

THE BUGLE

NEWSLETTER OF THE BALTIC DEFENCE COLLEGE



DECEMBER 2017 | Issue 26

Commandant's Foreword

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The year 2017 has been intensive, demanding and at the same time a rewarding one - full of educational and academic activities, as well as enjoyable social events organized for the common goal of providing the professional military education of the highest standards. In this edition you will read in greater detail about successes of these endeavours, but as Commandant I would like to reiterate the importance of main efforts we are committed to.

Above all, the quality of education remains among our highest priorities, as the quality of students and faculty are strongly interlinked and leave a direct impact on every process happening in our College. Thus, our personnel is constantly looking for ways of improving the education and professionally developing themselves and we take into very serious consideration all feedbacks and observations provided by students, graduates, Baltic nations and partner institutions. For example, the most recent development is the introduction of oral exams as part of the JCGSC student assessment system, which helps to ensure as objective assessment and evaluation of students as possible and at the same time is giving possibilities to students to learn and show their level of understanding of the given subjects to the full extend.

Undoubtedly, the main scope of the Baltic Defence College is the Baltic Sea Region for the simple fact of the geographical location and the requirements set by Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. Although, we are paying much attention to the regional issues, including Russia's foreign and defence policies, military capabilities and analysis of the threats posed by Russia, meanwhile we are preserving the



Euro-Atlantic outlook. In this way, we are closely following developments and adapting the curricula as soon as the necessity arises.

As the security situation is setting new challenges, thus requiring countries to be serious about defence capabilities and related defence investments into research, developments, innovations and technologies leading in proper management of acquisition and procurement processes. Consequently, Defence Planning and Project Management should be properly reflected in curricula and our students must understand how technology and innovation affects capability development and defence strategies. Furthermore, they have to be ready to take right decisions regarding the maintenance, facilities and training necessary for the new technologies and equipment. These tremendous innovations have led to the most quickly developing and influential phenomenon – the cyber environment. NATO has recognized the cyberspace as a domain of operations and

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starting from the next year it will have a special place in our education system.

The operational planning process according to NATO procedures is one of the core elements in the curriculum of JCGSC. In line with the NATO approach to focus more on collective defence, also the BALTDEFCOL has revised the exercise scenario and content for NATO Article 5 operation to educate our students according to the current realities and focused on the Baltic region defence. Thus, the JCGSC and CSC students - who are invited to return for the execution phase of the exercise, will experience the results of the faculty's hard work in the next semester – when the exercise “Joint Resolve 2018” will take place.

All of these realities have been taken into account, when adopting the education and academic and research aspects of the College. We have made sure that the upcoming conferences on Russia and Baltic Military History would be a part of the curricula. Our Civil Servants' Course students have been regularly invited to the Riga Conference and we will continue co-organizing the Innovations Conference biannually. In addition to these academic events, we will pay a serious attention to publishing and exploiting our lecturers' applied research and students' argumentative essays.

Working hand in hand with NATO, the College is contributing to deterrence in the region and the Alliance is strongly supporting us. The NATO enhanced Forward Presence (eFP) in the region and contributing NFIUs are bringing a strong message. We are already benefitting as much as we can from it by learning lessons for our education process, by facilitating the representation of eFP countries in our courses and by ensuring mutual visits for the exchange of experiences.

Definitely, also the cooperation with the European Union is taking a significant place in our agenda and is part of the curricula of all of our courses. One of the flagships of our cooperation with the EU is successfully organized modules for the High Level Course (HLC) of the European Defence and Security College (EDSC). This year we co-organized it in London and in upcoming years, we plan to organize it at the College's premises.

But most importantly – we have launched the process towards NATO institutional accreditation. Re-

alizing mutual benefits, especially the added value to educational requirements and quality standards set by owner countries, and the full support of the highest NATO officials acknowledged during their visiting at the College, we may be sure that within next year or two we will be able to proudly label BALTDEFCOL as a NATO-accredited educational institution. This will be another example of the NATO presence in the region.

Considering it all, we are looking forward to another dynamic, challenging and productive year at the College, which will be a very special, as we will have an excellent opportunity to learn more about culture and history of this particular region, while celebrating the 100th anniversary of the College's owner nations and preparing for the 20th anniversary of the Baltic Defence College in 2019. However, cultural exchange and international socialization will start already on February 9, 2018 when international night will take place at the College.

On December 1, 2017 we said goodbyes to the CSC students who have been tremendous contributors to our civil-military education environment and motivated and talented students. However, soon we will welcome 21 new students who will attend the HCSC and faculty is already looking forward to their arrival in January 2018 and to the intellectual debates and discussions on strategic level issues.

At the end, I would like to thank our hardworking and professional staff and support staff and our knowledgeable and diligent students, who are contributing to the education process and the development of the College and our dear family members, who are so selflessly supporting us.

Wishing a nice rest during the holiday break, a very productive and professionally rewarding New Year and a Merry Christmas to all students, staff and our families,



The Commandant

Chief of Staff Corner

By Colonel Jean Trudel, Deputy Commandant and Chief of Staff



Almost five months ago I joined the BALTDEF-COL family and was met by a team of outstanding professionals with everyone making me and my family feel right at home. In no time I was thrown off the deep end and started to learn what my job actually was. Reflecting on these five months I drew a few conclusions that I am sharing with you in this Christmas edition of The Bugle.

