

THE BUGLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIC DEFENCE COLLEGE



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Commandant's Foreword

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THE BUGLE

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As 2014 draws to a close it is only natural that we reflect on our achievements, and I share some thoughts with my Baltic Defence College team about the way ahead for our institution and what we can look forward to achieving in 2015.

To start with, 2014 was very challenging, interesting, productive and most importantly a very successful year.

Together we succeeded not only in maintaining the impressive standards and high quality of education our institution has made the hallmark of its existence during the first decade and a half of its existence. As we celebrated our anniversary our political masters congratulated us on our accomplishments and supported the vision of an even better BALTDEFCOL. Our performance audit also congratulated us on our achievements and recommended ways for us to improve.

To ensure our next years are a success we had launched Vision 2020 which will guide our long term planning process and ensure that BALTDEFCOL remains a Modern, Future Oriented, Attractive and Competitive Professional Military Educational institution.

In 2014, and as part of Vision 2020, we began the process of further positioning BALTDEFCOL to best address security and defense challenges of the future in the wider Baltic region and the broader Euro-Atlantic. We very successfully started to



implement quite a few new projects and initiatives. Among our many initiatives several stand out for special mention.

Electives allow our future leaders at the operational level to deepen and widen their knowledge and expertise in the areas related to their future appointments. Electives also represent a shift of ownership of education to our students as we continue our transition to adult learning.

To ensure that we are an attractive institution we have also begun our modernisation project. The environment we create helps to shape our students and faculty and ensures our education is of the highest quality. Modernisation is not just rooms and machinery but also the educational process itself which is shifting from teaching centred to learning centred.

Commandant's foreword

A modern facility also requires that we all have agile minds that can swiftly react to the latest developments and trends in the security environment.

Our seminars, roundtables and symposia are just some of the ways that we address changes in our regional security environment. These events allow us to showcase our intellectual talent to our NATO and EU allies and partners. Our inaugural Russia conference has established us as a leader in security thought in the wider Baltic Region and it, together with our other events such as ESDC, the Baltic Land Power Symposium and the Irregular Warfare Conference, provide a strong foundation for even greater intellectual accomplishments and deeper cooperation with our allies and partners.

These and all of our successes are the result of the BALTDEFCOL teams' efforts, dedicated work and commitment to ensuring BALTDEFCOL's continuing success and improvement and I take this opportunity to thank all of our permanent personnel and students and especially to recognize the support, understanding and dedication from our spouses and families without which BALTDEFCOL could not function. Looking ahead to the second half of the academic year and beyond we will further concentrate our efforts on the implementation of the plans and projects started this year.

On the 12th of January we will start with the refreshed Higher Command Studies Course which will better address the needs of the future strategic leaders of the Baltic States and our allies and partners by providing an enhanced understanding of regional defense and security issues. The same day our JCGSC will be reinforced by CSC participants where besides traditional participants from the Baltic States we will have a civil servant from the Republic of Panama, our first ever student from Central America.

Educational success requires planning and we will continue to further develop the Long Term Planning capacity of the Baltic Defence College. To ensure that our Long Term Plans are of the great-

est value to BALTDEFCOL and the Baltic States we will continue our efforts to harmonise all levels of Professional Military Education in the Baltic States.

Our long term planning and harmonization programmes will allow us to continue to improve the quality of our education and our educational process by developing and refining our quality assurance procedures and by improving the educational environment. Improving our education and our research requires that we deepen and strengthen our ties with other educational institutions both military and civilian.

We shall also further develop our existing courses and start to develop new ones. In 2015 we shall complete our dialogue with the Baltic States on the new CSC concept and develop a pilot Senior Strategic Leaders engagement which shall take place at the Baltic Defence College. These new projects will increase the attractiveness of BALTDEFCOL and require the best use of our intellectual and material resources.

To succeed - we should continue to work as one team, a team of the people who are innovative, responsible, flexible, communicative, who are able to cooperate and respect each other regardless of different personal opinions or views.

As the Commandant of the Baltic Defence College I have full confidence in our ability to successfully deal with the challenges we will face in the coming year and to further develop as a future oriented, progressive, modern, attractive and competitive professional educational institution for the benefit of the future leaders we educate, tomorrow and well into the future. I have every confidence that together ... we will succeed.

In closing, Irena and I would like to wish each of you a Merry Christmas with love and joy. We sincerely look forward to serving together in the year to come.

Major General Vitalijus Vaikšnoras
Commandant

Meeting President Obama

By MAJ Vidas Grunda

On 3rd of September this year the Commandant of the Baltic Defence College together with members of directing staff and the majority of JCGSC officers attended the remarkable event in Tallinn.



BALTDEFCOL delegation in Tallinn

The President of the United States of America Barack Obama paid an exceptional visit to Estonia addressing the Baltic States, but also the whole region, NATO and the whole international community on the current most worrying issues related to the uncontained Russia's aggression against Ukraine and its repercussions for regional and global stability.

At the beginning of the speech President Obama noted crucial historical facts about Estonia's fight for independence, highlighting a remarkable unity of all three Baltic States well illustrated by the 'Baltic Road', when people from all three Baltic States stood in one line stretching from Tallinn through Riga to Vilnius holding hands for their firm expression of an independent mind.

The President of the United States of America expressed the strongest commitment and reassurance to the security of the Baltic States as to any other Member State of the North Atlantic

Alliance, reminding that all NATO Member States have their commitments to the Alliance security as well.

