

THE BUGLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIC DEFENCE COLLEGE



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THE BUGLE

Est. 2009

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Commandant's foreword



Dear Colleagues,

Another academic year at our institution is coming to an end as well as my duty tour as the Commandant of the Baltic Defence College.

In December 2012, while assuming responsibility for the college, I promised to you and our superiors that the key aspect of our joint endeavour should be not only to maintain the impressive achievements of our predecessors – Commandants, Management Group, Faculty members and Supporting staff – but also to further develop it as a modern, future-oriented, attractive and competitive Professional Military Educational institution. I also promised you that together we would better position the college to address the security challenges of the future. Today, looking back over the past 3.5 years we have been working together I can proudly say: what a great journey we have had; what great results we have achieved; and in all aspects of the college's life!

To begin with, educational success requires appropriate planning. We have worked together

to generate the introduction of a Long-Term Planning capacity for the college's development, which was supported by the '**Vision 2020**' process, which eventually culminated in the '**Baltic Defence College Development plan 2017 -2025**', laying the groundwork for the college to further develop for the years to come.

Together, we have not only very successfully further developed existing courses and projects, but have also created new ones. The Higher Command Studies Course and Joint Command and General Staff Course were significantly reshaped to better address the rapidly changing realities of our region and a global world. Meanwhile, addressing the requirement for lifelong education, and to better prepare senior leaders to perform at ever higher levels and further develop professional network of the Wider Baltic region, we developed a course – **the Senior Leaders' Course** – for general officers and civilian leaders at the executive level.

Reflecting on the need for the more individually

Commandant's foreword

tailored education, allowing our students to deepen and widen their knowledge and expertise in the areas related to their future appointments, we successfully **introduced, developed and expanded electives** in our operational, and later, our senior level, courses. They were very successful and contributed to the enhancement of our students' knowledge.

In relation to our academic environment and to facilitate better team work, transparency and a common understanding of our educational philosophy, we introduced our **Code of Conduct** and **Educational Charter**. Equally, we decided to continue with the adoption of the Bologna Process, leading to significant improvements to our educational **Quality Assurance and Quality Control system, as well as the harmonization of all levels of the Baltic States' Professional Military Education programme**. In this regard, several new **Standard Operating Procedures** have been introduced, enhancing the process for educational planning, research, assessment and feedback and the acquisition of Information Resources, greatly improving both the learning environment for our students and the professionalism of our faculty.

The development of our educational systems has also gone hand-in-hand with our efforts to transform our institution in a leader and centre of excellence in regional security. We have established high-profile annual **Russia conferences; Cyber conferences** and further developed Baltic Military History conferences, as well as numerous roundtable seminars on multiple different subjects. The introduction of our **Journal on Baltic Security** is also the beginning of the establishment of a leading Baltic security periodical, which will further strengthen the college's reputation.

Another remarkable achievement – undertaken in a relatively short period of time – was to significantly **renovate and improve our educational environment** as well as quality of life of our personnel by modernising our premises, learning facilities and infrastructure. We made them not only more ergonomic and technologically advanced but representative as well.

Modernisation is not only about room machinery and infrastructure, it is also the development of our **mind-set and the educational process** itself which has become more flexible and innovative and is increasingly shifting from teaching-centred to learning-centred. In addition, we have also moved towards new formats of internal interaction, information sharing and management within our institution.

As we have **optimised the intellectual and material resources** allocated to us, we have clearly achieved significant savings and the possibility to eventually redis-

tribute those savings to other high priority areas.

While we have greatly enhanced our educational processes and facilities, we have also continued to integrate the college into the research network of the Wider Baltic region to boost its visibility and reputation. To effectively address the security challenges of the future, and to better align real-life developments and our educational curricula, we have **enlarged our cooperation with our allies and partners**, such as NATO, the European Union and multiple national headquarters and other institutions, both regionally and globally.

Equally, to provide a prestigious and visible means of recognition to selected graduates of our institution, the **Hall of fame of the Baltic Defence College** was established and the first general officers from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania were inducted. Moreover, we have moved towards establishing an **Honorary Fellows programme**, to connect the leading Baltic security thinkers – especially those with an interest in our institution's future success – to the college and its students and faculty.

No less important, we have actively participated in the social activities of Tartu and with the great initiative of the BaltGirls, we established and developed a new noble tradition of **fundraising for charity** during our International Nights.

Today, at the end of my tour as Commandant, I can proudly conclude that together our multinational team succeeded not only to maintain but also further develop the impressive standards and high quality of education and research our institution has made the hallmark of its existence during the first seventeen years of its existence.

We have effectively continued to develop the Baltic Defence College as a **Modern, Future-oriented, Attractive and Competitive** professional military educational institution. Our educational products will continue to benefit future military and civilian leaders from the three Baltic States, as well as our allied and partner nations, to strengthen their armed forces and defence and security systems.

These and all of our other success are the **result of our team's efforts, dedicated work and commitment**.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you, all of our permanent personnel and students and especially to recognise the support, understanding and dedication from our spouses and families.

In closing, I would like – together with Irena – to wish to each of you all the very best success, happiness and joy in work and life.

Joint Command and General Staff Course 2015/2016

By Colonel Mark Hollis, Course Director JCGSC



Comprehensive exams passed, final check-out procedures almost finalised – the end of another remarkable and accomplished year at the Baltic Defence College is almost a reality. I am glad to acknowledge that on 16th June 2016, JCGSC AY 2015-2016 graduates fifty-three students from fifteen nations. All the countless hours spent on readings, writings, reasearching, and exercises are complete and students are ready to face their next challenges.

Academically, it has been a stellar eleven months. The students have been actively involved and exposed to daily interactions and dialogues with Faculty and Syndicate Guiding Officers, shared experiences and expertise with their peers, conducted exercises to demonstrate their knowledge, and executed study tours to complement their understanding. I trust the students have turned all this experience into a great success for their own personal development.

I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of our shared moments throughout this course. The first semester (August-December) the students were provided with the grounding required to succeed in the JCGSC. They were thrown into the 'cold' academic water, which would develop them to think critically. They were taught the foundation for the planning and execution of joint operations. Furthermore, they were challenged by numerous academics in International Relations and Law to develop their political and legal knowledge.

The second half of the year was extremely busy and challenging with application. Due to the long exercises, several study trips and the argumentative essay deadline looming around the corner during which everybody assumed that the watches had stopped working...and the coffee machines almost did stop working. Nevertheless, I am extremely proud to acknowledge

our students' commitment and hard work shown while working through this academic path. I hope the students will look back at these eleven months of intensive learning as a positive experience in an international environment which hopefully not only provided them with an operational level education but also gave them tools to continue to embrace lifelong learning and self-improvement.

With graduation approaching, it is important to recognise the students whose exemplary achievements led to being nominated for the following awards:

Joint Operations Award – *within Learning Area 1 the winner for the award is* **MAJ Indrek Sarap (EST)**.

Academic Writing Award – *within Learning Area 5 the winner for the award is* **MAJ Priit Heinloo (EST)**

Best Coursemate Award – After the voting among the students the winner for this award is **MAJ Indrek Sarap (EST)**

Class Leader Recognition – **MAJ Linas Idzelis (LTU)** served as a Class Leader for the Course.

At last, the students selected the best Faculty member within the multinational cadre. This prestigious award was given to **LTC Gintaras Koryzna (LTU)**.

So, as we draw this year to a close, I extend my grateful thanks to the entire College team for the way you supported our students of the JCGSC 2015-2016 – the course's success is a collective effort. I also wish you all an excellent summer, wherever you may be and success in your future endeavours.