First, BALTDEF-COL has all the talent it needs to brand itself and deliver world-class education. The statistics speak for themselves. In this first semester, the College delivered 20 graduates of the Senior Leaders' Course to 9 nations, 7 civil servants to the three Baltic states and integrated 56 students from 12 nations into the Joint Command and General Staff Course. We also delivered for the very first time an Oral Exam component to our education. And that's just our core business. We signed a Letter of Intent of cooperation with the NATO Joint Warfare Centre, planned the Annual Conference on Russia, and developed actionable relationship with entities such as the Nordic Defence Cooperation Group and the Cyber Centre of Excellence. We delivered a two-week programme of faculty development and pursued strategic-level initiatives such as NATO Institutional Accreditation. We hosted VIPs contributing to education on a weekly basis and key members of the faculty spent countless of days on the road to nurture relationships and promote BALTDEF-COL. We contributed to Tartu University's community of practice in integrating international students. All that with 70 staff and faculty members. BALTDEF-COL does punch above its weight.

Second, quality of life at work is good. We don't need to have palatial infrastructure to have good quality of life, we just need to optimize what we have for best effect. While we had and continue to have some challenges with temporary accommodations while the refurbishment project of the Von Sydow Hall takes place, the end state will truly set the conditions for educational success. The three Baltic states put lots of resources to make professional life at work good. Many team-building events are funded through public funds, Gym showers will be refurbished and the ground floor kitchen was renovated. All in all, it ain't a bad place to work.

Third, our unsung heroes are our support staff. Library have earned kudos from faculty and students alike. Host Nation support goes out of their way to ensure we can focus on our tasks and work their magic with local authorities on our be-

half. Funding does not happen by itself, it takes a team of three dedicated staff members to ensure every euro is spent as effectively and as efficiently as possible. Same thing for Information Technology and Human Resources staff, all key enablers to our programme.

Fourth, we need to communicate both effectively and efficiently. With that many nations represented and such a diverse spectrum of background and experience level, we must have robust procedures in place so that everyone understands clearly what is expected. What would go "without saying" and as a matter of course in our national organizations must be spelled out explicitly in our institution. As we progress towards NATO accreditation, the Alliance will hold us to account. They will scrutinize and audit our quality management system. We must ensure the education we deliver is of the highest possible standard and quality. Our procedures need to be looked at. We must strike a balance between bureaucracy for the sake of bureaucracy and robust procedures that support the faculty in the delivery of our core business. A key work strand in the new year will be a review of our planning documents to ensure accountability is aligned with responsibility and authority.

Early in the new year I intend to propose staffing procedures that better support the delivery of education and will look at:

- What is the Information Exchange Requirement at BALTDEF-COL? This will lead to a deliberate implementation of the Document Handling System (SharePoint), the adaptation and perhaps the creation of SOPs that will regulate information;
- Harmonization of staff procedures;
- Personnel management system and mechanisms.

In closing, I am absolutely delighted to serve you all and I truly see this as my higher motive: work so that the faculty has all that it needs to deliver core business: High Quality Education.

Remember... Take what you do seriously, do not take yourself too seriously.

Ad Securitatem Patriarum



Senior Leaders' Course

By Colonel Albertas Dapkus, Director of SLC

This year, for the first time, the Senior Leaders' Course (SLC) 2017 was organized by the Baltic Defence College in Riga, capital of Latvia from 29 November–06 December 2017. With outstanding Host Nation Support from Latvia's Ministry of Defence and Defence Forces the Course was successfully executed outside of Tartu, the BALTDEFCOL hometown and Estonia.

Designed for flag officers and senior officials from armed forces and government institutions of the Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, their allies and partners, the SLC 2017 provided a forum for creating and exchanging new ideas and facilitating establishment of mutually beneficial networks. The theme of SLC 2017 „The future of Western Hegemony: Implications for the Wider Baltic” has been discussed from different viewpoints and various perspectives, and through the prism of time – from past and present toward the future.

During the Courses 20 participants represented nine countries. The course was underpinned by contribution of as many as 35 distinguished guest speakers coming from 16 different countries. The multinational participation was an important fac-

tor to enhance common understanding of security environment and role of united approach toward facing challenges. The Course participants noted a good choice of relevant topics discussed and fine balance between theoretical and practical issues addressed during lectures and panel discussions. Gen (ret) Hans-Lothar Domröse, former commander of JFC Brunssum, contributed to the SLC 2017 as the Visiting Senior Mentor. His commitment was outstanding and his active participation added significant value to the SLC 2017. After a week of genuinely insightful and rewarding lectures and discussions, the Course was concluded with a Keynote Speech delivered by General Sir James Everard OBE, CBE, the Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe.

SLC 2017 participants evaluated course as very interesting academic and professional event allowing better understanding of the Baltic region. It was also an opportunity for them to familiarize with Riga and Latvia during cultural trip. SLC 2017 is over and Baltic Defence College has already started planning of the next course – Senior Leaders' Course 2018 that is expected to be arranged in autumn 2018 in Vilnius, Lithuania.





Joint Command and General Staff Course 2017/2018

By Colonel Mark Hollis, Course Director of JCGSC

The Christmas break is finally here, and a well-deserved break is upon us. So, as we reflect on our accomplishments over the past five months, we need to be proud of what we, both students and Faculty, have learned and the relationships we have established, as well as need to look the way ahead.

In August 2017, fifty-six students from twelve nations started their studies at the Joint Command and General Staff Course. To date, the modules and electives have covered a great number of topics supplemented by many valuable Guest Lectures and voluntary roundtable events. On top of that, one of the key initiatives implemented within JCGSC 2017-2018 was the oral exam. This allowed students to showcase their knowledge and comprehension of topics in a limited timeframe. The important thing is that the students persevered and are ready to conquer next challenges.

Additionally, seven civil servants representing three Baltic countries joined JCGSC students for three months. I am convinced that a daily civil-military interaction undoubtedly broadened our Officers' and Civil Servants' thinking, and challenged them to embrace lifelong learning and self-improvement.