President Obama expressed his concerns over the recent developments in Ukraine having then evolved to open military aggression by Russia against a sovereign and independent country.

President Obama underlined that there is still a possibility to settle the dispute peacefully and that the United States of America will continue in its support to Ukraine.

It was really an honour to be part of history and listen to President Obama's live speech, which was motivating and encouraging for collective defence within the NATO Alliance.



President Barack Obama

Field Study Trip to Saaremaa

By MAJ Vidas Grunda

From 30th September to 2nd October 2014 the JCGSC officers, guided by members of the directing staff conducted the Field Study Trip to Saaremaa.

The aim of the trip was to enhance officers' understanding of the evolution and conduct of joint operations through the notable historical example of Operation Albion during the World War I. This German operation was perhaps the first known joint operation in history that resulted in



Coast of the Baltic Sea



JCGSC officers and directing staff

extremely successfully coordinated Naval, Land and Air Force invasion into the Island of Saaremaa which was under the control of Russian forces at that time. The success of the operation had the ultimate strategic result of collapsing the Russian provisional government and ending the war on the Eastern Front on German terms in 1917.

The field study trip was a part of the Joint Operations Module learning plan. Dr Eric A. Sibul, the head of the project, provided detailed briefings about the historical situation and operational parameters in seven locations related to the operation. JCGSC officers had the possibility to get better visualization of the operation by placing them-

selves into a Joint Operational HQ planning officer's position for the Centre of Gravity analysis.

The officers also discussed operational parameters within small groups representing both sides of the operation. The final product of overall considerations was presentations on the analysis of Centre of Gravity from the German and Russian side prepared by the groups of the officers - the syndicates. Such Field Study Trips serve as an excellent instructive method bridging theory with practice as well developing officers' critical thinking skills in the joint operational planning process and at the same time learning more about the history of the Baltic States.



Observing the site

Visit to Ämari Air Base and Paldiski Seaport

By WgCDR (ret) Geoffrey Yapp

As part of their introduction to the roles, capabilities and limitations of modern military services the students of the Baltic Defence College's 2014-2015 JCGSC class spent on 18th October visiting Estonia's main military airbase at Ämari, the adjacent commercial seaport of Paldiski and former Soviet Navy Nuclear Submarine Training Centre.

tour of the Alert facility where armed fighters are available to respond immediately to any infringement of Estonian airspace or to intercept unidentified contacts in over Baltic waters.

Paldiski also started as a Soviet military base, but over the last 20 years has been rebuilt into a major Baltic transport hub. The focus of the Baltic Defence College was to better understand how such installations can be used to support the inter-



JCGSC delegation

At both locations the course was hosted by the senior management to extensive briefings as well as tours of the key facilities.

Lt Col Rauno Sirk explained how Ämari has been rebuilt from its Soviet origins to a fully equipped military airfield able to host a variety of combat aircraft as well as acting as an airhead, either for Estonian forces going overseas on operations or exercises, or foreign troops coming to Estonia.

At present there is a small detachment of German Eurofighter aircraft based at Ämari supporting NATO's Alliance wide Air Policing mission and the German Detachment Commander, Lt Col Gordon Schnitler, explained his unit's role and also led a

national deployment of NATO forces, and the briefings. The tour led by Harbor Master Captain Andres Kungla added real experience and examples to the academic education provided in Tartu.

A final stop at the former Soviet nuclear submarine training facility near Paldiski showed how difficult it is to clean up these facilities, and the long term safety and security challenges that will remain for several decades.

These excursions away from the College are an essential part of applying knowledge for the students and a valuable chance for informal interaction between staff and students away from the daily demands of College life.

European Military Press Associations Congress 2014

By Ms Merike Järv

More than 30 military journalists, editors and PR officers attended the annual European Military Press Association (EMPA) Congress 2014 on 23-27th September at the Baltic Defence College, Tartu.

The EMPA Congress 2014 was officially opened by the Baltic Defence College Commandant MG Vitalijus Vaikšnoras on 23 September. In his welcome speech he emphasised the importance of multinational collaboration, pooling and sharing intellectual capabilities.

At the Baltic Defence College the military journalists from Estonia, Latvia, Finland, Switzerland, Germany, Croatia, Austria, Norway, Hungary and Poland were briefed about BALTDEFCOL activities, structure and courses by the Deputy Commandant, COL Axel Pfaffenroth. The guests were introduced to the regional importance of the BALTDEFCOL and its relevance from the perspective of international defence education.

The Congress provided a perfect opportunity for journalists to interview and write articles about the Baltic Defence College and Estonian Defence Forces.



Ms Vesna Pintarić , Ms Līga Lakuča

At the Congress The EMPA Prize for the best article was awarded to Vesna Pintarić, for the story titled "Two villages – two worlds apart", published in the Croatian Ministry of Defence's military magazine *Hrvatski vojnik* in July 2014 .

The EMPA has more than 100 members in 21 European countries. In 1977, chief editors, and directors of important national and international military newspapers and periodicals from several European nations met for a first exchange of ideas. The first statutes of the EMPA were passed at a meeting in Hamburg in 1980.



EMPA Congress Opening Ceremony

6th Annual Conference on Baltic Military History

By Dr Eric Allan Sibul

The Baltic Defence College held the 6th Annual Conference on Baltic Military History 14th -15th October 2014.



