

THE BUGLE

BALTDEFCOL NEWSLETTER



February '09 Nr. 1

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Foreword by Commandant Gundars Abols

Lectori salutem!

IT is my particular pleasure to welcome you to read the new Baltic Defence College (BALTDEFCOL) newsletter, the Bugle!

As paper is a trusted medium which has always been and continues to be a major opinion former and has led and will continue to lead public opinion representing the community it serves, then we felt the time was right to create a newsletter relevant to the entire BALTDEFCOL community – students, faculty, administrative staff, alumni – but also to the outside world.

The Bugle will be edited from a broad perspective and articles will cover a broad range of topics. The main goal of the newsletter, of which you are presently reading the very first issue, is

to disseminate news and information about the BALTDEFCOL activities, accomplishments, events, seminars, news and, of course, people.

Published quarterly in the newsletter includes not only BALTDEFCOL events but also promotes various leisure time events outside of the College and will be as much about the future as it is about the recent past.

I hereby wish to extend heartfelt thanks to all the BALTDEFCOL staff who have contributed, are contributing or will contribute in one way or another to the enrichment and smooth circulation of this publication.

I believe that constructive criticism helps towards the development of ideas and the improvement of quality and therefore all your comments on the first issue of the Bugle are more than welcomed.



BrigGen Gundars Abols

I do hope that you will embrace this effort and you will gradually feel that the Bugle will be more and more yours and about you!

May the Bugle be a success!

BrigGen Gundars Abols
Commandant

Editor's introduction

Mr Villu Varjas (Editor)

WHAT is common to all anniversaries, is looking back in the past to see where did one start, and where have they reached by now.

Similar is the case with BALTDEFCOL newsletter, which is not anything new, since a newsletter was published already during the initial development of the College!

Now the old tradition is reinitiated, but with more scope and thanks to the multimedia era graphically more eye-friendly. Hopefully!

So, why the Bugle? Many good names were suggested (and thanks to everybody for their help!), but somehow none of them left the feeling that it was the ONE.

Then, among others having other musical instruments offered, which also

sounded good, suddenly the Bugle burst up.

With no doubt it is linked to the military and its traditions. And it is original. And since one of its purposes was to give instructions, which also can be related to sharing information, and this exactly is the purpose of this newsletter, we had found a name for it—the BALTDEFCOL Bugle!

THE BUGLE
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Arrival of new Dean

BALTDEFCOL is glad to announce that in this January arrived the new Dean, Dr James S. Corum (USA), to the College. Dr. Corum retired from US Army in 2004 (at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel) and since 2005 worked as an Associate Professor at the US Army Command and General Staff College. He holds a PhD in history from Queen's University, Canada, which is only the top of his impressive educational background. He has published numerous books and articles, has given special lectures and presentations and has been honoured with many awards.

To get a better overview of the

dean, the Bugle had a small interview with him. Dr Corum has settled well in to town and says that "Tartu is much prettier than the guidebook says it is". He tells that he is quite impressed of the level of English of both the college staff and people in Tartu in common.

Talking about writing, he believes in the Hemingway writing method, which means that he doesn't allow himself any treat before writing at least a thousand words every day.

After staying for a couple of weeks in the College he is now working on the long-term planning and development of the curriculum.



Dr James S. Corum

Looking in the future, he sees as one of his main task to create stronger ties with the University of Tartu.

Promotions in BALTDEFCOL

SINCE the beginning of January, four members of the College Directing Staff have been promoted.

In the beginning of January arrived the news that three Lithuanian staff members, Arunas Dzidzevičius, Valerijus Šerelis and Vidas Zabiela, have been promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

Happy news kept coming when in the beginning of February was announced that another staff member, this time Estonian officer Aare Tuvike, was also promoted to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel and an Estonian AICSC student Rene Toomse was promoted to the rank of Captain.

Problems with ADL implementation

Mr Frederic Labarre (Head of DPSS)

A BALTDEFCOL delegation participated in a Cooperative Development Team (CDT) training event sponsored by Allied Command Transformation (ACT) and hosted at NATO's CIS School in Latina, Italy.

