

THE BUGLE

BALTDEFCOL NEWSLETTER



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THE BUGLE
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BALTDEFCOL Starts the Year With Social Events

This year has started with a number of social events for the staff members and students of BALTDEFCOL. The first events were teambuilding for the students and ice-breaker for the staff members. In order to foster informal contacts between support staff, directing staff and the students, starting from August on every Thursday the Cadets' Casino is open for BALTDEFCOL between 1530 and 1800.

But it is also important to include family members in the social events so the BALTDEFCOL organized a family event at Karilatsi trout farm in September. In addition to good weather, good food and excellent company, there were also different entertainment activities for both children and adults.

A few weeks later the staff and students had the chance to participate in a sightseeing tour around Estonia. They visited the Farm Museum of Carl Robert Jakobson, Järvakandi Glass Museum, Olustvere Manor, Viljandi Castle, Barclay de Tolly Mausoleum and Sangaste Palace. Although it was a long trip, lasting over 12 hours, the participants got to see the nature and had the chance to get to know Estonian culture and history.



(Photos by Paavo Reidla, Alo Abiline, Alar Lehesaar)

Commandant's Foreword

The new academic year has kicked off. I am rather pleased to see how smooth the beginning has been. We have welcomed a number of new faculty members and said farewell to our colleagues whose term at the College ended. The turn over did not affect our performance at all; in fact, with new personnel we got a number of fresh ideas and experiences that can be utilised for improving the college performance.

At the moment we are running at full speed with two courses – the JCSGC and HCSC, in particular. It is a demanding task, taking into account that simultaneously we need to continue with faculty development too. Furthermore, there is no slow down after the graduation of HCSC as we will welcome the CSC participants in January. In short, it is an intensive year before us; yet with the quality people we have, there is no doubt that we will succeed.

Despite intensity we have had opportunities to socialise and relax.

The family day at the Karilatsi Fish Farm offered everyone a chance to get to know each other and to have fun. Also the introduction trip served the purpose. Not only did we see a bit of Estonia, but we had the opportunity to meet the family members of our colleagues. The kids, in particular, were admirable and brave. Despite the intense schedule they kept up a good spirit and joy.

I am also pleased with the students' or rather "college on the course" performance. The progress is steady and solid. An immediate feedback from the lecturers indicates that our countries can expect highly intelligent and educated individuals as policy shapers and decision makers. I have been told that the study burden is profound yet bearable. This is then a right balance and we all should make use of our stay at the college. In today's world the life-long learning is the only way to stay in line with the dynamics of security architecture.

Next couple of months will provide us opportunities to attend academic as well as social events. The ISMS conference is definitely one of the events to be mentioned. I believe that due to our lead for this event it has required mutual effort to make it an achievement. So far the progress is good; I would like to thank DPS and Dean for their efforts and other departments who have given their helping hand.

The International Night too is one occasion where different nations can present their national traditions. We are truly a multinational and diverse party so I encourage everyone to present their national pride and traditions to all in order to broaden our horizon and mutual understanding.

BrigGen

Meelis Kiili



In Brief

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Upcoming Events:

- **Student Days in Tartu 17-23.10**
- **OPD Challenge Cup 18.10**
- **Baltic Military History Workshop 20-21.10**
- **BALTDEFCOL team basketball match 30.10**
- **Ideejazz Festival 3-5.11**
- **International Night in the Baltics 4.11**
- **International Society for Military Sciences Annual Conference 9-11.11**
- **Black Nights Film Festival 18-30.11**

BALTDEFCOL Basketball Team Starts the Season With a Victory!

This autumn our College's basketball team started their new season. BALTDEFCOL team comprising of current staff members and students train every week on Wednesdays and Fridays.

Their first match was held on Sunday 9th and they won the ASKORPUIT/TÕRVANDI team by 50:33! The next match will be on Sunday 30th at 12.10. The match is held in Kõrvküla Sports hall. All are welcome to come and cheer for our team!

Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox Gave a Speech in BALTDEFCOL

Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox gave a lecture to the staff and students of both BALTDEFCOL and ENDC and external visitors on "Partnership with Purpose: Multi-Layered Security in the 21st Century".

Dr Fox started his speech by pointing out that the Cold War did not simply end, but it was won by believers in the triumph of liberty and human spirit and not by guns and tanks -- the independence of the Baltic States is an example of that. And added that the unity and common NATO values can be seen here in BALTDEFCOL.

