

THE BUGLE

BALTDEF COL NEWSLETTER



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International Night in the Baltics



This year the International Night in the Baltics took place on 4th November. Once again the tables were filled with delicious national dishes, invigorating national drinks and leaflets on the participating countries. To keep the spirits high we had a Latvian and a Lithuanian Band playing and a Latvian folkdance group gave a grip-

ping performance. Performances by the students of participating nations were carried out throughout the evening. Probably the most memorable presentation was given by the Lithuanian team. They had prepared a video-interview and a live presentation of a music video. The costumes, choreography and the remarkable resemblance

to the original music video made it a performance to remember. Unfortunately the acoustics is tricky in the main hall which makes it hard to follow the presentations, especially with the chatter in the background. But this was just a minor detail compared to the success of the whole event.

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Commandant's Foreword

Dear all,

I am very pleased to see a mutual effort to accomplish our main task – to educate. Going around the building one can see that all our students as well as our faculty take their task seriously. The main attribute of an academic institution is its intellectual capacity. We succeed if we can mobilise our minds and encourage critical thinking. As a matter of fact, I am convinced, based on my one year's experience as commandant, that we have plenty of fresh ideas and are eager to carry them out.

The world around us is not an easy place to live in. There are many positive developments but also worrisome occurrences for our nations. Therefore it is our task to be informed and forward looking to facilitate the education of future leaders. I am convinced that each and every person leaving this institution after the graduation or after their turn as a faculty member is a leader possessing a commanders' qualities as well as management skills.

In order to meet the requirements put upon us there is a constant dialogue in place. One can see that as a result of Curriculum Coordination Group discussions all academic activities are well synchronised including the MA program. Yet without external expertise there is a risk of relying too much on organisational inertia that would reduce our efficiency. The Academic Advisory Board – a body of distinguished academics and military leaders – ensures that we will continue moving forward. I would argue that the Board's last meeting in early December provided the College not only with good ideas but also with confidence in our selected path.

The last couple of months have been

vibrant and busy. They have accommodated a lot of academic as well as social events. The HCSC has literally completed their course and are joining the strategic leaders' community. The study trips to Georgia, Belgium and the Baltic Capitals were interesting and useful. Georgia in particular broadened our understanding of how connected the global and domestic DIME domains are. The signing of the MOU between the Georgian National Defence Academy and the Baltic Defence College is a significant milestone in our development. It is literally a testimony that our institution has matured and is well recognised. It is our turn to assist our friends and allies who did not enjoy conflict free development after regaining their independence.

We have also signed a MOU with the Polish Defence University. The world is more and more connected and we need to be linked with partners that share our values and ethos. For instance, visits from the Canadian Forces College and US National Guard Bureau are a testimony that we are not merely regionally focussed but enjoy good transatlantic links too. The former, in particular, is important as it grants us Canadian accreditation.

JCGSC progress has also been steady and sound. Here too BALTDEFCOL is in the forefront of developments. One can say that previous GOP was a complicated system, but the COPD has evolved from the complicated realm into the complex one. That is good because the environment we are expected to operate is complex. What I am particularly pleased about is our students' willingness to learn and improve.

On the academic side the ISMS conference was a success story. It suc-

ceeded not only because of the good turn out and quality papers but also due to our staff's dedication. Everything from IT support to administration progressed smoothly. It looks so natural but we need to realise hard work behind the scenes. I am sure that without Dean James Corum's connections to his fellow academics or Didzis Nimants' energetic executive skills all that would not have been possible. The feedback from participants was very positive indeed.

But the college is not just about hard work. It is also a place where people know how to have fun. I admit that for me the International Night was one of the most emotional events of the year. It was good to get together and enjoy the benefits of cultural diversity. In our daily business we are so used to the multinational environment that we take it for granted, yet there is so much more what our nations are proud of. Also one should agree that the students' efforts to entertain the participants was very pleasurable and indicates that outside of the professional domain they are thoughtful members of society with a good sense of humour and the right attitude.

The Christmas is around the corner, it is a time to be spent among family and friends. I wish you a good escape from the daily routine, have quality time with your loved ones and return back in good spirit.

