

THE BUGLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIC DEFENCE COLLEGE



June 2014 | Issue 19



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Mr. Toots, personal archives of Directing Staff members, Officers and Civil Servants of JCGSC and CSC, and BALTGIRLS

COMMANDANT'S FOREWORD

In a few weeks we will graduate the Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC) 2013/2014 and the Civil Servants Course (CSC) 2014. Before heading to our well-earned summer break, I can summarise our institutional achievements made in the first half of 2014, as well as share with you some ideas about the further implementation of our institution's development.

To begin with, I would like to thank you all for your good teamwork. Like Henry Ford used to say: 'If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself. Nevertheless, I still believe that we can do even better: our main effort should be creating a fully transparent working atmosphere; having no hidden agendas; better coordinating efforts between departments; being flexible and up-to-date in our curriculums; being constructively critical towards ourselves; as well as staying connected internally and externally.

The College will face an extensive exchange of personnel this summer. I would like to welcome our new team members: next Chief of Staff LtCol Pfaffenroth, officially assuming the post from Col Gustafsson on 1st July; Public Relations and Information Advisor Ms Järv; Lecturer in International Relations Dr Cusumano; and Lecturer in Academic Writing Dr Ashley Roden-Bow. We also hope to have a new Dean selected and in position after the summer break. In addition, our staff will be supplemented by visiting fellows.

We are moving in the right direction with our courses. It is noteworthy that we have a good mix of officers and civil servants—the latter having smoothly integrated to the JCGSC and having demonstrated exemplary performance in classes as well as in exercises. When planning our educational activities we should keep in mind the need to give more ownership to the students, as well as better balancing the ratio between lectures and syndicate work. We will definitely continue with conducting the next International Study Tour in three different directions. The next JCGSC will face also structural changes—the course will move to five syndicates instead of the current six, helping to better concentrate in-house intellectual capital and resources.

Regarding the Higher Command Studies Course (HCSC), I can state that with the Baltic states' approval, we will move the next course from Autumn 2014 to Spring 2015—the manoeuvre giving the college more flexibility of time and allowing us to better use our internal resources. I wish good luck with the next course to the Course Director Col Rajevs, and everyone else engaged in the educational process.

I am glad to say that when looking back to the past five months and ahead to next academic year the college has a lot to highlight. We have successfully started with delivering new modules to the CSC in cooperation with the British Embassy in Tallinn. We have also begun further developing and harmonising a quality assurance system for our educational provision. We have started with electives and continue developing this successful project in cooperation with the Baltic states and possible support from other military colleges, placing more emphasis on topics such as Irregular Warfare, Mission Command and Strategic Communications.

The college's main internal effort over the next academic year will be research. We will continue conducting yearly Cyber Conferences, monthly roundtables led by the Dean and we plan to host a conference on Russian power projection in Autumn 2014. In addition, we plan to develop short courses for flag officers.

We will continue cooperation with our partners and allies in NATO and the EU, as well as establish new links with institutions such as NATO's Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence in Riga, among others.

We will also continue work with the Baltic Defence College's Vision 2020 and get guidance from the highest level on the future direction and development of the College. The modernisation of the college will be continued, beginning with our mind-set—which must become more flexible and dynamic—as well as by renewing the physical environment with the first priority being syndicate rooms, Von Sydow Hall and our computer capabilities.

In conclusion, we need to continue striving for improvement. I urge everyone to engage in good teamwork, which will enable the college to conquer its next aims and undertakings swiftly and painlessly. Let us harmonise our inputs and good initiatives and keep the Baltic Defence College a modern, progressive, attractive and competitive institution of professional military education!

Major General Vitalijus Vaikšnoras
Commandant



Higher Command Studies Course 2013

By Col Igors Rajevs, Course Director of HCSC



On 17 December 2013 BALTDEFCOL graduated the students of the Higher Command Studies Course (HCSC) 2013.

The Graduation Ceremony of the 10th HCSC, held in the History Museum of Tartu University, was honoured by the presence of high level representatives from the Baltic States and honourable guests from Allied and partner nations.

Graduation speeches were delivered by the Commandant of BALTDEFCOL MajGen Vitalijus Vaikšnoras, and by the highest representatives of the Baltic States present at the ceremony Undersecretary for Defence Planning of Estonian Ministry of Defence Mr Margus Pae, Parliamentary Secretary of Latvian Ministry of Defence Mr Veiko Spolītis, and Vice-Minister of Lithuanian Ministry of Defence Mr Marijus Velička.

The ceremony was opened by MajGen Vaikšnoras who in his speech quoted well-known expression of Albert Einstein: "Education is not received it is achieved", emphasizing the importance of independent study were the College is providing appropriate environment and conditions, but every student effectively contributes to the education process. He said that graduates of the HCSC must be prepared to face future assignments in a rapidly and continually changing geopolitical environment and also mentioned that BALTDEFCOL is providing its graduates with an excellent opportunity to build close networks with counterparts from different countries, as well as with those from the same national agencies.

The HCSC 2013 was attended by 15 officers and civil servants from 9 different nations. The Graduation Ceremony of the HCSC was followed by ceremonial handover of Diplomas and Graduation badges, and student speech given by the Class Leader Col Franz Wanka (AUS A).

Two student of the HCSC 2013 received special awards—LtCol Devis Martusevičius (LTU AF) won the Best Student Award for outstanding academic achievements, exceptional leadership and comradeship, and Mr Peeter Kuimet (EST MOD) won the Academic Writing Award for the best Individual Research Paper: "Preparing the Army for the Next War. DePuy and the US Army Post-Vietnam".



Graduating class of HCSC 2013 and honourable guests

The programme of the Graduation Ceremony was followed by a reception where graduates, honoured guests and the College staff could engage in informal conversations and discussions.

The HCSC 2013 was graduated by 15 students from 9 different nations. Students attending the course represented Austria (1), Estonia (2), Georgia (2), Latvia (2), Lithuania (4), Moldova (1), Poland (1), Slovakia (1) and Ukraine (1).



Civil Servants Course 2014

By Course Director JCGSC/CSC and Ms Kadi Salu, Course Secretary of HCSC/CSC



The Civil Servants Course (CSC) 2014 started on 6 January 2014. Since then, the Civil Servants' performance, enthusiasm and progress have been impressive. Each smoothly acclimated to the new environment, as well as to the active educational process and planning procedures.

During the first week, the Civil Servants were educated on Joint Operations (JOPS), strategic planning and other key subjects. The aim of these introductory learning modules was to enhance the Civil Servants' skills, knowledge and creativity necessary to effectively contribute to planning and execution of Combined JOPS across the conflict continuum in a contemporary, comprehensive operational environment.