Talking about creating the active learning environment for our students' professional and personal development there are many events awaiting them after the Christmas break. Primarily, we will conduct in-house exercise that will provide a realistic and stimulating environment for the students. We will continue with a study trip to Ukraine and Georgia to enhance the students' cultural and historical understanding through the use of a historical case study. From there we will proceed the CJSE VIKING 2018 in Sweden during which the students will have the opportunity to share their knowledge with the officers coming from various other international military institutions.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who has committed their time to enhance the knowledge of our students. I wish you all the best as we bring this semester to a close. Have a good rest and come back fresh minded and with a great thirst for knowledge. I am already looking forward to see your eager faces back on your mission.

Seasonal Greetings and Happy Holidays!





Civil Servants' Course 2018

By Mr Mārtiņš Spūlis, Class Leader of CSC

The Civil Servants' Course (CSC) students graduated from the Baltic Defence College on 1st December. The course brought together seven civil servants from Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania. They undertook the three month long course that provided many invaluable learning opportunities.

Three months of studies have certainly flown by! This year's students faced many challenges in the learning process, as well as with the examinations. To a large extent, the CSC was merged with the Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC). However, CSC students also had some elements tailored only for the Civil Servants Course. Despite the demanding curriculum, all students participated actively and greatly contributed to the group effort, whether it was for CSC-specific activities or as part of the JCGSC syndicate tasks.

In the multifaceted academic environment, each student was challenged not only to strengthen their existing skills, but also to venture outside of their professional comfort zones. Opportunities were provided for students to fill their knowledge and skill gaps, as well as to exceed their own expectations and that of the supervisors. One of the main opportunities and challenges for the CSC students was to work together with their military counterparts from 12 countries in several modules – Fundamentals and Components, International Relations, International Law, and Allied Joint Operations.

One of the unique characteristics of the CSC is that it offered a look into the military processes and challenges, as well as military thinking in the security environment. Analysis of operational factors and involvement in planning on operational level provided the civilian students an opportunity to broaden and transform their perspective - from outsiders looking in to insiders. Having participated in the analysis and planning process will enable CSC students to apply the new knowledge in their everyday work in respective institutions. Concurrently,

civilian students presented an alternative perspective in the military problem-solving process, thus contributing to JCGSC's educational process.

During the course, CSC students had three unique opportunities to enhance their understanding of the Baltic states' defence policies and challenges. First, the CSC participated in the Riga Conference 2017, which is a unique event for a constructive dialogue on international security issues between the leading global and regional decision makers. It proved to be an opportunity for students to think in a global context and face the issues that

affect our regional security and modern societies in many aspects. In addition, the Riga Conference offered the CSC students an excellent opportunity to network with their Baltic colleagues. After the Riga Conference, CSC, together with JCGSC, participated in the Baltic Defence Study Trip, which took them to the Ministries of Defence of the three Baltic states, and to the relevant military



installations in the region. As part of their Defence Management module's field trip, the CSC was given an insightful overview of the workings of the Tapa military base in Estonia.

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Last but not least, it is important to recognise the high level of guest speakers at the College, whose lectures accentuated the content of the learning modules. Additionally, lectures from selected CSC students in their areas of expertise was much appreciated by the Faculty and fellow students.

Finally, the CSC students received thorough and timely assistance, and valuable feedback from the Baltic Defence College's Faculty and CSC Course Director. Thank you all who contributed and made this course happen!



CSC Awards:

The Civil Servant Award - presented to **Mr Marko Brügel** for his exemplary academic performance during the Civil Servants' Course 2017 and for the contribution to the civil-military educational environment.

Certificate of appreciation - presented to **Mr Mārtiņš Spūlis** for his outstanding service as the Class Leader of the Civil Servants' Course 2017 and for the contribution to the civil-military educational environment.



Distinguished visitors and visits during the first part of the academic year

By Ms Kadri Nestra, Administration Secretary

AUGUST

02 AUG Mr Jüri Luik, Minister of Defence of Estonia, accompanied by Brigadier General Indrek Sirel, Deputy Commander of Estonian Defence Forces



17 AUG Major General Andrzej Reudowicz, Commander of the Joint Warfare Centre



25 AUG Latvian Generals and Flag Officers



19 SEPT Lieutenant General Tim Radford CB DSO OBE, Commander of the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps



15 SEPT delegation from the United States Air War College

SEPTEMBER



OCTOBER

05 OCT Lieutenant General Frederick 'Ben' Hodges, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Europe



19 OCT Mr Jānis Garisons, State Secretary of Ministry of Defence of Latvia



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18 OCT Mr Dirk Dubois, Head of the European Security Defence College

16 NOV H.E. Mr James D. Melville, Ambassador of the United States of America to Estonia



NOVEMBER



13 NOV H.E. Mr. Raimonds Jansons, Ambassador of the Republic of Latvia to Estonia

1 DEC Mr Jānis Karlsbergs, Policy Director of the Ministry of Defence of Latvia



DECEMBER

04 DEC Air Marshal Sir Graham Stacey KBE CB MA BSc CCMI, Chief of Staff to Supreme Allied Commander Transformation



04 DEC H.E. Ms. Kristina Miskowiak Beckvard, Ambassador of Denmark to Estonia



14 DEC General Petr Pavel, Chairman of the NATO Military Committee



Roundtables and Seminars

By Ms Pilleriin Lillemets, Dr Zdzislaw Sliwa

Roundtable seminar on German elections

On 19th of September, the Baltic Defence College held a Roundtable seminar on German Bundestag election. The guest-experts in the seminar were Professor Vello Pettai and lecturer Thomas Linsemaier from the Skytte Institute of the University of Tartu.