I wish you Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

BrigGen
Meelis Kiili

BALTDEFCOL hosts the annual Baltic Military History Workshop

By Dr. Eric Sibul

The Baltic Military History Workshop 2011 was held at the Baltic Defence College from 20th to 21st October 2011.

The presentations ranged chronologically from the Napoleon Wars in the Baltic region to a report on the contemporary activities of the Command History Program of the United States European Command (EURCOM). Presenters covered a broad field of topics ranging from the research activities of Cesis Battlefield Association on the Estonia-Latvia battles against the Germans in 1919, archaeological investigation of a Post World War II Lithuania resistance fighters' bunker in the Daugėliškės Forest, recent research on campaign planning and the Narva front in 1944, to an examination of the development of Finnish armour doctrine through the Cold War era.

Participants came from the University of Tartu, two Canadian universities, US Marine Corps, EURCOM, Italian Military History



Participants of the annual Baltic Military History Workshop 2011. (Photo by Oliver Toots)

Office, Lithuanian Military History Centre, the Latvian War Museum, the Finnish National Defence College, Military Academy of Lithuania, the Estonian National Defence College, and the Baltic Defence College.

On the evening of 20 October, a festive dinner was held at the

Atlantis Restaurant for presenters and senior leadership of the Baltic Defence College.

This was already the third annual Baltic Military History Workshop held by the Baltic Defence College.



Official photo of the Workshop participants at BALTDEFCOL



Commandant of the BALTDEFCOL giving a speech at the workshop (Photos by Oliver Toots)

BALTDEFCOL Hosts the Annual Conference of International Society For Military Sciences

Baltic Defence College hosted the annual international conference of the International Society For Military Sciences (ISMS) titled "Adapting to modern security challenges" from 8 to 10 November.

The ISMS was established in 2008 by the Austrian National Defence Academy, the Royal Military College of Canada, the Royal Danish Defence College, the Finnish National Defence University, the Netherlands Defence Academy, the Norwegian Education Command, the Swedish National Defence College, and the Baltic Defence College. But the organization is growing year by year with the latest members being Polish national Defence University and the Belgian Staff College.

The conference was held at



ISMS annual conference at the Dorpat Conference Centre. (Photo by Raido Saar)

gy, armed forces and society, defence management and economics. The concluding remarks of the working groups were presented

sor Žaneta Ozoliņa of the University of Latvia.

Baltic Defence College received positive feedback from the participants and demonstrated once again that we have the excellent capability and professionalism needed for organizing a major international conference.



Members of the ISMS Council. (Photo by Raido Saar)

the Dorpat Conference Centre. Academics from all over the world participated in the panel discussions and over 70 papers were presented in the working groups. There were altogether 8 working groups: war studies, military history, military technology, leadership command and control and basic competence, law and ethics, security and defence policy and strate-

during the final wrap-up on the last day of the Conference. The opening keynote speech was given by the Lithuanian Air Force Commander Major General Edvartas Mažeikis and the first day of the conference concluded with the keynote speech by the Estonian Minister of Education and Research Dr. Jaak Aaviksoo. The closing keynote speech was made by Profes-



Transfer of the ISMS Presidency to the Royal Military College of Canada. (Photo by Raido Saar)

Commandant's Visit to the Polish National Defence University

By LtCol Aare Tuvike

By the invitation of Major General Romuald Ratajczak, on 16th of November the Commandant of the Baltic Defence College, BG Meelis Kiili, visited the National Defence University of Poland (NDUP).

This University is the highest level academic institution of the Polish Armed Forces, which educates students and conducts scientific research especially for the needs of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Poland. The NDUP also educates civilians in the field of national defence and prepares them to work i.e. in the Parliament as well as national and local administration. In addition, the NDUP offers military education to officers from Germany, US, Hungary, China, France, Czech Republic, Lithuania and other countries. The university meets all the required criteria in the field of higher education and promoting academic staff. The National Defence University is therefore a vital element of national educational system and co-establishes Polish science.

BG Meelis Kiili was introduced with the mission, history, structure and activity of the university. Rector-Commandant of the NDUP, MG Romuald Ratajczak, and BG Meelis Kiili also discussed future coopera-



BrigGen Meelis Kiili and Rector-Commandant of the NDUP MG Romuald Ratajczak signing a MoU. (Photo by Z. Rutkowski, NDUP)

tion between the two military educational institutions and signed a MoU concerning cooperation in education and research activities.