He stressed the importance of NATO values and, in the light of Arab spring, to show Libya that violent extremism is not the only route to change. He reminded that this year will mark 10 years since the 9/11 attack and progress in Afghanistan has been slow at times and difficult but it is real and meaningful. "You can't shoot an idea", he said, "just as Soviet communism had to be beaten in the head, the heart and the pocket -- so must violent Islamic extremism."

He also expressed gratitude to Estonian troops in Afghanistan, as they are valued in particular at the soldier to soldier level.

He elaborated that Afghanistan represents a significant test for the NATO alliance, but we must not use the conflicts of the past as examples for the conflicts of the future. He brought the Soviet Union as an example of an unsustainable economic system and, therefore, it could not sustain the military forces to maintain the Union.

But as Mr Fox noted, equally important are adaptability, deployability and political will to use the political capability.



Rt Hon Liam Fox giving his speech to the staff and students of BALTDEFCOL and ENDC. (Photo by Oliver Toots)

He stressed that instead of acting alone, we need partnership with clear purpose to face the threats of this new age. Therefore, multilateral organisations, small-group and bilateral relations are important for multilayered security.

He noted that the UK does not believe that the relations in Europe have to be about political Europe or the EU, but we can and should work

with geographical Europe.

He concluded with the notion that Britain and the Baltic states have had good relations in the past and Britain is supporting the reawakening and renewal that the Baltic region has experienced after the Cold War.



Rt Hon Dr Liam Fox met with the students of the HCSC after his speech. (Photo by Oliver Toots)

Baltgirls Visit East Estonia

By Silva Kiili

It was a rainy and windy day when we started our tour to Eastern part of Estonia – not a very encouraging omen to start our exploration with. Yet Estonia itself is a land of contrasts where the weather, among other things, is unpredictable, too. So we were lucky to have sunshine in our first point of destination in East Virumaa, in Narva, the third largest city in Estonia and border city with Russia. Narva, once jewel of Northern Europe, was totally wiped out in World War II, just some buildings are left from previous times. We visited Raekoda (Town Hall) and Alexandri Church which are both under restoration at the moment.

On our way through East Virumaa we could see the typical landscape of the region – the hills of ash waste rising high from the ground alternating with



Baltgirls on a windy ash field in Narva (Photo by Silva Kiili)



Lutheran Alexandrian Church (Photo by Silva Kiili)

chimneys and giant industrial facilities, so we did realize that we had come to the oil shale country, the mining area in Estonia. In fact, 90% of the electricity is generated by burning oil shale. We had a tour in the huge ash fields in Narva, where a 576-hectare area comprises of a 406-hectare set ash plateau and of a 170-hectare sediment pond. Sometimes people call these lakes Estonian “blue lagoons” because of the bright green alkaline water in it. The ash field was last used for storing ash in 1986. On the present day, enormous work is done to eliminate pollution, to neutralize alkaline water, to cover and close those landfills – in short, to fix the Soviet legacy. Local project manager was really kind to introduce the history and present situation of these huge areas.

After visiting the ash fields we had lunch and a guided tour in Narva Herman Castle, which was founded in 1256 by the Danes. It keeps stories and exhibitions through the centuries.

On our way back we drove along the sea and had a view from the highest point of Baltic limestone shore from winding stairs in Saka (55 meters).

And last but not least, it was an interesting drive



View on Russia from the Castle (Photo by Silva Kiili)

back through Old Believers villages near Lake Peipsi. Naturally Old Believers are Russians, who in 1666 separated from Official Russian Orthodox Church and they still keep their own old living style. We could see the architecture and gardening, the self-made vehicles called 'karakatitsas' and village people walking and chatting on the streets. Nowadays, because of the large onion and garlic fields, these small coastwise villages near Lake Peipsi are also known as onion villages organizing every year onion and garlic festivals.

It was a very long, but a really interesting day!



Baltgirls inside the Narva Castle (Photo by Silva Kiili)

Narva Terrain Walk

By Maj Jonathan R. Martin and Maj Darcy J. Wright

On 30 August 2011 the students of the Baltic Defence College, Joint Command and General Staff Course travelled to Narva to conduct a terrain walk and case study of the Utria 1919 operation and the 1944 operation at Sinimäed. The purpose was to develop the officers' ability to analyse these battles at the strategic and operational levels of war. Additionally, the exercise provided an opportunity for non-Estonian students to learn about Estonian history and the dynamics of the Narva region.

The first stop was Narva Castle. From this point the officers were able to examine the Russian and Estonian border. It was immediately apparent that the Narva River crossing was the key terrain at the strategic and operational level in both 1919 and 1944. After a quick survey of the area many of the students enjoyed getting their pictures taken next to the statue of Lenin.