ACT's intention was to train IT specialists to use the ILIAS learning management system. BALTDEFCOL recently installed the system and is implementing its use to host the material for the College's programs. In addition to providing an opportunity to develop knowledge about the system, this training event also tested the course devel-

opment process which involves SMEs, instructional designers and IT personnel.

The results of the event were that the process works best if all ingredients are 3 ingredients are present within one institution. BALTDEFCOL's efforts at ADL will suffer by the lack of formally-trained instructional designer. One solution, which the event allowed to explore, is a strategic partnerships to explore exchange options about instructional design. BALTDEFCOL cannot be a credible ADL player without this capability.

BALTDEFCOL 10 Year Anniversary Review

AS ten years has passed since the establishment of the BALTDEFCOL then it is just the right time to look back on the development of the project, and what is more important, look in which direction it should develop in the future.

According to the decision taken by the Defence Ministers of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania on the Ministerial Committee meeting on 4 Dec.

2008 in Lithuania, a comprehensive 10-year anniversary review of the BALTDEFCOL project will be conducted by an independent international board based team.

The 9-10 member team will be headed by a retired German Brigadier General, Dr Klaus Wittmann and will consist of three representatives from the Baltic States and of five experts invited by the head of

the team from countries participating in the BALTDEFCOL project.

The mandate of the review will include the BALTDEFCOL management, courses and curriculum, manning and HNS issues. During the review the BALTDEFCOL staff as well as representatives of Baltic Defence Ministries and Armed Forces will be questioned.

BALTDEFCOL 10 Year Anniversary

ON February 27th the BALTDEFCOL will celebrate its 10th anniversary. The day will begin with an open-door-day in the College, where the guests and press will have a chance to take a look at the everyday-life of the BALTDEFCOL, have a tour on the premises and ask questions from both students and staff.

The main event of the anniversary day will take place in the evening when the BALTDEFCOL Commandant hosts the distinguished guests in the Dorpat Conference Centre. The event will be honoured by the presence of Estonian President H.E. Mr Toomas-Hendrik Ilves, Latvian President H.E. Mr Valdis Zatlers and the De-



10 Year Anniversary logo

fence Ministers of the three Baltic States.

The programme of the event foresees speeches from the Commandant and the Presidents of Es-

tonia and Latvia, and from the Defence Minister of Lithuania H.E. Ms Rasa Juknevičienė. In addition, musical appearances from groups and choirs from the Baltic States and awarding of the BALTDEFCOL medals for special services or favours to the College, will be part of the programme.

Certainly a very interesting part of the night will be a short movie of the BALTDEFCOL's development through these 10 years of existence, presenting some rare archive footages from the first years of the College including the opening ceremony.

The evening will end with a festive dinner with musical entertainment.

Mr Ronald LaGrone back in BALTDEFCOL

THIS February the new instructor of NATO Combined Joint Operations, LtCol (ret) William Ronald LaGrone (USA), will arrive to the College. Ron LaGrone is already familiar with the institution as he served in the BALTDEFCOL, as a founding member and Director of Military Technology, from 1999 to 2002.

Mr LaGrone's educational record includes a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry and a Master of Arts degree in liberal studies. His military education includes the US Army Command and General Staff

College. He retired from the Army in 2004, having reached the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. His main work accomplishments during the last years are mostly linked with hydrogeology and geo-statistics in support of environmental restoration of heavy industrial sites.

In the BALTDEFCOL Mr LaGrone will start working on the development, coordination and teaching of combined joint operations planning for



Mr William Ronald LaGrone

the Joint Command and General Staff Course, and the Civil Servants Course.

BALTDEFCOL photo exhibition

CURRENTLY a photo exhibition "Through the history of the Baltic Defence College" is opened in the Dorpat Conference Centre, on the fourth floor of the Tasku shopping centre.

Altogether 23 photos, which reflect various moments from the BALTDEFCOL through its 10 years

of its existence, are exhibited.

