

THE BUGLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIC DEFENCE COLLEGE



In this Issue:

Commandant's Foreword	1
HCSC	2
JCGSC and CSC	3
VIP visits	5
Exercise Collaborative Effort	6
Combined Joint Staff Exercise	7
FST to Fin and Pol	7
Military Judgement Panel	8
Dean's PME Symposium	8
FST to Berlin, Brussels, London	9
Baltic Defence Study Tour	10
International Study Tour	13
High Level Course in Riga	15
Lessons Learned Conference	16
Donation for Rehabilitation	17
Summer Hike	18
Sports	19
Baltgirls Activities	21

THE BUGLE

Est. 2009

Editor:

Merike Järv
merike.jarv@baltdefcol.org
Office Tel: +372 717 6022

Language Editor:

Ashley Roden-Bow

Baltic Defence College
Riia St12, Tartu
ESTONIA

Pictures by:

Mr Toots, Mr Saar, Ms Järv
Mrs Vaikšnorienė,
Mrs Matuleviciene, Mr Dieziņš,
Maj Grunda

June 2015 | Issue 21

Commandant's Foreword

In a few days, for the first time in the Baltic Defence College's history, we will graduate all three courses – the HCSC, the JCGSC and CSC – simultaneously, as well we will begin a well-deserved summer break.

With the academic year 2014-2015 coming to a close, the time has come to summarise our achievements and to share with you some of my thoughts for the upcoming academic year (2015-2016).

This last winter and spring we concentrated our efforts on the implementation of the improved courses while further developing the **'Vision 2020 Action Plan'**; enhancing long-term planning arrangements; building-up a new Education Quality Control and Assurance System; improving the educational environment; optimising the use of the resources assigned and further developing our electives.

We fully implemented our redesigned concepts of IST and successfully organised improved internal and contributed to external exercises. No less important, we actively participated in the social activities of Tartu.

Using this opportunity, I would like to thank all of the members of the Baltic Defence College, including our students and all our family members, for their dedication, initiatives, commitments, mutual support, proactive teaching and studying attitude, which contributed to the further development of our College as a **modern, progressive, future-oriented, attractive and competitive** institution.

I would also like to offer a special thanks to everybody leaving the college this summer and best wishes as you move into the next stage of your life.

After the summer break we will start to implement the **'Vision 2020 Action plan'** and further develop our institution, not only for higher learning, but also as a **centre for solutions** to pressing regional and global problems.

We will further increase and develop the quality of our educational process, our research and cooperation activities and our intellectual and



physical environments for the benefit of the future military and civilian leaders from the Baltic States, our Allied and Partner Nations.

In this context, we plan to begin a pilot programme, entitled the **'Senior Executive Leaders Engagement'**, thereby adding to the Baltic States' system of professional military education, albeit for the most senior levels.

Regional security situation developments will be further reflected in our curricula and exercises as well as a focus on Eastern European and Russian studies.

We will also move towards a more **individually tailored** education model, properly balancing the core curriculum and electives. We will further develop our ability to work effectively using modern information technologies, saving resources, to enable more effective management of all the processes in the college. We will, most importantly, continue to work as a strong team, **respecting each other's differences**, facilitating the participation of all hands, as well as encouraging proactive horizontal cooperation.

As the Commandant I have full confidence that working together, while simultaneously keeping a healthy dialogue, being innovative and remaining future oriented... we will succeed.

Major General Vitalijus Vaikšnoras
Commandant

Higher Command Studies Course 2015

by Colonel Igors Rajevs, Course Director



In the second semester of academic year 2014/2015 the BALTDEFCOL ran a new pilot project of the HCSC 2015.

Having been established for over ten years, the HCSC was reformed for the academic year 2015, taking stock of the Baltic states' evolving geopolitical environment and the Euro-Atlantic structures' changing strategic dynamics. It has been designed for a selected group of senior officers and officials from the Armed forces and governmental institutions of the Baltic States and their allies and partners, to facilitate strategic thinking amongst tomorrow's leaders.

In order to achieve the HCSC's aim the course was focused on educating military officers and government official for executive responsibilities at the strategic level.

The HCSC was organized to provide an integrated overview of contemporary geopolitical affairs and security issues to enable students to think creatively and critically about strategy formulation, defence policy and long-term defence planning. The structure of the course followed an integrated and modular curriculum. It started with a wide strategic focus and narrowed down to issues related to higher command, strategic resource management and long-term defence planning. Nine modules of the course were developed to build on one another to extend and deepen their knowledge of the strategic level.

The course curriculum included two newly developed modules: Russia and the Baltic neighbourhood and exercising higher command. The 'Russia and the Baltic neighbourhood' module provided students with a thorough overview of regional geopolitical system in which the Baltic States and many of their allies and partners are located.

It gave students an opportunity to explore perceptions of Russia's ongoing attempts to change the geopolitical situation in the Baltic neighbourhood, as well as the threats, challenges and opportunities resulting from Moscow's interests and policies.

The module was supplemented with a field study trip to Finland and Poland in order to expand practical understanding of one aligned and one non-aligned country's perceptions of the struggle in the Baltic neighbourhood.

The 'exercising higher command' module was designed to better enable senior officers and officials to exercise higher command. It was focused on the theories, concepts and practices of higher command that are applicable to the strategic level for twenty-first century missions, placing particular emphasis on complicated Allied and coalition operations.

The course was aiming at educating creative, proactive and agile commanders, policymakers and managers capable of making sound, decisive and future-oriented strategic decisions. Looking at the final results of the course we can be assured that we achieved our aim.

The HCSC 2015 was a successful endeavour that developed knowledge, understanding and practical skills of our graduates and prepared them, as 'Tomorrow's Leaders' not only for their next assignment, but for the multitude of the future assignments for the rest of their careers.



HCSC 2015

Reflection on the by gone academic year - Joint Command and General Staff Course and Civil Servants Course 2015

by Colonel Remigijus Baltrėnas, Course Director

As we see another successful academic year is coming to an end, it is a pleasure to summarise the key achievements of our students and of both Courses – the Joint Command and General Staff Course and Civil Servants Course as a whole. On the 17th of June BALTDEFOL will graduate 54 officers and 1 civil servant from the JCGSC and 5 civil servants from the CSC.