The starting topics of debate covered the main actors and questions that are impacting the voters' preferences in upcoming elections. The detailed overview of all the parties participating in elections was provided discussing their leadership and major aspects of their programs. The focus of interaction with BALTDEFCOL faculty and students of JCGSC 2017/2018 and CSC 2017 was on questions how might or will the Bundestag election results influence the German vision on European defense and future relations with Russia. Additionally, wider European perspective was analysed in the context of German role in the European Union and NATO. The last block of the Roundtable seminar was an interesting debate about possible coalitions and future policy of German government in general.



Zapad-2017: Lessons Learned and the Way Ahead for NATO-Russian Relations

The faculty and students of JCGSC 2017/2018 had an opportunity to participate in a seminar with Mr. Mark Voyger, who has been the special advisor to U.S. Army Europe Commanding General

Lieutenant General Frederick Benjamin 'Ben' Hodges III. The seminar was focused on experiences coming from an exercise "Zapad 2017" emphasizing lessons learned and the way ahead for NATO-Russian relations. Mr. Voyger provided his observations in relation to implementation of the 'New generation warfare' concept and explained its complexity within 'hybrid warfare' narrative. The seminar proved to be important to provide broader understanding of scenario but also the scale of the exercise underlining strategic goals and also other exercises conducted outside of Belarus. He covered all innovations, new equipment tested and especially the logistic support for deployment of units within limited time to new locations. The seminar was highly appreciated by students who also shared their knowledge by providing comments and asking questions.



Seminar: Cyberspace as a Domain of Operations - what does it mean for the Baltic states?

On the 14th of November, Baltic Defence College held a seminar *Cyberspace as a Domain of Operations - what does it mean for the Baltic states?*, as a part of the Joint Command and General Staff Course's Module on Allied Joint Operations.

In July 2016, at the NATO Summit of Heads of State and Government in Warsaw, the Allies declared cyberspace as a domain of operations, stating that cyber defence is part of NATO's core task of collective defence. With that decision, NATO also affirmed that international law applies in cyberspace and that it is legitimate for NATO members to invoke collective defence in response to a

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cyberattack, equivalent of an armed attack through cyberspace.

The seminar on cyberspace as a domain of operations was looking into the current challenges and opportunities related to the emerging new domain. It was especially timely, considering that on the 8th of November, at the NATO Defence Ministerial, a new command structure for the Alliance was introduced, including a Cyber Operations Center. As an institution providing professional military education on both operational and strategic level, BALTDEFCOL needs to prepare its students to better understand and operate in this new domain. Hence, the seminar aimed at looking at the domain from different angles, hoping to de-mystify this new and hence possibly intimidating addition to our established way of military thinking.



The first panel, moderated by the Commandant of Baltic Defence College, MG Andis Dilans, focused on *NATO, EU and the Cyberspace as a Domain of Operations*. The speakers, Mr Tanel Sepp, the Deputy Director of the Cyber Policy Department in the Estonian Ministry of Defence and LTC Franz Lanttenhammer, the Chief of Staff of the Tallinn-based NATO Cooperative Cyber Centre of Excellence looked at the latest cyber defence developments in NATO after the Warsaw declaration, as well as the EU's actions in enhancing cyber security and awareness among its Member States. The panel discussed political, strategic and operational level implications the Warsaw declaration brought about in NATO, looking at the biggest achievements and challenges so far.

The second panel looked at the new domain of operations from the Baltic perspective. The panelists, Mr. Gert Auväärt from Estonian Information System Authority and Mr. Dāvis Baumanis from Lat-



vian Ministry of Defence explained how their respective countries have developed their national cyber policy and strategy, cyber crisis response, as well as cooperation between domestic institutions and internationally. Subsequently, MAJ Ivars Erčums from the Latvian Cyber Unit and CPT Uko Valtenberg from the Estonian Defence Forces described the status quo with setting up national cyber unit in Latvia and Cyber Command in Estonia.

Seminar 'Western Powers and Baltic Cooperation – the Key to Credible Defence, Canada'

On 20 November 2017, the Baltic Defence College hold a seminar titled 'Western Powers and Baltic Cooperation – the Key to Credible Defence, Canada' which was a part of Elective related to military security of Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and beyond.

The seminar was supported by presence of distinguished speakers – Commander of Canadian Task Force Latvia Col Josh Major, Professor Christian Leuprecht from Royal Military College of Canada and Mr Hasit Thankey, the Political Adviser of the Commander Canadian Task Force Latvia. The speakers provided their insights within the topics clarifying both political and military involvement into regional security explaining reasons behind such the decision. It was followed by questions and discussion related to Canada's military posture and strategic presence in the Baltic Region and its influence on the security situation. Role, capabilities and limitations of Canadian Battalion Task Group in Latvia were also openly covered.



Baltic Defence Study Trip

By Major Michael D. Hoffman, student of the JCGSC 2017/2018

From 22 October to 27 October 2017, the Joint Command and General Staff Course 2017/2018 and the Civil Servants' Course 2017 participated in the Baltic Defence Study Trip.

The student group consisted of 55 military members and 8 civilians from 12 countries. The main purpose of the trip was to deepen the students' knowledge on the defence policies and strategic plans of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. Additionally, the trip provided the students an opportunity to experience some of the history and culture offered by each countries' capital.

LITHUANIA

The trip started with a marathon 12-hour bus ride from Tartu to Vilnius, but ended with a chance for students to explore the city. The following day, Vice Minister Giedrimas Jeglinskas (pictured below) officially welcomed the students to the Lithuanian Ministry of National Defence.