Opening Address by the Baltic Defence College Commandant

The theme for this year's conference was Adaptation and Innovation in Baltic Military History.

Simply stated adaptation is the process of changing to fit some purpose or situation or to adjust to a changed environment. Related to adaptation is in-

novation - which is doing things in new and improved ways, most usually to adapt and thrive as the operational environment changes. Militaries must constantly adapt and innovate - small armed forces perhaps must be even more nimble in this regard than large ones who have vast resources and can afford mass defeats and losses. Presentations in the conference covered such diverse topics as innovations in tactics in the Battle of Karuse in 1270, commercial maritime development in Estonia and the establishment of the Estonian Navy in 1918-1919, Lithuanian aircraft design 1921 - 1940, and the post-World War II international relations and se-

curity ideas of veterans in diaspora. Participants came from all three Baltic Countries and a strong contingent of

academics came from Italy. Institutions represented at conference included the Baltic Defence College, the Estonian Maritime Museum, the University of Tartu, the Latvian National Defence Academy and the General Jonas Žemaitis Military Academy of Lithuania.



Presenters and commentators at the Conference

Unconventional Warfare Seminar “Resistance and Resilience”

By Merike Järv

The second Unconventional Warfare (UW) Senior Seminar “Resistance and Resilience” was hosted by BALTDEFCOL from 4-6th November in Tartu.

This second iteration in the series of seminars was a cooperative effort between Special Operations Command Europe, Joint Special Operations University, and the Baltic Defence College.

More than 70 participants from 11 countries participated in the three day seminar. For the first two days, the participants received lectures from experts in the field. After which, the seminar broke down into small groups during which time a highly qualified syndicate leader facilitated a discussion of the topics presented. This was an opportunity for the participants to explore the subjects in more detail, question the presenter’s premise, and relate the presentation to each nation’s unique situation.

On the third day the small groups presented their findings and conclusions to the plenary session and addressed questions from the attendees.

The focus of the seminar was on intellectual interoperability in a post-Afghanistan era to sustain relations among allies and partners developed over the past decade. This forum enabled it and was one of the many opportunities to sustain these critical relationships.

The first Unconventional Warfare Senior Seminar was held at the Akademia Obrony Narodowej (National Defence University) in Warsaw, Poland. It was a cooperative effort with multinational experts from various academies, governments, militaries, and the private sector. The next Unconventional Warfare Senior Seminar will be held in 2015 in Lithuania.



COL Martin Herem, MG Gregory Lengyel, COL Axel Pfaffenroth, LTC Robert Grey

Conference 'Russian Power Projection in the 21st Century'

By Dr Asta Maskaliūnaitė

On 24-26th November 2014, the Baltic Defence College organised an international conference entitled 'Russian power projection in the twenty-first century'.

With this event, the college aims to establish a tradition of larger annual events geared at exploring the most topical issues facing the "Wider Baltic" area. It aspires to become a hub of research on strategic, security and military issues – a place for scholars and practitioners alike to share their ideas and insights into the region's and the world's most important threats and challenges.



MG Vitalijus Vaikšnoras opening remarks

It hopes to provide a forum for the discussion of the position of various international actors and their relations to our countries, as well as to enhance the understanding of world affairs and the opportunities for Baltic nations to play a greater role in them.

With that intent in mind, the conference was organised in conjunction with seven other institutions: the Swedish National Defence College; the University of Tartu's Centre for EU-Russia Studies; the Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW), a leading Polish think-tank; the Centre of Eastern European Policy Studies from Riga; the Finnish Centre of Excellence in Russian Studies at the University of Helsinki; the International Centre for Defence and Security in Tallinn; and last but not least, the NATO Energy Security Centre of Excellence, located in Vilnius, Lithuania.

The conference was opened by the Commandant of the Baltic Defence College, Maj. Gen. Vitalijus Vaikšnoras and was followed by a discussion between the Senior Editor of *The Economist*, Mr Edward Lucas, and the former Prime Minister of Lithuania, Mr Andrius Kubilius. The two distinguished guests provided a strong prelude for the panel discussions that followed as it concentrated on Russia's ability to project power; the internal issues that make this projection easier or harder; and the possible responses of the Baltic states.

The keynote discussion was followed by six panels addressing the issues of Russian military reform and its implications for the military power projection; the security policy development and its repercussions especially for the Baltic region; the developments in the information arena; the attempts of building up influence in the energy



Mr Edward Lucas, and Mr Andrius Kubilius.

sector; the failures and successes of Russian modernisation projects; and the Russian use of soft power in the build-up of its influence. These panels were followed by a conference dinner during which honoured guests, Mr Ian Bond CVO, Director of Foreign Policy for the Centre of European Reform and the former British Ambassador to Latvia and H.E. Mr Ilgvars Klava, the Latvian Ambassador to Poland gave their opinion on Russian power and influence in Europe and especially in the Wider Baltic.

Conference on Russia



Discussion panel

The conference ended with two panels addressing respectively the implications of Russian power projection, asking whether that makes it a regional or global power, and the internal consolidation of Russian state and society, asking how sustainable this new consolidation actually is. The conference was closed by Professor Brendan Simms of the University of Cambridge, who summarised the panels and offered some future recommendations.



