAF Joint Command (IJC) at Kabul International Airport. Staff from HQ FC Heidelberg will deploy to HQ ISAF, while personnel from the US V. Corps and the Rapid Reaction Corps - France (RRC-FR) will mainly deploy to HQ IJC. These



three main contributors alone provided 240 of the approximately 375 training audience.

The overall aim of the ISAF TE 10-01 was to ensure the personnel provided by HQ FC Heidelberg, RRC-FR and US V Corps personnel and IA are trained and ready to work within the ISAF headquarters in Kabul. The character of the ISAF TE 10-01

was therefore to meet the pre-deployment training requirements developed from inside-theatre. The operational tempo in theatre is very high and staff deploying to ISAF will have significantly less time to adapt to the local environment and the pulse of the HQ than in other missions.

The TE 10-01 was tailored to meet the current operational



themes of COM ISAF. The injects (“vignettes”) driving the event were derived from or just slightly amended versions of real-life theatre events in order to trigger staff-processes as they really exist in the ISAF headquarters. The training audience basically experienced about 1-2 weeks of real-type staff work in their respective HQ.

From its character, the ISAF TE is neither to be regarded testing nor certification. The key to its success is that indeed real staff work procedures and battle rhythm outputs of the ISAF headquarters are mirrored in to the TE – in order to provide a realistic training environment for the training audience to further develop their proficiency in theatre. To accomplish this, the contribution of Subject Matter Experts (SME) from the headquarters in Kabul, also acting as mentors in their respective functional areas within the HQ during the TE, was considered crucial for the success of the TE. They know how life

is like in Kabul, since they have been there – in most cases even right now. The HQ’s that had carried out internal mission pre-deployment training programmes in the months before (mainly HQ FC Heidelberg, US V Corps and RRC-FR), achieved the higher training results for themselves since they were able to focus on interoperability, where others had to start from step one.

LTG John W Morgan III, Commander Allied Force Command Heidelberg, visited the ISAF TE 10-01 on 22 June in order to receive first hand information from the JWC about the concept and set-up of this ISAF TE and the overall performance of the Heidelberg personnel during the TE. As the HQ is also one of the ISAF main contributors running an extensive internal pre-deployment training programme prior to the ISAF TE, he was also looking for opportunities to further enhance and improve the quality of the training for Heidelberg staff as a whole.

The training and evaluation of NATO and national personnel deploying to ISAF headquarters is two-staged, with the first stage carried out internally by the various contributing NATO and National HQ’s, followed by the second and final stage at NATO’s JWC in Stavanger, where all the personnel from the different contributors as well as individual augmentees are fully integrated and trained to act as cohesive ISAF headquarters staffs.

The second staff rotation from HQ FC Heidelberg is definitely ready – awaiting its deployment to HQ ISAF which is scheduled for the second half of this July.

Editor’s remark: All photos by JWC Public Affairs Office



## Visit of the Baltic Defense College

**On 6 April 2010, students and directing staff officers from the “Joint Command and General Staff Course” 2009/2010 of the Baltic Defence College visited Headquarters Allied Force Command Heidelberg (HQ FC Heidelberg).**

The group was led by Col Kristian Ekroll, the Head of the Operations Department of the college. The Baltic Defence College itself is situated in Tartu, Estonia and provides high standard military training according to NATO standards and the needs of the Baltic States.

## Chief-of-Staff Joint Force Command Lisbon visits

**On 4 June 2010, Rear Admiral Pires da Cunha, the Chief-of-Staff (COS) of Joint Force Command (JFC) Lisbon, visited Headquarters Allied Force Command Heidelberg (HQ FC Heidelberg) to gain first-hand information and impressions about the Headquarters, especially the Deployable Joint Staff Element (DJSE) training facility at Heidelberg.**

Another purpose of the visit was to review and discuss shared lessons identified and lessons learned from the joint battle staff training carried out by both headquarters in mid-April.



## Visit of the Royal Danish Defence College Army General Staff Course

**On 31 May 2010, students and directing staff officers from the Army General Staff Course of the Royal Danish Defence College visited Headquarters Allied Force Command Heidelberg.**

The group was led by Major General Carsten Svensson, Commander of the Royal Danish Defence College (RDDC). The RDDC is the Danish armed forces’ powerhouse for education, training and research-generated consultancy. The College offers a wide variety of courses and consultancy activities that cannot be found elsewhere in Denmark. Most of their activities are aimed at the commands and institutions of the Danish armed forces in order to enhance the ability of the Danish armed forces to carry out international and national missions. The College is located at Svanmoellen Barracks, Copenhagen, Denmark.

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## Facebook for HQ FC Heidelberg

Modern public electronic communications offer NATO additional means of spreading its message in order to meet its objective.

Therefore, complementary to the official Internet homepage of HQ FC Heidelberg (at <http://www.nato.int/fchd>), the HQ implemented a "Facebook" page by the end of June 2010.

Everybody is encouraged to use this platform to communicate and give his opinion.



[www.facebook.com/pages/Headquarters-Allied-Force-Command-Heidelberg/121673964529185](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Headquarters-Allied-Force-Command-Heidelberg/121673964529185)