Contemporary military education has to be developed in accordance with the continuously and rapidly changing environment. Therefore, exchange of information, experience and knowledge between partners is vital. BALTDEFCOL and NDUP agreed that bilateral cooperation will refer to education and training, as well as scientific research activities. Bilateral cooperation may also include participation in the academic conferences, workshops, seminars

etc, organized either by the Baltic Defence College or National Defence University of Poland. In the future, it is also very important that our institutions would have the opportunity to mutually exchange participants of national courses for officers or lecturers and speakers on agreed subjects. It would give a comprehensive experience to both sides and enrich the educational level of our courses.

The relevant officials of the NDUP and the Defence Attaches of Estonia and Lithuania were represented at the ceremony that was held in honour of signing the MoU.

“Military Man as a Citizen”

On 1st November Estonian Chancellor of Justice, Mr Indrek Teder, gave a lecture on “Military Man as a Citizen” to the students of the National Defence Academy, but all who were interested could come and listen as well. The Chancellor began his lecture with contemplating on the existential relations between the citizen and the state and the rights and obligations of both counterparts. He also discussed the different tasks of

the Chancellor and pointed out some of the weak points of current



Chancellor of Justice giving a lecture at the NDU main hall. (Photo by Lauri Rikas, NDU)

governance. In addition, he discussed the role and different tasks of a Chancellor of Justice and it's equivalents in different nations as the post of Chancellor of Justice is only found in three states. His introductory lecture was followed by a discussion with the students on different restraints of a military man, the use of military in crisis situation in addition to the police forces, the prisoners as possible work force and on other subjects.

Joint Command and General Staff Course Update

In the final weeks of December, a constant flurry of activity characterized the Joint Command and General Staff Course. The heightened level of academic effort in the Tactical Trainer and the Admiral Cowan Hall stemmed from the Operations Department's Joint Planning module.



"Our key objective is to train our officers to apply NATO's COPD methodology in the planning of combined and joint operations," said **Major Uģis Romanovs**. *"Additionally, there are a number of other qualities our officers develop as well. For example, during our tutorial, they increase their proficiency in written and verbal presentations, enhance their leadership styles, and improve their time management skills."*

Informal feedback indicated that the Operations Department's objectives were achieved. **Major Svajunas Papiliauskas** stated, *"Now I understand more about military operations than I did at the beginning of the course. The most challenging aspect for me was understanding joint operations – as an officer of the Land Forces, it is a completely new field for me."* His observations were echoed

by another classmate, **Major Ramunas Švažas**. *"Being a student in JCGSC provides me a good opportunity to familiarize myself more deeply with joint operations. This is a good environment for learning – not only from instructors but from classmates as well because many of them are experienced in different services, positions and deployments."*

Using after action reviews from previous iterations of the module, the Operations Department implemented some key modifications to enhance the instruction. **LtCol Finn Jensen**, Head Teacher for the Joint Planning module, explained, *"Based on the experience from last year's tutorial we made some considerable changes which have already paid off. For example, we've combined three Syndicates into a large room. This fosters the exchange of products, ideas, and best practices. Furthermore, the SGOs can work together as an entity and supplement each other's knowledge in coaching and guiding."*

Without a doubt, one of the enduring qualities of the JCGSC is its multi-national composition. This year's Class is comprised of 46 officers from 14 nations, and these officers agree that multi-nationality has added a significant level of richness to the learning environment. *"There are officers from six nations in Daugavgrīva Syndicate – everyone has different military experience and points of view. Working in this type of environment has been the most challenging aspect for me and is a golden opportunity for me to prepare myself for future service in a multinational environment,"* said **Major Renatas Spėčius**.



Another classmate, **Major Per Erikstrup Falkenberg** agreed: *"The most challenging aspect is cooperation in an international environment. We have to be able to acknowledge different approaches and create an environment that leaves room for all to express their opinion and incorporate them into our Syndicate's solutions."* **Captain Meelis Vilippus** had similar impressions. *"There are very different personalities with a variety of backgrounds. Despite all that, we must work as a team and come up with Syndicate solutions which require compromises in the Syndicate. At the same time, the differences between us make us much richer. Every day you learn something new about a different nation or something from someone's experience."*

Looking ahead, JCGSC will continue its efforts to educate the officers in joint, multinational, and interagency operational-level planning. Of note, the Course will integrate eight members of the Civil Servants Course in



early February. For the first time, these CSC students will fully participate in the JCGSC curriculum until the JCGSC-CSC graduation in June.