Professor Brendan Simms

The conference was attended by 170 participants from more than ten countries and was deemed very successful by both the organisers and the participants. The conference proceedings will be published as the first edition of the Journal on Baltic Security in early 2015.

Photo memories from the Conference



Security Policy and Strategic Thinking

By Michael Malm

The Baltic Defence College together with the Swedish National Defence College held a three day workshop on Security Policy and Strategic Thinking from 2nd- 4th December, in Tartu, Estonia.

During the workshop the military and civilian participants from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Sweden, Finland and Poland discussed the question of how to enhance the security in the Baltic Sea region.

Based on where we come from, our historical experiences and our geopolitical viewpoint to some extent we have very different perspectives on what security means in the Baltic Sea regional context. Therefore, an important part of the workshop was the dialogue between participants.



Mr Michael Malm and Dr COL (ret) Zdzislaw Sliwa

Much of the discussion was about learning to understand other people's views, and also to critically think about one's own assumptions and pre-suppositions. Based on the first analysis of the problem and the following problem framing we also identified some conceptual solutions.

Since the problem we try to solve is a so called complex or "wicked" problem there will be no single "right or wrong" solution but numerous "better or worse" solutions that might or might not work. In this case only when we try a solution than will we know.

The overall assessment after the workshop was that leaders at the strategic level need to come together in a Nordic-Baltic format in order to discuss and to learn if they are to be able to solve current and future challenges in the Baltic Sea Region.



At the workshop
If lack of unity was one of the identified problems, collaboration and the development of a collaborative culture was one of the more important solutions.



Lecture

Baltic Land Power Symposium

By LTC Ceslovas Cerniauskas

On 2nd December the Baltic Defence College hosted the first one-day Baltic Land Power Symposium jointly with the Land Forces of the Baltic States and Denmark on the topic of the development of the Baltic Land Forces for accomplishing assigned tasks and countering future threats.

This event was designated for exchanging views and experience between the Land Forces of the Baltic States and for discussing further development of the Land Forces in the face of new challenges.

The event was held in two sessions. The first session covered academic views on the current and future operational environment, emerging threats and challenges, and the role of land forces in the future operating environment.

On the first session two presentations were delivered by BALTDEFCOL instructors, by Mr. James Rogers *"The Current and Future Operational Environment, Emerging Threats and Challenges"* and by Military History Instructor Dr. Eric Sibul, *"The Role of land forces in the Future Operational Environment"*.

The second session served as a platform for sharing views on the perspective of the Baltic Land Forces, the developments and training challenges to be applied in view of future operations.

The participating nations presented their Land Forces, exchanged views, stimulated the discussion and took part in it. At the end of the Symposium Baltic States Land Force Commanders agreed that it had been a value added event and they would continue to organize such activities on an annual basis.



Participants of the Baltic Land Power Symposium

Exploring Hiiumaa

By Ms Merike Järv

On the first weekend of September a BALTDEFCOL team took part in the introducing Estonia trip to Hiiumaa for team building and to learn Estonian culture, history, traditions, nature and the way of life of the islanders.

During the two day trip BALTDEFCOL directing staff, support staff members, students and family members



h a d t h e opportunity to visit the Estonian island Hiiumaa and its main sites.

Two buses full of BALTDEFCOL people took us on the first day to see the Hill of Crosses, Hiiumaa Military Museum, Tahkuna Lighthouse, the memorial to the victims of the Estonia disaster, and Lõimastu defence facilities to gain further historical insights. In Tahkuna the memorial to the victims of the Estonia disaster, a bronze bell, symbolises a ship's or soul bell that starts ringing by itself in a strong wind. With the movement of its cross-shaped pendulum in a storm, it seemed to bring a message from the sea. The incline of the monument had a visual and emotional impact on us all. In the Hiiumaa Military Museum, we learned about and saw Hiiumaa's coastal defence structures, armaments, and ammunition. The crown jewel of the exposition is the BB-316 cannon barrel from the Tahkuna Kukeraba battery.



At Lõimastu

Lõimastu defence facilities are the largest and most attractive military complex in Hiiumaa. The hopper control had two long tunnel entrances and has two floors. Its ceiling had an armoured periscope. The big commando bunker was probably built in the 1950s and was used as a centre of the radar stations.

The underground facilities were full of water. We could see the entrance to the tunnels, ventilation shafts, electrical conduits and power plant building.



Hiiumaa Military Museum

All these historical places that we visited on a first day remark upon the high importance of the past for the locals and confirm sustainable development of life on the island.



Locals and BALTDEFCOL team

The first day ended with a dinner, with Hiiu beer and dried fish, which was followed by a cultural programme from the locals. The beer which is brewed on the island Hiiumaa is very special and differs from the beer, which is brewed on the mainland. Like the rest of Estonia, Hiiumaa food traditions have been greatly influenced by the different nations, who have ruled the island over the centuries. The traditions of drying the fish dates back to the time of the Vikings and the Danes and due to their insular location, eating fish is one of the most common food traditions.

Exploring Hiiumaa

On the next day we had a guided tour to the Orjaku Harbour, "Hiiu vill" wool factory, Reigi Church, Suuremõisa Castle and Pühalepa Church. In the wool factory we saw how the wool is turned into yarn and how deft-fingered artisans used it to make beautiful knitwear. Next we stopped at the baroque-rococo Suuremõisa castle which was constructed between 1755 and 1760. Around the castle is an English-style park with more than 50 different species of trees and bushes and with a walking path through the garden. Today the castle is home to the Hiiumaa Vocational School and Suuremõisa Elementary School. Our cultural tour took us to Reigi Church.