I am confident that it has been a rewarding year for our students full of valuable and irreplaceable experiences to carry on. A diverse curricula, inter-service mix of multinational student-faculty body and an intellectually challenging environment are among the continuing advantages for which the Joint and Civil Servants Courses are recognised as a unique learning opportunity by its students.

MAJ Teodor Janijć (BIH, JCGSC) *'I would say it is a unique learning opportunity. The experience, knowledge and background brought in by participants from different nationalities and tied to the one joint entity has been a great environment to learn. Moreover, the cultural diversities, different ways of thinking and approaches have created a unique environment for discussions on varied military, political and any other issues.'*

Mr Fundora Sitton (PAN, CSC) *'For me it was a unique opportunity to improve my knowledge. It is with no doubt one of the best time of studies I have ever done. The professionalism of the staff, professors and lecturers combined with the experience of the participants made this a unique and qualified institution of education. I consider that the knowledge that we received from the Baltic Defence College is indeed a very powerful tool for our future and our countries.'*

The students were often confronted academically in many areas outside of their comfort zone which brought out their full potential. Of note, the Joint Course's students had to deal with many uncertain situations during the in-house exercise and the major exercise held in Sweden known as 'Combined Joint Staff Exercise'.



Another demanding part was also the written Argumentative Essay that helped to keep the students' brains active for the whole year.

The Master's Programme and English Language Seminar proved to be of great value and contributed to the Joint Course's curriculum content and should be sustained.

To date, in partnership with the Latvian National Defence Academy the College enrolled 5 JCGSC students for the MA Programme, that provides the students with additional academic professionalism.

Sustaining its fruitful and mutually beneficial partnership with the Estonian National Defence

Academy's English Language Centre regarding the English Language Seminars is also a priority for the next courses. Strong language skills are an imperative in tomorrow's security constructs.

Therefore, it is a really great pleasure to acknowledge the Language Centre Team and Latvian National Defence Academy as BALTDEFOL's dedicated and reliable partners.

On another note, effective multilateral cooperation is a more and more vital component in our education than ever to provide the students with preparedness for crisis situations nationally and internationally, concerning today's rapidly growing hectic security environment and emerging security threats.

Therefore, I am glad to underline the fact that the Joint Course students were challenged throughout the second half of the academic year by their Civil Servant counterparts.

Reflection on the by gone academic year - Joint Command and General Staff Course and Civil Servants Course 2015

The shared educational programme and learning experience enhanced both parties' acknowledgement for a need of a strong civil-military bond, which is one of the key elements the College consistently tries to embody.

Mr Reimo Väärtmaa (EST, CSC) 'The JCGSC/CSC course was a useful and unique possibility to dig into the military world. Although, sometimes it was difficult to understand the logic behind thinking and decisions, in the end everything came together. Understanding of military logic and thinking will help in the future to avoid and solve possible problems in advance and achieve effectively the end state.'

MAJ Vidas Grunda (LTU, JCGSC) 'NATO is focusing on solving issues by applying the comprehensive approach. Thus, interaction with the civilian counterparts was very beneficial for both sides, allowing us to develop a common understanding in ways of doing things and involvements of other state powers.'

Beyond the core programme, the Civil Servants also received a portion of civil-specific education including participation at the ESDC course in Riga and were engaged with a UK leading-expert in the Strategic Planning Policy field.

Without any doubt, having enhanced the efficiency of the Electives programme, it has grown to be popular among our students. Therefore, the college also piloted a new initiative this year by providing a possibility to choose a last elective among the list of modules for selected students in order to help them to better prepare for immediate assignments after the course.



I hope both courses enriched our students' knowledge and built a professional network of relations. Moreover, I believe the experience gained has exponentially raised their professionalism and ability to think critically.

With graduation approaching, it is important to recognise the students who turned out to be the best to be nominated for the following awards:

JCGSC 2014-2015 AWARDS

- Joint Operations Award – within Learning Area 1 the winner for the award is **MAJ Fariz Fadžan (BIH, JCGSC)**
- Argumentative Essay Award – within Learning Area 5 the winner for the award is **LTC Goran Topalović (SRB, JCGSC)**
- Best Civil Servants Award – among the Civil Servants students' body the winner for the award is **Mr Janter Saar (EST, CSC)**
- Best Coursemate Award – after the voting among the students the winner for this award is **MAJ Vidas Grunda (LTU, JCGSC)**
- Class Leader Award – **LCDR Mati Terve (EST, JCGSC)** is recognised for serving as a Class Leader for both Courses

Last but not least, I would like to thank the College for the trust and opportunity to serve as a Course Director. I am honoured to be surrounded and to work together with a professional and dedicated team. With full confidence I will hand over my baton to the new Course Director.

I wish you all continuing educational and professional success for the future!

High Level Visits to BALTDEFCOL

The Baltic Defence College was honoured by the following High Level visits to the Baltic Defence College:



The Chief of Defence of Estonia Lieutenant General Riho Terras on 15th April. Lieutenant General shared his views on his respective nations defence developments.



The Prime Minister of Estonia, Mr Taavi Rõivas on 5th June.



The Latvian Parliament Speaker, Mrs Ināra Mūrniece on 5th June.



The Director General of the European Union Military Staff (EUMS) LtGen Wolfgang Wosolsobe on 26th February. LtGen gave a lecture about the EU's external actions: the role of the EUMS in EU/CSDP crisis management structures; military operations and missions; and the European Council on Defence (from EC13 to EC15).



The Director of the NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence (NATO STRATCOM COE) Ambassador Mr Jānis Kārklīņš, on 13th April. The Letter of Intent between BALTDEFCOL and NATO STRATCOM COE was signed.

The high level visits to BALTDEFCOL provided an excellent opportunity to enhance cooperation to discuss further development, engagements as well to heighten the visibility of the College.