In his very first engagement with the Civil Servants, BALTDEFCOL Commandant MajGen Vitalijus Vaikšnoras encouraged the Civil Servants to maximise the unique opportunities for self-development offered at the College. He emphasised that education is best achieved by the efforts of each individual, and challenged the Civil Servants to diligently pursue professional and personal self-development over the five month period.

In the midst of the learning, Ms Kristi Purtsak from Estonian Ministry of Defence (MOD) shared her feelings: "The modules were very intense and at the beginning a little bit confusing, but one the another hand - also very interesting. We had the opportunity to have a close look in the kitchen side of operational planning. We didn't just watch but also we took direct part of different pieces of planning process. It really expanded my understanding about planning process of different operations and I got closer look in military thinking. As time goes by, different pieces are coming together and starting to have a logical meaning."



CSC 2014 group photo

From the outset, the Civil Servants were merged with the JCGSC. The purpose of this civil-military integration is to enhance the Civil Servants' ability to understand, discuss and work with their military co-learners.

Mr Arturas Dirse from the Ministry of National Defence of Lithuania said: "Common activities with the military helped me to understand that military environments are indeed complex and multi-dimensional. As a result, I am deepening my knowledge in military operations planning." Clearly, the combination of the two Courses foster an enhanced understanding of the comprehensive approach within the College.

When asked about most challenging aspect of the linking the CSC during the second half of the JCGSC, the Officers' answers were clear. Maj Steven Tierney stated: "This key addition to the Course has brought together a more complete picture of the types of Civil Servants found in a MOD."



Officers and Civil Servants working side by side

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The Civil Servants bring different perspectives and a diverse set of experiences that has already added depth to the Joint Course that would not have been possible otherwise."

Over the few months, the Officers and Civil Servants work together on a wide variety of assignments and projects. The students of the CSC 2014 are highly motivated and bright people who expressed from the very beginning of the course strong social bond and ability to work in teams. Along with pooling and sharing, it is teamwork and cost savings like this that MODs in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation are looking to push to the forefront.

On 10-13 March, the Civil Servants and selected officers from the JCGSC had a module Civil Military Relations hosted by BALTDEFCOL and organised by King's College London's Centre for Military Education and Outreach.

Dr Augustine Meaher, Director of Department of Political and Strategic Studies, said: The module aimed to provide Civil Servants and Officers with an in-depth insight into civil military affairs." The course concluded with the students applying the knowledge they had gained from lectures delivered by British and Lithuanian practitioners and UK Defence Academy professors about civil-military affairs in two case studies.

The students analysed the Vietnam War and the Iraq Conflict with a focus on the lessons that can be learned from those conflicts to improve civil-military relations in future conflicts and presented their findings to British Ambassador to Estonia H.E. Mr Chris Holtby OBE and MajGen Vitalijus Vaikšnoras.

Next similar module in a row headed "Strategic Policy Planning" was conducted by the International Centre for Parliamentary Studies on 2-6 June.

The June course led by trainer Mr Andrew Archer has been designed for all civil servants working in a policy context, whether at the early stages of evaluating policy proposals and options, or at later stages of delivery and evaluation.

Through practical examples, workshops and discussions with leading practitioner in the field, the course provided the essential skills for ensuring best practice in strategic thinking and planning and managing the policy process from beginning to end.

BALTDEFCOL hopes that such courses will become a standard component of the future CSC curriculum.



Participants of the civil-military course with
UK Ambassador H.E. Mr Holtby and BALTDEFCOL Commandant MajGen Vaikšnoras

15th Anniversary Celebrations

Based on BALTDEFCOL Webpage Articles by LtCol Monika Mertinaite, Syndicate Guiding Officer and Dr James S. Corum, Dean

On 27 February 2014 BALTDEFCOL celebrated its 15th Anniversary with an Official Ceremony and Anniversary Conference.

The main event of the 15th Anniversary day took place on 27 February when BALTDEFCOL Commandant hosted the distinguished guests at Official Ceremony at the Dorpat Conference Centre.

The afternoon Ceremony was honoured by the presence of Estonian President H.E. Mr Toomas-Hendrik Ilves, Estonian Defence Minister H.E. Mr Urmas Reinsalu, Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Defence of Latvia Mr. Andrejs Pantelejevs, Vice Minister of Ministry of National Defence of Lithuania Mr Antanas Valys, Chief of Defence of Estonia MajGen Riho Terras and Commander of the Latvian National Armed Forces LtGen Raimonds Graube. Among the distinguished guests were former BALTDEFCOL Commandants, current and former staff members and students of the JCGSC 2013/2014 and CSC 2014.

The BALTDEFCOL was established in 1999 by Estonia, Latvia, Lithuanian and participating and supporting Nations: Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States. At the

moment the College is mutually owned, financed and jointly managed by the Ministries of Defence of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania.

BALTDEFCOL has developed since its establishment in 1999 as a regional education and research institution. With its key focus on the education of future military and civil leaders, the College counts almost one-thousand graduates from 39 different countries.

Although 2/3 of the graduates come from the Baltic countries, the emphasis on NATO procedures and standards, English as the working language, daily experiences of different cultures make BALTDEFCOL attractive for other Allied and EU states, as well as outreach countries.

Besides, closer integration of military officers and civil servants foster better mutual understanding and creates the preconditions for the implementation of a comprehensive approach to overcome an increasingly

uncertain security environment.

'Our College has become a very important link in the overall professional military education system of the Baltic defence establishments. [...] The Baltic Defence College will play a significant role in connecting our forces, building human interoperability of the minds of the military and civilian personnel from the three Baltic States, as well as our Allies and Partners. [...] the Baltic Defence College is and will be the place where future leaders learn to operate, cooperate and fight together. We will ensure that it remains a future-oriented, progressive, attractive and competitive military education institution well into the future.', said BALTDEFCOL Commandant MajGen Vitalijus Vaikšnoras at the opening of the official celebration.



*BALTDEFCOL Commandant
MajGen Vaikšnoras giving his speech*



Estonian President H.E. Mr Ilves at the Ceremony

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H.E. Mr Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President of the Republic of Estonia emphasised at the College anniversary speech the importance of education to military officers: '[...] Working together and building our skills in the Baltic Defence College, we have created a pool of qualified officers capable of dealing with that future – with future threats and challenges to our common security environment. [...] Knowledge and competence are keys to success in military organisations. An army without educated officers is not an army, it is just a group of armed men.'

The last official speech was delivered by Maj Kaspars Pudāns (LVA A), a student of the JCGSC 2013/2014, who shared his experiences and insights about the multinationality of the College and importance of the professional military education for officers, the need of which only grows with years.

The speeches of the dignitaries were followed by the medal awarding ceremony during which BALTDEFCOL Medal of Merit Gold was presented, for exceptional contribution and support to the College, to Chief of Defence of Estonia MajGen Riho Terras.