The second stop on the tour was the beaches of Narva-Jõesuu where the students gained an appreciation for the realities of amphibious operations in the Baltic Sea. Looking off into the distance the students could see the rocks of Utria where Estonian forces landed in 1919. One unnamed officer remarked "Why would they land over there? The beach here is much nicer."

The third stop was Sinimäed or Blue Hills where the class paused for lunch and one tired Major commented "Where is



Students on the beaches of Narva-Jõesuu (Photo by LtCol Artur Lillenum)

the coffee? Isn't there somewhere around here to buy a coffee?" No coffee was to be found, but the class received intellectual stimulation in a lecture delivered by Col (ret.) Risto Gabrielsson. He covered the tactical and operational aspects of this pivotal battle in the Narva Region.

The officers then returned to Tartu with a better understanding of the importance of the Narva region to the Baltic States.



Better than caffeine. Col. (ret) Risto Gabrielsson giving a lecture to the students. (Photo by LtCol Artur Lillenum)

Blood Donation Becomes a Regular Event

This August the BALT-DEFCOL staff members and students paid a visit to the Tartu University Hospital's blood donation centre already for the 3rd time.

This time we had 4 staff members and one brave student joining us. We also had one first time donor among us and we can consider the event to be a success as all the participants were eligible for blood donation and no-one fainted or felt dizzy afterwards.

Blood donation is purely voluntary and considered to be a charitable deed. It is totally safe and the amount of blood that is donated will recover in your system in 24 hours. As it is totally voluntary the donors don't get paid for it but they do have the chance to get either a mug with the blood do-



Brave new donors giving blood. (Photos by Berit Marksoo)

nator's logo or a small pot of honey or a chocolate bar after donation to recover the energy lost.

The most common blood type among Estonians is A positive (30,8%) and O positive (29.5%). Other blood types are represented by less than 10% of people. The rarest is AB negative type (0.9%).

So the biggest need in Estonia is for A and O positive blood.

Next donation event will take place in December and all of you who couldn't join us this time are welcome next time!

OPD CHALLENGE CUP OPENS THE SEASON WITH A BOARD GAME "BATTLE"!

It has been already 5 months since the last challenge. Last time the Support Staff team was once again victorious.

On 18th October the famous

OPD Challenge Cup returns with a twist — this time there is no one single competition. Instead there are four different board games:

- Table-football
- Team pool/billiard
- Team checkers
- Team chess

Altogether 3-5 games will be played depending on how many teams will be formed. The most intriguing will probably be team

chess and team checkers battles, as each participant makes one move and can enter the room directly before his/her move and no consultation or signalling with body language or miming is allowed. It is also worth noting that no prior knowledge of chess is required.

As some of the teams have already started practicing the battle will be fierce.

Visit to the Tammistu Family Centre

Two years ago BALTDEFCOL staff and students organized a charity event in Tammistu family centre. The idea for this event and about this particular centre came from the students who had been familiar with the centre's work. This year we thought it would be nice to continue this tradition.

As it turned out, we have many active students and staff members among us who were gladly willing to take part in this type of event. As charity events are purely voluntary, it is amazing how many people (28!) were willing to cut their Saturday morning sleep short and spend the day outdoors and working.

We gathered at the Tammistu Family Centre at 10.30. Thanks to the help of googlemaps and good map reading skills everyone was on time and we could get started.

The first and most time consuming job was to cut the logs and place them into round piles. This, of course, is not the easiest way



*Wood piling experts Kelli and Eve happily smiling on top of their latest creation.
(Photo by Berit Marksoo)*

to pile the logs because the logs have to be carefully placed so that the 2 metres high round pile would survive the first heavy rain-fall without falling apart. Ms Liivia, the housekeeper, explained to us

the technique and we started piling up the logs. Fortunately we had two experts for the job: Eve and Kelli, who were responsible for the careful placement of logs and they coordinated from the top of the log pile the delivery and types of logs needed.

Most of the wood splitting was done with the log splitting machine. The person in charge for the precise cutting was Ron LaGrone while his two assistants loaded blocks of wood. But in addition to that we also had 3 axes that were constantly in use.

In the Tammistu manor park there was also a huge heap of bigger and smaller branches that needed to be burned so two of us dealt with this task. Two other students also helped the Lions Club to clean up some of the old furniture and lumber around one of the Manor's ancillary buildings. The Lions Club is also one of the supporters of the Tammistu Family Centre and they helped to clean up the old ancillary building and dig out old garden posts.