The Higher Command Studies Course 2016

By Colonel Igors Rajevs, Course Director for HCSC



The Higher Command Studies Course 2016 (HCSC 2016) is senior level career course that is created by three Baltic states to educate military officers and government officials. The course represents Level 4 of the Professional Military Education system of the Baltic states. The HCSC is open for senior officers (LTC/COL) and government officials, who demonstrated potential for promotion to high level military and civil servants positions. This year 18 students from Denmark, Estonia, Georgia, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Spain and Sweden joined the course at the beginning of January.

The course was developed taking stock of the Baltic states' evolving geopolitical environment and the Euro-Atlantic structures' changing strategic dynamics. The HCSC provides an integrated overview on contemporary geopolitical affairs on security issues to enable students to think creatively and critically about higher command, strategy formulation, defence policy and planning, strategic defence management and long-term defence planning.

The aim of the HCSC is to educate military officers and government officials from the Baltic states, their allies and partners, for executive responsibilities at the strategic level. It will enable comprehension of the multifaceted actions necessary for the accomplishment of national and Allied strategic objectives, within an uncertain inter-

national environment. It will produce creative, proactive and agile commanders, policymakers and managers, capable of making sound, decisive and future-oriented strategic decisions.

The structure of the HCSC followed an integrated and modular curriculum. It started with a wide strategic focus and then narrowed down to issues relating to higher command, strategic resource management and long-term defence planning. There were a number of modules, which were built on one another in a cumulative fashion, allowing students to expand and deepen their knowledge of the strategic level. The HCSC is highly engaging and students will be required to conduct individual research, and to participate in a range of collective research projects, discussions and practical exercises. Each of the HCSC's modules terminates with an individual or group-based assignment. The main assignment is the 'Cunningham Paper in Strategic Studies' that allows students to undertake a longer research project, looking at security and defence issues over the coming two decades. The curriculum follows Bologna process and fully complies with ECTS requirements. The course is also included into NATO Education and Training Opportunities Catalogue (ETOC).

The HCSC includes three study trips that complement classroom activities. First trip is connected to Russia and Baltic Neighbourhood module and the course is visiting countries that have well-developed policy towards Russia and realistically and critically evaluate its developments. Second trip is conducted as a part of

Defence Policy and Planning module and it explores defence developments within NATO, the EU and specific European countries. During the last trip the course is visiting three Baltic states, where the students get necessary knowledge on future development of their armed forces. It is linked to a major exercise of the HCSC on Long-Term Defence Planning – known as 'STRATEGIC PLANNER'.



Hall of Fame

By Ms Kadri Nestra, Administrative Secretary

At the beginning of 2016 BALTDEFCOL Hall of Fame was established with Commandant's Order 3/08.01.2016. As it is stated, its purpose is to provide prestigious and visible means of recognition to Graduates of the Baltic Defence College who have attained, through military merit, the highest positions in their nation's armed forces, or who have held an equivalent position by rank or responsibility in a ministry.

On 8th January, Lieutenant General Riho Terras, Commander of the Estonian Defence Forces was decreed as the inaugural member of the BALTDEFCOL Hall of Fame. LTG Terras is the graduate of the BALTDEFCOL Joint Command and General Staff Course 2004/2005.

Baltic Defence College HALL OF FAME



LTG Terras receiving the Hall of Fame Certificate from BALTDEFCOL Commandant



MG Dilans during his appreciation address

On 8th April Major General Almantas Leika, Commander of the Land Forces of Lithuanian Armed Forces became the third member of the Hall of Fame. MG Leika graduated from the second Senior Staff Course 2000/2001 and Higher Command Studies Course in 2004.

All inductees are requested to give a public lecture to the courses in residence at the Baltic Defence College.

On 7th March, Major General Andis Dilans, Latvian Military Representative to the EU and NATO, became the second member of the Hall of Fame. MG Dilans attended the first BALTDEFCOL Senior Staff Course in 1999/2000, which he graduated with distinction, and Higher Command Studies Course in 2004.



MG Leika giving a lecture to BALTDEFCOL Students and Faculty

Distinguished visitors to the College and College's visits during the second part of the academic year

Distinguished visitors to BALTDEFCOL

21st JAN H.E. Mrs. Doris Danler,
Austrian Ambassador



29th JAN H.E. Mr Dagfinn Sørli,
Norwegian Ambassador



17-18th FEB Major General Janusz Bojarski,
NATO Defense College Commandant

1st MAR H.E. Mr James D. Melville,
the US Ambassador



14th APR The Estonian National
Defence Committee



5th MAY H.E. Mr Frank Flood,
Irish Ambassador



19th MAY Lieutenant General Frederick
Benjamin Hodges,
Commanding General US Army Europe



26th MAY General Denis Mercier,
NATO Supreme Allied Commander
Transformation

AROUND THE ACADEME

Distinguished visitors to the College and College's visits during the second part of the academic year

Visits of other PME Colleges



3rd APR Royal Norwegian Air Force Academy



1st JUN Defence Academy of the United Kingdom

7th APR Canadian Ambassador and Canadian Forces College



Visits by BALTDEFCOL Commandant



15-16th MAR Davit Aghmashenebeli National Defence Academy of Georgia



3-4th MAR NATO Headquarters and the Joint Force Command Brunssum

8-11th MAY NATO Headquarters and European Defence Agency



Countering Russian Revisionism: Baltic Defence College's Second Annual Conference on Russia

By Dr Andriy Tyushka, Lecturer Eastern European and Russian Studies

For the last two years, Russia's 'coarse' resurgence, revisionism and growing belligerence have come to profile the agendas of European security scholarship and policymaking communities alike. Concerned with threats to the peaceful and cooperative international order stemming from Russia's notorious geopolitical revisionism and power projection since the early 2000s – a topic of the College's first edition of its Russia Conference in late 2014, the Second Annual Conference on Russia, held in February 2016, structured its agenda around the headline theme of countering Russian revisionism.

Six internationally renowned partners joined the Baltic Defence College in pursuing this ambitious policy-related academic endeavour, including the European Union Institute for Security Studies (Paris) and NATO Defense College (Rome), the 'Dahrendorf Forum' (Berlin/London), the Henry Jackson Society (London), the International Centre for Defence and Security (Tallinn) and the Swedish Defence University (Stockholm). The 2016 edition of the College's Conference on Russia has gathered representatives of over twenty nations and nearly fifty institutions from European mainland and from across the Atlantic Ocean.

The conference opened with a trendsetting speech by the Commandant of the Baltic Defence College Maj Gen Vitalijus Vaikšnoras, who emphasised that Russian forcible power projection directly threatened the current world order, security and peace both regionally and internationally, and that such a disruptive act needed to be seen as a crisis that required a general response, a challenge that needed to be met accordingly, and as a threat that needed to be deterred and de-

fended against.

After the Commandant's guests welcoming and conference opening remarks, the conference debate was kicked off by two high-profiled speeches delivered by Mr Brian Whitmore from Radio Free Europe / Radio Liberty (Prague) and Prof. Jakub Grygiel from The Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, MD). Rethinking the Russian challenge, Mr Whitmore insightfully addressed the topic of Russia's creeping weaponisation of globalization that is fraught with direct consequences for the Western liberal international order. It's primarily the weaponisation of finance and business through corruption, but also weaponisation of organised crime, internet (social media trolling and disinformation campaigns) and communications, and some European political elites themselves is what was said to shape the scope and outreach of Russia's contemporary non-kinetic threat to the peaceful and cooperative international order. Professor Grygiel's take was focusing, by contrast, on Russia's military-political threats, including kinetic ones, and the role of the US frontline allies in countering them. As it was emphasised, Russia has already proven both its strategic intent and capability to undermine national sovereignty's in its 'near abroad' and wider areas of engagement – from its war against Georgia in 2008, Ukraine in 2014, up to its – first since the Soviet times – out-of-area military engagement in Syria in 2015/16. In view of such a security challenge, only NATO was seen as a capable and credible primary-response defence alliance. Its defence and deterrence capabilities are however facing a plausible challenge coming from Russia's already effectively deployed anti-access and area denial (A2/AD) capabilities in the region. These have become a headline topic for debates within the panel on UK/US united response front on Russia's geopolitical revisionism. Enhanced partnerships with non-NATO states like