Medal awarding ceremony was followed by the award of the Honourary Fellowship of BALTDEFCOL – a newly established tradition at the College. Three academics: Dr Margarita Šešelgytė, Dr Artis Pabriks and Dr Rene Värk were awarded with the fellowship based on their personal input to the development of the College.



Dr Margarita Šešelgytė from the Faculty of International Relations of University of Vilnius, has after leaving the College staff remained a strong friend

and supporter, lecturing at the College on yearly basis and regularly attending College conferences and seminars. The nominee also serves on the editorial board of the Baltic Security and Defence Review.

Dr Artis Pabriks from Riga International School of Economics and Business became from the

very start an enthusiastic supporter of the idea of a MA programme and ensured the cooperation and partnership of the Latvian National Defence Academy.



Dr Rene Värk from the Faculty of Law of Tartu University, has consistently been rated as one of the best visiting lecturers by BALTDEFCOL students having been a contributor to the Baltic Security and Defence Review, writing an article on military aspects of law that was re-published and is used by several staff Colleges.

The guests of the 15th Anniversary Celebration were entertained during interludes in the ceremony by musical renderings of the Lithuanian Voluntary National Defence Forces Big Band. All attending the event enjoyed the popular music stylings of this talented musical group.



BALTDEFCOL current and former Commandants cutting the anniversary cake

The Anniversary ceremony ended with a reception where distinguished guests, current and former students and staff had a chance to get together and ponder on the differences of current and former education, and had an opportunity to foster the network that has been established in the College years before.



Anniversary Conference

As part of the 15th Anniversary celebration BALTDEFCOL hosted an academic Conference on "Challenges in the Future of Higher Defence Education".

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Speakers of first session of Conference at BALTDEFCOL premises

The Conference was held in two sessions—the first session was conducted at BALTDEFCOL premises with a distinguished panel of representatives of defence education institutions.

The speakers included Commandant of the Royal Danish Defence Academy RAdm Nils Wang as the main speaker, followed by Professor of the National University of Public Service of Hungary and former Chief of Defence of Hungary Gen (ret.) Zoltan Szenes, former Rector of the Finnish National Defence University MajGen (ret.) Dr Pertti Salminen, and Vice-Rector of the Polish National Defence University Col Prof Dariusz Kozerawski.

Each speaker discussed the model of their national military educational institutions, which are all adapting to the major changes in the Western security posture, as well as discussed the need to incorporate civilian and military students studying a wide variety of different aspects of security. It is clear the higher military education is in a process of transformation with the need to teach many new subjects to include cyber

defence and counter terrorism and other subjects that are not traditionally military.

The second part of the Conference provided a discussion by five professors from Baltic educational institutions speaking to the theme of merging civilian and military education. The panellists were member of Latvian Parliament and former Latvian Defence Minister Dr Artis Pabriks, Studies Director at the Institute of International Relations and Political Science of the Vilnius University Dr Margarita Šešelgyte, Director of Research of Latvian National Defence Academy Dr Janis Berzins, Associate Professor of Macroeconomics of the University of Tartu Dr Viktor Trasberg, and Professor at the Faculty of Law of the University of Tartu Dr Rene Värk.



Panel of Baltic speakers at Dorpat Conference Centre

Each speaker spoke about the particular needs to educate military officers in special military skills, but the evolution of conflict also means that military and civilians needs to be educated together to understand the complex issues of cyber, defence management and security.



BALTDEFCOL Directing Staff and Support Staff in February 2014

Commandant Visited PME Institutions in France and Spain

By Maj Vilius Zagurskis, Acting Head of Commandant's Office/Military Assistant

During the last quarter the Commandant of BALTDEFCOL MajGen Vitalijus Vaikšnoras accompanied by Acting Head of Commandant's Office/Military Assistant Maj Vilius Zagurskis visited sister Professional Military Education (PME) institutions in France and Spain.

The main objectives of the visits were to get familiar with structures and capabilities of respective Colleges, to enhance and initiate cooperation between institutions as well to heighten the visibility of BALTDEFCOL.

Visit to France

During the visit to France on 6 February BALTDEFCOL Commandant visited two main France PMEs institutions - Institute for Higher National Defence Studies and French War College (*École de Guerre*) located in Paris.

During the meetings with the Director of the Institute LtGen Jean-Marc Duquesne and Director of *École de Guerre* RAdm Marc de Briancon. French experts provided a series of briefings to inform the Commandant about the composition of Colleges, its respective courses and curriculum.

Both sides discussed in-depth matters such as quality assurance of the education process, education methods and processes applied in respective institutions, audit of PMEs, as well possible future cooperation.

It was agreed to intensify cooperation and relations between BALTDEFCOL and *École de Guerre* in terms of student and faculty



Meetings with LtGen Jean-Marc Duquesne

exchange, mutual support to the study trips and staff rides, and participation in various conferences organised by both institutions.

Visit to Spain

On 4-5 March BALTDEFCOL delegation conducted a two day visit to the Spanish Higher Center for National Defence Studies (CESEDEN) located in Madrid.

This was the first official visit to CESEDEN by BALTDEFCOL, before which both institutions didn't have any formal relations. CESEDEN staff lead by the Director LtGen Alfonso De La Rosa Morena was more than willing to host our delegation.



Visit to CESEDEN in Madrid

Besides mutual introduction of respective institutions both parties discussed possible bilateral future cooperation, questions related to the future of higher military education as well exchanged views in matters such as cooperation in research, conferences, seminars, and joint publications; mutual support to international study trips and staff rides, as well as cooperation sharing the best practice.

Both visits to France and Spain can be considered to be very successful—it was an excellent opportunity for BALTDEFCOL to have insight in how strategic and operational level military education is organised in sister institutions as well as to share best practice among the respective institutions.

Exercise Collaborative Effort '14

By Col Jan Erik Mikkelsen, Director of Operations Department

BALTDEFCOL conducted already annual Exercise Collaborative Effort on 3-21 February.

The Exercise Collaborative Effort '14, in which both the Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC) and Civil Servants Course (CSC) participated, was a command and staff exercise of LAI which practised students in campaign planning and design and operational execution using a high intensity conflict scenario.

Exercise Collaborative Effort was delivered in two parts. Part I held on 3-14 February was a planning phase where students were allocated to operational planning groups which were tasked to develop guidance and courses of action to support a NATO force deployment to a crisis region. Students of the JCGSC and CSC took forward initial planning and developing detailed courses of action for a simulated NATO crisis response operation. This phase practised students in the analysis of operational situations and consider probable NATO crisis response options using military force at large scales.

Once the planning phase was completed the exercise continued with the exercise theme shifting from the planning of a combined joint exercise to its operational execution.