Exercise Collaborative Effort 2015

By Mr Eric Sibul, Cdr Peeter Ivask

Purely
Jointness

Exercise Collaborative Effort 2015 was the culmination of much the learning on joint operations for of the Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC).

The students had the opportunity to put into practice much of what they had learned in the previous six months starting from their introduction to military theory, command philosophy and operational art, through their studies of component

capabilities – air, maritime, land, special operations and the joint approach to operations and joint functions and finally practical application

of their introduction to the comprehensive operational planning process. The Civil Servants Course (CSC) also participated broadening their understanding military planning and giving Exercise Collaborate Effort the true multi-agency feel of contemporary operational planning and crisis response.

Exercise Collaborative Effort had two phases - a planning phase for a future potential contingency and an execution phase during a crisis situation. The scenario saw a NATO expeditionary force supporting a friendly nation which was being invading by a rogue regional power within the fictional Zoran Sea region. While the region was fictional, many aspects familiar to contemporary crises were incorporated into the scenario such as politically reluctant allies, cyber-attacks, troll armies and “little green men.”



The military problems that were presented to the students in role of operational planners, reflected

potential situations in the contemporary joint operational environment such as gaining air superiority against strong and technically advanced adversary, maintaining sea lanes of communications against a determined sea denial campaign, countering an enemy armoured spearhead and contending with hostile special operations raids against friendly facilities and lines of communications.

More mundane but vitally important aspects such as keeping sustainment flowing through harbours, airfields and railheads, treating and evacuating casualties and keeping the local civilian population informed and out of harm's way were factored into the exercise play.

To provide a realistic information environment, the “Onion News Network” provided daily broadcast news coverage on the Zoran Sea crisis. (Note: Sibul = Onion in Estonian) Students, both from the JCGSC and the CSC were asked to give interviews and briefings to Onion News in order to give them experience interacting with the media during a crisis situation. Members of the support staff – Ms Kristiina Tagel, Ms Kadri Parkel and Ms Merike Järv took the roles of intrepid Onion News correspondents. Ms Järv who is in charge of public affairs at the BALTDEFCOL also served as a media expert to support exercise play.

The exercise engaged not only the support staff in media roles and all of the Operations Department in scenario development, exercise control and mentoring, but much of rest of the support staff in a sundry of support activities, most members of the Department of Leadership also in exercise control and mentoring roles as well as legal expertise from the Department of Politics and Strategy (DPS). In his capacity as legal expert, Mr Olavi Jänes from the DPS mentored and advised students, reinforcing all important learning points on rules of engagement and international humanitarian law. In addition, to share valuable experiences officers from other commands and institutions were invited to participate in exercise. Representatives from Canadian Forces College, Swedish Defence University, Estonian and Lithuanian Defence Forces gave valuable inputs for the BALTDEFCOL exercise.

In Real Life Support of the exercise, BALTDEFCOL support staff did everything from moving furniture, to laying metres of cable, to connecting telephones and video monitors, to designing the exercise intranet webpages, to filming and editing news stories. Major Sergeant Alar Lehesaar expedited support activities when necessary - the way sergeant majors always do – by gentle persuasion. In the end, all exercise activities went smoothly as a result of a lot of hard work.

While Exercise Collaborative Effort served as the culmination of most joint operations learning activities in the JCGSC and CSC, it also prepared students for one additional big step in their courses - participation in Combined Joint Staff Exercise 2015, a multinational crisis response and stability operations command post exercise in Sweden.

The majority of the other participants of Combined Joint Staff Exercise were from Nordic staff colleges. By all accounts BALTDEFCOL students performed strongly as compared to their Nordic counterparts at the Exercise in Sweden. Their strong performance is not surprising given the rigorous preparation and experiences they received with Exercise Collaborative Effort 2015.



Combined Joint Staff Exercise (CJSE) 2015 in Sweden

By Col Zdzislaw Sliwa

Baltic Defence College students of the JCGSC and Directing Staff participated in the Combined Joint Staff Exercise 15



(CJSE 15) in Sweden. The CJSE exercise series is part of the Curriculum of the JCGSC contributing to developing students

operational planning and execution skills in a NATO Crisis Response Operations scenario. The exercise is a multinational, multifunctional and comprehensive Computer Assisted Command Post Exercise (CAX/CPX), organized, conducted and co-chaired by the Swedish Armed Forces and the Swedish Defence University. It was conducted between 13 - 24 April with students and staff performing their duties in three different exercise locations in Sweden; the Command and Control Regiment in Enköping, the Air Combat Training School in Uppsala and the Naval Warfare Centre in Karlskrona.

On 20 April the Commandant of the BALTDEFCOL MG Vitalijus Vaikšnoras, visited the participants to recognize and verify the performance of the students and staff members. It was also an opportunity to have a discussion about students' perceptions of the current security environment in the context of Crisis Response Operations as exercised during CJSE 2015.

During the CJSE 2015 all students were integrated into the CJTF headquarters or into the Land, Air, and Maritime operational Component Commands (CCs). They executed various staff roles in concert with their student colleagues from the Swedish Defence University, the Finnish National Defence University, the Austrian National Defence Academy and the Swiss Armed Forces University. Over 1200 participants from 25 countries participated in CJSE 2015. For the students from BALTDEFCOL it was an excellent opportunity to showcase their ability to operate in a joint, inter-agency, multinational capacity. The challenging and complex scenario allowed them to practically demonstrate the staff and leadership skills that they have learned during the JCGSC Academic Year 2014-15. The exercise settings have been built on the fictitious Bogland scenario, replicating a failed state scenario inside of a wider destabilizing region. A UN Security Council Resolution enables NATO to stand up and deploy a CJTF to conduct Crisis Response Operations.

Field Study Trip to Finland and Poland

By Mr James Rogers

In late February and early March, the Higher Command Studies Course undertook its first Field Study Trip, forming part of the course's academic module entitled 'Russia and the Baltic Neighbourhood'. The course visited Finland and Poland, two countries within the Baltic Neighbourhood, and two members of the European Union (EU), albeit one (Poland) a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and the other (Finland) not so. The objective of the trip was to ascertain how two different countries – each a close ally or partner of the Baltic states – view the geopolitical environment surrounding their respective homelands.



