

The Day of German Reunification

by Ltc Col Lutz Moeller

This year the German contingent celebrated the 18th anniversary of German reunification with a party held in the Officers Club on Friday 3rd October.

Addressing the participants before the toast and the national anthems of Germany and Italy as the host nation, the German Senior National Representative, Colonel Peter Uffelmann welcomed the guests including the Commander of the NRDC-ITA and reminded everyone of the background and historical meaning of the 03 October 1990, the occasion of the " German Reunification Day". With the "Wall" having fallen in November 1989, it was to be another 11 months before Germany was reunited. In particular he pointed out the still ongoing long-term implementation of this constitutional vision is about teaching more patience with other countries and societies, where conditions and circumstances for nation and society building are much worse concerning time and money .

Colonel Uffelmann also reminded everyone of the context of the developments in Eastern Europe at that time and especially the firm support by Germany`s allies and partners in the negotiation with the former Soviet Union proving the worth of NATO and The European Union. Regarding the 500.000 Soviet troops based in Eastern Germany at that time did not intervene in contrast to their actions on 17 June 1953, he recalled the other Soviet interventions in Hungary 1956, in the Czech and Slovak Republic(1968), in Afghanistan (1979) and the recent Russian intervention in Georgia, when the influence of allied support from NATO was not a factor.

Colonel Uffelmann finally thanked all allies for their contributions preventing Soviet intervention during the German reunification process, which thereby succeeded in the formal German reunification on the 03 October 1990 – since then the occasion of the German national holiday.

The party ended with good food and many interesting talks.