Sweden and Finland, just as strategic partnerships with Ukraine, Moldova and Georgia were seen as part of the Alliance's comprehensive political-military approach to enhance the deterrence of Russia by both denial and punishment. The panel focusing on French, Polish and German responses to Russian revisionism offered highly topical insights into how to enhance 'hybrid security' in times of Russia's widely spreading hy-



Opening of the Conference by Major General Vitalijus Vaikšnoras, Commandant of the Baltic Defence College

Countering Russian Revisionism: The Baltic Defence College's Second Annual Conference on Russia

brid challenge – a combination of conventional and unconventional warfare methods that blurs the lines between war and peace and allows for a stealth incursion into internal matters of sovereign states far beyond Russia's immediate borderlands. The contagious and highly adaptive nature of Russia's hybrid (warfare) challenge makes it to a liable concern of the entire community of democratic states, not just some of the European or over-Atlantic capitals. Therefore, the responsibility to respond (R2R) to this kind of threat at regional and institutional level was addressed by a further conference panel dealing with European Union's role

in countering, including – by containing, Russian revisionist politics in the region. The next panel's outlook onto the NATO's capabilities and active deterrence activities undertaken since the outbreak of 2014 'Ukraine crisis' have complemented the conference's effort to outline the political-military institutional response capabilities. Further two panels disentangled the defence and deterrence activities undertaken by the countries that are highly vulnerable to the Russian security challenge – three Baltic states, and the Nordic states of Sweden, Finland and Denmark.

The conference's 'night owl' session with Estonian and Ukrainian foreign ministries' speakers, encouraged a

genuinely revealing informal exchange of thoughts, concerns, and ideas regarding both the challenging nature of Russia's offensive activities in Ukraine and the Euro-

Atlantic response policies. The scope and patterns of the Kremlin's (dis)information activities were hardly to be omitted from the debates. They also became a central theme in conferences' closing speech delivered by Jānis Sārts from NATO Strategic Communications Centre of Excellence (Riga). Reflecting on how to ensure security in the region, extend deterrence and enhance defence of the allied states, Mr Sārts pointed to the urging political necessity of protecting European states own ideational and narrative spaces, advancing the competitiveness and appeal of the shared liberal-democratic values and principles, narratives and institutions that should form a solid basis for mounting a feasible and sustainable response to the hybrid challenge originating from Russia or elsewhere for decades to come.

Thence, in its attempt to move beyond the trivial in current academic and policy debates about responses to the Russian challenge, the College's Second Annual Conference on Russia proved to be a highly productive and insightful event that, in two full conference days, dared to ask usually unaskable questions and encouraged non-politicised and solutions-oriented thinking. It is only through this approach that the academia and policy-making communities can develop synergies in their contributions to the undoubtedly most acute international security crisis for the last two decades.



Ongoing conference in Dorpat Conference Centre

7th Annual Military History Conference

By Dr Douglas Ford, Lecturer Military History and Strategic Planning

On 9-10 March 2016 the Baltic Defence College held its 7th annual military history conference in Tartu.

Seventeen papers were presented on various aspects of Baltic regional military history ranging in time from the Wars of Independence between 1918-20 to the present day.

This year's conference took place at a time when the Baltic region faces a significant security challenge, in the form of a resurgent Russia, and growing uncertainty in light of recent events in Ukraine. Therefore, the main aim of the event was to examine the military-political aspects of the Baltic region from a historical perspective, and to focus on the manner in which the region has constituted a significant theatre in the centuries' old rivalry between Russia and the other European powers.

The panels featured scholarly papers from academics from all three Baltic States, as well as Germany, Sweden, Poland, the United Kingdom, and United States.

The keynote panel was led by Professor Kaarel Piirimäe from the Estonian War Museum, whose paper

explained how the independence of the Baltic states during the 20th century largely depended on whether

Russia's political and military power was in decline. Dr Bend Lemke from the German Centre for Military History drew parallels between the current strategic dilemma facing the Baltic states with the challenges which the Allies faced in defending West Berlin during the Cold War. Dr Frederik Eriksson from the Swedish National Defence University presented a paper which explained how historical experience can be used to develop a more viable means to defend the Baltic region.

The morning and afternoon sessions covered a range of topics, including the development of the Baltic states' military institutions, the historical memories of regional conflicts, foreign military interventions, and the closing session focused on recent NATO efforts to build up a deterrent force against the Russian threat.

The conference was well attended by guest participants from Tartu University and also from the Estonian National Defence College. The scope and breadth of the conference as well as the

quality of the discussion shows that interest and scholarship concerning the military history of the Baltic region is growing with several relatively unexplored aspects of regional history.



The Baltic Military History Conference is part of the Baltic Defence College's programme to deepen academic cooperation among Baltic and international universities and scholars and to further the study of military affairs and security in the Baltic region.

Roundtable Seminars held in JAN-JUN 2016

The Baltic Defence College hosts regular roundtable seminars, whereby its own faculty or prominent academics, commanders or officials are invited to present on a topic of relevance, followed by discussion between participants. Recent roundtables include:

Title: 'Brexit' or 'Bremain'

Date: 9th June 2016

Speaker: Mr. Kalle Palling, Estonian MP and Chairman of European Affairs Committee in the Riigikogu

Title: Porcupine Defence

Date: 7th April 2016

Speaker: Col. William Nemeth, United States Navy (Sixth Fleet)

Title: Transatlantic Cooperation and the Security Environment

Date: 7th March 2016

Speaker: H. E. Ambassador Mr. Renatas Norkus, Lithuanian Ministry of National Defence

Title: Brains-based Approach to Strategy

Date: 12th January 2016

Speaker: Dr. Harlan Ullman, Senior Adviser, Atlantic Council

Publications by BALTDEFCOL Faculty

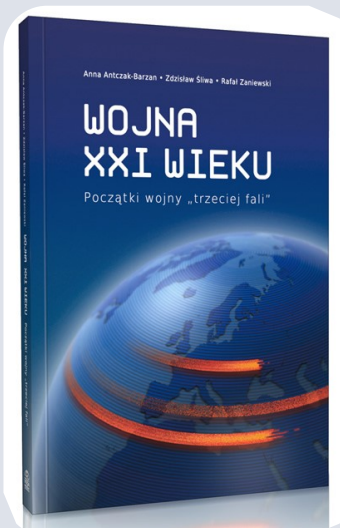


Mr. James Rogers and Dr. Duncan Depledge
Securing the Wider North
 Published by: RUSI Newsbrief
 Publication date: March 2016 (Vol. 36, No. 2)
 Language: English

Col. (ret.) Dr. Zdzisław Sliwa, Prof. Anna Antczak, MIA Rafał Zaniewski

Wojna XXI wieku. Początki wojny 'trzeciej fali'. (The War of the 21st Century the Beginnings of the War of the 'Third Wave')

Published by: Vizja Press & IT, Warsaw, Poland
 Publication date: January 2016
 Language: Polish



JCGSC International Study Tour 2016

By Students of the JCGSC 2015/2016

From 8th-13th May 2016, the Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC) together with the members of directing staff set off for the International Study Trip (IST). This year students were divided into three groups and they had a possibility to visit different countries.

France-Netherlands direction

The IST 2016 group Western Europe visited strategic, operational and tactical level NATO HQs and institutions. It was an outstanding opportunity for students to find answers to theoretical questions which were raised during their studies at the Baltic Defence College. The first visit was to RRC-FR and LCF-FR in Lille. The main takeaways from presentations were the integrated joint task force model implemented in RRC and LCF highlighting French involvement in Africa and home security. The second NATO HQ which hosted BALTDEFCOL students was SHAPE in Mons. During the presentation the importance of the NATO Response force and the necessity to maintain its readiness and ability to deployment rapidly were emphasised. The CCOMC planning model was introduced, which allows SHAPE to plan effectively and avoid strategic surprise. The visit was closed by MG Joseph Guastella, who enlightened students about current NATO strategic challenges in the South and East.