The exhibition will remain opened for one month, till the 16th of March and of course there is a possibility to see the photos also during the 10 Year Anniversary event taking place in the evening of February 27th.



The logo of Dorpat Hotel and Conference Centre

Higher Command Studies Course (HCSC)

THIRTEEN students of the HCSC 2008 graduated on December 12 and the Course itself has been assessed as great success. Student Col Igors Rajevs (LVA A) was awarded with the HCSC "Writing Award" for his paper on the French Army development during the Interwar period.

The Course is well stabilized and will need just minor changes in terms of further development. In May 2008 NATO's Allied Command Transformation (ACT) accredited HCSC as a NATO course and was included in NATO Course Catalogue.

Currently the staff has completed analysis of lessons identified and is working on development of the course plan for the HCSC 2009, which will start on August 10th. So far the number of students expected to participate in the Course is 14 from Baltic, Western and outreach countries, however the final term for registration is the end of April.



Graduation of HCSC 2008

The planning for the Civil Servant Course (CSC) has been started and is ongoing according to the schedule. Next CSC will start in January 2010.

New Army Intermediate Command and Staff Course (AICSC) is running



Col Olle Ljung
(Deputy Commandant/Course Director
AICSC/JCGSC)

ON the January 7th, 38 new army students knocked on the College door eager to enter the building and finally start the AICSC 2009. The majority of the students were as always from the Baltic States but the College was also honoured to welcome 9 international students representing Azerbaijan, Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Poland and Ukraine. During the students self-presentation during the first week, it was very obvious that all are bringing in experience and knowledge that will contribute to the overall outcome – an impressive group of people that the College staff members are happy to take care of for the next 4,5 months.

The first day was dedicated for in-processing activities, briefings about the College and the Course

as well as English tests, which was successfully completed by all participants although some had to be tested twice. A reception finalized the first long day and most of the students were probably happy to return to their hotel rooms in the evening, trying to sort out all the information given.

The main teaching format in the College is in the "syndicate". Each syndicate has 7-8 students with mixed nationalities, representing different branches or specialist areas. Each syndicate also has a Syndicate Guiding Officer (SGO), a staff member who will follow, guide, coach and assess "his" syndicate members during the Course. To create a good group, the team building activities during the first days were therefore important and the students spent a day at the College doing some group exercises, including the creation of the syndicate shield. A more practical team building was also conducted using the Tartu Agricultural Museum.

After the first "soft" start-up activities, the real life began – teaching in leadership, tactics fundamentals, air support to land opera-

tions and foreign policy was just the beginning of the Course. A first test in tactics was conducted and the students are now working on an essay in leadership and have also chosen their topic for the academic paper – the Individual Study Paper – which will follow them during the main part of the Course.

Looking forward, the teaching in tactics which is the majority of the Course will gradually be built up and exercised at the College as well as during a one-week exercise in Latvia respectively in Lithuania and a two-week exercise in Sweden. The students really have a filled schedule for the coming months and a considerable time has to be spent also outside the scheduled hours at the College.

The graduation on the 20th of May is still far away, but looking back at previous courses, the time runs quick. The first impressions from the Course are more than good and I am looking forward to the coming months together with the staff and the students in the AICSC 2009.

Operations Department (OPD)



*LtCol Valerijus Šerelis
(Special Operations
Forces and
Information Operations)*

SINCE the last AICSC Operations Department, despite the fact that it was not fully manned already, has suffered “losses”: LtCol Brian Williams (USA), LtCol Willi Wierscheim (GER), and LtCol Dipl Päd Bernhard Klotz (GER), have left the BALTDEFCOL for good, but fortunately we were rein-

forced. Mr Eric Sibul has joined us (unofficially he was with us already) so we are only “devil’s dozen” (i.e. 13) at the moment. 14 weeks out of 20 of the duration of the AICSC belongs to the learning area I, which is OPD’s “area of operations”, so we are as “multi-headed monsters” acting as instructors, syndicate guiding and project officers, head teachers, observers, controllers, scriptwriters, evaluators and messengers. And the message is that the AICSC has just started, and interesting things will happen, expect unexpected, simple

things such as exams...