In Helsinki and Warsaw, the course visited government institutions – particularly the two countries' ministries of defence – to receive presentations on Finnish and Polish foreign, security and defence policy. In addition, the course visited the Finnish National Defence University and the Finnish Institute for International Affairs in Helsinki, as well as the OSW - Centre for Eastern Studies and the National Centre for Strategic Studies in Warsaw. These think tanks are leading voices in their respective fields, expanding knowledge and understanding of the Eastern Neighbourhood and Finnish and Polish security policy, respectively.

To widen their perspectives, the students also visited Finland's Military Museum, focusing on the Winter War (1939-1940) and Poland's Uprising Museum, dealing with the Warsaw Uprising (1944). In each, the students gained knowledge of the convulsions both countries experienced during the tumultuous twentieth century, as well as what can happen when a sovereign country is faced by foreign onslaught or occupation. During their visits to Helsinki and Warsaw, the students completed a 'Travel Journal', which adds a decisive academic component to their travels. This 'journal' includes a range of questions, which they must answer in a 'free form' style, relating to the briefings received and the museums visited during the excursions. The 'Travel Journal' therefore aims to enhance students' critical thinking skills, as well as their ability to analyse and evaluate information.

The Field Study Trip aims to boost students' understanding of the 'Wider Baltic' region and further the strategic-level education, providing a comprehensive and systematic overview of the issues covered in the HCSC.

Military Judgment Panel

The Baltic Defence College hosted the Military Judgment Panel on Ground Based Air Defence (GBAD) on 16th—17th March, in Tartu.



Dean with colleagues during the panel

The Military Judgment Panel provided a discussion on the GBAD components supporting Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian military operations.

The participants, military leaders and private sector, of the Forum provided different options for making strategic decisions for developing GBAD capability.



Panel discussion

The event has been supported by the UK, SWE, LV experts and representatives of defence industries.

Deans' Professional Military Education Symposium

Baltic Defence College hosted its first *Deans' Professional Military Education* symposium on 27th—29th May, in Tallinn.

The symposium brought together Deans and other experts in Professional Military Education from institutions within the Northern Group to discuss trends in Professional Military Education and to exchange best practices, opinions and advice on how to incorporate those trends into our institutions and courses.

The symposium discussed key topics in Professional Military Education. Considerable time was spent on exchanging ideas on how to ensure that faculty are used in the most optimal manner and how we could as institutions recruit and retain qualified civilian faculty. There was general agreement that PME is an excellent field for pooling and sharing, but also acknowledgement that national interests make it difficult to truly share.

The exchange of experiences, ideas and proposals allowed for a greater knowledge of trends in professional military education which will allow the institutions to ensure a higher quality education is possible and that Baltic Defence College remains a leading professional military education institution in the Wider Baltic.

The Baltic Defence College hopes that the symposium will become an annual event that will grow in importance in the Wider Baltic Region and in the Professional Military Educational field.

The British embassy also supported the symposium by hosting a working lunch where we discussed the potential role of the Northern Group in professional military education cooperation.

HCSC Field Study Trip to Berlin, Brussels, London

By Mr Henrik Praks

On 19th – 25th April, the Higher Command Studies Course undertook its second International Study Trip. The trip, which visited Berlin, Brussels and London was part of the course's academic module 'Defence Policy and Planning'.

The trip started on Monday, April 20th in Berlin where during meetings in German Ministry of Defence and at the Konrad Adenauer Foundation the course was briefed on current German security and defence policy, as well as international military commitments. On Tuesday, April 21st the course continued to Brussels to have a meeting with the Dr Riina Kionka, the Chief Foreign Policy Adviser to the President of the European Council.



On the next day, the HCSC students were joined by Baltic Defence College Commandant MG Vitalijus Vaikšnoras for meetings at NATO HQ and the Belgian Defence HQ. At NATO the Chairman of Military Committee Gen Knud Bartels gave an overview about key challenges the Alliance is facing in the current international security environment. This was followed by briefings by experts from NATO International Staff on several topical issues.

In the afternoon the course was hosted by LG Guido Andries, Assistant Chief of Staff of the Belgian Defence HQ. The briefings covered both Belgian defence policy and its multinational collaboration, especially in the framework of BeNeLux defence co-operation. As due to strike activities the train service in Brussels was disrupted, the Belgian military kindly escorted the course to Lille in France, where the HCSC took a train through the Channel Tunnel to London.



Thursday, April 23rd was devoted to meetings in leading London-based defence and security think tanks. The course visited the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI) and International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS). Discussions focused both on current challenges to British defence policy and on wider European and global security and defence developments. On the following day the course visited the UK Ministry of Defence to hear about future development of British defence policy and its commitments to NATO. The programme ended with a visit to the historic Churchill War Rooms.

The International Study Trip enabled the students to gain a higher level of understanding of defence policies of several key European allies; as well as policy issues in NATO and EU. The faculty and students of the Higher Command Studies Course is thankful to all those concerned who made the trip possible. It was also facilitated by the lovely spring weather which accompanied the course during the whole trip.



Baltic Defence Study Tour to Estonia

By Maj Vidas Grunda

On 1st – 3rd June, part of the Joint Command General Staff Course (JCGSC) and students from the Civil Servant Course (CSC), together with members of the Directing Staff undertook a trip to Estonia.

This tour was a part of the Defence Policy and Planning module with the aim to enhance officers' and civil servants' knowledge of defence policy and defence planning issues by meeting Estonian parliamentarians, and high-ranking civil and military officials.

The group visited the Estonian Ministry of Defence, Estonian Parliament, Muuga harbour and the 1st Infantry

Brigade. Students had an excellent opportunity to receive and discuss information on various defence policy related matters at different State institutions.

The wide range and different levels of visited institutions contributed to a comprehensive understanding of Estonian defence policy and its implementation measures.

Throughout the visit, the College team was welcomed by the Minister of Defence Mr Sven Mikser, had a fruitful discussion with the Chairman of the National Defence Committee Mr Marko Mihkelson

and former Chief of Defence Lt. Gen. (ret.) Johannes Kert.