Next, the delegation visited HQ JFCB and Airborne Early Warning & Control Force (NAEW&CF) E-3A. BALTDEFCOL officers were welcomed by JFCB Com-

mander GEN Salvatore Farina who introduced his priorities in Assurance, RSM and Alliance defence. Further presentations emphasised activities towards the NATO Summit in Warsaw 2016, the lesson learned from the Trident Juncture 2015 exercise, the new role of Multi-national Corps Northeast, and the NATO agreed Readiness Action Plan (RAP). Moreover, the group had a great opportunity to visit the NATO E-3A Component main operating base near Geilenkirchen in Germany, where students were briefed about NATO AWACS operations and capabilities. In the CAOC UEDEM students received a presentation about the CAOC history and mission. Furthermore it discussed Air Policing operations north of the Alps and its involvement in many high visibility events such as the World and European Soccer Championships or NATO's Riga Summit were highlighted. Finally, during the IST students studied the largest Allied airborne operation 'Market Garden' which was conducted in the Netherlands and Germany during WWII and were familiarised with the Battle of Waterloo fought on 18 June 1815.



JCGSC International Study Tour 2016

Germany-Poland direction

The IST 2016 to Germany and Poland is a part of the JCGSC 2015/2016. The aim of the IST was to provide students with an insight into the historical case study on Operation Vistula-Oder during World War II, to understand the events and analyse warfare at the operational level and to incorporate lessons learned in the areas of leadership, joint warfare and historical outcomes. By going to the actual theatre of battle in Germany, at Seelow Heights, the students were able to understand and analyse the gap between theory and practice as well as reasons behind decisions taken by both sides involved in operation. During the IST 2016 the group Germany-Poland also conducted a tour visiting key German, Polish and NATO Command entities. Students had an opportunity to visit the German Ministry of Defence (MoD), Bundeswehr Joint Forces Operations Command (JFOC) and German Air Force Command. Moreover, it was a great possibility for international students to visit Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast which is located in the Baltic Barracks in Szczecin, Poland, and Boleslaw Krzywousty 12th 'Szczecin' Mechanised Division. It was also a great opportunity for all to expand their knowledge of how parts of NATO forces are organised according to the NATO standards, and current developments in NATO. Thus in the morning of the 8th May, the students and directing staff members departed from Tartu to the Germany-Poland direction. On the first day students visited the MoD, located in the Bendlerblock

building, Berlin. During the visit to the MoD, students were introduced to the history of the Bendlerblock building as well as getting a lecture about General Strategy and Operations. Specific emphasis was set on security issues within the Baltic region and recent events not only in Europe, but also in Middle East countries and Afghanistan.

Next, the group visited the JFOC in Potsdam, which is the tool that turns political objectives and guidelines into military action by issuing orders and directives for operational deployments.

Next day, Colonel T. Wandel briefed BALTDEFCOL students and faculty about German Air Force Command which, since 1st July 2015, together with Air Operations Command form the two pillars of the Luftwaffe. After the briefing the group got an opportunity to see the museum at Berlin Gatow Airfield. The museum focuses on air warfare and has various aircrafts, vehicles, items of military equipment etc. for exhibition. There was only a little time in the museum to satisfy the curiosity of all students, nevertheless it was worth it. The day continued with the visit to the Reichstag and to the Memorial to the Murdered Jews in Europe. Students and faculty also visited the Seelow Heights Memorial Site and Museum where students had the opportunity to enhance their knowledge of the case study portion of Operation Vistula-Oder.

After the travel to Szczecin the IST continued in Headquarters Multinational Corps Northeast (HQ MNC NE) and IST was concluded with the visit to the Boleslaw Krzywousty 12th 'Szczecin' Mechanised Division.

For many of the students who come from different countries, branches and backgrounds, the trip provided an insight into the historical case study on Operation Vistula-Oder during World War II, allowing for an understanding of the events, to analyse warfare at the operational level and to incorporate lessons learned in the areas of leadership, joint warfare and historical outcomes. Students had an opportunity to expand their knowledge of how parts of NATO forces are organised, current developments in NATO as well as future plans and challenges related to that.



JCGSC International Study Tour 2016

Italy direction

The ambition of the International Study Tour to Italy was to explore the historic case of Allies led Italian Campaign in World War II, have some insights into the Italian defence policy and their part in the international security framework, doing it all while enjoying the beautiful scenery and culture of Italy. It can be rightly said that students succeeded to achieve this aim.

The focus of the study of Italian campaign was the invasion of Italian mainland starting autumn 1943, putting special emphasis on the Salerno landings and the Monte Cassino battles. Our tour started with travelling to Salerno bay and on the way there exploring the geographical terrain where Axis forces built their defence and observation posts. To see the place where landings happened and the beachhead was built gave students a possibility to realise the challenges forces faced and contemplate whether such amphibious landing would be attainable today. Just two days after the students climbed the Monte Cassino itself using the road that was used by Allies to conquer the mountain. Though the climb was not 'a walk in the park' in the hot Italian sun, we can only imagine the difficulties they faced in 1944. While visiting the Monte Cassino and its surroundings students and faculty members also paid respect to fallen soldiers laying flowers in British, German and Polish war cemeteries.

During the study tour the students had a possibility not only to study the Italian campaign but also to learn about different defence institutions in Italy. A unique opportunity was to visit Allied Joint Force Command Naples, especially since this is a NATO operational headquarters whose expertise is out of the geographical area of Baltic states.

The last two days of study tour was mainly devoted to learning about the Italy's defence policy in its capital Rome. Students were given briefings on Italian naval forces, the threats that they are facing in the Southern part of Europe, the focus of Italian armed forces and their contribution to international operations.

Of special interest were the visits to the NATO Defense College and the Centre for High Studies in Defence where the students could compare their studies in the Baltic Defence College with the educational programmes being conducted in similar institutions, and maybe even think of the education possibilities further down in their career.

The students were fortunate enough to combine all this busy schedule with the exploration of Italian culture, such as the visit to Pompeii, discovering Italian cuisine or interacting with local Italians in very non-tourist places. Leaving these wonderful places was bitter-sweet though satisfying having gained all this knowledge of the very complex historic case study and being inspired to deepen this



HCSC Field Study Trips 2016

By Ms. Kadi Salu, Course Secretary for HCSC

London and Warsaw

As part of the Course Module 3 'Russia and the Baltic Neighbourhood', the Higher Command Study Course (HCSC) 2016 conducted its first Field Study Trip (FST1) to the United Kingdom and Poland on 24-29 February 2016. The FST1 provided students with an overview of regional geopolitical system in which the Baltic States and many of their allies and partners are located. The students got an opportunity to enhance their understanding of the threats, challenges and interests, particularly in the context of Russian revisionist geopolitics. During the trip, the HCSC visited the British Ministry of Defence, as well as renowned think tanks: the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI), Institute for Statecraft, Centre for European Reform (CER) and Chatham House. The students were briefed on the British Polish security and defence policies and the UK Strategic Defence and Security Review 2015. In Warsaw the course visited the Polish National Defence University and Centre for Eastern Studies (OSW). There, it received presentations and briefings on the Polish security and defence policy in a multifaceted context and Russia's policy in Ukraine and beyond. In Warsaw the students also enjoyed guided tour and visit to the Polish Army Museum.