Exams for all of us, this is kind of double-check of what students have been managed to learn, and what we have managed to teach. So far only first steps have been made, Modules 101 “Tactics Fundamentals”, 102 “Estimate and BDE Staff work” and 107 “Air Tactical Ops”, it’s a long way to go... Good luck, but luck is not enough to hit the graduation party. All of us have to give our best efforts and contribution!

Department of Political and Strategic Studies (DPSS)



*Mr. Frederic Labarre
(Head of DPSS)*

BALTDEFCOL staff may have noticed a new face on the second floor... Is it a sign of the times or something else, but Latvia has recalled Mr Aivars Purins to Riga as part of a major reshuffling in Riga, and has been gracious enough to

send Mr Didzis Nimants our way.

We take this opportunity to formally welcome him into the DPSS family and to the BALTDEFCOL in general. Mr Nimants is already busy preparing Module 203 for the AICSC. He has worked at the Latvian NATO delegation in Brussels, and also as advisor to the President Ms Vaira Vike-Freiberga. It will be great to have him on the team.

As repayment of a debt owed to the OPD, which has greatly

helped the DPSS during a short budgetary crisis in 2008, the DPSS is lending the services of Mr Eric Sibul to the OPD for the period extending from January until December 2009. OPD, we are sure, will get much traction from having Mr Sibul’s broad shoulders to the wheel. We should also note that Mr Sibul is on the verge of being received as a Doctor of Philosophy. We wish him good luck with his thesis defence.

Department of Defence Management & Officership (DMO)

Mr Villu Varjas (Editor)

HAVING just finished their last module in the AICSC, their eyes are already turned to the next JCGSC. One of the highlights of the current AICSC was in the beginning of February when the students’ academic essays on leadership were presented. LtCol Vidas Zabiela said that the results were good and made him happy. He adds that the topic was interesting for the students, because they were asked to reflect their own experiences of their service, which for

some of them means even thinking back to the Soviet Army times.

Talking about the near future, LtCol Zabiela says that right now they are looking forward to the Vilnius **LtCol Vidas Zabiela** Conference, to hear some new thoughts on resource fundamentals and project and crisis management.



Meeting with the representatives of Ministries of Defence (MoD) and guest lecturers in order to get more highlights about what should be the priority for the JCGSC teaching in LA3 as well as the assessment system of LA3 and how the teaching prior the assessment should be conducted.

In Vilnius they are also planning to meet with the officials of the Lithuanian MoD to discuss possible co-operation on sharing information about resource planning.

The stories behind the syndicates badges

Džukste

Džukste syndicate chose the cross type shield for the reason that all of us are Christians. The flags symbolize the syndicate members' countries — Latvia, Estonia, Georgia, Lithuania and SGO Poland. Placed on the flags are the signs of national armed forces. Sword symbolizes the power and solidarity of military society. The torch stands for knowledge and light that directs us straightforward to the knowledge.

The logo is accompanied by the motto: "Just do it...". It tells us not to think about difficulties but just



start doing it, no matter what would happen. Always look forward, with hope and belief in final result! Our strength is our solidarity. Nobody in the syndicate cares that we are from different countries and different culture!

Žalgiris

In 1410 took place the Battle of Grunwald (Žalgiris) where common forces defeated the crusaders of the Teutonic Order. It was like an example to act together and reach



together for good results. Like is our syndicate motto "Unity is Power".

Because books are symbolising knowledge there is a book as a holder of knowledge in the background.

Inside the book on the left page are flags of our syndicate members' nations. The five nations acting as one in team. We have a one goal, one vision and best result!

Our symbols are the sword and the pen which are symbolizing old and unique tools for helping commanders for successful leadership.

Sinimäed (edited)

The circular shape of the badge represents the shield as a symbol for unity and alliance, but moreover the will for continuous education and self-development. The book and feather show the importance of knowledge and the will to be good students. Blue Mountains (*Sinimäed* – in Estonian) in the centre stand for the name of our syndicate.