The College delegation also received informative briefings from representatives of several departments of the Ministry of Defence, the Estonian Defence Force HQ, Air Force, Navy, Special Operation Force, Support Command, NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence and 1st Infantry Brigade HQ.

Additionally, the group visited Muuga harbour, the biggest and the deepest cargo harbour in Estonia.

The trip enabled students not only to gain a higher level of understanding of the Estonian Armed forces defence capabilities, but also gave the possibility to enjoy Estonian hospitality by having a dinner hosted by Commander of the Estonian Defence League Brig. Gen. Meelis Kiili.



Baltic Defence Study Tour to Latvia

By Tomas Matijosaitis, Saulius Juskevicius

On 1st – 3rd June, part of the Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC) and students from the Civil Servant Course (CSC) had a study trip to Latvia.

On the first day the BALTDEFCOL group was led to the Chancellery where they were greeted by representatives from the State Chancellery Mr. Krijanis Dzalbe, Consultant of the Department of Public Administration Development Mr. Andris Vitls, and Legal Adviser of the Legal Department.

In the chancellery the structure of the cabinet of ministers and the state chancellery structure, functions and responsibilities were presented and explained. Students learned the legislative system of the Republic of Latvia, how decisions are made and of the duties of the chancellery and differences from other countries concerning the work of parliament and the legislative system.

In the Ministry of Foreign Affairs the students were greeted by Mr. Aivars Purins, Director of the Security Policy Department. Students were given highlights



of the current situation that the Latvian republic Ministry of Foreign Affairs is facing today. The Latvian foreign

policy priorities from the Latvian perspective were presented to students. One important challenge was mentioned that currently not all the international law acts are acceptable by some of the countries as norms for regulations of international relationships.

The next place of visit was the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Latvia. Students were welcomed by State Secretary of the Ministry of Defense Mr. Janis Sarts who provided an introductory speech.



After that was a meeting with Mr. Aivars Purins, Director of security policy department. Later they had arranged meeting with Joint Headquarters J2 and J3/5 who provided information about Latvian understanding of capability planning. Also main capability development priorities were provided.



Later students were briefed by Mr. Janis Karklins about the NATO STRATCOM Center of Excellence. Students were provided with an overview of the current situation concerning trends in Russia Information warfare and the current and future tasks of COE.

At the end of a fruitful day, students were invited to dinner, which was hosted by MG Juris Zeibarts, chief of JHQ of the Latvian Armed Forces.

On the second day students were brought to Adazi Garrison where students learned about that training area. This polygon could host battalion size unit exercise of live firing. Also they learned about Latvian procurement of

IFV. Later the students were visiting TRADOC. There they were given a presentation about individual training, officers' education and developments of Latvian Military doctrine.

Before end of the day, students were brought to MRCC where they were welcomed by head of MRCC, CSG Andris Scribis. Students were given two presentations about the Latvian coast guard and Latvia NAVY. Also it was possible to visit the control center and observe how work is organized there.

On the way back from the tour we had opportunity to visit the Soviet era secret bunker in Ligatne. It was a deep underground



construction that was designed to withstand nuclear war and give shelter for up to 3 months for 250 personnel.

For the students this study tour provided useful and enlightening knowledge about how theory of defence planning is implemented in real life.

Baltic Defence Study Tour to Lithuania

LTC Gintaras Koryzna

Joint Command General Staff Course (JCGSC) and students from Civil Servant Course (CSC) 19 students from 9 nationalities had a study trip to Lithuania.

The aim of the study tour was to deepen the knowledge on defence planning and the Baltic States by meeting national parliamentarians, high-ranking civil servants and military officials dealing with defence policy, defence planning, and defence management issues.

On 1st of June students visited the Ministry of Foreign Affairs where an interesting lecture discussion about security environment evolved. Students learned about the Lithuanian view of foreign affairs at the strategic political level. In the Ministry of Defence, different

presentations on several topics regarding defence planning in Lithuania were held. Students had the opportunity to visit the Lithuanian Joint Headquarters and the NATO Energy Security Centre of Excellence as well.



On the next day, 2nd of June, students had a visit to Special Operations Forces Training, Mechanized Infantry Brigade IRON WOLF and to Rukla Military Base. In the Training and Doctrine Command the presentation was provided to students about the Training Regiments' activities and basic training course to all personnel entering the Lithuanian Military.

During the last day students visited the Naval Base in Klaipeda and Air Base in Šiauliai. There the presentations by Air Base CO and Air Policing detachment representatives from Norwegian- and Italian air wing were held.

Presentations and discussions held in different locations and institutions supported students to enhance their knowledge about Lithuanian political and security issues, defence planning systems, defence management, operational issues.



JCGSC / CSC International Study Tour 2015

By Col Marek Stobnicki

The Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC) and Civil Servants Course (CSC) of the BALTDEFCOL conducted an International Study Tour (IST) to Western Europe (Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany), Poland and Finland from 3rd - 8th May.

The aim of the tour 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 second time when the course was split into three parts to visit at the same time different locations to seek and discuss the security related issues and to



share opinions around the region of three Baltic States seen from different perspectives. The smaller groups facilitated a more tailored study experience.

IST 2015 Western Europe direction

The IST 2015 group Western Europe led by LTC Česlovas Černiauskas (LTU Army) conducted a traditional tour visiting the key NATO and EU Command entities. The students were briefed about the current security situation in the region and the main tasks performed by particular headquarters.



They were exposed to political, strategic and operational levels of command providing insights into the Alliance's processes and procedures. The students' attitude towards the security issues in the region was very mature and thoughtful. During the tour NATO HQ, EU Military Staff, SHAPE, NATO Special Operations HQ, Joint Force Command Brunssum and NATO E-3A Component were visited.



As a case study for Western Europe the Operation Market Garden was chosen. Students and staff members analyzed the largest airborne battle in history which was conducted in September 1944. The discussions were followed by lessons learned sessions where students were encouraged to use all their knowledge gained during the academic year. It is assessed that the IST has reached its learning objectives.