Phase II conducted on 17-21 February saw the students' re-role into staff positions within a Joint Operations Centre and Operational Planning cells. Using the original high intensity crisis scenario the students of the JCGSC and the CSC were required

to control the conduct of a major joint operation achieving high levels of situational awareness and developing fu-ture operations in accordance with NATO objectives.

Students were combined to form a representative Combined Joint Task Force Headquarters (CJTF HQ) controlling the engagement at the operational level of a NATO force containing land, air, maritime, special operations and logistics forces.



The Exercise environment brought together the instruction of previous course modules on military theory, joint capabilities, operational frameworks and operational planning processes in order to provide students with the opportunity to translate theory into practise.

An important aspect of the Exercise was the student led approach, where the Directing Staff provided minimal guidance, encouraging students to rely upon internal analysis and decision making.



The Exercise introduced students to the demands of responding to operational level battle rhythm, maintaining situational awareness and creating high level reports and returns. It required students to use their powers of analysis, judgement and decision making to accurately recognise situations and respond to operational events.

The Exercise was an important synthesis of previous teaching and was an excellent experience to prepare students for deployment to Exercise VIKING which held in May in Sweden.

VIKING 14 Completed

By Operations Department



BALTDEFCOL students and members of the Directing Staff participated in the exercise VIKING 14—largest recurring civil-military relations exercise in the world.

After being thoroughly prepared during in-house Exercise Collaborative Effort '14 in February the students of both Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC) and Civil Servants Course (CSC) as well as Directing Staff took on the next challenge and participated in the 7th Exercise VIKING 14 on 31 March-10 April.

BALTDEFCOL representatives were spread out in five different exercise locations—Enköping, Uppsala and Karlskrona in Sweden, as well as Tbilisi in Georgia and Dublin in Ireland. All students were integrated in the Headquarters of Air, Maritime or Land Forces to fulfill their staff roles.

On 8 April the Commandant of BALTDEFCOL MajGen Vitalijus Vaikšnoras had an excellent opportunity to visit the personnel of the College during the Distinguished Visitors' Day. During the visit he received very good reflection on the performance of the students and staff members.

The exercise had realistic scenario based on current situation in some of the most "hot spots" around the world this time concentrating on BOGALAND

scenario, involving several countries in deep crisis in the need of Joint Combined Civilian and Military Peace Support.

Operational concepts used in the training reflected current operational concepts used by the UN, NATO, EU, Regional Organisations and principal International Organisations as well as Non Government Organisations.



BALTDEFCOL civil servants cooperating with officers

Over 2500 participants from over 50 countries and over 60 different organisations participated in this computer assisted joint, multinational comprehensive command post exercise in the "Spirit of Partnership for Peace" co-chaired by the Swedish Armed Forces and the Folke Bernadotte Academy and supported by the US as a strategic partner.



BALTDEFCOL Commandant MajGen Vaikšnoras visiting Exercise scene

The aim of VIKING 14 was to train and educate prepare participants—civilian, military and police—to meet the challenges of current and future work in an international staff within a multifunctional and multinational Crisis Response Operations (CRO), based on a Comprehensive Approach, and focusing on cooperation and coordination within an unstable environment, involving all stakeholders.

2nd Cyber Conference Held

By LtCol Mika Juha Kerttunen, Director of Department of Leadership

BALTDEFCOL conducted its 2nd annual Cyber Conference “Teaching and Studying Cyber Defence and Cyber Security” in Tallinn on 10-11 April.

The conference, taking the form of two days of facilitating plenary conversations and working sessions, focused on teaching and educating cyber security and defence, was arranged in the Finnish Embassy in cooperation with the Centre for Asymmetric Threat Studies (CATS) at the Swedish National Defence College.

The conference was opened by the BALTDEFCOL Commandant MajGen Vitalijus Vaikšnoras and was followed by a key note address by Member of Estonian Parliament and former Minister of Education and Research and Minister of Defence Mr Jaak Aaviksoo who stated in his note that “cyber is everywhere” and emphasised the need to start cyber related teaching already at kindergarden and basic school.

The first day of the conference focused on the content and methods for teaching cyber security and cyber defence to officers in armed forces of different countries. It was aimed at widening a community of interest and collaboration on BALTDEFCOL's draft Cyber Security Reference Curriculum.

On the second day, presentations and discussions considered how to satisfy both practical as well as philosophical research and analysis interests in cyber

defence and cyber security. Day two studied how to combine various disciplines, audiences and functions to achieve a high-quality interdisciplinary academic approach to cyber defence and cyber security.



BALTDEFCOL Commandant MajGen Vaikšnoras and Mr Jaak Aaviksoo delivering opening addresses

The audience of 50 cyber education experts from the Baltic States, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Poland, Sweden, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and the United States presented their educational solutions and lessons learned as well as research agendas and perspectives from several fields of study.

One of the highlights of the Conference was Colonel Timothy Thomas' presentation on Chinese strategic thinking and cyber education. According to Col Thomas the Chinese consider the essence of strategy being getting “someone to do something for themselves they are actually doing for you”!

The Conference ended with a tangible way forward: BALTDEFCOL asking for other military and civilian educational institutions for their voluntary contributions for a Reference Curriculum on military officer cyber education covering all four levels of officer education.



International Study Tour 2014

By Mr Edgar Reedik, Mr Erko Kulu, Maj Christopher Giorgi, students of JCGSC and CSC and LtCol Ceslovas Cerniauskas, Instructor of NATO Land Component

The Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC) 2013/2014 and Civil Servants Course (CSC) 2014 of BALTDEFCOL conducted this year's International Study Tours (ISTs) to Belgium/France, Norway and Italy on 4-9 May 2014.

The aim of the three trips was to expose students to NATO, EU and national strategic, operational and tactical level commands to provide insights into National, EU and the Alliance's processes and procedures. This was the first time when an IST

was split into three different directions, where smaller groups promoted more tailored study experience. It was also the first time when students had an opportunity to choose their preferred tour.

Working Visits in Italy

The IST started with the visit to the Joint Force Command (JFC) Naples, where BALTDEFCOL delegation was greeted by MajGen Robert Weighill, Deputy Chief of Staff Plans. With ongoing NATO command structure reform, JFC Naples shared the challenges which a NATO joint operational level command faces in creating smaller, leaner and more agile structures. The challenges of creating a deployable headquarters, which is also able to run an operation from their impressive new facilities in Naples, were among the most interesting topics discussed.

BALTDEFCOL delegation also visited the Italian Joint Operations Headquarters (JOHQ) and Italian Navy Headquarters. During the JOHQ visit, BrigGen Maurizio Boni emphasized the importance of crisis response operations for Italy and the intensive use of military capabilities in support to civil authorities. The importance of intra-agency and intra-state cooperation was further stressed in the Navy HQ by

RAAdm Giuseppe Saponaro who shared his insights about some of the challenges Italy is facing due to continuous budget decline and constant inflow of immigrants.