As we are probably the most international syndicate, we wanted to express this internationality by placing the flags of our nations around the mountains.

Over the mountains you can see a golden star which presents the will to reach to the sky, to be at the

top and for us – to become at least a one-star general in the future.

Yellow and green as the main colours are well-known as the colours of the Army and Senior Staff Officers. Yellow is also the sun that we bring on the streets of Tartu.

The motto – *per aspera ad astra* – represents our dedication to become better educated officers and soldiers for our countries.



Cesis

The emblem of syndicate Cesis consists of three Borromean rings representing unity, on the shield with a blue background. Inside the rings seven golden stars symbolize the syndicate members. The five national flags on the rim of the shield indicate from which nations the syndicate members are. The torch behind the shield signifies the importance of

the education and the light of knowledge in the syndicate.

The green colour of the ribbons represents the Army-service from which all syndicate members come from. On the ribbons the name of the syndicate, the year and the name of the course are written.



Kalniskes

Two circles shape the shield. Both symbolize the cohesion and unity of the syndicate. The motto *Scientia est potentia* (engl. – Knowledge is power) is in the

upside of the external circle. Six flags placed in the bottom of

this circle: Georgian, Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian and Moldavian point out which countries the students are from. French stands for the Syndicate Guiding Officer. The castle reminds that the College is located in Tartu. The owl is wisdom's symbol. AICSC is the abbreviation of the Army Intermediate Command and Staff Course. The syndicate's name and the year of the course are in a front of the castle.



Fun & Info

MOST of the information about cultural, sports and other events in Tartu circulates in Estonian and so it can easily pass unnoticed by people who might be interested in it.

Tartu has hosted quite often performers, sports clubs etc. who belong to the absolute top, and enriched so the environment where we are living in.

This section was created to offer the BALTDEF-COL staff and students an assortment of these events

to help them to find more easily activities for their leisure time.

If there is any other important information about anything that influences our everyday lives, it can be found from here.

Last and probably least—in the current newspaper trends there is one word that is a must-be in most of the newspapers and therefore can also be found in the Bugle, the ultimate stress-killer—SuDoKu.

Where to go in Tartu

Cinema—Worldfilm 2009

23.-29.03. Estonian National Museum, Kuperjanovi 1. Worldfilm is an annual documentary film festival, developing interest towards anthropological, analytical approach to cultures and societies. During the festival week about 50 films will be screened.

4D-Cinema in Lõunakeskus

Cinema is opened every day. Currently 3 movies are being screened. The ticket prices range from 40 to 60 EEK. More information can be found from the webpage of the AHHA Science Centre—www.ahhaa.ee.

Music—MaaJallm

07.03. Genialistide Klubi (Genialists' Club)

The traditional 1-day world music festival brings to the Estonians music from all over the world. This time the

two main guests are Dazkariah (Portugal) and Kilema (Madagascar).

Music—Jazzkaar, Winter Jazz—The Thomas Siffling Trio

13.03. 19:00. Athena Centre, Kүүtri 1. The Thomas Siffling Trio aspires towards balance between acoustic jazz and electronic groove music. Trumpet sound with electronics, African instruments, modern beats. Groovy nu jazz that makes you relax and feel good!

Sports—Baltic Basketball League

13.03. 19:00. Tartu University Sports Hall. Tartu University Rock hosts BC Šiauliai from Lithuania.

*More information about what is going on in Tartu can be found from the course websites (who have access), under the *Cultural Events* tab and also from Tartu's culture webpage—kultuuriaken.tartu.ee.

SuDoKu

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Grammar lesson

While working in an education institution it is not a bad idea to sometimes learn also something ourselves. Students of course are eager to do that without telling. Here comes something that might come new even to the most eloquent among us.

Stewardesses - is the longest word typed with only the left hand.

And *lollipop* is the longest word typed with your right hand.

Typewriter is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.

No word in the English language rhymes with *month*, *orange*, *silver*, or *purple*.