Reigi Church originally was named the Church of Jesus. The present 370-seater stone church was built under the orders of baron Otto Reinhold Ludwig von Ungern-Sternberg in 1800-1802 in memory of his son Gustav Dietrich Otto von Ungern-Stenberg. The more interesting pieces of art in Reigi are 17th century paintings that have been painted on wood and were originally in the first church – "Püha õhtusöömaaeg" ("Holy Communion"), and "Risti mahavõtmine" ("Taking down the cross").

The highlight of the trip was visit to Hiiumaa's iconic attraction, the Kõpu Lighthouse on the Ristna Cape. It is one of the oldest lighthouses in the world, having been in continuous use since its completion in 1531. The lighthouse marks the Hiiu sandbank and warns

ships away from the shoreline. The height of the building itself is 36 metres, and the light is 102.6 metres above sea level, making it the highest coastal light on the Baltic Sea.

Outside of the program we had opportunity to visit Eiffel tower of Hiiumaa as well. The Eiffel tower of Hiiumaa is 31 meters high and was built by one man in 4 month only. This crazy tower is an interesting piece of art, which was built without architectural knowledge, provides extreme fun and nostalgia as well for the whole family. At the end of our tour we stopped at Fundamental Agreement Rocks that appear just as a large pile of rocks. In fact, there are many stories about the agreement rocks but no single definition to that mystical place. It is believed that this was an ancient sacred place, a place where fundamental agreements were concluded, and consultation held with the gods or that this is the place where seaman brought the gods rocks for luck before embarking on voyage. The day included a delightful evening with local dance concert, performed by an excellent ethnic group.

On both days the buses took us to the same sightseeings but in a different order so that everyone had enough time to see the sights and take photos. The BALTDEFCOL team and their family members confirmed that Hiiumaa is a beautiful place with unforgettable nature and culture.



BALTDEFCOL team at Kõpu Lighthouse

BALTDEFCOL team in Tartu MTB Marathon

By Ms Kadri Nestra

Several BALTDEFCOL staff members and students participated in 17th annual Tartu Mountain Bike Marathon, which took place on the 21st of September.



BALTDEFCOL team

The majority of the BALTDEFCOL team members tested their strength in 40 km race, while one of us took the most challenging - a 89 km long track to defeat.

As it was all about the race and crossing the finish line - team BALTDEFCOL was very successful with the accomplishment! In addition to the great opportunity to test one's own strength and endurance, we were there to promote BALTDEFCOL as the organisation in uniting our team.

The fastest member of BALTDEFCOL team, participating in the 40 km track, was the student of JCGSC 2014/2015 Lieutenant Commander Arturas Voveris: "I was surprised by huge number of participants in this mountain bike marathon event. The track was dry and well-prepared, that allowed us to cycle as fast as we can. During the race there were

lots of bypasses, extreme speed, stunning descent and of course incredible Estonian nature around. In all, despite of some minor incidents and technical problems, it was one of my most crowded, extreme and enjoyable adventure what I have ever had. I suggest everyone to attempt that incredible mountain bike marathon event in Estonia at least once."

extreme and enjoyable adventure what I have ever had. I suggest everyone to attempt that incredible mountain bike marathon event in Estonia at least once."

Tartu MTB marathon is the biggest mountain bike marathon in the Baltics and third biggest in the world.

Every year it attracts lots of participants from all over the world.



The fastest BALTDEFCOL team cyclist LCDR Artūras Voveris

Team Building Athletics

By MAJ Vidas Grunda

On the 4th December the last sets of volleyball between the Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC) syndicates were completed.

Volleyball was not the only sporting activity where students were able to demonstrate their physical capabilities once a week. Since August, in the first two months of the studies, JCGSC students had an opportunity to enjoy ultimate frisbee. It was a very dynamic and challenging game, especially when syndicates were confronted not only by the strength of the opposing team but also sometimes by a strong wind. In order to balance this encounter with nature, some adjustments were introduced into the game rules making it mandatory to change sides of the field after every score.

This allowed all syndicates to benefit from the support of the strong wind equally. Playing outdoors was a great way refreshing minds after the classes and socialising at the same time, as MAJ Daniel J. Noel (US Air Forces) from syndicate Alexander said: “the team effort was great and getting out and running around was much needed and desired”.

While the frisbee game was mostly about the simplified “catch-throw-and-run” technique, the presence of game strategy and tactics during the volleyball competitions



Frisbee Winner team

were already observed. Some syndicates even made efforts analysing game techniques by watching videos of professionals in order to be better prepared for the tournament.

The facilities and equipment provided for Volleyball were outstanding and afforded the necessary conditions to continue sporting activities despite the worsening weather conditions.

Both sport competitions, frisbee and volleyball have been a great opportunity for the students, not only to



Volleyball fun!

build stronger bonds amongst the syndicates' members, but also to get away from studies and to clear their minds, as well as to familiarise themselves with games some have never played.

By the end of the first academic year it is now clear that the syndicate Kalpaks is the reigning champion in both games. Congratulations!



MAJ Vaidotas Šidlauskas (LTU Armed Forces), a member of the winning syndicate, underlined: “competition, despite having friendly background, was really challenging, a lot of good emotions and will to win was exposed. Winners were decided in the last minutes of the final games. Congratulations to syndicate Kalpaks winning both events”.