Copenhagen and Belgium

The module M7 'Defence Policy and Planning' was supplemented with the second field study trip (FST2) to Copenhagen and Belgium on 1- 5 May 2016. This trip started in Copenhagen where HCSC visited Danish MoD in order to expand understanding of the Danish approach to NATO defence planning process and the Danish Defence Agreement. The Danish Defence Agreement sets the defence budget, security policy and the overall organisation of the defence for a five-year period (2013 – 2017). The priority for the Danish defence system is international operations. NATO is the cornerstone on Danish security and defence policy and besides NATO the Denmark participates in the EU and UN peacekeeping missions.

The next destination was Belgium where HCSC visited NATO Headquarters, the EU and the Belgian Ministry of Defence. Informative briefings conducted during NATO visit have covered NATO's current political agenda in the run up to NATO Warsaw Summit and implementation of NATO's Readiness Action Plan. On 2014 NATO Wales Summit outcome on the Russian question was that Allies adopted a Readiness Action Plan to strengthen NATO's collective defence. The experts emphasised that NATO's position is still strong and ongoing towards Russia.

The presentations on EU military concepts and capabilities and EU military operations were given during the EU session. There is a common understanding within the EU that region has become more exposed to the hybrid threats that challenge security situation.

The Belgian Ministry of Defence was visited as well, where the students discovered how Belgium coordinates their military co-operation.



JCGSC 2015-2016 in the Combined Joint Staff Exercise 16 in Sweden

By Major Indrek Sarap (EST A), JCGSC 2015/2016

Students from JCGSC 2015-2016 participated in the Combined Joint Staff Exercise 16 (CJSE 16) held in Sweden. The exercise provided an excellent possibility to reinforce the knowledge and skills acquired during the JCGSC and confirmed that students of BALTDEFCOL perform superbly within an international joint force environment.

Besides that, CJSE 16 was also enjoyable and just fun.

At the end of April, the JCGSC 2015-2016 and members of the faculty participated in the Combined Joint Staff Exercise 16, also known as the SWEDEX. The exercise was organised by the Swedish Armed Forces in cooperation with the Swedish Defence University and held in Sweden between 18th and 28th April 2016. All in all, it had more than 1,200 participants from 27 different nations including Finland, Norway, the Baltic States, the United States, Germany, France, but also Switzerland, Austria and South Korea. The participants were divided between different training facilities with the majority of elements co-located in the Swedish Command and Control Regiment in Enköping, while others were based in the Air Combat Training School in Uppsala and Naval Warfare Centre in Karlskrona.

CJSE 16 was a computer assisted command post exercise (CAX/CPX) with the aim of educating and training participants in multinational crisis response operations at the tactical and operational levels. This was done with the help of an artificial scenario which utilised the geography of the Baltic Sea Region against a notional historical and geopolitical layout. The participants were placed in key command and staff positions in a fictional NATO Combined Joint Task Force or BFOR, with an emphasis on the Joint Force Headquarters and its subordinate land, air, maritime, special operations and logistic commands.



The artificial North Friendly Sea Region

CJSE 16 fit JCGSC excellently

For the students of the BALTDEFCOL, CJSE 16 fit well into the course plan and curriculum. First of all, it helped students consolidate their knowledge and skills acquired during the previous eight months. It also showed that we were able to perform superbly within an international joint force environment compared to students from similar colleges. This was demonstrated by the large number of BALTDEFCOL students decorated for their outstanding performance. The commander of BFOR, Brigadier General Bengt Axelsson (SWE), presented his coin to Major Kaspars Miežitis (LVA), while the contributions of Major Marius Kugauda (LTU), Major Indrek Sarap (EST) and Major Bronius Zekas (LTU) were recognised by a letter of appreciation. These four students constituted roughly one third of the total number of participants decorated, which was a very high concentration considering the vast amount of participants. Secondly, CJSE 16 was a logical follow-on to the exercises that were held in Tartu at the beginning of this year. It is simply impossible to simulate a many thousands strong command and control structure or the complexity of a modern multidimensional conflict environment in a small in-house exercise. On the other hand, in an exercise with the magnitude of SWEDEX, the sheer numbers of participants helped to



The Commander of BFOR decorated a number of BALTDEFCOL students for their contributions

JCGSC 2015-2016 in the Combined Joint Staff Exercise 16 in Sweden

create the strategic, operational and tactical levels of command. At the same time, the different background of participants produced the chaos inherent to any multinational operation and selected subject matter experts portrayed the political, legal and humanitarian aspects of a modern battlefield.

The focus of CJSE 16 was learning. All participants were encouraged to look beyond their specific positions and grasp as many aspects of a multinational joint operation as possible. This was clearly emphasised through an open door policy which allowed students to participate in all the boards and meetings. For example, Major Ramunas Jurskis (LTU), in addition to his normal tasks as the BFOR HQ J3 Chief of Engineering and Counter IED, participated in the Joint Operational Planning Group work, the Daily Assets Reconnaissance Board and the Joint Coordination Board just to name a few. Moreover, the exercise provided numerous additional learning opportunities outside the scenario, such as a class on Strategic Communication provided by subject matter experts from the respective NATO Centre of Excellence or the lecture given by the Chairman of NATO Military Committee, General Petr Pavel.



The Joint Operations Centre was the focal point for most activities during CJSE 16



A student of the BALTDEFCOL having a local delicacy, the Swedish fermented herring, the Surströmming

The biggest concerns for the BALTDEFCOL students during the exercise were the roles they had to fulfil. The manning list was a compromise between the wishes of individuals and the requirements of the exercise. While the students positioned at the BFOR Headquarters experienced the jointness of an operational level headquarters on a daily basis, the students working in land, maritime and air component commands were mostly engaged in tactical domains and had only limited experiences from the operational level. For the next exercises, it is strongly recommended to position all the BALTDEFCOL students at BFOR Headquarters and leave the component commands for students from other staff colleges. This year's experience shows that JCGSC members have all the prerequisites for acting in a joint force headquarters while students from some colleges are better suited for component commands. Furthermore, it also demonstrates that it would benefit the exercise to place more BALTDEFCOL students in different command positions where they would be able to share their knowledge and skills.

CJSE 16 was an interesting and enjoyable part of JCGSC

Nevertheless, CJSE 16 was more than just hard work. For many students, this was their first visit to Sweden and an opportunity to explore its capital Stockholm. Most of the students favoured the Swedish Army Museum, although the Vasa Museum, Photography Museum *Fotografiska* and the Abba Museum were popular as well. Others

JCGSC 2015-2016 in the Combined Joint Staff Exercise 16 in Sweden

just took a walk in the beautiful city centre taking pictures of the Royal Palace, spending time in the cosy cafeterias and taking advantage of the ample shopping opportunities. Similarly, the ferry ride from Tallinn to Stockholm and back was a first one for many. The students took this as an opportunity to come together outside the classroom and have some fun. Major Valdo Veski (EST) is still amazed how tight of a group the class has become over the last months.

In Sweden, the host nation made every effort to introduce the country and to provide everything needed. Major Kaspars Miežitis (LVA) remembers vividly how in addition to normal duties, he had the daily task of finding out the meaning of a specific and difficult Swedish expression, the Word of the Day. On another occasion, the Chief of Staff of BFOR, Lieutenant Colonel Malin Persson, directed all her subordinates to personally experience the Swedish idea of *Fredags mys*, which could be translated as the Friday cosiness. This list would not be complete lest the catering arrangements were mentioned – the food was so delicious and abundant that some renamed the exercise from SWEDEX to FEDEX.

CJSE 16 was also just fun. Many students used the possibility to cool off by lifting weights, jogging on the tracks of the garrison or trying out the obstacle course, while some preferred more vigorous workouts. On many occasions, major Toomas Tõniste (EST) was able to fit even two training sessions into his already busy daily routine. For those who did not fancy breaking a sweat, the fabulous Enköpings Officers Mess Hall was the focal point for informal after action reviews and discussions. However, the highlights of the social life were the BALTDEF COL barbeque and the closing dinner. The barbeque was hosted by the Head of BALTDEF COL Delegation, Colonel Ørjan Pettersen (NOR), and featured a splendidly tender meat prepared by our Georgian course mates. The closing dinner, on the other hand, started with a somewhat surprising set of anecdotes delivered by the leadership of the exercise and continued with a Finnish military band until the military police finally became fed up with all the noise close to midnight.