Next, members of the MoD and Joint staff briefed



the audience on defence related topics, including Lithuanian Armed Forces, national defence and resiliency efforts, strategic communication, NATO's Force Integration Unit, and the NATO Energy Centre of Excellence. The day ended with a guided tour of old town Vilnius.

LATVIA

The next day, students travelled to the Latvian Ministry of Defence in Riga. The Latvian Minister of Defence, Raimonds Bergmanis, personally welcomed the students. After his remarks, the students received briefings on Latvian security and defence policy, international military commitments, crisis action coordination, and Latvian armed forces.



In the evening, the Latvian JFHQ Chief of Staff, Brigadier General Ivo Mogilnijs (pictured below), hosted the students for dinner at the National Li-



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brary of Latvia.

On Day 3, the students returned to the Latvian MoD, but this time for briefings from two NATO organizations - the Strategic Communication Centre of Excellence and the Force Integration Unit. Following the briefings, the students participated in guided tours of the Latvian War Museum. The students were able to sightsee Riga on their own for the afternoon and evening, and many students chose to visit either the KGB Museum or the Riga Motor Museum.



ESTONIA

The next day, the students travelled to the Estonian Ministry of Defence in Tallinn. Permanent Secretary Jonatan Vseiov welcomed the students, and provided insightful remarks on national security from the political leadership level. The students also received information on defence and security



strategic planning, and finished the day with a cyber-security briefing from NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence.

For the final day of the trip, the students visited the Estonian Defence Forces' naval

base. The Commander of the Estonian Defence Forces, GEN Riho Terras, started the day by providing an informative overview of Estonian Defence forces and security situation.

The next briefings covered each of the Estonian Defence Services – Army, Air force, and Navy. A member of the University of Tartu faculty provided the last briefing of the day on Estonian History.

CLOSING REMARKS

The trip was an educational and informative experience for the Baltic Defence College students, which provided valuable exposure to strategic / political level leaders, organizations, and thinking. However, I think the true highlight for most students was the opportunity to travel and spend time together as a class. Almost 1/3 of the students are not from the Baltic States, including myself. The trip allowed us to see a small window into each country and better appreciate the Baltic region. Every evening we would get together in small groups, and a local student would show us the best parts of their capital. Personally, these peer-led tours were my favourite part of the trip and I hope that someday I can return the favour.

Second half of the Academic Year 2017/2018 will bring more study tours and exercises abroad:

- * in April 2018 Joint Warfighting Combined Joint Staff Exercise CRO (Viking) in Sweden;
- * in May 2018 International Study tour that will take one group to Georgia and Italy and second group to Ukraine and the Netherlands.

Staff Ride to Saaremaa

By Lieutenant Colonel Toomas Boltovsky, Lecturer, Projects and Resources

In order to commemorate a historical event and to support the curriculum, a staff ride to Saaremaa was organised by DLMS for the students both from JCGSC and CSC.

The historical event mentioned is Operation ALBION, a naval landing, rather brilliantly planned and executed by German imperial Army and Navy one hundred years ago during the final stage of the First World War. ALBION was in fact the very first joint military operation in the history of warfare.

Ten students from both courses together with faculty members did an excessive theoretical research of the operation at the beginning, followed by the terrain reconnaissance on the actual landing site as well as on the other relevant places in Saaremaa.

On Friday 6th of October the staff ride started from Tartu to catch a ferry boat in Virtsu. There we continued our trip towards Kuressaare where we were accommodated in a rather cozy downtown hotel. The evening was free to discover the capital town of Saaremaa.

Next morning on Saturday the first site to visit was Sõrve peninsula. Sõrve was the real centre of gravity for the whole Operation ALBION. More precisely, the coastal defence battery there, defending the Irbe strait and minefields. Russian navy laid between Saaremaa and Courland massive minefield to block the access to Gulf of Riga and to protect the Russian warships supporting the extreme right wing of the Russian front line along the Daugava river. To end the stalemate on the Eastern front at Riga, German High Command needed access to Gulf of Riga to expell Russian navy from there and to dismantle Russian defences in Latvia, eventually kick the Russian Empire out of the war.

The weather was fully in support of the visit. The students got a clear picture of the terrain on the peninsula as well as the sea areas around it. The challenges with mine clearance in the narrow strip of water between Saaremaa and Courland was easy to imagine, when the minefields are protected by the heavy coastal artillery. Limited access to the shore at the same spot was also easy to detect. Everybody understood why Saaremaa had to be invaded from Tagalaht and not in Sõrve. Mr Geoffrey Yapp together with COL Lehtonen

explained the theory and practicalities of the Operation ALBION.

On the way back to Kuressaare, another site related to maritime operations was visited. This, however, belonged to a completely different era. In 1944 attacking Soviet troops, advancing fast on all major islands of Estonia, were stopped by defending Germans on the threshold of Sõrve. Hitler had ordered to defend the peninsula to the last man, as it played crucial role in the defence plans of the Courland Army Group. Therefore, Vintri village was selected by the Soviets to outflank the defence line at the narrowest point of the peninsula by an amphibious assault, which eventually ended with complete defeat and rather disastrous results for the men of the assault party.

The afternoon was dedicated to the Operation ALBION main landing site at Tagalaht (Tagga Bay) on the northern coast of Saaremaa. The bay itself is a rather deep, but narrow area, with a relatively high ground around it, allowing in both warships and transport vessels in great numbers. The students had a discussion with the faculty members, why Tagalaht was selected and what were other considerations during the landing: how to get there, how to defend the ships against the enemy, how to move troops to the beach without special landing rafts, how to move the forces out of the landing area and to reach all the objectives of the operation.