MAJ Tomas Matijošaitis (LTU Armed Forces) from the syndicate Kalpaks added: ‘Nevertheless, to comment on the frisbee and volleyball victories I would like to quote American football player Vince Lombardi “Winners never quit and quitters never win!”’

International Night in the Baltics ***By Ms Merike Järv***

The annual International Night in the Baltics was celebrated for the tenth time on 7th November 2014. The night was open to all college staff members, students and their families, as well as for the high level guests invited by the College Commandant MG Vitalijus Vaikšnoras.



Commandant MG Vaikšnoras greeting

The International Night provides participants and guests an opportunity to get acquainted with the culture, cuisine and national traditions of the Baltics states and all participating nations. In addition, one of the college's traditions of conducting fund-raising for charitable purposes was also continued this year with the initiative and lead of BALTGIRLS.



BALTGIRLS charity table

A donation to support the rehabilitation of children after cancer treatment was collected during the evening. Many people took part of the opportunity to contribute to a collective effort of making a difference in children's life and by the end of the evening 852 euros were raised that gave the possibility to buy two bicycles for the children who are fighting cancer. As a tradition the International Night in the Baltics provides also a

colourful cultural program in addition to the variety of



tasty food and drinks. The cultural programme included a Big Band who played throughout the evening, fabulous Latvian folk dancers presented Latvian national dances and invited guests to the dance floor to create an



ENDC Main Hall crowded with joyful people

incredible family dance. The Estonian presentation included a national beer drinking song-dance that was presented by students themselves. The highlight of the cultural program was the singing officers from Lithuania. The Lithuanian students surprised the audience by performing by themselves a Lithuanian national song which they were asked to perform a second time as well.

It was an evening filled with colourful national costumes, international dishes and drinks, good cultural program, remarkable donations and various promotional materials from different countries. It was the evening where the cultures and traditions of the participating nations strengthen personal and business relations.



The End of Year Reception ***Dr Ashley Roden-Bow***

The evening of the 11th December was the occasion of the Baltic Defence College's annual staff Christmas reception.

The event, which was held in the historical surroundings of the University of Tartu Museum, provided an opportunity for the gathered staff to look back on the year almost over and to look forward to the year ahead.

In his welcoming speech, Baltic Defence College Commandant Major General Vitalijus Vaikšnoras reminded the audience that as workers in an academic institution we are lucky enough to be able to celebrate the end of the year twice – the end of the calendar year and the end of the academic year.

Refreshments at the event consisted of a delicious selection of traditional Estonian Christmas fare.



Commandant MG Vaikšnoras Christmas Greeting



Reception in the UT Museum's White Hall

The Commandant emphasised to those present the importance of being thankful for the support and patience of partners, families and friends, and reflected on the many successes and changes undergone in this, the fifteenth year of the Baltic Defence College.

The ambience of the event was aided by a series of wonderful musical performances, including the pleasant voices of the Mixed Choir of Tartu Song Festival Museum who delighted those assembled with a series of songs written by Estonian, Swedish and American composers.



BALTGIRLS Activities

June

In June, before leaving for summer vacation Baltgirls had a nice city tour to Tartu Botanical Garden where we spent an unforgettable time with



the children on a sunny day and took lots of exciting photos.

Mrs Rasa Buikienė

invited Baltgirls for a master class in baking the national dish of Karamis, named Kibinai. It was delicious!



To finish the BALTDEFCOL academic year all of the Baltgirls were invited by Mrs Irena Vaikšnorienė to the Estonian National Museum in Raadi Manor. The water tower and the ice cellar of the Estonian National Museum were opened for us by our guide and we could enjoy the historical exhibition and take a walk at the restored manor complex around the wonderful Lake Raadi.



July



Big thanks to Mrs Rasa Buikienė who organised the Baltgirls meeting in Lithuania in July. We all found that very touching. We had a great time together and promised to keep in touch and meet

in the future as well.

August

As is traditional, we had the opportunity to meet Dr. Williams who visited the Baltic Defence College. Dr Williams lectured



Baltgirls about how to live longer and healthier. We enjoyed his lecture a lot and hope that our meetings will continue next year.

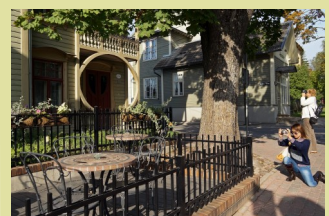
September

Mrs Sigita Matulevičienė invited Baltgirls to her photo exhibition "Endla swamp" on September 15th, in O. Lutsu library. She presented her stunning photographs of the unique Estonian nature. We enjoyed looking at her work a lot.

On a beautiful day, on 18th of September we had a guided city tour in Tartu as well. Our guide took us around the town with a unique atmosphere; she told us stories and showed us the architectural pearls of different parts of Tartu.



We heard many interesting stories about the professors and students of the University of Tartu and also about the places,



bridges, buildings and sculptures.

On the 19th of September, we had a one day street photography lesson. We learned to see the beauty in places we never

expected before and to take a good quality photos on a sunny day.

On the 25th of September, Mrs Sigita Matulevičienė provided a photography class "How to make portraits" for the Baltgirls that taught us better to understand the use of camera and take much better photos. This was fun and very useful.