Jogging was a popular way of recreation

All in all, CJSE 16 was a logical part of the JCGSC, providing the students with a unique opportunity to experience how a joint level operation might look and feel. It also confirmed that the knowledge and skills obtained during the previous 8 months were relevant and above average. Moreover, it was an enjoyable experience in an international environment.

Exercises and Analytical Tasks

By Mr. Hannes Möllits, Course Director of Civil Servants Course

The Higher Command Studies Course of 2016 undertook several difficult analytic tasks. These were mental exercises that tested the mental rigour of people already proficient in leadership roles.

Firstly the HCSC students had to evaluate and analyse information and materials provided during modules on Armed Conflict and Russia and Baltic Neighbourhood and apply this data to assess the possibility of future conflict scenarios. It provided an opportunity to evaluate lessons learnt from Georgia, Ukraine, Syria and other recent and current conflicts and general evolving trends of warfare and assess their applicability for possible future conflicts.

Thereafter our learners moved on to identify and discuss current political-military initiatives, national caveats associated with certain moves in the global and regional arenas. Students demonstrated their excellent briefing/de-briefing skills by completing the task as required but adding their 'flare' to problem-solving. The latter also helped with the strategic communications side of the story – as the STRATCOM is indeed necessary to explain, convince and eventually succeed.

Thirdly, the course participants had to formulate national strategies. For some of the students that was relatively easy, as they live and breath in that kind of environment back in their home countries, for others this exercise was exactly what they needed to bridge their knowledge from the past with the necessities of their future positions.

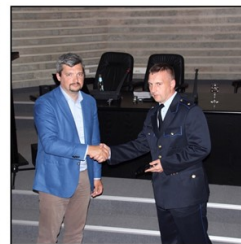
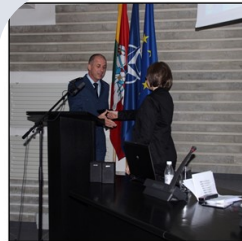
Lastly, students were put through the toughest ordeal – to present their thoughts on practicalities of change in the defence context to senior Baltic military representatives. The group was divided into three, each of which was sent to one of the Baltic capitals for a fact-finding mission. These trips ran parallel to the Baltic Defence Study Tour of Joint Command and General Staff Course and were a headache for our hosts in the respective countries, but thanks to the professionalism and kindness to our hosts' excellent staffs everything ran smoothly.



Baltic Defence Study Tour conducted as part of the JCGSC 2015/2016

By Major Steven Grimshaw (DEU), Public Affairs Officer JCGSC 2015-2016

Students and Directing Staff of the current Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC) 2015-2016 have finished their final trip to all three capitals of the Baltic states. The aim of the trip was to familiarise and deepen the knowledge about Baltic defence planning by going directly into the respective Ministries of Defence and hearing their perspective from the ones who are responsible. Some may have thought that the trip didn't have an auspicious start as one of the two busses had flat tires that had to be changed at a stop in Riga. Their view may have been confirmed even more as at first the same bus' air conditioning gave up and finally the engine broke down 50km before Vilnius, the first station of the tour, meaning that all luggage



and personnel had to be reloaded on one single bus. It was due to a good guided tour later that evening after finally arriving at the designated hotel that all the hardships

of the tour were compensated and almost forgotten. Apart from the previous travel day, Monday the 30th of May, the first 'real' day of the tour, was characterised by the Defence Management of Lithuania. Together with the students of the Higher Command Study Course, the



JCGSC was welcomed by the Chief of Defence, Lieutenant General Jonas Vytutas Žukas as part of the presentation hosted in Lithuania's MoD. During the various presentations focusing on National Security, Defence Planning, International engagements, Crisis management, the NATO Force Integration Units (NFIU) and Energy Security, the students had the opportunity to engage the presenters with partly tough questions. Thereby students focused on Lithuania's perception as to its Defence Planning and possible future developments and solutions. Although not every question could be answered in depth, the JCGSC left the MoD leaving a fully engaged and interested



Baltic Defence Study Tour conducted as part of the JCGSC 2015/2016

impression. The long first day came to an end with a hosted dinner by the Commander of Lithuania's Joint Headquarters, Brigadier General Vilmantas Tamošaitas.



On the 2nd day, Tuesday the 31st of May, the delegation had to leave Vilnius for Šiauliai Air Base, where currently a Portuguese squadron is providing its capabilities as part of the Baltic Air Policing mission. After two presentations on the history of the air base, given by the Commanding Officer of the air base, and an introduction as to the Portuguese air force, an opportunity to see one of the standing by F-16 Falcons was given. The visit to Šiauliai was concluded with a quick lunch at one of the local restaurants, before leaving for the capital of Latvia.



After arriving in Riga and checking in to the hotel, the next major obstacle for the course was to get a group of 57 persons on time to the designated local restaurant, which was approximately 3.5 km away. Some used their organisational skills and formed groups, which relied on a local cab in order to arrive without any physical exertion. Some preferred to test the air permeability of their suits in association with their endurance while taking a walk through the lovely old town of Riga at 28° Celsius and sunshine. Surprisingly, almost nobody got lost or had to be left behind as the Commanding Officer of the Latvian National Guard Brigadier L. Kalniņš wel-

comed us on-board a floating restaurant for wonderful selection of Spanish cuisine. In most cases, this time, the day was concluded in small groups in the lovely old town, where the locals of our delegation did not hesitate to show the foreigners the social and culinary pleasures of Riga.



On Wednesday the 01st of June, the presentation regarding Defence Management of the Baltic States continued, this time in the MoD of Latvia. We were welcomed by the Minister of Defence, Mr Raimonds Bergmanis who emphasised the importance of the trip and the studies conducted at Baltic Defence College. Later presentations touched on recent developments in LVA defence planning, the participation in international operations, the basic of Strategic communication, the planning process and again the mission and challenges of the so called NFIUs. After an informative, but long day, the JCGSC delegation had to depart to Tallinn, which was meant to be the final destination of the trip. After another 5 hours of bus trip, almost everybody was feeling more than a suggestion of fatigue later that evening.



Baltic Defence Study Tour conducted as part of the JCGSC 2015/2016



After an evening of recovery and a good night's sleep, the Estonian Permanent Secretary, Mr. Jonatan Vseiov welcomed us on June 2nd in the halls of the Estonian MoD for another session of presentations and discussion on Baltic Defence Planning. This time, the main topics, which were touched on, were Estonian defence policy, developments in defence planning, national security, interagency cooperation, cyber defence, the NFIU and the Estonian National Defence League. Before small groups were formed in order to explore the lovely city of Tallinn, the Estonian Chief of Defence, Lieutenant General Riho Terra met the students once again, this time for a standing reception at a local restaurant, which he hosted.



The final day of the trip, Friday the 03rd, took the delegation once again to Muuga harbour. It was due to the upcoming exercise BALTOPS that we had the opportunity to go on-board the amphibious assault ship USS Carter Hall (LSD-50), which was getting ready to play an important role displaying NATO's capabilities and reassurance to its allies on the eastern flank. In small groups of up to 10, the JCGSC was shown around the

ship, focusing on its capabilities, life on-board and the capabilities of the Marines. In addition, we could also see the arrival of the German frigate Sachsen (F 219), which anchored alongside the Task group supply ship Berlin (A 1411) and some could go quickly go on-board a Portuguese attack submarine. After those interesting experiences, we headed back to Tartu.