BALTDEFCOL delegation in JFC Naples

The importance of education and training was addressed during the trip to Italy by further visits to national and NATO education and training institutions. To examine the foreign educational institutions and to promote international co-operation, BALTDEFCOL delegation visited the Centre for High Defence Studies and the NATO Defense College, both responsible for educating high ranking officers in the multinational environment, and the NATO Communication and Information Systems School at Latina. Students on the Joint course in the Italian Centre for High Defence Studies were conducting an exercise applying the same Comprehensive Operational Planning Process that BALTDEFCOL students have finished studying several weeks ago.



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The Case Study – 1943/1944 Italian Campaign

One of the aims of the IST was to analyse a historical campaign from an operational perspective. To achieve this, prior to the tour to Italy an elective on the 1943/1944 Italian campaign was conducted. During the tour, students and staff members discussed the strategic background of the campaign, and operational objectives of the Allied and German forces.



US War Cemetery in Anzio

The understanding of operational environment was further enhanced by visiting Monte Cassino and Anzio – the famous battle fields

of the Italian campaign in 1943/1944.

The discussions were followed by lessons learned sessions where students were encouraged to use all their knowledge gained during the JCGSC.

After visiting the battlefields, BALTDEFCOL delegation paid its respect to the soldiers in the Polish memorial, German, the Commonwealth and US War cemeteries.

Italian Culture

After the long working days, BALTDEFCOL group had a chance to experience the rich Italian culture. Students had an opportunity to spend an evening in Pozzuoli – a small harbour town not far from Naples, visit the monastery on Mount Cassino and had guided tours in Rome and Pompeii.

Working Visits in Norway

The IST to Norway began with a visit to the Ministry of Defence in Oslo which allowed the students to hear first-hand about Norway's current key issues, which include the reorganisation of the armed forces and its policy in the High North. Next, BALTDEFCOL delegation visited the Norwegian Joint Headquarter and the 132nd Air wing Base in Bodø, on the north coast of Norway.

At the headquarters the students had the possibility to gain an inside view about the Norwegian policy and cooperation initiatives in the high north. In the air base where the students had the opportunity to observe a combined quick reaction alert exercise with Norwegian F16s, Finnish F18s and US F15s. It was followed by the air wing commander's briefing about the base facilities and the future developments of the Norwegian Air Force. The visit was concluded with the awarding of an Arctic Circle certificate.

Then, the delegation visited the Amphibious Regiment located near Harstad and Coastal Ranger Command (KJK) of the Norwegian Navy. It is an amphibious infantry unit trained to operate in the littoral combat theatres, as naval infantry and coastal artillery.

Finally, BALTDEFCOL students and staff members had a great opportunity to visit the National Defence University College located in Oslo where they listened to presentations about the Norwegian military education system and academic research conducted at the institution. The presentations were followed by an interesting overview of the security and defence policy concerning the high north, NATO, Russia and Norway.



Visit to 132nd Air wing Base in Bodø

The Case Study – 1940 Norway Campaign

The delegation visiting Norway examined the "Battle of Narvik" in April/May 1940 and its joint effects. This campaign is considered to be the first truly joint campaign, when Germany invaded Norway using Army, Naval and Air force units, being opposed by Western Allies. Some key terrain was examined and strategic positions revisited and discussed.

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The visit to the War Museum in the city of Narvik put the students “in the shoes” of the troops fighting during ex-treme weather conditions.

BALTDEFCOL delegation also visited Norway’s Resistance Museum where they received an overview of the German occupation during the II World War.

Norwegian Culture

The delegation had the opportunity to enjoy free time in Bodø, Narvik and in the old town of Oslo.



Norwegian IST group at the battlefield of Narvik

Working Visits in Western Europe

Western Europe trip started in Brussels in NATO HQ when the delegation received poignant briefs from various officers on how NATO is dealing with the Ukrainian Crisis, the upcoming NATO summit, NATO in Afghanistan post-2014, updates on current NATO operations, and an informative brief on emerging threats to NATO countries.

Next, we proceeded to the EU External Action Service to receive briefs from members of the EU Military Staff (EUMS) by BrigGen Hermann Greens, the EUMS Director of Operations. The key take away from these briefs was that the EU can complement NATO’s military missions by bringing civilian sources of power to fully attain the comprehensive approach.

Next, BALTDEFCOL delegation visited to SHAPE’s Special Operations HQ (NSHQ). The NSHQ is responsible to create interoperability between national SOF units so that when employed in a multinational environment, SOF from various NATO units will have already trained together, have interoperable doctrine and systems, and trusted relationships will already be established.

At SHAPE BALTDEFCOL delegation was welcomed by MajGen Jerzy Biziewski the Deputy Chief of Staff Plans.

His staff briefed us on such issues as Cyber Defence, the CCOMC planning process, and Force Generation.

On the last day the delegation visited the French Joint Force and Training HQ in Creil where we familiarised with French military operations in Mali and future operations in the Central African Republic.

The Case Study – 1944 Operation OVERLORD

In Normandy, France students and staff members discussed various aspects of Operation Overlord, the Allied invasion of occupied Europe on 6 June 1944.



BALTDEFCOL delegation in NATO HQ

To be continued on PAGE 15

On a cloudy overcast day in the province of Normandy, we arrived at Pegasus Bridge, the sight of the first Allied (British) landings, via gliders, to secure a key bridge over the Orne River. The British successfully captured the bridge within 10 minutes of landing, which was key to preventing a German counterattack towards the landing beaches to the northwest.

Moving on, we next arrived at Merville Battery where BALTDEFCOL Instructor Mr James Chedham proudly described in detail how the members of the British 9th Parachute Battalion used the elements of surprise, speed, and mission command to destroy German artillery that could devastate the Normandy landings, even though they were outnumbered by the Germans.

We proceeded to Gold Beach and observed how the flat landing site along with determined British engineer and infantry soldiers quickly gained a foothold against the German defenders. The day ended with a solemn visit to a local British military cemetery to better understand the consequences of hard decisions that needed to be made.

The following morning we once again departed Caen for the Normandy beaches, this time, Omaha Beach, the location of some of the toughest fighting on D-Day. Upon arrival, it was instantly recognisable the monumental effort that was needed by the American soldiers to successfully dislodge the Germans. The land, favouring the defence, was highly elevated above the beaches and had commanding views for 20km. The site of thousands of Allied naval vessels on the morning of 6 June 1944 must have been daunting in the eyes of the German defenders; nevertheless, they refused to retreat and were only defeated by deadly small unit attacks. The clouds gave way to light rain and it was easy to imagine the soldiers, on both sides, struggling, not for a grand idea of a free or occupied Europe, but for simple survival on that deadly day. We next proceeded to the American Cemetery to pay our respects to those that gave their lives to free Europe from tyranny.