The log splitting machine trio: Marko Must, Maj Dmytro Lanovyi, LtCol (ret.) Ron LaGrone. (Photo by Berit Marksoo)

The Agrenska Foundation that operates the Tammistu Family Centre has 52 ha of land with a large Manor park, so the place was also in need of raking. The girls grabbed rakes and started cleaning up the front yard with the flag court. Even for raking the Liivia had her own clever technique: the leaves were raked into two columns, the huge plastic cover was placed between them and the leaves were raked onto the cover. This enabled us to gather a huge pile of leaves on the cover and then with the help of strong Lithuanian students the huge pile was dragged away from the yard to a pit. Although the leaves were dry, when they are



Step 1: rake leaves into columns

Step 2: rake the leaves on the cover

(Photos by Berit Marksoo)

Step 3: drag the leaves to the pit.

Step 4: repeat steps 1-3 till you run out of leaves

gathered in a huge pile, they can be pretty heavy.

After working for 2,5 hours it was time for lunch. The lunch was served in the former manor barn that has been renovated and is now used for smaller concerts and performances. After lunch Meelis Joost from the Agrenska Foundation gave us a tour around the manor house and spoke to us about the Agrenska

Foundation, what kind of activities are held at the family centre, who is the centre for, what have they done so far and what are their future plans.

Having a better understanding of the centre and of the foundation we headed back to work. And to give the participants an extra energy boost, we made a short brake with refreshments.

Once we had cleaned up the front yard, split practically all the wood there was and stacked them into two beautiful round piles, we concluded our working day in good spirit and with total satisfaction.

The housekeeper was very grateful to us, saying that the amount of



Smiling faces show no signs of fatigue, boredom or anything negative. Only positive emotions! (Photos by Berit Marksoo)

Tammistu family centre

aims at optimal quality of life for children having disability due to different diseases and traumatic injuries. They offer family-based early intervention and counselling according to special needs of the child and existing resources of the family. They also offer provision of respite care, aimed at lessening the caring burden of the family and they teach social/coping skills to schoolchildren and adolescents with disabilities at weekend/vacation rehabilitation and respite camps. In addition, the centre organizes training to rehabilitation professionals and other members of the network for families (family doctors, community social workers, teachers, nurses, personal assistants etc).

For more information visit:

<http://www.agrenska.ee/>



Before...

(Photos by Berit Marksoo)

... and after shots.

work done exceeded her expectations by far.

I should mention that one of the factors that played a crucial role in the success of this event was the weather. Although the weather

forecast promised a cloudy and rainy day, it turned out to be a quite sunny and practically windless day. A perfect day to be outside in good company and enjoy working in the fresh air. As you can see from the pictures everyone is ei-

ther smiling or has a deeply concentrated face, so we can consider the event to be a success.

I would also like to thank everyone that participated in this event and made it a wonderful day!

Estonian For Beginners - Quick Words and Expressions

Rumour has it that Estonian is gathering popularity among staff members and even students. In order to enhance their language skills we have gathered some useful everyday phrases:

Tere hommikust! – Good morning!
 Head aega/nägemist/tšau! – good-bye
 Homme näeme! – see you tomorrow!
 Palju õnne sünnipäevaks! – happy birthday!
 Terviseks! - cheers!
 Head isu! – bon appetite!
 Nägemist!- see you!
 Head aega – Goodbye!
 Astu edasi — come on in
 Aitäh! – thank you!
 Võta heaks — you're welcome
 Tule taevas appi – for crying out loud
 Isver-susver – oh my god
 Milline erakordselt ilus ilm – it's such lovely weather
 Väljas sajab lund – it's snowing outside
 Väljas sajab vihma – it's raining outside

See oli nali – it was a joke

Räägi palun aeglasemalt – please speak more slowly

Ma räägin natukene eesti keelt — I speak a little Estonian

Mis mõttes? – what do you mean?

Kust ma võiksin leida ...– where can I find...

Ma joon kohvi suhkruga ja koorega – I drink my coffee with sugar and cream

Pole oluline – it's not important

Kuidas sul läheb? – how are you doing?

Kas ma saan sind aidata? – Can I help you?

Ma lebotan — I'm chilling

Esmaspäev – Monday

Teisipäev — Tuesday

Kolmapäev — Wednesday

Neljapäev —Thursday

Reede — Friday

Laupäev —Saturday

Pühapäev — Sunday