October

Baltgirls had an interesting autumn. We took an excursion to some Estonian manors. Sangaste, which is modelled after the famous Windsor Castle in England, was beautiful.



We had a coffee in the newly opened winter garden, and during the tour inside the manor we learned that the main hall has fantastic acoustics, used during concerts. After that we visited Tõrva Church, where we found a very nice art gallery and bought beautiful art souvenirs. Second manor was Taagepera, which Estonians call "The Pearl of Estonia". We had a short interesting tour inside and lunch in the historical hunting room. After lunch, we headed to Hellenurme where we had the opportunity to visit the only working watermill and mill museum in Estonia. We baked bread by an old Estonian recipe there. The whole excursion day was very interesting and memorable.



Mrs Ketj Otiashvili-Maisuradze organised and gave us a two-day jewellery making master classes, where we had lots of fun. Ketj showed us how she makes earrings, equipment and stones that are needed for making jewellery. We made very nice earrings, had lot of fun and we are really looking forward to another master class.

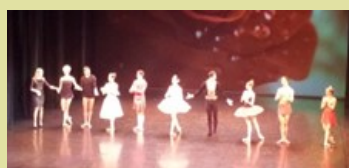


During one coffee morning in October Mrs Zaneta Baltreniene organised and gave us a decoupage master class. She taught us a very useful way of making

beautiful frames. We were very creative and enjoyed the beautiful products we made ourselves. We are hoping to have another master class soon.



On 12th of October, Mrs Marina Gabriellsson invited us to the National Opera-ballet theatre, where "Etoile Ballet Gala" was going on. We had a chance to see famous pearls of classical ballet, famous pas de deux from the ballets "Don Quixote", "Flames of Paris", "La Sylphide", "Flower Festival in Genzano", "Le Corsaire" and others. It was fantastic. We are very thankful to Marina for organising this event, and for the safe and comfortable transportation back to Tartu.



November

The highlight of the year was the International Night in the Baltics. As a tradition, the Baltgirls contributed to this big event with the initiation and leading of fund-raising for charity purposes. We prepared delicious cakes, sweets and tarts for the charity table. The fabulous decorations for the table were made by Mrs Jessica Gray and her children. With the help of the participants



we raised €852 + 20 USD which allowed us to order two medical bicycles for the Department of Haematology and Bone Marrow Transplantation of Haema-

tology and Oncology Clinic of the Tartu University Hospital for the small patients, for children who are fighting cancer. Special thanks to Mrs Kaja Arulepp for the creating charity sticks and borrowing the similar bike from Tallinn as an example of the object for the donations.

Mrs Po Yan Chiu-Rourman and Mrs Irena Vaikšnorienė are still having the oil painting course in Tartu University three times a week. To the next course,



starting after New Year celebrations, all Baltgirls are very welcome.

Mrs Ursula Schulte-Pfaffenroth provided us with two knitting lessons at the end of the month. Knitting lessons gave the opportunity to make friendship in a very cosy atmosphere and knit together. We shared our expertise in knitting and learned from each other. It was a wonderful social event and we enjoyed it a lot.

December

Ms Ursula Schulte-Pfaffenroth invited the Baltgirls to visit the Christmas market in Tallinn. We travelled to the capital city by train.



BALTGIRLS

For many of us it was the first experience to travel to Tallinn by train, it was very comfortable, quick and fun.



Ursula was our guide in Tallinn. The weather was cold - minus 17 degrees Celsius, but we were walking around the Christmas

market, freezing, joking, having coffee and trying to warm up. At the market we saw and bought many beautiful Christmas presents. We are very thankful to Ursula for organizing this memorable trip to Tallinn and for the Christmas Spirit.



Mrs Irena Vaikšnorienė hosted the kitchen party where the ladies could learn how to bake the bread. This was very nice experience and fun. Home baked bread was very tasty. It was very interesting to see the process of baking bread and participate in it. Some Ladies baked their own bread by this recipe at home and are planning to bake their own family bread constantly.



Mrs Maria Järvare invited Baltgirls for the traditional St. Lucia day celebration in Tartu Catholic Church which was very nice and sensitive. Baltgirls are very proud of Maria for her constant charity work in Tartu Children's Safety house.

Baltgirls are very thankful also for Mrs Kaie Ehrenberg for organising and coordinating Pilates lessons.

SCHEDULE for BALTGIRLS

Coffee mornings	Once a month
Pilates in the College	11:30 on Wednesdays 12:30 on Fridays
Estonian language course in the College	Once a week
Oil painting course in the University of Tartu	3 times a week
Aerobic lessons in Aura swimming centre	11:15/12:15 on Mondays
Photography course	1-2 times a week

Having trouble with finding a perfect christmas gift? Some tips- gifts for every sign.