The whole trip contained a lot of kilometres and hours on two relatively crowded coaches. Furthermore, the presentations and discussions in the respective MoDs at relatively hot temperatures tested the endurance of a lot members of the group. It may be that we did not receive a satisfying answer to every of our questions or discussion points, but the camaraderie and social aspect of the trip compensated for any incomplete presentation or travelling inconvenience.

Hegemon

By Lieutenant Colonel Rob Gray, Lecturer, NATO Joint Operations (Special Forces)

Over the course of the past year, the Baltic Defence College and The Potomac Foundation (TPF) worked together in a cooperative effort to test and validate an open source, Google-Earth based wargaming platform that The Potomac Foundation has developed. TPF conducts a number of operational and strategic level wargames under their Hegemon simulation program. The joint TPF – BALTDEFCOL wargaming effort was titled HEGEMON: Baltic Security.

The intent of the effort was to conduct an open-source wargame set against a scenario of overt Russian aggression against the Baltic States. The first wargame scenario, played out over the fall of 2015, premised a very short timeline of indications and warnings leading up to a conventional invasion of the Baltic States. The short timeline allowed for a very small Allied contingent to begin a reinforcing effort in Poland, but with limited forces in the Baltics, essentially occurring tomorrow. A second culminating wargame was conducted in the spring of 2016 and allowed for a larger NATO contingent pre-deployed into the Baltics with roughly a Division minus dispersed across Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania respectively with an airmobile brigade as well.

On the friendly, or blue side, the College provided national Directing Staff players from the Departments of Operations and Leadership to represent each of their countries as well as Poland and a NATO Joint Task Force HQ. On the aggressor, or red, side, The Potomac Foundation played Russia and Russian aligned partnerships and interests. The BALTDEFCOL Department of Political and Strategic Studies also played the White Cell, contributing to discussions in the political, legal, social, and economic domains.

Given the freedom of thought that a military academic institution has available to it, the blue team was able to develop multiple options to deal with the threat, ranging from strategic, out-of-area, national efforts to joint, op-

erational level Allied efforts inside of the established Joint Operational Area. Likewise the TPF team, consisting of full time TPF staff augmented by Polish role players was able to build a comprehensive red plan that proved challenging.

The culmination of the year long project in April 2016 was briefed to Ministry of Defence and military representatives as well as civil servants from the Baltic States. They were invited to observe the two day wargame and participate in an after action review and briefings at the College.

The most significant takeaway from the partnership was the sharing of ideas and expansion of knowledge. Through this effort, The Potomac Foundation has demonstrated their very keen focus on Eastern European security matters and Russian military thinking. Partnered with the Baltic Defence College and its multinational academic core of faculty and students, the joint effort has enabled greater security cooperation and will continue to do so into the future as the two organizations build upon the successes of HEGEMON: Baltic Security.



VTCs at Baltic Defence College

By Major Steven Grimshaw (DEU). Public Affairs Officer JCGSC 2015/2016

During the last two semesters, the Baltic Defence College hosted several video teleconferences (VTCs) as part of the professional education programme.

Besides the many visits of all the Baltic Chiefs of Defence, Ambassadors and Generals into the lecture halls of the Baltic Defence College, this rather 'modern' format also provided a very friendly environment for discussion and a valuable experience. In particular, and thanks to the good contacts of the JCGSC's Course Director, the College was able to host three VTCs. On the 15th of December 2015, Lieutenant General McMaster, who is currently Director of the US

Army Capabilities Integration Centre and Deputy Commanding General, Futures, US Army Training and Doctrine Command, spoke to the attendees about Baltic security and future developments in land forces. On the 12th January 2016, Dr. Harlan K. Ullman, who is widely recognised both in the US and abroad as a global thought leader and highly innovative strategic thinker and who serves

on the Senior Advisory Board for the Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR), gave some insights on a 'brains-based approach to strategy and mutually assured disruption'. Although the course mostly covers the operational level, to see behind the curtain of profound and comprehensive strategic thinking has proven itself very valuable. Last but not least on the 22nd of March 2016, General Vincent K. Brooks, who was at that time commanding general of the US Army Pacific and now the commander of the US Forces Korea, provided the one-time opportunity to hear directly about the US' interests in the Asia-Pacific region. After their initial presentations,

all three

were very open to questions and gave exhaustive answers to every concern the students had. Looking back, and with regards to how beneficial these VTCs were, it can only be hoped that similar senior leaders and advisors can be won over in a comparable way to next year's course.

To ask VIPs and Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) directly about the five learning areas of the Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC), is regarded among the students as a special opportunity.



Lieutenant General Herbert Raymond McMaster



General Vincent K. Brooks



Dr. Harlan K. Ullman

Run 'Road of Life and Death'

By Major Steven Grimshaw (DEU), Public Affairs Officer JCGSC 2015-2016

On 10th January the members of Directing Staff and Lithuanian representatives organised the 'Road of Life and Death' tribute run to commemorate the victims of the Soviet Union's intervention in Lithuania on the 13th January 1991.

The participants met on a very cold Sunday morning at -18°C near the Anne canal to honour the victims of the military intervention in the capital of Lithuania 25 years ago. During a time when the world looked towards the developments in the Middle East concerning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the upcoming operation Desert Storm, the Soviet Union did not accept Lithuania's declaration of independence and militarily took over key installations. During that time, fourteen defenders of freedom lost their lives and many more got injured. In order to commemorate those victims and to remind that freedom is a valuable good, a tribute run over 9 km is annually organised in Vilnius.

Already for the third time Baltic Defence College hosted a similar event in Tartu. In his opening remarks Major General Vitalijus Vaikšnoras thanked the international participants from Azerbaijan, Estonia, Germany, Lithuania and the United States of America and underlined that taking part showed deep respect. The events and the braveness of those freedom defenders were important not only for Lithuania, but for the entire Baltic region and beyond, he reminded.

After a moment of silence, the Commandant opened the run and sent everyone on the three rounds around the Anne canal. After the run, the organisational team offered hot beverages and delicious snacks, so the group could strengthen themselves and reflect on the event. Although the cold weather clearly left its mark, all participants enjoyed taking part and were grateful for the experience and the good organisation.



SPORTS ACTIVITIES

Traditional Spring Challenge Cup on Wheels

By Dr. Valentin Abramov, IT Systems Administrator

Traditionally Challenge Cup Spring Competition was a Go-Cart Race. This type of race has been conducted already for 4 times. Over 10 people from Support Staff, Faculty's different departments and from the Management came to Põltsamaa Go-Cart racetrack. The Cup claimers

TOP 5 OF GO-CART RACE:

1. Valentin	9.46,00	12 laps
2. Olavi	9.51,57	12 laps
3. Peep	10.34,18	12 laps
4. Risto	9.34,20	11 laps
5. Roman	9.39,89	11 laps



Valentin, the winner of the Go-Cart Race

and holders fought for the Challenge Cup on the 850m long track. According to the qualifying results the contestants were put to the final starting grid. An individual Champion and the winning Team (alias the Cup Holders) were decided during the final race. The winner of the individual race was Valentin Abramov, which gave team victory to Support Staff. The previous individual go-kart winner Olavi Jänes finished second. The previous Cup Holder was the Support Staff who won the last Challenge Cup in shooting.



Preparing for the race and after the start



Tartu Marathon Events

By Ms Kadri Nestra, Administrative Secretary

Club Tartu Maraton is a non-profit organization, which was established in 1991. They organise the most popular sport events in Estonia. In 2016 the most popular event, Tartu Skiing Marathon was cancelled due to the lack of snow but 34th Running Marathon and 35th Cycling Race were held in May. BALTDEFCOL is strongly promoting healthy and sporty lifestyle and therefore encourages its students and staff to participate in these events. This year, several students and members of BALTDEFCOL Faculty and Support Staff took part in these two events.