Our next stop was at Villers Bocage, a small French village where we learned of a great example of how

mission command and initiative can mean the difference in success or failure of a mission. Lt Michael Wittman, a German tank commander, took instant initiative, without waiting for orders, attacked and single-handedly destroyed almost 30 British vehicles with his lone Tiger tank; thus, forcing the British to halt their attack.



BALTDEFCOL delegation at Gold Beach, Normandy, France

That night we once again moved hotels, this time to the extravagant Dolce Chantilly Hotel in Chantilly, France. We welcomed Lithuanian Military Attaché to France LtCol Marius Česnulevičius and former BALTDEFCOL Instructor Maj Jaanus Sägi to our formal dinner. Everyone spent that night reflecting about various aspects of the trip and prepared for our last day in Paris.

The Culture

BALTDEFCOL delegation travelling to Western Europe had the opportunity to visit Brussels, Mons, Caen and travelled to Paris where we enjoyed three hours of free time to sightsee the world's most visited city.

Way Forward

The IST 2014 proved to be an excellent balance between deepening the learning of the operational art, learning about NATO and National Command structures, capabilities and challenges, as well as expanding the horizon of cultural awareness. The possibility to choose between travel directions and to have in-depth historical case studies supported by visits to actual battlefields that built on the knowledge gained during the electives was widely appreciated by the students. The general high level of satisfaction gives assurance that continuing these study tours is the right way forward.

Baltic Defence Study Tour

By Dr James S. Corum, Dean

BALTDEFCOL students of the Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC) 2013/2014 and Civil Servants Course (CSC) 2014 conducted annual Baltic Defence Study Tour on 25-30 May 2014.

These future senior leaders studying at BALTDEFCOL visited Tallinn, Riga and Vilnius to meet with leaders of Defence and Foreign Ministries of the three Baltic countries to include the military defence chiefs and other senior officers of the armed forces of Baltic States.

The Study Tour was designed to broaden the understanding of the students and participating faculty members to understand the policies, current concerns and viewpoints of the Baltic military and civilian leaders. As well as meeting with senior leaders and having briefings on the military capabilities and policies of each Baltic nation, the students had the chance to go into the field and to visit key military units and installations in the region.



Officers in Lithuanian SOF HQs

In Lithuania the students visited the Lithuanian SOF HQs and were briefed by the Commander and his staff on current exercises. In addition, the SOF personnel provided a display of the weapons and equipment that they currently use.

In Latvia the students were given a tour of the Lielvarde Air Force Base hosted by the Base Commander which included a candid question and answer session. Liel-

varde is a new capability for the Baltic States and will soon meet all the NATO standards to host an Allied fighter squadron.

In Latvia BALTDEFCOL delegation was lucky to have senior members of the national parliament



generously give their time and answer questions concerning the national defense policies. Students and staff members met with Mr Ainars Latkovskis, member of the Military Committee of Latvian Parliament (Saeima).



In Estonia the group met with the Chairman of National Defence Committee of Estonian Parliament (Riigikogu) Mr Mati Raidma who gave an insider's point of view of politics in Estonia. This type of exposure to the highest levels of government is one of the success stories for the College as the trip briefings tied together many of the theories and topics covered throughout the year by the lecturers and briefers at BALTDEFCOL.



Briefings in Estonian Parliament

To be continued on PAGE 17

BALTIC DEFENCE STUDY TOUR

In addition BALTDEFCOL students and faculty members visited the main training center of the Estonian Army at Tapa where they were briefed by the Commander and got to see the main equipment.

The analysis provided by the Baltic senior leaders gave the students a deeper understanding of the current operational picture. Most importantly, the students received an in-depth view of how each of the three Baltic nations is developing its forces over the next decade.

How the three Baltic States are cooperating militarily with each other was a key theme of the visits. Of particular interest to many was the thoughtful and direct insight given by the Chief of National Defence of Lithuania LtGen Arvydas Pocius Chief of Defence of Estonia MajGen Riho Terras and former Chief of Defence of Estonia Gen (ret.) Ants Laaneots. Their talks were followed by questions from the officers and students. Such discussions were a highlight of the tour.

The study tour was an investment in education as it exposed many personnel for the first time to the highest levels of military and civilian leadership. As the three Baltic States are democratic nations, it was essential to get the views of the elected civilian leaders who control the Armed Forces.

The students had spent the previous ten months studying topics such as the comprehensive approach and the three levels of warfare (strategic, operational and tactical) and the study trip gave the students the chance to ask senior people just how security



was understood in the Baltic nations. As civil military relations are a key factor in modern military operations, the study trip gave the students some “hands on” insights into the process.

Finally, in each nation there was a cultural event, a tour of the capital city or a museum tour that offered the non-Baltic students the chance to see something of each country and the chance to see how each Baltic country has its own unique character.



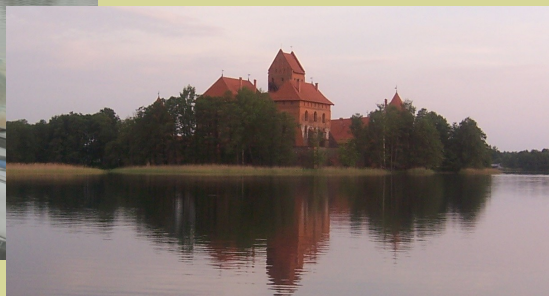
Sightseeing tour in Old Town of Riga

Trips such as this one are a key part of BALTDEFCOL education. The mix of meeting with civilian leaders and talking with military leaders, as well as visiting major military centers in the three countries provided the students a lasting impression of the region and a thorough understanding of the military policies and capabilities of the Baltic States.

The trip is one of the last major events of the year and all agreed it was a very valuable way to close the academic year.



Boat trip near Trakai Island Castle



44th Place in Tartu Marathon Team Relay

By Maj Gediminas Latvys, Officer of Joint Command and General Staff Course

BALTDEFCOL student team participated in the 3rd Tartu Team Relay of the 43rd Tartu Marathon held on 9 February 2014.

Four officers of the Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC) successfully completed the 4 x 12 km relay with time 2:52:29 and took 44th place.

JCGSC Officer Maj Meelis Peterson from Estonian Armed Forces who skied the first leg in the team, said the track was difficult, especially due to soft snow spots, but the good team spirit kept his motivation high until the end of the track.

"I encourage everyone to take part in such kind of events, because this is not about winning - this is team spirit, and possibility to have physical activity in fresh air," he emphasized.