Unfortunately the weather turned bad at this very moment, therefore our stay at Tagalaht was relatively short. However, everybody got a clear idea what the main concerns of the planners of Operation ALBION were and why it was so successful in the end. This completed the 'official part' of the day.

Now everybody was free to discover more Kuressaare and, if they wished, also to visit the medieval episcopal castle there, built in the 14th Century. Kuressaare castle is in fact one of the preserved castles in Estonia. Our only concern during this cultural part was deteriorating weather.

The last day, Sunday was return trip to Tartu. As the weather deteriorated even further, the sea was rough and gave a pretty good idea of the challenges, related to all naval operations in the Baltic Sea at this time of the year.

Syndicate Activities

By members of syndicates, Ms Maris Pütsepp, Ms Kadri Nestra

The students of Joint Command and General Staff Course (JCGSC) and Civil Servants' Course (CSC) are divided into six syndicates. There is a tradition, that our syndicates are named after outstanding military role models in Baltics:

- ⇒ Major General Ernst Põdder,
- ⇒ General Pēteris Radziņš,
- ⇒ General Hugo Rozenšteins,
- ⇒ General Silvestras Žukauskas,
- ⇒ General Johan Laidoner,
- ⇒ Gediminas.

Small syndicates allow students to present and provide briefing on particular topics to one another. The activities consist of preparatory reading, a presentation and discussion, which encourages students to consider course material at a higher cognitive level. Besides academic activities, each syndicate has also teambuilding activities, which are funded by the host nation Estonia. Aim of these activities is to get familiar with Estonian traditions, culture and of course to socialise.

PÕDDER

Syndicate Põdder visited Rakvere, which is twinned with the cities like Cēsis in Latvia and Panevėžys in Lithuania, is located in northern-Estonia. Rakvere is well-known by its castle, Trinity Church and famous aurochs statue. Students were briefed about the history during the guided tour, which also included several entertaining demonstrations and an opportunity to shoot a long bow. The main symbol of Rakvere, the famous aurochs statue, commemorates the historic background of the town – previous names were 'Tarvanpää', which means Aurochs Head.



RADZIŅŠ

Syndicate Radziņš decided to visit Estonian boarder-city Narva, which has very interesting history. Students stop by at the Narva Herman's Castle, where they were witnesses for the local wedding ceremony, and Victorian Bastion. On the way back, they visited also Estonia Mining Museum in Kohtla-Nõmme. In Tartu, syndicate also took a guided tour in Estonian National Museum and Estonian Aviation Museum, where they were able to explore more than 25 aircrafts and helicopters in outside



AROUND THE ACADEME

exhibition. The inside exposition presents over 400 high-quality models of aircrafts, helicopters and missiles. Alongside with visiting historical places in Estonia, they took some time to socialise during visit to VSpa, bowling game and visit to A. Le Coq Beer Museum.



ROZENŠTEINS

Syndicate Rozenšteins got together and strengthened syndicate members ability to perform as a team at the Escape Tartu. The aim of these real life escape rooms is to find a way out from the locked room by solving various puzzles, riddles and mind challenging tasks. It is very good opportunity to practise teamwork and socialise in the entertaining environment. After the Air Component M3 module, the syndicate enriched the theoretical knowledge with the practical part and visited the Estonian Aviation Museum. Seeing an actual aircraft gained a better understanding of air assets role and capabilities. Participation of BALTDEFCOL lecturer Mr Yapp, former F-4 fighter pilot made this outing even more educating and attractive. Bond between the members of syndicate was also strengthened during an active bowling tournament.



ŽUKAUSKAS

Žukauskas syndicate had fun during the bowling game and visit to A. Le Coq Beer Museum. Alongside with tense learning, they found some time within Baltic Defence Study Trip, to practise exciting and challenging indoor go-kart racing as their third activity to strengthen ties inside the syndicate. Slight competition, 40 minutes racing and medal shower made this event an interesting experience for every-



one. In the end of the intensive semester, they decided to relax in V-Spa.



AROUND THE ACADEME

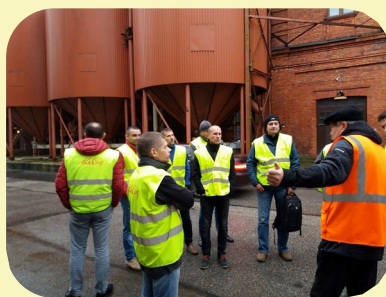
LAIDONER

Members of the Laidoner Syndicate visited 6 different places during the first semester. They started their journey in A. Le Coq beer museum in Tartu, where they got to know beer history, old-school beer preparation equipment pieces and nowadays beer production. To test everyone's ability to think fast and logically even when being under pressure, they chose Escape room as their second activity. They also visited popular Estonian Aviation Museum and with Mr Yapp's stories, it was an unforgettable event. To unite these eleven students from 5 different countries into coherent and friendly team, they continued their day near Rāpina where they tried the real South Estonian hot smoke sauna together with cold lake refreshment. For last events, syndicate experienced the feeling of being upside down in Tartu Upside down house and enjoyed very educational tour in Estonian National Museum.



GEDIMINAS

Gediminas syndicate started their extracurricular activities from Estonian National Museum, as their goal was to discover Estonia through its historical background and their two-hour visit with guide gave a thorough overview on that. They continued their activities in A. Le Coq Beer Museum where the exposition tells the story of beer brewing around the world and in Estonia, from the beer culture of ancient Egypt to the present day. They also spent an evening together in a bowling-alley and experienced the feeling of the upside down world. As the last event before Christmas, syndicate visited Pedaja Holiday Home and now they know how it feels to jump from sauna into a cold lake.