New challenges certainly await the officers, but **Major Inguna Bubuce** remains ever-optimistic. *"My very personal takeaway so far is proving to myself that everything is doable. I am lucky to be a part of the best Syndicate – Gediminas – with its excellent atmosphere, the best team spirit, and the greatest fellows."*



Course Director Note: Thank you to everyone on the Support Staff during the first half of this Academic Year. Your behind-the-scenes efforts have been instrumental to the success of our JCGSC Officers. Thank you for all you do!

FLASH: Exercise can actually be fun....

(Photos by Oliver Toots)



Looking Back at the HCSC of 2011

By LtCol Raul Õpik

Planning Officer of the HCSC 2011

Just before the Baltic Defence College Christmas vacation, HCSC 2011 graduation will take place in the White Hall of the History Museum of Tartu University on Friday 16 December. This will be already the 8th Higher Command Studies Course of BALTDEFCOL to get Diploma Certificates.

There were 15 students in the course this year coming from 8 different countries: two civil servants and two senior officers from Lithuania; three civilians and one military officer from Estonia; two colonels from Ukraine; one student from Poland, United Kingdom, Moldova, Georgia and Latvia.

In addition to the above mentioned who will graduate on Dec 16 we had one external Erasmus programme student from National Defence University of Poland, Mr. Lukasz Michalec, who participated in the course the first 3 months and so demonstrated 'in flesh' the international cooperation between the Baltic Defence College and the universities of other countries. At the same time his presence alongside the 15 regular members of the course added, no doubt, more perspectives to the discussions.

It is important to point out that for



Students of HCSC 2011 during their Study Trip to Georgia and Belgium. (Photo by HCSC)

the first time in HCSC history we had a student from one of the old and leading NATO member states -- the United Kingdom -- and an officer from a new partner country -- Moldova.

Starting from this year, we have introduced a new appraisal system for grading and assessing the execution of students' tasks. This system consequently helped to strengthen the course's reputation as a serious endeavour.

Another important moments worth emphasizing are the so-called non-academic Field Study Tours (FST) that we decided to include in the course program this year.

Alongside the above mentioned non-academic events we provided students a visit to Āmari Air Base and EDF Training Centre in Tapa in Estonia; BALTNET

CRC in Karmelava and Šiauliai Air Base in Lithuania in order to get a general overview of the Baltic States armed forces and how our cooperation in the framework of NATO is going here.

The overall duration of the course was 25 weeks, comprising of 6 weeks for dispersed preparation and the accomplishment of required reading prior to arrival in Tartu and 19 weeks for the residential part itself.

The HCSC 2011 once again certified the so called "Rule of Nature" saying that every course has its own face. From the DS point of view we will remember HCSC 2011 students as a good company of highly motivated and bright people who expressed from the very beginning of the course their strong will to work hard and make it their first priority.

The course should be assessed as a successful one and as another important moment in the college continuing development.



Students of the HCSC met with the MOD of the United Kingdom. (Photo by Oliver Toots)

Challenge Cup With a Twist

18th October was a “team sports” day. The teams of Support Staff (Team Alfa), Directing Staff 1 (Team Bravo) and 2 (Team Delta) and Commandant’s Office team (Team Charlie) gathered at the Officers’ Mess to hold the fiercest battle ever seen in the history of the OPD Challenge Cup. The teams were challenged in:

- Table-football
- Team pool
- Team chess

Teams consisted of 4 players. Each player got a number from 1 to 4 and made their turns accordingly. In the first round teams Alfa and Bravo competed in team pool and teams Charlie and Delta competed in team chess. The battle in team billiard turned out to be a short one, as the black ball found its way into the pocket pretty quickly. Victorious team Bravo headed for the final match of table football.