Together with the 3rd Tartu Team Relay, the 43rd Tartu Marathon Open Track and Tervis Pluss 13th Tartu Marathon Ladies' Race were held. Overall 86

teams participated in the Tartu Team Relay race, additionally 235 skiers went to the open track and ladies' race.

The next challenge for BALTDEFCOL team would have been participation in the 43th Tartu Ski Marathon, sc-

heduled for 15 February, but due to bad snow conditions the marathon was cancelled.



College team at Tartu Maraton Team Relay

Anniversary Basketball Tournament

By Maj Gediminas Latvys, Officer of Joint Command and General Staff Course

On 17 March 2014, by the friendly game between Syndicate Kalpaks of the Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC) and united team of BALT-DEFCOL marks the end of the Basketball 3x3 Tournament among the College teams.

The tournament was organised from February to March to commemorate the 15th Anniversary of the BALT-DEFCOL, and five teams, representing the JCGSC and the College Directing Staff, participated. Syndicate Kalpaks took 1st place by winning all the games of the tournament.

JCGSC officer Maj Germanas Kaktavicius from the Lithuanian Armed Forces, said there were no easy matches, all the teams strove to win till to the last point, however, the main aim of this tournament was to foster cooperation among

different Syndicates and the Directing Staff, and create opportunity to spend time together. "It is well-known, that basketball is the second religion in Lithuania, but we were surprised, that officers from others countries were so active in this competitions and performed with very strong play," Maj Kaktavicius emphasized.

Instructors and students of the College actively participate in different sport events. College organised Frisbee and Volleyball competitions for the JCGSC and the CSC; members of the Directing and Support Staff and student body have participated in Tartu City Marathon, Tartu Team Relay of the Tartu Ski Marathon and other competitions organised locally in Tartu.



Members of winning team of Anniversary Basketball Tournament

Challenge Cup Competitions

On 13 January 2014 BALTDEFCOL staff moved away from their operational level instructor modes to tactical level individual shooters by competing in next Challenge Cup competition — shooting.

Organised by BALTDEFCOL Support Staff, 30 staff members engaged in the first BALTDEFCOL Challenge Cup event of 2014. The idea of the Challenge Cup, originally named as OPD Challenge Cup, was initiated by the Operations Department in April 2010, with an intent to encourage and promote informal social activities for the entire staff of BALTDEFCOL to promote good internal communication and to contribute to a friendly working climate within the College.

With support from the Estonian National Defence College (ENDC), staff members were able to prove their shooting skills in the subsurface indoor shooting range located below ENDC.

Firing Heckler and Koch USP 9mm pistols, staff members engaged targets and were scored in two events. The first event consisted of an untimed 10 meter, 10 round volley that was scored followed by a second 10 round volley in 30 seconds, known as a stress shoot.

Teams consisted of five to six members. Some teams formed up for the fun and opportunity to shoot a handgun for the first time. Other teams stacked members to gain a marked advantage in Challenge Cup standings. Ultimately, everyone had fun except for the guys who had to clean up all of the brass.

In the end, Team OPD, consisting of Course Director of HCSC Col Rajevs, and OPD staff members LtCol Stonkus, LtCol Āboliņš, LtCol Rauza, and LtCol Gray won. Col Rajevs and Cdr Valintelis (from the Dream Team) tied for highest individual shooters.

RESULTS:

Cup Holders:

620 points — Col Rajevs, LtCol Stonkus, LtCol Abolins, LtCol Rauza and LtCol Gray

II Place – The Cup Followers

579 points — Col Stobnicki, Col (ret.) Gabrielsson,

Cdr Lehmann, Cdr Ivask, LtCol Černiauskas and LtCol Timofejev

III Place – The Cup Chasers

566 points — Col (ret.) Sliwa, LtCol Mikkelsaar, Dr Corum, SSgt Kardmaa, MSgt Sepp and Mr Must

BEST PERSONAL SCORES:

I-II. Col Rajevs & Cdr Valintelis – 168p

III. Maj Zagurskis – 167p

IV. LtCol Gray – 164p

V. Mr Seppa – 156p

Go Cart Race on the way

Next and also final challenge in Academic Year 2013/2014 is already scheduled for 12 June and will put to test College staff members' sense of speed, stamina and driving skills — Go Cart Race is on the way!

Go Cart Race, this time organised for the 5th time already, is a competition which can be considered to be a traditional event of Challenge Cup in Spring Seasons.

See you all on race track!

UPCOMING GO CART RACE

Date: THUR, 12 June

Place: Põltsamaa Kuningamäe Go Cart Racing area (60 km from Tartu)

Time:

1630 hrs – Departure from College

1730-1900 hrs – Race

1900 hrs – Departure from Kuningamäe

1930 hrs – Arrival to Tartu

Donation to Tartu Maarja School

By Maj Steven Tierney, Officer of Joint Command and General Staff Course

On 25 March 2014 representatives of BALTDEFCOL presented a donation to the children of the Tartu Maarja School as a generous giving by the students and faculty of the College.

The presenting party included student officers' Maj Taivo Rokk and Maj Steven Tierney accompanied by members of BALTGIRLS including Ms Irena Vaikšnorienė, Ms Rasa Buikiene and representative of BALTDEFCOL Support Staff Ms Kaja Arulepp.

The children who attend Tartu Maarja School suffer from many types of mental and physical illnesses. This donation came from funds collected during international night held in the autumn of 2013 and attended by members of the Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC) 2013/2014.

The funds were used to buy an instrument called a Tao Lyre which is a type of harp which is easily playable by people without music skills. It has a sound that may be associated with relaxing music from East Asia. It is also used during music therapy

which may help these children further develop mental capacities.

Maj Taivo Rokk mentioned, 'The gift will fit into the mission of what the director and the teachers of the Tartu Maarja School are working to achieve.'

Ms Vaikšnorienė lead a presentation with the Director of the school and presented the Tao Lyre on behalf of BALTDEFCOL. School officials were pleased to receive the gift and emphasized how much it will help the children. The Director explained that the school was operated because of generous support from the Norwegian government and funds from various government levels within Estonia.

The staff of the Tartu Maarja School were kind enough to offer a tour of the facility and were pleased to show the students receiving their lessons for the day. The tour visited various arts and crafts studios and a music room within the school. Many of the students live on site versus traveling home daily due to the location of their residences throughout Estonia.



BALTDEFCOL delegation with the students and staff of Tartu Maarja School

BALTGIRLS News

By Ms Merike Järv, Public Relations and Information Advisor

December 2013

Ms Zaneta Baltreniene gave an art of decoupage master class to BALTGIRLS. Time run out so fast, when we made together nice boxes, candles, bracelets, and hangers. We hope to have another master again class next year, as making beautiful gifts together was really fun.