IST 2015 Poland direction

In Poland the team stayed in two locations, the capital of Poland and north-west region, Szczecin where the MNC NE is stationed. While in Warsaw, students were briefed on a variety of topics of their interest, mostly security, command structure, professional military education and modern military technology oriented. During the three days long stay in Warsaw students visited the General Staff of Polish Armed Forces, the newly implemented General Command of Branches of Polish Armed Forces, the Operational Command of Polish Armed Forces and last but not least the National defence University. All the visits were of great value for students and directing staff as well. Upon completion of their stay in Warsaw all doubts about the Command structure (C2) were dispelled and the command interrelationship and delineation of responsibility became clear and transparent.

JCGSC / CSC International Study Tour 2015

The Multinational Corps North-East headquarters was the next stage of the tour. While visiting this headquarters they received a brief on the growing role of the corps in the north-east region of Europe. Students engaged all the briefers in serious discussions sometime challenging them with thought provoking questions.

As a case study in Polish the Battle of Warsaw 1920 the so-called "The Vistula Miracle" was chosen. During the analysis students were discussing the leadership, manoeuvre issues, and the decision making process which made possible the "miracle." They examined how it was possible that much weaker Polish forces were able to defeat much stronger, better trained and equipped Bolshevik troops, which stopped them from moving



towards Western Europe which arguably influenced the shape of contemporary Europe.

IST 2015 Finnish direction

During the tour in Finland, students had an opportunity to visit almost all Finish Defence Force branches and the main training/educational institutions. Inter alia the Finish Defence Forces (FDF) had been visited. After the visit it became clear that Finland is engaged in huge steps to reform its military system to ensure relevancy according to 21st century standards. Three fundamentals of Finnish defence were presented: territorial defence, general conscription and not being a member of any military alliance.

Russia's aggression in Ukraine made clear to the Finns



that they have to keep developing their focus on territorial defence. They understand they need to have a high number of troops and a high number of easily mobilised reserves. The Finnish Defence Forces started the most significant reorganisation since the end of the Second World War.

The team in Finland consequently visited the Air force HQ, where they were briefed about current challenges the Finn face today. Students from BALDEFCOL had the opportunity to see a F/A-18 Hornet, visit a flight simulation class and most importantly, to talk with the pilots about their experience, daily routine, understanding of joint environment and cooperation between different forces within the operational environment.

During the IST week, students had a great opportunity to visit other FDF units like the Finnish Navy, the National Defence University, Coastal Fleet, Air force Academy and Logistics Command.

The visit to Finland was considered by students and



directing staff as a greatly interesting International Study Tour from which they learned a lot.

As part of this visit they conducted a historical case study the Winter War 1939. The case study gave the students an explanation of the Finnish way of understanding war, state defence, alliances and neutrality. This has led to the contemporary Finnish approach which is different from the Baltic and Nordic countries.

The International Study Tour proved to be well-balanced activities. There was time for deepening the learning of operational art, learning about NATO and National Command structures, capabilities and challenges, as well as expanding the horizon of cultural awareness. Simply said, everyone had the possibility to learn and improve himself.

European Security and Defence College's High Level Course in Riga

By Dr Augustine Meaher, Dean

BALTDEFCOL co-hosted module 3 of the European Security and Defence College's High Level Course in Riga on 12-17th April to coincide with the Latvian Presidency of the European Union. The module focused on the Common Security and Defence Policy in Action. We co-hosted the module with the UK Defence Academy who were instrumental in securing high level speakers from the UK to support the module.

The High Level Course is the highest level of education offered by the European Union's External Action Service and is required for promotion to high level positions within the EU and in many member states.

The module in Riga focused on the European Union's increasing engagement with Eastern Europe, a policy that Latvia has stressed since taking over the EU's Presidency with the strong support of all Baltic States. The syndicate exercises for this module involved making proposals for improving the EU's External Action and Common Security and Defence Policy so that the EU could respond immediately to security crises. The ongoing Ukrainian Crisis was the subject of the syndicate work which provided an excellent insight into how the EU works or rather does not work, and what Brussels is considering to improve the system.

During the course we also visited the Latvian Ministry of Defence and were briefed by Latvian Defence and Foreign Affairs officials on the Latvian perspective of the Ukrainian Crisis, the role Latvia sees for the EU in the crisis and in the Eastern Neighbourhood more broadly.

All Baltic States supported the module with guest lecturers and subject matter experts. Baltic Defence College faculty also served as subject matter experts in the syndicate activities and provided guest lectures.



Group Photo of the participants of the European Security and Defence College's High Level Course in Riga
[Photo is taken by Gatis Dieziņš, Recruitment and Youth Guard Centre]

9th International Lessons Learned Conference

By Mr Michael Malm

The Baltic Defence College organised and hosted the 9th International Lessons Learned Conference in Tartu on 1st – 4th June 2015.

The conference, taking the form of three days of facilitating plenary presentations and conversations, focused on Leadership, Strategic Communication and Crisis Management lessons from different missions and research.



One of the conclusions from the conference is that the Lessons Learned community needs to focus more on emerging crises and conflicts, and lessons (knowledge) that can help us cope with that emerging environment. Lessons have traditionally been drawn from the past and projected into the future.

Perhaps another way of doing it is to let the emerging future guide the lessons learned process. Horizon scanning and other future studies tools might also benefit the lessons learned community.

The participants were from more than 20 countries and represented over 40 organizations which supported the creative discussions. It was a good mix between military and civilian participants and between practitioners and academics.

New Zealand has agreed to organise and host the next conference in March 2017 in cooperation with Australia.

The conference was opened by the BALTDEFCOL Dean Dr Augustine Meaher and was followed by a key note address by Brigadier General Bengt Axelsson, Vice Chancellor at the Swedish National Defence University, who elaborated on the importance of training and education in implementing lessons.

The conference was sponsored by the Estonian MoD.

The first day of the conference focused on methodology and lessons learned capabilities. The key questions that were discussed were: How do we learn and what do we learn? How do we make sure that what we learn is relevant and useful?