Team chess, on the other hand, was more time consuming. Each player could approach the chess board only after the contesting team had made their move in order to avoid any kind of signalling or commenting at the board by other team members. Everyone had to make their moves by themselves. In order to speed things up there was a time limit set for one minute during which the player had to make his/her move. Mr Abramov was the referee for the chess battle and as many of us had no prior considerable experience in chess he gave an overview of the game rules. Team chess was a bewildering game for the participants because there were 7 moves made by other team members and the contestants since your last move. So you never really knew what kind of a situation was wait-

ing for you on the board. This fascinating match was won by team Charlie.

Teams Bravo and Charlie made it to the final match that was probably the fiercest and most gripping. This was the table-football match. Every team member got a hold of one of the rotating bars with player figures and the battle began. Participants used different methods for bar handling but the subtle and calculated female touch proved to be most efficient. After a really close match team Charlie won the game. It was the first time for Commandant’s Office’s team to participate and, of course, first time to win the Cup.

According to the statute of the OPD Challenge Cup, the next event should be held within 2 months and the Commandant’s Office team is responsible for choosing the next sports activity. The next event will take place already in the upcoming year.



Team chess....



Team pool...



... and LtCol Aare Tuvike explaining the game rules for the final team-football match (Photos by Berit Marksoo)

Name Contest for the New Room of the Head of the Commandant's Office

For some time ago the Head of the Commandant's Office, LtCol Aare Tuvike, moved to an office on the first floor opposite the Dean's office. He organized and decorated his office in the best possible way and therefore the staff members decided to give a nickname to this beautiful office. All kinds of sweet names were proposed: "The cafe of three doves", "Una Paloma Blanka" "Tu-ko-ko" etc. But the winner was a short and simple: "pigeonhole". The author of this nickname received a stainless steel cup.



LtCol Aare Tuvike handing over the cup to the contest winner Paavo Reidla. (Photo by Oliver Toots)

Christmas Special

Estonian language course for Christmas season

Common phrases:

Häid pühi/ häid jõule! – Merry Christmas!
 Head uut aastat! – Happy New Year!
 Küll on palju lund! – There's a lot of snow!
 Homme on veel külmem – Tomorrow will be even colder
 Lumememm – Snowman
 Palun üks tee rummiga! – Can I have a tea with rum please!
 Jõuluvana – Santa Claus
 Päkapikk – Christmas elf
 Piparkook – Ginger bread

Bilingual exercise poem for Santa Clause:

Hello, armas jõulutaat!
 Kui great, et sind ka näha saab!
 Habe on sul tõega cool
 Ja kingikott fantastic suur!
 Next year ju tuled jälle here?
 Ma seniks soovin sul: take care!
 (<http://www.omaklubi.net/t/225-joulusalmid-aastavahetuseks>)

Trouble with finding Christmas presents? Zodiac compass will give you tips:

Aries

a camera, skis, sports equipment, computer games, tickets to sports events, an expensive perfume, a leather belt, sunglasses

Taurus

theatre tickets, a champagne bottle, jewellery, scented candles, home decoration items, chocolate box, plush toys, scarves, green clothing, wallet

Gemini

laptop, DVD player, cell phone, office items, webcam, watch, headphones with microphone, a board game, puzzle games, magazine subscription, bracelet

Cancer

a painting, fluffy slippers, photo album, a fresh perfume, a book in the series "How to start your own business", a charm, cook book

Leo

favourite music CDs, concert tickets, electronics, a funny shirt, interior design objects, diamonds, something made by you, lottery tickets

Virgo

agenda, shirt, tie, cosmetics, sports equipment, massage, wallet, plant, bottle of good wine, manicure

Libra

champagne, expensive perfume, cosmetics, clothing items, massage oils, magazine subscription, photo frame

Scorpio

a very expensive perfume, a watch, rare music CDs, aromatherapy kits, books about mysticism, famous spies, astrology

Sagittarius

Plane tickets, climbing equipment, travel books, surprise gifts (funny cups, T-shirts with messages), magazine subscription, a globe, lottery tickets

Capricorn

gold watch, designer clothes, a leather handbag, designer shoes, electronics, stocks, tennis equipment

Aquarius

a trip to the mountains, a strategy game, science fiction books, concert tickets, original clothing items, cell phone, magazine subscription

Pisces

aromatherapy kits, psychology books, interior decoration objects, travel books, fairytale books, candles, aquarium, musical instrument