Before Christmas time the BALTGIRLS were invited by Ms Sigita Matuliaviciene to make Christmas decorations from straw. Sigita prepared all the material for us for making the decorations. We had a wonderful time! We recognized that we can do by our own hands many beautiful Christmas decorations.

January

We are very thankful to Ms Donata Kubiliene that she, because of BALTGIRLS, came to Tartu in one cold January day. She organised and gave us a Latin dance master class. We learned to dance many Latin dances. During the dance class Fattan showed us Iranian national dances and Knarik an Armenian bride's dance. This dance master class was a great success and an unforgettable experience for all participants.



February

In February we continued with BALTGIRLS project "Discover Estonia" and we visited different sightseeing's in the Võru county. We started with the Nopri Dairy Farm, a very modern dairy farm in



Käirina. In the farm all production processes are computerized, food amounts and mixtures for the cows are calculated by the touchscreen computers. The owner of the farm gave us a guided tour and impressed us with his stories about the development of the farm. We spent there a few pleasant hours observing cheese production from curds, yogurt, cottage cheese and other milk products. We had an opportunity to taste delicious farm food and buy different milk and meat

products.

After that we visited the 14th century Vastseliina Bishop Castle in Vana-Vastseliina. A wonderful guide told us amazing stories



and legends about the castle. It was very interesting, we saw and could try different old items, such as chastity belts, etc. We learned that the castle was built on the initiative of the Bishop of Tartu and the Order Masters of Livonia.

After the tour in the castle we arrived to Võru. In Võru we visited a huge cake factory Cristella, which is the biggest Estonian producer of frozen bakery in Baltics. They are selling frozen bakery products to Estonian and many foreign markets. There we saw how cake doughs and pastries are made. By the end of the visit each of us received a cake that our family members could taste as well. It was delicious! The tour in Võru county was a great experience to discover the sightseeing of South-Estonia. We enjoyed it a lot!

The coffee morning of February was devoted to the national flags, where all the participants expressed the history and meanings of their national flags. Our clothing or accessories were in the colours of our national flags. As always we had delicious international food.

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March

In the middle of March we had a tour in Viljandi and Jõgeva area. Firstly, we visited the Energy farm in Vihi village, near Navesti River in the Viljandi county, run by one nice Estonian family. They welcomed us very warmly with a homemade cake and a special tea. The cake was decorated with dried flowers and tea was made from their own special herbs. The owner showed us the mini hotel and spa area with sauna, Jacuzzi and a splendid view to a river. We learned how the herbs are cultivated in Estonia. Energy farm's herbs and tea mixtures can be bought from Estonian shops and pharmacies.

The next place we visited was the candle factory in Võhma, in the Viljandi county. We found it very interesting and attractive as we had an opportunity to make our own candle and buy different handmade candles. The owner of the candle factory was our guide. It was interesting to see some 1-1.5 meter tall painted and decorated candles which are the factory presents to several Estonian towns as gifts. Moreover, this factory produces not only candles, but also hand-made cards. We had an opportunity to peek inside the working room where lovely handmade cards are created.



In Jõgeva, in the Siimusti ceramic and pottery workshop, we got familiarised with the crockery production process. All production is being done by hand. We bought from the pottery some very beautiful ceramics, such as vases, milk jars and cups.

BALTGIRLS are very thankful to Ms Rasa Buikene for helping us with transport-ation during this trip to Jõgeva and Viljandimaa. "Since I wanted to find out more about Estonia, I tried to participate in all the trips. I really enjoyed the trips, because they were well or-ganised. I found out a lot of new and interesting facts about Estonia," cited Ms Buikiene.



Marina Gabrielson who organised for us a trip to Helsinki and a visit to the Fazer's confectionery factory, shares her memories: "I had a pleasure to take part in the BALT-GIRL's trip to Finland. In Helsinki

we started the day with a guided bus tour around the Finnish capitol. After seeing some churches we visited the famous factory of Fazer, this was like "a town inside a town". They had there their own apartments, pharmacy, kindergarten, sports centre and other facilities. This surprised and amazed us. We saw a very funny and good movie about the production of chocolate. We could not see the real production with our own eyes, because the hygiene requirements were very high. Besides that, we visited an exhibition and a museum about historical products of Fazer. After the Fazer factory we

had a chance to see the Sinebrychoff museum. In spite of the famous alcohol brand name, this museum is an art gallery that includes art of Rembrandt among other pieces of art. This art collection was a present to Finland by the family of Sinebrychoff. It all was very interesting and we all were happy about this new experience."



After long dark winter months BALTGIRLS and their families were invited by the Lithuanian Community in Tartu to participate in the Winter Go Away celebration in order to be enthusiastic and full of energy in spring. During this celebration, held on the shore of the Emajõgi, we burned the winter doll and danced Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian dances, accompanied by an Estonian musician.



To be continued on PAGE 23

April

In April BALTGIRL ladies continued with charity. BALTGIRLS together with BALTDEFCOL representatives and students visited Maarja School in Tartu, where we presented to autistic children a special musical instrument, Tao Lyre. BALTGIRLS served also delicious homemade cakes, sweets and fruits.



May

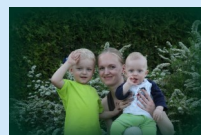
During the coffee morning in May Ms Lina Valintele gave a glass jewellery master class for us. We had an opportunity to make earrings, necklaces and other nice jewellery.



CONGRATULATIONS!

BALTGIRLS are happy to announce the birth of two new baby boys!

Gabrielius Valintelis was born to Lina and Giedrius Valintelis on 24 September 2013



Alen Arakelyan was born to Knarik and Harutyn Arakelyan on 23 March 2014



We wish love, health and happiness to your entire family!

A VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU TO:

- ◆ **Mr Oliver Toots** for giving a photography course "Photography Enthusiast".
- ◆ **Ms Anne Parmasto**, from University of Tartu, for giving an oil painting class.
- ◆ **Ms Monika Mertinaite** for organising Pilates lessons.
- ◆ **Ms Zaneta Baltreniene** for giving a decoupage master class.
- ◆ **Ms Donata Kubiliene** for giving a dance master class.
- ◆ **Ms Marina Gabrielsson** for organising the trip to Helsinki.
- ◆ **Ms Rasa Buikene** and **Ms Sigita Matuliaviciene** for organising the Winter Go Away celebration.
- ◆ **Ms Lina Valintele** for giving a glass jewellery master class.
- ◆ **Ms Kaja Arulepp** for the help in organising trips and coffee mornings.
- ◆ **Ms Irena Vaikšnorienė**, wife of BALTDEFCOL Commandant, for organising BALTGIRLS activities.
- ◆ **BALTGIRLS** from different nations for participating and representing their countries and introducing their national cuisine.



Another school year is over and it is very sad to say goodbye for those **BALTGIRLS** who are leaving Tartu. We wish them all the best!