BALTDEFCOL Staff and their Families' Summer Hike 2016



BALTDEFCOL Summer hike was held on 27 MAY 2016 in Vapramäe-Vellavere hiking trail. Excellent weather, clean nature and bonhear people made the day highly enjoyable!



BALTGIRLS Activities

By Loreta Andziulienė, Shelly Hollis, Lena Melltorn, Irena Vaikšnorienė
Photos by Irena Vaikšnorienė

New year brought many exciting events for the Baltgirls. These helped them to explore unseen places of Estonia and through many get-togethers to continue fostering the relationships among themselves.

January 2016



January 10, the Baltgirls were invited to run during the special event to commemorate the civilians lost in Lithuania during the fight for independence at the Vilnius TV tower in 1991. The run was shortened in distance due to freezing temperatures.



January 26, Shelly Hollis presented a lecture on health and different types of diets. The interesting topic was imperative for the new year and improving health for the Baltgirls and their families. The glycemic index was discussed as well as carbohydrate metabolism, and some other ways to optimise a healthy lifestyle. The knowledge was applied and results were observed in many families.



February 16, A day trip to the Breiti cheese factory for the tasting of many cheeses and learning the process of how the cheese was made. The farm was reclaimed after the Soviet occupation. Also on this discovery tour Baltgirls visited the NÕO meat factory and tasted many different products. They observed the processing and packaging. Special orders were accommodated by the factory, and delivered to Tartu. Baltgirls then travelled to the Luke Manor for a soap making workshop. They were treated to delicious cake and coffee after the soap was handmade with different essential oils and colors.

February 2016



BALTGIRLS Activities



February 18, The photography course participants went on exiting night expedition to capture the northern lights in action near a beautiful lake in the countryside.

March 2016

March 8, Coffee morning discussion continued the theme of health and beauty. The Baltgirls shared their beauty secrets to each other. Also, homemade tasty treats were enjoyed during the session. Flowers were presented to each lady by the Commandant for the International Womens Day.

March 15, The Baltgirls are thankful to Shelly Hollis for hosting Sauna night party in the positive atmosphere of her home and delicious cuisine. Samantha Hollis presented musical performance which contributed to the joviality of the event. Experiences of the traditional Estonian sauna were presented by Silja Möllits, such as honey scrub, birch branches and snow rolling.



March 17, Guided tour of the main building of Tartu University, and the art museum. Baltgirls visited the former upper attic punishment room where many detainees had been incarcerated for breaking the university rules. Much graffiti testimonies the presence of many famous Estonians here. Baltgirls were impressed by the beauty of the historically significant Assembly Hall, and the older classrooms with the wooden plank desks from the historic period.



April 2016

April 12, AHHA Science Center was explored by the Baltgirls and Samantha as our token child to enhance our experience. The mirror labyrinth, the baby chicks, and the anatomy exhibition were favourites. The planetarium was visited with the presentation of the Universe, and a delicious lunch was enjoyed at the rotating table.



BALTGIRLS Activities

April 19, the newly renovated University of Tartu Natural History Museum was visited by the Baltgirls. The exhibits ranged from geological to zoological. It was an enjoyable morning spent with many animals, insects, birds, reptile's exhibits both live and taxidermy.

May 2016



May 4, the Baltgirls had their next 'Discovery Estonia' trip, this time to the Võru county region in the southern part of Estonia. They spent a whole day together in wonderful spring weather visiting many different places in this beautiful part of Estonia. At first they visited a former Water Tower in Lasva which has been converted into a gallery. While the Baltgirls were making their way to the top, an ingenious musical staircase made beautiful music under their steps. The day continued with a guided tour of the



historical Vastseliina Castle where to the delight of the photographer in the group a pair of nesting storks happily posed for photos. After lunch and coffee outside at a countryside tavern we moved on to the local ecological farm Nopri Talumeierei where we were given a tour of the farm, visited the cows and had tasty samples of their various dairy products. Before heading back to Tartu they had the final stop at the Suur Munamägi which is the highest point in the Baltic countries, where they once again enjoyed the superb views over southern Estonia.



BALTGIRLS Activities

May 10, Café Werner was the site of the welcoming of Arya Purcell, the lovely 3 month old baby girl of Alicia and Rich Purcell. Arya was showered with gifts and adoration. The patio seating at the café was the perfect setting for this event with excellent sunny weather. Atmosphere was serene and idyllic.



May 17, the Baltgirls visited Tartu University History Museum and were given a guided tour in the premises. They called on the old library exhibiting an impressive collection of student corporations caps and priceless collection of books donated by the first



rector. Also, they had a possibility to see the oldest door and the clock of the University.

May 30, The Baltgirls gathered for an abundant German breakfast coffee morning to farewell our Chairlady Irena Vaikšnorienė and three leaving active members of our team. The morning was most beautiful and sunny at the best location, Ursula's home. An electronic photo frame was presented to her to remind of the shared experiences, as well as flowers and well wishes. A special gift was also presented from our Chairlady to Ursula for her hosting of the farewell coffee. Other Baltgirls: Maria Järvare, Alicia Purcell, Stefanie Grimshaw were bid farewell and presented a red rose. We wish all the best for Irena and leaving Baltgirls as they return to their respective countries.



June 2016



June 01, the Baltgirls are very thankful to Stefanie Grimshaw for organising a beach party and transport in a very beautiful part of Lake Peipsi, Kauksi. We had the possibility to explore the gorgeous sand beach and to swim in the beautiful Lake Peipsi and to test delicious snacks presented by Stephanie. Photos were made by Ursula Schulte-Pfaffenroth.



BALTGIRLS Activities

June 06, Estonian Language teacher invited the Baltgirls, who were learning Estonian in her classes, to her place. One Baltgirl, Stefanie Grimshaw, is not in the photo as she is taking it.



Tartu University welcomes the spouses of the BALTDEFCOL Staff and Students to take part in different courses. Loreta Andziulienė is a visiting PhD student at the faculty of Social Sciences and Irena Vaikšnorienė has created a number of oil paintings during her three- year art studies at the University.

Baltgirls are very proud of and thankful to:

Shelly Hollis (USA) working constantly as the volunteer English language teacher for Tartu Hospital personnel,

Maria Järvare (Sweden) taking care and organizing the Charity for Refugee's Vao Center and for organising latin dancing course,

Stefanie Grimshaw (Germany) for supporting the cats and dogs Shelter in Tartu,

Lena Meltorn (Sweden) adopted the Estonian cat from Tartu shelter.

The schedule of regular Baltgirls activities in 2016:

Monday – 14:00 Estonian language course

Wednesday - 9:30 Photo course in VTC room in the college.

Wednesday – 11:30 Pilates in the college gym.

Thursday—12:00 Latin Dancing Course

Friday – 12:30 Pilates.



Baltgirls and Pilates instructor Kaja Sild



Baltgirls and Latin Dance instructor Juri Krasnov

BALTGIRLS Activities

CONGRATULATIONS!

BALTGIRLS are happy to announce the birth of three baby girls!



Ieva was born to Jurgita and Vilius Zagurskis on 11 JAN 2016.

Arya was born to Alicia and Richard Purcell on 31 JAN 2016.



Šarlote Laima was born to Unita and Igors Rajevs on 02 FEB 2016.

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

Dear Baltgirls,

Rethinking the years spent in Tartu, I would like to thank you for being together, for active participation in different courses and workshops, coffee mornings and excursions, and most importantly Charity Events.

My special thanks go to the College administration for the great support to the Baltgirls initiatives. I am grateful to Kaja Arulepp for organising our 'Discover Estonia' trips and for Kaie Ehrenberg for coordinating our Pilates lessons.

I wish the Baltgirls to continue our nice traditions, support each other, have shared experiences and to have lots of fun!

With Love,
Irena Vaikšnorieni
Chairlady of Baltgirls 2013-2016