The second day started with a key note address by Professor Gerry Larsson, Swedish Defence University, with the title "18 ways to improve military officer's management of moral and stress emotions" and was followed by different presentations such as: "Improving operational effectiveness to save lives, resources and time", "Case study of Russian propaganda tools in Ukraine", "The balance of shadow and formal processes of influence" etc.



BALTEFCOL donated veloergometers for the rehabilitation of children after cancer treatment

By Ms Merike Järv

“Good actions give strength to ourselves and inspire good actions in others.”

-Plato-

On 28th January representatives of the Baltic Defence College donated two veloergometers for the rehabilitation of children after cancer treatment at Tartu University Hospital to the Estonian Association of Parents of Child Cancer Patients (EVLVL).

This presenting event was honoured by the EVLVL President Mr. Märt Avandi. The presenting party included BALTGIRLS, led by Mrs. Irena Vaikšnorienė, JCGSC students, led by LtCdr Mati Terve, Head of Administration Mrs. Kaja Arulepp and PR Adviser Merike Järv.

Mrs. Vaikšnorienė led a presentation with the President of the EVLVL Mr. Märt Avandi and presented the veloergometer on behalf of the Baltic Defence College for the hospital.

The EVLVL and Hospital representatives were very pleased to receive such a valuable gift and emphasized how important this equipment is in the children's rehabilitation stage.

Last year in November, BALTEFCOL conducted fund-raising for charitable purposes during the International Night event with the initiative and lead of BALTGIRLS.

With the help of participants and guests €852 was raised that provided two veloergometers for the rehabilitation of children after cancer treatment.

BALTGIRLS also helped EVLVL to establish contacts with the NATO Charity Bazaar in order to request funding for a rehabilitation camp for teenagers recovering from cancer. The camp has the goal of supporting the teenagers as they try to make sense of the experience of cancer and as they seek a way back into the community of young people. This project has been funded by the NATO Charity Bazaar.



Last year the fund-raising was made for the Maarja School in Tartu.

Summer Hike

By Ms Merike Järv

On 22nd May BALTDEFCOL staff took part in the Summer Hike in Taevaskoja for celebrating the end of the academic year.

The BALTDEFCOL hike started with the Commandant's greeting in the hiking trail parking lot from where he guided us through the entire trail.



The beginning of the trail was going downhill. Soon we saw a river and turned into a 150-year old pristine forest. First we had a stop by the Emaläte. The water in Emaläte was cold and fresh. Ancient people believed that water in Emaläte has healing qualities and if you wash your face 40 times with water from Emaläte, you would become seven years younger.

After washing our faces we passed the Neitsikoobas (Maiden's Cave) of which numerous legends exist. It is a 3 metres high cave in sandstone. There is said to be a flaxen-haired beauty hiding herself, who is weaving a beautiful cloth using a loom and who can be seen only if you know the secret words and have a fern blossom with you. In quiet evenings it is still possible to hear the clattering of the loom from time to time as well.

We reached the Big-Taevaskoja, which is the most famous of the outcrops, is 150 metres long and 24 metres high. This area has been famous as something of a sanctuary for centuries. Beneath that cliff is the river and the meadow is surrounding it.

Moreover, the dark coniferous forests are in its backdrop that creates a very powerful and



emotional effect. In order to see that extraordinary view to the forest and river below we climbed up from the Heaven's Stair. We all had fun in climbing up and down the stairs.



Later we had a picnic in Big Taevaskoja and took many remarkable photos. The hike ended with the Commandant's lunch in the Taevaskoja Holiday Centre, where everyone received a certificate of appreciation.

Everyone enjoyed the hike.

Tribute Run

By Maj Vilius Zagurskis

On the 11th of January the group of BALTDEFCOL members took part in commemorative run to pay tribute to the victims of the bloody events in the Lithuanian capital in January 1991.



The event started with the welcome words of the Commandant of the BALTDEFCOL MG V. Vaikšnoras and a moment of silence in honour of the victims of the events in Vilnius in January 1991.

The multinational group of runners mainly consisted of Lithuanian officers working or studying at the BALTDEFCOL, and several representatives from Estonia, United States as well as the Tartu Lithuanian community. Even though the 9 km track chosen was quite a challenge for the runners neither bad weather nor slippery road conditions could stop them. All the participants were warmly supported by the Tartu Lithuanian community and their family members.



Fourteen unarmed civilians were killed and more than 1,000 were injured during the attempts of the Soviet army and special units to seize the TV Tower and the Lithuanian Radio and Television building in Vilnius on 13 January 1991.

Tartu Running Marathon

By Captain Tambet Mäe



Students from the Joint Command and General Staff Course participated in the 33rd Tartu Running Marathon which took place on the 10th of May in southern Estonia.

The participants were able to choose between the more challenging 23.3 km track and the shorter 10 km distance. Despite the rather hot weather and relatively demanding landscape all the students were able to complete the event, and perhaps more importantly, to promote a healthy way of life and present BALTDEFCOL as an active member of the region.

Club Tartu Marathon is the organizer of a series of events which include cycling, skiing and running.

Challenge Cup

The Challenge Cup consist of sports, competition, good times, getting to know each other better, talking to each other, letting out some steam and finally getting along with all of you at work!

On 7th January a challenging shooting (small arms) competition was held at the ENDS shooting range. All together we had 30 participants and five teams, five persons in each team. In the first round each of us had 2x10 rounds in two different magazines. For shooting at 10 m distance there was no time limit. Two persons per team with highest overall score got to the next round.



The ten best shooters with the highest score: COL Marek Stobnicki (163), LTC Roman Timofejev (166), LTC Valts Āboliņš (134), LTC Mathias Järvare (149), LTC Andrius Januškevičius (160), CDR Peeter Ivask (159), MAJ Vilius Zagurskis (141), MSGT Risto Kanketer (138), SGT Peep Silm (113) and Mr Olavi Jänes (131).



In the next round the points were not counted, but only hits in the main target. The targets were half covered and shooters needed to get their hits to the target behind the cover. In this round all 12 shots and changing magazines had to be completed in 30 seconds.