To conclude, although members of syndicates come from different countries and they have different backgrounds, they have grown into solid and strong teams. These activities help to learn more about Estonia, its history and traditions and explore places you might not go to otherwise. Strong ties are built during these socializing events and after graduating from the courses, they have more diverse picture about Estonia and they have friends all over the world.

„Along the Emajõgi River...”

By Lieutenant Colonel Māris Gavrilko, Joint Land Operations



On 1st of August 2017, after being a long time away from the College and having enjoyed the summer holiday, BALTDEFCOL staff members joined for the first teambuilding event in the new Academic Year 2017-2018.



The aim of this teambuilding event was not only to share interesting stories from the summer holiday, but also to informally welcome and to get familiar better with our BALTDEFCOL newcomers. At the start of the new Academic Year, BALTDEFCOL is welcoming eight new personnel members from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Canada.

A little bit more about the trip itself. This event took place in the afternoon, on the beautiful and one of the biggest riverboats in Tartu „PEGASUS”. The boat’s crew brought us down the river Emajõgi and back to Tartu. In spite of the fact that the trip was only less than two hours, we were able to discover „A New Tartu” from a different perspective and also use this time to learn more about the Tartu city. While we were sailing, Baltic Defence College Sergeant Major Peeter Einbaum prepared (especially for BALTDEFCOL newcomers) a short and interesting history brief about the Tartu city, which then was followed by a short quiz.



Finally, the delightful sail, the great “PEGASUS” crew, fantastic and friendly colleagues, interesting stories and jokes - all of this created a very informal and magnificent atmosphere. A special thanks to those, who organised this event and to those who found time to join the trip.



Introducing Estonia

By Major Liene Rozenberga, MA and Head of Commandant's Office

One day I was asked whether I would like to write an article about the upcoming „Introducing Estonia“ trip to Võrumaa. Remembering the really educating and entertaining tour we had last year to the Hiiu island (the joke of the guide saying that “the best thing that inhabitants of the Saaremaa island has is good neighbours” is still lingering in my head), I said yes, and so it goes...

Knowing how at times unpredictable seasons and weather in Estonia might be, everybody was wondering if this autumn would allow us to enjoy the trip to Võrumaa. It did. Our Master Sergeant Peeter had warned all the staff in advance about appropriate clothing, so Saturday occasional drizzle didn't spoil anybody's mood, but Sunday really pampered us with a sunny and warm embrace.



So... on Saturday morning the staff together with families boarded the big bus in front of the College. Children there, drinking water there, our guide Peeter counting participants (around 50 people) to ensure we don't lose anybody

on the way and... off we went. On the way Peeter commented that the programme had been put together by Kaja from HR Section, but he had been given an honour to execute the trip. Thus before reaching each point of visit we had been well briefed in advance of what we were going to see and what to pay our attention to.

In less than an hour we arrived in our first destination – the Pesapuu watchtower. Opened in 2016, 30 meters high, resembling a tree with two bird nests, it offers picturesque views of surroundings. It seemed that even the youngest participants of the trip managed to get to the top of the tower, photo

lights flashing, children enjoying nearby slides and... time to set off.

A short ride and we reached ruins of the Vastelina Episcopal Castle. Built in 1342, it became one of the most powerful fortifications in old Livonia.



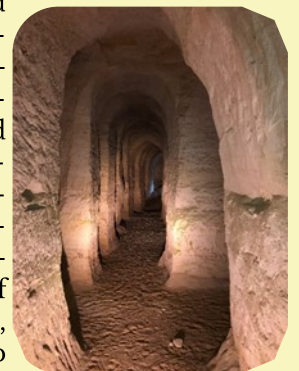
It's also one of 21 places in Southern Estonia worth discovering, which are marked by a yellow National Geographic window. Already during the Middle Ages it was a popular destination for pilgrims and it's still today, as the moment we visited ruins pilgrims were visiting the place, too. Definitely, the museum with different artefacts caught everybody's attention, For example, men enjoyed trying on chain

armour weighting 15 kg and holding a sword, which wasn't as light as a feather either. In a nutshell - lot of things to touch, try and think about how things went in the past.



An indispensable and healthy lunch and we moved on to Piusa Caves. While the core of our group in the seminar room was watching a film and listening to a guide's outline of history of these

hand-mining caves and living forms currently using the ecosystem, children were enjoying a children's playground and surrounding nature – climbing fallen trees, observing edible and poisonous mushrooms and running in a shiny field of white sand. By the way, throughout the entire trip



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we observed a typical sight of autumn activities in this part of the world– people picking up mushrooms along roads and in woods. The tour ended with a visit to the closed observation platform of the Museum Cave. Beautiful light beams illuminated the isles of caves and some of us even managed to capture the most typical inhabitants of these caves – bats – hanging on the walls of this capti-

vating and fragile man-made structure.

Finally, we reached the Värskä Spa - an ideal place for having rest and spending time with family. As we appreciated the expanse of space around, fresh air, green wood, nearby lake, well-paved tracks, abundant meals and definitely the highlight for children – surprisingly warm pools with fountains and slides – the programme was entertaining, fun and offering rest at the same time. The teambuilding activities led by our Head of Support Juris and his team of assistants were the highlight of the day, as teams were trying to refresh memory by locating cities in Estonia, tying friendship knots and staging certain challenging words. By challenging I mean – imagine staging a word with a help of a team, capturing it in a photo and letting a honourable and experienced jury to judge on the best reflection of the word. I must say – the imagination went wild there!



/A representation of “Friday”/



/A representation of a “pay day”/

Most probably, it’s not even worth mentioning that the day passed in a blink on an eye.