Dreamt is the only English word that ends in the letters 'mt'.

The sentence: "The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog" uses every letter of the alphabet.

Key Documents For The BALTDEFCOL



Mr Olavi Jänes (LL.M,
Academic International
Law)

THERE are several documents which form a legal basis for the activities of the BALTDEFCOL. This article offers a brief look into the key texts.

The founding treaty of the College, called **“Agreement between Governments of Estonian Republic, Latvian Republic and Lithuanian Republic on Baltic Defence College”** was signed on 12 June 1998 in Brussels by representatives of the Baltic States (“BS”). This agreement provides location of the BALTDEFCOL (Estonia), its goal (educating higher staff officers and civil servants), working language (English), and deals with several administrative issues. The courses at the College shall take into consideration the political and geographic circumstances of the BS, reflect national defence tasks and concepts, employ NATO standards, principles and procedures and deepen the knowledge on the role and tasks of the institutions related to the European security.

The treaty also authorizes the Ministers of Defence of the BS to create an organizational structure for co-ordinating management and activities of the College. To that end the ministers may conclude administrative agreements (see below MoU and Development Plan). The treaty also states that the status of foreign armed forces on the territory of a contractual party is subject to PfP SOFA, which actually refers to the text of the NATO SOFA.

The founding treaty has caused the adoption of the other document – **“The Protocol on the Status of the Baltic Defence College and its Personnel”**, signed by the representatives of Governments of

the BS on 14 June 1999 in Riga. This document provides a more specific regulation on the status of the BALTDEFCOL, its personnel and students. Regarding jurisdiction Estonian laws apply in the premises of the College and in relation to any acts, transactions etc of the College. The Protocol provides for inviolability of the premises of the BALTDEFCOL, but in case of the initiated legal procedures the College has a duty to co-operate. However, non-Estonian Commandant and Deputy Commandant are exempt from ar-

“The courses at the BALTDEFCOL shall take into consideration the political and geographic circumstances of the BS, reflect national defence tasks and concepts, employ NATO standards, principles and procedures and deepen the knowledge on the role and tasks of the institutions related to the European security.”

rest and detention, but also from legal procedures related to the acts committed in official capacity.

With regard to the personnel the Protocol refers to NATO SOFA, but is flexible on granting similar protection to the College's personnel coming from non-NATO and non-PfP countries. This shall be effected through exchange of notes between the Governments of BS.

The dependants of the personnel (except those hired by the College) and students are granted automatic entry and right to temporary residence in Estonia. In general, issues like education and social care remain the liability of the sending states. Personnel hired by the BALTDEFCOL are subject to ordinary Estonian regulation on resi-

dence and work permits.

The most important administrative arrangements in effect are **14 September 2007 MoU Concerning the Operation, Administration and Funding of the BALTDEFCOL** and **BALTDEFCOL Development Plan 2007-2012**.

The MoU provides an organizational structure for management of the College, consisting of Ministerial Committee, Military Committee, Baltic Management Group and BALTDEFCOL Co-ordination Group. In addition, it provides regulation on planning, conducting and reporting of activities. It also deals with issues like finance and accounting, host nation support, command and control, manning etc.

The MoU is supported by the BALTDEFCOL Development Plan 2007-2012, which provides direction and guidelines for development and operations of the College. It includes provisions on courses, organizational structure, manning, distribution of course vacancies and the outline of budgets, but sets out also development goals and means of achieving them.

Development Plan is supported by **Annual Activity Plans**, which include specific manning plan for each following year, describe the distribution of course vacancies for each course and give a list of activities to be held.

Although this article is focused on documents in effect and do not open the history of the BALTDEFCOL, one may say that the College owes its existence greatly to the support of many nations, a number of which are still participating in this common project. Those nations have been also parties to formal agreements concerning the College, e.g. **1998 MoU on Co-operation in the Establishment, Operation, Administration and Initial Funding and Secondment of Staff to BALTDEFCOL**. This document was impressively signed by 11 nations.