CDR Peeter Ivask and MR Olavi Jänes had an equal outcome twice and referees decided to give out our "wild card".

Therefore, both got to round 3 and for the finals the pairs were: CDR Peeter Ivask vs SGT Peep Silm; MSGT Risto Kanketer vs Mr Olavi Jänes; LTC Valts Āboliņš vs LTC Roman Timofejev.

Final shooting had 3x4 rounds, magazine changing and time limit of 20 seconds.

The Winner was CDR Peeter Ivask with 8 hits, second was MSGT Risto Kanketer with 3 hits and third was LTC Valts Āboliņš with 2 hits.

The points divided by departments: OPD - 5 points, Support staff- 4, DPS - 3 and DOL -2. Congratulation!

The next Challenge Cup will be in the next academic year 2015/2016.



BALTGIRLS Activities

By Mrs Irena Vaikšnorienė, Mrs Ursula Schulte-Pfaffenroth, Mrs Gerti Noel

BALTGIRLS were very happy to have the opportunity to share many enjoyable activities during the last six months. It was nice to spend time together getting to know interesting people and cultures.

December 2014

On the 15th of December Ursula Schulte-Pfaffenroth hosted the BALTGIRLS in her home with a Pre-Christmas cookie baking morning. The ladies produced their own German-style pastries and were able to take quite a few bags home to their hard-working partners and family members.



January



Marina Gabrielsson's delicious Borscht recipe was served to the BALTGIRLS as a basic traditional meal during our visit to her wonderful place on the 15th of January 2015. Marina showed us how to prepare it and everybody had a lot of fun. The Borscht was just great!



During BALTDEFCOL's International Night, November 2014, the BALTGIRLS ran a charity activity and succeeded in raising some significant funding for children with tumours at Tartu Hospital. On the 28th of January BALTGIRLS with representatives from students and administration on behalf of BALTDEFCOL and its guests, presented medical bicycles and sweets to the young patients.



February



A great Armenian cooking class took place on 5th of February. Po Yan Chiu-Rourman kindly opened up her kitchen for Eleonora Petrosova to teach national Armenian cooking. The BALTGIRLS prepared a traditional soup and various other dishes. The lessons were most interesting and the taste was just wonderful.

On February 13th the BALTGIRLS came together for a Lithuanian tradition. A big doll More was assembled and a few days later burned near the Emajõgi River to say good bye to winter.



BALTGIRLS Activities

The first BALTGIRLS trip in 2015 took place on the 26th of February. In Rakvere, the old castle was visited, representing life at a 16th century castle. A very funny and entertaining guide showed the ladies how to shoot with a bow and arrow. All the BALTGIRLS earned credit for showing a lot of natural talent and remarkable results.



Professional fighting training continued during the trip, when the Estonian Police Museum in Rakvere was visited. A policewoman instructed the ladies in self-defence and presented very interesting information on the Estonian police build-up after regaining independence in 1991, driving safety, operations against smuggling of piracy products and false money.



In the afternoon, the BALTGIRLS became creative and learned how to make a wooden basket in the Handy craft Centre in Avinurme. Instructions were given by a most lovely and fascinating old Estonian lady who has been doing this for more than 20 years. The whole group had a lot of fun and everyone went home with a beautiful new basket.



March

On the 24th of March, Virginija Cerniauskiene invited the BALTGIRLS to her beautiful home to taste "Kibinai", a traditional Karaims food of Lithuania. She cooked and baked a lot which resulted in delicious eating throughout the whole morning.



The BALTGIRLS's programme "Discovery Estonia" continued on the 25th of March with a trip to Piusa and Setomaa. In Piusa the group started by visiting the old sand caves.

After this, everybody tried to produce a ceramic bowl on their own. As it was a real challenge, the ladies worked very hard and successfully created nice ceramics.



Finally the BALTGIRLS visited the Seto Farm Museum, an area of Estonia with very old traditions and excellently developed skills in felting, as the picture proves. The Seto Farm Museum enabled the visitors to learn about the farm architecture, old tools and a rich collection of handicraft items dating from the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century.



The following day, 26th of March, Julija Ciapaite-Jureviciene and Natalia Sili invited BALTGIRLS to a Sauna evening at the Ida street apartments with snacks and drinks. It was a very nice and warm girls evening.



Baltgirls Activities

April

On the 26th of April, the bravest of the BALTGIRLS visited Tartu prison where they got a tour and interesting information on the daily life of the prisoners. The Chapel in the centre of the prison serves all religions and also had a collection of nice paintings.



Olustvere and Paide were on the tour plan on the 29th of April. The BALTGIRLS started with a visit of the Olustvere Manor House where a guide informed them about the history of the place. There was also an opportunity to bake special bread and to listen to the history of bakers and farmers. It was interesting to hear how they made sure in former times that their money, valuables and products were safe.



Next stop was Järva, to visit the Glass Museum. At the glass factory everybody tried hard to make a swan out of glass.

Finally, the group visited the History Centre Wittenstein in Paide, which is situated between the ruins of the former order castle. The centre gives an overview of Estonian history by using interactive sound and light effects. Eight floors are designed to create an atmosphere of different eras from prehistoric times to present era.



May



The latest activity was on the 17th of May when Ursula Schulte-Pfaffenroth invited everyone for a typical German breakfast with different kinds of bread, honey, jam, eggs, sausage, cheese, yogurt, and most importantly, lots of coffee.

Also we are planning to have in the middle of June the last Tartu Guided tour with the small children and the Farewell BALTGIRLS Coffee morning before the Graduation Ceremony.

The BALTGIRLS are looking forward to a nice summertime and to continue their activities during the coming new school year, including the Photo Course, morning coffee meetings, guided tour in Tartu, Pilates, Estonian and English lessons, painting course at the University of Tartu, cultural program "Discovery Estonia", different crafts workshops, the new Charity project and much more.

We wish all the best for the BALTGIRLS leaving Tartu and are looking forward to welcome the new members of our team arriving for the next school year with their husbands.

THE BALTIC WAY ROOM