With an enjoyably lazy start we marvelled at the Indian summer weather of the 2nd day of our Võrumaa exploration. A short drive, almost around the corner, and we found ourselves in a Seto Farm Museum. Farm buildings,

like a dwelling house, a barn, sheds a smoke sauna, a smithy, tools, handicraft items – all dating back to the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century. While children enjoyed running in the vast space around and looking at live hens, cocks and grazing horses, the group under the guidance of an exceptionally experienced guide learned about the ways of everyday rou-



tine, habits and traditions of Seto people. Paying a visit to open air museums always teach us something new. Did you know that the most fancy bed was foreseen for the oldest daughter of the family, as she had to be married, and, when she got married, the next oldest daughter took her bed, but everybody else except parents and/or grandparents slept in various places, which may hardly be

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described as beds? To cut a long story short – imagine eight people sleeping in a room, as small as nowadays a guest room may look like, and having only 2 beds in this very room...

A little bit longer drive this time and the next point with the National Geographic frame – the Estonian Road Museum located in the historical Varbusse postal station. The youngest participants chose to visit the part with interactive displays – trying different bicycles and kids cars on a special road with traffic signs. The oldest bicycle of the exhibition was tried out by the bravest grown-ups, as it indeed required certain courage, agility and training to ride it. At the same time, the other group with a help of a guide were exploring the main exhibition locations.



The unique open air museum displayed a typical arrangement of buildings in a community centre at the end of the 19th century, including a school, a community house, a smith farm and a Dutch wind-mill. The exhibition also included agricultural machinery and vehicles. One of the highlights was the visit to the school building – with typical desks (it was quite a challenge to squeeze in tiny spaces foreseen for pupils), a blackboard, a musical instrument, various displays and exhibition rooms devoted to clothing and common items related to school in different time periods.



Having had (surprising as it sounds) a very intensive and relaxing trip at the same time, we are looking forward to the next "Introducing Estonia" trip. Where will it bring us next time?

A short lunch in the conveniently located restaurant in the premises of the museum, 15 minutes of drive and we reached the Põlva Peasant Museum.



JCGSC/CSC Team Building Athletics

By Major Anita Pizele, student of the JCGSC 2017/2018

On the 13th of August in 2017 fifty six students from twelve different nations commenced studies at the Baltic Defence College (BALTDEFCOL) Joint Command General Staff Course (JCGSC) 2017/2018. In September eight civilians representing all three Baltic nations joined BALTDEFCOL organized Civil Servants' Course (CSC). Beside the studies all the members of JCGSC/CSC had the opportunity to take part in sport activities, thus maintaining their physical standards and promoting team building activities. During the first semester the team building activities were organized in two parts. Students were able to play less known Frisbee and pretty popular classic Volleyball.

To date, the competition in Frisbee among all six BALTDEFCOL JCGSC and CSC syndicates has been completed. During the Frisbee race two circles were drawn, thus each syndicate had the opportunity to meet with their opponents twice. All syndicates played fast, tough and fascinating games. Frisbee competition challenged the students' ability to interact and sometimes even their ability to control emotions. In addition, the competition was the great opportunity to get to know each other.

The winners of Frisbee competition have been identified and rewarded.

1st place – Rožentsteins
2nd place – Laidoner
3rd place – Põdder

On the second part of the first semester JCGSC 2017/2018 students continued team building activities by playing indoor volleyball. Although, volleyball is rather popular game in comparison with Frisbee, the students still had possibility to learn something new in sport and make teams even stronger. In this game no winners were identified. Each syndicate was able to play at their best standards and to enjoy the good matches and the good team spirit.



Challenge cup

By Dr Valentin Abramov, Ms Kadri Nestra

Traditional Challenge Cup on Wheels

One of Challenge Cup traditional competition is a Go-Kart race. This type of race has been conducted already for 5 times. Over 10 people from Support Staff, Faculty's different departments and from the Management came to the Põltsamaa Go-Kart racetrack. The Cup claimers 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.

TOP 5 OF GO-KART RACE		
1. Olavi	9:01.29	11 laps
2. Valentin	9:08.78	11 laps
3. Kaja	9:25.02	11 laps



An individual Champion and the winning Team (alias the Cup holders) were decided during the final race. The winner of the individual race was Olavi Jänes, which gives team victory to DPS. The previous individual go-kart winner Valentin Abramov finished second. Kaja Vösu was third and her fastest lap fit to sixth place in women this year best results.



Rolling the balls

On 8th of November was another great evening for BALTDEF COL Staff to meet up outside working hours to enjoy the next competition of our Challenge Cup. This time we had to find out, who has the most accurate eye and who is the best in convincing everyone that scored "STRIKE" was just beginners luck! Yes, it was time for bowling!

After first, warm-up round, competition started, but it did not mean it was time to get serious. Participants were all cheering also to other teams, guided beginners how to score more and even lane bumpers were an option if lanes seemed to be tilted. Refreshing drinks and light snacks kept the energy flowing and two hours of fun in Fun Bowling passed in the blink of an eye.



TOP 5 OF BOWLING TOURNAMENT	
1. Kadri Nestra	433points
2. Riho Tammistu	396points
3. Risto Kanketer	385points



BALTIC DEFENCE COLLEGE



*May the good times and treasures of
the present become the golden memories of tomorrow.
Seasonal Greetings and Best Wishes for
the happy New Year 2018.*

The Bugle
Est. 2009

Editor:
Ms Kadri Nestra
kadri.nestra@baltdefcol.org
Tel: +372 717 6015

Baltic Defence College
Riia 12, Tartu
ESTONIA

Pictures by:
Mr Raido Saar
Mr Oliver Toots
Staff members
Students