Aries - Active Aries is always looking for ways to stay in shape. Likes the colour red, hats, T-shirts Flashy, Blinky LED Lights fast cars, fast food, steak, athletic equipment



Taurus - Taurus appreciates any gift that appeals to his or her sensual side. Likes the colour emerald green, heavy jewellery, books, calendars, garden supplies, opals, baked goods, carbs, gourmet chocolates, coloured tapestry, soft cashmere blanket



Gemini - Quick-witted Gemini enjoys gifts that appeal to their sizable intellects. Likes all colours except brown, variety, things that come in pairs, new people and places, phones, set of glassware, books and magazines



Cancer- Sentimental Cancer loves gifts that have personal meaning. Likes comfort foods, silver jewellery, antiques, lace, moonlight tours, crochet clothing, finger painting, angora sweater, mincemeat pie, picture frame, bottle of wine, fancy coffee, tea kettle, cookbook



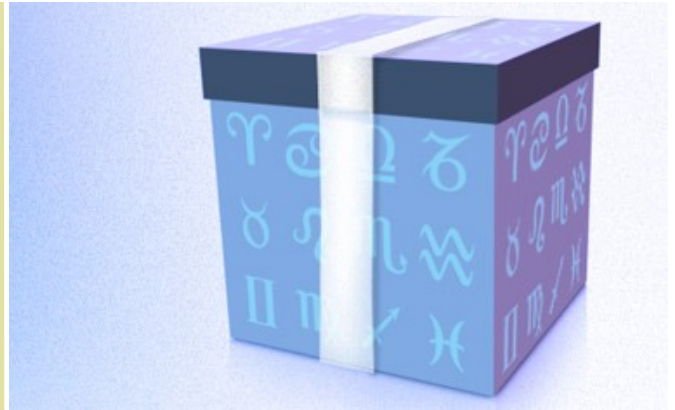
Leo- Lions love gifts that make them look and feel terrific. Likes the colour yellow, gold jewellery, sun tans, opera tickets, gold jewellery, lottery tickets, weekend getaway, red, gold and purple coloured clothing



Virgo- Virgins love practical gifts. Likes the colour brown, massage products, fixing things, gadgets, needlepoint, puzzles, bread-making machine, power drill, small pets, scented soaps, lotions, shampoos, good watch, leather-bound notebook, organic foodstuffs



Libra- Libras have a special affinity for music. Likes symmetry, proper etiquette, delicate jewellery, low-maintenance pets, concert tickets



Scorpio - Scorpios are secretive by nature and enjoy gifts that obscure their appearance in some way. Likes intensity, healing products, extremes of light and dark, the taboo, secret places, blacks and reds, reptiles, designer sunglasses, filmy scarf, slouchy hat



Sagittarius - As far as Archers are concerned, half the fun of getting gifts is ripping them open! Likes adventure, wildlife, the colours purple and turquoise, bikes, hiking, big dogs, hiking boots, waterproof parka, calendar filled with pictures of dogs or horses, atlas



Capricorn- Career oriented Capricorn always enjoys gifts that will boost their job status. Likes mountain climbing, boxed goods, watches, clocks, knee pads, angular art, leather laptop carrier, monogrammed briefcase, silk bathrobe, DVD



Aquarius- You never know what this unpredictable zodiac sign will be doing from moment to moment. Likes the colour electric blue, futuristic items, programs in beta, the weird and offbeat, technological gadgets, brand new socks



Pisces- These mystics love gifts of all kinds. Likes the colour sea green, mermaids and dolphins, wine and fine liquors, movies, flowing attire such as silk scarves, draped caftans, champagne, kaleidoscope, book of fairy tales, bath salts, foaming cleansers, photo camera

Academic Calendar of BALTDEFCOL 2014/2015

Academic year begins	11.08.2014
JCGSC begins	11.08.2014
Christmas holiday begins	22.12.2014
Christmas holiday ends	04.01.2015
HCSC begins	12.01.2015
CSC begins	12.01.2015
Graduation ceremony	18.06.2015

Estonian National holiday, which is a day off :
February 24 - Independence Day, anniversary of
the Republic of Estonia

Public Holidays and days off are:

- 1 January - New Year's Day
- Good Friday
- Easter Sunday
- 1 May - May Day
- Pentecost
- 23 June - Victory Day
- 24 June - Midsummer Day
- 20 August - Day of Restoration of
Independence
- 24 December - Christmas Eve
- 25 December - Christmas Day
- 26 December - Boxing Day

The working day directly preceding New Year's
Day, Anniversary of the Republic of Estonia,
Victory Day and Christmas Eve is reduced by three
hours.



Common phrases:

Häid pühi/ häid jõule! – Merry Christmas!

Head uut aastat! – Happy New Year!

Lumememm – Snowman

Palun üks tee rummiga! – One tea with rum please!

Jõuluvana – Santa Claus

Päkapikk – Christmas elf

Piparkook – Ginger bread

Lumi– Snow

Palju lund– Lots of snow

Tere! – Hello!

Aitäh! – Thank you!

Palun! – Please

Kus on... – Where is...

Kui palju... - How much...

Üks kohv, palun – (I'd like to have) a coffee, please

Õlu on külm - Beer is cold.

Talved on külmad ja märjad - Winters are cold and
wet.

Tongue twisters:

Jäääär ('edge of the ice')

Õueala ('courtyard')

Kõueöö ('night of the thunder')

Puuõõnsus ('hollow of the tree')

Töö-öö ('working night')

CHALLENGE CUP

You are invited to participate in the first competition of the Challenge Cup of academic year 2014/2015.

Shooting (small arms)

Place: ENDC shooting range

Date: 7 th January 2015

Time: From 15.00 until 18.00

Teams: No teams needed, just signup !

More information

risto.kanketer@baltdefcol.org



Challenge Cup Winners of the academic year 2013/2014



**Now is Christmas time!
Tartu Town Hall Square looks splendid.
Happy Holidays!**